



City of Austin Watershed Protection Ordinance (WPO) Phase 1 Overview

Planning Commission
August 27, 2013

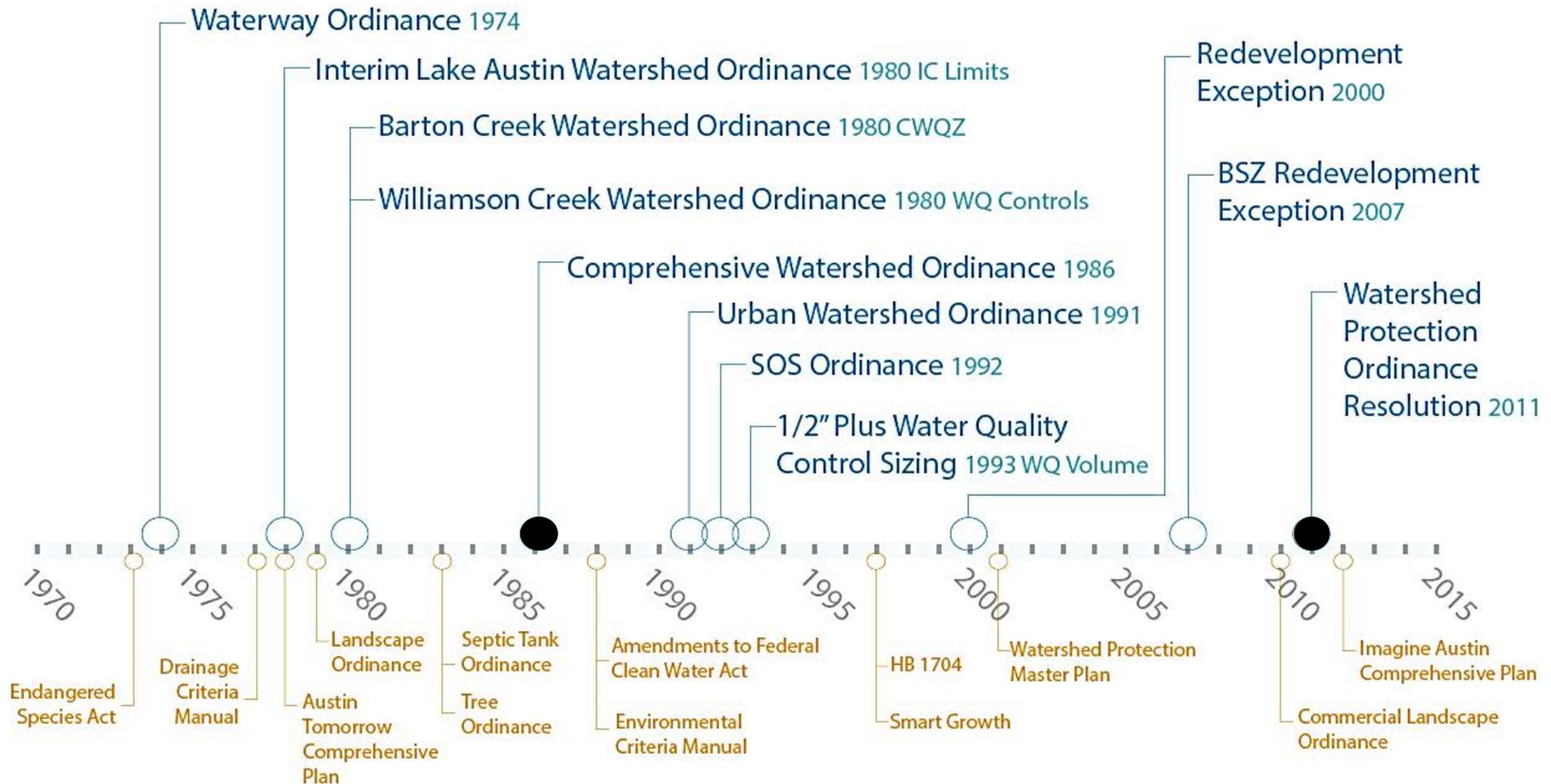
Purpose

- **Act now in a rapidly growing city → Council Directive**
- **Provide superior protection for creeks & watersheds citywide**
- **Incorporate 30 years of lessons learned**
- **Stop creating problems faster than we can fix them**
- **Design and build a sustainable future: Imagine Austin**
 - Sustainable water resources
 - Green infrastructure
 - Compact development
 - Connectivity

WPO Timeline

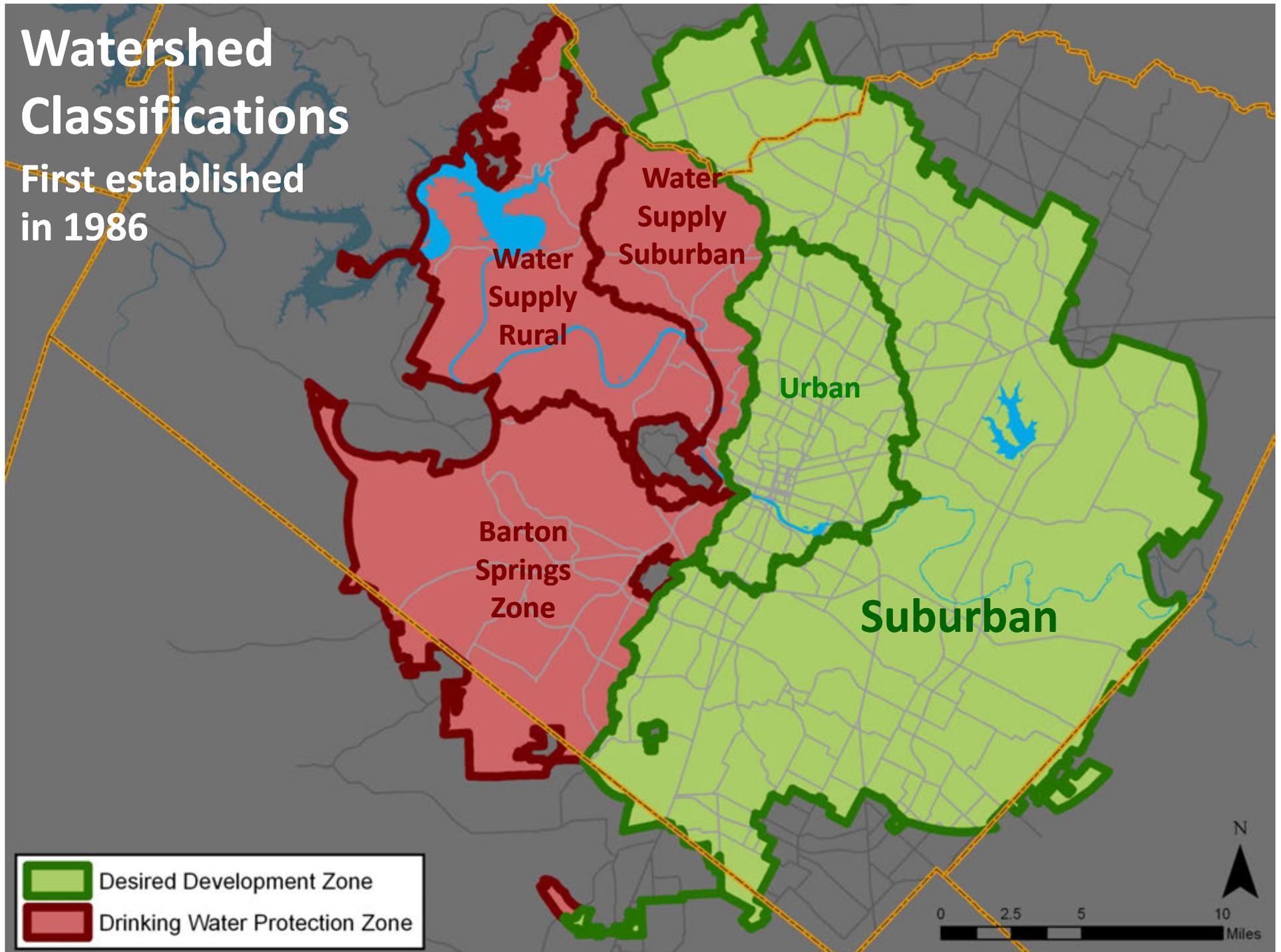
Env. Board Subcommittee	Sep. 2009 – Nov. 2010
Env. Board Resolution	Nov. 2010
Council Resolution	Jan. 2011
Stakeholder Meetings: Input	Sep. 2011 – April 2012
Staff develops Draft Ordinance	April – Nov. 2012
Stakeholder Meetings: Ordinance	Dec. 2012 – June 2013
Environmental Board	July 17
Planning Commission	Aug. 27
City Council	Sep. 26, Oct. 3
Travis County Commissioner's Court (Title 30)	Fall/Winter

Austin's Watershed Protection History: Landmark Events



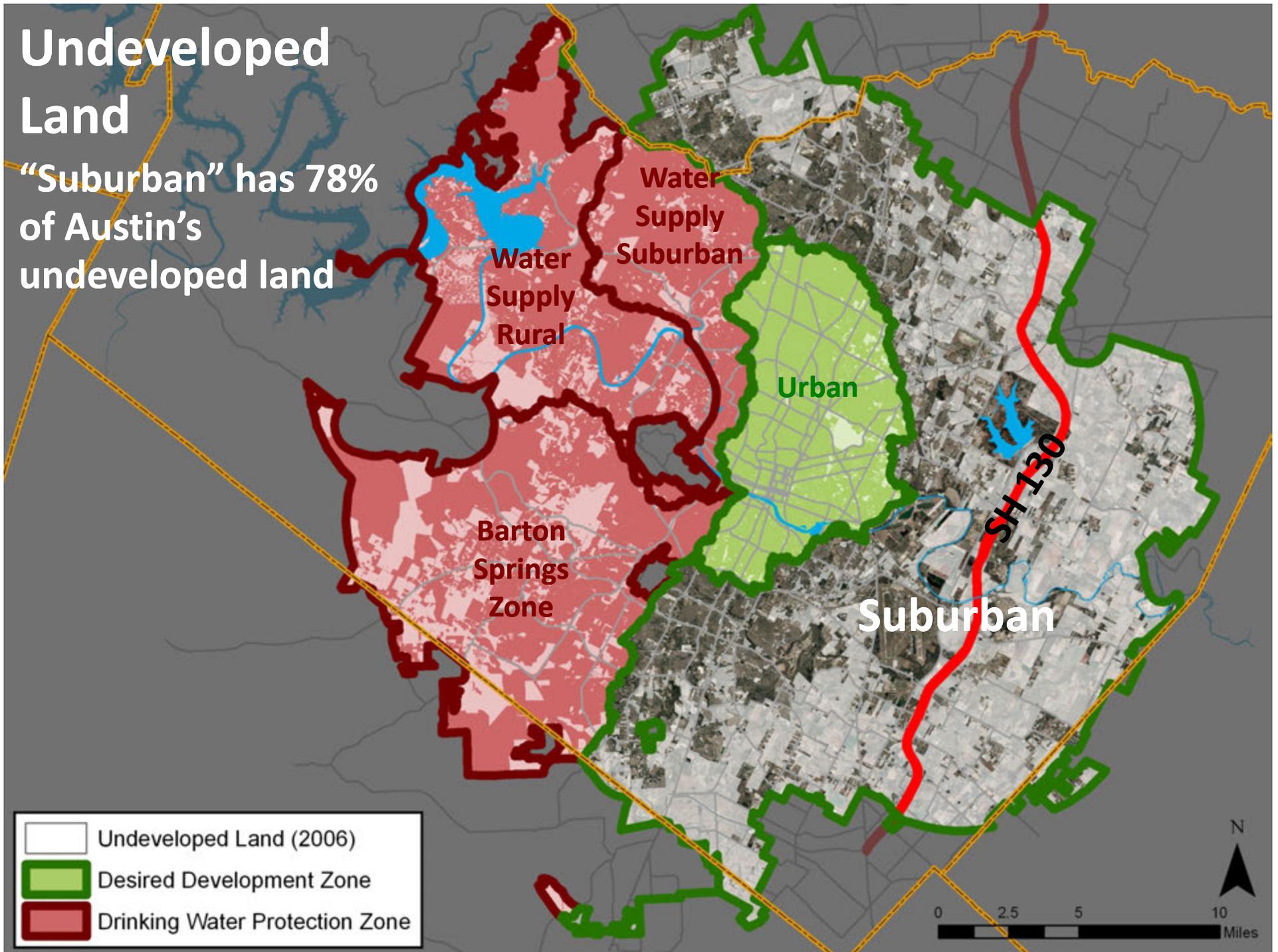
Watershed Classifications

First established
in 1986



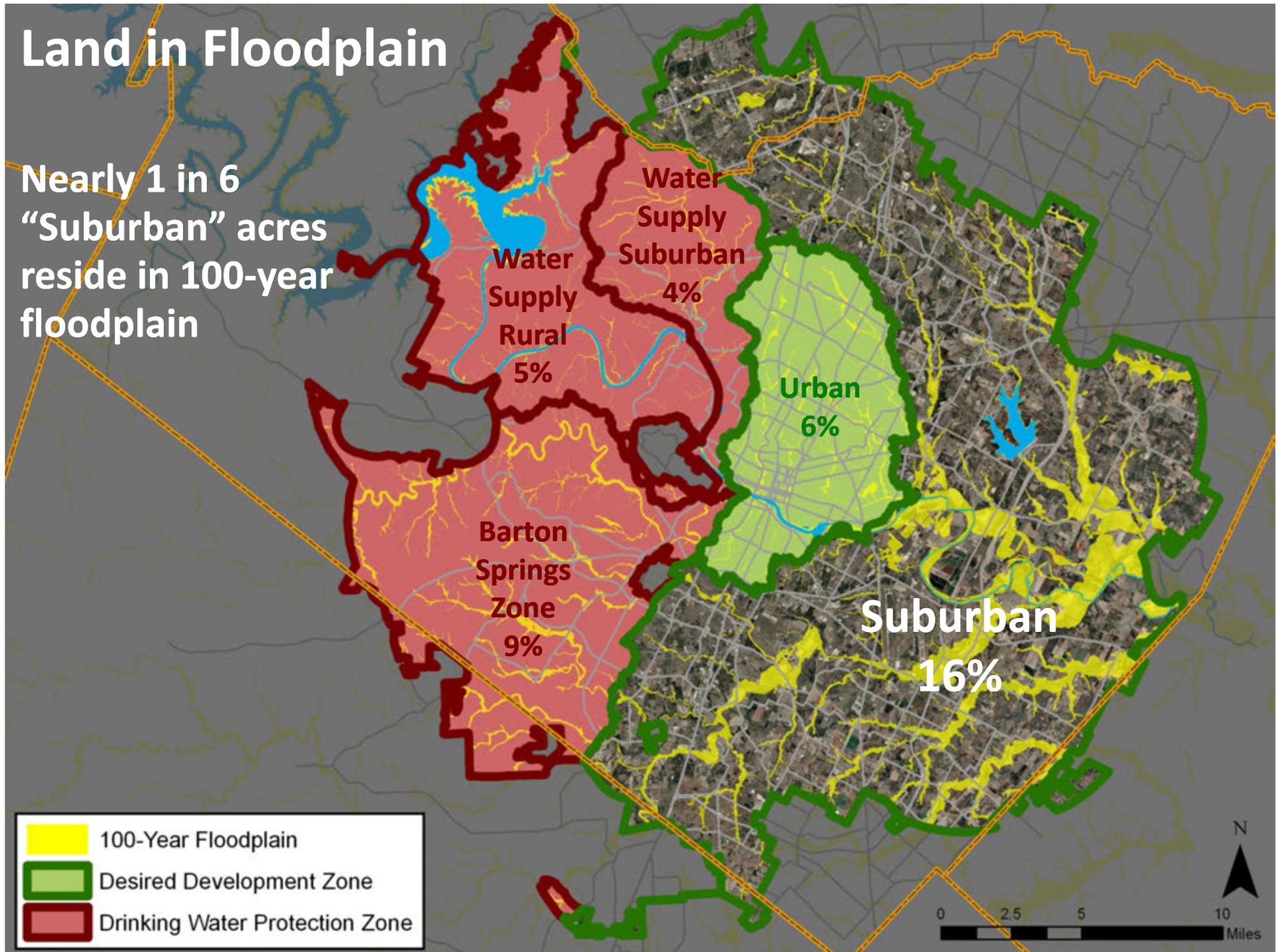
Undeveloped Land

“Suburban” has 78% of Austin’s undeveloped land



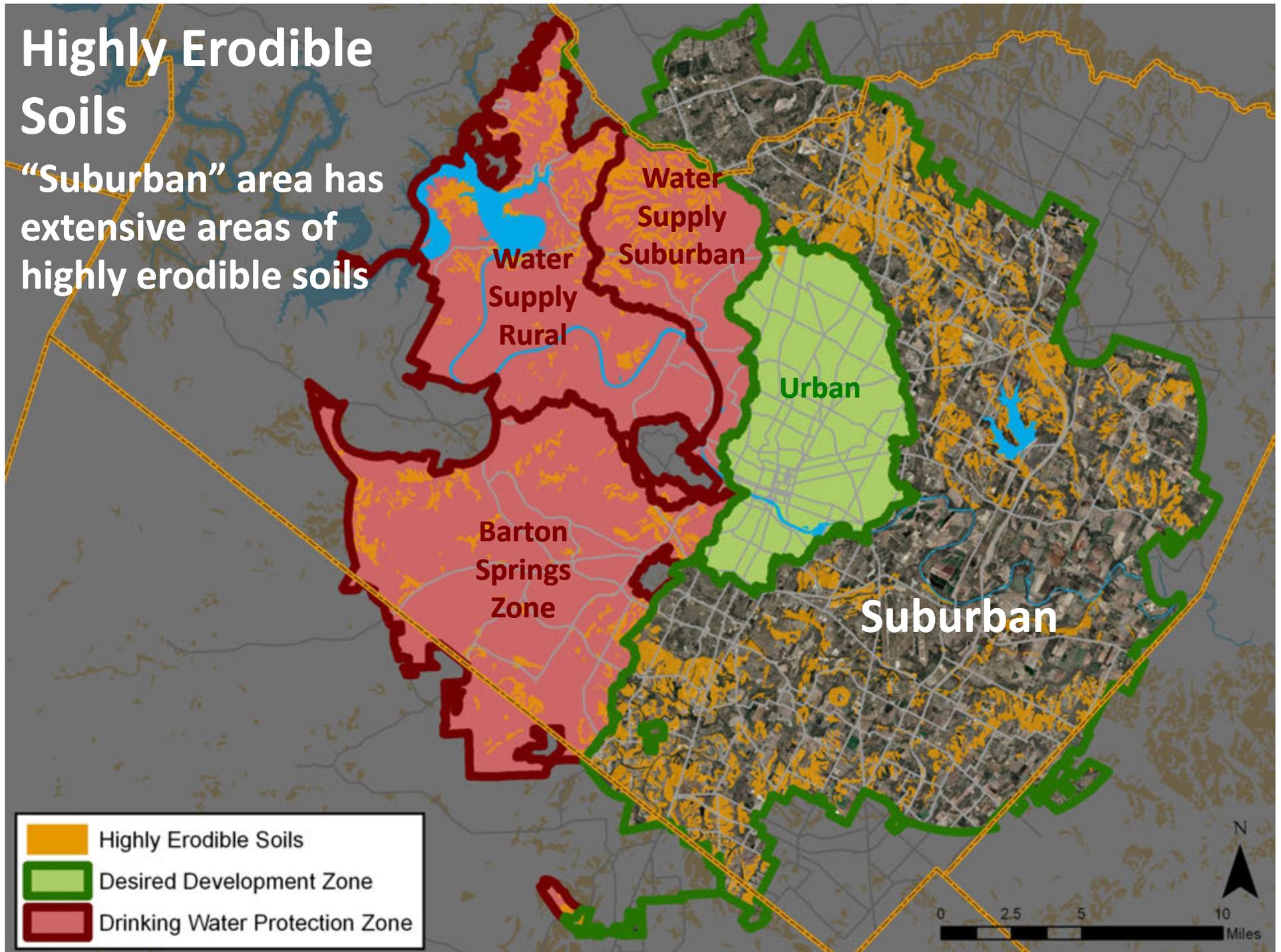
Land in Floodplain

Nearly 1 in 6
"Suburban" acres
reside in 100-year
floodplain



Highly Erodible Soils

“Suburban” area has extensive areas of highly erodible soils



Council Resolution

- 1. Creek Protection**
- 2. Floodplain Protection**
- 3. Development Patterns & Greenways**
- 4. Improved Stormwater Controls**
- 5. Mitigation Options**
- 6. Simplify Regulations & Maintain Opportunity**
- 7. Coordinate with Regional Partners**

[\(Resolution #20110113-038\)](#)

Creek Protection

"Improve stream buffer requirements, including critical headwater areas, to protect water quality and reduce erosion, flooding, and long-range costs for infrastructure maintenance."



Benefits of Healthy Creek Corridors

- **Helps control flood impacts**
- **Reduces channel erosion & property loss**
- **Helps maintain good water quality**
- **Reduces operation & maintenance costs**
- **Provides multiple community benefits**

Protected vs. Unprotected Creeks

