



## **Annual Internal Review**

**This report covers the time period of 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023**

### **Environmental Commission** **(Official Name of Board or Commission)**

**The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is:**

Per section 2-1-144(F) of the City Code, the Environmental Commission may:

- 1) review and analyze the policies relating to the environmental quality of the city;
- (2) act as an advisory board to the city council, the city manager, and the department in their efforts to oversee the protection and integrity of the natural environment;
- (3) promote growth management and land use planning, minimize degradation of water resources, protect downstream areas, and promote recreation opportunities and environmental awareness; and
- (4) advise and recommend on any issue which the commission determines necessary or advisable for the enhancement and stewardship of the urban forest both public and private.

(G) The commission shall:

- (1) assist the city council, the city manager, and the department in studying, promoting and enforcing environmental protection policies to assure the health, safety, welfare and quality of life of all citizens within the City's incorporated boundaries as well as those within its extraterritorial jurisdiction where the boundaries apply; and
- (2) oversee the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan for the planting, maintenance, and replacement of trees in the City's jurisdiction, and revise the plan as necessary. When a portion of the plan has been developed and established, it shall be submitted to the city council for adoption before implementation.

(H) The commission shall advise the city council, the city manager, and the department concerning policies, projects, and programs that affect the quality of life or have the potential to affect the environment, including those that relate to or affect:

- (1) water quality: (a) watershed protection; (b) urban runoff; (c) innovative wastewater treatment; (d) regional wastewater treatment; (e) improvement and protection of the Colorado River and the Edwards Aquifer; and (f) wastewater irrigation;
- (2) growth management and land use planning: (a) municipal utility district review; (b) capital improvement project review; and (c) the comprehensive plan;
- (3) construction controls for erosion and sedimentation;
- (4) City environmental policies regarding monitoring and enforcement;
- (5) solid waste disposal plan alternatives;
- (6) watershed protection: (a) flood control; (b) erosion control; (c) water quality; and (d) utility management;
- (7) roadway planning;
- (8) beautification;
- (9) recreation resources;
- (10) public education on environmental matters;
- (11) hazardous waste materials management;
- (12) revegetation and landscaping;
- (13) air quality;
- (14) noise abatement; and
- (15) all matters pertaining to the City's urban forest, including public and private trees.

(I) The commission shall:

- (1) review all variances to requirements for water quality protection;
- (2) review the monitoring of storm water runoff in developed and undeveloped areas;
- (3) review the efficiency of existing and proposed structural and nonstructural water quality controls;
- (4) periodically review the effectiveness of Chapter 25-4 ( Subdivision );
- (5) review waste treatment permits within the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction;
- (6) review programs and policies for flood control, erosion control, and water quality;
- (7) review capital improvement projects;
- (8) review municipal utility district proposals and amendments;
- (9) review roadway plan amendments;
- (10) recommend urban runoff standards; and
- (11) review the environmental elements of planned unit developments.

(J) The commission may recommend and initiate, with the advice and consent of the city council, specific project studies concerning any of the matters described in Subsections (H) and (I), or any other related environmental or urban forestry issue.

(K) The commission shall make reports and recommendations for standards and criteria concerning any of the matters described in Subsections (H) and (I), or any other related environmental or urban forestry issue.

(L) The commission shall promote close cooperation between the City and all private citizens, institutions, and agencies interested in or conducting natural resource, environmental, and urban forestry activities, so that all similar activities within the city may be coordinated to secure the greatest public welfare.

(M) A project for which commission review is required: (1) must be submitted to the appropriate staff before the meeting at which it will be considered; and (2) may not be considered by the Planning Commission, the Zoning and Platting Commission, or the city council until the commission has had an opportunity to review the project at a regularly scheduled meeting and to report its findings.

**1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**

*(Reference all reports, recommendations, letters or resolutions presented to the City Council on mission-specific issues. If some of the elements of the mission statement were not acted on by the board in the past year, the report should explain why no action was taken.)*

Attached to this report is a spreadsheet listing all actions, recommendations, letters, and reports considered and/or taken up by the Environmental Commission during the previous calendar year.

**2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.**

*(If any of the board's actions were outside the scope of the mission statement, the report should explain the non-compliance issues.)*

All actions taken by the Environmental Commission comply with the Commission's mission statement.

A list of all actions taken by the Environmental Commission are attached to this report.

**3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.**

*(Make sure the goals and objectives fall within the mission statement of the board/commission.)*

Below is a list of the Environmental Commission's goals and objectives for the new calendar year. With many goals on this list, the Environmental Commission will work to reach all of the goals below, but will also prioritize these goals generally in the order listed below.

- Prioritize attention toward remedying historic and ongoing unjust impacts that are related to the mission of the Environmental Commission.
- Ensure the Environmental Commission provides ongoing support for the City's community resilience efforts including the City's development of a resilience plan. Provide oversight related to environmental resilience as a component of the overall community resilience work.
- Focus Environmental Commission oversight on integration of equity within the Watershed Strategic Plan update and in Capital Improvement Program decision making processes.
- Oversee and receive a status report from City staff on any anticipated updates to the Heritage Tree Ordinance. Including effectiveness of current Heritage Tree Ordinance.
- Receive biannual reports (and check-ins) from the Equity Office to the Environmental Commission.
- Receive quarterly reports from Watershed Protection Department's Capital Improvement Program, the Environmental Commission will review completed, ongoing and proposed capital improvement projects and their delivery in accordance with Environmental Commission mission.
- Receive annual a review of the City's wastewater treatment systems, including the age, function, and anticipated improvements to existing wastewater treatment facilities. Included in this review of the number of wastewater lines in critical water quality zones and how these lines are monitored and mitigated (if leak occurs).
- Conduct a review of environmental inspection practices, including erosion and sedimentation controls and tree protections, by the Development Services Department to ensure that environmental regulations are being appropriately implemented to be protective of water quality and the urban forest.
- Receive annual report from Watershed Protection Department (with support from other departments as necessary) of what improvements have been made since the Flood Mitigation Task Force Report was released. The report will also include status and forecasted progress over the coming years.
- Continue the ability to meet remotely for all standing Environmental Commission committee meetings.

- Received updates on environmental analysis, impacts, and outcomes from ongoing citywide projects such as the Tesla factory and Major League Soccer (MLS) stadium.
- Receive annual report on City's progress on strategies that will lower carbon emissions by Austin Energy, Transportation and other pertinent City departments. The report will include how departments are tracking and reporting this information.
- Receive annual report from Watershed Protection Department on reservoir-related issues, including but not limited to toxic algae, draw downs, zebra mussels, and other invasive species.
- Review biannual reports on the environmental impact to neighborhoods located in close proximity to Industrial Zoning areas. This could include the water, soil, and air quality.
- Promote efforts for night sky preservation to reduce wasted electricity and preserve habitat and plant species. Advocate for policy change in the City of Austin's exterior lighting requirements to address over lighting, street, and sports stadium lighting.

Item/Requestor/Staff	EC Meeting Date	Code Amendments	Redevelopment Exception in the BSZ	Cut & Fill; dredging	Constr. Boatdocks Steep Slopes and Roadways	Stream Buffers (CWQZ & WQTZ)	CEF Setbacks	Impervious Cover; Density; Net Site Area	Ordinance/Resolution and Agreements	Reviewed Environmental Aspects of the PUD/PUD Amendments	Variance Heritage Tree	Recommend site plan waiver Waterfront Overlay	SER	Annual Reports, Special Staff Reports and Work Sessions	Staff Briefings	Other Presentations/requests	Commendation Letter	Annexation request	Restrictive Covenant Amendments	ETJ Release	Administrative, Nominations & Elections	Recommendations/Comments
1	Norris Boat Dock, SP-2020-0223DS Request to vary from LDC 25-8-281(C)(2)(B) to allow construction within 150 feet of Rimrock Critical Environmental Feature	7/7/2021			RwC																	<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=363099">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=363099</a>
2	Crossroads Logistics, SP-2021-0015D Request: 1. Request to vary from LDC 25-8-341 to allow cut up to 14.3 feet within the Desired Development Zone and 2. Request to vary from LDC 25-8-342 to allow fill up to 16.5 feet within the Desired Development Zone.	7/7/2021		RwC																		<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=363098">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=363098</a>
3	Karanam Subdivision Wastewater Service Extension Request #5067 Wastewater Service Extension	8/4/2021											R									<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=365097">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=365097</a>
4	Update on School Year 2020-2021 WPD Youth Education Report	8/18/2021													NAT							Staff briefing - no action taken
5	Updating the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan for Waller, Walnut, Taylor Slough South, and the Spicewood Tributary of Shoal Creek	8/18/2021													NAT							Staff briefing - no action taken
6	Joint presentation on the Programing, Operations and Maintenance Agreement between the Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) and The Trail Foundation (TTF)	8/18/2021														NAT						No action taken
7	Proposed changes to the Land Development Code for Urban Trails including: 1. Amendment to LDC 25-8-341 and 25-8-342 to cut and fill requirements to allow cut and fill of up to 8 ft for a public trail if the cut or fill is not located on a slope of more than 15% or within 100 feet of a classified waterway and the trail is constructed in accordance with the Environmental Criteria Manual 2. Amendment to LDC 25-8-261 to clarify the language to formalize the current interpretation making clear that a trail within the critical water quality zone is limited to 12 feet plus one foot compacted subgrade shoulders on each side.	8/18/2021	R																			<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=366090">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=366090</a>
8	Review of key watershed regulations in City Code Chapter 25-8	8/25/2021														NAT						Staff briefing - no action taken
9	Heritage Tree Ordinance 101	8/25/2021														NAT						Staff briefing - no action taken
10	Discuss returning to in-person meetings in September and pilot program for hybrid meetings	8/25/2021														NAT						Staff briefing - no action taken
11	Refresher on boards and commissions rules	8/25/2021														NAT						Staff briefing - no action taken
12	Review the purview of the Environmental Commission	8/25/2021														NAT						Staff briefing - no action taken
13	Discuss the Environmental Commission's goals and objectives for the new calendar year (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022)	8/25/2021																			NAT	No action taken
14	Update on Climate Equity Plan	9/1/2021														NAT						Staff briefing - no action taken
15	Update on Northwest Park Dam Maintenance and Modernization project	9/1/2021														NAT						Staff briefing - no action taken
16	Update on Watershed Protection Department Equity Initiative	9/1/2021														NAT						Staff briefing - no action taken
17	Update and request for recommendation of support for the Waterloo Greenway Creek Delta Project	9/1/2021															R					<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=366922">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=366922</a>
18	Update on Brodie Oaks Planned Unit Development (PUD)	9/15/2021														NAT						No action taken
19	Update on the Watershed Protection Strategic Plan	9/15/2021														NAT						No action taken
20	Introduction with Councilwoman Fuentes and flood resilience priorities	10/1/2021															NAT					Staff briefing - no action taken
21	Briefing on the Village of Webberville's request to release approximately 31 acres of Austin's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) to be included in Webberville's ETJ	10/1/2021																			R	<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=369064">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=369064</a>
22	305 South Congress Planned Unit Development (PUD), C814-89-0003.02 public hearing to amend the current PUD	10/1/2021								NR												<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=369001">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=369001</a>
23	Approve the Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Schedule for 2022	10/20/2021																			P	Postponed
24	COA Fire & EMS Station - Davenport Village, SP-2021-0121D request to vary 25-8-302(A)(2) to allow construction of a parking area on a slope with a gradient of more than 15 percent and vary 25-8-341 to allow cut over four feet to 17 feet.	10/20/2021			RwC																	<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=369964">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=369964</a>
25	Park 183 Buildings 6 & 7, SP-2021-0072C request to vary from 25-8-342 to allow fill over 4 feet up to 17 feet	11/3/2021			RwC																	<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=370778">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=370778</a>
26	4315 City Park Water Service Extension Request #5216	11/3/2021											R									<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=370779">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=370779</a>
27	8921 US Hwy 290 West Wastewater Service Extension Request #4796	11/3/2021											R									<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=370777">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=370777</a>
28	Approve the Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Schedule for 2022	11/17/2021																			R	
29	Hold an emergency election for vacant Environmental Commission officer positions for the May 2021 through April 2022	11/17/2021																			R	Commissioner Ramberg for Vice-Chair. Commissioner Bristol for Vice-Chair
30	Stillwater - Double Creek Phase 2, SP-2021-0178C Request to vary from LDC 25-8-261 to allow development in the critical water quality zone	11/17/2021				RwC																<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=371958">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=371958</a>
31	Presentation on changes to improve issues with erosion-sedimentation controls in the Zilker/Barton Hills neighborhood	12/1/2021												R								<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=372605">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=372605</a>
32	Briefing on the Sound Ordinance	12/1/2021													NAT							Staff briefing - no action taken
33	Make a recommendation regarding the creation, continuation, or termination and status of Lady Bird Lake concessions contained in the 2021 Annual Report of City of Austin/Parks and Recreation Department Managed Concessions on Town Lake	12/1/2021												RwC								<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=372604">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=372604</a>

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34	Recognize Katie Coyne for her service on the Environmental Commission and her appointment as Watershed Protection Department's Environmental Officer and Assistant Director of the Watershed Protection Department over Planning, Monitoring, and Compliance branch of divisions	1/19/2022													NAT							Staff briefing - no action taken
35	Presentation on Equitable Transit-Oriented Development strategies for Project Connect	1/19/2022													NAT							Staff briefing - no action taken
36	Rainey Tower SPC-2021-0129C heritage tree removal variance	1/19/2022									RwC											<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=375175">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=375175</a>
37	HEB Austin No. 33, SP-2020-0400D 1. Request to vary from LDC 25-8-341 to allow cut to 12 feet. 2. Request to vary from LDC 25-8-342 to allow fill to 21 feet. 3. Request to vary from LDC 25-8-302(A)(2) to allow construction of a parking area on a slope with a gradient of more than 15 percent. 4. Request to vary from LDC 25-8-301 to allow construction of a driveway on a slope with a gradient of more than 15 percent.	1/19/2022			RwC	RwC																<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=375176">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=375176</a>
38	Update on discharge of acidic waste into tributary of Harris Branch Creek	2/2/2022													NAT							Staff briefing - no action taken
39	Briefing on rule changes to Environmental Criteria Manual Section 3.5	2/2/2022													NAT							Staff briefing - no action taken
40	7715 1/2 West State Highway 71, C14-85-288.23(RCA) public hearing and approve a restrictive covenant amendment	2/2/2022																	P			Motion to Postpone
41	87th State Legislature Update	2/16/2022													P							Motion to Postpone
42	Recognize Linda Guerrero for six years of service on the Environmental Commission	2/16/2022																			NAT	No action taken
43	Violet Crown Water and Wastewater Service Extension Requests #5111 & #5112	2/16/2022												NR								<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=376728">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=376728</a>
44	7715 1/2 West State Highway 71, C14-85-288.23(RCA) public hearing and approve a restrictive covenant amendment	2/16/2022																	P			Motion to Postpone
45	Iglesia Pentecostal Emanuel, Inc., SP-2020-0324C Request to vary from LDC 25-8-261 to allow development of a portion of a driveway in the Critical Water Quality Zone.	2/16/2022					RwC															<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=376729">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=376729</a>
46	Hold an emergency election for vacant Environmental Commission officer positions for May 2021 through April 2022	3/2/2022																			R	Bedford nominated as Vice-Chair. Ramberg nominated as Chair. Bristol nominated as Secretary.
47	7715 1/2 West State Highway 71, C14-85-288.23(RCA) public hearing and approve a restrictive covenant amendment	3/2/2022																	P			Motion to Postpone
48	Mary Vice Estates Planned Unit Development (PUD) Lot 27 Amendment; Case No. C814-97-0002.01 PUD amendment	3/2/2022								RwC												<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=377847">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=377847</a>
49	Water Oak Apartments, SP-2019-0109C Request to vary from LDC 25-8-342 to allow fill to 25 feet to construct a driveway	3/2/2022			R																	<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=377848">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=377848</a>
50	Watershed Protection Department's Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Forecast and Capital Improvement Program Plan	3/30/2022												R								<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=379935">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=379935</a>
51	Development Services Department's Fiscal Year 2023-2027 Financial Forecast	3/30/2022												R								<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=379934">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=379934</a>
52	Election of Environmental Commission Officers for May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023 term	4/6/2022																			R	Bedford nominated as Vice-Chair. Ramberg nominated as Chair. Bristol nominated as Secretary.
53	Nominate a new member for the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board	4/6/2022																			R	Ana Aguirre was nominated
54	Nominate a new member and an alternate for the Joint Sustainability Committee	4/6/2022																			R	Haris Qureshi was nominated and Rick Brimer was nominated as a backup.
55	Discuss committee membership	4/6/2022																			R	Colin Nickells joined the Urban Forestry Committee. Commissioner Bristol was nominated to the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Citizen Advisory Board
56	7715 1/2 West State Highway 71, C14-85-288.23(RCA) public hearing and approve a restrictive covenant amendment	4/6/2022																	RwC			<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=380745">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=380745</a>
57	Travis County ESD #4 Fire Station Parking Lot Improvements, SP 2020-0255DS Requests: 1. A Land Use Commission variance is requested to construct a driveway on slopes over 15% per LDC 25-8-301(A)(1) 2. A Land Use Commission variance is requested to construct a parking lot on slopes over 15% per LDC 25-8-302(A)(2) 3. A Land Use Commission variance is requested to allow fill over 4 feet per LDC 25-8-342 4. A Land Use Commission variance is requested to allow an impervious cover of 27.5% net site area per LDC 25-8-453	4/6/2022			RwC	RwC		RwC														<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=380747">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=380747</a>
58	Lot 1 Block 1 Srivathanakul Subdivision Project Assessment, C8J-2021-0206.0APA Request: 1. A Land Use Commission variance is requested to allow density to exceed one unit for each two acres with a minimum lot size of ¼ of an acre [LDC 25-8-453(B)(1) & LDC 30-5-453(B)(1)] 2. A Land Use Commission variance is requested to allow a lot that lies within a Critical Water Quality Zone to include less than two acres in a Water Quality Transition Zone or uplands [LDC 25-8-452(C)]	4/6/2022					RwC	RwC														<a href="https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=380746">https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=380746</a>
59	Briefing on Watershed Protection Department's work removing obstructions from Creeks	4/6/2022													NAT							Staff briefing - no action taken

