



Travis County

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2026 Austin–Travis County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Completion, acceptance and implementation

Presented by

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Developed with the Austin–Travis County Wildfire
Coalition and Texas A&M Forest Service

What is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan?



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WHAT IT IS

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a collaborative plan, developed with residents, land managers, fire personnel and other partners, that assesses wildfire risk where communities meet wildlands and identifies actions to protect people, property, and natural and cultural resources.

WHAT IT IS NOT

- A regulation or mandate
- A single-department work plan
- A parcel-level risk rating or insurance tool
- A commitment of funding or staff by any one agency

AGREED TO BY THREE PARTIES

- ✓ **Local fire authority**
Austin Fire and Travis County Fire Marshal
- ✓ **State forestry agency**
Texas A&M Forest Service
- ✓ **Local government**
City Council and Commissioners Court

A current CWPP is also required to apply for grant funding, including federal Community Wildfire Defense Grants

The CWPP is complete. Implementation is next. Austin



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Plan completion is the transition point, not the finish line.



Why the CWPP matters now



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Wildfire is a regional public safety, infrastructure, land management and resilience issue.

8,000

Wildfire incidents recorded
in Travis County since 1998

2011

Steiner Ranch and
Spicewood fires destroyed
dozens of homes

1.4M

Travis County residents in
2025, up from 1.3 million in
2020

9 in 10

Texas wildfires are human-
caused

1

Exposure is growing

Development continues next to grass, brush and woodland fuels across the county.

2

Conditions are intensifying

Hotter summers and longer dry spells between storms lower fuel moisture.

3

Impacts cascade

Wildfire affects power, water, communications, roads, smoke, watersheds and recovery.

Sources: 2026 CWPP Ch. 1–2; Texas A&M Forest Service (2023); U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts.

We built on the 2014 plan — and it delivered



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—●—2014 Foundation plan —●—2024 TAMFS and USDA grant —●—2025–26 Countywide update —●—2026 Implementation

Progress since 2014

26,000

Acres of fuels management reported

6,000+

Acres treated with prescribed fire

80,000+

Linear feet of shaded fuel breaks

WUI Code

Wildland-Urban Interface Code adopted by the City of Austin

What the 2026 update adds

- Updated countywide risk assessment and field assessments
- Watershed, utility, public health and post-fire recovery
- Public tools and a shared project tracker

Gaps carried forward

Homeowner participation and local plan uptake remain low; tracking was not centralized or public.

Source: 2026 CWPP Table 1.1. Reflects documented accomplishments; may not capture every action since 2014.

Built in 14 months with partners and the public

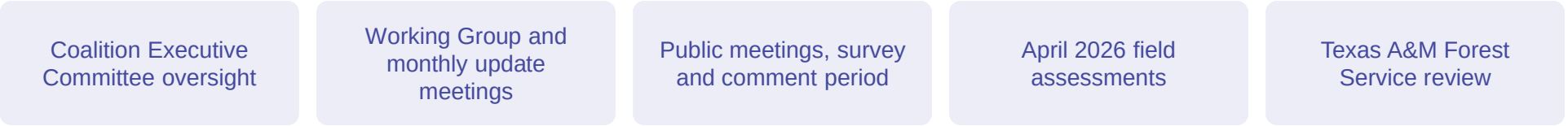
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The schedule tied analysis, review and engagement to a formal handoff into Coalition-led implementation.



How it was built



Residents are concerned and ready to act



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377 survey participants

3,525 written comments

8,276 survey page views

15,427 survey answers

77%

are concerned or very concerned about wildfire where they live

9 in 10

say individuals share responsibility, along with local government (88%) and fire departments (83%)

45%

don't know or are unsure how to evacuate safely

28%

are not sure what their insurance would cover after a wildfire

32%

name cost as their biggest obstacle to home hardening and defensible space

88%

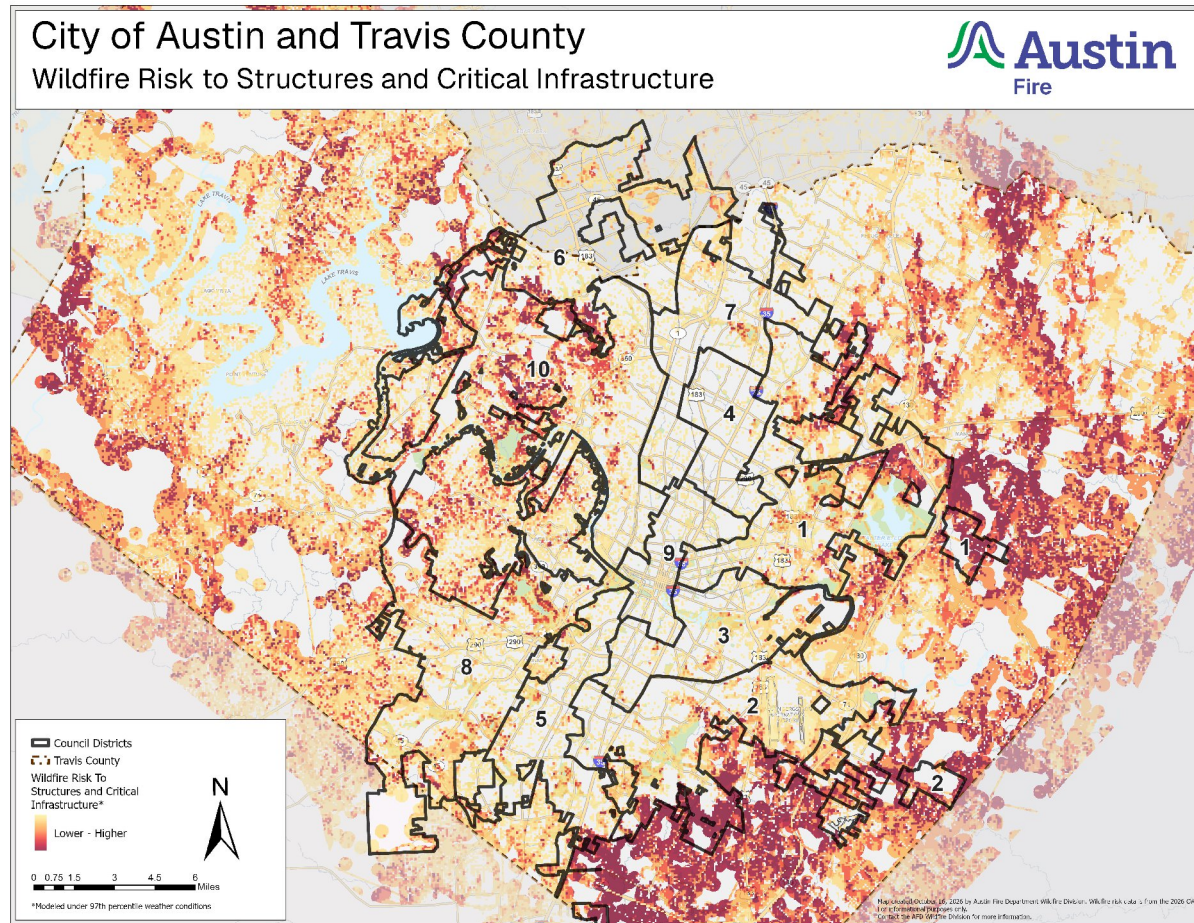
would join (48%) or consider (40%) a cost-share program

Opt-in online survey, 2026, with Spanish-language version, public meeting and webinar; not a representative sample. Respondents were mostly older homeowners (56 and older) in western Travis County. Renters, Spanish speakers and eastern communities were underrepresented.

No single wildfire problem: risk varies by place



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West / Hill Country

Woodland and canyon fuels, steep slopes, and limited access and egress.

Central Austin

Greenbelts, parks, preserves and shared public/private edges. Riparian corridors are watershed assets; some need site-specific planning during drought.

East / Southeast

Highest concentration of modeled risk. Continuous grass fuels support fast, wind-driven spread in fast-growing areas with higher social vulnerability.

Regionwide

Utilities, water, evacuation routes, smoke and post-fire watershed impacts require coordination.

71 recommendations & the tools to act on them



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Built on the National Cohesive Strategy's three goals

Resilient landscapes

12 Recommendations

Example: strategic, cross-boundary fuel management

Outreach and structural ignitability

12 Recommendations

Example: home hardening and defensible space assistance

Fire response capability

17 Recommendations

Example: regional wildfire alerting and public warning

Watershed protection and recovery

12 Recommendations

Example: post-fire hazard outreach

Code review

18 Recommendations

Example: countywide code coordination group

CWPP Hub

Public front door to the plan, maps and updates

StoryMap

Plain-language story of the risk and the plan

Web maps

Planning-level risk and supporting layers

Project tracker

Projects, status and outcomes in one place

Fuels mitigation project analyzer

Supports project scoping and funding

Community planning templates

Neighborhood planning aligned to the CWPP

Measured each year: acres treated • homes assessed • home-hardening actions • outreach • code and policy changes

Implementation is shared across the region



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Austin–Travis County Wildfire Coalition

Executive Committee

- Strategic direction and oversight
- City, County, and partner representatives

Coalition at large

City, County, emergency services districts, small cities, land managers, utilities, higher education, state and federal agencies, and community resilience partners

Nine implementation task groups

1

GIS and Risk Mapping

2

Data Management and Project Tracking

3

Public Outreach and Education

4

Fuels, Land Management, and Mitigation Funding

5

Prescribed Fire Coordination

6

Wildfire Response, Evacuation, and Operational Readiness

7

Codes, Policy, and Development Standards

8

Utilities, Critical Infrastructure, and Public Health

9

Post-Fire Recovery and Watershed Resilience

Operating principle: Task groups organize expertise. Action follows each partner's authority, staffing and funding.

Path forward: acceptance, kickoff and recognition



Nov. 6 Coalition implementation kickoff

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. | Austin Energy Mueller Headquarters

- 1 **Review** the final plan and deliverables
- 2 **Demonstrate** the tracker, analyzer and data update process
- 3 **Align** task group chairs, members and missing seats
- 4 **Set** first actions, data needs and reporting cadence

What we're asking of Council and Commissioners Court

1 Understand

- The CWPP is a living regional framework, not a single-department task list
- Risk maps are planning-level tools, not parcel-level determinations
- Recommendations guide coordination; they don't commit funding or override agency authority

2 Support

- Encourage City departments to take part in Coalition task groups
- Consider CWPP priorities in future grant, budget and hazard mitigation project decisions
- Point constituents to the CWPP Hub and wildfire readiness resources

3 Accept and champion

- Adopt the CWPP
- Join the Dec. 7 plan signing and recognition event
- Champion shared wildfire resilience with constituents and partners



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The Community Wildfire Protection Plan is complete

The work now moves through the Austin - Travis County Wildfire Coalition

Shared responsibility • Regional coordination • Public safety • Community and watershed resilience

Questions

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Explore the plan, maps and tools
cwpp-austin.hub.arcgis.com



Backup: risk products - what they are and are not

Transparency must be paired with clear interpretation to protect public and partner trust.

Use risk products for

- Planning-level prioritization
- Outreach and education targeting
- Fuels project scoping
- Evacuation and response planning
- Grant and funding discussions
- Regional coordination

Do not use risk products as

- Parcel-level risk determinations
- Insurance rating tools
- Code compliance findings
- Evacuation status determinations
- Structure survivability predictions
- Assignments of agency responsibility

The Coalition brings the region to one table



Broad, cross-sector participation is what makes shared implementation possible.



Who's at the table

City of Austin	Travis County	Emergency services districts
Small cities	Land managers	Utilities
Higher education	State and federal agencies	Community resilience partners

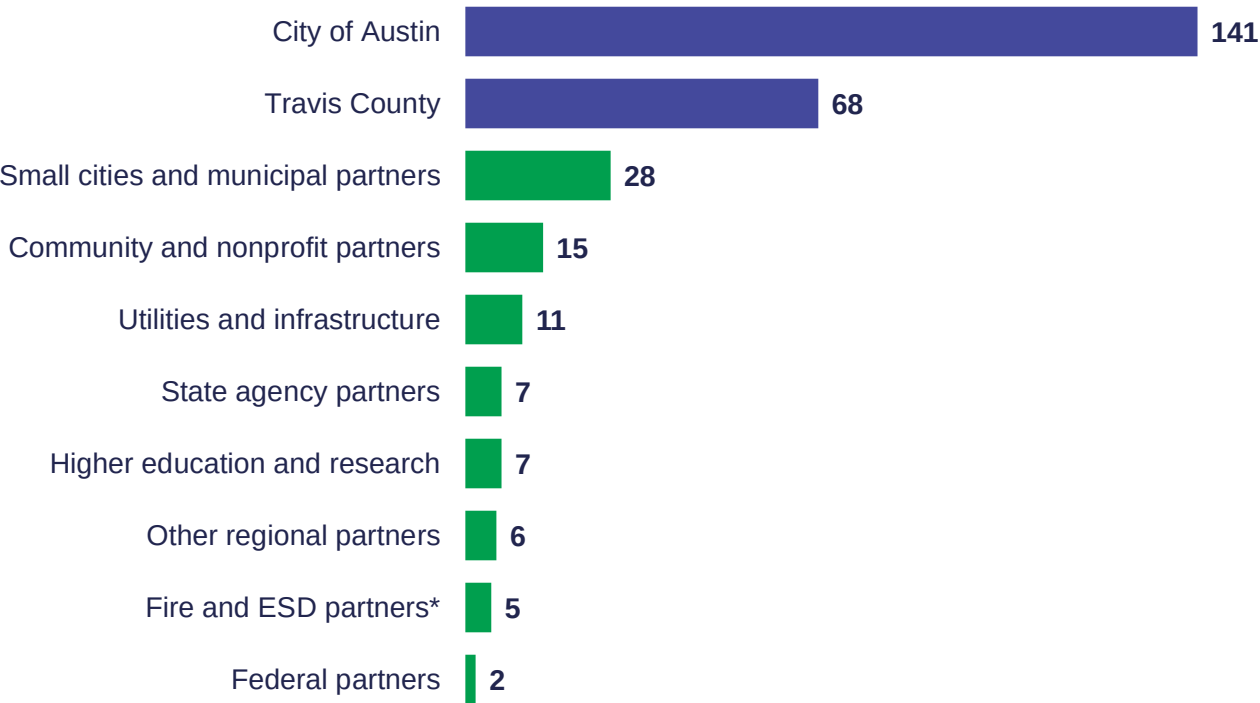
How participation works

- Coalition**
Coordinates partners across the region
- Executive Committee**
Sets direction; reports to leadership
- Nine task groups**
Turn CWPP recommendations into projects

Coalition contacts span the whole region



City and County staff anchor the Coalition; regional partners extend its reach.



290
Coalition contacts across 10 partner categories

72%
from the City of Austin and Travis County (209 contacts)

81
from small cities, utilities, nonprofits, universities, and state and federal partners

*Fire department and emergency services district contacts listed separately from City and County counts. Source: Coalition contact list, October 2026.

Backup: task group focus areas



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GIS and Risk Mapping

Risk and WUI layer updates; fire weather; remote sensing; evacuation and watershed mapping

Data Management and Project Tracking

Hub, StoryMap, dashboard; project tracker; data standards; annual reporting

Public Outreach and Education

Messaging guide; bilingual materials; Firewise and home hardening; access and functional needs

Fuels, Land Management, and Mitigation Funding

Landscape and cross-boundary projects; private property assistance; brush disposal; grants

Prescribed Fire Coordination

Burn planning; training and capacity; agreements; smoke communication

Wildfire Response, Evacuation, and Operational Readiness

Incident management team capacity; training and exercises; evacuation planning; alerting; responder wellness

Codes, Policy, and Development Standards

WUI code coordination; defensible space; access and water supply standards; plans review

Utilities, Critical Infrastructure, and Public Health

Utility corridors; lifeline resilience; vulnerable facilities; smoke and air quality

Post-Fire Recovery and Watershed Resilience

Debris flow and sediment; drainage infrastructure; riparian and floodplain function; recovery

Backup: from recommendations to implementation

The CWPP identifies priorities and partners; implementation follows authority, funding and capacity.

1

Recommendations

Priorities, potential partners and pathways

2

Task groups

Technical review and coordination

3

Project scoping

Feasibility, authority, data, permits and funding

4

Implementation

Agency action and partnerships

5

Tracking

Progress, outcomes and updates

Implementation disclaimer

Recommendations guide coordination and project development. They do not unilaterally assign responsibility, commit funding, override authority or replace agency decision-making.

What makes it actionable

Clear partners, feasible projects, current data, grant alignment, leadership support and task group follow-through.