



November 25, 2024

Dear PARD, Watershed Protection, Austin Water, CPIO and City Staff Members,

We are writing to extend our deepest gratitude and recognition for your efforts in August and September of this year to safeguard and protect all users of Barton Springs Pool after damage was discovered during routine maintenance. Over 100 of you worked collaboratively together to ensure public safety, protect critical wildlife habitat, and reopen as soon as was feasible under the circumstances.

Your dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment to keeping the public safe, preserving salamander habitat, and reopening as soon as was feasible is commendable. The potential life-threatening nature of the entrapment conditions warranted quick action. Your impact on our community is a testament to the importance of cross-collaboration and cooperation to achieve the best outcome for both pool users and the native salamanders.

Accomplishing a major repair effort on a historic and environmentally sensitive pool like Barton Springs is no small feat and each of you have contributed in meaningful ways. Your efforts resulted in a contractor being quickly secured, the salamander habitat being safeguarded, and the threat to public safety being resolved. In addition, you were able to take care of other maintenance efforts alongside the closure to limit other potential closures in the future for said efforts.

In addition to this critical repair, you work behind the scenes all year to collaborate on issues that arise related to Barton Springs. Stewardship of this unique community treasure requires close communication and participation across many departments. The repair effort in August and September is just one example of what can be accomplished by dedicated staff working toward a goal together. Thank you for your commitment to our community – we are grateful for such wonderful stewards of this special place.

Kindest regards,



Pedro A. Villalobos
Chair, Parks and Recreation Board



Kathryn Flowers
Vice Chair, Parks and Recreation Board