

Urban Trail Proposed Code Amendments

OCTOBER 12, 2021



PUBLIC WORKS

*Well-Built
Well-Maintained
Well-Being For All*





Agenda 10.12.2021

- I. Background
- II. Proposed Code Amendments
 - I. LDC 25-8-341/342
 - II. LDC 25-1-261(B)(3)(c)
- III. Q&A

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council directs the City Manager to create an urban trails stakeholder group to examine the administrative processes and requirements associated with the design and permitting of urban trails on public land, public easements, or rights-of-way.

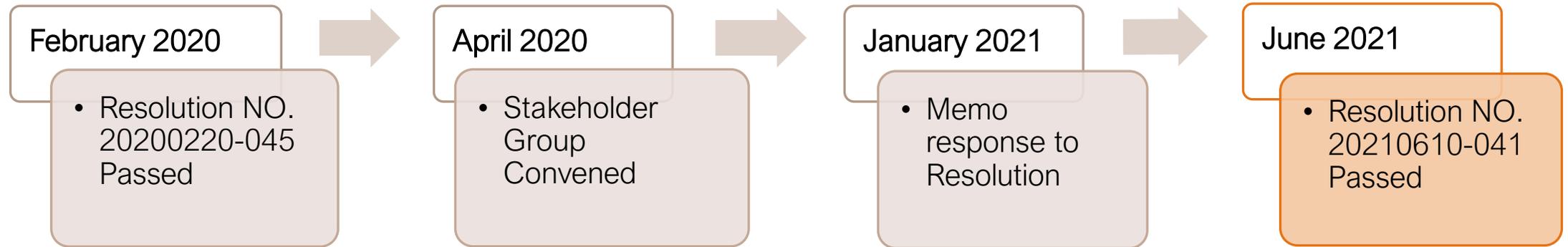
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council directs the City Manager to include in the urban trails stakeholder group the relevant city departmental staff, representatives from relevant boards and commissions, and leaders of community organizations that are directly involved in building urban trails. The City Council encourages the City Manager to include representatives from Austin Energy, Austin Water, Austin Transportation Department, Development Services Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Public Works Department, Watershed Protection Department, Shoal Creek Conservancy, Hill Country Conservancy, The Trail Foundation, Waterloo Greenway Conservancy, Environmental Commission, Parks and Recreation Board, and Urban Transportation Commission in the stakeholder group.

Background

Resolution
NO. 20200220-045]

Background



Resolution NO. 20210610-041

“(2) Council initiates the following amendments to the Land Development Code, as recommended by PWD and WPD in Appendix B of the January 4, 2021 memo from PWD, and asks that they be brought back to Council by August 26, 2021:

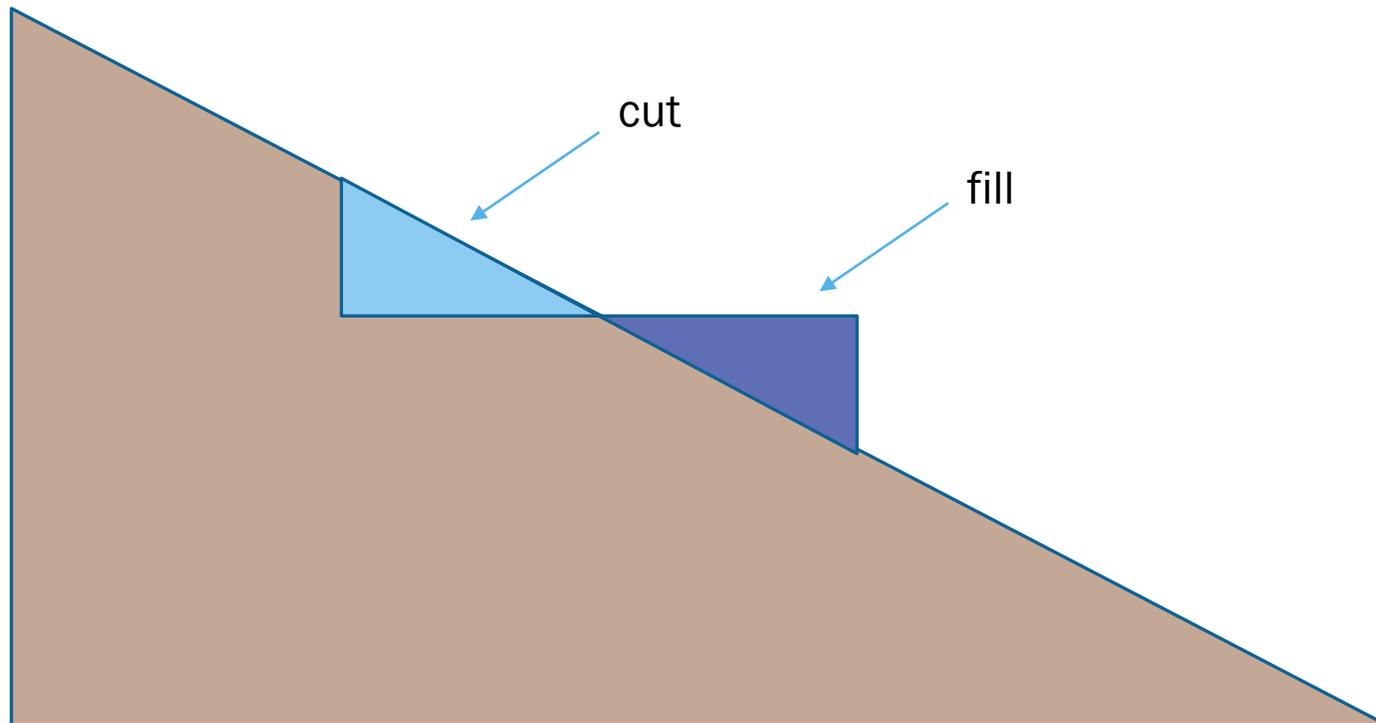
- (a) Amend Land Development Code 25-8-341 and 25-8-342 to grant urban trails projects greater cut and fill allowances under specific environmental circumstances.
- (b) Amend Land Development Code 25-8-261(B)(3)(c) to reflect current policy that trails within the critical water quality zone be limited to 12 feet in surface width plus one-foot shoulders on each side.

PURPOSE

- Streamline review process
- Create transparency
- Formalize internal policy



What is Cut + Fill?



LDC 25-8-341 & 25-8-342: Cut and Fill

Current Status:

- Cut and/or fill in a suburban watershed is limited to 4 ft in depth
- Administrative variance typically granted to allow up to 8 ft, with certain conditions
- Construction of roadways in public right-of-way has no cut or fill limit

Proposed Improvement

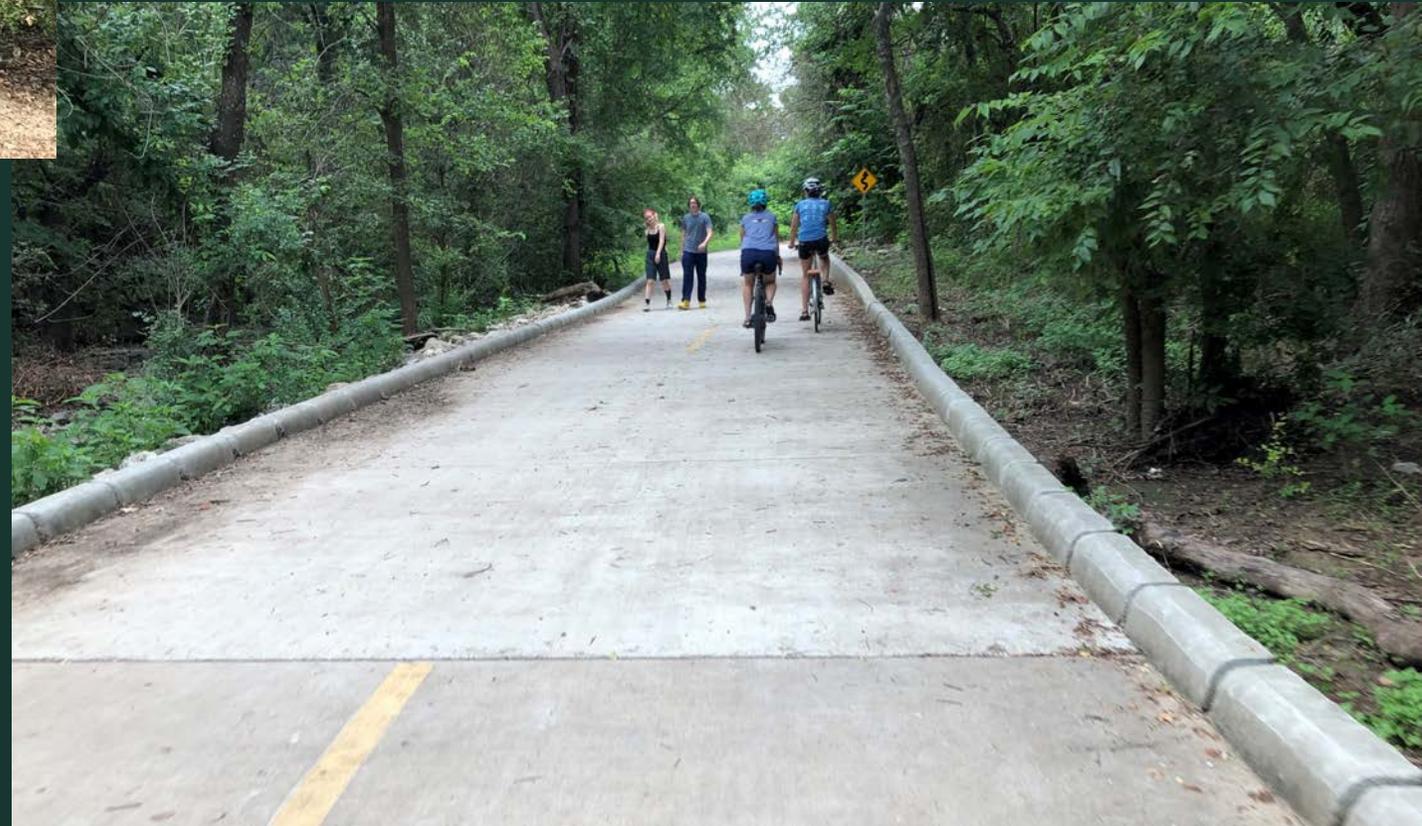
- Allow cut and/or fill of up to 8 ft for a public trail if:
 - The cut or fill is not located on a slope of more than 15%
 - The cut or fill is not located within 100 ft of a classified waterway; and
 - The trail is designed in accordance with the Environmental Criteria Manual.

NORTHERN WALNUT CREEK TRAIL



Northern Walnut Creek Trail Phase 2A

- Construction beginning November 2021
- Granted admin variance from cut and fill requirements



LDC 25-8-261: Critical Water Quality Zone Development

Current Status:

- A hard surface trail within the critical water quality zone is limited to 12 feet in width, unless a wider trail is designated in a Council adopted plan.
- Current language does not make clear if the 12 ft refers to the surface width or if it includes the sub-grade shoulders that extend beyond the usable width of the trail.

Proposed Improvement

- Clarify the language to formalize the current interpretation to make clear that a trail within the critical water quality zone is limited to 12 ft plus one ft compacted sub grade shoulders on each side



CURRENT EXAMPLE

- Lower Boggy Creek Trail

UPCOMING PROJECTS:

- Country Club Creek Trail
- Northern Walnut Creek Trail



Questions?

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