

# Single Family Residential Landscape Transformation

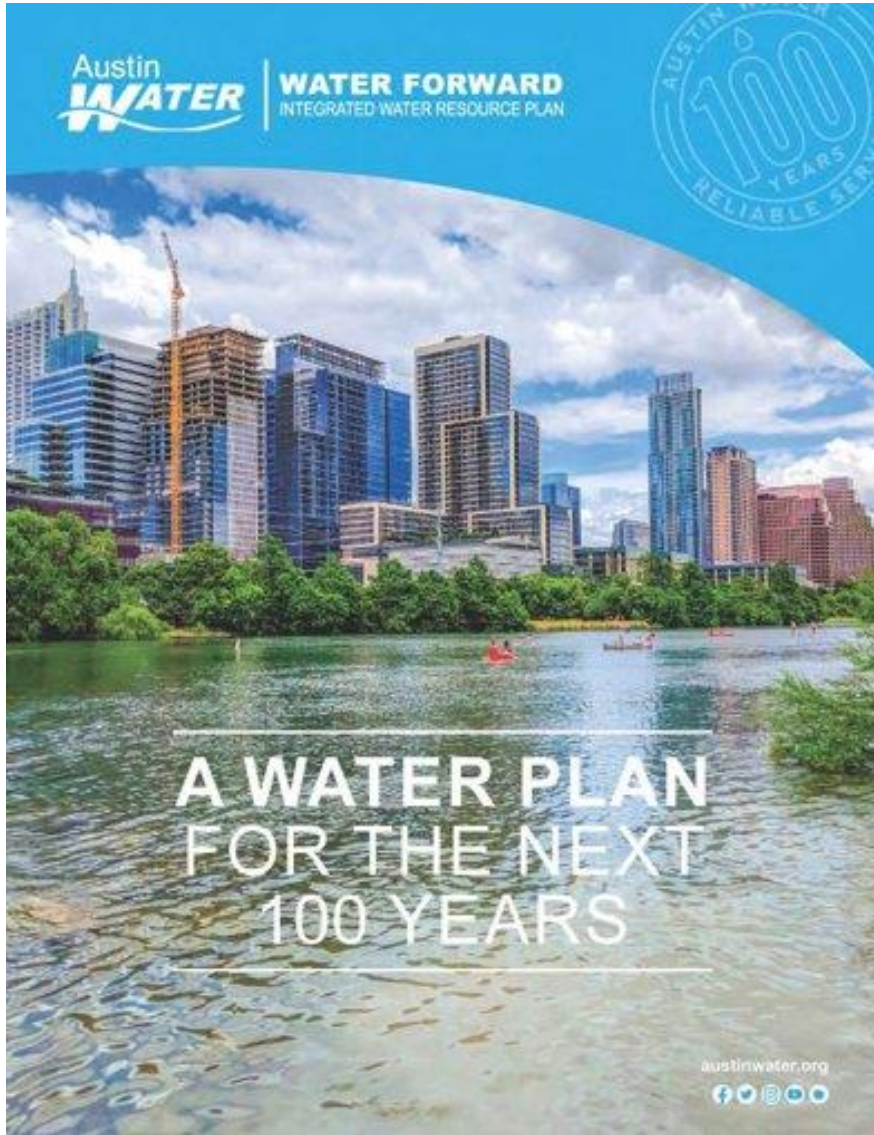
Water Conservation Division



September 20, 2022





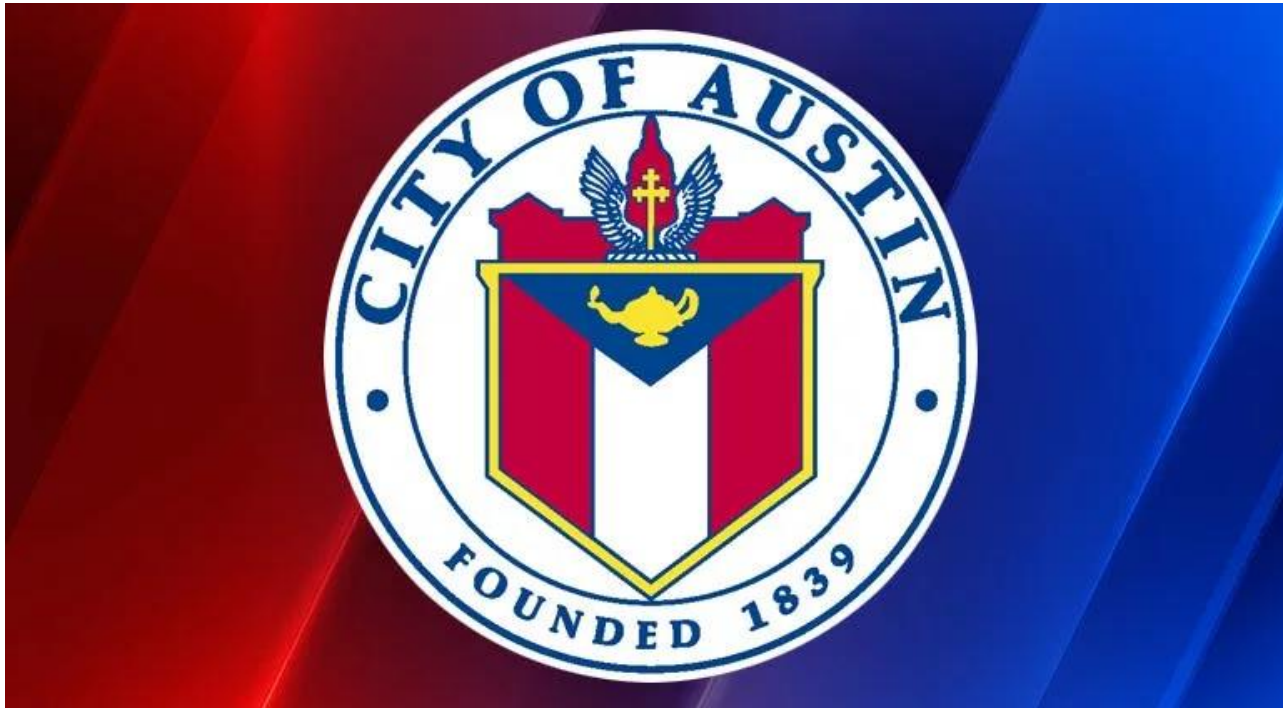


## • Landscape Transformation Ordinance (D5)

- From traditional landscaping to plants with reduced water needs
- New single-family residential
- Potential limits on turf and irrigation
- Savings goal of 2,490 AF (2.2 MGD) by 2040



# Internal City Stakeholders



- Watershed Protection Department (WPD)
- Development Services Department (DSD)
- Austin Energy (AE) – Green Building
- Sustainability Office
- Equity Office
- Planning and Housing Department
- Wildlife Austin (PARD)



# Public Meetings



- Venue / Virtual Options
- Activities
- Public Notices
- Marketing
- Meetings: February and May 2022

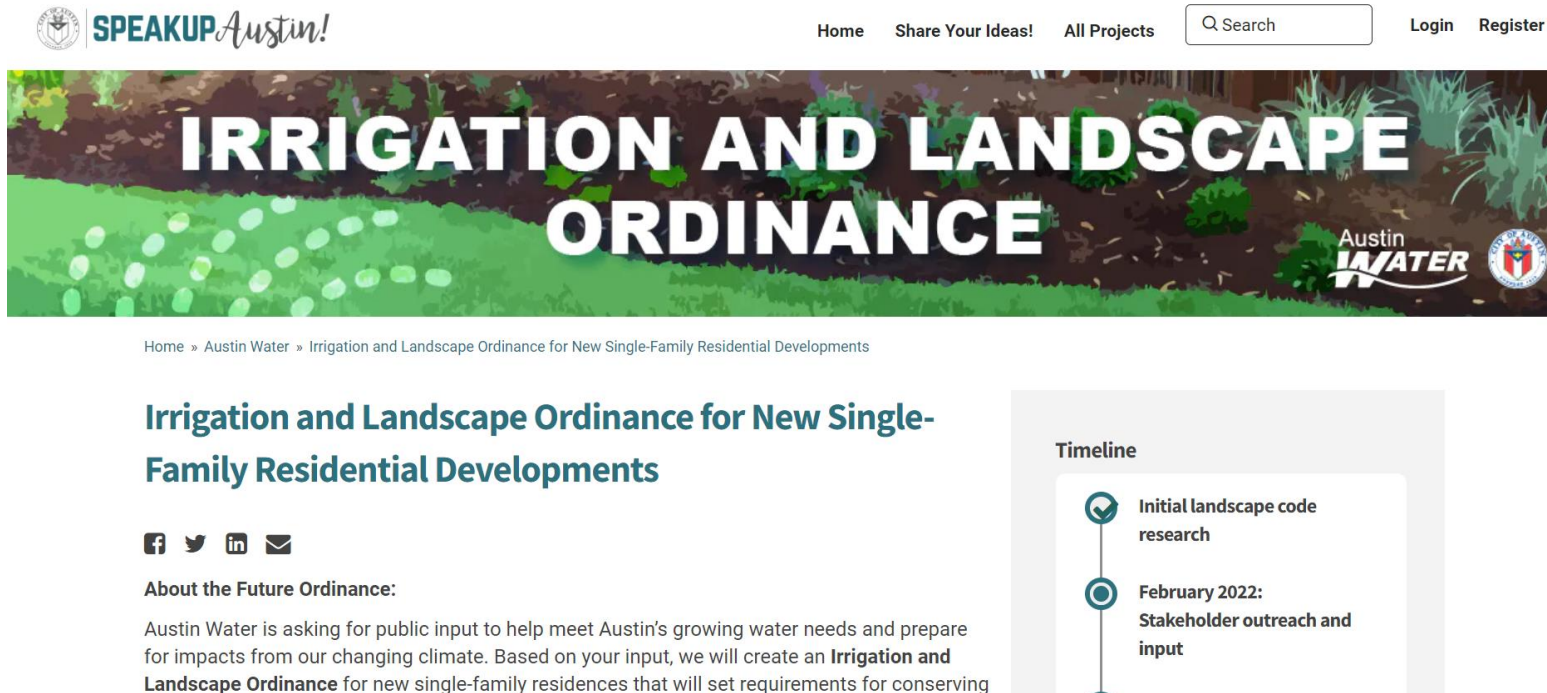


# External Stakeholder Meetings



- ♦ Home Builders Association of Greater Austin (HBA)
- ♦ Central Texas Professional Irrigation Association
- ♦ Association of Professional Landscape Architects (ASLA)
- ♦ Texas Nursery and Landscape Assoc. (TNLA – Region 8)
- ♦ Environmental Advocates

# SpeakUp Austin, Online Public Comments, and Other Outreach



The screenshot shows the SpeakUp Austin website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: Home, Share Your Ideas!, All Projects, a search bar, Login, and Register. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image with the text "IRRIGATION AND LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE" in white, bold, uppercase letters. The banner also features the Austin Water logo and the City of Austin seal. Below the banner, there's a breadcrumb trail: Home » Austin Water » Irrigation and Landscape Ordinance for New Single-Family Residential Developments. The main heading is "Irrigation and Landscape Ordinance for New Single-Family Residential Developments". Below the heading are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Email. A section titled "About the Future Ordinance:" contains text stating that Austin Water is asking for public input to help meet Austin's growing water needs and prepare for impacts from our changing climate. Based on your input, they will create an Irrigation and Landscape Ordinance for new single-family residences that will set requirements for conserving water. To the right of the text is a timeline graphic with two items: "Initial landscape code research" (marked with a checkmark) and "February 2022: Stakeholder outreach and input" (marked with a target icon).

**SPEAKUP** *Austin!*

Home Share Your Ideas! All Projects  Login Register

## IRRIGATION AND LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

Home » Austin Water » Irrigation and Landscape Ordinance for New Single-Family Residential Developments

### Irrigation and Landscape Ordinance for New Single-Family Residential Developments

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**About the Future Ordinance:**

Austin Water is asking for public input to help meet Austin's growing water needs and prepare for impacts from our changing climate. Based on your input, we will create an **Irrigation and Landscape Ordinance** for new single-family residences that will set requirements for conserving

**Timeline**

- Initial landscape code research
- February 2022: Stakeholder outreach and input

- SpeakUp Austin
  - Comments
  - Free form input
  - Informational videos
  - Future Meeting Dates
  - Survey
- Social Media Posts
- Other Public Outreach



# Transforming landscapes to save water



**Build with  
savings**



**Set customers  
up for success**



**Encourage  
alternative  
water**



# Build with savings

Education & Enhanced Inspections	Water Savings (gal/yr/home)	Cost (per home)
Soil 6" with 20% compost	To Be Determined (TBD)	\$800 + DSD inspection
Decompacted soil	TBD	TBD + DSD inspection
Mulch 2-3"	N/A	N/A
Plants from an approved plant list	TBD	N/A





# Build with savings

And/Or

## 💧 Limit turf grass area

- Up to 50% of landscape area; 2,250 sqft max
- Savings: 4,500 gal/yr/home
- Cost:
  - DSD inspection
  - Add. bed cost - \$6 per sqft

## 💧 Limit irrigation area

- Up to 50% of landscape area
- Savings: 9,800 gal/yr/home
- Cost:
  - AW inspection



# Set customers up for success

Better irrigation	Water Savings (gal/yr/home)	Cost (per home)
Require pressure reduction devices (PRD)	6,100 (22% savings)	\$400 + AW inspection
Irrigation inspection (post-installation)	2,800 (10% savings)	AW inspection
Offer new home irrigation check-ups within 90 days	1,400 (5% savings)	AW staff

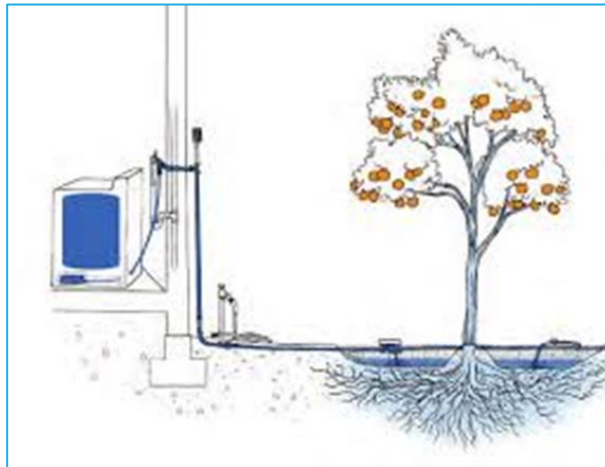




# Encourage alternative water

## • Required gray water laundry to landscape plumbing

- Available in all new homes
- Supply: 3,500 gal
- Cost: <\$1,000



## • Incentivize new home rainwater harvesting

- Incentivize building homes with tanks/systems
- Supply: 5,000
- Cost: TBD





# Bundling activities into scenarios

## In all scenarios

Build with savings (soil)

Setting up customers for success

Encourage alternative

## Options

Limiting turf and/or irrigation



# Scenario #1 (Turf)

	Water Savings (gal/yr/home)	Builder Cost (per home)	Responsible Department
Build With Savings (soil)	TBD	\$800 + TBD	DSD Inspection
Build With Savings (turf limit)	3,600	\$5,800 - \$11,800	DSD Inspection
Setting Up For Success (PRD, system inspection & check-in)	10,300	\$400	AW Inspection
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,800</b>	<b>\$7,000 - \$13,000 +TBD</b>	
Encourage Alternatives (graywater & rainwater)	8,500	<\$1,000 + TBD	DSD and AW



# Scenario #2 (Irrigation)

	Water Savings (gal/yr/home)	Builder Cost (per home)	Responsible Department
Build With Savings (soil)	TBD	\$800 + TBD	DSD Inspection
Build With Savings (irrigation limit)	10,000	\$0	AW Inspection
Setting Up For Success (PRD, inspection, & check-in)	5,200	\$400	AW Inspection
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,200</b>	<b>\$1,200 + TBD</b>	
Encourage Alternatives (graywater & rainwater)	8,500	<\$1,000 + TBD	DSD and AW





# Scenario #3 (Turf + Irrigation)

	Water Savings (gal/yr/home)	Builder Cost	Responsible Department
Build With Savings (soil)	TBD	\$800 + TBD	DSD Inspection
Build With Savings (turf limitation)	300 - 4,500	\$5,800 - \$11,800	DSD Inspection
Build With Savings (irrigation limit)	9,800	0	AW Inspection
Setting Up For Success (PRD, system inspection & check-in)	5,200	\$400	AW Inspection
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,300 – 19,500</b>	<b>\$7,000 - \$13,000 +TBD</b>	
Encourage Alternatives (graywater & rainwater)	8,500	<\$1,000 + TBD	DSD and AW



# Next Steps

## • **September**

- DSD/WPD
- Water Forward Task force

## • **October/November**

- COA stakeholders
- SpeakUp Austin!
- Stakeholder/public meetings
- RMC and WWWC

## • **December**

- Develop ordinance language

## • **January**

- Affordability review
- Legal review

## • **March-May**

- WFTF, RMC, and WWWC
- City Council



# How can Austin grow and meet our water use goal?



**Build with  
savings**



**Set customers  
up for success**



**Encourage  
alternative  
water**