

# AQUIFER STORAGE & RECOVERY

## PROJECT BACKGROUND



Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) is a water supply strategy to store available water for recovery and use when we need it most.



ASR is part of the Austin City Council-approved Water Forward plan, which provides a roadmap for Austin's water future for the next 100 years.



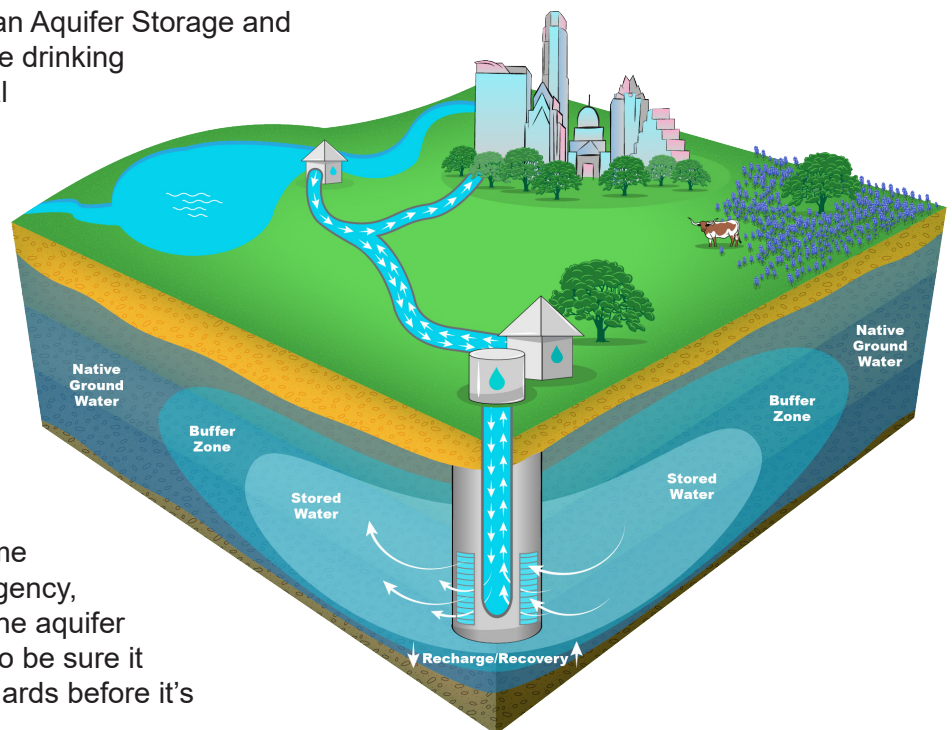
In 2021, Austin Water (AW) began a study to determine if aquifers in our region are suitable for AW's ASR project.



Other cities around the US and here in Texas are already using ASR systems, including San Antonio, El Paso, and Kerrville.

## HOW IT WORKS

- When water supplies are plentiful, an Aquifer Storage and Recovery system will store available drinking water from Austin Water in a natural aquifer underground.
- Like a savings account, water is deposited into the ASR system during wet years so that water can be withdrawn when we need it.
- Austin Water's ASR project will store treated, potable water in the aquifer.
- When regular water supplies become low during a drought or other emergency, the stored water is pumped out of the aquifer and tested and treated as needed to be sure it meets Austin's drinking water standards before it's distributed to customers.



## PROJECT BENEFITS



Aquifer Storage and Recovery will make Austin's water supply more resilient through climate change and droughts.



Storing water in a natural aquifer is more cost effective than other similarly sized water storage options.



An ASR system can provide a second source of water supply during emergencies, like freeze events or flooding.



Water stored in an ASR system would be available under Austin's existing water rights, allowing Austin to maximize local water resources.

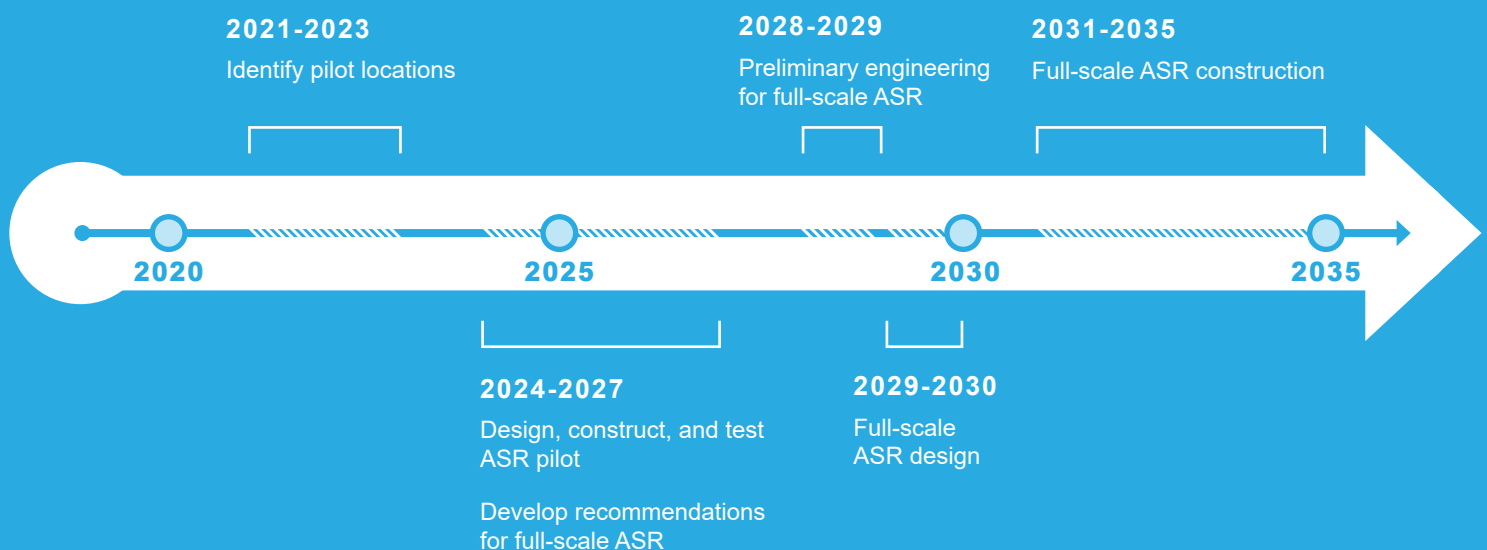


An ASR system can store large amounts of water with minimal disturbance to the land above the aquifer.



Storing water underground in a natural aquifer prevents the high evaporative losses that reservoirs experience in a warm climate.

## TIMELINE\*



\*Timeline is preliminary and subject to change.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Austin Water values community input to help guide the project, and has dedicated time for community engagement to discuss criteria to evaluate project trade-offs.
- Austin Water is committed to incorporating our shared community values of equity and affordability through the planning and construction of the ASR project.