

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

Austin City Council	<b>Item ID</b>	31988	<b>Agenda Number</b>	52.
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<b>Meeting Date:</b>	5/22/2014	<b>Department:</b>	Public Works
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**Subject**

Set a public hearing to consider approval of the City of Austin Urban Trails Master Plan (Suggested date and time: June 26, 2014, at 4:00 p.m., Austin City Hall, Council Chambers, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas)

**Amount and Source of Funding**

**Fiscal Note**

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

<b>Purchasing Language:</b>	
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<b>Prior Council Action:</b>	April 24, 2008, Trails Master Plan initiated by City Council (Resolution No. 2008424-064) and June 11, 2009, the City of Austin Bicycle Plan Update (Ordinance No. 20090611-075)
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<b>For More Information:</b>	Nadia Barrera, 512-974-7142
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<b>Boards and Commission Action:</b>	March 10, 2014, reviewed by the Comprehensive Planning Committee (Planning Commission); April 8, 2014, approved by the Urban Transportation Commission; reviewed by the Urban Forestry Board on April 16, 2014 and May 21, 2014; Environmental Board on April 16, 2014 and June 4, 2014; Committee for People with Disabilities on May 12, 2014 and June 9, 2014; Parks and Recreation Board on May 27, 2014; and Planning Commission on June 24, 2014.
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<b>MBE / WBE:</b>	
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<b>Related Items:</b>	
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**Additional Backup Information**

This plan works to implement elements of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan by creating a connected and protected active transportation network that will provide transportation options for the citizens and visitors of the City of Austin.

Definition of an Urban Trail: A citywide network of non-motorized, multi-use pathways that are used by bicyclists, walkers and runners for both transportation and recreation purposes.

Urban Trail Goals for Austin:

1. Provide easy access to urban trails for both transportation and recreation users from all parts of the City.
2. Link all urban trails to the on-street bicycle and sidewalk network around them.
3. Ensure that all urban trails are adequately sized to accommodate both recreation and transportation uses.
4. Incorporate trail amenities and features that transform them from a paved surface into unique greenways that reflect the City around them.
5. Provide adequate resources to maintain and operate urban trails in Austin.

Other elements of the Urban Trails Master Plan include:

- **Trail Design Criteria:** This section builds on the recent Watershed Protection Ordinance and addresses width, overhead clearance, surface quality and lighting concerns.
- **Maintenance Strategy:** Using best practices, the plan outlines benchmarks and criteria for regular maintenance of urban trails.
- **Implementation and Funding:** The plan includes a matrix that weights connectivity, accessibility, proximity to attractions, and property ownership which facilitates prioritizing trail construction with limited resources.