

**Idea Exchange**  
**Summary of Comments**  
June 4, 2012

**Question #1: What do you value about Austin?**

- Accessibility throughout downtown and the waterfront by means of transportation other than a car
- The art and music community
- Everyone has a stake and takes pride in Austin
- The University of Texas
- The diversity of the people and cultures
- The outdoor orientation
- The importance placed on activity and fitness
- The intellectual and creative community
- The abundance of trees, parks, waterfront and green space in the city
- The outdoor activities and venues
- The variety of festivals and events that happen in the city
- The slogan “Keep Austin Weird”
- The sense and presence of unique and expanding opportunities
- The natural landscape (Ladybird Lake, the greenbelt, trees, etc.)
- The new and modern design of downtown
- The value placed on higher education
- The presence of higher education (UT, St. Ed’s, Concordia, ACC, etc.)
- The emphasis placed on local business
- The growth and maturation of the city
- Live music
- The food culture
- The dog friendly nature of the city
- The ethnic and economic diversity inside of neighborhoods
- The excitement about the city from outsiders
- The warm climate

**Question #2: What do you value about the waterfront?**

- The performance, art and festival space
- The abundance of recreation areas close to the waterfront
- The topography changes throughout the waterfront
- The level of access
- That it is good for families, children and pets
- That there are places to engage in water activities
- That the area encourages a fit lifestyle
- That people use the area for walking, jogging, running, biking, etc.

- That the natural beauty of the area is still intact
- The connectivity of the trail system
- The bats
- Other wildlife that is present on the area
- Auditorium shores, the trails, Zilker park
- The events focused around the water
- The pedestrian bridge
- The transition from urban to natural
- The waterfront is the focal point of the city
- A balance between urban density, the manicure park and the untouched environment
- The idea of the boardwalk
- That everyone feels welcome
- That the waterfront is not a tourist trap
- That it feels safe
- The city gets some of its identity from the waterfront
- The views
- That the waterfront is not used for industrial use

**Question #3: How do you use the waterfront**

**What do you do there?**

**What do you want to do there?**

*Current use:*

- To be active (walk, bike, run, kayak, etc.)
- Recreation / Relaxation (yoga, meditation, drumming, etc.)
- Take visitors to share in the experience
- Entertainment (music festivals/events)
- Picnicking

*Future use:*

- Have a dog park
- Extend East Side Trails
- Engage more closely with water.
  - Swimming (public pool area)
  - Fishing
  - Beach volleyball
- Better lighting for evening use.
- Incorporate more art and creativity into the area
  - Designate a public art space
  - Performance space
  - Moveable art / Cultural art
- More public facilities needed to utilize the space.
  - Trash cans

- Restrooms
- Shower areas
- Benches / Seating
- Include a plaza/multi-use outdoor space for flexible use by community.
- Parallel path for bikers and walkers
- Complete the trail loop
- Tourism
- People watching
- Gardens
- Develop the space in a sustainable way that also preserves the natural environment, yet also incorporate commercial use
- Open-air cafes, pubs
- Wi-fi
- Incorporate spaces for people to dine, sit back, and people watch. More food options in general.

#### **Question #4: Who is the waterfront for?**

- A public space for EVERYONE.
- An exclusive space for the everyday professional/urban resident
- Visitors / Tourists
- Active people (runners, cyclists, walkers, rowers etc.)
- Families
- Wildlife (fish, animals, turtles, bats, etc.)
- Commuting cyclists
- Local Residents
- Water taxis
- People watchers
- Bird watchers
- Rich and Poor
- Music (Concerts)
- Dogs
- The business professional (people who want to live, eat, and play in the area)
- Local businesses
- Those who need easy access
  - Physically handicapped
  - Elderly
  - Strollers