

THE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN-IT

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

Free Trees for St. John and Coronado Hills!

On October 22nd, over **450 trees** were delivered to residents in the St. John & Coronado Hills Neighborhoods. These are the latest recipients of free trees from the Austin Community Tree (ACT) program. More than 75 volunteers from the Contact Teams, neighborhood residents, University of Texas, and other community organizations helped to make this event a huge success. Volunteers assessed which properties were eligible for free trees; delivered door hangers; delivered trees; and, in some cases, planted trees for those who requested assistance.

The ACT program seeks to reduce the Urban Heat Island effect by encouraging the planting of trees on private property to shade sidewalks and streets. Besides providing a shady place to walk, trees

improve air quality and lower daytime temperatures by up to four degrees.

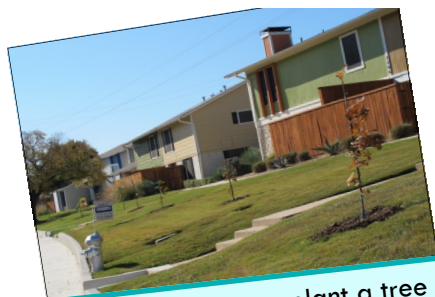
The ACT program offers a variety of large shade and smaller under-story trees.

Past program participants have included the following planning areas: East Cesar Chavez, Central East Austin, Crestview and Wooten, Old West Austin, Rosewood, South Congress Combined and Montopolis.

The ACT program is a partnership among neighborhoods, the Planning and Development Review Department, Parks and Recreation Department, and Austin Energy.

For more information please contact Margaret Valenti at (512) 974-2648 or margaret.valenti@austintexas.gov

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/community-trees>



"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now."
— Chinese Proverb



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Issue No. 5**

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Future Contact Team Trainings:

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

- Feb 2013—TBD
- May 2013—TBD
- August 2013—TBD
- November 2013—TBD

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

Hot off the Press!

Printed copies of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan are now available!



Contact Teams may receive one complementary copy of the recently adopted Imagine Austin for contact team and community use.

Copies will be on hand at the December 11 Quarterly Contact Team Training.

Please work with your contact team to arrange for a representative pick up a copy for your team.

If a contact team representative needs to arrange another time to pick up the team copy, please contact Meredith Bossin at 512-974-7659 or meredith.bossin@austintexas.gov.

Additional copies of the plan can be purchased for \$25.00 (plus tax) at BookPeople (603 N. Lamar Blvd) or in the Document Sales Office located on the first floor of One Texas Center (505 Barton Springs Rd).

Free copies are available for download at <http://www.imagineaustin.net/>

Imagine Austin Speakers Series

Ellen Dunham-Jones, AIA, is a renowned expert on urban and suburban design and will be visiting Austin early 2013! The Planning and Development Review Department is sponsoring her visit as part of the ongoing **Building Compact and Connected Speaker Series** to support implementation of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan. Her visit will include a lecture and applied planning exercise focused on the current South Austin Combined Neighborhood Plan process. Please join us on January 24th, 6:30 – 9:00 pm at the First Evangelical Free Church, Community Hall located at 4220 Monterey Oaks Boulevard.

Dunham-Jones' work shows groups how the design of where we live impacts the environment, the health of the community, and available housing and living options. She is widely recognized for co-authoring *Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs*, a book demonstrating how communities have redeveloped into walkable and sustainable places.

For more information please visit Imagine Austin's Speaker Series webpage:

<http://www.imagineaustin.net/speakerseries>.



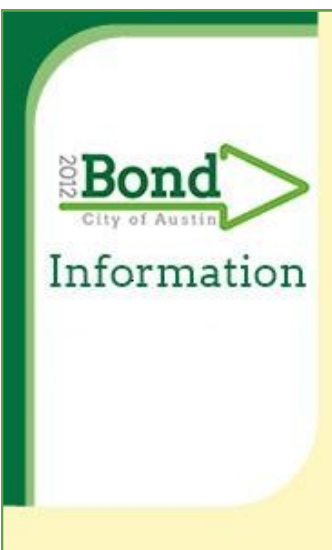
2012 Bond

On November 6th Austin voters approved six of seven City of Austin 2012 Bond propositions. Approval of the six propositions allows the City to issue nearly \$307 million in bonds to fund improvements in several categories, including:

Proposition 12	Transportation and Mobility	\$143 Million
Proposition 13	Open Space and Watershed Protection	\$30 Million
Proposition 14	Parks and Recreation	\$78 Million
Proposition 16	Public Safety	\$31 Million
Proposition 17	Health and Human Services	\$11 Million
Proposition 18	Library, Museum and Cultural Arts Facilities	\$13 Million

The 2012 bond program supports the maintenance of existing City infrastructure and facilities while also making investments in new initiatives. Projects will advance some Neighborhood Plan priorities identified by contact teams, including intersection safety, local area traffic management, addressing gaps in the sidewalk, bicycle and trail networks, and park and recreation facility improvements. Planning and Development Review staff will continue to work closely with the Capital Planning Office and other departments over the coming months to ensure that available funding is used to support Neighborhood Plan priority projects where possible.

For more information visit www.AustinTexas.gov/2012bond



South Austin Combined Neighborhood Plan Kicks off!

The kickoff workshop for the South Austin Combined Neighborhood Plan, which includes the Westgate, Garrison Park, and South Manchaca neighborhoods, will be on Saturday, January 12, 2013 9:00am—1:00pm at the Crocket H.S. Cafeteria. Food will be provided.

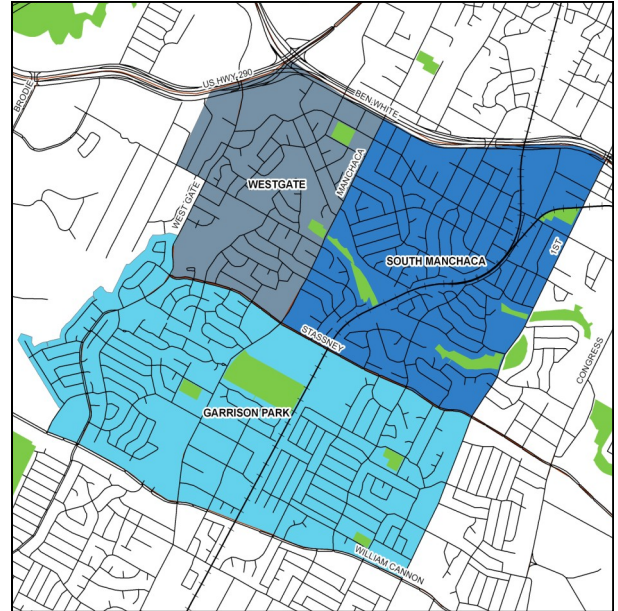
This will be the first neighborhood plan to be initiated and adopted as a part of the *Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan* and will look different from past neighborhood plans. The South Austin Combined Neighborhood Plan will focus on creating complete communities as prioritized in *Imagine Austin*.

Participants in the neighborhood planning process will envision what the planning area's neighborhood center and activity corridors identified in *Im-*

agine Austin's Growth Concept Map will look like at the local scale. Through the planning process, residents and businesses in the will create a vision for the future of their neighborhoods and lay a strong foundation for a complete community.

Residents and businesses in the planning area will receive a postcard with more information closer to the date of the kickoff.

For more information on neighborhood planning, and updates on the South Austin Combined Neighborhood Plan, please visit: <http://austintexas.gov/department/>



Map of the South Austin Combined Neighborhood Planning Area

Revising Austin's Land Use Regulations

As part of their Fiscal Year 2012/2013 budget, the Austin City Council approved three full-time employees and up to \$2M to acquire consultant services to revise Austin's land development code (LDC). An across-the-board review, analysis, and revision of the LDC are priorities of the recently adopted *Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan*.

Staff is currently developing a bid to solicit the services of a consultant team. The preferred candidate team should:

- Come with deep knowledge and experience in revising big city land development codes
- Bring the ability to listen to the public and explain highly technical and complex subjects
- Provide expertise in different types of land development codes

- Be responsive to community issues and needs while retaining professional neutrality
- Be straightforward in discussing likely outcomes and unintended consequences of code provisions.

The consultant team is expected to be hired by spring of 2013.

The process to revise the code will consist of four steps and is anticipated to begin in spring 2013 and be completed by fall 2015:

- **Listening, Issue Identification, & Education**—Engage the community to determine what does and does not work with the code and identify divisive issues. Before this step begins, contact teams will be invited to engage in the process.
- **Code Diagnosis and Annotated Outline**—Determine what is to be left alone, what is to be revised,

and what to explore further and result in a detailed outline summarizing the organization of the draft code.

- **Preliminary Draft Code**—A draft code based on broad input is developed and further reviewed by the community.
- **Code Adoption**—An adoption draft of the code based on community input is presented to the Austin's Planning Commission for their recommendation and then to the City Council for adoption.

Throughout the process there will be a number of public events with speakers knowledgeable about land development code issues.

For more information please contact Mark Walters at mark.walters@austintexas.gov or 974-7695

Staffing Changes

Please join PDRD staff in welcoming 4 new employees to the
Comprehensive Planning Division!

Stevie Greathouse, Principal Planner, has nearly 20 years of long range planning experience and began her career crafting neighborhood plans in Portland, Oregon. After spending the last 9 years as a program manager for the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), she is thrilled to be returning to her neighborhood planning roots, joining PDRD as the supervisor of the implementation team.

Katie Mulholland, Neighborhood Planner, has degrees in international studies, Spanish and planning. Before joining PDRD, she worked for a planning nonprofit in Houston. She will work on new small area plans and one of the Imagine Austin priority programs. We are glad to have Katie with us for her organizational skills from working with Better Block volunteers and her bilingual proficiency.

Lauren Kotwal, Neighborhood Planner, has degrees in urban and environmental planning. She worked in California conducting research on and writing about environmental impacts of proposed projects. After moving to Austin she volunteered with PDRD and helped on Imagine Austin. She will work on new small area plans and one of the Imagine Austin priority programs. We are glad to have Lauren with us for her research and writing skills as well as her background with sustainability.

Cristin Kenyon, Neighborhood Planner, has degrees in environmental systems, and planning. While at UCLA she had several research and writing jobs. She spent several years in the Bronx with Teach for America teaching middle school science where she had to think on her feet in stressful conditions and be flexible and prepared for any situation.

Mobile Food & Front Yard Parking Ordinance

On June 28, 2012, the Austin City Council approved ordinances to update the Mobile Food Establishment map and the Restricted Front Yard Parking Map to including new areas where the ordinance restrictions apply.

The **Mobile Food Establishment Ordinance** (Section 25-2-812 of the City Code) allows neighborhood associations and planning contact teams the opportunity to submit an annual application in February of each year to have additional distance requirements from residential areas for mobile food establishment to operate. The new areas added in 2012 are North Lamar Neighborhood Planning Area and Stone Gate Neighborhood Association.

The **Restricted Front Yard Parking Ordinance** (Section 12-5-29 of the City Code) establishes restrictions on parking in the front or side yard of a residential property and has civil penalty for violations to these parking restrictions. Neighborhood associations and planning contact teams may submit an annual application in February of each year to have the restrictions apply in their area. The new areas added in 2012 are Northeast Walnut Creek Neighborhood Association and Stone Gate Neighborhood Association.

Application material for February 2013 submittals were mailed to neighborhood groups and planning contact teams who are registered on the City's Community Registry in October 2012. If you'd like to receive the application material, please contact Maureen Meredith at 974-2695 or at Maureen.meredith@austintexas.gov.

You can find more information at:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/plan-amendment-resources>

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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 your neighborhood.

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

