

# INFRASTRUCTURE

## **Develop infrastructure within the North Lamar Combined Neighborhood Planning Area that upholds the safety and health of residents and property- and business-owners.**

The infrastructure of an area is the basic structural framework that assists in its operation and functionality. Roads, sewage and water supply systems, and power grids are all infrastructural systems that support the functional performance and safety of cities, including their neighborhoods.



Drainage culverts underneath Masterson Pass

Infrastructural concerns in the North Lamar Combined Neighborhood Planning Area (NLCNPA) pertain mostly to those systems that alleviate or control flooding issues throughout the neighborhood.<sup>20</sup> As Little Walnut Creek runs across the NLCNPA, large drainage basins or ditches drain stormwater runoff from area streets, parking lots, and structures into it. As such, particular portions of the NLCNPA are periodically affected by flooding and/or drainage issues as these basins or ditches reach runoff capacity. Other

areas, especially in the northern neighborhoods of the NLCNPA, lack any sort of drainage management systems to manage any flooding problems there.

Safety is one of the greatest concerns of NLCNPA residents. Particular infrastructure systems can improve the safety of both residents and pedestrians within the neighborhood: by providing a greater sense of security, streetlights and emergency call boxes could help residents feel safer when traveling through the neighborhood. Not only would safety be improved with these infrastructural systems in place, but they could also encourage residents to travel more frequently on bike or foot throughout the NLCNPA.

### **❖ The curb and gutter infrastructure of the NLCNPA should be improved.**

Curbs and gutters are typically concrete elements of a roadway that facilitate the movement of stormwater runoff into area drainage basins or creeks. The construction of curbs, gutters, and other storm drain facilities can alleviate any localized flooding problems an area might have. Curbs and gutters can make streets more visually appealing; they can also make them safer by separating the pedestrian walkway(s) from the roadway. In the NLCNPA, flooding has become a concern, especially in the Mockingbird Hill subdivision of the North Lamar planning area. Several streets in Mockingbird Hill lack any improved curbs or gutters, which has contributed to flooding in recent years. Neighborhood stakeholders felt that the construction of curbs and

---

<sup>20</sup> All infrastructure concerns related to transportation (i.e., sidewalk connectivity and construction, road work, etc.) for the NLCNPA can be found in the Transportation chapter.

gutters along NLCNPA streets lacking this infrastructure will correct most flood-related issues and help make the area more aesthetically appealing and safe for area residents.



Examples of a street *without* curbs and gutters (Turner Drive, left) and one *with* curbs and gutters (Slayton Drive, right)

**Objective N.1: Reduce the incidence of flooding in the NLCNPA.**

**Recommendation 110** Construct new curbs and gutters along:

- 110.A. Grady Drive, between North Lamar Boulevard and Middle Fiskville Road
- 110.B. Turner Drive, between Grady Drive and Applegate Drive
- 110.C. Georgian Drive, between Grady Drive and Applegate Drive
- 110.D. Jean Drive, between Grady Drive and Applegate Drive
- 110.E. McMillan Drive, between Grady Drive and Applegate Drive
- 110.F. Provines Drive, between North Lamar Boulevard and the Golfsmith property line

**Recommendation 111** Examine flooding issues at the following locations:

- 111.A. Georgian Drive, just north of US Highway 183
- 111.B. East Drive, just north of Florence Drive
- 111.C. Intersection of Shepard Drive and Cooper Drive
- 111.D. Intersection of Rundberg Lane and the I-35 service road
- 111.E. North Creek Drive, just north of Rundberg Lane
- 111.F. Vacant lot north of Showplace Lane
- 111.G. Masterson Pass, just west of Garrett Run
- 111.H. Applegate Drive, just west of Turner Drive

- 111.I. Intersection of Grady Drive and North Lamar Boulevard
- 111.J. Intersection of Grady Drive and Turner Drive
- 111.K. Intersection of Grady Drive and Georgian Drive
- 111.L. Intersection of Grady Drive and Brownie Drive
- 111.M. Intersection of Middle Lane and the I-35 frontage road
- 111.N. Intersection of Provines Drive and Motheral Drive

**Recommendation 112** Repair or improve existing stormwater facilities along Grady Drive, between North Lamar Boulevard and Middle Fiskville Road.

**Recommendation 113** Plant native or adapted trees, shrubs, and grasses on public and private properties to improve rainwater absorption and to reduce excess runoff.

#### **How to Report Flooding and Water Quality Concerns**

Call **311** to report the following problems:

- Flooding incidents\*
- Areas where damaged curbs and gutters exist
- Areas in need of new curb and gutter construction
- Creek erosion, bank instability, and other creek infrastructure problems
- When flooding, standing water, or storm drainage problems are observed

Call **(512) 974-2550** to report illegal storage, dumping, or accidental spills of toxic materials or pollutants.

\* The Watershed Protection Department responds to flooding problem areas on a complaint-driven basis.

#### **Objective N.2: Reduce creek erosion in the NLCNPA.**

**Recommendation 114** Encourage the planting of native or adapted trees, shrubs, and grasses along or near creeks to reduce erosion and rainwater runoff.

#### **Objective N.3: Maintain the water quality, health, and aesthetics of all creeks within the NLCNPA.**

**Recommendation 115** Organize a regular clean up of Little Walnut Creek, using resources from area organizations, including:

- City of Austin’s Code Compliance Department

- City of Austin’s Watershed Protection Department
- Keep Austin Beautiful

❖ **Infrastructure throughout the NLCNPA should increase the safety of the area.**

Many neighborhood stakeholders perceived pedestrian travel throughout the NLCNPA to be unsafe. Infrastructural systems thought to improve safety in the neighborhood were the addition of streetlighting and emergency call boxes throughout the NLCNPA. These will allow for a heightened sense of security, especially for those pedestrians traveling through the neighborhood: the presence of improved street lighting and emergency call boxes would alleviate the fears of unsafe pedestrian travel within the NLCNPA.



An example of neighborhood streetlighting on Applegate Drive (left) and an example of an emergency call box (right).

Photo at right courtesy of <http://www.strikeind.com/images/codeblue1.jpg>

**Objective N.4: Improve streetlighting in the NLCNPA.**

**Recommendation 116** Install streetlights at the following locations:

- 116.A. Corner of Dungan Street and East Walnut Drive
- 116.B. Corner of East Walnut Drive and Pecan Drive
- 116.C. West end of Rock Hollow Lane
- 116.D. East end of Longspur Boulevard
- 116.E. Corner of Brownie Drive and Diamondback Trail
- 116.F. Corner of East Grady Drive and Middle Fiskville Road

**Recommendation 117** Repair streetlights at the following locations:

- 117.A. Primrose Street, between Dungan Street and Pecan Drive
- 117.B. Corner of North Creek Drive and Rocky Hollow Lane
- 117.C. Corner of Georgian Drive and Applegate Drive

**Objective N.5: Improve safety throughout the NLCNPA.**

**Recommendation 118** Identify locations throughout the NLCNPA where the installation of an emergency call box would be appropriate. These locations could include:

- 118.A. The intersection of East Powell Lane and Sam Rayburn Drive
- 118.B. Various points along North Lamar Boulevard, including CapMetro bus stops
- 118.C. Various points along Georgian Drive, between US Highway 183 and Rundberg Lane
- 118.D. East Wonsley Drive
- 118.E. Rundberg Lane
- 118.F. Brownie Playground
- 118.G. Barrington Park