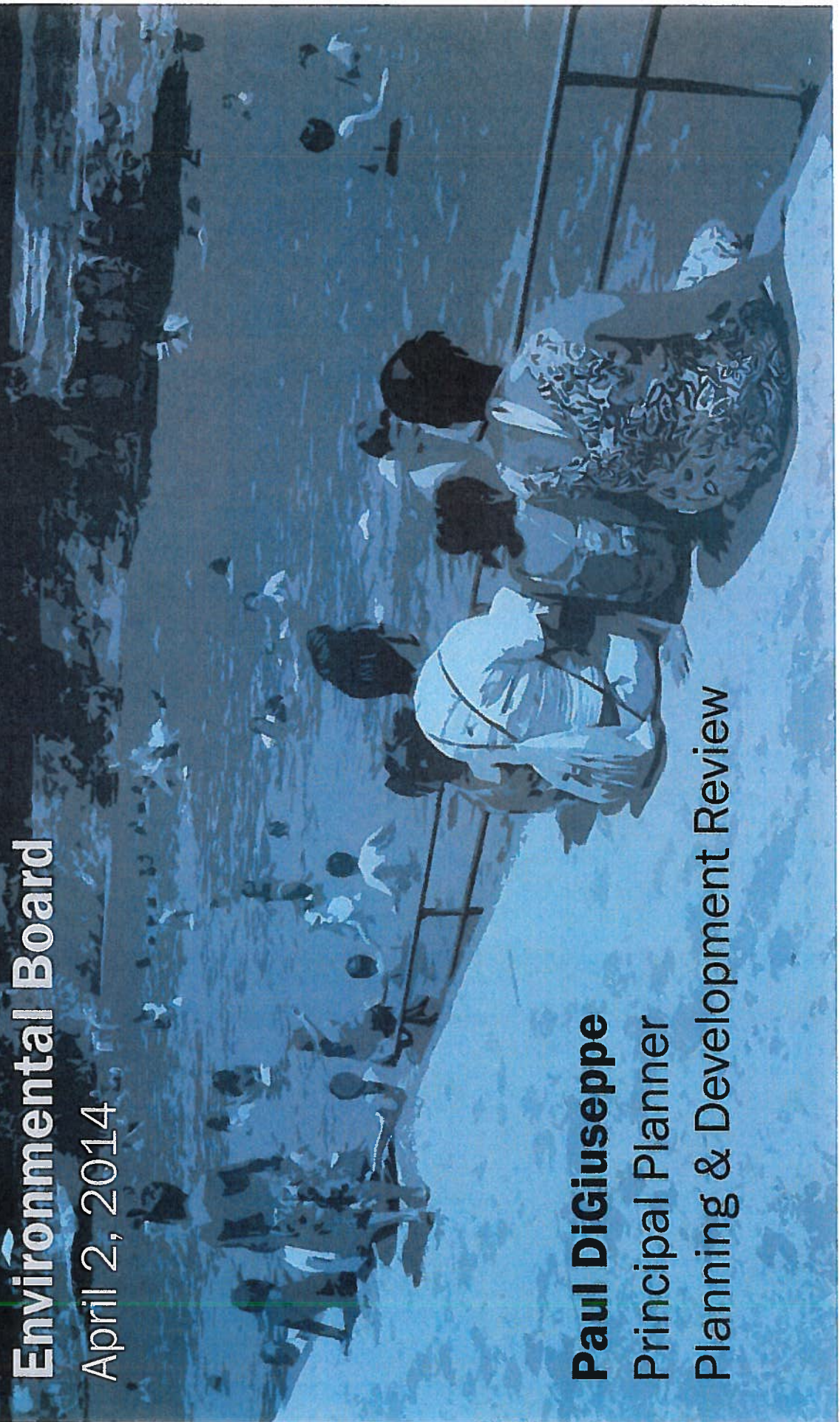


IMAGINEAUSTON

Environmental Board

April 2, 2014

Paul DiGiuseppe
Principal Planner
Planning & Development Review



IMAGINE AUSTIN

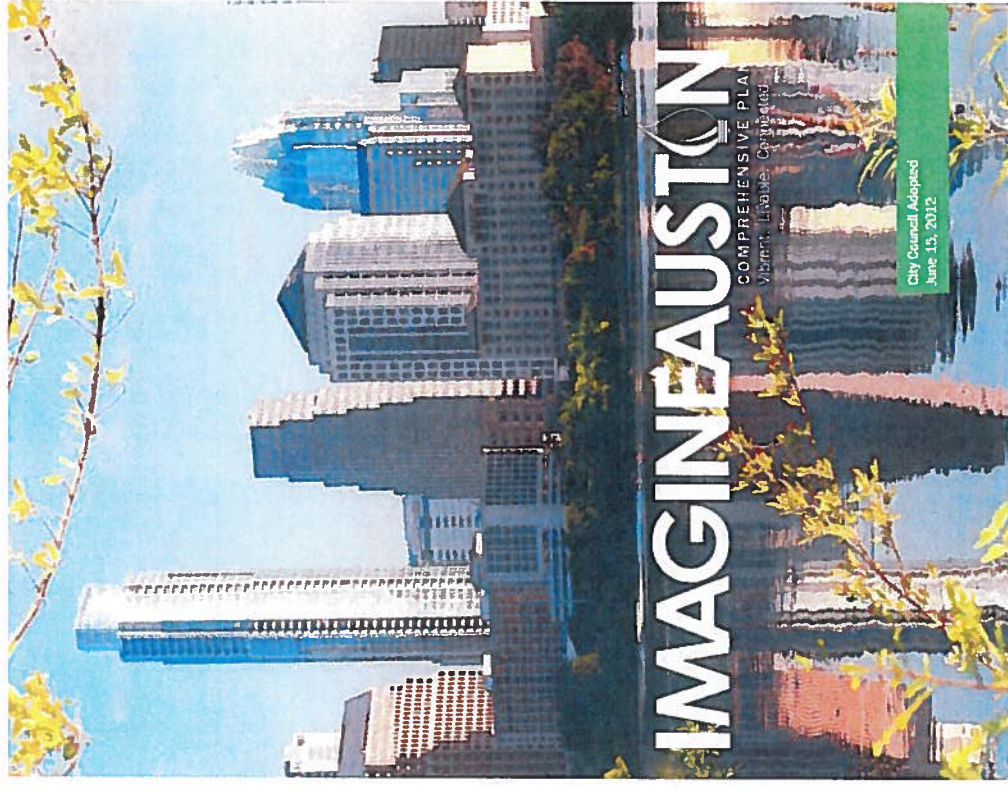
About the Plan
The Environment and Imagine Austin
Implementing Imagine Austin...

MORE
LIZARDS

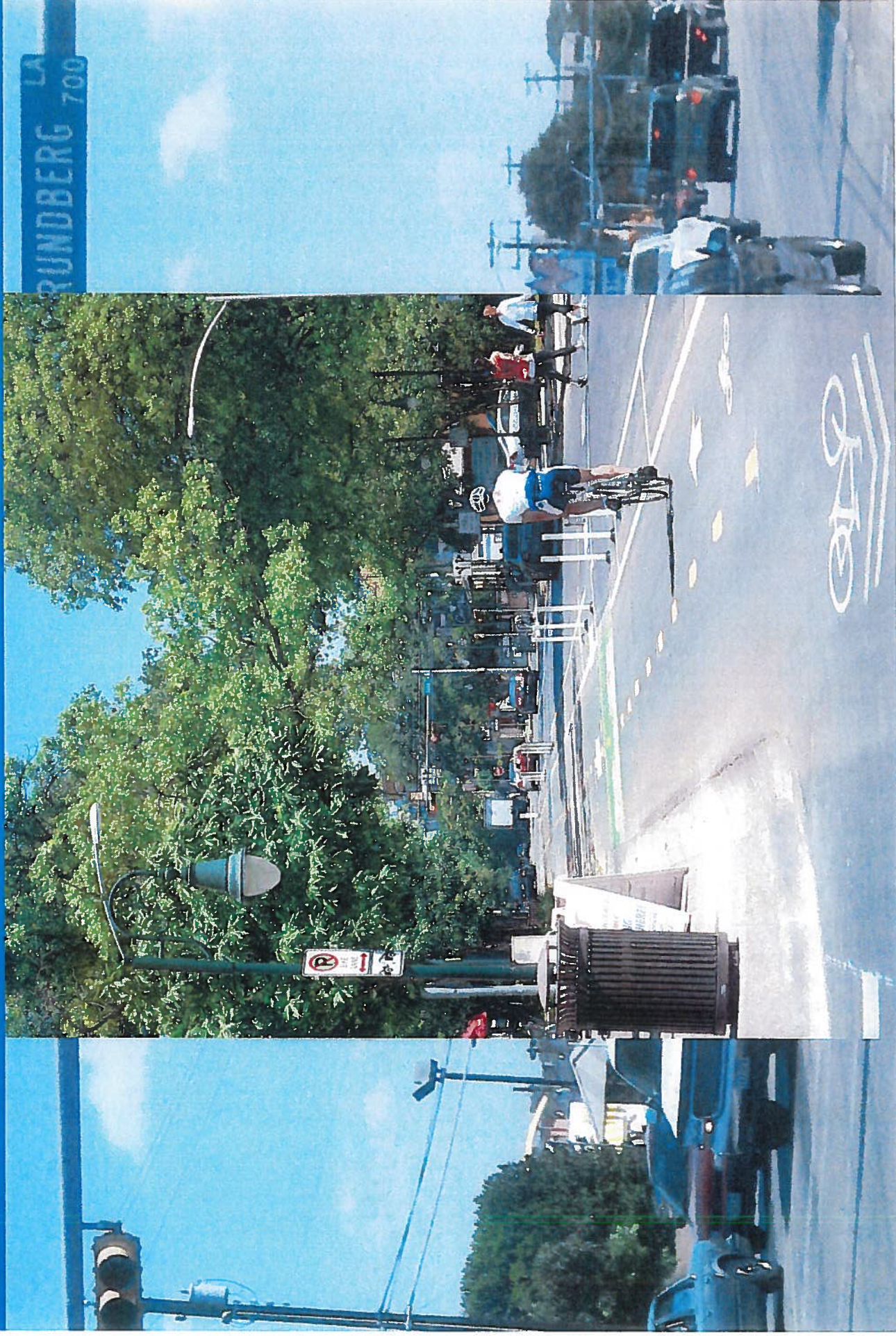


Why Austin needs a plan

- Identify and respond to community needs
- Make informed decisions on how to grow while maintaining & improving our neighborhoods
 - Guide future growth and development
 - Prioritize municipal projects



About: Setting the Tone



About: the City Charter

Establishes the comprehensive plan and comprehensive planning as a . . .

- Continuous and ongoing planning program
- Guide to regulate and manage future development
- Direction for all land development decisions, regulations, and capital expenditures

About: Council Goals

Community Engagement

- Values-Driven Planning Process
- Community Shapes the Plan

Sustainability

- Environment, Economy, and Equity
- What Does Sustainability Mean for Austin?

Implementation

- Translating Vision and Goals into Action



The **vision statement** describes in aspirational terms what Austinites want the city to become by 2039 and establishes the broadest context for decision-making.

Inside the plan: Vision



Austin is Natural and Sustainable

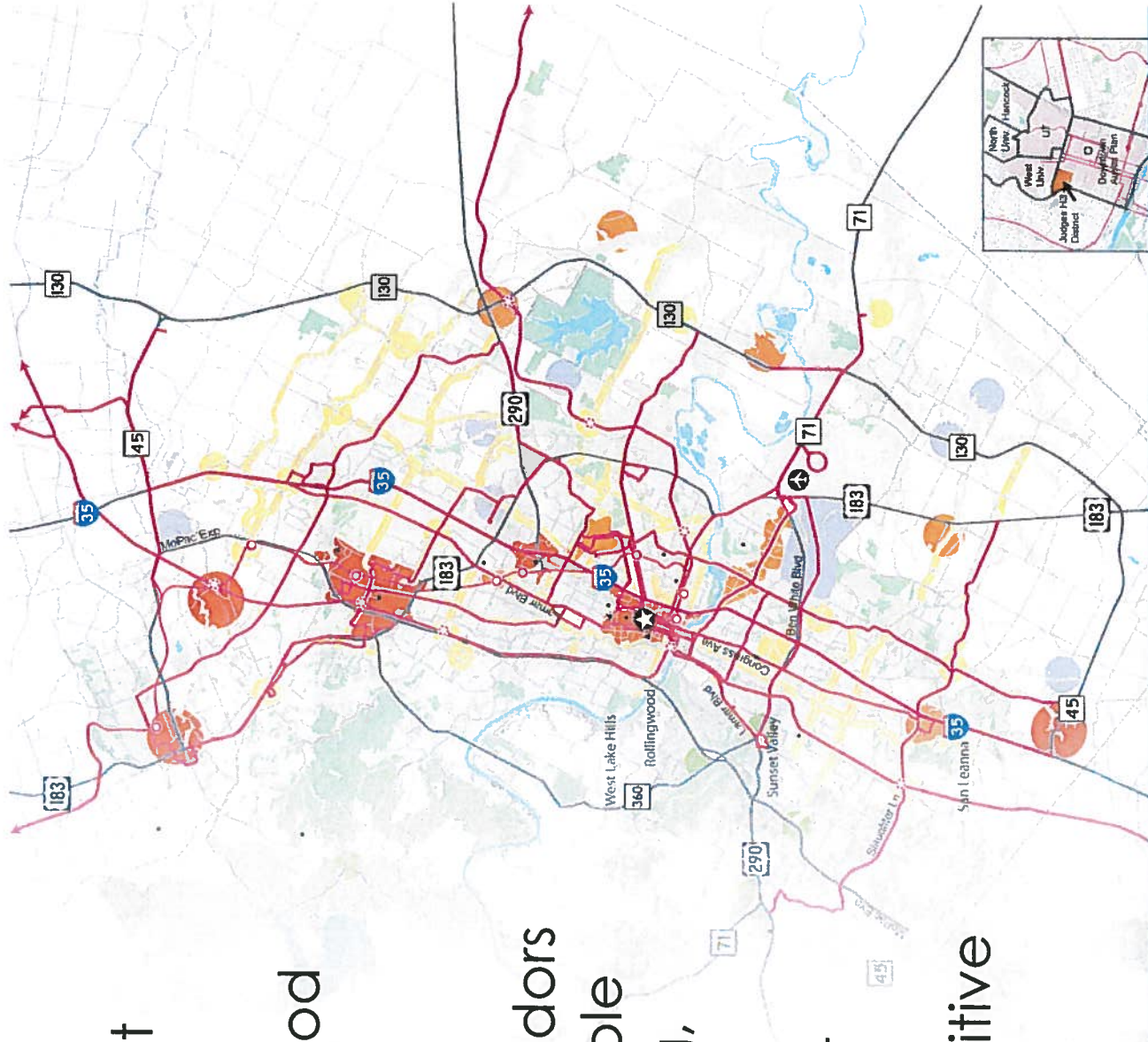
- Austin is a green city
- We are environmentally aware and ensure the long-term health and quality of our community
- Growth and infrastructure systems are well-managed to respect the limitations of our natural resources

About: Imagine Austin Vision

- **Land Use & Transportation (LUT)**
includes Urban Design & Historic Preservation
- **Housing & Neighborhoods (HN)**
- **Economy (E)**
- **Conservation & Environment (CE)**
- **City Facilities & Services (CFS)**
includes Solid Waste, Energy, Public Safety, Public Buildings, Recreation and Open Space, & Wastewater, Potable Water and Drainage
- **Society (S)**
includes Health and Human Services & Children, Families, and Education
- **Creativity (C)**

Inside the plan: Building Blocks

- Promotes a compact and connected city
- Preserve neighborhood character
- Focuses new development in corridors and centers accessible by walking, bicycling, transit, and cars
- Directs development away from environmentally sensitive areas



Growth Concept Map

Community Engagement

Regulations

Capital Investments

Organizational Alignment

Partnerships

Implementing *Imagine Austin*: 5 steps

- Small area and master plans
- Zoning and development decisions
- Capital improvements program/bonds
- Departmental/ operational decisions and budgets
- Partnerships
- Annual Report

Informing Decisions

Creates a game plan that:

- Identifies goals and expectations
- Integrates policies and actions
- Contains short and long-term steps
- Identifies resources and partners
- Assigns responsibilities
- Measures success

TOPIC GROUP

PRIORITY PROGRAM

Compact and Connected	1. Compact and Connected 8. CodeNEXT
Nature and City	2. Sustainable Water 4. Green Infrastructure
Creativity and Economy	3. Workforce Development 5. Creative Economy
Healthy and Affordable	6. Healthy Austin 7. Household Affordability

Priority Programs

TOPIC GROUP

PRIORITY PROGRAM

Nature and City

- 2. Sustainable Water
- 4. Green Infrastructure

Priority Programs

Priority Program No. 4 Green Infrastructure

Use green infrastructure to protect environmentally sensitive areas and integrate nature into the city.

Green infrastructure is strategically planned and managed networks of natural lands, parks, working landscapes, other open spaces, and green stormwater controls that conserve and enhance ecosystems and provide associated benefits to human populations. *Imagine Austin, Appendix A, p 19*

Benefits of Green Infrastructure

Ecosystem Services – the benefits of nature to households, communities, and economies:

- ❖ **Hazard mitigation (e.g., flooding, wildfire)**
- ❖ **Water supply (e.g., improving aquifer recharge) and water quality protection**
- ❖ **Erosion and sediment control**
- ❖ **Air pollution prevention and control**
- ❖ **Local and global climate regulation**
- ❖ **Wildlife habitat**
- ❖ **Food and renewable non-food products**
- ❖ **Social and cultural benefits (e.g., passive/active recreation)**



Priority Program #4: Green Infrastructure

Goal

Manage Austin's urban and natural ecosystems in a coordinated and sustainable manner

Key Objectives

- Continue public investment in green infrastructure
- Incentivize and/or require private investment in green infrastructure
- Maximize ecosystem function and services provided by green infrastructure on city-owned lands
- Improve inter-departmental collaboration and coordination in the management of city-owned lands

Identify and Prioritize Needs and Gaps

Process:

- Review IACP policies, actions, and work program tasks
- Compile preliminary inventory of existing City plans, policies, and programs
- Inventory available GIS data coverages for City-owned/managed property
- Analyze to identify needs, gaps, and priorities
- Form sub-teams and develop work plans

Conclusions:

- The City is already doing much of what is called for in IACP
- Implementation of IACP requires much closer “alignment” of existing plans, policies, and programs; as well as new initiatives
- Highest priorities are:
 - Improve inter-departmental collaboration on land acquisition and disposition
 - Support Priority Program No. 8 – Land Development Code revisions
 - Improve inter-departmental collaboration to improve management public lands

[illegible]

7



[illegible]

8





Imagine Austin Priority Program No. 2 Sustainably Manage Our Water Resources

**Watershed Protection Department and
Austin Water Utility**

Goals

- Ensure resilient, reliable & affordable water supply for future generations
- Protect public health & safety
- Protect rivers, lakes, creeks & aquifers
- Incorporate conservation, innovation & best management practices
- Lead collaboration at the state, regional & local levels

Challenges

Water is central to Austin's identity & wellbeing

- Rapidly growing population (demand, impacts)
- Fragile Central Texas environment
- Climate change & drought
- State and regional regulatory complexity

Organizational Accomplishments

- Team leads and structure identified
- Share Point site established
- Work Plan and 2013 milestones developed
- Regular meetings since November 2012
- Development of content for Annual Report
- Development of Matrix Template for tracking implementation
- Establishment of Interdepartmental Coordination Team

Implementing Imagine Austin Accomplishments

Short Term Goal 1:

Austin Water Revised Water Use Management Strategy

Long Term Goal 5:

**Implementation of new Council approved Water rate
structure**

Implementing Imagine Austin Accomplishments

Short Term Goal 2:

Watershed Protection Ordinance Revisions

- Recommended by Environmental Board July 2013
- Approved by Planning Commission August 27, 2013
- Approved by Council October 17, 2013
- Effective Date October 28, 2013

Implementing Imagine Austin Accomplishments

Ongoing & Long Term Goal 8: Watershed Protection Master Plan

- CIP Implementation ongoing
- Updated Watershed problem scores to ensure solution prioritization reflect current needs
- Implemented Program and Regulatory Enhancements
- Continue to keep Master Plan Document Updated

Implementing Imagine Austin In the Works

- Goal 4 - Auxiliary Water Study
- Revise the Land Development Code to promote a compact and connected City (Code Next Priority Program)

Implementing Imagine Austin

Ongoing

Goal 1 - Ongoing update to Austin Water's integrated water management plan

- Drought response planning
- Water conservation, climate mitigation and adaptation strategies

Goal 3 - Coordinate with Austin Energy on risks and mitigation related to water demands for power generation

- AW provides reclaimed water to Sandhill generation facility
- Drought response including LCRA pro-rata curtailment

Goal 9 - Regional & State Water Plan Updates

- State and Regional Water Resources Planning

Goal 10 - Ongoing implementation of Austin Water's energy efficiency and demand reduction efforts

- Greenhouse gas emission reduction
- Climate Protection Goals

Implementing Imagine Austin

Ongoing

Goal 6 & 7 - Ongoing Coordination with Regional Partners

- COA-LCRA Water Partnership
- Non Degradation Policy for BSZ

Goal 8 - Ongoing updates to Watershed Master Plan

- Continually maintaining current scores and developing solutions

Goal 11 - Interdepartmental Coordination Team developed to facilitate :

- Increased coordination between WPD, AW, OS, PDRD and other departments

Implementing Imagine Austin

CIP Opportunities

- Approach Infrastructure Upgrades and Maintenance to facilitate a “Compact and Connected” future for Austin
- Projects evaluated using the Capital Planning Office criteria
- WPD FY 14 CIP Plan addresses critical needs and infrastructure upgrades
- Examples of two major AW CIP programs directly supporting IA and this Priority Program:
 - AW’s Renewing Austin water main replacement program
 - AW’s Reclaimed Water Program

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