

RESOLUTION NO. 20170406-031

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to preserving and protecting our precious natural resources and recognizes that equitable access to green and open spaces provides an invaluable contribution to the sustainability of our city and the health and quality of life of our residents; and

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan calls for strengthening Austin's neighborhoods by "connecting to other neighborhoods, quality schools, parks, environmental features, and other community-serving uses that are accessible by transit, walking, and bicycling" and integrating "citywide and regional green infrastructure, to include such elements as preserves and parks, trails, stream corridors, green streets, greenways, agricultural lands, and the trail system, into the urban environment and the transportation network"; and

WHEREAS, City of Austin Proposition 1, approved by voters in November of 2016, contained funding for active transportation and safety improvements, including \$26 million for the Urban Trail Network, \$27.5 million for Safe Routes to School, \$37.5 million for sidewalks, \$20 million for bikeways, and \$15 million for fatality reduction strategies; and

WHEREAS, individuals and students utilizing La Loma Trail to reach the Walnut Creek Hike and Bike Trail or East Side Memorial High School are doing so in unsafe conditions and lack a convenient crossing over the railroad tracks located north of the East Boggy Creek Greenbelt; and

WHEREAS, many neighborhoods in East Austin, including Govalle, Johnston Terrace, East MLK, and Springdale-Airport, have historically been subject to environmental, social, and economic injustices and have been denied the quality infrastructure and services that others in our city have been afforded; and

WHEREAS, the Red Bluff Tract, comprised of three City of Austin-owned parcels of land located near the East Service Center on Harold Court, one of which was previously designated by the City of Austin as a permanent spoil disposal site, has sustained decades of illegal dumping of trash, debris, petroleum, and other hazardous waste which has resulted in devastating soil contamination and environmental degradation; and

WHEREAS, thanks to recent efforts by East Austin community leaders to bring this environmental injustice to light, the City of Austin Watershed Protection and Austin Resource Recovery departments have undertaken a thorough study, clean-up, and soil remediation process at the Red Bluff Tract and the Code department has installed cameras and signage on the site to prevent further illegal dumping; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2017, the City of Austin Environmental Commission's Urban Growth Policy and Development Joint Committee, after collecting input from hundreds of residents and stakeholders in the area surrounding the Red Bluff Tract, recommended that the City of Austin take steps to consolidate the three parcels that make up the tract and preserve the space by dedicating it as parkland; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

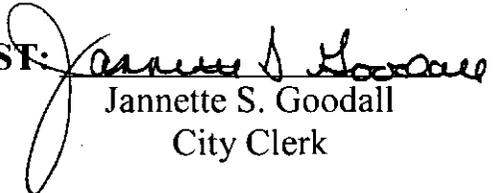
The City Manager is directed to identify options and explore using general obligation bonds to fund connectivity improvements on La Loma Trail, including a safe crossing over the adjacent railroad tracks and an accessible connection to the Walnut Creek Hike and Bike Trail and to present these options to the City Council within 120 days.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to conduct a community-driven planning process regarding the preservation for public use of the Red Bluff Tract and to present a proposal to the City Council that includes, but is not limited to, the option to dedicate the tract as parkland within 120 days.

ADOPTED: April 6, 2017

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk