

Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023

Environmental Commission(Official Name of Board or Commission)

The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is:

Per section 2-1-144(F) of the City Code, the Environmental Commission may:

- 1) review and analyze the policies relating to the environmental quality of the city;
- (2) act as an advisory board to the city council, the city manager, and the department in their efforts to oversee the protection and integrity of the natural environment;
- (3) promote growth management and land use planning, minimize degradation of water resources, protect downstream areas, and promote recreation opportunities and environmental awareness; and
- (4) advise and recommend on any issue which the commission determines necessary or advisable for the enhancement and stewardship of the urban forest both public and private.

(G) The commission shall:

- (1) assist the city council, the city manager, and the department in studying, promoting and enforcing environmental protection policies to assure the health, safety, welfare and quality of life of all citizens within the City's incorporated boundaries as well as those within its extraterritorial jurisdiction where the boundaries apply; and
- (2) oversee the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan for the planting, maintenance, and replacement of trees in the City's jurisdiction, and revise the plan as necessary. When a portion of the plan has been developed and established, it shall be submitted to the city council for adoption before implementation.
- (H) The commission shall advise the city council, the city manager, and the department concerning policies, projects, and programs that affect the quality of life or have the potential to affect the environment, including those that relate to or affect:

- (1) water quality: (a) watershed protection; (b) urban runoff; (c) innovative wastewater treatment; (d) regional wastewater treatment; (e) improvement and protection of the Colorado River and the Edwards Aquifer; and (f) wastewater irrigation;
- (2) growth management and land use planning: (a) municipal utility district review; (b) capital improvement project review; and (c) the comprehensive plan;
- (3) construction controls for erosion and sedimentation;
- (4) City environmental policies regarding monitoring and enforcement;
- (5) solid waste disposal plan alternatives;
- (6) watershed protection: (a) flood control; (b) erosion control; (c) water quality; and (d) utility management;
- (7) roadway planning;
- (8) beautification;
- (9) recreation resources;
- (10) public education on environmental matters;
- (11) hazardous waste materials management;
- (12) revegetation and landscaping;
- (13) air quality;
- (14) noise abatement; and
- (15) all matters pertaining to the City's urban forest, including public and private trees.
- (I) The commission shall:
 - (1) review all variances to requirements for water quality protection;
 - (2) review the monitoring of storm water runoff in developed and undeveloped areas;
 - (3) review the efficiency of existing and proposed structural and nonstructural water quality controls;
 - (4) periodically review the effectiveness of Chapter 25-4 (Subdivision);
 - (5) review waste treatment permits within the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction;
 - (6) review programs and policies for flood control, erosion control, and water quality;
 - (7) review capital improvement projects;
 - (8) review municipal utility district proposals and amendments;
 - (9) review roadway plan amendments;
 - (10) recommend urban runoff standards; and
 - (11) review the environmental elements of planned unit developments.
- (J) The commission may recommend and initiate, with the advice and consent of the city council, specific project studies concerning any of the matters described in Subsections (H) and (I), or any other related environmental or urban forestry issue.
- (K) The commission shall make reports and recommendations for standards and criteria concerning any of the matters described in Subsections (H) and (I), or any other related environmental or urban forestry issue.

- (L) The commission shall promote close cooperation between the City and all private citizens, institutions, and agencies interested in or conducting natural resource, environmental, and urban forestry activities, so that all similar activities within the city may be coordinated to secure the greatest public welfare.
- (M) A project for which commission review is required: (1) must be submitted to the appropriate staff before the meeting at which it will be considered; and (2) may not be considered by the Planning Commission, the Zoning and Platting Commission, or the city council until the commission has had an opportunity to review the project at a regularly scheduled meeting and to report its findings.

1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.

(Reference all reports, recommendations, letters or resolutions presented to the City Council on mission-specific issues. If some of the elements of the mission statement were not acted on by the board in the past year, the report should explain why no action was taken.)

Attached to this report is a spreadsheet listing all actions, recommendations, letters, and reports considered and/or taken up by the Environmental Commission during the previous calendar year.

2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

(If any of the board's actions were outside the scope of the mission statement, the report should explain the non-compliance issues.)

All actions taken by the Environmental Commission comply with the Commission's mission statement.

A list of all actions taken by the Environmental Commission are attached to this report.

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

(Make sure the goals and objectives fall within the mission statement of the board/commission.)

Below is a list of the Environmental Commission's goals and objectives for the new calendar year. With many goals on this list, the Environmental Commission will work to reach all of the goals below, but will also prioritize these goals generally in the order listed below.

- Focus the Environmental Commission's review and oversight on regional environmental sustainability and resiliency including greenhouse gases, heat island, air quality and other elements.
- Ensure the Environmental Commission provides ongoing support for the City's community resilience efforts including the City's development of a resilience plan. Provide oversight related to environmental resilience as a component of the overall community resilience work.
- Focus Environmental Commission oversight on integration of equity within the Watershed Strategic Plan update and in Capital Improvement Program decision making processes.
- Prioritize attention toward remedying historic and ongoing unjust impacts that are related to the mission of the Environmental Commission.
- Oversee and receive a status report from City staff on any anticipated updates to the Heritage Tree Ordinance. Including effectiveness of current Heritage Tree Ordinance.
- Receive biannual reports (and check-ins) from the Equity Office to the Environmental Commission.
- Receive quarterly reports from Watershed Protection Department's Capital Improvement Program, the Environmental Commission will review completed, ongoing and proposed capital improvement projects and their delivery in accordance with Environmental Commission mission.
- Receive an annual review of the City's wastewater treatment systems, including the age, function, and anticipated improvements to existing wastewater treatment facilities. Included in this review of the number of wastewater lines in critical water quality zones and how these lines are monitored and mitigated (if leak occurs).
- Conduct a review of environmental inspection practices, including erosion and sedimentation controls and tree protections, by the Development Services Department to ensure that environmental regulations are being appropriately implemented to be protective of water quality and the urban forest.
- Receive annual report from Watershed Protection Department (with support from other departments as necessary) of what improvements have been made since the Flood Mitigation Task Force Report was released. The report will also include status and forecasted progress over the coming years.

- Continue the ability to meet remotely for all standing Environmental Commission committee meetings.
- Receive annual report on City's progress on strategies that will lower carbon
 emissions by Austin Energy, Transportation and other pertinent City
 departments. The report will include how departments are tracking and
 reporting this information.
- Receive annual report from Watershed Protection Department on reservoirrelated issues, including but not limited to toxic algae, draw downs, zebra mussels, and other invasive species.
- Review biannual reports on the environmental impact to neighborhoods located in close proximity to Industrial Zoning areas. This could include the water, soil, and air quality.
- Promote efforts for night sky preservation to reduce wasted electricity and preserve habitat and plant species. Advocate for policy change in the City of Austin's exterior lighting requirements to address over lighting, street, and sports stadium lighting.

								Impervious		Reviewed			Annual Reports,							
Item/Requestor/Staff	EC Meeting Date	Code Amendments	Redevelopment Exception in the BSZ	Cut & Fill; dredging	Constr. Boatdocks Steep Slopes and Roadways	Stream Buffers (CWQZ & WQTZ)	CEF Setbacks	Cover; Density; Net Site	Ordinance/ Resolution and Agreements	Environmental Aspects of the PUD/PUD		Recommend site plan waiver Waterfront Overlay	Special Staff Reports	Briefings	Other Common dation / requests Lette	n Annexation	Restrictive Covenant Amendme R	ETJ elease me	end Nominations &	Recommendations/Comments
Halata Saine and Compining Assault Review Balance Saine and Assault Review Balance Saine Sain								Area		Amendments			and Work Sessions							
Update on Environmental Commission Annual Report—Kevin Ramberg, Environmental Commission Chair	8/3/2022												NAT							No action taken
Bull Creek PUD Amendment #3, Case No. C814-2009-0139.03	8/3/2022									RwC										https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=389386
5709 Sam Houston Circle Boat Dock, SP-2021-0300D, Request to vary from LDC 25-8-281(C)(2)(b) to allow the construction within 150-foot of a rimrock and seep Critical Environmental Feature (CEF)- Eric Bown	8/3/2022						RwC													https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=389387
Borders Boat Dock 1, SP-2021-0084D, Request to vary from LDC 25-8-281(C)(2)(b) to allow the construction within 150-foot of a rimrock Critical Environmental Feature (CEF)- Eric Brown	8/3/2022						RwC													https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=389388
Discuss and consider proposed amendments to City Code Title 25 related to environmental, drainage, landscape, and water quality requirements- Liz Johnston	8/3/2022	NAT																		No action taken
Update on ATX Walk Bike Roll to update Austin's sidewalk, urban trails, and bicycle plans- Katie Wettick, Program Manager, Public Works	8/17/2022													NAT						Staff briefing - No action taken
1609 Nueces St, Case No. 2022-018844 TP, The applicant is appealing the City Arborist's denial of application. The applicant is requesting the removal of a Heritage Tree with a single stem 30 inches in diameter or larger - Naomi Rotramel	8/17/2022										Postpone									Commission voted to postpone this item
Seton Medical Center Planned Unit Development Amendment No. 2, Case No. C814-92-0006.02, request to amend a Planned Unit Development (PUD)- Leslie Lilly	8/17/2022									RwC										https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=390208
Variances and Variance Conditions - Mike McDougal Planned Unit Developments - Leslie Lilly	8/31/2022 8/31/2022													NAT NAT						Staff briefing - No action taken Staff briefing - No action taken
Discuss goals and objectives for the Environmental Commission 2022-23 calendar year	8/31/2022													NAI					NAT	No action taken
Shoal Cycle, SP-2021-0350C, The applicant is seeking the removal of a Heritage tree with a single stem over 30 inches in diameter - Naomi Rotramel	9/7/2022										RwC									https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=391786
BKO Parmer, SP-2021-0034D, Request to vary from LDC 25-8-342 to allow fill over 4 feet up to 12 feet - Tunde Daramola	9/7/2022		F	RwC																https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=391787
Consider an ordinance regarding amendments to Title 25 related to environmental protection, landscape requirements, and site plan requirements - Liz Johnston	9/7/2022	Postponed																		https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=391788
Consider an ordinance regarding amendments to Title 25 related to environmental protection, landscape requirements, and site plan requirements - Liz Johnston	9/21/2022 F	RwC																		https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=392773
Manor ISD Elementary School #10 (SP-2022-0095CX), Request to vary from LDC 25-8-342 to allow fill over 4 feet up to 33 feet Tunde Daramola	9/21/2022		F	RwC																https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=392774
Briefing and discussion on Trash in Creeks study—Andrew Clamann Review and approve the 2023 Environmental Commission meeting calendar	9/21/2022 10/5/2022													NAT					R	Staff briefing - No action taken
Park 290 Logistic, SP-2021-0095C, Request to vary from LDC 25-8-342 to allow fill over 4 feet up to 28 feet and			F	RwC																https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=393901
request to vary from LDC 25-8-341 to allow cut over 4 feet up to 22 feet - Enrique A. Maiz-Torres Briefing on a proposed ordinance in response to Resolution 20211029-003 which directs staff to review City Code, criteria manuals, and permitting procedures to identify	10/5/2022								RwC											https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=393902
impediments to the design, construction, implementation, and operation of Project Connect—Donna Galati Working Group report and possible action on additional recommendations for an ordinance																				
regarding amendments to Title 25 related to environmental protection, landscape requirements, and site plan requirements	10/5/2022 F	3																		https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=393900
Briefing on the Palm District Plan - Stevie Greathouse	10/19/2022													NAT						No action taken
Presentation of Development Assessment Report for 311-315 South Congress, located at 311-315 South Congress Avenue, CD-2022-0002 - Wendy Rhoades and Leslie Lilly	10/19/2022									NAT										No action taken
Karanam Subdivision Wastewater Service Extension Request #5575 - Kaela Champlin Loyola Junction Apartments, SP-2021-0242C, Request to vary from LDC 25-8-342 to allow fill up to 17 feet in	10/19/2022											R								https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=395245
the desired development zone - Mel Fuechec	10/19/2022		F	RwC																https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=395244
Brodie Oaks Redevelopment PUD C814-2021-0099 - Leslie Lilly Brodie Oaks Redevelopment Site Specific SOS Amendment C814-2021-0099 - In response to Council	11/2/2022									RwC										https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=396338
Resolution 20221011-076, consider a site-specific amendment to City Code Chapter 25-8, Subchapter A, Article 13 (Save Our Springs Initiative), as minimally required to allow for limits to impervious cover as proposed in application C814-2021-0099 for the Brodie Oaks PUD development. The proposed site specific amendment should be included as part of the discussion and consideration of the Brodie Oaks PUD	11/2/2022																	RwC		
development - Leslie Lilly Briefing and potential action regarding code amendments to Title 25 of the City Code to create an affordable housing bonus program to allow residential development on	11/2/2022 F	RwC																		https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=396337
commercially-zoned properties—Erica Leak Update on amendments to Title 25 related to environmental protection, landscape																				https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=396336
requirements, and site plan requirements—Liz Johnston Update on Bull Creek PUD Amendment #3, Case No. C814-2009-0139.03—Liz Johnston	11/16/2022 11/16/2022	NAT								NAT										No action taken No action taken
1703 N River Hills Road Marina Reconstruction, SP-2022-0167D, . Request to vary LDC 25-8-261 Critical Water Quality Zone (CWQZ) development to allow, in the CWQZ of Lake Austin, development of a gasoline fuel line						NR														https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=397366
with a dispenser at the dock for re-fueling private boats - Pamela Abee-Taulli 1703 N River Hills Road Marina Reconstruction, SP-2022-0167D, Request to vary from LDC-25-8-368(E) to	11/16/2022		F	RwC																https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=407454
allow more than 25 cubic yards of dredging in Lake Austin - Miranda Reinhard Concordia Sports Complex, SP-2022-0020C, Request to vary from Lake Austin Watershed Ordinance No. 840301-F Section 9-10-409(b) to allow cut exceeding four feet to fifteen feet amd request to vary from Lake																				
Austin Watershed Ordinance No. 840301-F Section 9-10-409(a) to allow fill exceeding four feet up to twelve feet - Mel Fuechec	11/16/2022			RwC																https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=398803
Presentation of Development Assessment Report for 200 E. Riverside, located at 200 East Riverside Drive, CD-2022-0003 (District 9). Applicant: Richard T. Suttle, Jr., Armbrust & Brown, PLLC. Staff: Wendy Rhoades	12/7/2022									NAT										No action taken
Oltorf Site Plan (SP-2021-0091C), 1. Request to vary from LDC 25-8-301 to allow driveways on slopes over 15% 2. Request to vary from LDC 25-8-341 to allow cut over 4 feet up to 8 feet 3. Request to vary from LDC 25-8-342 to allow fill over 4 feet up to 20.5 feet - Tunde Daramola	12/7/2022		F	RwC	RwC															https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=399098
Estates at Juniper Summit Water Service Extension Request #5522, Water Service Extension - Kaela Champlin	1/18/2023											R								https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=401322
Alexan RR 620 Water and Wastewater Service Extension Requests #5532 and 5533, Water and Wastewater Service Extension request - Kaela Champlin	1/18/2023											R								https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=401363
Evergreen Drainage Improvements, SP-2022-0056D, 1. Request to vary from LDC 25-8-261(G) to allow floodplain modification for development within the Critical Water Quality Zone 2. Request to vary from LDC 25-8-281(C)(1)(a) to reduce the CEF setback to 50' and LDC 25-8-281(C)(2)(b) to allow construction within the reduced 50' CEF setback	1/18/2023					NR	NR													https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=401363
Velocity Channel Improvements, SP-2021-0153D, Request to vary from LDC 25-8-261(G) to allow floodplain modification for development within the Critical Water Quality Zone (CWQZ) - Miranda Reinhart	2/15/2023					Postpone														Commission agreed to postpone the item.
Kaalo Studio, SPC-2021-0195C, Request to vary from LDC 25-8-301 to allow a driveway on a slope of more than 15 percent - Enrique Maiz-Torres	2/15/2023				RwC															https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=402895
Country Club Creek Trail Elmont Dr. to E. Oltorf St., SP-2022-0197D, Request to vary from LDC 25-8-341 to allow cut exceeding 4 feet to 10 feet - Brad Jackson	2/15/2023		F	RwC																https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=402896
Congress Avenue Urban Design Initiative – Laura Dierenfield,								1	1		1			1			1			Staff Briefing, no action taken

	Redevelopment		Constr.	Stream		Ordinance	 Environmental 	Variance	Recommend site	Reports,		Other	Common	Restric		SOS Administrative	
Date Code Amendments	Exception in the BSZ		Boatdocks Steep Slopes and Roadways	Buffers (CWQZ & WQTZ)	Sethacks	Density; Resolution and	Aspects of the		plan waiver Waterfront Overlay	SER Staff Reports and Work	Briefings		dation Ann	equest Amend	dme Release		& Recommendations/Comments
3/1/2023										Sessions					R		https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=403853
3/1/2023											NAT						Briefing from Huston Tillotson University, no action tacen
3/1/2023												R					https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=403852
3/29/2023												R					https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=405376
3/29/2023												R					https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=405377
4/5/2023										NAT							Environmental Officer update, no action taken
4/5/2023											NAT						Briefing, no action taken
4/5/2023												RwC					https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=406404
4/19/2023											NAT						Staff Briefing, no action taken
4/19/2023																R	A motion to nominate Commissioner Ramberg as Chair, Commissioner Bedford as Vice-Chair, and Commissioner Bristol as Secretary was approon Commissioner Brimer's motion, Commissioner Qureshi's second on a vote. Commissioners Bristol and Thompson were absent.
4/19/2023																R	The commission nominated Commissioner Schiera as a member of the Urban Forestry Committee. The commission nominated Commissioner Ramberg as a member of the Joint Committee of the Environmental Commission and Parks and Recreation Board. The commission nominate Commissioner Sullivan for the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board.
4/19/2023						RwC			P								https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=407096 https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=408121
5/3/2023									R								https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=408118
5/3/2023								RwC									https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=408568
5/3/2023																R	https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=408119
5/3/2023												R					https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=408120
5/17/2023	R																https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=408906
5/17/2023																	The commission nominated Haris Qureshi to the Joint Sustainability Committee on Commissioner Ramberg's motion and Commissioner Scot second on a 9-0 vote
5/17/2023										R							https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=408908
5/17/2023												R					https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=408907
6/7/2023																	A motion to nominate Commissioner Bedford as Vice-Chair was approve Commissioner Ramberg's motion on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Bristol
6/7/2023											NAT						Staff Briefing, no action taken
6/7/2023											+			RwC			https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=410103
6/7/2023									R		+						https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=410105
-1.1									10								The state of the s
6/7/2023																	Briefing, no action taken
	EMMeeting Date Code Amendments 3/1/2023	3/1/2023	Lode Amendments Date Exception in the BSZ Cut at Filly decigning 3/1/2023 Image: Code Amendments of State of	Ec Meeting Date Code Amendments Redevelopment Exception in the Cut & Fill; Ordering and Roadways Cut & Fill; Ordering and Roadways 3/1/2023	Ec Meeting Date Code Amendments Receive (principle in the BSZ) Cut & Fill; drieding Boatdocks with (WQCX & and Roadways) Buffers 3/1/2023	EC Meeting Date Code Amendments Secretion in the Seption on the Septi		Ecological Code Amendment Service Service Service Servic			SCAMPARINE	Control Cont	Final Programme (Control Programme) (Control P	Street St	Property of the property of	Part	Part

Item/Requestor/Staff	EC Meeting Date	Code Amendments	Redevelopment Exception in the BSZ	Cut & Fill; dredging	Constr. Boatdocks Steep Slopes and Roadways	Stream Buffers (CWQZ & WQTZ)	CEF Setbacks	Impervious Cover; Density; Net Site Area	Ordinance/ Resolution and Agreements	Reviewed Environmental Aspects of the PUD/PUD Amendments	Variance	Recommend site plan waiver Waterfront Overlay	SER a	Staff	letings l	resentations	dation I	nnexation Coverequest Ame	rictive enant ET ndme Relea	Amer	ve, & Recommendations/Comments
Briefing and possible action on Community Investment Budget plan, supported by a coalition of Austin area nonprofits and organizations – Presented by Daniela Silva, Equity Action, and requested by Environmental Commissioners Mariana Krueger and David Sullivan	7/2/2023														R						https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=411048
Consider a recommendation on the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) update to the 2012 Master Development Plan (MDP) ordinance (ordinance NO 20120628-014) – Presented by Somer Shindler, Chief Development Officer, Aviation Department; Katie Coyne, City of Austin Environmental Officer and Assistant Director, Watershed Protection Department; and, Keith Mars, Acting Assistant Director, Development Services Department	7/2/2023								RwC												https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=411047
In response to Planning Commission initiated site-specific code amendment to Chapter 25-8, consider an amendment to City Code Chapter 25-8, including Subchapter A, Article 13 (Save Our Springs Initiative) and associated variances as minimally required for the Barton Springs Bath House capital improvements required for emergency response access, ADA access, and updating water and wastewater service to provide improved fire flow and replace aged wastewater service lines - Leslie Lilly, Watershed Protection	7/2/2023																			RwC	https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=411046
In response to Council Resolution 20230420-026, consider variances and amendments to the Land Development Code, including site-specific amendments to Chapter 25-8, Subchapter A, Article 13 (Save Our Springs Initiative), as necessary to allow for the completion of the Little Bear Aquifer Recharge Enhancement Project, an aquifer recharge project at Stoneledge Quarry within the Barton Springs Segment of the Edwards Aquifer. The project will increase the amount of clean water entering the Aquifer, thereby increasing water storage in the Aquifer, enhancing flows at Barton Springs and the Colorado River, and supporting the aquatic and terrestrial species dependent on this water - Scott Heirs and Leslie Lilly, Watershed Protection Department	7/2/2023																			R	https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=411045
R RWC NR NAT Totals																					
R = Recommended RwC = Recommended with Conditions RD = Recommended denial NAT = No Action Taken																					