

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, families and children are critical to the growth, diversity, vibrancy, and economic vitality of Austin; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to being the most family-friendly city in the country and to ensuring that its policies and decisions support and enhance the quality of life for Austin's families and children; and

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2009, the City Council modified the Citywide Strategic Priorities to emphasize the City's commitment to be the most family-friendly city in the country and to ensure that its policies and decisions support and enhance the quality of life for the City's families with children; and

WHEREAS, in November 2009, the Austin City Council adopted Resolution 20091119-068 establishing the policy goal that publicly-accessible and child-friendly parks or green space be provided within ¼-mile walking distance of all urban core residents and within ½-mile walking distance of all residents outside the urban core; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 20091119-068 also directed the City Manager to create a working group of stakeholders to develop an implementation plan to reach the new urban parks goals; and

WHEREAS, on October 20, 2011, after a year of deliberation, the Urban Parks Stakeholder Group delivered its recommendations for creating a more walkable, healthy, family-friendly city to the City Council, including a recommendation for the Parks and Recreation Department to develop an implementation plan to reach the city's urban parks goal; and

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2012, the Parks and Recreation Department released a draft Urban Infill Park Initiative Implementation Plan to achieve the recommendations of the Urban Parks Stakeholder Workgroup; **NOW THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council endorses the recommendations made by the Urban Parks Stakeholder Group in its October 2011 Urban Parks Workgroup Report and directs the City Manager to implement the following actionable recommendations:

1. Prepare amendments to the Draft Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan to reflect the recommendations of the Urban Parks Stakeholder Group for potential inclusion by the Planning Commission;
2. Present the Draft Urban Infill Park Initiative Implementation Plan to the Parks and Recreation Board, Planning Commission, and City Council for feedback;
3. Make recommendations on per-capita funding benchmarks for maintenance of city parks based on national standards and local needs for consideration during the City's budget cycle;
4. Make recommendations on a process and funding for a family-friendly play feature at City Hall Plaza;
5. Propose an alternative graduated fee structure for the renting of park facilities to minimize cost differential between tiers and increase public access to parkland for smaller-scaled events; and

6. Investigate the feasibility of allowing organizations renting park facilities to provide director-approved improvements to city parks in lieu of paying fees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Council adopts a policy that all new city facilities and city-sponsored projects oriented to the public include family-friendly features, such as creative play spaces, nature-based play areas, and interactive art spaces.

ADOPTED: _____, 2012 **ATTEST:** _____
Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk

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