



## BOARD RECOMMENDATION

### Parks and Recreation Board

Recommendation Number: (20170425-005): Recommendation to the Land Development Code Advisory Group on Critical Revisions Relating to Public Parks and Open Space in Title 23, Divisions 23-2M-1, 23-2M-2, 23-4C-1, 23-4C-2, 23-4D-2, 23-4D-3, 23-4D-4, and 23-4D-6.

WHEREAS, the new Land Development Code is a priority program out of Imagine Austin, the City's plan for the future, adopted by City Council in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the core principals to Imagine Austin include strengthening our parks, urban forest, and urban trails; enhancing recreation opportunities; providing healthy communities that bring families back to the city; and highlighting that healthy communities include safe access to walking, biking and recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan building blocks listed in Imagine Austin are the backbone of Imagine Austin; and

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan building block for City Facilities and Services includes building block action CFS A2 that states to "[e]xpand equitable access for adults, children, and their pets to active and passive parks throughout the city by carefully targeting new parks where most needed;" and

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan building block for City Facilities and Services also includes building block action CFS P40 that states to "[s]erve Austin's diverse, growing population and provide family-friendly amenities throughout the city by developing new parks and maintaining and upgrading existing parks;" and

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan building block for Creativity includes building block action C P17 that states to "[d]efine Austin's sense of place through high standards for architecture and urban design, public art, public spaces and parks, and arts education;" and

WHEREAS, in the 2016 Trust for Public Land Park System Rankings known as Park Score, the City of Austin continues to drop and now ranks 47 out of the 100 largest U.S. cities, 81 out of 100 for residents within ½ mile of a park, and 94 out of 100 for playgrounds per 10,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, our parks are critical to the quality of life in Austin; and

WHEREAS the first draft of the new Land Development Code could negatively impact the types of parks that can be built in transect zones; and

WHEREAS, the first draft of the new Land Development Code may not allow the Parks and Recreation Department to fully implement the Parkland Dedication Ordinance adopted in January 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parks and Recreation Board requests that the Land Development Code Advisory Group ensure that the Parks and Recreation Board's first set of recommended changes to the Land Development Code attached in Appendix A are included in the second draft of the Land Development Code.

Date of Approval: April 25, 2017

Record of the vote:

Approved by the Parks and Recreation Board on a vote of 8-1 with Board Member Vane voting against and Board Member Roth absent.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_



(Staff Liaison)

## Appendix A

(Parks and Recreation Board CodeNEXT: Recommendation 20170425-005)

Topic	Issue	Proposed Change
1. Compatibility standards for Parks	Downtown Parks standards for Glazing and Parking (23-4D-7050 (B))	Apply 23-4D-7050 (B) to all Parks city wide.
2. Permit passive parks and preserves without a Conditional Use Permit in all Zones	Title 25 allows Park/Playground by right if they are less than 1 acre in size. If they are more than one acre in size, a Conditional Use Permit is required regardless of facilities being constructed.	<p>Ensure that passive parks (currently termed Park/Playground) are a Permitted Use in every Zone. (Permitted) (See various use types in Zones in 23-4D)</p> <p>Zone passive Parks into the newly created Open Space Zone and do not require a Conditional Use Permit, regardless of size.</p> <p>Continue to classify intense park uses (swimming pools, multiple courts and fields, recreation centers, etc.) as Public (P) uses, regardless of size; however and continue to require a Conditional Use Permit.</p>
3. Clarify standards and terms for Open Spaces in the Code	<p>Re-organize Open Space and Recreation Land Uses so that they are not duplicative throughout the Code.</p> <p>Re-examine the standards set forth in 23-4C-2 Civic and Open Spaces. (Applies to Transect Zoning) The term “civic” and “open space” are used interchangeably. Change the term.</p> <p>Determine the purpose Sections 23-4C-2050 through 23-4C-2170.</p> <p>Remove PARD Designations so that changes to the Parks Long Range Plan do not require code changes.</p>	<p>In 23-2M-1030 define Open Space. In 23-2M-2030 create Recreation Land Uses. Define standards for passive recreation in the Open Space Zone of 23-4D-6110.</p> <p>In 23-4C-2 Civic and Open Spaces, delete the transect bar from all photograph pages so that all park types are allowed in all Transects.</p> <p>Delete Sections 23-4C-2050 through 23-4C-2170; or revise the Size and Location portions to clarify open space standards for street frontage; minimum widths; minimum pervious cover; and parking.</p>