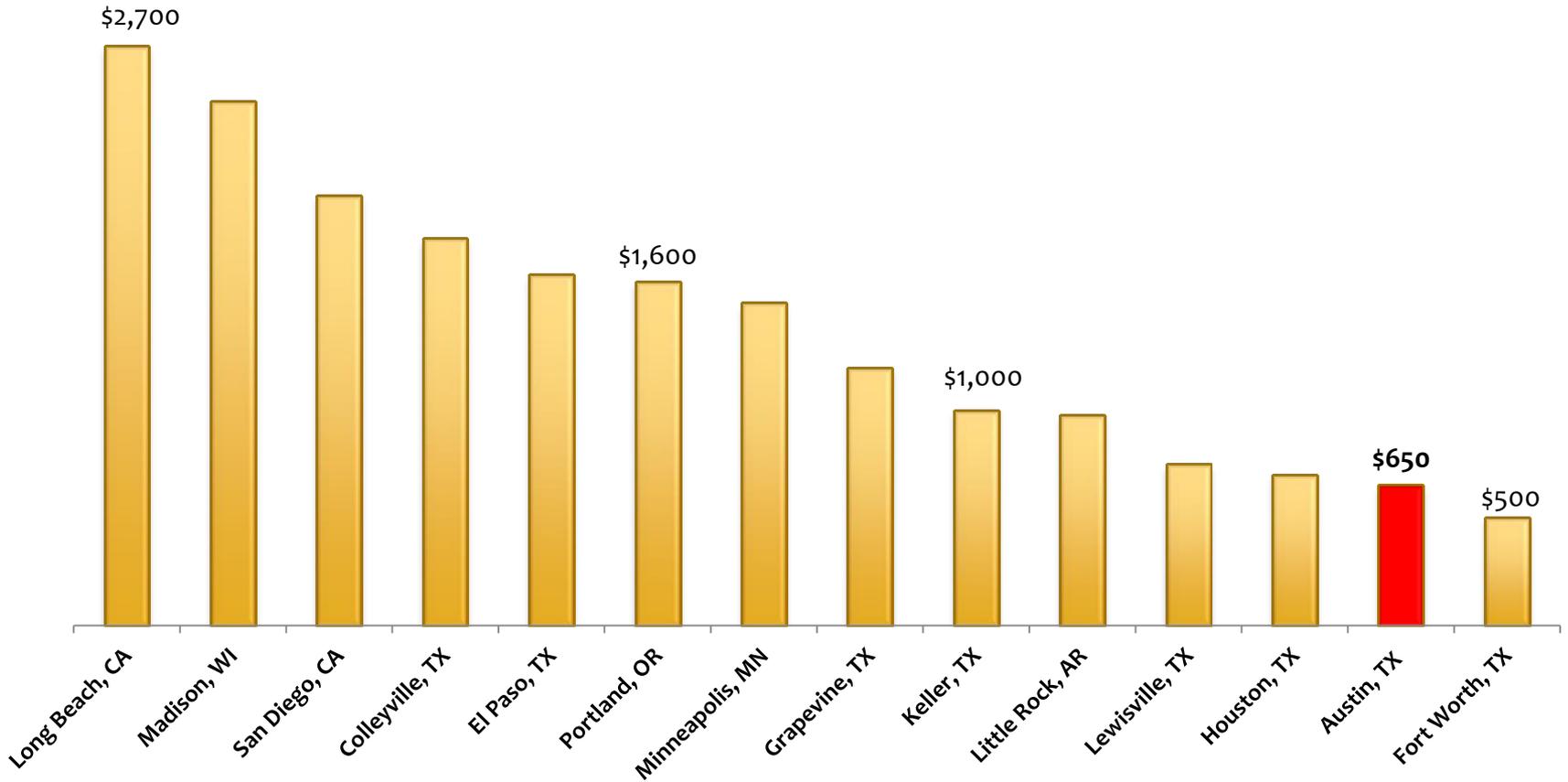


# **PARKLAND DEDICATION**

# Current Parkland Dedication Fee



# Department Recommendation

- Is based on the current level of service
- Is based on a per person demand instead of a per unit demand

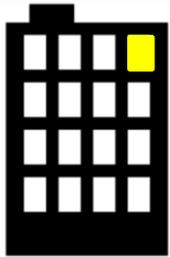
## PLD Structure:

- 1) Has a Land requirement
- 2) Has a Fee in-lieu of land
- 3) Has a Park Development fee

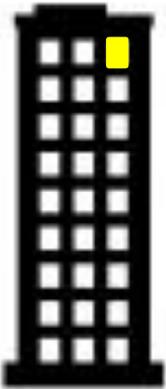
# Per Person Demand



= Low Density



= Medium Density



= High Density

# Formula: Fee Paid in Land

9.4 acres (current level of service) X (Number of Units) X (Residents per Unit)

---

1,000

*The City of Austin's current level of service is 1 acre of parkland per 106 residents.  
= 9.4 acres / 1000 residents*

# Formula: Fee in Lieu

Cost of land (based on recent acquisitions) \$39,000

---

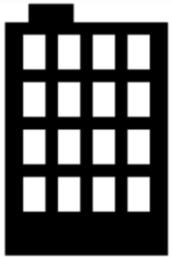
Total city population/per acre of park (based on current population) 106/acre

**= \$368 per person**

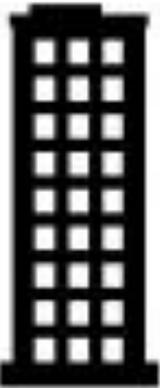
# Fee In Lieu of Land



 = \$1,030



 = \$809



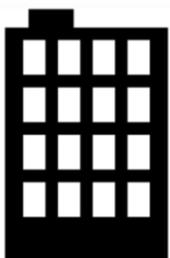
 = \$625

 = \$368

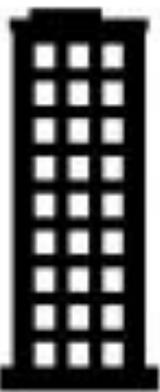
# Park Development Fee



= \$521



= \$410

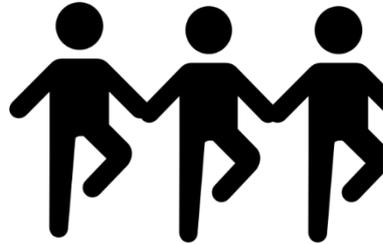


= \$317

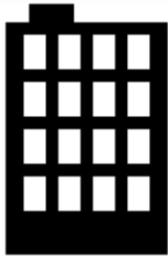


= \$186

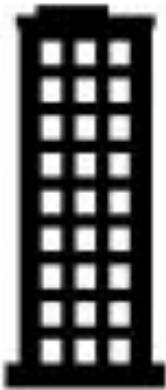
# Total Fee in Lieu of Land and Park Development Fee



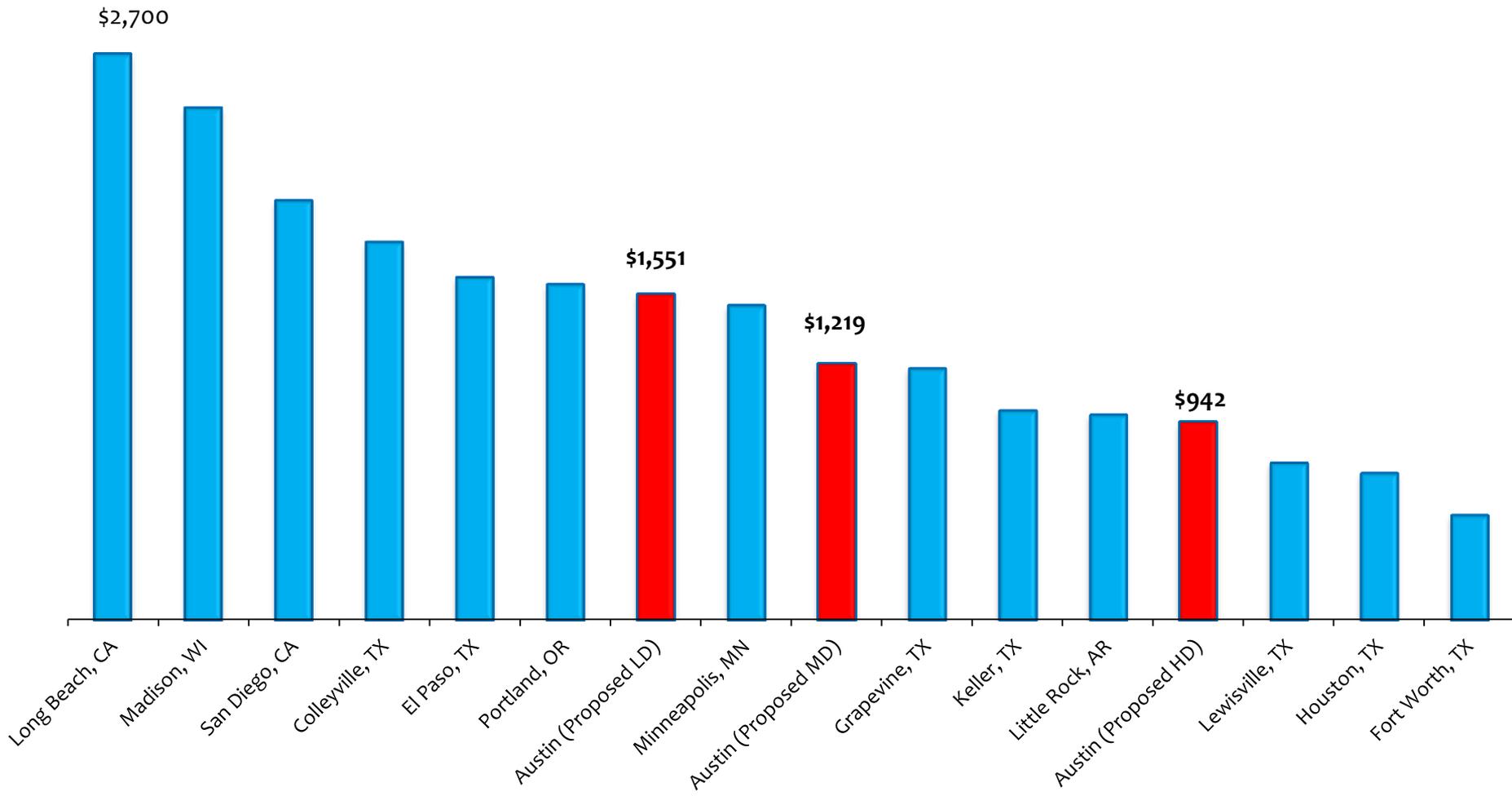
= \$1,551



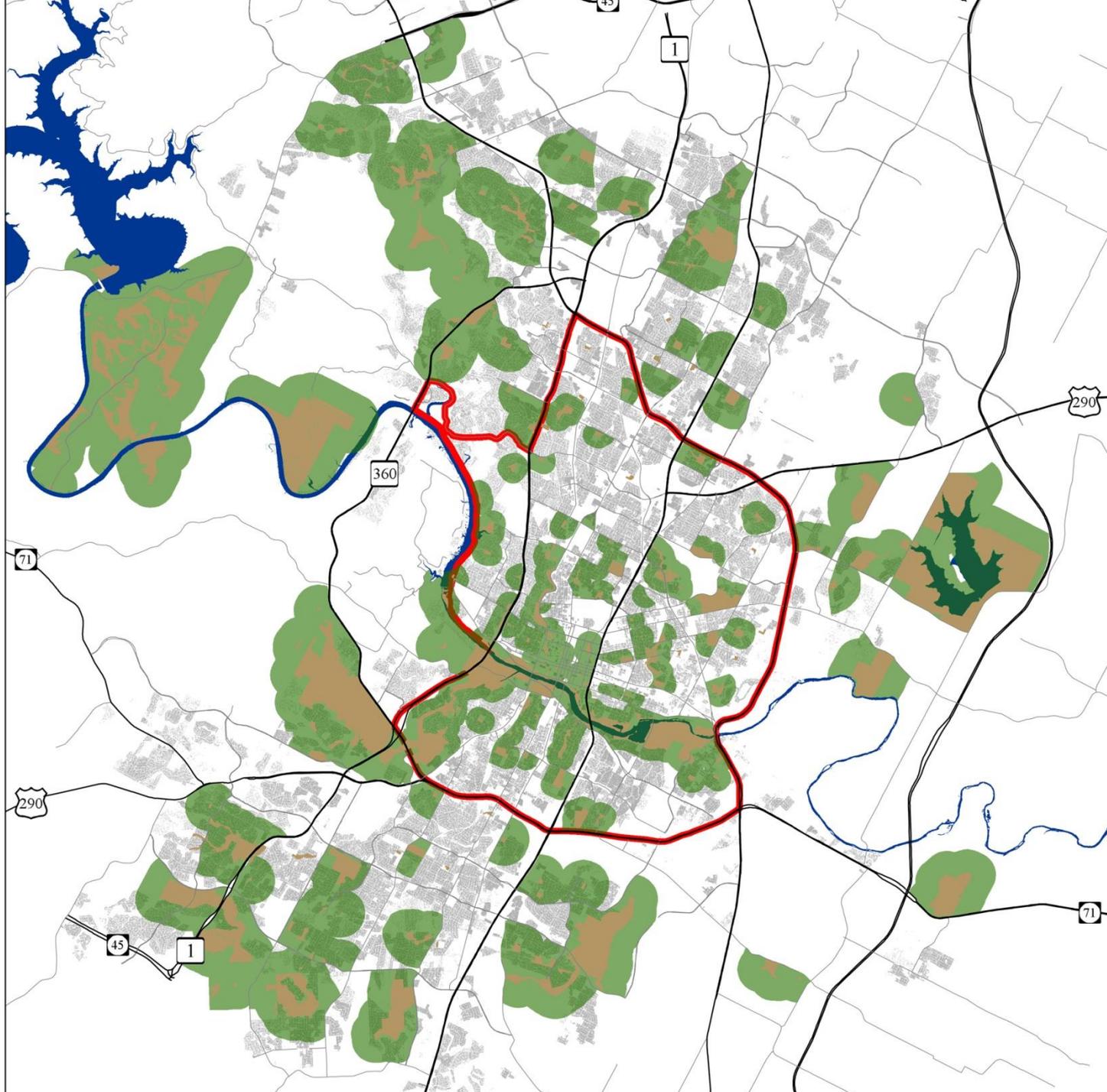
= \$1,219



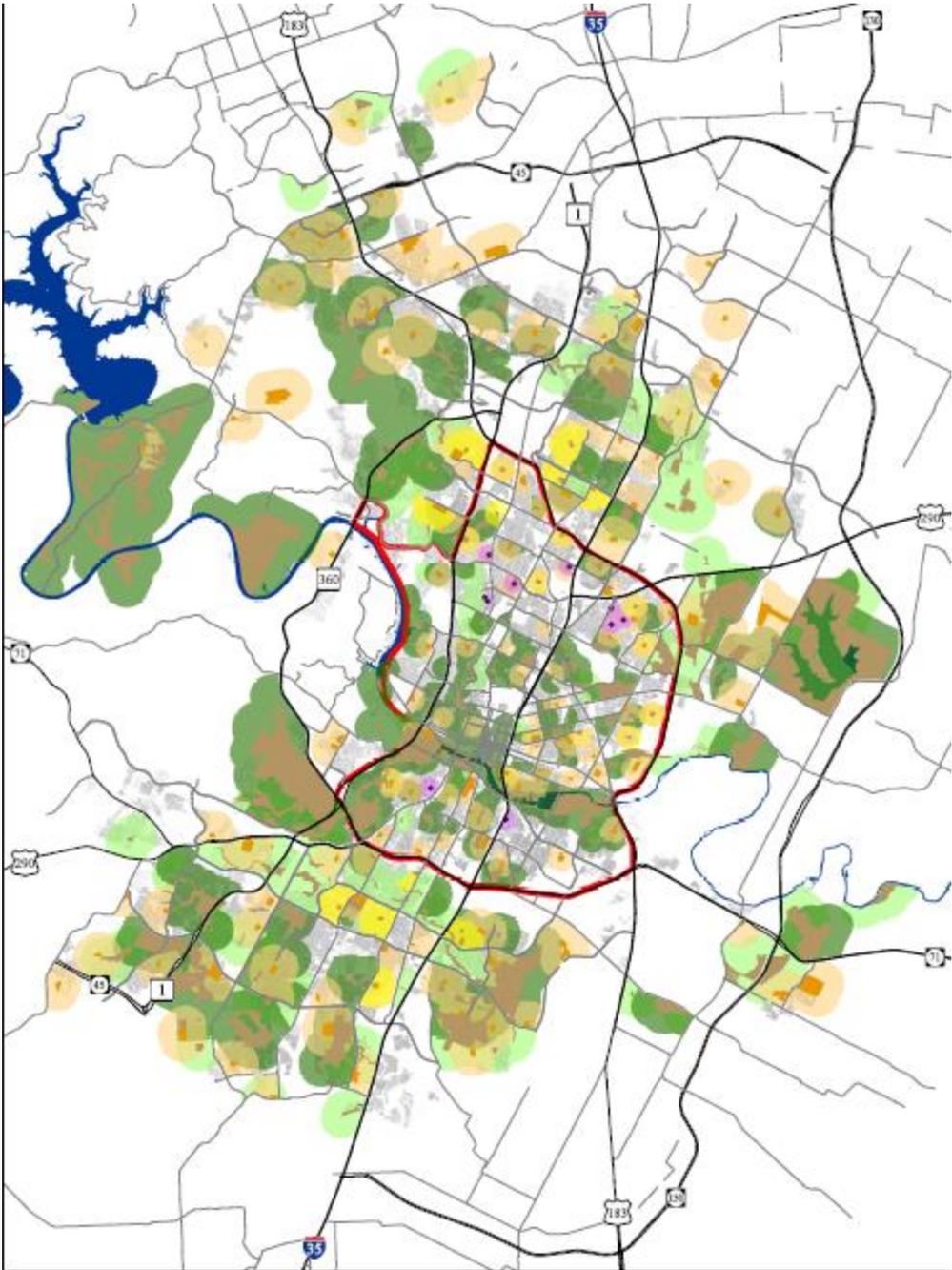
= \$942



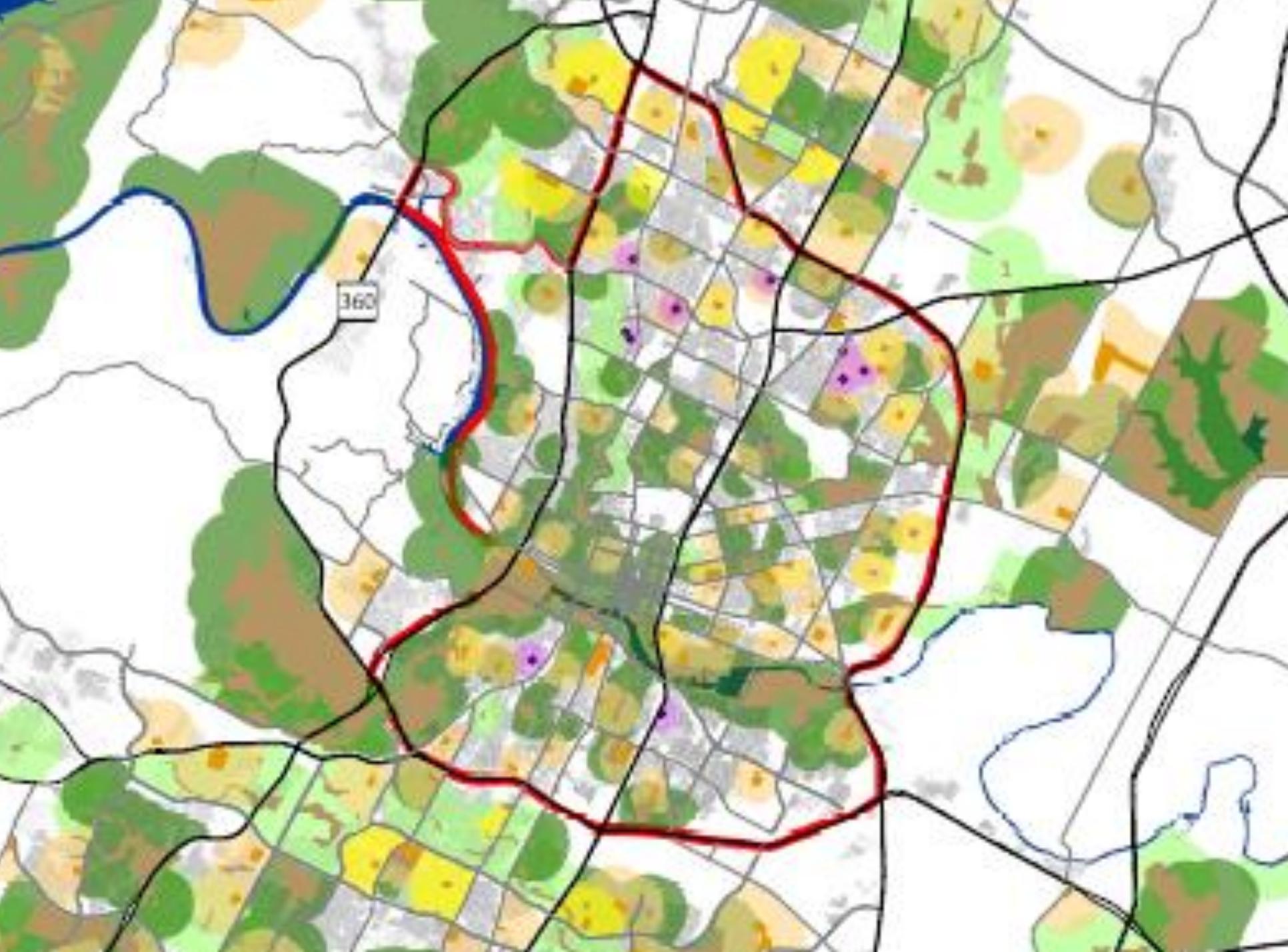
# Proposed Parkland Dedication Fee

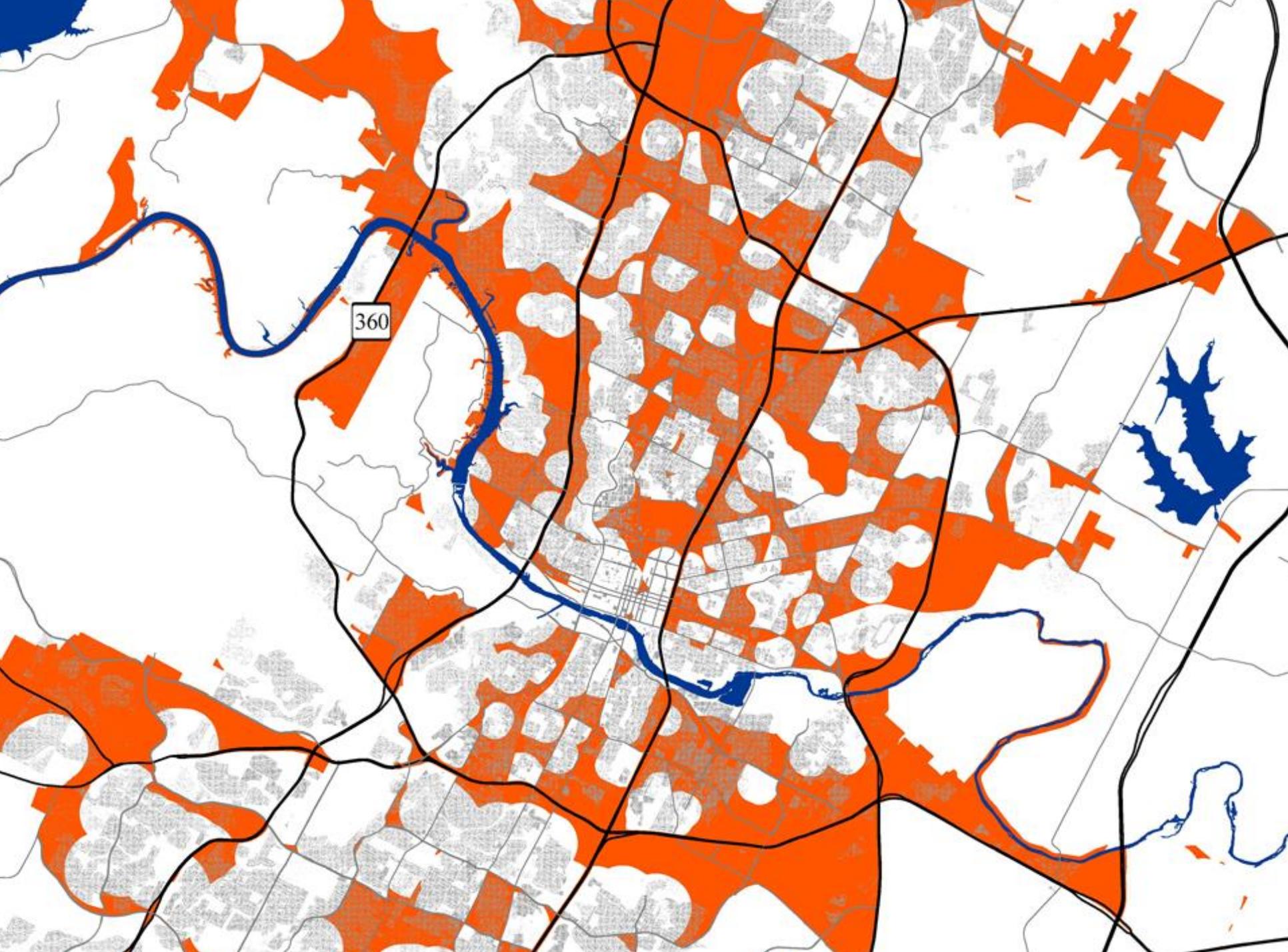


# Map E: High Opportunity Sites



- Developed Parkland
- Undeveloped Parkland
- Existing School Parks (PARD owns a % of the school property)
- New School Sites (no PARD ownership)
- High Opportunity Sites







# Austin Parkland Opportunities

-  Developed Parkland
-  Undeveloped Parkland
-  Existing School Parks (PARD owns a % of the school property)
-  New School Sites (no PARD ownership)
-  High Opportunity Sites

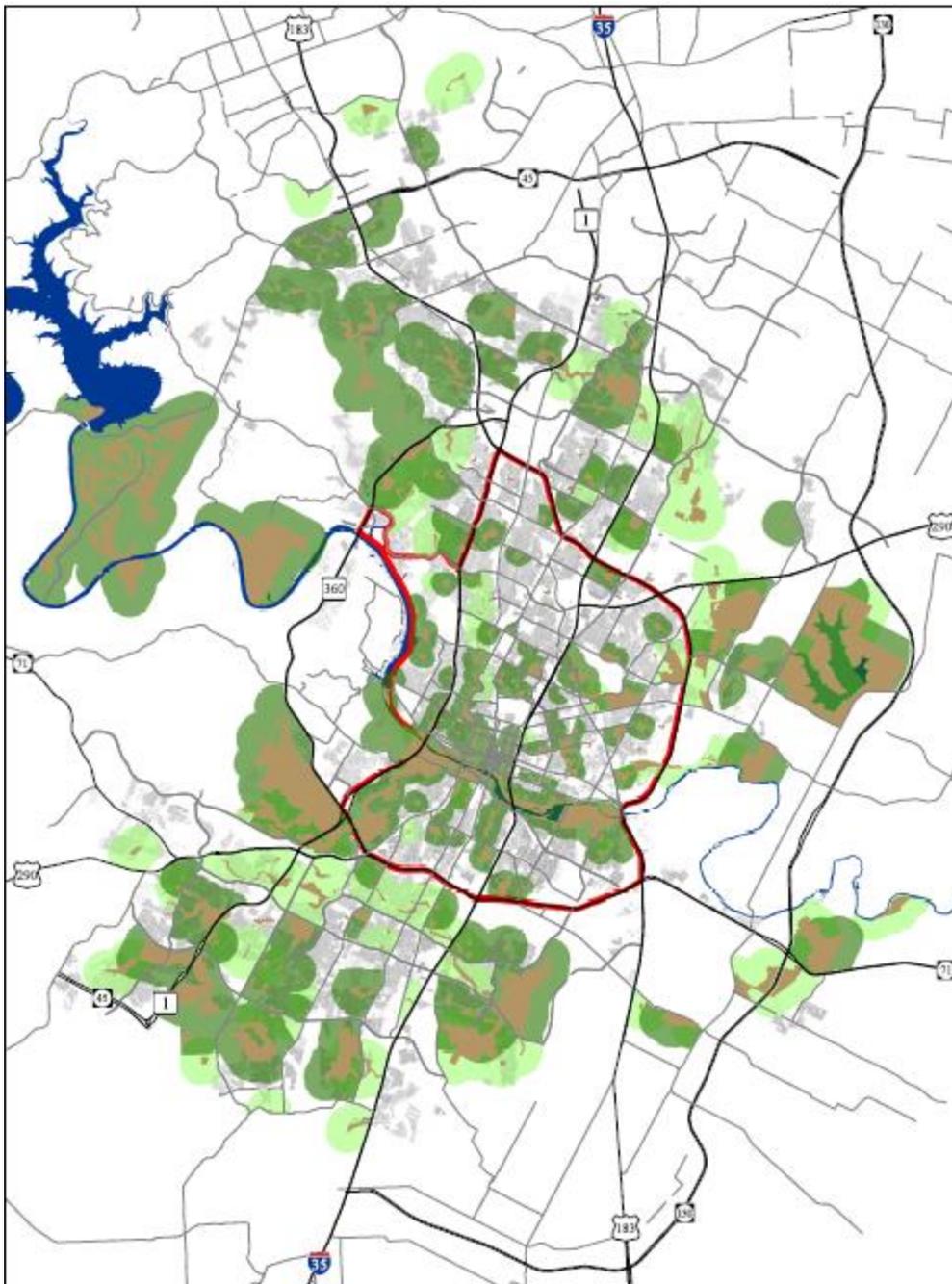


## Map A: Developed Parks in Austin

 Developed Parkland

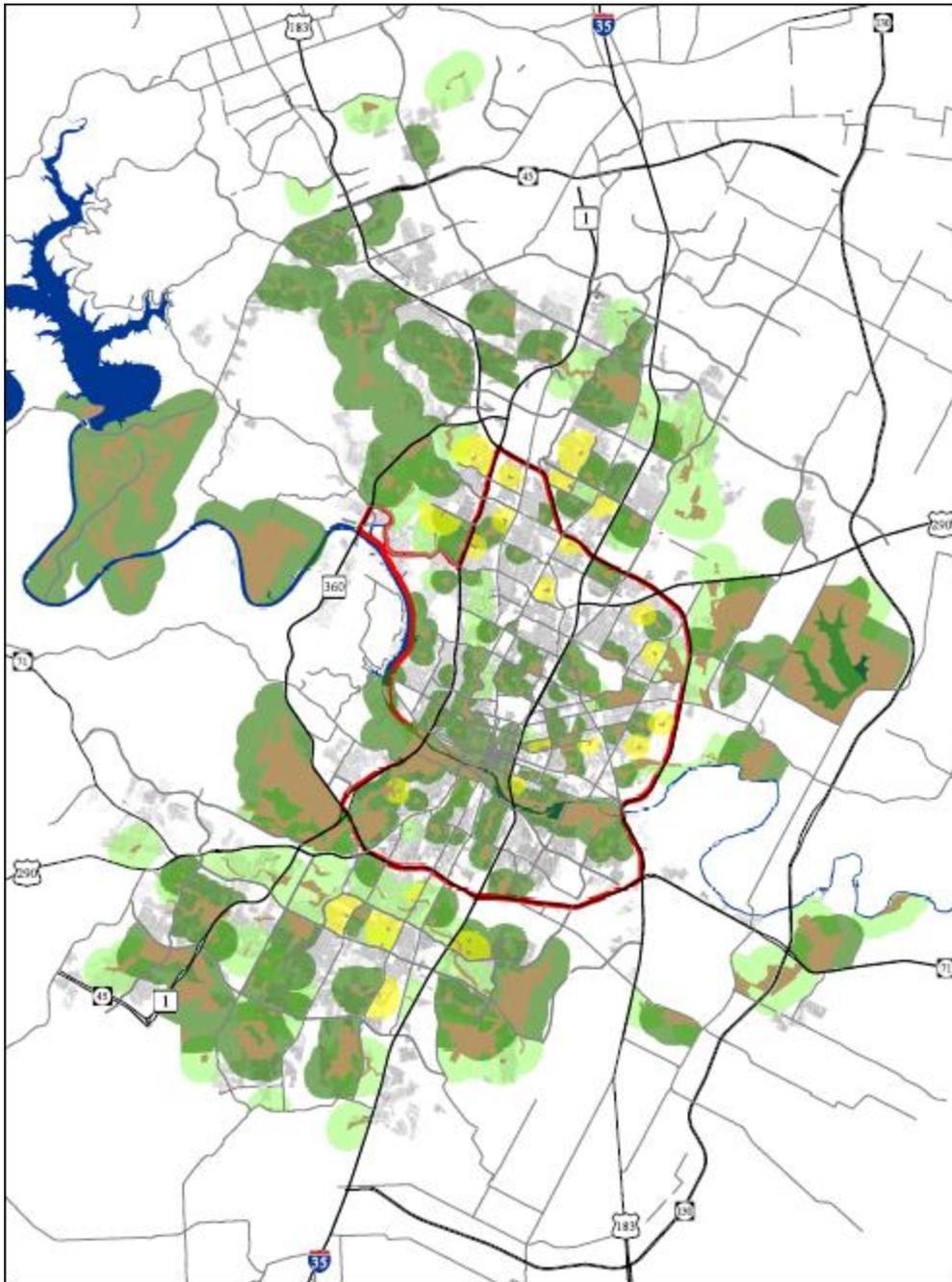
## Map B: Undeveloped Parks in Austin

-  Developed Parkland
-  Undeveloped Parkland

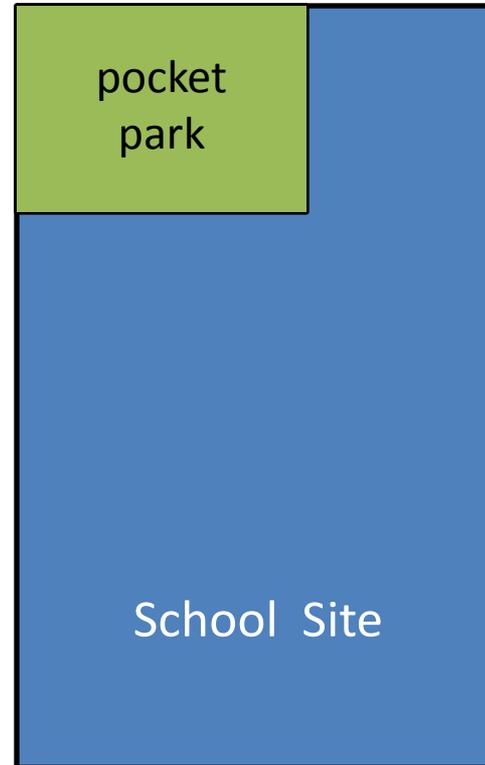
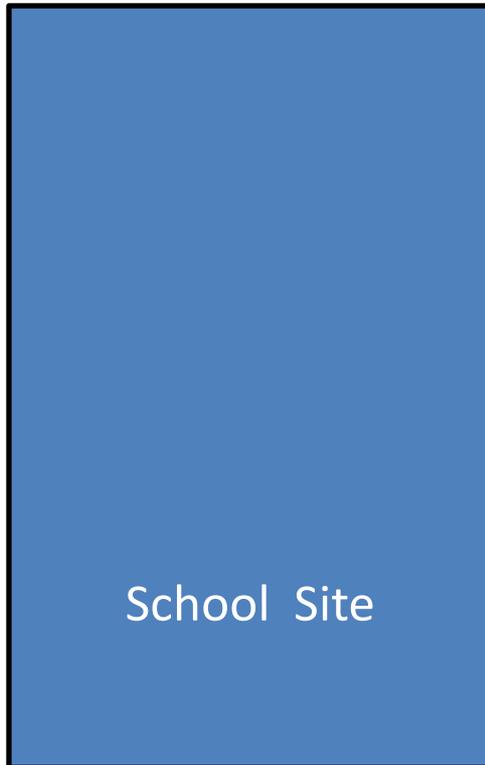


## Map C: Existing School Parks

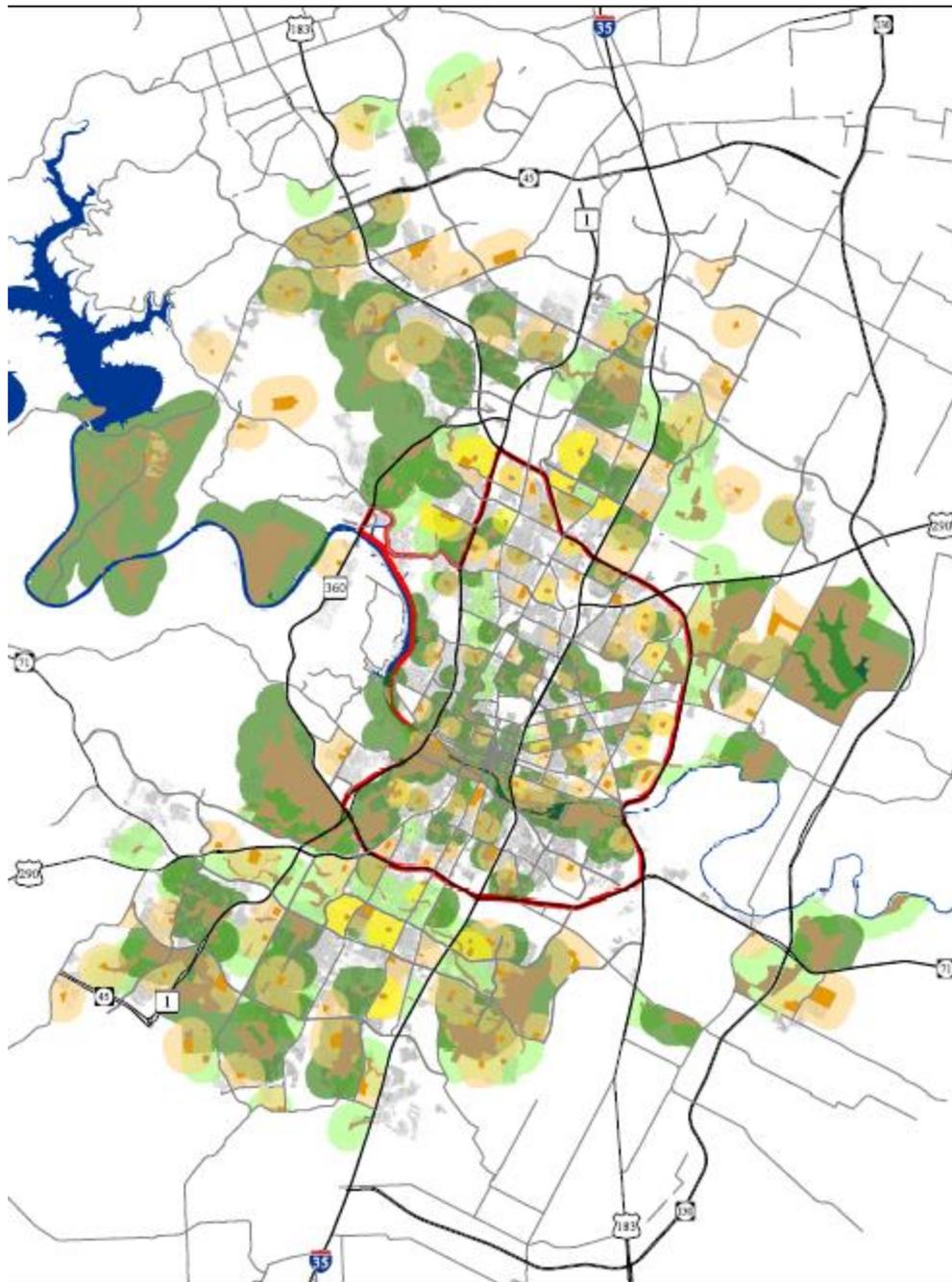
-  Developed Parkland
-  Undeveloped Parkland
-  Existing School Parks  
(PARD owns a % of the  
school property)



# Developing School Parks and Sites

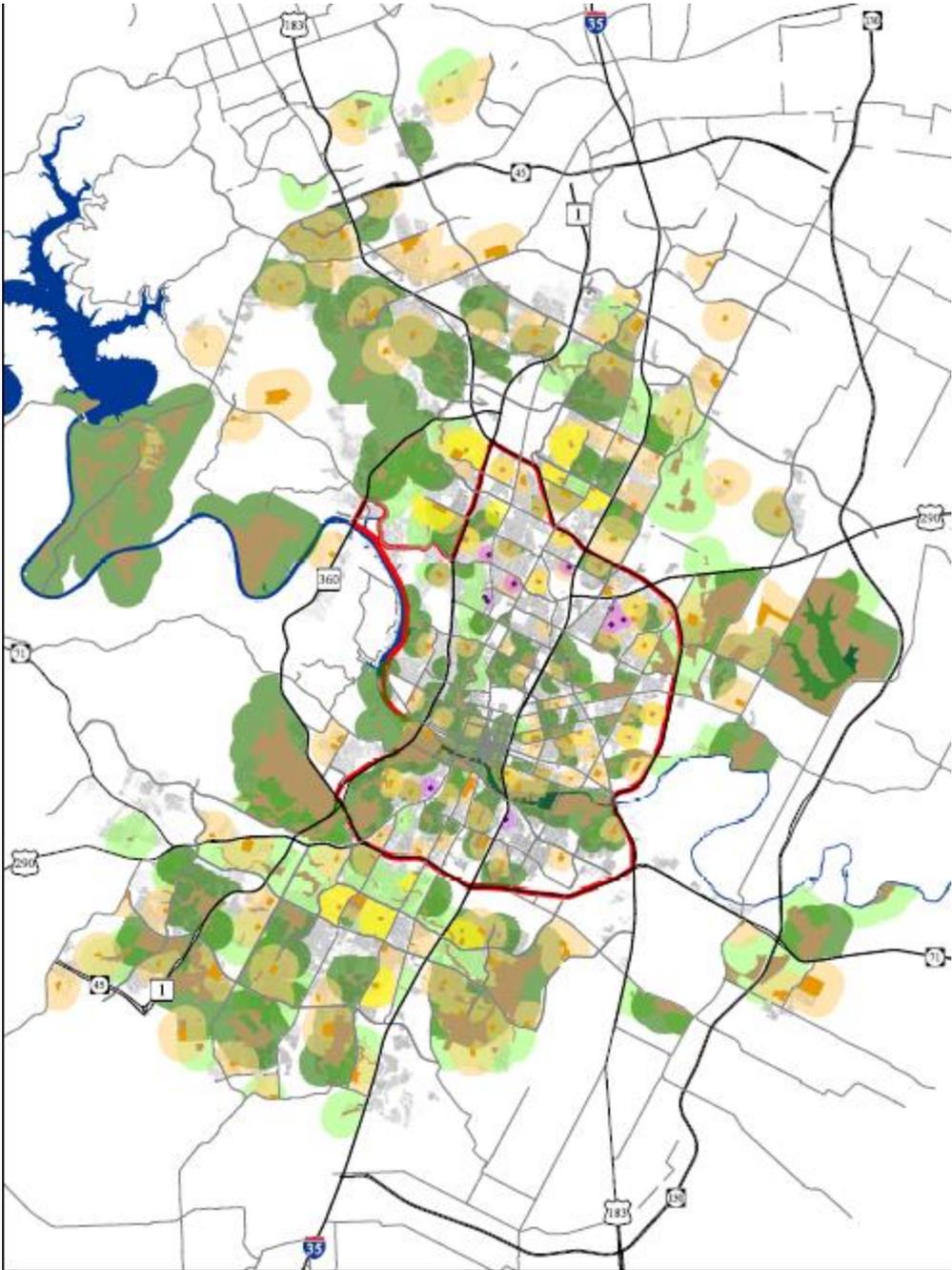


## Map D: Possible New School Sites

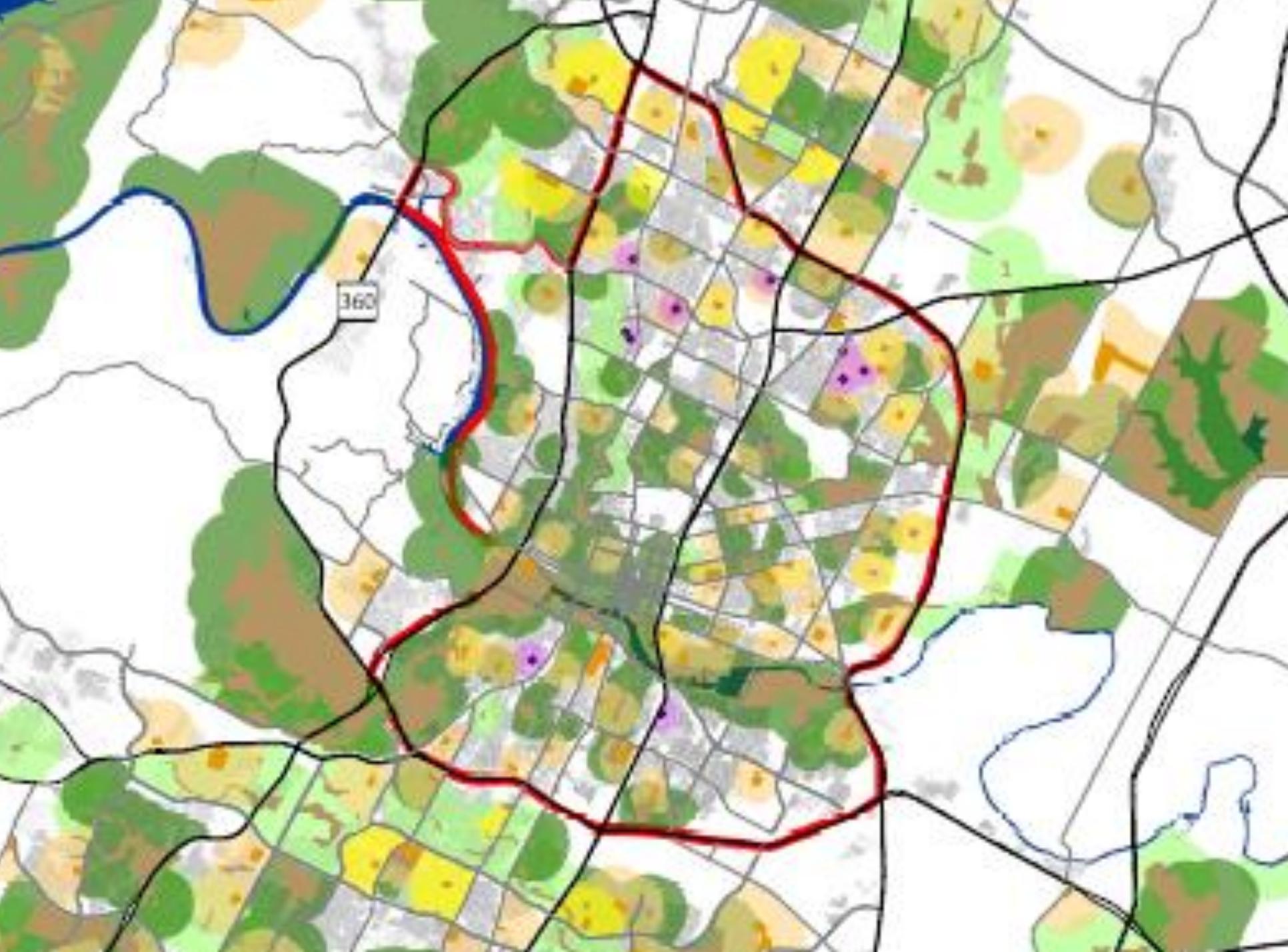


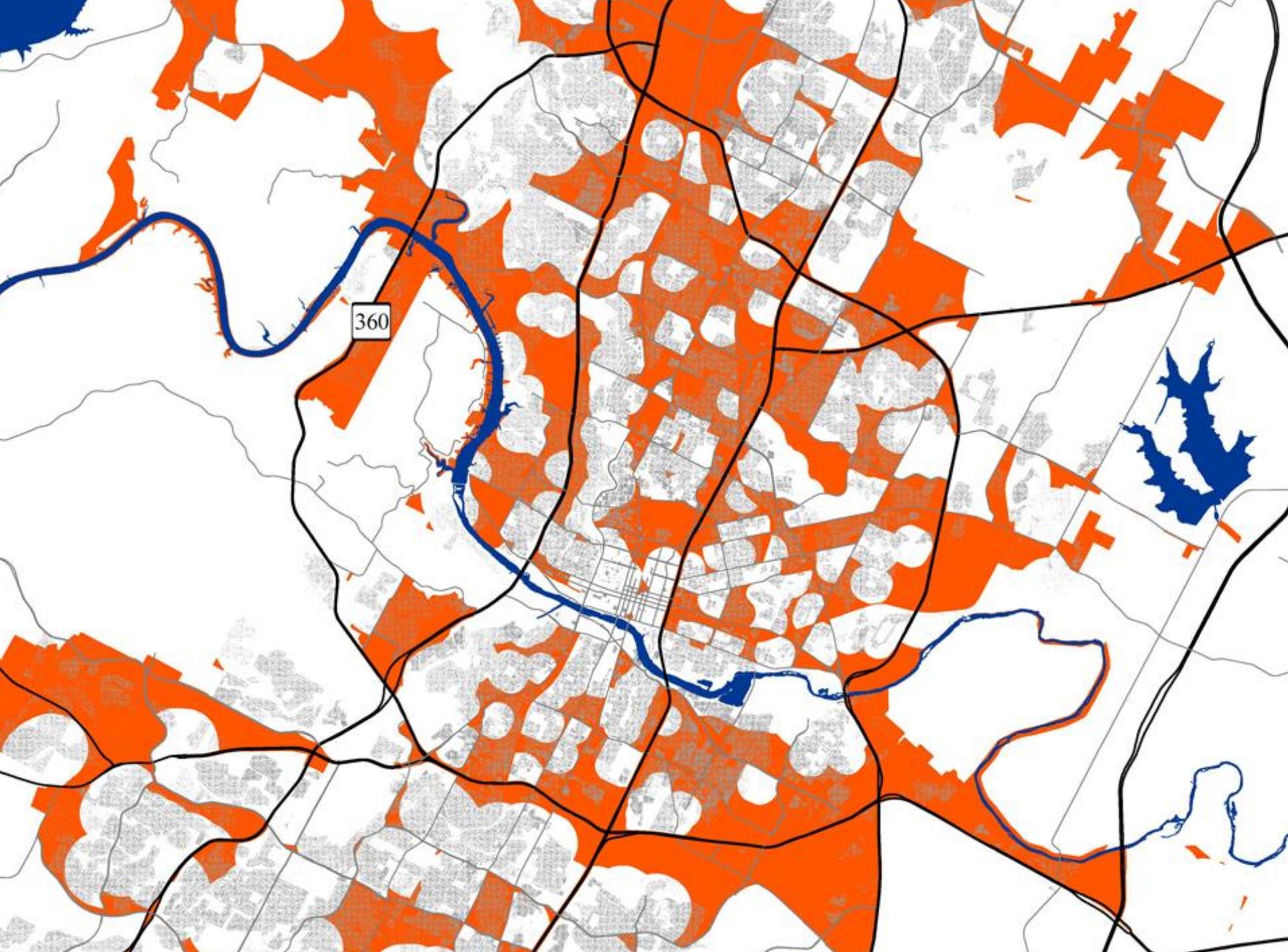
- Developed Parkland
- Undeveloped Parkland
- Existing School Parks  
(PARD owns a % of the  
school property)
- New School Sites (no  
PARD ownership)

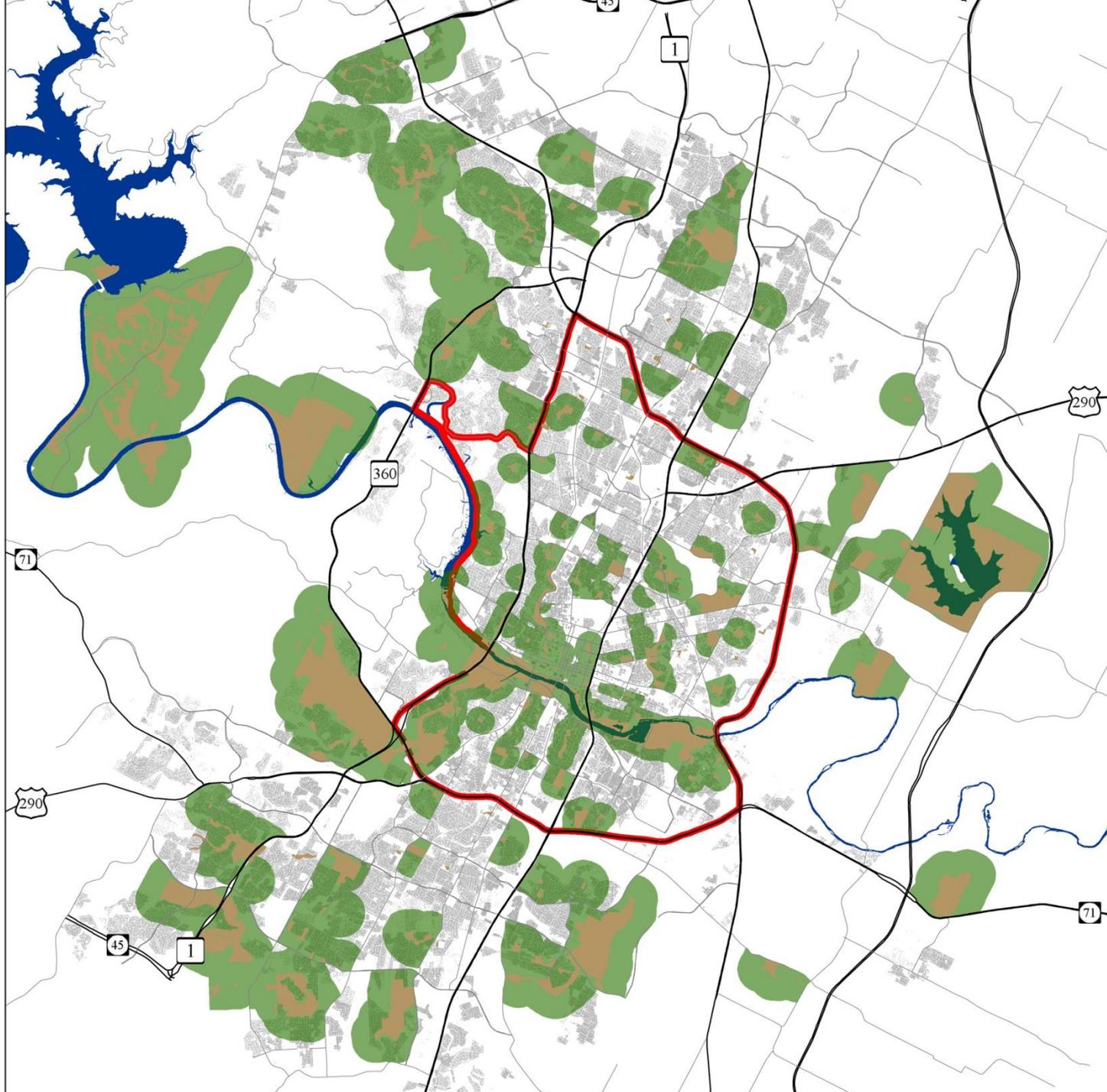
# Map E: High Opportunity Sites



- Developed Parkland
- Undeveloped Parkland
- Existing School Parks (PARD owns a % of the school property)
- New School Sites (no PARD ownership)
- High Opportunity Sites







# Meeting Austin's New Park Access Goal

	Inner Core Total % Pop Served	Outer Area Total % Pop	Total Development and Acquisition Costs	Total Additional Maintenance Costs
Developed Parkland (Map A)	37%	42%	<b>\$0 (existing)</b>	<b><i>\$0 (existing)</i></b>
Undeveloped Parkland (Map B)	43% (6%)	61% (19%)	<b>\$6,000,000</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>
Existing School Parks (Map C)	47% (4%)	65% (4%)	<b>\$4,400,000</b> (22 parks @ \$250,000 each)	<b>\$143,000</b>
New School Sites (Map D)	68% (21%) <i>(28 parks estimated)</i>	76% (11%) <i>(33 parks estimated)</i>	Inner Core: <b>\$5,600,000</b> Outer Area: <b>\$6,600,000</b> (\$200,000 each)	<b>\$413,000</b>
Alternate Sites (Map E)	69% (1%)	76% (0%)	<b>\$ 400,000</b> (2 sites at \$200,000 each)	<b>\$80,000</b>
Remaining Parks Needed	90% <i>(30 parks estimated)</i>	90% <i>(21 parks estimated)</i>	Inner Core: <b>\$30,000,000</b> Outer Area: <b>\$18,900,000</b> (~\$1,000.000 each)	<b>\$1,380,000</b>



**Striving for National Excellence**  
Urban Parks Workgroup: Presentation to the Austin City Council  
October 20, 2011

# Striving for National Excellence

## Austin City Council's Goal

- Every resident should live within walking distance of a park;
- Walking distance =  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile for urban core;  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile outside urban core.
- Adopted in November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009

# Striving for National Excellence

## Urban Parks Workgroup Report – 4 Tasks

- **Analyze where** new urban pocket parks are needed and which existing parks are in need of improvement;
- **Create strategies** to incorporate more innovative and diverse play opportunities for children in parks;
- **Create cost projections** to implement the plan;
- **Examine resources and policies** needed to facilitate the implementation of the plan.

87%

The percentage of people in Austin who say it is important to live near open space.  
*Source: Austin Community Survey, done in association with the Austin Comprehensive Planning Process*

37%

The percentage of people in Austin's urban core who do live near a park.

# Framing the Issue

## Acreeage & Accessibility

### *parks as recreational amenities*

- *disk golf*
- *cycling*
- *trails*

### *parks as ecological necessities*

- *watershed protection*
- *land conservation*
- *environmental protection*

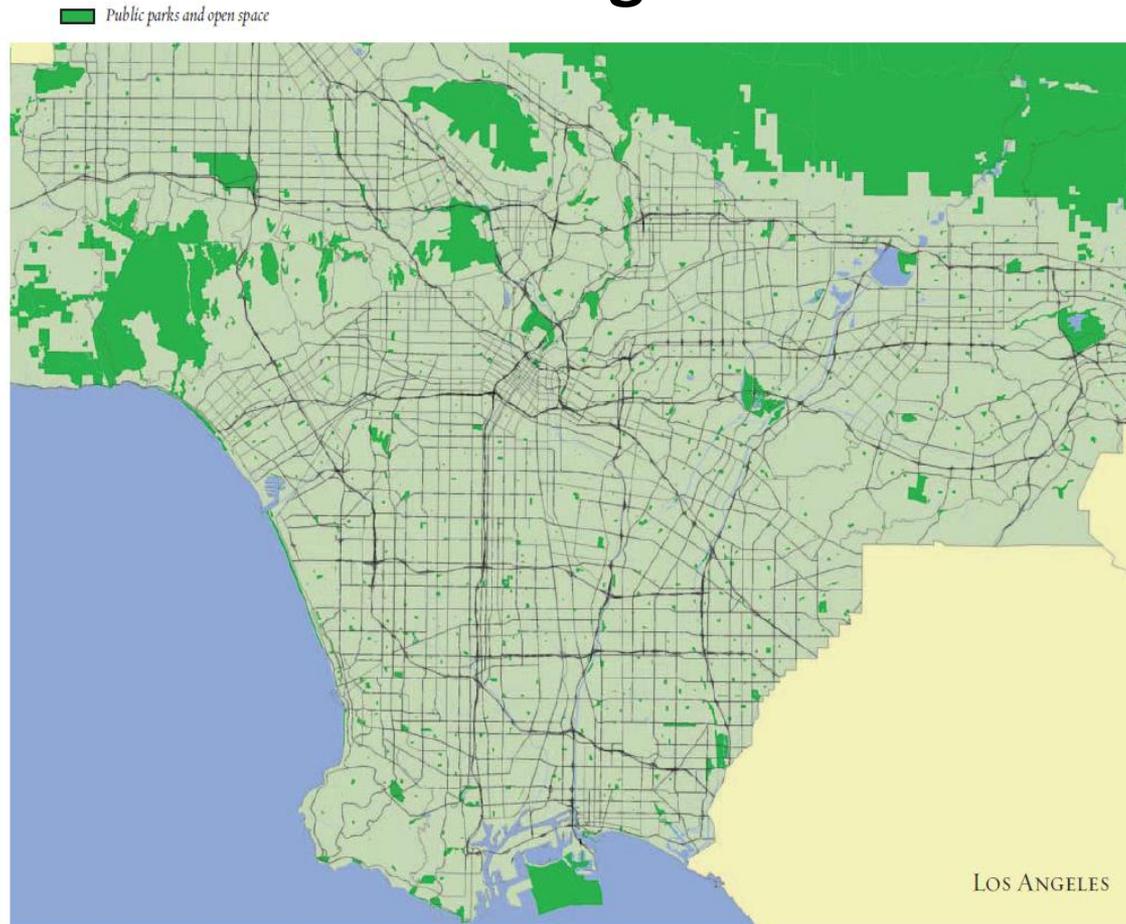
### *parks as urban infrastructure*

- *health care infrastructure*
- *economic development*
- *environmental infrastructure*

### *Meeting Austin's Goals for:*

- *Sustainability*
- *Family Retention*
- *Obesity Prevention*

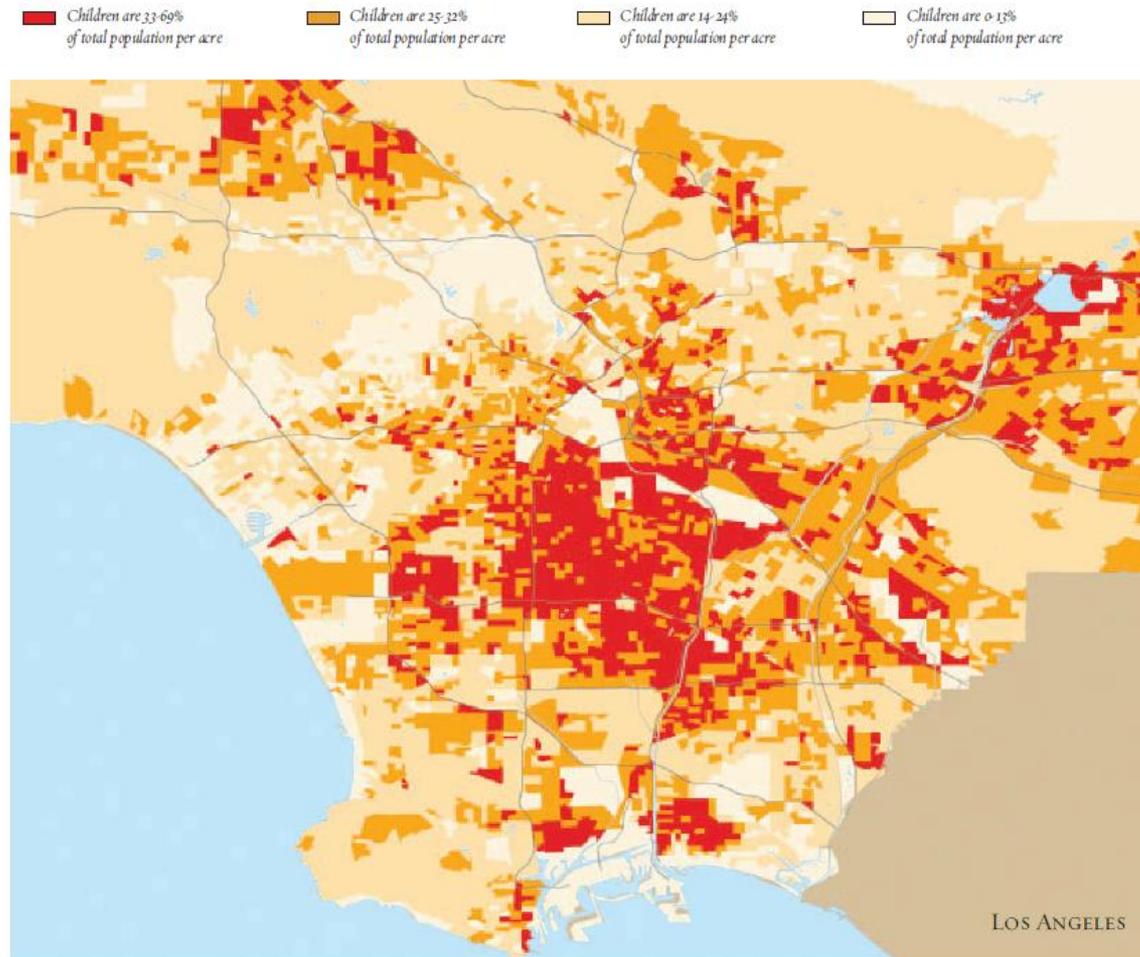
# Understanding Why Access is Important: The Example of Park Land in the City of Los Angeles



*Parks in Los Angeles are concentrated far from the city center.*

*"No Place to Play: A Comparative Analysis of Park Access in Seven Major Cities." Trust for Public Land, 2004.*

# High Children Population Density Areas in the City of Los Angeles



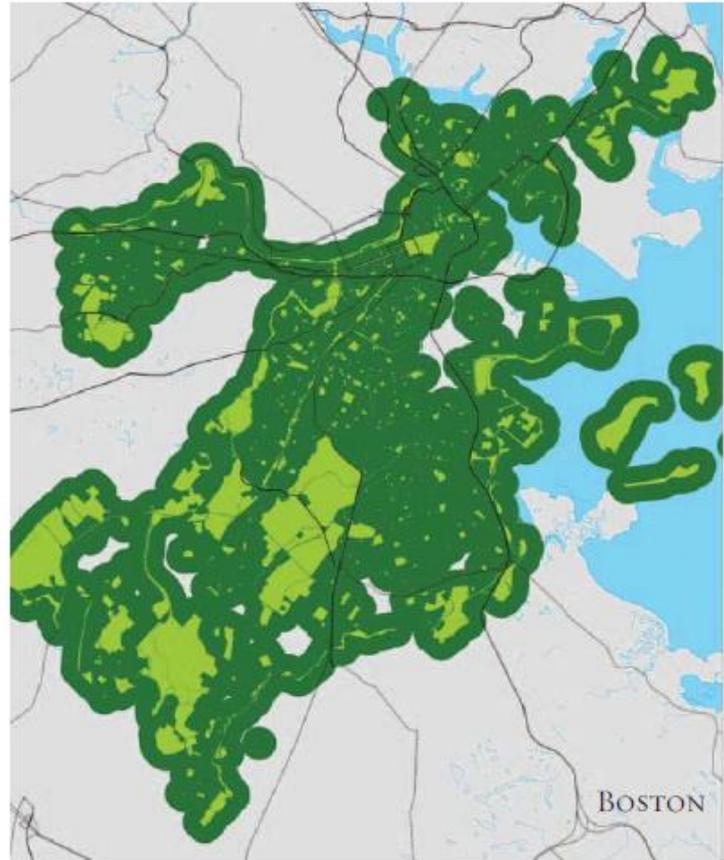
*Areas shaded red indicate high children's population density zones.*

*"No Place to Play: A Comparative Analysis of Park Access in Seven Major Cities." Trust for Public Land, 2004.*

# New York and Boston: Areas Within Walking Distance of a Park



*Most children in New York enjoy easy access to parks.*



*Boston's extensive park system reaches 97% of the city's children.*

# **Striving for National Excellence**

**ACCESS & ACQUISITION**

**MAINTENANCE**

**DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT**

**IMPLEMENTATION**

# Key Findings: *Acquisition*

## The **GAP**:

- Large number of central city residents cannot walk to a park;
- City still trying to meet 1-mile goal set in 1983;
- Per capita number of parks: Austin ranks 52/75.

## The **SOLUTION**:

- Acquire and transform more land for smaller urban parks; particularly in rapidly densifying areas such as transit corridors;
- Leverage existing city land.

## National Leaders...

Boston: 97% of children live within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of a park;

Denver: 90% of residents live within 6 walkable blocks of a park;

Seattle: 1/8-mile goal for urban parks;

Minneapolis: 99.4% of residents live within 6 blocks of a park;

Chicago: 90+% of residents live within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of urban play area; now has 1/10 mile goal for urban areas

# Key Findings: *Maintenance*

## **GAP:**

- City is impoverished in our upkeep and maintenance of parks. = Major barrier to expanding park access.
- Austin only 65th on funding for parks operations: only \$41 a resident vs national average of \$75.
- Only \$9 per capita spent on parks maintenance.
- Only 123 maintenance personnel for 14,911 acres of parks.

## **SOLUTION:**

- More city funding for parks maintenance and operations is **CRITICAL!!**

# National Leaders...

## Sample of Cities with Dedicated Revenue for Parks and Open Space

**Seattle:** \$24.3m/year property tax levy for parks and green space

**Minneapolis:** special parks property tax allows 99% of resident to live within 6 blocks of a park.

**San Antonio:** preservation of 10,000+ acres with surcharge on water bill for Sensitive Land Acquisition Program.

**St. Louis, Missouri:** \$10 million a year for interconnected system of greenways, parks, and trails, through voter approval of 1/10th of one cent sales tax.

**Albuquerque:** \$36 million for purchase of 2,000+ acres of land for open space through voter-approved 25 cent, two-year sales tax for parks and open space.

# Key Findings: *Design and Development*

## **The GAP:**

- Lack of funding for comprehensive site design solutions;
- Lack of maintenance crews for “nature-based” play areas;
- Lack of precedents.

## **SOLUTION:**

- Address code and liability issues;
- Enlist the help of local childhood development and public health research and design expertise.

# Top Three Policy Recommendations

- 1. (spend) ANNUAL FUNDING:** Provide annual funding for PARD to hire 1 full-time maintenance staff person per 75 acres of city parkland (right now PARD is at 1 maintenance staff person per 175 acres of park).
- 2. (tax) BOND REFERENDUM:** include on the next bond referendum \$25 million in bonds for the acquisition and development of urban parks and incorporation of family-friendly features onto exiting public land.
- 3. (regulate) PARK DISTRICT:** Partner with other large Texas cities to ask the Texas Legislature to grant home rule municipalities the authority to create, via ballot referendum, a special city-wide parks district with authority to adopt a property tax levy dedicated to parks.