

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	38084	Agenda Number	197.
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Meeting Date:	12/11/2014	Department:	Planning and Development Review
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Subject

Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance amending the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan by adopting the Colony Park Sustainable Community Initiative Master Plan and Design Guidelines. The general boundaries for the area covered by the Colony Park Sustainable Community Initiative Master Plan and Design Guidelines is the Colony Park Neighborhood on the west, Loyola Lane on the south, the Colony Meadows and Lakeside neighborhood to the east, and the privately held, undeveloped land to the north.

Amount and Source of Funding

This project was funded through a \$3,000,000 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities Challenge Grant.

Fiscal Note

Purchasing Language:

Prior Council Action:

August 25, 2011 – Council passed a resolution authoring the City Manager to apply for a \$3,000,000 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Challenge Planning Grant.
 December 15, 2011 – Council passed an ordinance authorizing acceptance of a \$3,000,000 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Challenge Planning Grant.
 June 26, 2014 – Council presentation and discussion of development assessment of the Colony Park Sustainable Community Initiative Planned Unit Development.
 August 7, 2014 – Council passed a resolution directing the inclusion of “neighboring connectivity, public amenity maintenance and governance, and financing options within and adjacent to the 208 acre Colony Park Sustainable Community Initiative PUD in the scope of the Colony Park planning effort”.
 September 25, 2014 – Council received a briefing on the Colony Park Sustainable Community Initiative Master Plan and Design Guidelines and approved the Colony Park Planned Unit Development on 1st reading.

For More Information:

Sandra Harkins, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, (512) 974-3128; Zach Stern, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, (512-974-3155); Mark Walters, Planning and Development Review Department (512) 974-7695.

Boards and Commission Action:

September 3, 2014 – Approved by the Environmental Board on a 7-0 vote.
 September 16, 2014 – Approved by the Zoning and Platting Commission on a 5-0 vote with Commissioner Compton abstaining from the vote and Commissioner Seeger absent.

MBE / WBE:

Related Items:

Additional Backup Information

Beginning in 2009, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) partnered to develop the Community Challenge Planning Grant program. According to HUD, the grant program “. . . fosters reform and reduces barriers to achieving affordable, economically vital, and sustainable communities.” In 2011, the City of Austin was awarded a three-year, \$3 million Community Challenge Grant for the Colony Park Sustainable Community Initiative Project (“Project”).

The broader study area for the Project is a five-census tract study area bounded by US Highway 183 to the west, US Highway 290 to the north, SH 130 to the east, and FM 959 to the south. In the middle of the study area and the focus of the initiative are 208 acres of publically-owned, undeveloped land and 93 acres of parkland that is generally located between Johnny Morris Road, Decker Lane, and Loyola Lane (see attached map).

The Project is designed to promote HUD’s six livable principles:

- Provide more transportation choices
- Promote equitable, affordable housing
- Enhance economic competitiveness
- Support existing communities
- Coordinate policies and leverage investment
- Value communities and neighborhoods

Additionally, the project promotes strong cross-department and agency coordination to create successful models for sustainable and equitable development. Besides land use planning, the Project calls for programs to build capacity and leadership for residents within a targeted area.

Public involvement was an essential part of the process. Area residents engaged in the process through one-on-one discussions with professional staff responded to door-to-door surveys, and attended small and large community meetings. Through their input, they expressed a preference for a walkable, mixed-use community that can act as a catalyst for bringing new jobs and essential services such as a grocery store and medical facilities to an underserved part of Austin and eastern Travis County.

The Colony Park Sustainable Community Initiative Master Plan and Design Guidelines’ emphasis on sustainability, equity, and the environment promotes the vision, goals, and many policies of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan. The Colony Park Sustainable Community Initiative Master Plan and Design Guidelines provides for a mix of residential housing types, mixed-use commercial locations, institutional/office uses, community solar power, gardens, new streets, and a transportation network that promotes walking and bicycling. The plan identifies five future neighborhood centers connected by paved and unpaved bicycle and pedestrian connections that also connect to schools, natural areas, and multiple urban parks.