

# **Watershed Protection Department**

## **FY 2022-23 Forecast and CIP Plan**



# Overview

- Mission & Organizational Structure
- Operating Financial Forecast
- FY23 New Staffing Request
- Capital Improvement Program
- Project Highlights
- Resources

# 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:*

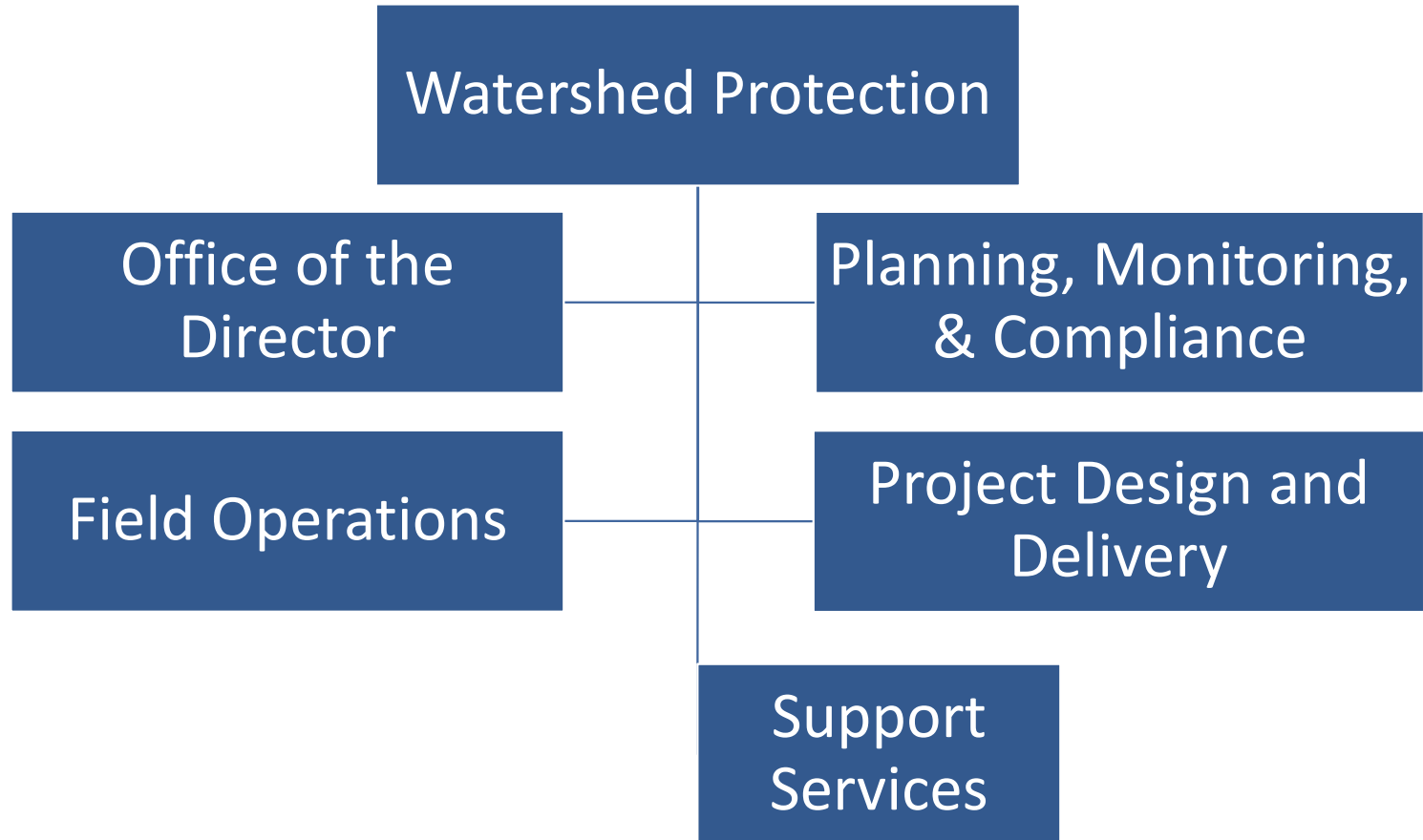
*"...to protect the lives, property, and environment of our community by reducing the impact of floods, erosion, and water pollution."*

## *Our Funding:*

*Primary Source: Drainage Charge - >95%*

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

# WPD Organizational Structure





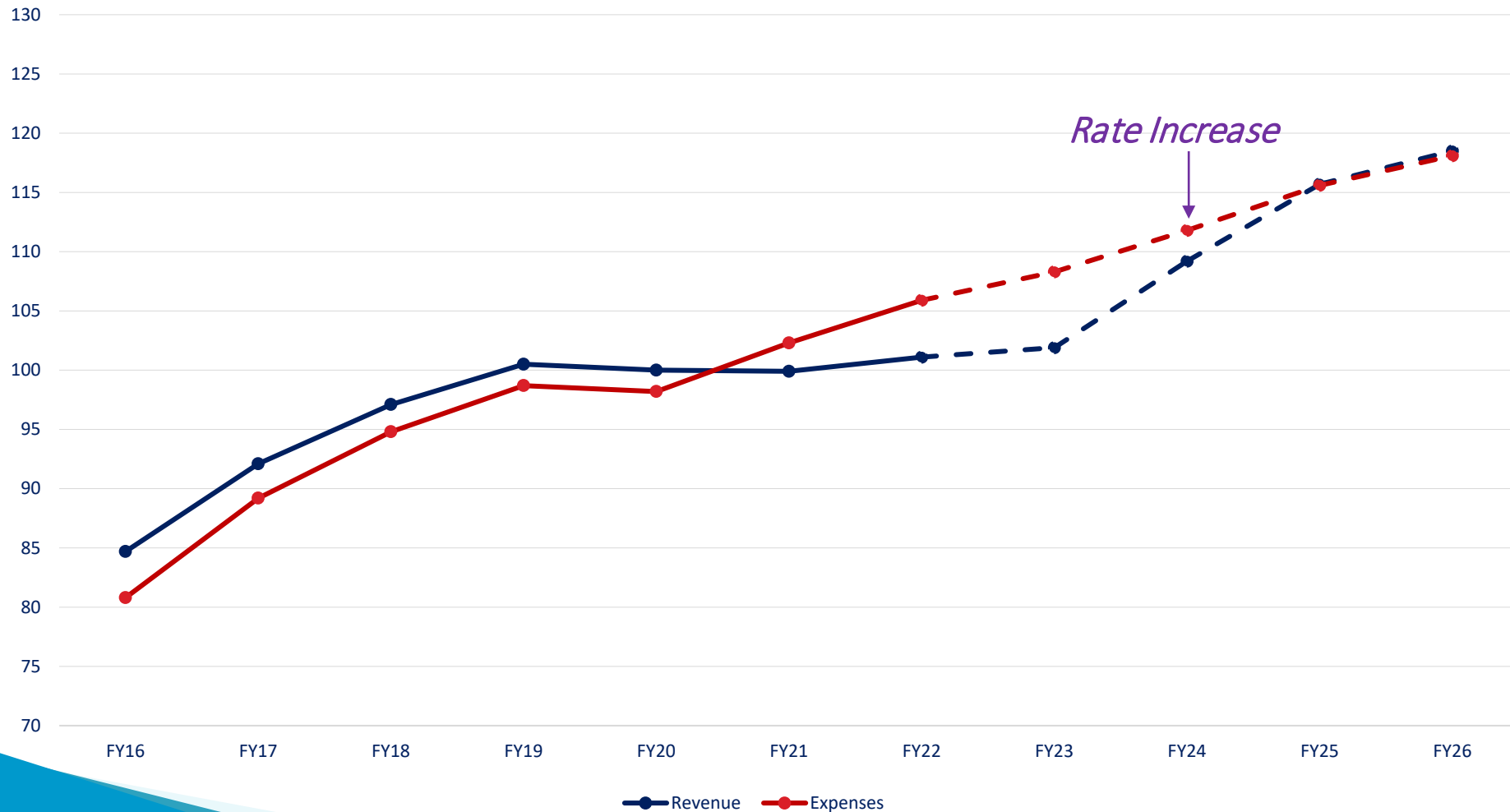
# FY21 Expense Budget Variance

**FY21 Expense Budget: \$107.3M; FY21 Actual Spending: \$102.3M**

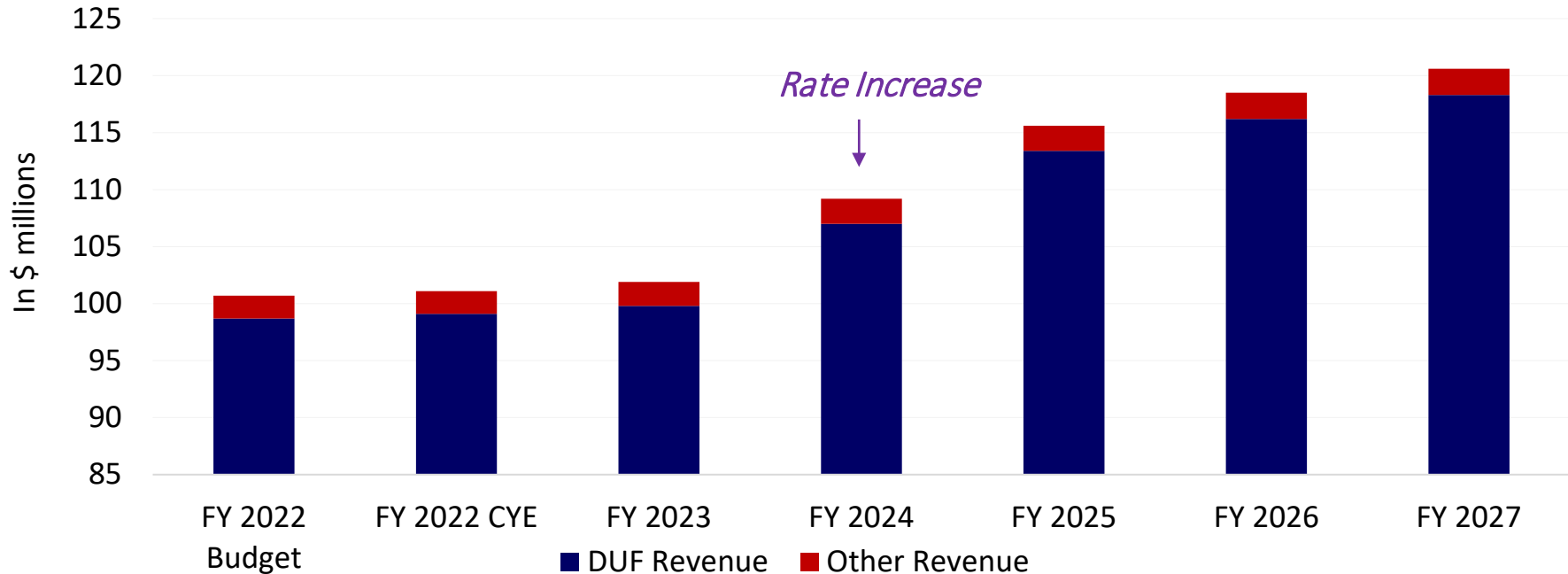
**FY21 variance: \$5.0M**

Category	Variance (\$M)	% Unspent
Personnel expenses	\$1.9	4.7%
Contractual Services	\$3.1	12.6%
Materials and Commodities	\$1.0	53.8%
Transfer to CIP	(\$1.0)	-2.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5.0</b>	<b>5.0%</b>

# Revenue & Expense Trends



# Five-Year Revenue Projection



In \$ millions	FY 2022 Budget	FY 2022 CYE	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Drainage Rev.	98.7	99.1	99.8	107.0	113.4	116.2	118.3
Other Revenue	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3
Total Revenue	100.7	101.1	101.9	109.2	115.6	118.5	120.6
Rate Increase			0%	6.8%	5.6%	2.2%	1.5%
Med. Res. Chrg (\$)	\$11.80		\$11.80	\$12.60	\$13.31	\$13.60	\$13.80

# Forecast Expenses by Category

Category	2021Actual	2022 Budget	2022CYE	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Personnel	37.9	41.8	40.2	42.6	45.0	46.6	47.7	48.7
Other Program Exp.	12.0	15.3	12.6	14.2	14.9	14.6	15.3	16.1
<b>Program Expenses</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>57.1</b>	<b>52.8</b>	<b>56.8</b>	<b>59.9</b>	<b>61.2</b>	<b>63.0</b>	<b>64.8</b>
Transfer to CIP	36.4	35.0	35.0	33.0	33.0	35.0	35.0	35.0
Other Transfers	16.0	18.4	18.1	18.5	19.0	19.5	20.0	20.6
<b>Total Transfers</b>	<b>52.4</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>55.0</b>	<b>55.6</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>102.3</b>	<b>110.5</b>	<b>105.9</b>	<b>108.3</b>	<b>111.9</b>	<b>115.7</b>	<b>118.0</b>	<b>120.4</b>

*2% decrease: \$2m reduction in CIP Transfer*

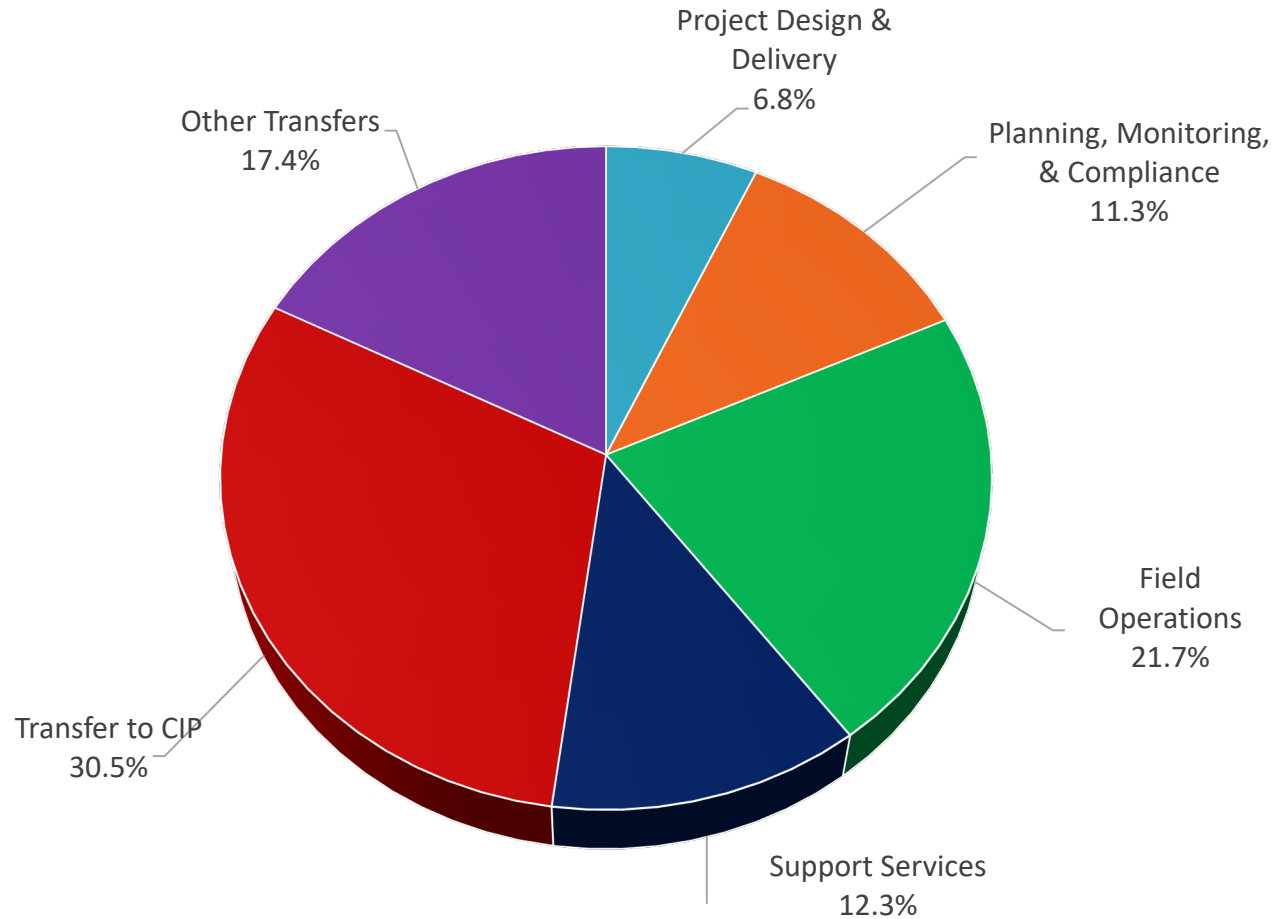
# FY23-24 New Staffing Plan

Program	FY 2023	FY 2024
Planning, Monitoring, & Compliance	8.0	2.0
Project Design and Delivery		
Field Operations	3.0	4.0
Support Services	6.0	
Office of the Director & HR	3.0	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>7.0</b>

# FY23 New Staffing Plan

Position Type	Area of support	FTEs
Environmental Scientists	Geomorphologic monitoring, algae monitoring, site plan reviews	3
Environmental Program Coordinator	BSZ Operating Permit and Environmental Commission support	2
Environmental Compliance Specialists	For MS4 permit compliance and regulatory obligations	3
Env. Conservation Splst.	For Enhancing Watershed Education Grow Green, Rain Catcher, and Other K-12 education programs	3
Marketing Supervisor	To manage span of control for marketing and education	1
IT Support Analyst	IT support for ongoing hybrid work environment	1
Program Manager	Fleet and facilities coordination	1
Field Operations	Drainage Operations and Maintenance crew members	3
Human Resource Advisor & Splst.	Recruitment and HR processing necessary as department grows	2
Business Process Splst.	For work on Strategic Plan and future business plans	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>

# FY 2023 Forecast Program Expenses



# Key Takeaways

- No rate increase for FY23
- Anticipate rate increase in FY24 of approximately 6.8%
- Rate increase projected by \$2.00 for SF median home in FY27
- For FY23 – 20 new FTE requests
- CIP transfers reduced by \$2M per year for FY23 and FY24
- Total FY23 expenses lower by about 2% from FY22 budget
- Total forecast expenses for FY23 – \$108.3M





# Capital Improvement Program



*Bitter Creek Tributary Channel Rehabilitation Project*



# Capital Improvement Program: Overview

- Projects in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are major improvements to our infrastructure, facilities, and waterways
- CIP 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

*Anderson Mill Road  
Regional Mobility  
Improvements, Water  
Quality Improvements*



# Capital Improvement Program: Equity

- WPD is evaluating how to incorporate social data into project prioritization, identification, and implementation to acknowledge the disparate community impacts of watershed problems and advance racial equity through our work.
- WPD is conducting a detailed Equity Assessment of this year's CIP Five-Year Planning process to develop recommendations to advance equity in next year's process. Findings will be presented to department leadership later this spring.
- WPD will be working closely with the community to develop a proposal and implement changes to project prioritization as part of the Rain to River Strategic Plan update.

# 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 (FY23) are then adopted in the annual budget

# Capital Improvement Program: Projects

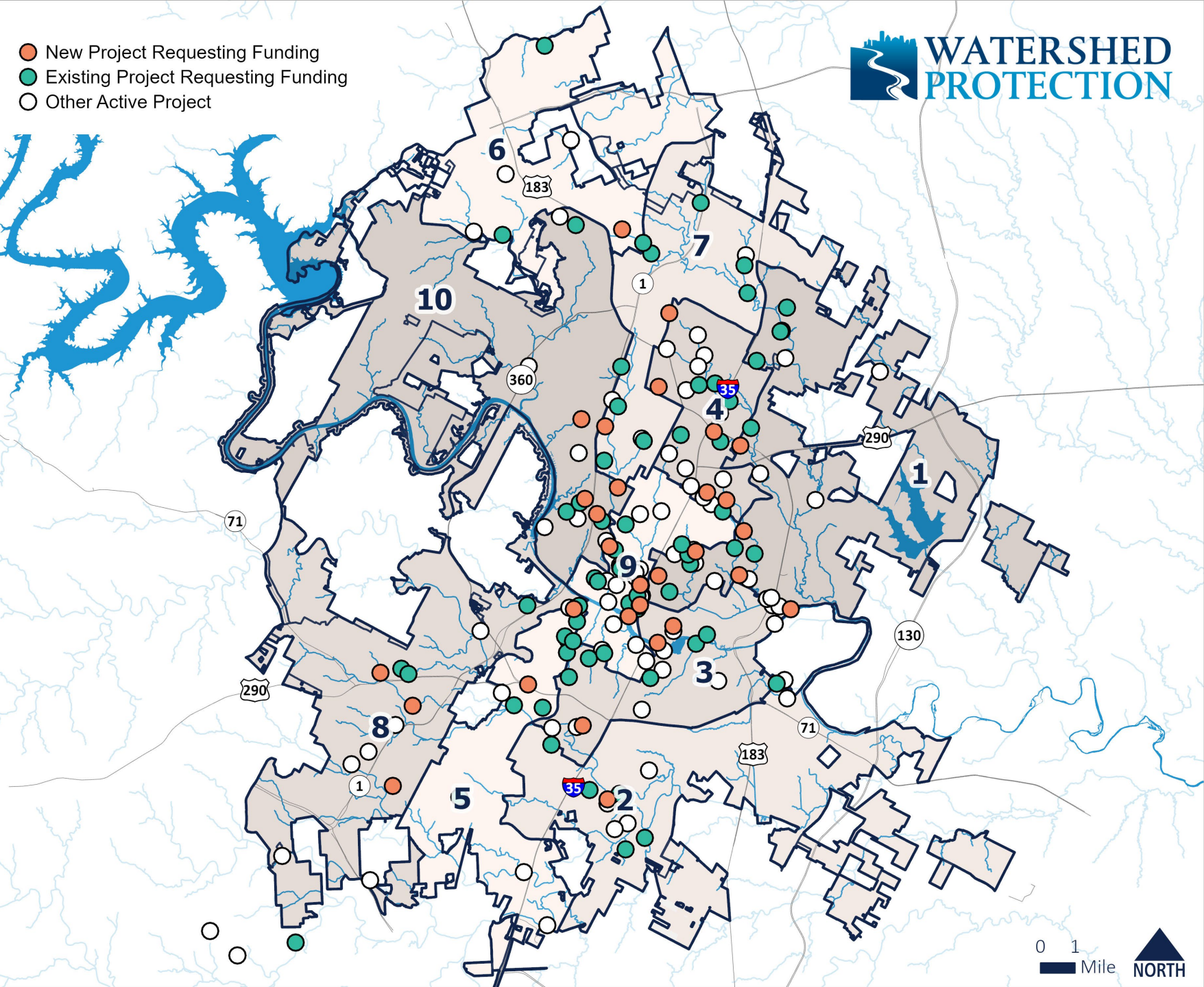
## Summary of Projects in the FY23-27 Appropriation Plan

- 102 total projects
  - 17 Creek Flood Risk Reduction
  - 19 Localized Flood Risk Reduction
  - 11 Erosion Control
  - 19 Water Quality
  - 36 Multi-Objective (e.g., studies, small projects, partnerships)
- 21 bond projects
  - 20 stormwater/drainage projects
  - Open space acquisition program



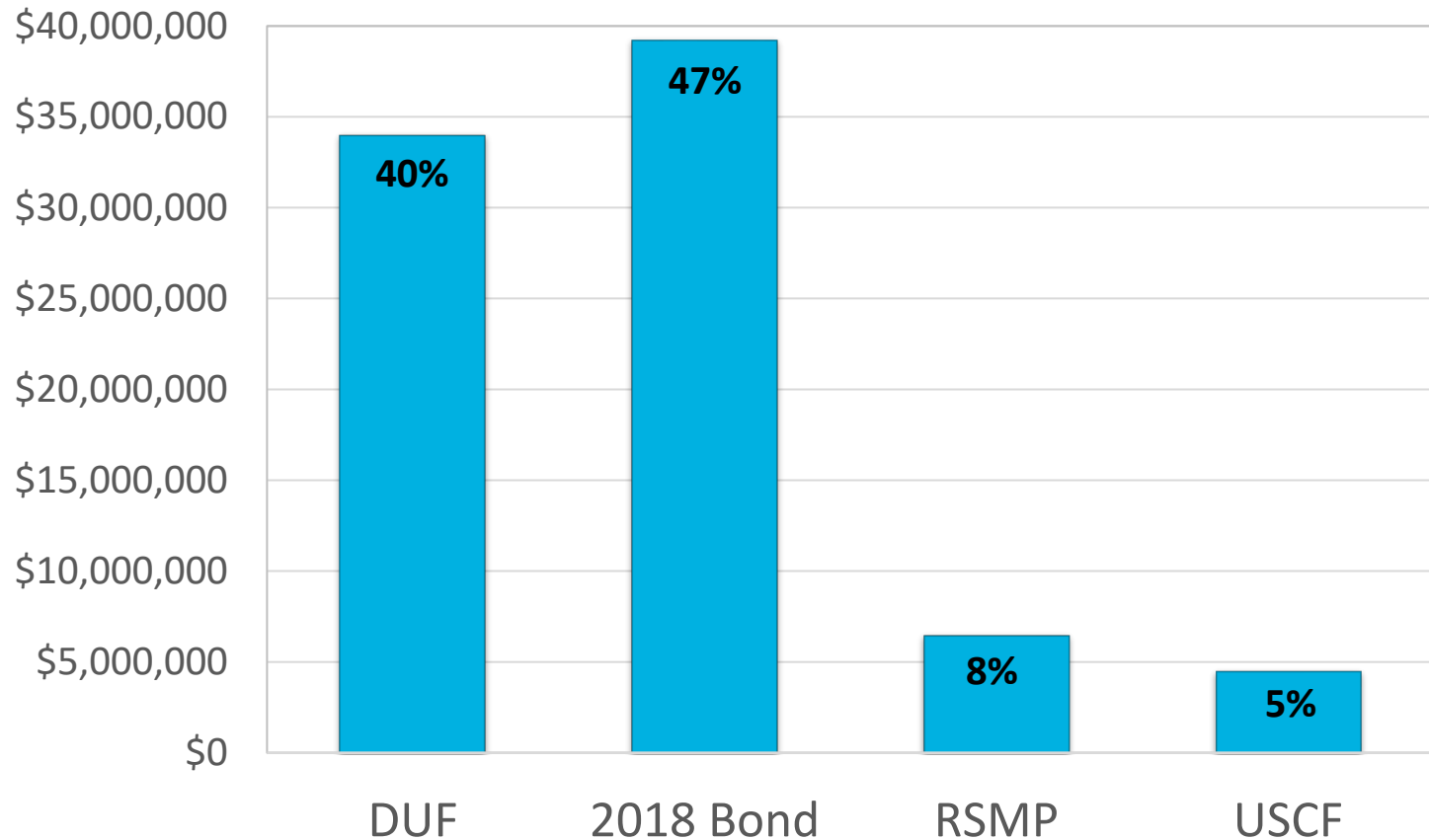
# Active Capital Projects by Status

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



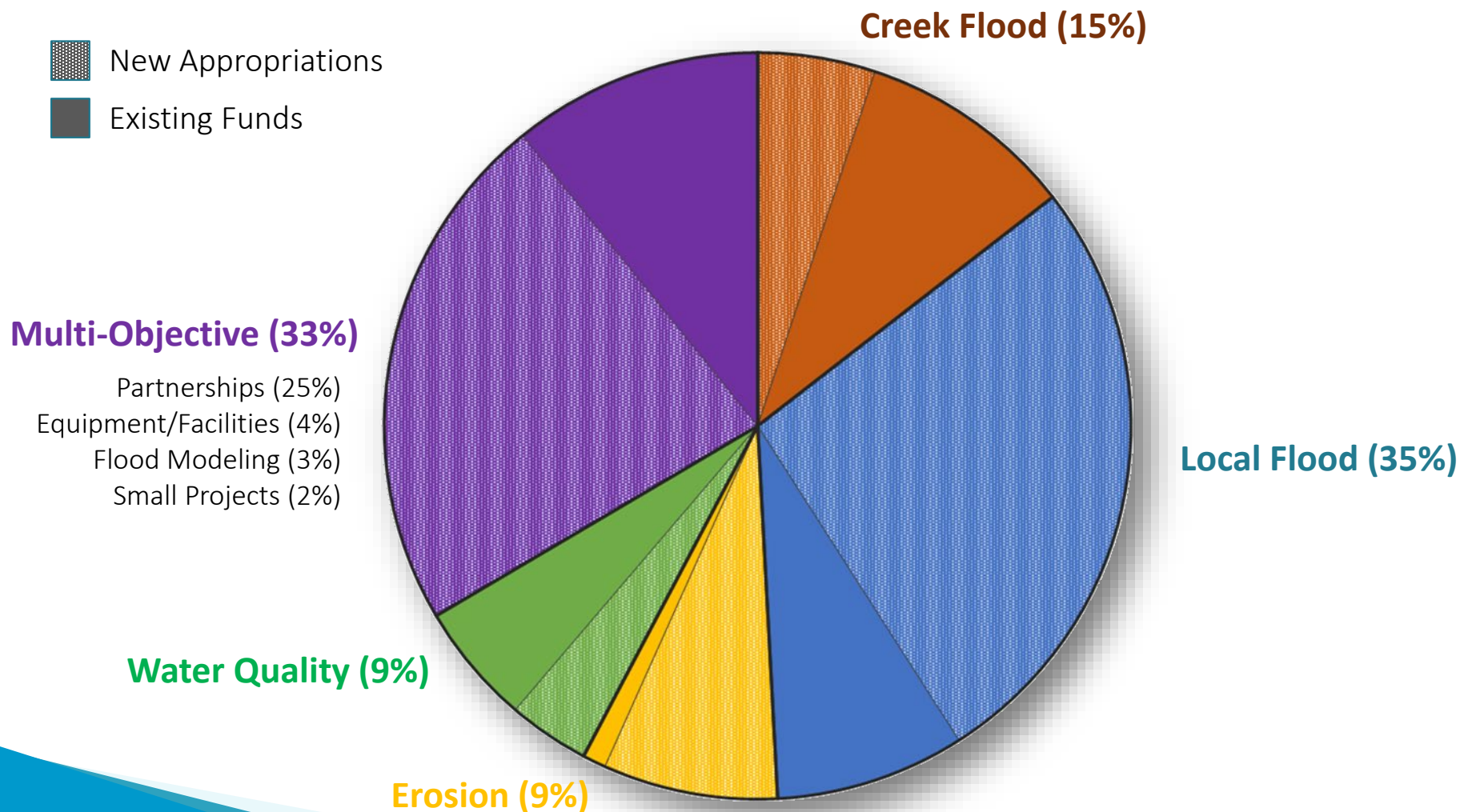


# FY23 Appropriations by Funding Source

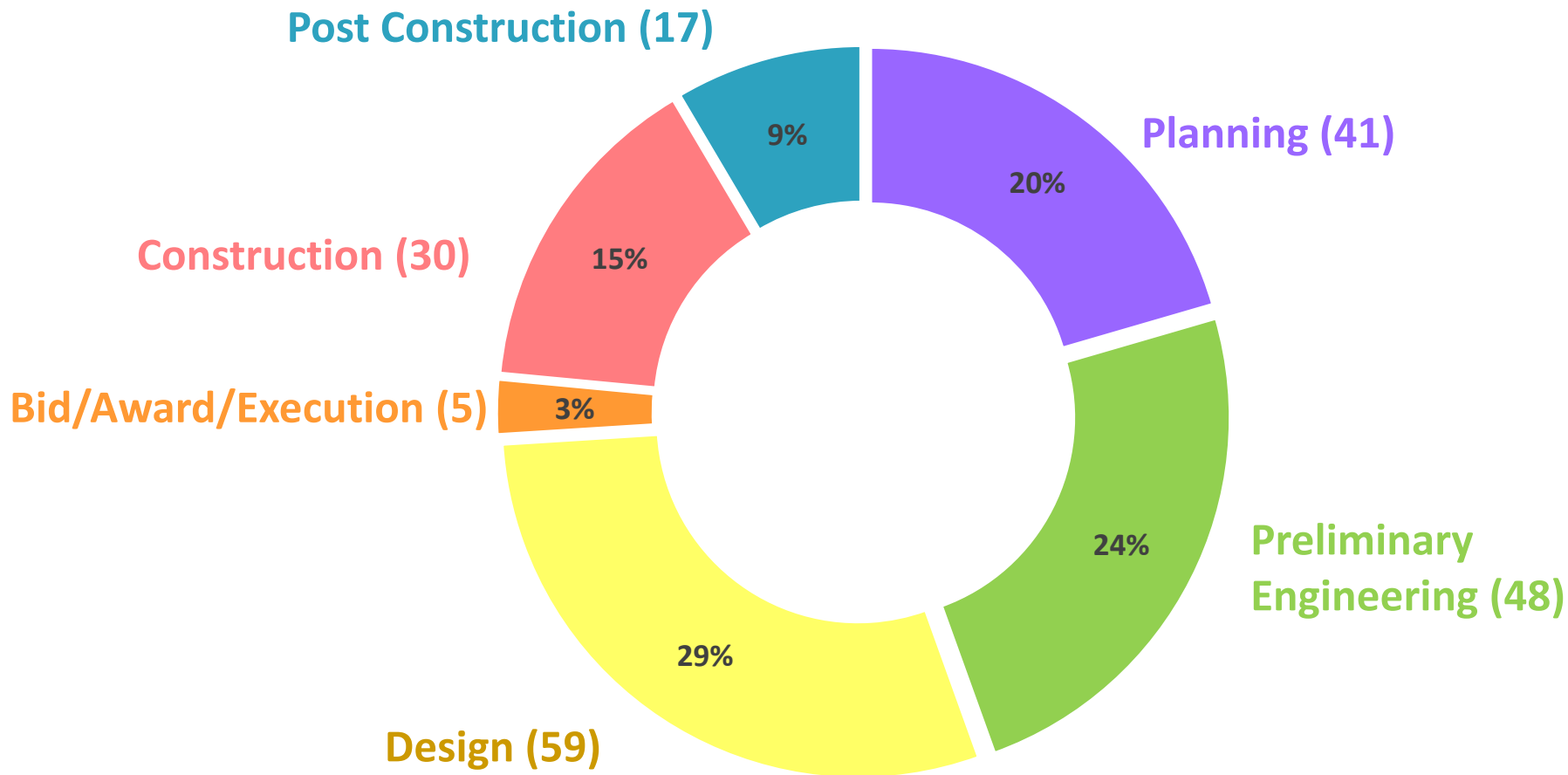


DUF: Drainage Utility Fund  
RSMP: Regional Stormwater Management Program  
USCF: Urban Structural Control Fund

# FY23 Funding (New + Existing) by Category



# Projects by Phase as of March 2022



# Five-Year CIP Plan: Project Highlights

2018 Bond  
Project



*Lake Austin - Meredith St. Storm Drain Improvements*



# Five-Year CIP Plan: Project Highlights

2018 Bond  
Project



*Country Club West - Roy G. Guerrero Park Channel Stabilization*



# Five-Year CIP Plan: Project Highlights



*Little Walnut Creek – Flood Risk Reduction from Metric to Rutland*



# Five-Year CIP Plan: Project Highlights



*Fort Branch Creek - Delores Tributary Waste Removal and Stream Restoration*



# Five-Year CIP Plan: Project Highlights



*Boggy Creek - MLK TOD Stormwater Conveyance Improvements Phase 1*



# Five-Year CIP Plan: Project Highlights

Before



After



*Open Systems: Catalina Drive Grade Control / Bank Stabilization*



# Five-Year CIP Plan: Project Highlights

Elevated Walkway  
E Cesar Chavez St  
and Red River St



*Waller Creek District – The Confluence (formerly Creek Delta) Project*



# Five-Year CIP Plan: Project Highlights

2018 Bond  
Project



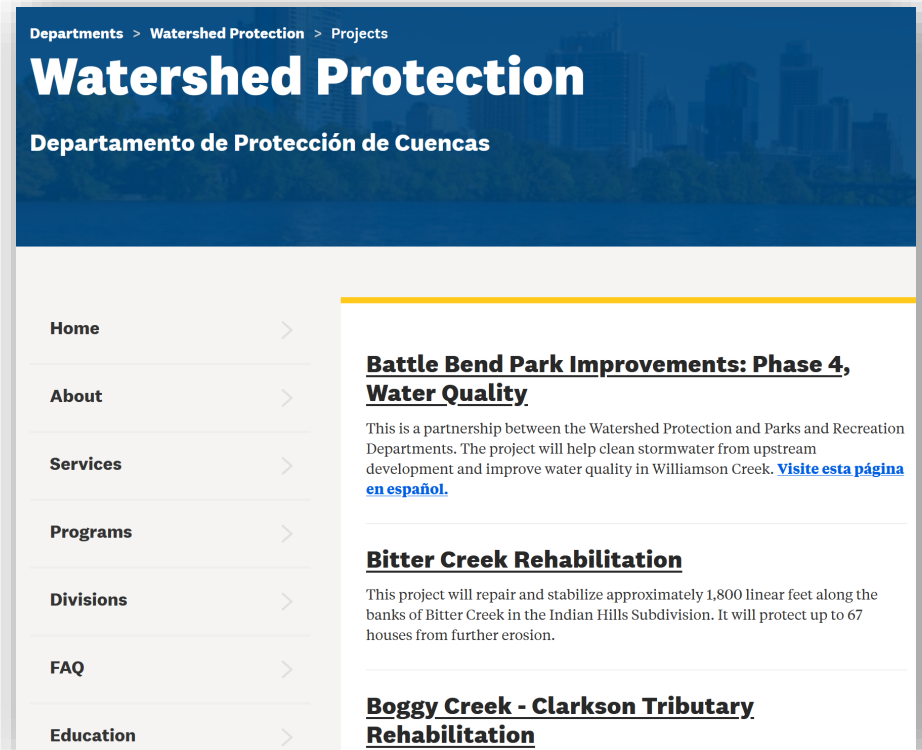
*Water Quality Protection Lands – Euers tract (109 acres fee simple)*

# Capital Improvement Program: Resources

## WPD Active Projects

This website has a list of major capital projects that WPD 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

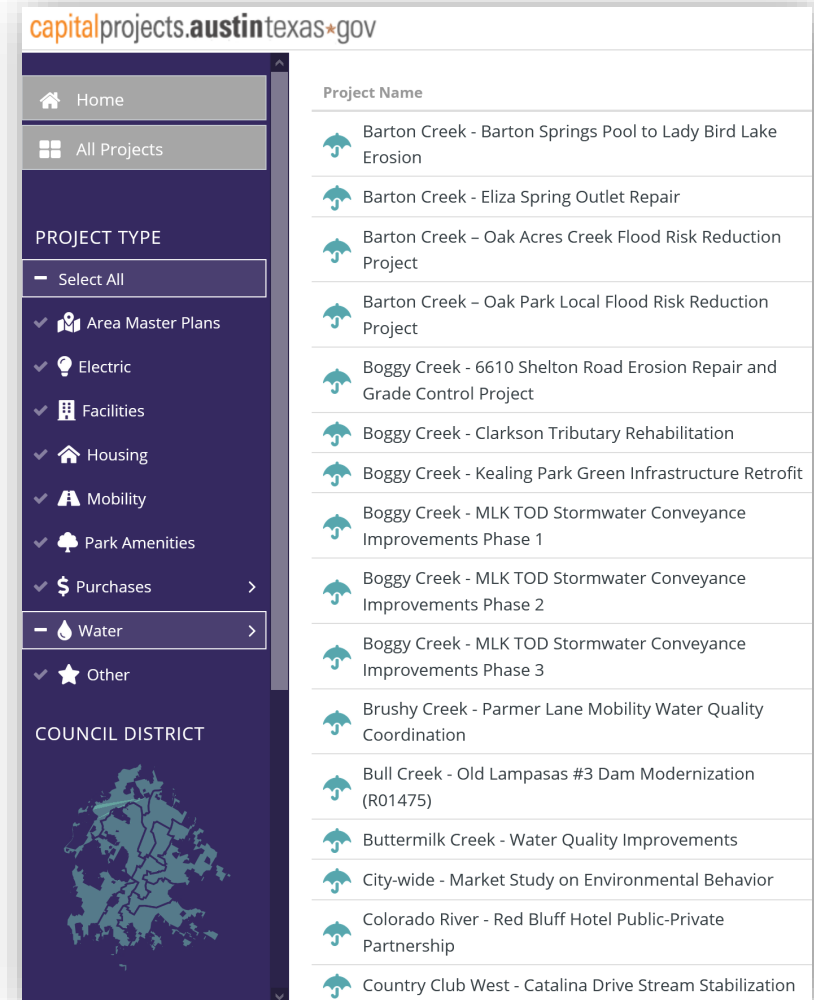
## Capital Project Explorer

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 WPD—setting our goals, creating a system to prioritize our work, and guiding our decision making. WPD is launching a comprehensive engagement process to create *Rain to River: A Strategic Plan to Project Austin's Creeks and Communities*. The new plan will help WPD tackle urgent challenges like climate change and racial inequities.

<https://www.austintexas.gov/departments/watershed-protection-strategic-plan>



# Questions?

## Operating Forecast & Budget

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