



City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 24-4170, **Agenda Item #:** 36.

3/7/2024

Posting Language

Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance to amend City Code Title 25 related to environmental protections at the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail.

Lead Department

Watershed Protection Department.

Fiscal Note

This item does not require a fiscal note.

Prior Council Action:

May 18, 2023 - Council adopted Resolution No. 20230518-044 initiating amendments to City Code Title 25 to allow the Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail to remain within the setbacks applicable to Lady Bird Lake and to allow capital improvements related to environmental protection be made to the trail.

For More Information:

Leslie Lilly, Environmental Program Coordinator, Watershed Protection Department, (512) 535-8914, Leslie.lilly@austintexas.gov <<mailto:Leslie.lilly@austintexas.gov>>.

Liz Johnston, Environmental Policy Program Manager, Watershed Protection Department, (512) 974-2619, Liz.Johnston@austintexas.gov. <<mailto:Liz.Johnston@austintexas.gov>>

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

December 6, 2023 - Recommended for approval by the Environmental Commission, 7-0.

December 13, 2023 - Recommended for approval by the Codes and Ordinances Joint Committee, 5-0.

February 26, 2024 - Recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board on a 6-3 vote with Members Hugman, Reed, and Taylor voting no.

February 27, 2024 - To be reviewed by the Planning Commission.

Additional Backup Information:

In 2017, City Code Section 25-8-261 (Critical Water Quality Zone Development) was amended to restrict development within the 50-foot setback of Lady Bird Lake, including the construction of trails like the existing Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail (Butler Trail). Approximately 85% of the Butler Trail is located within the 50-foot setback and the restriction makes it more difficult to enhance, reconstruct, and build the Butler Trail in its current alignment.

Staff requests an amendment to Section 25-8-261 to accommodate the current Butler Trail alignment and width while continuing to provide protection to the shoreline through mitigation and improvements to the health

of the floodplain.

Staff Recommendation: Recommended for approval.