



Austin's Community Tree Preservation Division

December 12, 2018

Michael Embesi, Community Tree Preservation Division Manager
Development Services Department

Outline

- **Environmental History**
- **Austin's Trees**
- **Conservation Challenges**
- **City Services and Personnel**
- **Opportunities**



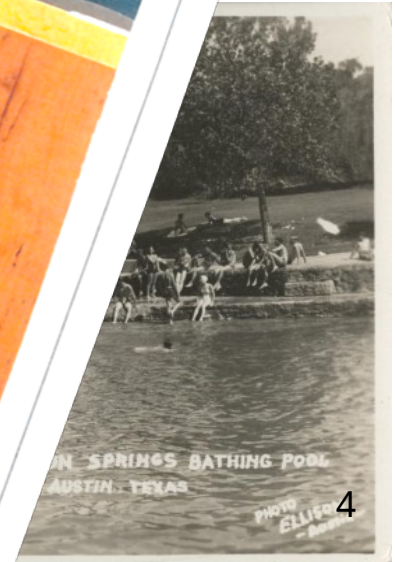
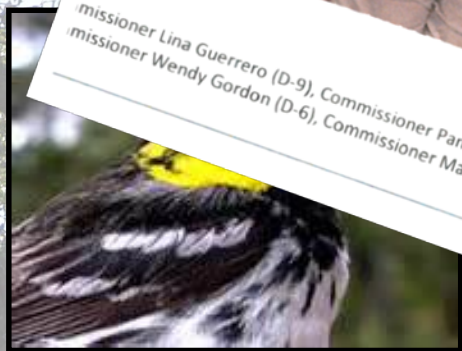
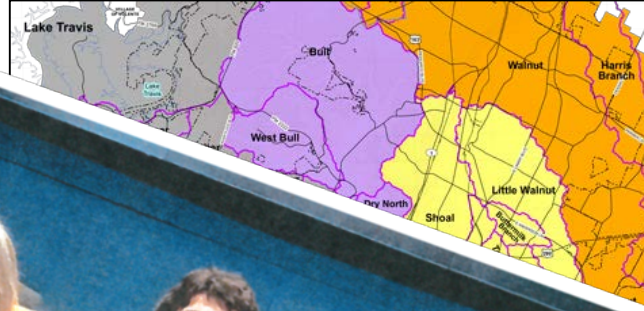
Environmental Legacy

Urban Forest Context



Environmental Legacy

Urban Forest Context



Austin's Urban Forest

Tree Initiatives

- Tree Preservation Ordinance (1983)
- Urban Heat Island Resolution (2004)
- Tree and Landscape Ordinance Analysis (2004)
- Tree Task Force (2006)
- Climate Change Initiative (2007)
- Urban Forestry and Environmental Boards Resolution (2008)
- Tree Summit Recommendations (2009)
- Heritage Tree Ordinance (2010)
- Urban Forest Plan (2013)
- Legislative Special Session (2017)



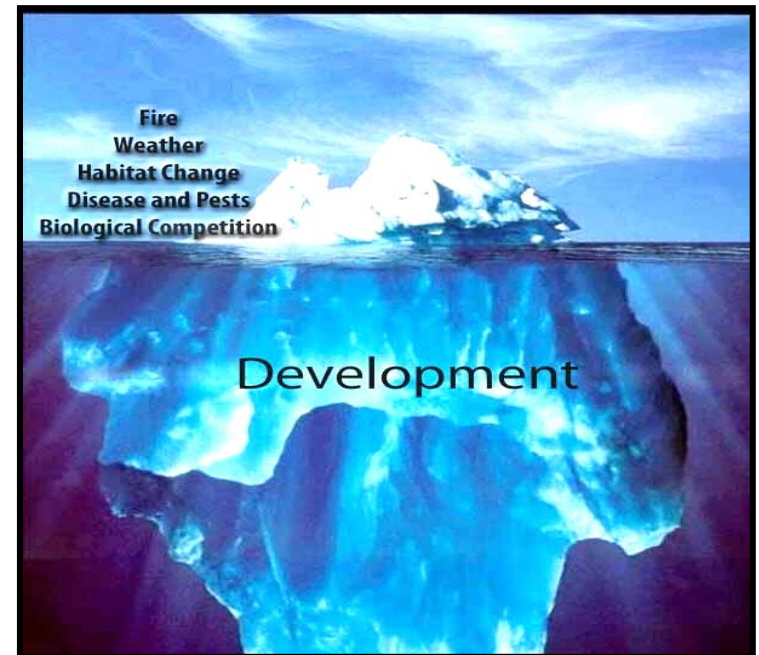
Urban Forest Principles

- ❖ Ensure public health, safety, and welfare
- ❖ Public and private property
- ❖ Conserving by preservation, care and maintenance, and replanting
- ❖ Resilient to all potential changes
- ❖ Expedient and consistent
- ❖ Healthy diversity of size and species
- ❖ Protecting Austin's history and character

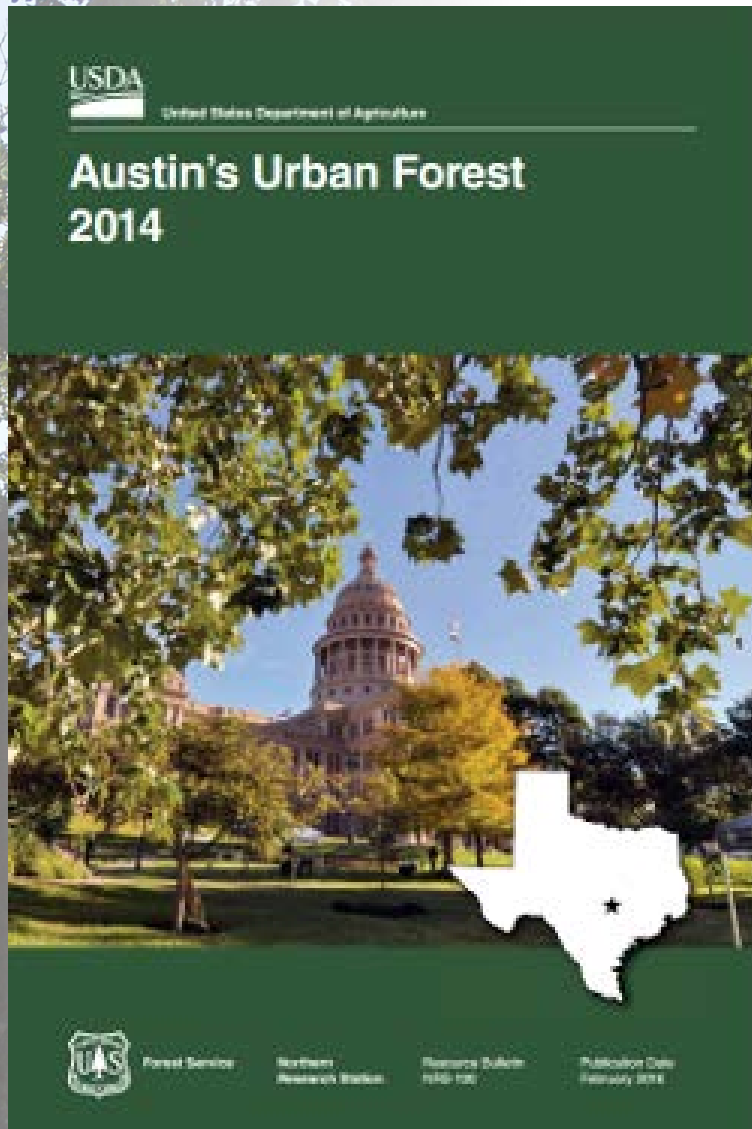


Large Scale Challenges

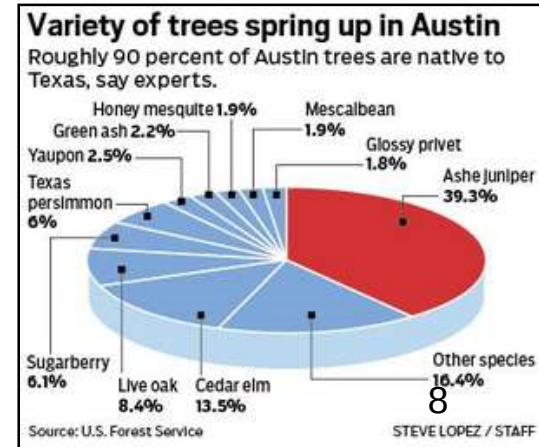
- Growth/Urbanism
- Climate Changes
- Public Relations
- Property Rights



Urban Forest Inventory Assessment



- First-of-a-kind
- Urban forest structure/value
 1. 34 million trees
 2. 92% native
 3. 31% canopy coverage
 4. Avg tree trunk is 5-inches
 5. Most common species
Ashe Juniper, Cedar Elm
Live Oak, Hackberry
- Compensatory value \$16 billion
- Insect/disease threats
- Management/budget decisions
- Accessible data



City of Austin's Urban Forestry Functions



Maintenance & Operations

PARD Forestry



PW Street Tree Program



AE Utility Foresters



WPD Creek Maintenance



AFD Wildfire Division



Preserving, Planning & Promoting

Community Tree Preservation Division



...to support the best managed city in the country, is to uphold the community's values by providing an effective and fair system to plan, preserve and replenish trees



CITY OF AUSTIN Development SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Building a Better and Safer Austin Together

Rodney Gonzales
Director

Andrew Linseisen P.E.
Assistant Director

Michael Embesi
EV Policy Pgrm. Mgr.
Division Manager

Shelly Miller
Administrative Sr.

COMMUNITY TREE PRESERVATION DIVISION
WE CARE ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY, OUR ENVIRONMENT,
AND THE VIBRANCY OF AUSTIN

KEITH MARS
CITY ARBORIST

City Arborist Program

Urban Forestry Program

EMILY KING
URBAN FORESTER

ENFORCEMENT

RESIDENTIAL TREE INSPECTION

COMMERCIAL TREE REVIEW

RESIDENTIAL TREE REVIEW

DATA & FORESTRY INTELLIGENCE

FOREST HEALTH RESOURCES

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Daniel Priest
EV Compliance
Specialist Sr.

Douglas Dear
EV Compliance
Supervisor

EV Program
Coordinator

Jim Dymkowski
EV Program
Coordinator

Christopher Dolph
Research Analyst

Alan Haller
IT Geospatial
Analyst Sr.

April Rose
EV Program
Coordinator

Leah Haynie
Community Info &
Planning Manager

Lynn Tazzer
Program Specialist
25%

Levi Singleton
EV Inspection
Specialist Sr.

Patti Dodson
EV Review
Specialist Sr.

Dylan Bahoosh
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Specialist Sr.

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Planner 1

Keith Babberne
Forester

Jason Traweek
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Coordinator

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Conservation Program
Coordinator

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Specialist Sr.

Cynthia Pedraza
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Specialist Sr.

David Michael
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Specialist Sr.
Expedited Review

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Senior Planner

Joanna Dwyer
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Program Coordinator
Temporary

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Specialist Sr.
FY19

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Specialist, DAC

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Specialist

Planner II

Caitlin Campbell
EV Review
Specialist

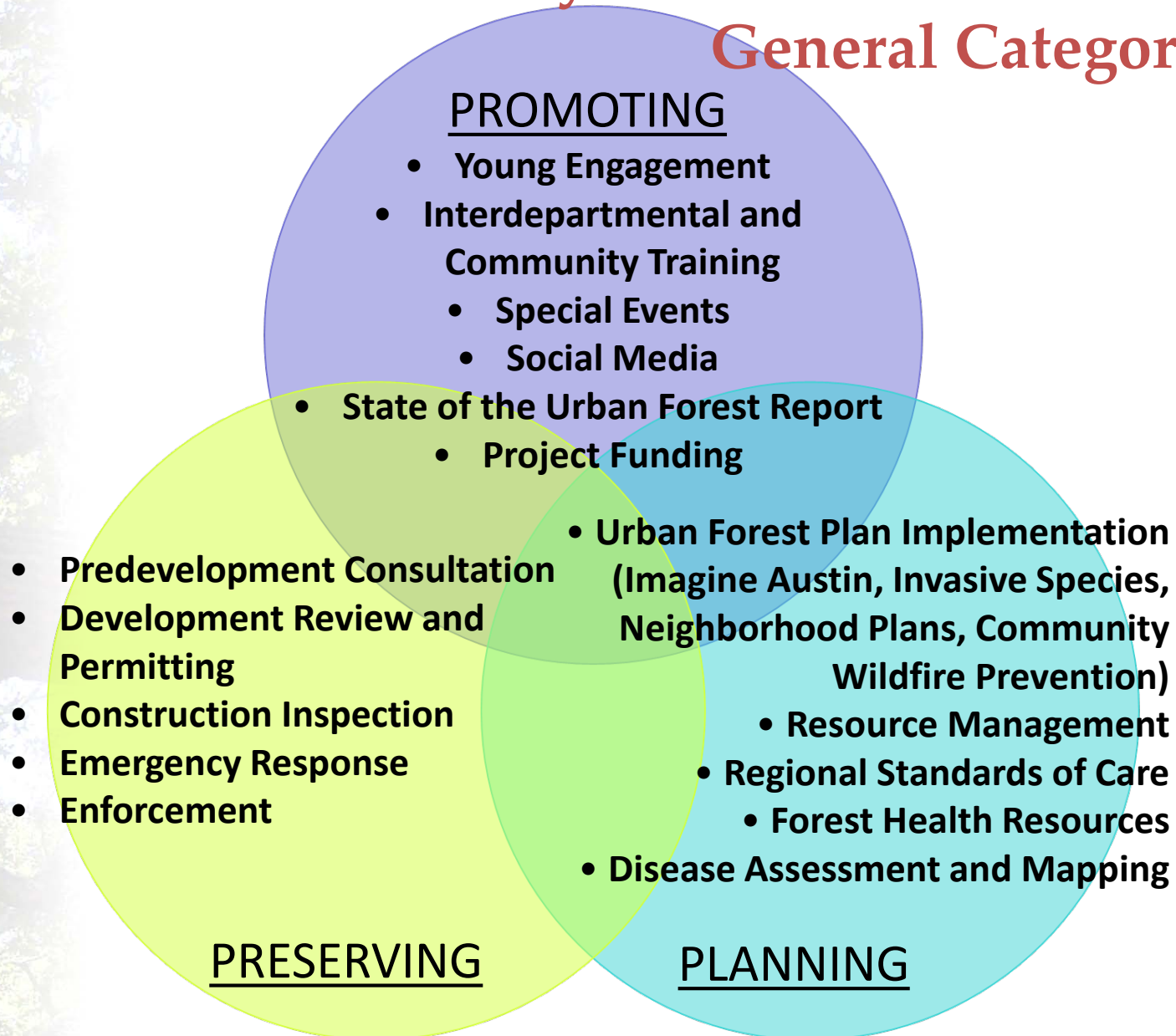
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Specialist Sr.
Expedited Review

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Specialist
FY 19

Nathan Lowery
EV Review
Specialist

Community Tree Preservation Division

General Categorization





CITY OF AUSTIN Development SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Building a Better and Safer Austin Together

General Configuration

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Temporary

PRESERVING

PLANNING

PROMOTING



CITY OF AUSTIN
Development
SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Building a Better and Stronger Austin Together

General Configuration

Enterprise Funds

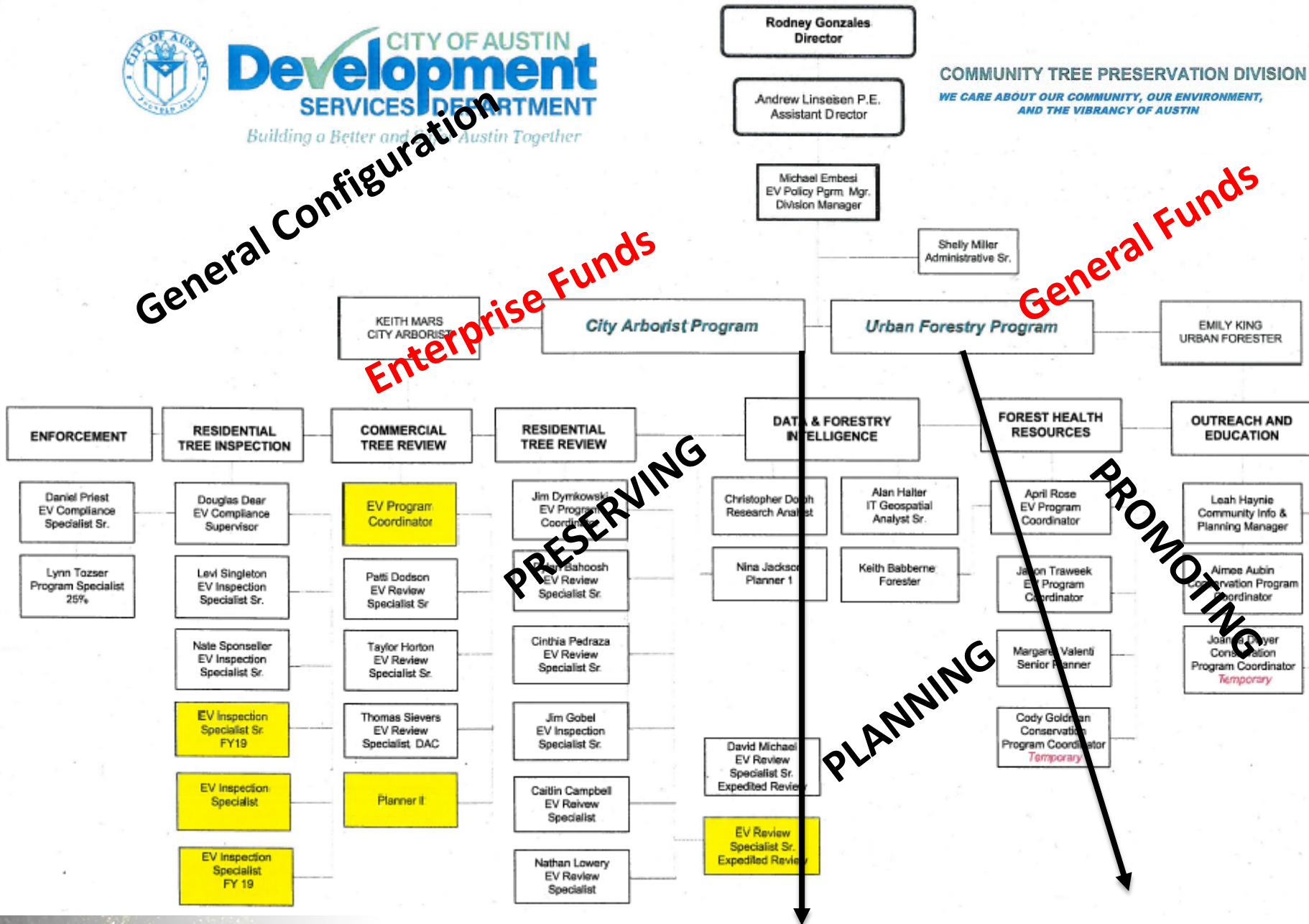
PRESERVING

COMMUNITY TREE PRESERVATION DIVISION
*WE CARE ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY, OUR ENVIRONMENT,
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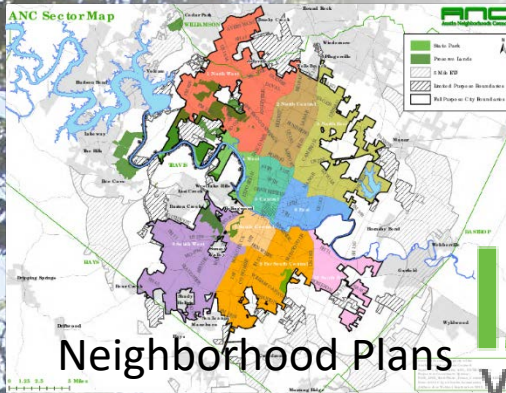
General Funds

PLANNING

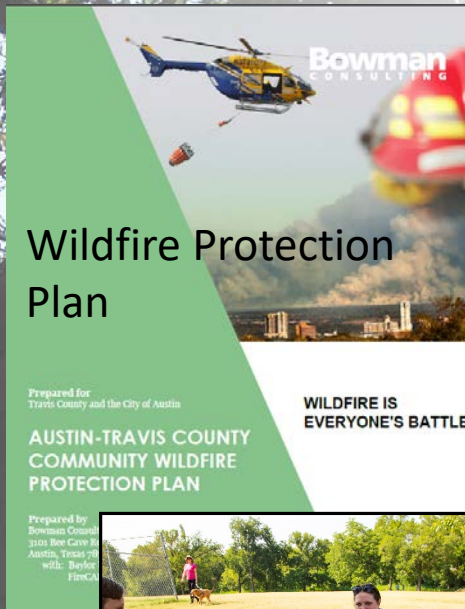
PROMOTING



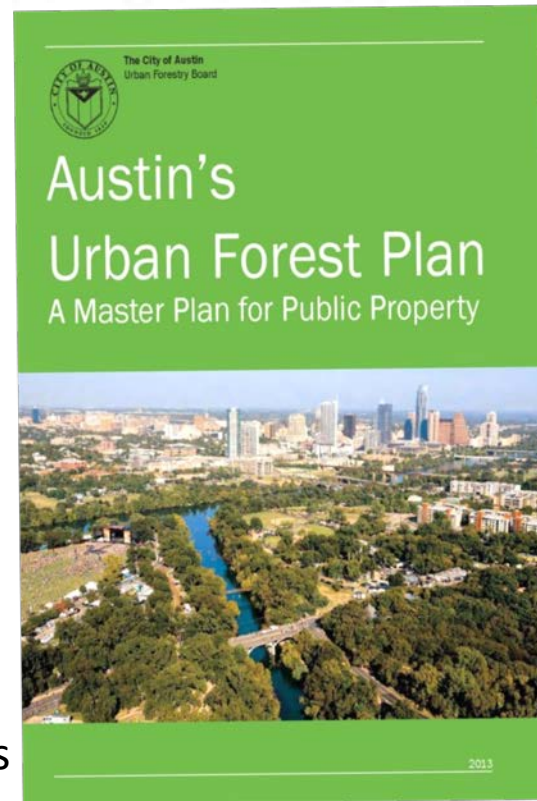
Plan Implementation



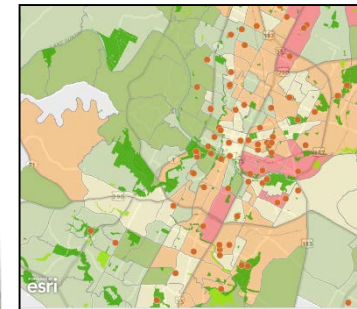
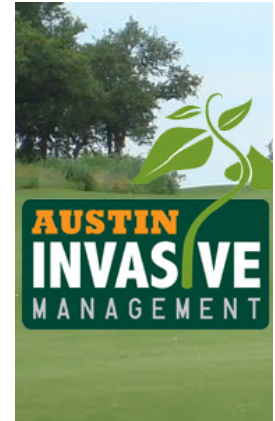
IMAGINEAUSTON
Vibrant. Livable. Connected.



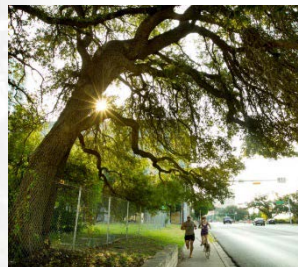
Urban Trails Plan



Urban Forest Plan



Planting
Prioritization
Plan



Complete Streets



Youth Engagement Plan

Promotion and Outreach



informative



accessible



nature-based



Promotion and Outreach



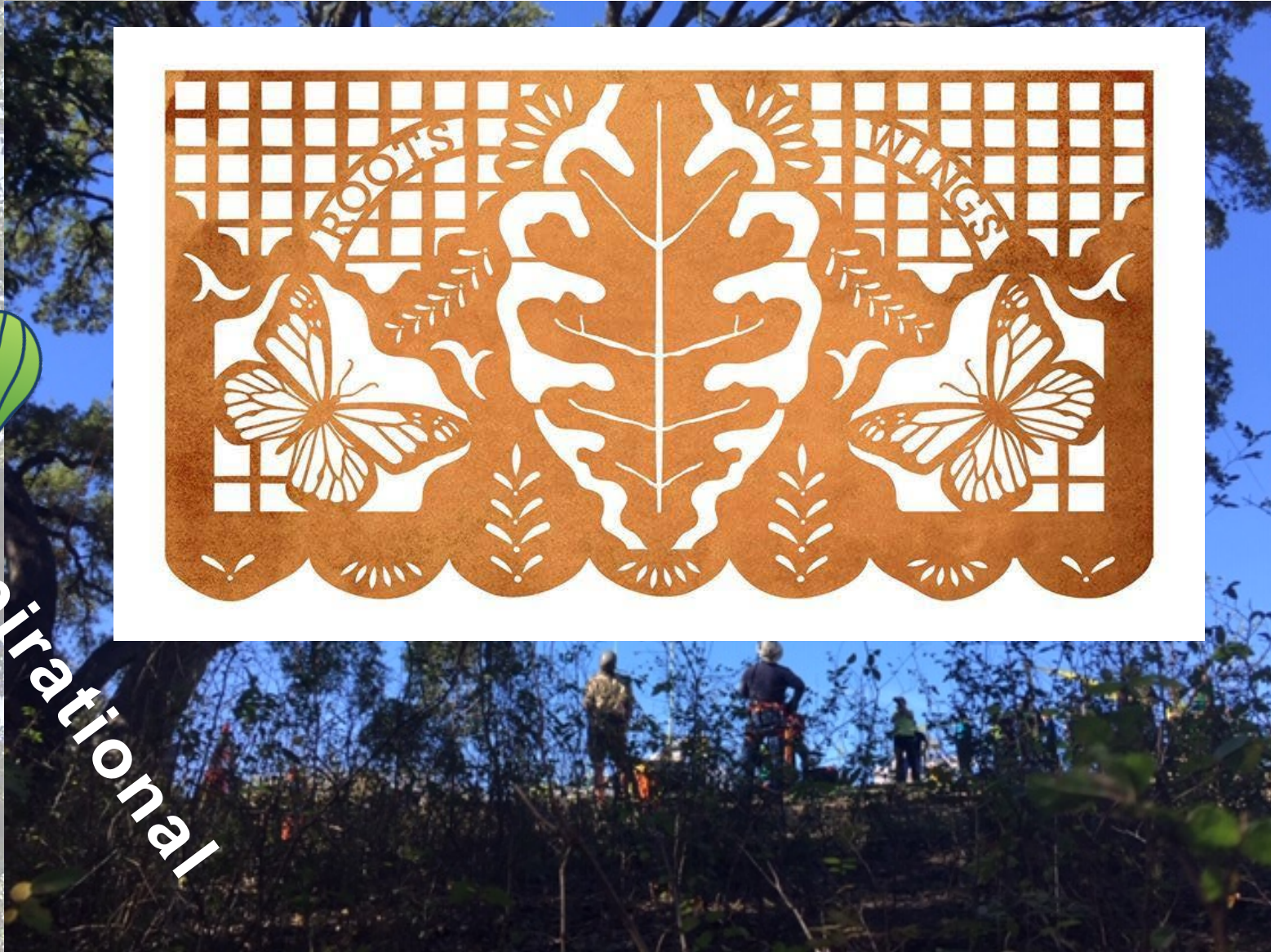
inspirational



Promotion and Outreach



inspirational



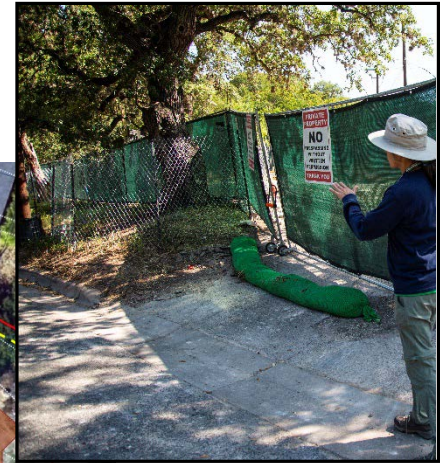
Urban Forest Health, Analysis and Resource Coordination

- 🍁 Partnership Development
- 🍁 Pest and Disease Monitoring, Outreach, and Management
- 🍁 Urban Forest Grant and Funding Portal

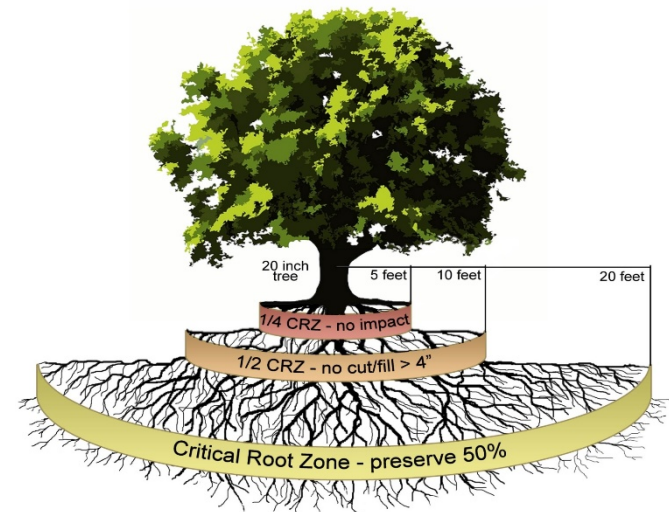


Urban Forest Preservation

- Predevelopment Consultation
- Development Review
- Construction Inspection
- Compliance Enforcement

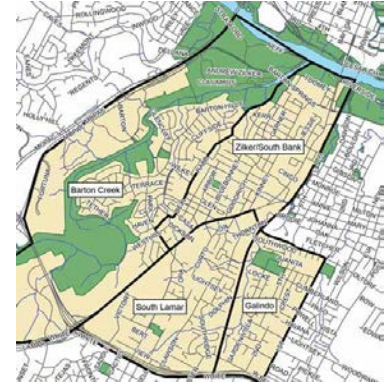


The Critical Root Zone - Development Impact Zones



Urban Forest Management Opportunities

- Partnering with community to inform and maintain the urban forest

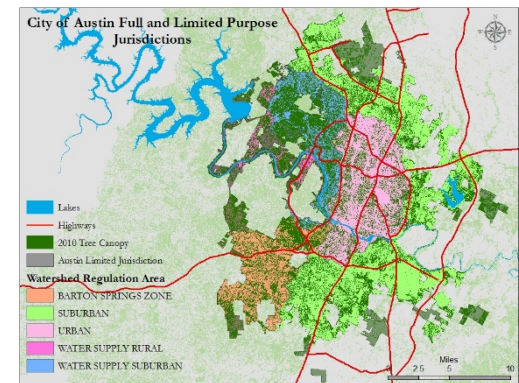


- Full Time Enforcement
24 Hours a Day and
7 Days a Week

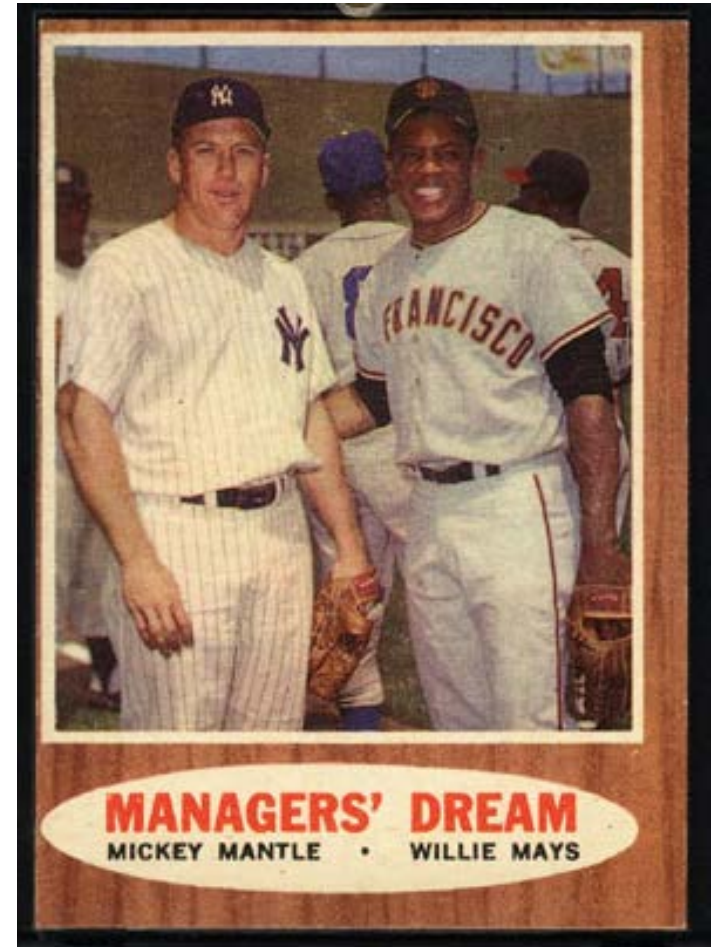


- Innovatively Beyond Code Compliance

- Canopy Coverage Goals



Urban Forest Conservation



...can't do it alone!



...can't do it alone!

- Citizens & Stewards
- Federal & State Partners
- Boards & Commissions
- City Council & Upper Management
- Design Professionals
- City Reviewers & Inspectors
- Neighborhood Groups

