

University Hills/Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan

PLAN ADOPTED: August 9, 2007

This Neighborhood Plan has been amended by City Council. These amendments may include text changes or Future Land Use Map (FLUM) changes. Please refer to the Ordinance Chart on the planning area webpage for more information on amendments. Planning and Development Review staff updates the Ordinance Chart on a regular basis; however, newly adopted amendments may not be reflected on the chart.





The University Hills/Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan

An Amendment to the
Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan

August 2007



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By adopting the plan, the City Council demonstrates the City's commitment to the implementation of the plan. However, approval of the plan does not legally obligate the City to implement any particular action item, nor does adoption of the plan begin the implementation of any item. The implementation of every recommendation will require separate and specific actions by the neighborhood, the City and by other agencies.

The Neighborhood Plan will be supported and implemented by:

- City Boards, Commissions and Staff
- City Departmental Budget
- Capital Improvement Projects
- Other Agencies and Organizations
- Direct Neighborhood Action

Acknowledgements

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- Windsor Park Branch Library staff
- University Hills Neighborhood Association
- Windsor Park Neighborhood Association
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- Reagan High School, Parent Support Specialists
- Andrews Elementary School
- Region XIII Education Center
- Pastor Sterling Lands, Greater Calvary Bible Church
- Lee Basore; Windsor Park resident since 1948

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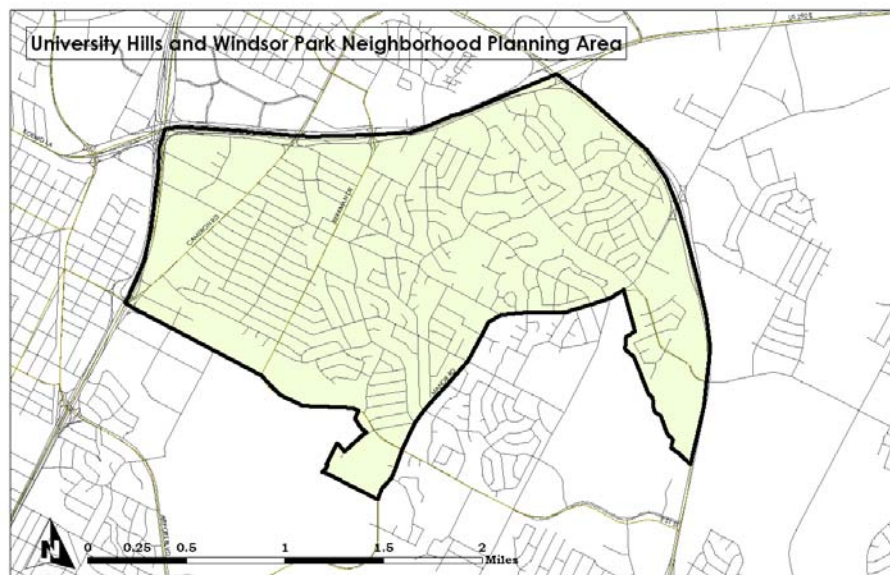
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PLAN SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This Plan Summary gives readers background information on neighborhood planning in the City of Austin and in the University Hills and Windsor Park neighborhoods. Main goals and priorities of the University Hills/Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan are listed in this chapter. A locator map identifies this planning area with respect to other areas in the City of Austin. Additional information on neighborhood planning in the city can be found in the Planning Area Context chapter and on the internet, www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning.





NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN

The City of Austin's Neighborhood Planning program follows from decades of citizen initiatives to plan development in the City. These initiatives intended to establish planning that guides the form, location and characteristics of development in order to preserve the quality of life and character of existing neighborhoods.

In 1979, the City Council adopted a complete comprehensive plan, the Austin Tomorrow Plan (ATP), whose goals and objectives were based on public input (Austin Tomorrow Plan, p. 3-5). A policy objective in the ATP states: "Develop and implement specific, detailed plans tailored to the needs of each neighborhood." In 1995-96, Austin's Citizens' Planning Committee issued reports recommending neighborhood planning to identify community needs and guide future development in specific areas of the city. ("From Chaos to Common Ground", Citizens' Planning Committee Report, p. 12). In 1996, Austin's City Council created the Neighborhood Planning program to broadly achieve citizen goals outlined in the aforementioned reports and initiatives.

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING IN UNIVERSITY HILLS AND WINDSOR PARK

In 2005, Austin's City Council designated the University Hills and Windsor Park neighborhoods as a neighborhood planning area for several reasons. These neighborhoods are part of the *urban core*, the dense central area of the City, which the City Council has previously designated as a priority planning area (see map on Page 14). Second, Neighborhood Planning & Zoning staff use several factors to choose the next urban core neighborhood to plan. These include: the amount of vacant and developable land, commercial zoning, arterial roadways, and development pressures. Planning staff also considered whether area stakeholders, particularly neighborhood associations, were interested in participating in the neighborhood planning process. Stakeholders in this planning area were enthusiastic about a neighborhood plan. Finally, the University Hills and Windsor Park neighborhoods were the only remaining areas surrounding the 700 acre Robert Mueller Municipal Airport redevelopment site that did not have a completed neighborhood plan. In anticipation of this redevelopment project's impact on surrounding neighborhoods, both residents, City staff and City Council determined the University Hills and Windsor Park planning areas (UHWP) to be appropriate candidates for planning in 2005.

Priority goals and recommendations in this plan were developed through a public planning process consisting of meetings, workshops, field work, surveys, and public hearings before the Planning Commission and City Council. This process is described in more detail in the following chapter. People who participated in the plan are referred to in this document as 'stakeholders'. Stakeholders include community business owners, renters, residents, property owners, and various organizations and institutions.



PLAN SUMMARY

Many of the planning priorities recorded in this plan mirror goals and concerns of Austin citizens in other planning areas as well as priorities of the Citizens' Planning Committee. In addition, many goals in the ATP are shared by current UHWP stakeholders and are restated in the plan. UHWP plan goals are also in accordance with Austin's preferred growth scenario determined through the Envision Central Texas regional planning effort (www.envisioncentraltexas.org). For example, the Land Use & Development Chapter includes land use recommendations that encourage both commercial and higher-density residential growth along major corridors in the planning area.

Goals in the UHWP plan also reflect efforts to coordinate with strategic planning occurring in related City departments, other regional planning bodies and outside government agencies. UHWP planners and stakeholders have coordinated with the following City departments and programs:

- Austin Police Department
- Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office/ Small Business Development Program
- Health and Human Services Department
- Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department
- Parks and Recreation Department
- Public Works Department
- Solid Waste Service Code Enforcement program
- Watershed Protection and Development Review Department

When writing transportation recommendations, staff considered City of Austin and regional transportation plans, in addition to state transportation planning efforts. The UHWP plan also incorporates planning efforts of the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Austin Independent School District, and the University of Texas Medical Branch at Mueller.

CHAPTER STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

Each chapter in this plan addresses a major issue area: Land Use & Development, Housing, Parks, Open Space and the Environment, Transportation Networks and Infrastructure, Mueller Connectivity, and Community Life. Each chapter includes objectives and recommendations that support the goals in the UHWP Vision Statement (page 9). The objectives are labeled and written in italics. Recommendations, which offer specific means for how the objective can be achieved, are the bulleted points beneath each objective.

Implementation notes in each section offer suggestions for how the recommendations could be implemented. Additionally, the introduction section of each chapter de-



PLAN SUMMARY

scribes to whom the objectives and recommendations in the chapter are directed. Some recommendations, such as many of those in the Land Use and Development chapter, will be implemented upon adoption of the plan. Other recommendations, such as those in the Community Life chapter, will be implemented by community members. The University Hills & Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams will be the main organizations responsible for coordinating with applicable City of Austin agencies, neighborhood associations, etc. to prioritize and implement the recommendations included in this plan (see Conclusion chapter for more information). Finally, each chapter includes several shaded boxes. These boxes focus on a specific chapter topic, and often include background information and important contact information.



VISION STATEMENT / NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN GOALS

A neighborhood plan vision statement reflects the shared interests or wishes of neighborhood planning stakeholders. The following vision statement was developed from comments collected from stakeholders at initial community-wide outreach meetings, the initial workshop for the plan, and neighborhood survey results from Fall 2005. The vision statement has been reviewed and revised through feedback collected at subsequent public planning meetings. The goals described in this vision statement served as starting points for the development of more specific goals and recommendations in the University Hills/Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan.

The objectives and recommendations in the University Hills/Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan will contribute to improving the quality of life of area residents, creating a positive reputation for the UHWP neighborhood, and supporting area schools and youth by accomplishing the following goals:

- Promote and maintain the single-family residential character of the neighborhood.
- Attract needed vendors and service providers into the planning area through support for local businesses and revitalization/redevelopment of neighborhood shopping areas.
- Improve the aesthetic look of the planning area with the use of landscaping, reduction of billboards, and quality design of business structures and surroundings.
- Encourage a diversity of housing options at various levels of affordability dispersed throughout the neighborhood.
- Improve the existing transportation system and support expanded public transportation services.
- Protect and enhance all natural and environmentally-sensitive features of the area, especially Little Walnut Creek, Tannehill Creek, and Fort Branch Creek, and tributaries and springs of these three creeks.
- Increase opportunities for physical recreation through additional parkland, an improved pedestrian and bicycle environment, and built environment planning.
- Support the area's ethnic and language diversity and foster greater communication among area residents.



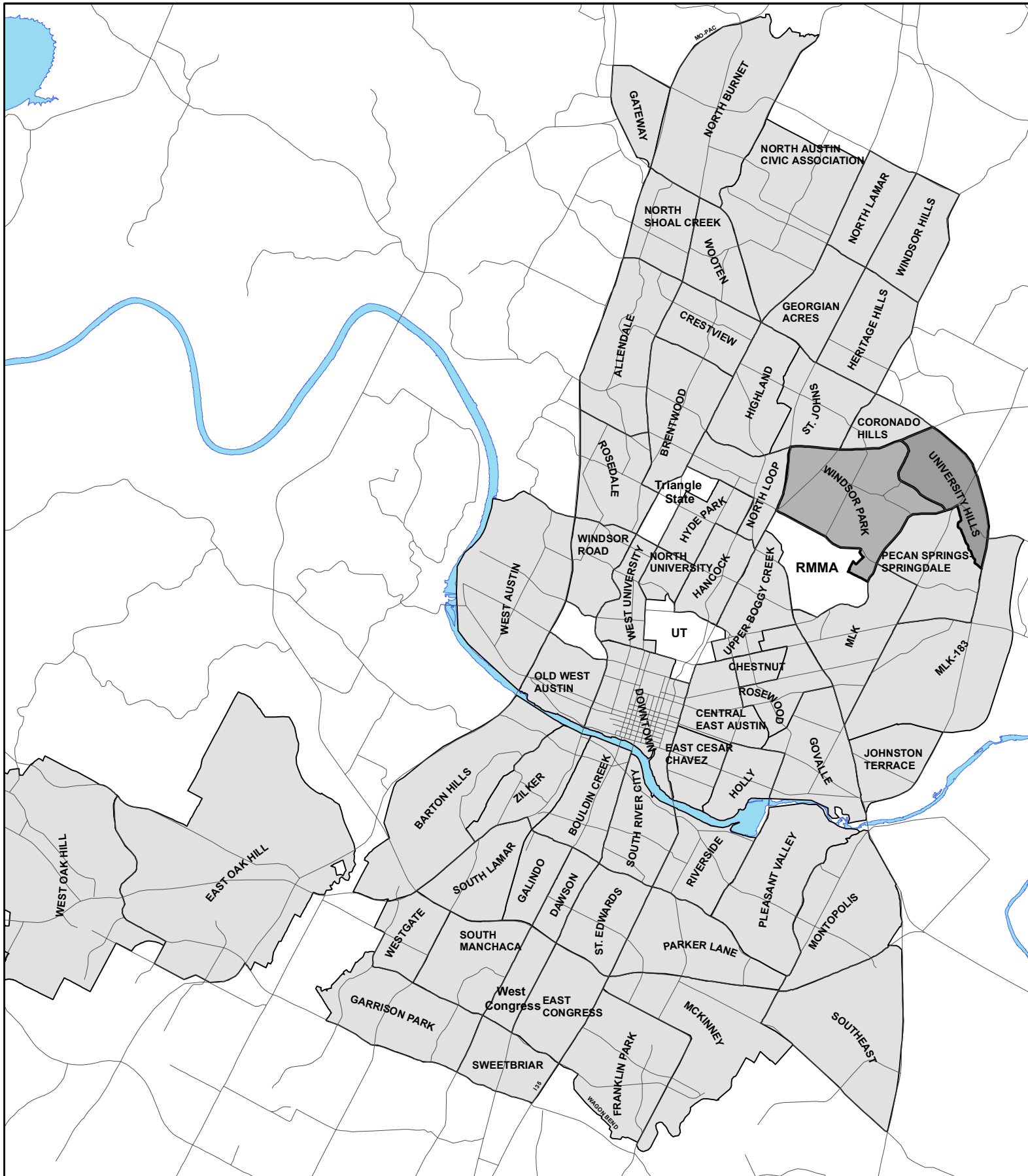
PRIORITY ACTION ITEMS

During the neighborhood planning process, City of Austin planners worked with stakeholders to identify those projects or initiatives most needed or desired in the neighborhood. Stakeholders anticipate that the completion of these projects would noticeably improve the quality of life of area residents and enhance the resources that exist within University Hills and Windsor Park. These priority items are listed because they were often stated as desired objectives during the planning process, and they will positively affect the most people in the planning area. They can serve as a starting point for the Contact Teams to determine the recommendations on which to focus their initial implementation efforts. The final survey UHWP plan survey asked stakeholders to rank these action items in order of their importance to the neighborhood. They are listed below in the order they were ranked from the survey results.

- Coordinate with APD to reduce crime in the planning area.
- Increase the accessibility of Bartholomew Park through sidewalk and trail construction and linkages to the Mueller hike & bike trail.
- Create a plan with the Austin Tenants Council to address property management problems within the planning area.
- Improve the planning area's business and retail environment by patronizing local businesses, and conducting research to identify challenges to existing businesses and impediments to new businesses locating in the planning area.
- To improve coordination between Mueller developers and UHWP stakeholders, ensure UHWP representation on the various coordination committees (e.g., Mueller Neighborhoods Coalition, the Plan Implementation Advisory Committee) at all times.
- Conduct a traffic calming study for Windsor Park as Mueller develops.
- When Berkman Drive is extended south into the Mueller redevelopment, construct crosswalks at the 51st Street, Berkman Drive intersection and a sidewalk on the west side of Berkman Drive north to Broadmoor.
- Permanently remove portable toilets from Dottie Jordan Park and screen the dumpster in the park's parking lot. Modify the pool restroom facility to allow park user access throughout the year and when the Recreation Center is closed.
- Extend public pool hours of operation and length of season at Dottie Jordan Park and Bartholomew Park.

- Collaborate with the DADS Regulatory Services Division and facility managers to enforce proper management of assisted living facilities in the planning area. *
- Establish and maintain working relationships with City of Austin Watershed Protection & Development Review staff to notify them of erosion problems along Little Walnut Creek and other area creeks and work with staff to develop solutions to address increased erosion resulting from impacts of greater impervious cover in the planning area and surrounding areas. *

*These action items were added after the survey in response to comments from the February 22 final workshop and survey comments.



Nighborhood Planning Areas



This map has been produced by the City of Austin for the sole purpose of aiding regional planning and is not warranted for any other use. No warranty is made regarding its accuracy or completeness.

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles



Neighborhood Planning Areas



Windsor Park



University Hills

N



PLANNING AREA CONTEXT

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes various aspects of the University Hills and Windsor Park planning areas, including a history of each area, a statistical profile of recent demographic and housing trends, and a narrative of the area's geography.



2003 aerial photo of Windsor Village and Gaston Place



HISTORY

The following paragraphs describe a brief history of the University Hills and Windsor Park planning areas. With assistance from longtime University Hills residents and after review of the University Hills Neighborhood Association archives, Ms. Mary Alice Brown, a University Hills resident, contributed much of the information in the University Hills history section. Mr. Lee Basore and Mr. Rick Krivoniak, Windsor Park residents, contributed much of the information in the Windsor Park history section. NPZD staff sincerely thank these community members for taking the time to contribute to the UHWP neighborhood plan.

UNIVERSITY HILLS

The University Hills neighborhood has a history that highlights neighborhood advocacy and community spirit in the midst of the natural beauty of the area, especially its hills, extensive tree cover, and Little Walnut Creek. University Hills was built primarily on farmland previously owned by Vernon and Betty Cook. In the 1960s, the Cooks began selling parts of their farm to homebuilders. Cook's Pond, a former farm stock pond, still remains within one of the area subdivisions. In 1997, the American Botanical Council purchased the historic Cook homestead, also known as the Case Mill Homestead, for its headquarters located at Manor Road & Walnut Hills Drive. (See Page 19 for more information.) University Hills is located on a portion of the acreage that surrounded this homestead.

In 1960, homebuilding in University Hills began under the joint venture of Carrington Built Homes and Lumbermen's Investment Corporation. As the subdivision name suggests, all streets are named for colleges or universities. Building continued into the late 1960s in the general area east of Northeast Drive, bordered by Hwy 183 and Little Walnut Creek (south of Manor Road). In the late 1960s and early 1970s, approximately 150 homes on the northeastern edge of University Hills (near Langston and Hwy 183) were built by Bill Milburn Homes as Vintage Hills. Later, five apartment complexes were built within the University Hills boundaries.

At the time of its initial development, University Hills was a suburban neighborhood whose location provided convenient access to downtown via IH-35, and to northeast Travis County via Hwy 290 or Manor Road. This location provided (and still provides) an easy commute to many major employment locations downtown and along the highways on the neighborhood's north and east boundaries. As the sections of neighborhood were built, developers promoted the area as a great place to live, especially for professionals, state employees, and those in the Air Force stationed at Bergstrom Air Force Base. Advertisements for new homes promoted the subdivisions' winding roads, rolling hills, trees, and that University Hills had "Austin's only private community recreational center complete with swimming pool, club, and playground."



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In 1972, University Hills homeowners successfully challenged a developer's plan for a Planned Unit Development (PUD) at the above-mentioned clubhouse site, which was located on nine acres of land along Little Walnut Creek. This land had been dedicated as permanent open space for University Hills residents, and it contained a clubhouse, swimming pool, tennis courts, and picnic area. As a result of the residents' success in court, the developer sold the property to the City of Austin for use as a city park. The name selected for the park, "Dottie Jordan Park" was in memory of a young music teacher who lived across the street from the park. She was one of many University Hills residents who dedicated time and energy to preserving this greenspace as a community park. This community spirit was the catalyst for the formal organization in March 1974 of the University Hills Homeowners Association (UHHA), later renamed the University Hills Neighborhood Association (UHNA).

Through the years, UHNA members and other neighbors have devoted countless hours to many causes that would maintain and improve the neighborhood's quality of life. Some highlights are described below:

- Residents of University Hills and surrounding communities have coordinated with the City of Austin on numerous occasions to preserve Little Walnut Creek. (See page 90 for more information on Little Walnut Creek.)
- University Hills Branch Library opened on August 1, 1986. Neighbors conducted a petition drive for a new library on property donated by builder Walter Carrington. Neighbors did not support Library Commission-suggested names for the new facility, so a UHNA ad-hoc committee suggested to City Council another name, University Hills Branch Library, which City Council approved.
- Residents coordinated with the Austin Police Department (APD) to include University Hills in APD's "Weed & Seed" program, a public safety program for northeast Austin (<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/weedseed/weeding.htm>).
- Residents have participated in numerous neighborhood beautification efforts since first participating in Austin Clean Sweep in 1984.
- Many residents are active participants in civic activities, including participating in Northeast Community Council of Austin, co-sponsoring candidate forums, and volunteering for churches and other nonprofits such as Northeast Caregivers.



University Hills Branch Library



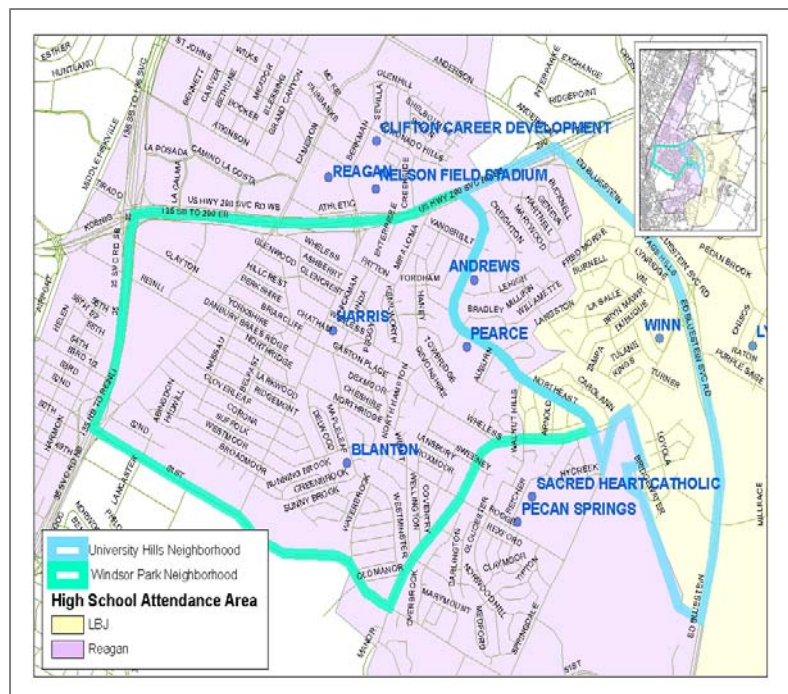
PLANNING AREA CONTEXT

- Residents also actively participate in public comment periods for major environmental changes in the surrounding area. For example, residents opposed the stationing of 66 RF-4C and F-4D jets at Bergstrom Air Force Base, citing the increased noise levels as detrimental to residents' health and to property values (expansion was eventually approved). They also collaborated to oppose expansion of landfills east of University Hills on Hwy 290.
- Residents have also actively participated in public comment periods for major roadway expansions near University Hills. For example, they supported the following projects: expediting the Manor Road/Springdale Road expansion project and the overpass at its intersection with Hwy 183 (July 1981), upgrades to Hwy 290 East from Berkman Dr to Hwy 183, expansion of Hwy 183 from IH-35 to Springdale Road, and construction of the eastern route for the SH130 toll road. Residents opposed the change of existing highways in the area to toll roads, and they also have collaborated with Capital Metro staff to better monitor bus stops for loitering and littering.

WINDSOR PARK

The development of Windsor Park neighborhood began in the 1950s. Previously, the land was primarily used for farmland; crops grown in the area included maize, corn, and sorghum. Many streets in the neighborhood were former farm roads, including Wheless. Wheless is a major street in the neighborhood that "jogs" at various angles throughout Windsor Park, because it formerly bordered the perimeter of area farms. In 1960, construction of the Capital Plaza shopping center (located between IH-35 and Cameron Road) was completed. It was the first major shopping center in the area, predating the Hancock shopping center on the west side of IH-35 (built in 1964).

As Windsor Park developed in the 1950s, it was considered a growing and active middle-class neighborhood. Reagan High School, located just north of Windsor Park, was Austin's newest high school at the time, opening in Fall 1964. In just three years, Reagan's football team won the state championship in 1967, and repeated in





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1968 and 1970. In the 1970s, the federal government targeted the Austin Independent School District for racial segregation. In response, the school board began to bus students between the predominantly African-American Anderson High School in east Austin and Reagan High School. However, prior to this, Reagan High School was already one of the more integrated schools in Austin; its attendance boundary included the predominantly African-American neighborhood of St. John's (north of Hwy 183). Some residents believe that these school desegregation efforts were one of the major causes of the "white flight" from the area, which had a profound effect on both the University Hills and Windsor Park neighborhoods that continues today. Schools in the area are still perceived to be the main reason young, middle-class families have moved from or do not move into the area. The Community Life chapter includes recommendations for improving area schools.

Like its neighbor to the east, University Hills, the Windsor Park neighborhood has a history of community activism. The Windsor Park Neighborhood Association formed in 1983 when neighbors organized to protest the proposed closing of the Windsor Park Branch Library. The Association managed to keep the rented library space open and convinced the Austin City Council to build a permanent branch library, which opened in July 2000 on Westminster Drive.

One of the most memorable events to affect Windsor Park was the closing of the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport, located directly south of the neighborhood. History of interaction between Windsor Park and the airport dates back to 1983, when the City of Austin proposed an airport expansion that would include the construction of runways within Windsor Park neighborhood boundaries. Public concerns about this proposal began the movement to close down the Mueller airport and relocate Austin's airport away from residential neighborhoods. A 1985 voter referendum to move the airport failed by less than 1% because it did not name a proposed cost or location for the new airport. In 1991, the Air Force announced that it would be closing Bergstrom Air Force Base, and in 1993 voters approved moving the Austin airport to the Bergstrom site. Robert Mueller Municipal Airport closed in 1999.



Windsor Park Branch Library



Public Art in front of Windsor Branch Library



PLANNING AREA CONTEXT

Meanwhile, beginning in 1984, residents from Mueller-area neighborhoods anticipated the airport's eventual closure and proposed an idea for reuse of the site. They hoped that redevelopment would avoid the typical "strip" shopping centers that were common in the area. Various City of Austin task forces, committees and commissions have carried forward the original neighborhood concept of dense development. The Mueller Connectivity chapter of this plan includes information about the Mueller redevelopment and various oversight committees.

HISTORIC SITES

Potentially historic structures are located in both University Hills and Windsor Park.

- The Case Mill Homestead, a Colonial Revival house built in 1853, is located just south of Little Walnut Creek at 6200 Manor Road. A flour mill was operated on site until at least 1905. The University Hills and Windsor Park subdivisions are now located on the 231 acres of land surrounding the homestead.
- The lotus shaped restaurant building at the current Econo-Lodge Motel at 6201 Hwy 290 East, although recently modified out of character, is a credible example of 1960s "futuristic" architecture.
- The Berkman house located at 1701 Rogge Lane was the residence of Lambert and Mae Berkman, who owned portions of the land that is now Windsor Park. The Berkmans lived in the house until the early 1990s.
- The Dairy Queen on Manor Road was the first Dairy Queen in Austin and was featured in an episode of NBC's "Friday Night Lights" television show in 2007.



The American Botanical Council located at the former Case Mill Homestead on Manor Road.



Restaurant at 6201 Hwy 290 East



UHWP STATISTICAL PROFILE

The University Hills/Windsor Park Combined Neighborhood Planning Area (NPA) consists of two individual neighborhood planning areas: Windsor Park and University Hills. The following statistical profile includes population and development-related data for each neighborhood. This data demonstrates trends among the individual neighborhoods and illustrates comparisons between the combined Neighborhood Planning Area and the greater City of Austin. As the following figures show, the University Hills/Windsor Park neighborhood planning area is an ethnically diverse part of the City that has recently experienced significant growth and diversification.

POPULATION AND ETHNICITY

As can be seen in Figure 1, population growth is significant in Windsor Park, University Hills, the City of Austin, and in the Austin/Round Rock five-county region known as the Metropolitan Statistical Area or MSA.

Figure 1: Population Change 1990- 2000

	1990	2000	1990-2000 percent change	
University Hills	4,560	5,292	16.1	
Windsor Park	12,294	16,572	34.8	
Combined Neighborhood Planning Area	16,854	21,864	29.7	
Austin	465,622	656,562	41.0	
Austin/ Round Rock MSA*	846,227	1,249,763	47.7	
*MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) includes Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties.				

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census



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Figure 2: Ethnicity Shares of Total Population, 1990– 2000

	White (%)		Black (%)		Hispanic (%)		Asian (%)		Other (%)	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
University Hills	38.2	23.6	47.4	43.4	13.3	31.0	.5	.8	.5	1.2
Windsor Park	53.3	31.0	24.2	18.2	20.8	47.2	1.2	1.8	.5	1.8
Combined NPA	49.2	29.2	30.5	24.3	18.8	43.2	1.1	1.5	.5	1.7
Urban Core	53.8	42.4	15.1	12.4	27.7	39.3	2.9	4.0	0.5	2.0

Source: 1990 and 2000 Census

The ethnicities of residents in the planning area have shifted significantly over time as well. The History chapter describes the original residents of University Hills and Windsor Park. Many of these residents have since moved out of the area and a more diverse group of people and families have replaced them.

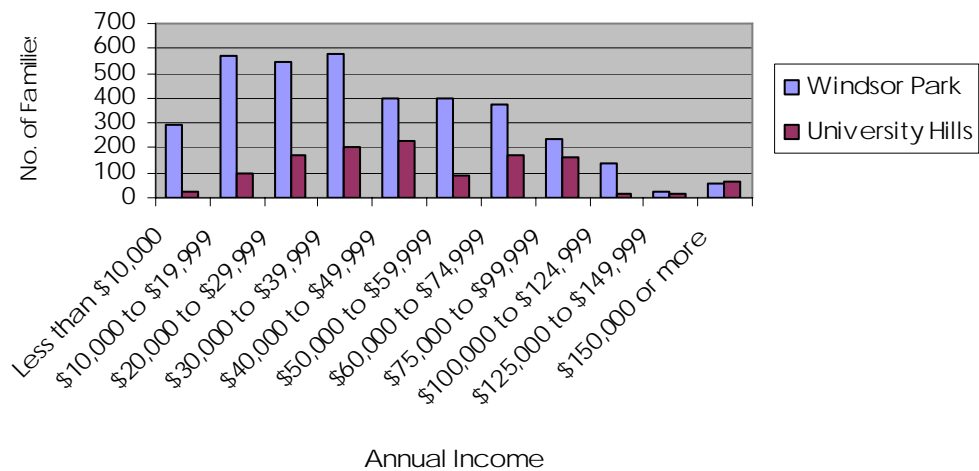
In this chapter, diversity refers to levels of educational attainment, ethnicity, country of origin, language, and income levels. Figure 2 above demonstrates the changing ethnicity of UHWP residents. Most significantly, the Latino population became the largest share of the population, increasing from 18.8% to 43.2% in 10 years. While the African American population increased slightly in numbers, their percentage share within the combined planning area decreased over six percentage points. The percentage of the African American population within the combined planning area, however, is still nearly double that of the Urban Core average (which includes most neighborhood planning areas in Austin). Planning objectives and recommendations relating to the social implications of increased ethnic diversity are discussed in the Community Life chapter.

Figures 3 and 4 give data on income levels and educational attainment for University Hills and Windsor Park residents. The presence of a large lower income population in the planning area may be due to the large stock of older housing, which is affordable to these residents. As property values and real estate sales prices have begun to increase in Windsor Park and University Hills in the last few years, the 2010 U.S. Census may show a decline in the number of low-income residents moving into the planning area.



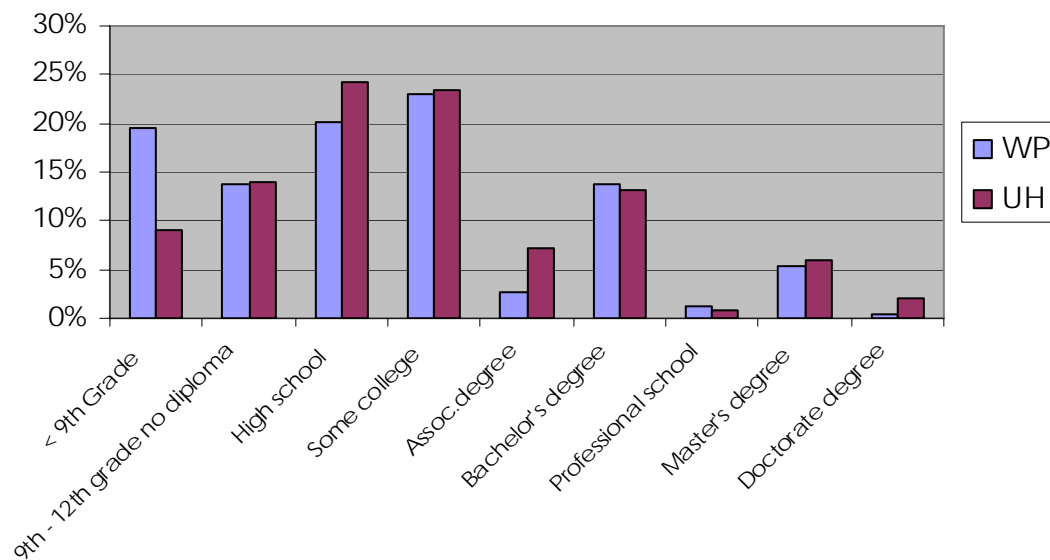
PLANNING AREA CONTEXT

Figure 3: Income Levels in the UHWP Planning Area



Source: 2000 Census

Figure 4: Highest Educational Attainment

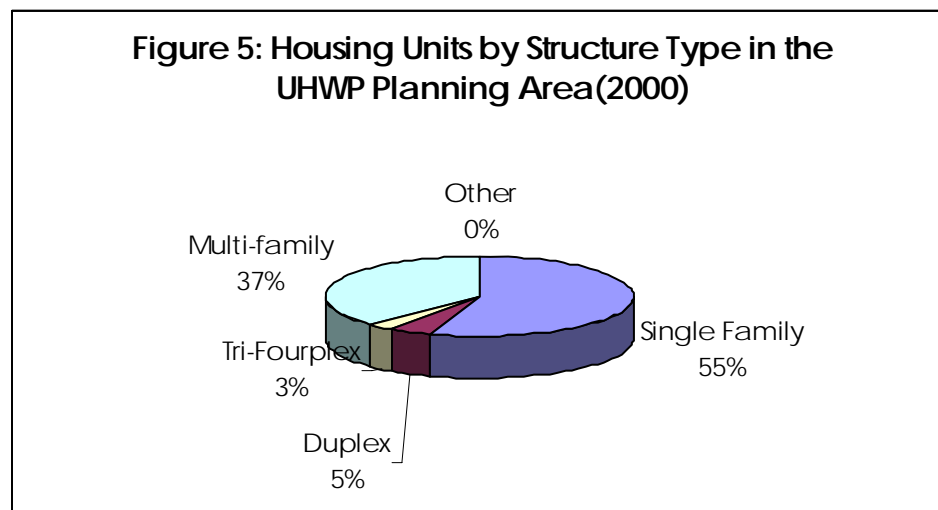


Source: 2000 Census



HOUSING STOCK AND REDEVELOPMENT

The data in this section is relevant to the content of the Land Use and Development Chapter and also the Housing Chapter. Housing data can also be used to better understand the demographic data above. For example, Figure 5 below demonstrates that a significant portion of housing in the planning area is multi-family. Multi-family structures include apartment complexes, duplexes, and structures that house three and four families. Most multi-family structures in the planning area are rented; and much of the lower-income population in the planning area lives in these structures. The potential loss of affordable housing due to redevelopment and property value increases is discussed in the Housing Chapter.

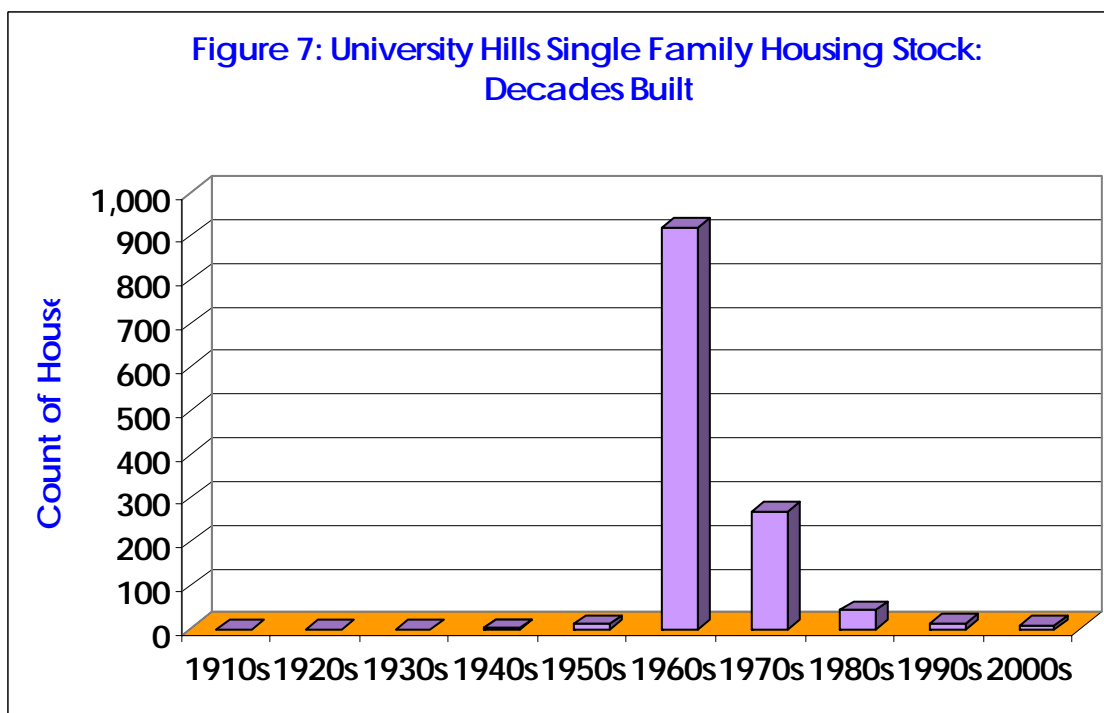
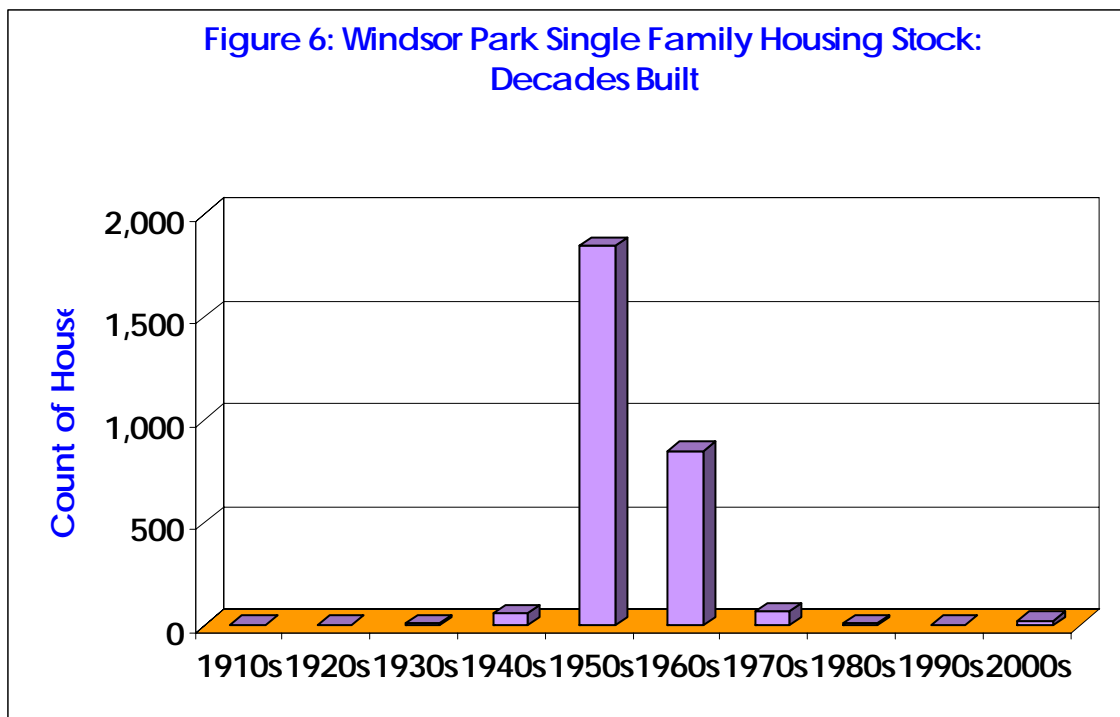


Source: 2000 Census



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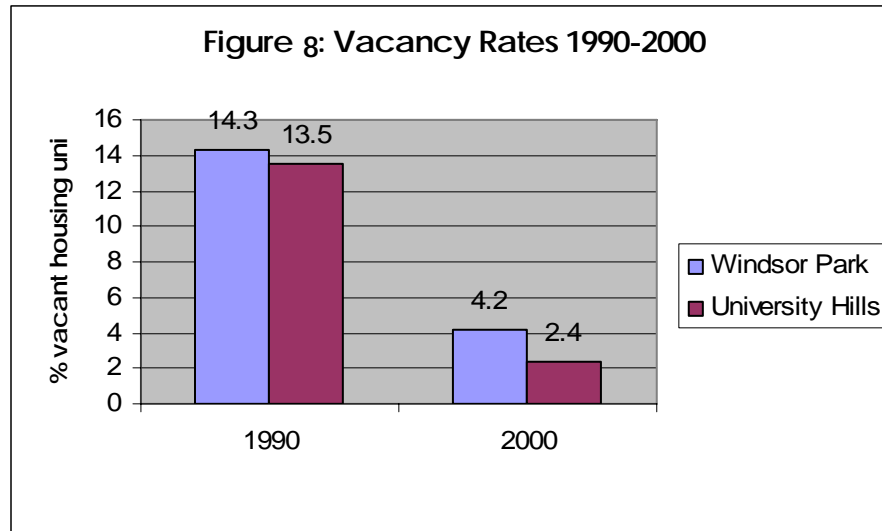
Figures 6 & 7 reflect information in the History section of this document, which describes when the major residential subdivisions were developed. A majority of the





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structures in Windsor Park were built in the 1950s and 1960s, and a majority of the structures in University Hills were built in the 1960s and 1970s.



Source: 1990 and 2000 Census

Data from Figures 8 and 9 show reinvestment in the planning area. The chart above shows a decrease of 73% in the vacancy rate between 1990 and 2000. Building permit activity, which is depicted by Figure 9 on the following page, shows a significant increase since 2003. Permit types range from minor electric and plumbing repairs for single family residences to large scale renovations of commercial structures. Permits sometimes indicate additional living units have been added to original structures.

The population and development trends in the UHWP planning area are likely to continue as construction at the former Robert Mueller Municipal Airport progresses. Additional residential and commercial redevelopment is anticipated in the planning area, especially along major corridors such as 51st Street and Cameron Road. Read more about how Mueller redevelopment affects the planning area in the Mueller Connections chapter.



Figure 9: Building Permit Activity, 1996– 2006	
Year	Total Building Permits in University Hills & Windsor Park
1996	145
1997	176
1998	161
1999	140
2000	172
2001	185
2002	110
2003	113
2004	267
2005	336
2006	354

Source: City of Austin, NPZD and WPDR departments.



GEOGRAPHY

AREA DESCRIPTION

The University Hills / Windsor Park planning area is located in central northeast Austin. Its boundaries are Interstate Highway 35 (IH-35) on the west, Highway 290 (Hwy 290) on the north, Highway 183 (Hwy 183), Little Walnut Creek, and Manor Road on the east, and 51st Street on the south (see map on Page 30). The planning area consists primarily of single family neighborhoods with commercial areas located along the major roadways. Much of the Windsor Park subdivision, built in the late 1950s, was designed in a grid street pattern with one-story ranch-style homes. Small groups of earlier-period bungalows are scattered within the planning area (e.g., between Wheless and Patton Lane and north of Clayton Lane). The University Hills neighborhood is located primarily east of Northeast Drive. As described in the subdivision name, the University Hills area has a rolling topography. The streets, platted in a more suburban curvilinear design, are named after United States colleges and universities. Lots in Windsor Park are between 7,000 and 10,000 feet, while most lots in University Hills are slightly larger than 10,000 feet (see the Lot Size Map in the Appendix).

SURROUNDINGS

The former Robert Mueller Municipal Airport is located directly south of the Windsor Park planning area, across 51st Street. The airport is currently being redeveloped as a “mixed-use urban village” that will contain large retail stores, employment centers such as the Dell Children’s Center and University of Texas research facilities, smaller retail, and a variety of housing types. The UHWP planning process consistently considered how this redevelopment would affect the planning area, for example, through increased services a short proximity from area residents, additional traffic generated along surrounding streets, etc.

The south and east side of Manor Road is part of the Pecan Springs/Springdale planning area. UHWP stakeholders considered the land use and zoning decisions made for portions of Manor Road within Pecan Springs/Springdale to promote consistent land use along this corridor. The Lyndon B.

Johnson High School and surrounding neighborhood east of Hwy 183 are accessed by



Typical Windsor Park home



Typical University Hills home



PLANNING AREA CONTEXT

Manor Road or the pedestrian bridge connecting to the Springdale Shopping Center. The St. Johns and Coronado Hills neighborhoods are north of the UHWP planning area. Initiation of the neighborhood planning process for each of these neighborhoods is anticipated in 2007. Highway 290 is the major boundary between the UHWP planning area and these areas, as IH-35 is between Windsor Park and the North Loop planning area to the west. Stakeholders have expressed that efforts should be made to ensure that these boundaries do not serve as a barrier between neighborhoods. To the extent feasible, efforts should be made to connect neighborhoods through transit, bike lanes, greenbelts, etc. in spite of major physical barriers. Recommendations in the Parks, Open Space, and Environment chapter and the Transportation chapter address this issue.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The University Hills/Windsor Park planning area is an established urban area; there is very little vacant land available for additional development or preservation as open space. However, extensive changes to impervious cover amounts in the planning area could affect infrastructure needs and may affect drainage and water quality of area creeks.

During the UHWP planning process, stakeholders and planners considered how the planning area's creeks affect and are affected by development. Recommendations in the Parks, Open Space, and Environment chapter address these considerations. Multi-family and commercial redevelopment projects require property owners to build water quality and storm water detention facilities to help address some of the negative environmental consequences of dense development. Residents and city staff have confronted erosion problems in the planning area for many years. Information requested by UHWP stakeholders and collected by the City of Austin's Watershed Protection and Development Review Department on the above topics can be found in the Appendix.

There are three major creeks and a small pond in the UHWP planning area. Tannehill Creek runs parallel to 51st Street and through Bartholomew Park. Erosion mitigation projects including landscaping have recently been completed along the banks of



Backyard view along Little Walnut Creek.
Photo courtesy of Lou O'Hanlon.



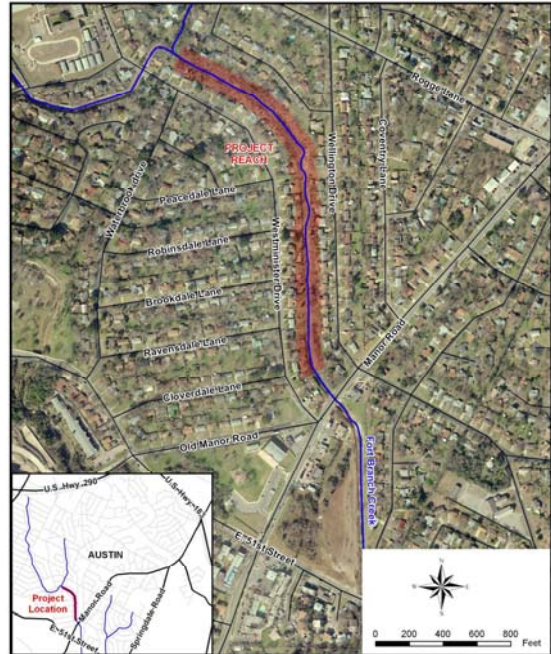
Tannehill Creek north of 52nd Street



PLANNING AREA CONTEXT

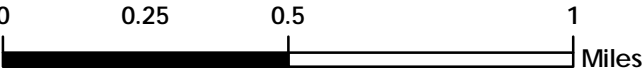
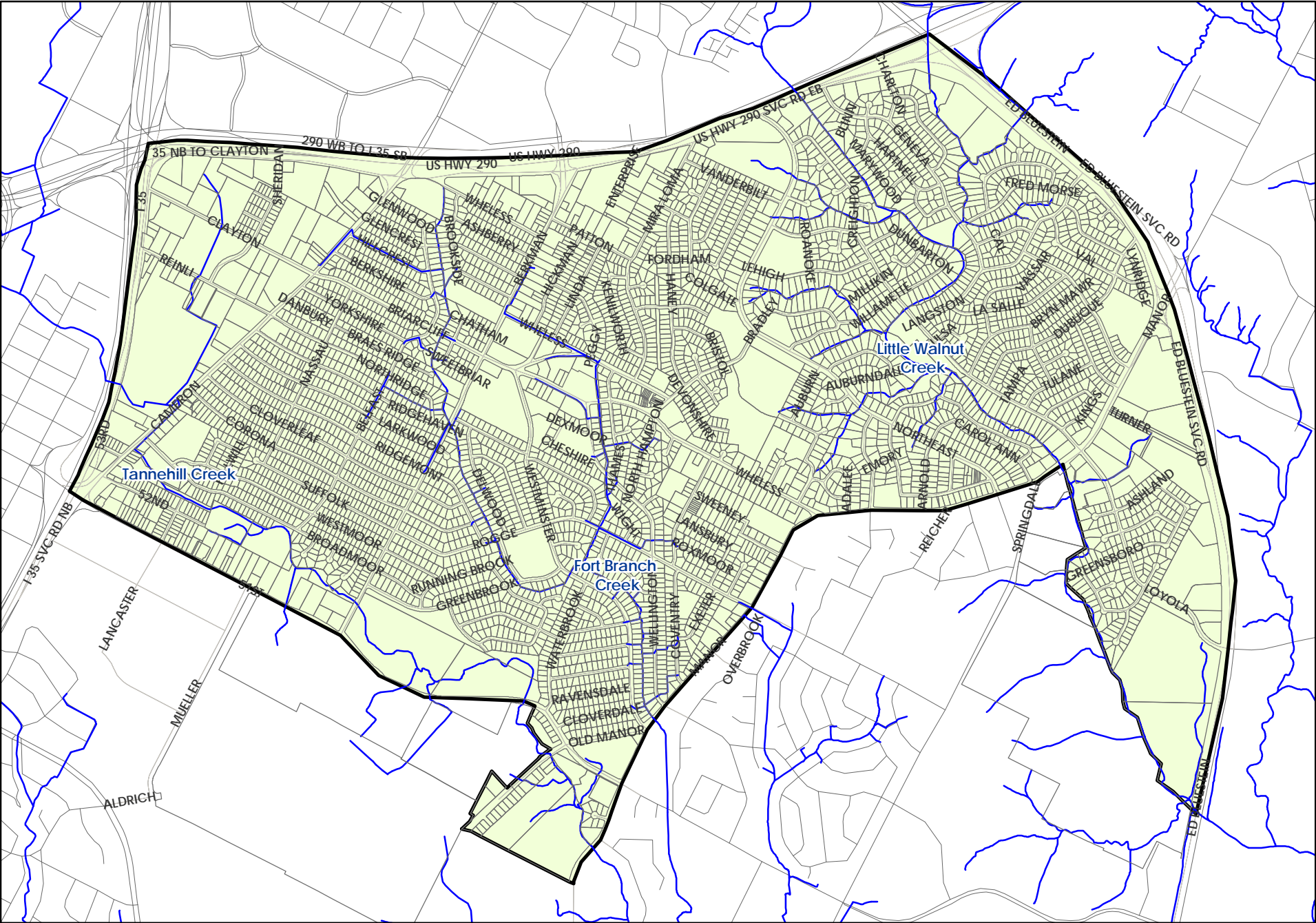
Tannehill Creek. Little Walnut Creek runs behind many homes in University Hills and has posed an erosion hazard for years. For example, flood waters and debris caused a 30-inch sewer line to overflow in 2003, resulting in a major sewage spill in Little Walnut Creek. Additionally, several homes have been purchased by the City and their owners have had to relocate due to significant bank erosion.

Fort Branch Creek is also a major creek within the UHWP planning area. Tributaries join the main body of Fort Branch Creek near Blanton Elementary. From there the creek flows southeast and crosses Manor Road. In 2000, the City's Watershed Protection and Development Review Department completed a watershed master plan. The plan indicated that Fort Branch Creek was a priority area for addressing flooding and erosion problems. In 2003, the City replaced bridges over the creek at Manor Road and Westminster Drive to reduce roadway flooding. In 2007, the City will plant vegetation and begin structural improvements to stabilize the creek banks; limestone boulders and a wider creek bed will also help mitigate erosion. Appendix I describes existing and future erosion control projects on creeks within the UHWP planning area.



Fort Branch Creek
Map courtesy of Morgan Byers, City of Austin WPDR

University Hills / Windsor Park Neighborhood Planning Area



PLANNING PROCESS

INTRODUCTION

Background research and field work began in preparation of the University Hills / Windsor Park planning process during the summer of 2005 and concluded with two general community meetings held on September 20 and October 1, 2005. The public planning process for the University Hills/ Windsor Park neighborhood plan officially began with a first workshop held at Andrews Elementary School on November 5, 2005. A detailed meeting summary for the entire planning process can be found in the Appendix.

Neighborhood planning staff and community stakeholders made a concerted effort during the planning process to encourage the participation of a diverse group of stakeholders, including homeowners, renters, and business and property owners. Additionally, stakeholders and neighborhood planning staff worked together to create a series of objectives for the process of creating this neighborhood plan (see next page). These objectives served as a guide for maintaining contact among stakeholders, conducting meetings, and drafting plan recommendations. Neighborhood planning staff worked with stakeholders to craft goals for the planning process and a vision statement for the UHWP plan (see Plan Summary chapter), and then held a series of meetings during the following year on topics relating to land use, community life, recreation, and other planning issues.

WHO DECIDES?

- Public parks and amenities
- Adequate bus systems
- New sidewalks
- Strong neighborhood schools
- Bike lanes
- Housing affordability
- Urban design
- Safe street corners

YOU? OR SOMEONE ELSE?

- Good access to the Mueller Airport project
- Quality shopping and services
- Traffic increases
- Future zoning changes
- Future land use
- Creek erosion
- Street flooding

Meet with City of Austin planners and your neighbors to ensure that the goals of your neighborhood plan take you and your life account.

NOVEMBER 29 or **DECEMBER 8**

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 1000 South Congress, A-100, 5th floor

For more info or to R.S.V.P., contact Lee Heckman, lee.heckman@ci.austin.tx.us, 512-974-3564

Planning staff mailed notices for important meetings to all property owners and renters to increase participation



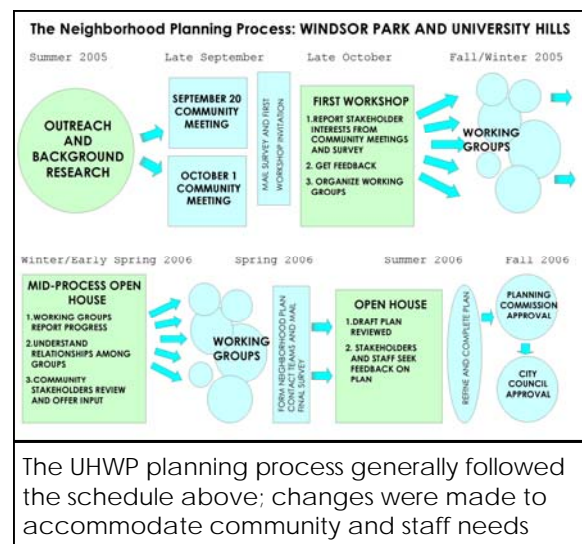
PLANNING PROCESS OBJECTIVES

- Involve as many stakeholders, and as diverse a group of stakeholders (e.g., homeowners, renters, property owners, business people etc.) as possible in the planning process.
- Encourage equal participation by stakeholders from all parts of the planning area at neighborhood meetings, zoning committee meetings, and other working groups.
- Incorporate the impacts and implications of the redevelopment of the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport into the planning process and neighborhood plan.
- Establish and maintain communication with City departments and other agencies when planning stakeholder meetings, drafting recommendations, and designing implementation strategies.
- Establish consensus among neighborhood plan stakeholders on plan objectives and recommendations.

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW

After initial community meetings, neighborhood planning staff announced the beginning of the planning process by mailing an invitation to all property owners and residents within the planning area. They were invited to take an initial survey, attend the first workshop (November 5, 2005), and forward contact information to planning staff. An email list was created, and contact information was collected throughout the planning process. The email list was used extensively to communicate and share meeting schedule information with stakeholders.

On November 29 and December 8, 2005, planning staff presented preliminary goals and recommendations. This information was organized by issue area and included parks and creeks, transportation, schools, crime, and other neighborhood concerns. Once community members' major concerns were identified, planning staff organized working groups to address each major planning issue through regular, focused meetings. Community meetings on various





PLANNING PROCESS

topics (open space, group homes, transportation, etc.) were held during the planning year (2006). Minutes from these meetings were posted on the UHWP website.

In Summer 2006, after most public meetings were complete, staff organized notes from the meetings and drafted recommendations for the plan document. Neighborhood planning staff presented these recommendations for public comment at an open house and process update meeting held on October 14, 2006. Notices for this meeting were mailed to residents and property owners throughout the planning area. Public comments on the plan expressed at this meeting were incorporated into the text and recommendations in the plan.

Planning staff completed writing and editing the draft UHWP plan in January 2007. Input from several City of Austin departments and outside agencies was incorporated into the plan. Stakeholders helped refine and prioritize recommendations in several chapters, and several residents contributed to the history section of this document.

The final draft of the UHWP Neighborhood Plan was presented for public comment on February 22, 2007 at a final open house. Input from a final survey and the open house was also reviewed and incorporated into the plan. In response to public requests for additional time to review the plan and associated zoning recommendations, staff conducted three additional community meetings (April 28, May 30, and June 6, 2007). Planning Commission and City Council hearings were conducted during Summer 2007 and the plan was approved on August 9, 2007.

LAND USE WORKSHOPS

Future land use planning is a central component of the City of Austin's Neighborhood Planning process. To initiate discussions on future land use and potential zoning changes that could be adopted with the plan, staff identified four corridor areas around which to focus land use workshops. It was anticipated that a majority of the

UNIVERSITY HILLS AND WINDSOR PARK
CITY OF AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING

University Hills and Windsor Park Neighborhood Planning Area

Do you like your neighborhood?
Do you have ideas to make it better?
Come and work with others who like you,
want to make sure they live and work in a great
neighborhood.

**COME TO THE
NOVEMBER 5th
WORKSHOP**

Andrews Elementary School
6801 Northeast Dr. from 9:00AM to 12:00
Refreshments Provided!
Call for more info: 974-3564

Posters were hung in public places to invite residents to attend planning meetings



Community member talking with planners at Manor Road Land Use Workshop



PLANNING PROCESS

land use and zoning changes resulting from the neighborhood plan would occur around these corridors: Cameron Road, 51st Street, Berkman Drive, and Manor Road.

Neighborhood planning staff organized community land use workshops for each of these corridors. Staff sent special notices to property owners and renters in each corridor area prior to workshops. During these workshops, stakeholders described desired land use changes, urban design elements, and other planning ideas for each corridor. Minutes from these meetings were posted on the UHWP website. Recommendations reflecting their ideas are included in the Land Use & Development chapter.

After all land use workshops were held, a group of neighborhood stakeholders from Windsor Park and University Hills volunteered to form the UHWP Zoning Committee. Committee members met with neighborhood planning staff approximately every other week for several months. Zoning committee meetings were held during the work day at the NPZD office. Staff presented zoning change recommendation to the Zoning Committee based on land use workshop notes. Some Zoning Committee members also coordinated with individual property owners to make zoning recommendations. Prior to the October 14, 2006 workshop, staff sent targeted mailings to the owners of properties proposed for rezoning.



October 14 Process Update Meeting



Final Plan Open House on February 22, 2007

PARTICIPATION

NPZD staff continues to develop strategies to increase participation in the neighborhood planning process. For the UHWP plan, meeting notices were posted in public places such as restaurants, parks, apartment complexes, and libraries. Plan updates and meeting notices were sent regularly through the email list mentioned above, and neighborhood association newsletters also announced planning meetings. Meeting notices were translated into Spanish and meetings were held in Spanish at several schools in the planning area. Generally, meeting days, times, and locations were cho-



PLANNING PROCESS

sen in an effort to accommodate stakeholders' schedules, and they were usually held in public libraries, schools, and area churches.

Despite these efforts, participation in the neighborhood planning process is limited. It is the desire of both planning staff and UHWP stakeholders that over time, more renters, low income residents, Spanish speakers, developers and business people will become engaged in community affairs.

COORDINATION WITH CITY OF AUSTIN DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Implementation of many of the plan recommendations fall under the purview of other City of Austin departments (such as Parks & Recreation, Public Works, etc.) and outside agencies such as Capital Metro. On multiple occasions, NPZD staff invited these representatives to attend UHWP planning meetings to speak directly with stakeholders. Outside representatives and city staff also met individually with NPZD staff to review initial draft plan recommendations. They offered comments and ideas for the content and wording of the recommendations so that UHWP plan recommendations would clearly describe stakeholders' desired projects and improvements. Their comments also helped frame UHWP plan recommendations so that they could be feasibly included in the departments' work programs. The recommendations included in this plan reflect their comments. Upon completion of a draft plan, staff presented to the City's "Special Point of Contact" (SPOC) committee, whose members consist of a representative from various city departments. The committee members also offered valuable insight on the general content and recommendations in the plan.

It is the goal of NPZD staff that this substantial preliminary review will facilitate the successful implementation of plan recommendations, given adequate funding and continued community support.

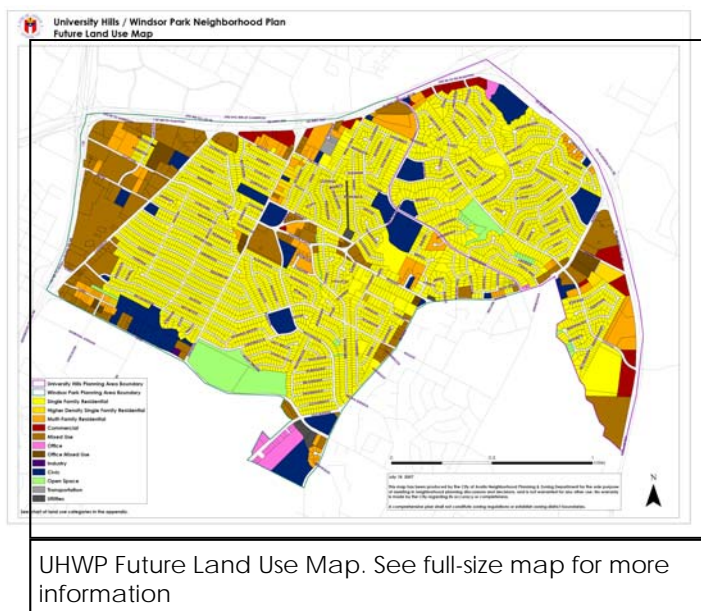
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION

A major component of the neighborhood planning process is the analysis of existing land use patterns. Neighborhood stakeholders work with planners to determine how, if at all, existing land uses in the planning area should change to accommodate development pressures, increasing (or decreasing) population growth, and needs for additional commercial services and housing.

THEMES

The land use recommendations in this plan correspond to several “themes” that stakeholders expressed and staff planners concurred with during the planning process. To accommodate some redevelopment in the planning area, provide additional commercial services, and preserve existing residential neighborhoods in the interior of the planning area, most land use changes and rezoning recommendations correspond to properties located along and nearby the major corridors (Cameron Road, 51st Street, Berkman Drive, and Manor Road). In general, stakeholders were supportive of mixed use development along these corridors and also at the location of shopping centers in the neighborhood. Allowing for residential uses on the sites of the major shopping centers was a means to demonstrate support for improving and revitalizing these



LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

centers, which was also a major theme in land use planning discussions. Stakeholders also supported maintaining multi-family zoning of sites in multi-family use (i.e., sites with existing apartment buildings) as a means to preserve affordable housing in the neighborhood. Finally, stakeholders supported allowing for additional higher-density residential housing on the few vacant lots in the planning area that were larger than the planning area's standard lot size (between approximately 7,000 and 10,000 square feet).

CHAPTER CONTENT

This chapter begins with recommendations regarding land use and zoning; these are organized according to the major corridors within the planning area. Sections begin with a short description of the land use planning issues in each area, and include a series of objectives and recommendations (bulleted statements) to address these issues. Next, this chapter includes recommendations regarding economic development. As stated earlier, revitalizing existing shopping centers and attracting additional neighborhood-oriented commercial services to the planning area was a major theme in the planning process. Finally, this chapter includes a design section. Design-related themes such as encouraging pedestrian-oriented development and preserving the neighborhood character were consistently mentioned by stakeholders during the planning process.

In each of these sections, a short paragraph describes the appropriate organization that would implement the recommendations. The Future Land Use Map on Page 53 is a visual representation of the land use changes proposed with this neighborhood plan. Additionally, the Infill Options map on Page 54 displays the locations where the neighborhoods have adopted special infill options.

PROCESS

Neighborhood planning staff held planning workshops for each corridor area to identify stakeholders' vision and goals. After these land use work-

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

shops were completed, interested members of the community formed the UHWP Zoning Committee. Members of this committee worked together with NPZD staff to develop the zoning recommendations proposed with the neighborhood plan. See the Process chapter for more information.

SPECIAL NOTE ON VERTICAL MIXED USE

On August 31, 2006, the City Council adopted the Design Standards and Mixed Use subchapter of the City's Land Development Code. The provisions in this subchapter created a Vertical Mixed Use (VMU) Overlay along certain streets (referred to as Core Transit Corridors and Future Core Transit Corridors) in Austin. Properties within the overlay are offered incentives (such as parking reductions) to build VMU buildings that meet certain design standards and include an affordable housing component. Neighborhoods also have the opportunity to select other properties not located on the designated streets for the VMU Overlay, and to "opt-out" of the overlay on sites that they deem inappropriate for VMU development. The opt-in/opt-out process is conducted by neighborhood associations or plan contact teams separately from the neighborhood planning process.

The adoption of the Design Standards and Mixed Use subchapter and the formulation of the opt-in/opt-out process was occurring at the same time as the UHWP planning process. As such, NPZD staff discussed the VMU overlay with stakeholders and the zoning committee considered VMU when making zoning recommendations. Therefore, although the opt-in/opt-out process was to be conducted separately from the process to approve the neighborhood plan, the plan includes recommendations where appropriate that reflect the neighborhood's interest in maintaining the VMU overlay along these corridors, and to "opt-in" to the overlay on other locations (e.g., Capital Plaza shopping center, Windsor Village shopping center, etc.). This is most applicable to the recommendations in the Windsor Park planning area. Minutes from a public meeting about VMU are included in the Appendix.



LAND USE RECOMMENDATIONS

The information in this section describes objectives and recommendations related to land use and zoning that support the following plan goals:

- Promote and maintain the single-family residential character of the neighborhood.
- Attract needed vendors and service providers into the planning area through support for local businesses and revitalization/redevelopment of neighborhood shopping areas.
- Encourage a diversity of housing options at various levels of affordability dispersed throughout the neighborhood.

Implementation Note

The recommendations in this section will be implemented upon City Council approval of the UHWP Neighborhood Plan, through zoning changes and adoption of the UHWP Future Land Use Map (FLUM). Recommendations relating to Vertical Mixed Use will be implemented upon City Council's approval of University Hills & Windsor Park's "opt-in/opt-out" application (see VMU note in the introduction).

CAMERON ROAD & VICINITY

Land Use Workshop held on March 25, 2006

The portion of Cameron Road within the UHWP planning area extends from its intersection with IH-35 to its intersection with Hwy 290. It therefore serves as a major connection for the Windsor Park neighborhood to the City's transportation network (see aerial photograph on page 40). This corridor includes diverse land uses, such as extensive retail in the Capital Plaza shopping center at the corner of Cameron Road and IH-35, several large multi-family complexes on Reinli Street and Clayton Lane, a small neighborhood of single family residences off Clayton Lane, and

CAMERON ROAD PROJECT SUMMARY & UPDATE

The City of Austin's Public Works Department is currently initiating a series of improvements to the portion of Cameron Road between 51st Street and US Hwy 290. This project is separate from the UHWP neighborhood plan. This project would include a center left-turn lane for this entire section of the road. This segment of Cameron Road has closely spaced driveways and cross-streets and, as a result, has experienced a significant rate of left turn collisions. This project would resurface and re-stripe the existing four-lane roadway to provide one lane in each direction and a center turn lane to separate left turns from through traffic, thus reducing the potential for left turn collision. As the proposed cross-section includes only one through lane in each direction, bus turnouts are also proposed to prevent buses from blocking traffic.

Project Highlights:

- * Restriping to three lanes
- * Reduce accident frequency
- * Maintains vehicular capacity
- * Bike Lanes
- * Bus pullouts
- * Pedestrian crossing at Corona Drive

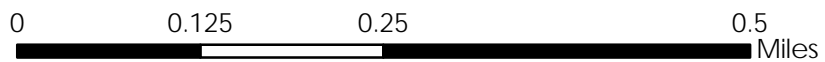
Capital Plaza Shopping Center

Tannehill Creek

Single Family Dwellings on Sheridan St.

Twin Towers Office Park

Streets shown include: I-35 NB TO CLAYTON, I-35 SB AT E 51ST, I-35 NB TO REINLI, 53RD, 52ND, CAMERON, BROADMOOR, WESTMOOR, SUFFOLK, CORONA, CLOVERLEAF, LUDLOW, DANBURY, NASSAU, YORKSHIRE, BRIARCLIFF, BERKSHIRE, HILLCREST, GLENCREST, GLENWOOD, WHEELS, ASHBERRY, GLENVALLEY, CHATHAM, DUNBURY, SWEETBRIAR, DEVON, NORTHBRIDGE, RIDGEMONT, LARKWOOD, BELFAST, RIDGEHAVEN, BROADVIEW, ROSEMONT, CLAYTON, REINLI, US HWY 290 SVC RD EB, US HWY 290, 290 WB TO I-35 SB, 290 SVC WB AT CAMERON, US HWY 290.





LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

churches on Cameron Road. At the Cameron Road land use workshop, neighborhood stakeholders expressed concerns about the heavy traffic on Cameron, the predominance of automobile-oriented uses, and the dangerous pedestrian environment. They also expressed a desire for aesthetic improvements to the road (e.g., street trees, landscaping, more neighborhood-oriented design, etc.) Additionally, stakeholders have expressed that the view of the University of Texas tower when looking south on Cameron Road should be preserved to the extent feasible. The following planning objectives and recommendations address these concerns. Design-specific recommendations are included in the Design subchapter starting on Page 58.



Cameron Road, looking north

Objective: Transform Cameron Road into a pedestrian-friendly street with additional mixed use housing opportunities.

Recommendations:

- Encourage residential mixed-use developments on Cameron Road by opting in to the Vertical Mixed Use overlay included with Cameron Road's designation as a Future Core Transit Corridor in the Design Standards & Mixed Use Subchapter of the Land Development Code, adopted August 31, 2006.
- Support the designation of Cameron Road as a Core Transit Corridor (CTC) so that pedestrian-friendly design elements are required when redevelopment of this shopping center occurs. (See the Design subchapter.)

Objective: Preserve the single-family residential homes on Rosemont, Sheridan, and Broadview Streets

- They provide affordable housing and are nearby many services.

Recommendation:

- Maintain the existing residential zoning on these properties.

Objective: Capital Plaza should continue to serve as a buffer between IH-35 and the Windsor Park neighborhood, but it should be a more pedestrian-oriented development with a residential component that does not "turn its back" to the Windsor



Intersection of 51st Street & Lancaster Court



LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Park neighborhood.

Recommendations:

- Adopt the Neighborhood Urban Center infill option on the Capital Plaza site (5300 North IH-35).
- Maintain the Vertical Mixed Use Overlay on the Capital Plaza site (5300 North IH-35).

Objective: Allow for additional residential development on the parcels between IH-35 & Cameron Road.



51st Street looking west

Recommendation:

- Adopt the Mixed Use Combining District on these parcels to permit residential development.

Objective: Consider the view of the University of Texas Tower in the design of in any proposed new developments along Cameron Road, and preserve the view to the maximum extent feasible.

Recommendation:

- The design and height of structures should not block the view of the UT Towers when looking south on Cameron Road.

51ST STREET & VICINITY

Land Use Workshop held on June 24, 2006

With the redevelopment at the former Robert Mueller Municipal Airport, 51st Street will become a more highly traveled roadway with greater importance in the City of Austin's transportation system. Additionally, it will serve as the gateway to two dense neighborhoods, Windsor Park and Mueller. A wide variety of land uses currently exists along 51st Street, including older single family dwellings, apartment complexes, small offices, and two large churches (See aerial photograph on Page 43). UHWP plan participants envision 51st Street as a pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use roadway. In addition to the community's desire for increased commercial development along 51st Street, they also want the neighborhoods north of 51st Street to remain buffered from the anticipated additional traffic and more intense land uses along 51st Street and within the



Intersection of 51st St & Berkman Drive at Mueller

51st Street & Vicinity



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

2003 Aerial Photograph



LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Mueller redevelopment.

Objective: Transform 51st Street into a pedestrian-friendly street with businesses that support both the neighborhoods north of 51st and the proposed businesses and land uses within the Mueller redevelopment.

Recommendations:

- Rezone properties to commercial mixed use to allow for office, retail and restaurant opportunities, and restrict automobile-oriented businesses.
- Maintain the Vertical Mixed Use overlay on 51st Street to allow for additional residential development with an affordability component.
- Support the designation of 51st Street as a Core Transit Corridor as defined in the Design Standards and Mixed Use Subchapter so pedestrian-friendly design elements will be required with redevelopment of this street. (See the Design subchapter.)

Objective: Buffer the Windsor Park neighborhood from the land uses on the south side of 51st Street (e.g., Dell Children's Center, large retail stores, etc.).

Recommendations:

- Maintain multi-family zoning of properties currently in multi-family use along 52nd Street.
 - These multi-family units currently provide affordable housing in close proximity to several job centers (businesses in Capital Plaza, the Mueller redevelopment).
- As a transition from the proposed commercial uses on 51st street to residential uses on 52nd street, allow for office uses in the current residences on Lancaster Court by rezoning these lots to an office zone district intended for small-scale office uses, often in former residential structures.
- Transition from commercial to office uses on 51st Street as it approaches the entrance to the Windsor Park neighborhood at Berkman Drive.



Intersection of Briarcliff & Berkman



LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

BERKMAN DRIVE & VICINITY

Land Use Workshop held on April 29, 2006

Berkman Drive serves as a collector street in the planning area, as it runs from 51st Street north to Hwy 290. Although it connects these two major roads, it remains a primarily residential street with commercial and multi-family uses at its intersection with Hwy 290 and a second commercial area at the Windsor Village shopping center (See aerial photograph on Page 46). At the Berkman Drive land use workshop, neighborhood stakeholders expressed support for preserving the residential character of Berkman Drive. They also expressed support for redevelopment of the Windsor Village Shopping Center and neighboring commercial properties along Gaston Place so that they offer a wide variety of neighborhood-serving uses. Additionally, they would like these shopping areas to be more visually attractive and less automobile-oriented. Additional information regarding attracting businesses to Windsor Village is included in the Economic Development section of this chapter. Also, design-related recommendations specific to Windsor Village and the Berkman Drive area are included in the Design section of this chapter.

Objective: Maintain the primarily neighborhood-oriented, residential character of Berkman Drive, especially south of the Windsor Village Shopping Center.

Recommendation:

- Maintain single-family residential zoning of parcels adjacent to Berkman Drive from 51st Street to Northridge Drive.

Objective: Berkman Drive parcels on the east side of the street between the Windsor Village Shopping Center and Hwy 290 should serve as a transition between adjacent commercial areas and Windsor Park's residential neighborhoods on either side of the street.

Recommendation:

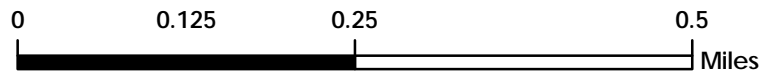
- Rezone the single-family parcels on the east side of Berkman Drive, from Wheless to Patton Lane, from single family to a higher-density single family zoning district that would allow townhome and condominium uses.



Lots on Berkman Drive between Patton & Wheless

Objective: Transform the Windsor Village Shopping Center and surrounding area into a pedestrian-friendly and neighborhood-oriented urban center that

Berkman Drive & Vicinity



2003 Aerial Photograph



LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

also includes space for neighborhood gatherings and allows for residential mixed-use development.

Recommendations:

- Apply the Neighborhood Urban Center infill option to the Windsor Village Shopping Center.
- Opt-in to the Vertical Mixed Use (VMU) overlay for the Windsor Village Shopping Center properties.
- Restrict automobile-oriented uses (such as car washes, car repair shops, etc.) at Windsor Village and nearby Gaston Place properties with a conditional overlay.
- Commercial development at Windsor Village and nearby commercial sites on Gaston Place does not encroach into the existing adjacent neighborhoods. Commercial development in this portion of the planning area should be limited to the existing commercially zoned sites.



Manor Road, looking south

MANOR ROAD & VICINITY

Land Use Workshop held on May 20, 2006

At the land use workshop for Manor Road, neighborhood stakeholders envisioned Manor Road to be a pedestrian and bicycle-friendly street with a wide range of land uses. Stakeholders expressed that both the Springdale Shopping Center and the Loyola Business Park could be revitalized to be more attractive retail centers with additional area-wide and neighborhood-serving businesses.

The east side of the Loyola Lane / Manor Road intersection has the foundation to be a vibrant town center. There are several neighborhood oriented businesses and a police substation in the Loyola Lane Business Park. The University Hills Branch Library is just across Loyola Lane and is adjacent to an undeveloped green space. The Library could help coordinate use of this land if converted into a park (See parkland acquisition sites in the Appendix), or it could also be used as a location for expanding the Library.

For additional recommendations regarding bike lanes and sidewalks along Manor Road, see the Transportation Networks & Infrastructure Chapter. Also see the aerial photographs on Pages 48 and 49 for reference.

North Manor Road & Vicinity



2003 Aerial Photograph

South Manor Road & Vicinity



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

2003 Aerial Photograph



LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Objective: Transform Manor Road into a pedestrian-friendly street with a mix of commercial and residential land uses.

Recommendations:

- Maintain existing base zoning for commercial properties along Manor Road to continue to allow for a wide range of uses.
- Restrict some automobile-oriented uses, such as car repair shops and car washes, on sites not currently occupied with those uses.
- Support the designation of Manor Road as an Urban Roadway in the Design Standards and Mixed Use Subchapter to encourage the redevelopment of commercial properties with more pedestrian-friendly streetscape designs.



Springdale Shopping Center

Objective: Preserve clusters of single family residential uses along Manor Road.

Recommendation:

- Maintain single family zoning on residential parcels along Manor Road.

Objective: Encourage aesthetic improvements to the Springdale Shopping Center (at the eastern corner of the Manor Road / 183 intersection) and encourage the location of additional neighborhood-serving uses and a residential component into the shopping center.

Recommendations:

- Apply the Neighborhood Urban Center infill option to the Springdale Shopping Center site.



Loyola Business Park

(See the Design subchapter and University Hills Design Guidelines in Appendix E for recommendations about aesthetic improvements to Springdale Shopping Center).



LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Objective: Transform the Manor Road / Loyola Lane intersection to function as a "Town Center" for the University Hills neighborhood.

Recommendations:

- Encourage mixed use redevelopment of the Loyola Business Park parcel (4700 Loyola Lane) by rezoning the site to allow for mixed use.
- Discourage non-pedestrian oriented uses on the Loyola Business Park parcel and nearby parcels with a conditional overlay to restrict these uses.
- If expansion of the University Hills Branch Library is proposed in the future, the City of Austin should consider the vacant site adjacent to the library for expansion of the library.

Objective: Develop the "Turner Tracts" (the vacant lots immediately south of Turner Lane) into a residential development that respects the constraints of the site (e.g., potential wetlands on the site, topography, etc.)

Recommendation:

- Zone the sites for office mixed use adjacent to Manor Road as higher-density single family residential for the central portion of the site, and the portion directly on the site of the former landfill as commercial.
 - NHCD's Affordability Impact Statement for the UHWP Neighborhood Plan states: "The Future Land Use Map should not permit or encourage residential uses on former landfill sites, for these uses would not meet the 'safe' standard of S.M.A.R.T. housing."
- To protect the single family neighborhood adjacent to the Turner Tracts from any additional traffic that could be generated by development of the sites and/or cut-through traffic from Hwy 183, Ashland Street should not be extended into any development proposed on the Turner Tracts. Any proposed development of the Turner Tracts should take access from Loyola Lane or from expansion and resurfacing of Turner Lane.

Objective: Residential development on the "Sutherlin tract" (the 2.5 acre site on Sutherlin) should respect the constraints of the site by preserving as many large oak trees as possible, reduce grading amounts, etc.

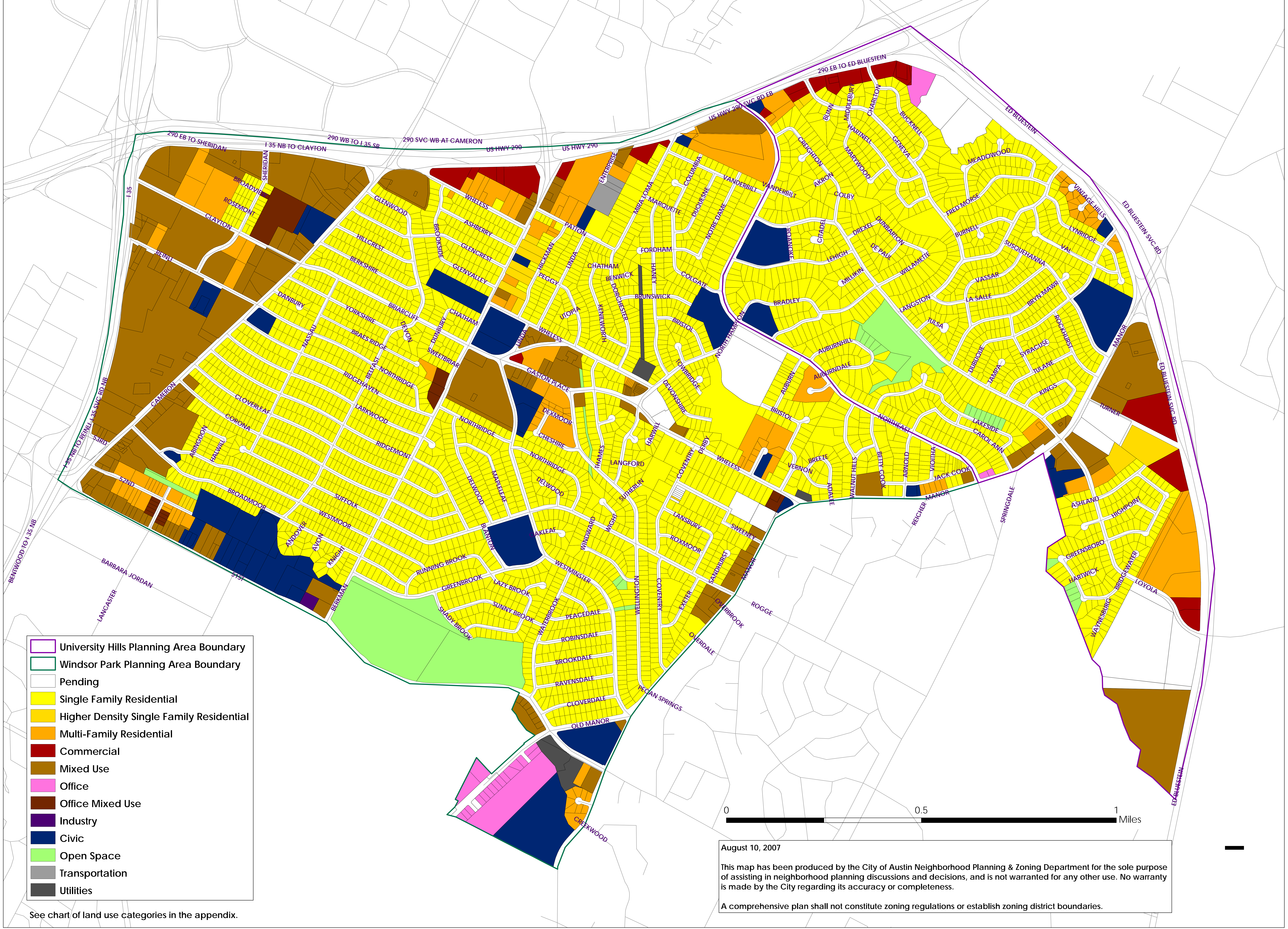
Recommendation:

- Zone the site for a residential zoning district that allows more flexibility of site design requirements, such as setbacks and clustering of structures, but maintains the density allowed under the SF-3 zoning.



University Hills / Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan

Future Land Use Map





INFILL OPTIONS

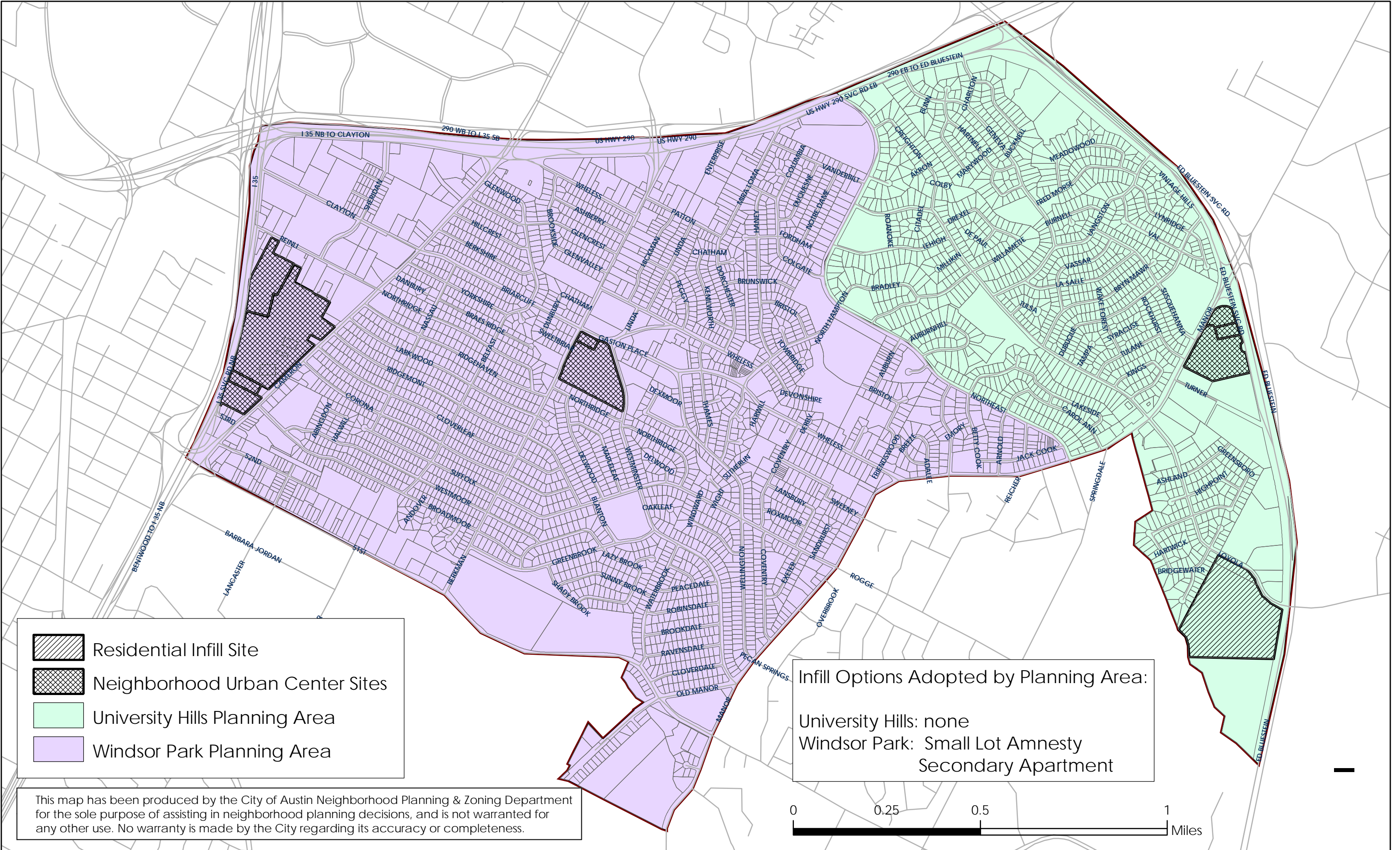
In April 2000, the City Council approved a set of “Special Use Infill Options” for neighborhood planning areas. These infill options are designed to permit a greater diversity of housing types within planning areas, to allow for redevelopment of existing neighborhoods, and to “fill in” vacant or underutilized parcels of land within neighborhood planning areas. The University Hills / Windsor Park neighborhood planning team held two meetings about infill options during the planning process (July 26 and October 14). Using the information gathered at these meetings and subsequent discussions with the zoning committee, the following recommendations are made:

Infill Option	Description	Recommendation	Comments
Small Lot Amnesty	Permits construction on existing legally-created lots that do not meet current minimum lot standards. The Lot must have a minimum of 2500 square feet and a minimum width of 25 feet.	Adopt for Windsor Park planning area; Do not adopt in University Hills	Very few lots in the planning area are below 5,750 square feet. Small Lot Amnesty would “legalize” approximately 10 lots
Cottage Lot	Reduces minimum lot size to 2,500 square feet	Do not adopt	Neighborhood has concerns about drainage and flooding impacts associated with additional infill development.
Urban Home	Reduces minimum lot size to 3,500 square feet	Do not adopt	Neighborhood has concerns about drainage and flooding impacts associated with additional infill development
Secondary Apartment	Permits an accessory unit of 850 s.f. or less on a lot 5,750 square feet or greater.	Adopt for Windsor Park planning area	Conflicts with University Hills deed restrictions
Corner Store	Permits a small retail use on a property with residential zoning	Do not adopt	Conflicts with University Hills deed restrictions
Residential Infill	Requires a diversity of housing types on lots between 1 and 40 acres.	Adopt for site at Loyola Lane & Hwy 183; see map	This site is a large vacant site, so it offers a good opportunity for infill residential development
Neighborhood Urban Center	Permits the redevelopment of an existing commercial center, or development of a vacant site, into a mixed-use, pedestrian and transit-oriented center	Adopt at Capital Plaza, Windsor Village, and Springdale Shopping Centers	See recommendations in the Land Use subchapter & the map on the following page.
Neighborhood Mixed Use Building	Permits a mix of uses, including residential, within a single building on a site	Do not adopt	Where Vertical Mixed Use is desired, opt-in to Vertical Mixed Use Overlay to encourage mixed use development that also has an affordability component



University Hills/ Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan

Infill Options





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This section includes objectives and recommendations that support the following UHWP Neighborhood Plan goal:

- Attract needed vendors and service providers into the planning area through support for local businesses, and encourage revitalization/redevelopment of neighborhood shopping areas.

At most of the neighborhood planning meetings, stakeholders expressed their concerns about the lack of some services in the area (e.g., local restaurants, shops, entertainment, etc.). Additionally, they stated that they wanted to be able to walk or ride a bike to these types of services.

Commercial services in the planning area are located along the major corridors (51st Street, Cameron Road, Manor Road & Berkman Drive) and also within shopping centers (Windsor Village, Capital Plaza, and Springdale). These shopping centers have the potential to become vibrant community meeting places that serve their surrounding neighborhoods. However, they currently have some vacant spaces, do not offer a wide range of services, and are not pedestrian-oriented. The commercial areas along the neighborhood's corridor streets include a mix of local restaurants and services but in many cases are not utilized to their full potential. Similar to area shopping centers, these perimeter areas also have vacant storefronts and a limited range of retail and other commercial services.



Windsor Village storefronts

Additional information about the design of new commercial developments is included in the Design subchapter and the University Hills Design Guidelines in the Appendix.

Implementation Note

Recommendations in this chapter are directed primarily at the University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams, as well as planning area residents and neighborhood associations. NPZD staff may be able to assist with coordination efforts with property owners and city agencies.

Objective: Improve the retail and business environment in the UHWP Planning Area by identifying challenges to existing businesses and methods to overcome those challenges.



LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Recommendations:

- The University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams should collaborate with NPZD, the City's Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office (ERGSO), and other relevant agencies and non-profits to obtain funding for a market study that would analyze why certain business types/products are not currently offered in the UHWP area.
- The University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams should collaborate with the Austin Police Department and business owners to reduce crime and create a safe-feeling environment for patrons near businesses, especially gas stations and convenience stores.
- Planning area residents should patronize businesses located within the planning area to increase their chances for success.

IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATION

Neighborhood planners met with City of Austin Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office (ERGSO) staff members on October 29, 2006, to discuss strategies to achieve the objectives described in this chapter. EGRSO staff recommended the coordination of a 'round-table' discussion where developers, retailers, and real estate professionals can provide insight regarding effective strategies for attracting desired retail and service providers into the planning area. They could also discuss strategies to initiate the redevelopment and revitalization of area shopping centers. Round table participants could create a plan for advancing the recommendations described in this section.

NPZD staff may be able to coordinate with University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Team members to implement this recommendation after plan approval.

Objective: Attract desired businesses and service providers into the planning area.

Recommendations:

- Create an inventory and directory of all existing area businesses located in the area.
- Define desirable uses for specific areas within UHWP: quality retail, coffee shops, cafes, more restaurants, a movie theater and businesses that cater to daily needs.
- Support the land use changes proposed in this plan, and any future land use



Springdale Shopping Center



LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

changes and rezonings that may facilitate the location of desirable service providers and retail at targeted locations (e.g., shopping centers) and along designated corridors. (see Land Use section of this chapter for information about mixed use).

- Invite private lenders, the Austin Board of Realtors, the City of Austin Small Business Development Program, and relevant Community Development Corporations to hold educational workshops about development opportunities in the area.
- Explore funding sources for commercial redevelopment projects to attract private investment.

Objective: Revitalize and redevelop area shopping centers.

Recommendations:

- Support the designation of the Windsor Village, Springdale, and Capital Plaza shopping centers as mixed use Neighborhood Urban Centers that offer a range of services and also include residential units. (See Infill Options discussion.)
- Coordinate with property owners to encourage aesthetic improvements to area shopping centers (e.g., additional trash cans, pedestrian improvements, etc.). (See Design subchapter and University Hills Design Guidelines.)
- Improve communication between area residents and shopping center property managers by inviting them to neighborhood association meetings and other neighborhood events.
- Consider public shopping cart options for residents without auto access (retrieve carts at bus stops, sell carts at stores, or loan carts).
- Install bicycle racks at all area shopping centers.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WATER FEATURE DESTINATIONS: REDEVELOPMENT OF AREA SHOPPING CENTERS

City of Austin Watershed Protection and Development Review (WPDR) staff have identified opportunities for water detention and water quality associated with the potential future redevelopment of the Capital Plaza and Windsor Village Shopping Centers. A portion of these large stretches of impervious cover (paved areas) could be used for the construction of a 'destination' water feature similar to the Central Park project at the Central Market shopping center (located at the northwest corner of 38th Street and Guadalupe). These tracts could also host retro-fit projects that would improve regional water quality and help minimize drainage and erosion problems in adjacent areas through water detention. WPDR staff seeks opportunities to partner with developers and can share costs of projects which provide regional water quality and stormwater detention benefits.



DESIGN

This section includes objectives and recommendations regarding the design of residential and commercial structures in the planning area. UHWP stakeholders have often expressed support for improving the quality of residential and commercial development that would create a unique sense of place for both Windsor Park and University Hills. The design of both residential and commercial development contributes to each of those goals. Additional discussion of design in the University Hills planning area is discussed in the design guidelines in the Appendix.

RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

This section discusses the character and architectural style of residences within University Hills and Windsor Park, and offers a recommendation for preserving and enhancing that character as the planning area changes. It also describes the residential Design Tools that neighborhoods can adopt during the planning process.

Neighborhood Character



Windsor Park home with one-car garage



Windsor Park home with two-car garage

The size, bulk, scale, and design of residences in Windsor Park and University Hills contribute to the character of each neighborhood. As described previously in the Geography section, there are three predominant single-family or duplex housing types in the University Hills / Windsor Park planning area. In Windsor Park, many of the houses were constructed in the 1950s and 1960s. They are mostly designed in the one-story ranch style architecture common at that time. This design usually includes a one-car garage that is “flush” with the living area, but newer houses have a two-car garage. Many have a carport instead of a garage. Houses within Windsor Park built prior to the 1950s, such as those on Sheridan Street east of Cameron Road, and those on Sweeney Street, are constructed in the one-story cottage style common at that time. Most of those residences have a detached garage that is usually located behind the house.

As the University Hills subdivision was platted and constructed after Windsor Park, the predominant architectural style is slightly different than in Windsor Park. Reflecting trends



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in houses built from the 1970s to today, most residences in University Hills are larger in size, and many of them have two stories and a two-car garage. Due to the rolling topography in University Hills, the residences in this neighborhood generally follow the gradient of their lot, and subsequently are often on different levels (for example, the garage is located lower on the slope of the lot than the main living area).

As Austin continues to grow, the UHWP planning area may become more desirable due to its relative affordability and its close proximity to major employment centers, most Central Austin attractions and the Mueller redevelopment. There is a high demand for residences in central neighborhoods throughout Austin, but the size and features of these homes often do not meet the demands of some residents, resulting in changes or demolition of the older structures. In response to concerns about the impact of larger homes being built in established neighborhoods with smaller homes and aging infrastructure, and subsequently changing the character and identity of these older neighborhoods, the City of Austin passed new Residential Design & Compatibility Standards on September 28, 2006. These standards, which became effective on October 1, 2006, limit the size of some new single-family residential construction and remodels in a variety of ways:

- Revising how square footage is calculated
- Creating a building “envelope” so that all structures on a site fit within the envelope
- Reducing the maximum height for residential zone districts.

Implementation Note

The following objective expresses that neighborhood compatibility of new structures should be an important consideration when building new residences or remodels in the UHWP planning area. This objective and the recommendations are directed to neighborhood residents proposing new construction and to City of Austin development reviewers issuing permits for new residential construction in the planning area.

Objective: Ensure that the residential character of the University Hills & Windsor Park neighborhoods is maintained as the community changes over time.



University Hills home that follows site topography



Older cottages on Sweeney



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- New residences, remodels, and additions to existing residential structures should be sited and designed to be compatible with the size and scale of surrounding structures.
- New residences, remodels, and additions to existing residential structures in University Hills should be consistent with deed restrictions.
- New residences, remodels, and additions should be consistent with the applicable provisions of the Residential Design & Compatibility Standards.

Residential Design Tools

As part of the neighborhood planning process, neighborhoods can choose to adopt the residential Design Tools to add additional design regulations to new structures or remodels of existing residences. See Section 25-2-1602 of the City of Austin's Land Development Code for more detailed information about each of these design tools. Below is a chart that lists the design tools the UHWP plan recommends for adoption.

Design Tool	Description	Recommendation
Parking Placement for New Residential Construction	Limits impervious cover in the front yard to no more than 40% of the required front yard area	Adopt for Windsor Park and University Hills planning areas
Garage Placement for New Single Family Construction	Requires attached or detached garages or carports to be located flush with or behind the front façade of the residence.	Do not adopt for Windsor Park planning area; adopt in University Hills
Front Porch Setback	Allows front porches to extend to within 15' of the front property line	Adopt for Windsor Park planning area

COMMERCIAL DESIGN

In August 2006, the City of Austin adopted a Design Standards & Mixed Use (DSMU) subchapter of the Land Development Code. The ordinance intends to improve the quality of all non-residential and mixed use development in the City. To accomplish this goal, the ordinance established new site development standards defined by the roadway type adjacent to the site (Core Transit Corridor, Urban Roadway, Suburban Roadway, Hill Country Roadway, Highways, and Internal Circulation Routes). These design standards address design elements pertaining to: the amount of building frontage along a street, parking areas between structures and roadways, sidewalk width, and street trees.

Additionally, the design standards include specific provisions for sites greater than five



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acres in order to address the specific design-related issues associated with large sites, such as the shopping center sites in the UHWP planning area. All commercial properties are subject to the development standards of the DSMU subchapter (with some exceptions, which are described in the subchapter). Therefore, UHWP stakeholders' vision to encourage the pedestrian-oriented design of developments in their neighborhood will be addressed through the site plan review process, as all plans will be reviewed to verify their compliance with the DSMU standards.

The following objectives and recommendations address how the design of non-residential developments in the UHWP planning area can be improved.

Objective: Promote pedestrian-oriented redevelopment along 51st Street, Cameron Road, and Briarcliff/Gaston Place. (See Land Use section for a discussion of the "vision" for 51st Street, Cameron Road, and Berkman Drive).

Recommendation:

- Amend the Design Standards & Mixed Use Subchapter of the City of Austin's Land Development Code to designate the following streets as Core Transit Corridors:
 - 51st Street (from Cameron Road to Manor Road)
 - Cameron Road (from 51st Street to Hwy 290)
 - Briarcliff/Gaston Place (from Berkman Drive to Wellington)

Implementation Note: This recommendation will be implemented upon City Council's approval of an amendment to the DSMU Subchapter of the Land Development Code.

Objective: Enhance commercial and large civic sites in the planning area with basic aesthetic improvements.

- **Implementation Note:** The following recommendations could be implemented through coordination between neighborhood residents and the owners of the following sites. If redevelopment of these sites were to occur,



Cameron Road



Gaston Place commercial area



Springdale Shopping Center



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the provisions of the DSMU subchapter would also apply. These provisions include requirements for pedestrian walkways, landscaping, etc. See section 2.2.5 of the DSMU subchapter.

Recommendations:

Gaston Place / Windsor Village Shopping Center

- Relocate the dumpster in the parking lot near Dora's Tacos (1804 Briarcliff) to a less prominent location.
- Resurface and landscape the parking lot at the Gaston Place commercial site (2006 Gaston Place).
- Consider painting a mural with Harris Elementary students in the Gaston Place/Windsor Village area.
- Redesign the Gaston Place/Westminster intersection to eliminate the numerous right-turn lanes.
 - **Implementation Note:** Public Works would implement this recommendation upon allocation of sufficient funding from a bond or other funding source.

Springdale Shopping Center

- Improve pedestrian safety of the Springdale Shopping Center parking lot by adding pedestrian crosswalks, paths, and signs to direct the flow of traffic.
- Plant additional greenery and shade trees in the parking area.
- Use the recommendations in the University Hills Design Guidelines for any future redevelopment of the Springdale Shopping Center.

Capital Plaza Shopping Center

- Improve pedestrian safety of the Capital Plaza Shopping Center parking lot by adding pedestrian crosswalks, paths, and signs to direct the flow of traffic.
- Reduce the number of access points to the Capital Plaza shopping center. Multiple driveway entrances to Capital Plaza contribute to the unfriendly pe-



Capital Plaza Shopping Center



Springdale Shopping Center



Wall for potential mural by Harris Elementary School students



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destrian environment along Cameron Road and may also be a traffic hazard.

- Install additional landscaping on the east (rear) side of the Capital Plaza shopping center to screen parking and the rear of buildings from Cameron Road.
- Plant additional greenery and shade trees in the parking area.

Islamic Center

- Coordinate with the Islamic Center at 5209 Manor Road to add landscaping along the wall surrounding the Center.

Objective: Encourage design elements that identify Windsor Park and University Hills as unique and distinct neighborhoods.

Recommendation:

- Add additional landscaping and/or unique architectural features (e.g., signs, landscape islands) to sites or structures at major intersections that serve as gateways to the neighborhoods. (51st & Berkman, 51st & Cameron, Manor & 183, Berkman & Hwy 290 and others).
 - **Implementation Note:** This recommendation could be implemented through collaboration between the University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams, neighborhood associations and other neighborhood residents and property owners.

HOUSING

INTRODUCTION

This chapter incorporates discussions on affordable housing, property management, code enforcement, and assisted living facilities (“group homes”). UHWP stakeholders want the planning area to be a mixed income neighborhood with well-maintained and managed properties. The following UHWP plan goal expresses this sentiment:

- Encourage a diversity of housing options at various levels of affordability dispersed throughout the neighborhood.

UHWP stakeholders understand that their recommendations regarding land use and other planning issues would affect the amount of affordable housing available in the future in the planning area. City of Austin Neighborhood Housing & Community Development staff members use neighborhood plan recommendations to determine if the plan positively affects housing affordability in the planning area. This chapter includes a thorough discussion of NHCD’s considerations.

Homeowners and renters in the UHWP planning area feel strongly that property managers and multi-family property owners should comply with health and housing codes. Currently there are many rental structures in the



Apartments on Berkman Drive



Halloween decorations on Foundation Community apartments in Windsor Park

HOUSING

area that need attention. In addition, crime is common in many apartment complexes in the area.

Some residents also have concerns about assisted living facilities (also known as “group homes”) located in the planning area. An assisted living facility can house the elderly or a people with a mental or physical disability that need daily assistance. Issues including management practices, code compliance, and the public behavior of residents at assisted living facilities were discussed during the UHWP planning process. This chapter includes recommendations and basic information to help address these issues.



Call 3-1-1 to report illegal dumping



Belmoor Drive's apartment complex is being redeveloped and will soon house families



Duplex in UHWP planning area



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

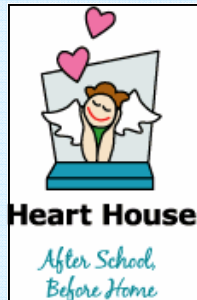
The City of Austin's Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD) Department assesses how each new ordinance proposed within the City of Austin will affect housing affordability opportunities in the City. NHCD reviews the University Hills/ Windsor Park neighborhood plan and will write an Affordability Impact Statement for the plan, based on land use, zoning, and housing recommendations. At a neighborhood planning meeting on January 10, 2006, NHCD staff explained which aspects of the plan will affect opportunities for affordable housing in the planning area. Each of these items is listed below, and is followed with a description of how the UHWP plan addresses each item. Relevant recommendations are included where appropriate.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

1. **Are there deed restrictions and/or subdivision plat restrictions that affect affordability in UHWP?** The deed restrictions for all subdivisions within the University Hills planning area prohibit the construction of more than one residential unit on all residential properties. It is the policy of the Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department that infill option recommendations do not contradict existing deed restrictions. The Secondary Apartment Special Use Infill Option, which can provide affordable rental housing, was not adopted for University Hills. For more information about the Special Use Infill Options adopted with the UHWP Plan, please see Page 54.
2. **How many completed and pending S.M.A.R.T. Housing projects are located within the UHWP planning area?** At the time of the writing of this plan, NHCD data showed two S.M.A.R.T. housing projects within the UHWP planning area. The Primrose Senior

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SUPPORT FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES IN THE UHWP PLANNING AREA

Heart House (www.hearthouse.org) is a not for profit organization that offers free afterschool programming to low-income youth. It is located within the Trails at Vintage Creek apartment complex (7224 Northeast Drive), which is a complex run by Foundation Communities (www.foundcom.org). Foundation Communities offers affordable housing and training to support low-income families.



Heart House children at the Learning Center. Photo courtesy of Heart House.



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Apartments is a multifamily development of approximately 176 units located at 1022 Clayton Lane. It was certified in 2001. At the time of writing this plan, Habitat for Humanity Devonshire Subdivision plans were being reviewed by the City of Austin's Watershed Protection & Development Review Department. These 42 single family homes will be located at 2410 Devonshire.

3. **How has the UHWP plan affected the amount of developable land within the planning area that would allow affordable units?** Vacant and rural land located outside of the FEMA floodplain and without a slope gradient that would prohibit construction is considered "developable" land. The chart below shows the number of vacant sites that are proposed to be rezoned to allow for residential uses.

Developable Lots: Vacant land outside of the FEMA flood plain without slope gradients that would prohibit construction.		
Total developable lots in the planning area	Total non-residential developable lots in the planning area	Total non-residential lots recommended to be rezoned to residential
125	38	10

Additionally, there are currently 237 non-residentially-zoned lots in the University Hills/ Windsor Park planning area. Of those, nearly 75% are recommended to be rezoned to allow for residential units (through the Mixed Use Combining District or because they fall within the Vertical Mixed Use Overlay along a Core Transit or Future Core Transit Corridor). As a result, the plan significantly increases the opportunities for affordable housing in the planning area, especially since most new Vertical Mixed Use buildings are required to provide some affordable units.

4. **How many residential lots are less than 7,000 square feet? If there is a significant number, has the Secondary Apartment Special Use Infill Option been approved?** Under the City's Land Development Code, any property owner with SF-3, SF-5 through MF-2 base zoning may construct a secondary apartment on lots 7,000 square feet or larger. However, if the Secondary Apartment Special Use Infill Option is adopted, all property owners in single family zoning districts (including SF-1 and SF-2) with lots over 5,750 square feet may build a secondary apartment. Secondary apartments are smaller structures that can provide affordable rental units.

There are a total of 4,534 residential lots in the entire UHWP planning area. Just under five percent (222) of those lots are less than 7,000 square feet, and the majority are located in Windsor Park. The Secondary Apartment Infill Option was adopted for the Windsor Park planning area, but it was not adopted in University Hills. (See the corresponding map in the Land Use and Development Chapter on Page 54).

5. **Has the UHWP Neighborhood Plan recommended the multifamily affordability incen-**



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tives as adopted in the Hyde Park NCCD and recommended in the East Riverside/Oltorf Neighborhood Plan?

One of the UHWP Neighborhood Plan goals (p. 11) is to encourage a diversity of housing options within the planning area. One method of achieving this goal is to enact policies that maintain affordable units as housing costs rise. The following objective and recommendation supports this goal:

Objective: Preserve existing affordable housing and provide affordable rental housing opportunities through the redevelopment of existing multi-family structures within the UHWP planning area.

Recommendation:

- The University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams should consider supporting the adoption of redevelopment tools that encourage provisions for affordable housing in the planning area.

Allow existing multi-family development not located in the 100 year floodplain to be rebuilt at the same height in stories, number of units, and building footprint provided that they meet S.M.A.R.T. Housing technical standards for accessibility, Green Building and Transit-oriented design; and meet the sprinkler requirements of the 2003 International Building Code if at least 10% of the units are “reasonably priced” (i.e. rent to households at or below 80% Median Family Income who spend no more than 30% of their gross income on rent and utilities) and the affordable housing program applies for 15 years from the date of the initial occupancy of a reasonably priced dwelling unit. In addition, the following development standards are required:

- Height may be no greater than existing height on June 1, 2006.
- Balconies, entrances, patios, open walkways and open stairways are not permitted within 20’ of any single-family use.
- All trash receptacles must have a permanent location in the rear of the property or if no alley is available they must be on the property in an enclosure.
- Fencing is required between any parking facility and any single-family residence.
- Lighting may be no higher than 15 feet and should be screened from adjacent residences.

Note: Applicants who meet these conditions during redevelopment of multi-family structures would not be required to meet compatibility standards or increase parking or site detention.



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6. What recommendations have been made regarding apartment buildings on existing commercially zoned sites?

Prior to Jan 1, 1985, the City of Austin's zoning districts were cumulative; less "intense" land uses were allowed in more intense zoning districts. For example, residential uses are considered less intense than commercial uses, and they were allowed in commercial base zoning districts. As a result, there are now many apartment buildings (a multifamily use) built on land zoned for commercial uses.

The City's current Land Development Code does not allow the construction of structures intended for residential uses (single family and multi-family) in commercial zoning districts, unless a Mixed Use Combining District is added to that property. For most commercially-zoned property currently used for apartment complexes in Windsor Park, the UHWP plan maintains the commercial base zoning district, but adds the Mixed Use Combining District to bring the existing use (apartments) into conformance with the current zoning code. A conditional overlay is proposed on these sites to require at least 50% of the building square footage to remain in residential use if the site is redeveloped. Two apartment complexes in University Hills with commercial base zoning were proposed to be rezoned to multi-family. Additional information regarding zoning recommendations in the UHWP Neighborhood Plan is located in the Land Use & Development chapter.

7. Does the UHWP Plan recommend any development incentives such as density bonuses in exchange for the provision of affordable units?

Some UHWP stakeholders have expressed their preliminary support for a density bonus program that would allow incentives and additional units in exchange for the provision of affordable units.

Objective: Support increased opportunities for affordable housing in the planning area.

Recommendation:

- Neighborhood Housing Department staff should coordinate with the University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams to discuss policies that could offer development density in exchange for the provision of affordable units.

In addition to the recommendation above, a new City-wide Design and Mixed Use ordinance will help encourage the construction of affordable units within the planning area. This ordinance, adopted on August 31, 2006, applies a Vertical Mixed Use (VMU) zoning overlay to many office and commercially zoned properties along major roadways, including the major corridors within the UHWP planning area. VMU buildings could potentially increase the number of affordable units in the planning area because a minimum percentage of affordable units is required in a



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new VMU development. This affordability component is required in exchange for reductions in “dimensional standards” (such as setbacks), parking, and other requirements.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

Apartment complexes and other older rental housing in the planning area offer affordable housing options for middle and low income residents. The recommendations below aim to ensure existing affordable units are safe, well-maintained, and that all residents are treated with respect.

Implementation Note:

The following plan recommendations are directed primarily at the University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams, neighborhood associations, and planning area residents.

CODE ENFORCEMENT & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Objective: Address problems with property management and code enforcement at apartment complexes, rental properties, and select commercial properties and shopping centers in the planning area.

- Coordinate with the City’s Code Enforcement staff to plan for more regular inspections of apartment complexes. In addition, all UHWP residents should be able to recognize substandard housing and should report violations to the City of Austin.
- Arrange a roundtable meeting including renters, neighborhood homeowners, City of Austin Code Enforcement officers, property managers, and the Austin Tenants Council to share information and discuss options for addressing these problems.
- Affected neighborhood association members should discuss using ‘Volunteer Policing’ to enforce codes.

APARTMENTS/RENTALS IN SUBSTANDARD CONDITION

Landlords are obligated to maintain their rentals to the minimum standards set by the Uniform Housing Code and the Dangerous Building Code. (See additional information in the Appendix.) Examples of violations include heating problems, plumbing problems, electrical problems, lack of weather protection and structural hazards.

REPORT SUBSTANDARD HOUSING TO THE CITY OF AUSTIN

Code Violations: Dial 311 for 24 hour response, all week.
Code Violations: (Mon-Fri., 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.) 494-9400
Code Violations: Go to this website to email a complaint: http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/sws_info.cfm
See also www.austinrecycles.com/code.htm



PROPERTY MANAGEMENT ABUSES INVOLVING NEW IMMIGRANTS IN THE UHWP PLANNING AREA

As part of the planning process, UHWP planners met with Spanish-speaking parents at planning meetings held at Blanton and Harris Elementary Schools. Through these meetings, and subsequent field work, planners heard concerns about alleged abuse of tenants' rights by local property managers. According to renters, managers threaten to call U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials to check residency paperwork when tenants request repairs or have disagreements with managers. In some cases, residents stated that apartment complex managers would not address rodent and roach infestations. In other accounts, residents have reported that falling bathroom tiling, broken windows and door locks, and other maintenance needs are not made in a timely manner, if they are made at all. Some tenants reported gas leaks, and others described being asked to pay for plumbing repairs for units other than their own.

The majority of these meeting participants did not have formal educations and had very limited reading skills, which makes negotiations with property managers, Austin Police Department, code enforcement officials and others more difficult. Distrust of government officials and fear of deportation further dissuades these residents from reporting the alleged abuses occurring in their residences.

Despite concerns, some residents of area apartment complexes would like to establish tenants' associations and conduct meetings to address housing and property management issues.

Other tenants stated they must choose to move away when the surroundings become unbearable, and that the high cost of a move is worth the improved living conditions.

Apartment complexes often advertise changes in management and rent specials to entice new tenants. As quickly as new vacancies are created, they are filled by people looking for inexpensive housing despite the conditions.



The Austin Tenants Council provides tenants with a counseling hotline and detailed information on their rights. **Find out more at <http://www.housing-rights.org/> or 512-474-1961.**



HOUSING

- Forward any fines collected from housing or health code violations back to the City's code enforcement program to enhance services. Allocate additional general funding to improve code enforcement.

Objective: Educate renters on tenants' rights and health and housing codes to help prevent abuses .

- Invite the Austin Tenants Council to hold bilingual informational meetings in apartment complexes and local schools on tenants' rights and housing codes.

ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES ("GROUP HOMES") IN THE UHWP PLANNING AREA

Early in the planning process it became apparent that many residents were very concerned about the number of 'group homes' located in the planning area and the behavior of some of their residents. Group homes, also known as "assisted living facilities", house people with mental or physical disabilities who require assistance with daily needs. To help address neighbors' concerns with these facilities and their residents, UHWP planners organized a special meeting.

State regulatory and support service agency representatives were invited to a UHWP planning meeting to answer questions and clarify information on this topic. Representatives from the following agencies attended: the Department of State Health Services Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division, the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) Regulatory Services Division, and the Department of State Health Services Council on Sex Offender Treatment.

Plan stakeholders in attendance explained their main area of concern: they are concerned about aggressive behavior of some residents and they do not know who to call to report incidents. Stakeholders also expressed that managers of several facilities are uncooperative with neighbors, and they believe that some facilities are not managed legally or in a sound manner that respects the needs of their clients and neighbors. Plan stakeholders feel that there is a disproportionate number of assisted living facilities in the planning area and they suggest that regulatory agencies should consider the proximity of other similar facilities when issuing operational licenses. Detailed information gathered from this meeting is included in the Appendix. Recommendations derived from planning discussions are listed below; most require coordination from the University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams. Important contact numbers are listed in the call-out box on the following page.



HOUSING

Objective: Address problems related to assisted living facilities located within residential neighborhoods.

Recommendation:

- Before a permit is issued for the operation of an assisted living facility/group home, consider the number of other similar facilities in the immediate area to avoid a concentration of similar facilities.
- The UHWP Plan Contact Team, neighborhood association representatives, and/or neighborhood residents should collaborate with the DADS Regulatory Services Division and facility managers to enforce proper management of facilities. They should report suspected mistreatment of residents and code violations immediately.
(PRIORITY ACTION ITEM)
- UHWP residents should call City Code Enforcement (see sidebar) to report possible code violations.
- A local person should answer DADS and Mental and Substance Abuse Division hotlines to ensure rapid response to all reported incidents.
- Recommend funding a City of Austin staff position to coordinate and follow-up on complaints associated with assisted living facilities/group homes and their residents in Austin.

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

- Call the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) at 1-800-252-9240 if you suspect a home operating as an assisted living facility/group home is not licensed.
- Call the state Mental Health & Mental Retardation (MHMR) office at 512-447-4141 to report public behavior problems of a group home resident.
- If you suspect exploitation, financial or physical mistreatment of a resident of an assisted living facility, call the Department of Family and Protective Services (Adult Protective Services) 1-800-252-5400. You may also call a Long-Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman if you have concerns about the care of a resident of an assisted living or nursing home is receiving, 1-800-252-2412.
- For more information on sex offenders contact CSOT- Department of State Health Services: Phone: 512-834-4530. <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/scot/default.shtm>

ALWAYS CALL 911 IF YOU WITNESS ILLEGAL OR DANGEROUS ACTIVITY.

SEE APPENDIX G FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

PARKS, OPEN SPACE, THE ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION

This chapter includes recommendations regarding public parks, creeks, potential greenbelts, and trails within the planning area. It also includes information on how the City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department prioritizes spending on different projects.

The Objectives and Recommendations described in this chapter support the following plan goals included in the University Hills/Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan Vision Statement on Page 5:

- Protect and enhance all natural and environmentally-sensitive features of the area, especially Little Walnut Creek, Tannehill Creek, and Fort Branch Creek, and tributaries and springs of these three creeks.
- Increase opportunities for physical recreation through parkland, an improved pedestrian and bicycle environment, and built environment planning.
- Support area schools and young people.

This combined planning area has two popular city parks. As described in the park history on Page 77, Dottie Jordan Park in University Hills was created as a result of the dedication and persistence of community members. The neighborhood is actively seeking ways to improve and expand its existing facilities, programs and grounds; this chapter describes recommendations for accomplishing their goals.



Little Walnut Creek near Dottie Jordan Park

PARKS, OPEN SPACE, THE ENVIRONMENT

Bartholomew Park has many facilities, which keep the park very busy during the day. Swimmers, children, Frisbee golf players, bicyclists, dog walkers, baseball and football players and others share this space. Windsor Park Neighborhood Association members have initiated

several improvement projects and continue to collaborate with outside agencies and the City's Parks and Recreation Department to improve park amenities. This chapter includes recommendations that build upon their efforts.

The community has also voiced a need for additional parkland and public meeting places. Community members support the purchase of land for public uses within the planning area. There is significant interest in allocating funds for a new community resource center as well. This facility would provide public meeting space and recreational opportunities for residents of all ages.

Additionally, the community also expressed concerns about the environmental qual-



Tannehill Creek near Pecan Springs



Sunset in Bartholomew Park

PARKS, OPEN SPACE, THE ENVIRONMENT

ity of the creeks in the planning area, and this chapter includes recommendations that offer solutions for reducing erosion along creek banks and maintaining their riparian habitat.

Implementation Note

The recommendations for parks in this chapter are organized differently than others in the plan; recommendations are prioritized according to UHWP stakeholder interest. NPZD planners met with staff from the City's Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) to discuss how to increase the likelihood that these recommendations will be implemented. PARD staff suggested that stakeholders prioritize their recommendations so that PARD can easily understand where the neighborhood would most like to see funds invested or other improvements made.

Each park's objectives have been prioritized, and larger neighborhood-wide projects are listed in this chapter roughly in order of importance to the neighborhood. Recommendations are organized into short and long term goals in order to help residents and City staff communicate more effectively about implementation.

PARD would implement most of the recommendations in this chapter upon obtaining sufficient funding and balancing these recommendations with other parkland needs throughout the City of Austin. Some recommendations may be implemented by the University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams by obtaining grants and gathering neighborhood members as volunteers (e.g., for planting trees, building trails, etc.).



DOTTIE JORDAN PARK

Dottie Jordan Park, located on Loyola Lane between Willamette Street and Manor Road, is heavily used by the community. However, stakeholders are concerned about the lack of funding available for maintenance and improvements. Community members feel strongly that the City of Austin, in partnership with others, should revisit the amount of funding allocated for Dottie Jordan Park given the number of people it serves.



Shaded play area at Dottie Jordan Park

Thanks to Ms. Lou O'Hanlon and the University Hills Neighborhood Association for reviewing the recommendations in this section.

DOTTIE JORDAN PARK HISTORY

Dottie Jordan, an AISD orchestra teacher, lived across the street from the current park location and died in March 1973 of diabetic complications at the age of 32. Interested in preserving open space in the neighborhood, Ms. Jordan first spoke to City Council in 1972 when the park was threatened with a plan to build condominiums. Developer Walter Carrington had received a City zoning permit to build a 40-unit condominium complex on the land. Homeowners protested because the Carrington's sales staff had promised that the land would always remain a park. Carrington sold the land to the City in November 1973 for \$135,000 after a district court ruled against him and Lumbermen's Investment Corp. in a suit brought by several homeowners in the University Hills area.



Little Walnut Creek borders the park, and the park suffered extensive flood damage from the creek on Memorial Day 1981. Round-the-clock neighborhood volunteers kept watch on the park and the homes on Dunbarton and Willamette Streets during the flooding. The recreation center was expanded for ADA improvements in 1998 and rededicated once more in February 2003 after a January 2002 arson-fire.



PARKS, OPEN SPACE, THE ENVIRONMENT

Objective (Dottie Jordan Park Priority 1): As funding becomes available, the first spending priority should be for increased maintenance of grounds and facilities at Dottie Jordan Park.

Recommendations:

- Increase maintenance personnel hours for the park.
- Increase the frequency of site maintenance (e.g., cutting the grass, caring for the gardens in front of the recreation center, trimming trees and shrubs, and cleaning debris from the creek as needed).
- Monitor turn-around time for work order requests for basic and emergency maintenance, and enforce performance measures for response timelines.

Objective (Dottie Jordan Park Priority 2): Improve and expand park facilities and programs offered through the Dottie Jordan Recreation Center. [Note: Recommendations are categorized into short term and long term projects.]

FACILITY & PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS: SHORT TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

- Permanently remove portable toilets from the exterior entrance of the park (see Long Term action items on next page) **(PRIORITY ACTION ITEM)**.
- Relocate beverage machines outside of the recreation center to provide more room and eliminate noise during meetings; construct a grate or other barrier around vending machines to prevent theft and vandalism.
- Increase funding available for materials, staff and scholarships for summer camp and after-school programs offered at Dottie Jordan Park.



HOW YOU CAN HELP EXTEND THE POOL SEASON

The Aquatics Division of the City's Parks and Recreation Department manages all of the City's public pools. At the beginning of each pool season, the City hires seasonal lifeguards. Many of the lifeguards are university students. Often, the City has been unable to fill their positions when classes resume in August. The City's Aquatics Division has expressed interest in partnering with other organizations to acquire funding for a full time employee(s) or hiring temporary lifeguards to keep public pools open later in the year.

Potential partners could include the University of Texas, AISD, the Homeowners' Association at Mueller, or the UHWP neighborhood associations.

Staff recommends that interested community members explore the possibility of supporting a partnership between the City of Austin's Aquatics Division and a community entity in order to allow extended pool usage at area parks.



PARKS, OPEN SPACE, THE ENVIRONMENT

SITE IMPROVEMENTS: SHORT TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

- Build a screen (such as shrubbery or a decorative wall) around the dumpster located at the east end of the parking lot. This would eliminate the existing eyesore and help discourage illegal dumping.
- Plant shade trees at appropriate locations throughout the park.

FACILITY & PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS: LONG TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

- Construct an alternate entrance for the pool's restroom facilities to allow for access after the recreation center is closed (evenings, weekends, and holidays). **(PRIORITY ACTION ITEM)**
- Extend the season during which the pool is accessible by the public. **(PRIORITY ACTION ITEM. Also see sidebar for implementation strategies.)**
- Construct a shade/rain pavilion that can accommodate approximately 100 people in the west side of the park near the playground. The existing recreation center does not have room to shelter the children at the free summer youth programs.

•



RECREATION PROGRAMS AT DOTTIE JORDAN

Call the Recreation Center for the most up-to-date information on classes and events. (512-926-3491)

- Afterschool care is offered daily. It includes snacks, help with homework, arts & crafts, sports and nature activities and field trips. Pick up is available at Andrews, Pecan Springs, and Winn Elementary Schools.
- The Summer Playgrounds Program is offered from June 2nd thru July 23rd. The Summer Playground Program is free for children 6-12 years old.
- The Summer Foods Program will serve lunches daily for ages 1-18 years old, Monday thru Friday from 12 pm - 1 pm.
- Tennis Lessons are available through the National Junior Tennis League (N.J.T.L.) at the tennis courts. The phone number is 480-3020. Scholarships are available.
- The Neighborhood Teen Program has activities every Monday night.
- Girls Volleyball is \$25 and is offered for ages 9-12 years.
- Senior Bridge takes place weekly.
- The University Hills Neighborhood Association meets regularly at the Center.
- Seasonal activities include a Harvest Fest and more.



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DOTTIE JORDAN PARK IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY: The park's steering committee and the University Hills / Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team could lead and organize efforts to implement items below, and they could create outreach strategies to invite the larger community to participate in the steering committee.

- Expand the Dottie Jordan Recreation Center Building; the center's single room limits the space available for needed programs offered at the park.
- Enhance park amenities: Install more barbeque pits, concrete picnic tables in shaded areas, water fountains, chairs/benches inside the pool fence.
- Construct a push-button water sprinkler area outside the pool fencing that can operate beyond the pool's operational season.
- Improve basketball facilities at Dottie Jordan Park; install good quality lights for night-time play, a cover over the court to offer sun protection, and build a nearby water fountain.
- Install a sand volleyball pit to the west of the recreation center.

SITE IMPROVEMENTS: LONG TERM

- Widen and improve the trail around the park with a more permanent substance, such as crushed granite, in order to sustain the trail if flooded.

Implementation Note: With funding from the Neighborhood Improvements Projects Grant through the City of Austin's Healthy Environment, Healthy Neighbors Initiative, the trail will be re-surfaced, widened, and possibly connected to form a loop around the park.



Dottie Jordan Park trail end

DOTTIE JORDAN PARK WORK ORDER REQUEST PROCESS INFORMATION

If you have a maintenance concern:

1. Call the Park Manager at 926-3491 to explain your concerns. Request that a work order be issued.
2. Record the date of your call and the work order number that corresponds to your request.
3. Follow-up calls or calls from your neighbors to support your request can be made to 974-6700 or after business hours to 311.



BARTHOLOMEW PARK



Disc golf players in Bartholomew Park.

Bartholomew Park is located at the intersection of 51st Street and Berkman Drive. The City of Austin acquired a significant amount of land dedicated for parks during the 1950s, and Bartholomew park was dedicated in 1958. Its facilities include a swimming pool, baseball and softball fields, tennis courts, a basketball court, a disc-golf course, and a picnic pavilion. At the time of writing this plan, the City recently completed landscaping and other erosion mitigation work in the park to preserve Tannehill Creek, which runs through Bartholomew Park, from Berkman Drive to 51st Street at the southeast corner of the park.

Note: Members of the Windsor Park neighborhood working on these projects reviewed the following recommendations.

Objective #1: Increase access to and connectivity with Bartholomew Park, and link the park to other natural areas and trails.

SHORT TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association's efforts to secure funding for the construction of a crushed granite trail through Bartholomew Park.
 - PARD should sponsor this trail project by applying for a Texas Parks and Wildlife Recreational Trails Grant.
 - In conjunction with PARD's grant, the





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Windsor Park Neighborhood Association should apply for an Austin Parks Foundation grant to further finance the trail project.

- Connect the Rathgeber Village/Mueller Hike and Bike trail to the east end of Bartholomew Park and the park's planned trail. See related parkland acquisition note in the Appendix. Additionally, see the diagram on the previous page.
- Extend the season during which the pool is accessible to the public. (**PRIORITY ACTION ITEM. Also see sidebar on Page 78 for implementation strategies**).

LONG TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create an entrance to the park from the sidewalk on Berkman Drive.
- Construct a sidewalk on the south side of Greenbrook Drive with ADA accessible curb cuts to allow full access to Bartholomew Park.
 - Currently there is no sidewalk on Greenbrook Drive and no entrance to Bartholomew Park from the sidewalk on Berkman Drive. People approaching Bartholomew Park from the west and north, especially those with wheelchairs and strollers, have difficulty entering the park).
- Convert the wading pool to a water feature with a timed sprinkler.
- Install additional playscape equipment.

TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BARTHOLOMEW PARK

These recommendations were collected in conjunction with a walk-through of a possible trail route suggested by the City's Parks Department Staff.

- Avoid placing the trail along 51st Street or using the sidewalk there as a trail. Car speeds are too high and the sidewalk is too narrow for users.
- Take note of 'paths of desire' (dirt paths that show constant use) through the park. Plan the route such that the creek and other quiet green areas are highlighted.
- Plan the route such that daytime users are visible to others to minimize crime.
- Consider lighting if the trail is accessible for nighttime users. Explore partnerships with Mueller developers or the University of Texas Medical Branch for project implementation.
- Install trail/mile markers along planned Bartholomew Park trail.
- Plant shade trees along final trail route.
- Protect trail pedestrians with speed bumps and a crosswalk across the sports field driveways.



A narrow sidewalk lines Bartholomew Park's south side along 51st Street



WINDSOR PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION WORKING IN BARTHOLOMEW PARK



Lacey McCormick and Tommy Butler help with trail planning in the park.

(The following article, "Bartholomew Park Finishing a Great Year" was written by Cherie Simpson, member of the WPNA Park Committee.)

WE PLANTED TREES - On Jan 14th volunteers organized by Tree Folks along with Windsor Park Neighborhood Association volunteers helped the City of Austin plant 12 trees in the play area to provide much needed shade. Types of trees include live oak, burr oak and red bud. On February 4th an additional 19 trees were planted in the park along Greenbrook. These trees include live oak, chinquapin oak, and cedar elm.

WE PARTICIPATED IN IT'S MY PARK DAY - Over 60 volunteers came out on April 22 to help clean up the picnic and play area, clean and haul trash from the creek, paint

tables and fence. We even erected a new chain link fence to stop trash from blowing into the creek from the picnic area. BAE Systems has made It's My Park Day and Bartholomew Park one of their designated community service projects and we are grateful for their help. They even brought the hotdogs for a cookout! Gift certificates were given for cleaning the "strangest trash" from the creek. Our efforts were rewarded with the grand prize of Amy's Ice Cream for best Austin parks project.

WE PARTICIPATED IN NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING - There was good representation for Bartholomew Park during the Neighborhood Planning process. Some of the issues discussed and voted on were a designated dog park (we voted to leave things as they are), a trail through or around the park that connects Bartholomew with the new Mueller Development, emphasizing that we want the children's pool to be removed and a new water play area installed, and possibly making the district pool open year round. The need for more sidewalks and accessibility to the picnic and play area for strollers and wheelchairs was identified. Neighborhood planning is long range planning but it is important to



Cherie Simpson, Rick Krivoniak, and Greg Montes consider potential trail routes.



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get ideas out there and in the plan. Many of these ideas we will work on aggressively.

WE RAISED MONEY FOR NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT – The new trees will add shade *eventually* but there is still a need for play equipment for smaller children in the shade. We worked with the City to identify a company and two pieces of play equipment (a small house and school bus structure) that would meet all of the City's requirements and set a budget of \$5000. We received a grant from Austin Parks Foundation for \$2500 and raised the rest of the money from private and corporate donations and by having FUN! We raised over \$300 at a "Social in the Park" August 26th that celebrated the It's My Park Day Award and the kick off of play equipment fundraising. Folks enjoyed hotdogs, chips and ice cream. Then on October 14th we had a community garage sale at Messiah Lutheran Church and raised \$1200. The new equipment will be installed after the first of the year.

Great volunteers made this all happen: Daphne Jeffers, Ruth Marie, Lacey McCormick, Joanna Rabiger, and Danielle Hayes to name a few. If you have ideas about the park, concerns or just want to make sure the park stays a wonderful place for everyone to enjoy, join us. Feel free to contact me at roohut@grandecom.net or 451-6783.





PARKLAND ACQUISITION

At UWHP planning meetings, community members recommended numerous locations for potential parkland acquisition. However, recognizing that funding constraints can make parkland acquisition difficult, community members have stated their preference that parks and open space recommendations in this neighborhood plan focus on existing parks and green space areas. Additionally, they expressed support for focusing the parkland acquisition sites on those that would serve neighborhood residents living farthest away from a park. For reference, the recommendations for parkland acquisition sites have been recorded and described in the map located in the Appendix.

HOW THE CITY CHOOSES NEW LOCATIONS FOR PARKS

The Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) Master Plan includes a Gap Analysis. The Gap Analysis identifies locations where the most residents have the least access to parks and recreational facilities throughout the city. The City of Austin has a goal that all residents will live within one mile of public greenspace. When PARC has sufficient funds, either through Parkland Dedication fees or bond funds designated for park projects, they can purchase property or accept property as a gift and create a new park. PARC staff analyzes the following factors when choosing new property for conversion:

- Is the property developable; would the property allow for the construction of park support facilities such as restrooms or a recreation center?
 - What is the slope of the land?
 - Is the property outside of the floodplain?
- Is there adequate parking, an opportunity for shared parking facilities, or good access to public transportation?
- Is the property easily accessible through a residential street?
- Is the property being sold at a reasonable price?
- Is the park near publicly owned property or school property?
- Would the new park location link to nearby greenbelts or other parks?
- Does the proposed park location have significant environmental features, creeks, or other significant resources that need preservation?



Vacant land on Patton Lane; a proposed parkland acquisition site



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Objective: Create new parks within the planning area to serve neighborhood residents living the farthest distance from existing park facilities.

Recommendations:

- Acquire parkland to serve the residents living in the area between IH-35, Hwy 290 and Cameron Road.
 - An analysis of the location of existing parks within and near the UHWP planning area has shown that this section of the planning area is located greater than one mile from the nearest City of Austin park. These areas are high priority areas for acquisition of land for use as a public park (see blue box on Page 85). The vacant lot on Patton Lane (shown on the Parkland Acquisition map in the Appendix) is a potential parkland site that is within one mile of the above-described location.
- Seek opportunities to partner with community organizations, foundations, or private donors for the construction and maintenance of a community center for seniors and youth in the planning area and nearby. This community center could be located in any new parkland acquired by the City of Austin in the UHWP planning area. The neighborhood has also identified the space currently used by the Boy Scouts on Hwy 290 as a potential location for a community center if the Boy Scouts office were to relocate.

HOW ARE PARKS PROJECTS FUNDED?

- Voters approve city-wide bond packages that earmark funds for specific projects. Large projects (Capital Improvement Projects) such as building renovations and expansions need significant funds that come from bonds.
- Parkland Dedication Fees (PLD) are collected when private landowners subdivide land. These funds can be used for upgrades of park facilities.
- The City Council approves PARD's annual budget. Budget funding can be used for recreational programs. As neighborhoods show that there is a strong need for enhanced programs, PARD can request additional monies through the budget process.
- Grants can also help fund public projects. Funding sources include private entities and public grants such as the Texas Parks & Wildlife Recreational Trails Grant.



TANNEHILL CREEK GREENBELT (SEE BLUE BOX ON NEXT PAGE)

Objective: Create a greenbelt along the south bank of Tannehill Creek from Bartholomew Park to Cameron Road.

Recommendations:

- The City of Austin holds drainage easements along Tannehill Creek. If a greenbelt is proposed, revise the language of the drainage easements so that the easements would allow for public access along Tannehill Creek's south bank from Berkman Drive to Cameron Road.
- Tannehill Creek's south bank, between Berkman Drive and Cameron Road, is under private ownership. If a greenbelt is proposed, PARD should coordinate with the University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams and these property owners (particularly Promise Land Church) to pursue recreational easements on these properties.
- At the time of site plans, major renovations, or proposed rezoning, establish a 100 foot vegetated setback (through a conditional overlay) from the Tannehill Creek centerline to preserve space for the potential future greenbelt.
 - This recommendation applies to all properties adjacent to Tannehill Creek that are north of 51st Street between Berkman Drive and Lancaster Court.
- The Rathgeber Village Hike and Bike Trail should have a ten foot minimum setback from the top of the southwest bank of Tannehill Creek.
- Design all greenbelt trails in and around the planning area so that they are safe for users. There should be good visibility, especially near vegetation, and if the trail is open at night, adequate lighting should be installed.



Watershed Protection staff studying Tannehill Creek as part of the UHWP planning process

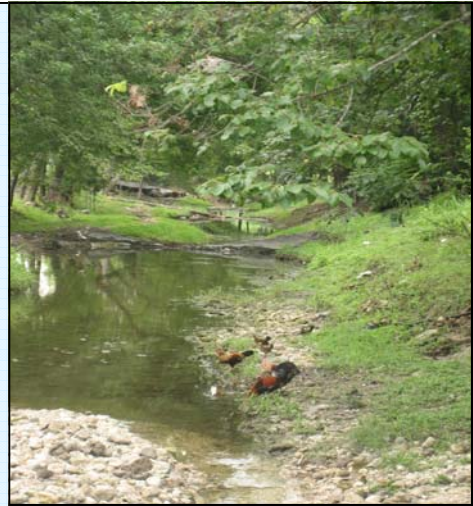


TANNEHILL CREEK GREENBELT PLANNING BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Neighborhood planning staff collected information from the City of Austin's Watershed Protection and Development Review Department (WPDR) on each creek in the planning area (Little Walnut, Fort Branch, Tannehill Branch). Planners presented this information to stakeholders during several Parks/Trails meetings held in February-March 2006.

Stakeholders expressed interest at these meetings in pursuing the possibility of creating a greenbelt along Tannehill Creek. WPDR staff worked with neighborhood planners to consider the feasibility of a trail along this creek. On June 28, 2006, WPDR staff collaborated with neighborhood planners to hold a community meeting to discuss this potential project. Additionally, WPDR staff led neighborhood planners and stakeholders on a walking tour of Tannehill Creek from Lancaster Court through to the Pecan Springs and past Manor Road to document resources, ecologically sensitive areas, and constraints along the creek.

The creation of a Tannehill Creek Greenbelt would benefit people, water quality and the overall riparian ecosystem. For example, the greenbelt would connect pedestrians to a trail system including Patterson Park, the Mueller Hike and Bike Trail and Lake Park, and the proposed trail through Bartholomew Park. It would offer people the opportunity to experience a natural setting in their neighborhood. This interaction could help build support for water and land conservation causes. A 100 foot setback for development would preserve the riparian (stream) environment and reduce erosion. Finally, improving stormwater outfall piping into the creek would improve opposite bank erosion.





TANNEHILL CREEK GREENBELT PLANNING BACKGROUND INFORMATION (continued)

At the neighborhood planning meeting on June 28, 2006 to discuss the Tannehill greenbelt in more detail, some property owners with land adjacent to Tannehill Creek stated that they do not support the construction of a greenbelt; these owners feel that a greenbelt would encourage or increase the existing problem of homelessness and drug abuse in Windsor Park along the creek. Several of these owners would reconsider the proposed greenbelt project once they feel the neighborhood and their property would not be negatively affected by an adjacent greenbelt allowing public access. Other residents feel it is imperative that Austin Clean Water projects and any other city infrastructure projects along Tannehill Creek be completed before any new construction begins. This would include construction of a greenbelt trail.

Recommendations included in the UHWP Neighborhood Plan provide a framework for the neighborhood to pursue a greenbelt along Tannehill Creek if the neighborhood so desires in the future. City of Austin staff recommends acquiring permission for public access from private landowners as a first step toward creating a greenbelt. Existing City of Austin drainage easements would need to be rewritten to allow public access. Additionally, some private land may need to be purchased to allow for a trail to be appropriately located far enough from the bank of Tannehill Creek.

Some UHWP stakeholders envision a Tannehill Creek Greenbelt and trail system that would link Capital Plaza to Broadmoor (through the extension of Lancaster Court) and 51st Street, through to Bartholomew Park, to Mueller and its trails, and south along Tannehill Creek past Pecan Springs to the Morris Williams Municipal Golf Course. A greenbelt system of this magnitude would provide significant environmental benefits and recreational benefits to residents in many surrounding neighborhoods.





LITTLE WALNUT CREEK

Little Walnut Creek winds through the University Hills neighborhood and eventually connects with Walnut Creek. In 1983, in response to the 1981 Memorial Day flood, the City made flood control improvements along the creek, including gabions for some cliffs and widening the Loyola Lane bridge. However, due to continuing extensive erosion of cliffs and banks, the City purchased approximately 10 properties in 1998 with the most extensive damage.

University Hills community members were successful in opposing a City plan to construct a larger sewer/wastewater line next to the existing line in the bed of Little Walnut Creek. They supported the final wastewater project, a tunnel under Northeast Drive, that was completed in Fall 2006. This tunnel diverts from the creek approximately 80% of the flow, lessening the chance of a sewage overflow similar to the one that occurred in Little Walnut Creek in July 2003.

The June 2001 Watershed Protection & Development Review Department Master Plan includes an extensive discussion of Little Walnut Creek. The Master Plan states that any additional erosion-control efforts along the creek "should focus on channel restoration including sideslope stabilization, property buyouts, and riparian restoration, together with retrofits of existing ponds for water quality and erosion benefits, public education, and low impact development." The City of Austin's Watershed Protection & Development Review Department has plans to update the Master Plan in Fall 2007.

The community continues to be concerned about erosion of the creek banks due to high water flow during major storm events (see adjacent photos). The following recommendations describe ways in which the neighborhood and the City of Austin



Little Walnut Creek from Dottie Jordan Park



Flooded Little Walnut Creek after 1/13/07 storm event (photo courtesy of Lou O'Hanlon)



Erosion mitigation along Little Walnut Creek



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can work together to address the erosion along the creek and restore the riparian environment.

(Thanks to WPDR and University Hills resident Ms. Mary Alice Brown for this information).

Appendix I contains for reference a chart of recent and upcoming WPDR projects on the creeks in the planning area, including Little Walnut Creek.

Objective: Maintain Little Walnut Creek as a recreational asset and an ecological resource for the neighborhood.

Recommendations:

- The University Hills Contact Teams should coordinate with neighborhood associations and other interested community members to address illegal dumping and improve water quality in Little Walnut Creek through clean-up events and collaboration with Adopt-a-creek program, local schools, Youth River Watch, and the Austin Clean Water Program.
- The University Hills Contact Teams should establish and maintain working relationships with City of Austin Watershed Protection & Development Review staff to notify them of erosion problem areas along the creek and work with staff to develop solutions to address increased erosion resulting from impacts of greater impervious cover in the planning area and surrounding areas.
 - **Implementation Note:** WPDR staff can meet with interested neighborhood residents to walk the creek and discuss additional erosion control measures, prioritization of these measures in the context of other erosion control projects throughout the city, timelines for their completion, etc. The Contact Team could coordinate this meeting.

Objective: Inform the neighborhood about the historical and ecological significance of Little Walnut Creek.

Recommendation:

- Install informational sign(s) on Loyola Lane near Little Walnut Creek.
 - **Implementation Note:** The University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams could organize a committee to research the creek's history and significance to the neighborhood and then write a proposal for PARD to request signage. PARD has a sign shop which may be able to execute this work.



DRAINAGE

Many residents in the UHWP planning area have cited drainage and flooding as a major concern in their neighborhood. Depending on the cause of drainage problems, the City of Austin's Watershed Protection & Development Review Department or Public Works will address the problem. For example, if there is a problem with street flooding or drainage that would require a structural change to the roadway, then Public Works would be responsible for implementing that change. Watershed Protection & Development Review is responsible for monitoring drainage and erosion problems with local creeks or sites that would not require changes to the street construction.

DIAL 3-1-1 FOR DRAINAGE/FLOODING PROBLEMS

If you see a problem with drainage or flooding in your neighborhood, dial 3-1-1 and report this problem. This information is forwarded to the City of Austin's Watershed Protection & Development Review Department and maintained in a database. Priority for infrastructure improvements is partially based on the "density" of complaints in an area—the more complaints in an area, the higher the priority for improvements in that area.

TRANSPORTATION NETWORK & INFRASTRUCTURE

INTRODUCTION

A city's transportation network includes its streets, sidewalks and crosswalks, bicycle lanes, and public transportation system. This chapter lists recommendations for needed improvements to the existing transportation network for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers within the UHWP planning area. The recommendations are also intended to encourage and facilitate the use of public transportation. UHWP plan participants established transportation goals early in the planning process.

Pedestrian connectivity is a high priority for plan stakeholders; many recommendations in this chapter reflect this value. Stakeholders want to pursue opportunities to safely link residential and commercial areas to creeks, parks, and trail networks. They also want to focus on creating pleasant, safe access for bicyclists and pedestrians into the Mueller redevelopment site. In addition to the extensive hike and bike trail system that could connect Mueller's Town Lake Park to Patterson Park and Bartholomew Park, pedestrians need access to Mueller amenities such as its restaurants, retail areas, and other services.

Staff in the City of Austin's Public Works Department or in Capital Metro reviewed each recommendation in this chapter, where appli-



Waiting for Route 37 bus for Colony Park.

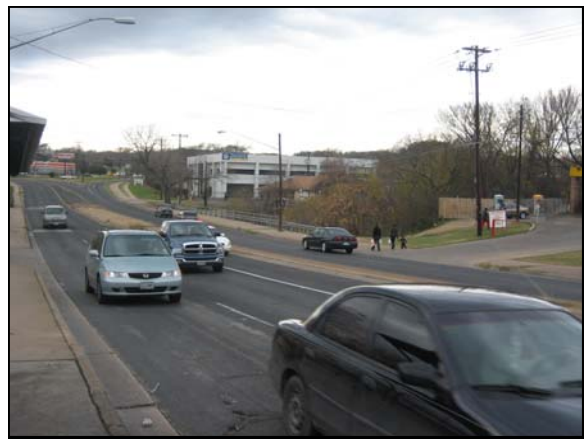


A "path of desire" along Cameron Road

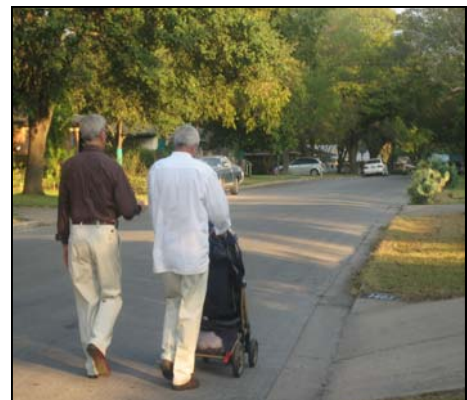
TRANSPORTATION NETWORK & INFRASTRUCTURE

cable. The Public Works Department is responsible for the construction of sidewalks, installation of bicycle lanes, and repairing and improving city roadways. Capital Metro manages the public transportation system within the City of Austin. Both entities create their own plans to determine when and where repairs and enhancements will be made, according to available funding.

In order to find the most effective way to incorporate UHWP stakeholder recommendations into Public Works' and Capital Metro's project schedules, NPZD staff has refined plan recommendations using their feedback. Public Works and Capital Metro staff comments and information about project implementation are included where appropriate.



Northbound traffic on Manor Road



Many UHWP area residents want to improve pedestrian environments near their homes and workplaces



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: CAPITAL METRO

Capital Metro makes changes to the existing bus system using input from bus riders and community members, and through completing their own assessments of the transit network. They have also been working with Austin residents to develop the All Systems Go! long-range transit plan.

The All Systems Go! plan aims to greatly expand the city's public transportation system to provide sustainable transit options for the rapidly growing population in Central Texas (www.allsystemsgo.capmetro.org). These options will connect with the existing transit system. Components of the All Systems Go! plan include:

Capital Metrorail: Regional commuter rail that will run between Leander and downtown Austin

MetroRapid Bus Lines: Buses that control traffic signals

Circulators: Streetcar circulator service through central Austin

Some UHWP residents have participated in creating the All Systems Go! plan to understand how new and expanded public transportation routes may affect their neighborhood. Additionally, Capital Metro representatives have actively participated in the UHWP planning process. In May 2006, Capital Metro staff presented information on their plans and answered questions specific to the UHWP neighborhoods. The following recommendations are guides for continued collaboration between Capital Metro staff and UHWP residents. Capital Metro staff have reviewed these recommendations prior to their inclusion in this plan.



ADOPT A BUS STOP!

Capital Metro recently initiated an Adopt-a-Stop program. Local organizations and businesses are encouraged to adopt a Capital Metro bus stop that has a bench or shelter. Adopting groups will assist with the removal of debris around their stop at least once a week between Capital Metro scheduled cleaning. They will also contact Capital Metro to inform them of graffiti or their concerns with the adopted stop. Groups can also add unique touches to their adopted stops by incorporating elements that reflect the character of the neighborhood. Capital Metro will place a sign at

the adopted stop to recognize the group's work.

Contact Capital Metro at 389-7434 to apply and learn more about this program. See also http://www.capmetro.org/news/.news_detail.asp?id=1127.



TRANSPORTATION NETWORK & INFRASTRUCTURE

Objective: Promote the use of public transportation by ensuring areas immediately surrounding bus stops are safe.

- Currently, there are problems with public intoxication, drug related activity, and prostitution at and near bus stops, especially along Manor Road and Cameron Road.

Recommendations:

- Members of the University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams and/or neighborhood residents, neighborhood association members, and area business owners should meet with Capital Metro staff to identify and prioritize bus stop locations where more security measures are needed.
 - Capital Metro may be able to install bus stop benches with 'arm rests' that deter extended loitering.
 - The Austin Police Department (APD) could assist Capital Metro and area business owners to develop a plan to reduce crime near bus stops.
 - Bus drivers should continue to report any problems at stops through their direct radio system.
- Capital Metro Planning and Facilities teams should move the bus stop on the southwest corner of Loyola and Manor Road five feet further away from the street curb and install a bollard to protect pedestrians.
 - **Implementation Note:** In January 2007 the bus stop was moved further away from the curb.
- Members of the University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams and/or neighborhood association members should meet with Capital Metro Facilities Design & Construction (FDC)



Families wait to ride at a bus stop on Manor Road.

HOW YOU CAN PREVENT CRIME AT AREA BUS STOPS

The environment at bus stops affects ridership of city buses. UHWP residents have described drug related activities, prostitution, public intoxication, and verbal harassment at some bus stops in the planning area. To help stop these crimes, residents are encouraged to call the Austin Police Department at **9-1-1** each time a crime is observed. Indicate the exact bus stop location and time of day the crime was observed.

Additionally, Capital Metro's **Transit-Watch** program is a safety and security awareness program that encourages passengers and employees to promote a safe transit environment. Please consult their website for more information on this program.

(www.capmetro.org/riding/eng.htm)



TRANSPORTATION NETWORK & INFRASTRUCTURE

and Facilities Management (FM) staff to identify and prioritize specific bus stop locations that currently require maintenance. (FDC and FM staff members are responsible for the assessment and maintenance of all system bus stops.)

Objective: Improve and expand bus facilities and services for planning area residents. In general, the community supports more sheltered bus stops in the planning area.

Recommendations:

- Construct a covered bus stop at the Cameron Road/ Hwy 290 intersection.
 - **Implementation Note:** Capital Metro is currently working with City of Austin Public Works staff to improve several bus stops on Cameron Road between Hwy 290 and 51st Street as a part of the City's Cameron Road Corridor Improvement Project. Bus stop pull-off areas, benches and shelters are constructed based on the number of riders using particular stops. Ridership levels for this segment of Cameron Road will trigger a pull-off area and bench for the southbound route and a bench for the northbound route. (See sidebar about Cameron Road in the Land Use & Development chapter).
- Cover the Dottie Jordan Recreation Center stop on the south side of Loyola Lane.
 - **Implementation Note:** This recommendation was discussed at a neighborhood planning meeting with Capital Metro. UHWP planning staff and stakeholders applaud Capital Metro for installing a new covered bus stop with a bench and an additional new bench across the street from the center (north side of Loyola Lane) in August 2006.
- Address the congestion caused by the bus stop located on the southbound travel lane of Cameron Road just north of the intersection with Broadmoor.
 - **Implementation Note:** Capital Metro staff is working with Public Works staff to develop alternatives that would allow improved service at this



Capital Metro's new covered bus stop at Dottie Jordan Park



TRANSPORTATION NETWORK & INFRASTRUCTURE

location. Several “open” driveways obstruct the relocation of the stop to some areas south of this intersection. See the summary of Public Works’ Cameron Road project in the Land Use & Development chapter.

- On Saturdays, allow a connection between the last southbound bus on Route 383 and the connecting southbound bus on Route 300 (Berkman Drive).
 - **Implementation Note:** Capital Metro has finalized this route change and it has been implemented with their January 2007 service changes.
- Construct a nearby transit center with parking that will allow UHWP residents access to bus and rail lines.
 - **Implementation Note:** Capital Metro is planning a transit center at the intersection of Loyola Lane and Johnny Morris Road. This facility will serve as a transfer center for Route 20 Manor/LBJ, Route 37 Windsor Park/Colony Park, Route 18 MLK and will potentially offer other services.
- Capital Metro should establish East-West or “cross-town” mass transit service on 51st Street from Lamar Blvd. to Hwy 183.
 - **Implementation Note:** Capital Metro uses ridership levels to increase service or establish new service. They currently have plans to add service along segments of 51st Street in the future as Mueller develops and as the population of the North Loop neighborhood increases.
- Establish an Airport Flyer pick-up site to provide UHWP and Mueller residents with direct access to Austin-Bergstrom International Airport.
 - **Implementation Note:** Route 100 Airport Flyer is designed to serve areas that exhibit the highest airport activity (e.g. Downtown and the University of Texas campus). The Mueller site will connect to Austin-Bergstrom International Airport via Route 350 Airport Blvd.

Objective: UHWP residents should be able to easily access all public transportation systems located within the Mueller redevelopment.

- These may include RAPID bus, streetcar, and/or rail lines.

Recommendation:

- The University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams should coordinate with Mueller developers, the Mueller Neighborhood Coalition, and the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission to provide adequate public parking within in the Mueller development to serve UHWP residents who choose to make use of future public transit options.
 - **Implementation Note:** There are currently no plans for a Capital Metro owned or leased Mueller Park & Ride. NPZD staff recommend the



TRANSPORTATION NETWORK & INFRASTRUCTURE

Mueller Neighborhood Coalition & University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams investigate this recommendation with Mueller developers and the RMMA Plan Implementation Advisory Commission.

VEHICLE, BICYCLE, AND PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE: CITY OF AUSTIN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The recommendations in this section reflect stakeholders' vision to improve the street network and streetscapes to better accommodate pedestrians, bicycles, and motorized vehicles. Emphasis is placed on creating a safe and pedestrian-friendly road network throughout the UHWP planning area. This can be accomplished through improved crosswalks, additional sidewalks, bike lanes, and pedestrian-oriented development.

Most of the recommendations described below are also depicted on the map on Page 104. These recommendations were gathered through input from plan participants from various meetings and through field work and analysis completed by the neighborhood planning staff.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

The City of Austin's Public Works Department conducts neighborhood-wide traffic calming studies rather than concentrating on one street in particular. This allows them to identify streets that can hold heavy volumes of traffic and minimize disruptions from traffic on mainly residential streets. As part of their 2003 traffic calming study in the area, speed cushions were installed on streets identified by the study participants. (See map on the following page).

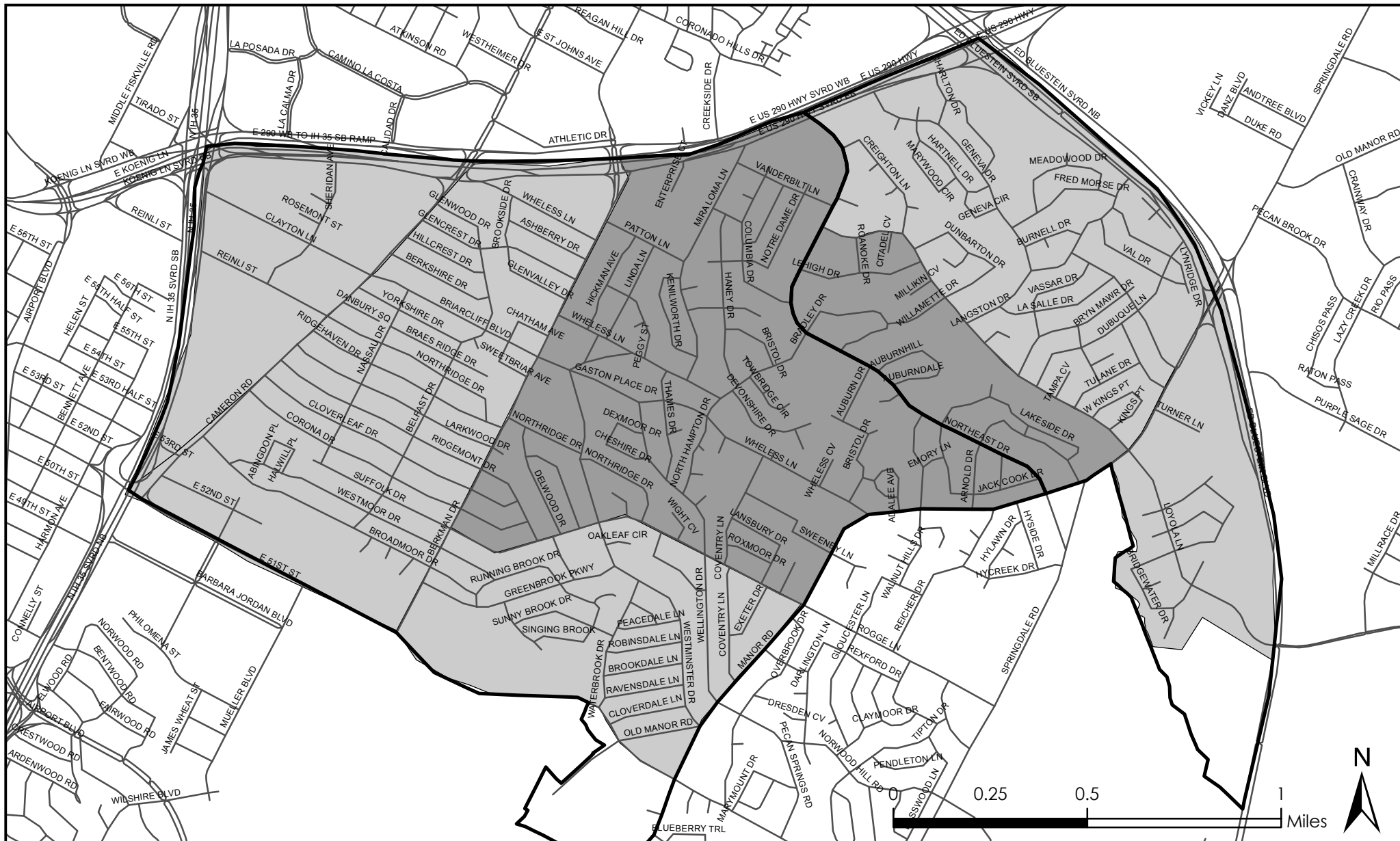
- **Implementation Note:** Currently, sufficient funding is not available to implement any new traffic calming studies. Once funding becomes available, Public Works will determine if the following streets can be included in future traffic calming studies.



Cameron Road and Corona



Cameron Road






University Hills/ Windsor Park Neighborhood Planning Area

Traffic Calming Study Areas



This map has been produced by the City of Austin Neighborhood Planning & Zoning Department for the sole purpose of aiding neighborhood planning decisions and is not warranted for any other use. No warranty is made by the City regarding its accuracy or completeness.

-  UHWP Planning Area Boundary
 Potential Future Traffic Calming Areas
 2003 Traffic Calming Study Area



TRANSPORTATION NETWORK & INFRASTRUCTURE

Objective: Improve vehicular safety and efficiency throughout the neighborhood by conducting traffic calming studies.

Traffic Calming Recommendations
(See map on Page 105):

- T1 Briarcliff between Cameron Road and Berkman Drive
- T2 Corona between Cameron Road and Berkman Drive
- T3 Broadmoor between Cameron Road and Berkman Drive
- T4 Willamette between Northeast and Loyola **(Complete)**

Objective: Improve and promote pedestrian safety and mobility for residents throughout the neighborhood.

Recommendations:

- Discourage any additional vehicle travel lanes on 51st Street.
- Public Works should study and implement methods to improve safety at the intersection of 51st Street and Waterbrook, and where Manor Road curves at its intersection with Wheless.
- Residents and Public Works staff should coordinate to improve pedestrian safety near area schools so that children and parents are able to walk to school and to nearby businesses.

PUBLIC WORKS BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PROGRAM

The purpose of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program is to integrate bicycles and walking into the existing and proposed transportation system to encourage walking and bicycling as viable modes of transportation. The program works with citizens, various City departments, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Texas Department of Transportation and other government

HOW TO REPORT TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS

Residents can **call 3-1-1** and fill out a "Citizen Service Request" form that identifies a specific transportation-related problem. Public Works (PW) staff will do the necessary research and data collection to process the request. Depending on the number of requests being processed, PW staff will notify the caller with the results of the study within 2 months of the request.



Greenbrook, north of Bartholomew Park



Patton Lane



TRANSPORTATION NETWORK & INFRASTRUCTURE

agencies to create bikeways, as recommended by the Austin Bicycle Plan. The program also aims to improve pedestrian safety in accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), including sidewalk and curb ramp installation and upgrading. The inclusion of bikeways, sidewalks and other bicycle and pedestrian features in the transportation system helps control air pollution, traffic congestion, infrastructure maintenance costs, and improves the quality of life in Austin. Primary funds for these facilities are secured through the Build Central Texas (BCT) / Build Greater Austin (BGA) Program, City of Austin bonds, and grants. Public Works staff use recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian improvements in adopted neighborhood plans to prioritize improvements throughout the City of Austin. Other prioritization factors include: 1) the proximity of possible sidewalk locations to schools, shopping centers, employment centers, and other major neighborhood destinations, 2) new sidewalks that would “fill in the gap” between two built sidewalks.

Sidewalks

The funding appropriated for sidewalks with the 2006 bond election is designated specifically for repairing existing sidewalks and bringing these sidewalks up to ADA standards. Therefore, no funding is immediately available for new sidewalks in the planning area. However, stakeholders identified the following locations appropriate for new sidewalks upon allocation of sufficient funding. These locations have high pedestrian traffic and connect residents to important neighborhood areas such as parks, schools, and commercial centers.

Objective: Improve the existing pedestrian network throughout the planning area through the addition of more sidewalks.

New Sidewalk Recommendations (See the map on Page 105)

(Note: Sidewalk recommendations are not in any priority order)

- S1 Sheridan from Clayton Lane to Hwy 290
- S2 Clayton Lane from Sheridan to Cameron Road
- S3 Cameron Road from 290 to Briarcliff
- S4 Briarcliff from Cameron Road to Berkman Drive



No sidewalk on Lancaster Court



No sidewalk on Cameron Road



TRANSPORTATION NETWORK & INFRASTRUCTURE

- S5 Wheless from Hwy 290 to Berkman Drive
- S6 Patton Lane from Berkman Drive to Mira Loma
- S7 Hickman from Patton Lane to Wheless
- S8 Gaston Place from Berkman Drive to Wheless
- S9 Susquehanna from Vassar to Manor Road
- S10 Dubuque from Susquehanna to Val
- S11 Manor Road from Walnut Hills to Carol Ann
- S12 Northeast from Auburnhill to Manor Road
- S13 Rogge from Westminster to Manor Road
- S14 51st Street from Mueller to Manor Road
- S15 Greenbrook Parkway from Berkman Drive to Shadybrook (along Bartholomew Park)
- S16 Berkman Drive from Broadmoor to 51st Street
- S17 Lancaster Court from 51st street to 52nd Street
- S18 52nd street from Cameron Road to Promise Land property.



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The City of Austin Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Project seeks to 1) increase both the number children who walk and ride their bike to school and 2) to improve the safety of their walk or bike ride. These goals are accomplished by integrating health, fitness, traffic relief, and environmental awareness with the overall goal of providing a healthy lifestyle for children and a safer, cleaner environment for everyone. Through a \$40 million federal statewide grant program, TxDOT will award funds over the next 3 years, starting in 2007, for SRTS projects in Austin and other areas throughout Texas. If awarded, the projects are expected to begin in October 2007, with an estimated completion date of September 2010.

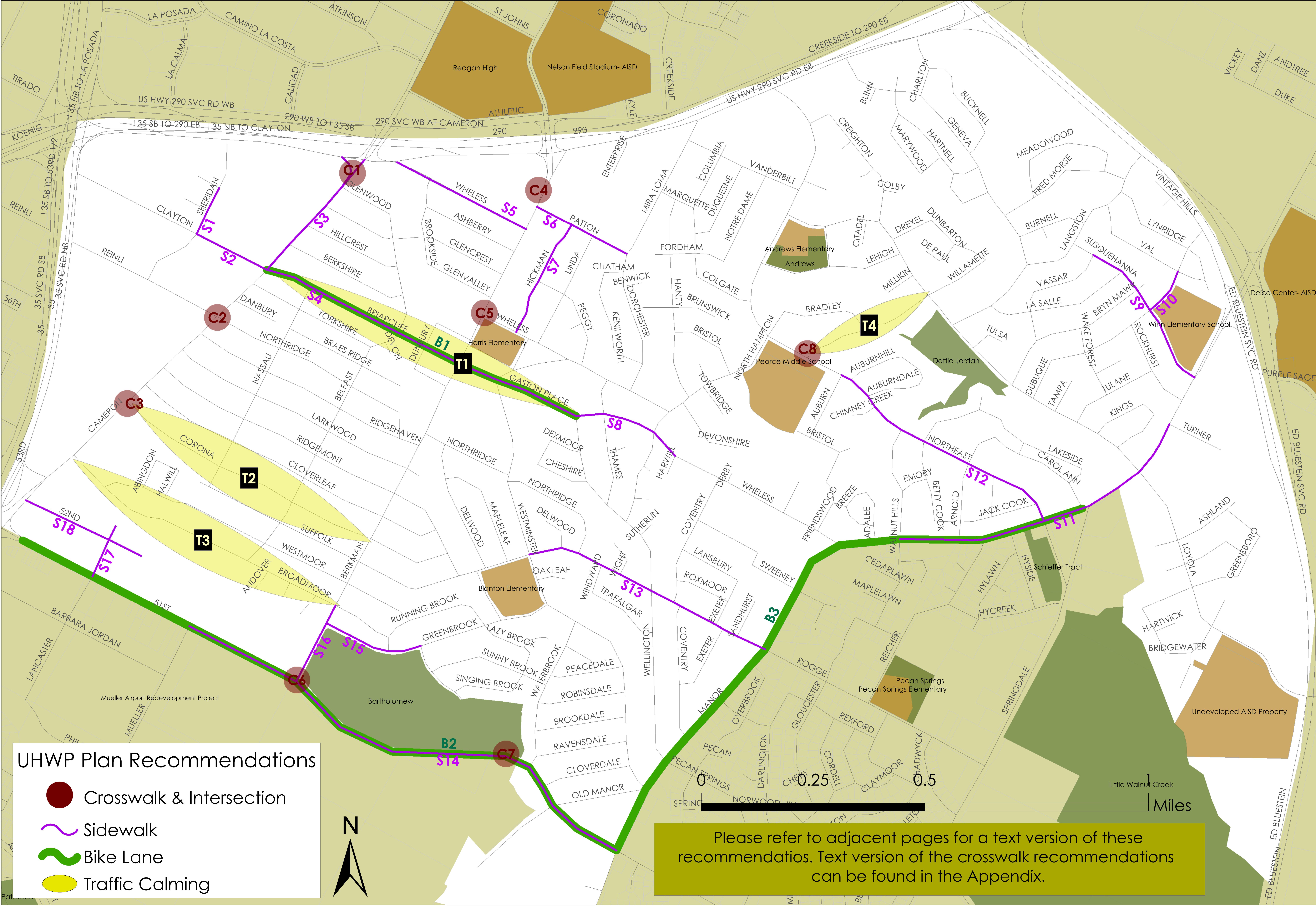
Working in tandem with the City of Austin's infrastructure projects, a multifaceted approach will utilize a marketing campaign, classroom teaching, school speed zone, building sidewalks, and pedestrian crosswalk enforcement to create safe pedestrian environments around schools. Evaluation including pedestrian and bike counts and traffic counts will identify the effectiveness of utilized strategies.

Four schools in the UHWP Planning Area (Andrews Elementary, Harris Elementary, Blanton Elementary and Pearce Middle School) were selected for the City of Austin's SRTS non-infrastructure grant application. These schools have a higher than average number of overweight and obese children. Additionally, they have the potential for increasing the number of students that walk and ride their bicycles to schools. At all schools, however, safety is of primary importance for increasing the number of who are walking and bicycling to school.

COA Public Works staff recently determined that funding previously collected from 1/4 cent Capital Metro taxes can be used to construct sidewalks on Wheless (near Harris Elementary), Blanton & Greenbrook (near Blanton Elementary), Roanoke (near Andrews Elementary), Northeast Drive and Susquehanna (near Winn Elementary).

For more information about the Safe Routes to School project please contact the Project Manager, Len Trevino with the City of Austin Health and Human Services Dept., at (512) 972-5125. You may also contact Elizabeth Ascott, Transportation Planner for TxDOT, at (512) 832-7284.

Transportation Recommendations: Sidewalk, Bicycle Lane, Crosswalk, and Traffic Safety





Bike Lanes

All bike lane recommendations collected are sent to Public Works after the adoption of a neighborhood plan. Public Works staff then prioritize these recommendations by considering funding, topography, vehicular traffic, and on-street parking situation.

- **Implementation Note:** Public Works paints bike lanes after repaving and other street maintenance projects. Public Works cannot prohibit parking in the bike lane unless all the affected residents approve of reducing parking to have a bike lane. Public Works conducts public meetings with neighborhoods to gather input on the sentiment to eliminate all or some on-street parking for a bike lane.

Plan participants have identified the following streets where they would like to see additional bicycle lanes to improve the existing bicycle and pedestrian network throughout the neighborhood:

Objective: Improve bicycle safety and mobility for all residents throughout the neighborhood through the addition of more bike lanes.

New Bike Lane Recommendations (See the map on Page 105 for locations):

- B1 Briarcliff from Cameron Road to Wellington
- B2 51st street from Berkman Drive to Manor Road
- B3 Manor Road from 51st street to Carol Ann

BICYCLIST SAFETY AT INTERSECTIONS

The engineering design standards followed by Public Works staff recommend ending bike lanes before arriving at intersections. This directs the bicyclist to take a place in the traffic lane rather than moving up to the intersection beside automobiles. When a bicyclist that intends to proceed straight through an intersection is stopped at the intersection and beside an automobile that intends to turn right, they are in conflict. A significant number of bicycle and automobile accidents occur in these instances. Therefore, Public Works refrains from bringing the bike lanes up to the stop bar of an intersection.

MAJOR HIGHWAYS: TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Objective: The University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams should establish a plan to begin regular communication between the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and UHWP residents and business owners. Inform community representatives of proposed highway projects in and around UHWP. Provide the opportunity for residents and business owners to give input on pro-



posed projects.

Recommendations:

- TxDOT should distribute information on connections to SH130.
- TxDOT should distribute information and incorporate stakeholder feedback on planned projects affecting exits along Hwy 290 near the 290/183 interchange.
- TxDOT should retrofit the 51st Street overpass of IH-35 so that it can support Capital Metro streetcar services.

TxDOT Contact Information

**P.O. Box 15426
Austin, TX 78761-5426
(512) 832-7380**

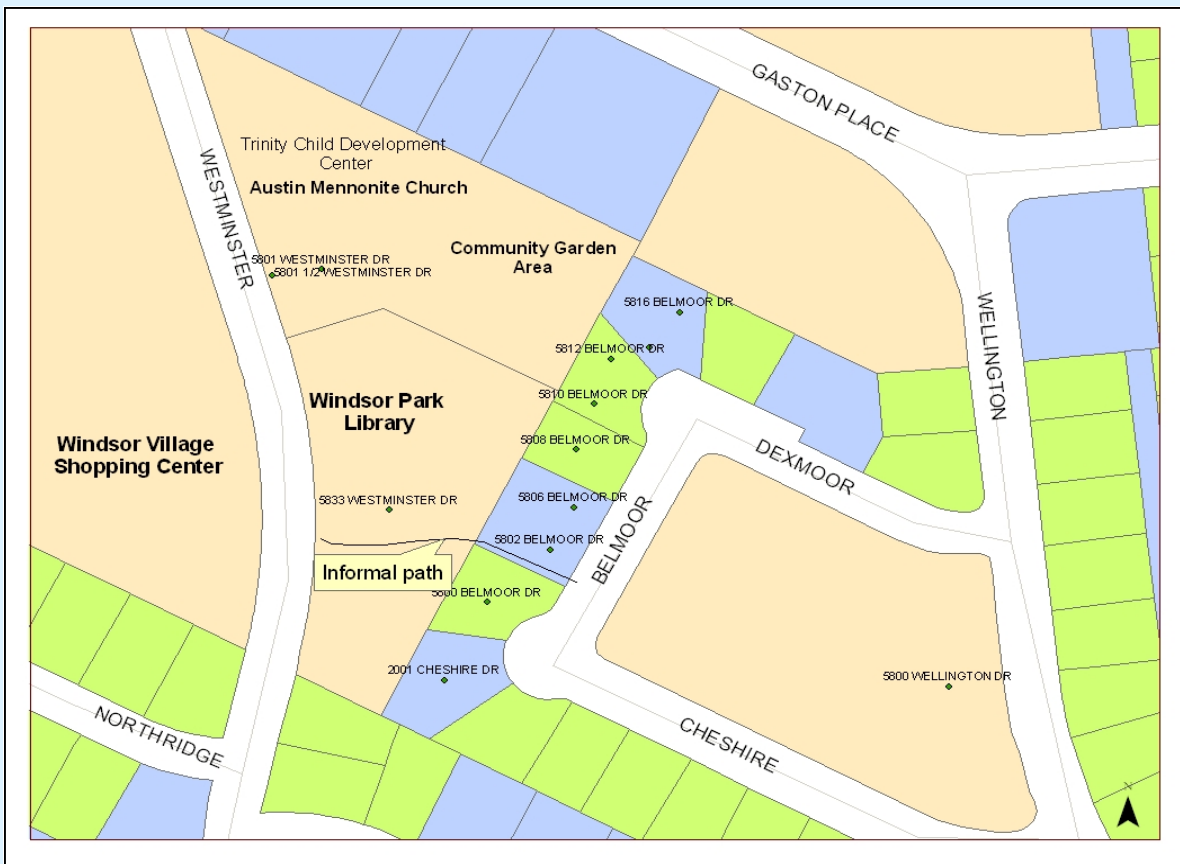


WINDSOR PARK LIBRARY PATH PROJECT

During a UHWP land use workshop, neighborhood residents discussed an informal walking path behind the Windsor Park Branch Library (see map and photos). This path extends from the rental apartments located on Belmoor through to the Windsor Park library and nearby commercial center, which includes Windsor Village Shopping Center stores, the CVS pharmacy, and Harris Elementary School. Informal paths similar to this one created by high pedestrian traffic are sometimes referred to as "paths of desire".

City of Austin Library Facilities staff and private property owners in the immediate area verify that pathways connecting this dense residential area with the library have existed since before the library was constructed in July 2000. Many neighborhood residents, including schoolchildren and the elderly, use the path daily.

UHWP stakeholders, including nearby residents, property owners, and current library staff, agreed that formalizing this pathway would significantly benefit the community. It would encourage pedestrian activity, which could increase use of the library and the businesses nearby. More pedestrian activity in this area may also reduce crime by increasing visibility of public areas.





TRANSPORTATION NETWORK & INFRASTRUCTURE

Access to the pathway on Belmoor is through private property, so the first step to formalize the trail would be to obtain a public easement across private land. Once an easement is procured, the trail project could include constructing a granite trail across the library's land and allocating some funding for lighting and landscaping in that area.

UHWP stakeholders met with City staff to explore the path project. Library staff worked to acquire funding for the project and worked closely with staff in the City's Real Estate Services Division to acquire public easements for the path. Unfortunately, at the time of this plan's completion, key private property owners are unwilling to grant official public access to allow for the path project to progress.

As property changes hands, UHWP stakeholders, City planning staff, library staff and others support allocation of funding and effort to formalize the existing path of desire into a designated pedestrian pathway. These stakeholders encourage existing and future property owners of the apartment complexes to grant such access.



"Path of Desire" leading toward Belmoor



Fence opening at Belmoor

Objective: Formalize the "path of desire" connecting Belmoor Drive and the Windsor Park library.

Recommendations:

- The University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams, in coordination with property owners and Windsor Park Branch Library staff, should acquire public easements and allocate funding to construct a pathway from Belmoor Drive to Westminster Road across the Windsor Park Branch Library's property. Follow the route established by the existing "path of desire" as closely as possible to increase the path's usefulness to area residents.
- City library staff and library facilities staff will coordinate with nearby property owners and residents to determine what kind of path, landscaping or additional resources will be appropriate to complete this project.

MUELLER CONNECTIONS

INTRODUCTION

Residents, property owners, and other UHWP stakeholders recognize that the redevelopment of the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport will affect their neighborhood. Throughout the UHWP planning process, participants considered how Mueller redevelopment may impact their community.



The Mueller Master Development Agreement was created in conjunction with a public outreach and planning process organized by the City of Austin's Economic Growth and Redevelopment Office. In 1997, the Mueller Neighborhoods Coalition (MNC), and the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission (RMMA PIAC) formed to monitor the progress of the Mueller redevelopment. Some UHWP neighborhood plan stakeholders have been involved in the Mueller planning process for years and have participated in these organizations. However, many current UHWP residents have had no involvement in Mueller plan-making to date and are not aware of the project details. Several recommendations in this chapter offer ways to increase UHWP awareness of the Mueller redevelopment's progress, and to encourage and facilitate participation in the continued planning and monitoring of this project.

Implementation Note

Recommendations in this chapter are intended for Mueller developers (the Catellus Development Corporation), the Mueller Neighborhood Coalition (MNC), the Robert Mueller Municipal Air-



MUELLER CONNECTIONS

port Plan Implementation Advisory Commission (RMMA PIAC), and area residents, neighborhood association members, and the University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams. The recommendations in this chapter will ensure that the Mueller project has an overall positive impact on surrounding neighborhoods as its development process progresses.

In addition to the recommendations listed here, other chapters of this plan include recommendations that correspond to the relationship between the Mueller redevelopment and the UHWP planning area.

Objective: Support increased participation of UHWP residents and business owners in the Mueller Neighborhoods Coalition (MNC) and, where feasible, the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission (RMMA PIAC).

- The University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams should encourage the MNC to invite more UHWP residents and business owners to regularly attend meetings.

Objective: Achieve maximum pedestrian access to Mueller amenities through collaboration with Catellus, private property owners on the periphery of the site, and major Mueller tenants including the University of Texas Medical



Aerial image courtesy of Mueller Austin.



MUELLER CONNECTIONS

Branch.

Recommendations:

- The University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams should collaborate with Promise Land Church owners to establish pedestrian access to Mueller Drive from Broadmoor where Tannehill Creek meets Broadmoor.
 - Alternatively, the City of Austin should allow pedestrian access from Lancaster Court across Tannehill Creek to Broadmoor (to the Windsor Park neighborhood) by purchasing property or acquiring a public access easement. (see parkland acquisition map located in the appendix)
- The City of Austin Public Works Department and Catellus should construct painted, signalized crosswalks at each intersection of the Mueller redevelopment with 51st Street.
- TxDOT should retrofit the 51st Street overpass of IH-35 so that it can support possible Capital Metro streetcar services. (See the [Transportation Chapter](#).)

Objective: Achieve maximum connectivity between greenbelts/trails in the Mueller redevelopment and trails in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Recommendations:

- Connect the Rathgeber Village/ Mueller Hike and Bike trail connects to the east end of Bartholomew Park and the park's planned trail. (See the [Parks Chapter](#).)
- Support future study to link Mueller trails and potential Tannehill Creek greenbelt trails to portions of Tannehill Creek near Pecan Springs to Morris Williams Municipal Golf Course. (See the [parkland acquisition map located in the Appendix](#).)

Objective: All Capital Metro transit services provided to Mueller residents should be easily accessible to residents living in surrounding neighborhoods.

Recommendation:

- The University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams should coordinate with Mueller developers, the Mueller Neighborhood Coalition, and the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission to



Mueller control tower,
Photo courtesy of the Austin
History Center, Austin Public
Library.



MUELLER CONNECTIONS

determine if adequate public parking available in the Mueller redevelopment to serve UHWP residents who choose to make use of future public transit options.

Objective: Address any heavy traffic congestion or speeding in the UHWP planning area that may result from the Mueller development.

Recommendations:

- UHWP residents should encourage and support the allocation of funding to the City of Austin's Public Works Department and Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority to address any unforeseen traffic related problems.
- The City of Austin Public Works Department, The University of Texas and/or Catellus, with support from the University Hills / Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team, should collaborate to prioritize traffic studies needed to address any increased cut-through traffic or speeding within the Windsor Park neighborhood.

Objective: In Mueller's role as a center for medical research and care for the City of Austin, tenants should contribute in some way to help address health needs of adjacent low to middle income East Austin residents, including residents of the UHWP planning area.

Recommendations:

- UHWP stakeholders support the MNC's efforts to secure public access to any recreational facilities or public clinics located on the Mueller site.
- UHWP residents should encourage partnerships between the City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department and the University of Texas, the Dell Children's Hospital or other Mueller tenants to provide full staffing for the public pool at Bartholomew Park through the end of Austin's warm fall season. (See the Parks chapter.)

Objective: Encourage and support neighborhood-oriented, locally owned retail, services, and restaurants within Mueller.

Recommendations:

- UHWP stakeholders support the MNC's efforts to promote commercial spaces provided within Mueller that are financially accessible to locally-owned business people.
- UHWP stakeholders encourage Catellus' leasing representatives to create a business plan that is designed to attract local small business owners to locate within Mueller.



MUELLER CONNECTIONS



HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MUELLER BOW-TRUSS HANGAR

The bow-truss hangar at the former Mueller airport site was built in 1942, at the height of World War II. Because of the lack of steel for construction during the war, the hangar was built with wood trusses, which are unique in Austin and an excellent example of



architectural innovation and craftsmanship. At the time of approval of the UHWP Neighborhood Plan, the hangar was the subject of a pending historic zoning case. The City and Catellus, the developer for the Mueller redevelopment, placed the case on hold until a new use for the building was determined. Any proposals for re-use of the building will require review by the Historic Landmark Commission (HLC). The hangar has suffered from serious deterioration due to a long period of lack of use. The HLC recently approved a stabilization plan for the structure, which includes the removal of the rotted roof, and removal of the west wall (facing Airport Boulevard). Much of this wall has also rotted and cannot be salvaged. Catellus has agreed to salvage the boards containing the faded original lettering on the structure's west side for incorporation into the new design or as a commemorative display inside the building upon rehabilitation and re-use.

Many UHWP residents support adaptive re-use of this structure, as it contributes to the history and character of the Mueller redevelopment site.

Information courtesy of Steve Sadowsky, City of Austin Historic Preservation Officer

COMMUNITY LIFE

INTRODUCTION

Many factors determine whether our neighborhoods succeed as enjoyable, vibrant places to live. The concerns and recommendations in this chapter may be some of the most difficult to implement, but also may have the most impact on the quality of life in neighborhoods.



UHWP neighborhood plan goals aim to improve overall quality of life and build a positive reputation for the UHWP neighborhood. This chapter expands upon the following plan goals:

- Support the area's ethnic and language diversity and foster greater communication among area residents.
- Support area schools and young people.



Parents and teachers at Reagan High School's Back to School Night

Implementation Note

Most of the recommendations in this chapter are directed at the University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams, neighborhood associations, and other community groups.

COMMUNITY LIFE

In some cases, as shared concerns were identified during the planning process, planning staff organized community meetings to address specific concerns. In addition to recommendations, information gathered from these meetings is included in narrative form in this chapter and in the Appendix.



NEW RESIDENTS

The University Hills and Windsor Park population is becoming more ethnically diverse. As seen in the statistical profile of this plan, the number of white residents has dropped significantly, the African American population has decreased slightly, and the number of Hispanics living in the planning area has increased dramatically in the past 10-20 years. Neighborhood schools are largely attended by the children of recent immigrants.

Existing residents want to open channels of communication with newer residents, despite the language barrier. Many neighborhood concerns are shared by all residents and necessitate community-wide cooperation. Both renters and nearby homeowners want to reduce crime and vandalism at apartment complexes. All residents want neighborhood students to be cared for and well-educated in local schools.

Implementation Note

The objectives and recommendations in this section offer ideas for fostering greater communication among the diverse population in this planning area. They are directed toward the University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams, neighborhood associations, all UHWP residents, and area churches, schools, and non-profit organizations.

Objective: Acknowledge the ethnic diversity of the area and foster greater communication among area stakeholders.

Recommendations:

- Organize more neighborhood events, such as:
 - An annual neighborhood clean-up
 - A neighborhood sports, arts, or other event for children that encourages family participation.
 - An annual Halloween Festival, possibly at Dottie Jordan Park.
- Support the expansion of Windsor Park Neighborhood Association's House Tour event and begin a home tours event for University Hills.





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- Organize neighborhood students, art teachers, and artists to plan and paint a public mural in the planning area.
- Collaborate with interested area schools to hold a forum in which parents, students, community members, and school faculty can discuss ways to improve relationships between students of different cultures and ethnicities.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND SCHOOLS

It takes a village to raise a child
- African proverb

Toward the beginning of the University Hills/Windsor Park Neighborhood Planning process, planners held meetings to understand residents' concerns about their neighborhood. Participants at multiple meetings felt strongly that the community needs to increase support for young people and area schools.

Stakeholders want to help improve neighborhood schools and offer young people more places to socialize outside of school. They identified the need for programs that help support young people and their families after school and during the summer months.

Implementation Note

The following recommendations are directed primarily at residents of the planning area and their representatives, such as neighborhood associations and the University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Objective: Increase the number and type of youth activity programs within the planning area and enhance and expand existing programs.

Recommendations:

- Allocate additional funding to expand recreational program offerings at Dottie Jordan Park. (See Parks, Open Space, Environment Chapter)
- Support area schools and their partner organizations, such as Austin Partners in Education to





COMMUNITY LIFE

offer more recreational programs for young people after school hours and during the summer.

- Support the Heart House through volunteerism. (See the sidebar on Page 66.)
- Initiate a job training program through a community recreation center or through area schools.

Objective: Provide more places and opportunities for young people to gather.

Recommendations:

- Support partnerships between the City's Parks and Recreation Department and private community entities to fund projects.
- Support the allocation of additional funding for the Parks and Recreation Department that is earmarked for a new recreation center. Stakeholders have identified the Boy Scout office on Hwy 290 as a potential future location for a community center if the Boy Scouts organization were to relocate. (See the Parks, Open Space, Environment chapter.)
- Build a shelter for the free summer camp program children at Dottie Jordan Park. (See the Parks, Open Space, Environment Chapter.)



SCHOOL CAMPUSES

As mentioned above, a major goal for University Hills and Windsor Park stakeholders is to have high quality area schools with strong parent and community support. UHWP planners worked with Heart House to organize a special meeting to allow stakeholders to develop this goal. Tammie McMarion, a Heart House staff member and a mother of Pearce students, facilitated this meeting. During the discussion, parents, school administrators and faculty, and community members considered ways to collaborate to support families and schools in the planning area.



Participants felt strongly that they wanted to meet together again in the future to help support one another, share information, and move toward common goals with respect to neighborhood schools and their children.



Implementation Note

The recommendations in this section are primarily directed to planning area residents and their representatives (such as neighborhood associations and the University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams) in coordination with Austin Independent School District (AISD). NPZD staff incorporated AISD's comments into these recommendations.



Objective: Improve the quality of schools serving the planning area.

Recommendations:

- Install lighting on all planning area school campuses and on streets surrounding campuses to allow for safe night meetings for parents and community members.
- Provide additional physical space for classrooms and social service programs within schools.
- Collaborate with Austin ISD officials to determine needed improvements for schools in the planning area.
- Identify potential additional funding sources to support area schools.

PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Plan stakeholders feel that perceptions of neighborhood schools impact perceptions about their entire neighborhood. They also feel that successful schools are critical to creating healthy, safe neighborhoods.

Some stakeholders are concerned about the closing or decommissioning of their neighborhood schools due to enrollment rates or changing demographics. Recommendations

HOW IS SCHOOL CAPACITY CALCULATED?

During the neighborhood planning process, many stakeholders expressed concerns about how potential population growth in the planning area may affect school capacity.

AISD calculates school capacity using a formula that multiplies the number of permanent classrooms in a school by the 20 (the average number of students in a class). This number is adjusted based on "core facilities", such as the cafeteria, gym, etc. For example, if a school has 30 classrooms, then it may have capacity for 600 students. But if the cafeteria can only accommodate 500 students, then its capacity is reduced from 600.

AISD aims to have schools operating between 95% and 115% capacity. AISD monitors schools when they reach 110% capacity to determine if the enrollment continues to increase, if boundary lines need to be redrawn, etc. Additionally, AISD hires a demographic consultant on a yearly basis to make enrollment projections for the upcoming five academic years.



below focus on school programming and the community's relationship with these institutions.

Implementation Note

The recommendations in this section are primarily directed to planning area residents and their representatives (such as the neighborhood associations and the University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams), in coordination with Austin Independent School District (AISD). NPZD staff incorporated AISD's comments into these recommendations.

Objective: Create strong Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) with broad participation from parents and community members.

Recommendations:

- Increase participation by the community and parents in Parent Teacher Associations at every campus.
- Provide childcare at all meetings.
- Have available translators for Spanish speakers at all meetings.
- PTAs should identify school needs regarding issues such as safety, academic achievement, teaching methods for lower income populations, administrative concerns, and needed resources (funding, physical space, etc).
- Encourage PTAs at each of the planning area's schools to meet regularly to share information, support one another and address concerns common to this northeast area.
- Provide each Parent Support Specialist with sufficient physical space to pro-

WHO ARE PARENT SUPPORT SPECIALISTS?

Parent Support Specialists are AISD staff who work to increase parental participation in schools. They support each campus' Campus Advisory Committee and Parent Teacher Association. They often recruit parents as volunteers and coordinate evening meetings and events. They evaluate family needs and invite speakers or sometimes partner with outside organizations to provide needed classes such as GED, ESL, and parenting. They also often organize weekly 'Parent Coffee' meetings on Friday mornings to address parent needs and support better communication between school principals and parents.

There are Parent Support Specialists at each of the seven schools that serve families within the University Hills and Windsor Park neighborhoods.

- Andrews Elementary School
- Blanton Elementary School
- Harris Elementary School
- LBJ High School*
- Pearce Middle School
- Reagan High School*
- Winn Elementary School

(*These schools are just outside the UHWP planning area boundaries but their enrollment area includes UHWP).



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vide needed social services for families.

Objective: Involve non-parent neighborhood residents in neighborhood schools.

Recommendations:

- Support Austin Independent School District Parent Support Specialists within the planning area.
- Encourage community members to volunteer as mentors or tutors.
- Request that school principals invite all neighbors to participate in school activities such as Back-to-School Night or Neighborhood Walks.
- Organize community events that parents, students and teachers can attend together at Dottie Jordan or other parks. Request Parent Support Specialists help organize these as informal social events to help build relationships and trust between parents, students, teachers, and community members.
- Neighborhood association members should establish working relationships with school faculty and parents.
- Involve school principals and Campus Advisory Committee members in neighborhood association meetings and activities. Consider holding some neighborhood association meetings at school campuses to increase participation from parents and faculty members.
- Neighborhood residents and Andrews Elementary School administrators should collaborate to address the pick-up / drop-off problems at Andrews Elementary School.
 - Some parents feel harassed and unwelcome by some neighbors near the school. There is no place for parents to pick up children, and some neighbors discourage any waiting or parking near the school.



PUBLIC SAFETY

At numerous planning meetings, stakeholders have expressed serious concern about crime in the planning area. The objectives and recommendations in this section offer ideas for collaborating with the Austin Police Department to address crime.

Implementation Note: The recommendations below could be implemented through coordination between the University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams and the area representatives of the Austin Police Department.

Objective: Address chronic criminal activity in the planning area by creating



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an action plan with the Austin Police Department (APD) for accelerated progress.

Recommendations:

- The University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams and other neighborhood groups should coordinate with APD officers to facilitate their involvement in community events/affairs through regular participation with neighborhood associations.
- APD should explore the feasibility of increasing the number of APD personnel assigned to the planning area.
- APD should coordinate with UHWP stakeholders to help address major community problems including:
 - apartment complex crime
 - prostitution and drug dealing
 - public intoxication and harassment at bus stops (see Transit/Bus stop recommendations)
 - illegal dumping
 - abandoned inoperable vehicles
 - the enforcement of open container laws
 - housing and health code violations
- APD should coordinate with UHWP stakeholders to address concerns about homelessness and people with substance abuse problems in the neighborhood.
- APD should coordinate with apartment managers and University Hills Branch Library staff to address problems related to homeless camps near the overpass at Manor Road and Loyola Lane, on City of Austin property.

Implementation Note: APD Commanders' Forums are good opportunities for community members to raise concerns about crime in their neighborhood and discuss how to collaborate with APD. See the contact numbers below to obtain more information about these forums.

CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS FOR CRIME AND CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORTS

Austin Police Department, Northeast Area Command: 974-5500

Austin Police Headquarters Main Switchboard: 974-5000

Austin Police Community Liaison Office: 974-4700

Code Violations: Dial 311 for 24 hour response, all week.

Code Violations: (Mon-Fr-7 a.m.– 6 p.m.) 494-9400

Code Violations: Go to this website to email a complaint: http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/sws_info.cfm



VOTER TURNOUT

UHWP residents recognize that more voter participation from citizens in their planning area and nearby areas will more likely result in legislative actions that can improve their neighborhood. With that in mind, they would like to explore ways to increase citizen participation in the political process.

Recommendation:

- The University Hills and Windsor Park Contact Teams should collaborate with Travis County to promote voter registration and turnout.

CONCLUSION

This plan reflects nearly two years of collaboration between City of Austin staff and stakeholders from the University Hills and Windsor Park neighborhoods.

The University Hills and Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams, in coordination with NPZD staff, will be the primary organizations responsible for implementing the recommendations in the plan. On March 21, 2003, the Austin City Council approved an ordinance that required all neighborhood plans to form a contact team. In the ordinance, "Neighborhood Plan Contact Team" is defined as "the individuals designated by the persons involved in the development of a neighborhood plan to implement the plan". According to the ordinance, the neighborhood plan contact team must contain a diverse group of members, including at least one property owner, non-property owner resident, business owner, and neighborhood association member for each neighborhood in the plan.

In addition to implementing the recommendations in the plan, the Contact Teams are also responsible for making recommendations regarding any future amendments to the plan. Also, they will play a role in selecting properties for the Vertical Mixed Use overlay (see discussion in the Land Use & Development Chapter).

At the time of writing this plan, NPZD has hired an "implementation planner", whose primary responsibility will be to facilitate coordination between the plan contact team, city departments and/or other applicable agencies working to implement the neighborhood plan recommendations. Therefore, it is essential that the University Hills and Windsor Park communities maintain active Contact Teams, for this organization holds the primary responsibility for ensuring that the vision of the UHWP Neighborhood Plan is achieved.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A:	Record of Public Planning Meetings
APPENDIX B:	Lot Size Map
APPENDIX C:	Chart of Land Use Categories
APPENDIX D:	Minutes from 12/13/06 Vertical Mixed Use Meeting
APPENDIX E:	University Hills Design Guidelines
APPENDIX F:	Impervious Cover Calculations
APPENDIX G:	Assisted Living Facility Information/ Meeting Minutes
APPENDIX H:	Parkland Acquisition Wish List
APPENDIX I:	Crosswalk Recommendations
APPENDIX J:	WPDR Erosion Control Projects List

APPENDIX A

UHWP PLANNING MEETING RECORD

Date	Topic	Summary
9/20/05	Community Meeting #1	Overview of neighborhood planning, volunteers guide small groups in discussions on neighborhood concerns.
10/01/05	Community Meeting #2	Same as above.
10/20/05	Outreach and Participation Working Group Meeting	Introductions and goals for planning process.
11/03/05	Outreach and Participation Working Group Meeting	Discussion of First Official Workshop meeting logistics.
11/05/05	First Official Workshop	Review community input including goals and concerns. Presentation on neighborhood planning and Mueller project update.
11/20/05	Outreach and Participation Working Group Meeting	Discuss notice strategies and logistics for upcoming meetings, participation of Spanish speakers.
11/29/05	Plan Vision and Goals	Verify and expand priority neighborhood plan goals and working group topics and overall vision for plan.
12/08/05	Plan Vision and Goals	Same as above.
1/05/06	Neighborhood Plan Goals and Recommendations	Review first draft neighborhood plan recommendations, next steps.
1/10/06	Affordable Housing with Land Use and Business Support Working Group	Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department representative discussion on affordable housing decisions. Strategies for working group goals.
1/18/06	'Group Homes' with Community Life, Recreation & Health Working Group	Focused discussion on assisted living facilities. Q&A with representatives from multiple regulatory agencies.
1/20/06	Harris Elementary Parent Coffee Meeting	Bilingual discussion of community concerns and goals.
1/26/06	Zoning/Taxes and Rathgeber Village with Land Use, Zoning, Transportation (LUT) Working Group	Art Cory from Travis Central Appraisal District on relationship between appraisals and zoning. Dick Rathgeber presentation on proposed project.
2/01/06	Property Management Concerns with Harris Elementary mothers	Discussion of property management concerns and tenant abuse/ tenants' rights.
2/8/06	LUT/ Business Working Group Meeting	How to create a FLUM, brainstorm on Cameron Road, projects for Business group.

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2/9/06	Pearce Middle School Parent Coffee Meeting	Invitation to parents to participate in planning process.
2/16/06	Creeks and Greenbelts with Recreation & Health Working Group	Creek erosion and possible greenbelt planning, review of other meetings including Harris Parent Coffee.
2/21/06	Schools and Parent/Community Member Participation	Discussion of UHWP schools, parents concerns and neighborhood relations.
3/21/06	Bartholomew Park, Tannehill Creek & APD with Community Life, Recreation & Health Working Groups	Bartholomew Park discussion, Tannehill Creek greenbelt discussion, APD update.
3/25/06	Cameron Road Land Use Workshop	Discussion of desired land uses and urban design issues for Cameron Road.
4/19/06	Bartholomew Park walkabout	Walk-through of park to consider trail route, park improvements, etc.
4/29/06	Berkman Drive Land Use Workshop	Discussion of desired land uses and urban design issues for Berkman Drive
5/15/06	Dottie Jordan Park workshop	Dottie Jordan Park discussion with Parks staff members.
5/20/06	Manor Road Land Use workshop	Discussion of desired land uses and urban design issues on Manor Road. Neighborhood Housing Services of Austin project presentation.
5/31/06	CapMetro workshop	Q&A on public transportation in and around UHWP planning area with CapMetro staff members.
6/24/06	51 st St Land Use Workshop	Discussion of desired land use and urban design issues on 51 st Street. Mueller developers give information.
6/28/06	Tannehill Creek Greenbelt Discussion	Community members and property owners discuss potential future greenbelt with staff from Watershed Department.
7/26/06	Infill Options and Design Tools	Explanation and community input on infill options.
10/14/06	Process Update Meeting and Open House	Presentation of draft plan recommendations and zoning changes. Infill and design tool discussion.
12/13/06	Vertical Mixed Use and Design Standards	Presentation and Q&A with NPZD and Housing Department staff. UHWP and Mueller Neighborhood Coalition participation.
2/07/07	Final Survey Mailed	
2/22/07	Open House to review Draft Plan	Comments on draft plan document.
4/28/07	Land Use & Zoning Meeting	Review of plan recommendations and potential land use and zoning changes
5/30/07	Land Use & Zoning Meeting	Review of plan recommendations and potential land use and zoning changes
6/6/07	Land Use & Zoning Meeting	Review of plan recommendations and potential land use and zoning changes, discussion of infill options

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UHWP ZONING COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD








Date	Topic
July 7, 2006	Initial Kick-off meeting (description of zoning committee roles, setting up meeting dates, etc.)
July 14, 2006	Discussion of zoning changes along 51 st Street Corridor, initial discussion of zoning along Manor Road corridor
July 28, 2006	Continued discussion of zoning changes along Manor Road corridor
August 11, 2006	Discussion of zoning changes along Berkman Drive corridor
August 25, 2006	Continued discussion of zoning changes along Berkman Drive corridor, initial discussion of zoning along Cameron Road corridor
September 7, 2006	Continued discussion of Cameron Road corridor
September 22, 2006	Discussion of miscellaneous zoning changes (i.e., sites not located on a major corridor in the planning area)
October 19, 2006	Discussion of Infill Options & Design Tools
December 15, 2006	Discussion of miscellaneous zoning changes, discussed designating 51 st & Cameron as Core Transit Corridors
January 19, 2007	Initial discussion for forming the contact team
February 9, 2007	Continued discussion for forming the contact team



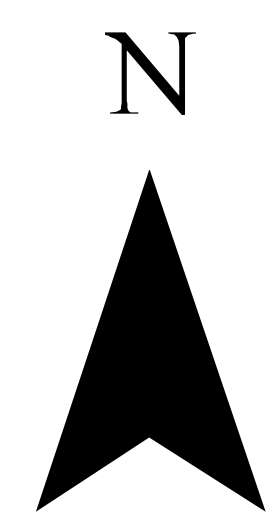
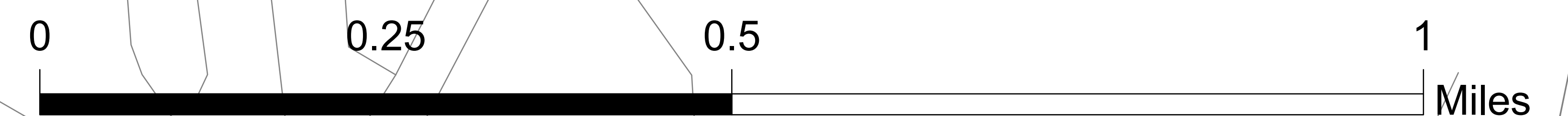
University Hills/ Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan

Lot Sizes

UHWP Lot Sizes

	0 - 2,499 Sq. Feet
	2,500 - 3,499 Sq. Feet
	3,500 - 5,749 Sq. Feet
	5,750 - 6,999 Sq. Feet
	7,000 - 9,999 Sq. Feet
	10,000 Sq. Feet - 1 acre
	Greater than 1 Acre

These maps have been produced by the City of Austin Neighborhood Planning & Zoning Department for the sole purpose of assisting in neighborhood planning discussions and decisions - and are not warranted for any other use. No warranty is made by the City regarding accuracy or completeness. Printed July 25, 2006



APPENDIX C: Standard Land Uses and Colors

	Land Use	Definition	Typical Zoning	Color
Residential/Mixed Use	Rural Residential	The designation for low-density residential areas that are not suitable or desirable for urban development, generally at densities of one unit per acre or less.	RR, LA	Pale Yellow
	Single-Family	Single family detached, small lot single family, or two family residential uses at typical urban densities.	SF-1 to SF-4	Yellow
	Higher-Density Single-Family	Single-family housing, generally up to 15 units per acre, which includes townhouses and condominiums as well as traditional small-lot single family.	SF-5 and SF-6	Goldenrod
	Mixed Residential	An area with a variety of different housing types, including single-family residential, townhouses, duplexes, apartments, and limited neighborhood-serving retail. Single-family residential should comprise at least half of a mixed residential area.	SF-3 to MF-3	Salmon
	Multifamily	Higher-density housing with 3 or more units on one lot.	MF-1 to MF-5	Orange
	Mixed Use/Office	An area that is appropriate for a mix of residential and office uses.	NO-MU to GO-MU	Reddish Brown
	Mixed Use	An area that is appropriate for a mix of residential and non-residential uses.	NO-MU to CS-MU	Brown
	High Density Mixed Use	An area that is appropriate for a mix of residential and non-residential uses with floor-to-area ratios of 3.0 or higher.	DMU, CBD, MF-6	Dark Brown
Commercial/Industrial	Office	An area that provides for office uses as a transition from residential to commercial uses, or for large planned office areas. Permitted uses included business, professional, and financial offices as well as offices for individuals and non-profit organizations.	NO to GO	Pink
	Warehouse/Limited Office	An area appropriate for semi industrial uses that do not require highly visible locations, generate substantial volumes of traffic, or adversely affect any nearby residential areas.	W/LO, LO	Magenta
	Commercial	Lots or parcels containing retail sales, services, hotel/motels and all recreational services that are predominantly privately owned and operated for profit (for example, theaters and bowling alleys). Included are private institutional uses (convalescent homes and rest homes in which medical or surgical services are not a main function of the institution), but not hospitals.	LR to CS	Red
	Industry	Areas reserved for manufacturing and related uses that provide employment but are generally not compatible with other areas with lower intensity use. Industry includes general warehousing, research and development, and storage of hazardous materials.	IP to R&D	Purple
Civic/Open Space	Environmental Conservation	Areas intended to be protected from development, including areas in the Drinking Water Protection zone, locations of critical environmental features, and areas where public services or facilities are not available.	P, DR, RR	Blue-Green
	Recreation & Open Space	This category allows large public parks and recreation areas such as public and private golf courses, trails and easements, drainage-ways and detention basins, and any other public usage of large areas on permanent open land.	Varies	Pale Green
	Civic	Any site for public or semi-public facilities, including governmental offices, police and fire facilities, hospitals, and public and private schools. Includes major religious facilities and other religious activities that are of a different type and scale than surrounding uses.	Varies (Typically P for gov't facilities)	Blue
	Utilities	Land used or dedicated for public and private utilities, including pipelines, utility lines, water and wastewater facilities, substations, and telephone.	P	Dark Grey
Special Purpose	Agriculture	Rural areas used for agricultural purposes, including productive agricultural lands to be preserved for future farming or ranching activities.	AG	Dark Green
	Major Impact Facilities	Facilities that serve community and regional need but have significant impacts on the surrounding area that require special location and compatibility considerations. Major Impact Facilities include airports, stadiums, landfills, resource extraction, and correctional facilities.	P, AV	Dark Purple
	Major Planned Developments	Master-planned developments for large multi-acre tracts that incorporate a wide variety of land uses that may include, but are not limited to, single family and multifamily residential, commercial, and clean industrial.	PUD, PDA	Lavender
	Mobile Homes	Areas reserved for mobile home residence parks and mobile home subdivisions.	MH	Beige
	Transportation	Areas dedicated to vehicle, air, or rail transportation. These include existing and planned streets, planned and dedicated rights-of-way, and rail and rail facilities.	ROW	Grey
	Water	Any public waters, including lakes, rivers, and creeks.	--	Light Blue

NOTE: All land use groupings except *Special Purpose* are cumulative. A land use from a less intense land use category may be permitted in a more intense category.

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Vertical Mixed Use Opt-in/Opt-out Process Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 13, 2006

Region XIII Education Service Center, 5701 Springdale Road

Intent: Familiarize University Hills/ Windsor Park residents and Mueller Neighborhood Coalition residents with the Vertical Mixed Use process (VMU).

Meeting summary: George Adams with the Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department described the VMU process in detail. Copies of his presentation slides are available by request. Steve Barney with the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department presented information on the affordability decisions which are a part of the VMU Opt-in/Opt-out (OIOO) process. Meeting participants then asked City of Austin staff questions about the Design Standards and Mixed Use Ordinance in general, the VMU OIOO process, and affordable housing in the City of Austin as it relates to the new ordinance. Finally, University Hills and Windsor Park residents met with neighborhood planners working on their neighborhood plan to discuss the next steps in their VMU application process.

Questions and Answers:

Who will make VMU decisions for each area?

If your property falls within an area that has an approved neighborhood plan, the Neighborhood Plan Contact Team will organize the VMU application process. If there is no approved neighborhood plan for your area, all registered neighborhood associations must work jointly to complete the VMU application process.

Will all property owners and renters throughout the City of Austin be notified at the onset of the VMU OIOO process?

The City of Austin will send notice to registered neighborhood associations and neighborhood contact teams at the initiation of the VMU Opt-In/Opt-Out process and will make every effort to disseminate information regarding the process through other media outlets.

Who makes the final decision on where the VMU Overlay District incentives apply?

Each VMU application is bundled with a staff recommendation from the Neighborhood Planning & Zoning Department, and an Affordability Impact Statement from the Neighborhood Housing & Community Development Department, and is reviewed by the Planning Commission at a public hearing. The Planning Commission makes a recommendation of approval or denial for each VMU application. Then, the City Council reviews the VMU application at a public hearing, and makes a final determination as to whether the recommendations will be approved or modified.

If a neighborhood recommends that all VMU incentives are disapproved for a commercial property along a Core Transit Corridor (CTC) or a Future Core Transit Corridor

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(FCTC), can a Vertical Mixed Use building still be constructed?

If the City Council votes to approve a VMU application that restricts all VMU incentives for a certain tract along a CTC or FCTC, a Vertical Mixed Use building can still be constructed if the developer follows all prescribed procedures for construction. These procedures include a pre-application conference, design for ground-floor pedestrian-oriented commercial spaces, and affordability requirements. However, the VMU incentives including dimensional standards or “density bonuses”, parking reductions, and “bonus” ground floor uses would not be applicable.

If a property in the VMU overlay has commercial or office zoning but has a residential use such as an apartment building, is a VMU building allowed?

Currently, the Design Standards and Mixed Use ordinance states that all properties within the VMU overlay that have office or commercial base zoning districts, regardless of their current uses, are parcels where a VMU building may be constructed. Neighbors and currently working with the City Council to amend this ordinance to make exceptions for properties within the VMU overlay that currently have residential uses.

Can private property owners apply to be included in the VMU overlay after the OIOO process is complete for any particular area of the City?

After the OIOO process is complete, a property owner may request VMU through the zoning process or through the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) process if the site is 3 acres or larger in size.

Through the OIOO process, can neighborhoods designate non -commercially zoned properties outside of the VMU overlay district to be candidates for the VMU overlay? Yes.

What is the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD) Department’s view on how the VMU overlay affects opportunities for affordable housing?

NHCD is supportive of the VMU overlay because it can allow for some affordable units on parcels that would not have been able to provide any housing otherwise. The VMU overlay offers incentives for some affordable units to be built into new structures which can increase mixed income development in Austin. In other states, a housing policy known as Inclusionary Zoning is used to require some affordable units in new developments. In Texas, Inclusionary Zoning is illegal. The VMU overlay, however, is considered a “step in the right direction”, but will not be the only tool needed to address Austin’s affordable housing needs.

What are the affordability requirements in VMU?

For developments that utilize the dimensional standards (density bonuses) offered in VMU:

- 5% of all homeownership units must be occupied by households at or be-

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- low 80% MFI for 99 years
- 5% of all homeownership units must be occupied by households at or below 100% MFI for 99 years
- 10% of rental units must be occupied by households at or below 80% MFI for 40 years (Neighborhoods can recommend that the MFI requirement be reduced to 60% or 70% MFI during Opt-in/Opt-out as described below)
- Fee-in-lieu paid for non-residential space above the first floor, as described below.

How is the NHCD Department involved in the VMU process?

The NHCD Department is required by Council Resolution to evaluate any proposed Board, Commission, or City Council action that could have an impact on affordable housing. The department will review each neighborhood's VMU application and write an Affordability Impact Statement that will be available for neighborhoods' review prior to Council action, and will subsequently be provided to the Planning Commission and City Council.

Why is the Fiscal Year 2006 Area Median Family Income (MFI) so high?

The MFI for Travis County is \$69,000 for a household size of four. Austin's MFI is based on incomes collected from Austin's Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). This is a five county area comparable to other regional statistical areas in other parts of the country. The MFI for our area is calculated yearly by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Through the Opt-In/Opt-Out process, Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams or Associations can increase the affordability of 10% of VMU rental units per project. Does NHCD encourage neighborhoods to lower the MFI income limits from 80% to 60% throughout the City of Austin?

Many factors determine whether the VMU overlay incentives will be sufficient to outweigh the loss in profit a developer will absorb to provide affordable housing. In the absence of additional subsidies, it can be very difficult to provide 60% MFI units for new construction. In some cases, lowering the MFI from 80% to 60% may deter a developer from choosing to construct a VMU building at all. In this case, no affordable units would result and the pedestrian oriented development benefits of VMU construction would also be forgone.

How does the "Fee for Upper-Level Nonresidential Space" (Subsection 4.3.3) requirement for VMU buildings work?

As stated in the new ordinance, Subchapter E, Design Standards and Mixed Use, "The developers of VMU buildings that contain non-residential uses above the ground-floor shall pay a fee as set by the City Council for all climate-controlled nonresidential space above the ground floor." The fee per square foot of non-residential space has not yet been determined, and this fee will be established by separate ordinance. Fee

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revenue will be placed in a fund to be used to construct affordable housing in the same general area of the city as the contributing project. The City of Austin may be divided into four quadrants with IH-35 and Town Lake as borders. It is likely that housing constructed through this fund will be provided for residents with incomes lower than 60% MFI.

If the owner of an affordable unit in a VMU building begins to earn more, will they be required to vacate their home?

No. Income requirements are determined at the time a unit is sold.

Can the City of Austin participate in subsidizing the affordability of VMU units?

The Design Standards and Mixed Use Ordinance states that the City of Austin “may elect to subsidize an additional ten percent of the residential units in the building for rental purposes for residents at any level of affordability pursuant to criteria and procedures established by the Director.” The procedures for how the City will subsidize units are not yet available. Possible funding sources may include existing City gap financing sources, or General Obligation Bonds, pending the completion of a legal review.

Where existing multi-family units with low rents would be replaced by VMU developments that may have higher rents or prices, can the City require “one-for-one” replacement of the demolished multi-family units?

The City of Austin is researching the issue establishing replacement requirements for existing multi-family units. However, there are no known examples of American cities with effective one-for-one replacement policies that can accommodate lower rents without substantial subsidies, except in the case of public housing. Because of the development costs and land costs of constructing new housing,, requiring one-for-one replacement without subsidy may likely be economically infeasible.

How will the long-term affordability periods for VMU units be enforced?

VMU affordability periods (99 years for homeownership and 40 years for rental) will be enforced through legal controls such as deed restrictions. In some cases, VMU units could become part of a Community Land Trust, which would establish resale restrictions and an equity-sharing methodology.

Are the income restrictions on rental units similar to rent control?

Rental rates can increase annually if the Median Family Income limits established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development increase.

In developing an Affordability Impact Statement regarding the neighborhood’s Opt-in/Opt-out recommendations, will NHCD be using citywide criteria only or will the department look at the circumstances of individual neighborhoods as well?

NHCD will look at each neighborhood individually, although in the context of City goals..

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Design Guidelines for the University Hills Planning Area

Note: University Hills residents wrote the design guidelines below. They are intended to provide more specific recommendations for the design of residential and commercial structures in the University Hills Planning Area. They are not intended to supersede the City of Austin's Residential Design & Compatibility Standards (Subchapter F of Section 25-2 of the Land Development Code) or the Design Standards and Mixed Use Subchapter (Subchapter E of Section 25-2 of the Land Development Code).

University Hills would like to express its gratitude to East Riverside/Oltorf Combined Neighborhood Planning District (consisting of the Riverside, Parker Lane and Pleasant Valley planning areas) for their generosity in permitting University Hills to use many of the design guidelines listed in this section. Credit is also extended to designadvisor.org and other design websites that were the inspiration for many of these recommendations.

Introduction

It is the expressed desire of the University Hills residents to maintain and preserve the unique character of their neighborhood. This theme consistently emerged through member feedback at general meetings, workshops and zoning committee meetings since the UHWP planning process began in September 2005. The winding streets, rolling hills, the beauty of Little Walnut Creek and the "park like" feel of University Hills was expressed in many meetings as being positive aspects of the neighborhood. Stakeholders also expressed their pride for the look and quality structures of the homes in University Hills and have relied upon the restrictive covenants attached to the property in University Hills to maintain the quality feel of the residences over time. Residents also visually enjoy the different architectural designs of the neighborhood, with their various floor plans and elevations, and the mature overhanging trees as one drives down any street in the neighborhood.

It is the desire of the residents of University Hills to preserve the character of the existing single-family residential neighborhood. To promote those objectives, new construction should integrate well with existing development. Consideration of existing development should be given with respect to the height and overall size of new structures. The following specific recommendations are suggested, which pertain to the University Hills deed restrictions:

- No single family residential dwelling shall be higher than 2-1/2 stories;
- No fence, wall or hedge shall be erected, placed or altered on an lot nearer to any street than the front wall of any house;
- All residences shall have at least 25% of their exterior walls of the first floor made of stone or masonry construction.

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Another theme is that existing multifamily structures that intend to redevelop as multifamily should incorporate design qualities that are visually pleasing and integrate well within the surrounding neighborhood environment and be well managed.

A third theme is that development in primarily non-residential corridors, in particular the stretch of Hwy 290 from IH-35 to Ed Bluestein Blvd, Ed Bluestein Blvd between Hwy 290 and Loyola Lane, and the stretch of Manor Road between Ed Bluestein Blvd and Northeast Drive should be redeveloped in such a way that makes the entry to Austin from the east a more inviting and beautiful area. Toward that goal, the following is suggested on all new developments and all redevelopments on the above listed roadways:

- Provide landscaping options for visual pleasure and comfort of the street's patrons;
- Use site planning and architectural elements to make the redeveloped site fully part of the community.

Stakeholders expressed concerns for the look of many of the commercial sites adjoining the neighborhood and often feel unsafe frequenting many of the businesses that are surrounded by barbed wire, trash and other debris. Some of the restaurants in the area spew excessive steam and grease into the atmosphere that prevents many stakeholders from doing business with them and surrounding businesses. Many of the commercial parking lots are not well designed and are unsafe to pedestrians.

Developers and property owners are strongly encouraged to work with the residents who live in surrounding neighborhoods to create superior projects that that can be mutually supported.

Non-Residential Design Guidelines (e.g., Commercial, Office, Mixed Use)

Urban Design Goal 1: Create interesting, lively, inviting, attractive, safe and comfortable non-residential environments that will encourage walking, biking and transit use and be appealing to passing motorists.

Sidewalk Areas –

- Sidewalks should be wide and continuous, with winding or non-linear pedestrian paths



Example of attractive sidewalk design

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preferred (*Note: The Design Standards and Mixed Use (DSMU) of the Land Development Code designates Manor Road in University Hills as an Urban Roadway, which would require a 12 foot minimum sidewalk width*).

- Sidewalks should provide a wide green area (along very busy roadways, 20 feet is recommended) with low landscaping to buffer pedestrians from motorists; shade trees should be situated closer to the interior edge of the sidewalk for pedestrians to enjoy as they shop.
- Curb cuts along the sidewalk should be minimized so there is less opportunity for the interruption of pedestrian activity.
- Lighting and signage along the sidewalk and in public areas should be at a pedestrian level. Signage should be oriented to the pedestrian and readable from the sidewalk and preferably mounted on buildings or building awnings rather than on separate or detached structures (e.g. pole mounted signage); it should not dominate the landscape.
- Bus shelters should provide shading and protection from inclement weather, seating, and lighting for visibility and safety.



Example of extensive landscape adjacent to sidewalk



Example of mounted sign



Example of pedestrian-oriented building design

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Buildings -

- Buildings should be pedestrian-oriented with storefronts close to the street, both in the front and on the sides to have direct access from sidewalks, except where there is a desire for outdoor seating areas or markets. (*Note: The DSMU Subchapter would require a minimum of 40% building frontage to be adjacent to the street along Manor Road*).
- Ground floor windows should promote visibility to store interiors and buildings should include awnings to provide additional relief from sun and rain (*Note: The DSMU Subchapter requires at least 40% of wall area between two and ten feet above grade to consist of window glazing*) .
- Buildings should be constructed at a human scale; to avoid a “canyoning effect”, stepped-back building heights are preferable.
- A diversity of building heights and dividing and/or recessing building facades can be incorporated into the design to avoid a solid wall effect and reduce the overwhelming size of large buildings.

Public Areas -

- Public spaces that promote civic activities such as small music events or market squares are encouraged. These areas could include open plazas, seating areas, shading, landscaping and art.

Aesthetics and art -

- Mechanical equipment, utility boxes, trash disposal units, cluster mail boxes and loading docks should be placed and/or located out of sight from the street and/or screened from public view.
- The integration of public art into commercial architecture is encouraged in building design and in public spaces.
- Landscaped traffic islands and traffic circles are desired to not



Mural in the parking lot of the Tres Amigos Restaurant on Hwy 290

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only make a more attractive roadway environment, but to also facilitate pedestrian crossings and automobile circulation.

Urban Design Goal 2: Create convenient and accessible parking areas that do not dominate the environment and provide safe interaction between vehicles and pedestrians.

- Walkways should provide interior as well as cross-traffic connections and be protected from automobile traffic.
- The creative placement of automobile parking should be explored, with the ideal situation of lots and garages behind, above or below the main buildings.
- There should be a convenient place to park bicycles close to the main entrance each building.
- Shared parking that would connect adjacent businesses is encouraged; this would minimize the number of curb cuts necessary and improve overall traffic circulation and efficiency.
- Where right-of-way is wide enough, parallel parking on the street is encouraged to help calm traffic and buffer pedestrians from autos.
- Side lot parking should be screened from public view with a low hedge, wall or fence that still allows for security surveillance.
- Partnerships among businesses are encouraged so that there is a unified approach toward service delivery issues. The creation of a shared commercial delivery strip, or service area that is out of public view and does not interfere with the activity on the street and sidewalk is preferred.

Single-Family Residential Guidelines

Urban Design Goal 3: Encourage urban design strategies for single-family neighborhoods that preserve, complement and enhance existing character.

Design Characteristics –

- New single-family construction should mimic existing architecture. Building heights, construction materials and architectural details should enhance the existing character of the neighborhood and not violate any restrictive covenants associated with the property.

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- Front doors and minimum of two ground floor windows should be oriented towards the street to promote “eyes on the street.”
- Duplex structures should have at least one framed entrance that faces the street and should reflect the scale, height and appearance of homes around them.
- Mechanical equipment (air conditioners, electric and gas meters, etc.) and garbage cans or garbage storage areas are best located to the side or rear of the house, where they cannot be seen from the street. If the location is visible from the street, it should be screened from view.
- Exterior building and site lighting should be unobtrusive and not illuminate neighboring properties.
- Utilize the Green Building Checklist whenever possible. Use local materials, maintain efficient heating and cooling systems and consider consulting a green building professional for structural details and site plans. See the CoA’s Green Building Program for more information (<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/greenbuilder>).



Example of “eyes on the street” concept in University Hills residence

Landscaping -

- Provide ample space in side and front yards for trees, landscaping or open space. Existing trees in front yards and along the street should be preserved and protected and additional trees planted to create a continuous canopy of cooling shade over the street and sidewalks. Use native and drought-tolerant plant species to the greatest extent possible to minimize water consumption.
- Front yards are usually a green landscaped area with minimal impervious paving for a driveway. If larger areas of parking are needed, they should be located behind the house as long as the impervious cover limit is not exceeded. By ordinance, front and side yard parking are not allowed in the Planning Area.

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Multifamily Residential Guidelines

Urban Design Goal 4: Promote multifamily structures that relate well to the surrounding environment, utilize a variety of building forms, have a thoughtful parking scheme, provide public open space and include a variety of appropriate landscaping features.

Building Shape -

- Relate the height of the new structure to that of adjacent structures and those of the immediate neighborhood. Avoid new construction that varies greatly in height from other buildings in the area, except where the local plan calls for redeveloping the whole area at much greater height and density. To the extent feasible, relate individual floor-to-floor heights to those of neighboring buildings. In particular, consider how the first floor level relates to the street and whether this is consistent with the first floors in neighboring buildings.



- Relate the size and bulk of the new structure to the average scale of other buildings in the immediate vicinity.



Examples of desired building designs for multi-family structures in University Hills

- Consider utilizing a variety of building forms and roof shapes rather than box-like forms with large, unvaried roofs. Consider how the building can be efficiently manipulated to create clusters of units, including variations in height, setback and roof shape. Make sure various forms and shapes work together to create a coherent whole. (www.designadvisor.org)

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Building Appearance -

- Avoid creating a building that looks strange or out of place in its neighborhood. Consider a building image that fits in with the image of good quality middle-income housing in the community where the project is located.
- Consider providing as much visual and architectural complexity as possible to the building's appearance while maintaining a hierarchy of scale and unified overall form. Consider breaking a large building into smaller units or clusters. Consider variations in height, color, setback, materials, texture, trim, and roof shape. Consider variations in the shape and placement of windows, balconies and other façade elements. Consider using landscape elements to add variety and differentiate units from each other.
- Maximize window number and size to enhance views and make spaces feel larger and lighter. Use standard size windows, but consider varying where and how they are used. Consider ways to screen and physically separate ground floor windows from walkways – through screens or plantings – to provide privacy.
- Pay careful attention to the design and detailing of front doors. Consider what the front doors convey about the quality of the project and its residents. To the extent possible, respect the placement and detailing of good quality front doors in neighboring homes.
- Relate the character of the new building façade to the facades of similar, good quality buildings in the surrounding neighborhood or region. Horizontal buildings can be made to relate to more vertical adjacent structures by breaking the façade into smaller components that individually appear more vertical. Avoid strongly horizontal or vertical façade expression unless compatible with the character of the majority of the structures in the immediate area.



Example of architectural complexity and variations in roof height

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Building Layout -

- Provide as many private, ground level entries to individual units as possible. Ensure that all building entries are prominent and visible and create a sense that the user is transitioning from a public to a semi-private area. Avoid side entries and those that are not visually defined. At all entries consider issues of shelter, security, lighting, durability, and identity. For apartment buildings, allow visual access to stairs and elevators from the lobby. For buildings with clustered and individual unit entries, consider providing small “porch” areas that residents can personalize with plants, seasonal decorations, etc. Limit “shared entries” to the smallest number of households possible, eight maximum. Consider providing some form of storage – for strollers, bikes, etc. – at or close to all main entries.
- Consider ease of visual and physical surveillance by the residents of areas such as the street, the main entrances to the site and the building, children’s play areas, public open space and parking areas. Consider locating windows from actively used rooms such as kitchens and living rooms so that they look onto key areas. Also consider containing open spaces within the building layout and using the selection and layout of plant materials to enhance, rather than hinder, surveillance and security. Consider specified design strategies to maximize the security of the building, including adequate lighting, lockable gates and doors at all entrances to the site and the buildings, and video cameras with monitors. See also information on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED, <http://www.cptedontario.ca/>)

Landscaping -

- Good landscaping is critical to the quality of any project. Consider how landscaping and planting will be handled from the very beginning of the design process. Avoid considering landscaping as “extra” that can be added in at the end of the project or, worse, eliminated in



Example of landscape integrated into site design

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the name of cost control.

- Provide as rich a variety of plantings – trees, shrubs, roundcover, and grass areas – as possible. Anticipate mature sizes and avoid crowding trees, shrubs and buildings. Use hardy, native species of trees and plants that are well suited to the project location and are easy to water and maintain. (www.designadvisor.org)
- Recognize that some paved area will be necessary in family housing to facilitate children's play. However, large, empty paved areas should be avoided. Use alternate landscape approaches – plantings, play equipment, outdoor furniture, trees and grass – to break these areas up into smaller functional units.
- Outdoor seating should be an integral part of any landscape plan and should be thoughtfully designed and located. Avoid simply scattering seats at random through the site. Consider how the seating is oriented with respect to the sun and breezes and whether it needs protection from rain or wind.

Parking –

- Avoid letting garages, driveways and parking lots dominate the streetscape. Consider placing them at the rear or side of the site to allow a majority of dwelling units to “front on” the street. Consider planting trees and shrubs to soften the overall impact of parking areas and to provide shade and noise reduction. At buildings with parking garages, avoid large areas of blank wall facing the street.
- Provide locations for parking that minimize walking distance between dwelling units and cars and that allow for casual surveillance of cars from a number of different units. Avoid remote parking. Avoid large lots. Consider breaking them into multiple, smaller lots to enhance safety and accessibility and minimize the aesthetic impact of large, unbroken rows of cars. Locate handicapped and elderly parking with immediate access to their respective units. Provide pleasant areas for residents to wait for rides or public transportation.

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WATERSHED PROTECTION - The Smart Site Practices For Redevelopment and Infill Projects

Source: Consensus Document of the National Redevelopment Roundtable. October 2001. Center for Watershed Protection.

About the Center for Watershed Protection: Founded in 1992, the Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) is a non-membership, nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation dedicated to providing objective and scientifically sound information on effective tools and techniques for watershed planning, protection and restoration. CWP implements this mission in several ways, including providing technical assistance to federal and local governments as well as non-profits and other organizations. For more information on the CWP and current projects, visit the Center's websites at www.cwp.org and www.stormwatercenter.net.

NOTE: *The practices described below are encouraged for thoughtful development in the University Hills planning area that respects the constraints of the site and minimizes stormwater runoff from the site. They are not intended to supersede any existing City of Austin development regulations.*

Practice #1: Redevelopment and infill planning should include environmental site assessments that protect existing natural resources and identify opportunities for restoration where feasible.

Rationale: Requirements under existing brownfields and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) legislation, as well as bank purchase and loan requirements, help to mitigate the impact of some pollution sites by requiring basic site history investigation and surface soil and water testing and cleanup. A more thorough environmental site assessment, which includes the production of a base map that outlines existing buildings, transportation networks, utilities, floodplains, wetlands, streams, and other natural features, can help address existing environmental constraints and highlight opportunities for restoration and reclamation at a site.

Practice #2: Sites should be designed to utilize impervious cover efficiently and to minimize stormwater runoff. Where possible, the amount of impervious cover should be reduced or kept the same. In situations where impervious cover does increase, sites should be designed to improve the quality of stormwater runoff at the site or in the local watershed.

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Rationale: The amount of impervious cover is known to have a direct impact on annual runoff volume, and consequently affects annual pollutant loads, flooding frequency, stream channel degradation, and a host of other impacts. Some of these impacts can be mitigated by making efficient use of the existing impervious cover and reducing or keeping it the same when possible. Managing stormwater runoff can also help to reduce these impacts.

Practice #3: Plan and design sites to preserve naturally vegetated areas and to encourage revegetation, soil restoration and the utilization of native or non-invasive plants where feasible.

Rationale: Remaining natural areas have particular value in the urban environment, but are also strongly influenced by adjacent uses. Often found in small fragments, these areas can also suffer from poor quality soils, invasive plant species, dumping and extensive alteration by past development. Collecting and mapping natural features, working toward preserving these areas in a consolidated manner, and evaluating the site for potential stormwater management, revegetation, and passive recreational benefits can provide both environmental, economic and aesthetic benefits.

Practice #4: Establish mechanisms to guarantee long term management and maintenance of all vegetated areas.

Rationale: Guaranteed long-term management, financing and maintenance plans can assure continuous enjoyment and function of vegetated areas over the long run. Innovative partnerships, conservation easements, or donations to land trusts can help land owners ensure that intensively used vegetated areas on urban lands are actively kept up.

Practice #5: Manage rooftop runoff through storage, reuse, and/or redirection to pervious surfaces for stormwater management and other environmental benefits.

Rationale: Reducing the runoff generated from urban rooftops can reduce pollutant loads, flooding, channel erosion, and many other stream impacts. In addition, many rooftop runoff management practices can help conserve water and improve aesthetics. Examples of rooftop runoff management techniques include green rooftops, rooftop gardens, rain barrels and downspout disconnection. The design, slope and architecture of rooftops can reduce the volume of rooftop runoff as well.

Practice #6: Parking lots, especially surface lots, should be minimized and designed to reduce, store and treat stormwater runoff. Where site limitations or other constraints prevent full management of parking lot runoff, designers should target high use areas first.

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Rationale: While adequate parking is often considered a critical ingredient to the success of most infill and redevelopment projects, parking lots are often one of the greatest sources of stormwater runoff. In addition, many older parking lots that are being redeveloped were designed with little regard to landscaping, actual parking demand, or effective stormwater treatment. Some of the techniques that can be utilized for managing parking lot runoff include making parking lots incrementally smaller, providing more functional landscaping, and where possible, treating the quality of stormwater runoff.

Practice #7: Utilize a combination of Better Site Design techniques with infill projects to minimize stormwater runoff and maximize vegetated areas.

Rationale: Many single lot or small multi-lot infill projects contribute to “impervious creep,” which is defined as the increase in impervious cover seen over time in highly developed areas. On-site improvements, such as house additions, expanded driveways, new housing, and sidewalks all contribute to impervious creep. Typically, there are few or no requirements to manage stormwater runoff or preserve or restore natural features associated with these small and incremental projects. Better Site Design refers to a design approach that seeks to reduce the amount of impervious cover associated with development, increase the natural lands set aside for conservation, use pervious areas for more effective stormwater treatment, and achieve a marketable, cost-effective product. Better Site Design consists of a series of benchmarks that fall under three categories: parking lot and street design, lot development, and natural areas conservation. Many of these benchmarks are applicable to infill development that can be described as: 1) single lot or small multi-lot infill (up to 3 lots) and 2) larger infill subdivisions (10 to 30 lots). While infill development occurs on smaller lot sizes (10,000 square feet or less), it is often still possible to effectively cluster lots to provide more open space and reduce impervious cover.

Practice #8: Utilize proper storage, handling and site design techniques to avoid the contact of pollutants with stormwater runoff.

Rationale: Opportunities exist to improve water quality by preventing contact of rainfall with pollutant sources stored or handled at the site of redevelopment and infill projects. Controlling pollutants at the site (source control) is usually the simplest and most cost-effective way to reduce stormwater pollution at many commercial sites. Source control measures include: 1) proper handling and storage of pollutants and 2) site design practices. Handling and storage practices focus on the storage of materials and vehicles in outdoor areas, while site design practices include designing better loading docks, covering materials stored outdoors, and containing dumpsters and fueling areas. Other source control opportunities exist at fleet parking areas, outdoor maintenance areas, landscaping areas and above ground storage tanks.

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Practice #9: Design the streetscape to minimize, capture and reuse stormwater runoff. Where possible, provide planting spaces to promote the growth of healthy street trees while capturing and treating stormwater runoff. In arid climates, xeriscapes should be used to achieve similar benefits.

Rationale: With proper design and consideration, the interface between the street, sidewalk and other structures, known as the streetscape, can provide opportunities to manage stormwater runoff while providing many other environmental and aesthetic benefits. For example, streets can be made more narrow, and landscaped areas and/or trees can be incorporated into the street front and created so that they function to treat stormwater runoff. In addition, when tree pits are provided along with adequate soil and rooting space, street trees can provide additional stormwater capture and other numerous environmental benefits. Alternatively, xeriscaping (the practice of landscaping to conserve water) can be an important tool in more arid climates.

Practice #10: Design courtyards, plazas, and amenity open space to store, filter or treat rainfall.

Rationale: Much of the open space found in redevelopment and infill projects consists of hard surfaces that are impervious to rainfall. Using creative site plans, these courtyards, plazas, and other hard open spaces can be designed to store, filter and treat rainfall. Examples include the use of alternative pavers, bioretention areas, and planting boxes.

Practice #11: Design sites to maximize transportation choices in order to reduce pollution and improve air and water quality.

Rationale: Designing redevelopment and infill sites to increase connections to adjacent land uses, parks and public spaces through non-automotive related transportation choices (bike paths, pedestrian walkways, etc.) can improve environmental quality. Sites should also seek to provide links to mass transit when available, and provide commuter amenities such as bus shelters or bike racks. In addition, site designers may also wish to explore alternate pathway options for pedestrian movement, rather than the traditional sidewalk on both sides of the street.

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IMPERVIOUS COVER INFORMATION FOR UHWP PLANNING AREA

At the July 26 and October 14, 2006 planning meetings, UHWP stakeholders considered which Special Use Infill Options would be appropriate for their neighborhoods. Zoning Committee members and NPZD staff used the information gathered at the planning meetings to make recommendations on infill options for the UHWP planning area (listed on Page 40).

Several Zoning Committee members were concerned about how additional residential density, specifically the Urban Home and Cottage Lot infill options, would affect the character of their neighborhood. The Urban Home and Cottage Lot infill options reduce the minimum lot size in the planning area to allow additional small homes to be constructed. Other Committee members were concerned about how potential increases in impervious cover from implementation of these infill options could affect drainage and stormwater runoff in the planning area and nearby. They expressed that computer modeling should be used to calculate the effects of increased impervious cover on levels of storm water runoff, erosion, and the water quality of urban creeks.

The City of Austin does not currently model stormwater capacity by neighborhood or predict how extensive infill development may affect creeks and infrastructure. The Watershed Protection and Development Review (WPDR) Department depends largely on calls from residents to determine the highest priority areas for upgrading stormwater systems.

UHWP planning staff coordinated with WPDR specialists to collect data on existing levels of impervious cover in the planning area. The data listed on the opposing page is based on current base zoning districts in the planning area and does not estimate how impervious cover levels may change as land uses and zoning changes over time.

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University-Windsor Park Neighborhood Planning Areas Impervious Cover by Zoning (Data Courtesy of WPDR)

Zoning Type		Area (acres)		IC Pct.*		Pct. of Area	
		Total	IC	Actual	Max	Total	IC
AV	Aviation Services	0.0	0.0	0%	NA	0%	0%
CS	Commercial Services	106.5	75.3	71%	95%	5%	9%
CS-1	Commercial-Liquor Sales	9.4	7.8	83%	95%	0%	1%
CS-CO	Commercial Services	7.7	1.7	22%	95%	0%	0%
CS-MU-CO	Commercial Services	1.0	0.1	15%	95%	0%	0%
GO	General Office	7.8	6.2	80%	80%	0%	1%
GR	Community Commercial	153.0	93.4	61%	90%	7%	11%
GR-CO	Community Commercial	6.8	3.0	44%	90%	0%	0%
I-SF-3	Family Residence	4.9	0.0	0%	45%	0%	0%
LI	Limited Industrial Services	25.6	1.2	5%	80%	1%	0%
LI-CO	Limited Industrial Services	1.9	0.0	0%	80%	0%	0%
LO	Limited Office	12.7	6.0	47%	70%	1%	1%
LO-CO	Limited Office	5.0	0.1	2%	70%	0%	0%
LR	Neighborhood Commercial	15.4	5.9	38%	80%	1%	1%
LR-CO	Neighborhood Commercial	1.9	1.1	59%	80%	0%	0%
MF-2	MFR - Low Density	52.5	22.5	43%	60%	2%	3%
MF-3	MFR - Medium Density	40.4	22.0	55%	65%	2%	3%
MF-3-CO	MFR - Medium Density	0.6	0.6	87%	65%	0%	0%
MF-3-CO-N	MFR - Medium Density	0.0	0.0	0%	65%	0%	0%
MF-4	MFR - Moderate-High Density	20.6	12.8	62%	70%	1%	2%
NO-CO	Neighborhood Office	8.6	2.2	26%	60%	0%	0%
P	Public District	65.4	6.3	10%	NA	3%	1%
P-NP	Public District	0.0	0.0	0%	NA	0%	0%
PUD	ERROR	0.0	0.0	0%	NA	0%	0%
ROW	ERROR	470.1	287.0	61%	NA	21%	34%
RR	Rural Residence District	0.3	0.0	0%	25%	0%	0%
SF-2	SFR - Standard Lot	425.0	96.6	23%	45%	19%	12%
SF-3	Family Residence	807.9	187.2	23%	45%	36%	22%
SF-6	Townhouse & Condominium P	0.4	0.0	2%	55%	0%	0%
Totals		2,251.4	839.0	37%		100%	100%

* Does NOT include estimates of sidewalks and driveways.

Summary

Single Family Residential	1,238.5	283.8	23%	45%	55%	34%
Multifamily Residential	114.2	57.9	51%	64%	5%	7%
Commercial	301.6	188.3	62%	91%	13%	22%
Office	34.2	14.5	43%	70%	2%	2%
Industrial	27.5	1.2	4%	80%	1%	0%
Public District	65.4	6.3	10%	NA	3%	1%
Aviation	0.0	0.0	0%	NA	0%	0%
PUD	0.0	0.0	0%	NA	0%	0%
Roads/Right of Way	470.1	287.0	61%	NA	21%	34%
Totals	2,251.4	839.0	37%		100%	100%

**University-Windsor Park Neighborhood Planning Areas
Impervious Cover by Neighborhood Plan**

N'hood Plan Area	Area (acres)		IC Pct.	Pct. of Area	
	Total	IC		Total	IC
University Hills	726.0	217.8	30%	32%	26%
Windsor Park	1,524.5	620.4	41%	68%	74%
Totals	2,250.5	838.2	37%	100%	100%

**University-Windsor Park Neighborhood Planning Areas
Impervious Cover by Land Use**

LU2003	Description	Area (acres)		IC Pct.*	Pct. of Area	
		Total	IC		Total	IC
100	Single Family	995.4	317.7	32%	44%	34%
113	Mobile Homes	1.3	0.1	9%	0%	0%
150	Duplexes	56.3	13.6	32%	3%	1%
210	Three/Fourplex	9.7	3.5	36%	0%	0%
220	Apartment/Condo	131.8	87.2	66%	6%	9%
300	Commercial	159.3	120.0	75%	7%	13%
400	Office	46.5	25.6	55%	2%	3%
520	Warehousing	3.9	3.3	84%	0%	0%
530	Miscellaneous Industrial	0.5	0.2	50%	0%	0%
630	Government Services	0.6	0.3	61%	0%	0%
640	Educational	47.3	17.0	36%	2%	2%
650	Meeting and Assembly	74.4	28.6	38%	3%	3%
680	Cultural Services	1.9	0.6	31%	0%	0%
710	Parks/Greenbelts	71.8	4.9	7%	3%	1%
820	Transportation Facilities	2.4	1.7	70%	0%	0%
850	Parking	6.4	4.6	73%	0%	1%
860	Streets and Roads	472.8	289.6	61%	21%	31%
870	Utilities	2.7	0.3	12%	0%	0%
900	Undeveloped	163.3	2.3	1%	7%	0%
Totals		2,248.0	921.3	41%	100%	100%

* Includes estimates of sidewalks and driveways.

Summary

Single Family Residential	1,053.0	331.5	32%	47%	36%
MFR, Com, Office, Other Urban	475.6	286.3	60%	21%	31%
Open Space, Parks	71.8	4.9	7%	3%	1%
Roads & Utilities	484.2	296.3	61%	22%	32%
Undeveloped & Water	163.3	2.3	1%	7%	0%
Totals	2,248.0	921.3	41%	100%	100%

APPENDIX G

ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY ("GROUP HOME") INFORMATION

Staff invited the following State of Texas representatives to give information and answer questions regarding concern with varying aspects of assisted living facilities located in the University Hills/Windsor Park Neighborhood Planning Area:

Mike Maples; Department of State Health Services; Mental Health Substance Abuse Division

The DSHS Mental Health Substance Abuse Division contracts with treatment providers, including the State Hospital, the Austin Travis County Mental Health Mental Retardation Center (MHMR), and private entities. His Division assists clients with finding housing in the community in order to integrate into society effectively. Many individuals with mental health disorders and/or substance abuse problems do not wish to receive treatment and as a result experience homelessness. Many of his clients are identified through APD complaints.

Penny Steele; Executive Director, Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS)

Dotty Acosta; Program Specialist, Regulatory Services; Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services

(The following information was summarized from the DADS 2005 Reference Guide)

The DADS regulates and certifies all long-term care facilities/agencies in Texas that meet the definition of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult day care facilities, privately owned intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation or related condition and home and community support services agencies.

The DADS survey teams conduct licensing and certification surveys routinely to determine entities' compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations. *Survey teams determine if providers are meeting minimum standards and requirements for service, look for conditions that may jeopardize health and safety, and identify areas of deficient practice. When deficiencies are identified and cited, regional survey staff monitor the provider's plan of correction to ensure that the provider complies with state and federal requirements.* They also respond to complaints and pursue enforcement actions against facilities/agencies cited for non-compliance with regulations. They also provide information and release records to the public.

Consumer Rights and Complaints: 1-800-252-9240 Call DADS if you suspect there is a management or certification issue with an assisted living facility in your area. This number is answered locally. Each complaint is investigated by a DADS survey team. 8-5 p.m. Mon-Fri.

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Texas Ombudsman Program: 1-800-252-2412 Call a Long-Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman if you have concerns about the care a resident of an assisted living or nursing home is receiving. LTC Ombudsmen also address concerns about the management/owners of these facilities and can give information on residents' rights.

Allison Taylor; Executive Director; Department of State Health Services; Council on Sex Offender Treatment

The Council on Sex Offender Treatment advocates for victims of sexual assault and manages the sexually violent predator population after conviction. They set standards for sex offenders in order to increase public safety. They use a "containment model" which includes law enforcement officials, supervision officers, sexual assault prevention programs, victim advocates and victim assistance agencies, and treatment providers. They also use global positioning satellite and radio monitoring, child safety zones, registration, and community notification to protect the public.

For more information on sex offenders contact CSOT- Department of State Health Services: allison.taylor@dshs.state.tx.us. Phone: 512-834-4530. <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/scot/default.shtm>

MEETING NOTES AND DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Several meeting participants find that there are single family structures operating as group homes without licenses in the planning area. Private homeowners can rent rooms to individuals with mental disorders or substance abuse problems. These businesses are called "Board and Care homes" . It is legal to rent rooms as long as there are less then four unrelated adults needing supervision in any one single-family structure. (MHMR) It is legal to house up to six individuals who are not a family in a single family structure. There is a minimum square footage requirement for each person living in a residence. (City of Austin Land Use Code)
 - If you suspect there is a home that should be licensed as an assisted living facility that is not currently licensed call DADS at 1-800-252-9240.
 - If you want to report public behavior problems of an assisted living facility resident call MHMR at 512-447-4141.
 - If you suspect exploitation, financial or physical mistreatment, of a resident of an assisted living facility call the Department of Family and Protective Services (Adult Protective Services) 1-800-252-5400.**ALWAYS CALL 911 IF YOU WITNESS ILLEGAL OR DANGEROUS ACTIVITY.**
2. Some meeting participants received notification of sex offenders living in their area. *There are no residential facilities for sex offenders located in residential areas in*

APPENDIX G

Travis County. All residential facilities for sex offenders (e.g., halfway houses) in Travis County are work release jails. (CSOT) However, a sex offender who is no longer on parole and/or probation may rent a room or purchase a home wherever they choose in the community. Notice of their location may occur.

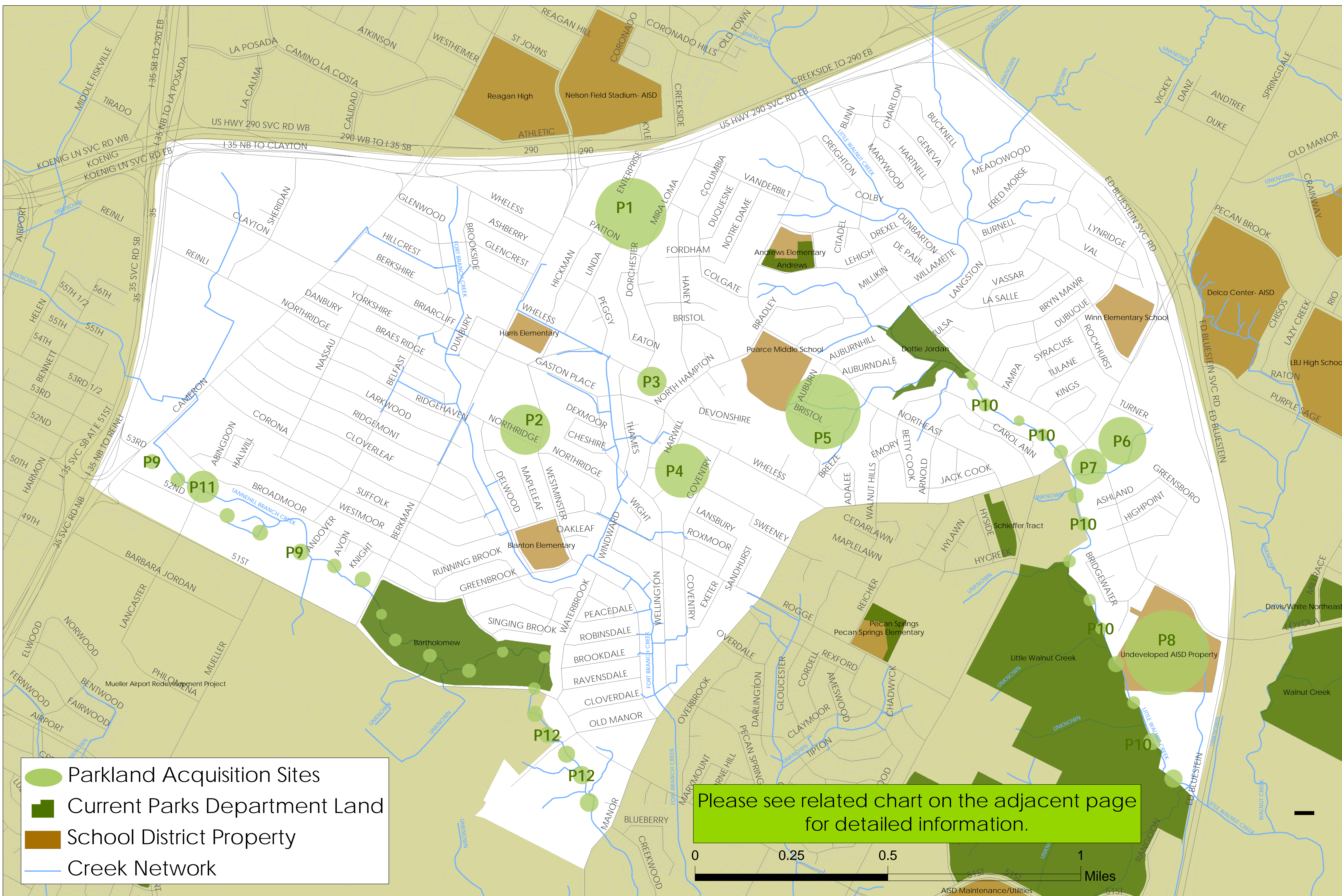
3. There is interest in organizing and coordinating neighborhood planning participants and neighborhood association members to address concerns regarding homes that may be operating illegally and the public behavior of their residents. Further discussion on this initiative is intended and may include research on whether there is a higher than average number of assisted living facilities in the UHWP planning area, and if so, why these treatment providers are locating in the planning area. Meeting participants also plan to consider inviting owners/directors of facilities to a meeting and/or representatives from MHMR.
4. Meeting participants agree that further action needs to be taken regarding these concerns and more information needs to be available on these issues.
5. There is interest in creating a directory or registry of assisted living facilities and nursing homes within the planning area or city-wide. DADS currently maintains a listing of licensed homes on their website, www.dads.state.tx.us.

APPENDIX H

PARKLAND ACQUISITION WISH LIST

One vision of the UHWP Neighborhood Plan is to increase opportunities for physical recreation and health through the provision of additional parkland. This community need is apparent in the neighborhood; many open spaces are utilized informally for recreation. For example, soccer players use the grassy area behind the Windsor Village Shopping Center, others use the running track at Pearce Middle School in the evenings. The map and the associated chart include a list of potential locations for new parks in the planning area.

University Hills/ Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan



APPENDIX H

Parkland Acquisition Site Recommendations		
	Location	Comments
P1	Patton Lane, north side	This site is located within one mile of the residences located between Cameron Road & IH-35
P2	SE corner of Windsor Village Shopping Center	Residents use this vacant site often for pick-up soccer games and other activities.
P3	Wheless Lane near Gaston Place	
P4	Gaston Place/ Sutherlin	At the time of writing this plan, the development of several single family dwellings was proposed on this lot.
P5	Wooded Bristol Tracts area	
P6	Turner Tract area	Provide some greenspace accessible to the public (partner with private owner).
P7	Duplex east of Dottie Jordan Park	Use structure as a senior center or community resource center.
P7	Property on Loyola adjacent to the University Hills Library	Parkland Dedication fees from new residential development in the planning area could be used to acquire this site for parkland. It could also be used for any potential expansion of the University Hills Branch Library.
P8	AISD property	Parkland Dedication fees from new residential development in the planning area could be used to acquire this site for parkland.
P9	Along the south bank of Tannehill Creek from Berkman Drive to Cameron Road	Conduct any necessary analysis to determine the feasibility of a greenbelt along Tannehill Creek. If a greenbelt is feasible, work with the community to acquire easements to facilitate the construction of a trail.
P10	Along the banks of Little Walnut Creek	Research the feasibility of connecting the portion of Little Walnut Creek that traverses through the UHWP planning area to the Big Walnut Creek trail system. Ensure that a greenbelt does not disturb the residents of the adjacent homes along the creek.
P11	Along the banks of Tannehill Creek south of 51st Street east to Morris Williams Golf Course	Support future study to link Mueller trails and potential Tannehill Creek greenbelt trails in the UHWP planning area to portions of Tannehill Creek near Pecan Springs and finally Morris Williams Municipal Golf Course.
P12	Property north of Lancaster Street on Broadmoor (gives access to Tannehill Creek).	Allow pedestrian access from Lancaster Street north across Tannehill Creek to Broadmoor (Windsor Park neighborhood)– purchase property or acquire public access easement.

APPENDIX I

CROSSWALKS

At various neighborhood planning meetings, stakeholders described potential locations for new crosswalks. NPZD staff has submitted citizen request forms for the following locations, and the list below includes comments from Public Works about implementation of these crosswalk recommendations. Public Works staff is currently investigating these requests, and their comments are described below. The following locations are listed on the Transportation Map on page 103. Additionally, residents can call 311 and report where a new crosswalk is needed or an existing crosswalk needs repair. This information is forwarded to the Public Works Department through a “citizen request form” that describes the citizen’s concern. After receiving this information, Public Works staff conducts a site visit to determine the condition of the crosswalk and the appropriate action to respond to the request.

- C1 Cameron Road at City Market
 - A crosswalk can only be installed at the existing traffic signal at the south frontage road of Hwy 290. Curb ramps are currently in place.
- C2 Cameron Road and Reinli/Northridge
 - Public Works observations indicated minimal pedestrian volumes at this intersection, therefore, a crosswalk will not be constructed in the near future from adoption of this plan.
- C3 Cameron Road and Corona
- C4 Berkman Drive entrance to Randall’s grocery store
 - When Berkman is proposed to be resurfaced, the striping can be modified to provide a short northbound left turn bay into the shopping center. This would keep a northbound left-turning vehicle from blocking the northbound through traffic.
- C5 Berkman Drive and Wheless
- C6 Berkman Drive and 51st Street
 - Crosswalks can be installed after sidewalk and curb ramps are installed on the south side of 51st. Curb ramps will also need to be installed on the North side of 51st Street.
- C7 51st Street at Tilley (To connect planned Bartholomew Park trail with Mueller/Rathgeber Hike and Bike Trail systems). **Implementation Note:** Catellus plans to install a traffic light along with a crosswalk at this particular intersection once Tilley street opens.
- C8 Northeast Drive at Willamette

APPENDIX J

Status of Capital Improvement Projects and WPDR Field Projects in the UHWP Planning Area April 2007

Tannehill		Fort Branch		Little Walnut	
Description	Status	Description	Status	Description	Status
Creek Erosion - Tannehill Creek-Bartholomew Park Channel Restoration -The reach of Tannehill Branch from E. 51st Street to the outlet of the Bartholomew Park Detention Pond (1,500 LF) was reconstructed using natural channel design techniques. The construction process repaired the streambank erosion and replaced the failing gabion drop structure in Bartholomew Park. techniques	Project is complete, warrantly phase has ended.	Creek Flooding - Undersized culvert at 51st to be upgraded	Creek Flood Control Project scheduled for completion in the 2012-2013 timeframe.	Erosion Complaint - 6613 Auburndale	Owner declined buyout offer
Creek Flooding Complaints - Tannehill Creek from Helen St to 51st Street Flood Control Project. Homes in this area experienced flooding in Nov 2004 storm event. Culverts overtopped at Helen and Bennett.	Creek Flood Control Project scheduled to begin preliminary engineering in 2012-2013 timeframe.	Creek Flooding along Greenbrook to Glencrest; proposed project to look at upgrading culverts in this area	Creek Flood Control Project scheduled for completion in the 2010-2013 timeframe.	Erosion Complaint - 66- to 66-Auburndale	City pruchased five homes threatened by erosion
		Localized Flooding Fort Branch Wellington Drive Storm Drain Improvements	Localized Flood Control Project scheduled to begin preliminary engineering in 2013 timeframe.	Erosion Complaint 6313,6314,6315,6317 and 6319 Bridgewater Drive	City pruchased five homes threatened by erosion