

Watershed Protection  
**MASTER PLAN**  
2015 Update

City of Austin  
**WATERSHED PROTECTION**

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City of Austin

# Watershed Protection Master Plan: 2015 Update

Flood Mitigation Task Force  
November 3, 2015

## Watershed Protection Mission:

Protect the lives, property, and environment of our community by reducing the impact of flooding, erosion, and water pollution.

Flooding	Erosion	Water Quality Degradation
		
Public Safety	Property Protection	Environmental Protection

Master Plan Process

Assessment

Solution Development

Implementation

Public Involvement

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## Master Plan: Primary Mission Goals

1. **Flood Mitigation:** Protect lives and property by reducing the impact of flood events.
2. **Erosion Control:** Protect channel integrity and prevent property damage resulting from erosion.
3. **Water Quality Protection:** Protect and improve Austin's waterways and aquifers for citizen use and the support of aquatic life.

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## Master Plan Common Goals

- **Public Use & Natural Character:** Improve the urban environment by fostering additional beneficial uses of waterways and drainage facilities.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Meet or exceed all local, state & federal permit and regulatory requirements
- **Assets Maintenance:** Maintain the integrity and function of Utility Assets
- **Optimization/Mission Integration:** Optimize City resources by integrating flood, erosion, and water quality control measures.

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## Master Plan Flood Mitigation Objectives

1. Reduce the depth and frequency of flooding for all 100-year floodplain structures.
2. Reduce the depth and frequency of flooding on all roads in the 100-year floodplain.
3. Reduce the danger at road crossings subject to any flooding by the 100-year flood.
4. Provide mitigation for flood damage.
5. Prevent the creation of future flood hazards to human life and property.

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## Master Plan Flood Mitigation Objectives

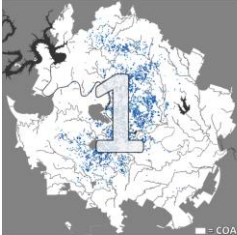
*(Continued from previous)*

6. Reduce the depth and frequency of local flooding for buildings.
7. Reduce the depth and frequency of local flooding for yards.
8. Reduce the danger of street flooding created by substandard storm drains.
9. Reduce standing water in public rights-of-way and drainage easements outside the 100-year floodplain.

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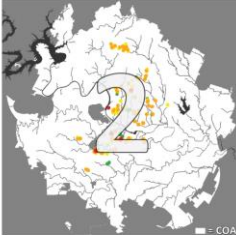
### Watershed Problem Scores

- Collect Data
- Generate Problem Scores
- Assess & Prioritize Problem Areas
- Address Worst Problems First



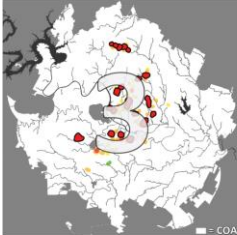
1

Collect Data



2

Generate Problem Scores



3

Prioritize Problems for CIP  
Solution Identification

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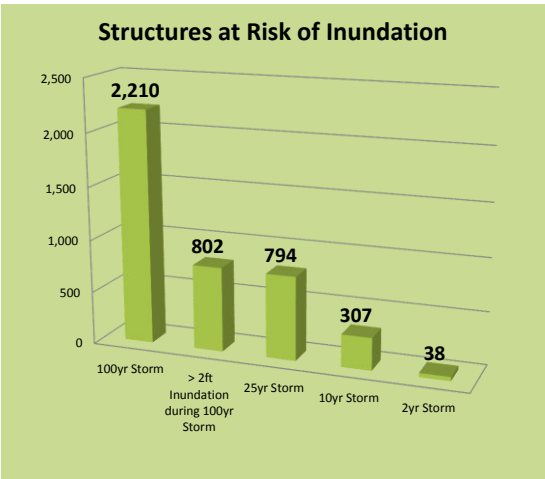
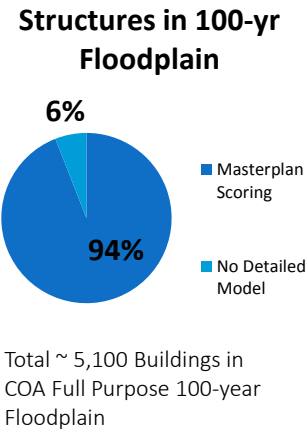


## Evolution of Creek Flood Scoring

- Master Plan scoring for 15 Phase 1 watersheds in 2001
- Revised and new scoring of 23 watersheds in 2011
- Revised and new scoring of 6 watersheds in 2013
- New scoring of 1 watershed in 2015
- Current scoring is available for 27 watersheds

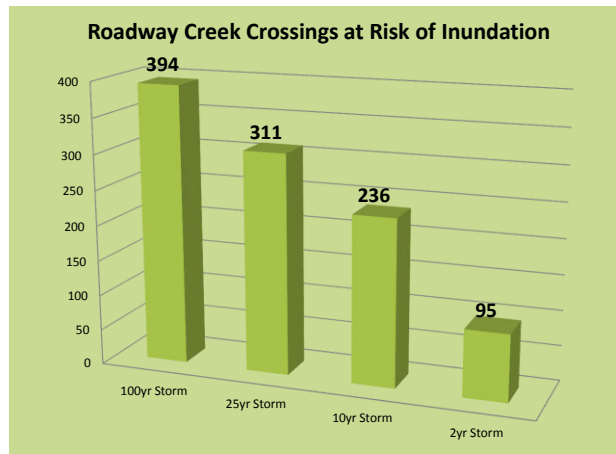
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## Structures at Risk of Flooding



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## Roadway Crossings at Risk of Flooding



Total ~ 400 Creek Crossings At Risk in COA Full Purpose 100-year Floodplain

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## Creek Flood Score Methodology

### Structures

$$FT_{property} = RV * (\frac{1}{2} D_2 + \frac{1}{10} D_{10} + \frac{1}{25} D_{25} + \frac{1}{100} D_{100})$$

### Street Crossings

$$FT_{crossing} = RV * (\frac{1}{2} D_2 * V_2 + \frac{1}{10} D_{10} * V_{10} + \frac{1}{25} D_{25} * V_{25} + \frac{1}{100} D_{100} * V_{100})$$

Where:

RV = Resource Value, indicates type of structure or street crossing

D<sub>2</sub> = flood inundation depth for the COA 2 - year storm event

V<sub>2</sub> = channel velocity for the COA 2 - year storm event

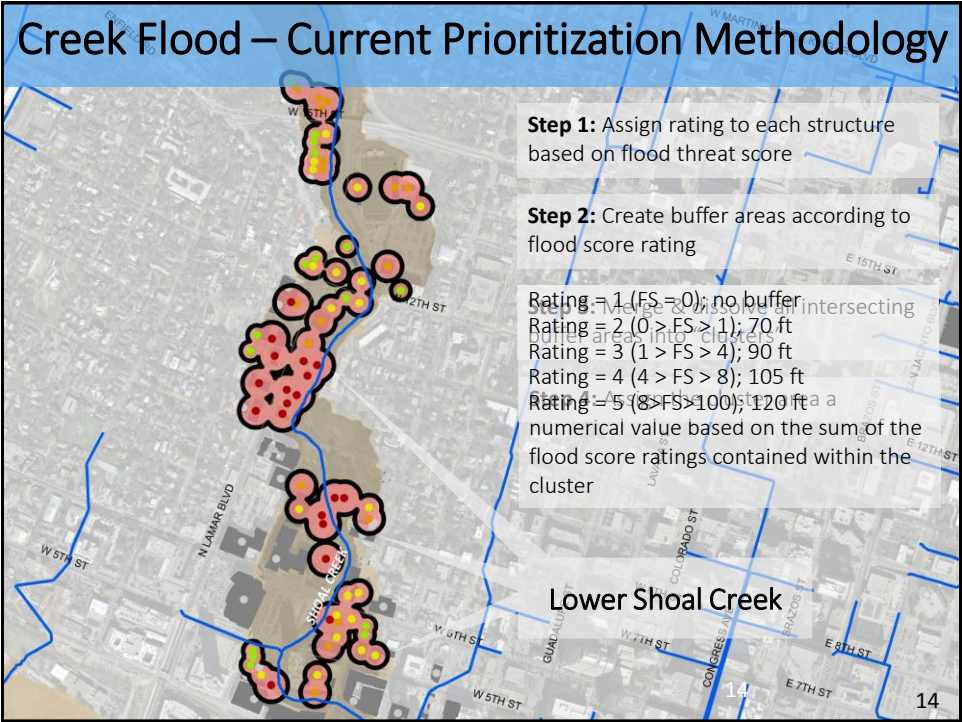
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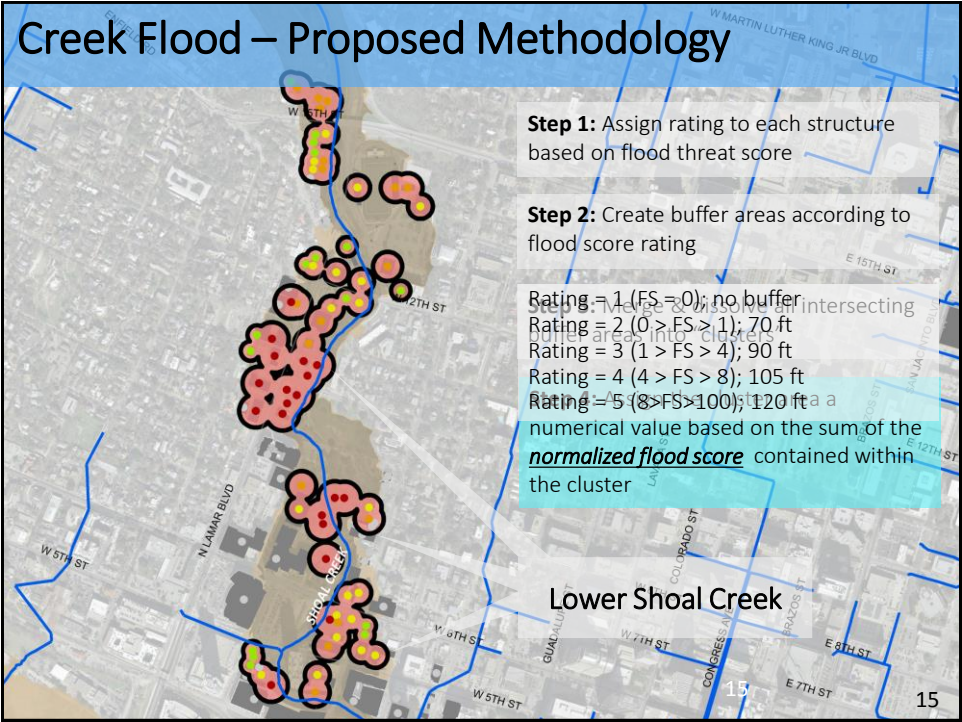


Creek Flood Score Methodology			
Flood Control Resource Values			
Structures		Street Crossings	
Public Care Facilities	100	Highway	100
Residential: Multi-Family	80	Arterial Road	95
Mixed Use	80	Single Access Road	90
Residential: Single Family	60	Collector Road	85
Non-Residential	60	Local Road	80
Parking Garage	40		

Resource values for current Williamson scoring is based on 2006 land use data publicly available in COA GIS DataMart

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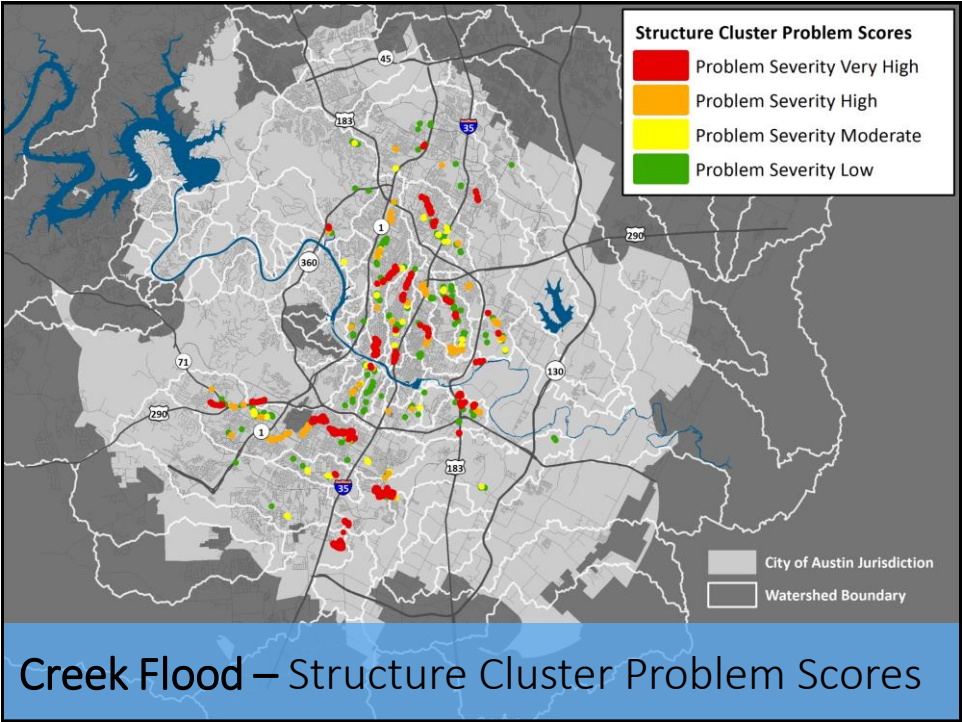


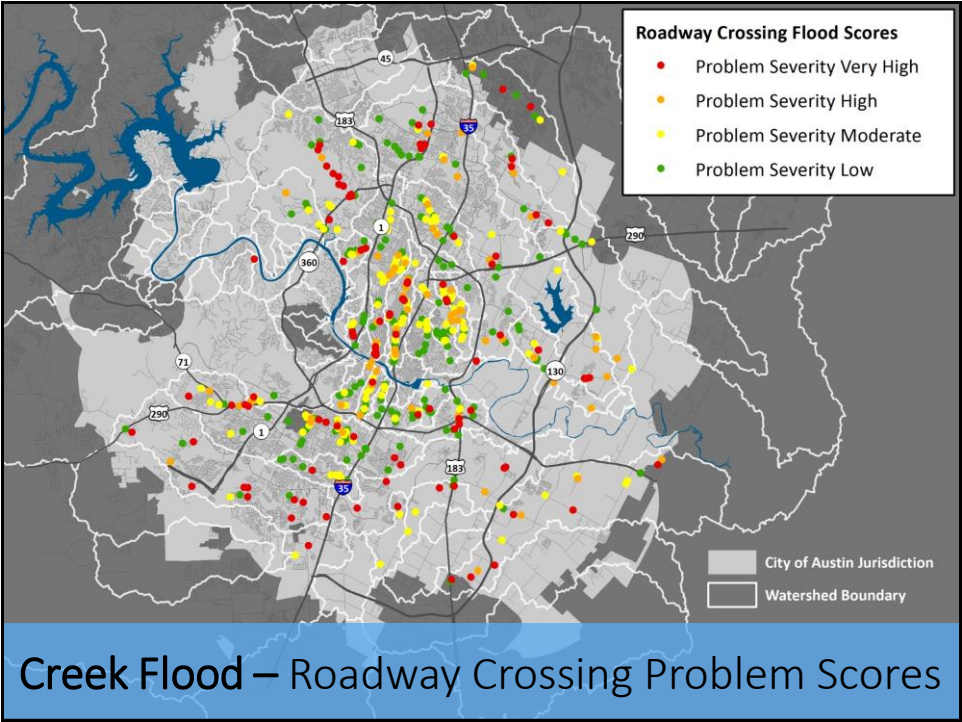
Top 20 Based on Old Clustering

Flood Score Rank	Flood Rating Rank	Name	Structure Count	Sum of Normalized Flood Score	Sum of Ratings Score	Watershed Name
1	1	Lower Onion Creek Buyouts **	602	987.09	1570	Onion
3	2	Williamson Creek at Cherry Creek to Congress	282	431.03	704	Williamson
5	3	Onion - Pinehurst Drive Subdivision & Wild Dunes	187	101.79	382	Onion
2	4	Lower Shoal Creek	66	455.51	230	Shoal
8	5	Shoal Creek at Hancock Tributary	80	55.37	181	Shoal
12	6	Little Walnut - Metric to Rutland	79	34.32	169	Little Walnut
	7	Tannehill Bubble/ Springdale to Prock	75	5.02	150	Tannehill
	8	Upper Shoal Creek at Steck	38	9.69	77	Shoal
13	9	Boggy - 38 1/2 to MLK	32	31.23	74	Boggy
19	10	Carson - Thompson Lane Mobile Homes	41	13.49	73	Carson
6	11	Waller Creek Tunnel (12th St to Lady Bird Lake)	26	83.64	71	Waller
14	11	Upper Little Walnut @ Quail Cove	31	27.93	71	Little Walnut
15	13	Fort Branch Between Berkman and Waterbrook	29	27.73	66	Fort Branch
22	13	Upper Waller - Koenig Ln to 51st Street	31	12.25	66	Waller
17	15	Speedway & 45th St (from 47th to 44th St)	26	17.54	58	Waller
23	15	WMS South Brook Dr at Scenic Brook Trib	27	12.00	58	Williamson
	15	Williamson Creek at Westgate along Cherry Creek	29	2.95	58	Williamson
	18	Williamson Creek at Kincheon Branch	25	5.87	51	Williamson
	19	Upper Tannehill - Koenig Ln to 53rd 1/2 Street	24	5.63	50	Tannehill
7	20	Carson - Bastrop Hwy and Patton Ave	14	73.86	47	Carson



Top 20 Based on New Clustering						
Flood Score Rank	Flood Rating Rank	Name	Structure Count	Sum of Normalized Flood Score	Sum of Ratings Score	Watershed Name
1	1	Lower Onion Creek Buyouts **	602	987.09	1570	Onion
2	4	Lower Shoal Creek	66	455.51	230	Shoal
3	2	Williamson Creek at Cherry Creek to Congress	282	431.03	704	Williamson
4		Carson - Metropolis Drive at US 183	6	231.45	24	Carson
5	3	Onion - Pinehurst Drive Subdivision & Wild Dunes	187	101.79	382	Onion
6	11	Waller Creek Tunnel (12th St to Lady Bird Lake)	26	83.64	71	Waller
7	20	Carson - Bastrop Hwy and Patton Ave	14	73.86	47	Carson
8	5	Shoal Creek at Hancock Tributary	80	55.37	181	Shoal
9		Carson Creek at Dalton Lane	9	43.61	26	Carson
10	21	Walnut Creek - February Drive and River Oaks Trail	16	38.63	41	Walnut
11		Boggy - Shelton Road at Delwau Lane	9	38.03	30	Boggy
12	6	Little Walnut - Metric to Rutland	79	34.32	169	Little Walnut
13		West Bouldin - Barton Springs Rd at WBO	4	33.79	17	W Bouldin
14		Walnut at FM969 - Commercial	2	33.67	10	Walnut
15	9	Boggy - 38 1/2 to MLK	32	31.23	74	Boggy
16	11	Upper Little Walnut @ Quail Cove	31	27.93	71	Little Walnut
17	13	Fort Branch Between Berkman and Waterbrook	29	27.73	66	Fort
		Walnut at US183 - Commercial (Austin Rugby Club)	2	27.54	10	Walnut
		Walnut at Waters Park Rd - Commercial	1	24.07	5	Walnut
		Shoal Creek at Shoal Creek Blvd and 49th St	7	17.57	19	Shoal
18		Speedway & 45th St (from 47th to 44th St)	26	17.54	58	Waller
19	15	University of Texas at Austin	5	15.22	15	Waller
		Walnut at Waters Park Road (Trailer/ shed; no improvements in TCAD)	1	14.56	5	Walnut
20	10	Carson - Thompson Lane Mobile Homes	41	13.49	73	Carson





## Lower Onion Creek Buyouts

Priority #1 (new) #1 (old)

- 854 properties at risk
- Buyout determined to be most effective mitigation option
- 499 acquired since 1999 (as of May 2015)
- Funding in place for remaining acquisitions

Lower Onion Creek Buyouts

Low Water Crossings  
COA Full Dev'd 25-Year Floodplain  
COA Full Dev'd 100-Year Floodplain

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## Lower Shoal Creek

Priority #2 (new) #4 (old)

- 66 structures at risk
  - Over 40 > 3ft
- 6 low water crossings
- 1991 USACE report suggested a tunnel
- WPD re-evaluated in 2014
- Funding requested in FY17 to begin new PER/design

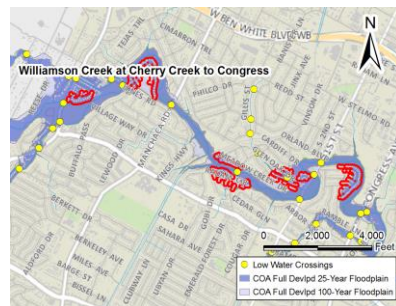


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## Middle Williamson

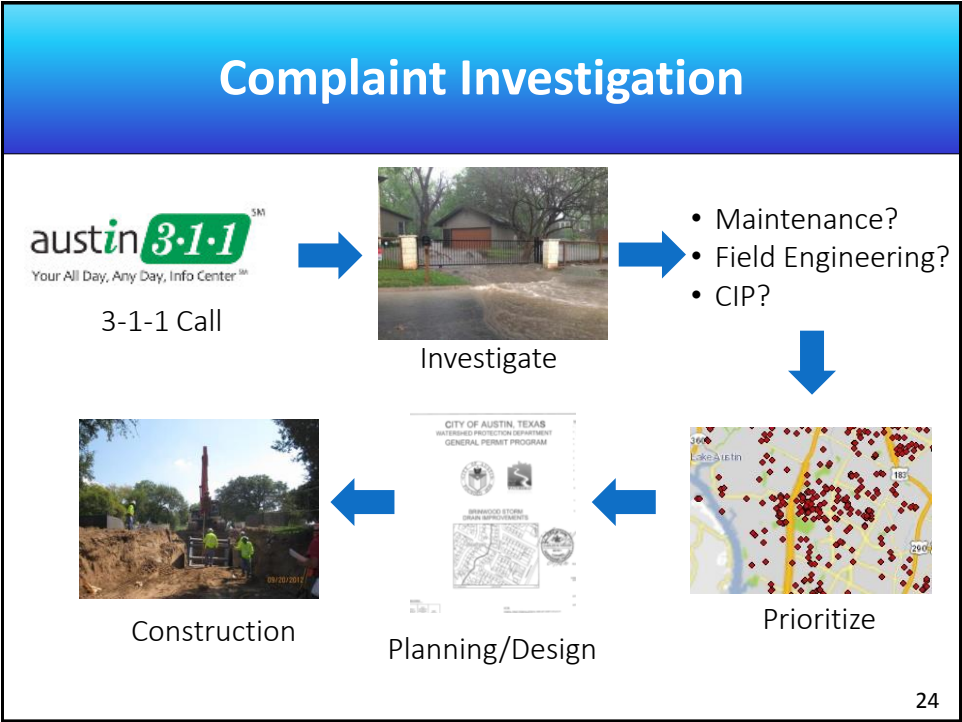
Priority #3 (new) #2 (old)

- ~282 properties at risk
  - ~78 > 3ft
- Phase 1 – Buyouts of structures at risk in 25-year floodplain
  - Funding in place to begin acquisitions
  - 3 properties acquired in FY14
- Phase 2: Reevaluation of feasible solutions to provide protection in 100-year floodplain (including West Gate to Manchaca)



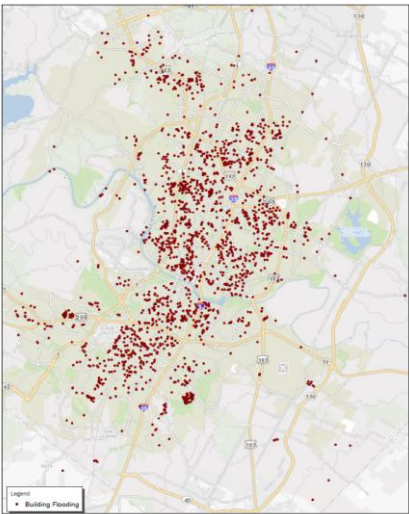
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Prioritization

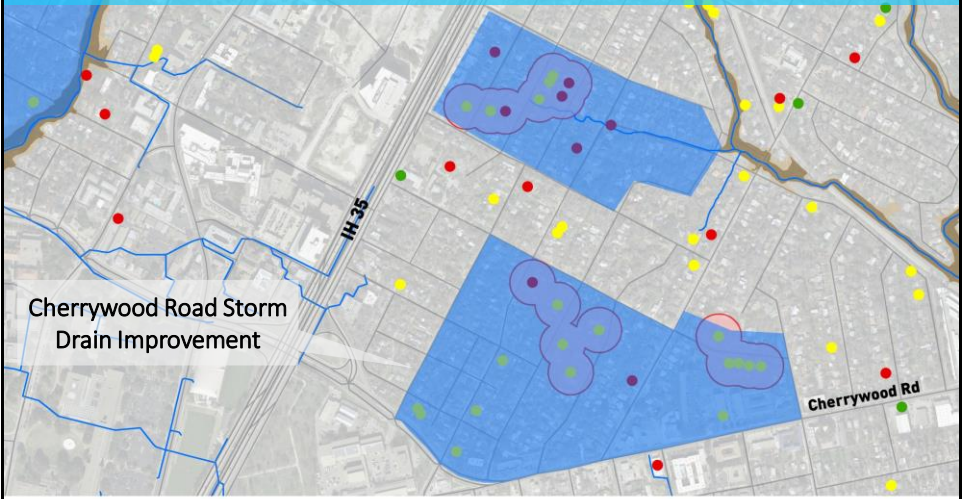
- How does WPD choose where to go?
- Classify all complaints
- Too many complaints
  - 2,109 Building
  - 2,611 Yard
  - 1,445 Street
  - 6,165 TOTAL



Legend  
• Building Flooding

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Local Flood – Current Prioritization Methodology



Cherrywood Road Storm Drain Improvement

Cherrywood Rd

Local Flood Complaint Points by Type

- Building
- Yard
- Street

- Clusters of Five or More Complaints
- Identified Problem Areas
- 25-Year Floodplain
- 100-Year Floodplain

Streets

Creeks

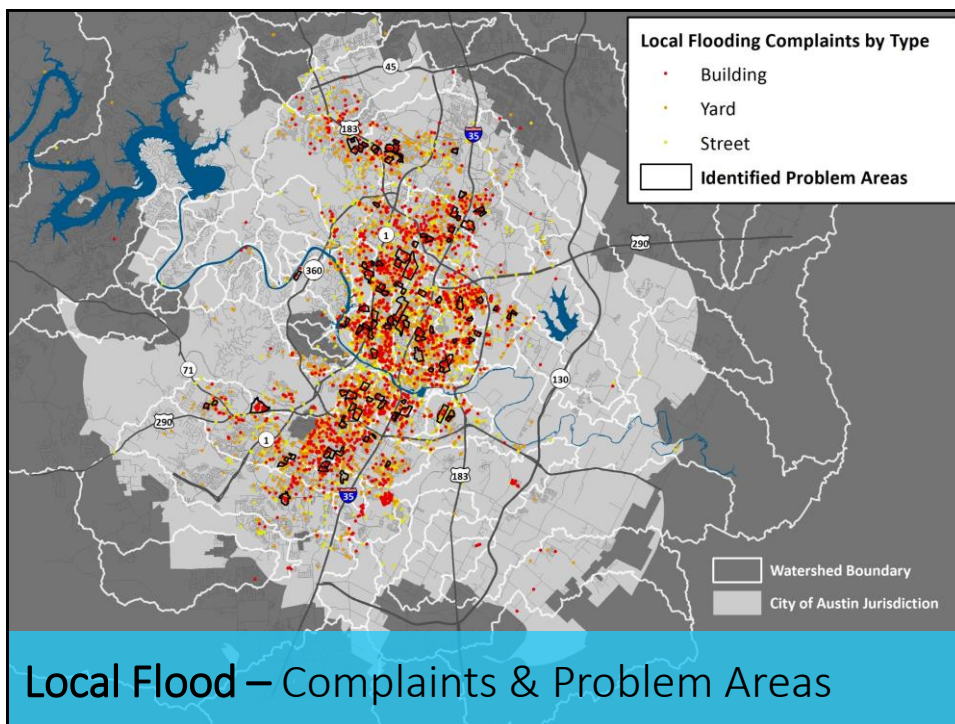
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0 300 600 Feet

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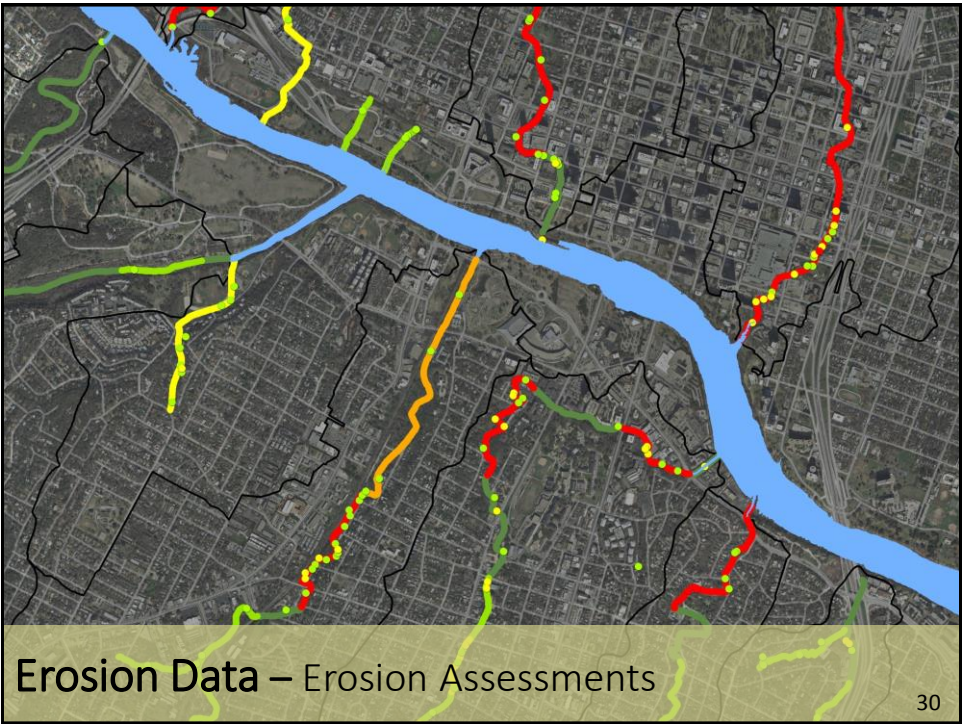


## Challenges

- Inadequate funding to address needs
- Aging storm drain infrastructure
- Prioritization based on complaints
- Rain intensity variations
- Rapid infill development
- City Land Development Code does not trigger storm infrastructure upgrades

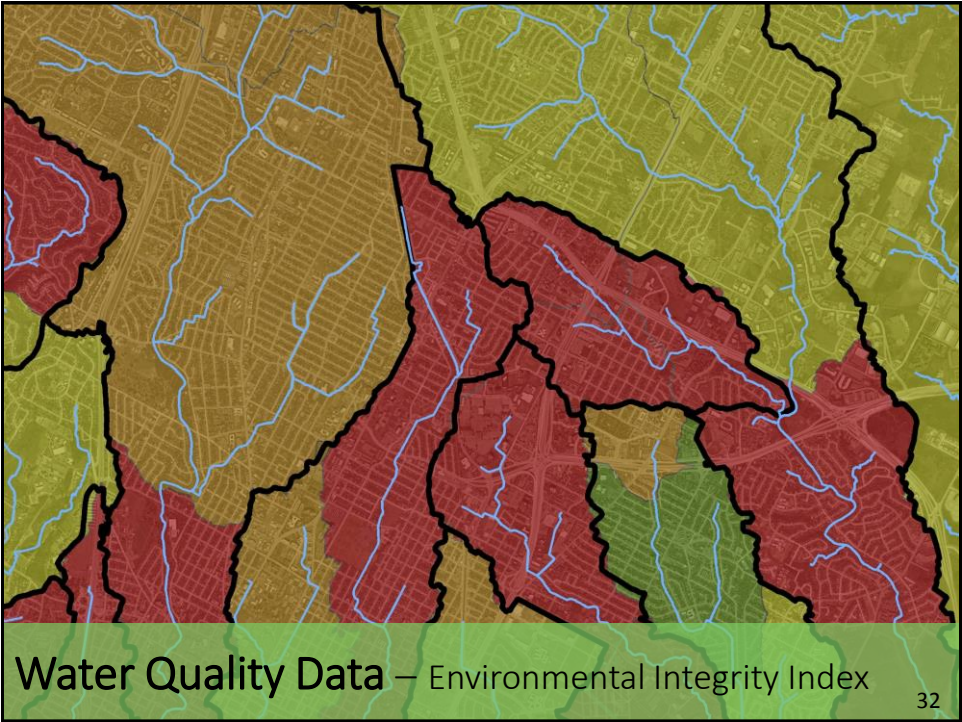


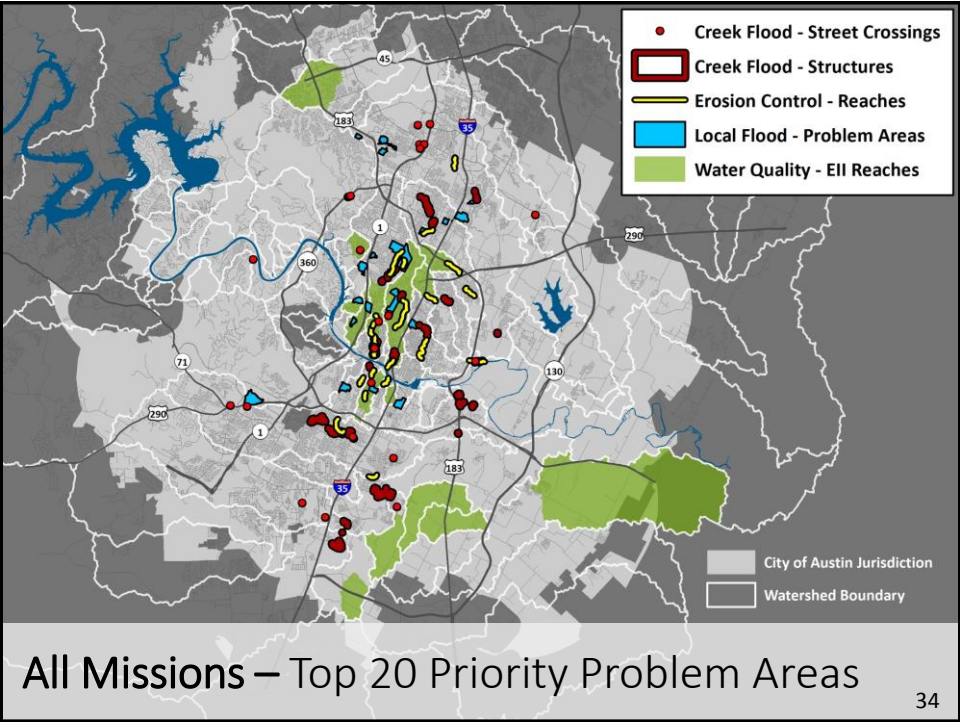
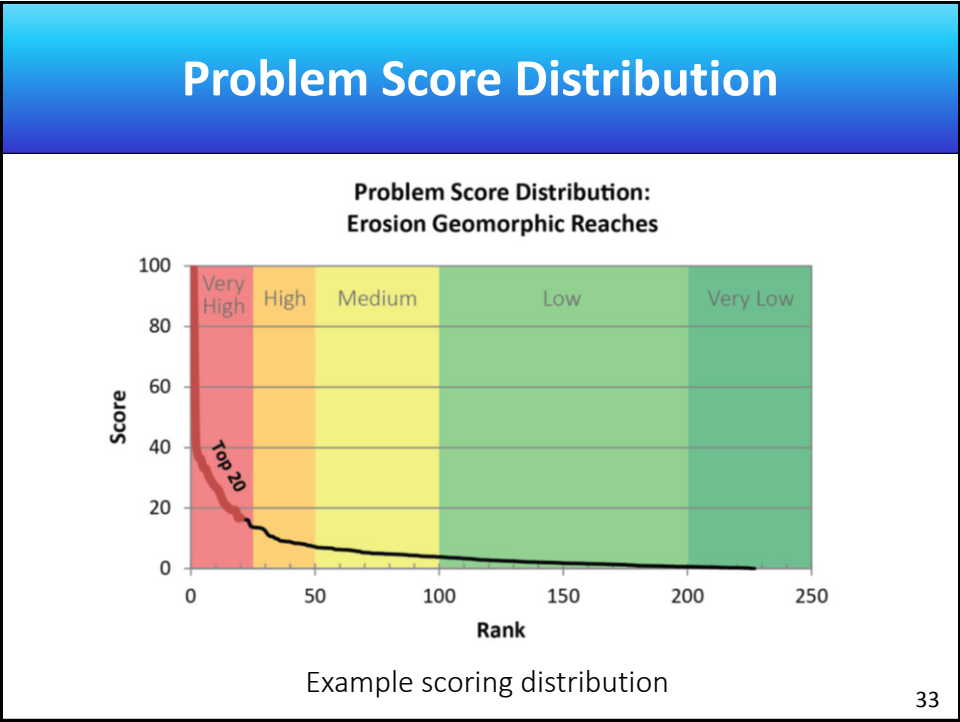
Erosion



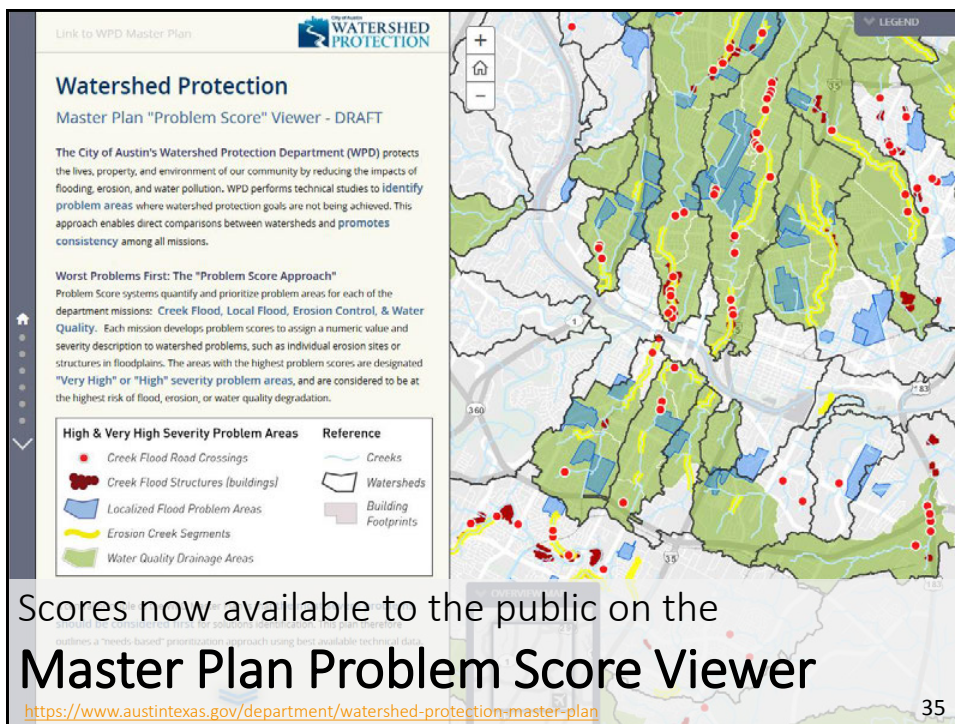
Erosion Data – Erosion Assessments











## Evaluate Data

- What causes the problem?
- What is the most effective solution?
  - Capital (primarily structural solutions)
  - Programmatic (wide range, including educational, maintenance, permitting, planning and design)
  - Regulatory (most effective as a preventative)
- What missions are impacted?
- Do partnership opportunities exist?



How We Use Our Problem Scores

- Prioritize and Inform our Annual Budget Process
  - Program level of service needs
  - Capital project identification
- Input to Capital Planning Office Annual Strategic Plan

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Solution Identification

Master Plan = framework for WPD to address existing problems and prepare for future challenges.





Capital Projects

55 Capital solution types included in inventory



Programs

38 Programmatic solutions types included in inventory



Regulations

58 Regulatory solutions types included in inventory

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Projected Capital Project Cost

- 2015 updated cost estimates
  - Primary Drainage System: \$1.1-1.4 B
  - Storm Drain System: \$700-800 M
  - Includes 30 watersheds
  - **Estimated \$1.8 - 2.2 Billion**
- Cost does not include Asset Management needs

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WPD Unmet Needs

- Top 20 ranked problem areas with significant unfunded need beyond the funding capacity of the five-year CIP appropriation plan.

Mission	Subproject Type	Estimated Total Cost
Flood Mitigation	Structural and nonstructural creek flood mitigation solutions	\$378,300,000
	Storm drain improvements	\$327,400,000
Water Quality Protection	Structural water quality controls, restoration projects	\$46,700,000
	Land Acquisition	\$50,600,000
Erosion Control	Creek bank stabilization projects	\$24,500,000
	Total	\$827,500,000

- Does not include Asset Management needs
- Does not include problems areas below Top 20 ranking or unidentified problems

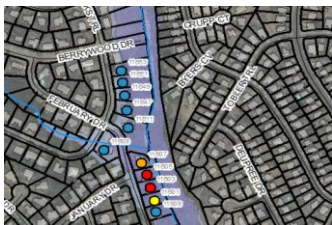
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## Creek Flood Hazard Mitigation Needs

- Funding for flood mitigation/ recovery buyouts after storm events (February Drive homes in Walnut)
- Funding for flood mitigation for homes along creeks that are not in a floodplain (Temple drive homes, Craybrough Circle at Johnny Morris Road)
- Funding and resources for maintenance requirements that our field operations group cannot handle (Shoal creek blowout)

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## February Drive Homes (Walnut Creek)



- Five homes flooded during the 2015 Memorial Day Flood
- Up to 4 feet of interior flooding
- 11509, 11601, 11603, 11605, and 11607 February Drive
- Constructed in 1970s, annexed in 2005
- Feasibility study complete: buyout is recommended solution
- No mechanism to offer them immediate buyout
- 11603, 11605, and 11607 February Drive vacant since Memorial Day flood

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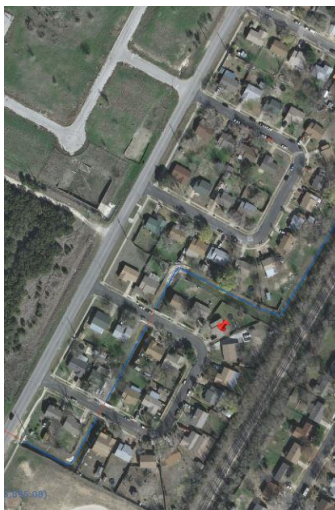
## Temple Drive at MLK Blvd (Tannehill Branch)



- 3 downstream homes at risk when MLK Boulevard overtops
- 2 houses flooded in 2015 Memorial Day Flood
- FEMA floodplain does not extend downstream of MLK Blvd
  - No development regulation
  - No flood insurance requirements
  - Not on Creek Flood's ranking list
- Possible solutions: floodwall, upstream detention, buyouts

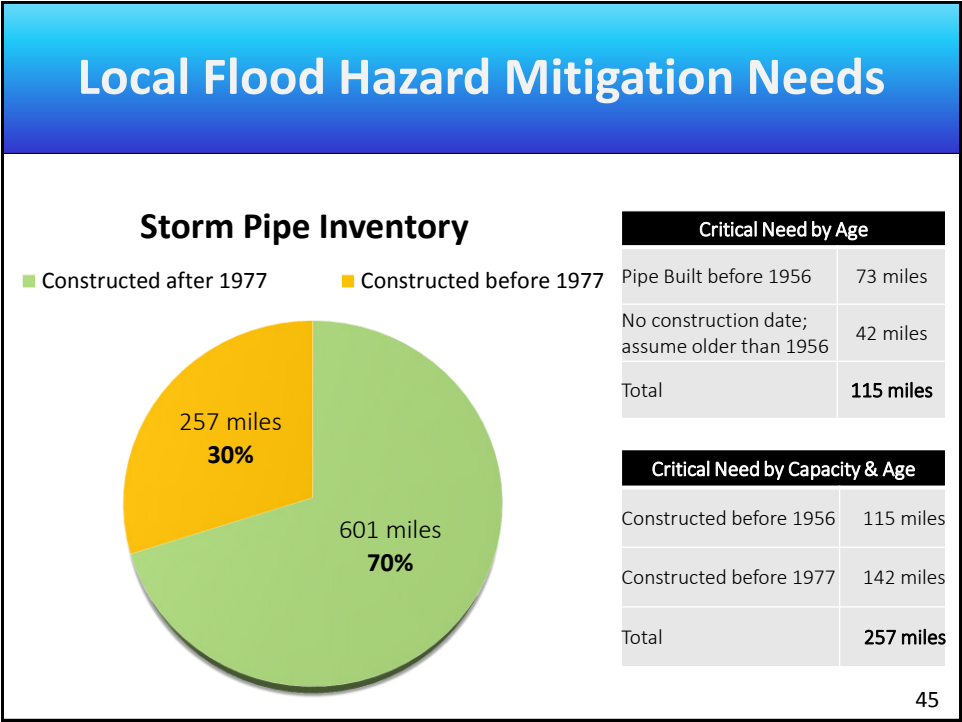
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## Craybrough Circle at Johnny Morris Rd



- Estimated 5 homes flood when engineered channel overtops
- 1 home flooded in 2015 Memorial Day Flood
- No FEMA floodplain
  - No development regulation
  - No flood insurance requirements
  - Not on Creek Flood's ranking list
- Existing channel has damage to concrete riprap, severe erosion, sedimentation
- Solution complex due to inadequate capacity, culverts at road crossings and channel geometry

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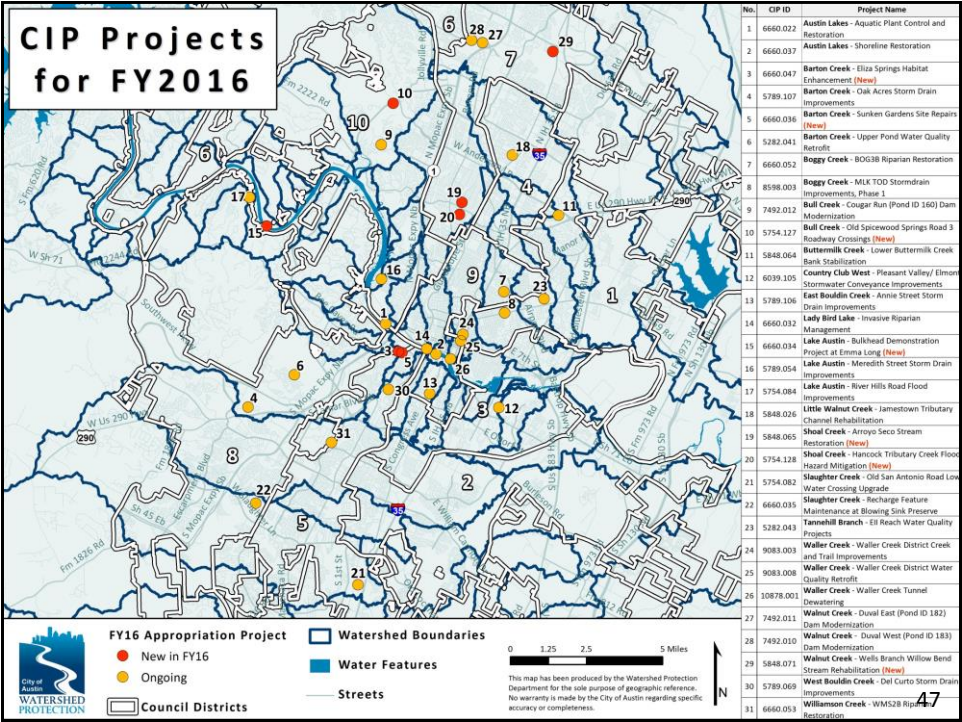


## Local Flood Hazard Mitigation Needs

Replacement Cost for Critical Need by Age			Replacement Cost for Age and Capacity Need		
To Replace in <b>5 years</b>	23.1	miles/year	To Replace in <b>5 years</b>	51.4	miles/year
Assume \$1,200/LF			Assume \$1,200/LF		
(1 mi = \$6.3M/mile)			(1 mi = \$6.3M/mile)		
	<b>\$146 M</b>	annually for 5 years		<b>\$326 M</b>	annually for 5 years
		<b>or</b>			<b>or</b>
	<b>\$731 M</b>	5 YR CIP need		<b>\$1.6 B</b>	5 YR CIP needed
To Replace in <b>10 years</b>	12	miles/year	To Replace in <b>10 years</b>	25.7	miles/year
Assume \$1,200/LF			Assume \$1,200/LF		
(1 mi = \$6.3M/mile)			(1 mi = \$6.3M/mile)		
	<b>\$73 M</b>	annually for 10 years		<b>\$162 M</b>	annually for ten years
		<b>or</b>			<b>or</b>
	<b>\$731 M</b>	10 YR CIP needed		<b>\$1.6 B</b>	10 YR CIP needed

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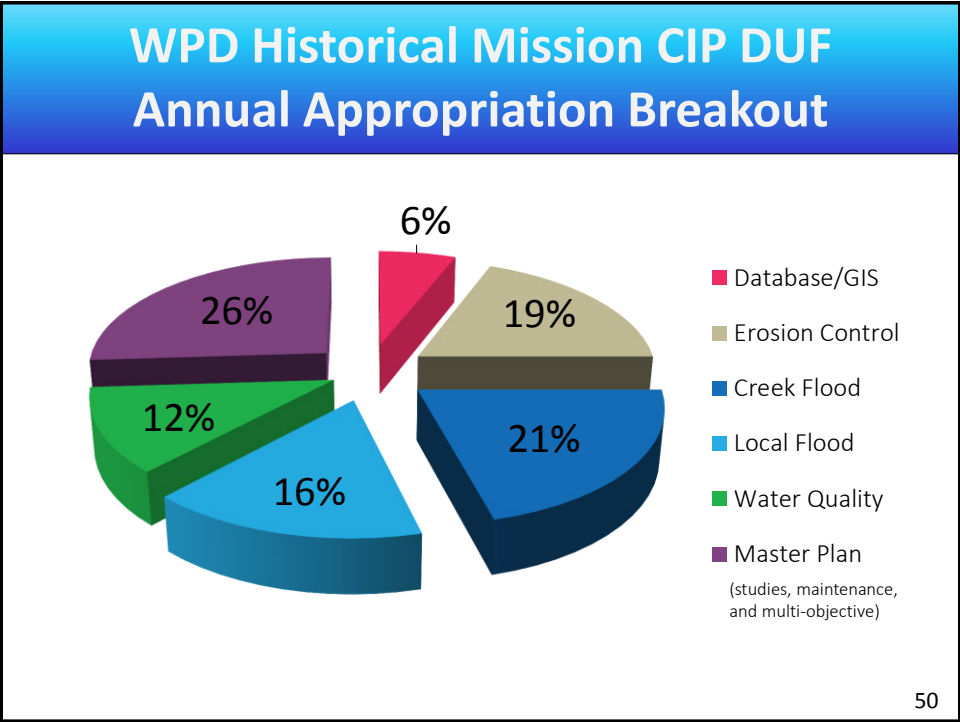
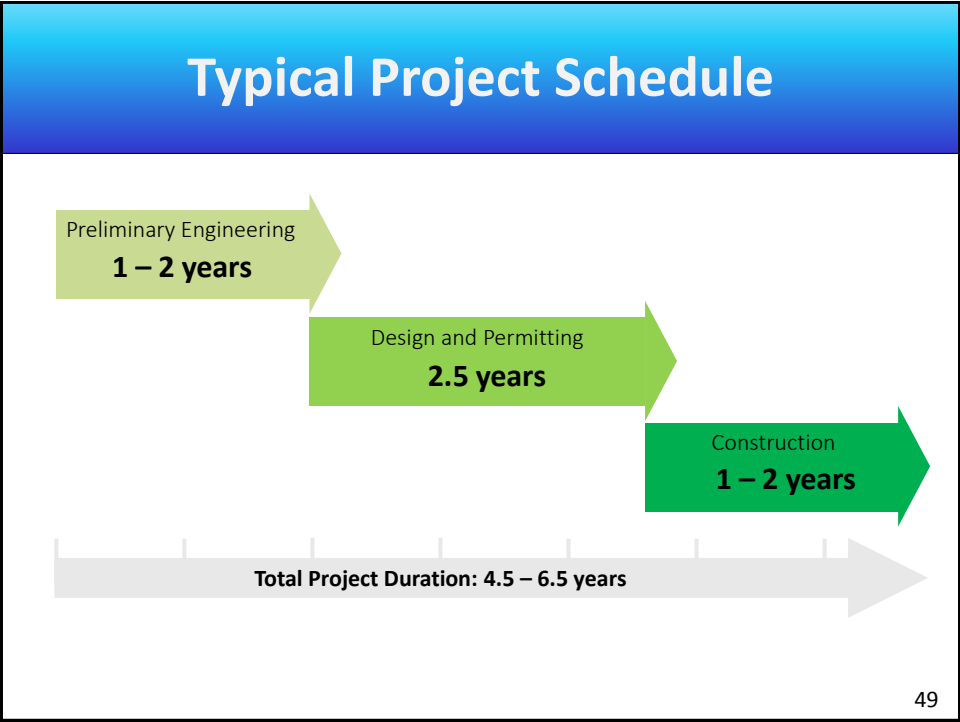


Capital Project Appropriation Planning

Mission Integration and Prioritization Team

- Erosion, flood and water quality missions represented, including field operations
- Prioritized mission problem scores used to develop CIP Appropriation Plan and City’s long-range needs
- Balance projects with staff workload
- Continual project development through feasibility, preliminary engineering, design, and construction
- Balance funding between missions to meet Master Plan goals
- Dedicate funds for Citywide priorities and emergency contingency

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## Capital Project Implementation

Integration Ensures Cost-Effective Multi-Mission Benefits

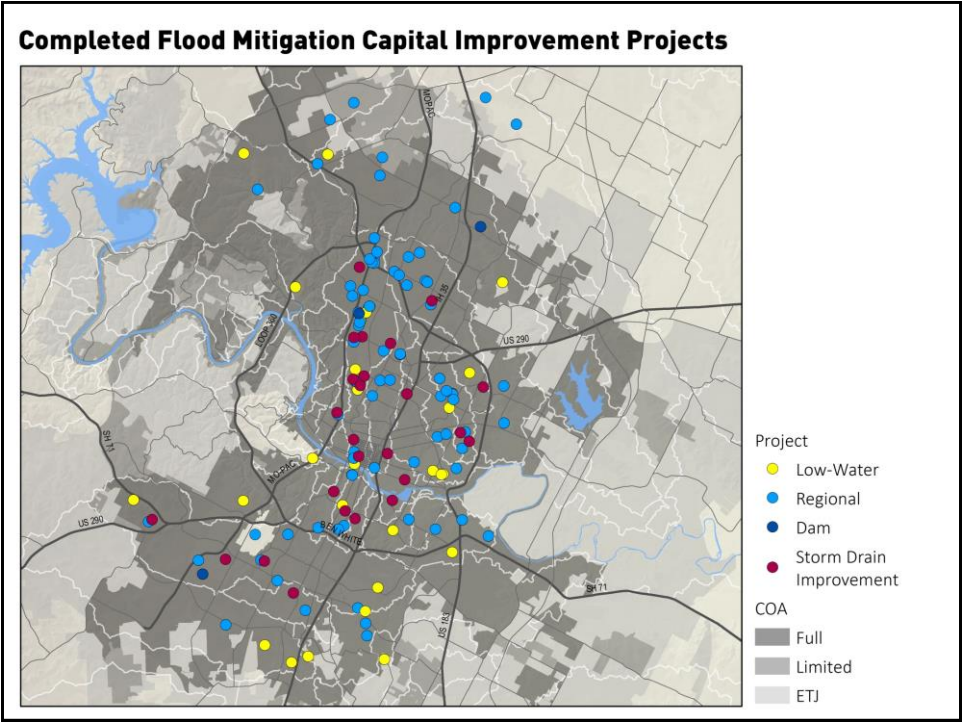
- Maximize project benefits
- Minimize/mitigate negative impacts
- Manage project cost
- Coordinate watershed missions
- Coordinate with:
  - Imagine Austin Priority Programs
  - Citywide initiatives
  - Neighborhood Plan Action Items

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## Capital Project Accomplishments 2001-2016

Mission	Benefits
Creek Flood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Over 1,160 total structures with reduced creek flood risk<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Over 500 structures with reduced flood risk via a structural solution</li><li>- Over 600 parcels removed from flood risk with property buyouts</li></ul></li><li>• 10 low-water crossings upgraded</li></ul>
Local Flood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Over 5.7 miles of pipe constructed</li><li>• Over 350 structures with increased local flood protection</li></ul>
Erosion Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Over 4.6 miles of streambank protected</li><li>• 29 parcels removed from erosion risk with property buyouts</li></ul>
Water Quality Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Over 1.5 million lbs of total suspended solids (TSS) removed per year</li><li>• Over 7,000 acres land area treated by structural controls</li></ul>

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2001-2015 Capital Project  
Accomplishments

### Crystalbrook Flood Mitigation Project

Completed 2004

- Included a levee and floodwall, a box culvert, a bypass channel, 12,000 linear feet of storm drain, and slope stabilization at a cost of \$15M (\$85,700 per home)
- Provided 100-year flood protection for 175 homes
- Preserved 3,500 linear feet of the natural stream channel , which scored in the highest categories for Aquatic Life Support and Non-Contact Recreation,
- Preservation of more than 1,000 protected trees > 19-inch in diameter.

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## 2001-2015 Capital Project Accomplishments

### Creek Bend Flood Mitigation Project

Completed 2001

- Included construction of subdivision storm drain improvements, upstream channel modification and flood protection level/wall, enlargement of the Pleasant Valley Road bridge opening to increase channel conveyance capacity, and purchase and demolition of sixteen duplexes located very close to the creek channel.
- Provided 100-year flood protection for 185 homes
- Cost ~\$6.5 M

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## 2001-2015 Capital Project Accomplishments

### Onion Creek Buyouts

Ongoing

- 579 flood risk properties acquired to date
- Combination of funding sources including DUF, RSMP, GO Bonds, COs, FEMA funding, and USACE funding
- \$88.7M total project cost
- Homes are removed and property is restored, resulting in multi-mission ecosystem benefits

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# Hoeke Lane Low Water Crossing

- Road overtopped in minor storm events and was sole access for a residential neighborhood
- Elevated and widened road at creek crossing
- Installed 14 culverts
- Provided sidewalk
- Installed curb and gutter

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- Status – substantially completed
- 11,000 linear foot of storm drain pipe construction
- 4,200 linear foot of water line
- Stream bank stabilization
- Mitigate flooding for more than 60 homes (2D evaluation)
- Cost ~ \$8.0 M
- Funding Source – 2006 Bond



2001-2015 Capital Project  
Accomplishments

Ridglea Storm Drain  
Improvement

- Status – in construction
- 4,000 linear foot of storm pipe construction
- 5,800 linear foot water line upgrades
- 2,000 linear foot wastewater line upgrades
- Pavement reconstruction
- Shoal Creek stream bank restoration
- Cost - \$6.9 M
- Funding Source – 2006 & 2012 Bonds



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2001-2015 Capital Project  
Accomplishments

Blunn Long Bow Storm Drain Improvements

Completed 2013

- Installed 6,200 linear feet of storm drain
- 25 homes benefitted from reduced flooding
- 6 locations of street flooding alleviated
- Cost - \$5.1 M



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2001-2015 Capital Project  
Accomplishments

Shoal Creek Allandale Storm Drain  
Improvements

Completed 2013

- Installed 5,900 linear feet of storm drain
- Project addressed 15 building complaints, 2 yard complaints, and 26 street complaints
- Cost - \$8.5 M

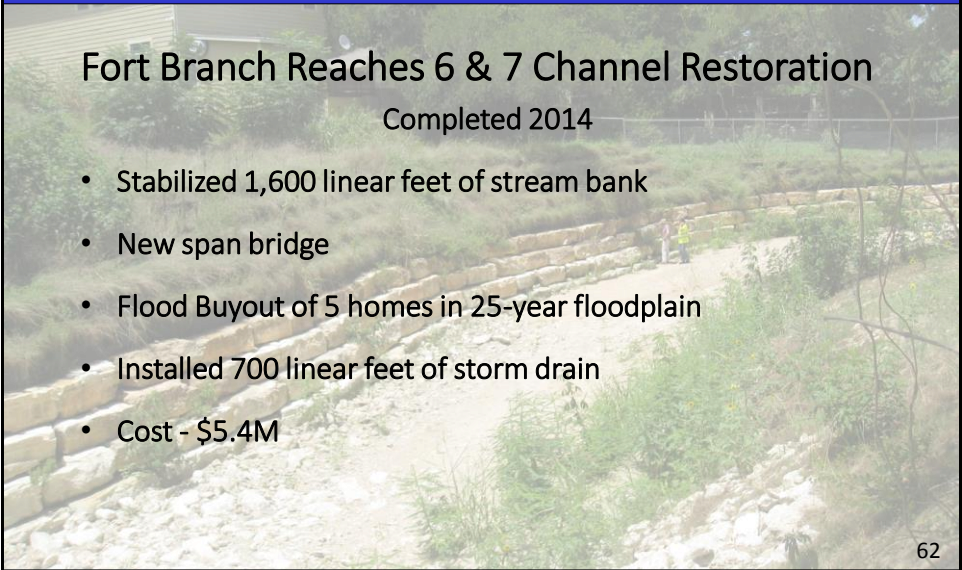


2001-2015 Capital Project  
Accomplishments

Fort Branch Reaches 6 & 7 Channel Restoration

Completed 2014

- Stabilized 1,600 linear feet of stream bank
- New span bridge
- Flood Buyout of 5 homes in 25-year floodplain
- Installed 700 linear feet of storm drain
- Cost - \$5.4M





# 2001-2015 Capital Project Accomplishments

## Williamson Lundelius-McDaniels Water Quality Pond

Completed 2011

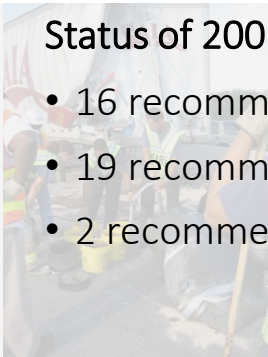
- Provides treatment for over 200 acres in Barton Springs Zone
- Removes over 28,000 Lbs Total Suspended Solids annually
- Removes over 128 lbs Nitrogen annually
- Cost - \$ 1.3M

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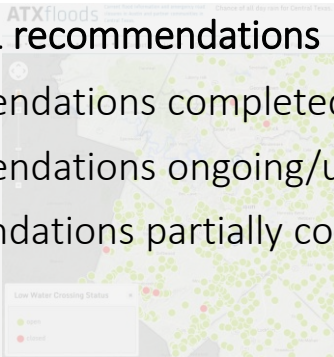
# Program Solutions

## Status of 2001 recommendations


- 16 recommendations completed
- 19 recommendations ongoing/underway
- 2 recommendations partially completed



Spills Response



ATXfloods



Erosion Repair Crews

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Program Solutions  
2015 Recommendations

**Additional resources needed.**

(11 Proposed recommendations for 9 programs)

- Erosion Repair and Open Waterway Crews
- Local Flood Hazard Mitigation
- Field Engineering Services
- Infrastructure Inspection
- Storm Drain Cleaning and Rehabilitation
- Storm Water Management
- Pond Maintenance
- Green Infrastructure Maintenance

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Regulatory Solutions  
Status of 2001 Regulatory recommendations

**Regulations**

- 27 of 29 recommendations completed
- Watershed Protection Ordinance (WPO) approved by Council on October 17, 2013
- No further action recommended for remaining items

An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood with a blue-shaded area representing a watershed. The blue area follows a winding path through the houses, likely indicating a waterway or drainage area. The surrounding area is filled with houses and streets.

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## 2015 Master Plan Recommendations: Regulatory

1. Improved integration of landscape and green stormwater infrastructure requirements - CodeNEXT
2. Improved flood mitigation requirements for redevelopment & infill projects - CodeNEXT



## 2015 Master Plan Summary Recommendations

### Continue to implement current successful policies:

1. Long-range funding strategies
2. Integrate solutions
3. Address worst problems first
4. Partnerships essential
5. Use Master Plan for business and budget planning
6. Involve stakeholders
7. Continue Phase 2 studies
8. Integrate watershed protection into CodeNEXT

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## 2015 Master Plan Summary Recommendations

### New Recommendations:

9. Develop an asset management plan
10. Refine goals
11. Update Master Plan regularly

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## Questions?

### Jean Drew

Watershed Protection Department  
City of Austin  
(512) 974-2272  
[jean.drew@austintexas.gov](mailto:jean.drew@austintexas.gov)

### Matt Hollon

Watershed Protection Department  
City of Austin  
(512) 974-2212  
[matt.hollon@austintexas.gov](mailto:matt.hollon@austintexas.gov)

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