



**NORTH SHOAL CREEK
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

Austin Independent School District
Office of Facilities
1111 W. 6th St., Suite B-320
Austin, TX 78703
512.414.2667

March 8, 2017

Dear sir:

Last summer, the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association approached Principal Brian Hill with the idea of using some of the open park space at Pillow Elementary School for a neighborhood community garden. Since then, we have been working eagerly toward that goal. Because the land sits on property partially owned by the City's Parks and Recreation Department (PARC), we approached them for approval. PARC informed us that, pending AISD's formal approval of the project, they have approved our project. We have also secured funding through a grant up to \$10,000 from the Austin Parks Foundation (APF), and our project was also approved for city assistance and funding through the City's Neighborhood Partnering Program, contingent on AISD's formal approval.

The plan calls for a 40' x 60' chain-link fence enclosure at the northwest corner of the school's site near the cross streets of Flagstone Dr. and Crosscreek Dr. The enclosure will contain twenty-two 4' x 8' raised garden beds. Nineteen of these garden beds are intended to be rented out to residents of North Shoal Creek. The site will contain a garden shed, compost bin, and a native landscaped sitting area with limestone benches, similar to the benches throughout Pillow's park space now. Resident gardeners must sign a Gardener's Agreement and comply with the Bylaws drafted by the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association Community Garden Committee, which includes a provision that the gardeners must only access the garden before and after school hours, and anytime on the weekends. We must provide an annual report of the garden's charitable contributions and maintenance to PARC. Our community garden's liability insurance will be covered through the Sustainable Food Center.

Three of the beds will be maintained by the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association Community Garden Committee. The purpose of reserving these three beds is to work with students at Pillow so they can learn about gardening, healthy eating, and the importance of fresh produce. Everything grown in these beds will be donated back to Pillow students for farm-to-table snacks. The students will have access to these plots in the garden as needed so they can experience growing vegetables from start to finish. Because Principal Hill and Pillow have been so generous in letting us utilize part of the school's green space, the neighborhood association has also offered to rebuild and maintain six existing raised garden beds at Pillow now.



**NORTH SHOAL CREEK
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association has invested time, energy, and resources into exhaustively planning this community garden that will strengthen the neighborhood's ties to Pillow, which sits in the heart of our neighborhood. Community gardens make neighborhoods safer by investing in and beautifying the open space. They bring people together. Most importantly to AISD, our community garden will provide valuable educational opportunities to Pillow's students and provide them with fresh, healthy snacks. We sincerely hope you approve our project by signing below.

Sincerely,

Sarah Brandon
Vice-President, North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association
Chair, North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association Community Garden Committee

Enclosed: Community Garden Design, Projected Layout, APF Award Letter, PARD License Agreement, and Sustainable Food Center Memorandum of Understanding

Signatures for Approval of Project:

Principal Brian Hill

Printed Name: PAUL TURNER

Signature: Paul Turner 3/28/17
Head of Facilities
Austin Independent School District