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November 10, 2026

Austin

THE CLIMATE, WATER, ENVIRONMENT, AND PARKS COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2026 AT 9:30 AM, AUSTIN CITY HALL 301 W. SECOND STREET, AUSTIN, TX AND SOME MEMBERS MAY BE PARTICIPATING VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Ryan Alter, Chair
Paige Ellis, Vice Chair
Mike Siegel
Marc Duchen

Public comment will be allowed in person or remotely by telephone. Speakers may only register to speak on an item once either in person or remotely. Items posted for possible action are available for sign-up. Briefings are not open for sign-up. For full instructions on participation in person or by telephone, please visit the Council Committee Information Center home page, which is linked here: https://www.austintexas.gov/council/council_committee_info_center

A quorum of the City Council may be present at this meeting. Action will only be taken by the members of the committee, and an alternate member may only vote when a regular committee member is absent.

The committee may go into a closed session under the Open Meetings Act, Section 551.071, of the Texas Government Code, to receive advice from legal counsel on any item on this agenda.

CALL TO ORDER

Public Communication: General

Speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed three minutes to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda. This section is limited to five speakers.

Approval of Minutes

1. Approve the minutes for the September 23, 2026, meeting of the Climate, Water, Environment, and Parks Committee.

2. Approve the corrected minutes for the June 2, 2025, and July 30, 2025, Climate, Water, Environment, and Parks Committee.

Discussion and Possible Action

3. Discussion and possible action on the Climate, Water, Environment, and Parks Committee meeting schedule for calendar year 2027.

Sponsors: Council Member Ryan Alter, and Council Member Paige Ellis

Briefings

4. Briefing on Austin Water Environmental Resource Office and Wildland Conservation Division, management of the Balcones Canyonland Preserve, and the protection of water quality and quantity in the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. [Shay Ralls Roalson, Director; Sherri Kuhl, Environmental Resource Officer Austin Water; Justin Bates, Environmental Conservation Division Manager - Austin Water]

Sponsors: Council Member Ryan Alter, and Council Member Paige Ellis

5. Briefing on the partnership between the City and the Pease Park Conservancy, including future efforts to restore, enhance, and maintain Pease Park. [Nicole Netherton, Chief Executive Officer - Pease Park Conservancy; Christine Chute Canul, Community PARKnerships Manager - Austin Parks and Recreation]

Sponsors: Council Member Ryan Alter, and Council Member Paige Ellis

Future Items

6. Identify items to be discussed at future meetings.

Previously Distributed Memos to Mayor and Council (Information only; not for discussion)

Cancellation of Lake Austin drawdown dated September 24, 2026

Update on Passive Parks and Public Information Tools dated September 25, 2026

Zilker Botanical Garden Agreement Expiration dated October 1, 2026

Lions Municipal Golf Course and Brackenridge Development Agreement dated October 14, 2026

Givens District Park Capital Improvements dated October 15, 2026

Rezoning of John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park – Staff Response (Resolution No. 20250130-077) dated October 21, 2026

Update on Hydrilla in Lake Austin dated October 22, 2026

60-Day Update to Resolution No. 20260827-061 Related to Data Center Regulations dated October 28, 2026

ADJOURN

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City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 26-3043, **Agenda Item #:** 1. 11/10/2026

Posting Language

Approve the minutes for the September 23, 2026, meeting of the Climate, Water, Environment, and Parks Committee.

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CLIMATE WATER ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
September 23, 2026

Committee Members Present:

1. Ryan Alter, Chair
2. Paige Ellis, Vice Chair
3. Marc Duchen
4. Michael Siegel

Call to Order

Committee Chair Alter called the committee meeting to order at 9:32 am

Public Communication: General

There was one speaker.

Approval of Minutes

1. **Approval for the August 26, 2026, meeting of the Climate, Water, Environment, and Parks Committee.**
   The minutes were approved with a motion from Council Member Duchen and seconded by Vice Chair Ellis. The motion passed on a 4 – 0 vote.

Briefings

2. **Briefing on Climate Revolving Fund, directed by Resolution No. 20250813-022. The fund would finance emissions reduction projects that generate savings for the City, capture those savings, and reinvest them in additional projects that further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase City savings.**

The Committee received a briefing from Zach Baumer, Director and Braden Latham-Jones, Climate Program Manager from Climate Action and Resilience, and Darrell Alexander, Director; Alison Baker, Program Manager from Facilities Management

3. **Briefing on electric vehicle diversification initiatives for Austin Fleet Mobility Services.**

The Committee received a briefing from Rick Harland, Assistant Director - Austin Fleet Mobility Services

4. **Briefing on alternative funding sources for parks management, land acquisition, amenities, facilities, and maintenance directed by Resolution No. 20241121-072.**

The Committee received a briefing from Jesús Aguirre, Director of Austin Parks and Recreation and Ellen Ramage, Senior Managing Consultant from PFM Group Consulting.

5. **Briefing on the background and Fiscal Year 2026- 2027 budget for the City's adult athletic program.**

The committee received a briefing from Jesús Aguirre, Director and Lucas Massie, Assistant Director from Austin Parks and Recreation.

DRAFT

Future Items

6. **Identify items to be discussed at future meetings.**

   No items were identified

Chair Alter adjourned the committee meeting at 11:29 A.M.

DRAFT

City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 26-3044, **Agenda Item #:** 2. 11/10/2026

Posting Language

Approve the corrected minutes for the June 2, 2025, and July 30, 2025, Climate, Water, Environment, and Parks Committee.

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CLIMATE WATER ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 30, 2025

Committee Members Present:

1. Ryan Alter, Chair
2. Paige Ellis, Vice Chair
3. Marc Duchen
4. Mike Siegel

Call to Order

Council Member Alter called the committee meeting to order at 9:31a.m.

Public Communication: General

6 Speakers

Approval of Minutes

1. **Approve the minutes of the special called Climate, Water, Environment, and Parks Committee meeting of June 2, 2025.**

The minutes were approved. The motion was made by Council Member Ellis and seconded by Council Member Duchen. The motion passed on a 4 – 0 vote.

Briefings

2. **Briefing on Austin Water's wildland conservation programs.**
   The Committee received a briefing from Shay Ralls Roalson, Director - Austin Water; Sherri Kuhl, Environmental Resource Officer - Austin Water; Justin Bates, Environmental Conservation Division Manager - Austin Water.

3. **Briefing on Austin's Water Management Strategy Implementation Update.**
   The Committee received a briefing from Shay Ralls Roalson, Director - Austin Water; Kevin Critendon, Assistant Director of Environmental, Planning, and Development Services - Austin Water; Kevin Kluge, Water Conservation Division Manager - Austin Water

Briefings by Memorandum

4. **Staff Update on Additional Park Funding Sources. (Resolution No. 20241121-072) memo dated July 23, 2025,**
   The Committee received a briefing by memorandum from Jesús Aguirre, Director; Liana Kallivoka, Assistant Director, Austin Parks and Recreation Department

Future Items

5. **Identify items to discuss at future meetings.**

Council Member Alter adjourned the committee meeting at 11:31a.m.

DRAFT

SPECIAL CALLED
CLIMATE, WATER, ENVIRONMENT, AND PARKS
COMMITTEE MINUTES
JUNE 2, 2025

Committee Members Present:

1. Ryan Alter
2. Paige Ellis- Remote
3. Mike Siegel
4. Marc Duchen

Call to Order

Chair Alter called the committee meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

Public Communication: General

There were no speakers

Approval of Minutes

1. **Approve the minutes of the Climate, Water, Environment, and Parks Committee meeting of April 23, 2025.**

The minutes were approved. The motion was made by Council Member Siegel and seconded by Council Member Duchen. The motion passed on a 3 – 0 vote.

Briefings

2. **Briefing on City facility EV charging infrastructure and City EV fleet projections**

The Committee received an update from Zach Baumer, Director - Office of Climate Action and Resilience; Rick Harland, Assistant Director - Fleet Mobility Services; Cameron Freberg, Energy Efficiency Services Manager - Austin Energy; Sarah Talkington, Consulting Engineer - Parks and Recreation Department.

3. **Briefing on the Parks and Recreation Department partnership with Austin Parks Foundation**

The Committee received an update from Liana Kallivoka, Assistant Director - Parks and Recreations Department; Christine Chute Canul, Program Manager II - Parks and Recreations Department; Colin Wallis - Austin Parks Foundation

Briefings by Memorandum

6. Staff Update to Park Funding Strategies (Resolution No. 20241121-072)

The committee received a briefing on the memorandum by Liana Kallivoka, Assistant Director - Parks and Recreations Department

Briefings

4. **Briefing on the Austin Resource Recovery's recycling diversion and solar recycling programs.**

The Committee received an update from Amy Slagle, Assistant Director - Austin Resource Recovery; Ron Romero, Assistant Director - Austin Recourse Recovery

DRAFT

5. **Briefing on Austin Water's wildland conservation programs.**

This item was postponed.

Future Items

7. **Identify items to discuss at future meetings.**

Briefing on Austin Water's wildland conservation programs.

Chair Alter adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

DRAFT

DRAFT

City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 26-3045, **Agenda Item #:** 3. 11/10/2026

Posting Language

Discussion and possible action on the Climate, Water, Environment, and Parks Committee meeting schedule for calendar year 2027.

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2027 PROPOSED MEETING DATES
CLIMATE, WATER, ENVIRONMENT,
AND PARKS COMMITTEE

Date: November 10, 2026,

Agenda Item: Item 3

Climate, Water, Environment, and Parks Committee Proposed Meeting Dates:

January 25, 2027 at 01:00PM

February 22, 2027 at 01:00PM

April 26, 2027 at 01:00PM

May 17, 2027 at 01:00PM

July 19, 2027 at 01:00PM

August 30, 2027 at 01:00PM

September 27, 2027 at 01:00PM

December 6, 2027 at 09:30AM

Sponsors/Department:

Sponsors: Council Member Ryan Alter and Council Member Paige Ellis

City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 26-3046, **Agenda Item #:** 4. 11/10/2026

Posting Language

Briefing on Austin Water Environmental Resource Office and Wildland Conservation Division, management of the Balcones Canyonland Preserve, and the protection of water quality and quantity in the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. [Shay Ralls Roalson, Director; Sherri Kuhl, Environmental Resource Officer Austin Water; Justin Bates, Environmental Conservation Division Manager - Austin Water]

Lead Department

Austin Water.

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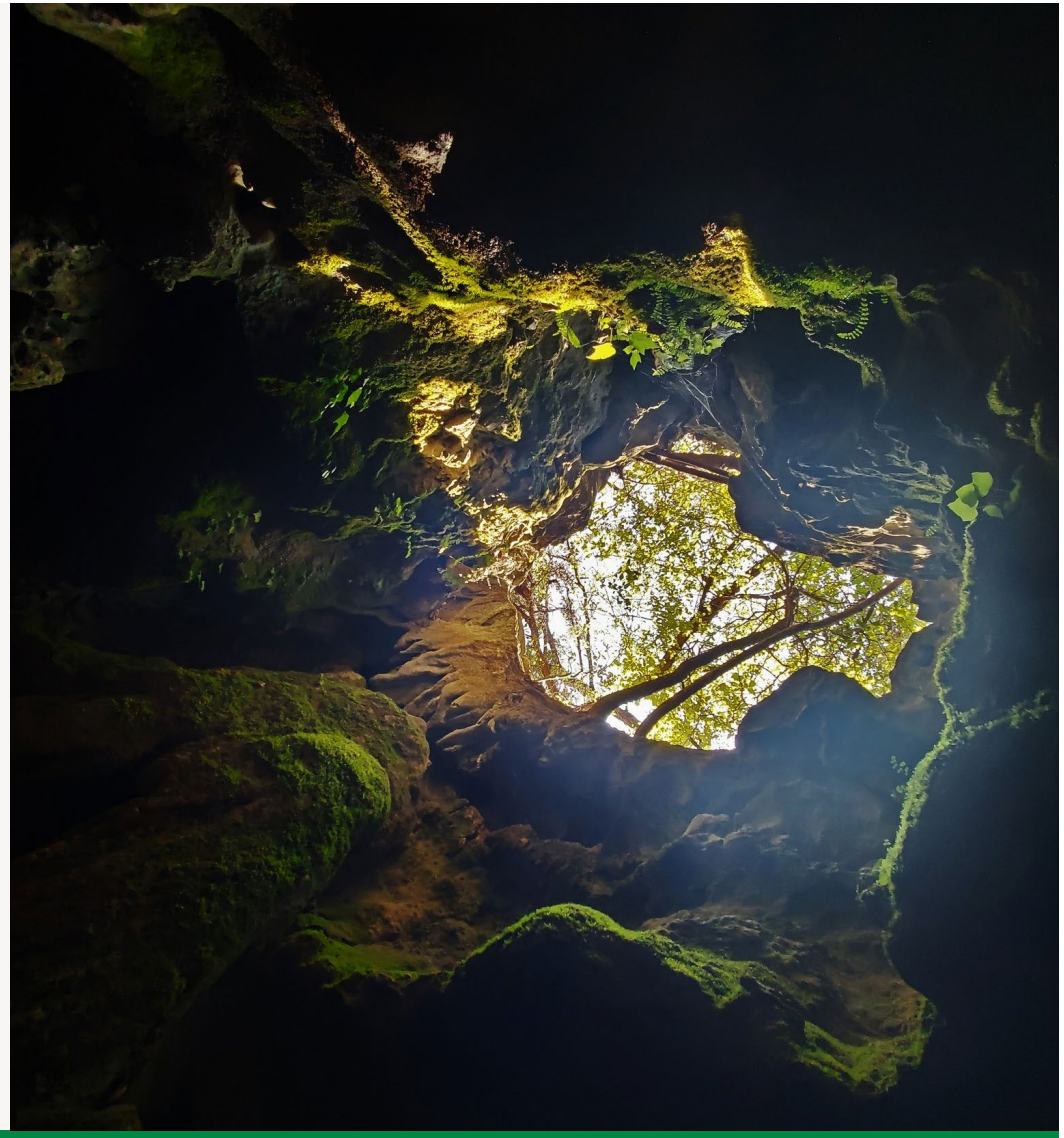


Update on the Austin Water Environmental Resource Office and Wildland Conservation Division

Climate, Water, Environment, and Parks Committee | November 10, 2026

Environmental Resource Office Programs

- Climate Resilience and Mitigation
- Center for Environmental Research at Hornsby Bend
- Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP)
- Wildland Conservation Division
  - Water Quality Protection Lands (WQPL)
  - Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP)



Understanding & Preparing AW for Climate Change

Water Utility Climate Alliance (WUCA)



WUCA Mission

Collaboratively advancing water utility climate change adaptation

WUCA Vision

Climate-resilient water utilities supporting thriving communities

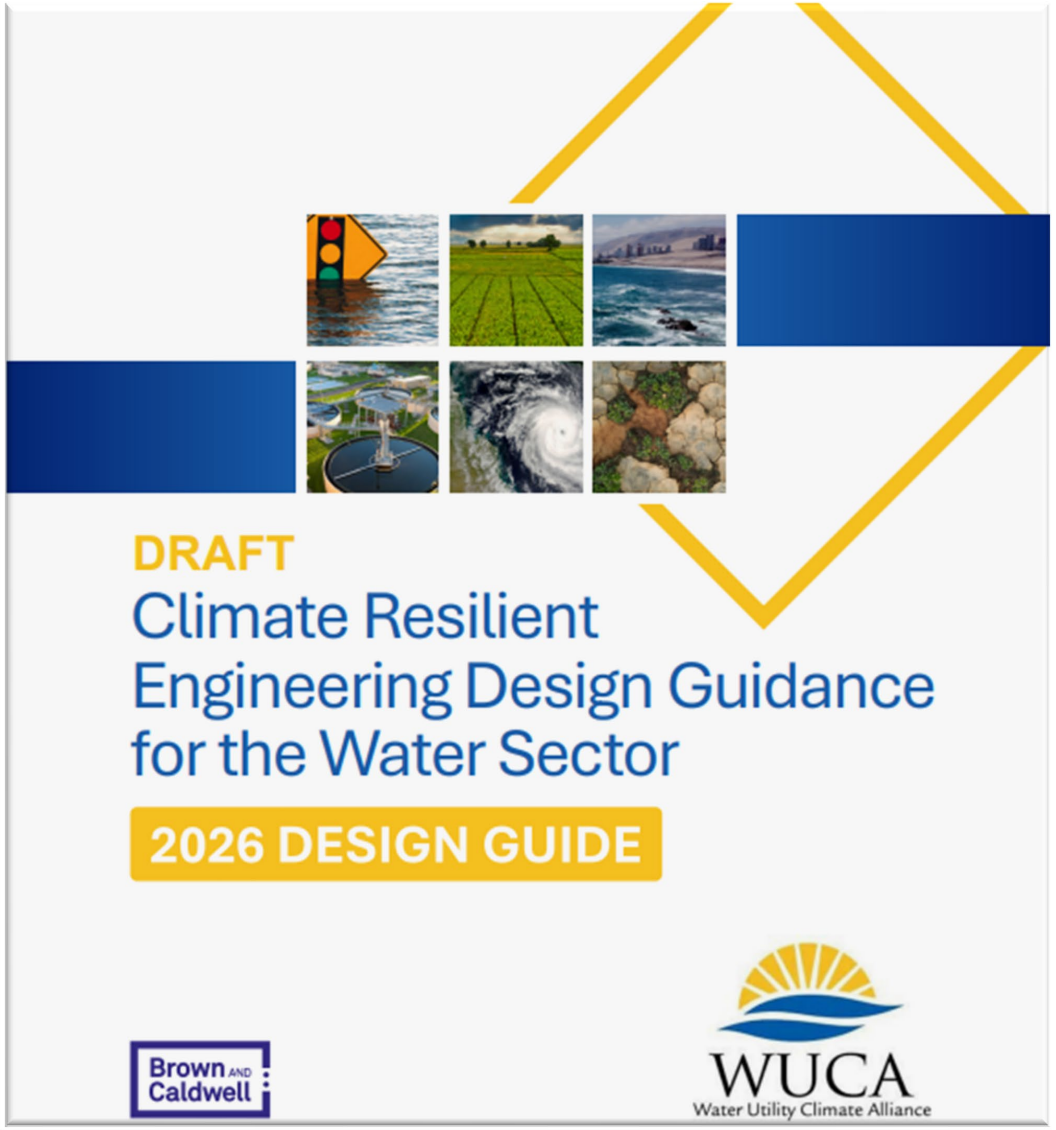
Climate Resilient Engineering Design Guidance Project

Phase 1: Develop Design Guidance Strategies

(Jan 2025 – June 2026)

Objective:

Develop practical, tangible, climate-resilient design guidance strategies for a range of utility engineering, infrastructure & capital project types

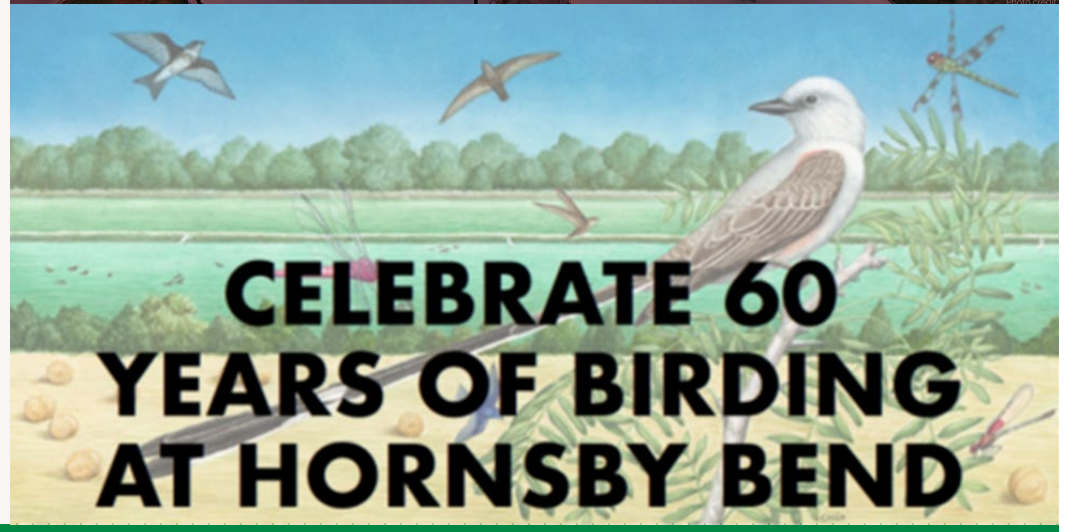


Conducting Environmental Research and Supporting Citizen Science

Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Plant

- Award winning biosolids recycling facility
- Co-gen system utilizing digester biogas
- Effluent reused to water onsite hayfields rather than discharged back to river
- DilloDirt™ compost - a partnership for recycling all biosolids and Austin Resource Recovery yard trimmings
- One of the best birding sites in Texas





Hornsby Bend Map

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 6 A.M. TO 9 P.M. EVERY DAY

The City of Austin's home for our Biosolids Management Plant, the Center for Environmental Research (CER), community partners, and more. All visitors must show valid I.D. at main entrance.





Austin



Center for Environmental Research at Hornsby Bend

A partnership for urban ecology, community, education, and research between Austin Water, The University of Texas, and Texas A&M University – since 1998

- **Research**:
  - Urban waste recycling, avian ecology, hydrogeology, riparian ecology, river management
- **Free monthly events**:
  - River monitoring trip, bird survey, birding field trip, ecological literacy day
  - Free lunchtime lecture series– three times each month

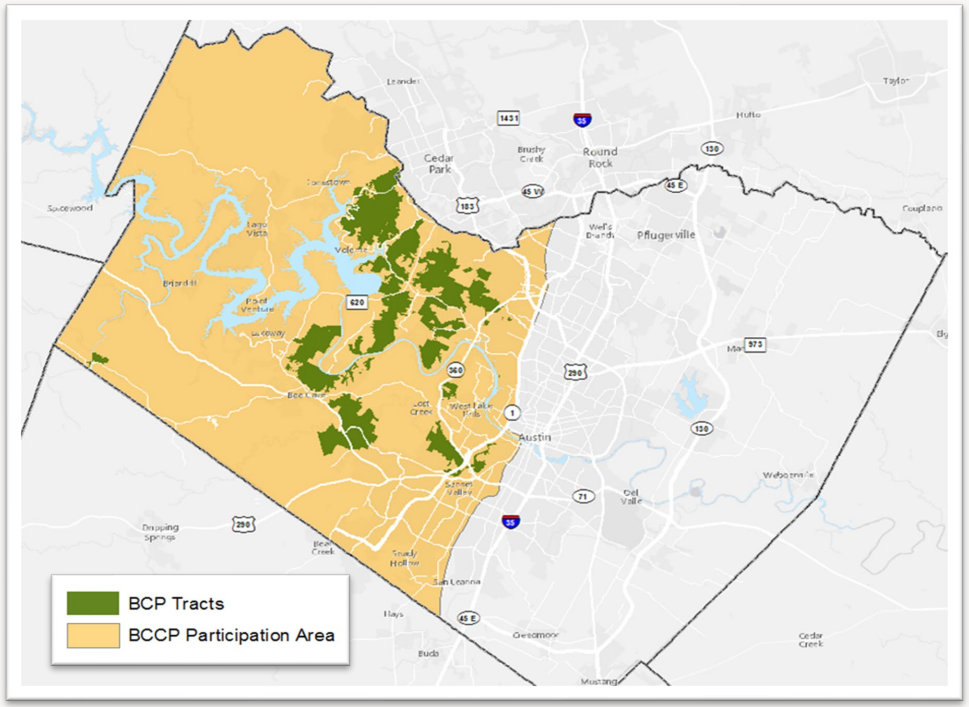


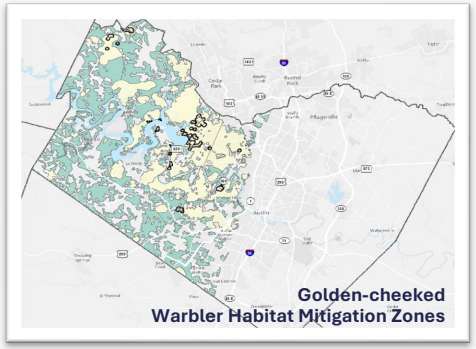
Endangered Species Act Compliance

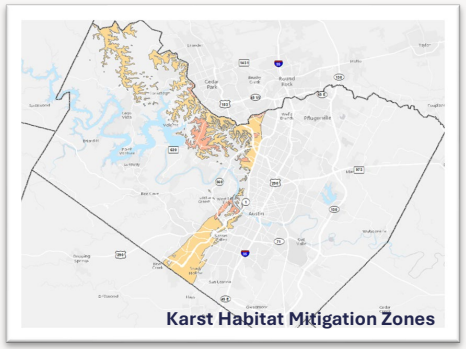
Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP)

What is the BCCP?

- A regional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) jointly implemented by Austin and Travis County since 1996
- Primary Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance mechanism for City operations through Federal Incidental Take Permit
  - Under the ESA, the definition of "take" is to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct.

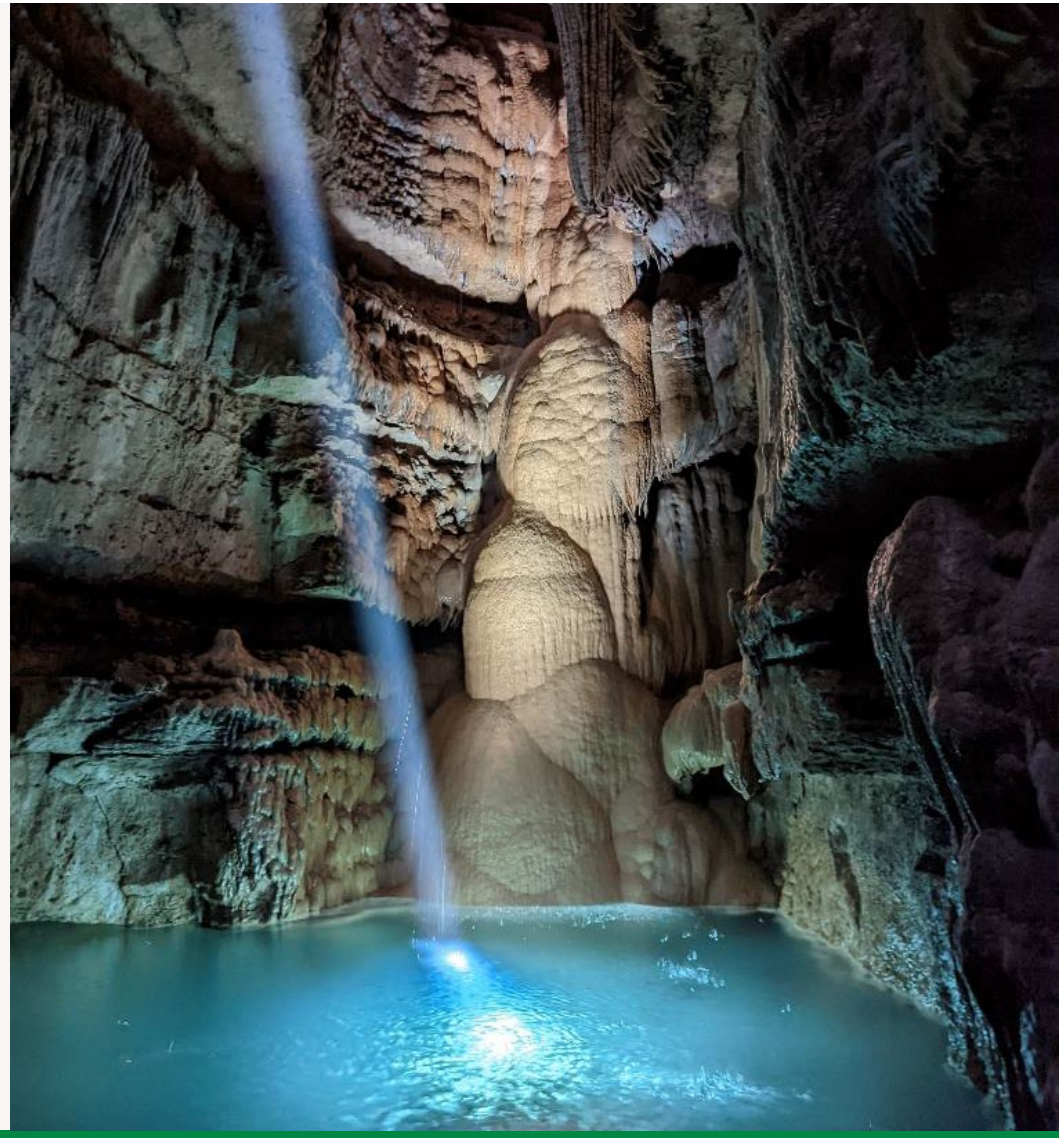






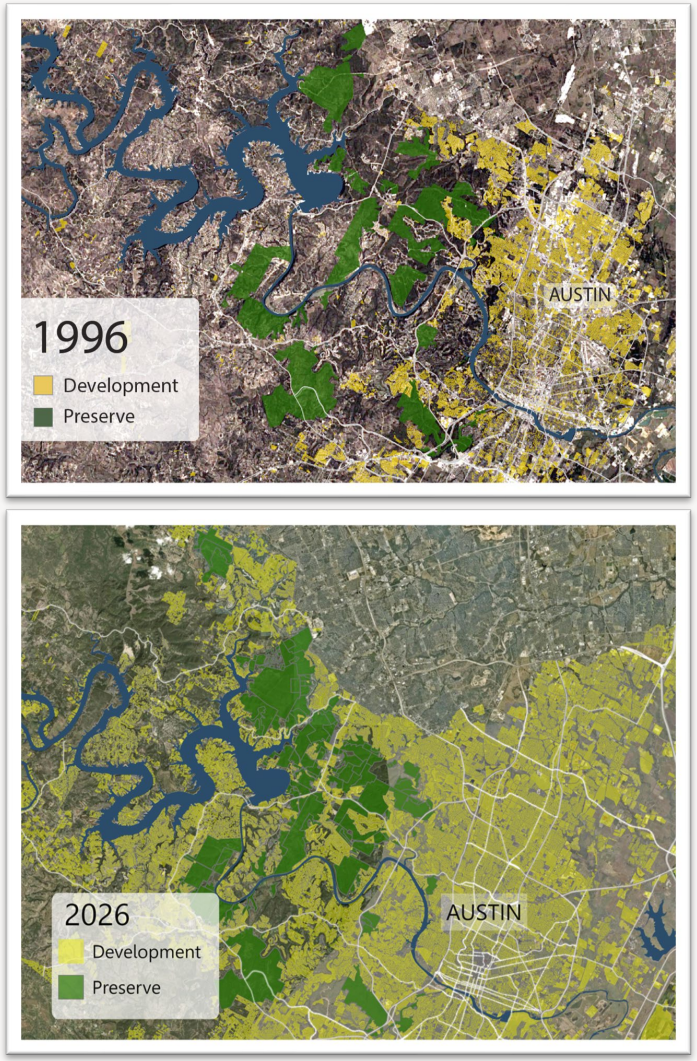
What Does the BCCP Do?

- Provides incidental take authorization for activities affecting listed species
- Balances regional development with long-term protection of endangered species and habitats
- Conservation commitments delivered through the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP)



BCCP Benefits

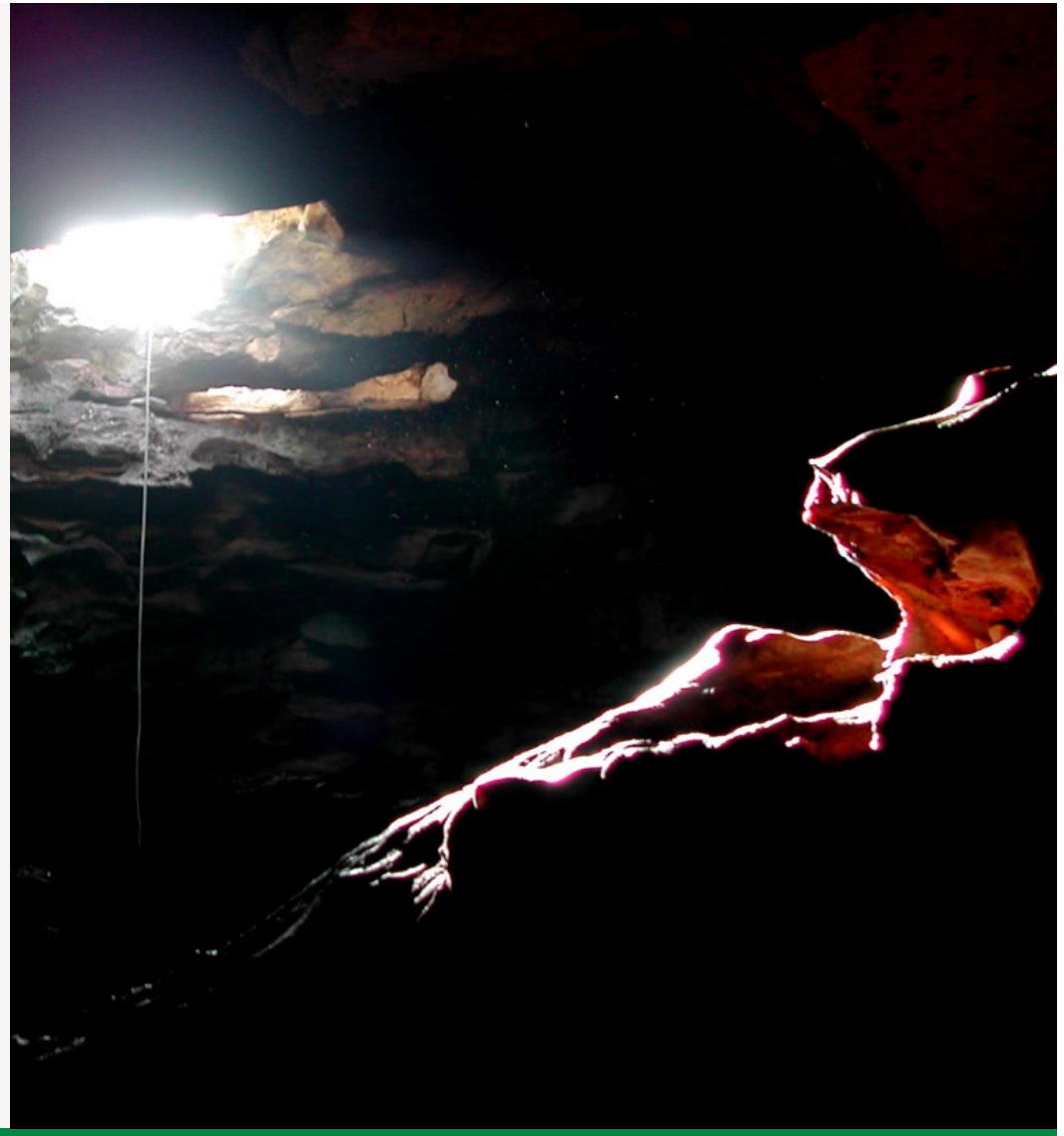
- Streamlined project delivery with reduced regulatory delays
- Over 1,500 development projects and 400+ infrastructure projects permitted
- Supported 12,000+ acres of development
- Maintains local control over ESA compliance
- Permanent wildland conservation supporting water quality, biodiversity, and resilience



Austin

BCCP Permit Renewal

- Permit expired May 2026
- City and County executed Interlocal Agreement for permit renewal consulting support
- Proposed amendments will be brought to BCCP Coordinating Committee and elected bodies for full review and public input
- Permit renewal/update will need to meet current USFWS regulations and consider new species



Permit Renewal Advisory Committee Formation

- Near-term action: establish required advisory committees:
  - Biological Advisory Team (BAT) - scientific expertise
  - Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) - stakeholder representation
- Required by Texas Parks & Wildlife Code Chapter 83
- Solicitation to open early in 2027
- Committees will guide technical and public components of renewal



BCCP Permit Renewal

- The BCCP has supported Austin's development, infrastructure, and conservation goals for 30+ years
- Streamlined ESA compliance under one coordinated framework
- Modernize the conservation strategy using best available science
- Strengthen partnerships, public engagement and local control



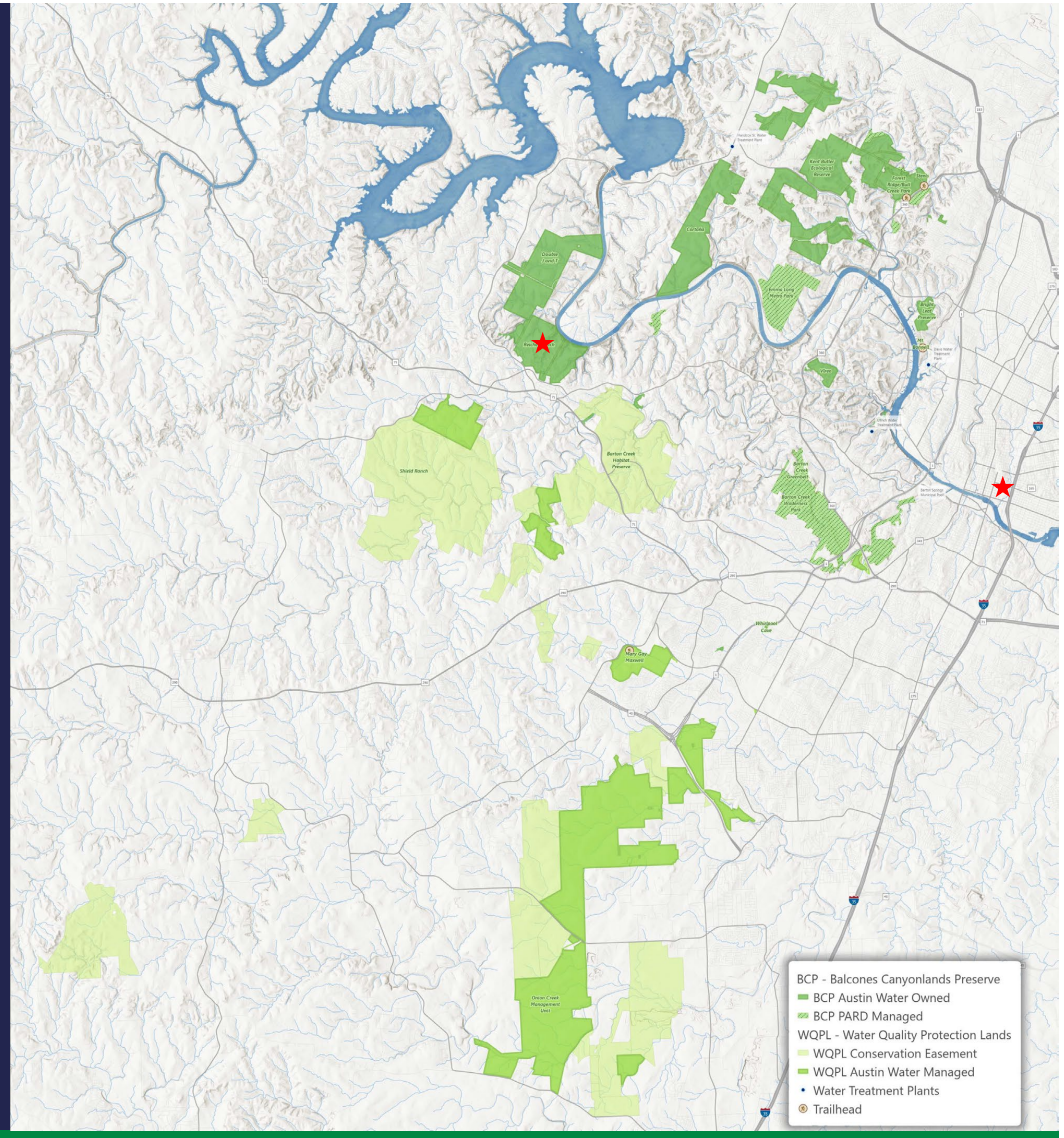


Wildland Conservation


Austin
Austin Water works every day to provide water for people and care for the environment.

Wildlands Today

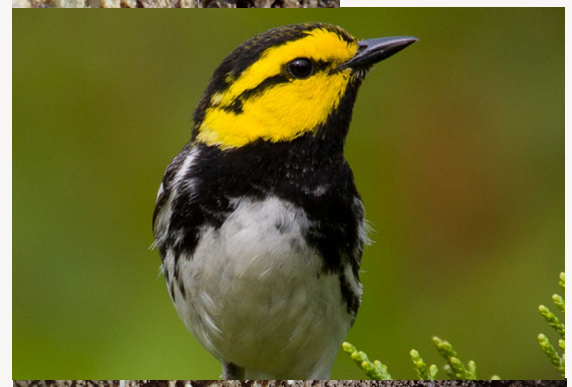
- **49,000+ protected acres**
  - 23,000 acres managed directly
  - 3,000 acres of dual-purpose parkland
  - 23,000 acres of conservation easements
- **$280M+ investment** in land acquisition over 30+ years
- **Conservation at scale.** 150+ miles of boundary, 30 miles north-to-south
- **City-wide, voter-approved commitments + AW stewardship**



Balcones Canyonlands Preserve

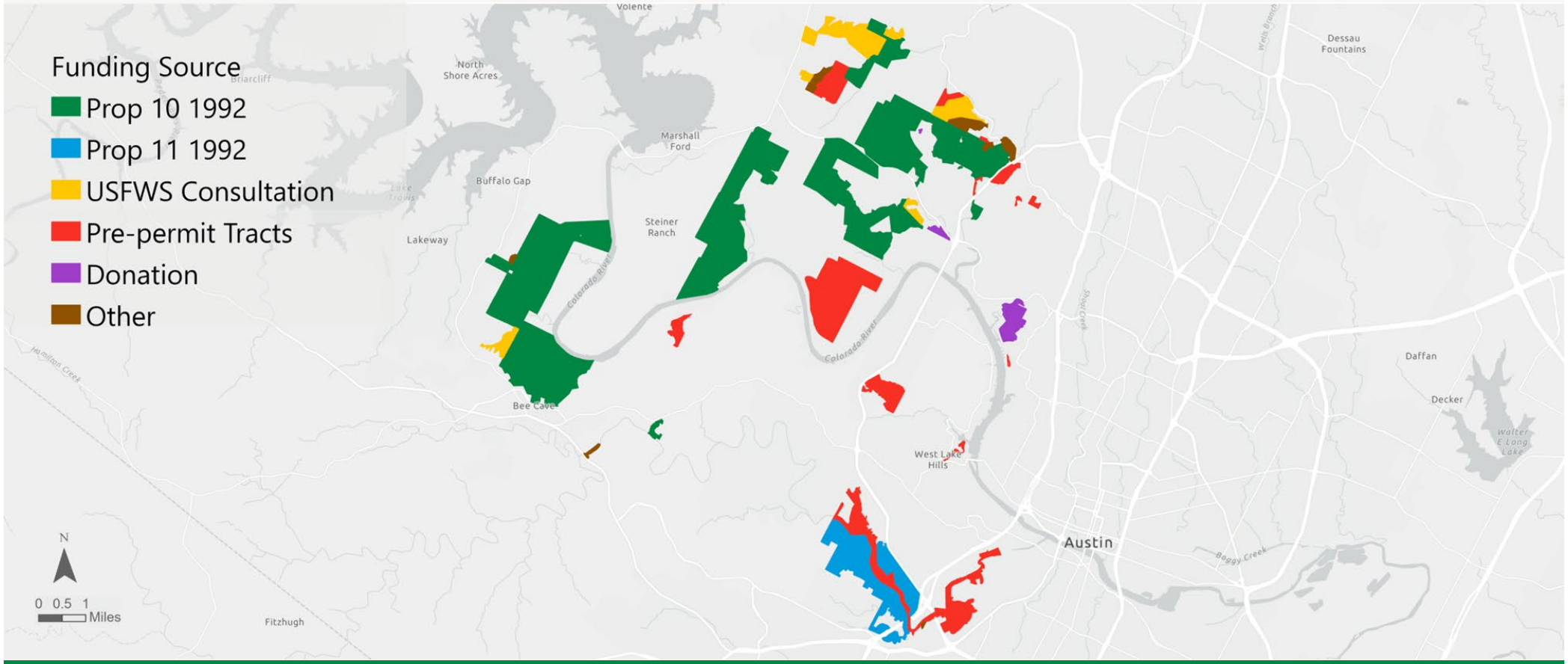
- Established by the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
- 13,000+ acres of City-owned land
- Protects woodland and cave habitat for endangered species and species of concern
- Public areas of the Preserve include some of Austin's most cherished places – Barton Creek, Mt. Bonnell, Bull Creek
- Helps to protect quality of our water supply in Lake Travis & Lake Austin watersheds







Balcones Canyonlands Preserve



Water Quality Protection Lands

- Established in 1998 to protect the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer
- Protects and restores native grassland savannas and creeks that provide the main source of water for Barton Springs
- Austin Water actively manages land over 28% of the Barton Springs recharge zone to protect groundwater
- Prescribed burn program carefully mimics natural fire cycle using highly trained wildland fire professionals

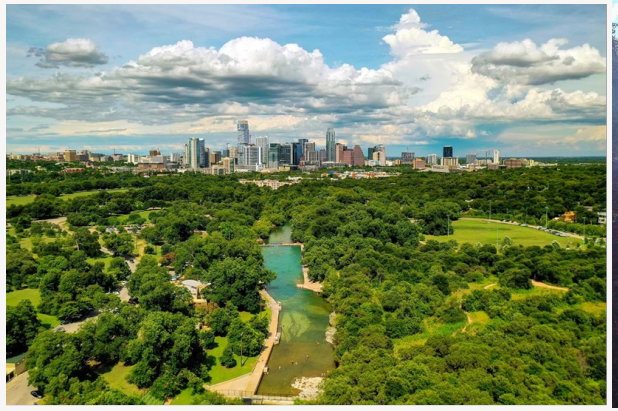




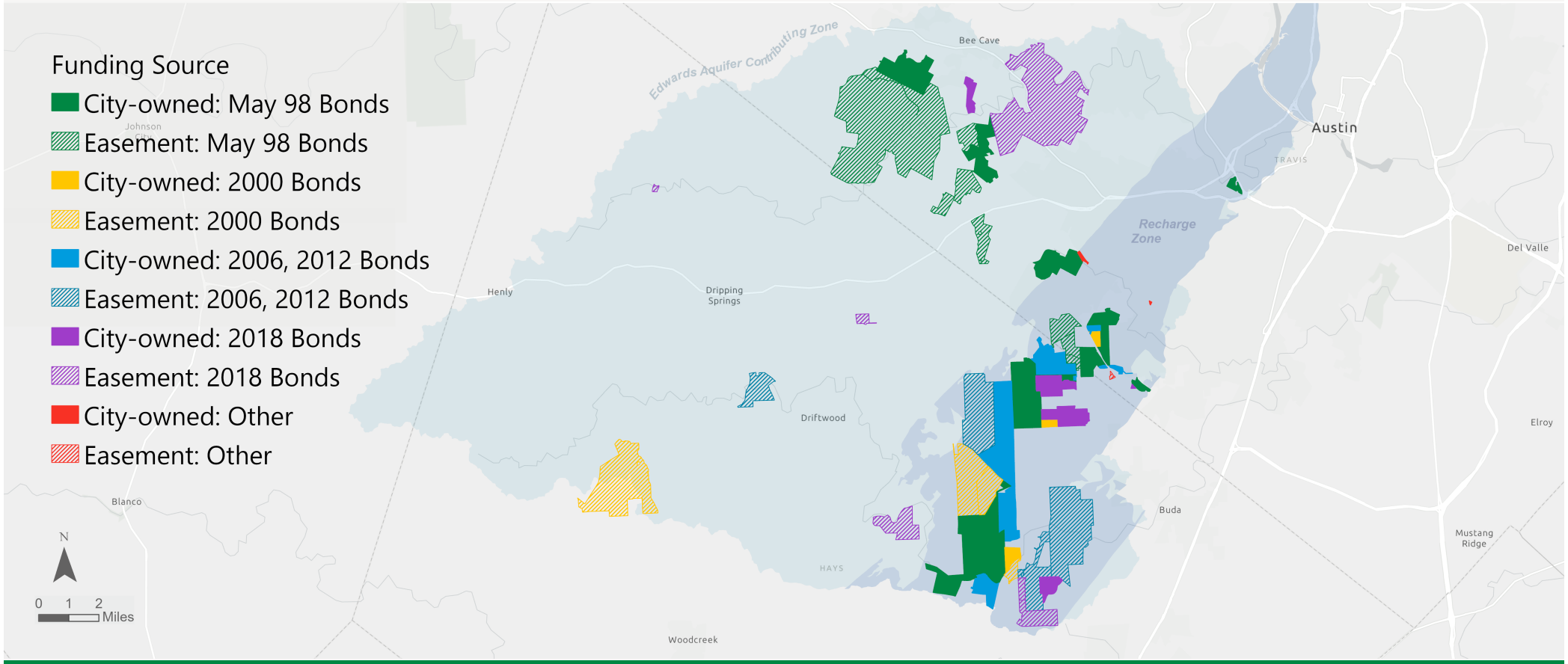
Image credit: Grace Borangasser





Image credit: Linda Chayra

Water Quality Protection Lands





Benefits

Economic and Community Benefits

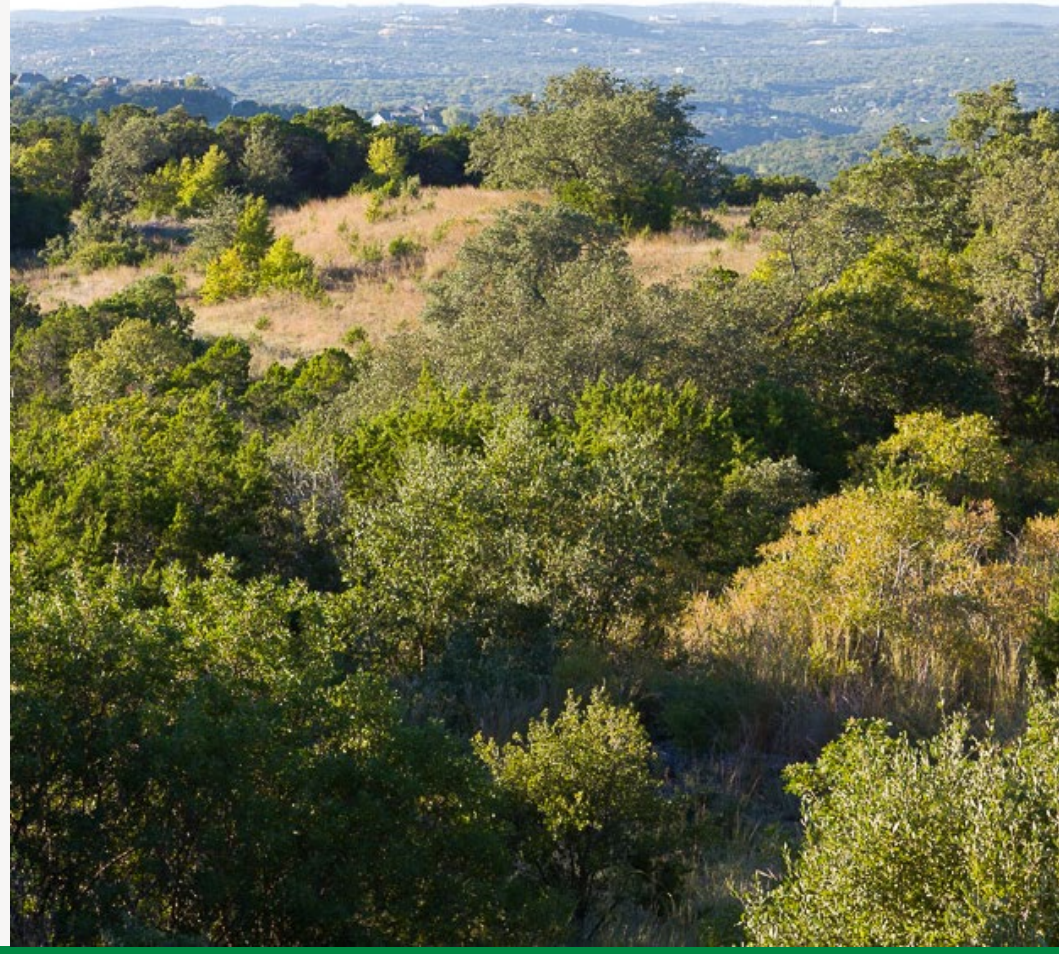
- A community commitment to some of Austin's most cherished places
- Preservation of working landscapes through partnerships with private ranchers, farmers, and conservationists
- Community health benefits, including urban heat reduction, air quality, water quality
- Opportunities for innovative projects, including recharge enhancement
- Protected lands do not generate traffic, pollutants, or other demands for City services



Ecological Benefits

Active land management yields:

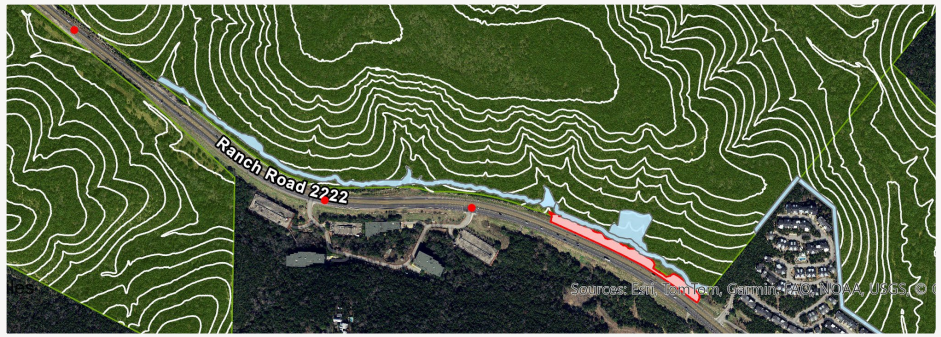
- Ecological resilience through large, connected, protected landscapes
- Water quality and quantity protection
- Ecosystem services
- Riparian corridor protection
- Biodiversity protection
- Endangered species habitat
- Carbon sequestration
- Dark skies




Austin
Challenges & Opportunities

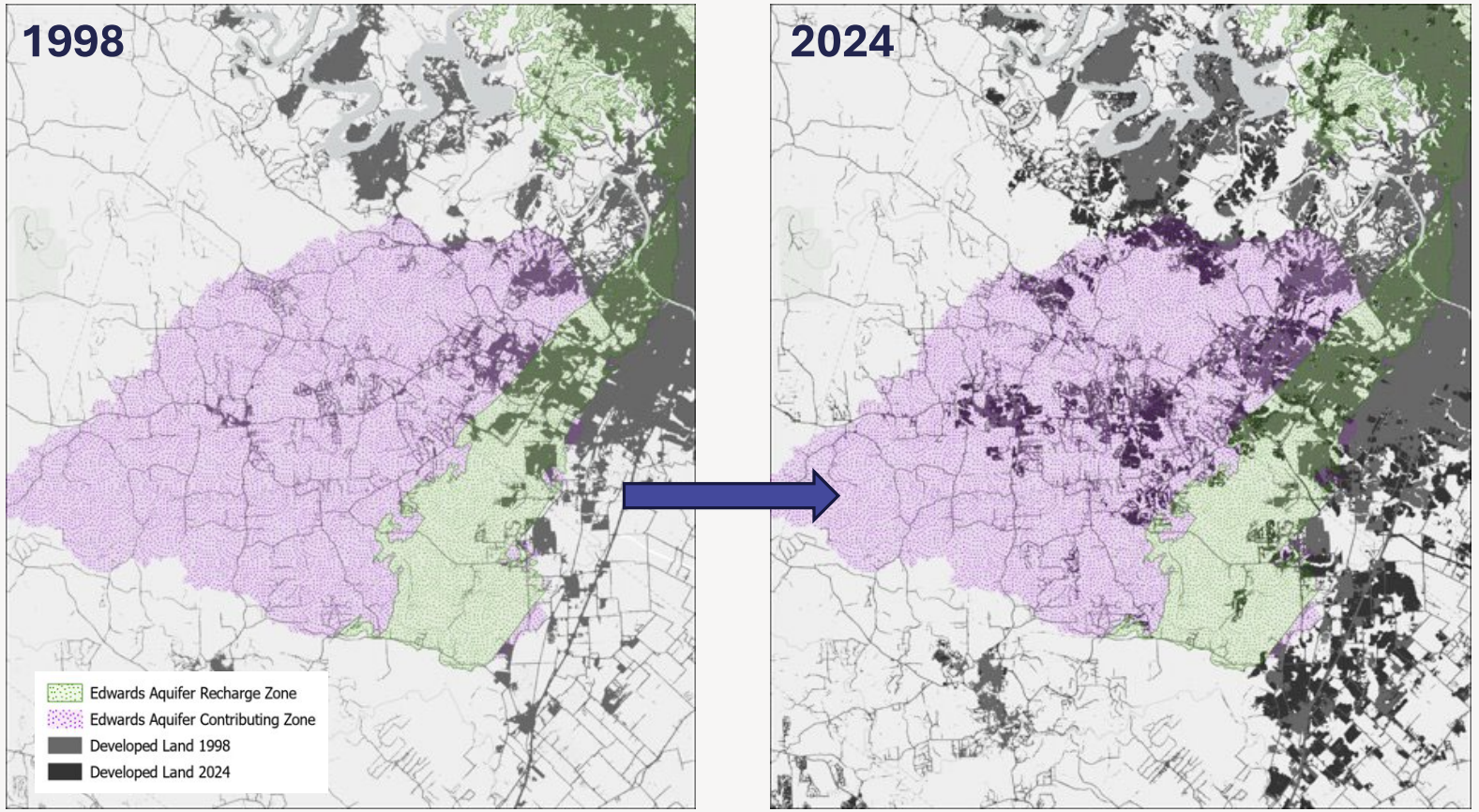
Climate Change & Wildfire Risk

- **Austin Water wildfire mitigation objectives:**
  - Understand wildfire risk
  - Develop actionable strategies
  - Execute effective projects
  - Develop and leverage partnerships
  - Build community awareness and understanding
- **Strategies:**
  - Boundary and ignition corridor fuels treatments
  - Prescribed fire
  - Ecosystem restoration and resilience





Development Continues



23,000+
acres
developed

6,800+
acres
protected under
Proposition D (2018)

Condemnation Threats

- Condemnation is one of the greatest threats to the viability of the City's Wildlands
  - Leads to direct impacts, habitat fragmentation, water quality impacts and risks
- **Threat is acute**:
  - Single large landowner, lower valuation of lands with conservation easements, bias to condemn where there is/will be limited resistance
- **Strategies**:
  - Project tracking and early engagement
  - Ongoing coordination with Law Department, conservation partners



Managing Public Access

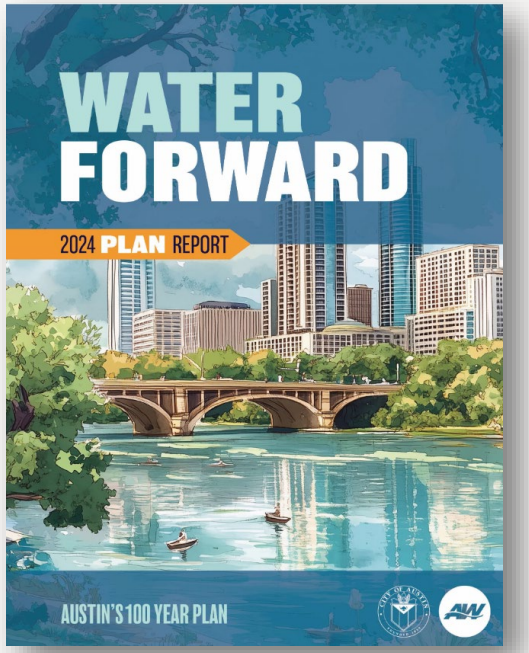
- **Recreation is a part of the Wildlands,** but demand is increasing
  - 12+ miles of publicly accessible trails on Austin Water properties
  - 30+ miles of publicly accessible trails on co-managed BCP properties
  - Recreational access to BCP permit caves, co-managed with APR
  - Guided hikes, volunteer programs, etc.
- Public access impacts sensitive natural resources; it requires active management and adequate resources to mitigate impacts
- **Strategies:** Monitoring of trail use and impacts, expanded partnerships

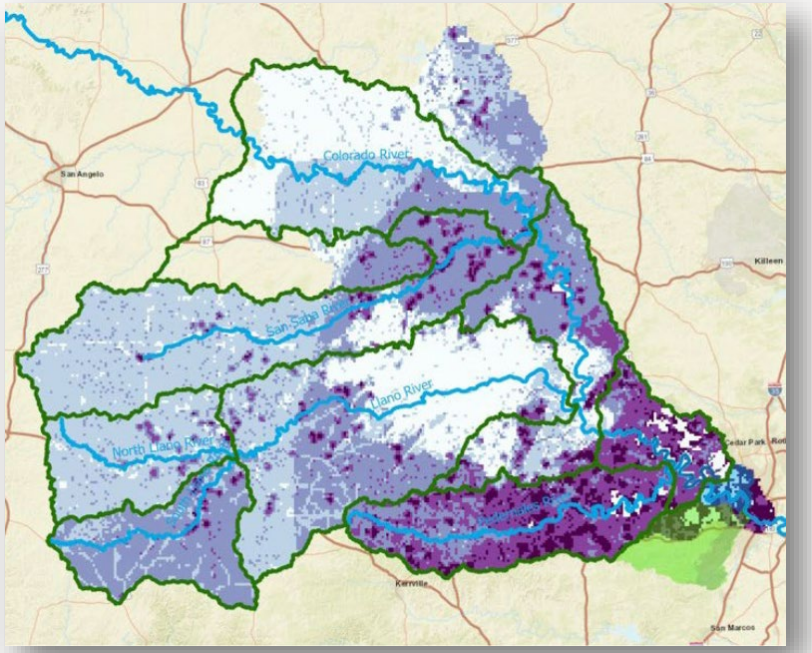


Working Today. Preparing for Tomorrow.

Austin

Using lessons learned from the Wildlands to inform long-term protection of our water supply





Thank you!

Sherri Kuhl
Environmental Resource Officer
sherri.kuhl@austintexas.gov

Justin Bates
Division Manager, Wildland Conservation
justin.bates@austintexas.gov

austintexas.gov/wildlands
austintexas.gov/cer



Building Austin's water future, together.

Austin

Climate, Water, Environment, and Parks Committee

November 10, 2026

City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 26-3048, **Agenda Item #:** 5. 11/10/2026

Posting Language

Briefing on the partnership between the City and the Pease Park Conservancy, including future efforts to restore, enhance, and maintain Pease Park. [Nicole Netherton, Chief Executive Officer - Pease Park Conservancy; Christine Chute Canul, Community PARKnerships Manager - Austin Parks and Recreation]

Lead Department

Pease Park Conservancy, Austin Parks and Recreation.

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City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 26-3047, **Agenda Item #:** 6. 11/10/2026

Posting Language

Identify items to be discussed at future meetings.

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Austin

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Mike Rogers, Assistant City Manager MR
Susana Carbajal, Assistant City Manger SC

From: Shay Ralls Roalson, P.E., Director, Austin Water SMR
Jorge L. Morales, P.E., Director, Austin Watershed Protection

Date: September 24, 2026

Subject: **Cancellation of Lake Austin drawdown**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the planned Lake Austin drawdown. Following additional coordination with the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) and continued conversations with Lake Austin stakeholders, the City has decided not to proceed with a drawdown in 2026.

The City recognizes that drawdowns provide property owners with improved access to docks, bulkheads, boat slips, and other shoreline structures for maintenance and sediment and debris removal. At the same time, the timing of a drawdown can affect Austinites, businesses, recreational activities, and major events that rely on access to Lake Austin. As planning progressed, staff continued evaluating these considerations to determine whether an appropriate timeframe could be identified that balanced these needs.

The drawdown was initially scheduled for October 12 through November 30. Through stakeholder engagement, the City heard concerns about potential impacts for businesses and activities along Lake Austin, including the fall wedding season and major events such as the University of Texas at Austin football and Formula 1.

In mid-September, LCRA identified an additional timeframe option of December 1 through January 15. The City then sought additional feedback from Lake Austin stakeholders and local businesses regarding that option. While the alternative timeframe addressed some of the concerns associated with the original schedule, it presented other potential impacts related to holiday activities and seasonal business operations.

Stakeholders also expressed interest in a January and February drawdown. While drawdowns have occurred during the winter months in the past, LCRA has advised that, following Winter Storm Uri in 2021, it no longer conducts lake drawdowns during the winter period in order to help ensure

hydroelectric generators at dams along the Highland Lakes remain available to support the Texas power grid during cold winter months.

Given these timing considerations, the City determined that proceeding with either of the available 2026 options would not provide the appropriate balance between the operational benefits of a drawdown and its potential impacts on the surrounding community. As a result, the City will not move forward with a drawdown in 2026.

Staff will continue evaluating economic, operational, and community considerations associated with potential future drawdowns and will remain engaged with LCRA and Lake Austin stakeholders as future opportunities are considered. There have been substantial efforts from the community to help problem solve and identify potential solutions, and their involvement is truly appreciated.

The City of Austin has received multiple requests for permits and will be working with individual applicants on how to proceed with their permits or seek refunds.

cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Erika Brady, City Clerk
Jason Hadavi, City Auditor
Mary Jane Grubb, Municipal Court Clerk
Judge Sherry Statman, Municipal Court
CMO Executive Team
Department Directors

Austin

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Stephanie Hayden-Howard, LMSW, Assistant City Manager

From: Jesús Aguirre, MBA, CPRE, Austin Parks and Recreation Director

Date: September 25, 2026

Subject: **Update on Passive Parks and Public Information Tools**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on tools for accessing public information on passive parkland in Austin. Passive parks are essential to a well-balanced park inventory, providing connections to nature, vital green infrastructure benefits, and passive recreation opportunities for the city. Austin Parks and Recreation may categorize a park as a passive park when its intended use emphasizes conservation and natural features that support low-intensity, informal recreation, such as greenbelts and nature preserves. In addition, a park may be categorized as a passive park when it provides public access to newly acquired parkland until funding is identified and development begins.

Austin Parks and Recreation updated the Passive Parks Web Application, Parkland Acquisition and Dedication GeoHub page, and the attached Passive Parks PDF map to improve public understanding and access to Austin's passive parks. Additionally, the mapping process established new working definitions and updated acreage, and park counts for passive and developed parks.

Passive Parks provide essential relief from urban life by connecting Austinites to native landscapes, creeks, forests, and wildlife. These parks are minimally developed, either in perpetuity or until development funding becomes available. Passive parks offer a wide range of low-impact outdoor recreation opportunities such as hiking, birdwatching, forest bathing, and picnicking.

- **Greenbelts and Nature Preserves** (112 parks; 7,955 acres) protect forests, trails, and ecologically sensitive areas in perpetuity. These lands are maintained in a natural state and are intended to remain minimally developed, providing opportunities for low-impact recreation. They are essential to the city's environmental goals, helping preserve ecological habitats, improve air quality, and strengthen resilience to flooding and extreme heat.
- **Neighborhood, Pocket, District, and Metropolitan Parks** (69 parks; 778 acres) serve as flexible public spaces until the formal development process begins. These properties, often located in residential areas, are open and managed for public use until development funding is available and public input on park design can occur.

Developed Parks (245 parks; 9,837 acres) include built amenities and facilities that support structured recreation, community programming, and a broad range of activities. These parks balance active and passive uses while providing essential social infrastructure for communities.

The online maps display only parks that are continuously open to the public. Properties temporarily closed because of construction, demolition, or safety concerns are not shown. An upcoming social media campaign will support online mapping tools by highlighting specific passive parks and land banking strategy.

Should you have any questions, please contact Liana Kallivoka, Assistant Director of Austin Parks and Recreation, at Liana.Kallivoka@austintexas.gov.

cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Deborah Thomas, City Attorney
Erika Brady, City Clerk
Jason Hadavi, City Auditor
Mary Jane Grubb, Municipal Court Clerk
Judge Sherry Statman, Municipal Court
CMO Executive Team
Department Directors

Attachment: Passive Parks PDF Map

Austin

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Stephanie Hayden-Howard, LMSW, Assistant City Manager

From: Jesús Aguirre, MBA, CPRE, Austin Parks and Recreation Director

Date: October 1, 2026

Subject: **Zilker Botanical Garden Agreement Expiration**

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that the Austin Parks and Recreation (APR) agreement with the Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy (ZBGC) to serve as the primary operator of the Zilker Botanical Gardens expired on September 30, 2026. The agreement has been in place since 2019.

The ZBGC board of directors voted to decline APR's proposed contract renewal. As such, APR is preparing to resume direct management of front-gate operations and full site operations as of today. APR remains fully committed to collaborating with all dedicated garden partners, including maintaining its long-standing and important partnership with the Austin Area Garden Council (AAGC) and evaluating how the future of the partnership with ZBGC may evolve.

ZBGC Partnership Overview

During their tenure as an operating partner of ZBGC, the Conservancy worked to enhance visitor experiences through a membership program, provide garden programming, and support the overall mission of the gardens. ZBGC operated the entry gate, brought in additional visitors, led programming, and supported cactus and succulent horticulture. APR appreciates everything ZBGC brought to the gardens' operations.

Under the 2019 contractual agreement, admissions revenue was distributed through a three-part allocation: 36% was remitted to the City General Fund (guaranteeing a baseline of $237,309 annually), 20% was restricted for mutually agreed-upon garden enhancements, and the remaining 44% was retained by the ZBGC to support its internal operations and site management.

APR proposed a restructured pay-for-service model that would allow the conservancy to focus on its core strengths. APR proposed paying ZBGC an annual allocation in exchange for managing membership, marketing, and philanthropic development. The ZBGC board of directors voted not to renew the agreement; therefore, APR is proceeding with an operational transition effective today.

Throughout this process, APR will actively maintain its long-standing partnership with AAGC and continue collaborating with all affiliate garden clubs, volunteers, and community partners. Further, as the Conservancy determines its long-term status, we will continue to explore ways in which they may also remain engaged and supportive.

To facilitate the handover, Zilker Botanical Garden will temporarily close during the first two weeks in October due to major events in Zilker Park. APR will utilize this window to complete essential site improvements, including auditorium maintenance and abatement, general facility enhancements, and critical repairs to a main irrigation line.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jodi Jay, Austin Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, at (512) 974-9459 or Jodi.Jay@austintexas.gov, or Amanda Ross, Austin Parks and Recreation Division Manager, at (512) 978-2601 or Amanda.Ross@austintexas.gov.

cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Erika Brady, City Clerk
Jason Hadavi, City Auditor
Mary Jane Grubb, Municipal Court Clerk
Judge Sherry Statman, Municipal Court
CMO Executive Team
Department Directors

Austin

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: T. C. Broadnax, City Manager

Date: October 14, 2026

Subject: **Lions Municipal Golf Course and Brackenridge Development Agreement**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on discussions with the University of Texas at Austin to convey full ownership of Lions Municipal Golf Course to the City of Austin as part of proposed amendments to a 1989 interlocal agreement between the City and the University, also known as the Brackenridge Development Agreement (BDA). Staff will brief the Environmental Commission and the Planning Commission prior to bringing the proposed amendments to the City Council on November 19, 2026.

Background

The University of Texas was gifted nearly 500 acres of land along both sides of Lake Austin Boulevard and has ground lease agreements with many of the commercial businesses in the area. Lions Municipal Golf Course, also known as Muny, first opened in 1924 and occupies about 141 acres of the University-owned property. The City took over the lease for the golf course 13 years later and has operated Muny ever since. In 1950, Muny became the first public golf course in the South to integrate, allowing people of color to play, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a civil rights landmark. Today, it is the most used course in the city, with more than 75,000 rounds of golf played each year.

For more than 50 years, the course's community of golfers, neighbors, students, and other Austinites have been working to save Muny and preserve its role as a public course open to all who want to play. Throughout that time, the City, the University, and community members have discussed various solutions to the issue of ownership, operations, and preservation of Muny. However, without a clear path forward, the City has been operating Muny under a month-to-month lease agreement with UT since 2019.

As part of the conversations to preserve Muny, the City and the University also discussed the terms for how the University may use the land it owns on either side of Lake Austin Boulevard for private development. In 1989, the City and University entered into an interlocal agreement known as the Brackenridge Development Agreement. The City and the University have amended the BDA several times throughout the years, but none of those changes have resulted in a long-term plan for Muny, despite a great deal of work by the community of golfers and neighbors who love Muny.

After decades of conversations, however, the City and the University are prepared to enter into an agreement that will preserve Muny as open public green space for the people of Austin and prepare the remaining 190 acres of University-owned land for the benefit of the University community.

Proposed Amended Agreement
In advance of City Council consideration on November 19, City staff will brief the Environmental Commission and the Planning Commission before the end of October regarding plans to convey Muny to the City alongside amendments to the original BDA. Should the City Council agree to amend the BDA, City staff will return to the commissions in early 2027 to consider and make recommendations on the corresponding regulating plan.

The amended BDA will describe the general process for:

- The conveyance of Muny,
- A proposed update to the University's lease of property at Mueller,
- The exchange of City rights-of-way,
- The proposed creation of a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone, and
- The development of a mutually agreed regulating plan.

The updated BDA will define the parameters of any future private development of the 190 acres of land in the University-owned Brackenridge tract. Those include:

- Building heights cap at 65 feet when viewed from Lake Austin Boulevard,
- Impervious cover limits set at 75% sitewide, and
- Maintaining a 200-foot setback from Lady Bird Lake.

Next Steps
The amended BDA will be presented for City Council consideration at its November 19, 2026 meeting. Pending City Council approval, staff will prepare the regulating plan to reflect the BDA. The regulating plan will then be forwarded through the Boards & Commissions process and City Council consideration in Spring 2027.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jon Fortune, Deputy City Manager, at jon.fortune@austintexas.gov or Dr. Eric Johnson, Assistant City Manager, at eric.a.johnson@austintexas.gov.

cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Erika Brady, City Clerk
Jason Hadavi, City Auditor
Mary Jane Grubb, Municipal Court Clerk Judge
Sherry Statman, Municipal Court CMO
Executive Team
Department Directors

Austin

MEMORANDUM

To:	Mayor and City Council
Through:	Stephanie Hayden-Howard, LMSW, Assistant City Manager
From:	Jesús Aguirre, MBA, CPRE, Austin Parks and Recreation Director
Date:	October 15, 2026
Subject:	**Givens District Park Capital Improvements**

The purpose of this memorandum is to share an update on the ongoing capital improvements at Givens District Park and to announce the reopening of Givens Recreation Center in the upcoming months. Staff are excited to take this step forward with the community and continue strengthening a park that holds deep cultural, historical, and neighborhood significance. Additional information on all capital improvement projects is published on the Austin Parks and Recreation project website.

Background and Project Scope Givens District Park is a 40-acre park acquired by the City in 1957 and named after Dr. Everrett H. Givens, dentist, World War I veteran, and beloved civic leader in 1962. Texas Parks and Wildlife designated Givens District Park as a Lone Star Legacy Park in 2022, a designation given to parks that hold special prominence in the local community and the state of Texas. Tannehill Creek runs north to south through the entire park and provides a source of water for many of the large shade trees located along its banks. Park amenities include a recreation center, a swimming pool with a bathhouse, two covered pavilions, one stage, restrooms, a playscape and swing set, two basketball courts, two tennis courts, picnic tables, grills, a multi-purpose field, and ballfield with bleacher seating. The Givens District Park Vision Plan, approved in January 2019, reflects many years of community input and guidance and provides a framework for improvements to the park. Using 2018 bond funding, several phases of implementing the plan are complete, including renovations to the aquatic facility, interpretive signage, community garden, multi-purpose field, and biofiltration stormwater management efforts. Since 2020, $20 million has been invested in improvements at Givens District Park. A detailed update of these improvements was shared with the Givens Advisory Board in July 2026 and is attached as Appendix A.

Givens Recreation Center Improvements The renovation of Givens Recreation Center focuses on ensuring the facility remains a safe, welcoming, and reliable neighborhood resource – just as it has been since 1979. These improvements were required to extend the useful life of the facility. The initial project scope included a complete replacement of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment, replacement of the flat roof, window replacements, accessibility improvements, and a feasibility study to determine the cost and scope of converting the existing non-commercial kitchen to a commercial kitchen. The initial construction budget was $1.6 million, and contractor bids

came in over $3.3 million. Due to budgetary constraints, the commercial kitchen scope was removed prior to construction. The construction cost estimate for the commercial kitchen, in 2024, was over $550,000. In 2026, this cost, inclusive of additional design to meet new code requirements, permitting and construction, will be significantly higher. As a standalone effort, the commercial kitchen conversion is estimated to cost between $1 and $1.2 million and would require more than a year to complete.

During renovations, several unforeseen building conditions emerged — including storm-related roof damage, solar panel failure, mold in the HVAC ductwork, wastewater line collapse, and other non-code-compliant conditions hidden within walls and ceilings. Addressing these issues added more than $1 million in additional construction costs but was essential to safely reopening the center for the neighborhood.

Commercial Kitchen The site has an existing kitchen that has been utilized by the community to support programming and events. City code does not permit this usage. During construction, the existing 30-gallon grease trap interceptor, located inside an irrigation box, was found to be undersized and out of compliance for modern food service operations. Austin Water required its removal and additional steps including a variance request, a kitchen user guide, updated rental agreements, and public-facing signage to ensure safe operation for community use. These rules reflect long-standing limitations on food preparation in the kitchen, which has not met modern standards for cooking for many decades. The kitchen rule signage language includes:

- Authorization is required for kitchen use
- All food trays, food service equipment, pots, pans, serving utensils brought in shall not be washed on this premise
- All dishes and utensils used must be disposable
- No food preparation conducted in kitchen sink
- Hand sinks are not prep sinks or dump sinks. They are for hand washing only.

The community's interest in a commercial kitchen at Givens Recreation Center is clear. Austin Parks and Recreation is seeking to identify funding for a citywide Commercial Kitchen Gap Analysis to better understand systemwide needs and prioritize future investments. Eight of the 25 recreation and senior centers currently have commercial kitchens, but Givens lacks the infrastructure required to meet Austin Water or Austin Public Health commercial food enterprise standards. The eight facilities with commercial kitchens include Camacho Activity Center, Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center, Doris Miller Auditorium, Dove Springs Recreation Center, Gus Garcia Recreation Center, Montopolis Recreation Center, South Austin Senior Center, and Turner Roberts Recreation Center.

To operate a commercial kitchen in Austin, a Food Enterprise Operating Permit and other items are required through submission to Austin Public Health. Givens Recreation Center has never held a Food Operating Permit because the building does not have the proper infrastructure necessary to obtain this permit. Bringing the kitchen up to full compliance would require significant building upgrades, staff certifications, permitting, and ongoing inspections. There are several levels of commercial kitchens, however all levels that utilize heating and cooking of food require this permit and the related building infrastructure improvements for ongoing licensing. Both the current and former use of the kitchen at Givens most closely follows the allowable use of a Category 2, limited service, Charitable Feeding Organization food enterprise. Examples of the building infrastructure improvements required for a food

operating permit include but are not limited to; ventilation hood with proper fire suppression hood, three-compartment sink or commercial dishwasher, minimum 500-gallon grease interceptor, floor drains, handwashing sinks, washable surfaces, proper waste drainage, and ADA compliance. Installing many of these components at Givens Recreation Center would result in cascading improvements, such as upgrades to plumbing systems, electrical systems, ADA improvements, waste systems, and fire suppression systems.

Community and Stakeholder Outreach Efforts Throughout design and construction, Parks and Recreation staff regularly attended Givens Advisory Board meetings to provide project updates, answer questions, and share information as new challenges or changes in scope emerged. The board discussed a commercial kitchen at several meetings. Staff provided frequent updates to the board on the recreation construction project including scope changes that required certain design elements such as the kitchen scope that needed to be removed. The board was also informed when unforeseen conditions arose during construction that caused a delay in completion, such as mold in the ductwork, and collapsed sewer lines. Since April 2025, Austin Parks and Recreation has distributed monthly newsletters to the community to provide construction updates. Copies of these newsletters can be found on the project website under the communication and engagement section.

Next Steps Austin Parks and Recreation remain deeply committed to delivering high-quality programs, safe facilities, and welcoming spaces for the community, regardless of funding levels. Funding is the primary hurdle to proceed with upgrading the kitchen at Givens Recreation Center into a commercial kitchen. The kitchen project needs approximately $1 to $1.2 million in one-time capital funding for the design and construction and approximately $7,000 to $10,000 in ongoing annual operating funding for basic on-going and required maintenance, permitting, and inspections. Additional operating funding would be needed if the City is providing food for the community or staffing to provide cooking related programs.

Parks and Recreation Board members discussed the creation of a working group related to a commercial kitchen at Givens Recreation Center during the September 28 board meeting with an official vote to create the working group to occur at a future meeting.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Liana Kallivoka, PhD, PE, Assistant Director of Austin Parks and Recreation at Liana.Kallivoka@austintexas.gov, or Alyssa Tharrett, NCARB, Project Management Supervisor of Austin Parks and Recreation at Alyssa.Tharrett@austintexas.gov.

cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Erika Brady, City Clerk
Jason Hadavi, City Auditor
Mary Jane Grubb, Municipal Court Clerk
Judge Sherry Statman, Municipal Court
CMO Executive Team
Department Directors

Attachment: Appendix A Givens Advisory Board Memo

To:	Givens Advisory Board Members
From:	Austin Parks and Recreation
Date:	July 15, 2026
Subject:	Givens District Park – project update

During the February 21, 2024 Givens Advisory Board meeting, there was a request to provide a list of projects occurring at Givens District Park along with the amount and source of funding.

Below is a list of active construction projects in addition to recently completed projects as of July 2026. In total, these projects represent over **$20 million** in funding towards improvements at Givens District Park since 2020.

PROJECT #1: Givens District Park – Recreation Center Renovation (CIP# 7564.010)
Description: HVAC replacement, flat roof replacement, and ADA improvements. Additional scope added includes HVAC ductwork replacement, partial building wastewater line replacement, partial park wastewater line replacement, exterior concrete flatwork replacement at building entry.
Current Appropriations: **$5.4 million** (2018 Bond Funds). **Increase from 2025.** Anticipated Completion: Fall 2026.

PROJECT #2: Givens Gym Roof Replacement and Solar Panel expansion (CIP# 7564.017)
Description: removal of interior gym ceiling and replacement of the gym roof with a new roof Emergency repairs for the wastewater line replacement also occurred as part of this project.
Current Appropriations: **$775 thousand** (Comprised of 2018 Bond Funds ($400 thousand), Insurance Proceeds ($25 thousand), and $350,000 from ARPA Resilience Funds). **Same as 2025.** Anticipated Completion: Fall 2026.

PROJECT #3: Givens Interpretive Signage and Banks Plaque (CIP# 7564.015 & .016?)
Description: Installation of historic tourism interpretive signage at Givens District Park
Current Appropriations: **$75 thousand** (Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds for Historic Preservation and Heritage Tourism). **Same as 2025.** Anticipated Completion: Summer 2026.

(Completed) PROJECT #4: Givens District Park – Pool Renovation (CIP# 7564.011)
Description: Scope of work includes the renovation of the existing pool and bathhouse and installation of a lap lane pool, zero-entry activity pool (tot pool), water slide, spray ground feature, diving board with well, gender-neutral bathhouse, family restrooms, training/party room, deck space, and aquatic office

space. The project will also participate in the City of Austin Arts in Public Places (AIPP) program, which will commission a permanent art installation at the pool facility.
Current Appropriations: **$10.27 million** (Comprised of 2018 Bond Funds ($6.9 million), Parkland Dedication Funds ($0.5 million), One-time Council Appropriated funds ($2.5 million), Parkland Shade Structures Fund ($160 thousand), and APF Donation ($175 thousand). **Same as 2025.** Project completed and opened to the public May 2025.

(Completed) PROJECT #5: Givens District Park – Phase I Implementation (CIP# 7564.012)
Description: The Phase I implementation projects for the Vision Plan were separated into three major projects:

- Playscape replacement in the northeast corner of the park includes new seating, picnic table and grill, ADA walkway and connection to 12th street. Completed 2021.
- Tennis and Basketball courts resurfacing, striping, nets and backboards upgrades/replacements and additional fencing and striping for Futsal plan on one tennis court. Completed 2020 with support from the Austin Parks Foundation.
- Replace the small, 2 stall restroom with new, larger facility with 3 men's and 4 women's stalls, 4 sinks with counters, a storage area for maintenance, a drinking fountain, 2 large picnic pavilions with picnic tables and grills, benches, seat walls, ADA walkway connection to the recreation center, curbed pull offs from the driveway for future possible food trucks, new sodded multi-purpose field with irrigation removing old retaining walls, new field lighting, tree and ornamental plantings around the entrance plaza. (Fencing the new multi-purpose field was not part of the scope with the intent that the field would be open to all park users)

Current Appropriations: **$2.6 million** (2018 Bond Funds) **Same as 2025.** Project completed and opened to the public October 2023.

Other Givens Recreation Center Projects:
Fire water line repair/replacement occurred in 2024 utilizing Austin Parks and Recreation general fund.

Other Recently Completed Park Improvement Projects:

- 2021: Upgrade and replacement of ballfield lighting and netting – **$250.5 thousand** (Capital Rehabilitation/Deferred Maintenance Fund);
- 2022: Installation of 3 LED Security lights at the Martin Bankes Pavilion, and 6 LED parking lot lights – **$48 thousand** (General Fund);
- 2023: New sod/turf installation at the ballfield – **$10.5 thousand** (General Fund);
- 2025: The Community Garden relocation was completed utilizing **$34 thousand** from ARPA resilience hub funding;
- 2025: Watershed completed an innovative sedimentation and biofiltration stormwater control project – **$765 thousand** (Austin Watershed Protection Department Funding).

Should you have any questions, please contact Alyssa Tharrett, RA, NCARB, Project Management Supervisor, at Alyssa.Tharrett@austintexas.org.

cc: Jesús Aguirre, MBA, CPRE, Director, Austin Parks and Recreation
Adena Long, MS, CPRP, Deputy Director, Austin Parks and Recreation
Liana Kallivoka, PhD, PE, LEED Fellow, Assistant Director, Austin Parks and Recreation

Austin

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Stephanie Hayden-Howard, LMSW, Assistant City Manager

From: Jesús Aguirre, MBA, CPRE, Austin Parks and Recreation Director

Date: October 21, 2026

Subject: **Rezoning of John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park – Staff Response (Resolution No. 20250130-077)**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a final response to Resolution No. 20250130-077, which directed the City Manager to rezone 330 acres of city-owned property known as John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park and to develop a multi-year process for rezoning parkland citywide.

John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park was rezoned for parks and recreation services use on July 24, 2025, fulfilling the first component of the resolution.

In response to the directive to develop a multi-year citywide rezoning process, Austin Parks and Recreation staff reviewed potential approaches and, after further consideration, staff determined it would not be efficient or financially feasible. Such an effort would require extensive staff resources across multiple departments, and significant notification costs that exceed current capacity.

Austin Parks and Recreation's current and intended practice is to rezone park properties only when a change in zoning is necessary to support a specific development or redevelopment project. As improvements move forward on parkland that is not zoned Public (P), staff would prepare and bring forward individual rezoning cases for City Council consideration. This approach ensures resources are focused on parks with an identified need.

Many existing zoning categories already allow ongoing and planned park operations, and as a result, a citywide rezoning effort is not necessary. Proceeding with rezoning only when operationally or legally required remains the most efficient and cost-effective use of City resources. Staff will continue monitoring park development needs and will bring forward individual rezoning cases to the City Council as needed. This response serves as the close-out to Resolution No. 20250130-077.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ricardo Soliz, Park Planning Division Manager of Austin Parks and Recreation at Ricardo.Soliz@austintexas.gov.

cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Erika Brady, City Clerk
Jason Hadavi, City Auditor
Mary Jane Grubb, Municipal Court Clerk
Judge Sherry Statman, Municipal Court
CMO Executive Team
Department Directors

Austin

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Susana Carbajal, Assistant City Manager

From: Jorge L. Morales, P.E., CFM, Director of Austin Watershed Protection

Date: October 22, 2026

Subject: **Update on Hydrilla in Lake Austin**

The purpose of this memorandum is to describe the status of hydrilla in Lake Austin, provide updated information from a recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) vegetation survey, and provide an update on City of Austin's aquatic vegetation management. Previous updates related to hydrilla and the potential for a Lake Austin drawdown are linked below:

- Hydrilla in Lake Austin October; 3, 2025
- Staff update regarding a drawdown of Lake Austin; October 10, 2025
- Staff update regarding a drawdown of Lake Austin; November 18, 2025
- Hydrilla in Lake Austin Update: July 20, 2026
- Update regarding a drawdown of Lake Austin: August 20, 2026
- Lake Austin Drawdown – Preparations and Update: September 10, 2026
- Cancellation of Lake Austin drawdown: September 24, 2026

Current Status of Hydrilla in Lake Austin

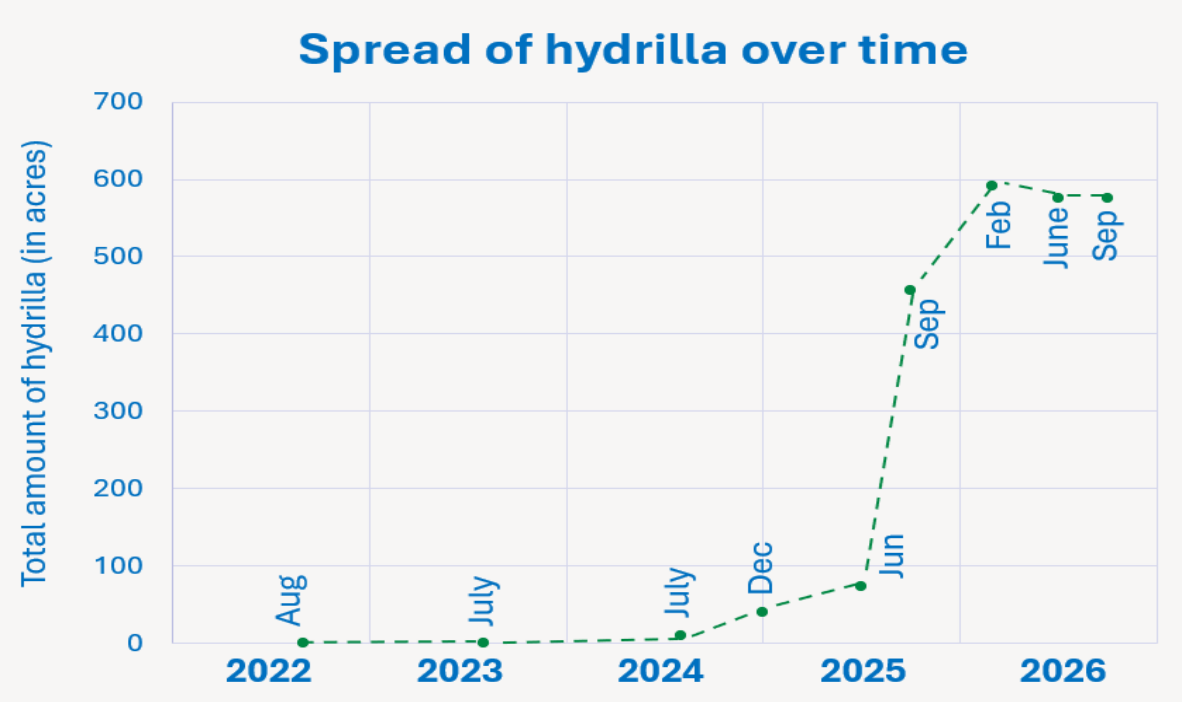
TPWD conducts lake vegetation surveys twice every year at the beginning and end of the growing seasons (spring and fall). Typically, the lake survey shows an increase in vegetation between June and September. However, in September 2026, TPWD observed no change in the lake-wide total surface area of hydrilla and a small increase of Eurasian watermilfoil since their previous survey at the beginning of the growing season in June 2026. While hydrilla continues to be a concern on Lake Austin, the lake-wide growth has plateaued in 2026. Additional management measures are anticipated to build on this improvement to achieve a lake-scale decrease in invasive species.

TPWD's observations from the fall survey include:

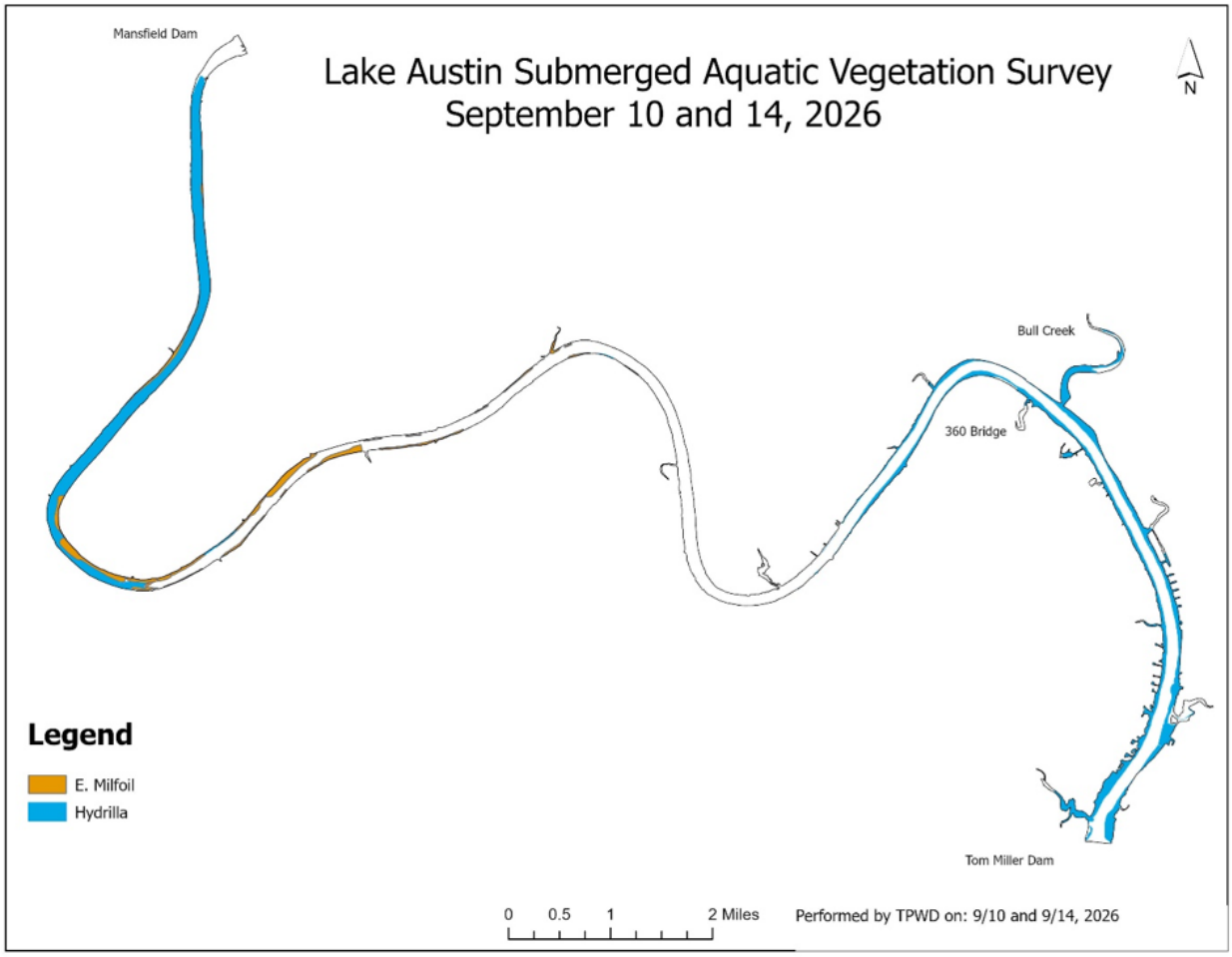
- No increase in the overall amount of hydrilla since February. This plateau in coverage is likely attributable to the stocking of grass carp and easing drought conditions.
- Eurasian watermilfoil shows a modest expansion approximately five miles downstream of Mansfield Dam. The milfoil does not appear to be causing navigational issues.

- Some spatial changes in vegetation distribution and density included localized decreases and increases. The Bee Creek, Bull Creek, and Ski Shores areas saw an increase while areas above the Pennybacker Bridge and other localized areas saw a decrease.
- Native vegetation has increased a small amount; however, it is difficult to quantify because the scope of the June TPWD survey did not include native plants.

The July floodgate operations at Mansfield Dam did not significantly reduce vegetation due to the low flow and extended duration. A more concentrated release would have reduced the amount of hydrilla and Eurasian watermilfoil.



Most of the hydrilla is now further below the water surface, reducing some conflict with boating. However, there are still focal points of topped out dense growth that are causing navigational problems. Notable areas include Bull Creek, Bee Creek, and areas near the shoreline of the basin and upper lake.



Update on Sterile Grass Carp Stocking and Next Steps

Stocking sterile grass carp, a species that prefers to consume hydrilla over other plants, continues to be the preferred long-term method by which the City will manage hydrilla on Lake Austin. While hydrilla and other aquatic plants are often beneficial to aquatic life, including fish, hydrilla can cause navigational and recreational impediments. During the past several months, Austin Watershed Protection (WPD) scientists have worked to develop a Lake Austin-specific analytical model that will be a powerful new tool to help inform staff on the appropriate stocking rate. This tool will help optimize the number of grass carp that should be added. The model takes into account historic data in addition to current data such as the current grass carp population and most recent vegetation survey. This will allow staff to determine what stocking rate will have the highest chance of reaching the targeted level of coverage of aquatic vegetation within Lake Austin without causing a loss of aquatic vegetation below a 2 percent surface area threshold that would negatively impact aquatic life. Based on this model, staff will request that TPWD allow a higher grass carp stocking rate than would normally be allowed. This will result in an aggressive increase in grass carp from recent stocking events. Staff believe that this new model will mitigate hydrilla growth while

maintaining optimal vegetation for healthy aquatic life. Grass carp will be added at a range of locations in upper, middle, and lower reaches of Lake Austin based on the zones of high density. A more in-depth description of WPD's approach to managing aquatic vegetation on Lake Austin will be published in the forthcoming Lake Austin Vegetation Management Plan by the end of the calendar year.

Bottom Barriers

Bottom barriers are materials placed over the lakebed substrate to suppress growth of rooted aquatic vegetation. There are several aspects of bottom barriers that negatively impact the environment and can create problems in Lake Austin. If inappropriate materials are used, installed improperly, unmaintained, or left in place for too long, these barriers can uplift, break apart, dislodge, become buried or otherwise become ineffective, hazardous trash in the lake. For these reasons, limited extent, design, and maintenance of bottom barriers is a critical component of the City's stewardship of the lake. WPD and Austin Development Services are working together to create criteria for bottom barrier approval and tracking through a simple and inexpensive site plan exemption process. Size limitations, location restrictions, temporal/maintenance limitations, and technical design elements will be included in the approval process. Coordination with TPWD is essential because landowners must apply for an Aquatic Vegetation Treatment Proposal from the State of Texas. The City's site plan exemption process will align with TPWD's requirements to avoid any potential conflict and will enable tracking and detail that would otherwise be unavailable from the state process.

If you have any questions, please contact Liz Johnston, Environmental Officer, at liz.johnston@austintexas.gov or at (512) 974-2619.

cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Erika Brady, City Clerk
Jason Hadavi, City Auditor
Mary Jane Grubb, Municipal Court Clerk
Judge Sherry Statman, Municipal Court
CMO Executive Team
Department Directors

Austin

MEMORANDUM

To:	Mayor and City Council
Through:	Jon Fortune, Deputy City Manager Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Assistant City Manager Mike Rogers, Assistant City Manager
From:	Andrea Bates, AICP, Austin Planning Director Stuart Reilly, Austin Energy General Manager Shay Ralls Roalson, P.E., Austin Water Director
Date:	October 28, 2026
Subject:	**60-Day Update to Resolution No. 20260827-061 Related to Data Center Regulations**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a 60-day update regarding data center regulations consistent with City Council Resolution No. 20260827-061.

BACKGROUND

On August 27, 2026, City Council approved Resolution No. 20260827-061, which directed staff to:

- Develop recommended amendments to Title 25 (Land Development Code) and other provisions of City Code and local regulations to define and appropriately regulate data center uses;
- Make recommendations for the enforcement of policies that regulate data centers, including both development and operations standards;
- Bring forward amendments to regulations in phases, with the simplest amendments to be brought forward by the end of 2026; and
- Report back to the City Council prior to approval of any potential data center project requests for electricity that exceed 20 MW or water that exceed 85 million gallons per year while development of regulations is underway.

The resolution also directed staff to provide an update on data center-related policies, land development code amendments, and other issues within 60 days. Additional information about the background for this body of work can be found in the August 19, 2026 memorandum.

Since approval of the resolution in August, staff convened an interdepartmental working group to explore options to regulate data centers, performed several key pieces of technical work,

developed a timeline and phasing plan, and developed an approach to fulfill the reporting requirements included in the resolution.

TIMELINE AND PHASING

Staff recommends the following two-phase approach – also reflected in Attachment A – to create a local regulatory framework for data centers:

Phase 1: Establish Non-Land Use Requirements and Data Center Definition. Modify City Code Title 4 to establish non-land use requirements that would apply to large-scale data centers, and consider modifying City Code Chapter 25-1 to define "Data Center."

- **November 20, 2026:** City Council agenda posting, including staff proposal
- **December 3, 2026:** City Council consideration of proposed modifications to Title 4 and/or Chapter 25-1

Phase 2: Land Development Code Regulations. Modify City Code Chapter 25-2 to define Data Center as a land use and to establish regulations for Data Center land use by zone.

- **September-December 2026:** Peer city research and targeted engagement involving groups and individuals with specialized expertise on the topic, including industry experts, environmental advocates, etc.
- **February/March 2027:** Release staff's proposal for public review; provide required notices.
- **March 2027:**
  - Joint meeting of Planning Commission and City Council
  - Public Open House(s)
- **April 2027:** Planning Commission consideration
- **April/May 2027:** City Council consideration

TECHNICAL WORK UNDERWAY

Austin Planning staff continue conducting peer-city research and consulting with key technical staff, industry experts, and environmental stakeholders to inform draft definitions for the Data Center land use category. Staff will finalize draft definitions, conduct additional analysis and engagement to identify which zoning districts, if any, these uses should be allowed in, and begin to develop draft site development standards for these uses.

The definition of data center will include:

- A description of typical site uses and functions,
- Descriptions of associated site infrastructure and other supporting elements,
- Thresholds based on site or building size, and
- Language clarifying how to apply the definition when sites incrementally develop over time.

Austin Development Services staff have also convened key technical staff from Austin Water and Austin Energy to begin identifying the components of the Operations Plan that will be required of certain data center uses.

REGULATING LARGE VOLUME WATER USERS

In addition to contributing to data center-specific policies, Austin Water is developing a broader and complementary policy framework to regulate water use of any customer with significant water

demands. This work was initiated by a July 2026 City Council Resolution No. 20260723-087 directing staff to develop recommendations related to large volume water users.

In response, Austin Water has been evaluating policies to define high-impact water users and require a new customer application process, individual water conservation plans, water budgeting, and annual reporting for these customers. On October 5, 2026, Austin Water held a public Open House to seek community feedback on draft policy concepts. Austin Water will present recommendations for a new High Impact Water User Policy Framework, including a timeline for future implementation and stakeholder engagement at the December 9, 2026 Climate, Water, Environment, and Parks City Council Committee.

REPORTING ON DATA CENTER REQUESTS

The resolution also directed the City Manager to report back to the City Council before approval of any potential data center project requests for electricity that exceed 20 megawatts (MW) or water that exceed 85 million gallons per year during the period in which amendments to the Land Development Code (LDC) are being developed and implemented.

State Law and City Code Requirements to Provide Service. As further explained in Attachment B, Austin Energy and Austin Water both have statutory obligations to provide continuous and adequate utility service within their certificated service areas. Under the Public Utility Regulatory Act and the Texas Water Code, each utility must serve all customers within its designated territory. The Public Utility Commission of Texas may revoke or adjust a service area if a utility fails to provide service. The Austin City Code also requires that utility service, including water and electricity, be provided in accordance with applicable regulations, approved delivery conditions, and City Council-adopted rate schedules.

Current Landscape and Context. Compared to other Texas communities, the Austin area receives far fewer requests for potential data centers and other high-volume electric customers. ERCOT currently has inquiries exceeding 474,000 megawatts (MW) – or 474 gigawatts (GW) – across 730+ potential projects, which is more than five times the all-time ERCOT peak record of 91 GW. For reference, one MW typically serves 250 homes. Many of these projects will not come to fruition, and those that do will not be interconnected for years.

Overall, the Austin community is not seeing hyperscale-type requests due to limited land space, the value of local real estate, and other considerations. Austin Energy currently has three medium load projects in the construction process that are nearing completion. These project studies occurred more than a year ago; two are existing customers – one for a total of 30 MW of new capacity and the other for a total of 27 MW of new capacity. Both projects will be energized in phases, with full capacity online by 2029. The third project is the publicly announced Project Cosmos/Highpoint 2222 campus.

Austin Energy Process. When Austin Energy receives a system capacity inquiry from a potential customer to explore service, it is reviewed using the following phased process:

- **Planning Study:** Austin Energy performs a reliability study to determine whether there is existing capacity on the electric grid to serve the requestor without impacting other customers. If current infrastructure is inadequate to serve the load, the study then assesses what new or upgraded electric infrastructure is necessary to provide the new service and maintain reliability.

- **Customer Acceptance of Planning Study:** After the Planning Study is complete, the requestor determines if they want to continue with the process.
- **Facilities Study:** If the requestor continues, Austin Energy performs a technical feasibility study to determine the specifics of the infrastructure needed to serve the request. The analysis assesses the full cost of the infrastructure and the timeline in which the new customer can be served.
- **Facilities Extension Agreement:** Once the Facilities Study is complete, Austin Energy documents the infrastructure details, cost, and timeline along with other terms and conditions, similar to an interconnection agreement. By signing, the requestor indicates they want to continue with the process. This agreement requires the requestor to pay the full cost for all new and upgraded interconnection infrastructure.
- **Design and Construction:** After the Facilities Extension Agreement is fully executed and payment has been made in full, the project is likely to complete the process to begin receiving electric service. This involves designing the remaining portions of infrastructure that connect the requestor's site to the electric grid and building out that infrastructure to ensure Austin Energy is able to provide reliable electric service.
- **Service Energization:** At the conclusion of this process, electric service is energized.

Austin Water Process. Water, wastewater, and reclaimed water service requests also follow a phased process:

- **Service Extension Request:** The requestor provides information on the water, wastewater, and reclaimed water needs for the proposed development, and Austin Water performs a capacity study to assess what new or upgraded infrastructure is necessary to provide the requested service. In some cases, Austin Water identifies oversizing to serve future system needs.
- **Customer Acceptance of Service Plan:** The requestor determines if they want to continue with the process. Service extension requests are often submitted early in the development process, and many do not advance or are revised and resubmitted. Once a customer accepts the service plan, they have six months to submit a development application or the plan expires.
- **Design and Water Benchmarking:** The requestor is required to design water, wastewater, and reclaimed water system improvements to meet City of Austin standards. Austin Water staff review design plans and conduct water benchmarking with the customer. Water benchmarking helps identify water needs on the site and opportunities to meet those needs with alternate sources, such as rainwater or condensate capture and connection to the centralized reclaimed water system.
- **Construction:** The requestor is responsible for the construction of infrastructure required to serve the site, including any upgrades to the existing system needed to avoid impacts to existing customers. If Austin Water staff identified oversizing of the proposed infrastructure to serve future needs, the utility will cost-participate on a pro-rated basis, subject to City Council approval. City staff inspect the construction prior to acceptance into Austin Water's system.

Current Potential Data Center Requests and Studies. Austin Energy and Austin Water have reviewed incoming system capacity inquiries and service requests seeking electric or water service. Both departments refer to these projects as "potential data centers" because the intended use is not

always confirmed, particularly in cases where the applicants are real estate companies that do not yet have a committed tenant or buyer.

Many inquiries submitted to Austin Energy are speculative, early in the requestor's development process, and ultimately may not materialize. Additionally, some inquiries are outside the City limits of Austin. As of September 30, 2026, Austin Energy received 13 system capacity inquiries from potential data center entities seeking to serve new demand of 20 MW or greater. Based on current inquiry levels, if all projects were to be fully built out – which is unlikely – the combined possible growth across Austin Energy's service area is 664 MW over the next 12 years.

None of these inquiries exceed 75 MW. Any request for power greater than 75 MW must go through a process formalized by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT).

The 13 inquiries are at various stages of the Austin Energy review process:

- Four are in the Planning Study stage.
- Five are awaiting customer acceptance of the Planning Study.
- Four are in the Facilities Study stage.
- None are ready to sign a Facilities Extension Agreement.

Austin Energy is providing this information in aggregated, anonymous form to comply with state law. Customer-specific or competitively sensitive information provided to Austin Energy by an existing or potential customer is confidential and not subject to disclosure.

Austin Water has not received any requests for water that exceed 85 million gallons per year but has received one administratively complete Service Extension Request (SER) for wastewater service only to a proposed data center near 16301 Cameron Road. The property is not in the City of Austin or its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), however, the site is within Austin Water's CCN for wastewater service, which requires Austin Water to provide "continuous and adequate" retail wastewater service. Wastewater flow estimates in the SER will require validation during Austin Water's technical review. The developer will be required to build the wastewater infrastructure needed to serve the site, and that system will require a utility-specific plan review.

Austin Energy and Austin Water will continue providing notification of service requests until amendments to the LDC or other applicable regulations are implemented.

Next Steps

- Continue to convene internal Data Centers Working Group. (Lead: Austin Planning)
- Prepare a draft ordinance to be considered on the December 3, 2026 agenda that would:
    - Modify Title 4 to provide non-land use regulations applicable to large-scale data centers; and
    - Potentially amend Chapter 25-1 to include a definition for "Data Center" (Lead: Austin City Attorney's Office)
- Convene technical staff to develop draft requirements for the Operations Plan that would be required of large-scale data centers. (Lead: Austin Development Services)
- Develop a detailed engagement plan and begin Phase 2 engagement activities. (Lead: Austin Planning)

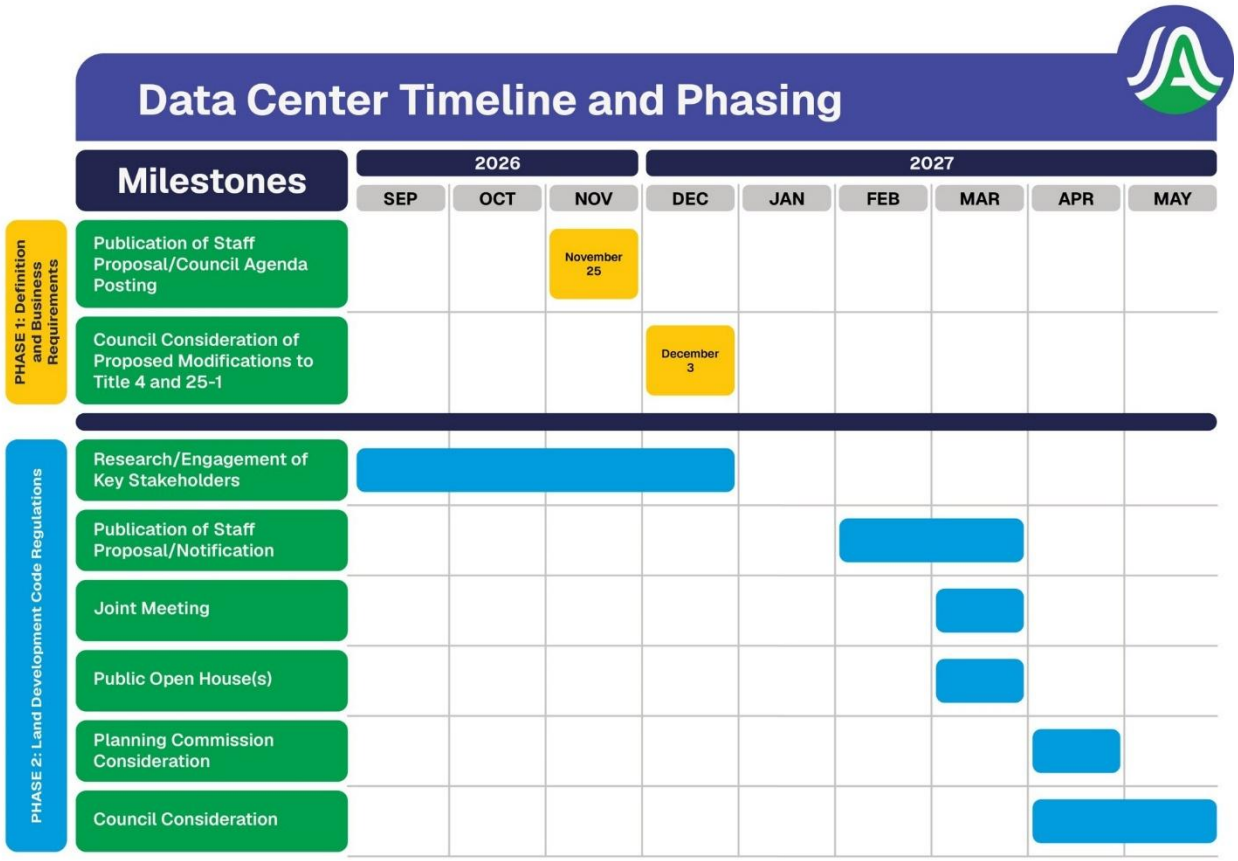
- Finalize draft land use definitions, identify which zones, if any, these uses should be allowed in, and begin to develop draft site development standards for these uses. (Lead: Austin Planning)
- Austin Energy and Austin Water will continue providing monthly notification of service requests for more than 20 megawatts (MW) or water that exceed 85 million gallons per year until amendments to the LDC or other applicable regulations are implemented.
- Austin Water will present recommendations for a new Large Water User Policy Framework on December 9, 2026 to the Climate, Water, Environment, and Parks Committee of Council.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Joi Harden, AICP, Interim Assistant Director of Austin Planning, at joi.harden@austintexas.gov.

cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Erika Brady, City Clerk
Jason Hadavi, City Auditor
Mary Jane Grubb, Municipal Court Clerk
Judge Sherry Statman, Municipal Court
CMO Executive Team
Department Directors

Attachments: A. Data Center Timeline and Phasing
B. Legal Requirements to Provide Utility Service

ATTACHMENT A
DARA CENTER TIMELINE AND PHASING



ATTACHMENT B
LEGAL REQUIREMENTS TO PROVIDE UTILITY SERVICE

Austin Energy is required by state law to provide electric utility service to the customers in its certificated area. Section 37.151 of the Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA) states that the holder of a certificate of convenience and necessity must "serve ***every consumer*** in the utility's certificated area" and "provide continuous and adequate service in that area."[1] PURA also provides that the Public Utility Commission of Texas may revoke all or a portion of Austin Energy's service area if it finds that the utility is not providing service.[2]

Austin Water serves areas that are subject to the City's full-purpose jurisdiction, areas that are served pursuant to Certificates of Convenience and Necessity (CCNs), and other areas within its impact fee service area.[3,4] For areas addressed by a CCN, the City must provide service within those areas. Texas Water Code §13.250(a) states that any "retail public utility that possesses or is required to possess a certificate of public convenience and necessity shall serve ***every consumer*** within its certified area and shall render continuous and adequate service within the area."[5] As is the case for electric service, the Public Utility Commission of Texas can also revoke Austin Water's CCN or remove portions of its certificated service territory for failing to provide service.[6] For areas outside its certificated service territory, there is no similar statutory requirement.

The Code of the City of Austin echoes these requirements, stating in §15.9.31(A) that the City "shall provide utility service" – both water and electricity – and describes a number of conditions that the City may apply, including that service must be to a valid address, to an approved point of delivery adjacent to a City utility facility, using the most direct route, and in accordance with all applicable Code requirements.[7] Utility service must be provided in accordance with the City Council-approved rate schedule and in accordance with all applicable City regulations.

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[1] Public Utility Regulatory Act § 37.151(1),(2) (PURA) [emphasis added].

[2] PURA §37.059.

[3] Austin Water's impact fee service area is defined in LDC 25-9-2 and LDC 25-9, Article 3.

[4] Per Texas Local Government Code 552.001, municipalities may serve outside their municipal boundaries.

[5] Texas Water Code §13.250(a) [emphasis added].

[6] Texas Water Code §13.254(a)(1).

[7] Austin, Texas – Code of Ordinances, Utility Regulation, Utility Service Regulation, § 15-9-31 - UTILITY SERVICE PROVIDED. | Code of Ordinances | Austin, TX | Municode Library (Aug. 26, 2026).