

THE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN-IT

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

Celebrating healthy lifestyles



Viva Streets! A fun, new festival where a car-free street becomes your playground.

The City of Austin has partnered on Viva Streets! Join the fun at the **free** festival that invites you to bicycle, play, get fit, people watch, and celebrate good health. On **Sunday, May 20th**, over two miles of Sixth Street will become a car-free playground for thousands of Aus-

tinities. The event is Austin's unique version of Ciclovía, which is becoming an international phenomenon.

Everyone is welcome – bring friends, bring the family, and neighbors. Connect with the community and celebrate Austin. Enjoy the spectacle and be part of the show.

Come equipped for your favorite activity – walking, biking, running, skateboarding, or inline skating – and then discover new ways to get your move on. www.vivastreetsaustin.org

Imagine Austin and Neighborhood Plans



The Austin City Council will hold a public hearing on the draft Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan on **Thursday, May 24th**. The hearing will be a part of Council's **4:00 pm agenda**. The result of more than two years of work by the Austin community, Imagine Austin brings a thirty-year perspective to the City's day to day operations.

Neighborhood plans and contact teams have played a crucial role in the creation of Imagine Austin, from the project kick-off in October 2009 through to the Planning Commission's review of neighborhood plans in January 2012. The draft plan reflects this input, identifying how the comprehensive plan and neighborhood plans work together to provide City Council the best guidance possible for land use decisions.

The adopted neighborhood plans were reviewed as part of the development of the growth concept map. Only one amendment has been identified for neighborhood plans as a result of the

growth concept map. The Southeast Combined Neighborhood Plan Contact Team requested a neighborhood center on the growth concept map on Pleasant Valley Road; currently the neighborhood plan's future land use map cannot implement it. Staff will work with the contact team following adoption of Imagine Austin to identify the best approach to coordinate the two plans.

Appendix G of the comprehensive plan lists plans to be attached to Imagine Austin. All plans currently attached to Austin Tomorrow will be attached to Imagine Austin, including all of the neighborhood plans. In addition, once the comprehensive plan is adopted, staff will begin working to complete the current roster of neighborhood plans in the urban core. Once finished, priorities will need to be set to update existing plans and develop additional small-area plans in line with the growth concept map.

For a copy of the draft plan and more information visit www.imagineaustin.net



**May 2012
Issue No. 3**

Inside this issue:

<i>Grants Available</i>	2
<i>New Neighborhood Plan Adopted</i>	2
<i>Front Yard Parking and Mobile Food</i>	3
<i>Code Compliance</i>	3
<i>Contact Teams—Thanks</i>	4
<i>Permanent Supportive Housing</i>	4

Future Contact Team Trainings:

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

- *August 21st*
Implementing Imagine Austin
- *November 6th*
Annual Meet & Greet

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

Neighborhood Beautification Grants Available

Keep Austin Beautiful awards Neighborhood Beautification Grants annually to support neighborhoods in their efforts to beautify and improve public spaces. Grants are available to support physical improvements in the right-of-way or on public property including neighborhood signs, garden installations, murals, creek restoration, information

kiosks, graffiti abatement, and the development of community gathering spaces. Judges look for projects that build community, utilize sound ecological practices like native plants or recycled materials, and articulate the unique identity of the neighborhood.

Grant amounts range from \$500 to \$2500, and must be used within one

year. Neighborhood groups must match the beautification grants with other funding, in-kind donations, or volunteer hours. The grant application and more information can be found online at <http://www.keepaustinbeautiful.org/nbg>.

Next round of applications are due Friday, June 1, 2012.



Keeping Austin Beautiful!

2011 KAB Neighborhood Beautification Grant Recipient

In 2011, Heritage Hills-Woodbridge Neighborhood Association, located within the **Heritage Hills Neighborhood Planning Area** received a neighborhood beautification grant. 18 neighborhood volunteers removed invasive ligustrum and chinaberry trees, picked up several bags of trash and recycled material, planted wildflower seed balls, and tended the gardens at North Acres Park and Little Walnut Creek.

Source: Keep Austin Beautiful

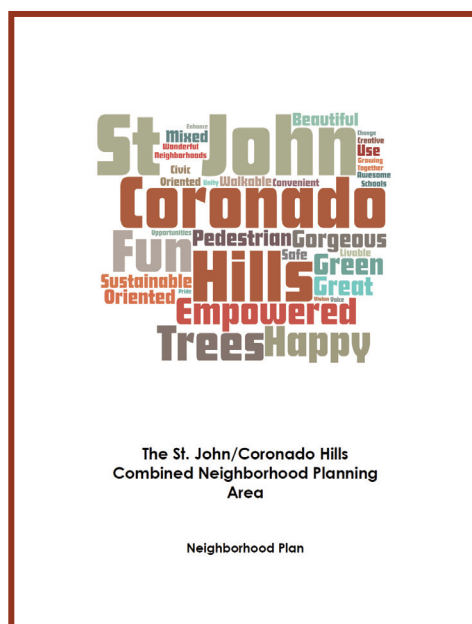


Adoption of St. John/Coronado Hills

On April 26th, City Council unanimously voted to adopt the St. John/Coronado Hills Neighborhood Plan. Congratulations to all of the community members and staff who worked hard to develop a great neighborhood plan which establishes a vision and goals for the neighborhoods. Specifically, the neighborhood plan aims to address key issues in the community as related to quality of life. In addition to plan adoption, the neighborhoods have identified their top planning priorities and have formed two Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams as the primary stewards of the neighborhood plan.

Based on the dedication, creativity, and collaborative spirit the community exhibited throughout the planning process, they are well positioned to begin plan implementation. The Comprehensive Planning Division's Implementation team will work with the con-

tact teams to assist with reaching neighborhood plan goals and priorities. A copy of the plan can be found at: <http://austintexas.gov/page/neighborhood-planning-areas>



DID YOU KNOW...

- ⇒ There are 34 Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams representing 50 planning areas.
- ⇒ The St. John and Coronado Hills contact teams are the two newest teams representing the St. John/Coronado Hills Neighborhood Plan. They are already serving their neighborhoods and will be working to implement the recommendations in their neighborhood plan.

*Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.*

—Henry Ford

Front Yard Parking and Mobile Food Regulations

The **Mobile Food Establishment Ordinance** regulates mobile food establishments/vendors, most often trailers located in parking lots or vehicles that drive from one location to another. Mobile Food Establishments are allowed in commercial and industrial zoning districts throughout the City. However, on an annual basis **Contact Teams** (for areas with City Council-approved neighborhood plans) and neighborhood associations (for areas without neighborhood plans) can submit an application for additional regulations, such as further distance requirements from residential areas and restricted operating hours. These applications are accepted eve-

ry February and must be approved by City Council for the additional requirements to take effect. The City's Code Compliance Department enforces the additional regulations established in the ordinance. The ordinance is complaint driven and violations should be reported to 3-1-1.

The Restricted Front/Side Yard Parking Ordinance is used to prohibit people from parking their motor vehicles in the front or side yard of a residential property except in a driveway or a paved parking space depicted on an approved site plan (which is usually shown on a subdivision plat). Similar to the Mobile Food

Establishment application process, **Contact Teams** and neighborhood associations are given the opportunity to submit an application for the additional restrictions on an annual basis. Once City Council approves the applications, they are identified on the Restricted Parking Area Map. This ordinance is complaint driven and citizens are required to call 3-1-1 to report a violator.

For questions about the application processes or where these restrictions are in place—contact Maureen Meredith at (512) 974-2695 or maureen.meredith@austintexas.gov

Code Compliance Services

The City of Austin Code Compliance Department preserves the health, safety and quality of life of the community through education, cooperation, abatement, and enforcement of city codes.

The Code Compliance Department is divided into four districts to best serve the community (North, South, East and West). Each district has between seven and nine investigators assigned to each area. The department also has a team dedicated to commercial investigations, special operations, including community outreach and training, and a legal unit.

The time required to resolve a code violation complaint may vary depending on the type of violation. Some of the most common violations reported are dangerous structures, substandard living conditions, tall weeds and grass, accumulation of trash and debris, illegal dumping and illegal signs.

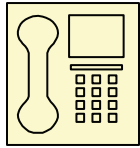
If you believe there are code violations in your neighborhood, call 3-1-1 or report the issue online at <http://austintexas.gov/department/code-compliance/services>

When a complaint is received, it is

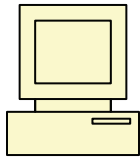
documented and assigned to a Code Compliance investigator. Code Compliance investigators generally inspect reports of code violations within 48 hours of the complaint. In cases where the investigator determines there is a code violation they work closely with the home owner, local authorities, contractors and other City departments to help bring properties into compliance. If a violation remains unresolved other measures may be taken including: criminal charges, fines, abatement, civil injunctions, and orders and penalties issued by the Building & Standards Commission.



Students from UT and St. Edwards worked with the Dove Springs community on a neighborhood clean-up



Call 3-1-1 or report violations online



Code Compliance Department Director Carl Smart speaking to youth at a neighborhood clean-up event

Thank You Contact Teams

The City's Land Development Code requires that contact teams submit information about themselves on an annual basis. This information includes: membership lists with membership category (property owner, residential renter, business owner, or neighborhood organization representative who owns or rents property within the planning area); names of officers; and contact information (emails and/or postal address).

Thank you to the following contact teams located west of IH-35 for submitting your documents: Bouldin, Brentwood, Crestview, Dawson, Greater South River City, Hyde Park, NACA, North Burnet Gateway, North Loop, Old West Austin, South Congress Combined, and Wooten.

Contact teams located east of IH-35 will be contacted in July to request submittal of their documents.

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 their neighborhood.

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

Permanent Supportive Housing

What is Permanent Supportive Housing?

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is rental housing that is linked to a number of support services that enable residents, and in particular persons who have experienced homelessness, to live independently and participate in community life. Services can include case management, mental health and substance abuse treatment, employment readiness, and much more.

PSH is an evidence-based practice that has been successfully implemented around the country and world. Cities have seen dramatic decreases in the use of public services (such as emergency rooms, EMS, police and jail systems) by chronically homeless people housed through PSH programs.

In studies, the costs to house and provide services to these individuals were actually less than the costs to the public for leaving them on the street. According to a 2008 study by the Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy conducted in New York City found that housing de-

velopments containing PSH units have not been linked to decreases in property values. The rehabilitation of blighted buildings and the high level of maintenance and security that comes with having on-site case management have led to stabilized or increased property values.

In March of 2010 the Austin City Council adopted a resolution to create a strategy to create 350 units of PSH throughout the city by 2014. The City is working with community partners, like ECHO (the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition) to reach this goal. If your contact team is interested in learning more about PSH and the City's strategy, please visit <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/permanent-supportive-housing-initiative>.

If you are interested in a presentation on PSH at a neighborhood plan contact team meeting please contact Dawn Perkins at dawn.perkins@austintexas.gov or (512) 972-5069.

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IMAGINE AUSTIN MEETING SCHEDULE

City Hall, Council Chambers
4 pm agenda

May 24th

June 7th (if needed)

June 14th (if needed)



Agendas available at:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/city-council/council-meetings>

Free parking with a validated parking ticket.