

**RESOLUTION NO.**

**WHEREAS**, Shoal Creek is a defining geographic feature of Austin, an artery into its urban core and the western boundary of the original city; and

**WHEREAS**, efforts to improve and enhance the creek and the area within its watershed have occurred over the past forty years but have been of limited success and fraught with set-backs due to flood events; and

**WHEREAS**, a watershed management plan for Shoal Creek including flood control, erosion control and water quality improvements to protect public and private property would be of substantial benefit to all Austinites; and

**WHEREAS**, the Shoal Creek Greenway Action Plan, created by a partnership of city departments, nonprofits and property owners, and adopted by the City of Austin Parks & Recreation Board and by the City Council in 1998, recommends Shoal Creek Trail, Greenway and Park improvements from Lady Bird Lake to West 38<sup>th</sup> Street; and

**WHEREAS**, the Downtown Austin Parks and Open Space Master Plan, adopted by council as a part of the Downtown Austin Plan on December 8, 2011, was created with robust citizen participation and recommends creek and park improvements throughout downtown, including to the Shoal Creek

Trail, Duncan Park and the Greenway from Lady Bird Lake to Pease Park;  
and

**WHEREAS**, there has been over one billion dollars' worth of public and private projects built in the lower Shoal Creek watershed during the last decade and there will be substantial public and private investments made there in the next decade; and

**WHEREAS**, there is limited public or private funding currently identified to implement either a watershed land management plan, the actual flood, erosion or water quality solution that a plan would identify or the Shoal Creek Trail, park and greenway improvements envisioned in the earlier approved plans; and

**WHEREAS**, cities throughout the country have revitalized and created urban greenways, trails and parks through active partnerships with private conservancy groups including the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Houston; Rose Kennedy Greenway, Boston; Gwynns Falls Trail, Baltimore; the Museum Reach of the San Antonio River; Central Park in New York City and The PATH Foundation, Atlanta; and

**WHEREAS**, the Shoal Creek Conservancy, established by Austin citizens who are dedicated to improving and expanding the Shoal Creek Trail, improving water quality and reducing flood risk, enhancing habitat and creating vibrant green spaces, and preserving and sharing Shoal Creek's history, has incorporated to, as a private partner, help create a watershed management plan as well as a trail, park and open space plan for all of Shoal

Creek and help in the development, operation, and management of these plans; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

That the city manager is directed to explore a public-private partnership for the creation of a Shoal Creek Watershed Management, Trail, Parks, and Open Space Plan; a strategy for the development, management, and operation of this plan; and to provide Council with a recommendation for the structure of this partnership, potential roles and responsibilities, and an implementation schedule within 120 days.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2014

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk