

# Aquatics Division Barton Springs Pool Repair Work November 25, 2024

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# Increasing Safe Access to Water

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- Is Mission Critical for PARD
- How we do it
  - Recruitment & Training
  - **Maintenance**
  - Program Enrollment





# Barton Spring Pool Brief History

- Grouping of four Springs, 4<sup>th</sup> largest in Texas and used by Indigenous people for thousands of years
- 1928 – Approval and work on the dam
- 1930 – Sidewalks and retaining walls
- 1947 – Bathhouse opens
- 1969 – Recommendation of bypass
- 1975 – Bypass tunnel built
- 1997 - Salamander Protection
- 1998 – SPLASH opened



Center, Austin Public Library C01818





# Flooding

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- You can't tell the story of Austin without talking about flooding, and Barton Springs is no exception.
- Over the years, major flooding events have occurred frequently, often threatening existing infrastructure and requiring repairs.
- These recurring floods not only cause immediate damage but can also affect the long-term stability and integrity of our infrastructure.





# Damage Discovered August 29, 2024

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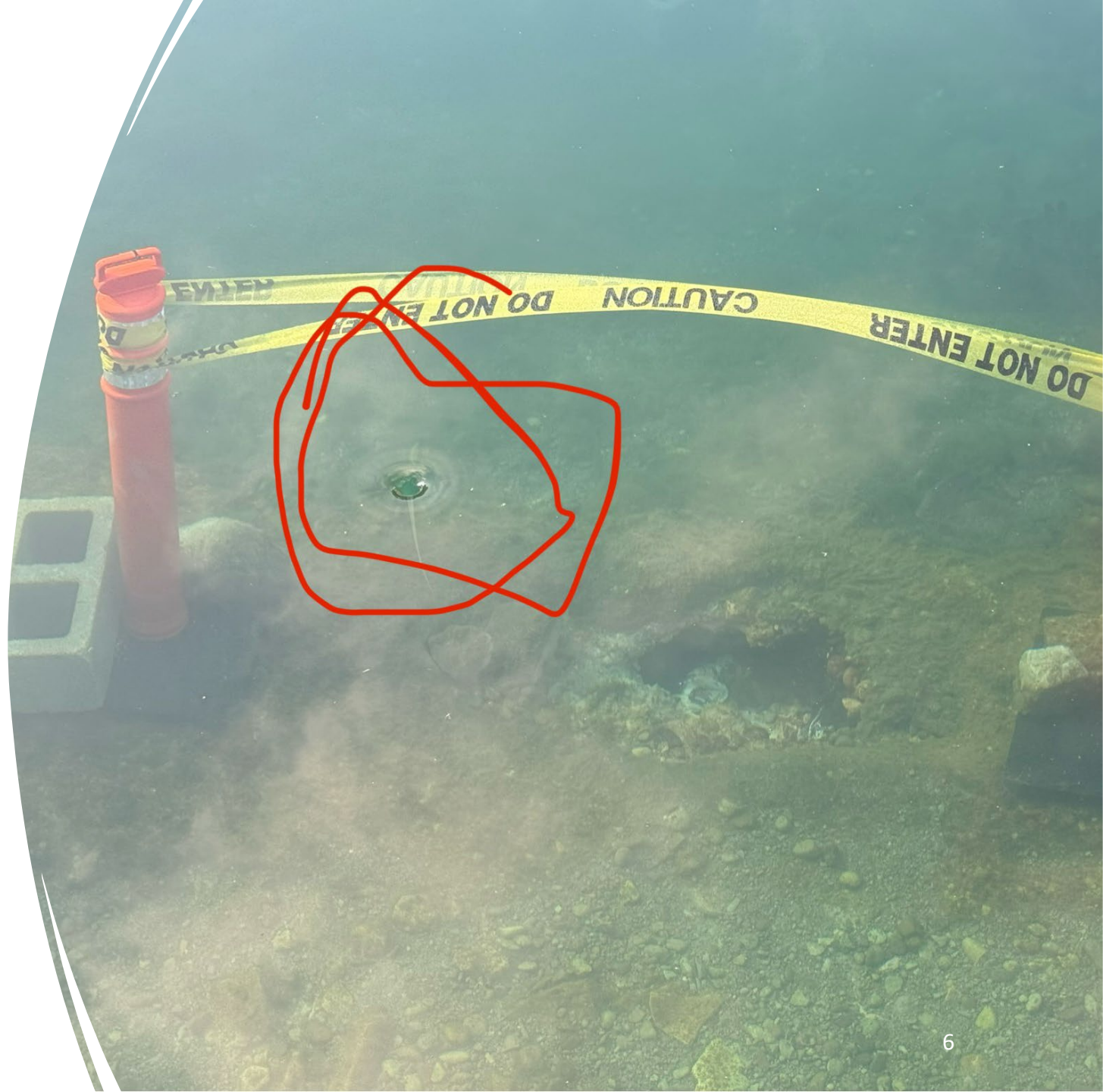
- During routine maintenance and cleaning, a small hole was discovered in the aging infrastructure, causing suction and creating potential entrapment conditions.
- Pool entrapment is a life-threatening hazard where a person or object can become stuck in the suction of a pool, most commonly a drain.
- For public safety, Barton Springs Pool was immediately closed and PARD began working with Watershed Protection to develop a repair plan.



# Damages on August 31, 2024

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- Within two days, the small holes had merged into one larger hole as the suction continued to erode the aging infrastructure.
- Efforts to patch the hole and safely reopen the pool using past methods were unsuccessful.
- Numerous unforeseen complications made this repair process more challenging than anticipated.



# Identified Challenges & Solutions

Salamander Protection

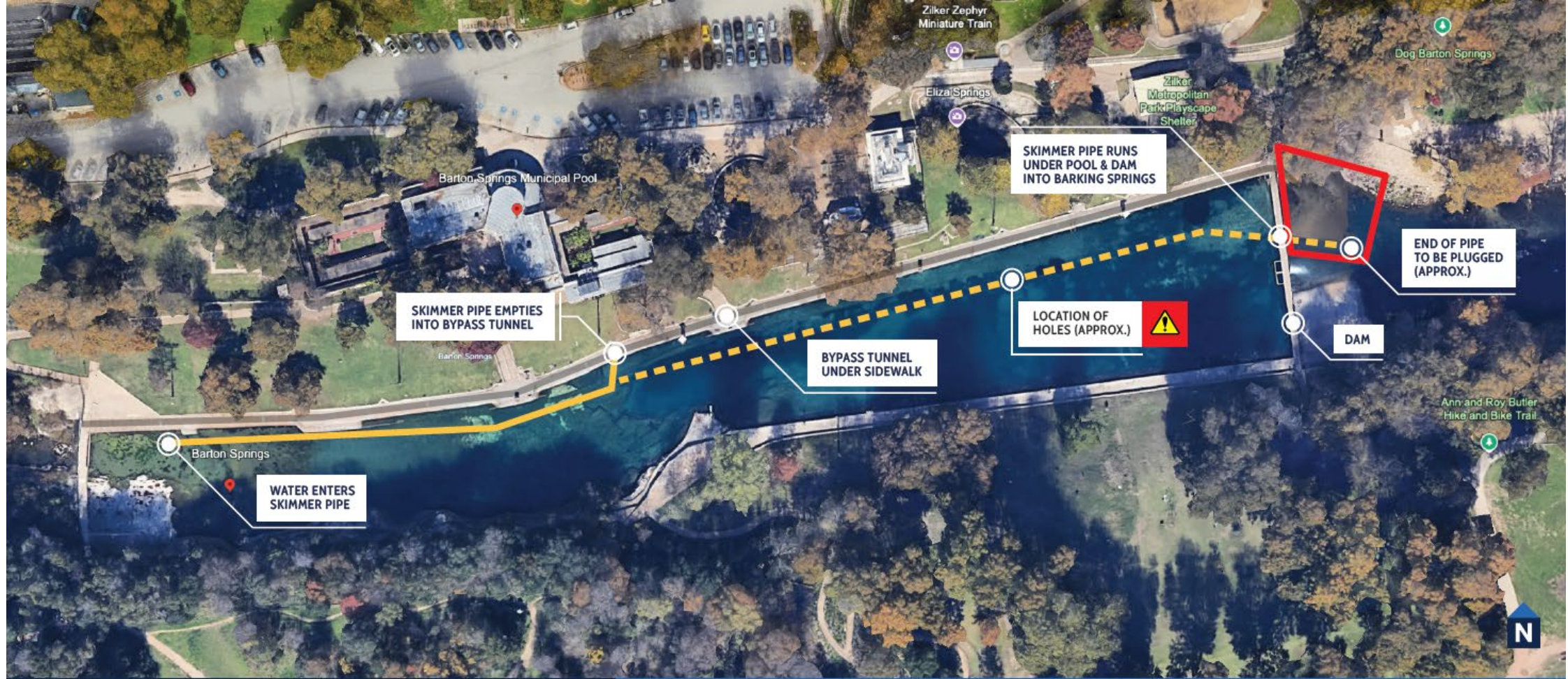
Water levels and damage location

Limited access inside the pool

Materials used for repair

Reopen as soon as possible





September 2024

# Barton Springs Pool Repairs



## Map Elements

**Skimmer Pipe:** A 1940s-era pipe to circulate water.

— Still in use (solid line), - - - No longer in use (dotted line).

**Construction Area:** This area will be temporarily closed.

**Bypass Tunnel:** A tunnel to route stormwater around the pool.

**Dam:** Concrete wall that helps create the pool.

**⚠ Danger:** The holes create a strong suction that could trap swimmers underwater.





STRATFORD DR

BARTON SPRINGS RD

WILLIAM BARTON DR

ANDREW ZILKER RD

BARTON SPRINGS RD

AZIE MORTON RD

TEMPORARY  
STAGING AREA

EQUIPMENT  
ACCESS ROUTE

CLOSE STAIRS AT  
PLAYGROUND  
LIMIT PUBLIC ACCESS TO  
THE NORTH SIDE OF  
BARKING SPRINGS AREA

INTERSECTION WITH ZILKER  
EAGLE TRACKS

KAYAK RENTAL  
SHOP

AREA CLOSED TO  
PUBLIC USE

BARTON CREEK

BARTON CREEK

UMLAUF  
SCULPTURE





## Getting to Work

Under the management of Watershed Protection, the contractor began mobilization on September 13 and completed the work by September 14. A concrete plug was installed in the pipe from Dog Beach up through the dam, providing a long-term solution that effectively eliminates the risk of recurrence. Barton Springs remained closed for a few additional days to allow the concrete to fully cure. During that time, PARD also took the opportunity to re-sod areas of the south side bank and carried out routine multi-day tree maintenance.



# Barton Spring Pool Reopens September 19, 2024

- Four weeks after discovering a hole in the aging infrastructure, Barton Springs was able to reopen to the public, providing a safe and guarded place for the public to swim.
- This repair was made possible through the collaborative efforts of over 100 City of Austin staff members from multiple departments. We take great pride in our work to restore operations swiftly while ensuring the highest level of care for this cherished place and its visitors.





PARD Angela Means  
PARD Liana Kallivoka  
PARD Lucas Massie  
PARD Jodi Jay  
PARD Suzanne Piper  
PARD Rey Hernandez  
PARD Lindsey Machamer  
PARD Juan Bustillos  
PARD Nate Thayer  
PARD Charles Vaclavik  
PARD Hayden Doscocil  
PARD Domingo Espinosa  
PARD Trevor Hollen  
PARD Alberto Gonzalez  
PARD Anthony Alvarez  
PARD Ashley Wells  
PARD Aaron Levine  
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WPD Helen Hartman  
WPD Donald Heisch  
WPD Stephanie Lott  
WPD Becca Villareal  
WPD Susan Berkenmayer  
WPD Patrick Reister  
WPD Susan Garnett  
AW Manual Macias  
AW Zechariah Carzo

Thank You!!



# Questions?

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