

# The History of the Waterfront Overlay Combining District

**DRAFT**

Small Area Planning Joint Committee

August 3 , 2016







**2000**





**Soon**





1887





**1910s**







492-84

Austin  
American  
Statesman

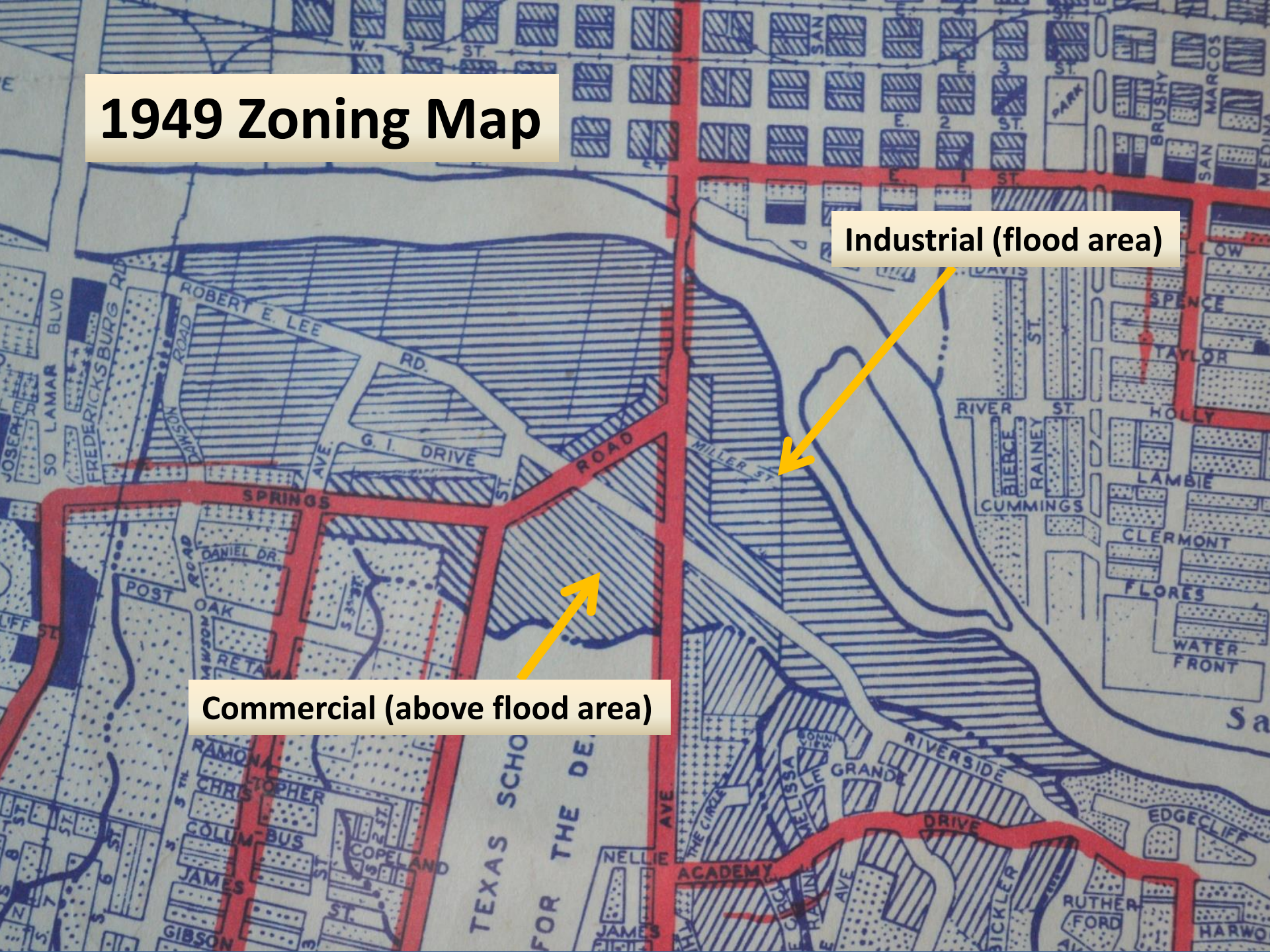
1951



# 1949 Zoning Map

Industrial (flood area)

Commercial (above flood area)





- Longhorn Dam completed
- Town Lake created
- Lake level constant and banks defined

**You Are Here**



**1960**



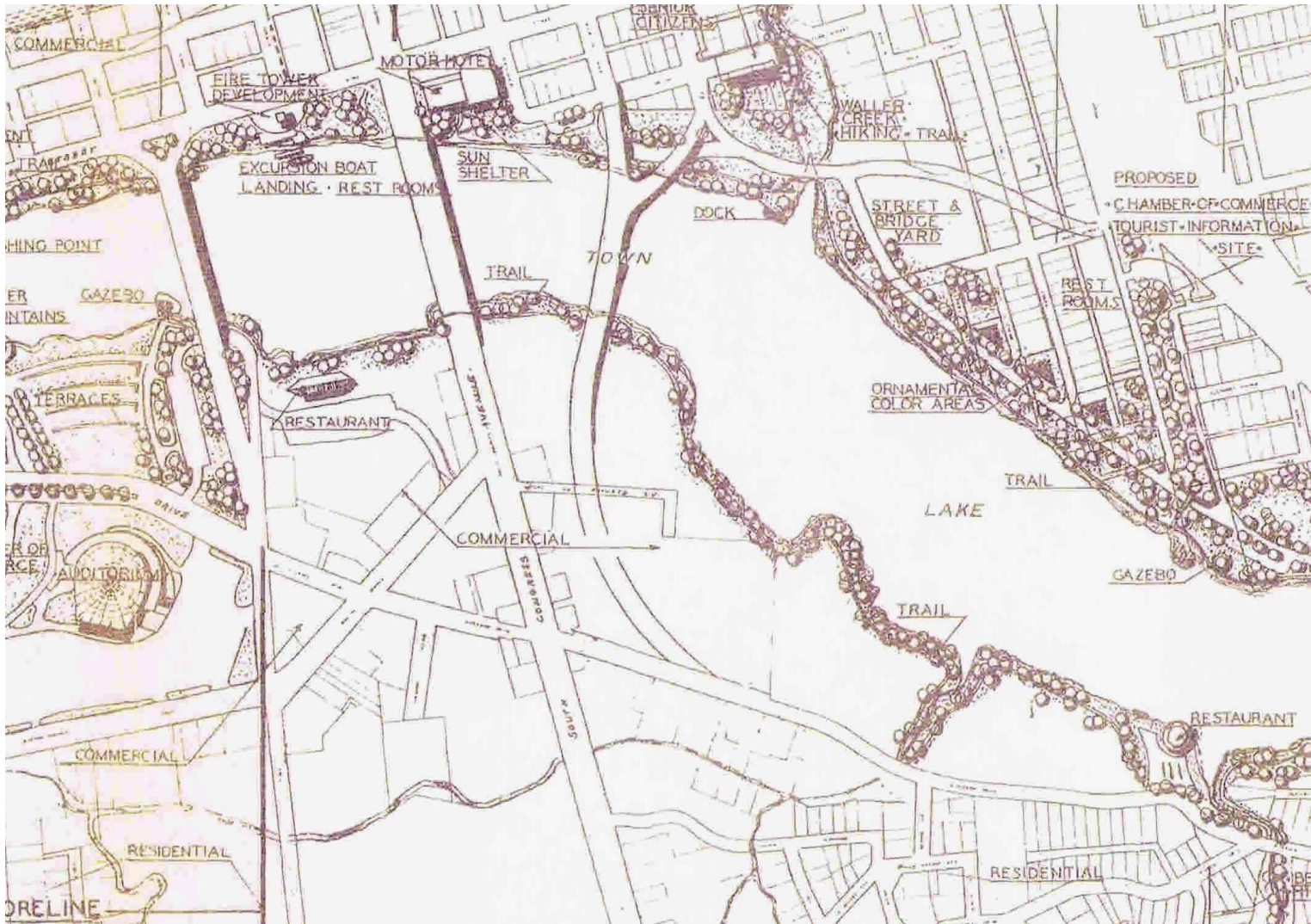
# 1968

## TOWN LAKE COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN



Original 1964 Town Lake Trail Master Plan





Lakeside trail

Lakeside  
restaurants

New roads  
and a new  
bridge to  
downtown



# Early Trail Planning: 1970s



Planting Town Lake's first tree  
Feb 11, 1966



Lady Bird Johnson



Walking Bridge April 1972



Biking on the Trail 1975





1977



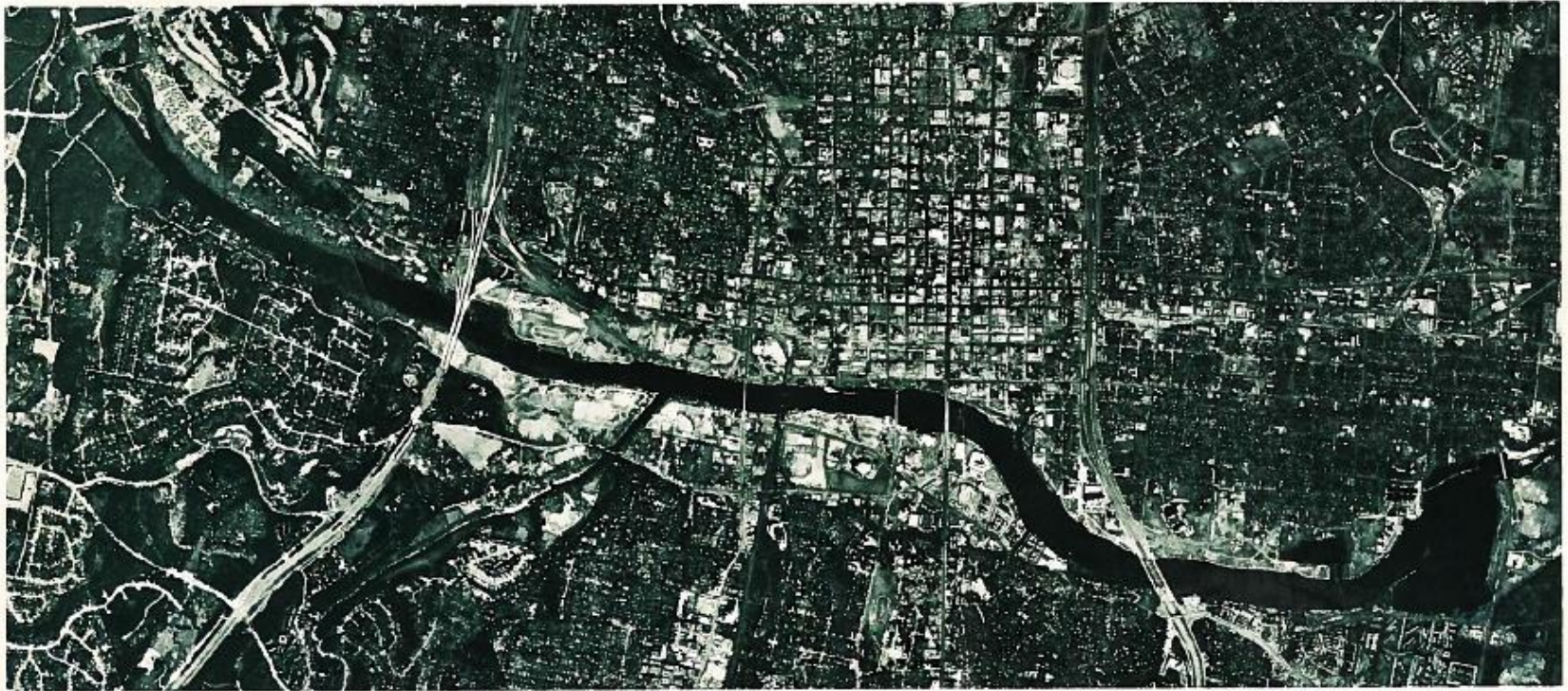


**1984**



October, 1985

# TOWN LAKE CORRIDOR STUDY





# Town Lake Corridor Study

- Created by the Town Lake Task Force
- Preceded by a 90-day moratorium on development w/in 1,000 feet of the lake
- Spring 1985 report by Austin Chamber of Commerce called for land around town lake to a “Great Park” along the lines of Golden Gate Park and Central Park
- Town Lake Corridor Study conducted from June/October



# Corridor Study Organization

- **Introduction**
- **Town Lake**
  - Inventory / Analysis / Existing Conditions
  - Goals and Policies
  - Town Lake subzones
- **Colorado River**
  - Inventory / Analysis / Existing Conditions
  - Goals and Policies
- **Summary and Implementation**
  - Conclusions / Action Priorities / Future Planning



# Corridor Study Objectives

- Determine the City's goals for Town Lake and the Colorado River
- Document methods by which the City controls, enhances, plans and directs activities in the Town Lake and Colorado River corridor
- Develop a framework for future development and appearance of the waterfront

# Corridor Study Goals

- Water quality
- Land Use
- Zoning
- Access
- Parklands
- Creeks
- Natural and cultural resources
- Recreation suitability and potential



# Corridor Study Organization

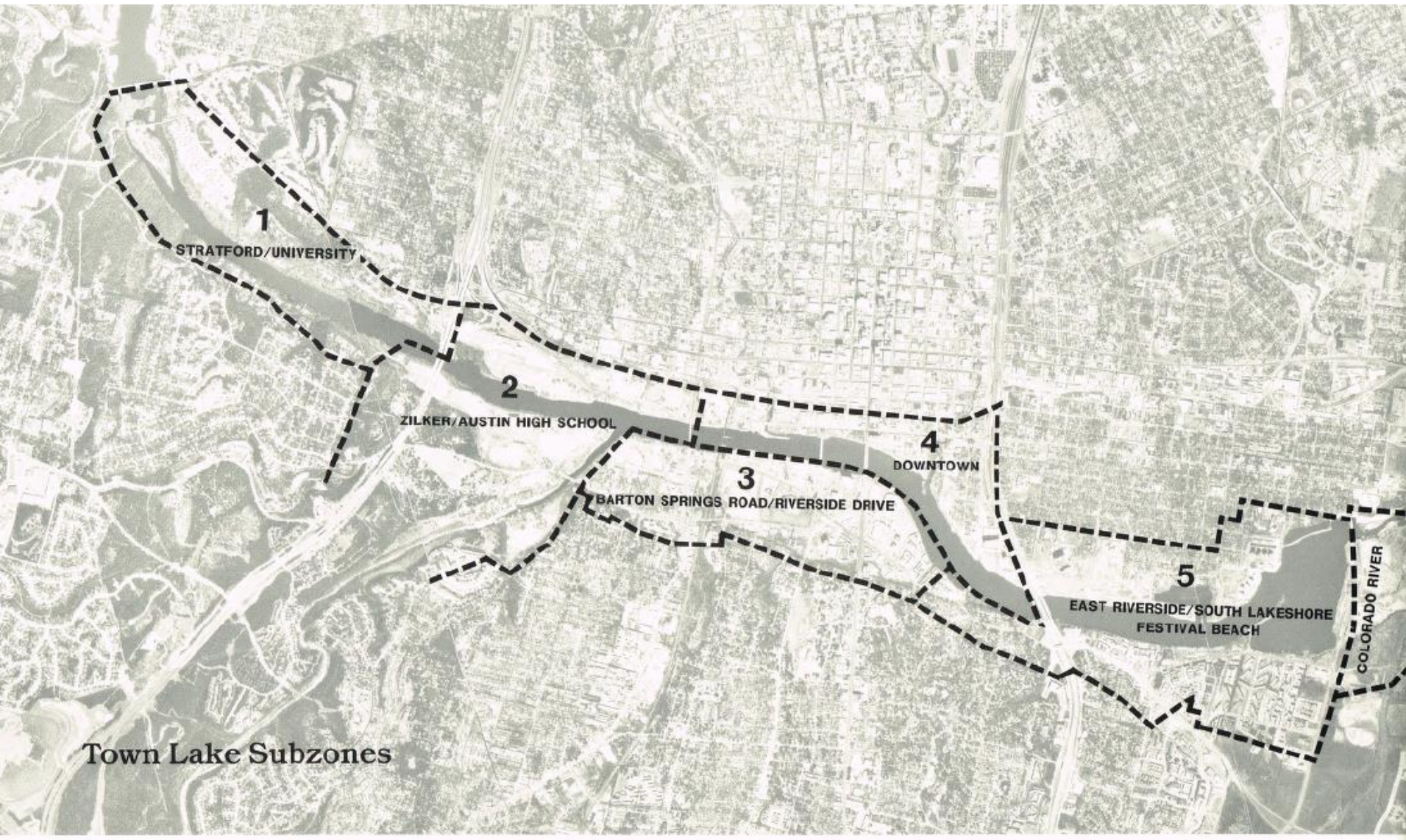
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# Corridor Study Goals

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# Town Lake Subzones



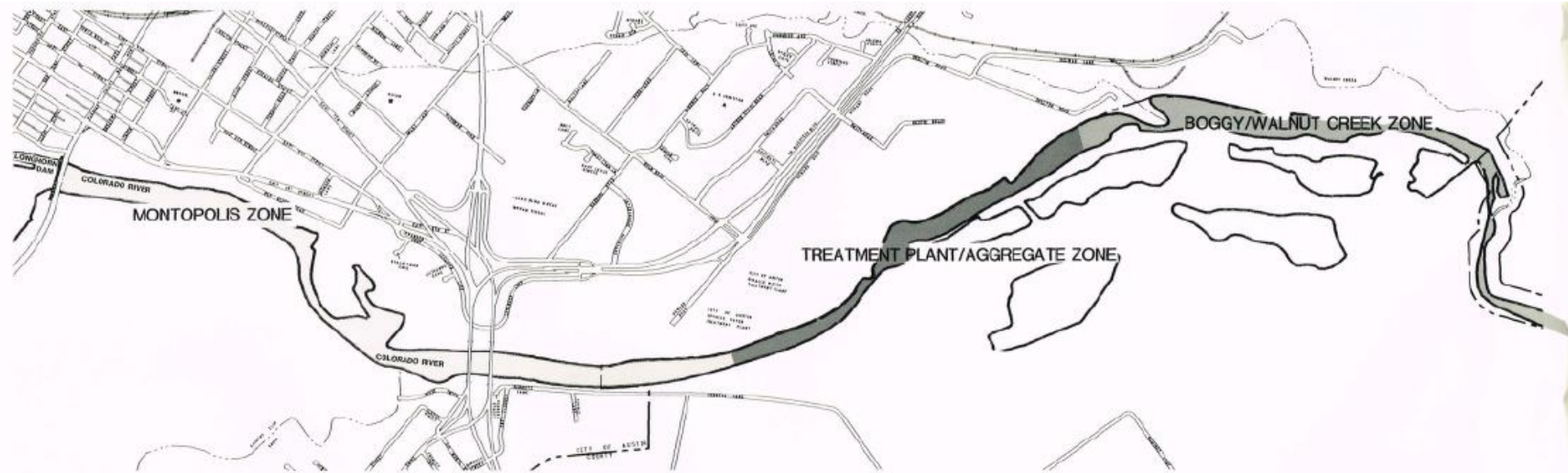
# Summary and Implementation

## Town Lake

- Significant social and economic resource
- Current policies inadequate
- Current trends not creating desired form
- Sense of urgency to change regulations
- Mixed use and pedestrian development
- More attention given to creeks
- Improve water quality



# Colorado River Subzones



## Colorado River Subzones

# Summary and Implementation

## Colorado River

- Excellent recreational opportunities
- Improve public access
- Stop illegal dumping
- Flood danger due to dam releases
- Upstream Highland Lakes pollution
- Preserve Capitol view from the south shore
- Review permitting for gravel and sand extraction



# Future Planning

- Urgent need for comprehensive planning program
- Systems planning approach needed
- Town Lake could be catalyst for superior urban design
- Austinites should be involved in planning decisions
- Cross-agency planning approach needed for the Colorado River

