



BOARD RECOMMENDATION

Parks and Recreation Board

Recommendation Number: (20170425-005): Recommendation to the Land Development Code Advisory Group on Critical Revisions Relating to Public Parks and Open Space in Title 23, Divisions 23-2M-1, 23-2M-2, 23-4C-1, 23-4C-2, 23-4D-2, 23-4D-3, 23-4D-4, and 23-4D-6.

WHEREAS, the new Land Development Code is a priority program out of Imagine Austin, the City's plan for the future, adopted by City Council in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the core principals to Imagine Austin include strengthening our parks, urban forest, and urban trails; enhancing recreation opportunities; providing healthy communities that bring families back to the city; and highlighting that healthy communities include safe access to walking, biking and recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan buildings blocks listed in Imagine Austin are the backbone of Imagine Austin; and

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan building block for City Facilities and Services includes building block action CFS A2 that states to "[e]xpand equitable access for adults, children, and their pets to active and passive parks throughout the city by carefully targeting new parks where most needed;" and

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan building block for City Facilities and Services also includes building block action CFS P40 that states to "[s]erve Austin's diverse, growing population and provide family-friendly amenities throughout the city by developing new parks and maintaining and upgrading existing parks;" and

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan building block for Creativity includes building block action C P17 that states to "[d]efine Austin's sense of place through high standards for architecture and urban design, public art, public spaces and parks, and arts education;" and

WHEREAS, in the 2016 Trust for Public Land Park System Rankings known as Park Score, the City of Austin continues to drop and now ranks 47 out of the 100 largest U.S. cities, 81 out of 100 for residents within ½ mile of a park, and 94 out of 100 for playgrounds per 10,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, our parks are critical to the quality of life in Austin; and

WHEREAS the first draft of the new Land Development Code could negatively impact the types of parks that can be built in transect zones; and

WHEREAS, the first draft of the new Land Development Code may not allow the Parks and Recreation Department to fully implement the Parkland Dedication Ordinance adopted in January 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parks and Recreation Board requests that the Land Development Code Advisory Group ensure that the Parks and Recreation Board's first set of recommended changes to the Land Development Code attached in Appendix A are included in the second draft of the Land Development Code.

Date of Approval: _____

Record of the vote:

Attest: _____

(Staff or board member can sign)