

WALLER CREEK DESIGN COMPETITION DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Participating Design Teams will be required to address the following Design Principles in their design concepts and these Principles will provide the criteria by which the Jury will evaluate the design concepts submitted in Stage III of the process:

1. Principle 1: A Natural Armature for an Urban District

The character of Waller Creek should be a natural habitat that co-exists with the built environment. The design concept should be innovative and daring in exploring how natural systems can enhance the urban experience in a compatible and complementary manner.

2. Principle 2: Connect Downtown, the State Capitol Complex, the University of Texas, and East Austin

Provide for connections through the Waller Creek corridor that provide for functional and cohesive linkages between the Downtown, the State Capitol Complex, the University of Texas, and East Austin. Restore historical relationships of diverse parts of the city. Provide spaces and places that are "attractors" and enable use of the District by a diversity of citizens and visitors.

3. Principle 3: Encourage Redevelopment

The goal of the design concept is to create a cohesive district that is focused around Waller Creek, related parkland and open space (Waterloo Park, Symphony Square, Palm Park and Lady Bird Lake). As the focal point of the district, Waller Creek should contribute to, and set the standard for, redevelopment proposals.

4. Principle 4: Engage the Creek

The design concept should "engage the creek", orient itself towards, embrace, enhance and take advantage of the creek and amenities that currently exist and will continue to exist along the creek.

5. Principle 5: Provide Access

The project should allow access within the District and to the creek. Access should be provided along at least one bank of the creek and connect to roadways, walkways and other public areas. Aspects of Universal Design and Accessibility should be incorporated in the concept design. Emphasis should include multiple bike and pedestrian trails and routes within the corridor and across the corridor to provide a high level of "connective-ness" beyond the Waller Creek District to the larger central city context.

6. Principle 6: Sound Mitigation

Within reasonable parameters, the design concept should mitigate adverse noise effects from the creek area on the surrounding uses and neighborhoods. Likewise, the immediate creek environment should enable enjoyment of an acoustic quality tied to the natural environment.

7. Principle 7: Minimize Exclusionary Uses

The design concept should minimize exclusionary uses and provide a variety of compatible uses along the creek corridor which will allow the greatest number of people to engage in activity along Waller Creek at any given time. Uses that discourage, compromise, or prevent other public and recreational uses are to be avoided. The design concept should address issues of security and safety--both real and perceived.

8. Principle 8: Create a Sustainable District

The design concept should determine how the creek corridor can interact with the built environment to provide for cultural, economic and environmental sustainability. Within the creek corridor, the design concept should address issues of operations and maintenance and explore public/private partnerships to enable long-term viability of the corridor.

9. Principle 9: Create, Reclaim and Restore Parkland

The design concept should address the restoration of existing and new parklands along the corridor. This may include existing parks that need restoration and reconfiguration, new parks and open space that enhance both the corridor and private development and areas that have fallen into disuse due to budget or political circumstances.

10. Principle 10: Protect and Enhance Ecological Diversity

The design concept should enhance the creek's natural ecology and avoid environmentally damaging features. The design should promote the establishment of native flora and fauna along the corridor by use of natural materials and native landscaping. The goal would be to provide a unique environment that can serve as a living and evolving natural landscape within the urban setting and allows the design characteristics of the creek to be adapted to the development in the District as a whole.