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Barton Springs Grounds Improvements to Begin Fall 2013

AUSTIN, TX – This coming October, construction will begin on a series of grounds improvements at Barton Springs pool. The improvements will include upgrading outdated equipment and resources; resolving erosion issues; removing compaction to improve root conditions of Heritage trees; creating an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible path and replacing the gravel parking lot with new pavement, among other things. Recognizing that Barton Springs is a beloved Austin institution, the City's goal is to not only preserve, but improve the springs while making the park more accessible and environmentally friendly.

"We are excited about these improvements and think the public will be too," said Project Manager, Robin Camp. "As a result of this project, water quality of the springs will be improved, as will the health of Heritage trees. Improved parking is another added benefit that, with the continually increasing park usage, we think park users will really appreciate. It will also reduce dust and impervious cover."

During construction, the park will still be open to the public and park users will be minimally impacted. On occasion, one of the park entrances may be closed and access to some sections of the park will be limited to allow the contractors to work. In these instances, advanced notice will be given if such an event is planned. Construction will begin in mid-October and continue through spring of 2014.

In consideration of these improvements, it is important to note that the City of Austin is held to strict environmental standards. Pre-construction assessments of the Barton Springs have been completed and all environmental concerns have been taken into account. This project is permitted in compliance with the requirements of the Save Our Springs Ordinance, which limits the amount of paved areas in the Barton Springs zone and limits pollutant levels. Additionally, the City engaged the public in an extensive stakeholder process to ensure that their concerns and desires were heard.

For more information on project, visit <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/barton-springs-pool-master-plan>.