

Biophilic Cities Network

Cultivating Nature in the City



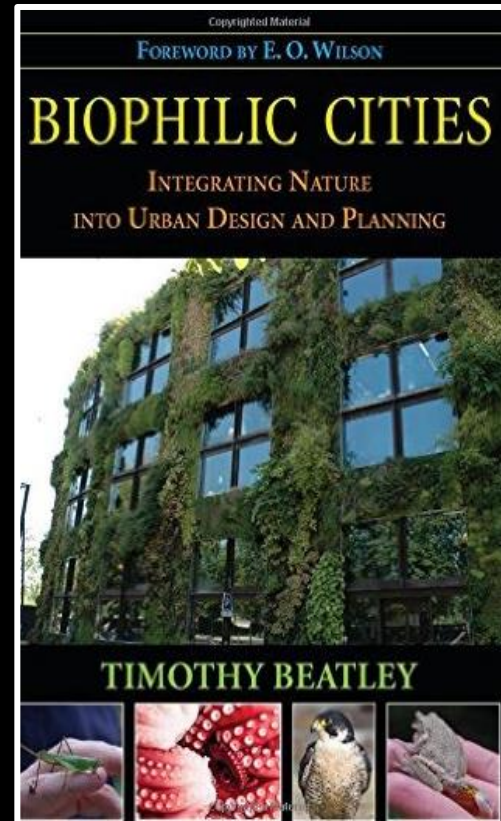
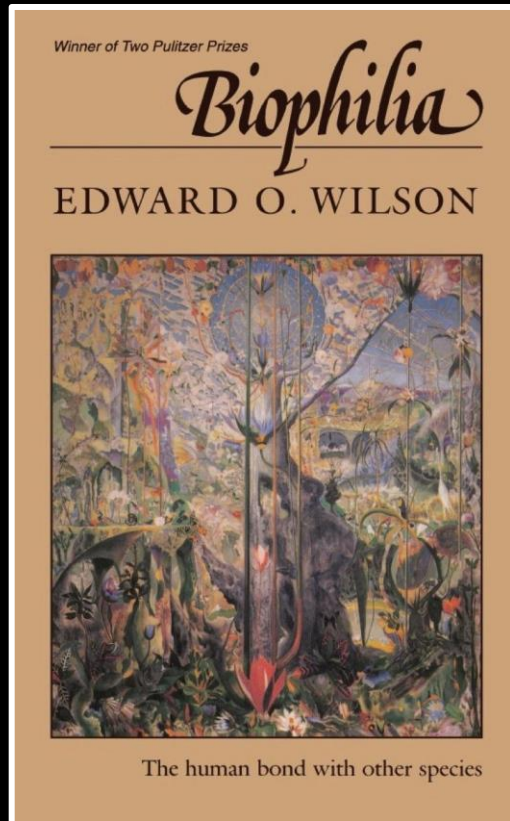
Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability Committee



Lucia Athens, Chief Sustainability Officer

Leah Haynie, Urban Forest Division, Development Services

May 26th, 2016



Q: What is
Biophilia?

A: Humans
and Nature



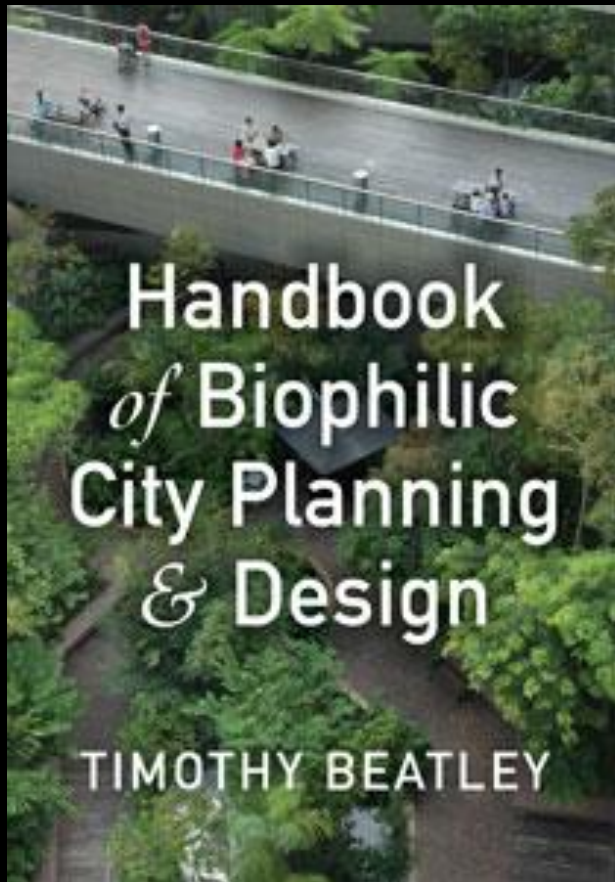
Q: What are the benefits of nature in a city?

A: Humans are statistically healthier, happier, and more productive with regular access to nature.



Q: What is a
Biophilic City?

A: A city that places
nature at the core of
its design and
planning



1. San Francisco, California
2. Portland, Oregon
3. Milwaukee, Wisconsin
4. Phoenix, Arizona
5. Singapore
6. Birmingham, United Kingdom
7. Wellington, New Zealand
8. Montréal, Quebec
9. Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain
10. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
11. Oslo, Norway

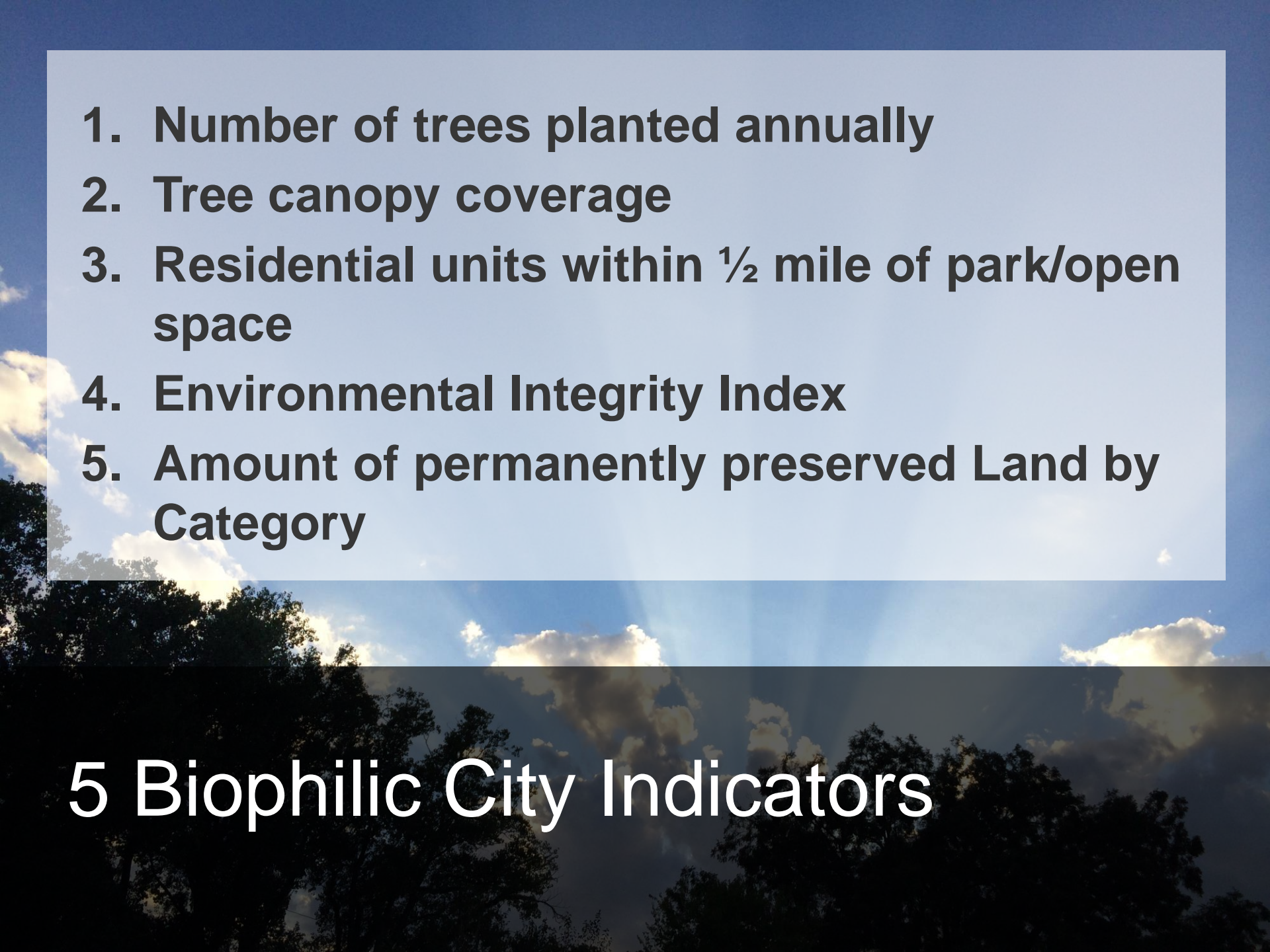
Biophilic Cities Network



Partner City Feature: Singapore

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- An aerial photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a glass facade. The building features a prominent green roof with a winding path and lush vegetation. The surrounding area includes other buildings, trees, and a street with cars. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image, containing a bulleted list.
- **Adopt an official resolution to become a Partner City**
 - **Pay a one-time fee of \$250**
 - **Prepare a Biophilic Cities Narrative**
 - **Commit to monitoring 5 indicators**

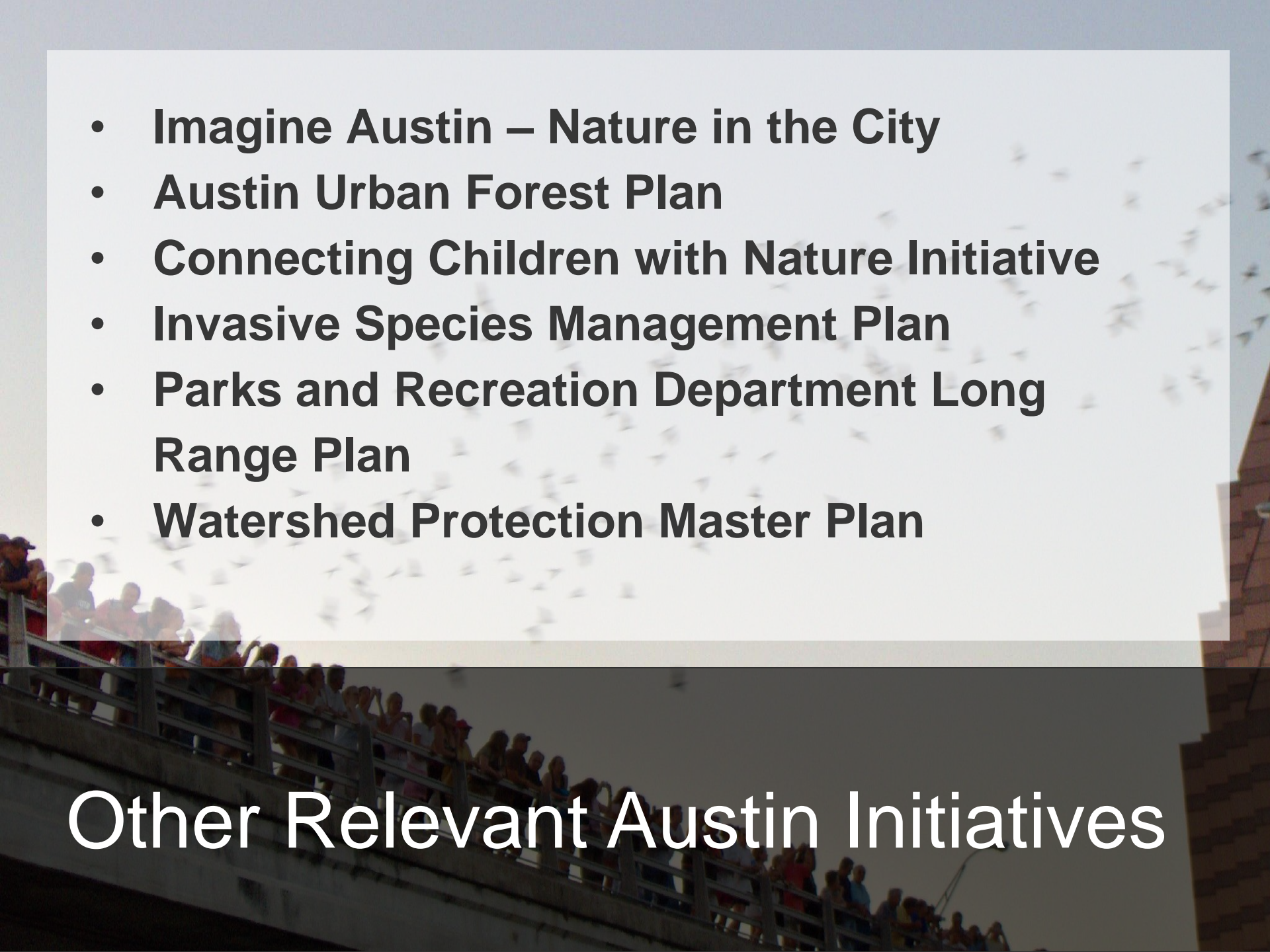
Becoming a Partner City

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- 1. Number of trees planted annually**
 - 2. Tree canopy coverage**
 - 3. Residential units within ½ mile of park/open space**
 - 4. Environmental Integrity Index**
 - 5. Amount of permanently preserved Land by Category**

5 Biophilic City Indicators

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- The background image shows a scenic view of a city skyline across a body of water. In the foreground, a young child in a red shirt is sitting on a rocky shore, looking towards the water. A bird is captured in flight over the water. The city skyline includes several tall buildings and a bridge. The image is partially obscured by a semi-transparent white box containing a list of bullet points.
- **Share communications related to Nature in the City of Austin**
 - **Training and Conference Calls**
 - **Assist partner initiatives, organizations, and cities**
 - **Host Biophilic City Delegations**

Additional Partner City Opportunities

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- A large flock of birds, possibly seagulls, is flying across a bright sky. Below them, a crowd of people is visible on a bridge or walkway, looking up at the birds. The scene is captured from a low angle, emphasizing the height of the birds and the density of the flock.
- **Imagine Austin – Nature in the City**
 - **Austin Urban Forest Plan**
 - **Connecting Children with Nature Initiative**
 - **Invasive Species Management Plan**
 - **Parks and Recreation Department Long Range Plan**
 - **Watershed Protection Master Plan**

Other Relevant Austin Initiatives

Core Principle

Integrate nature into the City

A beautiful system of outdoor places for recreation and environmental protection will define Austin as a world-class city.

IMAGINEAUSTON

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
Vibrant. Livable. Connected.

City Council Adopted
June 15, 2012

By strengthening our “green infrastructure” — parks, the urban forest, urban trails, greenways, rivers, creeks, lakes, gardens, urban agriculture, open spaces, and wildlife habitat and the relationships between them and the rest of the city— Austin can protect the natural environment and enhance recreational opportunities.

(p.10 of Imagine Austin)

Staff Recommendation

Support Imagine Austin and efforts to 'integrate nature into the City' by sponsoring a resolution for the City of Austin to join the Biophilic Cities Network.

Thank You

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Leah Haynie, Urban Forest Division, DSD

Nature in the City - Austin is on Facebook
www.facebook.com/naturallyatx