



FRIENDS OF THE PARKS
San Antonio Parks Foundation

314 East Commerce, Suite 720
San Antonio, Texas 78205

December 18, 2006

To: Mayor Phil Hardberger
Sheryl Sculley, City Manager
City Council
Community Committee Members-Parks Committee

Re: 2007 Bond Proposals affecting City Parks

Dir Sirs and Madams,

Voter approved bond proposals from recent city elections have been very instrumental to the growth and maintenance of San Antonio's park system. The up-coming 2007 bond election will also contain items that are similarly important for the maintenance, development, renovation, acquisition, and security of the parks.

It is anticipated that many worthwhile projects will be included in the bond proposals as chosen by the Parks Committee members. The Friends of the Parks feel that strong family unity and community pride can be aided by the experience of recreation from their neighborhood park, so it is therefore imperative that all areas of San Antonio benefit from the commitment they undertake to pass the proposed bonds. This can best be served by the chosen projects will include facility and playground improvements, additional lighting, benches and tables, and increased security. We categorically endorse any project that recommends the acquisition of new lands for parks and natural areas, or the renovation of any existing park to be ADA compliant. We have requests from many park patrons for development of more hike and bike trails, running trails, skate and bike facilities, disc golf, and birding areas. The recommended projects from Parks and Recreation Staff lists a good array of park development and improvements throughout the City in what appears to be a conscientious effort to serve as many park patrons as possible. There has been high praise for the attention to aesthetics Parks and Recreation has included in the development and renovation of recent projects, and we encourage this to continue as an ongoing practice.

A recent discussion between Friends of the Parks and members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the San Antonio Conservation Society determined six

items of mutual interest for consideration by bond financing. These items include Brackenridge Park renovations, including the Japanese Tea Gardens, Voelker Ranch land acquisition and development, HemisFair Park renovation, La Villita renovation, San Antonio Natural area System Development West, and renovation to the Spanish Governor's Palace. All of these items we feel are worthy of inclusion in some form by the Parks Committee.

The Friends of the Parks feel confident the Parks Committee will chose projects and included items that will benefit all the citizens of San Antonio. We offer our support to help educate the public on the necessity of bond approval for these projects, as the passage of the 2007 bond proposals will help expand and preserve our parks to insure future generations a place for recreation and conservation of habitat.

Sincerely submitted,



H. Ray Knox

President

Friends of the Parks