Green Infrastructure Working Group Kickoff Meeting
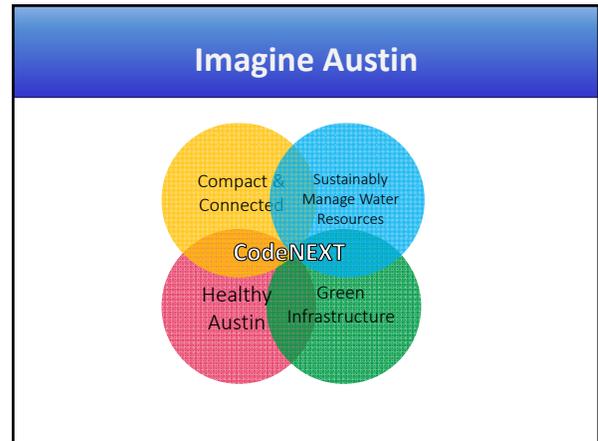
January 30, 2015

Objectives

- Review relevant goals and priorities of Imagine Austin
- Present the CodeNEXT process and timeline
- Provide an overview of topics proposed for discussion as part of the Working Group
- Gather input on additional green infrastructure topics the group would like to explore
- Discuss format and logistics of upcoming meetings

Agenda

Arrivals & Introductions	12:30
Imagine Austin	12:45
CodeNEXT Process	12:50
Topics for Discussion	1:00
1. Land Cover and Natural Function	
2. Landscaping and Green Transitions	
3. Beneficial Use of Stormwater	
4. Stormwater Options for Redevelopment/Infill	
Additional Topics?	1:30
Meeting Format & Logistics	1:50

Imagine Austin

Compact & Connected · Sustainably Manage Water Resources · CodeNEXT · Healthy Austin · Green Infrastructure
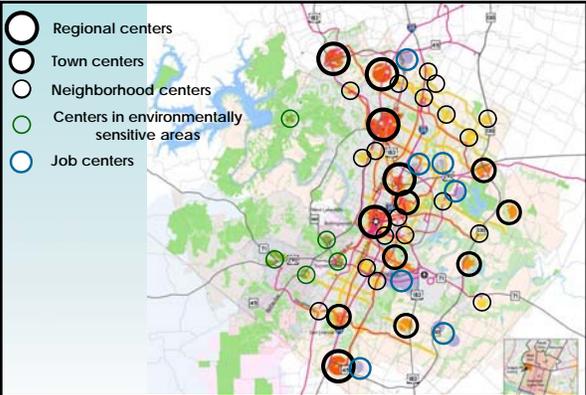
Other Related Initiatives

- IACP Green Infrastructure Priority Program
  - GI Acquisition
  - Regulatory Policy
  - Public Lands Management
- Urban Forest Plan
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Integrated Water Resources Plan
- Complete / Green Streets

CodeNEXT: Overview of Presentation

- Why Revise the Code?
- Process and Schedule
- Recent Work Products
- What's Next

#CODENEXT   CODE NEXT

Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan

- Adopted community vision
- Guide for managing change
- Reference for decision making
- Direction for more detailed city plans, investments, initiatives

Regional centers
Town centers
Neighborhood centers
Centers in environmentally sensitive areas
Job centers

Growth Concept Map

Code Revision: Four-Step Process

1 Listening & Understanding
JUL 2013 - FEB 2014

2 Diagnosis, Alt. Approaches & Outline
SEP 2013 -OCT 2014

3 Preliminary Draft Code
JUN 2016- NOV 2016

4 Code Adoption
DEC 2016

Different Places Require Different Regulations

Environmental Issues

- Activity Centers and Corridors
- Redevelopment and Infill
- Green infrastructure
- Consistency and clarity

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Code Approach

"Deep Clean and Reset" Approach selected by City Council, with additions:

- Extensive rewriting of content as necessary
- **Focus on green infrastructure and sustainable water resources**
- Enable broader application of form-based codes

Next Steps

- Working Groups on:
  1. Affordability
  2. Infill, compatibility, and missing middle housing
  3. Obstacles to small business
  4. Subdivision regulations
  5. **Green infrastructure**
- CodeTALK on green infrastructure Spring 2015
- Draft Code for public review Spring 2016
- Opportunities for public, board & commission, and Council input at each step

Ways You Can Participate:

	Small-group meetings
	On the web: austintexas.gov/CodeNEXT
	SpeakUpAustin! http://speakupaustin.org
	@ImagineAustin. Use #CodeNEXT
	facebook.com/ImagineAustin
	By phone

Land Cover and Natural Function

Goals

- Ensure adequate natural function for all sites
  - ➢ Protect greenfield sites
  - ➢ Restore redevelopment and infill sites
- Promote desirable, purposeful open spaces & connectivity
- Want the design and care of our built environment to take advantage of strengths of both pervious and impervious cover

Land Cover and Natural Function

Challenges

- Low natural function on medium to high impervious sites
- Pervious areas don't necessarily function as intended (e.g., soil compaction)
- Impervious cover limits can produce fragmented landscapes of unconnected, private green spaces
- Application to centers & corridors

Landscaping and Green Transitions

Goals

- Functional landscapes with multiple benefits (e.g., urban heat island, water conservation, habitat, enhanced public realm)
- Urban forest preservation and replenishment
- Climate resilience and adaptation to drought
- Green transitions between different land uses
- Practical to implement and maintain the ordinance

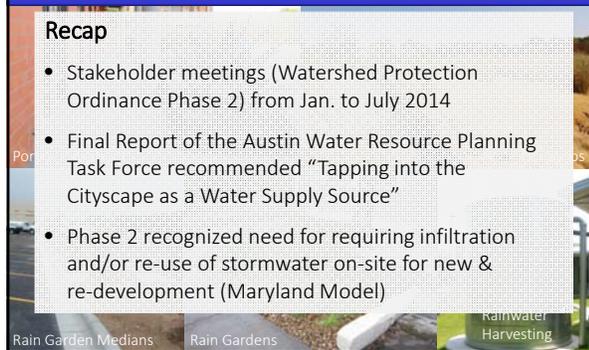## Landscaping and Green Transitions

Challenges

- Landscaping code does not apply to dense urban areas (e.g. CBD) or parking lots for remodels
- "Street yard" concept does not work in all contexts
- Inadequate provisions for shade trees & existing trees
- Missed opportunities for onsite infiltration of stormwater and use of non-potable water
- Transitions between land uses (e.g., centers & corridors and adjacent residential) need refining

Beneficial Use of Stormwater

Recap

- Stakeholder meetings (Watershed Protection Ordinance Phase 2) from Jan. to July 2014

- Final Report of the Austin Water Resource Planning Task Force recommended "Tapping into the Cityscape as a Water Supply Source"

- Phase 2 recognized need for requiring infiltration and/or re-use of stormwater on-site for new & re-development (Maryland Model)

Rain Garden Medians   Rain Gardens   Rainwater Harvesting

Beneficial Use of Stormwater

Going Forward

Discuss specific proposals for achieving beneficial use of stormwater as part of CodeNEXT:

- Infiltration / Baseflow / Water Quality

- Water Conservation / Drought & Climate Resilience

Stormwater Options for Redevelopment/Infill

Goals

- Provide additional flexibility and options to enhance water quality for redevelopment and infill

- Address longstanding problems due to development without sufficient flood controls and/or drainage conveyance
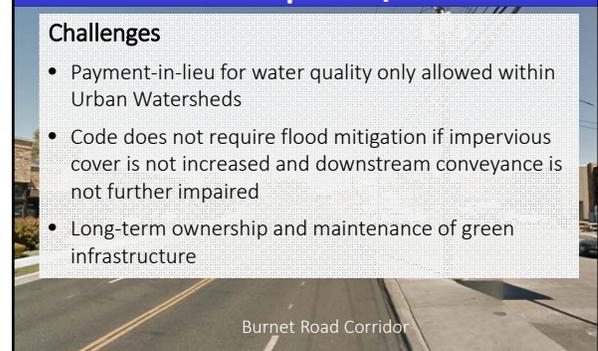
Del Curto Rd and Bluebonnet Ln

Stormwater Options for Redevelopment/Infill

Challenges

- Payment-in-lieu for water quality only allowed within Urban Watersheds

- Code does not require flood mitigation if impervious cover is not increased and downstream conveyance is not further impaired

- Long-term ownership and maintenance of green infrastructure

Burnet Road Corridor

Additional Topics?

- Any additional green infrastructure topics the group would like to explore?

Meeting Format and Logistics

- Location
- Length
- Format
- Breakout groups

Green Infrastructure Working Group Schedule	
Kickoff	Jan. 30
Land Cover & Natural Function	Feb. 20
Landscaping & Green Transitions	Mar. 13
Beneficial Use of Stormwater	Apr. 03
Stormwater Options for Redevelopment & Infill	Apr. 24
Wrap Up	May 15

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