



Austin's Urban Forest Plan

Angela Hanson
Urban Forester
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Austin's Public Urban Forest

- # of trees on public property: 7.3 million (300,000 in active-use areas – parks, streets, facilities)
- Structural value of public trees: \$4 billion
- Austin Cost-Benefit Ratio for Trees: 1: 9.87
- Net annual urban forest benefits: \$10.7M





City of Austin Urban Forester Duties

- **Per City Code § 6-3, the urban forester shall:**
 - **Manage the city's public urban forest**
 - **Administer the Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan**
 - **Supervise and coordinate with responsible city departments to manage the public urban forest**
 - **Grant or deny administrative approval for public urban forest management and impacts; supervise subsequent work**
 - **Develop a Standard of Care for Trees or Plants on Public Property**

Austin Urban Forest Plan Drivers

Drought



Growth

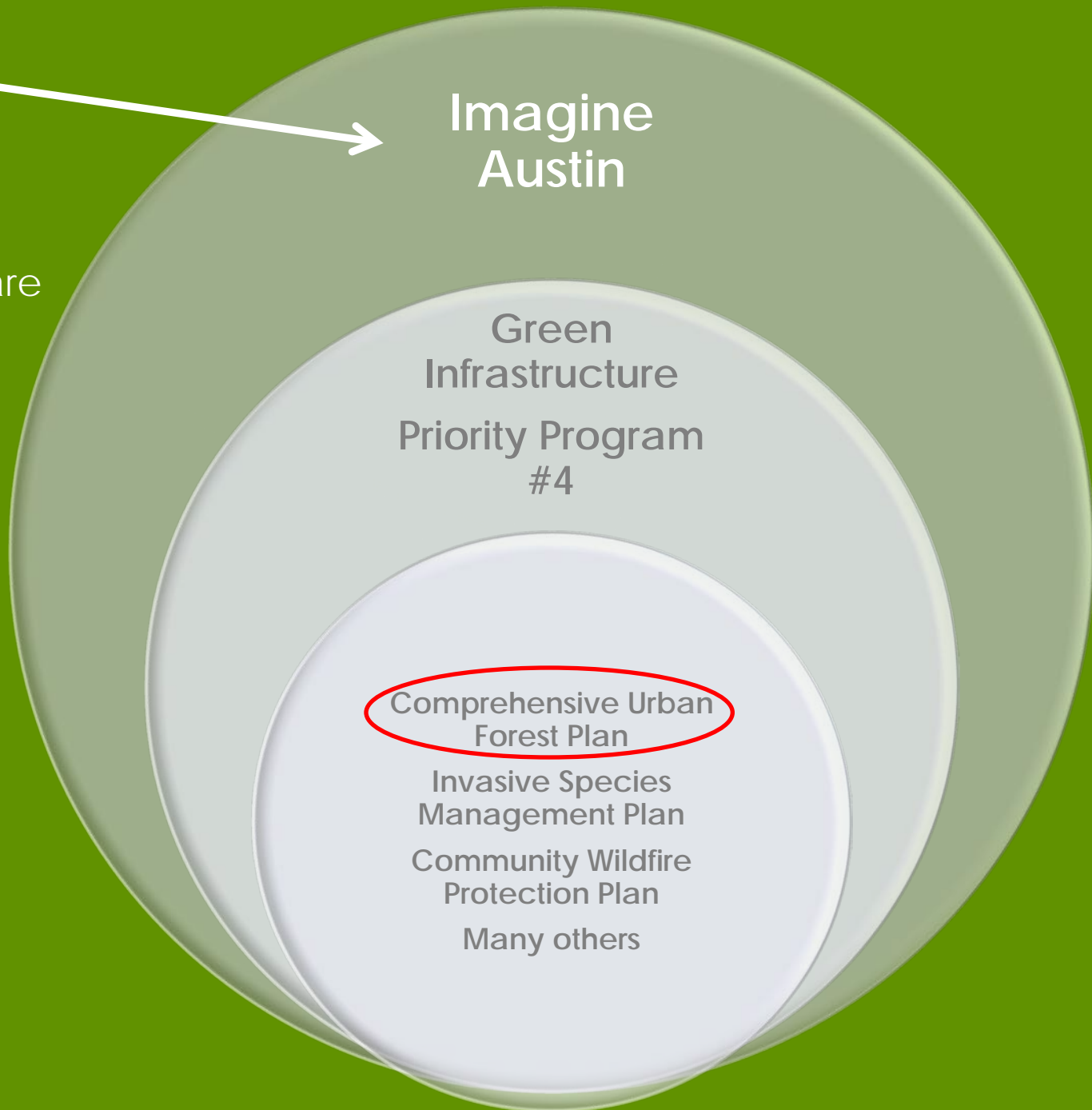
City Code

§ 6-3-5 COMPREHENSIVE URBAN FOREST PLAN.

- (A) With the assistance of the urban forester, the board shall develop and revise the plan.
- (B) The Environmental Board and Parks and Recreation Board shall review the plan and make recommendations to the board.
- (C) The urban forester shall provide administrative staff services to the board in connection with the plan.

Source: 1992 Code Sections 15-10-4(A) and (C); Ord. 031023-10; Ord. 031211-11.

20
Imagine
Austin
Priority
Actions are
urban
forestry
related.



WE CANNOT IMAGINEAUSTON WITHOUT TREES

Why Plan?



What
do we
have?



What
do we
want?

How
are we
doing?



How do
we get
there?



What Do We Have?

State of the Urban Forest

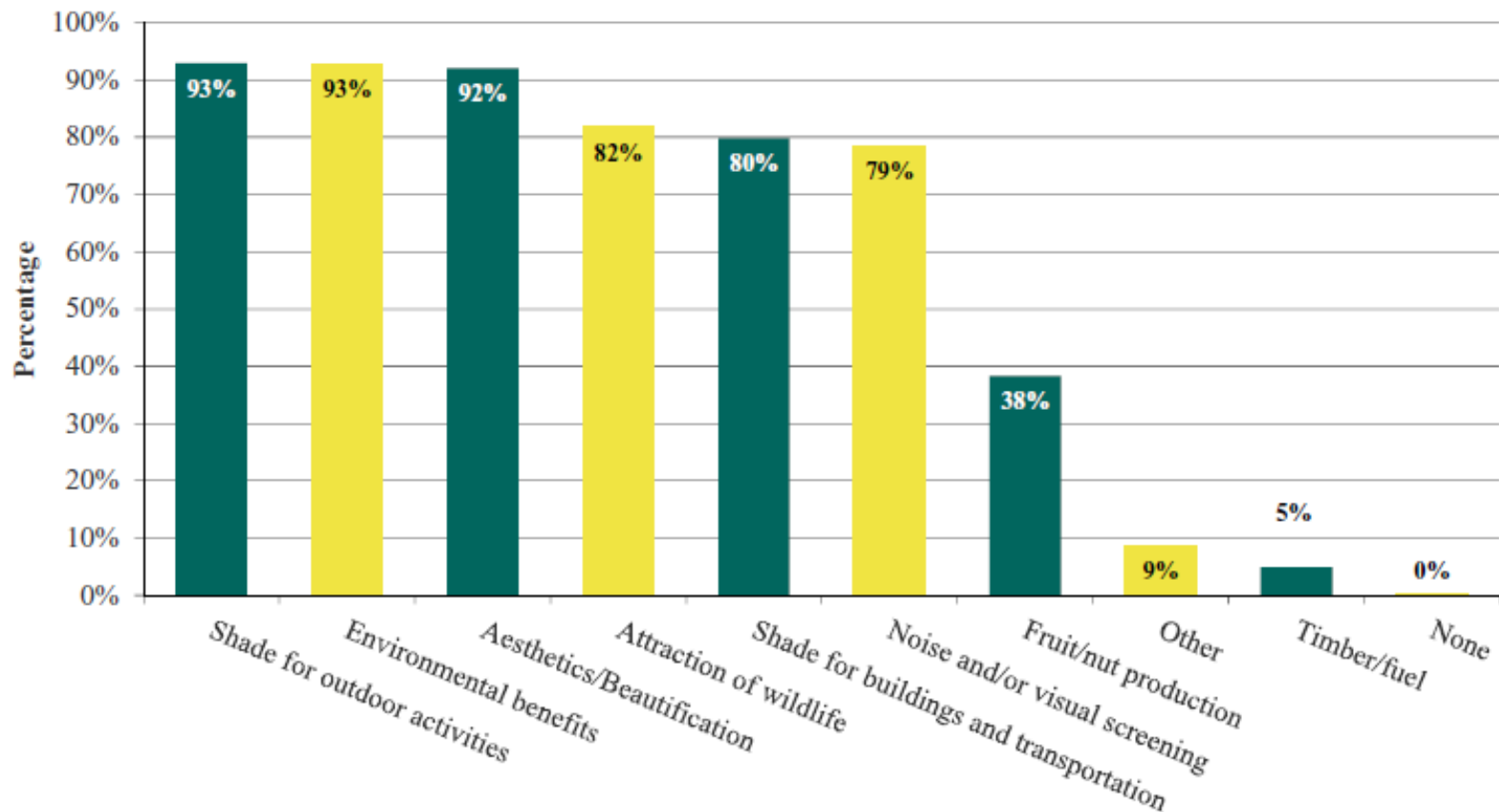
1. Vegetative Resource
2. Community Framework
3. Resource Management Framework



2nd Street, Downtown Austin

Urban Forest Opinion Poll – 900+ responses

Figure 9 Question 1 Which of the following do you value about Austin's Urban Forest?



City Departments Involved with Trees

Parks & Recreation	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Memorial Dedication Tree Planting			✓	✓	
2. Support for Development Review (Public Trees)	✓	✓			
3. GIS/Data Analysis		✓	✓	✓	
4. Emergency response			✓		
5. Public Tree Care Permitting	✓		✓		
6. Tree City USA					
7. Adopt a Park Volunteer Agreements			✓	✓	
8. Community Gardens/Food Forests			✓	✓	
- Preserves & Greenbelts			✓	✓	✓
- Park Planning & Acquisition			✓		
9. City of Austin Urban Forester					
- and other public property)			✓	✓	
- Maintenance (Parks, ROW, and other public property)			✓	✓	
- Public & Private Partnerships			✓	✓	✓
- Tree Inventory			✓	✓	✓
- Claims, Legal, & Appraisals	✓	✓			
- Urban Forestry Board Liaison	✓	✓	✓	✓	
- Standards of Care for Trees & Vegetation on	✓	✓	✓	✓	
10. Strategic & Operational Planning					
- Urban Forest Master Plan	✓	✓	✓		
- Strategic & Operational Planting & Maintenance	✓	✓	✓		
11. Public Outreach & Education					
- Urban Forest Stewards					✓
- Leaf for a Leaf					✓
- Arbor Day					✓

Planning & Development Review	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Zoning	✓	✓			
2. Annexation	✓				
3. Inspection & Enforcement	✓	✓			
4. Landscape Inspection	✓	✓			
5. Comprehensive Planning			✓	✓	
6. GIS/Data Analysis	✓	✓			
7. City Arborist Program					
- Environmental Review	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
- Heritage Tree Ordinance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
- General Permits	✓	✓	✓	✓	
- Tree Ordinance	✓	✓	✓	✓	
- Roadway Ordinance	✓	✓			
- Oak Wilt Program				✓	✓
- Urban forest Grant Program				✓	✓
8. Urban Design					
- Great Streets	✓	✓	✓		
- Transit Oriented Developments	✓	✓	✓	✓	
- Small-Area Plans	✓	✓	✓	✓	
9. Neighborhood Planning					
- Austin Community Trees	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Public Works	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Improvement Project	✓				
2. Road Construction	✓				
4. Road Improvements	✓				
5. Inspection				✓	
6. Sidewalk Easements				✓	
7. Row & Alley: Debris Removal				✓	
8. Signs/Signals Clearance				✓	
9. Partnering Program				✓	

Watershed Protection	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Stream & Riparian Zone	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2. Maintenance (Field)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3. Grow Green					✓
4. Flood Mitigation	✓				
5. Protection Master Plan	✓				
6. GIS/Data Analysis	✓				
7. Environment Report					✓
8. Invasive Species Program	✓	✓	✓	✓	
9. Management (IPM)			✓	✓	

Austin Water	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Dillo Dirt			✓		
2. Wildland Conservation		✓	✓	✓	
3. Water Conservation & Enforcement	✓				
4. Water Quality Land Acquisition		✓			
5. Water Quality Protection Lands		✓			
6. Balcones Canyonland Preserve	✓				
7. Wildland Outreach					✓
8. Fire Management Program					
9. Reclaimed Water Program					

Office of Sustainability	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Sustainable Land Management		✓			
2. Urban Wetland		✓			
3. Neighborhoods		✓			
4. Green Building		✓			
5. Green Building PW-		✓			
6. Green Building		✓			
7. Land Use Tree		✓			

Transportation	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Transportation Planning		✓			
2. Parking		✓			
3. Signs & Signals	✓			✓	
4. Traffic Engineers	✓				
5. License Agreement	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Austin Resource Recovery	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Yard Trimmings Pick-Up				✓	
2. Bulk Brush				✓	
3. Christmas Tree Recycling				✓	✓

Corporate Purchasing	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Tree-related Contracts & Services			✓	✓	

Office of Emergency Management	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Ice Storms			✓		

Fire	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Wildland Interface	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2. Fire Review				✓	

Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Downtown Redevelopment	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Law	Regulation	Planning	Planting	Maintenance	Education
1. Real Estate	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Key

Regulation: Program helps establish policies regulating some aspects of trees, e.g., protection, mitigation, placement, etc.

Planning: Program establishes strategic, long term, or comprehensive plans related to trees.

Planting:

Program supports planting of trees, including organization and tree-distribution, watering for two years.

Maintenance:

Program relates to City maintenance of trees, including inspection, pruning, removal, long-term irrigation, etc.

Education:

Program provides tree-related education and/or outreach to public.

What do we want?

VISION

Austin's urban forest is a healthy and sustainable mix of trees, vegetation, and other components that comprise a contiguous and thriving ecosystem valued, protected, and cared for by the City and all of its citizens as an essential environmental, economic, and community asset.



How do we get there?

POLICY ELEMENTS



PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION



SUSTAINABLE URBAN FOREST



PLANTING, CARE, AND MAINTENANCE



URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK





PLANNING AND DESIGN



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



Examples of Policy Elements

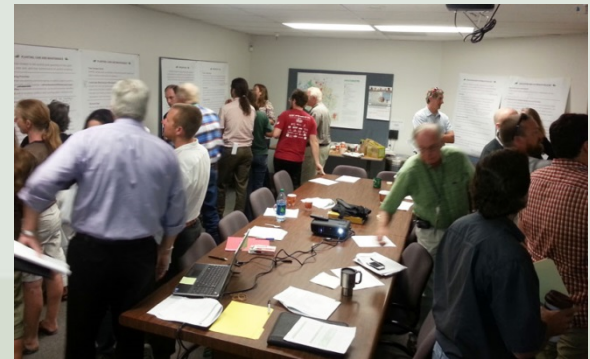
- **PR-2 Protection of Trees During Development:** Evaluate and enhance current policies for public urban forest protection during and after development to promote the long-term health and survival of trees and vegetation retained during development.
 - **PCM-5 Tree Canopy Cover:** Identify canopy goals according to site, land use designation, and ecosystem capacity, and develop a plan to achieve them. Include canopy cover goals in Departmental Operational Plans.
 - **S-2 Urban Wood Utilization:** Recycle green waste generated by urban forest maintenance and encourage the highest and best sustainable uses of removed trees and woody material, including reuse on site. Strive for 100% green waste recycling or reuse.
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Internal and External Involvement

- 31 Public Meetings
 - 2160 Public Comments
 - Many Letters of Support to City Council
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- 23 Interdepartmental Meetings
 - Staff from 10 dept's with major forestry functions
 - Green Infrastructure Priority Program



Public Workshop – August 2013



Staff Working Group – July 2013

Public Engagement



Implementation



20 Year Overall Timeframe

5 year review cycle

Annual Items

State of the Urban
Forest Reporting
Departmental
Operational Plans

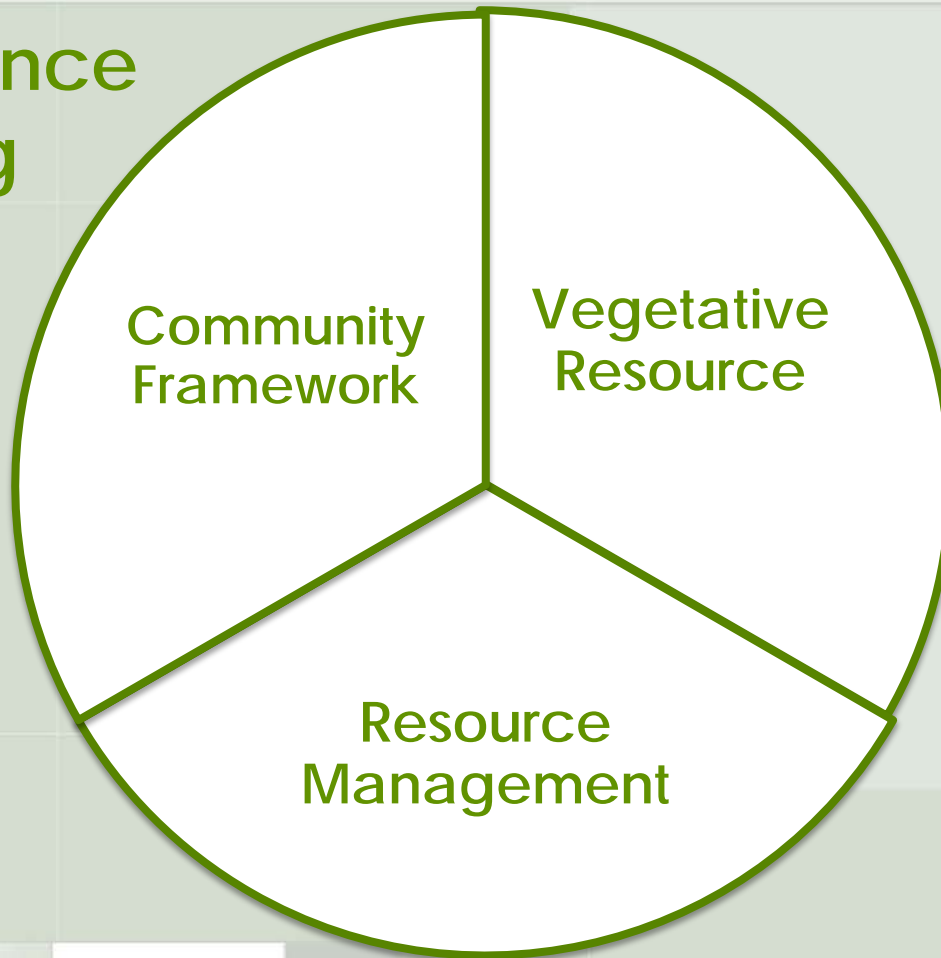
Implementation Actions

- Data collection, reporting metrics
- Departmental Operational Plans
- Standard of Care for Trees and Plants
- Interdepartmental Coordination
- Benchmarking and Alignment
- Further Strategy Development



How Are We Doing?

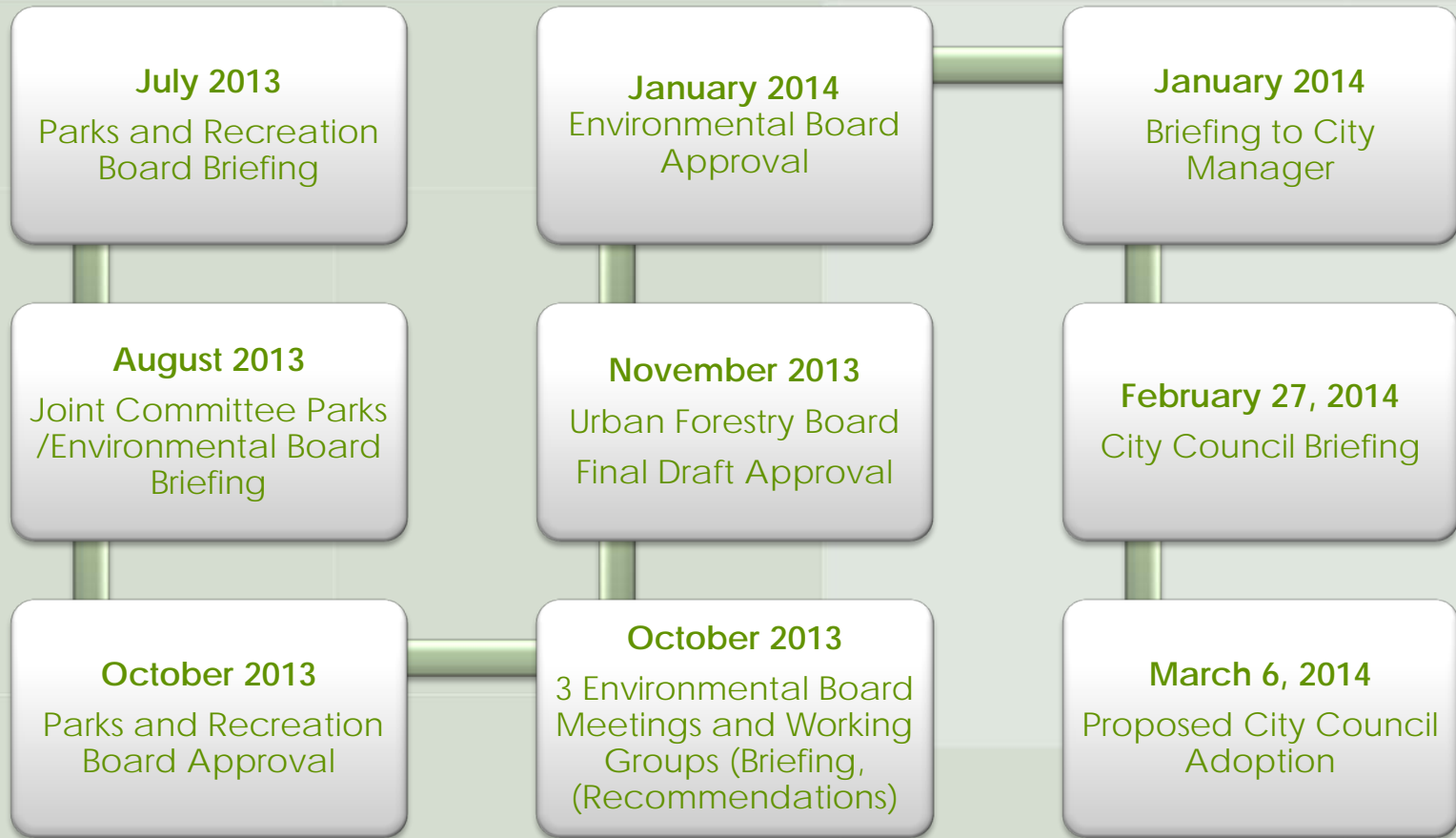
Performance
Reporting



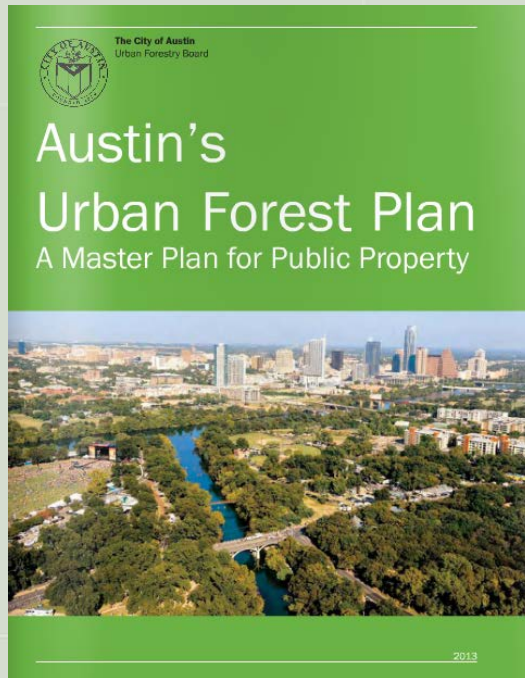
Planning Framework



Boards & Council Review



www.austinurbanforestry.org



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austintexas.gov
the official website of the City of Austin

Explore your city...

Department » Parks And Recreation » Programs » Austin's Urban Forest Plan

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AUSTIN'S URBAN FOREST PLAN

Get Involved In Your Urban Forest

This is your urban forest. What matters most to you?

There are many ways to influence the Urban Forest Plan.

Please submit all comments and complete the surveys by midnight September 11th.

- Review the first newest draft and tell us what you think. Please submit your comments electronically via [email](#) or contact us for other arrangements.
- Speak Up Austin Join the discussion!
- Influence the Plan and the future of Austin's urban forest by taking these short surveys.
 - Finding survey
 - Performance indicators survey
 - Policy elements survey

***Be entered to win a t-shirt by entering your email in each survey you take!*

AUSTIN'S URBAN FOREST PLAN

TOP CONTENT

- ★ Zilker Metropolitan Park
- ★ Barton Springs Pool
- ★ Austin Nature & Science Center
- ★ Pools & Splash Pads
- ★ Golf Austin Public Links

CONTACT INFO

Phone: 9/4-9540
Email
Physical Address:
2525 S. Lakeshore Blvd.
Austin, TX 78741
[See Map](#)

Urban Forestry Program