

Watershed Protection Ordinance Stakeholder Meeting, Sep 23, 2011

Summary of Stakeholder Comments

Stoney Ridge

- Liked: avoiding floodplain, ample buffer zone, school connections
- Improve degraded critical water quality zone buffer
- Add rain gardens, low impact development, innovative water quality controls/detention, distributed water quality treatment

Berdoll:

- Liked: Trail around wet pond with channel, addressing flood storage and water quality; affordable; need to look at all impacts (drainage, transportation) if propose changes
- Change: channel (too narrow: permanently locks neighborhood into this solution—limits future options), connections (within neighborhood, to school, creek), walkability, more parks, more passive/lower maintenance drainage solutions; less sprawl
- Want: more natural channel; low impact development/smaller WQ controls, headwaters buffer, enhanced flexibility in design (for smaller lots, more units, clustering, etc.)
- Face/embrace, not turn back to, creek; public access; no gabions
- Need greater parkland credit, smaller streets, rain gardens; use average instead of uniform buffer width; grading required to keep natural floodplain in channel, separate detention/water quality structures

Buffers

- Enhancement/improvement of buffers, restoration of riparian areas needed, esp. in east
- Flexibility on buffer size and scope, particularly when land modified, creek plowed, etc.
- Channel modifications OK but must acknowledge/address water quality; Austin amenity
- Keep it simple: just use floodplain, not floodplain and buffer
- Allow site-specific flexibility; allow stormwater controls in buffers
- Proposed buffers too big; proposed buffers too small/don't extend far enough

Channel Design/Drainage Design

- Focus on slowing water down and less on moving water out; maintenance costs too high
- Various criteria suggestions; account for future revegetation in drainage calcs
- Measure/mitigate costs for buffers, channels, storm drainage, erosion: what size best?

Development Review/Development Issues

- Expedite/streamline current process to promote innovation, alternate treatments, increased density, clustering
- Need for more contiguous streets to provide access and avoid increased creek crossings

Subdivision & Transportation Code/ & Criteria

- More flexibility for density in single-family/subdivision/other areas
- Narrower streets, slower traffic, rework transportation criteria
- Sidewalks only on one side of road

Parkland Dedication and Land Acquisition

- City should purchase buffers, more preserve land in east; increased parkland dedication credit in floodplains; explore difference between City Limits and ETJ

Stormwater Controls

- Relax perimeter roads requirements; allow combined water quality and flood control
- Relax vegetative filter strip criteria (too big)
- More distributed controls/detention instead of end-of-pipe

Other Amenities/Considerations

- Buffers could include community gardens, improvements for wildlife; TMDL benefits important (TCEQ permit obligations)

Environmental Justice/Affordability

- Ordinance should do not adversely impact affordability; restoration will be expensive
- Ordinance should protect east as well existing code does for west; acknowledge racism