

Bypass Tunnel Issue

Barton Springs Pool was closed on Friday, October 3rd, due to pool water leaking into the bypass tunnel under the north pool deck. The leak caused the pool level to drop drastically. The leak also caused some shifting of the deck resulting in a crack in the deck and concern about patrons' safety.

City staff scrambled to devise and implement a temporary fix to stabilize the pool level, prevent further shifting of the deck, and protect Eliza Springs - primary habitat of the endangered Barton Springs Salamander.

The temporary fix involved damming the downstream end of the bypass to bring up the water level within the bypass closer to the water level in the pool. This effort appears to have been successful in stabilizing the pool level and reducing the flow of pool water into the bypass. Because of this temporary fix, the pool was reopened on Saturday, October 4th.

Parks and Recreation Department and Watershed Protection and Development Review staff are currently working to find a long-term solution.

Once a strategy has been decided upon, more information will be made available.

Questions may be submitted to the Barton Springs Pool Master Plan e-mail address at bspmasterplan@ci.austin.tx.us.