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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Date: September 12, 2013

Event Date: September 19, 2013

Event Time: Press Conference -- 9:00– 9:30 a.m.
A tour of the Pool -- 9:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Pool Snorkel Tour For City Council – 10:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Volunteer Pool Cleaning 10:30 a.m.

1st Ever Council Fixes the Pool Day

It's time again to scrub Barton Springs Pool with the Austin City Council and the Friends of Barton Springs Pool. The highlight of the event this year is a review of the many Council-approved improvement projects for Barton Springs Pool and the surrounding area for the purpose of recognizing City Council for their work to support Barton Springs. In addition to FBSP, other pool stakeholders -- including (in alphabetical order) Clean Water Action, Environment Texas, Preservation Austin, Save Barton Creek Association, Save Our Springs Alliance, and Sierra Club of Austin – will review Council-approved projects benefitting Barton Springs, including the 2012 Bond Package with approved funds for open space acquisition watershed protection, and Barton Springs bathhouse renovation; Bypass tunnel repairs; New inlet grate to the bypass tunnel; Barton Springs Habitat Conservation Plan and updated federal permit; and Completion of Short Term Projects from the Barton Springs Pool Master Plan.

After the press conference presentation, Austin City Council members are invited to participate in a “pool snorkeling tour” to see firsthand the pool features and experience the cool, turquoise, spring-fed water from the crown jewel of Austin, Barton Springs Pool.

After the “pool snorkeling tour,” all are invited to join volunteers from the Friends of Barton Springs Pool and city staff to clean algae and silt from Barton Springs Pool. The cleaning session will kick off at 10:00 a.m.

Officials who have confirmed their attendance include: **Mayor Lee Leffingwell; Mayor Pro Tem Sheryl Cole, and City Council Members Mike Martinez, Laura Morrison, Chris Riley, Bill Spelman, and Kathie Tovo.**

“Many pool stakeholders have worked long and hard on various pool-related projects in recent years, and while there have been disagreements about specific project details, we truly do appreciate Council’s steady and continuing support for Barton Springs,” commented Mike Cannatti, FBSP president. “So this seemed like a good time to acknowledge our appreciation for Council’s support for Barton Springs Pool with all of the recently completed projects.”

This event is being organized by Friends of Barton Springs Pool (FBSP), a group formed in 2006 to respond to drought conditions which created algae blooms that clogged the pool. Since then FBSP volunteers have worked side-by-side with pool lifeguards to help keep the pool clean. This year’s event replaces the annual “Council Cleans the Pool” event where FBSP invites elected officials to get in the water to help clean Barton Springs and show their support of preserving the Pool for generations to come.