

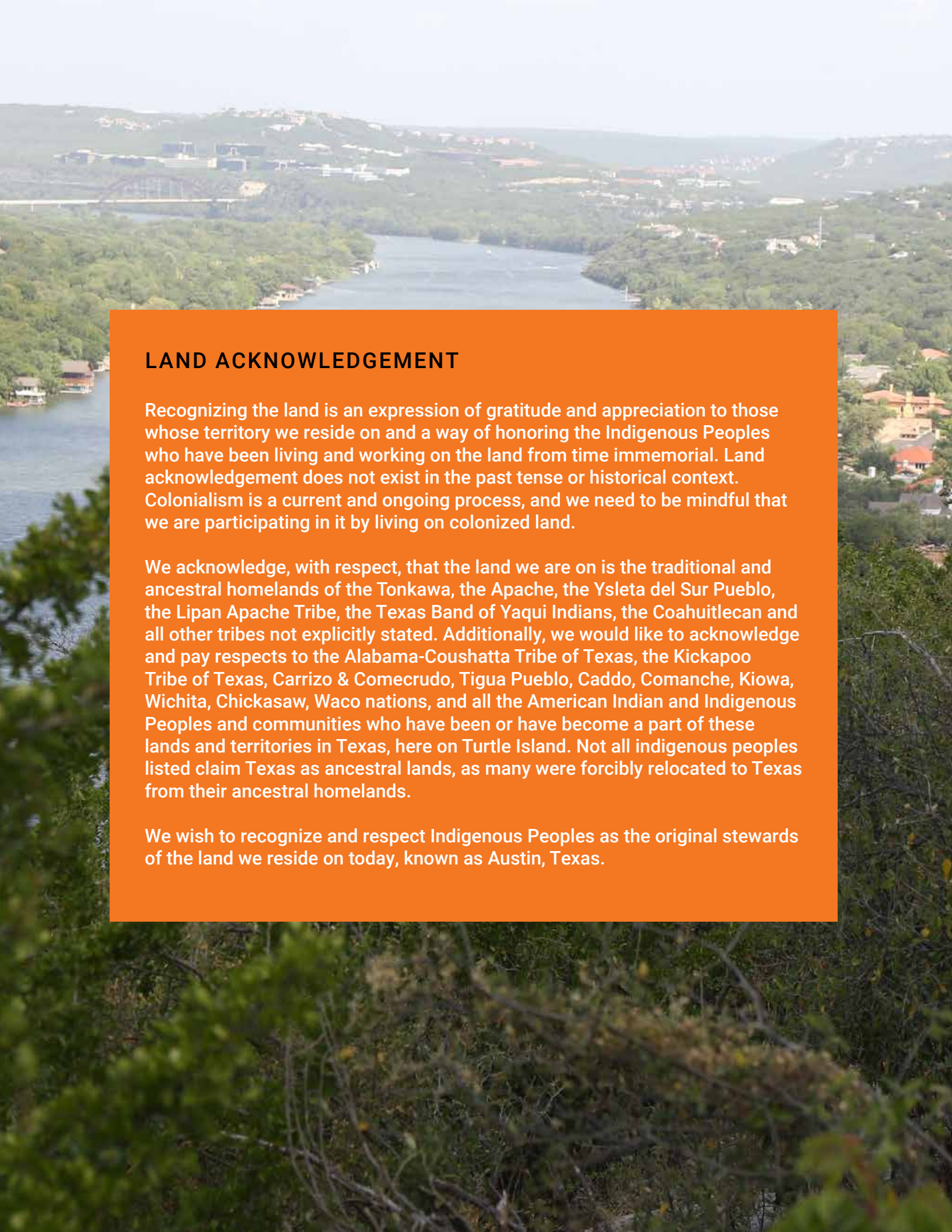


One Austin

OUR RESILIENCE
FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION



OFFICE OF
RESILIENCE



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Recognizing the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory we reside on and a way of honoring the Indigenous Peoples who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial. Land acknowledgement does not exist in the past tense or historical context. Colonialism is a current and ongoing process, and we need to be mindful that we are participating in it by living on colonized land.

We acknowledge, with respect, that the land we are on is the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Tonkawa, the Apache, the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, the Lipan Apache Tribe, the Texas Band of Yaqui Indians, the Coahuitlecan and all other tribes not explicitly stated. Additionally, we would like to acknowledge and pay respects to the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, the Kickapoo Tribe of Texas, Carrizo & Comecrudo, Tigua Pueblo, Caddo, Comanche, Kiowa, Wichita, Chickasaw, Waco nations, and all the American Indian and Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories in Texas, here on Turtle Island. Not all indigenous peoples listed claim Texas as ancestral lands, as many were forcibly relocated to Texas from their ancestral homelands.

We wish to recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples as the original stewards of the land we reside on today, known as Austin, Texas.

Our Case for Resilience

Austin's vibrant environment, strong sense of community, and thriving cultural identity have come to shape our way of life. In the heart of Texas, Austinites share a creative and friendly spirit that fosters diverse and inclusive communities, with a profound connection to both our natural ecosystems and flourishing arts and culture. Our uniqueness and innovative spirit have led to rapid growth for both our economy and our population.


In this period of growth and change, Austinites face shocks and stresses that—if left unaddressed—pose risks to neighborhoods citywide. Population and economic growth are creating prosperity for some, but not for many longtime residents—driving an affordability crisis.


We must meaningfully confront entrenched racial inequities that have resulted in unjust, significant disparities for communities of color. At the same time, we must adapt to the growing threats posed by climate change, as we face more frequent and disruptive extreme weather events in our neighborhoods. In this critical moment, we have the opportunity to cultivate an environment for collaboration and find pathways that address these challenges holistically and increase our resilience—creating a more prosperous, sustainable, and equitable city, while better preparing for the future.

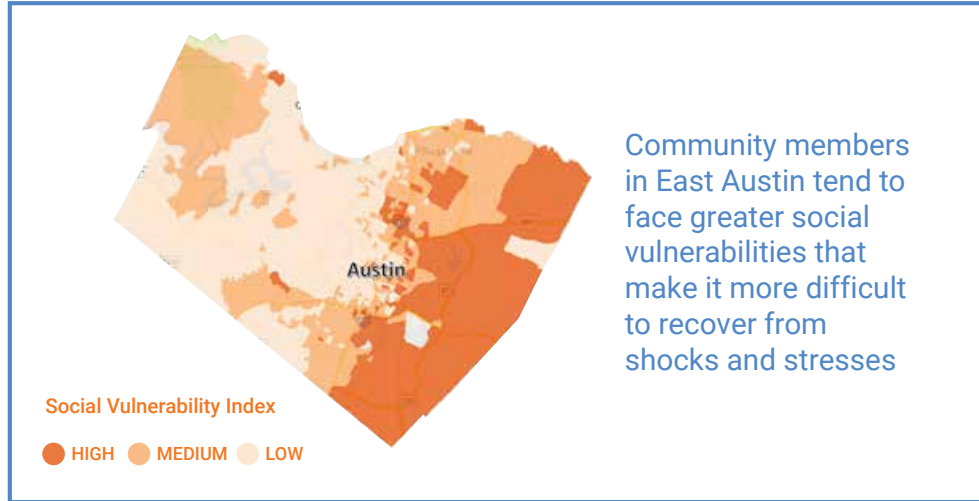
We have the opportunity to come together to address these challenges by building resilience—creating a more prosperous, sustainable, and equitable city, while better preparing to withstand future disruptions


To start this process, we've outlined how the City is harnessing our strengths—including our growing economy, abundant ecosystems, and vibrant culture—to address these shocks and stresses. But this is only the first step: join us in our journey as we work to foster a more resilient Austin!


155
new residents added on average to the Austin Metro Area per day



24.5% of homeowners and nearly 50% of renters in Austin are **cost-burdened**, paying 30% or more of their income on housing and utilities

100F+

By the end of the century, Austin is expected to experience over 60 days of temperatures exceeding 100 degrees annually





49% of structures in Austin are in the wildland urban interface, and face greater wildfire risk
[SEE MAP ↗](#)


88.9 YEARS WEST **71.5 YEARS EAST**
There is nearly a 20-year gap in life expectancy between East and West Austin



14.4% of people in Travis County experience food insecurity while 16.8 acres of farmland are lost every day in Travis County


Austin is ranked among the most ecological cities in the United States with nearly 20,000 acres of green space, though not equitably distributed

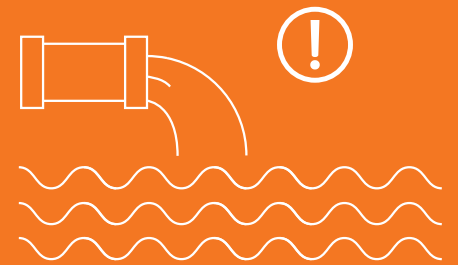

Residents in **58 of Austin's 200 neighborhoods** are vulnerable to displacement



In the last 10 years, Austin has had four major floods. This frequency is expected to continue to increase in the near future, as incidents of extreme rainfall are predicted to increase


Second-fastest regional economy driven by growth in the tech sector


Although 60% of Austin's overall population holds at least a Bachelor's degree, only 37% and 36% of Black and Hispanic Austinites hold this degree

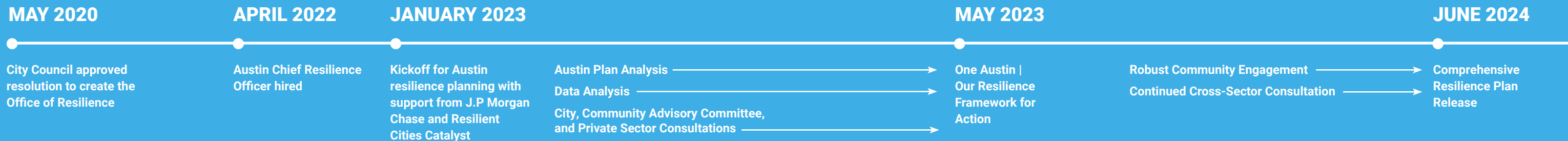
Since 2008 alone, Austin has faced a number of shocks that have impacted public infrastructure and provision of city services, resulting in:


at least 3 boil water notices


and 3 citywide, extended power outages


By age 35, people raised in neighborhoods across East Austin earn up to \$20,000 less than residents raised in West Austin

AUSTIN'S RESILIENCE PLANNING TIMELINE

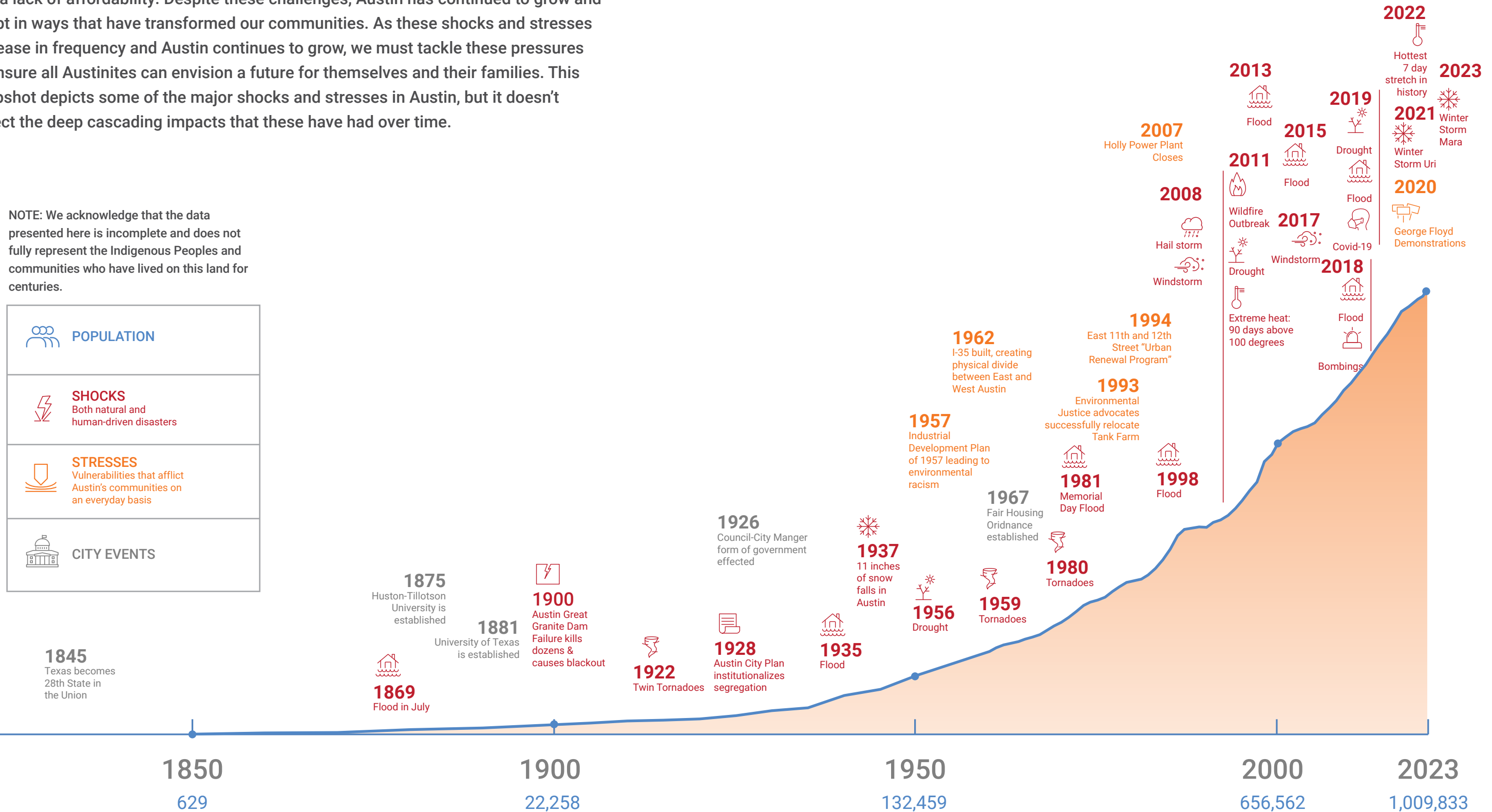


Austin's History of Resilience: A Snapshot

Over Austin's history, residents have been dealt numerous shocks – including floods, fires, and a pandemic – and stresses – such as extreme heat and drought, inequality, and a lack of affordability. Despite these challenges, Austin has continued to grow and adapt in ways that have transformed our communities. As these shocks and stresses increase in frequency and Austin continues to grow, we must tackle these pressures to ensure all Austinites can envision a future for themselves and their families. This snapshot depicts some of the major shocks and stresses in Austin, but it doesn't reflect the deep cascading impacts that these have had over time.

NOTE: We acknowledge that the data presented here is incomplete and does not fully represent the Indigenous Peoples and communities who have lived on this land for centuries.

 POPULATION
 SHOCKS Both natural and human-driven disasters
 STRESSES Vulnerabilities that afflict Austin's communities on an everyday basis
 CITY EVENTS



The City's Office of Resilience, the Community Advisory Committee, and a collaborative of over 20 City Departments and Offices have translated the key priorities raised through an analysis of existing data and City plans, as well as preliminary consultation with City and community stakeholders, into three cross-cutting priorities and four aspirations.

The cross-cutting priorities articulate goals for the City, given immediate challenges facing Austin, whereas the aspirations provide entry points for further exploration to achieve those priorities. This framework of priorities and aspirations will guide the Office of Resilience's work forward as we co-develop robust resilience actions and align on initiatives over the next year.

ASPIRATIONS



HEALTHY & PROSPEROUS AUSTINITES

Equitable access to economic opportunity while breaking the cycle of historic health and wealth disparities.



THRIVING NEIGHBORHOODS

Prepared and cohesive neighborhoods, where community members are connected and have access to needed amenities and services.



COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

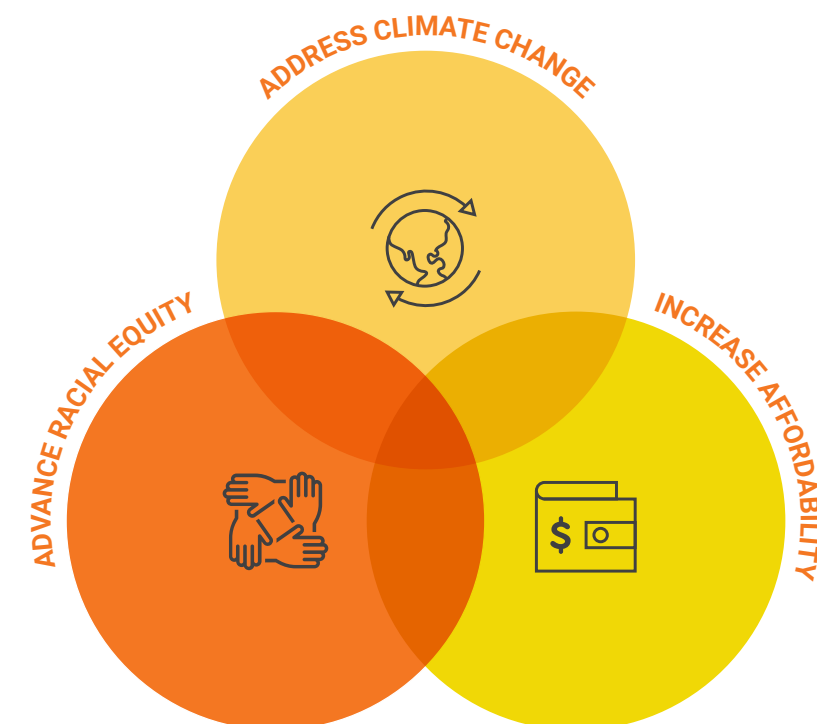
A responsive government that partners effectively with community members and across sectors while improving City services.



VIBRANT ECOLOGY & INFRASTRUCTURE

Natural and built infrastructure that meets the needs of all Austinites while adapting to a changing climate.

CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES



Austin's Cross-Cutting Priorities

Austin has taken strides to build a more resilient, equitable, sustainable, and innovative city. Our communities, partners, and City staff have led the way to support residents and have strived to meet their diverse needs. In Austin, we are not starting from scratch; rather, we are building our efforts by uplifting the work that has taken place to date and accelerating initiatives that are improving Austinites' quality of life.

The three cross-cutting priorities link all existing and new efforts across the city and impact how we provide services for the benefit of Austinites. To continue to move forward and drive the transformation into a prepared, responsive, and thriving city for all, we must integrate racial equity, climate change, and affordability.



Advance Racial Equity

Disparities in Austin fall along racial lines. Systemic racism over centuries—as manifested in practices such as redlining—has resulted in unequal health, economic, environmental, and social outcomes for people of color in our region when compared to their white neighbors. The compounding effects of inequities also translate into significantly disparate outcomes by neighborhood—with residents in East Austin experiencing increasing socioeconomic vulnerabilities when compared to residents in other neighborhoods. The lack of access to high-quality educational options and advanced degrees in some communities, for example, limits opportunities to secure well-paying jobs in growing sectors. In turn, these persistent inequities in income and wealth present additional barriers to home ownership, reinforcing poverty cycles.



Climate change adds another layer of complexity in how we experience these injustices. Long-established policies and systems have resulted in making Austinites of color more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, more likely to live in neighborhoods with limited access to green space, and more likely to have higher exposure to environmental hazards. With the establishment of the Equity Office in 2015 and like other cities across the country, Austin is experiencing a long-overdue reckoning with racial justice. To build resilience, we must continue to confront these systemic disparities and have honest conversations followed by meaningful actions and investments that support communities of color and create a more equitable and just city for all.

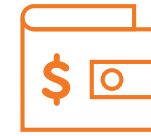


Address Climate Change

Winter Storm Mara and Winter Storm Uri are just some of the recent reminders that climate change will continue disrupting daily life in Austin and threatening our infrastructure and ecosystems. Austin has also been affected by flash flood events, such as the 2013 Halloween Flood, the 2015 Memorial Day and Halloween Floods, and the 2018 Colorado River Flood. The city has also experienced an increase in extreme heat events during summers and ranks among the top five municipalities in the United States at risk from wildfire. We know we can expect more frequent and intense storms like these, as well as more frequent and severe heat waves that will increase the risk to human health and threaten our lifestyle while stressing the systems we rely on, including our power and water.



More residents and properties across Austin will face impacts and damage resulting from wildfire, drought, and extreme precipitation. Austin's ecology—core to its identity, with vibrant green spaces and dozens of watersheds contributing to health and quality of life for many residents—is also in peril. Reducing future climate change effects, while adapting to these ongoing challenges, will require stronger collaboration and leadership between our communities, businesses, and local government agencies. By preparing all vulnerable communities for extreme climate events, protecting our treasured natural assets, and strengthening our infrastructure—particularly through nature-based approaches—we can take action to be ready in the face of climate change.



Increase Affordability

While the combined impacts of rapid population growth and broader economic trends exacerbated by the pandemic have made Austin increasingly unaffordable for many longtime and native residents, we also face a critical opportunity to harness our recent economic and population growth to create a more affordable city. Persistently rising housing costs are having an impact on homeowners and renters alike, with more and more Austinites considered cost-burdened—spending more than one-third of income on housing and utilities—as the region has become one of the least affordable metro areas in the country. Costly transportation options—especially as Austinites are forced to commute further distances amidst ongoing growth—add an additional affordability burden. Neighborhoods across the city, particularly in the east, continue to change rapidly. As housing prices and property taxes continue to rise, development pressures increase across communities, and incomes remain stagnant for many workers, more and more longtime Austinites are at higher risk of being displaced from their neighborhoods.



Fortunately, we can work with our partners to leverage continued economic growth, support existing efforts, and coalesce around new initiatives to tackle these challenges. We can increase affordability by connecting more residents—including those in legacy sectors and those who lack advanced degrees—to high-quality education and well-paying jobs across the spectrum, increasing access to housing that is affordable, and supporting Austinites who face displacement.

How might we achieve our aspirations?

The questions below were co-created with City and community stakeholders. Over the coming year, we will be engaging with Austinites across our city to begin answering these questions and co-developing actions that will help us achieve our aspirations.

ASPIRATIONS ↓



Healthy and Prosperous Austinites

Equitable access to economic opportunity while breaking the cycle of historic health and wealth disparities.

GUIDING QUESTIONS ↓

How might we address affordability, ensuring equitable pathways to services and resources?

ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS ↓

- How can we prevent individuals and families currently living in Austin from being displaced from neighborhoods due to rising housing costs?
- How can we improve and integrate services for Austinites, including mental and physical health, prioritizing those who have historically been marginalized?
- How can we prepare Austinites from all backgrounds for quality employment through training and certification programs?
- How can we amplify early childhood resources and improve outcomes for school-aged children?
- How can we ensure access to culturally appropriate and healthy food for all Austinites both everyday and in the context of ongoing climate change and future disruptions?



Thriving Neighborhoods

Prepared and cohesive neighborhoods, where community members are connected and have access to needed amenities and services.

How might we foster community preparedness while ensuring that our neighborhoods are complete with adaptive built environments and accessible resources?

- How can we strengthen social cohesion in the face of current and future disruptions?
- How can we increase and preserve access to safe and affordable housing?
- How can we preserve and grow the vibrancy of Austin's historically marginalized communities through arts, culture, open space and small businesses?
- How can Resilience Hubs advance equitable and culturally responsive neighborhood preparedness and adaptation?
- How can we bridge the digital divide across Austin neighborhoods through increased access to technology?



Collaborative Leadership

A responsive government that partners effectively with community members and across sectors while improving City services.

How might we enable collaborative governance structures through new partnership models while enhancing delivery of programs and services?

- How can Austin institutionalize racial equity and resilience in critical planning, policy, and the implementation of programmatic initiatives?
- How can we elevate leaders that reflect community diversity in key positions throughout the city?
- How can the City of Austin partner with community leaders, especially those with diverse lived experiences, and community organizations to improve accessible and equitable program delivery to address environmental, health, and safety disparities?
- How can the City of Austin and Travis County collaborate on shared resilience priorities to the benefit of the region's residents?
- How can the City adapt governance to strengthen collaboration among the public, private, and non-profit sectors to address the challenges facing our growing city at the intersection of climate change, systemic racism and lack of affordability?
- How can we support and maintain our growing economic ecosystem, including legacy industries such as arts and culture, as a continued engine of economic growth for the region?



Vibrant Ecology and Infrastructure

Natural and built infrastructure that meets the needs of all Austinites while adapting to a changing climate.

How might we harness our ecology while ensuring our infrastructure is resilient to 21st century challenges?

- How can we ensure the City's natural environment is healthy and adaptable in the face of rapid growth and a changing climate?
- How can we strengthen and improve access to safe and reliable transport and mobility?
- How can we increase the reliability of our energy, water, and watershed systems?
- How can we ensure that infrastructure planning, including City capital improvement planning, prioritizes equitable investment across neighborhoods?
- How can the City accelerate implementation of critical projects in a way that builds greater collaboration across departments and transparency and trust with Austin's communities?

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Establishing a successful resilience agenda for the City of Austin will only be possible if we hear from voices across our city. We will continue to advance key efforts – including Resilience Hubs, City climate adaptation, interdepartmental alignment, and support to emergency operations – all while co-developing our comprehensive resilience plan. In the summer of 2023, we will launch a series of community engagement activities – including a combination of city-held events, existing community events, and focused surveys – to ensure all Austinites are heard. We know the challenges of the 21st century require us, as one city, to prioritize action that advances racial equity, addresses climate change, and increases affordability for all. We cannot do this alone and recognize those that have joined us in our journey thus far. We invite you to be part of the next phase!



Check out our website
<http://bit.ly/ATXResilience>

Email us directly
resilience@austintexas.gov

THANK YOU

We thank all individuals that have participated in this process, including those not listed.

Go! Austin / ¡Vamos! Austin	Austin Independent School District	American Flood Coalition	Equidad ATX
PODER	Half Associates	Cooperation Engine	Housing Authority of the City of Austin
Travis County Departments and Offices	Fruitful Commons	Austin Economic Development Corporation	Resilient Cities Catalyst
U.S. Green Building Council Texas	El Buen Samaritano	CapMetro	Travis County
The Healing Project	Resilience Hub Community Task Force	Community Coalition for Health	ULI Austin
Community Advancement Network	Austin Area Urban League	East Side Guardians	University of Texas
	Community Coalition for Health	Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)	City of Austin Departments and Offices

Funding for One Austin was made possible by the JPMorgan Chase Foundation

ABOUT AUSTIN'S RESILIENCE PLANNING EFFORTS

One Austin | Our Resilience Framework for Action is based on stakeholder engagement, review of previous and current relevant initiatives, and preliminary research. As a result, the CRO and Office of Resilience, Community Advisory Committee, City departments, and Resilient Cities Catalyst developed the cross-cutting priorities, aspirations, and discovery questions outlined in this Framework. This Framework is a starting point and will be fleshed out over the next year through extensive community engagement – resulting in the release of Resilient Austin, which will articulate the city's collective vision of a more resilient Austin.

DATA SOURCES

Austin Area Sustainability Indicators Project, University of Texas at Austin, Matthew Pressier and Dr. Patrick Bixler; American Community Survey, 2021 1-Year Estimates; Opportunity Insights, Opportunity Atlas 2020; Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise, The American Growth Project, 2022; University of Texas at Austin Center for Sustainable Development, Uprooted, 2018; Austin Office of Sustainability, Climate Projections, 2014; Austin Fire Department; Austin Parks and Recreation Department, 2022 Annual Report; Austin Office of Sustainability, State of the Food System Report, 2022; Episcopal Health Foundation, 2019.