

Biophilic Cities Network

Cultivating Nature in the City



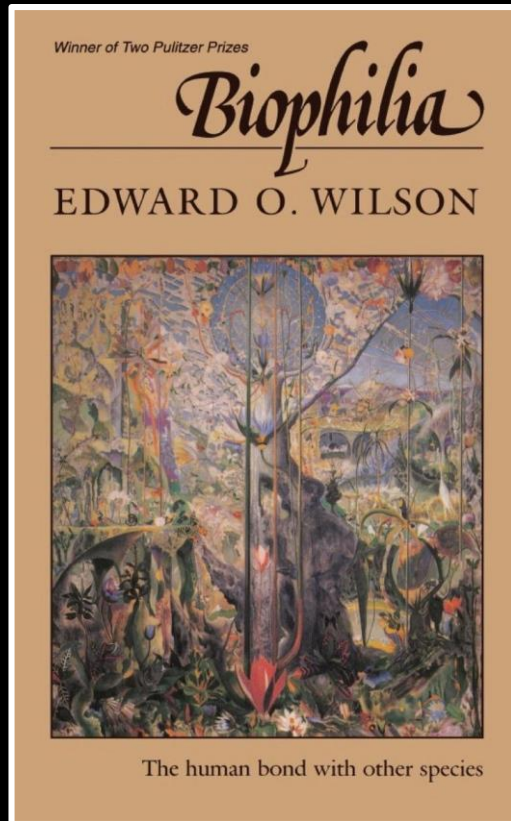
Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability Committee



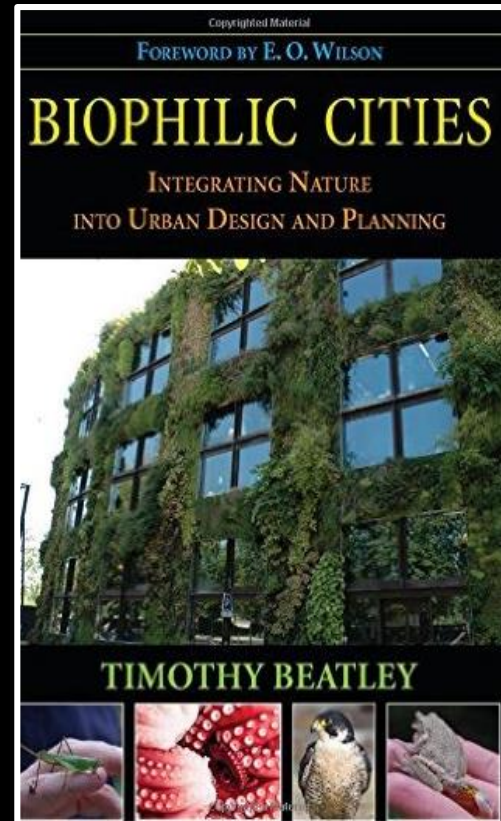
Lucia Athens, Chief Sustainability Officer

Leah Haynie, Urban Forest Division, Development Services

May 26th, 2016



Q: What is
Biophilia?



A: Humans
and Nature



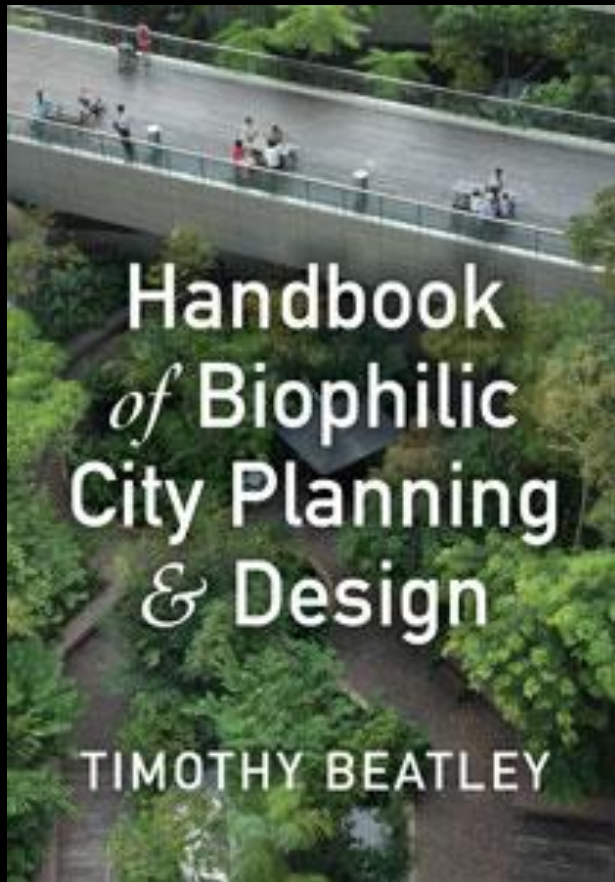
Q: What are the benefits of nature in a city?

A: Humans are statistically healthier, happier, and more productive with regular access to nature.



Q: What is a
Biophilic City?

A: A city that places
nature at the core of
its design and
planning



1. San Francisco, California
2. Portland, Oregon
3. Milwaukee, Wisconsin
4. Phoenix, Arizona
5. Singapore
6. Birmingham, United Kingdom
7. Wellington, New Zealand
8. Montréal, Quebec
9. Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain
10. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
11. Oslo, Norway

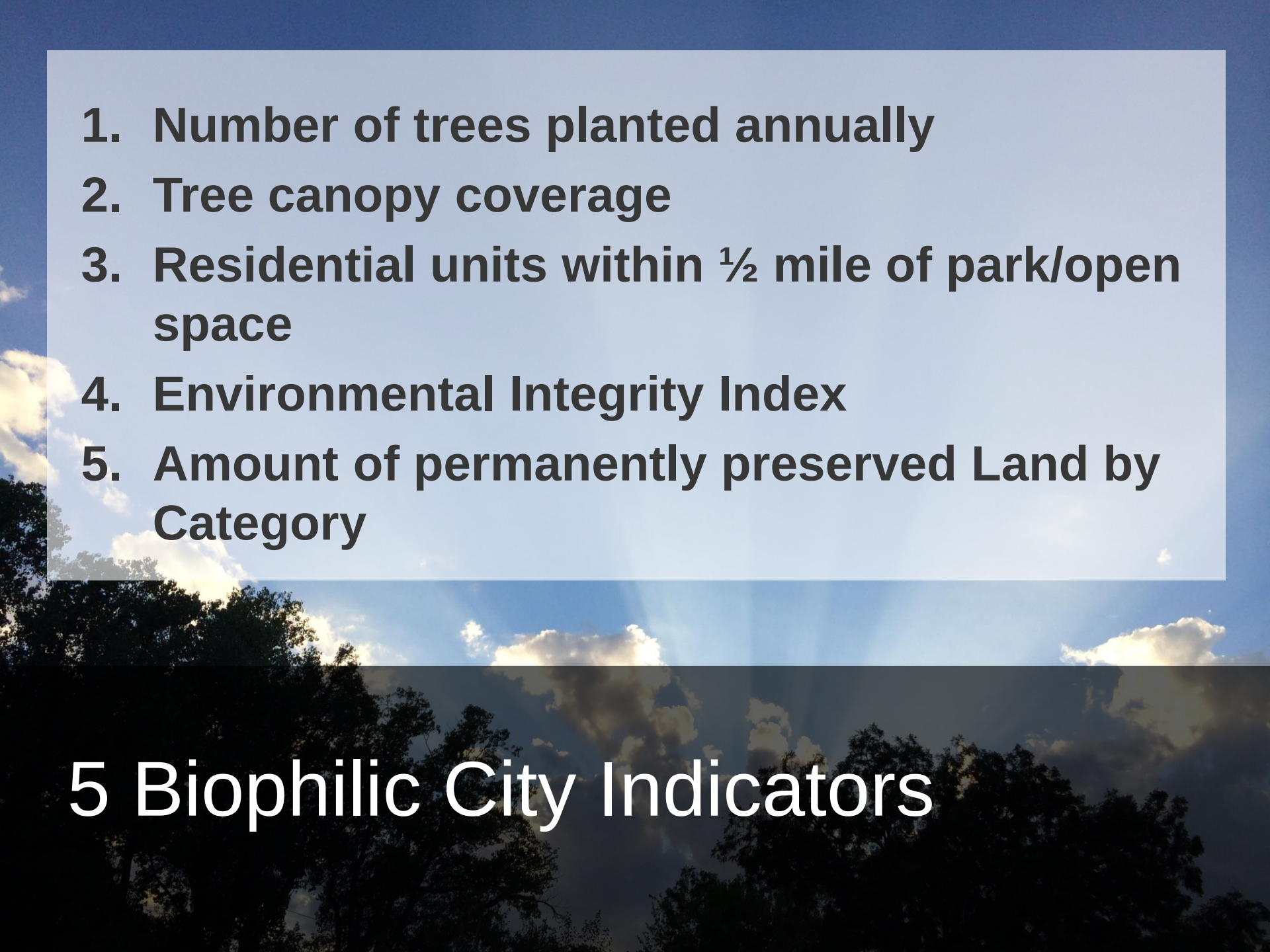
Biophilic Cities Network



Partner City Feature: Singapore

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- An aerial photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a glass facade. The building features a prominent green roof with a winding path and lush vegetation. The surrounding area includes other buildings, trees, and a street with cars. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image, containing a bulleted list.
- **Adopt an official resolution to become a Partner City**
 - **Pay a one-time fee of \$250**
 - **Prepare a Biophilic Cities Narrative**
 - **Commit to monitoring 5 indicators**

Becoming a Partner City

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- 1. Number of trees planted annually**
 - 2. Tree canopy coverage**
 - 3. Residential units within ½ mile of park/open space**
 - 4. Environmental Integrity Index**
 - 5. Amount of permanently preserved Land by Category**

5 Biophilic City Indicators

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- A scenic view of the Austin skyline across a body of water, with a bird in flight and a child on the shore. The image is used as a background for the text.
- **Share communications related to Nature in the City of Austin**
 - **Training and Conference Calls**
 - **Assist partner initiatives, organizations, and cities**
 - **Host Biophilic City Delegations**

Additional Partner City Opportunities

Core Principle

Integrate nature into the City

A beautiful system of outdoor places for recreation and environmental protection will define Austin as a world-class city.

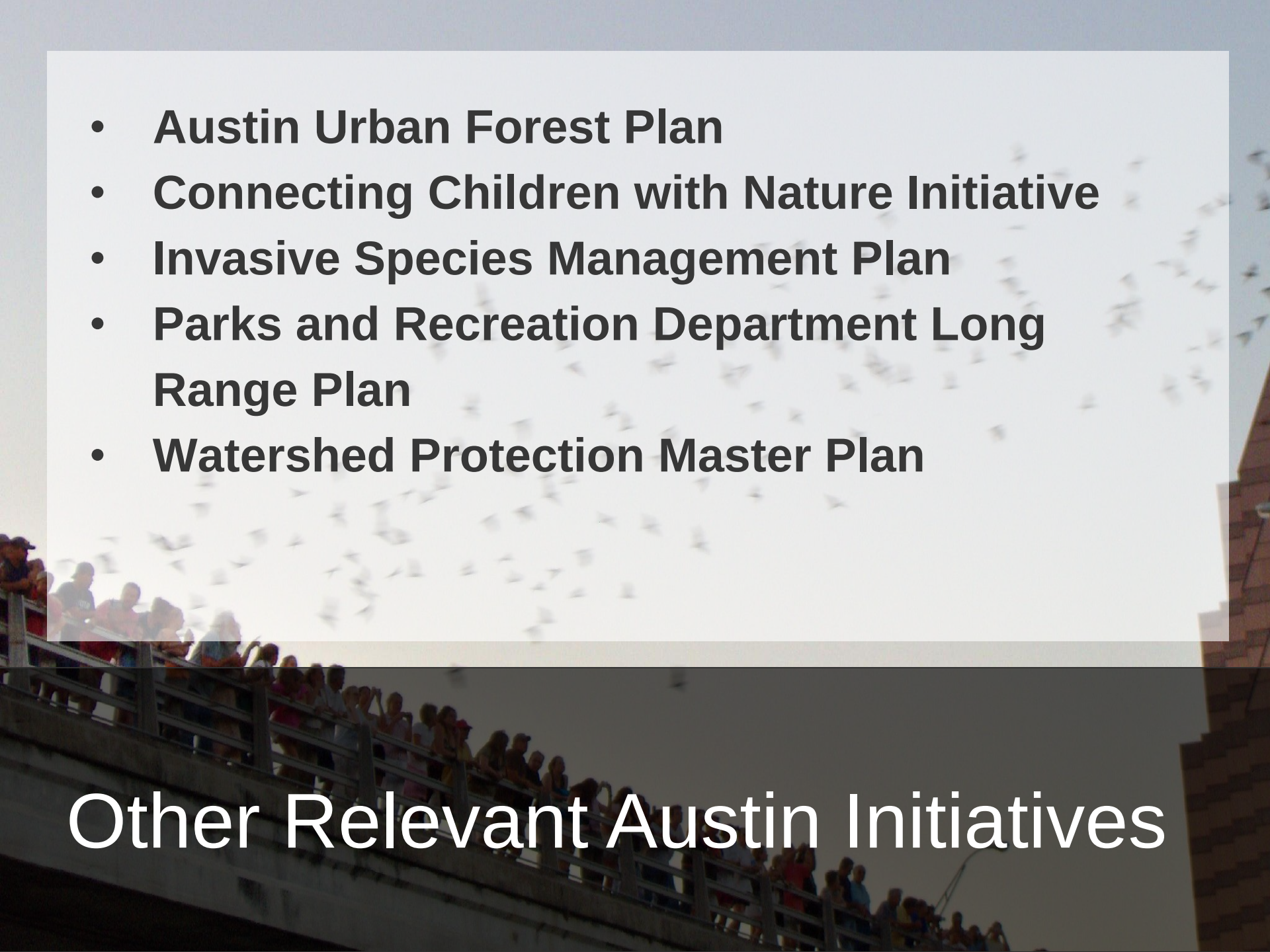
IMAGINEAUSTON

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
Vibrant. Livable. Connected.

City Council Adopted
June 15, 2012

By strengthening our “green infrastructure” — parks, the urban forest, urban trails, greenways, rivers, creeks, lakes, gardens, urban agriculture, open spaces, and wildlife habitat and the relationships between them and the rest of the city— Austin can protect the natural environment and enhance recreational opportunities.

(p.10 of Imagine Austin)

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- A large flock of birds, possibly seagulls, is flying across a bright sky. Below them, a crowd of people is visible on a bridge or walkway, looking up at the birds. The scene is captured from a low angle, emphasizing the height of the birds and the density of the flock.
- **Austin Urban Forest Plan**
 - **Connecting Children with Nature Initiative**
 - **Invasive Species Management Plan**
 - **Parks and Recreation Department Long Range Plan**
 - **Watershed Protection Master Plan**

Other Relevant Austin Initiatives

Staff Recommendation

Support efforts to integrate nature into the City and officially support the City of Austin joining the Biophilic Cities Network.

Thank You

Lucia Athens, Office of Sustainability
Leah Haynie, Urban Forest Division, DSD

Nature in the City - Austin is on Facebook
www.facebook.com/naturallyatx