Status of the Water Quality Protection Land Acquisition Program

City of Austin
Bond Oversight Committee
January 15, 2014

Agenda

- Introduction

- Benefits of Open Space

- Program Status

Open Space Benefits

- Enhanced water quality and quantity

- Protection of future water supply

- Groundwater "rule-of-capture" protection

- Endangered species protection

- Carbon sequestration

Community Benefits

- Protection of Barton Springs

- Preservation of natural heritage

- Scenic views and vistas

- Public access opportunities, including Violet Crown Trail

- Potential for increased adjacent property values

Partnerships

- The Nature Conservancy

- Hill Country Conservancy

- Trust for Public Land

- Hays County

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Acquisition Criteria

- Creek and Aquifer Protection

- Avoided Pollution – Prevention of Development

- Contiguity

- Management Considerations

- Public Use Value (2006)

- Financial Feasibility

History: Acquisition

May 1998	$65M	15,047 ac.
Nov. 2000	$13.4M	5,000 ac.
Nov. 2006	$50M	6,530 ac.
Nov. 2012	$30M	693 ac.
	$158.4M	27,270 ac.

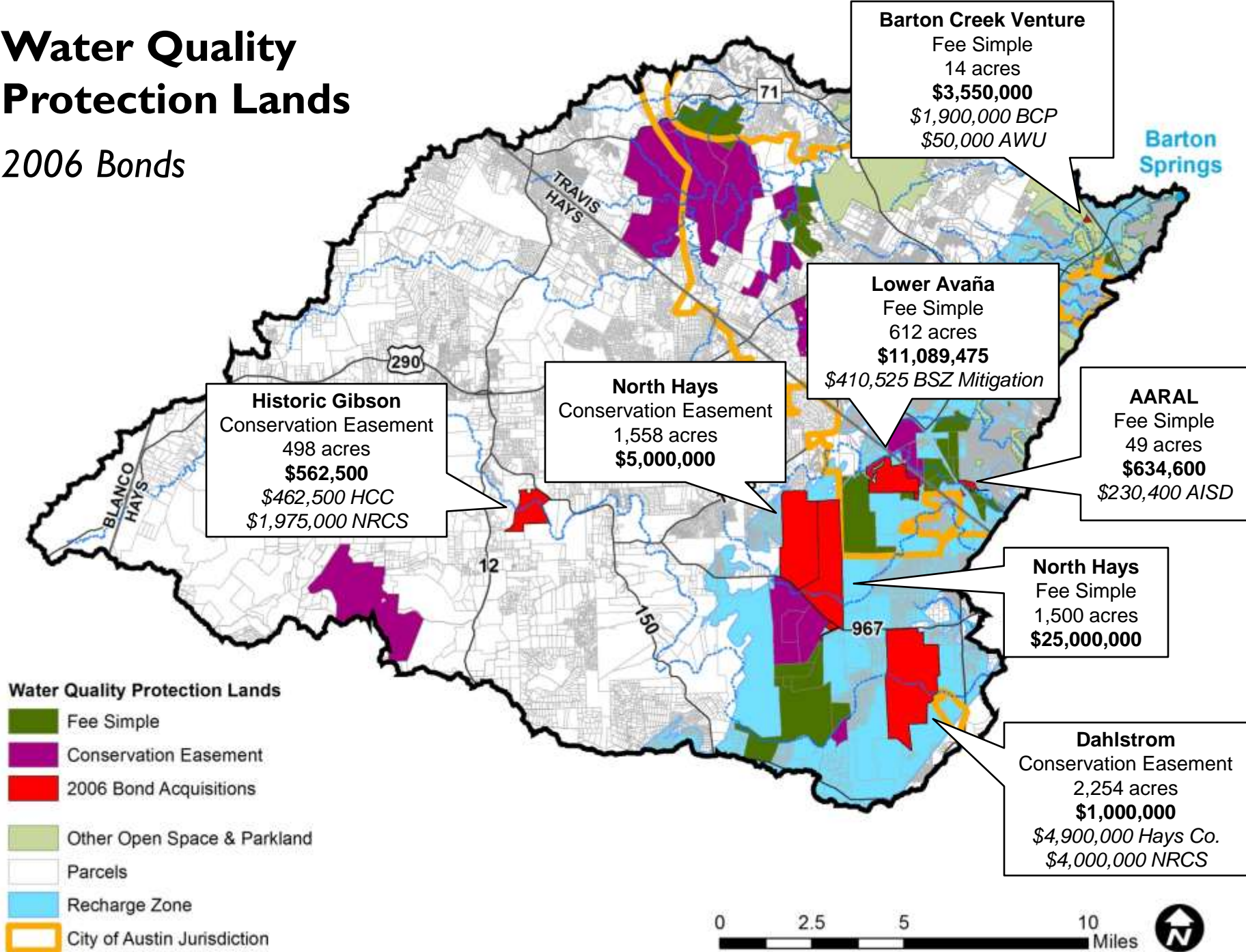Partnership Contributions $21M

Conservation Easements (16,781 ac.)   62%

Fee (10,489 ac.)   38%
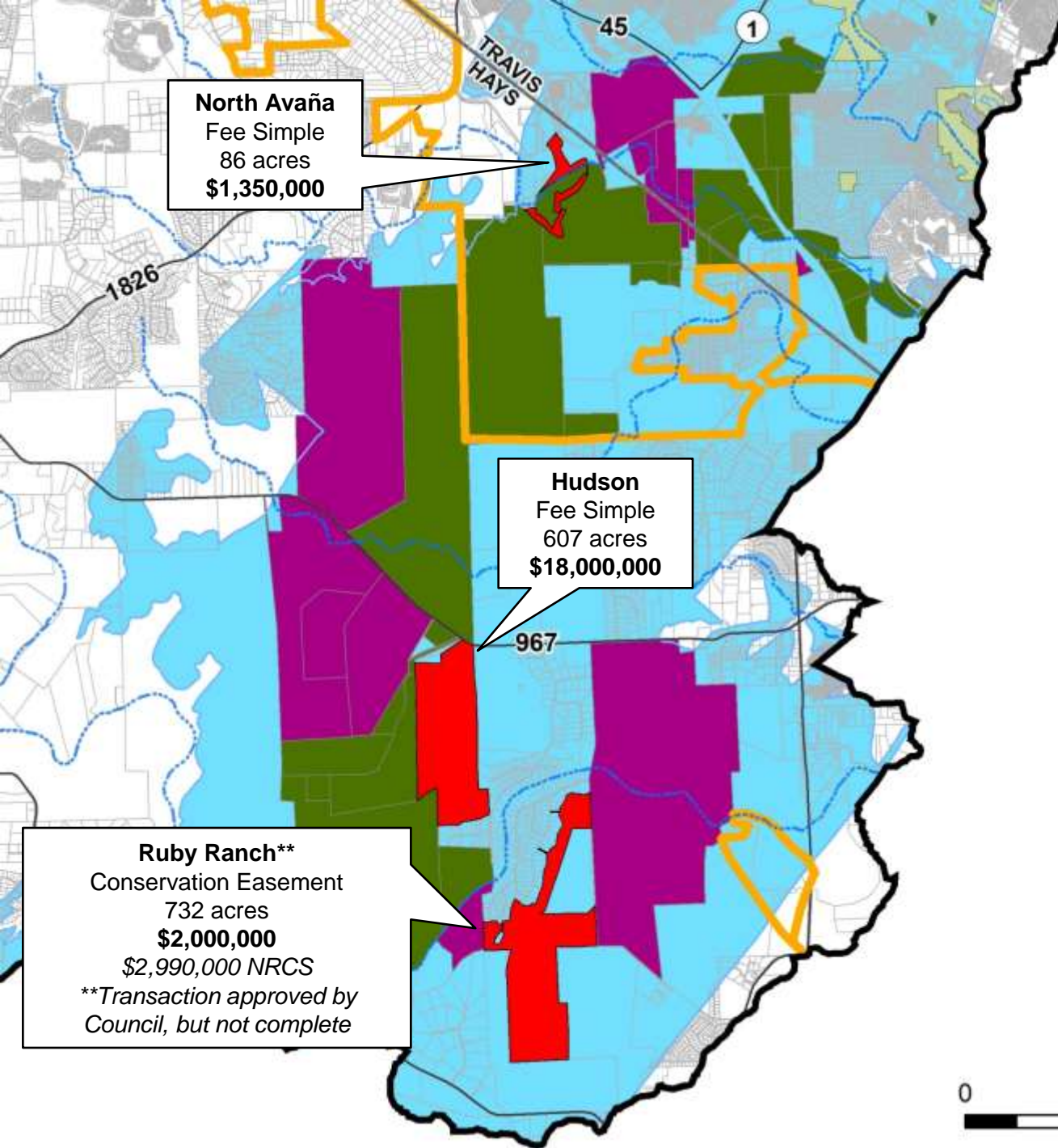
Water Quality Protection Lands

2006 Bonds

Barton Creek Venture
Fee Simple
14 acres
$3,550,000
$1,900,000 BCP
$50,000 AWU

Barton Springs

Lower Avaña
Fee Simple
612 acres
$11,089,475
$410,525 BSZ Mitigation

AARAL
Fee Simple
49 acres
$634,600
$230,400 AISD

Historic Gibson
Conservation Easement
498 acres
$562,500
$462,500 HCC
$1,975,000 NRCS

North Hays
Conservation Easement
1,558 acres
$5,000,000

North Hays
Fee Simple
1,500 acres
$25,000,000

Dahlstrom
Conservation Easement
2,254 acres
$1,000,000
$4,900,000 Hays Co.
$4,000,000 NRCS

Water Quality Protection Lands

- Fee Simple
- Conservation Easement
- 2006 Bond Acquisitions

- Other Open Space & Parkland
- Parcels
- Recharge Zone
- City of Austin Jurisdiction

0   2.5   5   10
Miles

Water Quality Protection Lands

2012 Bonds (to date)

North Avaña
Fee Simple
86 acres
$1,350,000

Hudson
Fee Simple
607 acres
$18,000,000

Ruby Ranch**
Conservation Easement
732 acres
$2,000,000
$2,990,000 NRCS
**Transaction approved by
Council, but not complete

Water Quality Protection Lands

- Fee Simple
- Conservation Easement
- 2012 Bond Acquisitions

- Other Open Space & Parkland
- Parcels
- Recharge Zone
- City of Austin Jurisdiction

0   1   2   4
Miles

Program Status

- 23% of the Barton Springs recharge zone is protected as Water Quality Protection Land

- An additional 6% is protected as Balcones Canyonlands Preserve or parkland

Questions