

January 8, 2007

The Parks Bond Committee

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the San Antonio Parks Foundation, I want to express our appreciation and full support of the inclusion of \$700,000 for the Japanese Tea Garden project in the proposed Parks Bond list.

The Japanese Tea Garden holds a special place in the minds of thousands of our San Antonio citizens as a magical place to which they were taken as children. There is strong citizen support for the complete restoration of the Japanese Tea Garden and the San Antonio Parks Foundation, and its affiliate organization, Friends of the Park, is fully committed to this task.

The restoration is moving forward and is a fine example of a public-private partnership. Many millions will be needed to complete the task, not only to restore the garden to its original beauty, but to add additional enhancements such as an interpretive center.

The project will take several years to complete, and the additional resources provided by bonds will be needed. For our part, we pledge our continuing efforts at raising private sector funds as we move forward.

We applaud your efforts and look forward to improvements in our parks as a result.

Sincerely,

Lila Cockrell, President
San Antonio Parks Foundation