



Dear New Braunfels members and friends,

As the City of New Braunfels grows, so must it secure financial resources to provide new parks for the enjoyment of all of its citizens, including those who are here and those yet to come. Studies prove that communities with good park infrastructure are healthier and more attractive to prospective employers. For New Braunfels, open space in the form of parks can also provide environmental services essential to ensuring high quality spring flows and clean rivers.

I was, therefore, pleased to learn that the City of New Braunfels - one of the fastest growing cities in the nation - is planning for the future and has come up with a revised Park Land Dedication and Development ordinance that will maintain the high quality of life for those who are lucky enough to live here. You can review [City of New Braunfels Parkland Dedication-ordinance-summary](#) to see the revisions.

As one whose job it was to identify park land to serve the many new subdivisions being built in San Antonio during the 1990's, I saw how the City of San Antonio was quickly priced out of purchasing acreage suitable for parks as the land became attractive for commercial development to serve newly built residential communities.

If the City of New Braunfels wishes to maintain the high level of park services accorded current residents, the City must require future residential developments to set aside parkland for the new families who will move there. Or, it must collect fees from developers adequate to purchase new park land. The revised Park Land Dedication and Development ordinance provides for both options. Acreage based upon the number of new homes can be set aside within the new development. Or, a "Fee in Lieu Of", a fee collected by the City if park land is not provided, can be paid. For the ordinance to benefit the City, it is essential that these fees reflect current land values.

If revisions to the Park Land Dedication and Development ordinance are not passed as proposed, the only other options open to the City would be to raise taxes, thus requiring current residents to subsidize new development, or to have inner New Braunfels ringed by suburban growth that provides no outdoor amenities. The crux of the issue is who benefits and who pays. The City of New Braunfels should require developers and builders who profit from New Braunfels growth to contribute to parks to serve the new neighborhoods. This is a common practice across the nation and the citizens of New Braunfels deserve nothing less.

On Monday, March 12th at 6:p.m. the New Braunfels City Council will be voting on revisions to the Park Land Dedication and Development ordinance presented by City staff. These revisions are greatly needed to meet the challenge of providing parks - so that as New Braunfels grows, it will remain among the most beautiful and livable cities in the Texas Hill Country. **Please contact Mayor Casteel (mayor@nbtexas.org) and your [City Council representatives](#) and urge them to vote yes on the Parkland Dedication and Development ordinance as proposed by City staff. (You can view the City Council meeting agenda [here](#).)**

Please circulate this message to all citizens of New Braunfels who support conserving land and open space. Mayor Casteel and your Council representatives need to hear from you before next Monday.

Annalisa Peace

Executive Director
[Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#)

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