

Mr. Robert Spiller, P.E., Director
Austin Transportation Department
Barton Oaks Plaza V
Austin, TX 78746

Sent via Email

May 20, 2020

Re: Woods of Westlake Public Health and Safety Concerns

Dear Director Spiller:

We are writing to you today on behalf of the Woods of Westlake Neighborhood Association located at the intersection of Capital of Texas Highway and Scottish Woods Trail (the "**Residential Neighborhood**"). As you may be aware, the City of Austin established a public trailhead entrance at the top of Scottish Woods Trail near the Hill of Life (the "**City Park**"). Unfortunately, the City Park was built by the City of Austin without any public parking options or infrastructure. This has forced City Park visitors to park on the few residential streets located in our Residential Neighborhood which has a single entrance/exit from Capital of Texas Highway. With the popularity of the City Park increasing, the Residential Neighborhood is experiencing the following public health and safety issues on a daily basis:

- Property destruction and theft
- Littering and animal/human waste
- Trespassing
- Illegal and unsafe parking
- Speeding and unsafe driving
- Open containers on residential streets
- Public intoxication leading to visitors driving while under the influence

This list is by no means exhaustive and doesn't take into account visitors' failure to observe COVID health recommendations made by our city officials, state officials and the CDC. In recent years, on any given weekend, our small Residential Neighborhood of only eight streets and cul-de-sacs is overtaken by close to 300 vehicles and thousands of pedestrians. **To be direct, the Residential Neighborhood has taken on the heavy expense of hosting the City of Austin's public park.** This expense includes sacrificing public health and safety, dangerous conditions for our children, repairing damaged property, consequential impact on property value, and the loss of the quiet enjoyment and use of our own homes. **Our small Residential Neighborhood can no longer accommodate this unsafe volume of vehicular, pedestrian and animal traffic.**

While we support public access to the City Park, there has to be some kind of compromise and solution that the Residential Neighborhood can work out with the City of Austin. After all, the aforementioned public health and safety concerns not only affect the neighborhood residents but the City Park visitors as well. We understand that there are several Austin city parks

that have a limit on the number of permitted vehicles and a city official at the park entrance enforcing such limits; we don't even have that safety measure in our own neighborhood. As a first proposal, we are asking the City of Austin to institute the following:

1. Add additional NO PARKING signs to each Residential Neighborhood intersection and within 30 feet of every stop sign to allow for line of sight and visibility when turning;
2. Add additional NO PARKING signs 15 feet on both sides of every fire hydrant within the Residential Neighborhood;
3. **In addition to the NO PARKING signs, paint the curbs or street edges of all no parking zones red** (our hope is that this will re-enforce the message since current signage is being ignored);
4. Add metered parking to Scottish Woods Trail with limited public parking spots. The pay station should be at the front of the City Park and not in residents' yards. The funds from the metered parking should go back to the residents of the Residential Neighborhood for necessary maintenance and repairs;
5. Simultaneously with #4 above, due to their narrow width, all other streets in the Residential Neighborhood should be limited to residential parking with resident-only permit stickers;
6. Add signage to the front of the Residential Neighborhood making clear that this is a residential neighborhood and that there is limited, metered parking available and that towing is enforced;
7. Schedule routine patrolling of the Residential Neighborhood to enforce the no parking zones, metered and residential parking, and all state and local laws; and
8. Assist with the speeding concerns whether through speed radar signage, speed bumps, or road markings.

The public health and safety concerns in our area have been accumulating and compounding over a number of years. And while individual residents have attempted to reach out to the City of Austin (or handle matters on their own) to make the Residential Neighborhood safer, we are now organizing our efforts and coming to you with a united voice. We are hopeful that the City of Austin and the Residential Neighborhood can work together to create an effective solution and avoid any formal legal action or public response. We look forward to hearing from you and welcome a meeting to listen to your ideas.

Respectfully,

THE WOODS OF WESTLAKE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

THE WOODS OF WESTLAKE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION TRAFFIC TASK FORCE MEMBERS:

Representing Barclay Drive:

Mr. Rob Blohm and Ms. Melanie Mahaffey

Representing Scottish Woods Trail:

Ms. Courtney Dickey esq. and Mr. Dhurvish Shah

Representing Camp Craft Road:

Dr. Sonia Krishna

Representing Surrey Hill Drive:

Ms. Ellen Troxclair, Mr. Anil Mahendra and Mr. Rob Johnson

Representing Shannon Oaks Trail:

Ms. Kate McGrath, Ms. Christie Schultz, Ms. Kazmira Pedonesi, Dr. Judy Leavell and Mr. John Gump

Representing Scottish Woods Cove:

Ms. Sue Morton

Representing Barclay Court:

Ms. Jennifer Ramberg

Representing Wild Briar Pass:

Ms. Gillian Waterston and Ms. Gail Acuna