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**Re: Tree Watering at NCWT Trail between Balcones and Mopac**

1 message

**Erik Harris** <erik.harris.atx@gmail.com>

Tue, Jul 30, 2019 at 2:02 PM

To: "Seivert, Ana" &lt;Ana.Seivert@austintexas.gov&gt;

Cc: "Simons, Barry" &lt;Barry.Simons@austintexas.gov&gt;, "Schuman, Lara" &lt;Lara.Schuman@austintexas.gov&gt;, "Williams, DAnne" &lt;DAnne.Williams@austintexas.gov&gt;, Meg D &lt;megbdavis1@gmail.com&gt;, Cheryl Harrison &lt;caharrison111361@gmail.com&gt;

Ana, Barry, D'Anne - do you have any updates on the tree watering? A lot of neighbors are concerned and there is confusion about who is responsible for which trees. I noticed that the trees in the current project (Amherst to Scribe) are also withering and dropping leaves - I don't see an irrigation system - I assume that the contractor is responsible for survival of these trees. Then there are the trees from Scribe to Mopac (that project was already accepted, that was the subject of my original inquiry below).

I know that PARD waters the trees in the main park area on a regular basis with water trucks. I think it is every other week. I had worked with Lara Shuman to get some extra water runs in 2017 when we had an extended dry period.

Am I correct that Public Works/Street and Bridge will be responsible for the trees along the NCWT path or is PARD taking care of them?

All this has me wondering if maybe a new approach could be offered for areas that already have good tree cover and where watering is going to be difficult. Perhaps projects can pay into a fund to control invasive trees (or require the contractor to hire a specialty contractor to do this properly) to promote growth of established native trees. While there is a benefit to adding more diversity and new trees, planting trees to let them die is wasteful and doesn't contribute to the health of the urban forest.

At the same time all this is going on, the fire department is clearing the perimeter of the park of vegetation, I presume to reduce wildfire risk.

Thanks,  
Erik Harris  
512-560-7686  
Milwood Neighborhood Association, Parks and Greenbelt Chair  
Austin Ridge Riders, Balcones Park Trail Steward

On Wed, Jul 24, 2019 at 2:15 PM Seivert, Ana <[Ana.Seivert@austintexas.gov](mailto:Ana.Seivert@austintexas.gov)> wrote:

Hi Erik,

Let me send this along to Larry our project manager to look into. I also wanted to give you a heads up that we're diligently working with our contractor to resolve the pending issues on the trail you've addressed previously. We've just been coordinating them on remobilizing to the site to address these concerns and complete trail construction.

Thank you!

**Ana Seivert**

*She/Her/Hers*

Urban Trails Project Coordinator, Public Works

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**From:** Erik Harris [mailto:[erik.harris.atx@gmail.com](mailto:erik.harris.atx@gmail.com)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 24, 2019 12:48 PM

**To:** Schuman, Lara <[Lara.Schuman@austintexas.gov](mailto:Lara.Schuman@austintexas.gov)>; Simons, Barry <[Barry.Simons@austintexas.gov](mailto:Barry.Simons@austintexas.gov)>; Williams, DAnne <[DAnne.Williams@austintexas.gov](mailto:DAnne.Williams@austintexas.gov)>; Seivert, Ana <[Ana.Seivert@austintexas.gov](mailto:Ana.Seivert@austintexas.gov)>

**Subject:** Tree Watering at NCWT Trail between Balcones and Mopac

Hello all,

I would like to see if PARD (or another city department) has any ideas on watering the trees along the trail. A number of trees planted as part of the NCWT Trail project (combined with Waters Park Wastewater interceptor) died due to failure to water the trees during the establishment period. However several of the trees that appeared to be dead recovered with the wet fall and spring. Now they are showing signs of severe distress.

The dead trees were brought to the Public Works PM's attention last year. In December he indicated that he contacted the contractor to replace them but I have heard nothing further.

I believe a water truck could access this area just south of Walnut creek (Mopac Southbound Frontage Road), however backing would be needed. I don't think they will need continued watering, just some help to get through this hot dry period.

Thanks,

Erik Harris

512-560-7686

Milwood Neighborhood Association, Parks and Greenbelt Chair

Austin Ridge Riders, Balcones Park Trail Steward