

11/14/2019

Motion from Council Member Alter to Parks Long Range Master Plan – Item 69

Amend Page 20 as follows:

The City of Austin, however, is committed to achieving a higher standard, especially within the Urban Core, which encompasses many of the densest areas of central Austin, and other high need dense areas outside of the Urban Core (see page 74 for more detail).

Amend Page 74 as follows:

Austin's Urban Core

The Urban Core is defined as the area bounded by Highway 71 on the south, MoPac on the west, and 183 on the north and south. This area is important because it encompasses the majority of the high-density areas in the City of Austin. It has a more compact urban development pattern and has more multimodal transportation system that allows residents to get around without cars.

However, several of the city's densest areas, such as those with many lower-income residents in North and Southeast Austin, fall outside of the Urban Core boundary.

Why Does it Matter for Parks

Within the City's current land use rules, an area is considered park deficient if there is no park, private parkland, or school park within 1/4 mile inside the urban core or within 1/2 mile outside [typo correct] the urban core. Inside the urban core, land dedication is capped at 15% of the site area unless the Land Use Commission approves increased land dedication to address a critical shortage or provide connectivity. However, the City of Austin recognizes that PARD must be more flexible and responsive to the distinct needs of residents than to strictly adhere to these two simple categories. Some areas outside of the urban core have the characteristics of our most urban neighborhoods—in fact, 3 of Austin's 10 densest neighborhoods lie outside of the 'urban core' boundary, and therefore these types of neighborhoods may need, relatively, more access to nearby parks than other areas.

Page 88:

Maintain or improve upon current standards of parkland per capita. Add between 4,000 and 8,000 acres of new parkland over the next 10 years, maintaining the current standard of 20 acres per 1,000 residents while striving to achieve 24 acres per 1,000 residents.

Access to quality parks, trails, and recreational opportunities is a priority for PARD. This will require dual strategies of increasing the safe and equitable access to existing parks and acquiring new parkland. Acquiring land that can be used for future parks as population grows is a priority for PARD. Austin's Parkland Acquisition Program selects sites that have the potential

to preserve unique natural features, can be developed and maintained as parks, and meet community needs (e.g., in park-deficient areas). To maintain a high park acre per person ratio, PARD will need to acquire new parkland at a much higher rate than in recent years.

Page 99:

B. Expand & Improve Park Access for All.

Providing equitable access to parkland for all residents is a priority for PARD. Through the Long Range Plan process some community members commented on the difficulty of accessing and navigating the park system. PARD's goal is to ensure residents living in the urban core should be within a ¼ mile of a publicly-accessible and child-friendly park (a five-minute walk) and within a ½ mile (10-minute walk) for those outside the urban core. To meet this goal, the plan outlines ~~There are~~ multiple tools that can be used to improve park access including partnering with AISD to develop button parks, acquiring easements on private property, expanded trail connections, improved wayfinding, and greater sensitivity to ADA standards.

Page 100

Citywide Recommendation B- Expand and Improve Park Access for All

2. Invest in the acquisition of new parkland that can make parks a part of everyday life in existing and future underserved areas.

Add new 2.1: Use Level of Service guidelines and park deficient area mapping to help determine and prioritize areas for proactive parkland acquisition and/or activation where current housing exists or new housing is anticipated. Work with Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department, Austin Transportation Department, and other city departments to anticipate areas of new housing and higher densities located near parkland and plan for increased park use and activation, helping to achieve a higher ratio of population within walking distance.