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For Immediate Release

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Bull Creek District Park designated as on-leash facility

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department Director Sara Hensley, after a critical and careful analysis of the recent completed review of fecal contamination monitoring at the Bull Creek District Park in Northwest Austin by the Watershed Protection and Health and Human Services Departments, has determined that Bull Creek District Park will continue as an on-leash facility.

The weight of evidence and data from multiple approaches concludes that park use and specifically the dog off-leash use is the most likely source of elevated fecal bacteria within the park. Bacteria levels have recently fallen below the contact recreation standard during the time period when the park was open as an on-leash facility only. In order to protect human health and preserve the water quality of this wonderful resource, Parks and Recreation will continue to restrict dogs to on-leash only within the park.

Through public meetings and work with the majority of the surrounding neighbors and friends in the Bull Creek Dog Owners Group, the Department has concurrence and support to leave Bull Creek Park as on-leash and focus attention on locating another off-leash site in close proximity to Bull Creek Park. Parks and Recreation staff will be diligently searching for another site to meet the off-leash need.

The Department appreciates the hard work and dedication of the staff in Watershed Protection, Health and Human Services, Corporate Public Information and Parks and Recreation as we worked through this most important effort. In addition, our appreciation goes out to the community members for their input and courageous conversations as we worked toward a decision.

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