





## Tex. Parks & Wild. Code Ch. 26

- History
  - -originally adopted in 1969
  - -similar to 23 U.S. Code § 138
  - -current text is from 1983

#### Tex. Parks & Wild. Code Ch. 26

• Notice

- 30 days before a public hearing:
  - <u>Notify the owner/agency</u> in writing by stating clearly the proposed program or project and the date and place for the public hearing;
  - <u>Notify the public</u> by publishing a similar notice in a newspaper of general circulation once a week for three consecutive weeks; and
  - The last days of publication must not be less than one week or more than two weeks before the date of the hearing.

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- Necessary Findings
  - (1) there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use or taking of such land; and
  - (2) the program or project includes all reasonable planning to minimize harm to the land, as a park, recreation area, scientific area, wildlife refuge, or historic site, resulting from the use or taking.

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• Exceptions

 Land originally obtained and designated for another public use and is temporarily used as a park, recreation area, or wildlife refuge pending its use for the originally designated purpose...

## **Change in Use or Taking**

- Changes in Use
  - Persons v. City of Fort Worth, 790S.W.2d 865 (1990)
  - Walker v. City of Georgetown, 86 S.W.3d 249 (2002)
  - -City of Heath v. Duncan, 152 S.W.3d 147 (2004)



## **Change in Use or Taking**

- Condemnation
  - Block House Mun. Utility Dist. v. City of Leander, 291 S.W.3d 537 (2009)

## Legal Challenges

#### • Judicial Review

- Block House Mun. Utility Dist. v. City of Leander.
  291 S.W.3d 537 (2009)
  - City's burden?
    - -conclusively establish that the governing body made a determination
  - Challenger's burden?
    - establish that the city acted fraudulently, i bad faith, or arbitrarily and capriciously

## Legal Challenges

• Standing

- Chapter 26 does not specifically confer standing, so...plaintiff must allege particularized injury.



#### **Legal Challenges**

- Standing continued...
  - Persons v. City of Fort Worth, 790S.W.2d 865 (1990)
  - -Walker v. City of Georgetown, 86 S.W.3d 249 (2002)
  - City of Heath v. Duncan, 152 S.W.3d 147 (2004)

# **Other Issues to Consider**

 Zachry v. City of San Antonio, 305 S.W.2d 558 (1957)
 –Not expressly overruled by Texas Courts



# **Other Issues to Consider**

- Sale or Lease of Park Land
  - Tex. Loc. Gov't Code § 253.001
  - Tex. Loc. Gov't Code § 272.001
  - Is the lease or change in use
    - actually a sale?
    - Lease Agreements
    - Friendly CondemnationsDevelopment Agreements



