

RESOLUTION NO. 20110113-038

WHEREAS, the City of Austin desires that future development activity not increase impacts to public and private property from flooding and stream erosion or create additional public expense and environmental degradation; and

WHEREAS, broad, alluvial floodplains are more likely to be modified or channelized due to their unique topography and soil types; and

WHEREAS, existing regulations need to be reviewed and amended to be sure they provide sufficient protection of headwater streams, maintain creek health, control infrastructure maintenance costs, and take advantage of opportunity for greenway and trail connectivity; and

WHEREAS, the 2001 Watershed Protection Master Plan, approved by Council, called for improvements to stream setback regulations and drainage design criteria; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

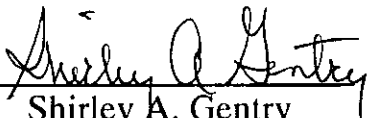
The City Manager is directed to draft, process, and bring forward for Council consideration necessary Land Development Code amendments to improve stream buffer requirements, protect headwaters and streambanks, preserve floodplains, and improve stormwater controls to accomplish the following goals:

1. Improve stream buffer requirements, including critical headwater areas, to protect water quality and reduce erosion, flooding, and long-range costs for infrastructure maintenance.

2. Promote, encourage and/or require the preservation and restoration of floodplains and stream buffers as well as the beneficial re-purposing of mining quarries.
3. Explore opportunities to encourage a development pattern that better protects public and private property, preserves floodplains, creeks and open spaces, and provides access and connectivity with greenways and trails.
4. Improve permanent stormwater controls to better moderate runoff and help reduce streambank erosion.
5. Explore better ways to regulate the modification of floodplains, including options for off-site mitigation for developments in areas that are planned for higher density developments.
6. Simplify development regulations where possible and minimize the impact of any changes on individual and collective abilities to develop land.
7. Work in coordination with Travis County and neighboring communities to develop the above changes.

ADOPTED: January 13, 2011

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk