

IMAGINE AUSTIN

PROVISIONS ADDRESSING FOOD & AGRICULTURE

INCLUSIVENESS SIDEBAR

With housing and sidewalks for all...

As outlined by the vision statement, Imagine Austin strives to make our city a place where the necessities of life are affordable and accessible for all. We hope to convey that amenities, features and services should be inclusive of the various needs of all Austinites, including children, teens, adults, seniors, families, singles, artists, musicians, teachers, civil servants, small business owners, residents of North, South, East, West, and Central Austin, those with mental or physical disabilities, native Austinites, immigrants, all races and ethnicities, all religions, all cultures, all lifestyles and all socioeconomic classifications.

Throughout the plan, you will find that many policies and actions call for anticipated or desired services and infrastructure such as affordable housing, accessible sidewalks and a connected network of trails, parks and open space. What you will not often find is a mention of specific groups or segments of the community identified as targeted recipients of such benefits. We have done this deliberately because we recognize that these gaps in service and infrastructure provision affect a large swath of the community and should be made available to all those in need, whether they belong to a specified profession, demographic group, income bracket or not.

CHAPTER 3

VISION STATEMENT

AUSTIN IS LIVABLE:

One of Austin's foundations is its safe, well-maintained, stable, and attractive neighborhoods and places whose character and history are preserved. Economically mixed and diverse neighborhoods across all parts of the city have a range of affordable housing options. All residents have a variety of urban, suburban, and semi-rural lifestyle choices with access to quality schools, libraries, parks and recreation, health and human services, and other outstanding public facilities and services.

- Austin's diverse population is active and healthy, with access to locally-grown, nourishing foods, and affordable healthcare.

AUSTIN IS NATURAL AND SUSTAINABLE:

Austin is a green city. We are environmentally aware and ensure the long-term health and quality of our community through responsible resource use as citizens at the local, regional, and global level. Growth and infrastructure systems are well-managed to respect the limitations of our natural resources.

- We protect the beauty of the Colorado River watershed, Hill Country and Blackland Prairie and value our farmland that nurtures local food production.

AUSTIN VALUES AND RESPECTS ITS PEOPLE:

Austin is its people. Our city is home to engaged, compassionate, creative, and independent thinking people, where diversity is a source of strength and where we have the opportunity to fully participate and fulfill our potential.

- People across all parts of the city and of all ages and income levels live in safe, stable neighborhoods with a variety of affordable and accessible homes, healthy food, economic opportunity, healthcare, education, and transportation.

CHAPTER 4 BUILDING BLOCKS POLICIES

LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION 5. Create healthy and family-friendly communities through development that includes a mix of land uses and housing types and affords realistic opportunities for transit, bicycle, and pedestrian travel and provides both community gathering spaces and safe outdoor **parks and** play areas for children.

Comment [PD1]: ID# 5399, 5495

URBAN DESIGN 1. Develop accessible community gathering places that include such spaces plazas, parks, farmers' markets, sidewalks, and streets in all parts of Austin, especially in the Downtown, future TODs, in denser, mixed-use communities, and other redevelopment areas, that encourage interaction and provide places for people to visit and relax.

CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES 5. Expand regional programs and planning for the purchase of conservation easements and open space for aquifer protection, stream and water quality protection, wildlife habitat conservation, as well as sustainable agriculture.

CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES 13. Incentivize, develop, and expand the market for local and sustainable **food**, which includes such activities as farming, ranching, and food processing.

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PUBLIC BUILDINGS 4. Integrate public buildings and facilities into active, walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods and complete, healthy communities.

SOLID WASTE 2. Expand waste diversion rates and services:

- Increase composting at homes and businesses
- Improve recycling of material and food scraps in public spaces, in trash receptacles on city streets, and at public events

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES 6. Promote the availability of and educate the community about healthy food choices, including “slow food” (local food traditions, small-scale food processing, and organic agriculture) and nutritional

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES 7. Provide broad access to fresh foods, local farmers markets, co-ops, grocery stores, community gardens, and healthy restaurants in neighborhoods. education programs.

**CHAPTER 5
IMPLEMENTATION
ACTIONS**

LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION (LUT) Action-11	Develop land use and transportation policies and regulations that promote the development of projects that promote more active and healthy lifestyles such as community gardens, tree-shaded sidewalks and trails, bicycle parking, showers within office buildings, and having daily needs within proximity to home and work.
LUT Action-36	Incentivize appropriately-scaled and located green infrastructure and public spaces, such as parks, plazas, greenbelts, trails, urban agriculture and/or open space in new development and redevelopment projects.
LUT Action-38	Review and change building and zoning codes and incorporate best practices to promote green building and sustainable development.
LUT Action-39	Create regulations and incentives for developers and builders to use green development techniques for buildings, streets, and open spaces with a focus on conservation, longevity, and sustainability.
HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOODS (HN) Action-15	Develop a regulatory framework to incentivize the use of sustainable and cost effective design features such as rainwater harvesting, xeriscape features, rain gardens, green roofs, greywater irrigation, solar power, and energy efficient utilities.
HN Action-29	Establish a regulatory environment that creates communities across Austin that: -support walking, bicycling, and transit -live/work spaces -are in proximity to daily needs - include a variety of employment opportunities -provide a range of housing (duplexes, townhouses, row houses, small-scale apartments, etc.) integrating market-rate

Comment [PD3]: ID# 9193

Comment [PD4]: ID# 5569

	<p>and affordable housing for people of all ages, abilities, and means</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -utilize sustainable building practices -are stable with low crime and safe buildings -provides a range of facilities and services such as schools, parks, community gardens, and other public gathering spaces
CONSERVATION (CE) Action-9	Develop an educational and awards program to showcase best practices in sustainable and low-impact development and achievements or innovations in waste reduction, recycling, and sustainable food practices.
CE Action-13	Develop regulations and incentives to protect prime farmland such as transferable development rights, farmland trusts, farmland mitigation, and conservation easements.
CE Action-14	Support local farmers by creating incentives and removing regulatory barriers, offering tailored small business support, and creating public information campaigns to promote local food.
CE Action-15	Expand existing and facilitate the establishment of new distribution avenues for local farm products.
CE Action-16	Identify and map food deserts and provide incentives for full service grocery stores and farmers markets to locate in these underserved areas.
CE Action-17	<p>Expand the City of Austin’s acquisition of environmentally significant land, conservation easements, and/or development rights for the protection of sensitive areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - floodplains - riparian areas - wetlands - prairies - land that supports recharge of the Edwards Aquifer - wildlife habitat and corridors - bottomland forests and priority woodlands - critical environmental features - agricultural land
CITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES (CFS) Action-25	Develop design standards for public buildings and spaces that promote high-quality community focal points in the areas where they are located. These standards should address issues such as:

Comment [PD5]: ID# 5585

Comment [PD6]: ID# 5570

Comment [PD7]: ID# 5564

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - re-use of existing structures - LEED certification, including water and energy efficiency - low impact development - resource recovery such as recycling, composting, and reuse - trees planting, preservation, and protection - green spaces - transit access - carshare/electric vehicle parking spaces - bikesharing and bicycle facilities and accommodations - safe, connected walkways - public spaces inside and outside of buildings - anchoring neighborhood niches - child-friendly play spaces - family-friendliness. 	<p>Comment [TT8]: ID 9210</p> <p>Comment [PD9]: ID# 5415, 5507</p> <p>Comment [PD10]: ID# 232, 5413, 5505</p> <p>Comment [PD11]: ID# 9392</p>
CFS Action-32	<p>Implement the Zero Waste Strategic Plan and Solid Waste Services Master Plan to divert 90% of waste from landfills and incinerators by 2040, with particular attention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - expanding diversion opportunities such as recycling and composting for residents and businesses; - supporting resale, refurbishing, and reuse opportunities throughout Austin; - fostering public awareness of Zero Waste through education, recognition, and incentive programs; - assessing the current capacity of waste diversion facilities to coordinate with the Growth Concept Map. 	
CFS Action-37	<p>Create a green infrastructure plan for public land or in public rights-of-way to preserve Austin's ecosystem, improve the water cycle, reduce the urban heat island effect, improve air quality, enrich public space, and provide for traffic calming. Examples include open space, trails, wetlands, community gardens green streets, infiltration facilities, and the urban forest.</p>	<p>Comment [PD12]: ID# 5582</p>
SOCIETY (SOC) Action-1	<p>Support wellness and prevention education in schools and the general public to reduce the burden on primary care.</p>	
SOC Action-8	<p>Make healthy and local foods accessible, particularly in underserved, areas by removing barriers and providing incentives for the establishment of sustainable community gardens, urban farms, neighborhood grocery stores, farmers markets, and farm stands and mobile vegetable sales carts.</p>	<p>Comment [PD13]: ID# 5360</p>
SOC Action-9	<p>Facilitate a strong and sustainable local food system by linking</p>	

	farmers, distributors, and markets and create programs and partnerships to ensure profitable local food enterprises throughout all five food sectors—production, processing, distribution, consumption, and waste recovery.	Comment [PD14]: ID# 5360
SOC Action-10	Develop partnerships with public and private stakeholders to promote awareness and educate residents about healthy food choices, sources, and preparation, including keeping up-to-date and accessible data on community garden plot availability, cooking classes, and city and county property for neighborhood gardens and family farms, and the sale of sustainably produced and culturally appropriate food at farmers markets, farm stands, mobile vegetable carts, and at neighborhood grocery stores.	Comment [PD15]: ID# 5360
SOC Action-11	Reduce obesity by establishing local fresh food initiatives in institutions such as schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, nursing homes, city and county departments and facilities and by implementing and encouraging purchasing policies that support local and sustainable foods.	Comment [PD16]: ID# 5360, 5562
SOC Action-12	Remove regulatory barriers and provide incentives to improve and rebuild local food production, processing and distribution systems appropriate to location.	Comment [PD17]: ID# 5560, 5563
SOC Action-33	Allow public and private sector use of underutilized schools and other public facilities for child care, educational programs, healthy living programs, and neighborhood activities.	
SOC Action-49	Develop educational and public information programs focusing on promoting nutrition, healthy food, and local food sources.	
SOC Action-50	Work with local school districts to use locally-grown produce and increase the quality and nutritional value of food served to school aged young people.	
SOC Action-54	Create more opportunities for outdoor play, recreational activities, healthy eating, and other activities and programs that address obesity.	
ECONOMY (ECON) Action 3	<p>Create a regulatory framework to foster a business-friendly environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying regulatory impacts on investment, business development, and retention (zoning, permitting and licensing requirements, tax requirements, etc.); - Assigning city staff devoted to helping businesses navigate the system and with trouble shooting; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating development incentives (including tax incentives), density and floor-to-area ratio (FAR) bonuses, reduced and alternative parking requirements, expedited review, etc.; - Simplifying and clarifying the development review process, including one-stop shop review, enforced timelines, and set targets for responsiveness and accountability; - Allowing more by-right development; - Making development regulations more flexible, while defining the extent of flexibility and maintaining safety and code integrity; - Creating a program to assist businesses that are affected by road construction or infrastructure improvements; - Creating a rehabilitation building code to make adaptive reuse efficient and affordable.
ECON Action -16	<p>Create a regional economic development task force, led by the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, that includes the City of Austin, nearby municipalities and surrounding counties; the University of Texas, Austin Community College and other area institutions of higher learning; area transportation providers such the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Agency, Texas Department of Transportation, Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, and Capital Metropolitan Transportation Agency; major employers and representatives from major industries; and other regional partners to develop a strategic direction for the Austin region by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a shared direction for the region; • Sharing information between the public and private sectors; • Establishing collaborative communication links among regional planning efforts; • Analyzing the impacts of publically-owned land; • Collaborating and co-locating institutional uses; • Attracting and supporting target industries; • Coordinating transportation planning efforts; • Assisting with grant research and writing.
ECON Action -18	<p>Partner with the Austin business community to develop policies, regulations, and programs to foster the development and success of local businesses by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating an inventory of locally-owned businesses, including creative industries; - Developing a mentor program for locally-owned businesses; - Promoting the formation of worker-owned and community-owned businesses (co-ops) that sell local products; - Creating an Austin Craftsmen's Guild to showcase products created by Austin residents; - Providing tax incentives for locally-owned businesses;

Comment [PD18]: Bullets missing from 9/26 draft

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating a directory of locally-produced products; - Expanding the “Go Local” card concept; - Simplifying the process to have local businesses provide additional services (e.g. host bands for SXSW); - Supporting businesses at each stage of the business life cycle; - Enhancing and expanding small business development services to grow market share of small, local businesses; - Expanding economic opportunities and measurable results for Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE / WBE) firms.
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