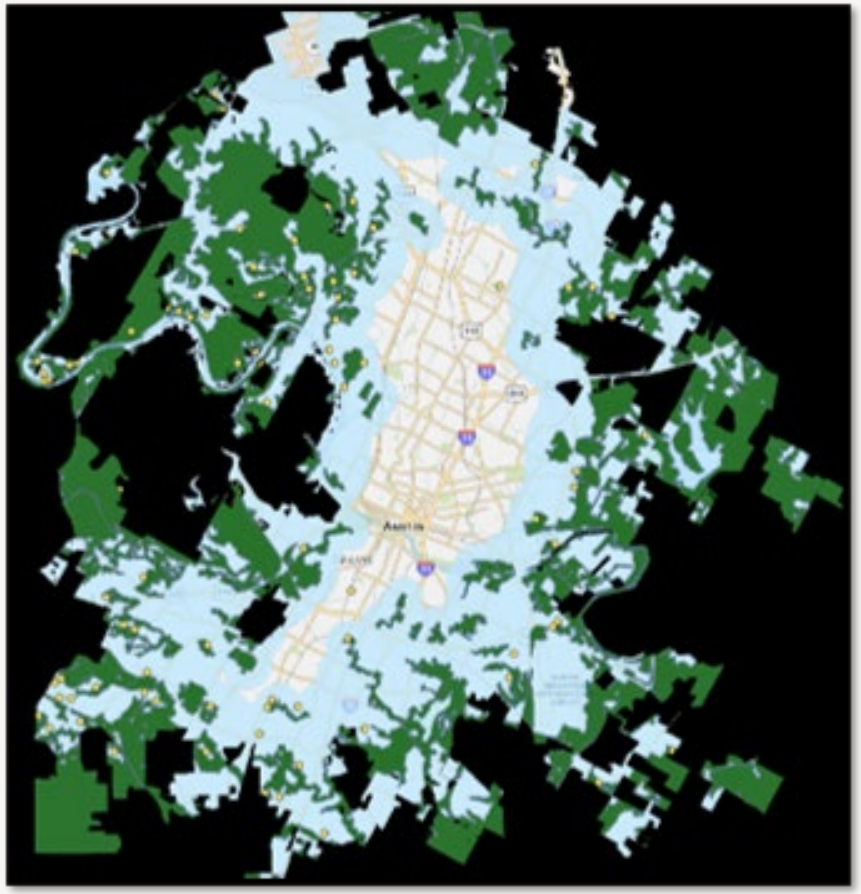
Austin City Council
Public Safety Committee
Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Code Update

Austin Fire | Tom Vocke | Interim Fire Chief | 2026

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Code

- Originally implemented January 2021, revised July 2025
- Currently enforcing amended 2024 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code
- Interactive WUI Code Map
- FAQs and other resources at Wildland-Urban Interface Code | Austin Fire | AustinTexas.gov



Why do we have the WUI Code?



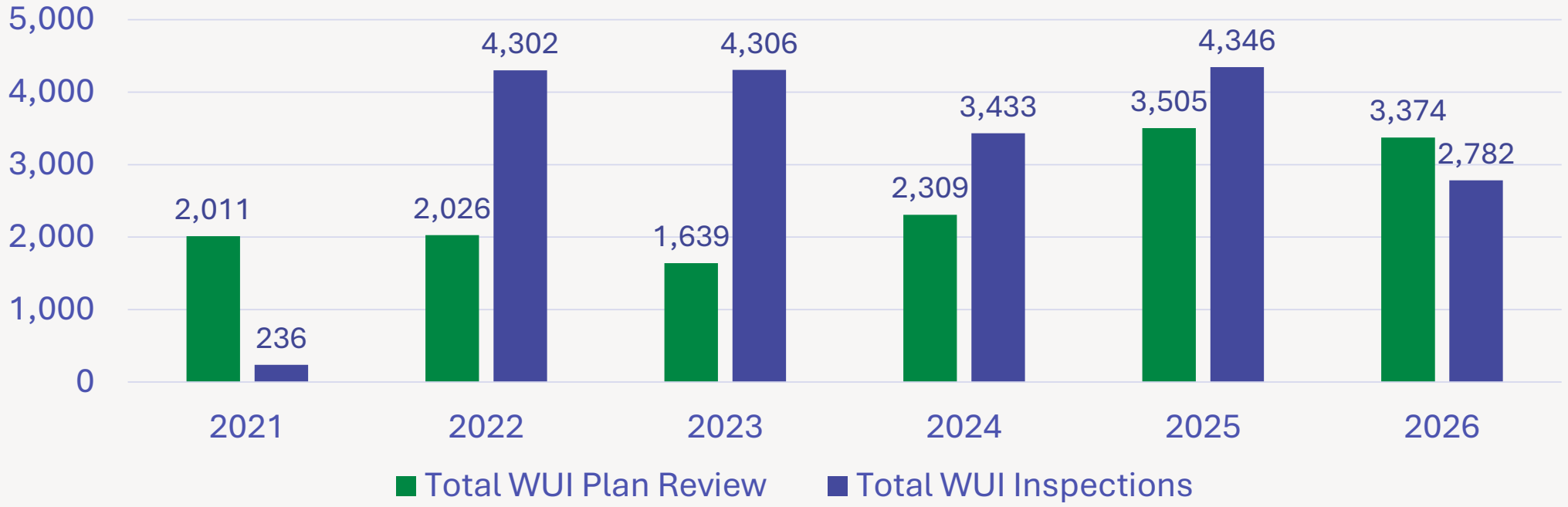
- 90% of home ignitions from embercast during WUI event
- Focus on home hardening, not only fuels mitigation

Parmer Lane Fire, 2023, Cedar Park, Texas



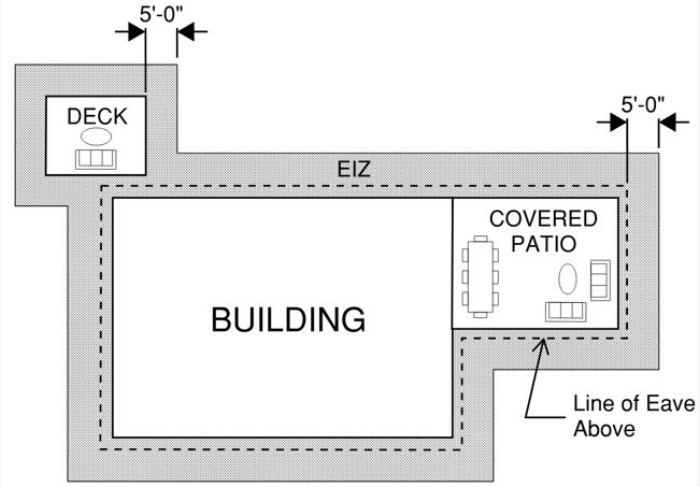
WUI Plan Reviews and Inspections by Year

- WUI plan review and inspection data seeing an increase of 25% per year



WUI Code Recent Updates

- Recent updates to WUI Fire Protection Criteria Manual (FPCM) – effective October 1, 2026
  - Conducted 6 weeks of stakeholder meetings with a focused Working Group to review all changes
- September 2026 – Began biannual stakeholder presentations for WUI updates, questions and feedback.
- Recent inspection changes based on client feedback
  - Allowing digital submissions for re-inspections
  - Removed requirement for POC to be on site





Future Efforts and Resources

- Future Efforts
  - Continue coordination with Wildfire Division to align goals and efforts
  - Extend product availability with local vendors
  - Bring evidence of attractive WUI implementation to the Austin area
- WUI
  - Wildland-Urban Interface Code | Austin Fire | AustinTexas.gov
  - WUI Reference Guide
  - Interactive WUI map



Austin City Council
Public Safety Committee
Wildfire Readiness Update

Austin Fire | David Skowron | Division Chief, Wildfire Division | 2026

Creating Community Engagement



Provides information and education to homeowners, educators, community groups and firefighting professionals, and the public.

1. Public engagements:
   - 55 community events
   - 9 educational presentations
   - co-hosted the Austin Wildfire Symposium

2. Wildfire awareness campaign
   - Expected to produce 12m public impressions
   - Will continue through 2028

3. Inaugural Austin Ember Bash November 2027
   - A family-friendly annual awareness event

Maintaining Partnerships

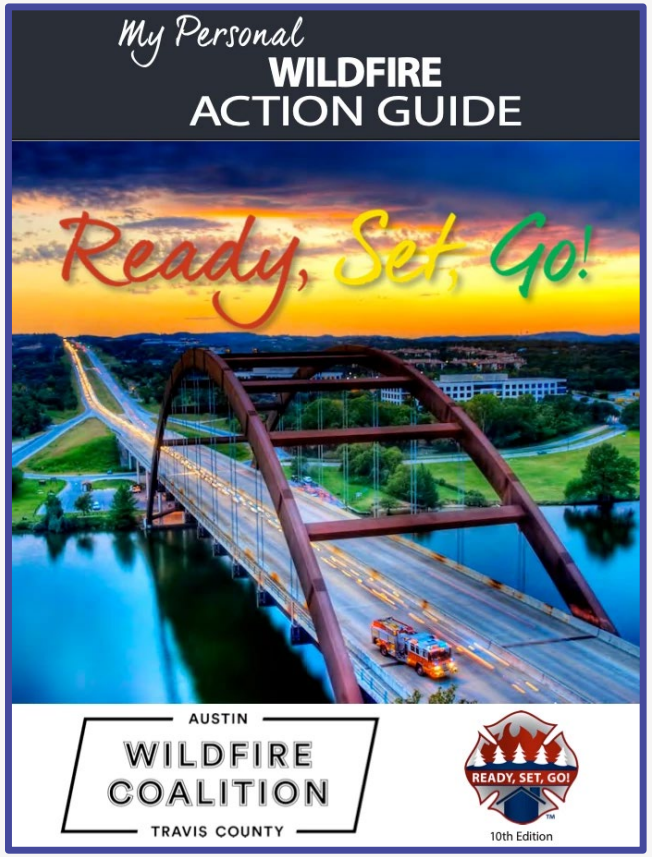
Prevention, mitigation, and response exceeds the capacity or resources of any one organization

- Public service
- Land management
- Emergency response partners

Acts as executive team leadership for the City/County Wildfire Coalition.

The coalition completed an update to the interagency Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

FY2026, provided and tracked $421,000, completing over 56 acres of wildfire fuel reduction projects on City parkland.



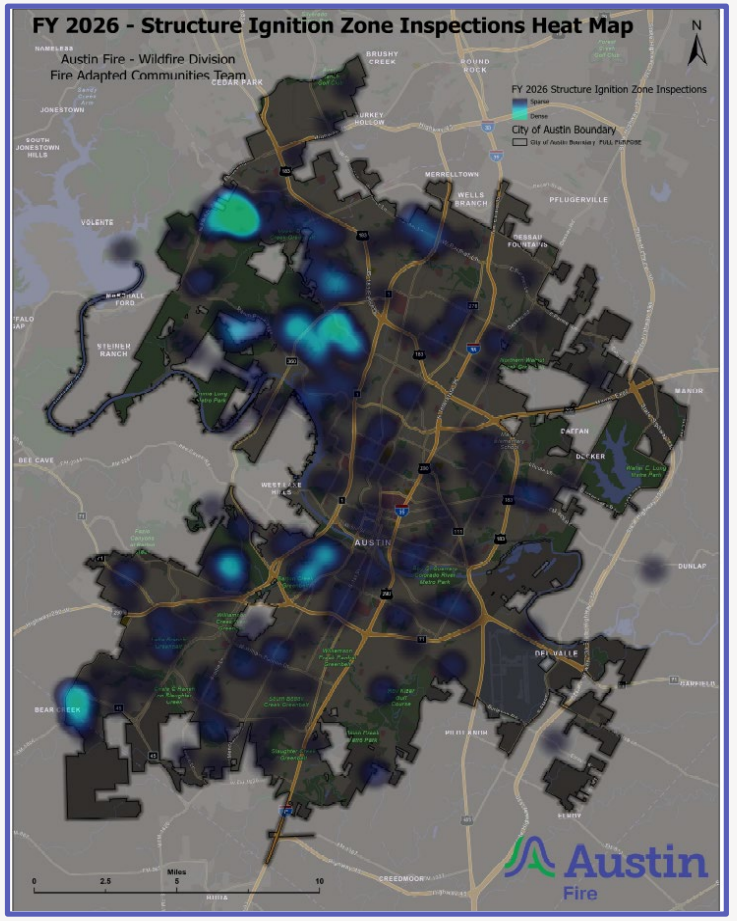
Support for Fire Adapted Communities

A Fire Adapted Community (FAC) works to identify wildfire risk and take steps to increase resident and firefighter safety.

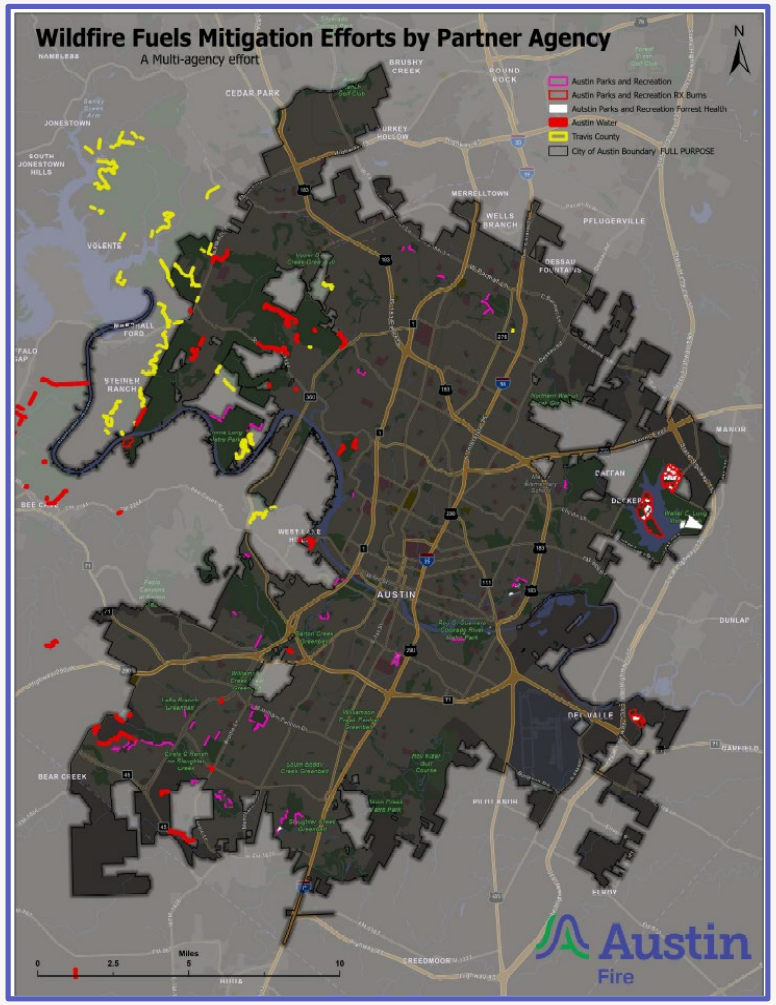
FAC team and partners provided

- 427 Structure Ignition Zone Evaluations (SIZE)
- Facilitated 3 new Community Risk Assessments and Action Plans
  - 28 FireWise Communities

Continues connecting with other City services to citizens through outreach, community organization, and media.



Developing a Fire Resilient Landscape



A Fire Resilient Landscape (FRL) is an environment that can endure wildfire with minimal disruption through landscape management, community engagement and effective recovery.

Accomplished by a team:

- Providing wildfire protection guidance to landowners
- Supporting and tracking fire mitigation projects

FY2026 the team

- Presented at 9 Public Education/Training Events
- Completed 4 Community Scale Fuels Risk Evaluations

Next:
Private sector service provider training program to create a skilled workforce to provide effective wildfire mitigation on private property.

Providing Effective Firefighting

Effective Firefighting (EFF) increases public and firefighter safety by ensuring all first responders make risk-based, coordinated decisions during an incident.

The Wildfire Division's EFF operations team

- Provides wildfire response
- Prioritizes improved
  - responder training
  - equipment
  - situational awareness
- Delivers specialized courses
- Develops advanced tactics
- Monitors hazardous conditions
- Maintains equipment and apparatus.

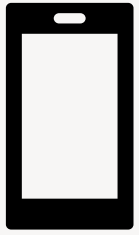


Protective Action Plan – AFD Responsibilities

With the approval of the new protective action plan in October of last year, each public safety agency is designated specific responsibilities. For Austin Fire, those include the following:



Hazard Mitigation: Fire Suppression, Water Rescue, Hazmat control



Update Field Maps with critical situational awareness information



Identify and coordinate evacuation: small to large scale



Request additional resources (Auto Aid, Mutual Aid, Texas Forest Service, Aviation Assets)

Please visit atxwildfirehub.com for more information.