



Green Infrastructure Working Group Kickoff Meeting

January 30, 2015

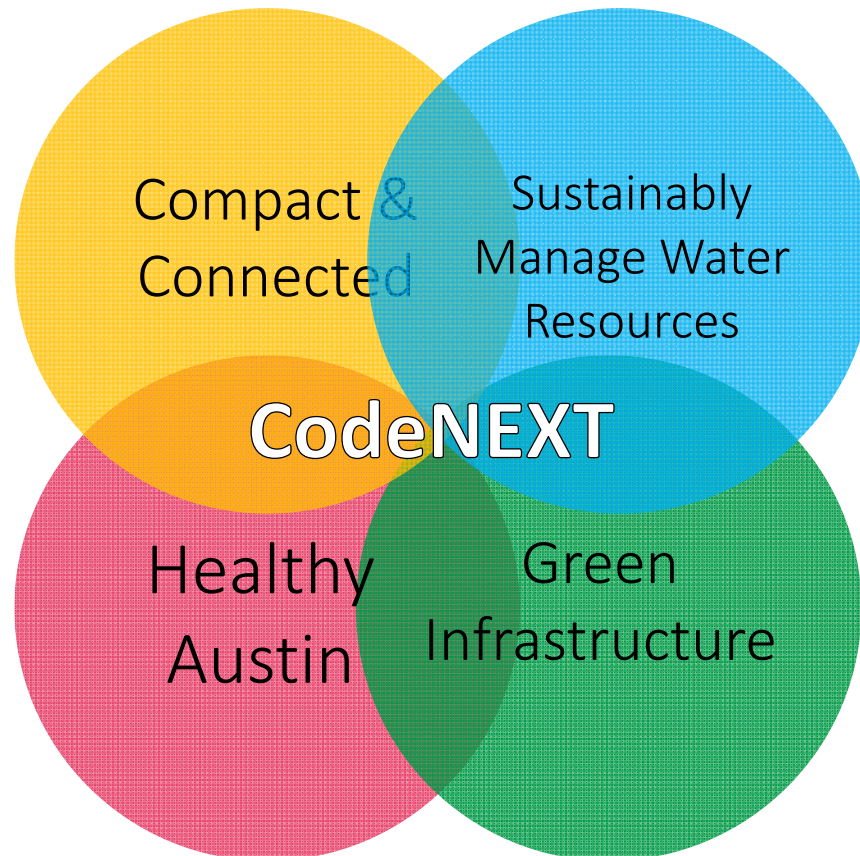
Objectives

- 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



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

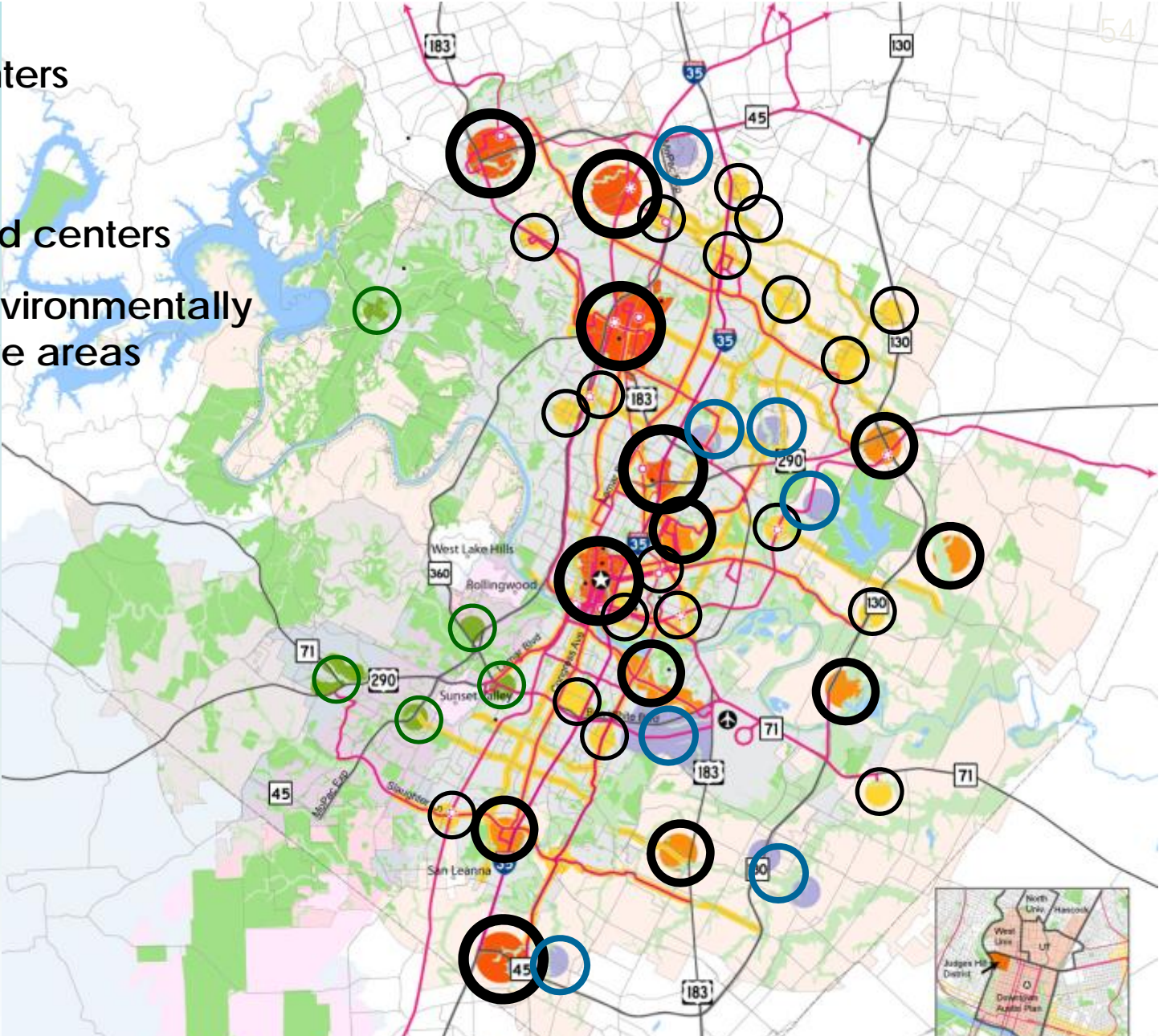
CODENEXT
SHAPING THE AUSTIN WE IMAGINE

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

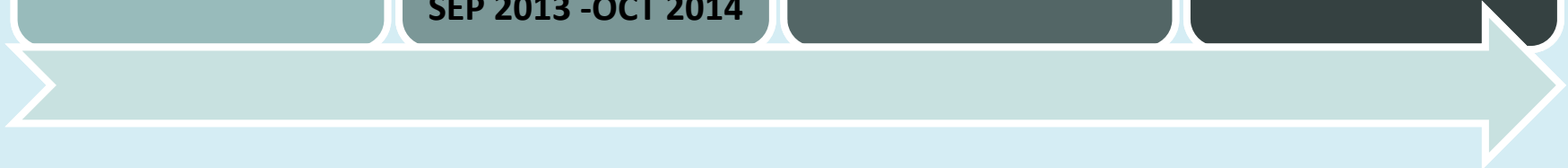
**Preliminary Draft
Code**

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

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

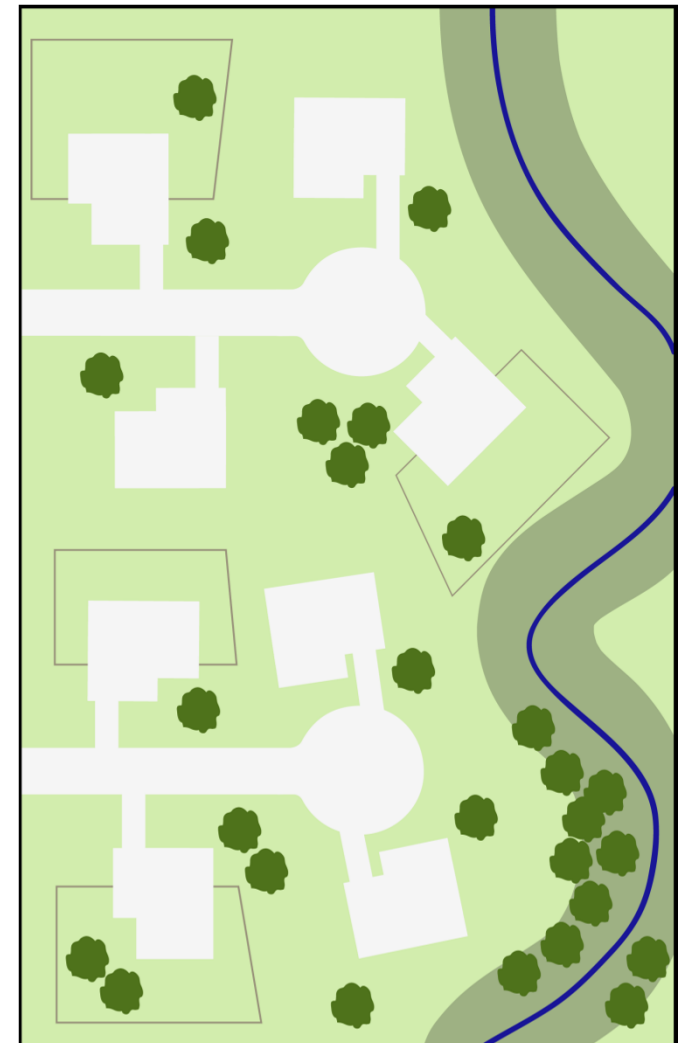
Goals

- 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

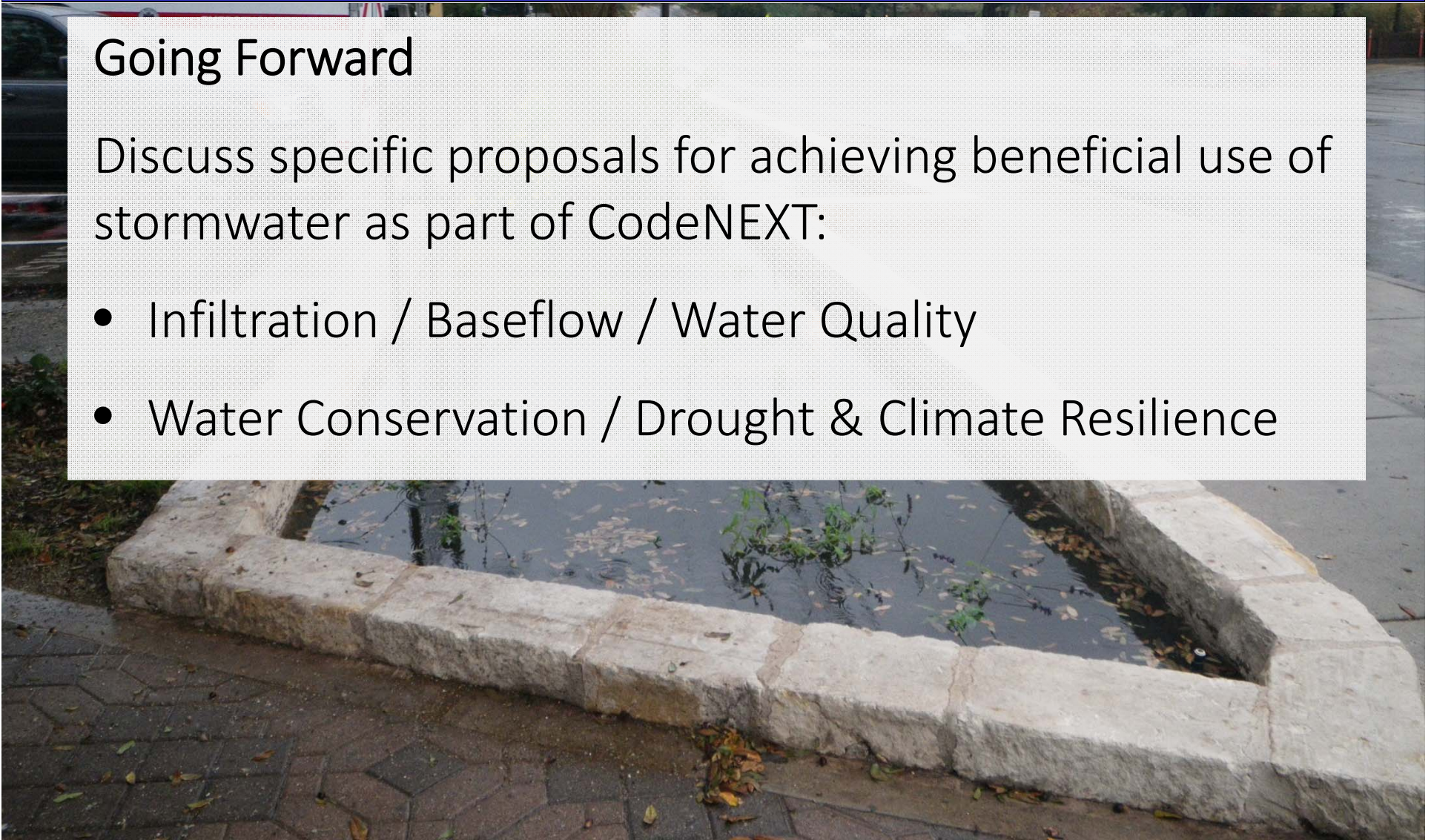
Rainwater
Harvesting

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

Contact Information

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