



Meeting Objective

Introduce “green infrastructure” and its potential benefits, opportunities, and challenges.

Meeting Agenda

- **Introductions** [5 min.]
- **Staff Presentation: Green Infrastructure** [40 min.]
 - Brief Introduction: Advantages/Opportunities
 - City of Austin & Green Infrastructure
 - Challenges/Potential Limitations
 - Addressing Barriers to Green Infrastructure
- **Small-Group Breakout Sessions** [60 min.]
 - Potential opportunities & challenges
- **Full Group Wrap-Up** [15 min.]
 - Summary of opportunities & challenges

Introduction: What is Green Infrastructure?

Imagine Austin: Interconnected system of parks, waterways, open space, trails, green streets, tree canopy, agriculture, and **stormwater management features that mimic natural hydrology**

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Stormwater Focus: Landscape features and engineered systems that mimic natural processes to control the quantity and quality of runoff

Introduction: Green Infrastructure Elements

- **Small-scale size**
- **Distributed/integrated into site**
- **Rely on natural elements: soil, plants, biota**
- **Passive designs**



Introduction: Advantages/Opportunities

- **Improved water quality performance**
- **Site amenity/landscape feature**
- **May reduce capital & maintenance costs**
- **Synergistic environmental benefits**
 - Water conservation, habitat, cooling, etc.



City of Austin & Green Infrastructure: Green Infrastructure Initiative

- **Creation of WPD Green Infrastructure Team**
- **City sponsored green infrastructure projects**
- **Update Technical Manuals to provide guidance in using GI to meet WQ ordinance requirements**
- **Outreach to homeowners and schools**



City of Austin & Green Infrastructure: Existing Regulations and Policies

- **ECM Criteria** for innovative water quality controls
- **Commercial Landscape Ordinance:** Stormwater runoff must be directed to 50% of required landscaped areas (WQ designs optional)
- **Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Districts:** 75% of water quality to be treated with innovative WQ controls
- **City buildings and site development** must look for opportunities to incorporate green infrastructure
- **Additional credits** for PUDs, Green Building, Open Space, Wetland Mitigation, and Alternative Landscaping

Challenges

- **Maintenance & inspection**
 - Cost to maintain over time
 - Access, safety (e.g., ROW)
 - Tracking (inspection)
- **Design/permitting complexity**
 - More controls for same area
 - Volume considerations
 - Permitting time
- **Single-Family Residential**
 - Maintained by owner/HOA?
 - Common lots/ROW only?
 - Enforcement



Addressing Barriers

Potential Improvements:

- **Green infrastructure in stream setbacks**
- **Green infrastructure within compatibility setbacks**
- **Allow "stacking" of flood control volume on top of water quality volume**
- **Green infrastructure integration into Transportation Criteria Manual**
- **Improvements to Environmental Criteria Manual**
- **Practical rainwater harvesting (drawdown time)**
- **Clarify porous pavement credit in Code**

Addressing Barriers

Issues to Explore Further:

- **Predevelopment hydrology standard**
- **Performance standard other than sedimentation-filtration pond**
- **Rain gardens for single-family residential development**
- **Rain gardens for non-degradation compliance**
- **Porous pavement for non-pedestrian uses**
- **GI for small, infill subdivisions versus fee-in-lieu of water quality controls**
- **Potential alternatives for downtown water quality**

Breakout Groups

Discuss potential opportunities & challenges for implementing green infrastructure.

Adoption Schedule	
Stakeholder Meetings	Sep 2011 – April 2012 <small>(Meetings approx. every two weeks)</small>
1. Creek Protection	Sep 9, 23, Oct 7
2. Floodplain Protection	Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 2
3. Development Patterns & Greenways	Dec 16, Jan 6, 20
4. Improved Stormwater Controls	Feb 3, 17, Mar 2
5. Mitigation Options (DDZ) + Rule Simplification & Flexibility	Mar/Apr
6. Staff develops Draft Ordinance	Apr/Jun
7. Stakeholder Feedback on Draft Ordinance	Jul/Aug
Boards & Commissions	Sep – Oct 2012
City Council	Nov/Dec 2012
Travis County Commissioner's Court	Winter 2012/13

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