

THE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN-IT

A Quarterly Newsletter produced by the City of Austin, Planning & Development Review Department to highlight Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams

Roles & Responsibilities of Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams

The Neighborhood Plan Contact Team (NPCT) are groups of individuals who are the stewards and advocates of their adopted neighborhood plan. They work with city staff towards the implementation of their neighborhood plan recommendations, review and initiate plan amendments, serve as community points of contact, and work on behalf of all neighborhood stakeholders.

Your responsibility as a NPCT member includes:

1. Review and respond to plan amendment applications to your adopted neighborhood plan.
2. Work with City staff, amongst yourselves and with the community at large to implement your adopted neighborhood plan.
3. Work on behalf of all planning area stakeholders—even those who do not attend meetings.
4. Serve as Community Points of Contact on any city-initiated programs or policy changes.
5. Initiate plan amendments when appropriate.
6. On an annual basis submit a list of contact team officers and members, including individual contact information and applicable membership category; i.e property owner; renter; business owners; or neighborhood organization members owning or renting property within the neighborhood plan area.
7. On an annual basis submit bylaws or changes in existing bylaws that address: roles and responsibilities, boundaries, membership, decision-making, meetings and meeting notification, officers and duties, amendments to the bylaws, finances, and conflicts of interest.



Imagine Austin is Adopted !



The Austin City Council voted 7-0 on June 15, 2012 to adopt Imagine Austin, our plan for Austin's future.

"I want to thank everybody in Austin who contributed their time and creative ideas to Imagine Austin. Some folks spent two and a half years on the Task Force and countless others contributed their passion and ideas. This

is a momentous achievement of working together to create a collective vision for Austin's future and we are committed to doing our part as a City to begin implementing this plan. We look forward to working with our partners and the public to make it happen." -Mayor Lee Leffingwell

To read the adopted plan and learn more about how to get involved with implementing Imagine Austin please visit: www.imagineaustin.net



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Future Contact Team Trainings:

505 Barton Springs Road
3rd Floor Training Room
6:00-7:30 pm

- November 6th
Annual Meet & Greet
- Feb 2013—TBD
- May 2013—TBD

For more information contact Margaret Valenti at margaret.valenti@austintexas.gov

Roles & Responsibilities Continued

8. Register your Contact Team and update as necessary with the City of Austin Community Registry:

<http://austintexas.gov/page/community-registry>

City staff, Planning Commission and Council expect contact team members to not only meet these requirements but to meet the requirements set forth in your bylaws. Contact teams are the eyes and ears of the community and we look to contact teams to be as transparent and accountable to their responsibilities in the same way that the public expects City staff, planning commissioners and city council to be accountable and transparent.

A Contact Team that has met these requirements is considered in “good standing” with the Planning and Development Review Department.

City staff will begin sharing, as part of official staff reports, the “good standing” status of contact teams.

City staff (Margaret Valenti) will work with all teams to help retain their good standing status. However, those teams that are not in good standing or working towards that status will be noted with the Planning Commission and City Council.

For more information contact Margaret Valenti at 974-2648 or margaret.valenti@austintexas.gov

For Contact Team resources or a copy of the Land Development Code Article 16:

<http://austintexas.gov/department/neighborhood-plan-contact-teams>

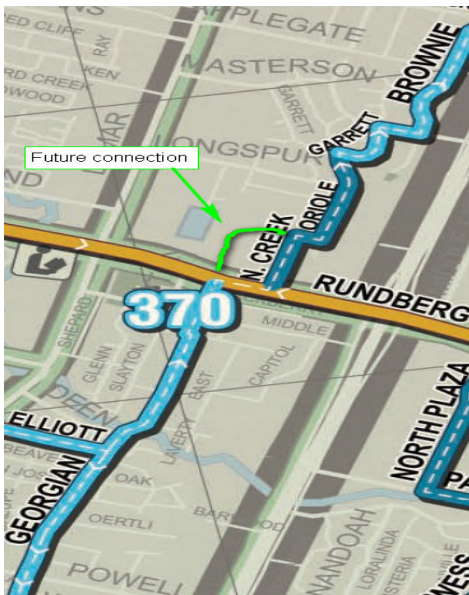
DID YOU KNOW...

The comprehensive planning division of the Planning and Development Review Department has a new mission statement?

“Bringing the community together to make great places happen.”

North Lamar Bike Connection

With construction being planned of a new elementary school north of Rundberg Lane at Georgian Drive, **Lisa Hinley, Chair of the North**



Lamar Combined Neighborhood Plan Contact Team, saw more than just the construction of a new school. She saw the opportunity to improve the pedestrian network in the planning area. Ms. Hinley contacted Neil Kopper, with the City of Austin Public Works department, and suggested a possible bicycle/pedestrian connection for the students of the new school and the community in general. Mr. Kopper saw her suggestion as an excellent opportunity to fill a gap in the City’s bicycle network. Georgian Drive has bicycle lanes and N. Creek is a relatively small residential street. Rundberg, however, acts as a barrier in this otherwise great north/south connection. The proposed connection would start at the school’s driveway and then cut east onto a shared use path.

Mr. Kopper then contacted AISD representatives, regarding the possibility of the connection. With the new school’s site plan not yet finalized; a partnership between the City and AISD was struck and the new bicycle/pedestrian connection was able to be incorporated into the plan. “Without Ms. Hinley’s efforts we would not have even known to pursue this project,” Mr. Kopper stated. “This is a great example of what can happen when people take an active, committed role in their neighborhood plans.”

While there is no firm date set, the new school and the bicycle/pedestrian connection are on track for a 2013-2014 school year completion.

Now is a great time to check the City of Austin Community Registry for accurate contact team information!

Contact teams should check their contact information on the community registry. Providing accurate information will ensure continued notification from the city about city related events in their neighborhood.

<http://www.austintexas.gov/cr>

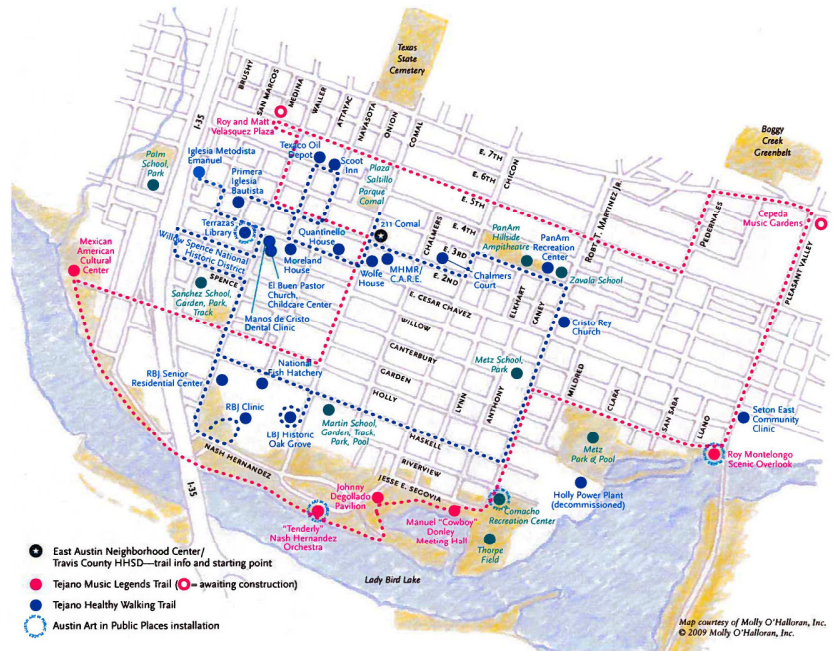
Contact Teams in the News!

On June 2nd, **East Cesar Chavez's Tejano Walking Trails** were designated as national recreation trails and are now recognized as part of America's national system of trails. A ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating this achievement will take place in early September. Event details will be posted at www.eastcesarchavez.org when they become available.

The Tejano Walking Trails are made up of two main trails: the Tejano Healthy Walking Trail and the Tejano Music Legends Trail.

The Tejano Healthy Walking Trail is the result of years of hard work by the East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Planning Contact Team. The trail is 4.95 mile long, takes approximately 2 ½ hours to walk, and identifies 24 historical and culturally significant neighborhood points of interest. An important goal of the trail is to serve as a source of pride for those families who have lived in the East Cesar Chavez neighborhood for generations and to increase the sensitivity and respect among those moving to the neighborhood.

The Tejano Music Legends Trail is 5.6 miles and was an initiative by the Austin City Council to re-name 5 public east side spots to commemorate Austin's Latino music legends from the 1940s and 1950s, many of whom lived in the East Cesar Chavez neighborhood. A map of both walking trails and a description of the historical and culturally significant sites on the trails can be found in printed brochures available at Terrazas Library (1105 E. Cesar Chavez St.) or the East Austin Neighborhood Center (211 Comal St.). Brochures were funded by the City of Austin's Neighborhood Enhancement Fund, private donations and managed by Keep Austin Beautiful. The brochure is available at the Heritage Society of Austin's website: <http://www.heritagesocietyaustin.org/>



On May 23, 2012, Ofelia Zapata Contact Team Vice Chair and long time community activist for the **Southeast Combined Neighborhood Plan** - received the Citizen Superhero Award from the City of Austin Public Works Department.

Ofelia was recognized for her tenacious commitment to her Dove Springs neighborhood by Public Works employees. She was presented with her award at the Public Works employees annual Award and Recognition Breakfast.

Go Ofelia! Go Public Works!

THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERING PROGRAM:
EMPOWERING NEIGHBORHOODS,
BUILDING COMMUNITY

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Crime Tools for Neighborhoods

A number of online tools are available for contact teams wanting to stay informed about crime reported in their neighborhood. The Austin Police Department (APD) website has a "CrimeViewer" where incidents can be searched. For example, a user could search for incidents of crime within 1,000 feet of 123 Main Street between May 1, 2012 and June 1, 2012.

There are additional websites that receive crime data from APD. Examples of those sites include Krimelabb.com, Spotcrime.com, and Trulia.com. They work in a similar fashion as the Crime Viewer. They require either an address to search by or allow searches for data by date, zip code or types of offense.

Building a positive relationship with APD is a good strategy for neighborhoods wishing to address crime. One opportunity to achieve this is to attend the Austin Police Department's quarterly Commander Forum meeting for your region. At these meetings, the region's Police Commander and other police officers engage with the public in a conversation about crime concerns in the area. This provides a great opportunity for APD and the public to exchange information that can help make the area safer.

A second opportunity to build relationships with APD is to arrange a meeting with your area's District Representative. District Representatives serve as the

liaison between the neighborhoods and the police department. Among other things, they can help your contact team with establishing a neighborhood watch and discuss specific issues related to crime in your neighborhood. For more information go to: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/police>

While a local focus on reducing crime is very important there is a national organization that can help as well. The National Crime Prevention Council's (NCPC) mission is to be the nation's leader in helping people keep themselves, their families, and their communities safe from crime.

To achieve this, NCPC produces tools that communities can use to: learn crime prevention strategies engage community members, coordinate with local agencies.

NCPC produces publications and teaching materials on a variety of topics, programs that can be implemented in communities and schools, local, regional, and national trainings and public service announcements broadcast nationwide starring McGruff the Crime Dog.

More information can be found at the National Crime Prevention Council:
www.ncpc.org



Thank You — East Side Contact Teams!

The City's Land Development Code requires that contact teams submit their membership list as well as their bylaws.

Thank you to the following east side contact teams for working with city staff in submitting your required documents:

Central East Austin (OCEAN), Chestnut, Coronado Hills, East Cesar Chavez, East Riverside/Oltorf (EROC) East MLK Combined, Govalle/Johnston Terrace, Heritage Hills/Windsor Hills, North Lamar, Rosewood, Southeast Combined, St. John, University Hills, Upper Boggy Creek and Windsor Park.

CONTACTS

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STAFFING CHANGES

Please join PDRD staff in welcoming **Donna Arwood**, Administrative Senior to the team! Donna has over 15 years of public service experience and comes to us as a former city clerk of Crested Butte Colorado. Among the many talents that Donna brings to the team she will be responsible for working with contact teams to collect the bylaws and memberships lists.

After more than 7 years of dedicated and highly professional service **Melissa Laursen**, Principal Planner has taken a position with the Austin Independent School District. While we are sad to see Melissa go we are also pleased that she will be working with AISD staff in facility planning. We know that our paths will cross again!