

# Green Infrastructure Working Group



integrate **nature**  
into the city

June 23, 2015

# Introduction

How we can achieve the Imagine Austin goals of **integrating nature into the city** and **creating complete communities** through revisions to our zoning and environment codes?

**CODE**  **NEXT**  
SHAPING THE AUSTIN WE IMAGINE

“green infrastructure is strategically planned and managed networks of natural lands, parks, working landscapes, other open spaces, and green stormwater controls that conserve and enhance ecosystems and provide associated benefits to human populations.”

*imagine austin*





**protect**



**cool**



**absorb**



**connect**

# Four Green Infrastructure Themes

Council Direction (November 20, 2014)

- Asked that the CodeNEXT focus include green infrastructure & sustainable water management

Topics for Discussion

1. Land Cover and Natural Function
2. Integrate Nature into the City
3. Beneficial Use of Stormwater
4. Stormwater Options for Redevelopment/Infill

# Land Cover and Natural Function

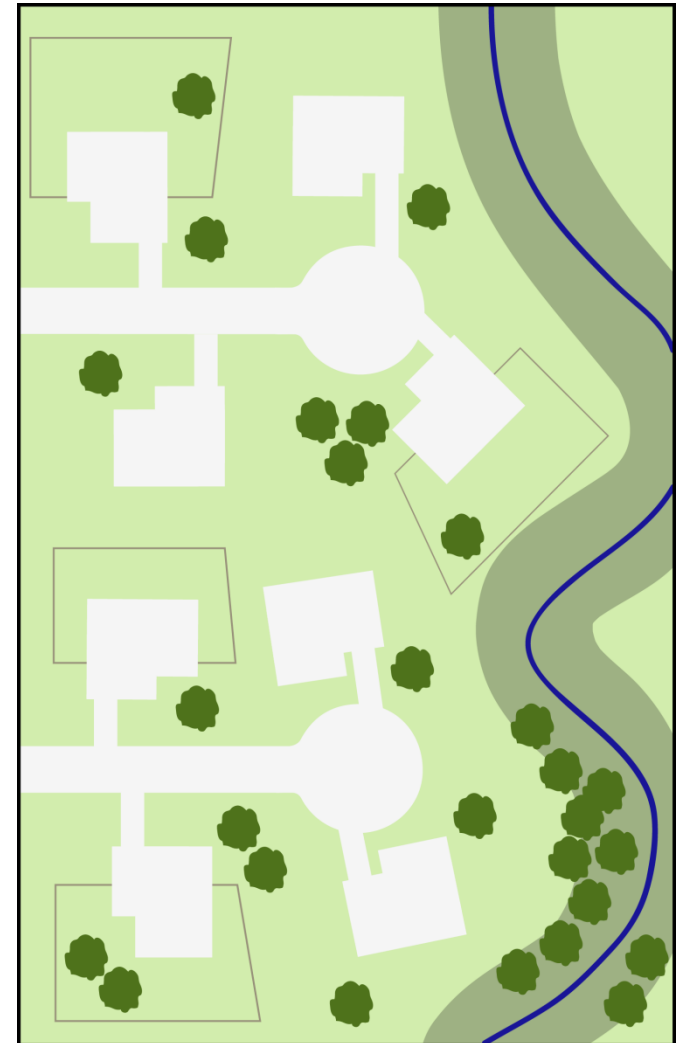
## Goals

- Ensure adequate natural function for all sites
  - Protect greenfield sites
  - Restore redevelopment and infill sites
- Promote desirable, purposeful open spaces & connectivity
- Want the design and care of our built environment to take advantage of strengths of both pervious and impervious cover

# Land Cover and Natural Function

## Challenges

- Low natural function on medium to high impervious sites
- Pervious areas don't necessarily function as intended (e.g., soil compaction)
- Impervious cover limits can produce fragmented landscapes of unconnected, private green spaces
- Application to centers & corridors



# Integrate Nature into the City

## Goals

- Functional landscapes with multiple benefits (e.g., urban heat island, water conservation, habitat, enhanced public realm)
- Urban forest preservation and replenishment
- Climate resilience and adaptation to drought
- Green transitions between different land uses
- Practical to implement and maintain the ordinance



# Integrate Nature into the City

## Challenges

- Landscaping code does not apply to dense urban areas (e.g. CBD) or parking lots for remodels
- “Street yard” concept does not work in all contexts
- Inadequate provisions for shade trees & existing trees
- Missed opportunities for onsite infiltration of stormwater and use of non-potable water
- Transitions between land uses (e.g., centers & corridors and adjacent residential) need refining

# Beneficial Use of Stormwater

## Recap

- Need to address drought & climate change impacts on watershed health and water supply
- Stakeholder meetings (Watershed Protection Ordinance Phase 2) from January to July 2014
- Final Report of the Austin Water Resource Planning Task Force recommended “Tapping into the Cityscape as a Water Supply Source”
- Phase 2 recognized need for requiring infiltration and/or re-use of stormwater on-site for new & re-development

Porous Pavement

Filter Strips

Rain Garden Medians

Rain Gardens

Rainwater Harvesting

# Beneficial Use of Stormwater

## Going Forward

Discuss specific proposals for achieving beneficial use of stormwater as part of CodeNEXT:

- Infiltration / Baseflow / Water Quality
- Water Conservation / Drought & Climate Resilience
- Long-term ownership and maintenance of green infrastructure

# Stormwater Options for Redevelopment/Infill

## Goals

- Address longstanding problems due to development without sufficient flood controls and/or drainage conveyance
- Provide additional flexibility and options to enhance water quality for redevelopment and infill

Del Curto Rd and Bluebonnet Ln

# Stormwater Options for Redevelopment/Infill

## Challenges

- Code does not require flood mitigation if impervious cover is not increased and downstream conveyance is not further impaired (S. Lamar case study)
- Payment-in-lieu for water quality only allowed within Urban Watersheds; new role of green controls

# Green Infrastructure Working Group Schedule

<b>Kickoff</b>	<b>Jan. 30</b>
<b>Land Cover &amp; Natural Function</b>	<b>Feb. 20</b>
<b>Integrate Nature into the City</b>	<b>Mar. 13</b>
<b>Beneficial Use of Stormwater</b>	<b>Apr. 10</b>
<b>Stormwater Options for Redevelopment &amp; Infill</b>	<b>May 15</b>
<b>Integration of Green Elements</b>	<b>June 26</b>

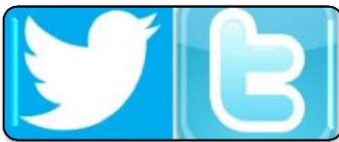
# CodeNEXT Participation



On the web: [austintexas.gov/CodeNEXT](http://austintexas.gov/CodeNEXT)



SpeakUpAustin! <http://speakupaustin.org>



@ImagineAustin. Use #CodeNEXT



[facebook.com/ImagineAustin](https://facebook.com/ImagineAustin)



By phone



Bloomfire: [codenext.bloomfire.com/](http://codenext.bloomfire.com/)

# Contact Information

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<http://austintexas.gov/page/green-infrastructure-working-group>