



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Nadia Barrera, Urban Trails Program Manager, Public Works Department

DATE: August 27, 2014

SUBJECT: Changes made to the Urban Trails Master Plan:

CC: Angela Hanson and D'Anne Williams, Parks and Recreation Department
Michael Embesi and Keith Mars, Planning and Development Review Department
Chuck Lesniak, Matt Hollon, Mateo Scoggins, Erin Wood, and John Clement, Watershed Protection Department
Chad Crager, Public Works Department

This memorandum provides a list of changes made to the Urban Trails Master Planning (UTMP). Thoughtful recommendations were received during and after the Boards and Commissions process; many of which have already been incorporated UTMP. The list below includes changes that have not yet been added, but will be upon adoption.

- P. V, A-1 and A-2: Change to "Trail Design Criteria."
- P. VI, X, maps in Chapter 3, and 5-11: A no-build option shall exist when there are environmental constraints that cannot be avoided, when an alternate route that provides an equal level of service is provided, there is a lack of neighborhood or stakeholder support, or there is a lack of available funding. (CAG Recommendation)
- P. VII and 3-4: Clarify that Tier II Urban Trails as pictured on the map are strictly conceptual and neither these trails nor the specific locations of the trails are approved when the UTMP is approved. These trails are shown in the map to show a desired connectivity from point A to point B, not necessarily the route shown on the map. To further differentiate the Tier I and Tier II Urban Trails, Tier II Urban Trail maps will be included in an appendix. (CAG Recommendation)
- P. X and 5-10: Upon completion of 30% design, Urban Trail projects will brief the Environmental Board and any other appropriate boards and commissions. Subsequent briefings will be provided as requested. (Environmental Board Recommendation)
- P. 2-3: Add, "Environmental Protection" to list of "Guiding Principles for Urban Trails." (CAG Recommendation)

- P. 2-3: Add, “Objective 1.3 – To maximize the recreation and quality of life that Urban Trails provide, design Urban Trails to integrate green infrastructure and nature into the City.”
- P. 2-5: An independent, experienced wildlife biologist or wildlife ecologist qualified in ecological assessments and an experienced, certified arborist will be included as part of the preliminary engineering team for all Urban Trail projects. Prior to beginning 30% design, the project team will determine if these 2 persons shall be part of the team throughout the process, including selecting the options for the trail route (initial trail conceptual alignment), providing criteria to protect trees, riparian areas, and habitat and wildlife corridors, participating in trail design, and overseeing installation. (Environmental Board, CAG, and TAG Recommendation)
- P. 3-2: Add “PARTIALLY FUNDED” to the Violet Crown Trail.
- P. 4-4: Clarify that for Urban Trails located closer to a waterway than allowable by LDC 25-8-261, the maximum width of a concrete trail shall be 12 feet and dual tracks that provide more than 12 feet of impervious cover shall be prohibited. (CAG and TAG Recommendation)
- P. 5-10: Additional public meetings shall be held with communities of interest and registered neighborhood organizations within 500 feet from areas that are part of the proposed trail corridor. (CAG Recommendation)
- P. 5-11: Update graphic to demonstrate public meetings during PER, Boards and Commissions briefing at 30% design, and interdepartmental coordination begins at the initiation of the PER.
- P. 5-11: Any Urban Trail design that cannot meet minimum standards or policies as provided by the City of Austin Code and those Urban Trail projects seeking an administrative variance will brief the Environmental Board and any other appropriate board and/or commission prior to finalizing design. (Environmental Board Recommendation)
- P. A-4: For Urban Trails located closer to a waterway than allowable by LDC 25-8-261, the maximum width of a concrete trail shall be 12 feet and dual tracks that provide more than 12 feet of impervious cover shall be prohibited. (CAG and TAG Recommendation)
- P. A-6: Asphalt shall not be used for Urban Trails located closer to a waterway than allowed by LDC 25-8-261. (CAG and TAG Recommendation)
- P. A-8: During Urban Trail design and scoping, the project arborist will review the proposed trail alignment to determine which trees should receive treatment as defined in Appendix P-6 of the City of Austin Environmental Criteria Manual, “Remedial Tree Care Notes Aeration and Supplemental Nutrient Requirements for Trees within Construction Areas.” Preference will be given to native trees with potential to provide significant future trail shading. (TAG Recommendation)
- P. A-8: Urban Trails will include appropriate green infrastructure such as vegetated filter strips, infiltration areas, and directed sheet flows to contribute to sustainable vegetation management. (Urban Forestry Board Recommendation). Urban Trails should promote the sheet flow of stormwater runoff and maintain natural drainage paths whenever possible through design considerations like trail location, grade, and cross slope. (TAG Recommendation)
- P. A-8: Within Urban Trail work areas all healthy heritage trees and native protected trees shall be preserved. Impacts to their root zones shall be prevented or minimized if unavoidable. Trail alignments should avoid critical root zones of these trees and be reviewed by an arborist. (CAG and TAG Recommendation)
- P. A-8: Urban Trail work areas shall be restored by planting site appropriate native plants. (CAG Recommendation)
- P. A-8: Urban Trail project budgets shall include appropriate treatment for trees given Appendix P-6 of the Environmental Criteria Manual “Remedial Tree Care Notes Aeration and

Supplemental Nutrient Requirements for Trees within Construction Areas.” (CAG and TAG Recommendation)

- P. A-12: Within the allowable area as defined by LDC 25-8-261, if site conditions permit, trail access points shall not be closer than one mile apart and trailheads shall not be closer than two miles to access points. The number of low water crossings shall be minimized to avoid impacts to the creek. Existing infrastructure shall be used if available and appropriate. (CAG Recommendation)
- P. A-12: Final determination regarding access points will be decided in coordination with the Watershed Protection Department and emergency services departments to allow for appropriate ingress and egress. Per § 25-8-262 of the LDC, multi-use trails may cross a CWQZ of any waterway. (TAG Recommendation)
- P. A-13: Within the allowable area as defined by LDC 25-8-261, trailhead amenities (such as restrooms, art, etc.) shall be kept at a minimum. (CAG Recommendation)
- P. A-20: All branches overhanging Urban Trails will be pruned following Environmental Criteria Manual regulations and City policies (Oak Wilt City Prevention Policy and Standards of Care) by certified arborists. (Urban Forestry Board and TAG Recommendation)
- P. A-20: Tree species selection for Urban Trails shall consist of a diversity of site-appropriate species including long lived native shade trees and native understories. (Urban Forestry Board and TAG Recommendation)