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Three City Departments Sign Planning Agreement with Shoal Creek Conservancy

Shoal Creek Conservancy is excited to announce the signing of a Collaborative Agreement with the City of Austin Public Works, Watershed Protection and Parks & Recreation Departments. As envisioned in a City Council Resolution passed last May* the participants will pursue the creation of a Shoal Creek Watershed Management, Trails, Parks and Open Space Plan. Defining the planning approach, scope of work, roles and responsibilities, budget requirements, funding strategy and potential timeline are the goals of the agreement in 2015.

As described in the agreement, the Shoal Creek Conservancy is dedicated to improving the Shoal Creek Watershed and building a strong community in support of these improvements. The City recognizes and values the Shoal Creek Conservancy's ability and commitment to engage the community and stakeholders.

The Shoal Creek Conservancy's boundaries encompass the whole 12.5 square mile watershed, from the headwaters of Shoal Creek on the J.J. Pickle Research Campus to its outflow into Lady Bird Lake. This makes it possible for the Conservancy to be a planning partner with the City with this scope.

The City departments share the Conservancy's enthusiasm about working together:

"The Austin Parks and Recreation Department is so excited to have a partnership with the Shoal Creek Conservancy. Having a partner that really cares about the Creek as well as surrounding areas will certainly give more credence to the needs of this most important gem," said Sara Hensley, Director.

"With the limited staff and financial resources, and given the tremendous needs for watershed protection, we are very excited to partner with the Shoal Creek Conservancy. We look forward to working together and leveraging our resources to make Austin the most livable city in the country," said Victoria Li, Director, Watershed Protection Department.

"Austin's Public Works Department is really excited to have entered into this Agreement with the Shoal Creek Conservancy," said Public Works Director, Howard Lazarus. The City and the Conservancy can complement one another and create leverage to vastly improve the experience of the Shoal Creek Trail to all its users. We look forward to the future of this beautiful natural corridor."

The Conservancy is honored to be engaged in this planning effort with the City. "We look forward to being good partnering with the City and developing plans that result in near- term improvements to the trail, creek and parks and that are built on long lasting principals of a cleaner, more beautiful and functional Shoal Creek," said Joanna Wolaver, Shoal Creek Conservancy Executive Director.

The City of Austin is currently implementing several Shoal Creek improvement projects. "These projects will be an integral part of the overall watershed planning effort," say Ted Siff, Shoal Creek Conservancy Board President. "We are happy to be working with the city departments in an effort that creates and implements a model for watershed management, trails, parks and open space plan."

* Austin City Council Resolution No. 20140501-037