

RESOLUTION NO. 20091119-068

WHEREAS, providing parks within walking distance is an important amenity for a family-friendly city, and the City of Austin Families and Children Task Force has recommended that the City of Austin adopt a 1/4-mile parks goal in the urban core and a 1/2-mile goal for all other parts of the City; and

WHEREAS, in a recent city-wide survey, Austin families identified lack of access to child-friendly neighborhood parks as one of their top concerns with the City; and

WHEREAS, a national benchmark for cities is to create park access within a 1/4-mile to 1/2-mile walking distance of every resident; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Board adopted a resolution recommending that the City Council adopt an urban parks goal and to create a working group to develop an implementation plan to reach new urban parks goals; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Council adopts the following policy goals for urban parks:

1. Urban parks should be provided so that all residents in the urban core (as depicted by Exhibit A) will live within 1/4-mile walking distance of a publicly-accessible and child-friendly park or green space; and

2. Parks should be provided so that all residents outside the urban core will live within 1/2-mile walking distance of a publicly-accessible and child-friendly park or green space.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to create a working group of stakeholders, including but not limited to the Parks and Recreation Department, Parks and Recreation Board, the Early Childhood Council, the Families and Children Task Force, and the Austin Parks Foundation to develop an implementation plan to reach the new urban parks goals. The plan should include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. An analysis of where new urban pocket parks are needed and which existing parks are in need of improvements;
2. Strategies to incorporate more innovative and diverse play opportunities for children in parks;
3. Projections of costs to implement the plan; and
4. An examination of resources and policies needed to facilitate the implementation of the plan and to meet national benchmarks for maintenance of parks, including an examination of funding mechanisms, land use planning tools, and the utilization of public-private partnerships.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Austin City Council requests that the Joint Subcommittee of the City, Travis County, and AISD examine ways to facilitate shared-use

agreements for city, county, and school district properties and to consider methods to transform AISD schoolyards into public park spaces after school hours.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to investigate opportunities for the inclusion of small or innovative play spaces for children in public spaces utilized regularly by families with children such as city libraries and city-owned properties downtown.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

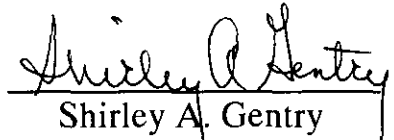
That the City Manager is directed to ensure that development of the parks plan is coordinated with development of the comprehensive plan, and that the needs assessment and goals of the parks plan are integrated into the comprehensive plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to provide an update to the City Council before September 1, 2010 on the ongoing status of the tasks outlined above.

ADOPTED: November 19, 2009

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk