The City of Austin and the community began to create neighborhood plans for the core areas of the City in the 1990’s. Plan boundaries were drawn and modified based on logical and efficient geographic areas, and approved by City Council. In a few cases, neighborhood associations were used as boundaries where possible. The Council reviews boundaries at the beginning of a new planning process for each area. Staff cannot change boundaries for neighborhood plans without a Council approval process.

The original neighborhood planning program only considered the core City neighborhoods. Most neighborhoods outside the core, or almost 70% of the City, do not have a neighborhood plan. However, these areas are part of the Imagine Austin comprehensive plan that covers the entire City jurisdiction. Imagine Austin designates Growth Concept Centers or Corridors in selected areas. In addition, some areas also have site plans, planned unit developments, and similar specific plans.