

people preservation ordinance

people can be like trees, i think
keepers of memory, makers of shade
roots woven together for strength
branches sheltering one another
from the rain

it's safer, i think, to be a tree
than to be a poor family
living inside Loop 410
in the "Decade of Downtown"

there is an ordinance, at least
so that trees are not uprooted

imagine for a moment:

*"While allowing the reasonable
improvement of land,
it is stated public policy of the city
to preserve people
as an important public resource,
to encourage the preservation
of existing people,
and the planting of new people
for the enjoyment of future generations..."*

Along with the City Arborist, we'd keep
a genealogist, an anthropologist,
a historian, a psychologist,
and a school teacher on call

the process would require the opinion of them all
before any permit could be granted

a plan would be required for each project
preservation, mitigation, or a juicy fine
so if you displaced one poor family
you'd have to make room for nine

the people's roots, especially, would be protected
a "Root Protection Zone," at least 100 feet
so that no heavy bulldozers would threaten
our heritage or history

soon we'd have parks full of people
and people lining each city street
children playing in the shade of grandmothers
and networks of neighbors like a social canopy

just imagine...

what a city we could be!
if we treated all our people
with the same respect
we'd give a tree

—Amanda Haas

MISSION TRAILS UPDATE: URGENT REQUEST!



PLEASE DONATE

 to assist the remaining Mission Trails residents in locating housing that is permanently affordable and safe. In May 2014, the Mission Trails Mobile Home Community was rezoned to allow developer White-Conlee Builders to construct apartments at that site which became very valuable due to the city's Mission Reach redevelopment project. The mobile park was sold in July 2014.

At this writing there were still 4 families (30 residents including 15 children) that remained in the park, even as the developers begin to clear the land for construction. Residents had worked with the city and local organizations to identify housing options, but there was still a gap between what they were being offered by developers and what they needed to make these options possible. None of the families left wanted to move to another mobile home park. They want homes that are safe, affordable, and free from the threat of further relocation and displacement.

To make this happen, community supporters have worked tirelessly to identify other resources within the city, the county, and the community that can be used to cover things like:

- **obtaining land** to relocate on a non-mobile home/house with their mobile homes
- **storage rental**
- **mobile home transport**
- **temporary lodging**
- **down payment/closing costs**
- **movers**

Please help support these families by circulating this call for support among family, friends, neighborhood groups, church, PTA, and other venues. After the park was sold this Summer, most residents, pressed for time and in need of financial assistance, took the developer's early move-out incentives of less than \$5,000 per family and left by October 2014. Many of these families continue to endure homelessness and other hardships. For additional info on how to support the residents of Mission Trails, please call or text: (210) 262-0654.

All funds donated will be collected and administered by Our Casas Resident Council, a 501c3 organization that assists low income families in obtaining secure and affordable housing. They're working closely with the Mission Trails residents on obtaining houses or land. There is a 10% service fee to donate online, but you can opt out of it. To drop off donations in person, email ourcasas@stic.net or call (210) 354-2400 to make a pledge. You can also support residents by pressuring the Mayor and city council to meet with them and find City resources to address their needs. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY!** ♦

DONATE: www.crowdrise.com/missiontrails
CONTACT CITY COUNCIL: (210) 207-7040
www.sanantonio.gov/council