

Onion Creek Flood Mitigation Feasibility Study

May 16, 2017

City of Austin
Watershed Protection Department

Meeting Agenda

- Project Team
- Background & Risk
- Alternatives Analysis
 - Final Alternatives considered
 - Evaluation Criteria
- Key Issues & Next Steps
- Q & A



Project Team

- **Watershed Protection Department**

- Mike Personett, Assistant Director
- Pam Kearfott, P.E., Supervising Engineer
- Karl McArthur, P.E., Supervising Engineer
- Kacey Paul, P.E., Engineer C

- **Halff Associates**

- Michael Moya, P.E., Vice President
- Cindy Engelhardt, P.E., Austin Water Resources Lead
- Ashley Lowrie, Water Resources Engineer

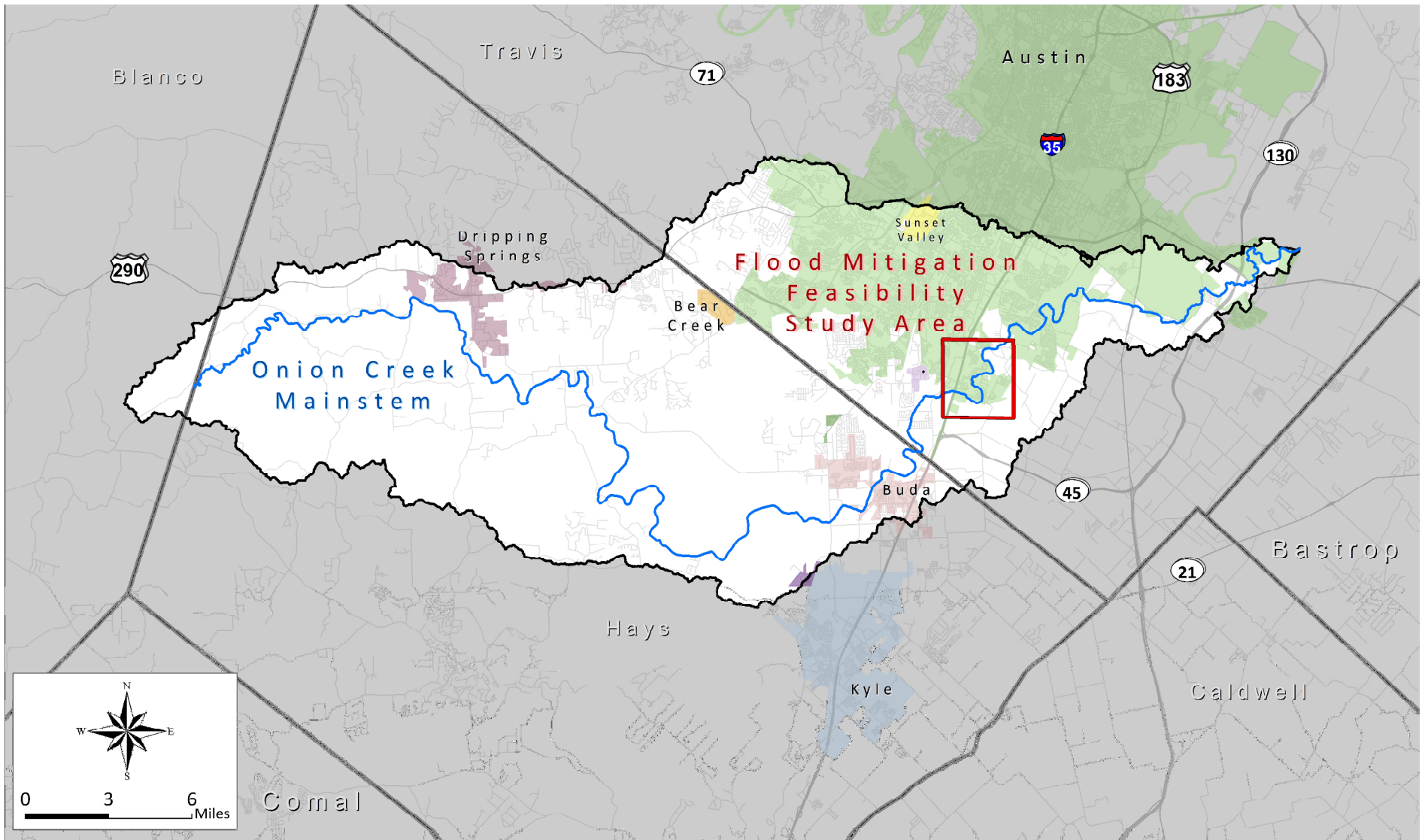
A black and white photograph of a residential street completely flooded with water. In the background, there are large trees and a house with a stone chimney. A street lamp is visible. On the right, a white car is partially submerged. In the foreground, a utility pole and some bushes are in the water. A large blue rectangular box with a fine grid pattern is centered over the image, containing the title text.

Background & Risk

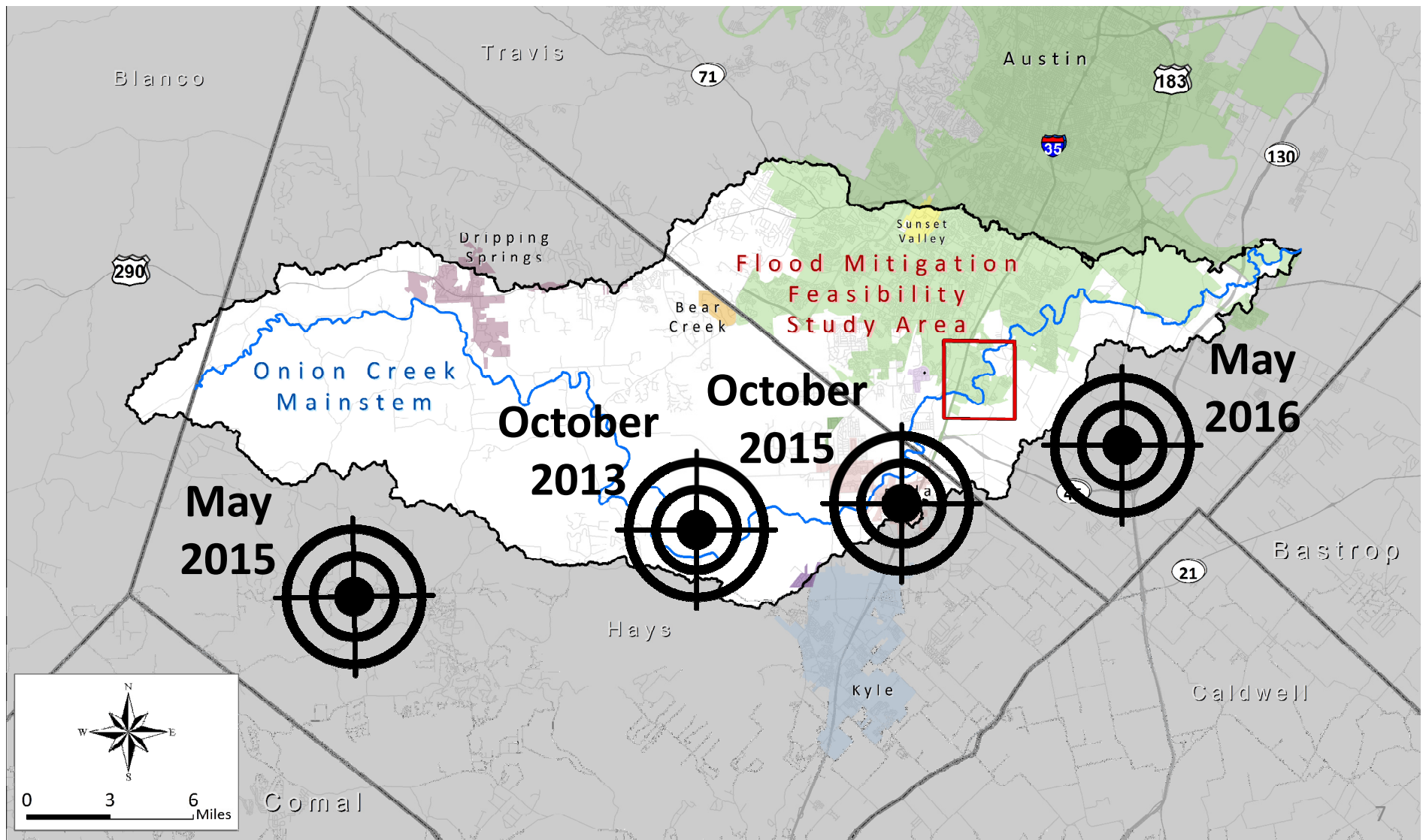
Flood Risk

Amount of rainfall (24 hour)	Houses at risk in project area	Houses at risk citywide	Category of flood	Chance of occurring in any year
3.4 inches	0	50	2-year	50%
7.6 inches	0	900	25-year	4%
10.2 inches	139	2,400	100-year	1%

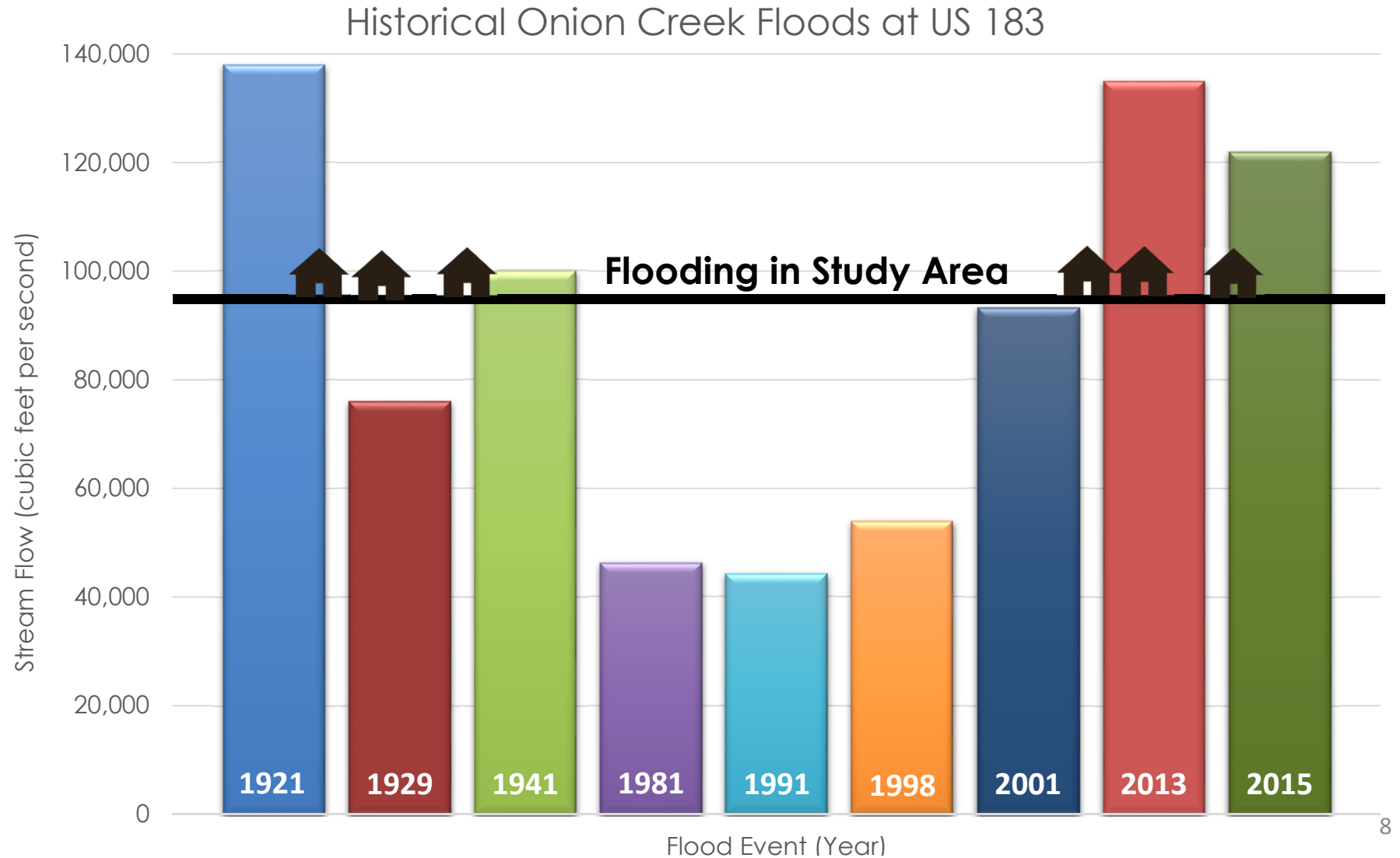
Onion Creek Watershed



Risk: Where the rain falls matters

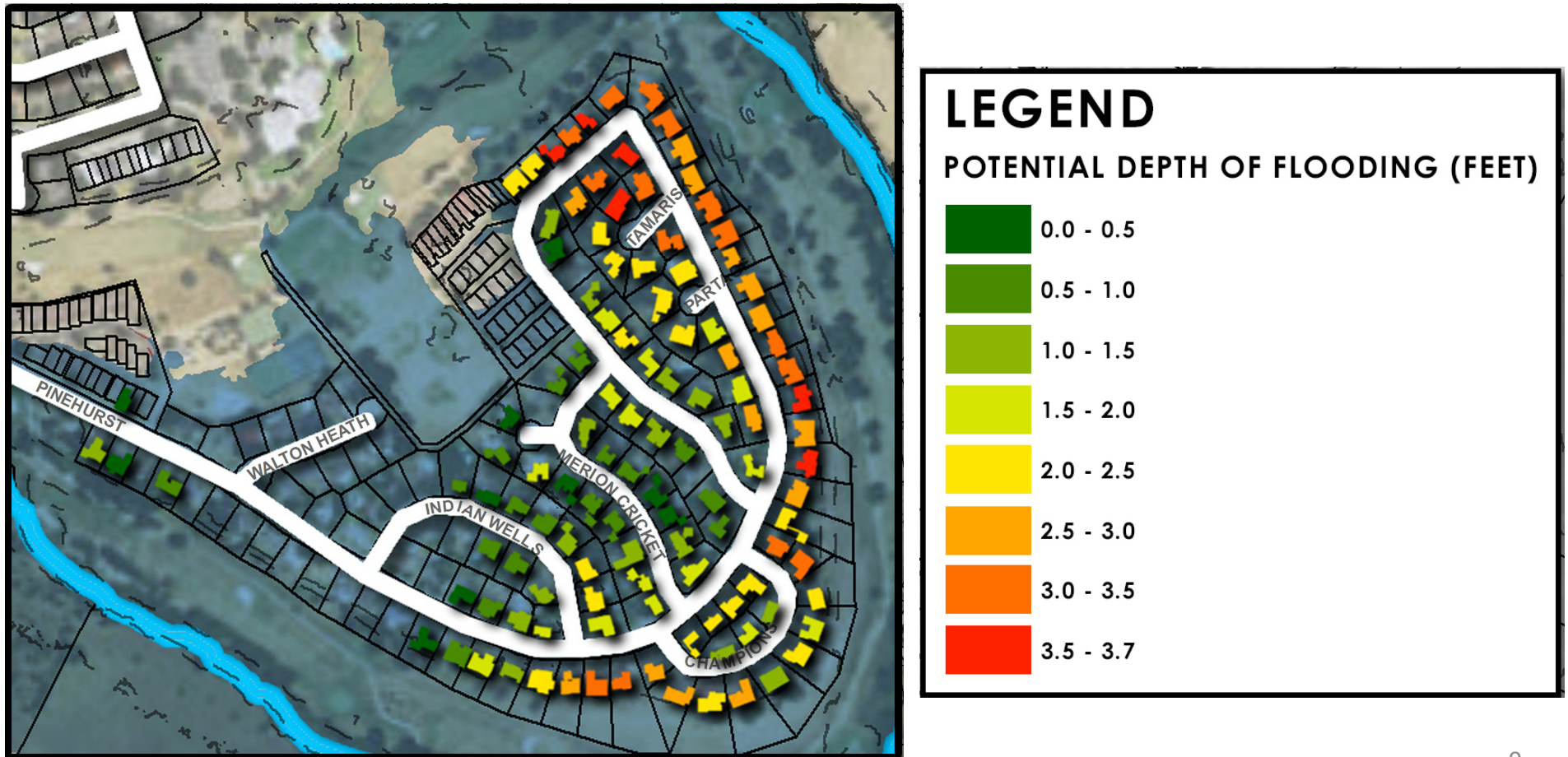


Risk: How much rain matters



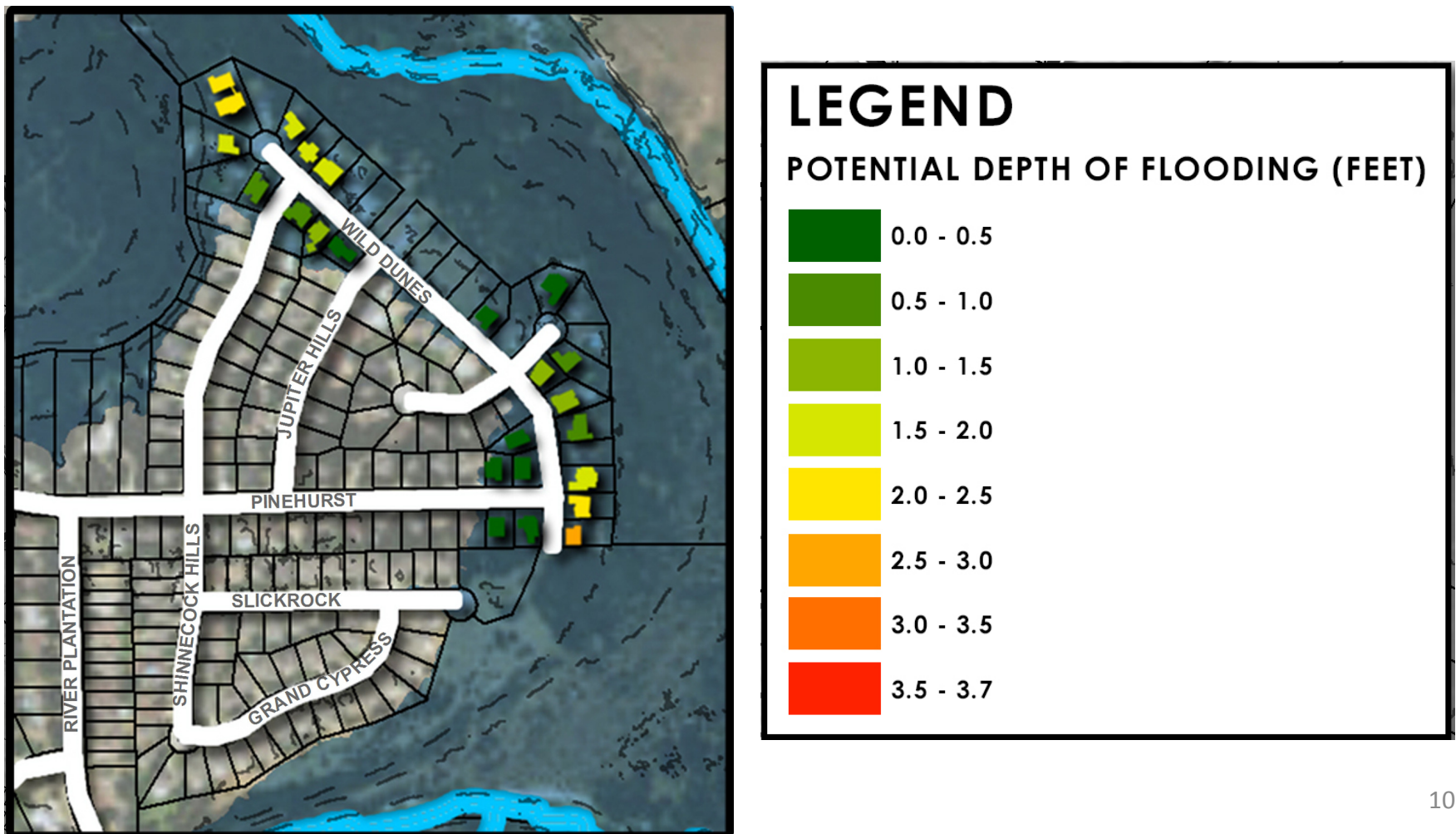
Existing Condition 100-year Flood Risk

- Pinehurst Neighborhood (116 houses at risk)



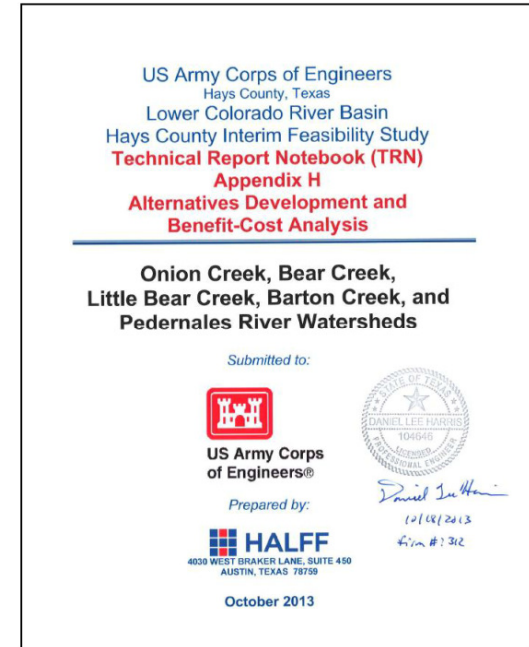
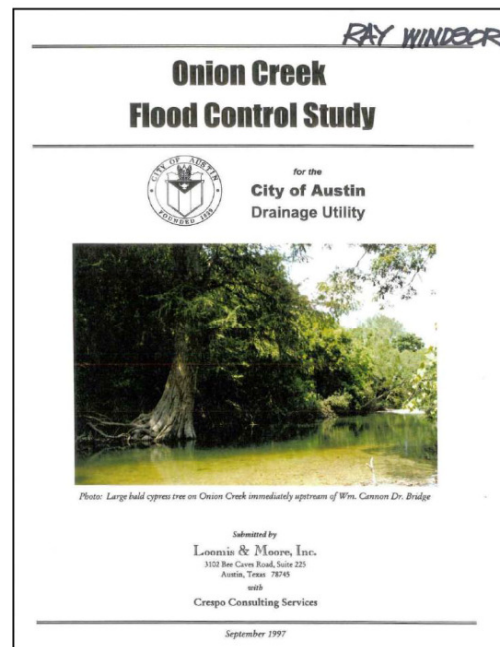
Existing Condition 100-year Flood Risk

- Wild Dunes Neighborhood (23 houses at risk)



Previous Studies

- 1997 – Loomis and Moore
- 2006 – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- 2013 – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Hays County



A black and white photograph of a residential street completely flooded with water. In the background, there are large trees and a house with a stone chimney. A street lamp is visible. On the right, a white car is partially submerged. In the foreground, a utility pole and some bushes are in the water. A large blue rectangular box with a fine grid pattern is centered over the image, containing the title text.

Alternatives Analysis

Final Alternatives Considered

- **Stand-Alone Options**

- Regional Detention Ponds
- Channel Clearing
- Voluntary Buyouts
 - Pinehurst Neighborhood
 - Wild Dunes Neighborhood

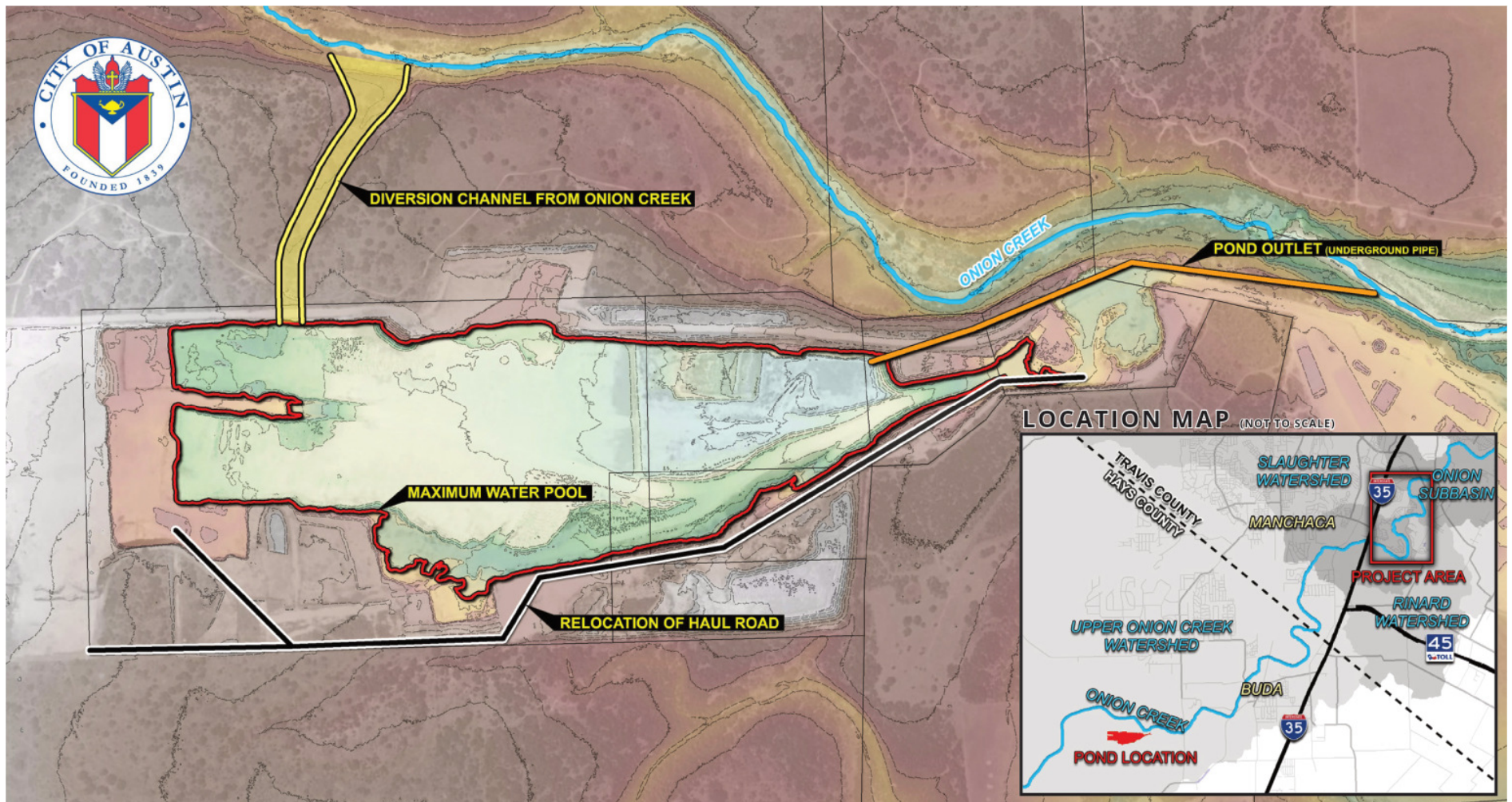
- **Combined Options**

- Centex West Detention Pond with Channel Modifications
- Pinehurst Flood Protection Wall with Voluntary Buyouts
- Pinehurst Flood Protection Wall with Channel Modifications

Evaluation Criteria

- Benefits & Costs
- Environmental Impacts
- Land & Easement Acquisition Required
- Complexity of Permitting
- Funding Constraints
- Time of Implementation
- Neighborhood Input

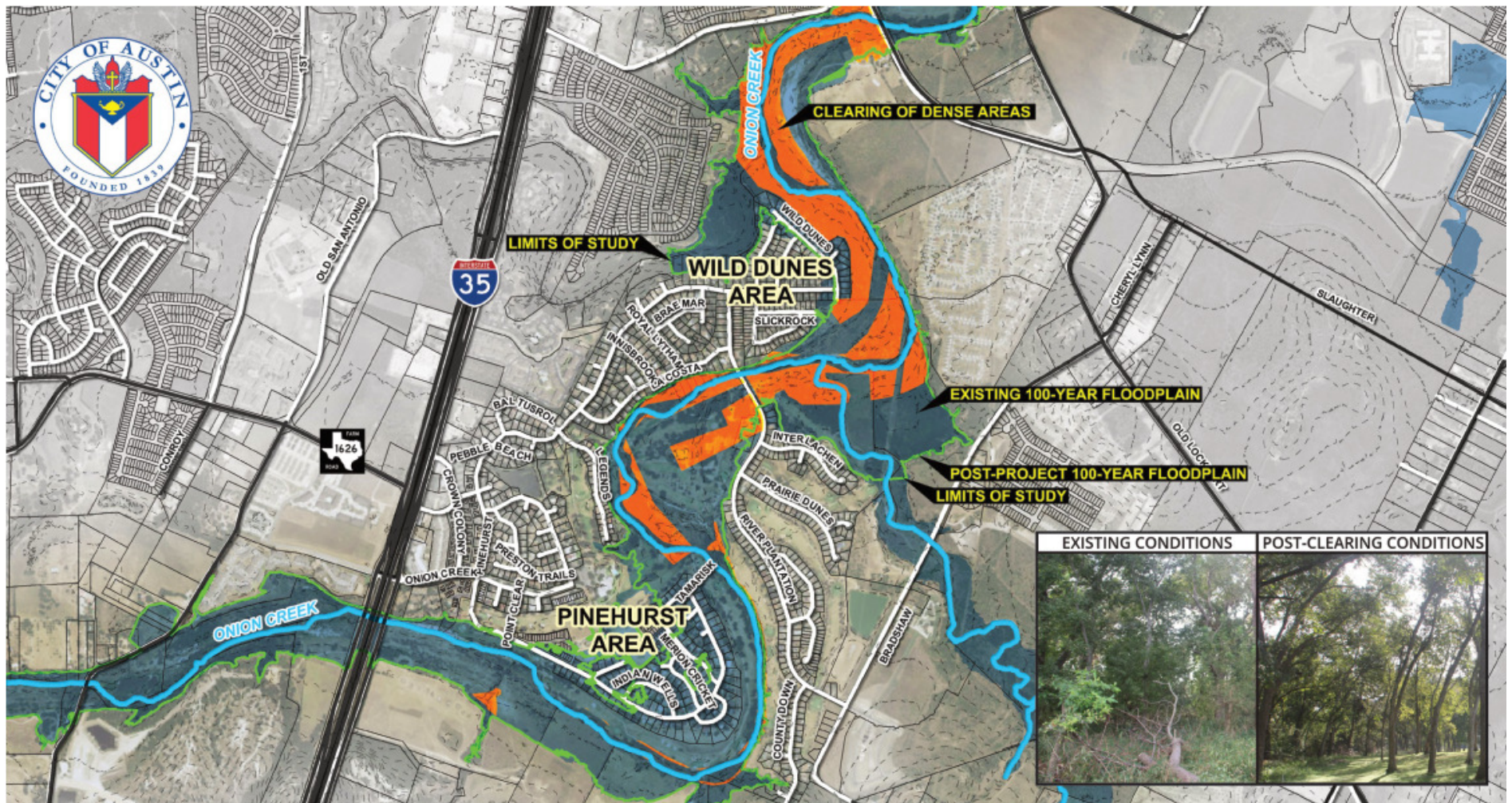
Centex West Regional Detention Pond



Centex West Regional Detention Pond

Project Cost	\$51 million
Time of Completion (if funded)	Over 10 years
Protected from 100-year flood	79 houses
Still at risk in 100-year flood	60 houses

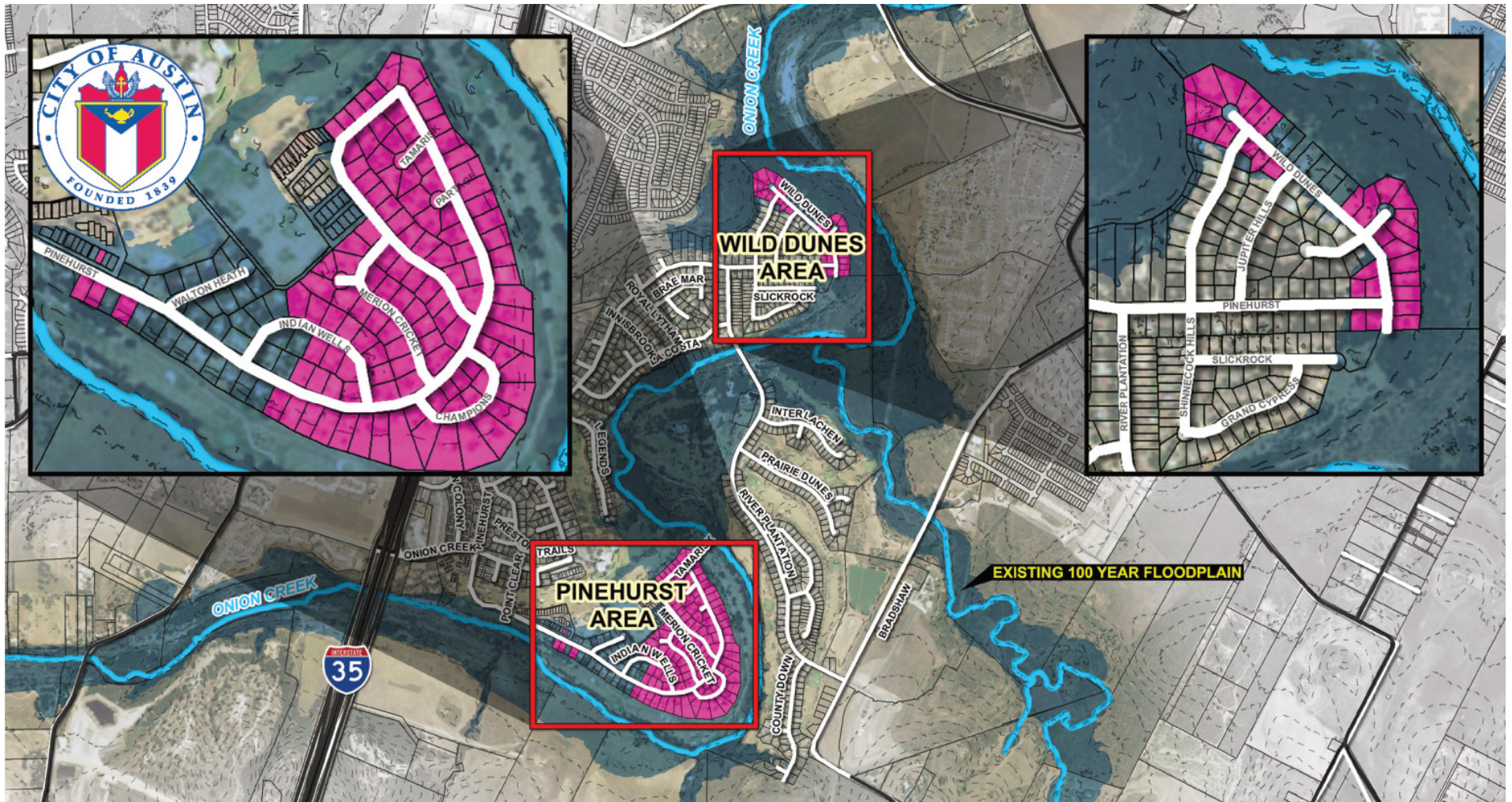
Channel Clearing



Channel Clearing

Project Cost	\$36 million
Time of Completion (if funded)	2 to 5 years (plus perpetual, intensive maintenance)
Protected from 100-year flood	52 houses
Still at risk in 100-year flood	87 houses

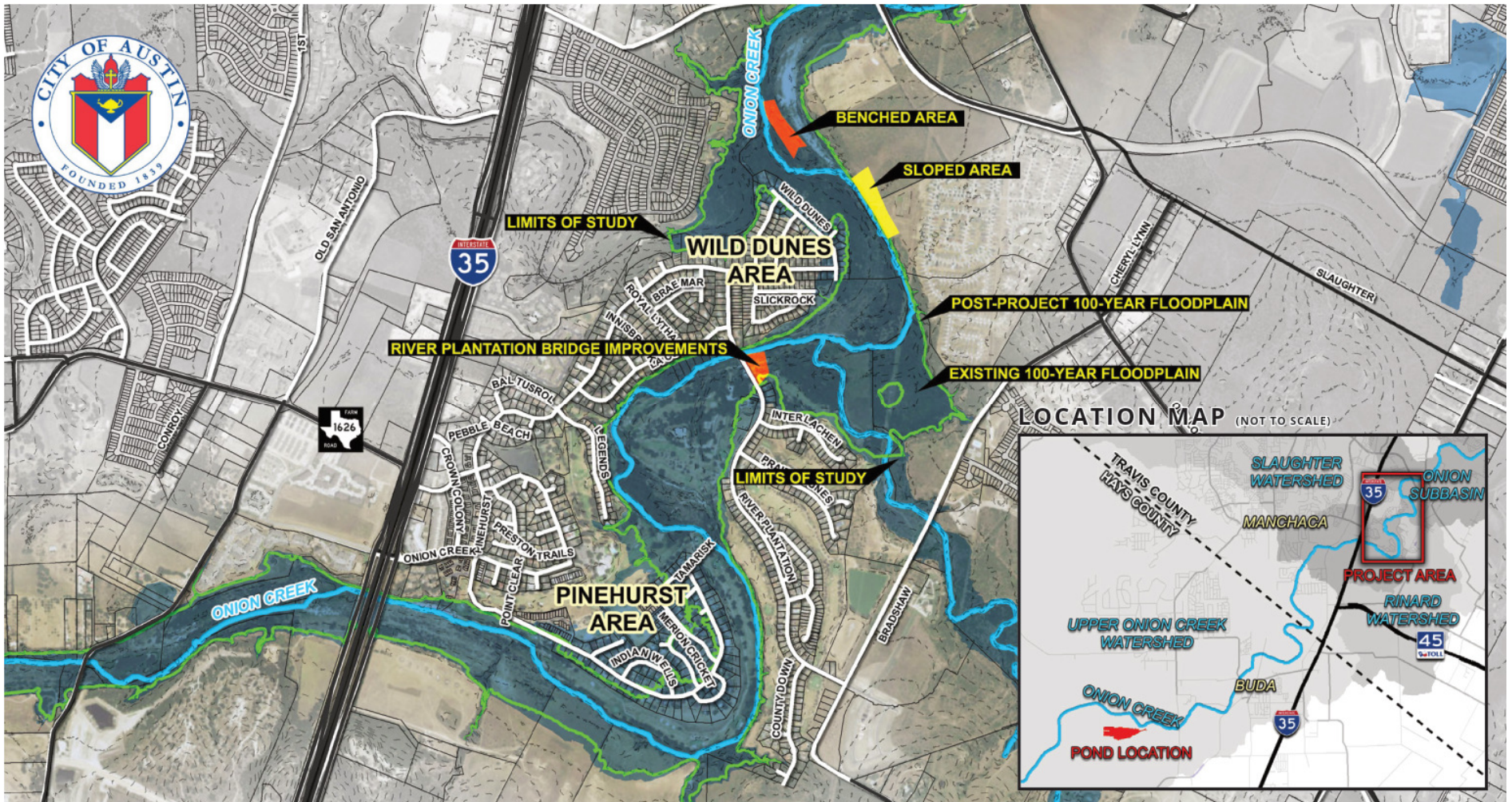
Voluntary Buyouts



Voluntary Buyouts

Project Cost	\$99 million
Time of Completion (if funded)	2 years
Protected from 100-year flood	139 houses
Still at risk in 100-year flood	0 houses

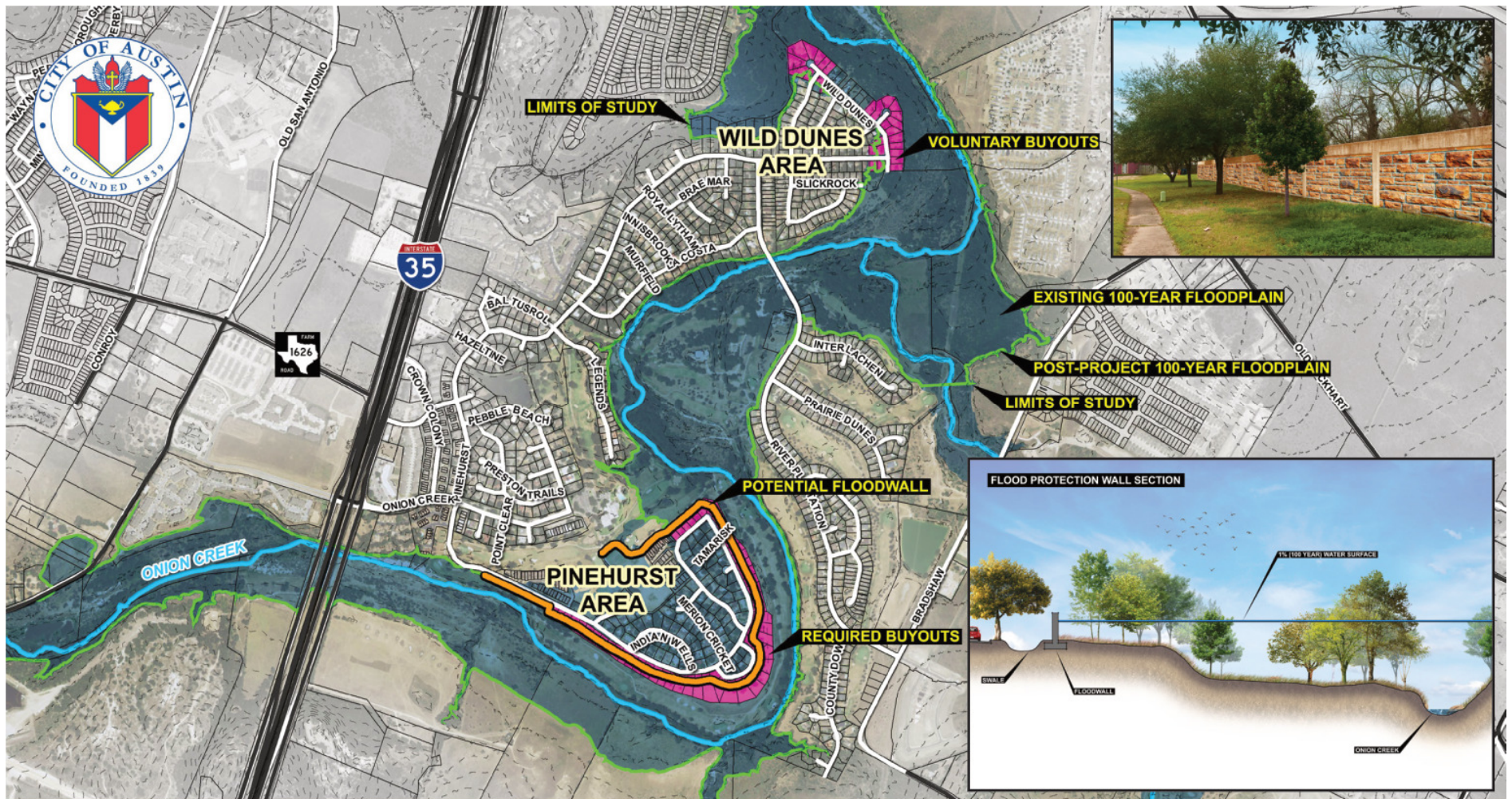
Centex West Detention Pond with Channel Modifications



Centex West Detention Pond with Channel Modifications

Project Cost	\$71 million
Time of Completion (if funded)	Over 10 years
Protected from 100-year flood	111 houses
Still at risk in 100-year flood	28 houses

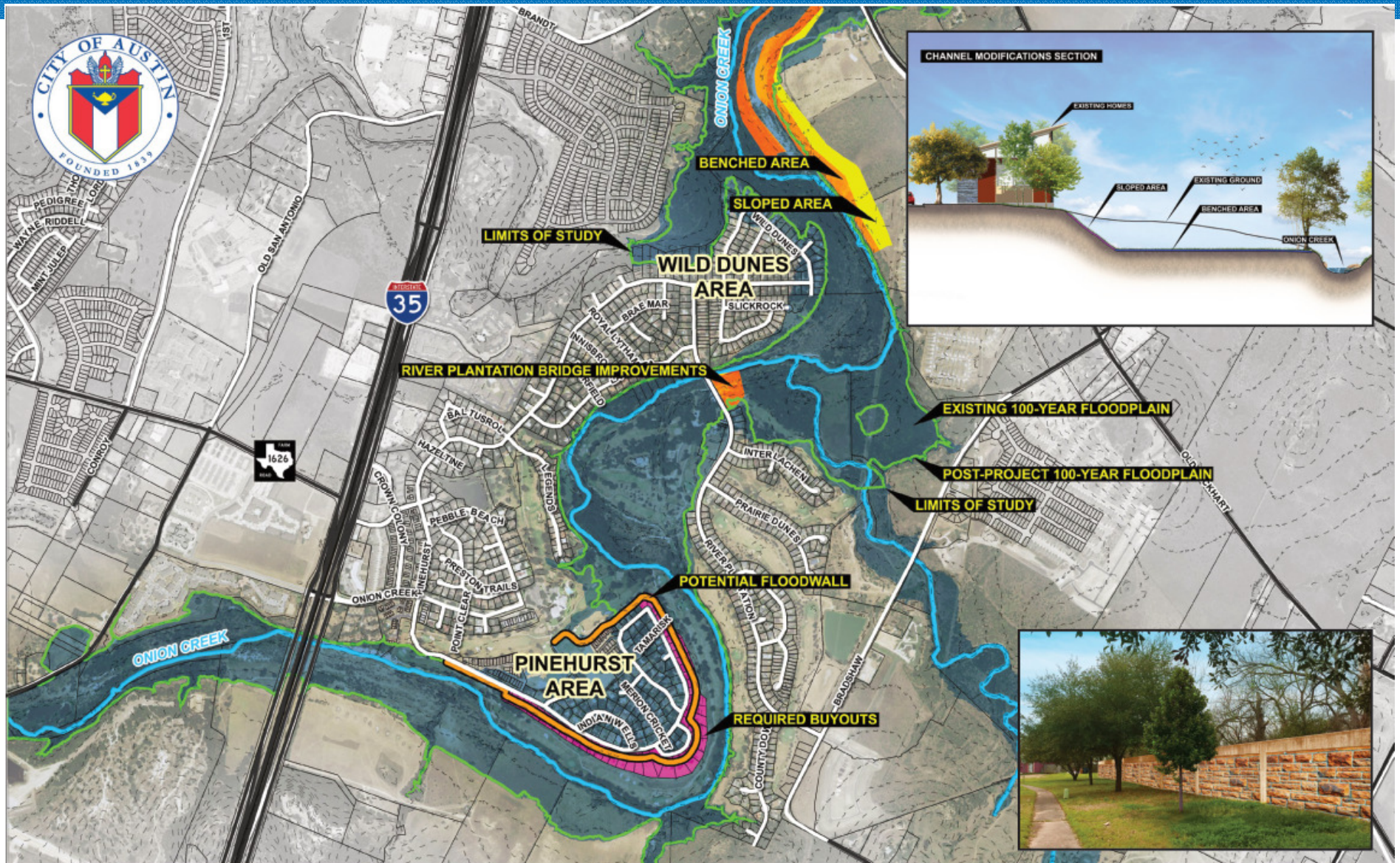
Pinehurst Flood Protection Wall with Voluntary Buyouts



Pinehurst Flood Protection Wall with Voluntary Buyouts

Project Cost	\$62 million
Time of Completion (if funded)	5 to 7 years
Protected from 100-year flood	139 houses
Still at risk in 100-year flood	0 houses

Pinehurst Flood Protection Wall with Channel Modifications



Pinehurst Flood Protection Wall with Channel Modifications

Project Cost	\$88 million
Time of Completion (if funded)	7 to 10 years
Protected from 100-year flood	139 houses
Still at risk in 100-year flood	0 houses

Evaluation Criteria

- Benefits & Costs
- Environmental Impacts
- Land & Easement Acquisition Required
- Complexity of Permitting
- Funding Constraints
- Time of Implementation
- Neighborhood Input

Criteria: Summary

Criteria	Best		Worst
Benefits and Costs	Wall with Buyouts	- Wall with Chl. Mods. Voluntary Buyouts	- Centex West Pond Pond with Chl. Mods. - Channel Clearing
Environmental Impacts	Voluntary Buyouts	- Centex West Pond Pond with Chl. Mods. - Wall with Buyouts	- Wall with Chl. Mods. - Channel Clearing
Time of Implementation	Voluntary Buyouts	- Wall with Buyouts - Wall with Chl. Mods. - Channel Clearing	- Centex West Pond Pond with Chl. Mods.
Land Acquisition Required	Voluntary Buyouts	- Wall with Buyouts - Wall with Chl. Mods.	- Centex West Pond Pond with Chl. Mods. - Channel Clearing
Complexity of Permitting	Voluntary Buyouts	- Wall with Buyouts - Wall with Chl. Mods. - Channel Clearing	- Centex West Pond Pond with Chl. Mods.
Neighborhood Input	- Centex West Pond Pond with Chl. Mods. - Channel Clearing	- Wall with Chl. Mods. Voluntary Buyouts	Wall with Buyouts
Funding Constraints	Voluntary Buyouts	Pond with Chl. Mods. - Wall with Buyouts - Wall with Chl. Mods. - Channel Clearing	Centex West Pond

A black and white photograph of a residential street completely flooded with water. In the background, there are large trees and a house with a stone chimney. A street lamp is visible. In the foreground, a utility pole is partially submerged in the water. A large blue rectangular box with a fine grid pattern is centered over the image, containing the title text in white.

Key Issues & Next Steps

Key Issues

Level of Protection

(Benefit vs. Cost)

Funding Limitations

- Ineligible for federal and state funding
- City sources:
 - Drainage Utility Fund (City Council approval)
 - Bonds (City Council and/or voter approval)

Time of Implementation

Next Steps

**Finalize
feasibility
study**

**Present to
Environmental
Commission
subcommittee**

June 7th

**Present to
City Council**

Questions?

City of Austin Watershed Protection Department

Karl McArthur

(512) 974-9126

karl.mcArthur@austintexas.gov

Pam Kearfott

(512) 974-3361

pam.kearfott@austintexas.gov

Website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/onioncreekstudy>

