

# Chapter 7

## Relevant Plans

### 7.0 Introduction

The planning efforts of other organizations in the Austin area are relevant to the Long Range Plan for the Parks and Recreation Department. Consideration of these plans is an important part of the planning process. In a metropolitan area, there is a growing need to coordinate and cooperate as much as is feasible with other public, private and non-profit entities concerned with the provision of recreational and cultural opportunities. Following are the citizen's recommendations from their respective neighborhood plans.

### 7.1 Neighborhood Plans

As discussed in Chapter 6, various components for public input is important for developing existing and future parks and recreation facilities. One of these components is utilizing the public input recommendations from adopted Neighborhood Plans. Below are excerpts from the adopted neighborhood plans' recommendations that focus on Parks, Open Space, Trails, Greenways, Recreation, Environmental and Cultural facilities and have not been completed at this point in time.

#### **BOULDIN NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - 2002**



- Develop the West Bouldin Creek Greenbelt and Hike and Bike trail. Tie the West Bouldin Creek Greenbelt into the Trail at Lady Bird Lake (formerly known as Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail)
- Continue the development of the West Bouldin Creek Greenbelt to provide continuous access between Oltorf St and Barton Springs Rd

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## BRENTWOOD/HIGHLAND COMBINED NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - 2004



- Improve security at Brentwood Neighborhood Park
- Plant additional trees in Brentwood Neighborhood Park
- Develop a greenbelt with a hike and bike trail along Arroyo Seco
- Connect the greenbelt west to Shoal Creek
- Study the possibility of extending the greenbelt south to Burnet Rd near North Loop
- Ensure there is adequate lighted sports fields in/or near the neighborhood
- The neighborhood stakeholders are interested in a dog park for the neighborhood
- Maintain and enhance the playscapes at T.A. Brown Elementary School Park and Reilly Elementary School Park
- Develop an improved connection between the Skyview Neighborhood and Reilly Elementary School Park via Waller Creek
- Build a trail along Waller Creek starting at Croslin to connect Reilly Elementary School. If a trail cannot exist right along the creek for the entire length, pursue a trail along the creek where possible

## CENTRAL AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - 2004



- Enhance and preserve existing open space, parks and the natural environment

## CENTRAL EAST AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - 2001



- Plant more trees in Lott Pocket Park and Kealing Elementary School Parks
- Expand Lott Pocket Park as proposed with the Anderson Hill development Project and Urban Parks and Recovery Program grant proposal
- Improve the fountain and playscape in Lott Pocket Park
- Plant more trees in Lott Pocket Park and Kealing Elementary School parks. For Kealing Elementary School Park include tree planting along the street front edges

### CENTRAL WEST AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - 2010



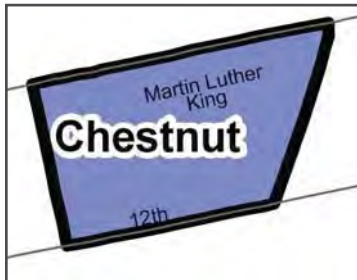
- Identify and create new parks and open spaces that serve their immediate neighbors as opportunities arise
- Improve parking facilities at Shoal Creek Greenbelt, West Enfield Neighborhood Park, Eilers Neighborhood Park, Walsh Boat Landing, and Red Bud Isle
- Improve creek crossings along Shoal Creek Greenbelt where crossings exist
- Extend trails over gabions north of 34th St along Shoal Creek Greenbelt
- Add staircase to picnic and playscape area at Eilers Neighborhood Park to allow visitors to bypass ramps
- Connect a sidewalk to the pool at West Enfield Neighborhood Park
- Repair Johnson Creek Greenbelt trail access under Veterans Drive near the Roberta Crenshaw Pedestrian Bridge in order to maintain and provide continuous access through Shoal Creek and Johnson Creek Greenbelts to the Trail at Lady Bird Lake (Permeable pavements preferred)
- Create a public trail from 35th St to the southern boundary of the Austin State School
- Connect the Trail at Lady Bird Lake to Red Bud Trail
- Improve amenities at Bailey Neighborhood Park, such as: tennis courts, revamping the existing stage to promote more entertainment, civic space, and community gatherings; play areas for young children; adding a trail around the park, and refurbishing the wading pool or upgrading it to a full-sized pool or splash pool
- Restore Reed Neighborhood Park and its pool
- Create a park or program for teens
- Create opportunities for public art display at parks
- ensure that some part of all playscapes are shaded with either trees or shade structures
- Post signage providing contact information for "Friends of..." program at all parks
- Add bleachers and repair tennis courts and pool at West Enfield Neighborhood Park
- Refurbish the wooden pavilion along Shoal Creek, south of 34th St and provide picnic benches under the oak trees located south of the 29th St bridge
- Plant shade trees and add benches along Shoal Creek Trail and Eilers Neighborhood Park to improve the pedestrian environment
- Conduct a study to determine whether there should be improvements to the off-leash area at Shoal Creek Greenbelt to reduce potential conflicts between dogs and vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists
- Repair, maintain or replace Deep Eddy Pool (Eilers Neighborhood Park) as a spring-fed pool; subject to historical considerations

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### CENTRAL WEST AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - 2010

- Plant trees along Shoal Creek in order to improve riparian habitat and aesthetics
- Investigate and reduce ponding at Reed Neighborhood Park, and Tarrytown Neighborhood Park
- Improve and limit disc golf course crossings on Shoal Creek Greenbelt
- Plant additional native shade trees parks
- Provide access and increase maintenance around Johnson Creek where it enters West Enfield Neighborhood Park
- Replant sycamore trees in the Jefferson St-34th St triangle, using cuttings from the existing sycamore there if possible
- Maintain the waterway in Mayfield Nature Preserve and rejuvenate the wildness of the area by removing invasive species and replanting with native species
- Add a shade structure to the playscape at Tarrytown Neighborhood Park
- Add a walking trail along the eastern perimeter of Tarrytown Neighborhood Park

### CHESTNUT NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - 1999



- Develop a pocket park in Chestnut

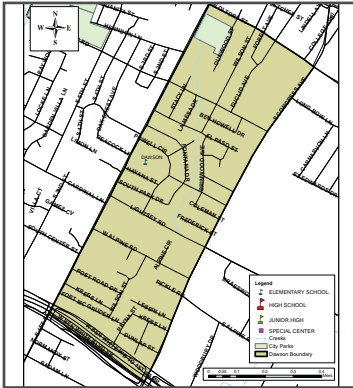
### CRESTVIEW/WOOTEN - 2004



- Preserve the open space and recreational areas on the Huntsman Petrochemical site (Optimist Club – sports fields)
- Add improvements to Wooten Neighborhood Park (restrooms, water fountains and sports facilities)

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### DAWSON - 2001



- Improve parks, recreation areas and green space
- Preserve and enhance the natural environment (e.g. East Bouldin Creek)
- Provide an additional sign for Gillis Neighborhood Park
- Rehabilitate and maintain the playscape at Gillis Neighborhood Park

### EAST CESAR CHAVEZ NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - 1999



- Preserve and enhance neighborhood trees, green spaces, trails, gardens, existing parks and recreational facilities
- Provide opportunities for cultural arts, recreation and leisure activities
- Plant trees and develop pocket parks
- Plant new trees and maintain existing trees, green spaces, trails and gardens
- Develop pocket parks, green spaces and green corridors
- The Neighborhood will encourage community involvement in the landscaping of pocket parks, green spaces and green corridors
- Maintain, improve and extend existing parks and recreational facilities
- Move immediately to complete the projects planned for East Austin parks, including the complete renovation at Comal Pocket Park
- Provide tennis courts, improved track and better lighting at Sanchez Elementary School Park
- Extend swimming pool hours at Martin and nearby pools to include morning hours
- Increase community access to Fiesta Gardens by reducing rates for residents and non-profits
- Provide landscaping or other screening between park and residential or other uses, such as residences east of Martin Junior High and the emergency vehicle parking lot and work with residents to decide height
- Enhance the park signs to the Emma S Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center and to the trail to view the bats at the Congress Avenue Bridge
- Sponsor a design competition for new symbol markers to these areas

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### EAST CESAR CHAVEZ NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - *CONT*

- Increase the number of recreational facilities in the neighborhood
- Install more park benches, picnic tables and checkerboard tables throughout Festival Beach area
- Construct a picnic table area that is handicapped-accessible from the handicap ramp on Festival Beach Road near the RBJ Residential Tower
- Solicit participation from public and private sector in eventual construction of a gazebo and garden at this location
- The Neighborhood will explore use of I-35 underpass at Lady Bird Lake (formerly known as Town Lake) as a space for vendors, art and canoe/boat rental

### EAST MLK COMBINED NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - 2001



- Preserve Givens District Park
  - Provide increased protection & improvements for Plummers Cemetery
  - Develop hike/bike trails along Walnut Creek, Little Walnut Creek, & the former Mo-Kan Railroad right-of-way
  - Investigate JJ Seabrook Greenbelt to determine if there is a flooding or erosion problem
  - Investigate Big Walnut Creek to determine if there is silt and/or debris from the BFI site
- Create more public open space, including parks & green spaces, improve existing parks and increase recreational amenities in the neighborhood
  - Promote existing & provide more recreational activities & programs for Youth and Seniors
  - Increase senior recreational activities at the recreation centers in the East and Northeast parts of the planning area. (eg. Givens and Dottie Jordan)
  - Maintain & improve neighborhood parks, add new parks & improve undeveloped green spaces
  - Develop a hike and bike trail along Big Walnut Creek
  - Explore the possibility of utilizing vacant land for community gardens or other recreational purposes as Example hike/bike trail an interim use
  - Promote Springdale Park to ensure that residents know about this amenity
  - Continue the development of Springdale Neighborhood Park with both recreational & natural open spaces
  - During Phase II of Springdale Neighborhood Park's development, provide a South or East entry to the park that can be utilized by the Fort Branch area & other areas on the East and South side of the park



### EAST RIVERSIDE/OLTORF COMBINED NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - 2006



- Protect and enhance the Town Lake Waterfront as well as creek areas and other natural amenities
- Advocate to PARD and/or WPDR the acquisition of properties containing headwaters of Country Club Creek and preserve them in a natural state as the Country Club Creek Preserve
- Preserve and enhance existing parks, the Country Club Creek Trail and other open spaces and wetlands to create opportunities for additional public open space and natural areas
- Encourage the Parks Department to acquire the 18-hole Riverside Golf Course property and maintain it as a golf course
- Identify strategies that work towards the preservation, maintenance and improvement of existing parks in addition to the 18-hole Riverside Golf Course
- Preserve and maintain all City-owned and acquired park space and conservation easements as such
- Provide the following public amenities at Mabel Davis District Park in this order of priority:
  - Connection to proposed Country Club Creek trail
  - Enhancement of the remaining natural wooded areas and removal of invasive plants and replacement with native species
  - Paved hike/bike/skate loop with neighborhood connections
  - Picnic, pavilion and restroom facilities
  - Benches and seating areas
  - Open field for unstructured use like ultimate Frisbee, softball or kickball
  - Access to the privately owned pond north of the park
  - Skate park with stadium style seating
  - Disc golf course
  - Fenced dog park
  - Spray park in addition to the swimming pool
  - Documentation of the history of the property and remediation in the form of public artwork on the park site
- Create opportunities for Neighborhood Pocket Parks in the area
- Identify under-utilized City-owned parcels that could potentially be developed as a neighborhood green such as:
  - Two undeveloped City-owned parcels on Mission Hill that have overhead utility easements
  - The undeveloped piece of City owned land at the end of Pleasant Valley Road next to the Pleasant Valley Bikeway
- Improve access to and awareness of existing parks, trails and open space
- Work with any and all other organizations to complete the Hike & Bike Trail and provide and encourage pedestrian use



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### EAST RIVERSIDE/OLTORF COMBINED NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - *CONT*

- Encourage PARD to design and construct an over-the-water connection for the Lakeshore portion of the Trail at Lady Bird Lake (formerly known as Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail)
- Establish a hike and bike trail along Country Club Creek that connects to trails within the Colorado River Park and the Trail at Lady Bird Lake (formerly known as Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail)
- Construct a trail system along Country Club Creek that is sustainable and not subject to erosion due to flooding
- Provide a safe pedestrian crossing across Pleasant Valley Road at Lakeshore Boulevard to connect the existing Trail at Lady Bird Lake (formerly known as Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail) to the proposed Country Club Creek hike and bike trail
- Work with private property owners and the Parks and Recreation Department to acquire land or recreational use easements for trail access along the Country Club Creek corridor

### GREATER SOUTH RIVER CITY COMBINED NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - 2005



- Work with property owners along Blunn Creek to maintain conservation easements, natural buffers, and pedestrian connections to the greenbelt
- Include an outdoor educational facility, should a detention and infiltration system is constructed on the AISD tract
- Explore ways to stabilize the trees along Blunn Creek to prevent them from collapsing into the creek until detention ponds or other erosion measures are implemented
- Close Sunset Lane between East Side Dr. and Alameda Ave., remove the pavement and extend Little Stacy Park to mitigate the increasing erosion problem in the area
- Provide a pedestrian/bicycle connection from the Blunn Creek Greenbelt to Trail at Lady Bird Lake (formerly known as Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail)
- Construct a pedestrian/bicycle trail adjacent to Blunn Creek to the largest extent possible from Ben White Boulevard to Town Lake Trail and designate an alternate improved route along Eastside Drive between Live Oak and St. Edwards to maintain the natural surface of the trail through the Blunn Creek Preserve
- Improve the design and aesthetic of the park tables throughout the Blunn Creek Greenbelt, particularly in the section of the greenbelt on the west side of Blunn Creek across the creek from Travis Heights Elementary
- Reconfigure the parking lot at Big Stacy Neighborhood Park to improve ingress, egress, and internal circulation
- Remove nonnative trees and vegetation, such as ligustrum, bamboo, and nandina, along Blunn Creek and replace with native trees and vegetation

### GREATER SOUTH RIVER CITY COMBINED NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN *CONT*

- Make repairs as needed to the footbridges crossing Blunn Creek, in particular the bridge near Travis Heights Elementary School and Big Stacy Neighborhood Park
- Improve the design of bridges crossing Blunn Creek to ensure they do not block flow, exacerbating eddying and erosion
- Use native materials such as limestone in bridge construction
- Extend Town Lake Trail east of the Austin American-Statesman property to IH-35
- Work with neighborhood stakeholders to find a viable use for the Norwood House
- Provide needed infrastructure, such as water fountains, restrooms and a public telephone, at the Norwood House and park
- Enhance Norwood Park to include park space and a fenced leash-free area for dogs
- Provide bag stations at every park in the neighborhood and along the Blunn Creek Greenbelt to encourage owners to clean up after their dogs
- Provide access to Trail at Lady Bird Lake (formerly known as Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail) from the Norwood Park area
- Install lower, smaller-scale, dark-sky compatible park lighting, particularly in the area near Little Stacy Neighborhood Park

### GOVALLE/JOHNSTONE TERRACE COMBINED NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - 2003



- Protect and enhance existing parks, recreational facilities, & open spaces
- Create & invest in more public open space, including parks (including pocket parks) & other forms of green space
- Preserve & enhance existing parks & recreational facilities
- Provide opportunities for cultural arts, recreation & leisure activities/services for all ages
- Design public facilities & open spaces that serve as community gathering places
- Build a hike and bike trail connecting Walnut Creek to Govalle Neighborhood Park
- Install additional picnic tables and grills in Govalle Neighborhood Park
- Increase park police patrols
- Provide senior and youth recreational activities at a location East of Airport Blvd

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### HERITAGE HILLS/WINDSOR HILLS COMBINED NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - 2011

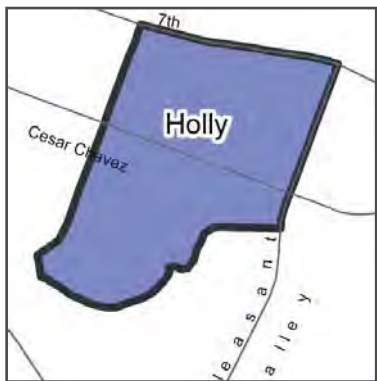


- Support the full implementation of the Gustavo "Gus" L Garcia Recreation Center Master Plan to better serve the community
  - Support the expansion of more greenspace and park areas throughout the Planning Area, not just in the Heritage Hills NPA
  - Explore the feasibility of conducting flu shot and health screening clinics with the management of the Gustavo "Gus" L Garcia Recreation Center
  - Submit a request to the management of the Gustavo "Gus" L Garcia Recreation Center to host periodic bicycle clinics on bicycle safety and maintenance
  - Explore options to implement a Senior Shuttle Service to and from the Gustavo "Gus" L Garcia Recreation Center from area senior facilities and households
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- Work with the Parks and Recreation Department staff to increase the profile of the Gustavo "Gus" L Garcia Recreation Center and its programs throughout the community via neighborhood news letters, a community Facebook account, and local list serves.
  - Explore the feasibility of HHWHCNP Contact Team entering into an agreement with the City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department to install community gardens at Gustavo "Gus" L Garcia Recreation Center and North Acres Neighborhood Park
  - Encourage the City of Austin to install all proposed amenities as specified in the Gustavo "Gus" L Garcia Park Master Plan, including but not limited to: Multi-purpose field, including soccer & football; Outdoor theatre area with hillside seating, stage & projection wall; Walking trails w/ fitness stations & emergency call boxes; Aquatic facility; Children's playscape area; Community & butterfly gardens; Un-fenced and fenced off-leash dog areas; Picnic pavilion with tables and grilling area; sand and volleyball & court game area
  - Support greater community usage of the Gustavo "Gus" L Garcia Recreation Center by promoting and participating in existing programs that appeal to a wide age range, including but not limited to: Sports leagues; Arts and crafts classes; Computer classes; The Senior Nutrition Lunch program; Adult education classes (literacy, ESL, Spanish); After school programs; Exercise classes; Cooking/nutrition classes; Gardening; Dance classes; Tot day care; Bike safety classes
  - Engage the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and other local service groups to help develop and maintain local parks and greenways
  - Explore the feasibility of having local theater groups or other community organizations give outdoor performances at the Gustavo "Gus" L Garcia Recreation Center
  - Explore the feasibility of having regularly scheduled summer outdoor movie nights at the Gustavo "Gus" L Garcia Recreation Center
  - Purchase additional parkland and install a variety of family friendly amenities
  - Explore the feasibility of the City of Austin acquiring more greenspace along Little Walnut Creek

### HERITAGE HILLS/WINDSOR HILLS COMBINED NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - *CONT*

- Establish a community garden that is devoted to growing native tree saplings to distribute to the community
- Work with organizations, such as Keep Austin Beautiful, to remove non-native or invasive plant and tree species from the parks and creeks in the HHWHCNPA
- Work with Keep Austin Beautiful to install a 'Green Garden' (also called xeriscaping) in the HHWHCNPA as a demonstration project, which will emphasize the use of drought-resistant native plants. (The Butterfly Garden at Gustavo "Gus" L Garcia District Park could be expanded into a green garden; opportunities in North Acres Neighborhood Park should also be explored)
- Encourage and support the Gustavo "Gus" L Garcia Recreation Center to host bicycle clinics to educate the community on proper bike maintenance and safety

### HOLLY NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - *DECEMBER 2001*



- Maintain and enhance existing parks and parkscapes
  - Revitalize the open space along the waterfront
  - Upon closure of the Holly Power Plant site be designated as parkland and open space
  - Maintain and improve local pools
  - Repair and/or update circulation equipment of the pool at Metz Neighborhood Park in order to prevent closure of the pool during hot summer months
  - Improve parks and recreation centers in the neighborhood
- Fix air-conditioning/heating for A.B. Cantu-Pan Am Recreation Center
  - Assess and purchase new equipment such as chairs and meeting room tables for Metz Neighborhood Park and Recreation Center and A.B. Cantu-Pan Am Recreation Center
  - Install a pavilion/shelter and picnic tables and trees at Fiesta Gardens in the pocket area located south of bridge, west of baseball field
  - Create better and more open access to Fiesta Gardens park area for neighborhood use
  - Install consistent trash receptacles along trail system with trail maps at key locations, including near Holly Power Plant similar to other parts of the Trail at Lady Bird Lake (formerly known as Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail) areas
  - Address overflow parking for large events at Fiesta Gardens by creating alternate parking sites at locations such as Metz Neighborhood Park and Recreation Center or as part of the redevelopment of the Holly Power Plant area (upon closure of plant)
  - This could also include a continuation of the trail system to link the park activity areas

## Ch 7 Relevant Plans

### HOLLY NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - CONT

- For events at the Fiesta Gardens, due to limited parking the following are recommended to address impacts to nearby residents:
  - Limit the number of events at the park, especially those that require more parking than is currently available
  - Limit the size of events and do not block streets for events like carnivals as this impacts the residents along the streets as well as impedes access for safety concerns
  - For larger events, require that shuttle service with Capital Metro is purchased and require off-site park and rides, similar to other events held at Auditorium Shores or Trail of Lights at Zilker Metropolitan Park
- Preserve the quality of the public space in the neighborhood
- Promote the style of traditional gardens inherent to the neighborhood
- Create a community garden on appropriate vacant land in the neighborhood. Holly Neighborhood Planning Team, Sustainable Food Gardens (or other Community Garden organization)
- Promote activity and connection within the neighborhood for all ages
- Increase facilities for senior citizens and child care
- Create senior citizen / day care center at Fiesta Gardens

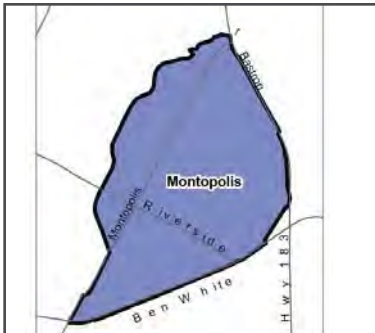
### HYDE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - 2000



- Preserve Shipe Neighborhood Park and maintain its amenities, while establishing and improving other recreation sites
- The city should secure additional parklands and facilities nearby to relieve a crowded Shipe Neighborhood Park. Primary location to review is a portion of the State (Austin State Hospital or Triangle Property) property. Use of the currently parkland dedication ordinance may be a useful guide to determine approximate size.
- The State should make available State land for use as parkland/open space for State employees and new residents of state-owned lands.



### MONTOPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - SEPTEMBER 2001



- Establish a mercado, open air market, plaza or other outdoor public space along Montopolis Drive
- Maintain support and funding for facilities and programs operating out of the Montopolis Recreation Center

### NORTH AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION - 2000



- Purchase additional land for parks and trails
- Improve amenities at Quail Creek Neighborhood Park by adding additional walking trails, playground equipment, picnic tables and a soccer field
- Increase available open space and enhance existing open space
- Create a walking trail along the creek to connect existing green places, trails, and parks
- Purchase parkland and create a pocket park

### NORTH LAMAR/GEORGIAN ACRES COMBINED NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - 2010



- Install additional drinking fountains at Barrington Elementary School Park
- Provide continual clearance of trash and debris found on the Barrington Elementary School Park grounds
- Develop a maintenance strategy to improve the quality of the park's multi-purpose field
- Investigate ways to improve access to Brownie Pocket Park
- Examine strategies that will promote wider usage of the Brownie Pocket Park. Such strategies could include improved lighting, and the placement of emergency call boxes
- Find and allocate land for a new park within the NLCNPA
- Examine opportunities for a public-private partnership to develop and manage community recreational facilities, including a new park, within the NLCNPA

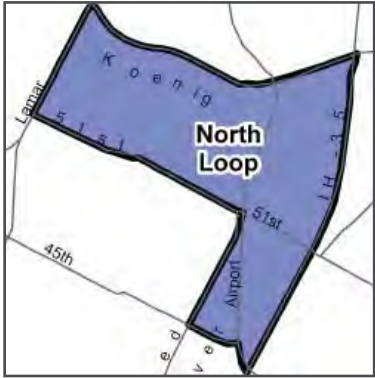


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## NORTH LAMAR/GEORGIAN ACRES COMBINED NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - *CONT*

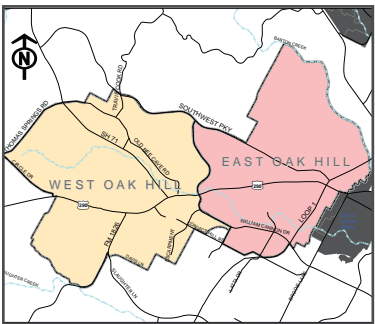
- Consider the incorporation of the following amenities within the design of a new park:
  - ♦ Drinking fountains for both people and dogs
  - ♦ Interactive water feature/spray pad
  - ♦ Benches
  - ♦ Picnic Tables and bbq grills
  - ♦ A pavilion and/or an area that can be reserved for various functions
  - ♦ Trash Cans
  - ♦ Pet waste stations with bags
  - ♦ Playscapes
  - ♦ Trails
  - ♦ Exercise Stations (along trail)
  - ♦ Community Garden
  - ♦ Multipurpose field
  - ♦ Gazebo or other performance-type venue
  - ♦ Restrooms
  - ♦ Parking lot
  - ♦ Lighting and Emergency Call boxes for safety measures
- Incorporate renewable energy sources into the design of the new park's facilities; which could include rooftop wind turbines, solar paneling and electric car plug-in sites
- Use recycled and/or recyclable materials in the construction of the new park's facilities and amenities
- Place landscaping in areas where it will not interfere with activities that occur on the park's open spaces
- Plant trees that will enhance the tree canopy of the new park; such as Pecan, Live Oak, Chiquapin Oak, Bur Oak and Cedar Elm
- Provide regular maintenance of the new park's landscaping
- Plant hard, long-lasting, and drought-tolerant trees throughout the NLCNPA in the following specific areas: N. Lamar Blvd between Braker Ln and Hwy 183
- Plant hardy, long-lasting, and drought-tolerant trees throughout the NLCNPA in the following specific areas: I-35, between Braker Lane and Barwood Park
- Plant hardy, long-lasting, and drought-tolerant trees throughout the NLCNPA. Specific areas include: Rundberg Lane, between North Lamar Boulevard and I-35
- Plant hardy, long-lasting, and drought-tolerant trees throughout the NLCNPA. Specific [right-of-way] areas include: The Chinatown Shopping Center and the adjacent property to its east
- Plant hardy, long-lasting, and drought-tolerant trees throughout the NLCNPA. Specific [right-of-way] areas include: The Crockett Center
- Plant hardy, long-lasting, and drought-tolerant trees throughout the NLCNPA. Specific areas include: The commercial and multi-family properties located along I-35, between Showplace Lane and Little Walnut Creek
- Plant hardy, long-lasting, and drought-tolerant trees throughout the NLCNPA. Specific areas include: The residential area bounded by Diamondback Trail to the north, Doc Holliday Trail to the east, East Garrett Run to the south, and Derringer Trail to the west
- Plant native species of trees throughout the NLCNPA, including: Monterey Oak, Pecan, Texas Persimmon, Texas Redbud, Texas Ash
- Plant other species of trees throughout the NLCNPA, including Mountain Laurel, Crape Myrtle, Eastern Red Cedar, Silver Leaf Maple, Wax Myrtle

### NORTH LOOP NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - 2002



- Recreation center with basketball, volleyball, etc
- Create pocket parks and plazas
- Create a greenbelt in the neighborhood
- Work with AISD to establish a school park at Ridgetop Elementary School
- Work with COA Watershed Dept, Austin State Hospital/State Cemetery, University of Texas, and other property owners regarding the creation of a greenbelt along Waller Creek

### OAKHILL NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - 2008



- Expand and develop park-like recreational options, especially in underserved neighborhoods
- Provide bathroom facilities and water (drinking) fountains in Oak Hill parks where needed and appropriate
- Establish a network of greenspaces and trails connecting neighborhoods
- Create new parks with more active spaces within the planning area to mitigate overcrowding of existing facilities and serve neighborhood residents that are farthest away from existing facilities.
- Identify potential parkland to serve neighborhood residents on the far western area of the planning boundary who are farthest from existing parks and facilities.
- Explore possibility of a small pocket park behind Old Fredericksburg Road and West Creek Drive. By providing benches and proper landscaping, the vacant strip of land fronting Old Fredericksburg Road has the potential to serve residents in its immediate area.
- Stakeholders feel that more pocket parks are needed west of the "Y," preferably north of U.S. Highway 290 and south of State Highway 71 to serve residents of the area.
- Within new and existing parks, stakeholders want to incorporate active recreational spaces such as ball fields or soccer fields.
- Seek opportunities for the creation of a recreation community center for seniors and youth in the planning area. If possible, locate the community center within a new or existing park that has appropriate arterial road access. Stakeholders feel that there should be two recreation centers, one located north of U.S. Highway 290 and another south of the highway.
- When AISD builds new schools in Oak Hill, the City and AISD should seek opportunities to develop joint facilities to be used by both the school and Oak Hill residents.
- Explore creative mechanisms to preserve more open spaces within the Oak Hill planning area.

## Ch 7 Relevant Plans

### OAKHILL NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - CONT

- Request City Council to evaluate an amendment to the SOS Ordinance that would allow up to 8,000 sq. ft. of additional impervious cover for public facilities including parking lots that provide access to City of Austin parkland.
- On all publicly accessible greenbelts and nature trails, ensure adequate parking is available; explore parking agreements with civic and public uses, such as churches and schools, in addition to other sources.
- Seek appropriate methods to fund creation of hike and bike trails, active outdoor recreational space and open spaces within the Oak Hill planning area.
- Create safe and secure greenbelts and nature trails along Williamson Creek and other area creeks.
- Expand and enhance the existing trail system to connect to major parks, greenbelts, commercial centers, creeks, and destinations within the planning area.
- Create a trail connection from the intersection of William Cannon Drive and Brush County Road to Williamson Creek. Several property owners along Williamson Creek west of the "Y" do not feel comfortable creating a trail through their properties.
- They have concerns about safety even if the trail were separated by a fence or vegetative buffer. Some residents want to have a greenbelt protecting Williamson Creek and providing recreational opportunities to the residents. Extending the greenbelt around State Highway 71 to the Nature Conservancy would allow wildlife to traverse within the greenbelt area.
- Provide a trail connection from Oak Hill Park to the existing trails in Gaines Creek Neighborhood Park.
- Connect trails to major destinations such as parks, schools, and greenbelts to increase trail usability. Community members feel that highways hinder connectivity within the Oak Hill planning area. Hence, expanding the pedestrian and trail network would help residents get around the neighborhood walking or on a bike.
- Connect neighborhoods east of FM 1826 to the neighborhoods west of FM 1826. Stakeholders feel this would be an important connection because of major destinations such as Seton Hospital and the middle school located along FM 1826.
- Provide trail connections between the Austin Community College (ACC) campus and the local neighborhoods.
- Provide a trail connection from Latta Branch Greenbelt and Legend Oaks Neighborhood Parks to U.S. Highway 290.
- Provide a trail connection from Latta Branch Greenbelt Park to Slaughter Lane.
- Oak Hill residents should be encouraged to join and support the Oak Hill Trails Association to continue their work towards implementing trail projects in the Oak Hill area. They should continue to gather necessary funds, resources, and support to increase connectivity in Oak Hill.

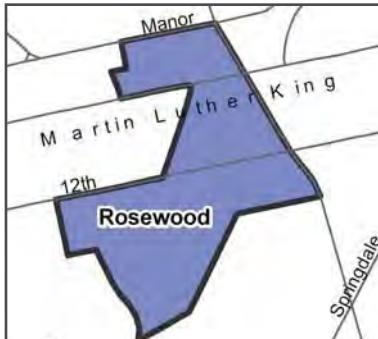
### OLD WEST AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - 2000



- Improve existing parks and increase recreational amenities in the neighborhood.
  - Preserve and improve green space.
  - Improve access to, and the quality of, neighborhood swimming pools
  - Increase the number of playgrounds available to neighborhood children
- Make improvements to West Austin Neighborhood Park
    - ♦ Design and install a removable fencing system (flexible plastic) around the baseball diamond to exclude dogs, to be managed by neighborhood volunteers. Improve signage at West Austin Park to encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets. Place and maintain "dogs must be on leash" signs around the playscape and sand area in the north part of the park.
    - ♦ Allow on a trial basis (6 months) the use of the south half of West Austin Neighborhood Park as a leash-free area. Pet owners must control dogs so that they remain in that part of the park, and must clean up after the dogs. Dogs must be on leash in north half of park.
    - ♦ In the space presently occupied by the skate park of West Austin Neighborhood Park, establish a children's sand area and a community garden ( or xeriscape garden). Demolition of the existing structure should not be required.
    - ♦ Develop and implement a plan for lighting around the bath house at West Austin Neighborhood Park in accordance with International Dark Sky Association standards
  - Develop site plan for planting new trees, preferably including Post Oaks in West Austin Neighborhood Park and Mary Francis Baylor – Clarksville Neighborhood Park. 10 trees per park are requested. Designate an irrigation operator for each site's newly planted trees and assure a healthy moisture level around the root zones of all new plants for at least two years. Install drip irrigation around new plantings.
  - Restore water piping in West Austin Neighborhood Park to supply the hose bibs in existing valve wells, to water grass and trees, including south part of the park.

## Ch 7 Relevant Plans

### ROSEWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - NOVEMBER 2001



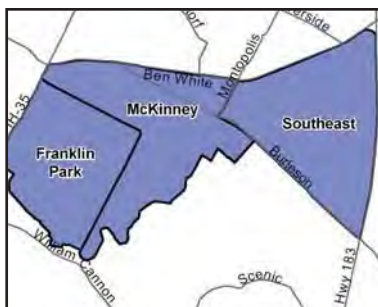
- Improve Boggy Creek Hike & Bike Trail by adding trail signs, curb cuts, and addressing drainage and erosion problems
- Extend the Boggy Creek Hike & Bike Trail from 12th Street to Manor Rd., consistent with the Upper Boggy Creek Hike and Bike Trail proposal
- Preserve the existing greenspace in the neighborhood planning area
- Rezone all parkland and greenbelts in the neighborhood planning area from the existing zoning to Public (P)
- Rezone the historic structure in the Rosewood Recreation Center and Park from Single Family-Historic (SF-3-H) to Public-Historic (P-H)
- Enhance the usability of greenspaces and civic areas in the neighborhood
- Add crushed stone surface to informal path between New York Ave. and 12th Street at Alamo, and plant trees along path

### SOUTH CONGRESS NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - 2005



- Battle Bend Neighborhood Park should be enhanced:
  - ♦ Install restroom facilities
  - ♦ Increase frequency of Police patrols
  - ♦ Increase picnic tables and barbeque pits
  - ♦ Increase the number of shade trees for amenities
- Create a greenway with a nature trail linking areas west of I-35 to McKinney Falls State Park to the east
- Acquire additional parkland to fill in the gaps for the Williamson Creek greenway
- Acquire additional parkland to serve the South Congress Combined NPA

### SOUTHEAST AUSTIN COMBINED NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - OCTOBER 2002



- Improve City Parks and Recreation service to parks in the Southeast Austin Planning Area
- Create a bicycle and pedestrian-friendly trail system near creek features
- Create a hike and bike trail along Williamson Creek from IH-35 to Pleasant Valley
- Investigate the feasibility of creating a trail east of the Kensington Park Neighborhood

### **SOUTHEAST AUSTIN COMBINED NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - CONT**

- Investigate carving a trail from Dove Spring District Park across Williamson Creek, creating an entrance to the west side of McKinney Falls State Park
- Recommend that Ponciana Neighborhood Park be funded in PARD's CIP plan to develop according to the community's ultimate vision
- Provide a spectrum of recreational activities
- Add tennis and basketball courts and a full tackle football field
- Design a weight-lifting program for children younger than 18 years old
- Expand Dove Springs Recreation Center or add a new one
- Explore the possibility of building a new pool, possibly at Ponciana Neighborhood Park
- Explore the possibility of a senior recreation center or more senior recreational programs

### **UNIVERSITY HILLS/ WINDSOR PARK NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - 2007**



Neighborhood Park

- Protect and enhance all natural and environmentally-sensitive features of the area, especially Little Walnut Creek, Tannehill Creek, and Fort Branch Creek, and tributaries and springs of these three creeks
- Increase opportunities for physical recreation through parkland, an improved pedestrian and bicycle environment, and built environment planning
- As funding becomes available, the first spending priority should be for increased maintenance of grounds and facilities at Dottie Jordan Neighborhood Park
- Improve and expand park facilities and programs offered through the Dottie Jordan Recreation Center
- Increase access to and connectivity with Bartholomew District Park, and link the park to other natural areas and trails



## Ch 7 Relevant Plans

### UPPER BOGGY CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - 2002



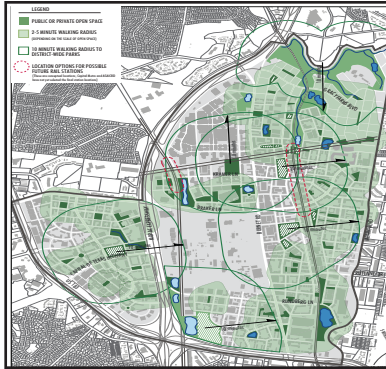
- Protect and enhance all natural and environmentally-sensitive features of the area, especially Little Walnut Creek, Tannehill Creek, and Fort Branch Creek, and tributaries and springs of these three creeks
- Increase opportunities for physical recreation through parkland, an improved pedestrian and bicycle environment, and built environment planning
- Enhance the Alamo Pocket Park and Recreation Center by improving the office space and kitchen facilities, and adding additional multi-purpose rooms
- Replace or upgrade the aging playscape at Patterson Neighborhood Park to promote its use by children of a variety of ages and their parents and make it safely accessible from Wilshire Boulevard
- Preserve Boggy Creek and its creek bed as it runs from Airport Boulevard to Cherrywood Road
- Low-impact bank stabilization measures, that maintain a naturalistic look, should be taken into consideration if any part of Boggy Creek needs to be altered due to erosion control
- Provide dog waste bag dispensers and trash bins along the Willowbrook Greenbelt
- Install a footbridge across the creek approximately halfway through the Willowbrook Greenbelt
- Preserve Open spaces that are currently in a naturalistic state to the greatest degree possible
- Alamo Community Garden enjoys over ninety percent (90%) usage of its available plots by active gardeners and offers weekly gardening classes for neighborhood children, however, it needs to be more secure and more connected to the neighboring Alamo Recreation Center
- Cherrywood Pocket Park should be developed in a unique way that highlights native and well-adapted plant species as well as serving as a common area that fosters a sense of community
- Develop a planting design for the park that would be landscaped and maintained by the neighborhood associations or other neighborhood groups that should include:
  - ◆ Landscape with native or well-adapted trees and shrubs, fruit trees and fruiting bushes, and/or wildflowers with species information on small signs
  - ◆ Small trails or walkways should be incorporated into the planting design
  - ◆ No pesticides will be used to maintain the park's plants
  - ◆ Install park benches
  - ◆ Install a dispenser with plastic bags for cleaning up after animals; neighbors should honor their responsibility to scoop up after their pets
  - ◆ Install a community bulletin board with announcements of local events and information about the species planted
  - ◆ Local master gardener(s) should help maintain the park and use it as a demonstration on local drought resistant organic gardening

### UPPER BOGGY CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - *CONT.*

- Improve the facilities and programs at Alamo Pocket Park and Recreation Center to enhance community interaction and access by residents of all ages
- Place an outdoor informational kiosk at Alamo Pocket Park
- Place four additional picnic tables (possibly with chess board/checker designs embedded on each end) and two additional BBQ pits near the playscape
- Install two Martin birdhouses to be placed near the playscape to help control insects
- Community should form a "Friends of Patterson Park" organization to help implement suggested improvements. Ensure that there is continued maintenance and care for the post oaks and other trees throughout the park
- Install a system of terraces or some other erosion control device and combine it with a gravel jogging path around the perimeter of Patterson Neighborhood Park to control the erosion on the west side of the park
- Install a wheelchair- and stroller-accessible path leading from the playscape area to Wilshire Boulevard on the west side of Patterson Neighborhood Park
- Complete the sidewalk at Patterson Neighborhood Park that is partially installed between the picnic shelter and Brookview Avenue
- Upgrade the playscape area at Patterson Neighborhood Park to promote its use by children of a variety of ages and their parents. These improvements could include:
  - ♦ Replace the sand groundcover with pea gravel
  - ♦ Remove wooden playscape and replace with one suitable for ages 1-3
  - ♦ Remove metal playscape and replace it with one suitable for ages 4-10 (as in Shippey Neighborhood Park or Maplewood Elementary playground)
  - ♦ Install baby swings
  - ♦ Keep the tire and regular swings
  - ♦ Install a shade cover over the baby pool at Patterson Neighborhood Park
  - ♦ Move the electrical boxes near the swimming pool to just behind the lifeguard station and erect a new fence around it
  - ♦ Install a dispenser for dog waste bags and raise awareness among dog-walkers for the need to use dog waste bags from a dispenser (or to bring their own bags) and to clean up after their dogs
  - ♦ Minimize the number of signs in Patterson Neighborhood Park and strategically place them in areas that will gain the greatest exposure to park users
  - ♦ Restrict the playing of loud music at Patterson Neighborhood Park before 12 noon on Sundays, out of regard for Genesis Presbyterian Church
  - ♦ Conduct a survey among Patterson Neighborhood Park users and neighborhood residents of their perceptions of needed improvements in the park including a community/recreation center
  - ♦ Install a community bulletin board/kiosk with announcements of local events and information about the vegetation found in the park (good place for community education about picking up litter and dog waste)

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## 7.2 North Burnet Gateway - 2007



### PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

The North Burnet/Gateway area currently has very little residential stock, there has been no real demand for parks or public open space. The concept driving the open space plan is to achieve a high quality, well maintained, well connected system of public and private open space. Based on the densities designed in the Master Plan and required by current land values, a well-connected network of open space becomes important as an escape and as necessary community gathering space. The park and open space system should be dispersed through the district so as to be proximate to all land uses, especially residential. A variety of open space should be provided, including neighborhood parks, greenbelts, rails with trails, pocket parks, greens, plazas, and squares. Off-leash dog areas may also be needed, as the number of residents and their pets increase over time. Each resident should be within a pleasant two to five minute walk of an accessible, moderately sized open space and no more than a ten minute walk from a larger neighborhood or district park.

[http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/planning/neighborhood/north\\_burnet.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/planning/neighborhood/north_burnet.htm)

### Recommendations

- Use the conceptual illustration of parks and open space (Figure 4.33) as a guide for creating a distributed hierarchy of parks spaced by reasonable walking distances
- Provide for a range of public open space types for community use from actively-programmed public squares and plazas in the district core, to larger, more loosely programmed park spaces in the residential neighborhoods
- Create Rails with Trails as the existing freight rail lines are converted to commuter rail lines. These will provide important connections to the existing Shoal Creek bike route south of the planning area and to the future Walnut Creek trail at the northern boundary of the planning area
- Set a precedent for high quality open space by developing a portion of publicly-owned parcels or public/private partnership projects as city parks
- Ensure that open space is high quality and long-lasting
- Create public open space system that becomes a source of community pride and an attractive feature for encouraging positive growth in the district
- Design all open parkland to accommodate some stormwater detention
- Create good pedestrian/bicycle link-ages between neighborhood parks and greenbelts

### 7.3 Transit Oriented Developments (TODs) - 2008 & 2009

#### TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENTS (TODs)

Well designed, accessible, and integrated open space and urban landscape systems are critical to the success of the station area plans. The higher density and compact character inherent of TOD calls for an open space approach that recognizes the importance of open space to TOD inhabitants, employees, and visitors and surrounding residents alike. TOD mixed-use and commercial uses should include: plazas and private open space, storm water gardens and landscapes, landscape methods to reduce urban heat island effects, water efficient landscapes, and on-site renewable energy systems, all conveniently accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists. Likewise, residential districts should be in close proximity to open space with pocket parks or community greens to serve the various open space needs at a local level and soften the edges of the built environment.

Depending on the TOD context and environmental conditions, a more significant, broader reaching open space element such as a community park, garden, or trail network could be very appropriate. It is important to include open space near the most intensely developed portion of the TOD District to complement the higher density development in addition to providing safe and convenient access for the surrounding neighborhoods. Many of the participants in the planning process were extremely passionate about the need for open space in the area and the desire for parkland was a recurring theme throughout the process.

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/planning/tod/default.htm>

#### TOD - LAMAR/JUSTIN



#### TOD – Lamar, Open Space and Trails

- Open space near the most intensely developed portion of the TOD District
- Trail adjacent to the rail line (rail with trails) for recreational and connectivity purposes – where feasible
- Pocket parks should be at a minimum of a half acre; designed for active recreation, especially for children, and for passive recreation needs located on either (preferably each) side of Lamar Blvd along with one located near Easy Wind Dr and Justin Ln



# Ch 7 Relevant Plans

## TOD - MLK

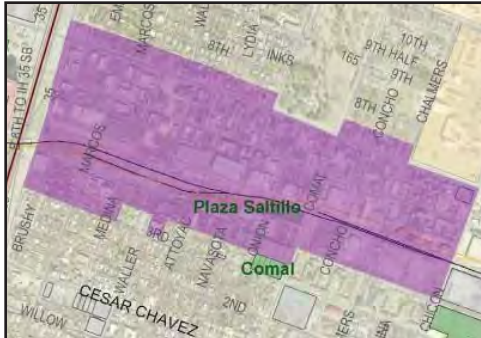


### TOD – MLK, Parks, Open Space and Trails

- Open space near the most intensely developed portion of the TOD District
- Plazas and private open space, storm water gardens and landscapes should be included in mixed-use and commercial uses
- Pocket/linear parks and greenbelts provide recreational amenities to existing and future residents
- Restoration/ bank stabilization of Boggy Creek to reduce flooding
- Trails along Boggy Creek for a recreational amenity and provide connectivity to a trail network along with surrounding and future neighborhoods

- Trail adjacent to the rail line (Rail with Trails) for recreational and connectivity purposes – where feasible
- Pocket parks should be a minimum of a half acre; designed for active recreation, especially for children, and for passive recreation needs located on either (preferably each) side of MLK Jr Blvd

## TOD - PLAZA SALTILLO



### TOD – Plaza Saltillo, Parks and Open Space

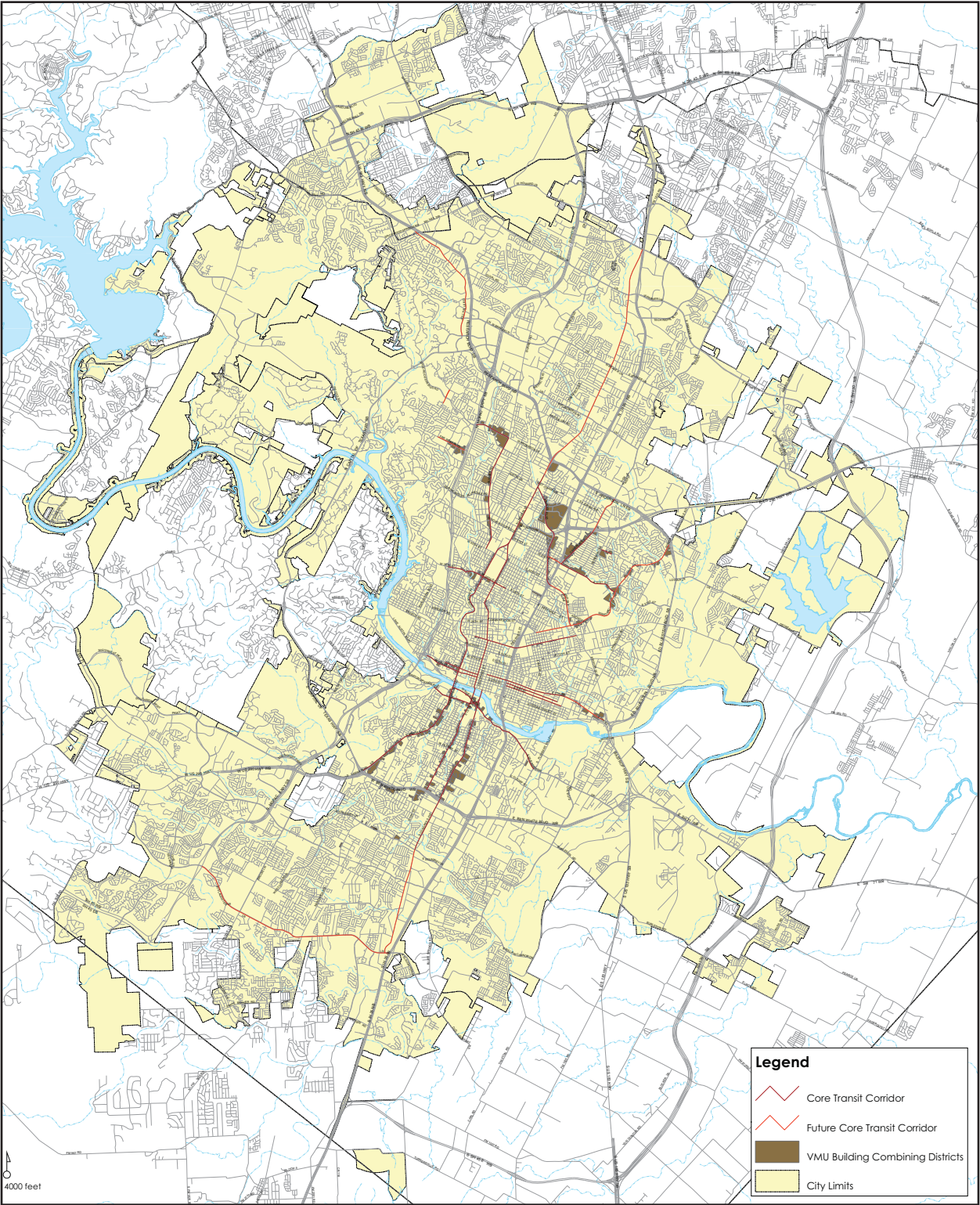
- Pocket parks should be at a minimum of a half acre; design for active recreation, especially for children, and for passive reaction needs; potential locations - west of Plaza Saltillo Station, east of Attayac St, south of E 7th St and between Chalmers Ave and Chicon St

## 7.4 Vertical Mixed Use (VMUs) - 2006

Addresses, at a minimum, design standards relating to: landscaping; building materials; use of windows; façade articulation; lighting; convertibility; development orientation; transit and pedestrian amenities; parking signage; and screening or equipment, storage, and trash. The Vertical Mixed Use Standards also encourage additional density for residential growth.

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/planning/designstandards.htm>

A special Task Force was created to examine design standard best practices from other cities and consider input from the public and various stakeholder groups. The Task Force produced a policy report that addressed in significant detail a number of issues: development orientation, connectivity, parking, landscape, land use, exterior lighting, signage, screening, stormwater management, and building design. This report then went through the process of translating the information into ordinance language prior to adoption.



## Vertical Mixed Use District Map





## Ch 7 Relevant Plans

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### 7.5 Downtown Austin Plan (DAP) - *UNDERWAY*

The purpose of the Downtown Austin Plan (DAP) is to articulate a community-supported vision for Austin's downtown parks and open space system that will guide public and private investment and management of individual parks and the system as a whole.

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/downtown/downtownaustinplan.htm>

The Downtown Austin Plan:

- Sets aspirations and articulates community goals
- Develops a general vision for each downtown public park, appropriate to its specific location and function within the open space system
- Creates an implementation strategy that establishes priorities and budgets
- Recommends governance, funding and management mechanisms to support public parks
- Promotes advocacy and leadership for downtown parks

The Parks and Open Space Master Plan, found within the DAP, informs the policy recommendations of the overall Plan that were finalized in 2010. The Parks and Open Space Master Plan also informed a broader view of downtown goals, that include the need to bolster Downtown's competitive position in the region, to support compact and livable high density development, to transform street rights-of-way into multi-modal corridors that extend the open space system and to make Downtown a place where everyone is welcome.

### 7.6 Waller Creek District Master Plan - *2010*

The Waller Creek District Master Plan describes a four-part implementation strategy for Waller Creek that addresses significant amenities and redevelopment potential made possible by flood control improvements that will remove 28 acres of Downtown real estate from the 100-year flood plain. Through redevelopment the Waller Creek District will be improved as a high quality amenity which will include a linear greenway.

The vision of a linear greenway through Downtown and connecting Lady Bird Lake with Waterloo Park is viewed as a catalyst for new development within the District and surrounding area. The Waller Creek corridor will consist of a series of high-quality natural and urban open spaces, connected by a continuous hard-surfaced trail system once completed.

The Master Plan establishes District-wide Development Standards that address issues such as building placement and massing, setbacks, and parking. The standards are the recommended framework for code amendments.

[http://www.cityofaustin.org/wallercreek/wcmp\\_home.htm](http://www.cityofaustin.org/wallercreek/wcmp_home.htm)

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### 7.7 The Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan (ATCP) Interim Update - *UNDERWAY*

Overview of the Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan (ATCP) (*adopted by City Council, 1979; Interim Update adopted by City Council, 2008*)

[http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/compplan/downloads/atcp\\_interim\\_update\\_adopted.pdf](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/compplan/downloads/atcp_interim_update_adopted.pdf)

The ATCP establishes a guide for the future. It provides policy principles and a map delineating areas where the city should and should not grow. It establishes timetables for review and update of the plan. It also articulates a broad capital improvement policy to direct development away from unsuitable areas. The 2008 Interim Update incorporated policies adopted since 1979.

The four policy areas that these items are grouped into reflect priorities expressed in the plan:

- The Environment
- Downtown
- Neighborhoods
- Compact City/Density

Upon its adoption by City Council, the 2011 Parks & Recreation's Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities and Programs document will be an attachment to the Austin Tomorrow Plan, providing a more detailed work plan for the next five years.

#### **Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan**

Current process to create a new Comprehensive Plan (initiated by City Council, September 2008). [www.ImagineAustin.net](http://www.ImagineAustin.net)

Imagine Austin is a two-year process (2009 – 2011) to create a new Comprehensive Plan, in accordance with City Charter requirements for an over-arching document that coordinates spending and regulations across a range of city areas related to growth, development, and beautification, including parks and open space. The current process emphasizes public participation, sustainability, and implementation.

When the new comprehensive plan is adopted, all attachments to the current Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan (including Parks & Recreation's Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities, and Programs) are expected to be attached to the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan, followed by separate processes to update those plans to comply with Imagine Austin. <http://www.cityofaustin.org/compplan/>



## Ch 7 Relevant Plans

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### 7.8 Watershed Protection Master Plan - 2001

The Watershed Protection Master Plan identifies and prioritizes flood control, erosion control and water quality needs through technical assessments and public input.

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watershed/masterplan.htm>

Several of the goals and objectives developed to guide the Watershed Protection Master Plan directly relate to parks and recreation, including:

- Repairing erosion that threatens parks and hike and bike trails
- Protecting the water quality of key swimming and recreational amenities, including Barton Springs Pool, Lady Bird Lake, and Lake Austin
- Improving the urban environment by fostering additional beneficial uses (e.g., public recreation) of waterways and drainage facilities
- Maximizing areas for public use within floodplains

Strategies for incorporating additional beneficial uses into Watershed Protection Department projects, programs, and solutions include:

- Availability of floodplain and erosion hazard buyouts for conversion to public access, recreation and use
- Dual use of parks and stormwater controls (e.g. Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park)
- Establishing linear greenway parks along creeks (e.g. Big Stacy Neighborhood Park, Little Stacy Neighborhood Park and Blunn Creek Preserve)

### 7.9 Austin to Bastrop Colorado Corridor

The Austin – Bastrop River Corridor Partnership is a group of agencies, organizations, and individuals committed to seeking positive, cooperative opportunities to promote a healthy river corridor ecosystem and to enhance public awareness of the Colorado River as a unique natural, recreational, and economic resource for the Austin to Bastrop area. The group produced a document entitled “Discovering the Colorado, A Vision for the Austin – Bastrop River Corridor.” The vision document promotes the objective of improving public access and recreation along the river.

<http://environmental-stewardship.org/education.aspx>

### 7.10 Travis County Greenprinting

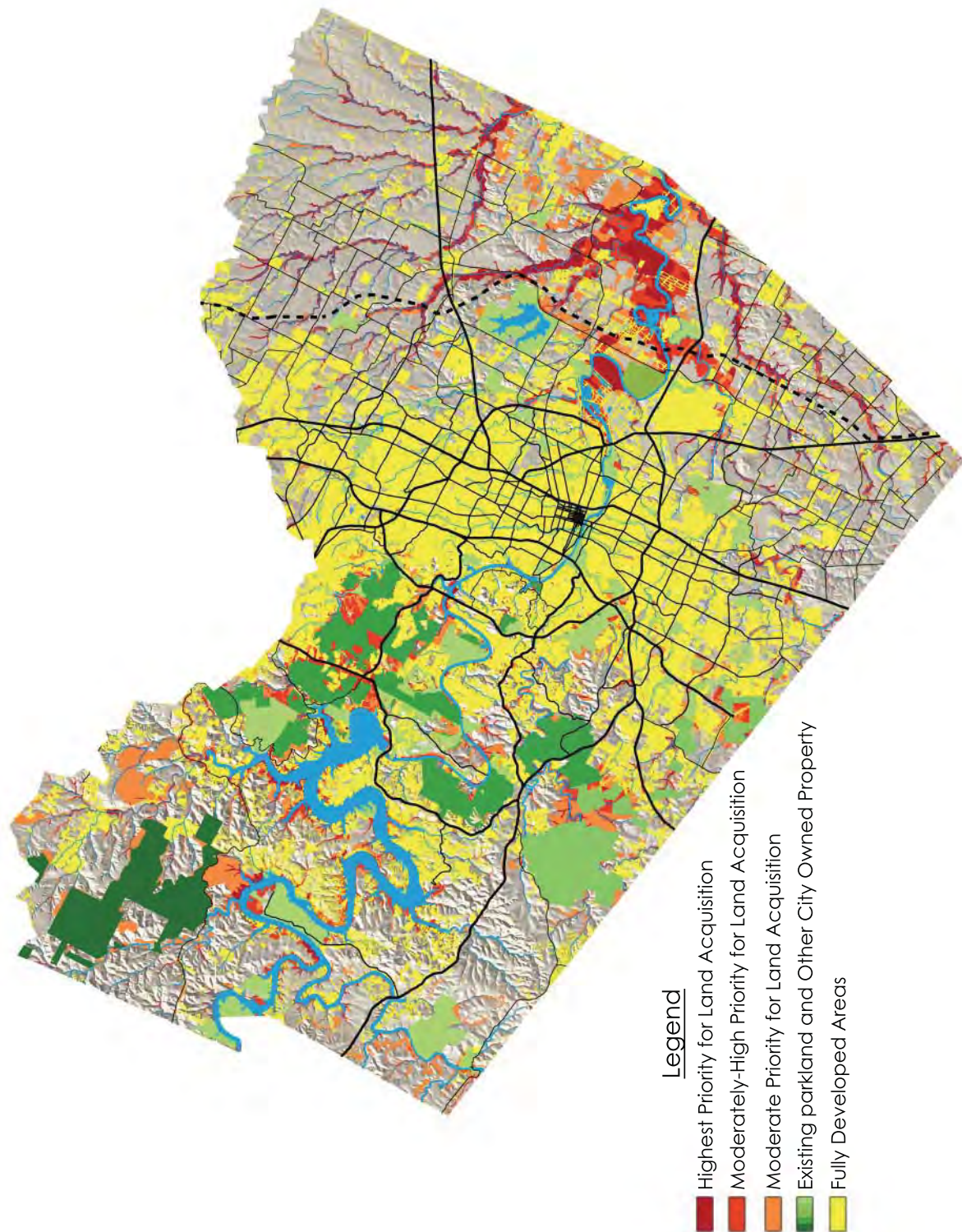
Greenprinting is a methodology used the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to help local governments and communities make informed decisions about land conservation priorities. The greenprinting model utilizes a geographic information system (GIS) to systematically analyze public goals for parks and open space. Also taken into consideration are similar community goals like preserving drinking water, endangered species habitat, farmland, riparian corridors, and other important natural resource issues.

In 2004, TPL began the greenprinting process in Travis County. TPL partnered with Travis County, the City of Austin, the University of Texas, and Envision Central Texas to launch this effort. The goal of the process was to identify critical parks and natural resource lands within Travis County that need protection through acquisition or conservation. In order to achieve these defined goals, the following process was utilized:

- Development of a comprehensive inventory of existing parks and open space resources in the study area
- Completion of a level of service analysis
- Conducted stakeholder input meetings to identify resources and areas with the greatest need for protection
- Developed an interactive model that defines and prioritizes the parks and conservation acquisition needs
- Presentation of the results for review by stakeholders and finalization of results

The final result of the project is a series of reports, maps and priority rankings of various land parcels throughout the region. This study is an invaluable tool that the Parks and Recreation Department utilizes to guide its land acquisition program.

[http://www.tpl.org/tier3\\_cd.cfm?content\\_item\\_id=21160&folder\\_id=264](http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=21160&folder_id=264)



### Critical Parks & Natural Resources Greenprinting Map



### 7.11 Envision Central Texas

Envision Central Texas is a five-county, non-profit organization created to address the growth of central Texas. The organization has developed a plan for the region to preserve and enhance its natural resources, economic vitality, social equity, and overall quality of life. One of the key elements of the plan is to make sure that central Texas will have the open space, parks and trails that its citizens need.

[http://envisioncentraltexas.org/resources/ECT\\_visiondoc.pdf](http://envisioncentraltexas.org/resources/ECT_visiondoc.pdf)

### 7.12 Other Recreation Providers

Although the City of Austin is the largest recreation provider in the area, many other public and private entities provide substantial recreational opportunity within Austin's area of jurisdiction.

- **Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA)** is a quasi-governmental agency that provides some park and recreational resources in the region. The facilities most available for Austin residents are on Lake Travis. These developed parks typically have boat ramps, swimming areas, trails, playgrounds, picnic facilities, RV sites, tent campgrounds and some cabins. LCRA also operates nature parks and natural science centers. The organization works with communities and citizens to provide access to the Colorado River east of Austin. <http://www.lcra.org/>
- **Travis County** has increasingly added full purpose metropolitan parks, especially in eastern Travis County. Their newly acquired Reimer's Ranch Park in Southwest Travis County is oriented towards natural resource based recreation such as rock climbing, mountain biking, etc. There is a good possibility of partnerships with Travis County in the acquisition of greenways and trails. For example, Onion Creek and Gilleland Creek are priorities for both the City and the County which presents the possibility of jointly owned and operated park systems. <http://www.co.travis.tx.us/tnr/parks/>
- The **Williamson County** park system is growing. The County's Brushy Creek Greenway and trail system is a prominent park that shares some land with the City of Austin. Since the Brushy Creek Trail is well established, adjacent Austin parkland may be operated by the Williamson County Parks Department. The Brushy Creek Trail has the potential to link the cities of Austin, Cedar Park, and Round Rock may someday be linked by this trail system. <http://www.wcparksandrec.com/>



## Ch 7 Relevant Plans

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### Other Recreation Providers - *cont.*

- **Hays County** has successfully passed bond funding for the acquisition of parkland and open space. There is potential for this land to be adjacent to public lands in Hays County that is owned by the City of Austin. The “Walk for a Day” Trail that will someday traverse Austin’s water quality protection lands could be linked with land owned by Hays County and even into the City of San Marcos.  
<http://www.parks.co.hays.tx.us/>
- **Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs)** are empowered by State law to provide parks and recreational services for district residents. These parks systems are often extensive and serve substantial populations. When the City of Austin annexes a MUD, the park and its facilities then become part of Austin’s Parks and Recreation Department.
- **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department** owns and operates McKinney Falls State Park within Austin’s city limits. This large park provides natural resource based recreational activities including the only camping available on the east side of Austin. The Onion Creek Greenway backs up to the State Park and is linked to City land by a trail.  
<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/>
- **YMCA** is a private recreational facility that is available to the general public. Although it is fee based, scholarships are often available to those who cannot afford the fee. The Lady Bird Lake YMCA is adjacent to City parkland and is well integrated with public facilities. The East Austin YMCA is sandwiched between parcels of the Walnut Creek Greenway. Discussions are underway for the City to secure a trail easement across YMCA land so that the Southern Walnut Creek Trail may pass through the area. This facility also operates the First Tee Golf Course which is a learning facility for school age children, and is open to the general public.  
[www.austinyymca.org](http://www.austinyymca.org)
- **Public School District Partnerships** began in the 1960s and is a means of providing some neighborhood park amenities, such as playgrounds, in areas deficient of public recreational opportunities.
- **Public/private parks** are a new concept that may be more common in the future. One example of this is the new Mueller development that was once a municipal airport. The city-owned land was converted to a master planned community with an extensive park and greenway system. Some of the parkland is privately owned and other parts are dedicated to the City. The project developer is building facilities on both private and public land, and the entire park system is open to the public. The home owner’s association operates the entire park system, but the City contributes to the cost of maintenance and operation.