

## 2009 ECT COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

### Public Planning and Policy (con't)

#### Finalist: City of Austin's Zero Waste Plan

The City of Austin's Zero Waste Plan is a call to action to eliminate 90 percent of the trash from landfills by 2040. Zero Waste works to redesign systems to mimic more natural systems, recognizing that everything is a resource for something or someone else. Currently, Austin is estimated to lose over \$40 million annually by sending materials that could be recycled or reused to area landfills. Implementing this plan will benefit the environment locally and globally, spark more community collaborations regionally and potentially infuse the local economy with more green jobs and positive financial growth. Zero Waste encourages communities to rethink their waste streams, reduce their use of materials as much as possible, and then reuse and recycle remaining materials.

#### Finalist: Preserving, Protecting, Conserving and Enhancing the Hill Country Gem that is Wimberley

Wimberley has embarked on a series of programs, policies and plans addressing the challenges of balancing the area's growth with preserving and enhancing the natural and human features that make the community a place where people love to live, work and play. Each of these efforts was accomplished without the use of consultants but rather the use of resident specialists and advisory commissions of citizen volunteers. Accomplishments include the transportation master plan, parks master plan, comprehensive economic development strategy, and a comprehensive water conservation ordinance.

#### Finalist: Travis County Parks Master Plan & Bond Program

When its \$62 million bond package was approved, an ambitious effort to build a system of destination parks and greenways in unincorporated Travis County was launched. The master plan and associated bond program was a response to a perfect storm of concern about unmanaged growth that brought citizens, park and environmental advocates, and business interests to the table to collaborate with the county on land conservation efforts. Although the master plan and bond program include park improvement projects, the largest part of the program budget -- \$51 million -- is dedicated to land acquisition. To date, 2,700 acres have been purchased for Milton Reimers Ranch Park, Pogue Springs Preserve, and the Onion Creek Greenway.

### RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS

Recognizes an organization for educating the public or raising awareness of the ECT Vision or its principles.



#### Award Recipient: Katherine Gregor

Katherine Gregor became a writer for the *Austin Chronicle* in 2006. Katherine covers political, planning, and design issues, focusing primarily on the Austin area. These issues revolve around sustainability, affordability, economic development, and community. She presents an in-depth, objective, and realistic angle, even in the face of controversy. Her comprehensive articles and incorporation of a number of viewpoints immerse the reader in the facts, opinions, "hows," and "whys" of a particular issue, thereby enhancing public understanding of major local issues.

#### Finalist: Austin Energy Green Building Extended Area Ratings

Austin Energy Green Building has extended the service area of its Single-Family Program into twenty-five counties surrounding the Austin Energy service area. AEGB will provide support, processing, and quality assurance on the ratings, providing this tool for measuring achievements toward green building goals.

#### Finalist: City of Austin Small Business Development Program's Small Business Mapping Initiative

SBDP officially launched the Small Business Mapping Initiative which features over 300 businesses within five Austin business districts. Local residents and visitors can log on to [www.explorelocalaustin.org](http://www.explorelocalaustin.org) to view an interactive map of these areas and detailed contact information for small businesses in each area.

#### Finalist: Environmental Stewardship of Bastrop County

Environmental Stewardship brings focus to environmental opportunities and issues in the lower Colorado River. ES engages the community to actualize a broader vision for the region, working to implement that vision while protecting natural resources, through programs like "NatureFest" and critical work on paddling trails.

## 2009 ENVISION CENTRAL TEXAS COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP AWARDS



### Making the Vision Real

The five-county Central Texas Region will add another million people over the next 20 to 40 years. The demands that accompany this growth will require us to address issues such as how and where land is developed for housing and jobs, the types of homes we live in, how we travel around the region and how we preserve and protect our environment. Envision Central Texas (ECT), a five-county non-profit organization, serves as a catalyst for change in our region's growth management strategies so that we can advance Central Texas' Vision for the future.

In 2001, ECT was created to assist in the public development and implementation of a Vision to address the growth of Central Texas and help us preserve and enhance our natural resources, economic vitality, social equity, and overall quality of living. The Vision, which was derived from the input of thousands of Central Texas citizens, includes multiple choices of transportation and housing, compact walkable communities in key nodes, abundant open spaces and recreation opportunities and a strong emphasis on social equity and preservation of our region's unique character and history. ECT created the Community Stewardship Awards to recognize the innovative people, projects and processes that are addressing the challenges facing our region in ways that will help make the Vision a reality.

### Key Elements of the Vision

- An **effective transportation system** that improves mobility throughout the region, increases choices of how we get around – including roads, rail, trails and bikeways – and is coordinated with land use planning.
- **Protection of our environment and natural resources** so we will have the open space, parks and trails that people cherish, preserve our ecologically sensitive land and ensure sustainable clean water and air for future generations.
- A **diverse and thriving economy** with a robust base of businesses throughout the region and quality job opportunities for our citizens.
- A **variety of housing choices** that are affordable for everyone in the region and offer a mix of styles, such as neighborhoods with pedestrian-friendly streets or housing within walking distance of transit and stores.
- **Preservation of our region's unique character** by protecting and enhancing our neighborhoods, towns, rural areas, historic sites and special sense of place.
- An understanding that **social equity and racial harmony are core values that strengthen us** and actions that foster respect, civility and opportunities for all.
- A **region-wide understanding that our fortunes are tied together** requiring planning, participation and collaboration by stakeholders throughout our region to ensure a successful and livable Central Texas in the future.

**W. NEAL KOCUREK LEGACY AWARD**

The award was created to honor Dr. Neal Kocurek, Envision Central Texas' founding chairman, and to recognize and celebrate the qualities of civic leadership that he admired most.



**Award Recipient: Pike Powers**

Pike Powers, a respected Austin attorney and civic entrepreneur, opened the Austin office of Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. and served as its partner-in-charge for 26 years. He has played key roles in recruiting high-tech consortiums and employers to Central Texas starting with MCC, followed by Sematech, 3M, Applied Materials and Samsung.

**NEW DEVELOPMENT**

Recognizes developments that are constructed on previously undeveloped sites and successfully exemplify the ECT Vision.



**Award Recipient: Capital MetroRail Red Line**

The Capital MetroRail Red Line is our region's first urban commuter rail system, spanning 32 miles and serving nine stations between Leander and downtown Austin on Capital Metro's existing freight right-of-way. When service begins, Central Texans will have a brand new choice when it comes to public transportation, and Capital Metro will become multi-modal. Capital MetroRail is one part of a community wide long-range transit plan, *All Systems Go!*, created by Capital Metro in 2004.

**REDEVELOPMENT**

Recognizes developments that re-use existing structures or sites and successfully exemplify the ECT Vision.



**Award Recipient: The Alley Flat Initiative**  
 Austin Community Design and Development Center, the Guadalupe Neighborhood Development Corporation and the University of Texas Center for Sustainable Development

This initiative is an award-winning collaboration that mitigates the forces of gentrification and environmental degradation by providing affordable, sustainable housing on under-utilized urban lots. Many Austin families are finding it increasingly difficult to afford to live within the city, threatening the city's diversity and stability. Future land-use patterns must address these threats and find ways to densify without losing the character of these urban neighborhoods. The initiative proposes placing secondary dwelling units on under-utilized lots in which the existing structure covers less than 25 -30% of the lot. Alley Flats are small, detached secondary residential units, accessed from Austin's extensive network of alleys, that can be built by homeowners on the back of their lots to generate additional rental income and/or house family members.

**Finalist: Skyline Terrace**

Skyline Terrace, a project of Foundation Communities, is a former Ramada Hotel that has been converted into permanent and attractive supportive housing. Foundation Communities produced 100 affordable housing units at a reasonable \$105,514/unit cost that carries no mortgage and offers rents 30 to 50 percent lower than market rate. The units employ many green building features and the project offers a continuum of social services for residents.

**PIONEER**

Recognizes an individual, company, organization or governmental entity that has left familiar territory and taken a different path that reflects the ECT Vision.



**Award Recipient: Sprouting Healthy Communities**

The Sustainable Food Center's (SFC) Sprouting Healthy Communities project is a neighborhood-based initiative that aims to shape a healthier future for Central Texas children and adults within areas of Travis County identified as at-risk for diet-related diseases. Successful implementation of *Sprouting Healthy Communities* will result in increased access to healthy food for low-income communities through the establishment of school and community gardens, neighborhood farm markets and local foods in school cafeterias. Additionally, these communities will develop increased knowledge about healthy food and nutrition through gardening workshops, after-school programs, in-class lessons at schools, cooking and nutrition demonstrations.

**Finalist: John Cowman**

Leander Mayor John Cowman has become known in the Central Texas Region as an enthusiastic supporter of rail, new urbanism and regionalism. Cowman sits on the board of the Greater Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council and was one of the founders of the Alliance for Public Transportation. He has also served on the ECT Board and is the Leander representative on the Capital Metro Board of Directors.

**Finalist: Dadnab**

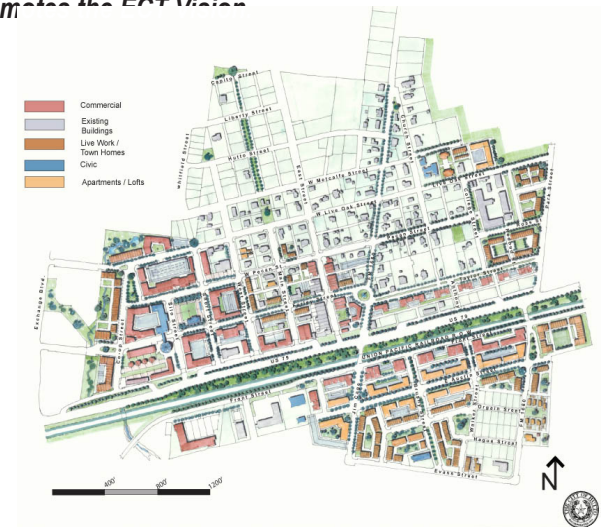
Dadnab, created and operated by Roger Cauvin, is a text messaging service that plans trips on public transportation. A user of the service sends a text message to [austin@dadnab.com](mailto:austin@dadnab.com) and includes in the message an origin, destination, and optional departure or arrival time. Dadnab replies with step-by-step instructions on how to get to the destination using public transportation.

**Finalist: Legacy Early College High School**

Legacy Early College High School in East Williamson County is the only rural Early College High School in Texas. A consortium of Taylor and Hutto school districts in partnership with Temple College, Texas State Technical College, Tarleton State and Texas Tech University has formed a group called Legacy College High School that will enable children to graduate from high school with 60 hours of college credit. The students have the choice to pursue career and technical classes with rigor or the traditional academic route.

**Public Planning and Policy**

Recognizes an organization or governmental entity for implementing a program or policy that facilitates and promotes the ECT Vision.



**Award Recipient: Heart of Hutto Old Town Master Plan & Smart Code.**

City of Hutto, ERO Architects, Gateway Planning Group, Inc., TXP, HDR/WHM, and Hejl, Lee & Associates, Inc.

Hutto resources include the large city-owned cooperative site and silo structures, historic storefronts on East Street, Fritz Park and a rapidly expanding population. In order to encourage organized growth compatible with the existing characteristics of Old Town Hutto, a community vision for future downtown development was necessary. The Master Plan supplies the regulatory framework, through the SmartCode, to enable a predictable method of future development over the next 50 years. The plan proposes recommendations that will guide future investment and development within the original 1911 incorporated area to assure that the City of Hutto can maintain the qualities and characteristics unique to the city while creating a vibrant, sustainable downtown district.