

Dear Parks and Recreation,

I am writing in support of the Ecology Action's proposal for the Future Forest restoration and trail project at Roy G. Guerrero Park. **The RGG Lower Colorado Park** is a municipal park that is dedicated to foster and maintain conservation for the purpose of permitting the public, at large, to experience outdoor recreation, relaxation, exercise, air, and quality of life.

The parkland is developed to provide residents with access to sports such as baseball, basketball, walking, hiking, swimming, picnicking; and birding. The RGG parkland is within a natural environment. The RGG park banks against the Colorado River with natural features of flora and fauna. The RGG Park provides residents to have access to these important natural areas.

The Roy G. Guerrero Park includes a wild bird reserve, which is still home to more species of bird than any other central city area, and the Roy G. Guerrero Park is also home to a great variety of plant and animal life indigenous to the area, including a small herd of deer that were enclosed in the park when the ACC Riverside Campus was built to the south.

The RGG Park has been under political threat twice. There has been public outcry over these continuous threats to use the land for other non-related uses. The construction and management of a major league sports venue with the related vehicular traffic was one of these threats. Another threat was to build a water treatment plant in a portion of the park.

Currently, there is an erosion issue that has been identified by the Watershed Protection Department. The channel restoration is on hold due to lack of funding. Recently, a 94 acre redevelopment project that abuts the south end of parkland is in the process of asking for a 110 foot easement into Parkland to serve the development's project. This encroachment will be a detriment for the RGG Park. The population of the Austin area continues to grow, creating increased demands on this parkland that will stress the physical and natural resources. I can recall that for the past 18 years this park has relied on the collaboration of non-profits sponsorships to provide the additional financial support needed to maintain and provide support to this unique land.

The City of Austin Parks budget does **not** provide adequate funding for maintaining the needs for trash, litter and debris that constantly accumulates weekly in these 324 acres of prime urban land.

I give my fullest support to securing Ecology Action's proposal for the Future Forest restoration and trail project along Country Club Creek East. Ecology Action has demonstrated a long standing dedication to improving the park and their nature preserve, which borders the park. I believe they are well situated to lead this project and am excited by their commitment to the park, and their ability to attract a wide swath of community support for this project.

The Roy G. Guerrero Park's unique natural resources deserves an opportunity to continue to thrive for both the citizens and wildlife.

Respectfully,

Linda H. Guerrero, Chair Environmental Commission, Former Chair Parks Board, Daughter of Roy G Guerrero