



# Austin's Urban Forest Plan

Angela Hanson  
Urban Forester  
February 27, 2014

# Austin's Public Urban Forest

- # of trees on public property: 7.3 million (300,000 in active-use areas – parks, streets, facilities)
- Structural value of public trees: \$4 billion
- Austin Cost-Benefit Ratio for Trees: 1: 9.87
- Net annual urban forest benefits: \$10.7M





# City of Austin Urban Forester Duties

- **Per City Code § 6-3, the urban forester shall:**
    - **Manage the city's public urban forest**
    - **Administer the Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan**
    - **Supervise and coordinate with responsible city departments to manage the public urban forest**
    - **Grant or deny administrative approval for public urban forest management and impacts; supervise subsequent work**
    - **Develop a Standard of Care for Trees or Plants on Public Property**
- 

# Austin Urban Forest Plan Drivers

## Drought



## Growth

## City Code

### § 6-3-5 COMPREHENSIVE URBAN FOREST PLAN.

- (A) With the assistance of the urban forester, the board shall develop and revise the plan.
- (B) The Environmental Board and Parks and Recreation Board shall review the plan and make recommendations to the board.
- (C) The urban forester shall provide administrative staff services to the board in connection with the plan.

*Source: 1992 Code Sections 15-10-4(A) and (C); Ord. 031023-10; Ord. 031211-11.*

20  
Imagine  
Austin  
Priority  
Actions are  
urban  
forestry  
related.



# Imagine Austin

## Green Infrastructure Priority Program #4

### Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan

Invasive Species  
Management Plan

Community Wildfire  
Protection Plan

Many others

**WE CANNOT IMAGINE AUSTON  WITHOUT TREES**

# Why Plan?



**How  
are we  
doing?**

**What  
do we  
have?**



**What  
do we  
want?**



**How do  
we get  
there?**



# What Do We Have?

## State of the Urban Forest

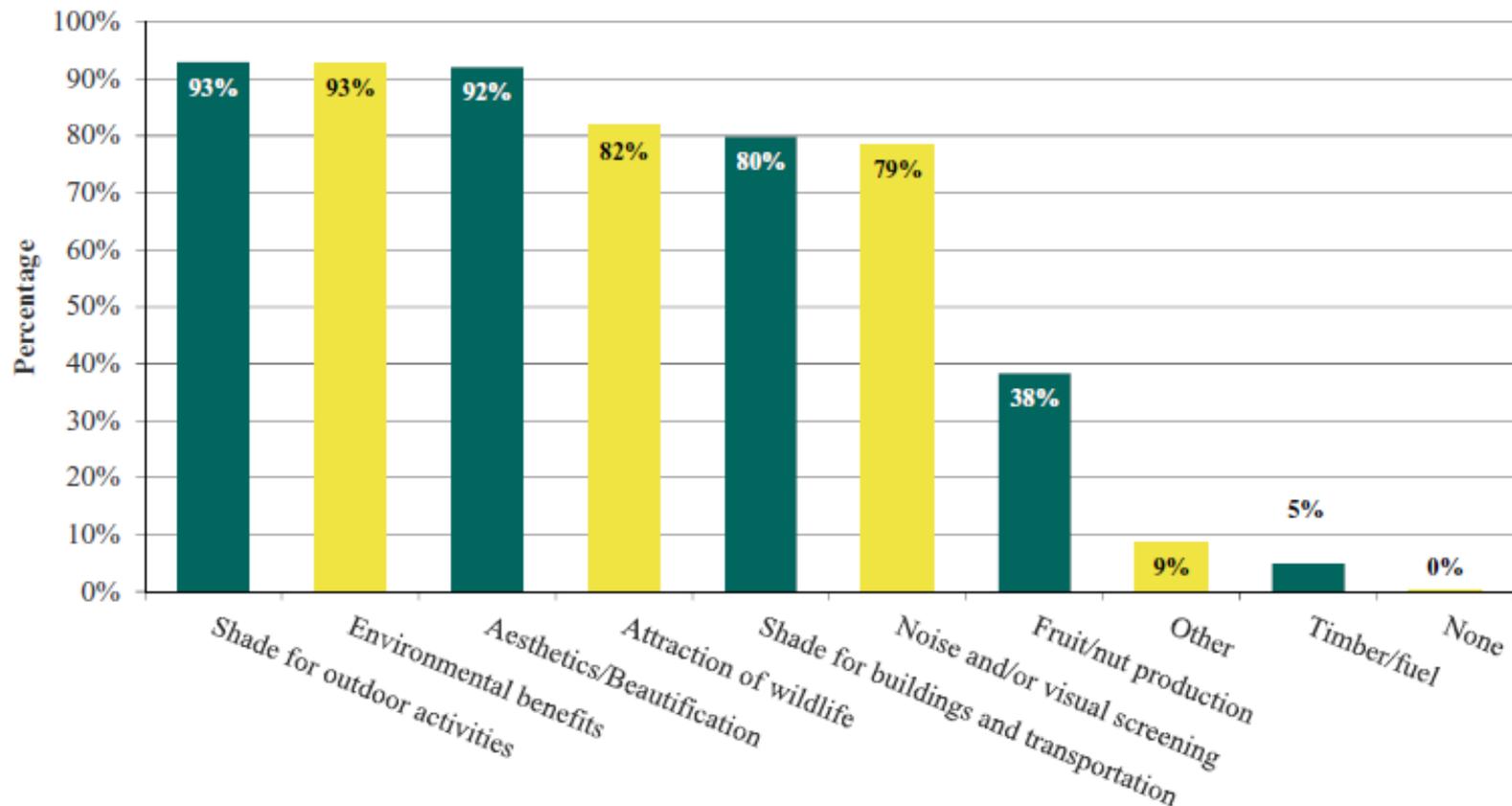
1. Vegetative Resource
2. Community Framework
3. Resource Management Framework



2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Downtown Austin

# Urban Forest Opinion Poll – 900+ responses

Figure 9 Question 1 Which of the following do you value about Austin's Urban Forest?



# City Departments Involved with Trees

Parks & Recreation	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Memorial Dedication Tree Planting			✓	✓	
2. Support for Development Review (Public Trees)	✓	✓			
3. GIS/Data Analysis		✓	✓	✓	
4. Emergency response				✓	
5. Public Tree Care Permitting	✓			✓	
6. Tree City USA				✓	
7. Adopt a Park Volunteer Agreements			✓	✓	
8. Community Gardens/Food Forests			✓	✓	
- Preserves & Greenbelts			✓	✓	✓
- Park Planning & Acquisition			✓		
9. City of Austin Urban Forester					
- and other public property)			✓	✓	
- Maintenance (Parks, ROW, and other public property)				✓	
- Public & Private Partnerships			✓	✓	✓
- Tree Inventory			✓	✓	✓
- Claims, Legal, & Appraisals	✓	✓			
- Urban Forestry Board Liaison	✓	✓	✓	✓	
- Standards of Care for Trees & Vegetation on	✓	✓	✓	✓	
10. Strategic & Operational Planning					
- Urban Forest Master Plan	✓	✓	✓		
- Strategic & Operational Planting & Maintenance	✓	✓	✓		
11. Public Outreach & Education					
- Urban Forest Stewards				✓	
- Leaf for a Leaf				✓	
- Arbor Day				✓	

Planning & Development Review	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Zoning	✓	✓			
2. Annexation					
3. Inspection & Enforcement	✓	✓			
4. Landscape Inspection	✓	✓			
5. Comprehensive Planning			✓	✓	
6. GIS/Data Analysis	✓	✓			
7. City Arborist Program					
- Environmental Review	✓	✓	✓	✓	
- Heritage Tree Ordinance	✓	✓	✓	✓	
- General Permits	✓	✓	✓	✓	
- Tree Ordinance	✓	✓	✓	✓	
- Roadway Ordinance	✓	✓	✓	✓	
- Oak Wilt Program				✓	
- Urban forest Grant Program	✓	✓	✓	✓	
8. Urban Design					
- Great Streets	✓	✓	✓	✓	
- Transit Oriented Developments	✓	✓	✓	✓	
- Small-Area Plans	✓	✓	✓	✓	
9. Neighborhood Planning					
- Austin Community Trees	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Public Works	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Improvement Project	✓				
2. Road Construction					
4. Road Improvements	✓				
5. Inspection				✓	
6. Sidewalk Easements				✓	
7. Row & Alley: Debris Removal				✓	
8. Signs/Signals Clearance				✓	
9. Partnering Program				✓	

Watershed Protection	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Stream & Riparian Zone	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Maintenance (Field)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Grow Green				✓	
4. Flood Mitigation				✓	
5. Protection Master Plan				✓	
6. GIS/Data Analysis	✓				
7. Environment Report				✓	
8. Invasive Species Program				✓	
9. Management (IPM)				✓	

Austin Water	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Dillo Dirt				✓	
2. Wildland Conservation			✓	✓	✓
3. Water Conservation & Enforcement	✓				
4. Water Quality Land Acquisition			✓	✓	
5. Water Quality Protection Lands			✓	✓	
6. Balcones Canyonland Preserve			✓	✓	
7. Wildland Outreach				✓	
8. Fire Management Program				✓	
9. Reclaimed Water Program				✓	

Office of Sustainability	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Sustainable Land Management			✓		
2. Urban Canyonland					
3. Neighborhoods					
4. Water Quality					
5. Water Quality Protection Lands					
6. Balcones Canyonland Preserve					
7. Land Use					
8. Tree					

Transportation	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Transportation Planning			✓		
2. Parking			✓		
3. Signs & Signals			✓		
4. Traffic Engineers			✓		
5. License Agreement			✓	✓	

Austin Resource Recovery	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Yard Trimmings Pick-Up				✓	
2. Bulk Brush				✓	
3. Christmas Tree Recycling				✓	✓

Fire	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Wildland Interface	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Fire Review				✓	

Corporate Purchasing	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Tree-related Contracts & Services			✓	✓	

Office of Emergency Management	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Ice Storms			✓		

Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Downtown Redevelopment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Law	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. R	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Key

- Regulation:** Program helps establish policies regulating some aspects of trees, e.g., protection, mitigation, placement, etc.
- Planning:** Program establishes strategic, long term, or comprehensive plans related to trees.

## Planting:

Program supports planting of trees, including organization and tree-distribution, watering for two years.

## Maintenance:

Program relates to City maintenance of trees, including inspection, pruning, removal, long-term irrigation, etc.

## Education:

Program provides tree-related education and/or outreach to public.

# What do we want?

## **VISION**

*Austin's urban forest is a healthy and sustainable mix of trees, vegetation, and other components that comprise a contiguous and thriving ecosystem valued, protected, and cared for by the City and all of its citizens as an essential environmental, economic, and community asset.*



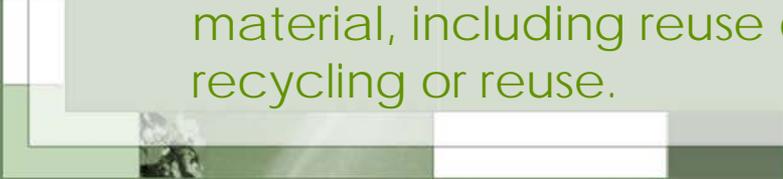
# How do we get there?

## *POLICY ELEMENTS*

-  PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION
-  SUSTAINABLE URBAN FOREST
-  PLANTING, CARE, AND MAINTENANCE
-  URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK
-  PLANNING AND DESIGN
-  EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



# Examples of Policy Elements

- **PR-2 Protection of Trees During Development:** Evaluate and enhance current policies for public urban forest protection during and after development to promote the long-term health and survival of trees and vegetation retained during development.
  - **PCM-5 Tree Canopy Cover:** Identify canopy goals according to site, land use designation, and ecosystem capacity, and develop a plan to achieve them. Include canopy cover goals in Departmental Operational Plans.
  - **S-2 Urban Wood Utilization:** Recycle green waste generated by urban forest maintenance and encourage the highest and best sustainable uses of removed trees and woody material, including reuse on site. Strive for 100% green waste recycling or reuse.
- 
- 

# Internal and External Involvement

- 31 Public Meetings
  - 2160 Public Comments
  - Many Letters of Support to City Council
- 
- 23 Interdepartmental Meetings
  - Staff from 10 dept's with major forestry functions
  - Green Infrastructure Priority Program



Public Workshop – August 2013

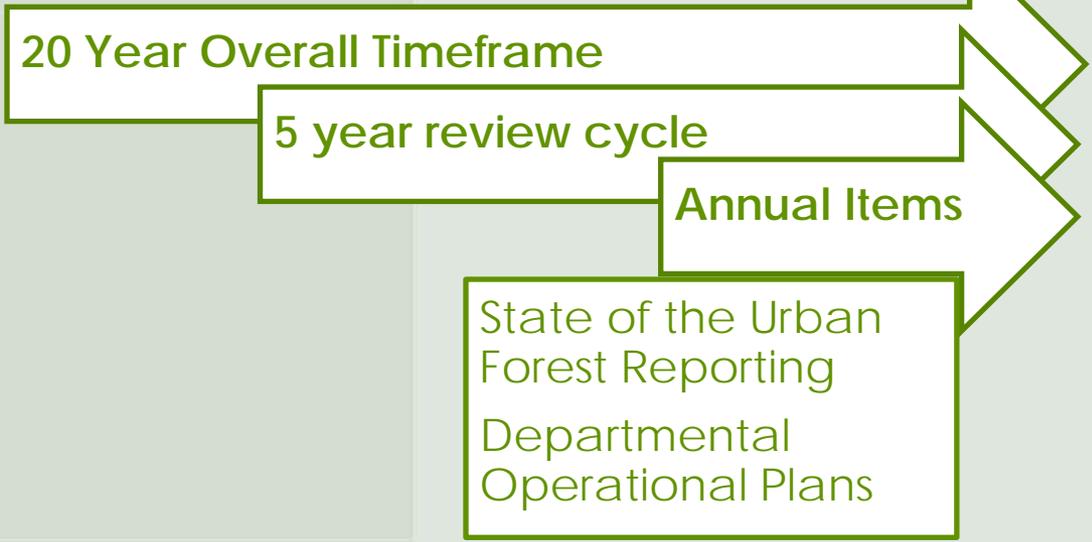
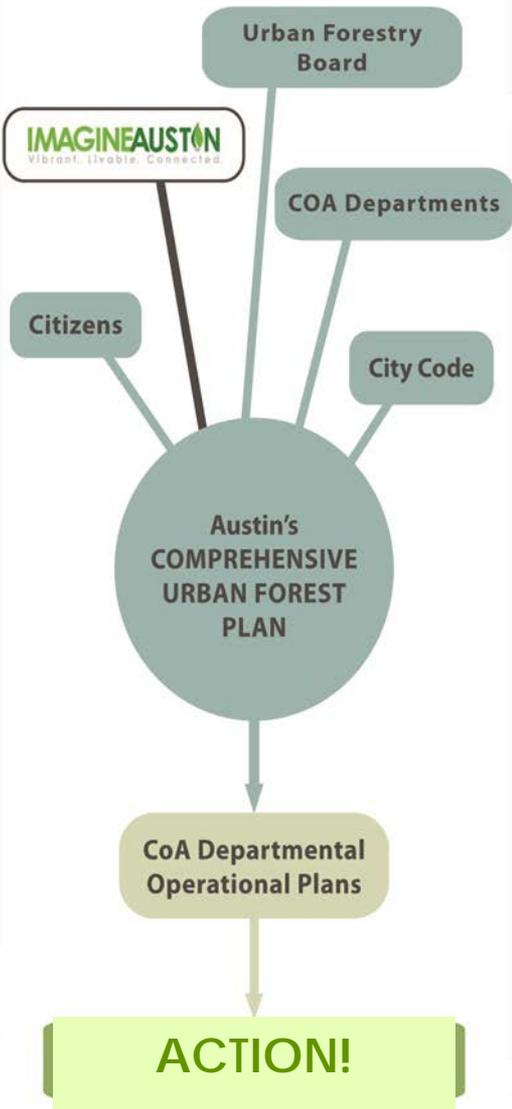


Staff Working Group – July 2013

# Public Engagement



# Implementation



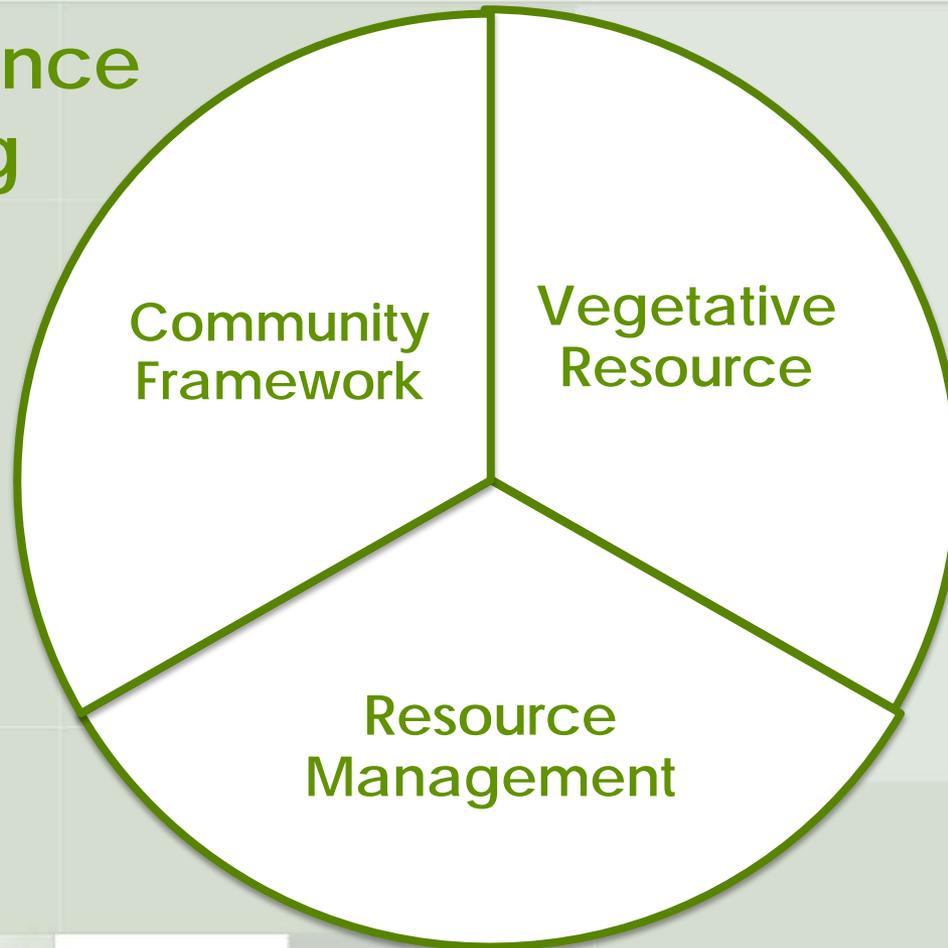
# Implementation Actions

- Data collection, reporting metrics
- Departmental Operational Plans
- Standard of Care for Trees and Plants
- Interdepartmental Coordination
- Benchmarking and Alignment
- Further Strategy Development



# How Are We Doing?

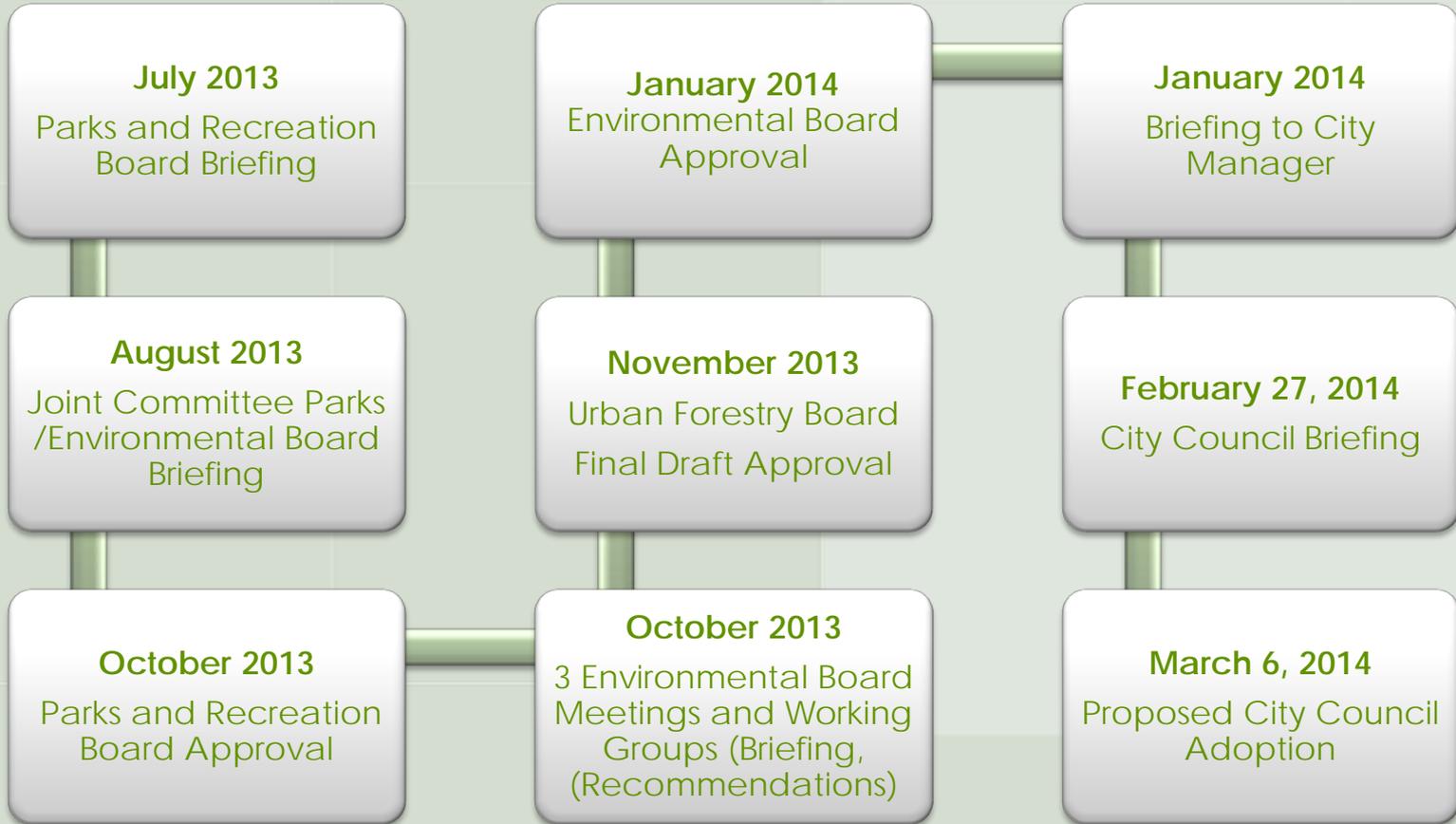
Performance  
Reporting



# Planning Framework



# Boards & Council Review



# www.austinurbanforestry.org



The City of Austin  
Urban Forestry Board

## Austin's Urban Forest Plan

A Master Plan for Public Property



2013

AUSTINTEXAS.GOV | AIRPORT | LIBRARY | AUSTIN ENERGY | AUSTIN WATER | CONVENTION CENTER | VISITORS BUREAU | OPEN GOVERNMENT

**austintexas.gov**  
the official website of the City of Austin

Explore your city...

[Pay Online](#) [Services](#) [Calendar](#) [Media](#) [Departments](#) [3-1-1](#) [Translate](#)

[Resident](#) [Business](#) [Development](#) [Government](#) [Environment](#)

Department » Parks And Recreation » Programs » Austin's Urban Forest Plan

- Home
- About
- Services
- Programs
- Media
- Locations
- Projects



### AUSTIN'S URBAN FOREST PLAN

#### Get Involved In Your Urban Forest

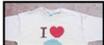
This is your urban forest. What matters most to you?

#### There are many ways to influence the Urban Forest Plan.

**\*\*Please submit all comments and complete the surveys by midnight September 11th.\*\***

- **Review the first newest draft and tell us what you think.** Please submit your comments electronically via **email** or contact us for other arrangements.
- **Speak Up Austin Join the discussion!**
- **Influence the Plan and the future of Austin's urban forest by taking these short surveys.**
  - **Finding survey**
  - **Performance indicators survey**
  - **Policy elements survey**

**\*\*Be entered to win a t-shirt by entering your email in each survey you take!**



#### TOP CONTENT

- ★ Zilker Metropolitan Park
- ★ Barton Springs Pool
- ★ Austin Nature & Science Center
- ★ Pools & Splash Pads
- ★ Golf Austin Public Links

#### CONTACT INFO

Phone: 9/4-9540  
Email  
Physical Address:  
2525 S. Lakeshore Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78741  
See Map

