

Draft CodeNEXT Recommendations *Watershed Protection*



Flood Mitigation Task Force

January 19, 2016

What is CodeNEXT?

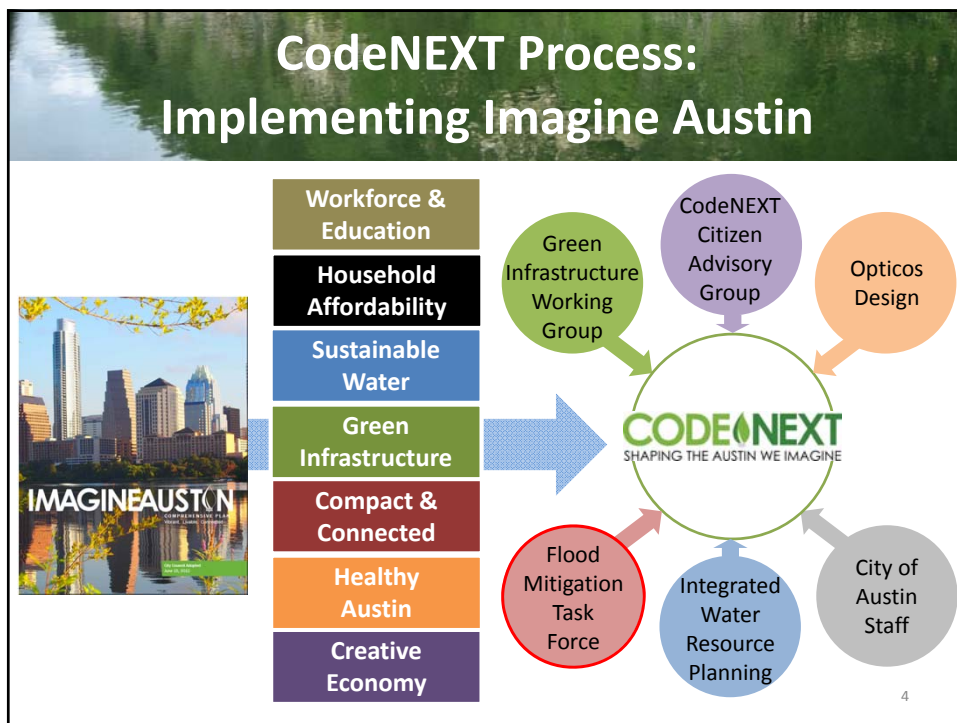
- CodeNEXT is the new City of Austin initiative to revise the Land Development Code (LDC)
- The goal of CodeNEXT is to revise our land use standards and regulations to:
 - ✓ Preserve and enhance the best qualities of our communities
 - ✓ Be fair, predictable, and easy to use
 - ✓ Align with Imagine Austin's vision, policies, growth concept map, and priority programs

Land Development Code

Guides how land is used

- WHAT can be built
- WHERE it can be built
- HOW much can be built

- Opticos Design (lead consultant) is responsible for drafting the zoning chapter of the new code
- City staff has been assigned the creation of new content for drainage, environment, subdivision, transportation, and landscaping
- Watershed Protection is leading the revisions to drainage and water quality





Green Infrastructure Working Group

Council Direction (November 20, 2014)

- Asked that the CodeNEXT focus include green infrastructure & sustainable water management

Purpose of Green Infrastructure Working Group

- How we can achieve the Imagine Austin goals of **integrating nature into the city**, **sustainably managing our water resources**, and **creating complete communities** through revisions to the Land Development Code?

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Green Infrastructure Working Group

- Over 300 stakeholders on distribution list
- Six meetings between January & July 2015
- Engineers, landscape architects, developers, neighborhoods, environmental groups, and staff from multiple departments





Topics Addressed by Recommendations

1. Flood Mitigation for Redevelopment
2. Beneficial Use of Stormwater
3. Application of Water Quality Payment-in-Lieu
4. Pervious Cover Function & Open Space
5. Connectivity and Creek Crossings

Note: WPD is not proposing changes to most of the existing provisions in the drainage and water quality chapters (e.g., creek buffers, erosion hazard zones, floodplain function, critical environmental features, impervious cover).

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Flood Mitigation for Redevelopment: Current Status

- Code requires flood mitigation for “greenfield” projects and projects increasing existing impervious cover
- However, code does not generally require flood mitigation for redevelopment projects that do not increase existing impervious cover or change drainage patterns, even if significant downstream flooding exists





Flood Mitigation for Redevelopment: Draft Recommendations

- Site plans and subdivisions must reduce post-development peak rates of discharge to match peak rates of discharge for **undeveloped conditions** (vs. existing pre-development conditions)
- Tools for mitigating flood impacts include on-site detention, off-site detention, off-site conveyance improvements, or participation in the Regional Stormwater Management Program (RSMP)
- The type of flood mitigation solution needed will be specific to the location in the watershed (e.g., headwaters) as well as the available downstream capacity

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Flood Mitigation for Redevelopment: Draft Recommendations

- Where applicable, participation in RSMP may be allowed at the City's sole discretion in all watersheds if the site can demonstrate:
 - no adverse impact from flood or erosion potential
 - adequate downstream flood conveyance capacity within dedicated city drainage easements is provided
 - compliance with requirements for beneficial use – commercial sites must maximize the use of porous pavement and rain gardens where feasible

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CodeNEXT Schedule

- January - June 2015: Green Infrastructure Working Group
- August - October 2015: Staff recommendations developed
- November 16-21: Code Workshop (“Sound Check”)
- Winter/Spring 2016: Test and calibrate recommendations to balance against other public values and priorities.
 - Note: Draft recommendations subject to change
- Fall 2016: Public draft released for review



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Green Infrastructure Working Group:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/page/green-infrastructure-working-group>

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