

Green Infrastructure Priority Program Implementation Team

City of Austin
Environmental Board
May 7, 2014

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Priority Program No. 4 Green Infrastructure

Use green infrastructure to protect environmentally sensitive areas and integrate nature into the city.

Green infrastructure is strategically planned and managed networks of natural lands, parks, working landscapes, other open spaces, and green stormwater controls that conserve and enhance ecosystems and provide associated benefits to human populations. *Imagine Austin, Appendix A, p 19*



Benefits of Green Infrastructure

Ecosystem Services – the benefits of nature to households, communities, and economies:

- ❖ Hazard mitigation (e.g., flooding, wildfire)
- ❖ Water supply (e.g., improving aquifer recharge) and water quality protection
- ❖ Erosion and sediment control
- ❖ Air pollution prevention and control
- ❖ Local and global climate regulation
- ❖ Wildlife habitat
- ❖ Food and renewable non-food products
- ❖ Social and cultural benefits (e.g., passive/active recreation)



Priority Program #4: Green Infrastructure

Goal

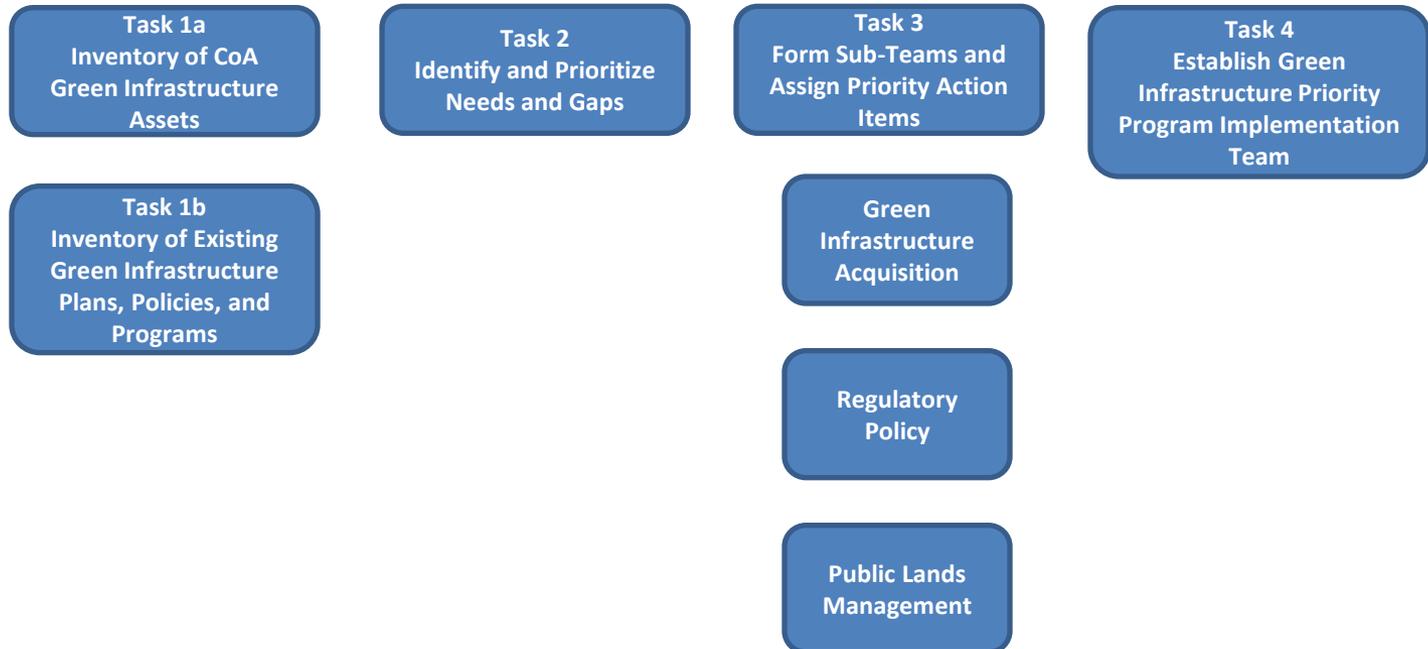
Manage Austin's urban and natural ecosystems
in a coordinated and sustainable manner

Key Objectives

- Continue public investment in green infrastructure
- Incentivize and/or require private investment in green infrastructure
- Maximize ecosystem function and services provided by green infrastructure on city-owned lands
- Improve inter-departmental collaboration and coordination in the management of city-owned lands



Process for the Formation of the GIPPIT



Identify and Prioritize Needs and Gaps

Process:

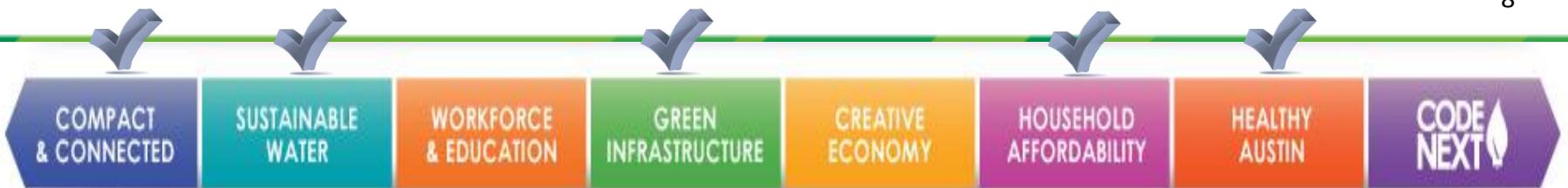
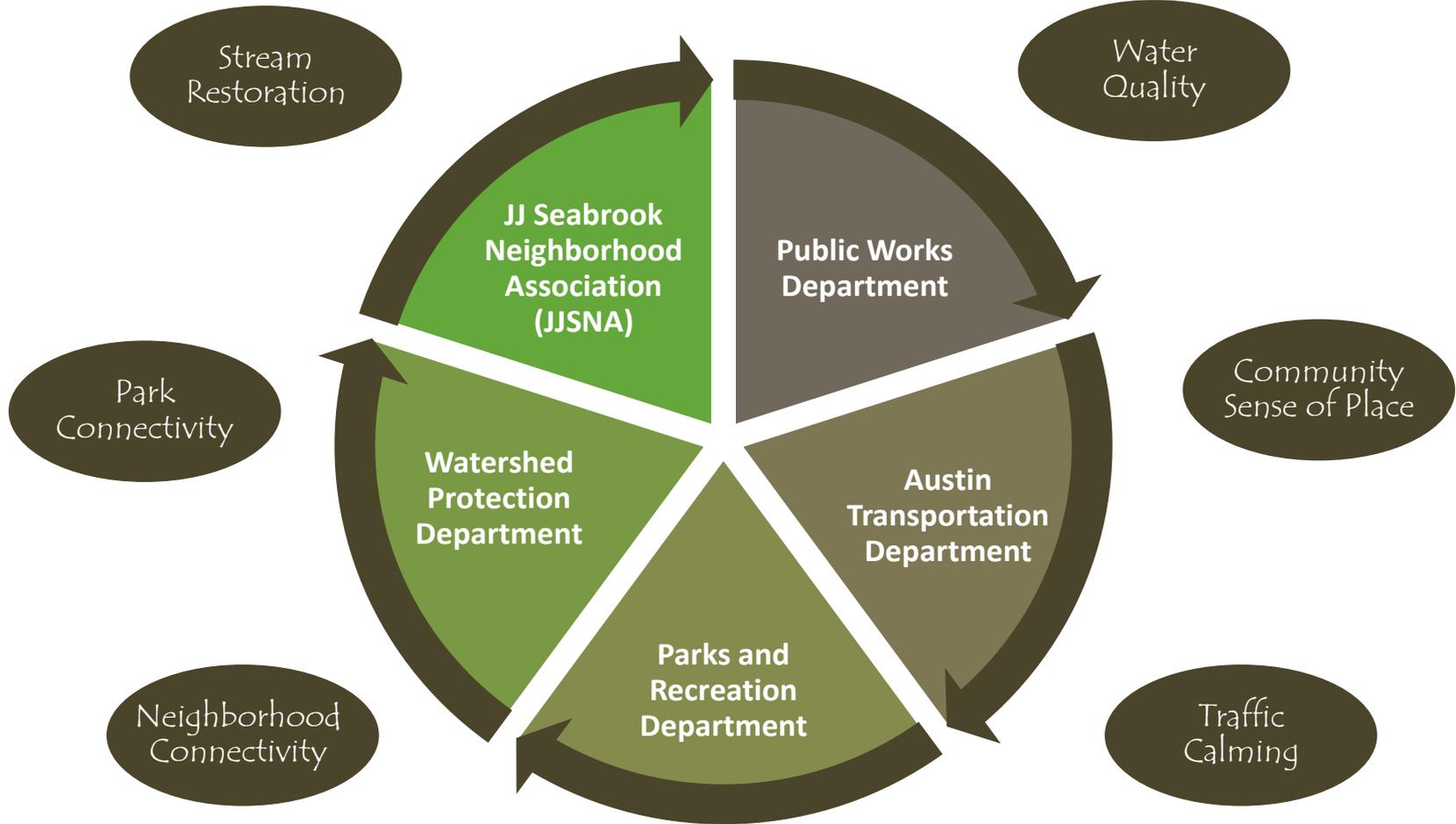
- Review IACP policies, actions, and work program tasks
- Compile preliminary inventory of existing City plans, policies, and programs
- Inventory available GIS data coverages for City-owned/managed property
- Analyze to identify needs, gaps, and priorities
- Form sub-teams and develop work plans

Conclusions:

- The City is already doing much of what is called for in IACP
- Implementation of IACP requires much closer “alignment” of existing plans, policies, and programs; as well as new initiatives
- Highest priorities are:
 - Improve inter-departmental collaboration on land acquisition and disposition
 - Support Priority Program No. 8 – Land Development Code revisions
 - Improve inter-departmental collaboration to improve management public lands



J.J. Seabrook Stream Restoration, Rain Garden, and Urban Trail Project



Priority Program #4: Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure Priority Program Implementation Team

- Sustainability Office
- Austin Fire Department
- Austin Energy
- Austin Resource Recovery
- Austin Water Utility
- PARD
- PDRD
- Public Works
- Real Estate Services
- Watershed Protection

Implementation Team Organization

Green Infrastructure Acquisition

- Strategic vision/plan
- Support Strategic
Facilities Governance Team

Regulatory Policy Sub-Team

- LDC revisions
- Watershed Protection Ordinance
- Criteria manual revisions:
 - DCM
 - ECM
 - TCM

Public Lands Management Sub-Team

- Urban Forestry Management Plan
- Standards of care for vegetation management:
 - Local amendments
 - Implementation
- Riparian Zone Restoration Program
- Invasive Species Management Plan Implementation
- Wildfire fuel mitigation
- Integrated Pest Management
- Climate protection



**Priority Program #4:
Green Infrastructure**

Implementation and Sub-Team Team Roles & Responsibilities

Implementation Team = Sustainability Leadership Team

- Executive/senior management level membership
- Provide general oversight of and direction to sub-teams
- Provide support for implementation of sub-team recommendations

Sub-Teams:

- Subject matter experts
- “Heavy lifters”

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QUESTIONS

