



# Texas Children in Nature

ENCOURAGING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO SPEND TIME OUTSIDE, BECAUSE CHILDREN WHO SPEND TIME IN NATURE ARE HEALTHIER, HAPPIER AND SMARTER.

# Vision

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We envision that Texas children and their families, from all walks of life, will spend more time outdoors, engaging with nature for a healthier, happier and smarter Texas.

Our Mission is to strengthen and leverage the network and regional collaboratives to improve the connection between nature and all children and their families in Texas.

# History


In 2009 SB 205 resolved to address the problem of Nature Deficit Disorder through the creation of a working group between TPWD and TEA. Out of this a group of leaders from across the state gathered and formed TCiN in 2010. Since that time TCiN has been part of TPWD.





In 2010 TCiN released its first strategic plan,  
laying out five pillars of work to be done.

- Health
- Community
- Access
- Education
- Marketing



The TCiN collaborative is also arranged in eight regions across the state.

- Caprock
- North Texas
- Austin
- San Antonio
- Pineywoods
- Houston
- Coastal Bend
- Rio Grande Valley

# TCiN Projects

## NATURE ROCKS TEXAS

Website housing green spaces and activities from across the state



## CITIES CONNECTING CHILDREN TO NATURE

Partnership to incorporate nature into cities



## OLE! TEXAS

Statewide initiative to integrate outdoor learning environments into Early Childcare Centers





# CITIES CONNECTING CHILDREN TO NATURE

Melody Alcazar  
Program Coordinator – CCCN  
Austin Parks & Recreation

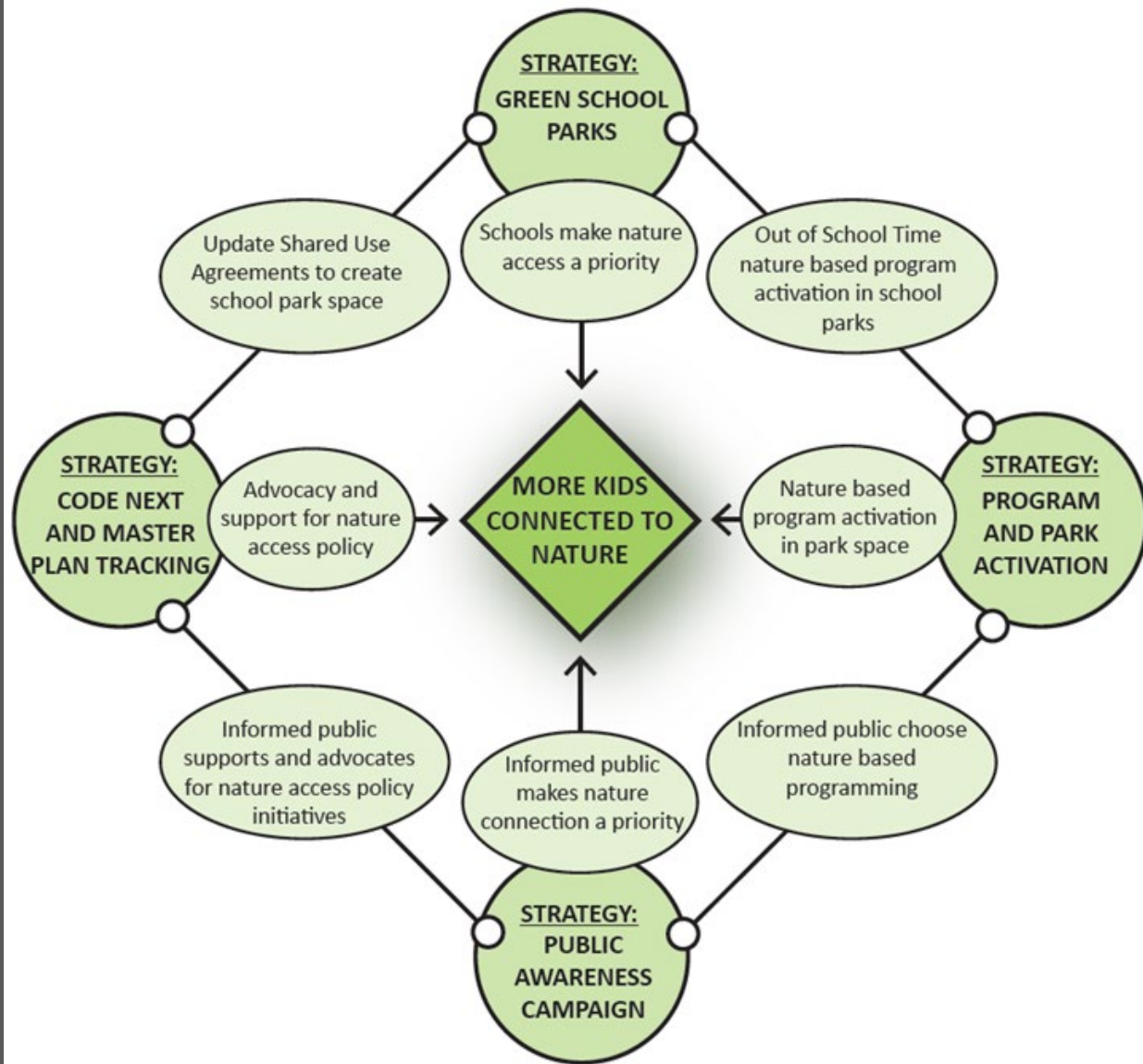


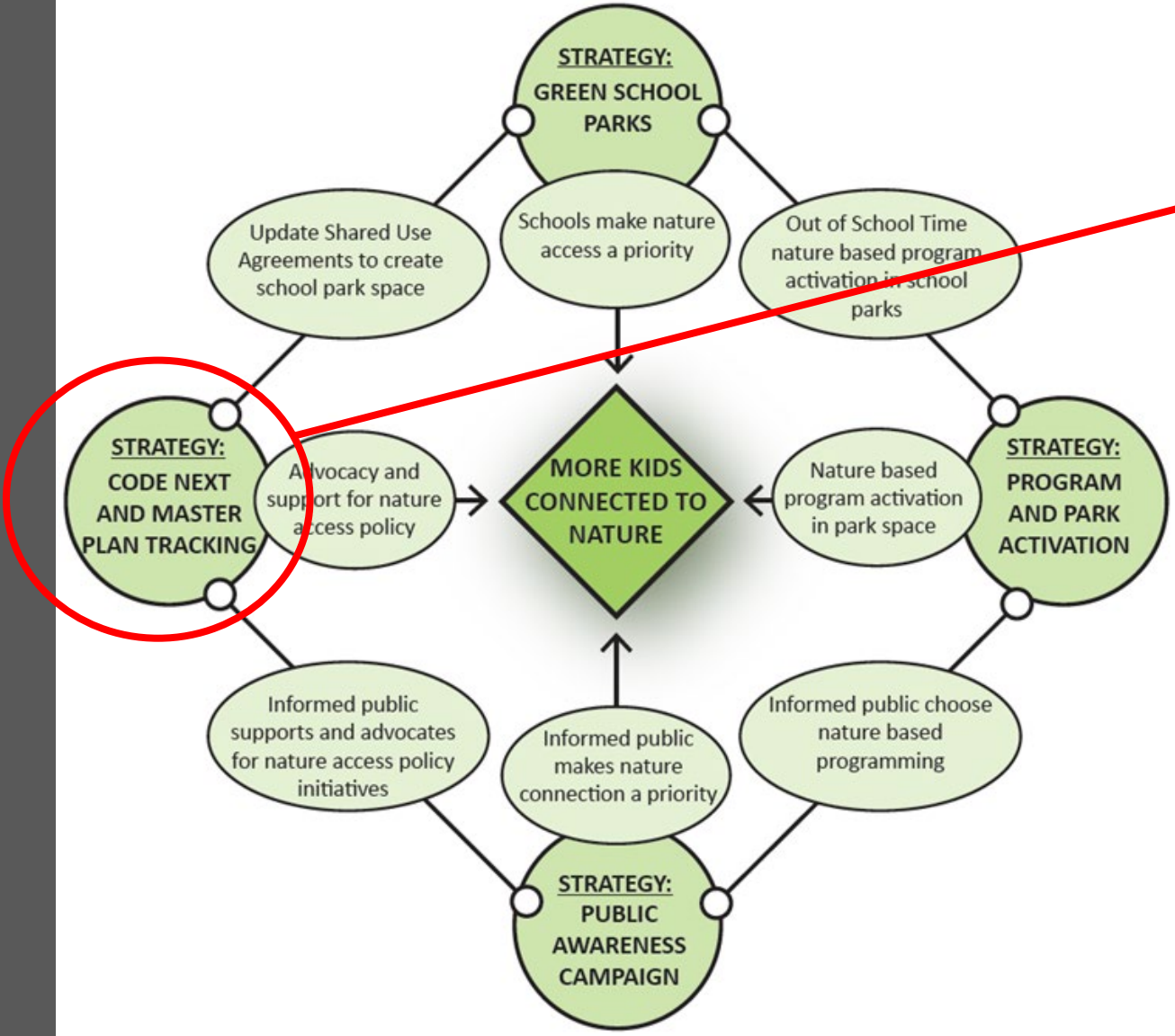


The [Cities Connecting Children to Nature \(CCCN\)](#) initiative helps city leaders and their partners ensure that all children have the opportunity to play, learn and grow in nature, from urban parks and community gardens to the great outdoors.





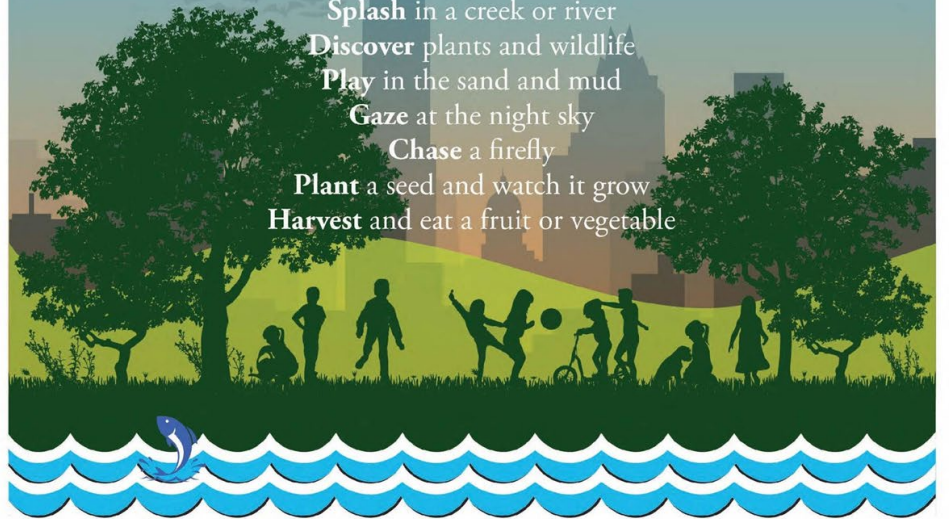




AUSTIN CHILDREN'S  
**OUTDOOR  
 BILL of RIGHTS**

In which children of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities have the right to:

- Climb a tree
- Catch a fish
- Picnic in a park
- Hike a trail
- Ride a bike
- Splash in a creek or river
- Discover plants and wildlife
- Play in the sand and mud
- Gaze at the night sky
- Chase a firefly
- Plant a seed and watch it grow
- Harvest and eat a fruit or vegetable



Understanding that research shows children who learn and play in nature are healthier, happier and perform better in school, we enthusiastically support this Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.

Learn more at [www.austintexas.gov/ccn](http://www.austintexas.gov/ccn)

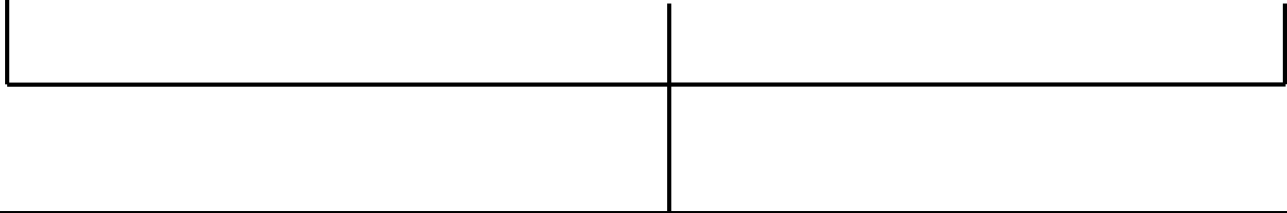




POLICY

ACTIVATION

FUNDING



GREEN  
SCHOOL  
PARKS

Create a network of school parks that provide schools and the surrounding community the opportunity to learn from, steward and play in nature

NATURE PLAY

Activate city parks, natural areas and recreation centers through the installation of nature-based play elements

EARLY  
CHILDHOOD  
(OLE)

Improve outdoor spaces at childcare centers to enable 0-5 year olds to be active, learn in nature and develop motor skills

YOUTH  
LEADERSHIP

Elevate the youth voice in nature-based professions through training, networking and mentoring





# GREEN SCHOOL PARKS

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# NATURE PLAY

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# YOUTH LEADERSHIP



A PAID INTERNSHIP  
FOR AUSTIN YOUTH



YOUTH  
FOREST  
COUNCIL



LEARN MORE & APPLY:  
[austintexas.gov/youthforest](http://austintexas.gov/youthforest)





# OLE! AUSTIN

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# How To Get Involved

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## **JOIN CINCA**

Austin Region meets quarterly for  
socials around the city

## **PILLAR CALLS**

Once a month TCiN hosts a call for each of the 5  
working pillars to work together as a state to  
make progress towards the goal

## **2020 SUMMIT**

Join leaders at the statewide Summit,  
December 3 -4 in Fort Worth

## **NATURE ROCKS**

Put events and green spaces on  
[NaturerocksAustin.org](http://NaturerocksAustin.org)





# Thank You

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