

Watershed Protection Department

FY 2021-22 Forecast and CIP Plan



City of Austin

**WATERSHED
PROTECTION**

Overview

- Environmental Commission Questions
- Mission & Organization Structure
- Operating Financial Forecast
- FY22 New Staffing Request
- Capital Improvement Program
- Project Highlights
- Resources

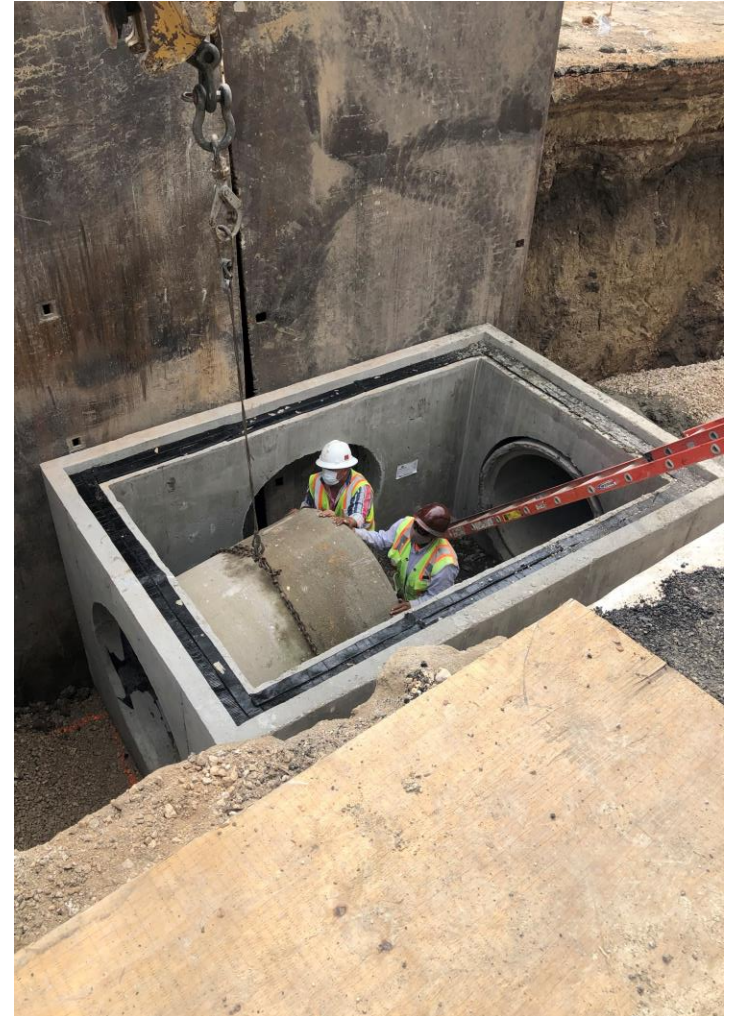
Winter Storm Uri

- For capital Projects – limited impact on construction
- For operations & maintenance - temporary shift in some in-house resources to assist with disaster relief
- 189 Employees donated >9,000 hours for assistance with recovery and water distribution



COVID + Project Delivery

- For capital projects, we did not see a significant delay in construction schedules since contractors continued as essential workers
- For in-house projects, construction activities were significantly slowed as WPD staff were not performing certain types of construction activities for most of the year (e.g., erosion repair, pipe construction)



Homelessness

- FY21 and FY22 Budgets: \$825K
 - The Other Ones Foundation (TOOF) through APH: \$365K
 - Encampment Cleanup Contract in process: \$460K
- 20 Identified high priority areas
- Total tons of debris removed: 188.48 tons



Before



After

Harmful Algae Blooms & Zebra Mussels

- Harmful Algae Blooms
 - \$99,910 for identification of cyanotoxins and genetic analysis of species (University of Texas)
 - \$25,500 for water quality testing (LCRA)
 - \$296,500 for application of Phoslock to sequester and bind phosphorus in sediments; measurement of phosphorus concentrations in the sediment; and testing of an algaecide to kill cyanobacteria and neutralize toxins (SePRO Corporation)
- Zebra Mussels
 - \$850 for sampling supplies

Our Department & Mission

Established in 1991, Watershed Protection Department was charged with the goal of managing the City's creeks, drainage systems and water quality programs.

Our Mission:

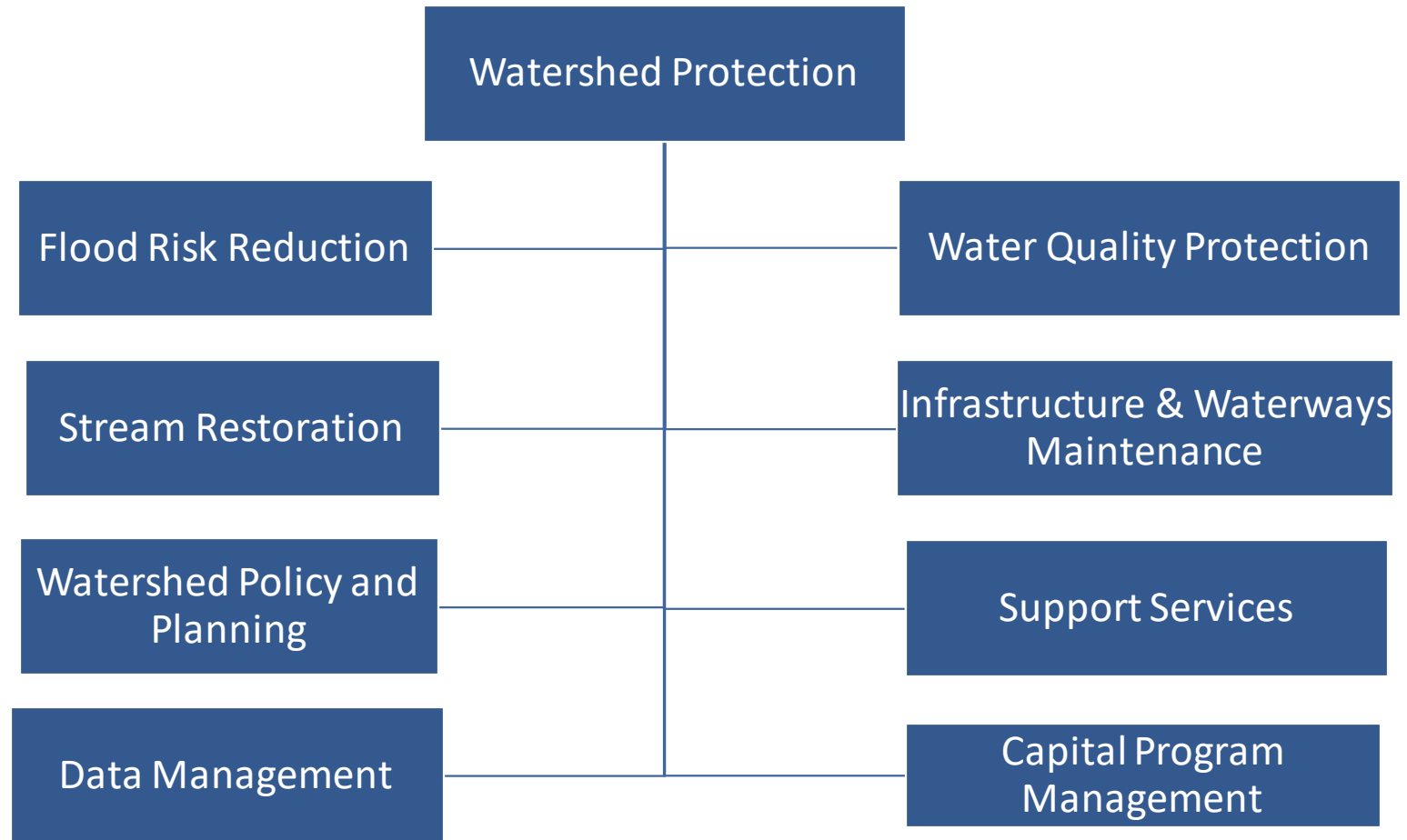
"...to protect the lives, property, and environment of our community by reducing the impact of floods, erosion, and water pollution."

Our Funding:

Primary Source: Drainage Charge - >95%

Other sources: Bonds (for Capital Projects), Development Fees, Interest Income, Grants

Current Organizational Structure



FY20 Expense Budget Variance

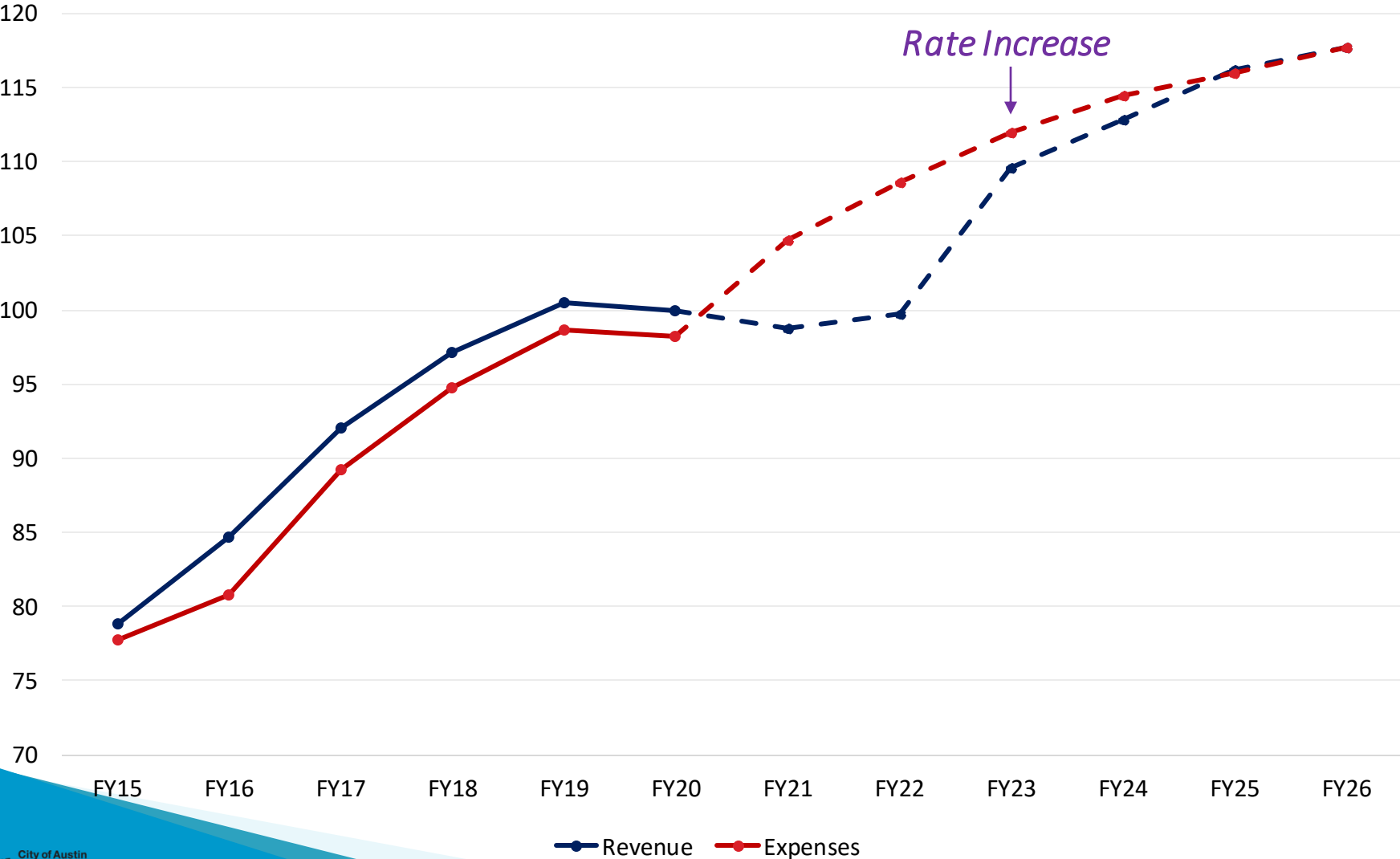
FY20 Expense Budget: \$103.8M; FY20 Actual Spending: \$98.2M

FY20 variance: \$5.6M

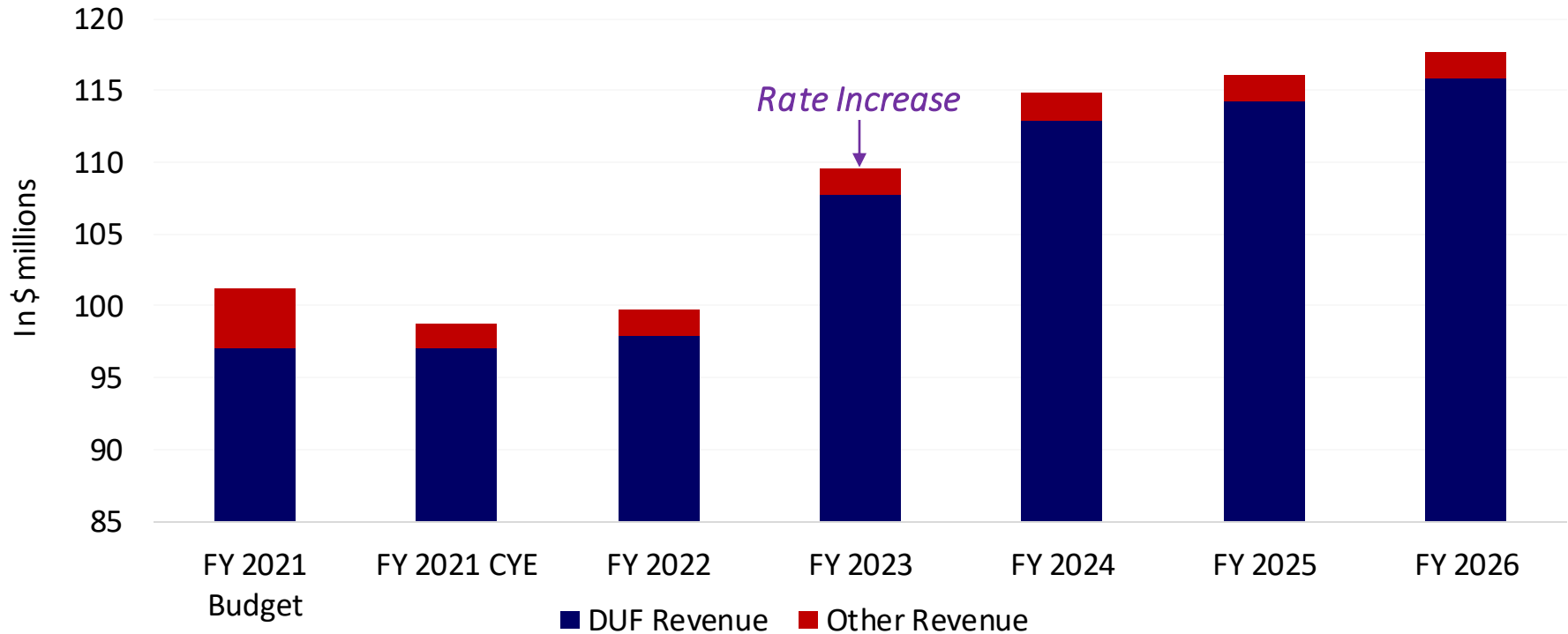
Category	Variance in Spending (\$M)
Personnel excluding temporary employees	\$1.5
Temporary employees	\$0.9
Services incl. grounds maintenance	\$1.2
Interdepartmental charges (DSD/PARD)	\$0.5
Travel/Training	\$0.3
Materials for Maintenance	\$0.6
All other expenses	\$0.6
Total	\$5.6

COVID had an impact!

Revenue & Expense Trends



Five-Year Revenue Projection



In \$ millions	FY 2021 Budget	FY 2021 CYE	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
DUF Revenue	97.1	97.0	97.9	107.7	112.9	114.2	115.8
Other Revenue	4.1	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Total Revenue	101.2	98.7	99.7	109.6	114.8	116.1	117.7

Forecast Expenses by Category

Category (\$M)	2020 Actual	2021 Budget	2021 CYE	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Personnel	35.8	39.5	39.2	41.3	44.5	46.2	47.4	48.4
Contractuals	11.0	14.6	12.5	13.6	13.4	13.6	13.4	13.7
Commodities	1.7	2.2	1.3	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Other program expenses	(0.4)	(0.7)	0.0	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.5)
Program Expenses	48.1	55.6	53.0	56.2	59.2	61.1	62.1	63.4
Transfer to CIP	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0
Other Transfers	15.1	16.8	16.7	17.4	17.8	18.3	18.8	19.3
Total Transfers	50.1	51.8	51.7	52.4	52.8	53.3	53.8	54.3
Total Expenses	98.2	107.4	104.7	108.6	112.0	114.4	115.9	117.7

1.1% increase

FY22-24 New Staffing Plan

Program	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Capital Management Program	3.0		
Data Management	4.0		
Flood Risk Reduction	5.0		
Infrastructure & Waterway Maintenance	9.0	10.0	9.0
Stream Restoration	1.0		
Support Services	11.0	3.0	
Water Quality Protection	1.0		
Watershed Policy and Planning	1.0		
Total	34.0	13.00	9.0

FY22 New Staffing Plan

Position Type	Area of support	FTEs
Field Operations Staff	Maintenance Crew and Leads, Downtown Operations	8
Engineering	CAD support, RSMP reviews, Asset Management	5
Program/Project	Public-Private Capital Projects, FEWS, Homelessness & Equity	5
Administrative	2 Specialists and 2 Seniors for Field Operations	4
IT Geospatial	TV inspection, Data Quality control for DIG project	4
Business Process	Capital Delivery and Records Management	2
Reviews/Inspections	Environmental reviews for new development, Ponds inspection	2
Public information & Engagement	Video Production, and community engagement	2
Finance	Customer care & billing, and contracts management	2
Total		34

Financial Forecast Fund Summary

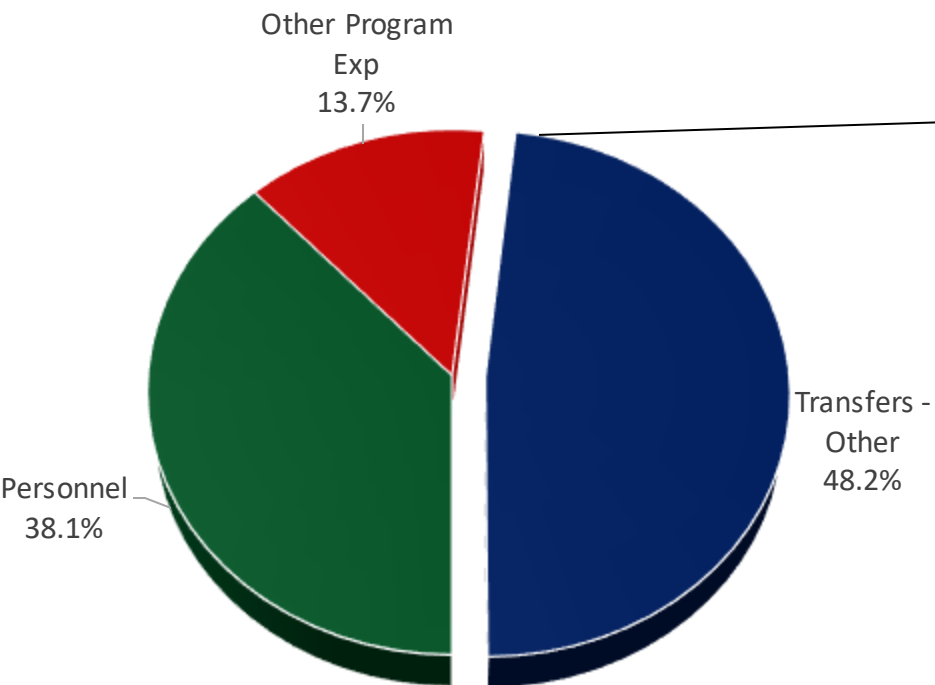
(in millions)	FY 2020 Actual*	FY 2021 Budget	FY 2021 CYE	FY 2022 Forecast	FY 2023 Forecast	FY 2024 Forecast	FY 2025 Forecast	FY 2026 Forecast
Beginning balance	\$ 21.3	\$ 20.0	\$ 23.1	\$ 17.1	\$ 8.2	\$ 5.8	\$ 6.2	\$ 6.4
Total Revenue	100.0	101.2	98.8	99.7	109.6	114.8	116.1	117.7
Program expenses	48.2	55.6	53.0	56.2	59.2	61.2	62.2	63.4
Transfer & other expenses	50.0	51.7	51.7	52.4	52.8	53.2	53.7	54.3
Total Requirements	98.2	107.3	104.7	108.6	112.0	114.4	115.9	117.7
Excess/Deficit	1.8	(6.1)	(6.0)	(8.9)	(2.4)	0.4	0.2	0
Ending Balance	\$ 23.1	\$ 13.9	\$ 17.1	\$ 8.2	\$ 5.8	\$ 6.2	\$ 6.4	\$ 6.4
Median Single-Family Rate**	\$11.80	\$11.80	\$11.80	\$11.80	\$12.96	\$13.55	\$13.69	\$13.86
Percent Increase	-	-	-	-	9.8%	4.6%	1.0%	1.2%

*FY20 actual figures are based on Close II preliminary data

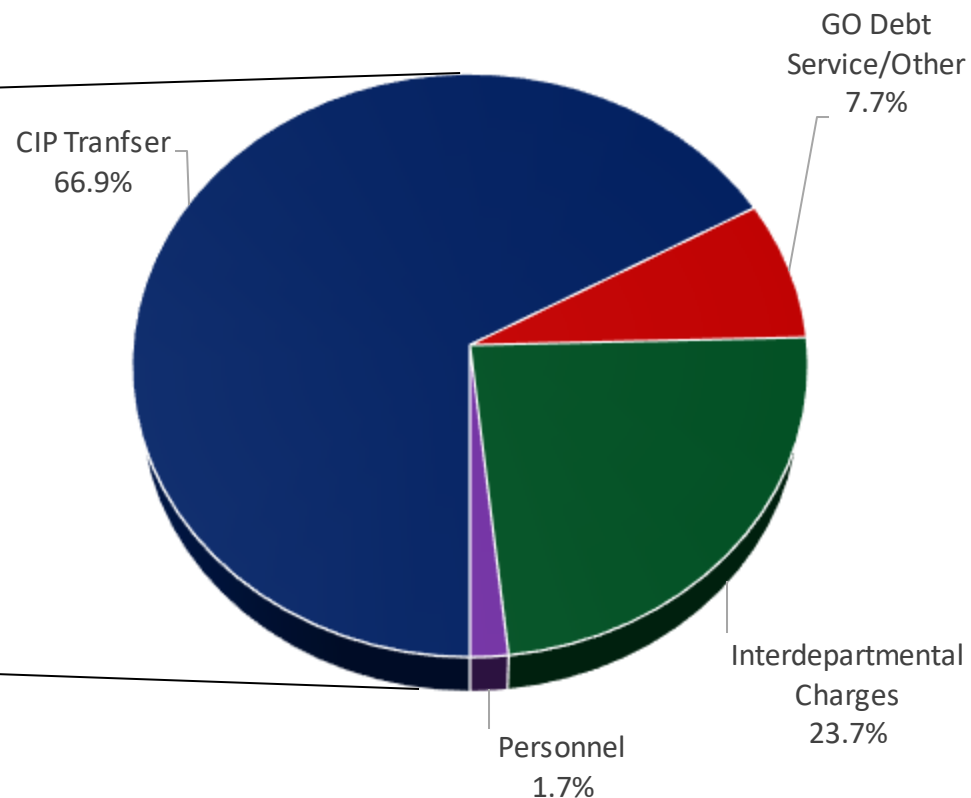
**Figure is based on a single-family home with 37% and 3,100 sf impervious cover.

FY 2022 Forecast Program Expenses

Expenditure Categories

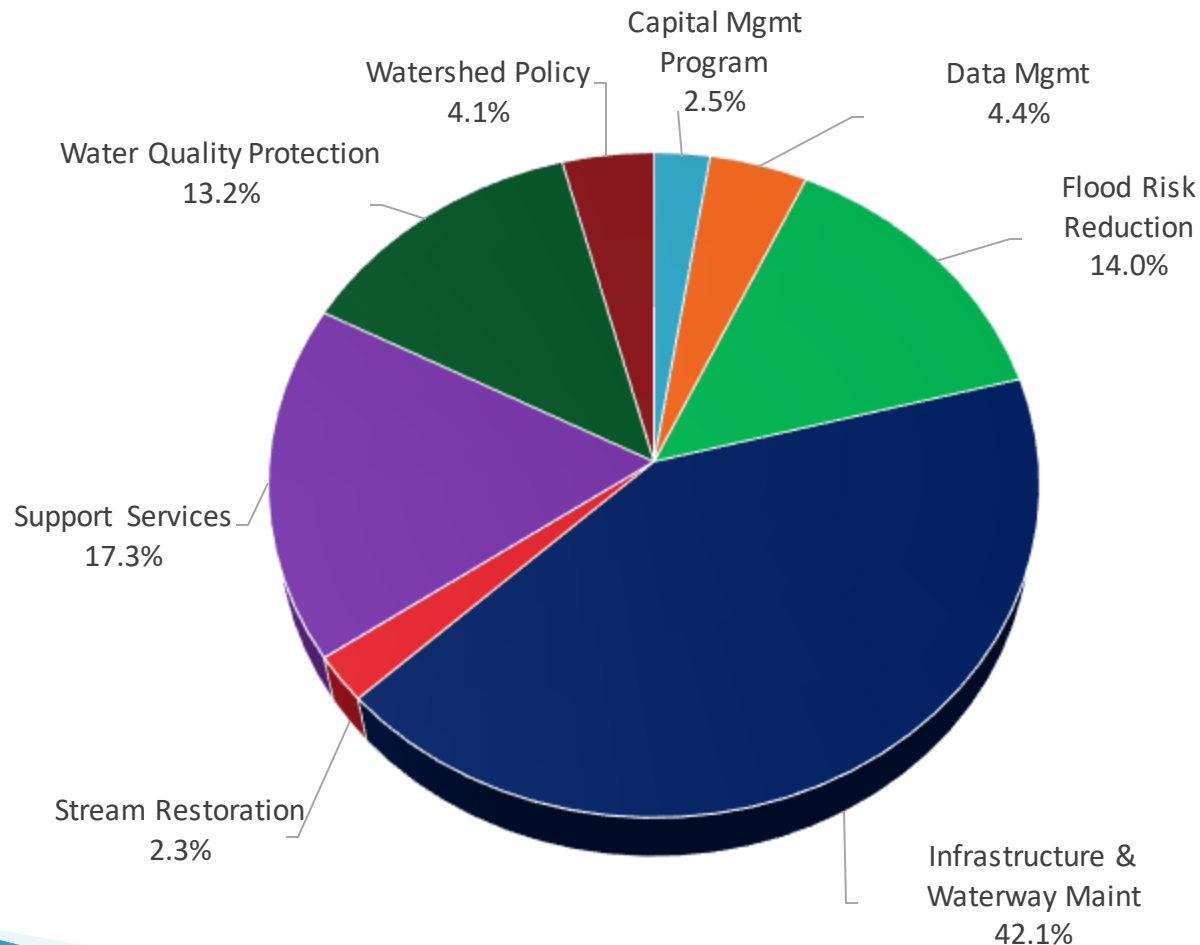


Transfers Out



FY 2022 Forecast Program Expenses

Department Programs





Capital Improvement Program



Capital Improvement Program: Overview

- Capital improvement projects (CIP) are major improvements to our infrastructure, facilities, and waterways
- Capital projects have a higher price tag and longer lifespan than routine maintenance or in-house projects funded through the operating budget



Storm drain improvement project

Capital Improvement Program: Priorities



- The Watershed Protection Strategic Plan defines the problem score methodologies used to quantify and prioritize problem areas for each of the department missions
- The most severe problems—where the needs and risks are greatest—are considered first for solution implementation

*Flooding in the Onion Creek watershed (top)
Erosion on Little Walnut Creek (bottom)*

Capital Improvement Program: Priorities

- We seek to maximize opportunities to address multiple watershed problems, advance community goals, & minimize negative impacts to our missions
- Additional factors, such as feasibility, timing, and ability to share resources, are considered during project evaluation

*J.J. Seabrook Stream
Restoration, Rain Garden,
and Urban Trail Project*



Capital Improvement Program: Equity

- WPD is evaluating how to incorporate social data into project prioritization and alternative selection to acknowledge the disparate community impacts of watershed problems and advance racial equity through our work
- WPD will be working closely with the community to develop a proposal and implement changes to the adopted prioritization process through the update of the Strategic Plan
- WPD Equity Coordination Team will brief the EC on April 21

Capital Improvement Program: Funding

- Funding sources for CIP projects include:
 - Drainage Utility Fund (DUF)
 - General obligation (GO) bonds
 - Tax-increment financing (TIF)
 - Grants (e.g., FEMA, Texas Water Development Board)
 - Regional Stormwater Management Program (RSMP)
 - Urban Structural Control Fund (USCF)
 - Mitigation Funds (Riparian Zone, Barton Springs Zone, Water Supply)
- The five-year appropriation plan outlines projected capital needs based on existing funds and anticipated revenues
- The appropriations for the upcoming fiscal year (FY22) are then adopted in the annual budget

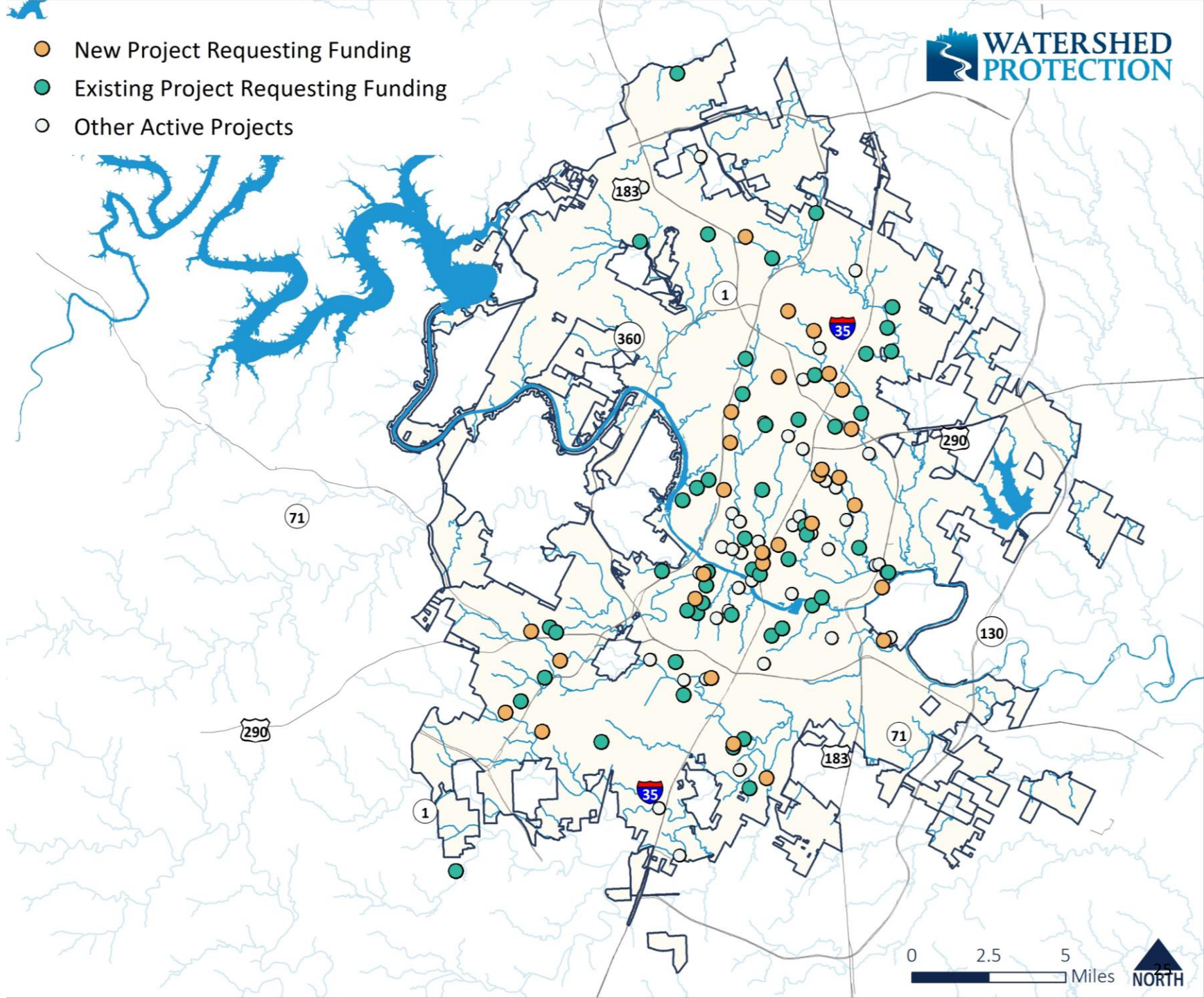
Capital Improvement Program: Projects

Summary of Projects in the FY22-26 Appropriation Plan

- 122 total projects
 - 14 Creek Flood Risk Reduction
 - 22 Localized Flood Risk Reduction
 - 15 Erosion Control
 - 32 Water Quality
 - 39 Multi-Objective (e.g., studies, small projects, partnerships)
- 19 bond projects
 - 18 stormwater/drainage projects
 - Open space acquisition program

Active Capital Projects by Status

- New Project Requesting Funding
- Existing Project Requesting Funding
- Other Active Projects



Active Capital Projects by Status

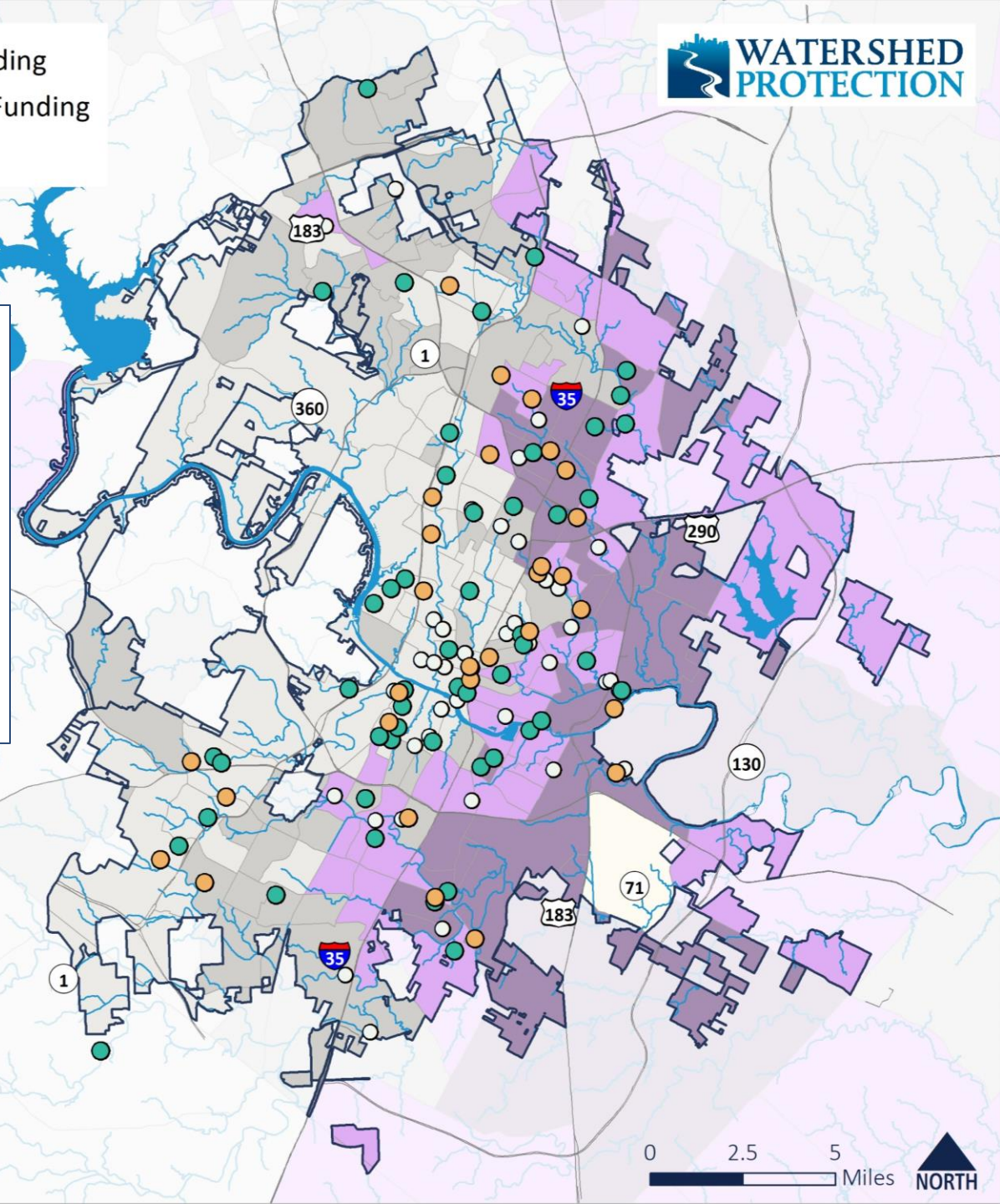
- New Project Requesting Funding
- Existing Project Requesting Funding
- Other Active Projects

Note: The Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) dataset is developed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) based on latest available census data. It was developed to help local officials identify communities that will most likely need support before, during, and after a hazardous event. WPD staff are actively working with our partners to determine the best data to use and analyze the impacts of past and planned watershed solutions from an equity perspective.

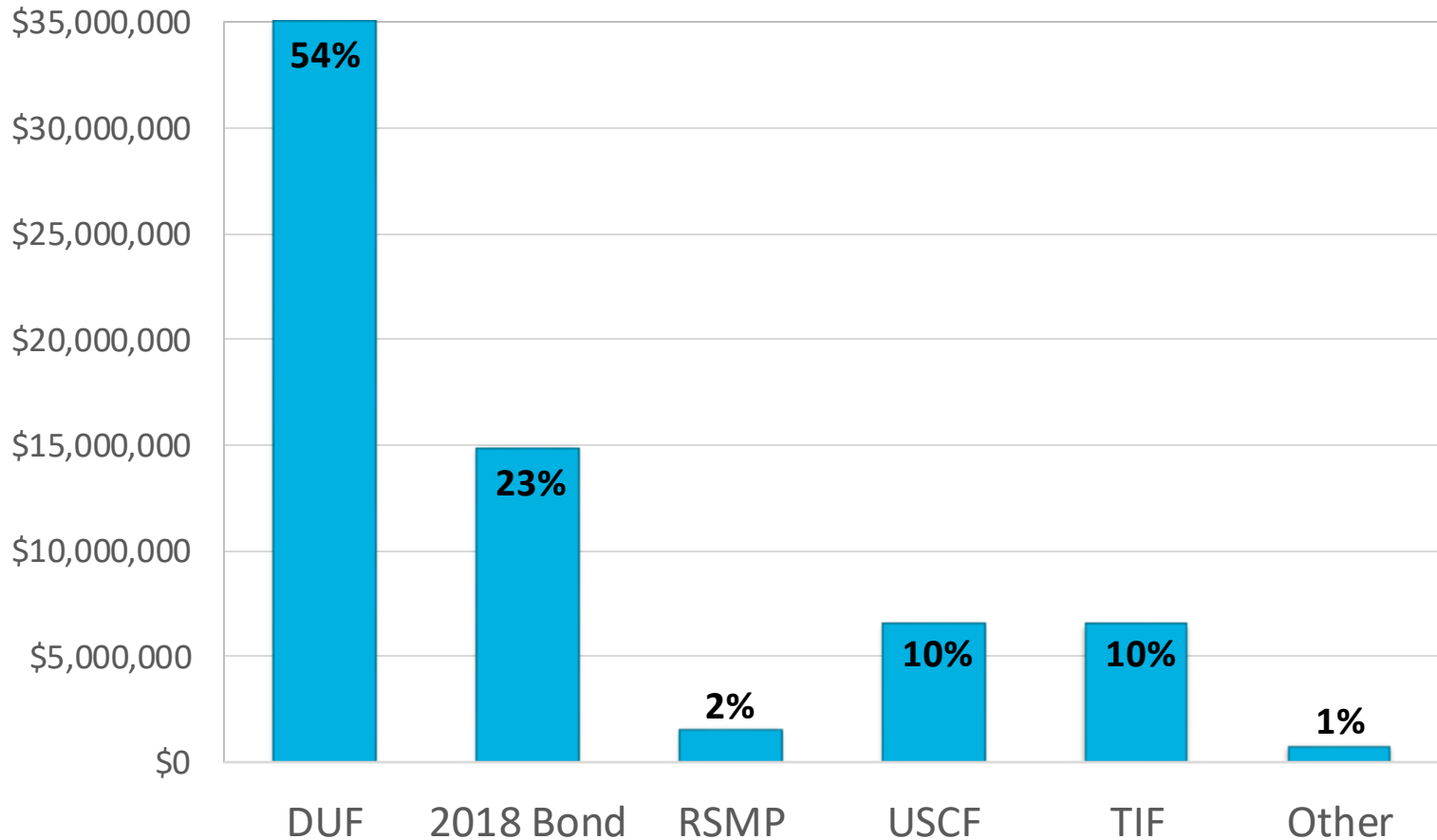
Social Vulnerability Index (CDC)

Race and Language Theme

- 0 - 25%
- 25 - 50%
- 50 - 75%
- 75 - 100%

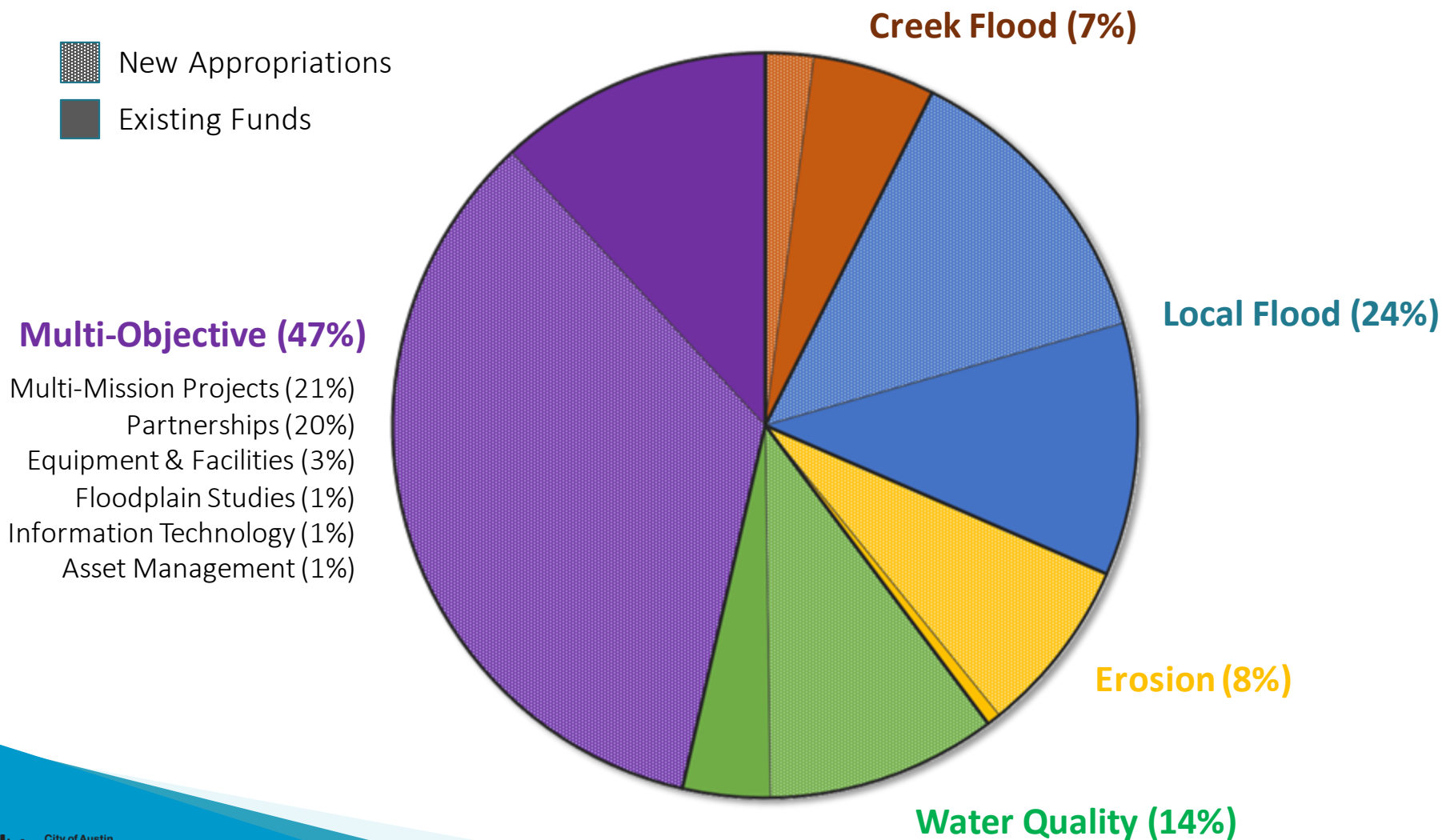
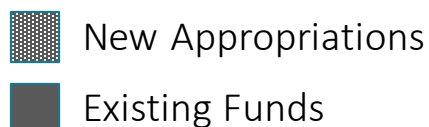


FY22 Appropriations by Funding Source

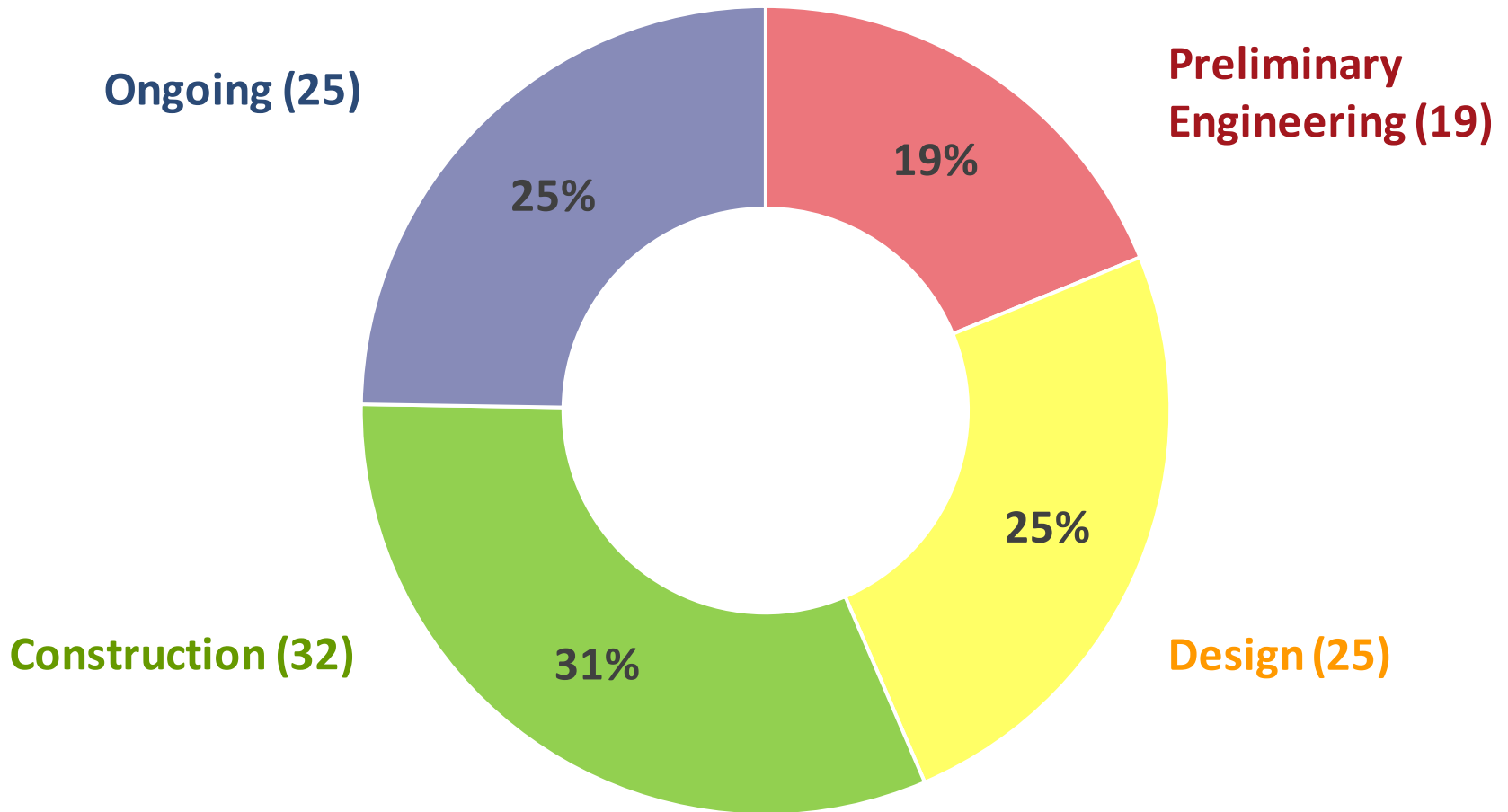


DUF: Drainage Utility Fund
RSMP: Regional Stormwater Management Program
USCF: Urban Structural Control Fund
TIF: Tax-Increment Financing

FY22 Funding (New + Existing) by Category



Projects by Phase in FY22



Five-Year CIP Plan: Project Highlights

2018 Bond
Project



Photo taken by neighbors during flood event

Barton Creek – Oak Acres/Oak Park Flood Risk Reduction

Five-Year CIP Plan: Project Highlights

2018 Bond
Project



Walnut Creek – McNeil Drive Low Water Crossing

Five-Year CIP Plan: Project Highlights

2018 Bond
Project



West Bouldin Creek – Del Curto Storm Drain Improvements

Five-Year CIP Plan: Project Highlights

2018 Bond
Project



Little Walnut Creek – Jamestown Tributary Erosion and Drainage Improvements

Five-Year CIP Plan: Project Highlights



Five-Year CIP Plan: Project Highlights



Waller Creek – Small-Scale Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Five-Year CIP Plan: Project Highlights



Five-Year CIP Plan: Project Highlights



Five-Year CIP Plan: Project Highlights

2018 Bond
Project



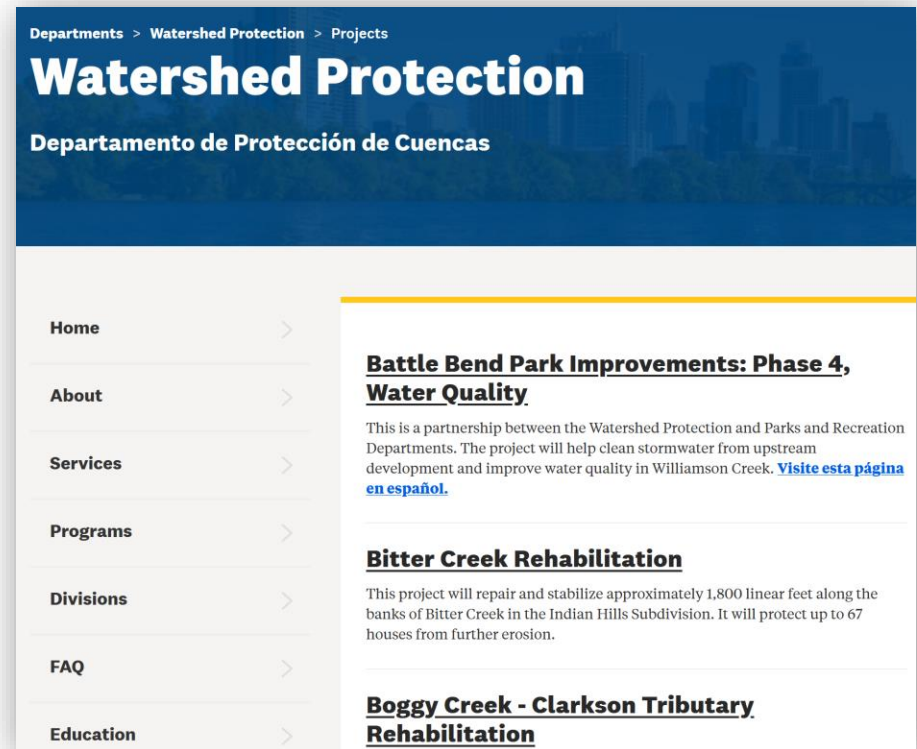
Water Quality Protection Lands – Open Space Acquisition

Capital Improvement Program: Resources

WPD Active Projects

This website has a list of major capital projects that our department currently has underway. Click on a project name to explore information about any listed project.

<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/watershed-protection/projects>



Capital Improvement Program: Resources

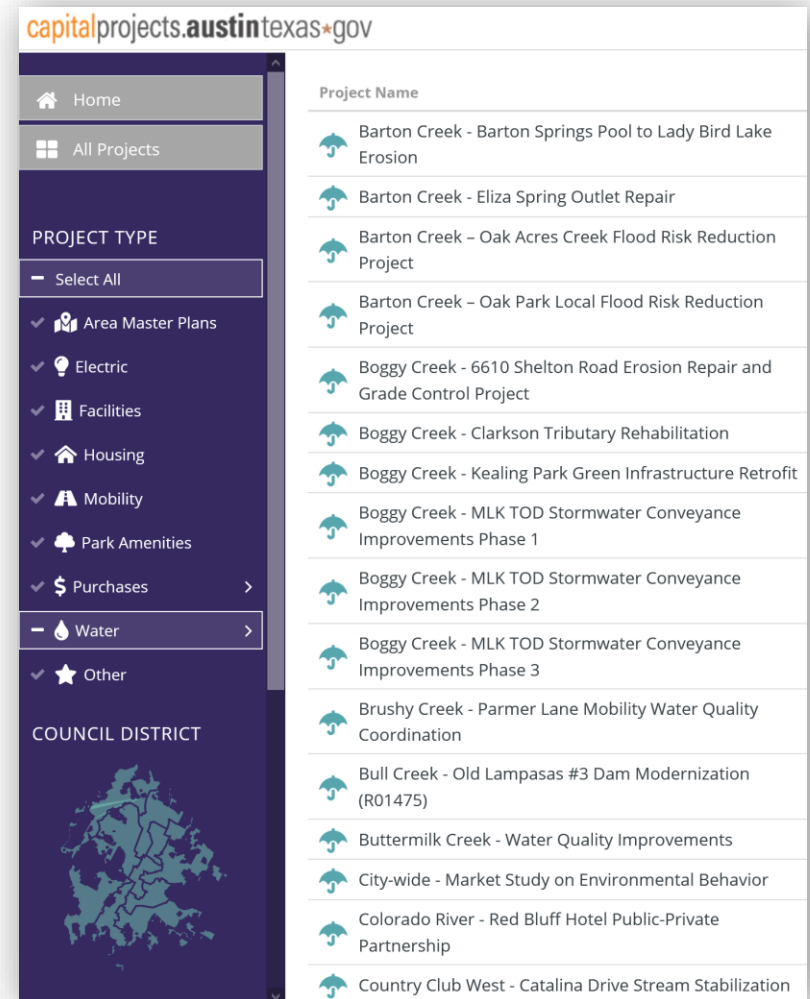
Capital Project Explorer

Interactive tool to find information about current capital projects for all City of Austin departments. Although information about all current projects is available, the map only shows projects that are in construction or that will be in construction within the next 6 months. Projects can also be filtered by Council District.

<https://capitalprojects.austintexas.gov/projects>

Stormwater Projects:

<https://capitalprojects.austintexas.gov/projects?categoryId=Water:Stormwater&tab=projects>

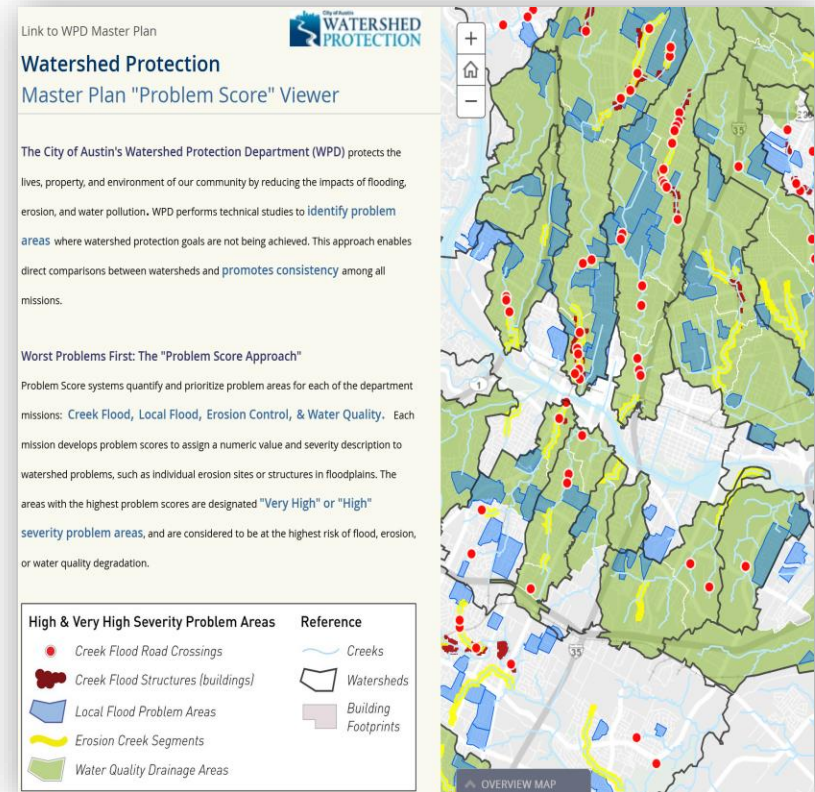


Capital Improvement Program: Resources

Strategic Planning

The Strategic Plan is the guiding blueprint for our department—setting our goals, prioritizing our worst problems, and identifying potential solutions. The Environmental Commission reviews and approves any changes to our prioritization methodologies.

- Home: <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/watershed-protection-master-plan>
- Problem Score Viewer: <http://arcg.is/1JwJJsl>



Questions?

Operating Forecast & Budget

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Capital Improvement Program

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