

Green Infrastructure-related Imagine Austin Policies

Summary

- 1. Integrate Green Infrastructure citywide.**
LUT P23, LUT P34, CE P3, CE P4, CFS P47.
- 2. Protect quality and quantity of water resources through water conservation, protection of creeks and floodplains, and limiting development in sensitive areas.**
LUT P21, PUT P34, E P15, CE P2, CE P5, CE P6, CE, P7, CE P8, CFS P1, CFS P5, CFS P8, CFS P9, CFS P10, CFS P11, CFS P12, CFS P14, CFS P46.
- 3. Protect and preserve sensitive environmental areas.**
LUT P22, E P5, CE P1, CE P2, CE P5, CE P6, CE P7, CFS P10, CFS P11, CFS P45.
- 4. Reduce air and noise pollution.**
LUT P26, CE P10.
- 5. Develop sustainably, integrating development with the natural environment.**
HN P8, HN P12, HN P15, CE P11, CE P12, CE P14, CFS P1.
- 6. Promote development in compact centers, connecting centers with complete streets that promote active transportation such as walking and bicycling.**
LUT P3, LUT P5, LUT P11, LUT P32, LUT P33, LUT P36, HN P13, CFS P37, CFS P42, CFS P47, S P3.
- 7. Build complete neighborhoods and healthy and family-friendly communities.**
LUT P5, LUT P29, LUT P44, HN P10, CE P8, CFS P37, CFS P40, CFS P41, CFS P43, CFS P44, CFS P46, S P3.
- 8. Preserve Austin's unique character.**
LUT P30, E P5, C P17.

Land Use and Transportation

LUT P3. Promote development in compact centers, communities, or along corridors that are connected by roads and transit, are designed to encourage walking and bicycling, and reduce healthcare, housing and transportation costs.

LUT P5. Create healthy and family-friendly communities through development that includes a mix of land uses and housing types, affords realistic opportunities for transit, bicycle, and pedestrian travel, and provides community gathering spaces, neighborhood gardens and family farms, parks, and safe outdoor play areas for children.

LUT P11. Promote complete street design that includes features such as traffic calming elements, street trees, wide sidewalks, and pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access throughout Austin, considering the safety needs of people of all ages and abilities.

LUT P21. Ensure that redevelopment in the Edwards Aquifer's recharge and contributing zones maintains the quantity and quality of recharge of the aquifer.

LUT P22. Protect Austin's natural resources and environmental systems by limiting land use and transportation development in sensitive environmental areas and preserving areas of open space.

LUT P23. Integrate citywide and regional green infrastructure, to including such elements as preserves and parks, trails, stream corridors, green streets, greenways, agricultural lands, and the trail system, into the urban environment and the transportation network.

LUT P26. Reduce noise pollution from transportation, construction, and other sources. (Soft, landscaped surfaces reduce noise refraction)

LUT P29. Develop accessible community gathering places such as plazas, parks, farmers' markets, sidewalks, and streets in all parts of Austin, especially within activity centers and along activity corridors including Downtown, future Transit Oriented Developments, in denser, mixed use communities, and other redevelopment areas, that encourage interaction and provide places for people of all ages to visit and relax.

LUT P30. Protect and enhance the unique qualities of Austin's treasured public spaces and places such as parks, plazas, and streetscapes; and, where needed, enrich those areas lacking distinctive visual character or where the character has faded.

LUT P32. Assure that new development is walkable and bikable and preserves the positive characteristics of existing pedestrian friendly environments.

LUT P33. Apply high standards of urban design to ensure that "complete streets" are safe and accessible for all users. Encourage people to use alternative forms of transportation that are sensitive to the demands of the Central Texas climate.

LUT P34. Integrate green infrastructure elements such as the urban forest, gardens, green buildings, stormwater treatment and infiltration facilities, and green streets into the urban design of the city through "green" development practices and regulations.

LUT P36. Transform all major streets into vibrant, multi-functional, pedestrian-friendly corridors.

LUT P44. Preserve and restore historic parks and recreational areas.

Housing and Neighborhoods

HN P8. Encourage green practices in housing construction and rehabilitation that support durable, healthy, and energy-efficient homes.

HN P10. Create complete neighborhoods across Austin that have a mix of housing types and land uses, affordable housing and transportation options, and access to healthy food, schools, retail, employment, community services, and parks and recreation options.

HN P12. Identify and assess the infrastructure needs of older neighborhoods and provide for improvements needed to maintain their sustainability.

HN P13. Strengthen Austin's neighborhoods by connecting to other neighborhoods, quality schools, parks, environmental features, and other community-serving uses that are accessible by transit, walking, and bicycling.

Economy

E P5. Enhance Austin's draw as a premier national and international tourist destination by strengthening and diversifying the arts and entertainment offerings, enhancing natural resources, and expanding the availability of family-friendly events and venues.

E P15. Invest in sustainable, affordable utility sources (communications, power, water, wastewater) to meet the needs of increasing population and employment bases.

Conservation and Environment

CE P1. Permanently preserve areas of the greatest environmental and agricultural value.

CE P2. Conserve Austin's natural resources systems by limiting development in sensitive environmental areas, including the Edwards Aquifer, its contributing and recharge zones, and endangered species habitat.

CE P3. Expand the city's green infrastructure network to include such elements as preserves and parks, trails, stream corridors, green streets, greenways, and agricultural lands.

CE P4. Maintain and increase Austin's urban forest as a key component of the green infrastructure network.

CE P5. Expand regional programs and planning for the purchase of conservation easements and open space for aquifer protection, stream and water quality protection, and wildlife habitat conservation, as well as sustainable agriculture.

CE P6. Enhance the protection of creeks and floodplains to preserve environmentally sensitive areas and improve the quality of water entering the Colorado River through regional planning and improved coordination.

CE P7. Protect and improve the water quality of the city's creeks, lakes, and aquifers for use and the support of aquatic life.

CE P8. Improve the urban environment by fostering safe use of waterways for public recreation, such as swimming and boating, that maintains the natural and traditional character of waterways and floodplains.

CE P10. Improve the air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from motor vehicle use, traffic and congestion, industrial sources, and waste.

CE P11. Integrate development with the natural environment through green building and site planning practices such as tree preservation and reduced impervious coverage and regulations. Ensure new development provides necessary and adequate infrastructure improvements.

CE P12. Adopt innovative programs, practices, and technologies to increase environmental quality and sustainability and reduce Austin's carbon footprint through the conservation of natural resources.

CE P14. Establish policies that consider the benefits provided by natural ecosystems, such as ecological processes or functions in wetlands and riparian areas, that have value to individuals or society.

City Facilities and Services

Wastewater, Potable Water, and Drainage Policies

CFS P1. Deliver potable water to Austin's residents as the population grows and maintain an efficient and sustainable water and drainage system in support of the Growth Concept Map.

CFS P5. Plan for and adapt to increased drought, severe weather, and other potential impacts of climate change on the water supply.

CFS P8. Reduce pollution in all creeks from stormwater runoff, overflow, and other non-point sources.

CFS P9. Reduce per capita potable water use through conservation, water reclamation, and other water resource stewardship programs.

CFS P10. Protect and improve the health of Austin's streams, lakes, and aquifers for sustainable uses and the support of aquatic life.

CFS P11. Protect the health of creeks and prevent public and private property damage by minimizing erosion.

CFS P12. Maintain or enhance the existing rate of recharge in the Edward's Aquifer.

CFS P14. Integrate erosion, flood, and water quality control measures into all City of Austin capital improvement projects.

Public Building Policies

CFS P37. Integrate public buildings and facilities into active, walkable, mixed use neighborhoods and complete, healthy communities.

CFS P40. Serve Austin's diverse, growing population and provide family-friendly amenities throughout the city by developing new parks and maintaining and upgrading existing parks.

Recreation and Open Space Policies

CFS P41. Ensure and increase equitable access to and opportunities for arts, recreation, and leisure activities for all ages throughout the City.

CFS P42. Increase connectivity between neighborhoods and from neighborhoods to parks and greenways through the use of sidewalks, bicycle lanes, multi-use paths, and trails.

CFS P43. Maximize the role of parks and recreation in promoting healthy communities and lifestyles.

CFS P44. Feature superior design in parks and recreational facilities and include opportunities for public art and sustainable design solutions.

CFS P45. Expand the amount of permanently protected natural and environmentally sensitive areas for use as open space and passive recreational areas.

CFS P46. Foster the use of creeks and lakes for public recreation and enjoyment in a manner that maintains their natural character.

CFS P47. Extend existing trail and greenway projects to create an interconnected green infrastructure network that includes such elements as preserves and parks, trails, stream corridors, green streets, greenways, agricultural lands linking all parts of Austin and connecting Austin to nearby cities.

Society

Health and Human Services Policies

S P3. Encourage more active lifestyles through new and redevelopment that supports walking and bicycling. Locate retail, services, and public facilities such as parks, health services, and libraries in or near neighborhoods to reduce traffic congestion and contribute to an improved sense of community.

Creativity

C P17. Define Austin's sense of place through high standards for architecture and urban design, public art, public spaces and parks, and arts education.