

Onion Creek and Localized Flooding Working Group - Recommendation
Zoning and Platting Commission
January 17, 2023

Whereas the Zoning and Platting Commission initiated the Onion Creek and Localized Flooding Working Group to follow up on the City's response to the devastating Onion Creek Flood on May 16, 2016, and localized flooding in Austin neighborhoods; and

Whereas in 2017, City staff estimated that there were \$579 million in unfunded creek and localized flooding capital projects across the City; and

Whereas the Onion Creek and Localized Flooding Working Group identified City resources regarding flooding, floodplains, and Atlas 14 maps as listed in the Working Group Summary in Exhibit A below; and

Whereas the Onion Creek and Localized Flooding Working Group requested the information regarding localized flooding, stormwater infrastructure, and stormwater management from City staff as listed in the Working Group Summary in Exhibit A below;

now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Zoning and Platting Commission recommends that the City Council:

1. Direct the City Manager to provide annual public updates and data at City Council and City land use commission meetings on the status of the City's Flood Mitigation Task Force [recommendations](#) and the City's efforts to identify, mitigate, reduce, and prevent floodplain and localized flooding in Austin.
2. Direct the City Manager to establish criteria for designating areas of the City at risk of localized flooding and identify localized flooding areas on City flood maps.

DRAFT

Onion Creek and Localized Flooding Working Group Summary – Exhibit A
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The Onion Creek and Localized Flooding Working Group identified the following City resources regarding flooding, floodplains, and Atlas 14 maps:

1. Onion Creek Flood Risk Reduction:
 - <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/onion-creek-flood-risk-reduction>
2. Bond Advisory Task Force Flooding Needs Overview:
 - https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Finance/CFO/Stormwater_WorkingGroup_WPD_Intro_2017.08.04.pdf
3. City Council Flood resilient communities resolution - staff update:
 - <https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/pio/document.cfm?id=375450>
4. Interactive Floodplain Maps:
 - <https://maps.austintexas.gov/FloodPro/>
5. Floodplain regulations:
 - <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/floodplain-regulations>
6. Floodplain and Atlas 14 Maps:
 - <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/flood-risk-and-atlas-14>
7. Floodplain Study Updates:
 - <https://atxfloodplains-austin.hub.arcgis.com>
 - <https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/pio/document.cfm?id=399632>
8. Floodplain redevelopment exceptions:
 - <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/flood-risk-and-atlas-14>
 - <https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=387630>

The Onion Creek and Localized Flooding Working Group requested the following information regarding localized flooding, stormwater infrastructure, and stormwater management from City staff:

1. List and status of stormwater infrastructure upgrade plans and projects including funding sources and expenditures to date.
 - <https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=379466>
 - https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Watershed/MasterPlan/Green_Infrastructure.pdf
2. The extent to which stormwater infrastructure upgrades are informed by localized flooding, climate change, growth, and development.
 - <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/flood-risk-and-atlas-14>
3. Update on Regional Stormwater Management Program from Watershed Protection.
 - <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/regional-stormwater-management-program>
4. Number of residential, commercial, civic, and public structures in areas experiencing localized flooding.
 - <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/local-flooding>

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5. Feasibility of adding a flag to zoning and development applications to indicate if a site is located in an area experiencing localized flooding.
 - Residential development application:
https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Development_Services/RES_NewConstructionAndAdditionPermitApplication.pdf
 - Commercial development application:
https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Development_Services/COM_CommercialBuildingApplication.pdf
 - Subdivision application:
https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Development_Services/SUB_SubdivisionApplication.pdf
6. Status of city's education efforts regarding localized flooding.
 - <https://www.austintexas.gov/faq/how-does-city-identify-localized-flood-problems>
 - <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/local-flooding>
7. Best practices, processes, and programs by peer cities for preventing and mitigating localized flooding.
 - <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/localized-flood-management>
 - <https://www.austintexas.gov/content/1361/faq/2765>
8. The type, availability, and cost of flood insurance that covers localized flooding.
 - <https://www.floodsmart.gov>
9. Criteria for designating areas with localized flooding and a status update on the localized flooding map.
10. Update on Onion Creek Flood:
 - <https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=348722>.