

**Proposed Modifications to Comprehensive Plan Update - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**  
*Distributed by Council Member Morrison on the Date*  
9/25/2008

# Late Backup

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## Chapter 2: Goals, Objectives and Policies

Compilation of Council Member Morrison's Proposed Amendments for September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 City Council

### 1.) Policy 111.4

Policy 111.4 *Encourage development to maximize the use of existing natural vegetation and regulate the removal of significant trees and valuable vegetation*

The City ~~should~~ regulate the removal of trees and vegetation on all City-owned property and reviews all proposed municipal projects to ensure against the loss of existing natural vegetation

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading

In the case of day-to-day projects, this is accomplished by standard operating procedures. In instances where larger projects are proposed, the development review process ensures that all environmental requirements are fulfilled. All development is required to adhere to Austin's Land Development Code Chapter 25-2 and 25-8. The landscaping and environmental portions of this code address care of existing vegetation, including trees, to capture the multiple benefits of the existing natural character. Additionally, the City of Austin's Environmental Criteria Manual Section 2 and 3, Landscape and Tree and Natural Area Protection respectively, describes specific details of accomplishing these requirements.

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## 2.) Policy 111.6

Policy 111.6 ~~Formulate~~Continue support of design techniques and construction guidelines for development in proximity to water resources and floodplains

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reading

This policy should incorporate, combine and clarify existing standards, ordinances and agencies. This will provide optimum development standards suitable to water resource areas and protection of water quality and natural resources during the construction process.

Multiple regulations that support water quality and floodplain protection have been adopted, including Land Development Code 25-7-92, which limits development in the floodplain, and 25-8-92, 25-8-93, 25-8-261 and 262 of the Land Development Code which establish the Critical Water Quality and Water Quality Transition Zone, and allowed development within these zones, as well as Section 17.0 of the Environmental Criteria Manual which regulated Floodplain Modification.

Policy 111.6 ~~Formulate and continue support of~~ design techniques and construction guidelines for development in proximity to water resources and floodplains

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## 3.) Policy 122.2

Policy 122.2 ~~Promote building forms that relate to the size, shape and character of the surrounding development~~

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Buildings and structures that stand out in excess of their public importance detract from the character of surrounding development ~~Height and bulk limitations in special districts have been established and successfully incorporated into comprehensive plans in other municipalities~~ Height and bulk limitations in special districts have been established and implemented successfully in Austin and other municipalities

Compatibility standards and McMansion Ordinance are both examples of how Austin supports this policy

Policy 122.2 *Promote building forms that relate to the size, shape and character of the surrounding development*

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#### 4.) Policy 131.2

Policy 131.2 ~~Develop~~ Continue support of a city-wide plan for street landscaping to indicate the relative importance of streets

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading

Once the purposes of transportation facilities have been established, street features should be designed to express those purposes and make the entire system understandable to the traveler. A relatively easy element that can be adjusted to the street system is landscaping. A landscaping plan should be developed that indicates the relative importance of streets by the degree of formality of tree planting and the species and size of the trees.

In addition to recognizing differences in transportation functions, the plan would also recognize the width and visual importance of certain streets, the special nature of distinct activities, and the need for screening or buffering of residential uses along streets carrying heavy traffic. Special consideration should be given to certain features such as major intersections, open space and important views in the design of transportation facilities.

Streetscape landscaping requirements are an integral part of adopted Subchapter E, Design Standards and Mixed Use that was adopted August 31, 2006 and effective January 13, 2007, and the Environmental Criteria Manual Appendix A was modified to include a list of suitable street trees.

Policy 131.2 *Develop and continue support of a city-wide plan for street landscaping to indicate the relative importance of streets*

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## 5.) Policy 151.1

Policy 151.1 *Expand the City's effort to identify and recognize important structures, sites and districts that represent Austin's heritage and character*

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading

The program of official historic designation for individual landmarks and historic districts should continue to be developed and implemented to encourage community awareness and expansion-recognition of sites of historical, architectural, and cultural significance ~~preservation efforts in the future~~

Revisions reflect code change to Chapter 25-11 via ordinance 20060622-128 which deals with establishing historic districts

Policy 151.1 *Expand the City's effort to identify and recognize important structures, sites and districts that represent Austin's heritage and character*

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Revisions reflect code change to Chapter 25-11 via ordinance 20060622-128 which deals with establishing historic districts

## 6.) Policy 151.2

Policy 151.2 *Review and revise codes which ~~which~~ apply to the preservation, restoration, and use of designated historic landmarks and areas ~~historic districts~~*

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading

Analyze federal, state, county and City codes, policies or laws which affect the protection, use and preservation of historic landmarksally designated properties and historic districts, and introduce proposals to increase their effectiveness of the City's historic preservation program

Revisions reflect code change to Chapter 25-11 via ordinance 20060622-128 which deals with establishing historic districts

Policy 151.2 *Review and revise codes which ~~inhibit~~ and apply to the preservation, restoration, and use of designated historic landmarks and areas ~~historic districts~~*

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Revisions reflect code change to Chapter 25-11 via ordinance 20060622-128 which deals with establishing historic districts. Ordinance 740307-A serves to 'safeguard the city's historic and cultural heritage, as embodied and reflected in such historic landmarks by appropriate regulations.'

## 7.) Policy 151.3

Policy 151.3 *Provide incentives for property owners that ~~would~~ encourage use and preservation of designated historic landmarks and areas/historic districts*

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading

~~A program for financial, professional or skilled assistance should be adopted and implemented to encourage greater use of landmark properties~~ Implement and review policies for economic incentives for the rehabilitation, adaptive re-use, and preservation of historic landmarks and historic districts. Implement and review policies for the recognition of historic landmarks and historic districts.

Revisions reflect code change to Chapter 25-11 via ordinance 20060622-128 which deals with establishing historic districts

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Revisions reflect code change to Chapter 25-11 via ordinance 20060622-128 which deals with establishing historic districts

## 8.) Objective 211.0

Objective 211.0 **Develop a ~~municipal~~ comprehensive economic development policy and program to attract and retain Austin's targeted industries and that is consistent with the community's desire to manage growth and its effects**

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The City should provide an appropriate forum with adequate information for public examination and continuous review of the issues surrounding the formulation of municipal economic policy. This forum should be broadly representative of the city's population. The City of Austin is committed to serving the public by implementing programs and policies benefiting all citizens and geographic areas. The City of Austin enjoys high levels of quality amenities benefiting new and existing businesses and strives to influence economic development resulting in quality

of life for its citizens. The City also promotes the continued existence of the eclectic small businesses found city-wide that have helped capture the image of Austin.

The policy revisions are supported by the City of Austin Economic Development Policy 2005 that is authorized by Council Resolution 20030612-015. The resolution creates a business Development Division in the Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office to assist small businesses, artists, arts groups, and organizations on business development and other topics resulting in the creation of a "single point of contact" for economic development. The resolution also seeks to improve the coordination of city departments providing services to small businesses through regular interdepartmental meetings on issues that could impact small business owners.

**Objective 211.0 Develop a municipal economic policy that is consistent with the community's desire to manage growth and its effects**

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**9.) Policy 211.1**

*Policy 211.1 Evaluate and report on the status and trend of the local economy with particular emphasis given to the impact of existing and proposed municipal policies upon economic growth and stability*

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Several private and public organizations are engaged in monitoring relevant local economic variables. Information from these sources should be supplemented where necessary and implications for the local economy determined. City staff should use the best fiscal and economic analysis techniques. National economic events should not be ignored, since they will eventually affect Austin through variations in national demand for locally produced goods and services and through fluctuations in the local money markets. This information should be presented in the public forum.



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## 10.) Goal 310.0

**GOAL 310.0 PRESERVE LARGE AMOUNTS OF OPEN SPACE AND ASSURE THAT THE MOST SUITABLE NATURAL AREAS ARE SO-RESERVED.**

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Open space is defined as land which is neither occupied by private lots nor dedicated as public streets. Open space must be defined differently according to its proximity to urbanization. The concept of open space outside the urbanized area includes private lands. Its preservation is aided by a compact urban form and the retardation of urban sprawl. Open space within the city proper ~~must~~ should be defined-designated as common land, unless the open space is purchased as part of the Water Quality Protection Lands, Balcones Canyonland Preserve, or other managed mitigation lands, the term should not refer to undeveloped pockets of private land unless the land is restricted through a conservation easement. The reservation of ample amounts of open space does check, to some extent, gross population densities within the city. This coincidental effect, however, is not considered adequate to place the goal in direct conflict with the density considerations of "Government and Utilities", Chapter 2, Section 4.

1992 Bonds provided for \$22 million for acquisition of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. 1998 Bonds provided for \$65 million for Water Quality Protection Lands. 2006 Bonds provided for an additional \$50 million for open space acquisition. Ordinance 20071108-121 (Land Development Code, 25-8-27) established the Barton Springs Zone Mitigation Fund for the purchase of open space in the Barton Springs Zone. Open space has been preserved through numerous Development Agreements and PUD's (such as the Steiner Ranch, Forum PUD, Lowe's Sunset Valley Development Agreement (20050324-048)).

**GOAL 310.0 PRESERVE LARGE AMOUNTS OF OPEN SPACE AND ASSURE THAT THE MOST SUITABLE NATURAL AREAS ARE SO-RESERVED.**

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**11.) Policy 311.3**

Policy 311.3 Direct utility expansion away from areas of high resource value

A growth management policy should continue to determine areas in which growth will be facilitated, and areas where growth will be discouraged. This policy should be based, to a large degree, on the preservation of natural resources.

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with high public value. The Drinking Water Protection Zone should typically be excluded but include evaluation of the environmental benefit that the extension of service might enhance, especially where it eliminates septic systems over areas with unsuitable soils. Where the City has obtained a certificate of convenience and necessity from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the City has the legal obligation to provide water and/or wastewater service in accordance with the City's service extension request ordinances depending upon the type of certificate.

The Water and Wastewater CCNs (Certificates of Convenience and Necessity) excludes the Drinking Water Protection Zone (DWPZ). The Land Development Code (13-9-34) requires City Council approval for extension of service when it is located outside of the approved CCN and within the DWPZ but outside the City's full purposed corporate limits.

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## 12.) Policy 311.5

Policy 311.5 *Create special districts, based on environmental characteristics and apply appropriate development requirements*

Travis ~~Continue support of regulations that County should be divided~~ Austin's jurisdictional areas into several large districts according to common environmental characteristics or constraints, engineering properties or water resources. Continue support of ~~Subdivision requirements should which~~ vary accordingly from district to district. Special overlay

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districts have been successfully coupled with subdivision controls in other municipalities. The use of overlay districts for each regulated special constraint provides alternatives, and the concept should be ~~incorporated~~ continued in subdivision regulations.

~~The Smart Growth Initiative (970905-A) established the Drinking Water Protection Zone (DWPZ) and the Desired Development Zone (DDZ) as a growth management tool. Watershed classifications were established in section 25-8 of the Land Development Code that created different development restrictions in the form of varying impervious cover limitations, limits for development on slopes, waterway setback requirements, and water quality control requirements for the treatment of stormwater runoff which are based on the sensitivity of each watershed and its role in water supply.~~

Policy 311.5 *Create special districts, based on environmental characteristics, and apply appropriate development requirements*

2<sup>nd</sup>  
reading

~~Travis~~ Continue support of regulations that County should be divided Austin's jurisdictional areas into several large districts according to common environmental characteristics or constraints, engineering properties or water resources. Continue support of subdivision requirements, which vary accordingly from district to district. Special overlay districts have been successfully coupled with subdivision controls in other municipalities. The use of overlay districts for each regulated special constraint provides alternatives, and the concept should be ~~incorporated~~ continued in subdivision regulations. Encourage and support the development and continuation of similar special districts and implementation measures in areas beyond Austin's ETJ, by other planning and regulatory jurisdictions in Travis, Hays, and Williamson Counties.

~~The Smart Growth Initiative (970905-A) established the Drinking Water Protection Zone (DWPZ) and the Desired Development Zone (DDZ) as a growth management tool. Watershed classifications were established in section 25-8 of the Land Development Code that created different development restrictions in the form of varying impervious cover limitations, limits for development on slopes, waterway setback requirements, and water quality control requirements for the treatment of stormwater runoff which are based on the sensitivity of each watershed, and its role in water supply.~~

### 13.) Policy 312.3

Policy 312.3 ~~Maintain~~ Create subdivision controls to lessen the impact of new development on important natural areas

The subdivision ordinance is the major land use control for new development. Major environmental objectives include alleviation of flood damage, erosion and poor drainage practices, protection of water quality, protection of natural resources, and the provision of adequate open space.

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The control of three important parameters of land use intensity will allow for the application of subdivision controls on a performance standard basis. First, density - the number of dwelling units per acre of land - provides a fairly direct measure of the impact a development will have on utilities, roads, services and social and educational institutions. Less directly, it effects the impact of the development of the natural landscape and hydrological systems. Density standards should be used instead of lot size, thereby encouraging open space and more efficient land planning. Second, open space ratio is that proportion of a site neither occupied by private lots nor dedicated to public right-of-way. A ratio should be established for each new development though the ratio may vary according to the capacities of the natural resources on the site. Flexible development controls with high priority on open space can facilitate the construction of needed housing, while concurrently discouraging development of floodplains, steep slopes and other areas of high public concern. Third, the impervious surface ratio is that portion of a site occupied by all constructions that water does not readily penetrate. This is perhaps the most important measure of land use intensity. It will have direct influence on runoff and flooding, water quality, vegetation, inner-city climate and the natural resources of the site. The subdivision ordinance should encourage the lowest possible ratios of impervious coverage, regardless of density, through comprehensive site planning and innovative design.

Since adoption of this plan, Chapters 25-7 and 25-8 of the Land Development Code now include impervious cover limitations based on watershed, that are enforced with subdivision plans, as well as requirements for construction on slopes, critical environmental feature protection, tree and natural area protection, and requirements for the provisions of water quality, flood and erosion control ponds to mitigate the impacts of stormwater runoff.

Policy 312.3 *Create and maintain subdivision controls to lessen the impact of new development on important natural areas.*

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#### 14.) Policy 313.1

Policy 313.1 *Establish regulations for the cutting of trees and vegetation*

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The City should ~~continue to regulate the removal or trimming of trees and vegetation on City property, right-of-way and easements. The City should also consider regulating the removal of trees on privately owned parcels. Any policies or regulations should recognize that redevelopment poses perhaps the greatest threat to urban vegetation. A policy encouraging new planting and replanting would be supportive of this strategy.~~ The City should encourage the philosophy of planting "The Right Tree in the Right Place". The City Code Section 6-3-62 sets out the distances from electric facilities for tree plantings and the Commercial Design Standards Section 2.2.2.3 speaks to the distance from facilities for location of trees.

Sections 25-8-601 and 6-3-62 of the Land Development Code establish tree protection requirements. This addition is necessary to address the City Code Section 6-3-62, which regulates plantings near utility infrastructure, and the Commercial Design Standards Section 2.2.2.3.

Policy 313 1 *Establish regulations for the cutting of trees and vegetation*

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The City should continue to regulate the removal or trimming of trees and vegetation on City property, right-of-way and easements. The City should also consider regulating the removal of trees on privately owned parcels. Any policies or regulations should recognize that redevelopment poses perhaps the greatest threat to urban vegetation. A policy encouraging new planting and replanting would be supportive of this strategy.

Sections 25-8-601 and 627 of the Land Development Code establish tree protection requirements. This addition is necessary to address the City Code Section 6-32-62, which regulates plantings near utility infrastructure. The Commercial Design Standards, Section 2.2.2.3 speaks to the distance from facilities for location of trees. The City should encourage the philosophy of planting "The Right Tree in the Right Place."

**15.) Policy 321.2**

Policy 321 2 Continue to ~~prohibit~~ any alterations to development sites prior to the approval of the final subdivision plat and subdivision construction plan

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The Subdivision Ordinance ~~should provide~~ for a thorough review of the design and engineering aspects of development prior to any ground preparation or clearance. This assures that review decisions regarding basic design, transportation, drainage and utilities are neither precluded by premature development activities nor result in costly alterations. ~~Penalties should be considered~~ are enforced in cases where grading has occurred prior to submission of the subdivision applications.

Regulated through section 25-8 of the Land Development Code

Policy 321 2 Continue to ~~prohibit~~ any alterations to development sites prior to the approval of the final subdivision plat and subdivision construction plan

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Regulated through section 25-8 of the Land Development Code

## **16.) Objective 322.0**

**Objective 322.0** ~~Create~~Continue to support strong environmental standards for new development within the City limits and in the City's ETJ.

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This objective will involve investigating new ways of exercising development control. Subdivision regulation is most crucial outside the city limits and within the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) where zoning and other City ordinances are not applicable. Existing enabling legislation should be used to extend the application of the City's current Subdivision Ordinance.

Environmental Standards established in Chapter 25-8 of the Land Development Code, affected by Title 30, SB 245, HB 1704

**Objective 322.0** Create and continue to support strong environmental standards for new development within the City limits and in the City's ETJ.

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Environmental Standards established in Chapter 25-8 of the Land Development Code, affected by Title 30, SB 245, HB 1704

## **17.) Policy 322.2**

**Policy 322.2** ~~Establish~~Support development guidelines based on the physical and engineering constraints of the land

A determination of erosion potential, slope stability, shrink-swell capacity, excavation potential, bearing capacity and septic tank suitability can be derived by analyzing the combined characteristics of soil, geology and slope. The



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purpose of the guidelines should be to reduce the risk to public safety and the risk of property damage, to prevent uses of land which threaten to increase erosion and water pollution or require unsightly scarring of hillsides, and to check the high government costs of extending services and utilities and of controlling drainage, erosion and water pollution in special areas. Poorly regulated development in areas of high development constraint results in increased remedial expenditures. Some of this cost, particularly that related to drainage, streets and utilities, must be borne by the public. These improvements require specialized engineering and construction practices in areas of high constraint.

The Land Development Code regulations include requirements for net site area (section 25-8-262), construction on slopes (sections 25-8-301 through 304), clearing (sections 25-8-321 through 323), cut/fill and spoil (sections 25-8-341 through 343), environmental assessments (section 25-8-121) including a hydrologic report (section 25-8-122), requirement for a drainage study (section 25-7-31) and criteria for approval of site plans relative to erosion (section 25-7-61).

Policy 322.2 *Establish and support development guidelines based on the physical and engineering constraints of the land*

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### 18.) Policy 322.3

Policy 322.3 *~~Provide~~ Support guidelines for drainage and runoff control that reduce erosion, peak flows and poor water quality*

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading

Flooding, erosion and water pollution are directly related to urbanization and the development process. Adequate regulation is needed to mitigate water pollution caused by urban runoff, to alleviate the excessive runoff volumes and peak flow characteristics of developed areas which cause flooding downstream, and to prevent future remedial public projects which create unsightly and costly alterations to the natural character of waterways. Drainage and runoff regulations should allocate more of the real costs of urbanization to the private sector. In the past, some of these costs have been publicly subsidized in the form of expenditures for expensive remedial drainage projects. Other costs, such as those which pertain to water pollution, have been assumed by no one.

Water Quality Controls are required based on watershed classification (Land Development Code, 25-8-213). Two-year detention for erosion control is required (LDC 25-7-61). Flood controls are required by the Land Development Code (section 25-7-61) and the Drainage Criteria Manual to regulate peak flow rates for the two-, ten-, twenty-five- and one-hundred-year frequency storms to prevent increased inundation of any building or roadway surface. The Watershed Protection and Development Review Department also has programs that are approved by Council through the annual budget process which address water quality education (Grow Green, Pet Waste Reduction) that are successfully targeted at key areas where bacteria and nutrients are high and has implemented a program and regulatory response to eliminate coal tar as a source of water pollution (ordinance 20051117-070).

Policy 322.3 *Provide and support guidelines for drainage and runoff control that reduce erosion, peak flows and poor water quality*

2<sup>nd</sup>  
reading

Flooding, erosion and water pollution are directly related to urbanization and the development process. Adequate regulation is needed to mitigate water pollution caused by urban runoff, to alleviate the excessive runoff volumes and peak flow characteristics of developed areas which cause flooding downstream, and to prevent future remedial public projects which create unsightly and costly alterations to the natural character of waterways. Drainage and runoff regulations should allocate more of the real costs of urbanization to the private sector. In the past, some of these costs have been publicly subsidized in the form of expenditures for expensive remedial drainage projects. Other costs, such as those which pertain to water pollution, have been assumed by no one.

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the annual budget process which address water quality education (Grow Green, Pet Waste Reduction) that are successfully targeted at key areas where bacteria and nutrients are high and has implemented a program and regulatory response to eliminate coal tar as a source of water pollution (ordinance 20051117-070)

## 19.) Objective 323.0

**Objective 323.0 ~~Establish~~ Maintain environmental standards for extending streets and utilities into environmentally sensitive areas**

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading

The extension of all streets and utilities should be coordinated with a growth management policy. Environmental sensitivity should be foremost for all location decisions. Specific location and construction guidelines are necessary to minimize environmental damage.

The Austin Independent School District (AISD) and other school district agreements established standards for development in environmentally sensitive areas. The Land Development Code (section 25-8-301) established standards for construction of roadways on steep slopes. Environmental assessments are required for development in environmentally sensitive areas and include a requirement for justification of roadway and utility alignments (LDC, 25-8-121). Standards are established for the approval of utility service extensions (LDC, 25-9-34), and the City may request environmental assessments for the evaluation of service extension requests.

**Objective 323.0 Establish and maintain environmental standards for extending streets and utilities into environmentally sensitive areas.**

2<sup>nd</sup>  
reading

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## 20.) Goal 330.0

### GOAL 330.0 PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY OF TRAVIS COUNTY'S CREEKS, LAKES AND AQUIFERS.

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading

The quality of numerous water resources in and near Austin has already been seriously endangered by the process of urbanization. The city should strive to protect its nearby water resources in order to maintain a healthy water supply and prevent expensive treatment prior to public use, to maintain the excellent recreational utility of the nearby lakes and springs and to maintain the quality of water resources.

The City should actively ~~pursue these goals~~ enforce existing environmental regulations allowed through by comprehensive utilization of pertinent state-enabling legislation. Included is Section 21.357 of the Texas Water Code, which enables the development of plans for controlling and decreasing pollution or potential pollution from generalized discharges of waste which are not traceable to a specific source, such as storm sewer discharges and urban runoff from rainwater.

Current environmental standards are governed by chapter 25-8 of the Land Development Code, and the Smart Growth Initiative establishment of the Drinking Water Protection Zone (DWPZ).

### GOAL 330.0 PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY OF TRAVIS COUNTY'S CREEKS, LAKES AND AQUIFERS.

2<sup>nd</sup>  
reading

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Current environmental standards are governed by chapter 25-8 of the Land Development Code, and the Smart Growth Initiative establishment of the Drinking Water Protection Zone (DWPZ).

## **21.) Policy 412.6**

Policy 412.6 ~~Continue to investigate the cost, resource conservation, greenhouse gas reduction and renewable energy resources potential and environmental hazard of alternative electric generation fuel sources~~

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading Policy language drawn from Austin Climate Protection Plan

Policy 412.6 ~~Continue to investigate the cost, resource conservation, greenhouse gas reduction, and renewable energy resources potential and environmental hazard of alternative electric generation fuel sources~~

2<sup>nd</sup>  
reading Policy language drawn from Austin Climate Protection Plan which is supported by Resolution 20070215-023

## **22.) Housing, Neighborhoods, and Community Development Introduction**

~~Housing and~~ Housing, Neighborhoods, and Community Development Introduction

This section is designed to provide a coordinated strategy to assure a quality residential environment for all of the residents of Austin. ~~The overall objective of this topic area coincides with a long-standing national housing community development goal determined enacted by Congress to provide a decent, safe, and affordable housing and a suitable home and suitable living environment for every low- to moderate-income households.~~ The strategy used consists of two interrelated parts, and each part is aimed at the achievement of a basic housing goal

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading ~~The first of these goals concentrates on the assurance of the quality of the housing and neighborhoods within the city, while the second goal is directed at the provision of housing stock of sufficient quality and affordability at such a cost that adequate housing is available to each resident of the city. These two interrelated goals, if not approached with a series of very carefully articulated and coordinated policies and programs, may become mutually exclusive. A balance between neighborhood environment and the quality and affordability of available the cost of the housing available to the primarily for low- to moderate-income residents of the city is critical for the effective implementation of the following policy guidelines~~

Policy revisions reflect language found in the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Consolidated Plan and Action Plans.

## *Housing-and, Neighborhoods, and Community Development Introduction*

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Policy revisions reflect language found in the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Consolidated Plan and Action Plans.

### **23.) Policy 521.2**

Policy 521.2 Continue to require strict compliance with federal and local fair housing Program in the case of publicly assisted housing laws

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading The Freedom of Choice Plan adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Austin Public Housing Authority should be continued. The Housing Authority should also continue a policy of constructing lower density, scattered housing in diverse areas of the city in an effort to promote housing integration.

~~The Department of Housing and Urban Development's Rental Assistance Payments Program, as well as other housing assistance programs administered by the Housing Authority, should include the development and implementation of a comprehensive Equal Opportunity Housing Plan. Effective enforcement of federal and local fair housing laws and ordinances by the Human Rights Commission will be the decisive factor in assuring housing availability at fair prices to minority households. Strict compliance should be the requirement for all housing.~~

~~Policy revisions reflect the goals of S M A R T Housing Policies and the Affordable Housing Incentives Task Force in addition to the Fair Housing regulations and enforcement practices.~~

Policy 521.2 *Continue to require strict compliance with federal and local fair housing Program in the case of publicly assisted housing laws*

2<sup>nd</sup>  
reading

~~The Freedom of Choice Plan adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Austin Public Housing Authority should be continued. The Housing Authority should also continue a policy of constructing lower density, scattered housing. The City should encourage housing providers to construct affordable housing in diverse areas of the city in an effort to promote housing integration.~~

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~~Policy revisions reflect the goals of S M A R T Housing Policies and the Affordable Housing Incentives Task Force in addition to the Fair Housing regulations and enforcement practices.~~

## **24.) Policy 522.2**

Policy 522.2 *Expedite the construction of new public housing S M A R T Housing*

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading

~~The City should encourage funding for new public housing. Current priorities have been retarded due to federal policies and difficulties in site acquisition, the Department of Housing and Urban Development is now giving priority to new public housing construction in those states with effective state finance agencies. The City should support the~~

establishment of a State Housing Finance Agency in Texas should consider the availability of vouchers, waiting lists, and the expiration of affordable housing properties

Policy revisions reflect the Council-adopted S M A R T Housing policy

Policy 522.2 *Expedite the construction of new ~~public housing~~ affordable housing*

2<sup>nd</sup>  
reading

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Policy revisions reflect the Council-adopted S M A R T Housing policy

## **25.) Policy 522.4**

Policy 522.4 *Direct rehabilitation efforts toward preserving the supply of standard housing available to low income families*

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading

A significant number of substandard, but salvageable, houses are demolished each year. For some of these, rehabilitation through private financing to meet Building Housing Code specifications would result in higher-than-competitive rents. For others, demolition is the result of public property acquisition for rights-of-way. If such houses could be publicly acquired, relocated and repaired, they could then be sold to lower income families through such programs as Urban Homesteading, or rented as public housing through the Austin Public Housing Authority. Through a more comprehensive preservation policy, the City can avoid the potential loss of affordable housing. A significant number of older multifamily and single-family homes are demolished, redeveloped, or rehabilitated each year. For the majority, higher market rents replace affordable rents because of the costs associated with construction and land values

The policy revisions reflect the goals of the Consolidated Plan and Action Plan

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2<sup>nd</sup>  
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The policy revisions reflect the goals of the Consolidated Plan and Action Plan.

## **26.) Policy 612.13**

Policy 612.13 ~~Extend "Lake" zoning to Lake Austin and areas along Town-Lady Bird Lake that are not currently covered by such a zoning classification~~

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading

Deleted "Town" and replaced with "Lady Bird" by consensus

Policy 612.13 ~~Extend "Lake" zoning uses to Lake Austin and areas along Town-Lady Bird Lake that are not currently covered by such a zoning classification~~

2<sup>nd</sup>  
reading

Height limits were not associated with the Lake zoning category that was in place during the adoption of Austin Tomorrow in 1979. The current Lake zoning classification takes height into consideration and currently limits maximum height to 200 feet.

## **27.) Transportation Systems Introduction**

### *Transportation Systems Introduction*

This section coordinates transportation system policy with the overall goals of urban design improvement, neighborhood protection, environmental protection and urban growth management. It reflects increased concern for

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading

safe and efficient public transit systems and non-motorized travel modes, rather than continued dependency on the automobile as the primary means of travel. Inherent in this shift of emphasis is the need for basic transportation for ~~mobility-impaired individuals~~ all citizens, and for compatibility between the transportation system and adjacent land uses. A change in priorities should also help to reduce transportation related noises and have a positive effect on air quality.

Policies have been developed to complement each other, no policy, objective or goal should compete against another. The intent of each is to provide a framework from which to build a transportation system that is responsive to the present needs of the Austin community and that will remain responsive to future needs. A Comprehensive Transportation Plan for the location, size and development of physical transportation elements will be produced by the Austin Transportation Study Office. Upon completion, this plan will be adopted as an integral part of the Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan.

Adequate air transportation facilities and the efficient movement of goods and services within the urban area are also discussed in this section. Standards, criteria and guidelines are suggested by many objectives and policies, and these should be based on definitive research and realistically attainable values.

SAFETEA-LU (Pub. L. 109-59, August 10, 2005) and ADA (Pub. L. 101-336, July 26, 1990) requirements.

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2<sup>nd</sup>  
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SAFETEA-LU (Pub. L. 109-59, August 10, 2005) and ADA (Pub. L. 101-336, July 26, 1990) requirements

## **28.) Policy 711.12**

Policy 711.12 Improve the quality and accessibility of downtown streets, streetscapes, and sidewalks

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading

Streetscapes should be accessible, comfortable and have an aesthetic sidewalk network throughout the downtown area. Public right of ways should be used as a catalyst for creating great public spaces in order to improve the quality of downtown.

Policy addition to address Downtown Austin Alliance's adopted Great Streets concept. In 1996, voters approved \$5 million in bonds for the Great Streets Program. City Council Resolution 19961121-030 November 21, 1996

Policy 711.12 Improve the quality and accessibility of all streets, streetscapes, and sidewalks

2<sup>nd</sup>  
reading

Streetscapes should be accessible, comfortable and have an aesthetic sidewalk network throughout the city. Public right of ways should be used as a catalyst for creating great public spaces in order to improve the quality of the city.

Policy addition to address Downtown Austin Alliance's adopted Great Streets concept via City Council Resolution 19961121-030 November 21, 1996. In 1996, voters approved \$5 million in bonds for the Great Streets Program. Commercial Design Standards extend the scope of the concept to include areas of the city beyond downtown.

## 29.) Policy 715.0

**Objective 715.0 ~~Improve basic transportation for all mobility-impaired individuals. Adhere to Americans with Disabilities Act principles to ensure the transportation network is accessible by all residents.~~**

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading      Revisions based upon American with Disabilities Act language Pub. L. 101-336, July 26, 1990

**Objective 715.0 ~~Improve basic transportation for all mobility-impaired individuals and adhere to Americans with Disabilities Act principles to ensure the transportation network is accessible by all residents.~~**

2<sup>nd</sup>  
reading      Revisions based upon American with Disabilities Act language Pub. L. 101-336, July 26, 1990

## 30.) Objective 722.0

**Objective 722.0 ~~Maintain and enforce acceptable air quality standards~~**

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading      Continue to reduce the amount of ozone created in Central Texas by creating various programs and initiatives to address environmental concerns and by monitoring the area's air quality according to federal standards

Addition based on Austin-Round Rock MSA Early Action Compact (12-18-02), Central Texas Clean Air Coalition (11-13-02), Central Texas 03 Flex Agreement and supported by City of Austin Resolution 20031204-056, December 4, 2003

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2<sup>nd</sup>  
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### 31.) Health and Human Services Introduction - Goals

~~The human services master plan should be written to develop long range human service policies and principles. It should acknowledge the intent of the City. The intent is to sustain, through delivery systems, general support services as well as individualized services to persons with special or emergency needs. These principles should be expressed in terms of goals such as~~

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading

- (1) ~~Minimum life support~~ Safety net / infrastructure services - Ensure that no person is without such basic necessities as food, clothing, health, shelter, and mental health care, or constitutionally-guaranteed legal rights
- (2) ~~Transcending the welfare cycle~~ Transition out of poverty - Ensure educational, employment and other special opportunities for disadvantaged persons to further self-reliance
- (3) ~~Problem prevention~~ - Deter the growth of problem conditions at the individual and community level through education, preventive physical and mental health programs, recreation, safety programs, rodent control, crime prevention and other preventive programs
- ~~Universal support services~~ - Provide family and societal support services in response to new problems created by urbanization and technological advances. These include health, education, child care, counseling and assistance for the aging, youth, homeless, and unemployed, ~~rehabilitation services and other support rehabilitation services~~
- (54) Enrichment - Encourage personal development and community enrichment through cultural, educational and recreational programs

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- (4) ~~Universal support services~~ - Provide family and societal support services in response to new problems created by urbanization and technological advances. These include health, education, child care, counseling and assistance for the aging, youth, homeless, and unemployed, rehabilitation services and other support rehabilitation services

- (5) Enrichment - Encourage personal development and community enrichment through cultural, educational and recreational programs

### 32.) Health and Human Services Introduction - Processes

In support of the five goals listed, health and human resources development services policy should include the following processes

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading

- (1) Planning - Integrate existing and future City of Austin health and human service activities into a purposeful, systematic and timely scheme to meet expressed community needs in a sympathetic and efficient manner Continue to investigate workable, innovative health and human services for Austin
- (2) Coordination - Coordinate City of Austin health and human service activities with those of other service organizations
- (3) Collaboration - Expand existing collaboration with the Community Action Network, United Way, Travis County and other entities on funding processes and decisions
- (4) Technical assistance - Offer educational and other support services to City of Austin departments and contract agencies, as well as other public agencies, where appropriate
- (5) Monitoring and evaluation - ~~Develop a~~ improve existing monitoring and evaluation system to determine the efficiency, effectiveness, impact and contract compliance of projects

In support of the five goals listed, health and human resources development services policy should include the following processes

2<sup>nd</sup>  
reading

- (1) Planning - Integrate existing and future City of Austin health and human service activities into a purposeful, systematic and timely scheme to meet expressed community needs in a sympathetic and efficient manner Continue to investigate workable, innovative health and human services for Austin
- (2) Coordination - Coordinate City of Austin health and human service activities with those of other service organizations
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- (4) Technical assistance - Offer educational and other support services to City of Austin departments and contract agencies, as well as other public agencies, where appropriate
- (5) Monitoring and evaluation - Develop and improve existing monitoring and evaluation system to determine the efficiency, effectiveness, impact and contract compliance of projects

### 33.) Health and Human Services Introduction – Services

Human Health and human services goals will be achieved through a comprehensive health and human service delivery system. The ~~thirteen~~ nine following services are components of the present City system. This is not, however, a complete inventory of the services which could be provided.

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading

- (1) Consumer protection and education
- ~~(2) Cultural Enrichment and development~~
- ~~(23) Employment and economic development~~ ~~(4) Equal opportunity~~
- ~~(35) Financial and emergency assistance~~
- ~~(46) Food and nutrition~~ ~~(7) Physical health maintenance and care~~
- ~~(58) Informal and supplementary education~~
- ~~(69) Individual and Family life counseling~~
- ~~(74) Recreation and social development~~
- ~~(84) Mental health maintenance and care~~
- ~~(94) Public health protection~~
- ~~(13) Justice and safety~~

Human Health and human services goals will be achieved through a comprehensive health and human service delivery system. The ~~thirteen~~ following services are components of the present City system. This is not, however, a complete inventory of the services which could be provided.

2<sup>nd</sup>  
reading

- (1) Consumer protection and education
- ~~(2) Cultural Enrichment and development~~
- (3) Employment and economic development
- (4) Equal opportunity
- ~~(5) Financial and emergency assistance~~
- (6) Food and nutrition
- (7) Physical health maintenance and care
- (8) Informal and supplementary education
- (9) Individual and Family life counseling

- (10) Recreation and social development
- (11) Mental health maintenance and care
- (12) Public health protection
- (13) Justice and safety

### 34.) Health and Human Services Introduction - Citizens

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading

Citizens demand, as the Austin Tomorrow Program demonstrates, that health and human services effectively and adequately meet community needs Austin citizens feel that planning is necessary in order to assure that these needs are met Planning is ongoing and includes collaborations cited earlier A general plan was developed in 2004 categorizing services based on infrastructure/safety net services and integrated systems of care An overall Social Services Investment Strategy was developed in 2007 and a process for prioritizing is underway in 2008

2<sup>nd</sup>  
reading

Citizens demand, as the Austin Tomorrow Program demonstrates, that health and human services effectively and adequately meet community needs Austin citizens feel that planning is necessary in order to assure that these needs are met

Planning is ongoing and includes collaborations cited earlier A general plan was developed in 2004 categorizing services based on infrastructure/safety net services and integrated systems of care An overall Social Services Investment Strategy was developed in 2007 and a process for prioritizing is underway in 2008

### 35.) Policy 811.1

Policy 811.1 ~~Establish~~ Continue a system for integrated, comprehensive health and human service planning

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading

The planning process will (1) define and establish priorities of need, (2) define the level of provision of specific preventative health services, (3) provide an in-depth, comprehensive needs assessment, and (4) develop integrated and comprehensive services These services should be designed to reinforce each other with minimal duplication of effort As a part of this effort, the Social Services Investment Strategy was developed in 2004 and updated in 2007

Policy 811.1 ~~Establish~~ Continue to develop a system for integrated, comprehensive health and human service planning



2<sup>nd</sup>  
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As a part of this effort, the Social Services Investment Strategy was developed in 2004 and updated in 2007.

### 36.) Policy 811.2

Policy 811.2 ~~Establish~~ *Continue to develop a system for effective, uniform monitoring and evaluation of health and human services programs*

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading Specific goals and objectives can be established ~~can be established~~ for each service program. Regular and periodic monitoring may then indicate what progress is being made toward achieving the stated goals and objectives. Continuous evaluation must ultimately assess whether the program achieves the established goals in an effective manner. Social Services agencies are monitored regularly on a 3 year basis focused on efficient/effective services, accurate payments and financial systems, and agency viability and stability (including board management).

Policy 811.2 ~~Establish~~ *Continue to develop a system for effective, uniform monitoring and evaluation of health and human services programs*

2<sup>nd</sup>  
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### 37.) Policy 811.4

Policy 811.4 ~~Establish~~ *Enhance existing an effective information and referral procedure*

1<sup>st</sup> reading Effective information and referral services are essential for achieving the maximum use of the health and human services delivery system. Community awareness of these services is essential in meeting the needs of potential service recipients. This need is currently met by the United Way 211 and the City 311 calling systems.

Policy 811.4 ~~Establish~~ Enhance existing ~~an effective~~ information and referral procedure

2<sup>nd</sup> reading Effective information and referral services are essential for achieving the maximum use of the health and human services delivery system. Community awareness of these services is essential in meeting the needs of potential service recipients.

This need is currently met by the United Way 211 and the City 311 calling systems.

### 38.) Policy 811.6

Policy 811.6 ~~Establish~~ Improve a mechanism for obtaining citizen participation in planning both the long range and project level of health and human services

1<sup>st</sup> reading All planning efforts must incorporate those priorities, needs or preferences which are expressed by the citizens for whom the services are to be provided. Citizens must be involved in formulating the overall goals and objectives of the human service delivery system, as well as in decisions concerning specific project plans designed to implement these goals. The examples of the current citizen input mechanisms are Day Labor Community Advisory Committee, Solicitation Survey, and Community Action Network (CAN) Community Council.

Policy 811.6 ~~Establish~~ Improve a mechanism for obtaining citizen participation in planning both the long range and project level of health and human services

2<sup>nd</sup> reading All planning efforts must incorporate those priorities, needs or preferences which are expressed by the citizens for whom the services are to be provided. Citizens must be involved in formulating the overall goals and objectives of the human service delivery system, as well as in decisions concerning specific project plans designed to implement these goals.

The examples of the current citizen input mechanisms are Day Labor Community Advisory Committee, Solicitation Survey, and Community Action Network (CAN) Community Council.

### 39.) Policy 812.1

Policy 812.1 ~~Eliminate~~ Reduce duplication of effort in the provision of City-funded health and human services

1<sup>st</sup> reading The health and human service delivery system should assure that each service is planned for and implemented so that all needs are met and no services are duplicated

Policy 812.1 *Eliminate duplication of effort in the provision of City-funded health and human services*

2<sup>nd</sup> reading The health and human service delivery system should assure that each service is planned for and implemented so that all needs are met and no services are duplicated

### 40.) Policy 813.1

Policy 813.1 *Improve mental health services*

1<sup>st</sup> reading Provide for community education programs which will increase public awareness and understanding of the causes and opportunities for the treatment of mental illness and mental retardation  
~~Implement emergency mental health care services at Brackenridge Hospital and at other locations throughout Austin, as needed~~

~~Incorporate halfway houses, employment training programs and individualized care into mental health treatment  
Emphasize integration of the mentally ill and retarded into the community~~

Policy 813.1 *Improve mental health services*

2<sup>nd</sup> reading Provide for community education programs which will increase public awareness and understanding of the causes and opportunities for the treatment of mental illness and mental retardation  
Implement emergency mental health care services at Brackenridge Hospital and at other locations throughout Austin, as needed

Incorporate halfway houses, employment training programs and individualized care into mental health treatment

Emphasize integration of the mentally ill and retarded into the community

#### 41.) Policy 813.5

~~Policy 813.5 Expand education-related programs~~

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading

~~Provide full-time medical personnel at each school~~

~~Encourage the improvement of drug abuse and sex education programs by cooperating with the school district, City, County and private agencies~~

~~Encourage the multiple use of school facilities as community centers by making them available at night and on weekends~~

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#### 42.) Policy 813.6

~~Policy 813.2 Policy 813.6 Expand family planning, prenatal programs and venereal disease control, sexually transmitted diseases control programs for at risk populations and communities~~

1<sup>st</sup>  
reading

~~Provide family planning, prenatal education and medical services through the neighborhood clinics to anyone needing these services~~

~~Increase the accessibility of abortion services at Brackenridge Hospital~~

Policy 813.6 ~~Expand family planning, prenatal programs and venereal disease control sexually transmitted diseases control programs for at risk populations and communities~~

2<sup>nd</sup> reading Provide family planning, prenatal education and medical services through the neighborhood clinics to anyone needing these services

Increase the accessibility of abortion services at Brackenridge Hospital

#### 43.) Policy 813.7

Policy 813.7 ~~Enforce animal control and environmental and consumer health laws rodent and animal control laws Expand rodent and insect control programs Enforce leash laws, encourage low cost pet neutering~~

1<sup>st</sup> reading Enforce environmental regulations through routine inspections and complaint investigation of food establishments, general environmental complaint investigations, and enforcement of the Smoking in Public Places and Minors Access to Tobacco Ordinances

Policy 813.7 ~~Expand and enforce animal control and environmental and consumer health laws rodent and animal control laws Expand rodent and insect control programs Enforce leash laws, encourage low cost pet neutering~~

2<sup>nd</sup> reading Enforce environmental regulations through routine inspections and complaint investigation of food establishments, general environmental complaint investigations, and enforcement of the Smoking in Public Places and Minors Access to Tobacco Ordinances

Changes made to the Health and Human Services section reflect the actual scope of the Health and Human Services Department, which was not in existence during the creation of the Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan. Previously this section was a narrative on how a human services master plan could be constructed and what it possibly may entail. The role of public health is to promote community-wide wellness, prevent disease, and to protect the community from infectious diseases, environmental hazards, and epidemics. The revisions reflect the department's current purpose to work in partnership with the community to promote health, safety, and well being.