

ORDINANCE NO. 20211202-056

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 25-8 RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT IN CRITICAL WATER QUALITY ZONES AND CUT AND FILL REQUIREMENTS.

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

PART 1. Subsection (B) of City Code Section 25-8-261 (*Critical Water Quality Zone Development*) is amended to read as follows:

- (B) Open space is permitted in a critical water quality zone if a program of fertilizer, pesticide, and herbicide use is approved by the Watershed Protection Department, subject to the conditions in this Subsection.
 - (1) In a water supply rural watershed, water supply suburban, or the Barton Springs Zone, open space is limited to sustainable urban agriculture or a community garden if the requirements in subsection (B)(4) are met, multi-use trails, picnic facilities, and outdoor facilities, excluding stables, corrals for animals and athletic fields.
 - (2) A master planned park that is approved by the council may include recreational development other than that described in Subsection (B)(1).
 - (3) A hard surfaced trail may cross the critical water quality zone pursuant to Section 25-8-262 (*Critical Water Quality Zone Street Crossings*). A hard surfaced trail that does not cross the critical water quality zone may be located within the critical water quality zone only if:
 - (a) designed in accordance with the Environmental Criteria Manual;
 - (b) located outside the erosion hazard zone unless protective works are provided as prescribed in the Drainage Criteria Manual;
 - (c) limited to 12 feet in width plus one-foot compacted sub-grade shoulders, unless a wider trail is designated in a Council-adopted plan [~~the Urban Trails Master Plan adopted by Council~~];

- (d) located not less than 25 feet from the centerline of a waterway if within an urban watershed;
 - (e) located not less than 50 feet from the centerline of a minor waterway, 100 feet from the centerline of an intermediate waterway, and 150 feet from the centerline of a major waterway if within a watershed other than an urban watershed;
 - (f) located not less than 50 feet from the shoreline of Lake Travis, Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake, and Lake Walter E. Long, as defined in Section 25-8-92; and
 - (g) located not less than 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark of the Colorado River downstream from Longhorn Dam.
- (4) Open space may include sustainable urban agriculture or a community garden only if:
- (a) in an urban watershed and located not less than 25 feet from the centerline of a waterway, or in a watershed other than an urban watershed and located not less than 50 feet from the centerline of a minor waterway, 100 feet from the centerline of an intermediate waterway, and 150 feet from the centerline of a major waterway;
 - (b) located not less than 50 feet from the shoreline of Lake Travis, Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake, and Lake Walter E. Long, as defined in Section 25-8-92;
 - (c) located not less than 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark of the Colorado River downstream from Longhorn Dam;
 - (d) designed in accordance with the Environmental Criteria Manual; and
 - (e) limited to garden plots and paths, with no storage facilities or other structures over 500 square feet.
- (5) In a suburban or urban watershed, open space may include an athletic field only if:

- (a) in an urban watershed and located not less than 25 feet from the centerline of a waterway, or in a suburban watershed and located not less than 50 feet from the centerline of a minor waterway, 100 feet from the centerline of an intermediate waterway, and 150 feet from the centerline of a major waterway;
- (b) located not less than 50 feet from the shoreline of Lady Bird Lake and Lake Walter E. Long, as defined in Section 25-8-92;
- (c) located not less than 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark of the Colorado River downstream from Longhorn Dam; and
- (d) the owner of the athletic field submits to the Watershed Protection Department a maintenance plan to keep the athletic field well vegetated and minimize compaction, as prescribed in the Environmental Criteria Manual.

PART 2. Subsection (A) of City Code Section 25-8-341 (*Cut Requirements*) is amended to read as follows:

- (A) Cuts on a tract of land may not exceed four feet of depth, except:
 - (1) in an urban watershed;
 - (2) in a roadway right-of-way;
 - (3) for construction of a building foundation or swimming pool;
 - (4) for construction of a water quality control or detention facility and appurtenances for conveyance such as swales, drainage ditches, and diversion berms, if:
 - (a) the design and location of the facility within the site minimize the amount of cut over four feet;
 - (b) the cut is the minimum necessary for the appropriate functioning of the facility; and
 - (c) the cut is not located on a slope with a gradient of more than 15 percent or within 100 feet of a classified waterway;

- (5) for utility construction or a wastewater drain field, if the area is restored to natural grade;
- (6) in a state-permitted sanitary landfill or a sand or gravel excavation located in the extraterritorial jurisdiction, if:
 - (a) the cut is not in a critical water quality zone;
 - (b) the cut does not alter a 100-year floodplain;
 - (c) the landfill or excavation has an erosion and restoration plan approved by the City; and
 - (d) all other applicable City Code provisions are met; or[-]
- (7) for any cut associated with construction of a multi-use trail, if:
 - (a) the cut is not located on a slope with a gradient of more than 15 percent or within 100 feet of a classified waterway;
 - (b) the cut is limited to no more than eight feet in depth;
 - (c) the cut is located in a public right-of-way or public easement; and
 - (d) the trail is designed in accordance with the Environmental Criteria Manual.

PART 3. Subsection (A) of City Code Section 25-8-342 (*Fill Requirements*) is amended to read as follows:

- (A) Fill on a tract of land may not exceed four feet of depth, except:
 - (1) in an urban watershed;
 - (2) in a roadway right-of-way;
 - (3) under a foundation with sides perpendicular to the ground, or with pier and beam construction;
 - (4) for construction of a water quality control or detention facility and appurtenances for conveyance such as swales, drainage ditches, and diversion berms, if:

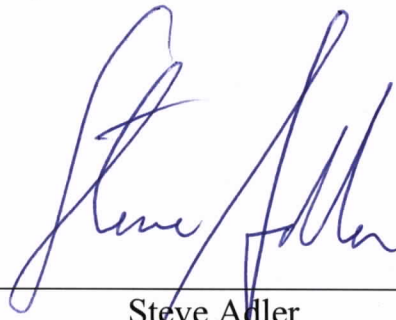
- (a) the design and location of the facility within the site minimize the amount of fill over four feet;
 - (b) the fill is the minimum necessary for the appropriate functioning of the facility; and
 - (c) the fill is not located on a slope with a gradient of more than 15 percent or within 100 feet of a classified waterway;
- (5) for utility construction or a wastewater drain field; ~~[or]~~
- (6) in a state-permitted sanitary landfill located in the extraterritorial jurisdiction, if:
 - (a) the fill is derived from the landfill operation;
 - (b) the fill is not placed in a critical water quality zone or a 100-year floodplain;
 - (c) the landfill operation has an erosion and restoration plan approved by the City; and
 - (d) all other applicable City Code provisions are met; or ~~[or]~~
- (7) for fill associated with construction of a multi-use trail, if:
 - (a) the fill is not located on a slope with a gradient of more than 15 percent or within 100 feet of a classified waterway;
 - (b) the fill is limited to no more than eight feet in depth;
 - (c) the fill is located in a public right-of-way or public easement; and
 - (d) the trail is designed in accordance with the Environmental Criteria Manual.

PART 4. This ordinance takes effect on December 13, 2021.

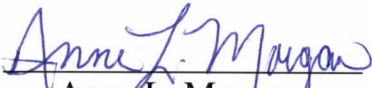
PASSED AND APPROVED

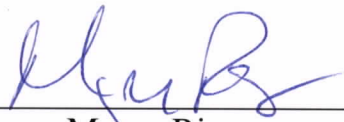
December 2, 2021

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Steve Adler
Mayor

APPROVED: 
Anne L. Morgan
City Attorney *py 12/1*

ATTEST: 

Myrna Rios
Interim City Clerk