

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTERS 25-2, 25-8, 30-2, AND 30-5 RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS FOR BOATDOCKS AND LAKEFRONT DEVELOPMENT.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. City Code Section 25-2-551 (*Lake Austin (LA) District Regulations*) is amended to redesignate the second Subsection (E) as Subsection (F) and to amend Subsections (B) and (C) to read as follows:

(B) This subsection specifies shoreline setbacks in a Lake Austin (LA) district.

(1) The shoreline setback is:

(a) 75 feet; or

(b) 25 feet, if:

(i) the lot is located in a subdivision plat recorded before April 22, 1982, or is a legal tract exempt from the requirement to plat; and

(ii) the distance between the shoreline and the front lot line, or the property line of a legal tract, is 200 feet or less.

(2) A shoreline setback area is excluded from impervious cover calculations.

(3) No structures are allowed in a shoreline setback area, except that:

(a) a bulkhead, retaining wall, fence, dock, public boat ramp, non-mechanized pedestrian access facility, or marina may be constructed and maintained in accordance with applicable regulations of this title; and

(b) an on-site sewage facility may be constructed and maintained in accordance with the applicable regulations of Chapter 15-5 (*Private Sewage Facilities*).

(C) This subsection specifies lot width and impervious cover restrictions in a Lake Austin (LA) district.

- 1 (1) If a lot fronts on a cul-de-sac and is included in a subdivision plat recorded
2 after April 22, 1982 or is exempt from the requirement to plat it must have:
- 3 (a) a chord width of not less than 33 feet at the front lot line;
- 4 (b) a width of not less than 60 feet at the front yard setback line; and
- 5 (c) a width of not less than 100 feet at all points 100 feet or more behind
6 the front lot line.
- 7 (2) For a lot included in a subdivision plat recorded after April 22, 1982,
8 impervious cover may not exceed:
- 9 (a) 20 percent, on a slope with a gradient of 25 percent or less;
- 10 (b) 10 percent, on a slope with a gradient of more than 25 percent and not
11 more than 35 percent; or
- 12 (c) if impervious cover is transferred under Subsection (D), 30 percent.
- 13 (3) For a lot included in a subdivision plat recorded before April 22, 1982, or a
14 tract that is not required to be platted, impervious cover may not exceed:
- 15 (a) 35 percent, on a slope with a gradient of 15 percent or less;
- 16 (b) 10 percent, on a slope with a gradient of more than 15 percent and not
17 more than ~~35~~ 25 percent;
- 18 (c) 5 percent, on a slope with a gradient of more than 25 percent and not
19 more than 35 percent; or
- 20 (d) 40 percent, if impervious cover is transferred under Subsection (D).

21
22 **PART 2.** Section 25-2-1172 (*Definitions*) is amended to add a definition of “Shoreline
23 Frontage” to read as follows:

- 24 (10) SHORELINE FRONTAGE means the total linear distance of the shoreline.
25

26 **PART 3.** Subsection (B) of City Code Section 25-2-1175 (*Lighting and Electrical*
27 *Requirements*) is amended to read as follows:

- 28 (B) This subsection applies to a dock that extends more than eight feet from the
29 shoreline. In this subsection, the distance that a dock extends from a shoreline is
30 measured perpendicular to the shoreline~~[-and the shoreline length of a dock is~~
31 ~~the length of a dock measured parallel to the shoreline].~~

- 1 (1) A dock must be continuously lighted with amber lights between sunset
2 and sunrise each day.
- 3 (2) A dock must have at least one light station. Except as otherwise provided
4 in this subsection, the light station must be located on the end of the dock
5 and on the side that is farthest from and parallel to the shoreline. The
6 light must be visible to a properly approaching watercraft.
- 7 (3) A dock that extends 30 feet or more from the shoreline, or that has a
8 shoreline [~~length~~] frontage of 25 feet or more, must have at least one light
9 station on each side of the dock that does not face the shoreline.
- 10 (4) The requirements of this paragraph apply if the director determines that a
11 dock described in Subsection (B)(3) may be a navigational hazard
12 between sunset and sunrise.
- 13 (a) A dock that extends less than 50 feet from the shoreline must have
14 a light station half way between the shoreline and the end of the
15 dock that is farthest from the shoreline.
- 16 (b) A dock that extends 50 feet or more from the shoreline must have
17 light stations from the shoreline to the end of the dock at intervals
18 of not more than 25 feet, except that a light station may not be
19 located within 8 feet of the shoreline.
- 20 (c) A dock that has a shoreline [~~length~~] frontage of at least 25 feet but
21 less than 50 feet must have a light station located at each end of the
22 dock on the side farthest from the shoreline.
- 23 (d) A dock that has a shoreline [~~length~~] frontage of 50 feet or more
24 must have light stations located at intervals of not more than 25
25 feet along its [~~length~~] frontage.
- 26 (e) Light stations are required at each end of the dock on the side
27 farthest from the shoreline.

28
29 **PART 4.** Subsections (A) and (D) of City Code Section 25-2-1176 (*Site Development*
30 *Regulations for Docks, Marinas, and Other Lakefront Uses*) are amended to read as
31 follows:

- 32 (A) A dock or similar structure must comply with the requirements of this
33 subsection.

- 1 (1) A dock may extend up to 30 feet from the shoreline, except that the
2 director may require a dock to extend a lesser or greater distance from the
3 shoreline if deemed necessary to ensure navigation safety.
- 4 (2) No portion of a dock shall extend more than 20% of a channel width as
5 measured by a line that is perpendicular to the centerline of the channel
6 and that extends from the shoreline where the dock is located to the
7 opposite shoreline. [~~The length of a dock from the shoreline may not~~
8 ~~exceed 20% of the lake channel, as measured from the shoreline where~~
9 ~~the dock is located and continuing to the opposite shoreline.~~]
- 10 (3) A dock may not be constructed closer than 10 feet to the side property
11 line, regardless of the side-yard setback generally applicable within the
12 base zoning district.
- 13 (4) The width of a dock measured parallel to the shoreline of the lot or tract
14 where the dock is proposed, and including all access and appurtenances,
15 may not exceed:
- 16 (a) 20 percent of the shoreline [~~width~~] frontage, if the shoreline width
17 exceeds 70 feet;
- 18 (b) 14 feet, if the shoreline [~~width~~] frontage is no greater than 70 feet.
- 19 (5) The footprint of a dock, including the portion of a cut-in slip, attached
20 access structures, or roof overhang, may not exceed:
- 21 (a) 1,200 square feet for a dock that is accessory to a principal
22 residential use;
- 23 (b) for a cluster dock, 600 square feet multiplied by:
- 24 (i) the number of dwelling units in a multifamily development;
25 or
- 26 (ii) the number of principal residential structures in a
27 subdivision, if:
- 28 the dock will be located in a common area that fronts Lake
29 Austin or Lady Bird Lake; and
- 30 lots within the subdivision have perpetual use rights to the
31 common area.
- 32 (6) A dock may not exceed 30 feet in height as measured from the highest
33 point of the structure above the normal pool elevation of the lake.

- 1 (7) No portion of a dock may be enclosed, except for an enclosed storage
2 closet that is:
- 3 (a) limited to no more than 48 square feet for each principal residential
4 use associated with the dock; and
- 5 (b) oriented to minimize cross sectional area perpendicular to flow.
- 6 (8) The dock must be designed and constructed to meet the following
7 requirements:
- 8 (a) except for storage closets permitted under Paragraph [(6)] (7), [no
9 more than one wall per floor may consist of solid structural supports
10 or building materials] all solid structural supports and other
11 materials used for enclosure, including lattice, wire panels, seat
12 walls, and screening, must be at least 66 percent open, except that
13 mesh for insect screening that is at least 66 percent open will not
14 count toward the total enclosure percentage;
- 15 (b) ~~[except for solid structural components allowed under Paragraph~~
16 ~~8(a), solid and mesh materials used for enclosure, including lattice,~~
17 ~~wire panels, and screening, must be at least 66 percent open; and~~
- 18 (e)] no framing materials that are capable of being converted to support
19 walls or windows may be used[-]; and
- 20 (c) percentage of required openness is calculated per side, with the
21 assumed height of eight feet per floor when no roof is proposed.
- 22 (9) The number of motorboats anchored, moored, or stored on a dock may
23 not exceed:
- 24 (a) two, for a principal residential use utilizing an individual dock that
25 is not part of a cluster dock; or
- 26 (b) the number of single-family or multifamily residential units that:
- 27 (i) have a perpetual right to use of a cluster dock located in a
28 common area of the residential subdivision or multi-family
29 development; and
- 30 (ii) do not utilize a dock other than a cluster dock.
- 31 (10) For purposes of determining the total number of motorboats that may be
32 anchored, moored, or stored on a dock or over water, one personal
33 watercraft is equivalent to one-half of a motorboat.

34 (D) Construction of a boat ramp is prohibited, unless the boat ramp is constructed
35 on public land and dedicated for public use.
36

1 **PART 5.** Subsections (C) and (G) of Section 25-8-261 (*Critical Water Quality Zone*
2 *Development*) are amended to read as follows:

3 (C) The requirements of this subsection apply along Lake Travis, Lake Austin, or
4 Lady Bird Lake.

5 (1) A dock, public boat ramp, bulkhead or marina, and necessary access and
6 appurtenances, are permitted in a critical water quality zone subject to
7 compliance with Chapter 25-2, Subchapter C, Article 12 (*Docks,*
8 *Bulkheads, and Shoreline Access*). For a single-family residential use,
9 necessary access may not exceed the minimum area of land disturbance
10 required to construct a single means of access from the shoreline to a
11 dock.

12 (2) Disturbed areas must be restored in accordance with the Environmental
13 Criteria Manual and the following requirements:

14 (a) Within a lakefront critical water quality zone, or an equivalent area
15 within 25 feet of a shoreline, restoration must include:

16 (i) at least one native shade tree and one native understory tree,
17 per 500 square feet of disturbed area; and

18 (ii) one native shrub per 150 square feet of disturbed area; and

19 (b) Remaining disturbed areas must be restored per standard
20 specifications for native restoration. [At least 50% of the area
21 within 25 feet of the shoreline must be:

22 (a) ~~preserved in a natural condition; or~~

23 (b) ~~restored to a natural condition as prescribed by the Environmental~~
24 ~~Criteria Manual, if the vegetation is disturbed or removed for~~
25 ~~construction or other development activity, within the area of~~
26 ~~disturbance.]~~

27 (3) Within the shoreline setback area defined by Section 25-2-551 (*Lake*
28 *Austin (LA) District Regulations*) and within the overlay established by
29 Section 25-2-180 (*Lake Austin (LA) Overlay District*), no [Not] more
30 than 30 percent of the total number of shade trees of 8 inches or greater,
31 as designated in the Environmental Criteria Manual, [woody vegetation
32 within the shoreline setback area as defined by Section 25-2-551 (*Lake*
33 *Austin (LA) District Regulations*) and within the area defined by 25-2-
34 180 (*Lake Austin (LA) Overlay District*)] may be removed.

35 (4) Before a building permit may be issued or a site plan released, approval
36 by the Watershed Protection Department is required for chemicals used
37 to treat building materials that will be submerged in water.

1 (5) Bank erosion above the 100-year-floodplain may be stabilized within a
2 lakefront critical water quality zone if the restoration meets the
3 requirements of Subsection (B)(2) of this section.

- 4 (G) Floodplain modifications are prohibited in the critical water quality zone unless:
- 5 (1) the floodplain modifications proposed are necessary to protect the public
6 health and safety;
- 7 (2) the floodplain modifications proposed would provide a significant,
8 demonstrable environmental benefit, as determined by a functional
9 assessment of floodplain health as prescribed by the Environmental
10 Criteria Manual^[7]; or
- 11 (3) the floodplain modifications proposed are necessary for development
12 allowed in the critical water quality zone under Section 25-8-261
13 (*Critical Water Quality Zone Development*), ~~[8]~~ Section 25-8-262
14 (*Critical Water Quality Zone Street Crossings*), or Section 25-8-367
15 (*Restrictions on Development Impacting Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake,*
16 *and Lake Walter E. Long*).

17
18 **PART 6.** Subsection (C) of City Code Section 25-8-364 (*Floodplain Modification*) is
19 amended to read as follows:

- 20 (C) Floodplain modification is allowed only if the modification proposed:
- 21 (1) is necessary to protect the public health and safety;
- 22 (2) would provide a significant, demonstrable environmental benefit, as
23 determined by a functional assessment of floodplain health as prescribed
24 by the Environmental Criteria Manual;
- 25 (3) is located within a floodplain area classified as in fair or poor condition,
26 as determined by a functional assessment of floodplain health, prescribed
27 by the Environmental Criteria Manual; or
- 28 (4) is necessary for development allowed under Section 25-8-261 (*Critical*
29 *Water Quality Development*), ~~[8]~~ Section 25-8-262 (*Critical Water*
30 *Quality Zone Street Crossings*), or Section 25-8-367 (*Restrictions on*
31 *Development Impacting Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake, and Lake Walter*
32 *E. Long*).

33
34 **PART 7.** City Code Chapter 25-8, Subchapter A, Article 7 (*Requirements in All*
35 *Watersheds*) is amended to renumber Sections 25-8-651 (*Relocation of Shoreline*
36 *Between Tom Miller Dam and Longhorn Dam*) and 25-8-652 (*Restrictions on*

1 *Development Impacting Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake, and Lake Walter E. Long*) as
2 Sections 25-8-366 and 367, respectively, and to place these sections into a new Division
3 7 to be captioned as follows:

4 **Division 7. Shoreline Relocation and Lakefill.**
5

6 **PART 8.** Subsections (C) and (G) of City Code Section 30-5-261 (*Critical Water*
7 *Quality Zone Development*) are amended to read as follows:

8 (C) The requirements of this subsection apply along [Along] Lake Travis, Lake
9 Austin, or Lady Bird Lake.[:]

10 (1) A dock, public boat ramp, bulkhead or marina, and necessary access and
11 appurtenances, are permitted in a critical water quality zone subject to
12 compliance with Chapter 25-2, Subchapter C, Article 12 (*Docks,*
13 *Bulkheads, and Shoreline Access*). For a single-family residential use,
14 necessary access may not exceed the minimum area of land disturbance
15 required to construct a single means of access from the shoreline to a
16 dock. [~~a boat dock, pier, wharf, or marina and necessary access and~~
17 appurtenances, is permitted in a critical water quality zone; and]

18 (2) Disturbed areas must be restored in accordance with the Environmental
19 Criteria Manual and the following requirements:

20 (a) Within a lakefront critical water quality zone, or an equivalent area
21 within 25 feet of a shoreline, restoration must include:

22 (i) at least one native shade tree and one native understory tree,
23 per 500 square feet of disturbed area; and

24 (ii) one native shrub per 150 square feet of disturbed area; and

25 (b) Remaining disturbed areas must be restored per standard
26 specifications for native restoration.

27 (3) Within the shoreline setback area defined by Section 25-2-551 (*Lake*
28 *Austin (LA) District Regulations*) and within the overlay established by
29 Section 25-2-180 (*Lake Austin (LA) Overlay District*), no more than 30
30 percent of the total number of shade trees of 8 inches or greater, as
31 designated in the Environmental Criteria Manual, may be removed.

1 (4) Approval [~~approval~~] by the Watershed Protection Department director of
2 chemicals used to treat building materials that will be submerged in water
3 is required before a permit may be issued or a site plan released.

4 (5) Bank erosion above the 100-year-floodplain may be stabilized within a
5 lakefront critical water quality zone if the restoration meets the
6 requirements of Subsection (B)(2) of this section.

7 (G) Floodplain modifications are prohibited in the critical water quality zone unless:

8 (1) the floodplain modifications proposed are necessary to protect the public
9 health and safety;

10 (2) the floodplain modifications proposed would provide a significant,
11 demonstrable environmental benefit, as determined by a functional
12 assessment of floodplain health as prescribed by the Environmental
13 Criteria Manual; or

14 (3) the floodplain modifications proposed are necessary for development
15 allowed in the critical water quality zone under Section 30-5-261
16 (*Critical Water Quality Zone Development*), [~~or~~] 30-5-262 (*Critical*
17 *Water Quality Zone Street Crossings*), or Section 25-8-367 (*Restrictions*
18 *on Development Impacting Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake, and Lake*
19 *Walter E. Long*).

20
21 **PART 9.** City Code Section 30-5-651 (*Relocation of Shoreline Between Tom Miller*
22 *Dam and Longhorn Dam*) is renumbered Section 30-5-366.

23
24 **PART 10.** City Code Section 30-5-652 (*Fills at Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake, and Lake*
25 *Walter E. Long*) is amended to read as follows:

26 **§ 30-5-652 FILLS AT LAKE AUSTIN, LADY BIRD LAKE, AND LAKE**
27 **WALTER E. LONG.**

28 (A) The requirements of this section apply to development on or adjacent to Lake
29 Austin, Lady Bird Lake, or Lake Walter E. Long. [~~Approval by the Parks and~~
30 Recreation Board is required to place fill in Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake, or
31 Lake Walter E. Long.]

32 (B) Except as otherwise provided by this section, placing fill or dredging in a lake is
33 prohibited. [~~A person must file a written application with the Parks and~~
34 Recreation Board for an approval under this section.]

1 (C) A retaining wall, bulkhead, or other erosion protection device may not capture
2 or recapture land from a lake unless doing so is required to restore the shoreline
3 to whichever of the following boundaries would encroach the least into the lake
4 [This section applies to a development application that includes a proposal to]:

5 (1) the shoreline as it existed 10 years prior to the date of application, with
6 documentation as prescribed by the Environmental Criteria Manual
7 [~~modify the shoreline of Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake, or Lake Walter E.~~
8 Long]; or

9 (2) the lakeside boundary of the subdivided lot line [dredge in or along that
10 lake].

11 (D) [Before the single office may approve the development application, the single
12 office must submit the development application to the Parks and Recreation
13 Board.] A bulkhead may be replaced in front of an existing bulkhead once, if:

14 (1) the existing bulkhead was legally constructed; and

15 (2) construction of the replacement bulkhead does not change the location of
16 the shoreline by more than six inches; and

17 (3) the director of the Watershed Protection Department determines that
18 there is no reasonable alternative to replacement of the bulkhead in the
19 location of the existing bulkhead.

20 (E) The director may approve less than 25 cubic yards of dredging in a lake if the
21 dredging is necessary for navigation safety. [The board shall review and
22 comment on:

23 (1) the navigational safety of the proposed development; and

24 (2) the effect of the development on the recreational and natural character of
25 the lake.]

26 [(F) The board may develop specific criteria for determining:

27 (1) the navigational safety of a proposed development; or

28 (2) the effect of a proposed development on the recreational and natural
29 character of Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake, or Lake Walter E. Long.]
30

1 **PART 11.** Parts 1 through 7 of this ordinance take effect on _____, 2016.
2 Parts 8 through 10 of this ordinance take effect on the effective date of a Travis County
3 ordinance adopting the same or substantially similar code provisions.

4 **PASSED AND APPROVED**

5
6 §
7 §
8 _____, 2016 § _____

9 Steve Adler
10 Mayor

11
12
13 **APPROVED:** _____
14 Anne L. Morgan
15 City Attorney

16
17
18 **ATTEST:** _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk