

# Public Safety Commission Wildfire Readiness Update



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Justice Jones - Wildfire Mitigation Officer  
Austin Fire Department - Wildfire Division  
October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

# 6-month Wildfire Readiness Update

RESOLUTION NO.  
20160512-016



## BE IT RESOLVED:

*“Direct the City Manager to provide a progress report every six months to the Public Safety Commission for the following important components of a comprehensive WUI risk reduction plan”*

<http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=272997>

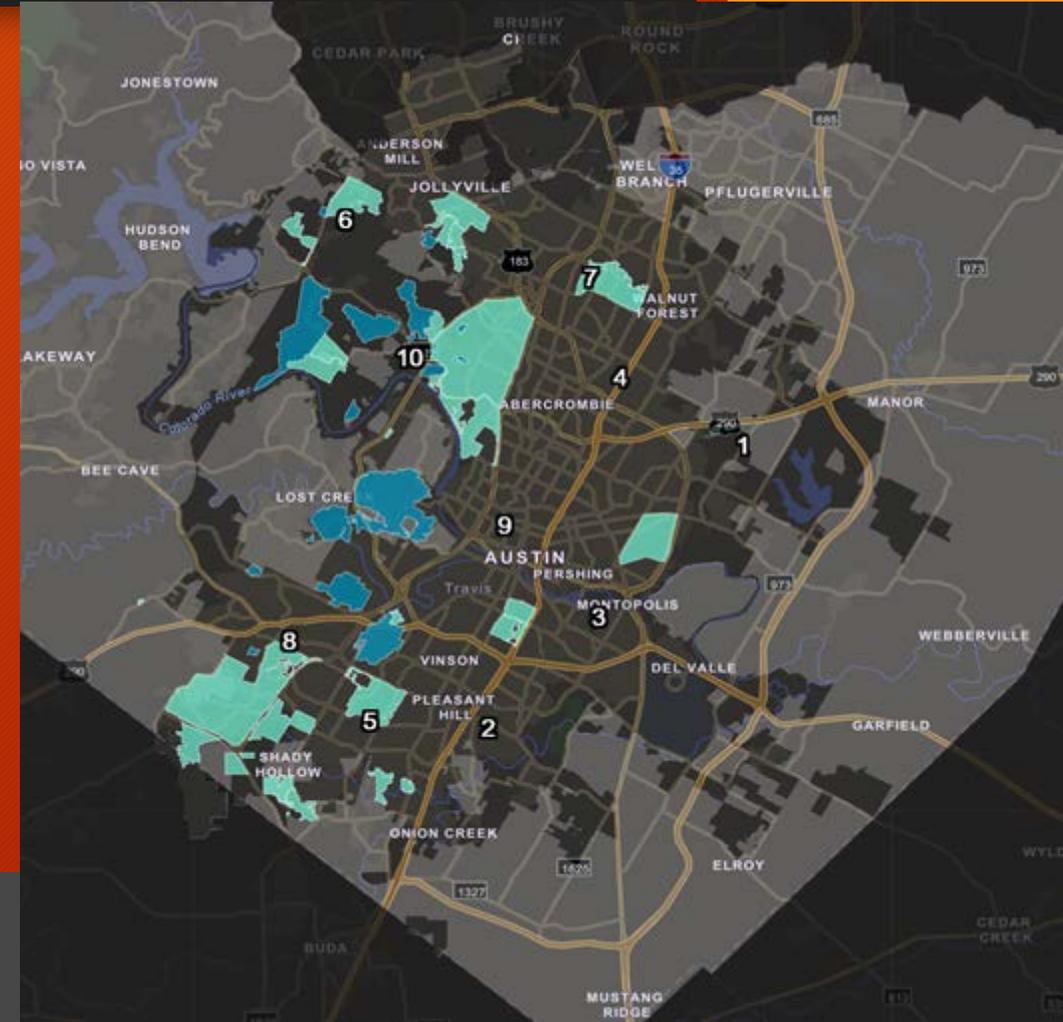
- Number of local Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP's) completed and implemented in high risk wildfire urban interface areas.
- Number of Local CWPP's started in high risk wildfire urban interface areas but not completed. Show percent of progress toward completion for each major plan component.
- Percent of high-risk wildfire urban interface areas in which identification of potential local CWPP planning areas is still ongoing.
- Number of public presentations and home assessments provided.
- For high risk wildfire urban interface areas, provide the number of fuel mitigation activities, location of activities (identify local CWPP where applicable), type of fuel mitigation activities (mechanical or prescribed fire) and size of areas mitigated.
- Number of wildfire training contact hours by City Employees including AFD firefighters and number of employees receiving training. Break down by classroom hours, hands-on training hours conducted.

# Fire Adapted Communities



FY 2020  
(Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 - Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020)

- Home Ignition Zone Evaluations
- Training for fuels Crew
- Individual HIZ evals average out to about 1/week so conservative estimate is 12
- Finalize HIZ eval training video with PIO
- Community HIZ trainings \*if safe from a COVID perspective



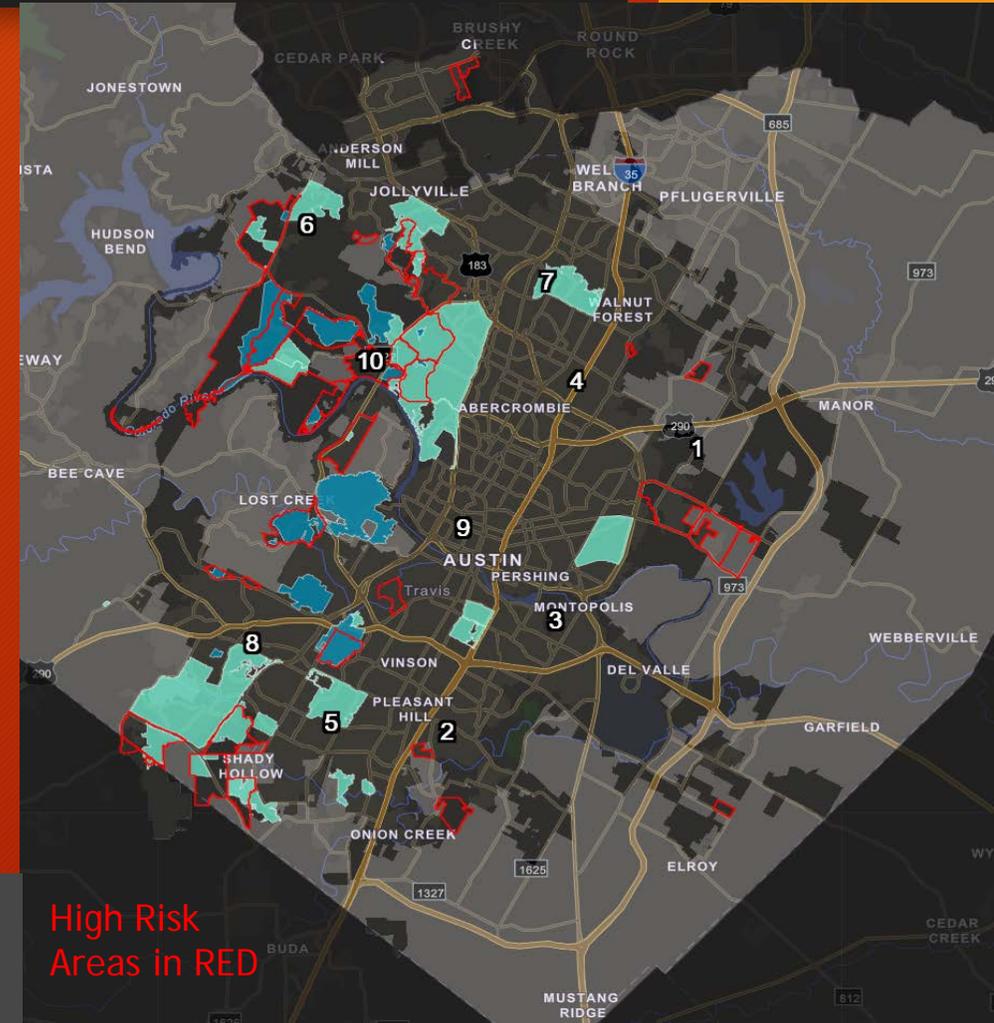
Active & CWPP  
Engaged

# Number of Local CWPP's started in high risk wildland urban interface areas but not completed:

FY 2020  
(Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 - Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020)



- 80% of High Wildfire Risk Areas Currently Engaged
- 19 Actively Engaged Communities
- Targeted outreach in High Risk areas & vulnerable communities
- Currently developing online portal to host, maintain and share local CWPP documents and associated metrics



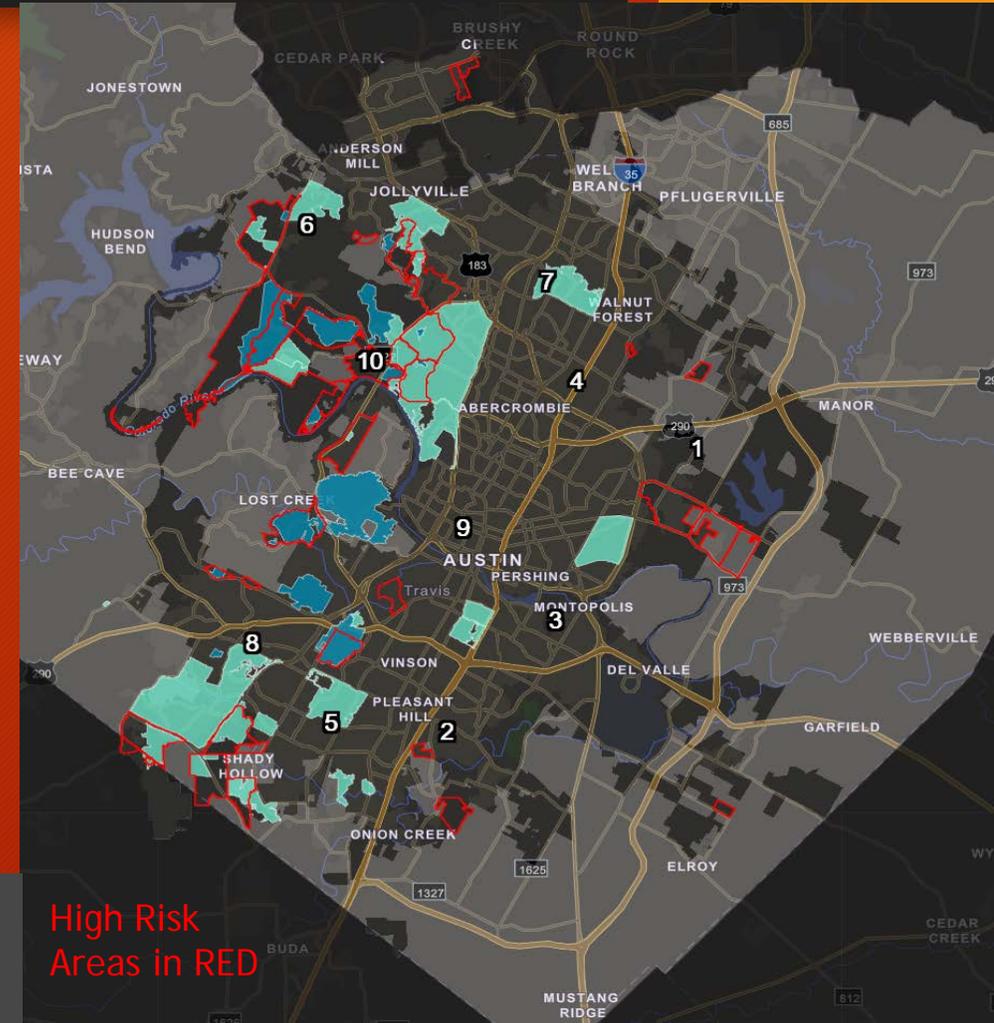
# Percent of high risk wildland urban interface areas in which identification of potential of local CWPP planning areas is still ongoing:

FY 2020

(Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 - Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020)



- 37% High Wildfire Risk Communities with Ongoing Engagement
- 20% High Wildfire Risk Community Opportunities for Future Engagement
- 43% High Wildfire Risk Communities Covered by CWPP



Active & CWPP  
Engaged

High Risk  
Areas in RED

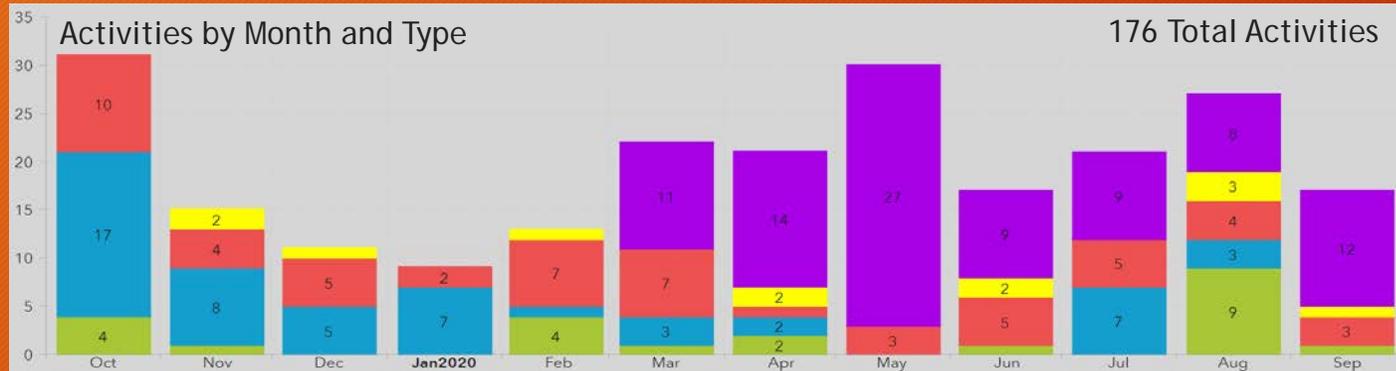
# The number of public presentations and home assessments that have been provided:

FY 2020  
(Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 - Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020)

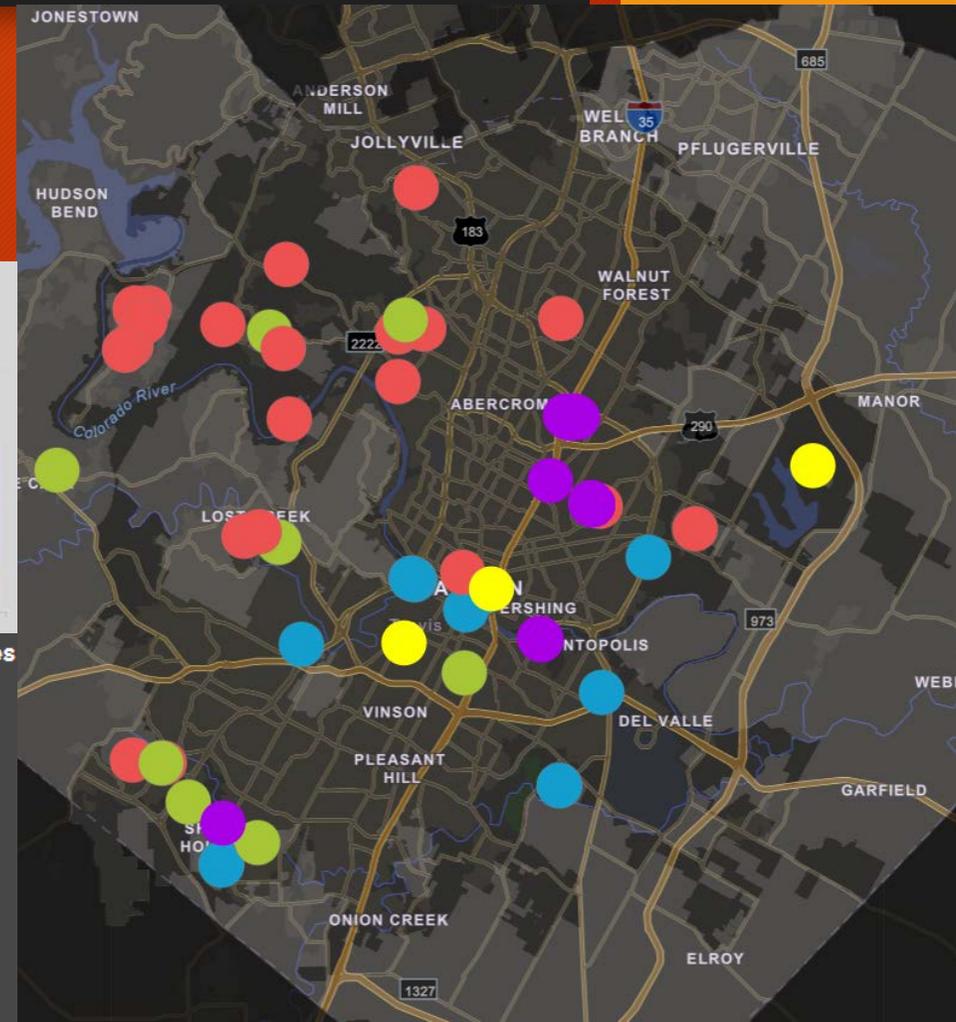
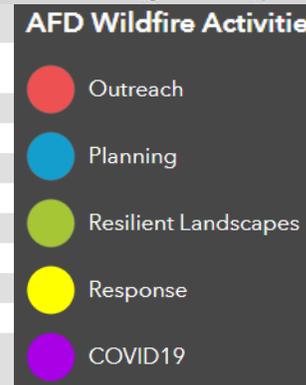


- 57 Outreach Activities (23 past 6-months)
- 30 Home Assessments conducted (14 past 6-months)

Visit our Activities Dashboard for Daily Updates:  
<https://arcg.is/z41ay>



Activity	Aggregate Hours
Fuels Reduction/Treatment	3,261
Civic Event	67
Partner Collaboration	66
Home Assessments	59
Presentation to Resident Meeting (HOA)	38
Department Training on Program/WUI	36
Presentation to Local Civic Group/Conference	33
Youth Outreach	20
Other	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,584</b>



# The number of fuel mitigation activities and the size of areas mitigated:

FY 2020

(Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 - Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020)



- 234 Acres Treated with Prescribed Fire
- 10,911 feet (2.0 miles) of WUI boundary treated with Mechanical thinning (Shaded Fuel Breaks)
- 67 Homes protected (\$34,746,663 value)
- 170 COA properties evaluated as potential project sites in past 6 months due to Covid precautions



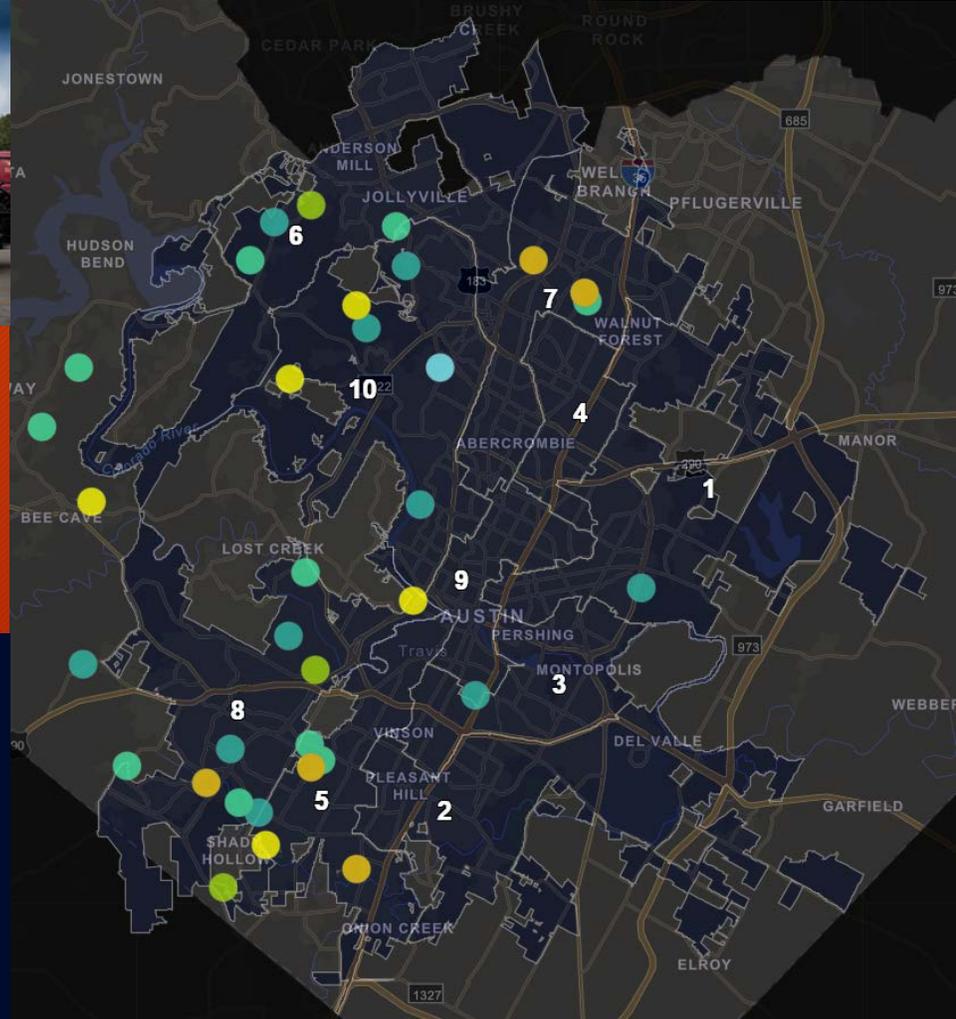
Wildfire Fuels Crew

Visit our Project Dashboard for Daily Updates:  
<https://arcg.is/G5zqK>

### Wildfire Mitigation Treatments

Fiscal Year

- 2020
- 2019
- 2018
- 2017
- 2016
- 2015



# The number of wildfire training contact hours by City Employees.

FY 2020  
(Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 - Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020)



Over 20,000 Training Hours Provided

(18,018 Training Hours in the past 6-months)

- 11,970 Hours - Responding to the Wildland Urban Interface
- 6,048 Hours - Wildfire deployment training assignments
- 60 Hours - Prescribed Fire Training
- 2,800 Hours - Wildfire classroom training provided to cadets. (70 Cadets)
- Three deployments to Texas fires
- Two Current Deployments to California Fires



# Wildfire Evacuation and response pre-planning:



- Developed City/County Wildfire Evacuation plan
- Identified limited access communities
- Identifying evacuation routes and community refuge areas.
- Building community specific evacuation plans and response pre-plans

## GO!

- Citizens may be notified by fire personnel and/or law enforcement if an evacuation is necessary.
- Depending on the situation, some areas may be evacuated while others Shelter-In-Place.

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ZONE

- You may be directed to a Temporary Assembly Point at a safe location such as  
**1. Vandergrift High School (9500 McNeil Dr) or**  
**2. Target Parking Lot (11220, RM 2222).**
- Routes and destinations will be determined by law enforcement during the evacuation.
- Safely make your way out of the area. If unable to evacuate, go to the closest Community Refuge Area.
- Yield to incoming response vehicles and do not drive over hoses.
- Listen for instructions and follow directions from emergency personnel.

### RIVER PLACE

Primary Evacuation Route → RIVER PLACE BLVD  
 Secondary Evacuation Route → CITY PARK ROAD  
 Temporary Assembly Point 📍 Vandergrift High School 9500 McNeil Drive

Community Refuge Area 🌟 The River Place Country Club 4207 River Place Blvd  
 The River Place Country Club has been pre-identified as a Community Refuge Area. Seek refuge there ONLY if you cannot safely evacuate the neighborhood.

## If You Become Trapped

<b>In your home:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay inside until the fire passes</li> <li>• Keep all doors closed, but unlocked</li> <li>• Keep together and remain calm</li> </ul>	<b>On foot:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get away from vegetation</li> <li>• Lie face down; out of roadway</li> <li>• Cover mouth with dry cloth</li> </ul>	<b>In your car:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park away from vegetation</li> <li>• Cover yourself with blanket</li> <li>• Stay in the car until the fire passes</li> </ul>
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## KNOW YOUR EVACUATION ROUTES

This map is for planning reference only. Routes & destinations will be determined by law enforcement during an evacuation. LISTEN FOR AND FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS.

# WUI Code Update



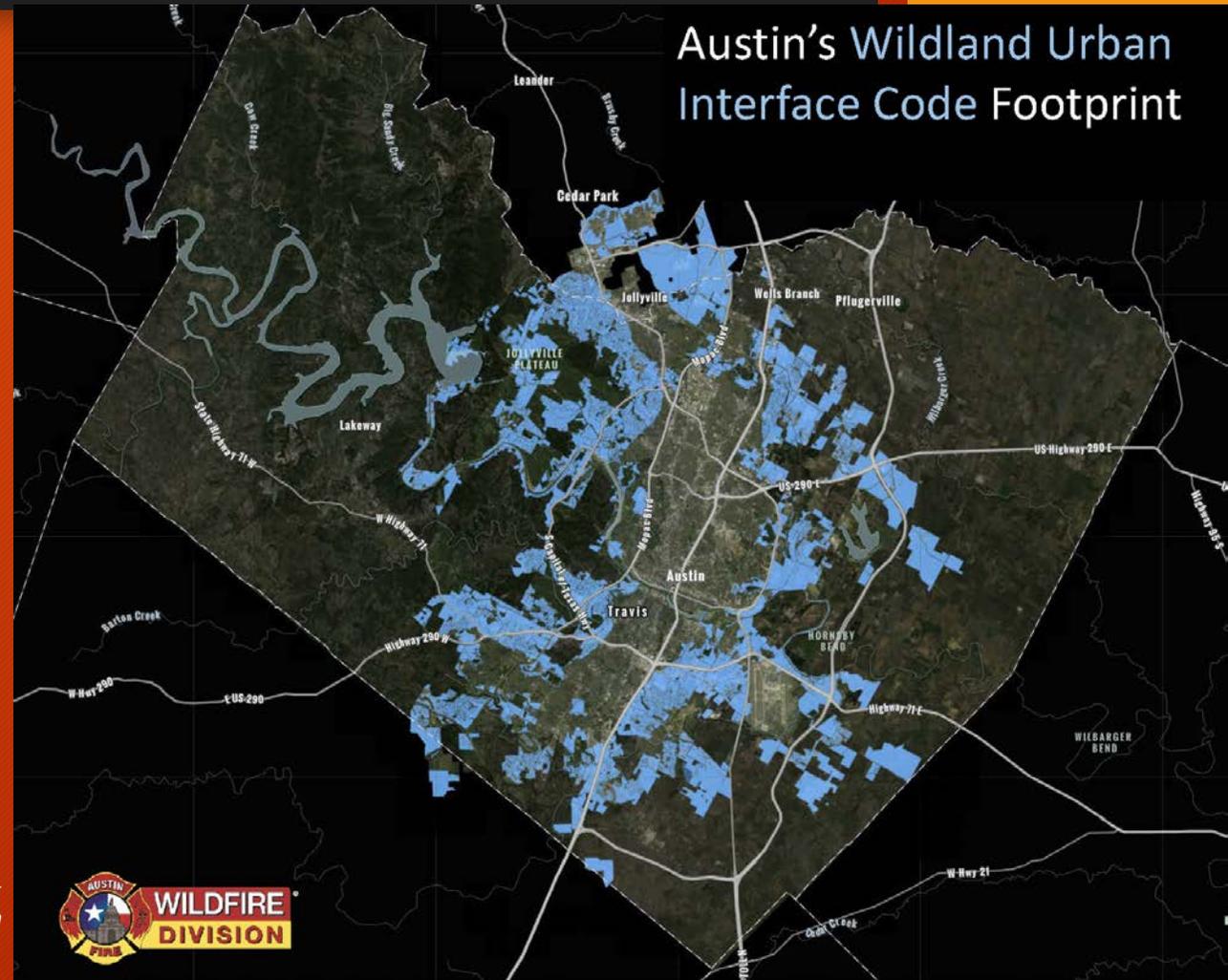
Adopted by Council April 9, 2020

- Implementation set for January 1, 2021
- City Manager to report on vegetation management, fuels mitigation, and community refuges
- Outreach and education initiated
- Fire Protection Criteria Manual New Rules for WUI Code
- FY 20/21 budget for additional staff

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/wildland-urban-interface-code>

Areas covered by the WUI Code are:  
Developed or developable properties within 150 feet  
of a 40 acre or larger wildland area and/or within  
1.5 miles of a 750 acre or larger wildland area.

Austin's Wildland Urban  
Interface Code Footprint



# Our new Information Portal – Coming Soon



## Austin – Travis County Wildfire Hub

Coming Soon

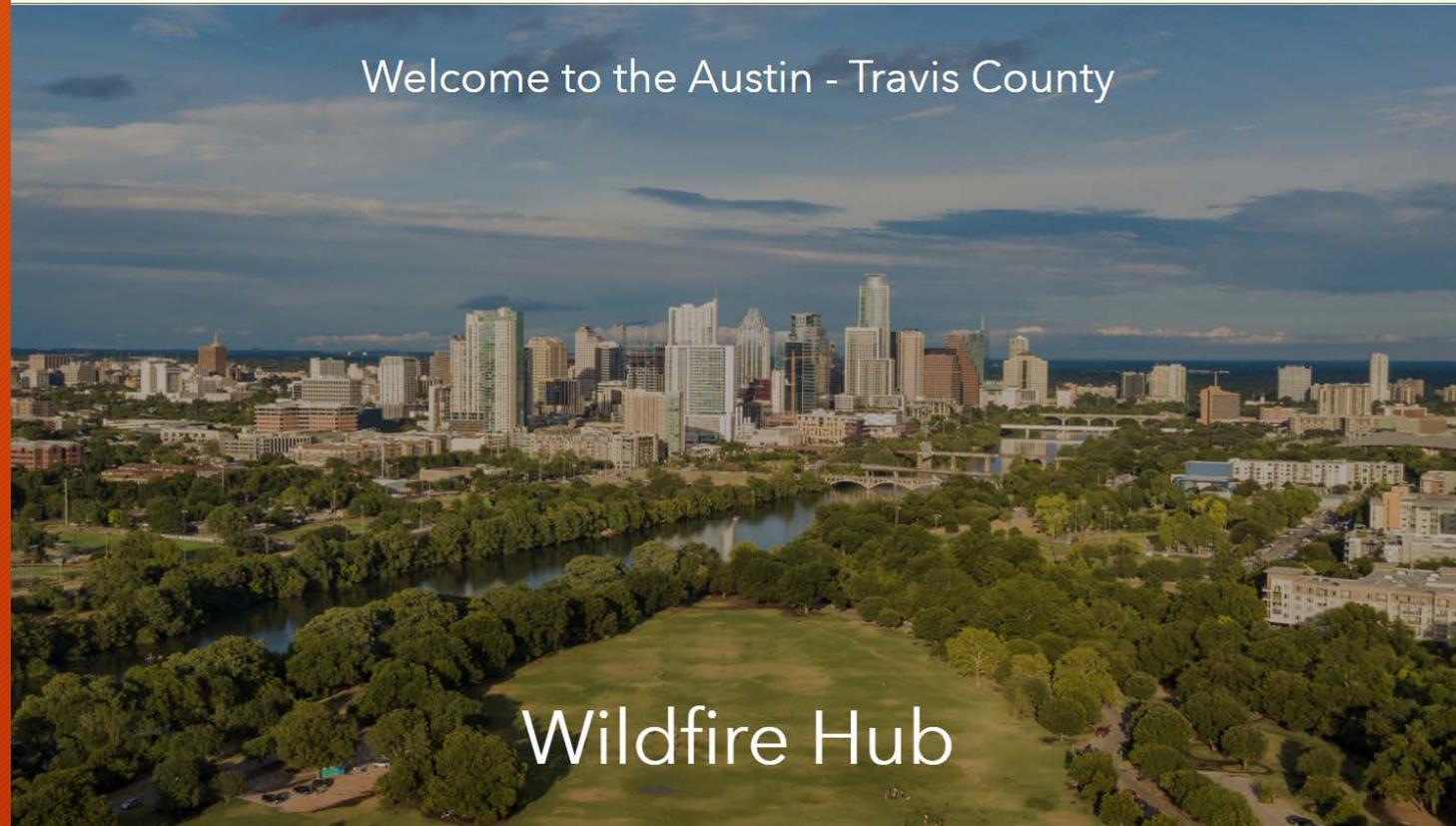
For more information about our strategic plan visit:  
<https://data.austintexas.gov/afdstrategicplan>

Our solution for increasing our ability to provide local resources, wildfire mitigation strategies and in-depth information in era of online outreach.

Austin - Travis County Wildfire Hub Resilient Landscapes Wildfire Mitigation Prescribed\_Fire About Us



Welcome to the Austin - Travis County



## Wildfire Hub

Search the Wildfire Hub

A portal for information sharing, cross-agency initiatives, and grass-roots coalition building, to prepare our community for wildfire.

# Questions/Comments



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[ATXWildfire.com](http://ATXWildfire.com)

October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020