

Summary of Neighborhood Plan Survey Results

We received 19 responses to this survey. Two (one each from Harris Branch and North Shoal Creek) were from respondents whose neighborhoods had not been through the neighborhood planning process and who were writing to ask that their neighborhoods have the opportunity to participate. Two of the remaining respondents had participated in the neighborhood planning process in two different neighborhoods and submitted a response for each process they had participated in. The neighborhoods/neighborhood planning areas that participants came from were Bouldin Creek (4 respondents), Central Austin Combined (2 respondents), Chestnut Addition (1 respondent), Crestview/Wooten (1 respondent), Hyde Park (1 respondent), North Loop (1 respondent), Oak Hill (1 respondent), Rosewood (1 respondent), South Lamar Combined (2 respondents), Southeast Combined (1 respondent), University Hills/Windsor Park (1 respondent) and Upper Boggy Creek (2 respondents).

The most common benefits of the neighborhood planning process cited by respondents to this survey were sidewalks, community-building and an improved process for zoning changes. The most common frustrations cited included that the plan gets ignored by the city; the plan is constantly challenged; the zoning process includes inadequate support for neighborhood volunteers.

This table categorizes the responses.

# Responses	Description	Respondent Planning Area
4	Constant challenges to the neighborhood plan	Bouldin Creek (3), CANPAC (1)
4	Plan gets ignored by City	Crestview/Wooten (1), North Loop (1), Bouldin Creek (2)
4	City does not manage the zoning process, provide support for neighborhoods; the work is left to neighborhood volunteers who do not always have adequate expertise	Hyde Park (1), Bouldin Creek, CANPAC (1), Chestnut Addition (1)
3	City staff rather than neighbors shaped the Plan	Upper Boggy Creek/North Loop* (1), Oak Hill (1), Southeast Combined (1)
3	Lack of timely communication with NP team and/or affected residents regarding amendments to the neighborhood plan	Bouldin Creek (2), CANPAC (1)
3	New city ordinances take precedence over plans; DSMU ordinance, VMU subverted the plan and/or the planning process	Bouldin Creek (1), CANPAC (1), South Lamar (1)
3	Preset agenda of city staff	Bouldin Creek (2), University Hills/Windsor (1)
2	Plan not given to new residents, owners, proposed builders	Crestview/Wooten (1), Bouldin Creek (1)
2	Process to amend or update is arduous	Crestview/Wooten (1), Chestnut Addition (1)

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2	Developing the plan took too long	Rosewood (1), Upper Boggy Creek/North Loop*
2	It took too long to get aspects of the plan implemented	Rosewood (1), Southeast Combined (1)
2	Implementation of the plan was not planned or supported by city depts and was sometimes actively opposed	Rosewood (1), Oak Hill (1)
2	Lack of interest by city staff in updating neighborhood plan	Upper Boggy Creek (1), Chestnut Addition (1)
2	City staff ignored specific homeowner recommendations in drafting plan	Upper Boggy Creek/North Loop* (1), Oak Hill (1)
2	Staff misinterprets plan	Bouldin Creek (2)
2	Staff would/coul not provide needed data to the neighborhood	South Lamar Combined (1), University Hills/Windsor (1)
2	Some planning staff inexperienced, insufficiently trained	South Lamar Combined (1), University Hills/Windsor (1)
1	The planning process was sometimes abused by individual property owners	Bouldin Creek (1)
1	Protections or improvements in the plan not supported by city depts.	Rosewood (1)
1	The rules for the neighborhood planning process were not clear or consistent	South Lamar Combined (1)
1	Appears that city staff see plans and planning teams as static	Upper Boggy Creek (1)
1	Arrogant city staff	Upper Boggy Creek (1)
1	Staff made stakeholders' specific recommendations so general they meant nothing	North Loop (1)
1	City disregarded time and effort spent coming to consensus in the NP process	Bouldin Creek (1)
1	Inconsistent enforcement	Bouldin Creek (1)
1	Austin has no preservation program and doesn't assist neighborhoods with historic preservation	Hyde Park (1)
1	City does not reference neighborhood problems or initiatives in plans	Hyde Park (1)
1	Neighborhood plan went too far in upzoning	CANPAC (1)
1	Problems with neighborhood planning team	CANPAC (1)
1	NP contact team and community have no input into the zoning ordinance associated with the NP	Oak Hill (1)

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1	Staff focus on land use map and design standards detracts from significant discussions to resolve regional problems	Oak Hill (1)
1	Having to work on the regular neighborhood plan and the VMU application overstretched the volunteer contact team	South Lamar Combined (1)
1	Planning area so large and complex we couldn't cover everything	CANPAC (1)
1	Design standards not explained well	Southeast Combined (1)
1	Some of the top ten action items were neither specific nor measurable; could not assess progress	Southeast Combined (1)
1	First draft of plan not readily available to Neighborhood Planning team before the survey was sent and it was placed on the agenda for Planning Commission hearing	University Hills/Windsor (1)
1	Smaller planning areas get bulldozed over when combined with larger planning areas with more commercial property	University Hills/Windsor (1)
1	Summaries of meetings and workshops were not posted for review until months later	University Hills/Windsor (1)
1	Summaries of meetings and workshops often omitted some attendees views	University Hills/Windsor (1)
1	There was often poor communication of meeting locations and times	University Hills/Windsor (1)
1	When the NP was before PC some Commissioners were dismissive of concerns of neighbors who spoke against aspects of plan	University Hills/Windsor (1)
1	Specific infrastructure improvements called for by the plan were not made	Chestnut Addition (1)
	* A single respondent submitted surveys for both Upper Boggy Creek and North Loop Planning Areas	