

PARD LAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS AUDIT

Recommended that PARD create and implement land management plans with a priority on “high-risk properties.”

Response: PARD established the beginnings of a land management program as well as a technical guiding document to help direct action.

This strategy is also recommended by:

- Austin/Travis County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Austin Climate Equity Plan
- PARD Long Range Plan
- Nine parks vision plans
- Austin Green Infrastructure Strengths and Gaps Assessment
- Austin Healthy Parks Plan (Austin Parks Foundation)

Parks and Recreation Land Management Guide

- Approved by Austin City Council September 21, 2023
- 10,347 acres of parkland natural areas



PARKS AND RECREATION LAND MANAGEMENT GUIDE

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Recommended land management strategies and climate vulnerability analysis

SITE ANALYSIS: (current challenges)

Current conditions and challenges:
Existing vegetation communities, wildfire
fuel conditions, soils, hydrology,
endangered species, other elements

CLIMATE VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS: (future challenges)

Defined the components of climate
vulnerability. Identifies and maps
vulnerability to intense heat, drought,
disease, and wildfire. Incorporates social
vulnerability as a component of risk.

MANAGEMENT GOALS:

Target vegetation types expected to best
withstand and recover from heat, drought,
disease, and wildfire throughout 21st
century.

RESTORATION STRATEGIES:

Actions for economically and efficiently
achieving management goals at large
scales

MONITORING DIRECTION:

For evaluating progress relative to
management goals

IMPLEMENTING PARKS AND RECREATION LAND MANAGEMENT GUIDE

- Restoration strategies
 - Selective thinning and fuel reduction
 - In addition to existing process for shaded fuel breaks
 - Prescribed fire
 - Cooperative agreements with Austin Fire Department, US Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Texas, Travis Co. Parks, Austin Water, The Nature Conservancy
 - Invasive species removal
 - Planting and seeding
- FY24 and Beyond
 - Parks and Recreation Staffing
 - Two staff currently dedicated to these efforts with two more joining in FY24.
 - Master Agreements
 - Funding Opportunities
 - Future Growth

