

AN ORDINANCE 2008 - 05 - 08 - 0365

**APPROVING THE VOELCKER PARK MASTER PLAN PREPARED BY
THE DESIGN TEAM OF STEPHEN STIMSON ASSOCIATES/D.I.R.T.
STUDIO.**

* * * * *

WHEREAS, in June 2006, City Council established the Voelcker Park Acquisition Project for the purposes of purchasing 311 acres for a major public park; and

WHEREAS, given the importance of this project, the City hired the firm of Jones/Kroloff to assist the City in managing a national design competition for the master plan of Voelcker Park; and

WHEREAS, after completion of a national competitive search, in August 2007 the City Council approved the selection of Stephen Stimson Associates/D.I.R.T. studio to complete the Voelcker Park Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, community involvement and input have been a vital component of the master plan process; and

WHEREAS, the City engaged Juan Sepulveda of the Common Enterprise to facilitate the community meetings and provide citizens an opportunity to participate in the planning and design process and giving input regarding their vision for the park; and

WHEREAS, the first round of public input meetings occurred the week of October 22, 2007; and

WHEREAS, locations for this series of meetings included Bode Community Center, the Campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community, and Harlandale Community Center; and

WHEREAS, the public input process continued with follow up public input meetings held on December 12, 2007, March 3, 2008 and April 30, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the proposed plan was approved by the Parks and Recreation Board and the Linear Creekway Parks Advisory Board in April, 2008; and

WHEREAS, in addition, various stakeholder groups have been provided presentations throughout the process; and

WHEREAS, the resulting master plan provides an extensive evaluation of the site and surrounding area, summary of the community process, synthesis of community input and the design team's response; and

WHEREAS, the master plan includes site data and analysis regarding geology, hydrology, vegetation and wildlife and provides a recommendation for potential park uses given the site analysis and what the landscape can sustain centered around an urban ecology theme; and

WHEREAS, the master plan provides a design strategy and recommended next steps for implementation; and

WHEREAS, as part of the next phase, staff will begin work with the design team in the development of Phase I park improvements for the purpose of providing access to a portion of the park by early 2009; and

WHEREAS, staff will continue to solicit public input during the design phase of the initial improvements; and

WHEREAS, this initial design program will also consist of the completion of additional studies including a land bridge evaluation and feasibility study, a tree survey, archaeological survey and water quality testing and analysis; **NOW THEREFORE:**

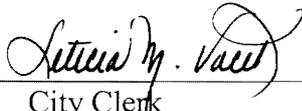
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

SECTION 1. The Voelcker Park Master Plan prepared by the design team of Stephen Stimson Associates/D.I.R.T. studio is hereby approved. A copy of the Master Plan is on file with the Parks and Recreation Department.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall be effective on and after May 18, 2008.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 8th day of May, 2008.

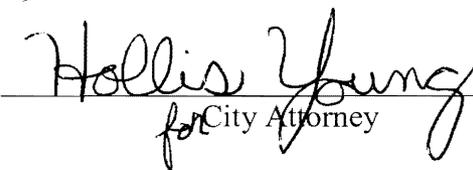
ATTEST:



City Clerk


M A Y O R
PHIL HARDBERGER

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

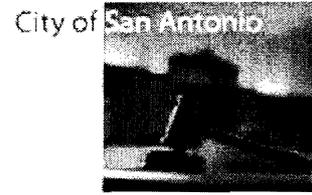


for City Attorney



Request for
COUNCIL

STATION



Agenda Voting Results - 4A

Name:	4A, 4B						
Date:	05/08/2008						
Time:	10:37:29 AM						
Vote Type:	Motion to Approve						
Description:	An Ordinance approving the Voelcker Park Master Plan prepared by the design team of Stephen Stimson Associates/D.I.R.T. studio.						
Result:	Passed						
Voter	Group	Not Present	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Motion	Second
Phil Hardberger	Mayor		x				
Mary Alice P. Cisneros	District 1		x				
Sheila D. McNeil	District 2	x					
Jennifer V. Ramos	District 3		x				
Philip A. Cortez	District 4		x				
Lourdes Galvan	District 5		x				
Delicia Herrera	District 6		x				
Justin Rodriguez	District 7		x				
Diane G. Cibrian	District 8		x				x
Louis E. Rowe	District 9		x			x	
John G. Clamp	District 10		x				

4A
4B

Voelcker Park Master Plan

Sowing the Seeds of a World Class Park



City Council
Agenda Item #4
May 8, 2008

Summary

- Item A – Ordinance adopting the Voelcker Park Master Plan
- Item B – Authorization to enter into a professional services agreement with Stephen Stimson Associates for design of Phase I improvements for Voelcker Park

Master Plan Process

- City initiated its first national design competition for the Voelcker Park Master Plan
- Design competition jury evaluated over 30 proposals; four finalists submitted preliminary designs
- The team of Stephen Stimson Associates/D.I.R.T. studio was selected in August 2007 to complete the Voelcker Park Master Plan

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Stephen Stimson Associates/D.I.R.T studio

- Stephen Stimson Associates – Falmouth, MA
 - Experience in design competitions, parks, gardens, and campus designs
- D.I.R.T. studio – Charlottesville, VA
 - Work known for site restorations and remediation to natural conditions
- Team selected for their approach of preserving the unique environment, taking advantage of features that make it useful as a park and natural resource

Plans for Voelcker Park, a gem of urban wilderness, sparks a question: Will this city make parks a priority?



GOING FOR GREEN

"Every chance we get we come out and walk around the area. The fact that the city chose to do what it did in acquiring the land is a good thing."

NEED LABEL, MAKE SURE CLOSE TO THE PHOTO



Bill Pineda (left) and his grandchild Amy Conzales, 10, and Karen Gonzalez, 4, take a walk on a nature path through Voelcker Park. It's the second time the park has been open to the public.

A TREASURE FOR NATURE LOVERS



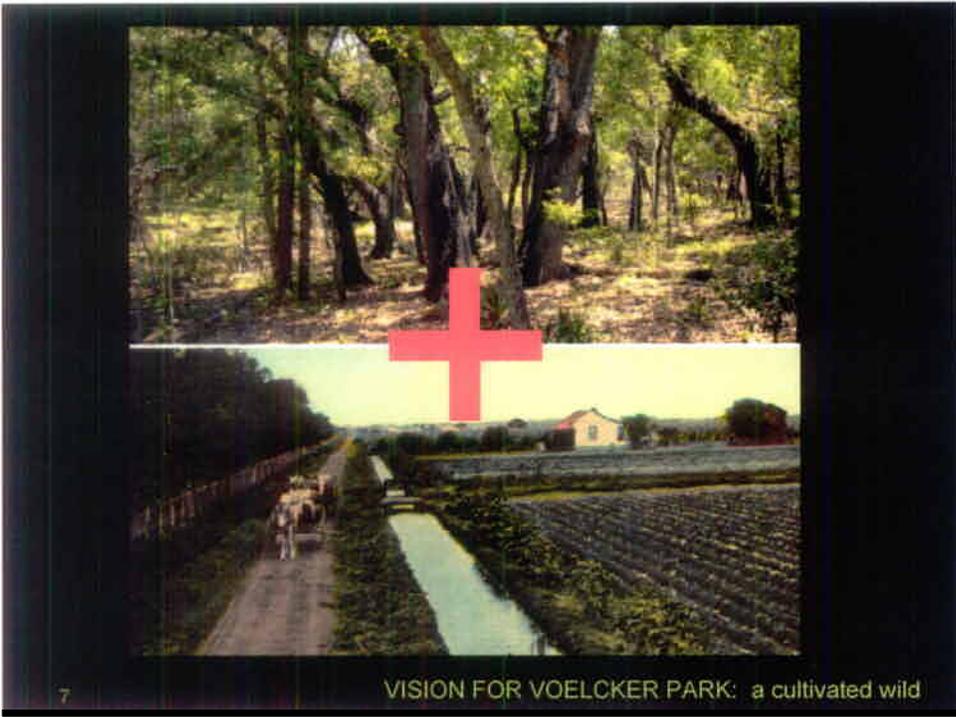
BODE COMMUNITY CENTER

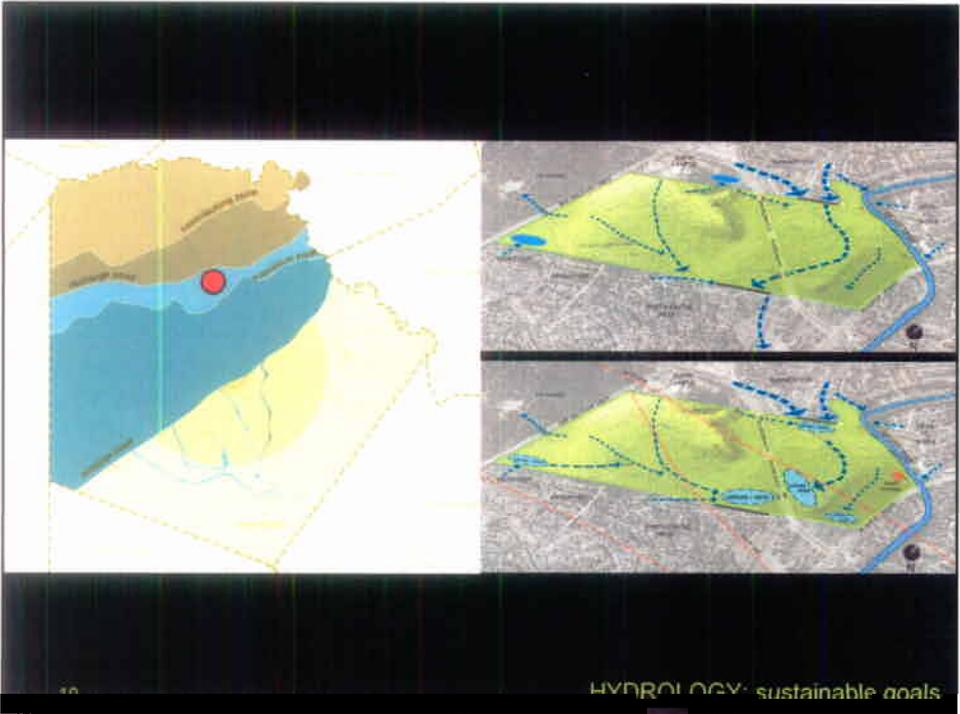
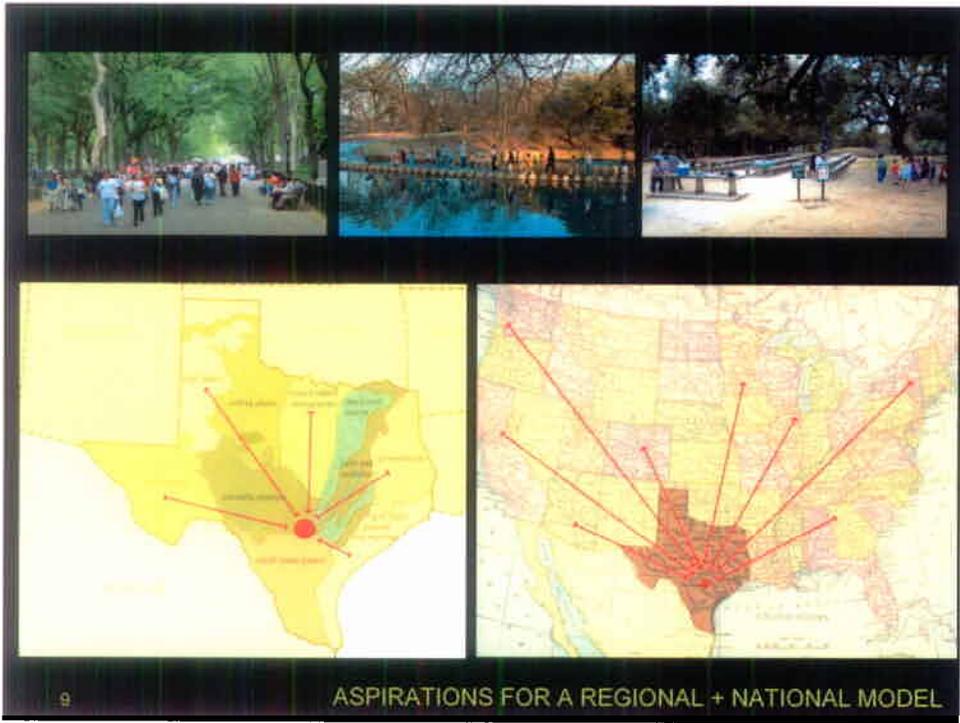


JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: city wide meetings





Less than 1% of the original 20 million acres of Texas' beautiful tallgrass prairie remains, so we must act now to conserve our remaining Texas tallgrass prairie heritage.

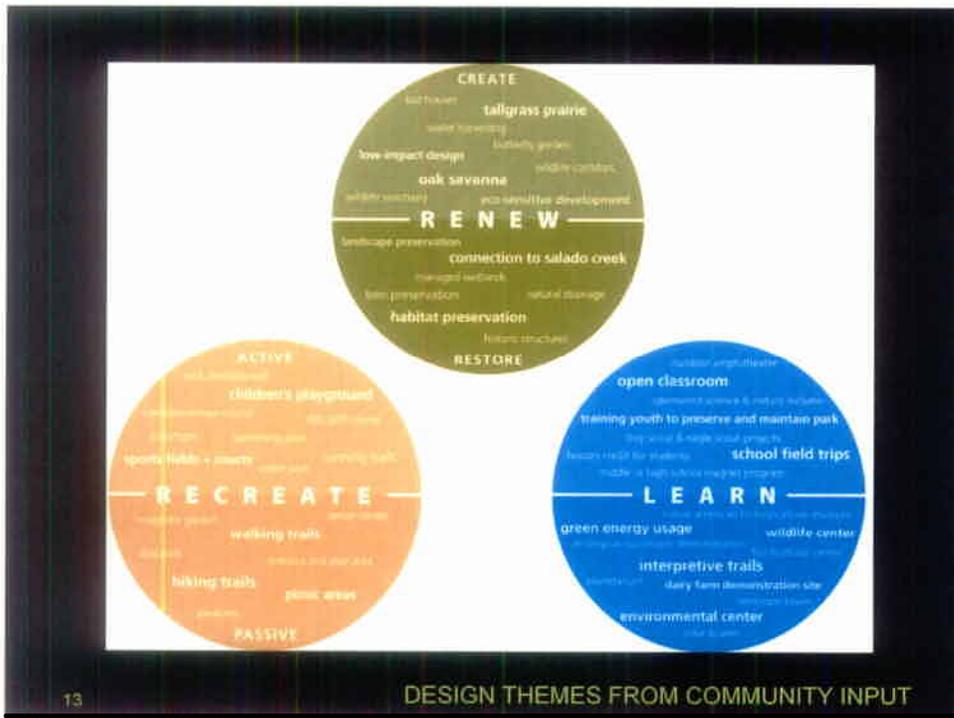
Native Prairies Association of Texas

Blackland Prairie
Edwards Plateau
South Texas Plains

11 CONVERGENCE OF TEXAS ECOREGIONS: potential for biodiversity

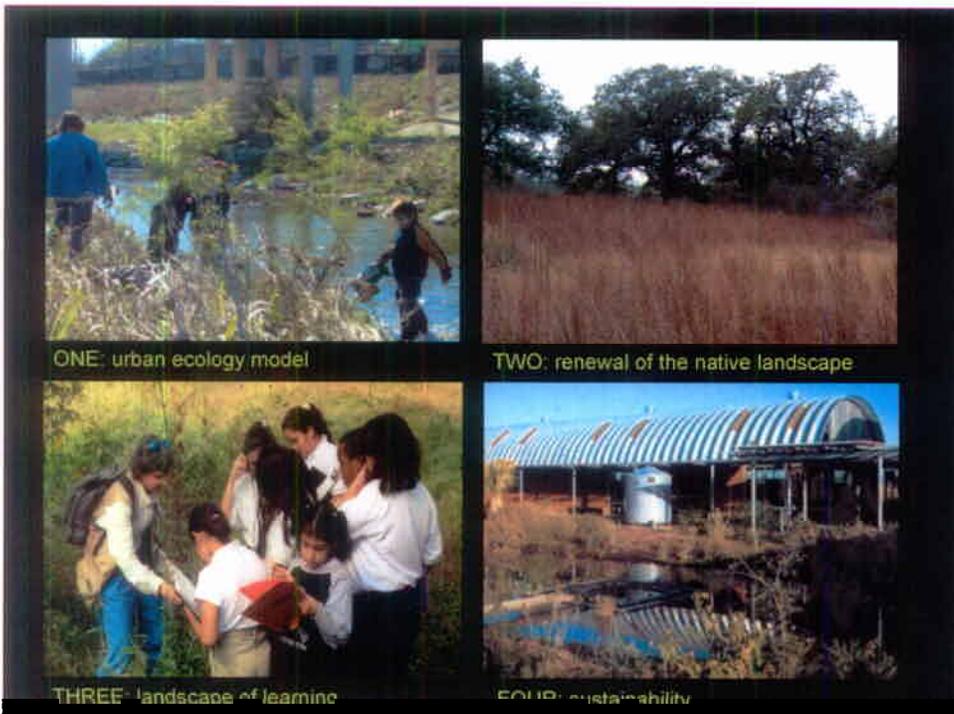
Community Input

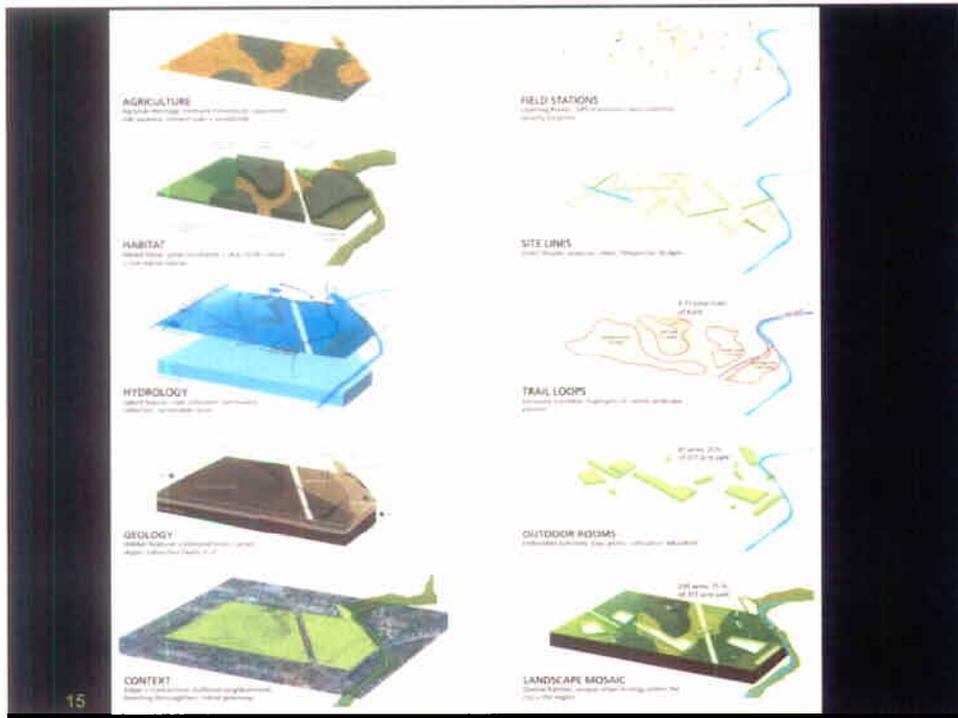
12 COMMUNITY INPUT



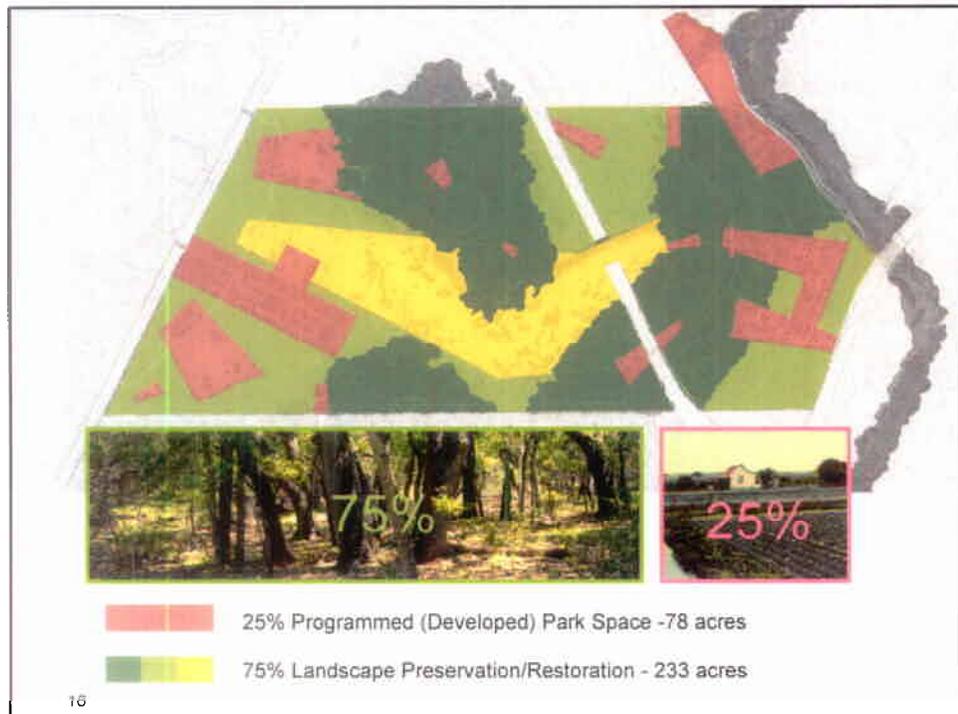
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DESIGN THEMES FROM COMMUNITY INPUT



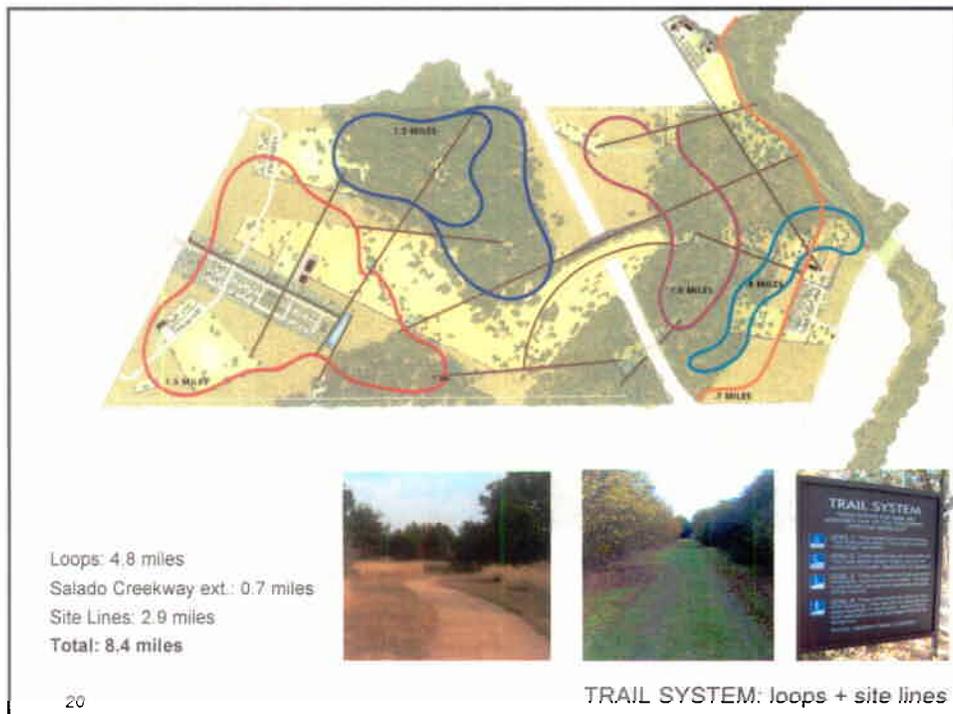
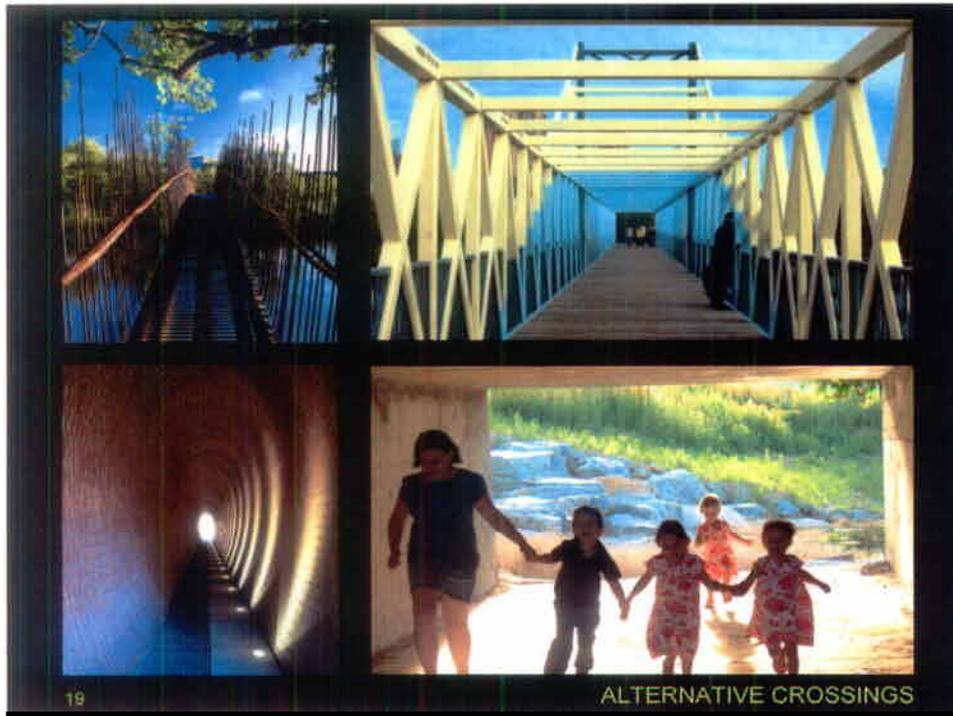


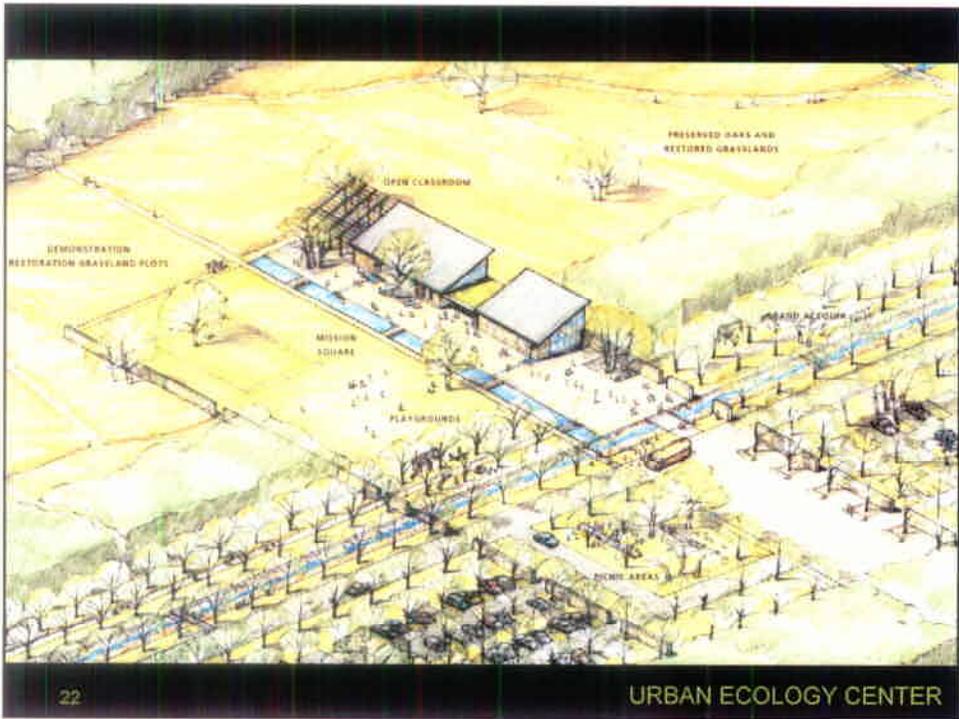
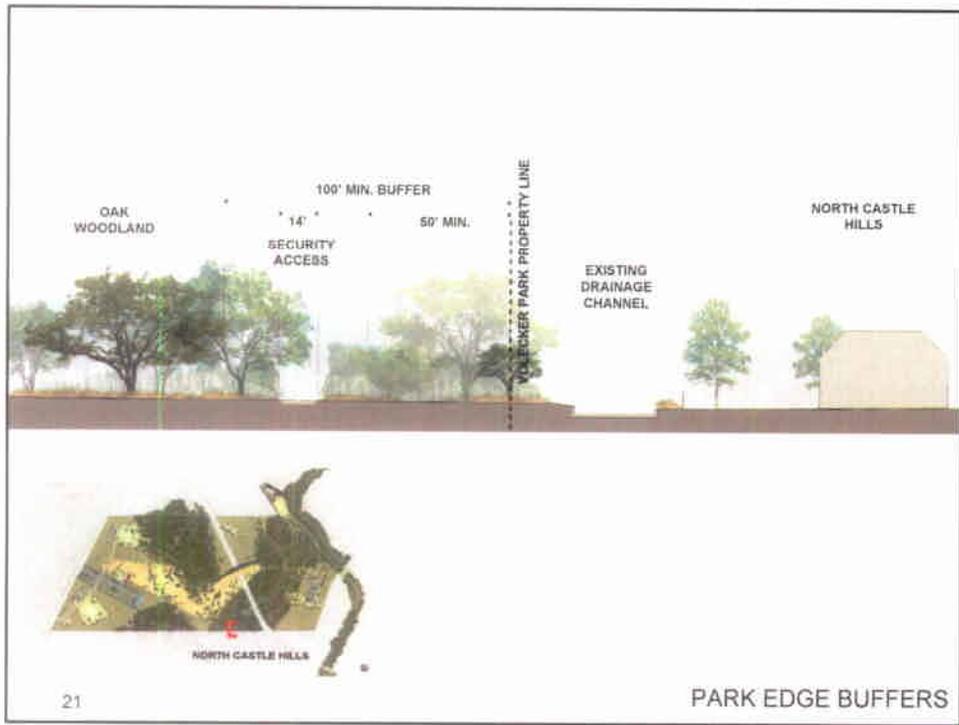
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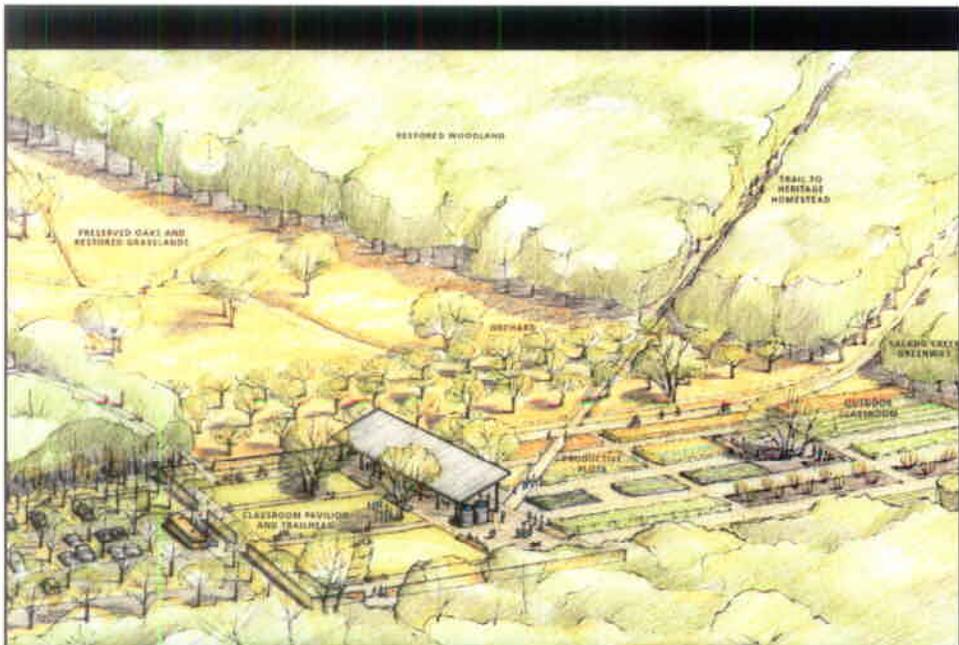


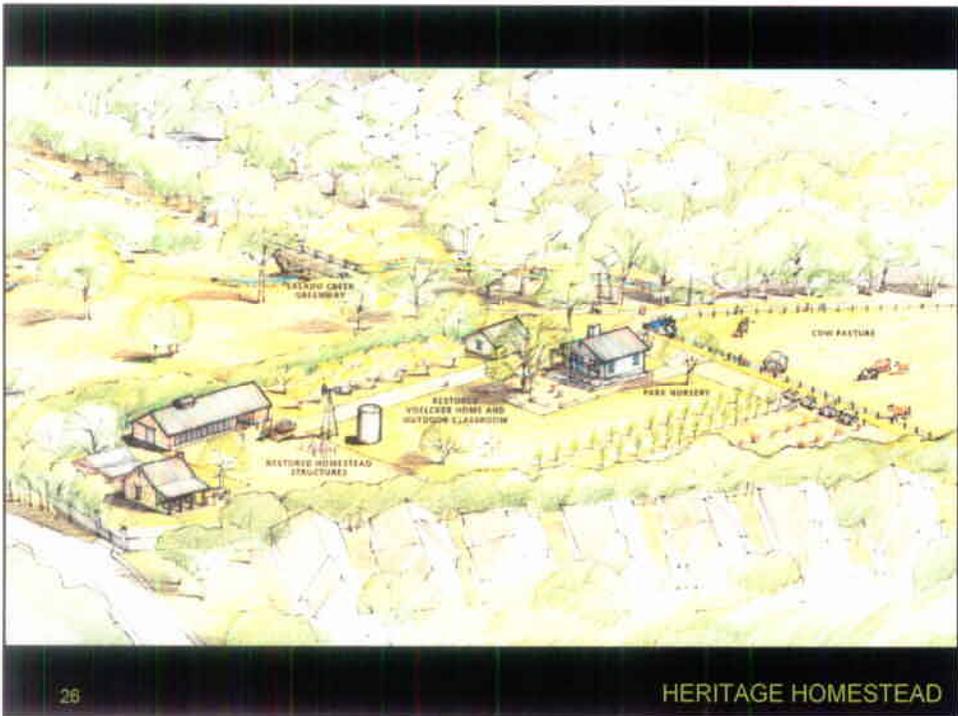
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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
 Stephen Stimson Associates
 Falmouth, MA
 +
 D.I.R.T. studio
 Charlottesville, VA

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR
 Juan Sepulveda, The Common Enterprise
 San Antonio, TX

CIVIL ENGINEER
 Pape-Dawson Engineers
 San Antonio, TX

GEO TECHNICAL ENGINEER
 Raba-Kistner
 San Antonio, TX

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER
 Arup
 Cambridge, MA

HYDROLOGIST
 Southwest Research Institute
 San Antonio, TX

VEGETATION + CULTURAL RESOURCES
 SWCA Environmental Consultants
 San Antonio, TX

WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST
 Bluestem Environmental Consultants
 Conroe, TX

COST ESTIMATOR
 Zachry Construction Corporation
 San Antonio, TX

Master Plan Review

- Presentation of Master Plan at numerous stakeholder, neighborhood and community meetings
- Approval by Parks and Recreation Board and Linear Creekway Parks Advisory Board in April, 2008
- Presentation during City Council B Session

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Next Steps

- Design Development (with public input) and Phase I Construction
- Operation and Management Plan
- Safety and Security Plan (coordinate with neighborhood stakeholders)

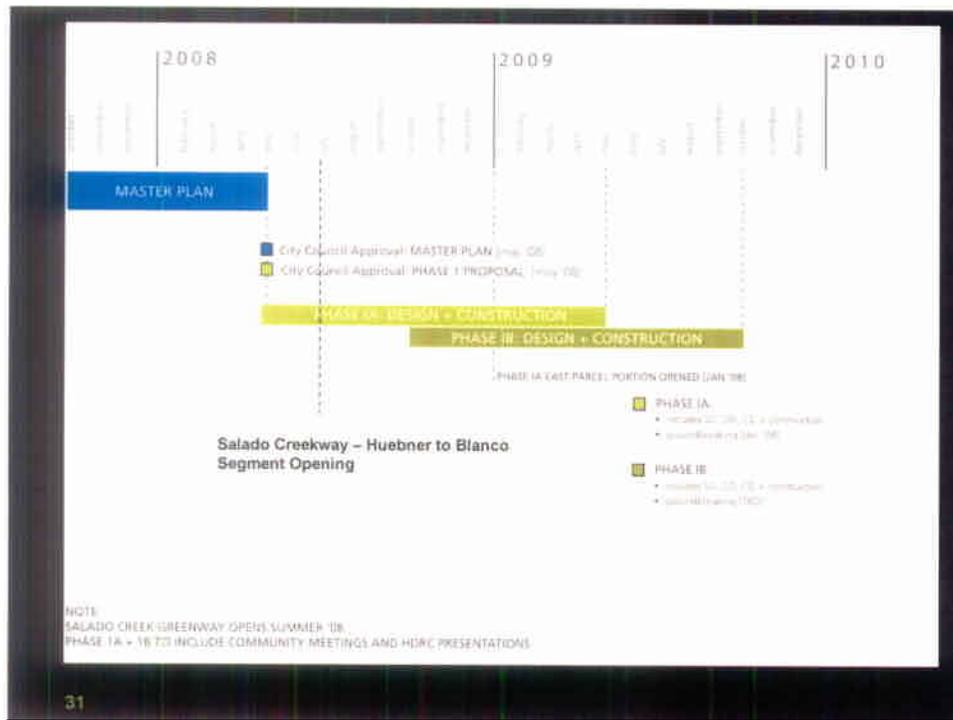


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Next Steps

- FY 09 Budget Adoption
- TPWD Grant Award Announcement
- Establishment of Voelcker Park Conservancy
- Periodic events held at Voelcker Park





Recommendation

- Staff recommends approval of this ordinance to adopt the Voelcker Park Master Plan (Item A) and professional services agreement with Stephen Stimson Associates for design of Phase I improvements for Voelcker Park (Item B)