Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee (ESAC)

January 31, 2019
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<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<td>I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes</td>
<td>Mary Priddy &amp; Monica Lopez Magee</td>
<td>5:30 - 5:40</td>
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<td>II. Public Comments</td>
<td>Citizens</td>
<td>5:40 - 5:50</td>
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<td>III. Remarks</td>
<td>Matias Segura</td>
<td>5:50 - 6:10</td>
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<td>V. Action Area Updates</td>
<td>Subcommittee Chairs^</td>
<td>6:35 - 7:15</td>
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<td>VI. Subcommittee Planning</td>
<td>Subcommittee Chairs^</td>
<td>7:15 - 7:25</td>
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<td>VII. Requests for Future Meeting Topics</td>
<td>Mary Priddy</td>
<td>7:25 – 7:30</td>
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2018-2019 Bright Green Future Grant Recipients

- Students at the Liberal Arts & Sciences Academy (LASA) will photograph the night sky from varying points around campus to measure and contrast light levels. This **Light Pollution Survey** will provide the foundation for establishing outdoor lighting standards for AISD facilities.

- Students implementing the **Digital Tree Monitoring Project** at Chaparral Star Academy will create a solar-powered network of digital environmental and soil sensors around campus to collect and report data that will inform efficient ways of watering and caring for trees.

- A **Wind Turbine Garden Project** at Round Rock Opportunity Center will use clean wind energy to power a water-wise drip irrigation system to water their community garden.

- **Small Middle School** will partner the Austin Fire Department with teachers, students, and their families to design a **Firewise Demonstration Garden** that reduces the risk of wildfire.

- **Cycle Academies** improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve health by getting kids out of cars and onto bikes. These academies will teach students about bike safety and maintenance at Brooke, Harris, Hart, Houston, Langford, Perez, Rodriguez, Sanchez, and Zavala Elementary Schools; Kealing Middle School; and Eastside Memorial High School.

- **Partners for Education Agriculture and Sustainability (PEAS)** will provide gardening and outdoor science lessons at Barrington, Blackshear, Boone, Brooke, Metz, Pease, River Oaks, and Winn Elementary Schools.
Rain Garden Projects at Barrington, Kiker, Mathews, Perez, River Place, St. Elmo, Sunset Valley, Wieland, Williams, Wooldridge, and Zilker Elementary Schools; Magnolia Montessori; Fulmore Middle School; Harris Early College Prep; and the Forbes Child Development Center will conserve water, provide education about native plants, and minimize soil erosion.

Maplewood and Summit Elementary Schools, and Athena Montessori will plant and maintain a Wildlife Garden that provides habitat for a variety of native pollinators and birds.

Growing vegetables in school gardens at Austin Achieve, Caraway, and Ortega Elementary Schools; Del Valle Opportunity Center; Valor Public Schools; Whole Life Learning Center; Hernandez Middle School; and Sci-Tech High School will help students learn about healthy food options while reducing the carbon impact of transporting vegetables from farm to grocery store to table.

At Andrews, Kocurek, Anderson Mill, Caraway, Ridgetop, Boone, Spicewood, and Mathews Elementary Schools; The Headwaters School; Texas School for the Deaf; Travis County Juvenile Justice Center; Austin Montessori; and St. Andrews Episcopal School, students will disconnect from screens and reconnect with nature in Outdoor Classrooms shaded by new trees. Research has shown that children who spend some time outdoors each day are healthier, happier, and perform better academically.

Students at Boone, Redeemer Lutheran, and Lee Elementary Schools will raise awareness about the impact of plastic on the environment through the “Pledge to Go Plastic Free” recycling campaign, and installation of water bottle refilling stations on campus.
Austin’s Cities
Connecting Children to Nature Initiative
AUSTIN CHILDREN'S
OUTDOOR
BILL of RIGHTS

In which children of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities have the right to:

- Climb a tree
- Catch a fish
- Picnic in a park
- Hike a trail
- Ride a bike
- Splash in a creek or river
- Discover plants and wildlife
- Play in the sand and mud
- Gaze at the night sky
- Chase a firefly
- Plant a seed and watch it grow
- Harvest and eat a fruit or vegetable

Understanding that research shows children who learn and play in nature are healthier, happier and perform better in school, we enthusiastically support this Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.

Learn more at www.austintexas.gov/cccn
Marketing Efforts

Fall 2018 APH Media Buy
- Promoted health via Nature Rocks on PARD FB, 2 Latino radio stations
- 6.25% increase in views between promotional period and same time frame previous month
- 86% increase in views between promotional period and same time frame last year

Fall 2018 Social Media Campaign
- Total Facebook Reach:
  - Reach: 13636
  - Engagement: 820
  - Reaction/Comment/Share: 297
  - Clicks: 391
- Total Twitter Reach:
  - Impressions: 3577
  - Total engagements: 33
  - Likes: 9
  - Retweets: 9
- Double-triple increase in activity on Nature Rocks compared to same time period last year
MAINTENANCE ADDENDUM

Turf Maintenance

The Parks and Recreation Department shall provide turf maintenance on all open areas being utilized by the department’s program. A joint agreement on turf watering and litter control should be reached which could be applied equally to each area by the administration of the School District and the City. Future joint use areas should have automatic irrigation systems to reduce man-hour cost to both entities.

Equipment Maintenance and Use

Playground equipment and other outdoor facilities (i.e., play courts, bike racks), shall be maintained by the entity which constructs the facility. Each entity should investigate the joint use of specialized equipment, such as tree moving machines, stump cutters, and other heavy equipment.

Building Maintenance

The using entity shall have the responsibility to insure that all repairs to a joint use building involving security to the portion of the building being used are made prior to the close of any programmed use. Routine maintenance and repair shall be performed by the owning entity.

Excessive Maintenance

Excessive maintenance due to vandalism or abuse should be the responsibility of the entity responsible at the time of the abuse.

Meadow/Native Grassland

1. Definition
   Surface layer of vegetation that is either grass or ground cover, excluding meadows, grasslands, rain gardens, and other elements described in this agreement. Does not include athletic fields.

2. Design Standards
   a. Encourage naturalized areas and groundcover (not turf grass) to reduce the need for irrigation and mowing. Refer to the AWD Project Manual for a list of acceptable groundcover plant.
   b. If installing irrigation, include irrigation or subirrigation to avoid wastewater fees. Only use irrigation for the maximum 90-day establishment period. If irrigation is required, use City of Austin municipal reclaimed water for irrigation.

3. Maintenance Responsibilities
   a. AWD shall maintain all lawns on all undivided interest properties with the exception of koaling. Lawns shall be maintained on a level 3 to 4 (slow/clear clippings, edging/mowing, mowing) property fronts are edged at 90 degrees, backs are edged at 45 degrees. Clippings shall be bundled and left on site.
   b. AWD custodians shall be in advance of mowing to pick up trash.
   c. If mowing is required, AWD will cover the cost of water. Custodial staff shall perform each visual inspection of irrigation system during the maximum 90 day establishment period, and report any leaks via work order. AWD will arrange for and cover the cost of repair.
**Green Schoolyard**
Multifunctional school grounds designed for and by the entire school community that include places for students, teachers, parents and community members to play, learn, explore and grow. During out of school time, green school yards are ideally open for public use and enjoyment.

*School primary user*

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**Green School Park**
Multifunctional school grounds that are rooted in nature-based features. These spaces are designed for and by the entire community that include places for students, teachers, parents and community members to play, learn, explore and grow. During out of school time, green school parks are open for public use and enjoyment.

*Equal use by school and community*
AISD SCHOOLYARD HABITAT FEATURES
(total number of schools)

- Vegetable: 94
- Habitat: 82
- Pond: 77
- Outdoor Classroom: 72
- Compost/Vermiculture: 57
- Rainbarrel/Cistern: 52
- Solar: 33
- Chickens: 25
- Nature Trail: 24
- Nature Play: 23
- Berm/Swale: 20
- Campus Master Plan: 16
- Community Garden: 15
- Livestock/other: 14
- Rain Garden: 13
- Nature Preserve: 10
- Bees: 5
Out of School Time

Programs and park infrastructure that promote use and activation of the Green School Park when school is not in session.
Urban Forestry

Wooldridge Green School Park Vision
Parks & Recreation

Wooldridge Green School Park Vision
Partners

National Wildlife Federation

UT School of Engineering

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center/
Native American Seed

Wooldridge Green School Park Vision
Action Area Updates

Food | Anneliese Tanner
Nature | Anne Muller
Zero Waste & Procurement | Amanda Mortl Walker
Transportation & Air Quality | Rob Borowski
Energy & Water | Richard Shearman
Community Engagement & Outreach | Monica Lopez Magee
Food

- SY 19-20: Bidding compostable utensils
- Local Items:
  - SY 16-17 46% Local, results pending from Good Food Purchasing Program for SY 17-18
    - Farm Fresh Fridays: JBG
    - Sampling -
      - Beet Sampling in October
      - Pinto Bean Dip
AISD Green Flag
Schools
Congratulations Brooke!!

- Brooke ES
- Patton ES
- Clint Small MS
- Eastside Memorial/International HS
Monarch Heroes

O. Henry MS

Bailey MS
Casey Elementary BIG DIG

OutTeach
Go Outside Expectations
CiNCA Workshop on Equity and Diversity
Energy & Water

Community Engagement:

1/19/2019 MLK Day of Service at Kealing MS

1/21/2019 MLK Day of Service at Boggy Creek Park
Energy & Water

-1.6% kWh usage over 12 months to end of November (-1.4% cost)

-$201k
Energy & Water

+19.5% usage over 12 months to end of November (+11% cost)  

+$132k
-5% usage over 12 months to end of November (-11% cost)

-$578k
Zero Waste & Procurement

News: Keep Austin Beautiful’s Generation Zero is up!
Zero Waste & Procurement

1/2018 Outreach survey at Fulmore Middle School
Thank you City of Austin for the voting prizes!
Zero Waste & Procurement

Campus Improvement Plan

ZW&P committee populated the Campus Improvement Plan with proposed action steps towards bringing campuses to “zero waste”
Schools with 64% diversion:

BARTON HILLS ELEMENTARY
BLACKSHEAR ELEMENTARY
CUNNINGHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
GARZA INDEPENDENT HIGH SCHOOL
LEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ORTEGA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PEASE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
UPHAUS ELEMENTARY
ZILKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Sustainability Plan implementation 2018

- 25 schools implemented cafeteria compost, increasing their average diversion from 31% to 37%
- ~5,711 AISD students trained
- ~846 teachers and staff trained
Sustainability Plan Implementation 2019

- 15 AISD school communities collaborating to increase diversion from 39% to 50% (saving ~$719/yr/campus)
  - 10 days of dumpster observations used to create draft action plan
  - Field trip to TDS with head custodians and campus Green leaders 12/2018
  - Campus eco-team meetings to implement action plan
Transportation & Air Quality Fleet

- Grant for $233,500 from TCEQ for replacing 5 older model buses with new lower emission school buses.
- TERP Clean Fleet and Rebate Grants now open
Transportation & Air Quality
Commute Solutions

- New Commute Solutions website and ride tracking tool to be launched in Spring.
- Individual Site websites and “School Pool” options
- Ability to manage and run individual commuter contests

http://www.commutesolutions.com/
**TRANSIT ADVENTURES**

- Host an off-site field trip **for free!**
- Best for groups of 10 – 40 people
- Capital Metro will:
  - Host meeting to plan time/date/location
  - Offer free Day Passes to all participants
  - Create a custom return trip itinerary
  - Attend & lead the outing, as needed

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**Forget the Yellow Bus**

**METRO**

For more information:

Lonny Stern, Community Engagement

Lonny.Stern@capmetro.org

512.389.7509
Community Engagement & Outreach

Goal: to garner input for and build public will, interest, and awareness of the Sustainability Plan

Methodology: affinity voting on strategies displayed via posters at events. Posters feature English and Spanish. Each ESAC subcommittee conduct process at a minimum of 2 events.

Activation
- Participants mark the 6 strategies that are important to them.
- Post-its also provided for participants to contribute new suggestions.

Sustainability at Austin ISD
Sostenibilidad en el Austin ISD

Mobility & Transportation
Movilidad y transporte

M1. Offer transportation alternatives for staff and teachers (public transport, walk from home, carpool, etc.).
M2. Facilitate transportation solutions for students (walk, bike, carpool, etc.).
M3. Use alternative fuel vehicles & electric charging stations

M1. Ofrecer alternativas de transporte para el personal y los maestros (transporte público, caminar, compartir el vehículo, etc.)
M2. Facilitar soluciones de transporte para los estudiantes (caminar, montar bicicleta, compartir el vehículo, etc.)
M3. Usar vehículos de combustible alternativo y carga eléctrica.
Community Engagement & Outreach
Community Engagement & Outreach

14 events, 719 participants

Representation

- students, teachers, AISD administration, and parents
- Events: Science Fest, Family Nights, PTA mtgs, teacher trainings, public gatherings, AISD’s Superintendent Student Roundtable, SFC training, SFC Farmer’s Market, MLK Day of Service
Community Engagement & Outreach

FINDINGS

*High Interest and Prioritization*

F4: Promote healthy eating, farming education and field trips  
N1: Design outdoor learning spaces  
W1: Provide recycling and composting training and toolkits  
F3: Create campus food gardens

*Low Interest and Prioritization* (Low Awareness)

A2: Use electric lawn equipment  
WE4: Establish thermostat set points and holiday HVACs

OPPORTUNITIES

Host in District 4  
Youth Engagement  
Teacher & School Administrators Engagement
FY18-19 Meeting Dates
5:30-7:30pm, Board Auditorium, Carruth Administration Center, 1111 W. 6th Street

| September 27, 2018
| November 15, 2018
| January 31, 2019
| March 28, 2019
| May 23, 2019 (Elections!) |
THANK YOU for all you do to help AISD be green!