



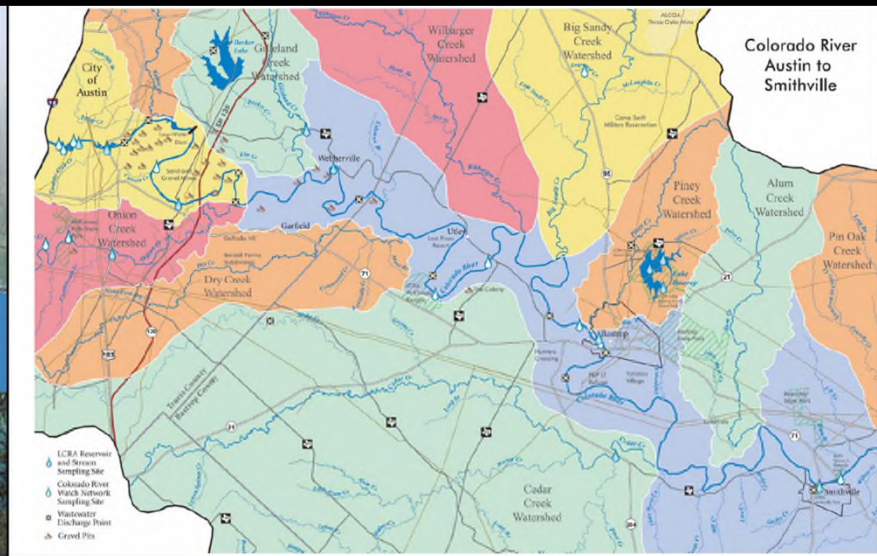
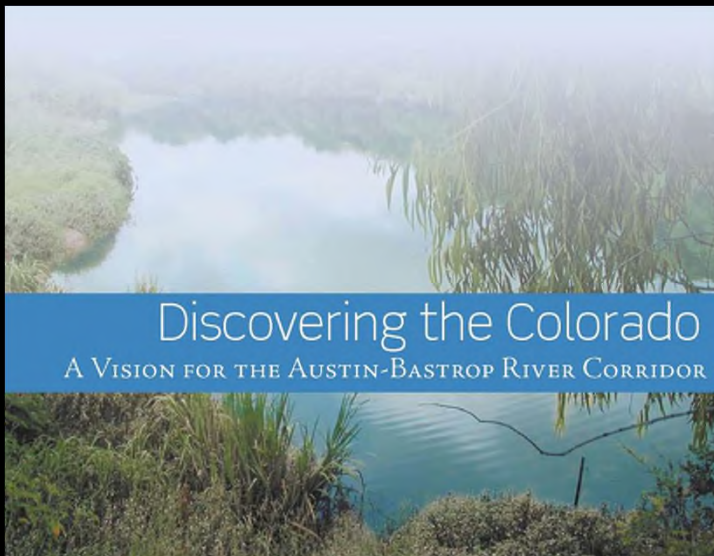
**Center for  
Environmental  
Research** at Hornsby Bend



# The Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership: 21 years of Change along the Colorado River

Kevin M. Anderson, Ph.D.

Austin Water – Center for Environmental Research



Dr. Kevin M. Anderson



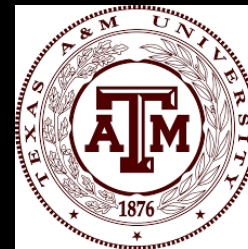
**Center for  
Environmental  
Research** at Hornsby Bend



Built in 1988

Mission – A Partnership for Urban Ecology and Sustainability

- Community
- Education
- Research



**Partners**

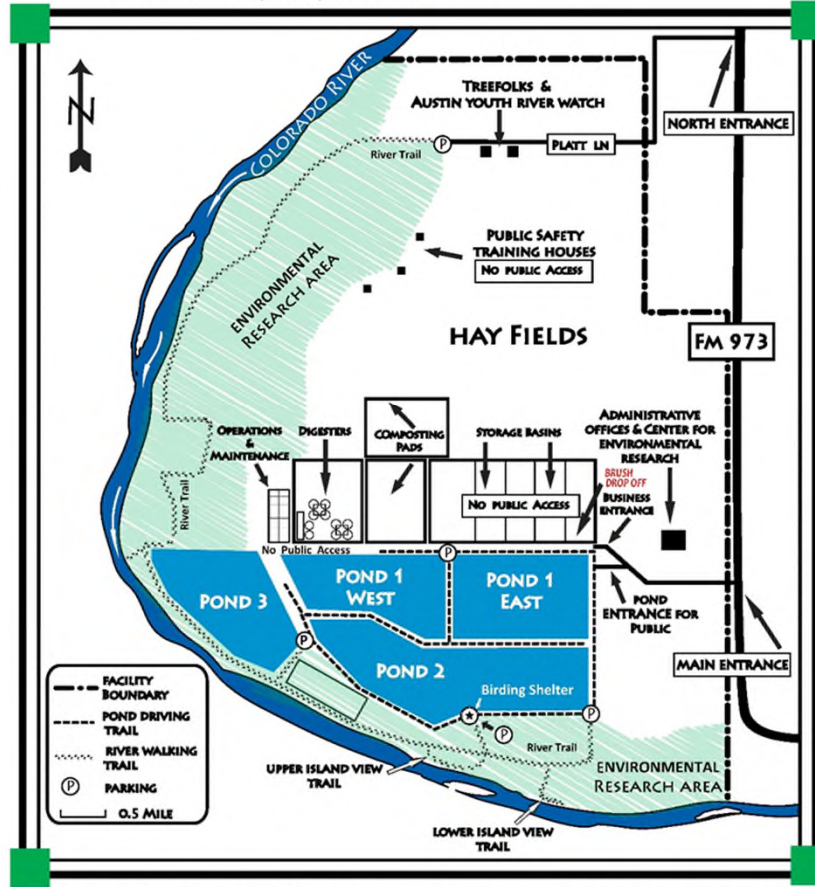
- Austin Water
- The University of Texas
- Texas A&M University



# HORNSBY BEND BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT PLANT



FACILITY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 6am - 9pm EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK  
2210 SOUTH FM 973, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78725



For more information contact Kevin.Anderson@austintexas.gov

Dillo Dirt and Hornsby Bend Plant - [www.austintexas.gov/water](http://www.austintexas.gov/water)  
Center for Environmental Research [CER] - [www.austintexas.gov/cer](http://www.austintexas.gov/cer)  
CER Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory program - [www.hornsbybend.org](http://www.hornsbybend.org)

PUBLIC RESTROOMS IN THE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

CER on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/austinwatercer>  
CER on Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/austinwatercer/>  
Hornsby Bend on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/hornsbybend>





Riparian and Bottomland Biodiversity

# Research – Urban Ecology



## Center for Environmental Research at Hornsby Bend

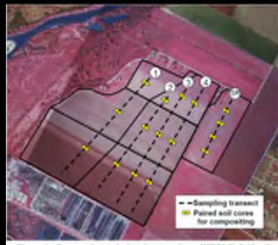


Urban Waste Recycling  
Sustainable Agriculture

Avian Ecology

Hydrogeology

Riparian Ecology  
Bottomland Biodiversity  
Restoration and Management



**HBO** Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory

*A cooperative partnership promoting the study and understanding of birds in Central Texas*

The Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory is located near Austin, Texas at the Austin Water Utility's Hornsby Bend Wastewater Management Plant. It is owned by the Austin Water Utility's Center for Environmental Research at Hornsby Bend. More information about Hornsby Bend can be found at the Center for Environmental Research website.

Hornsby Bend is open to visitors 7 days a week from dawn to dusk. Please note the marked "Public Entrance" to access the aviary (see photo). For the Bird location guide page for more information about the site.

**Special Report: Bob Casarella's Bio-Tour of Hornsby Bend**  
This report on the 2009 aviary provides a lot of good information about Hornsby Bend.

**Hornsby Bend's Big Wetland**  
Hornsby Bend's Big Wetland was the Hornsby Bend Wastewater Treatment Plant's 2008. This wetland system has further treatment since 2008. The water can flow through the wetland. The 2008 study is available online, as well as the plan for 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016.

**HBO Supporters**  
Sponsors  
Donor organizations  
Name  
Address  
City, State, ZIP  
Phone number

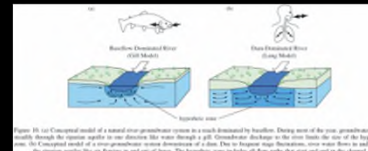
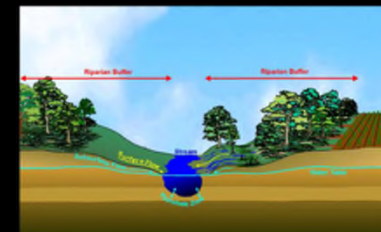


Figure 10.101 Conceptual model of a natural stream-geomorphology system in a reach dominated by headwaters. During most of the year, groundwater flows through the riparian aquifer to the stream. The riparian aquifer is a high permeability aquifer. The riparian aquifer is a high permeability aquifer. The riparian aquifer is a high permeability aquifer.



## Community 2003-2024

### The Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership

*An open conversation about the future of the river corridor*

An informal partnership of nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies, businesses, schools, landowners, and other local citizens concerned with the future of the Colorado River corridor from Austin through Bastrop County.

Mission: To support sustainable development and a healthy riparian ecosystem along the Austin to Bastrop River Corridor.

2003 to 2024 Meetings, Collaborative Planning, River Trips, and Projects (River Access Parks)

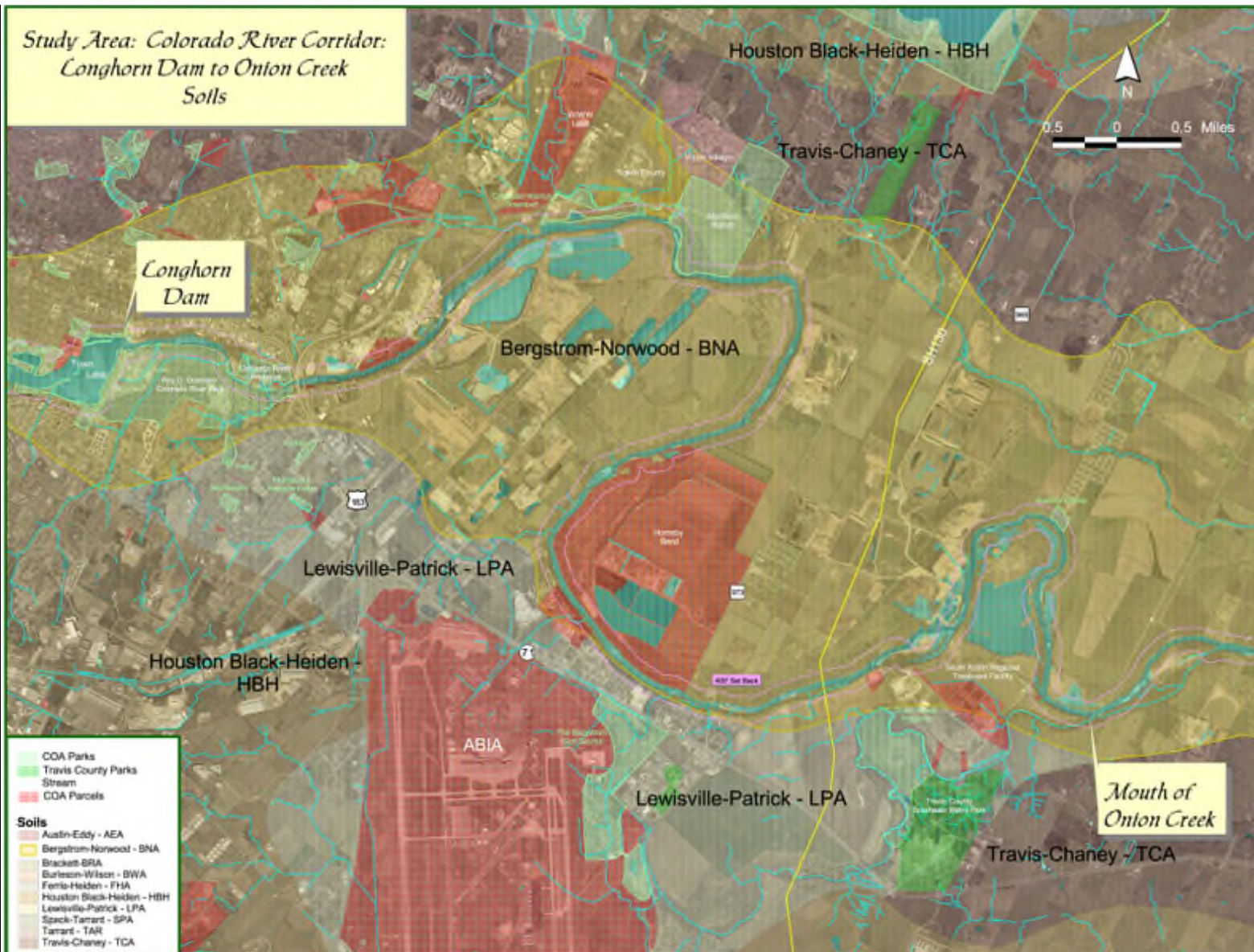


2006 Raising Public Awareness Recipient



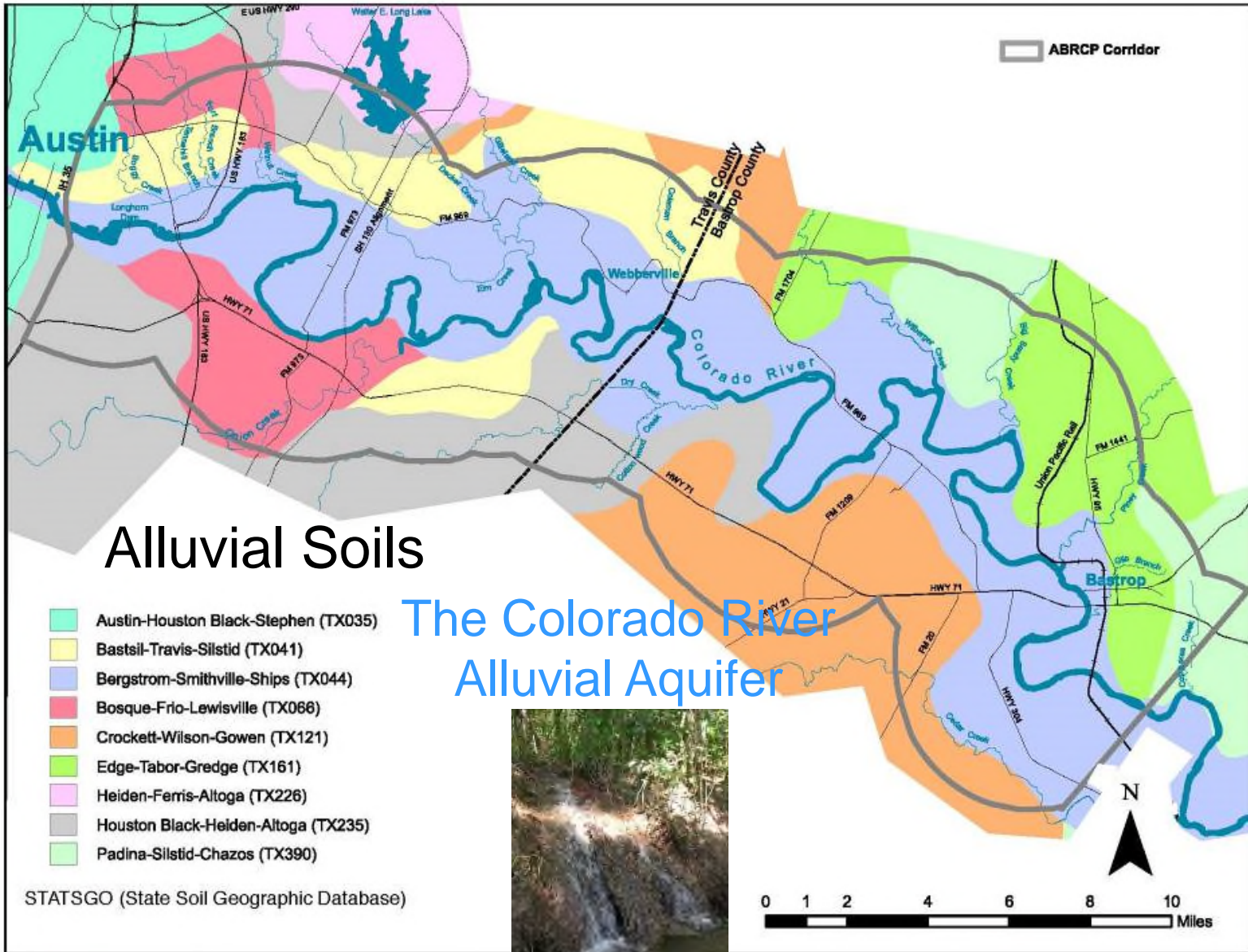
Longhorn Dam Downstream 1988

*Study Area: Colorado River Corridor:  
Conghorn Dam to Onton Creek  
Soils*

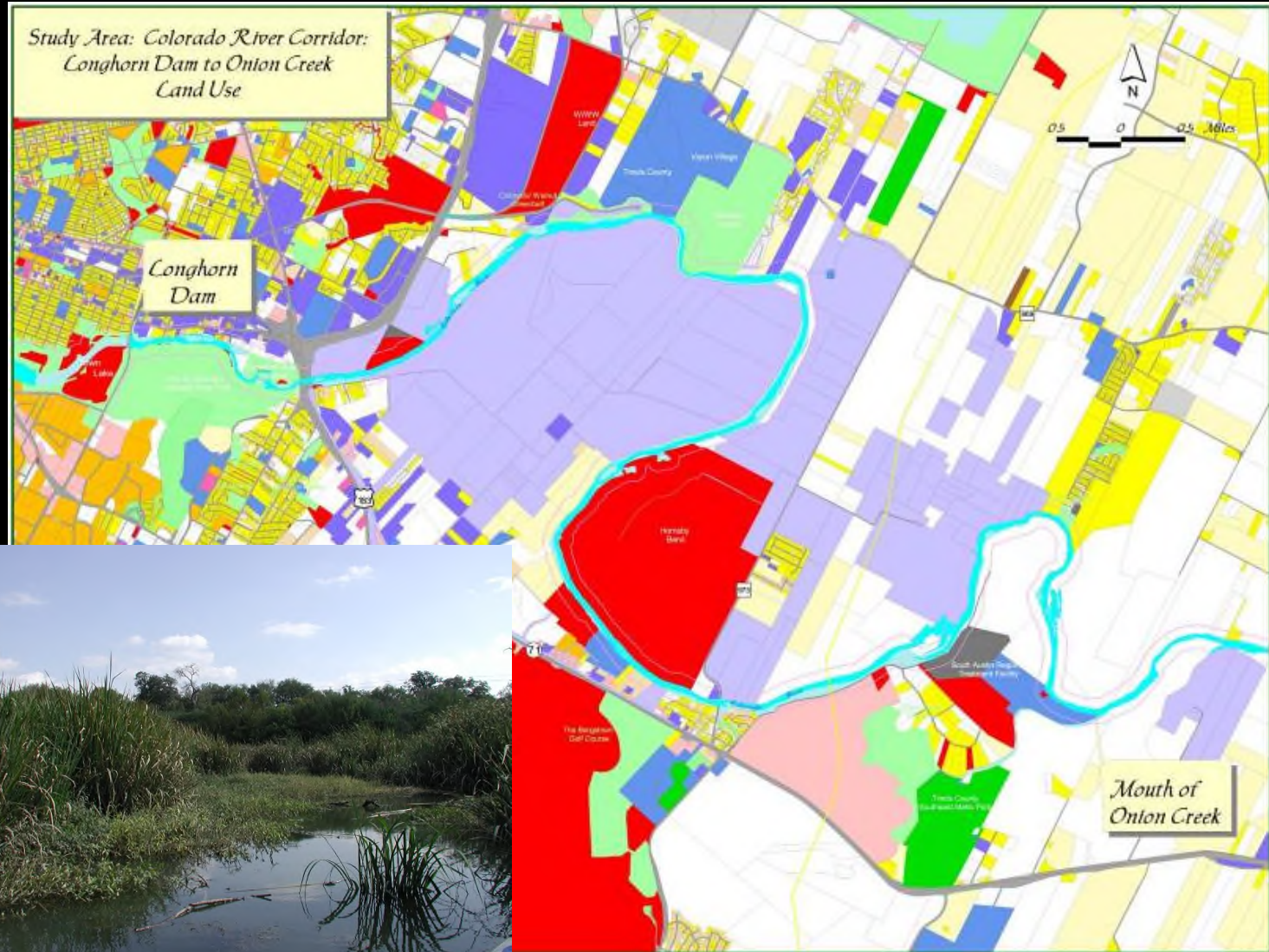


- COA Parks
  - Travis County Parks
  - Stream
  - COA Parcels
- Soils**
- Austin-Eddy - AEA
  - Bergstrom-Norwood - BNA
  - Brackett-BRA
  - Burleson-Wilson - BWA
  - Ferris-Heiden - FHA
  - Houston Black-Heiden - HBH
  - Lewisville-Patrick - LPA
  - Spack-Tarrant - SPA
  - Tarrant - TAR
  - Travis-Chaney - TCA





# Gravel and Sand Mines



## “Riparian Gravel Pit Restoration and River Corridor Project” meeting Feb 12, 2003

Attending:

Kevin Anderson Austin Water CER

Rollin MacRae TPWD

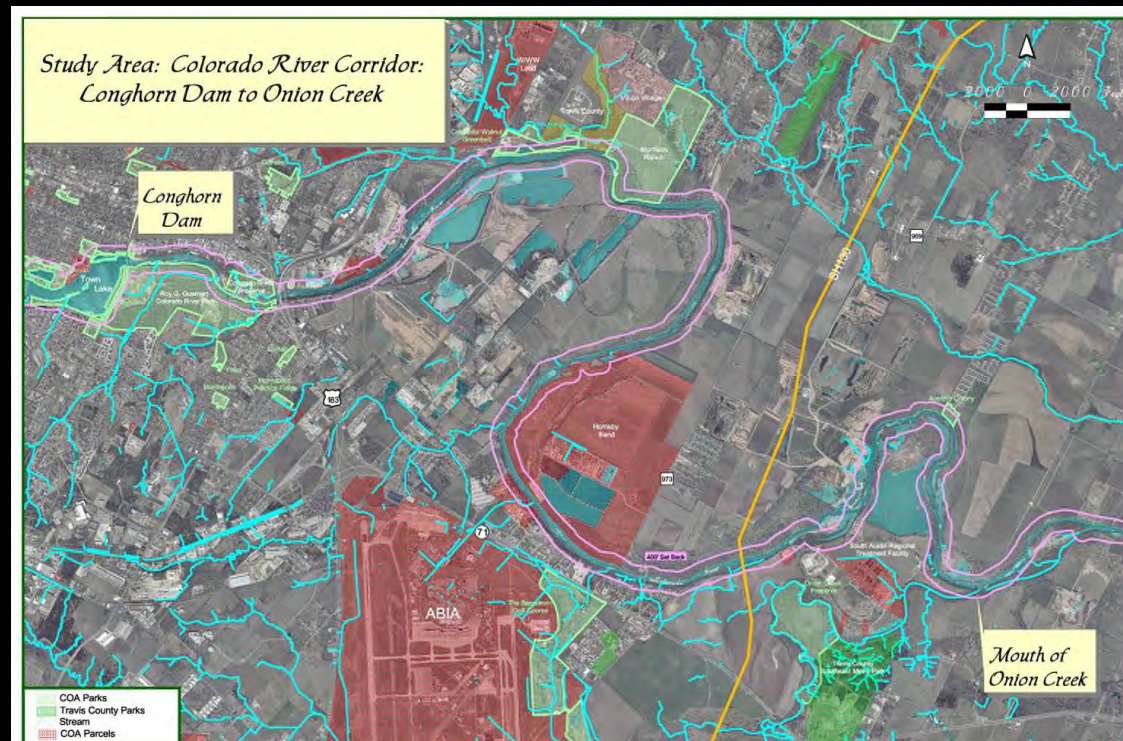
Rodger Lewis LCRA

Roy Mann The Rivers Studio

Jody Slagle Austin Water Hornsby Bend

Rob Fergus Travis Audubon Society

Butch Smith COA PARD



## Meeting 19 March 2003

### Attendees

Mike Lyday COA Watershed Protection  
Rene Barrera COA PARD/NRD  
Roy Mann The Rivers Studio  
Marta Newkirk NPS/RTCA  
Kathryn Nichols NPS/RTCA  
Benjamin Larkin Trust for Public Land  
Valarie Bristol Trust for Public Land  
Tom Heger TPWD  
Nancy Charbeneau Texas Riparian Association  
Kelly Bender TPWD  
Butch Smith COA PARD  
Rob Fergus Travis Audubon Society  
Jody Slagle Austin Water Hornsby Bend Plant  
Kevin Anderson AW CER

### Objectives identified by group:

- Austin River Corridor Study UT?
- Development of stakeholder group for river corridor
- Workshops on river corridor
- Gravel pit restoration plans
- Statewide Partnership for gravel pit restoration?
- Assist with City of Austin pollution attenuation plan requirements for gravel pits
- Begin identification of funding sources
- Participate in Society for Ecological Restoration conference Nov 19-22 2003 [perhaps charrette topic]

# Meeting April 2003

## Attendees:

Kevin M. Anderson

Jody Slagle

Prof. Barbara Parmenter

Rodger Lewis

Wes Birdwell

Rob Fergus

Butch Smith

Charles Bergh

John Kuhl

Wendy Scaperotta

Sam Byars

Valerie Bristol

Kathryn Nichols

Tom Heger

AW CER

AW Hornsby Bend Plant

UT Community and Regional Planning

LCRA

LCRA

Travis Audubon Society

COA PARD

Travis County Parks and Natural Resources

Travis County Parks and Natural Resources

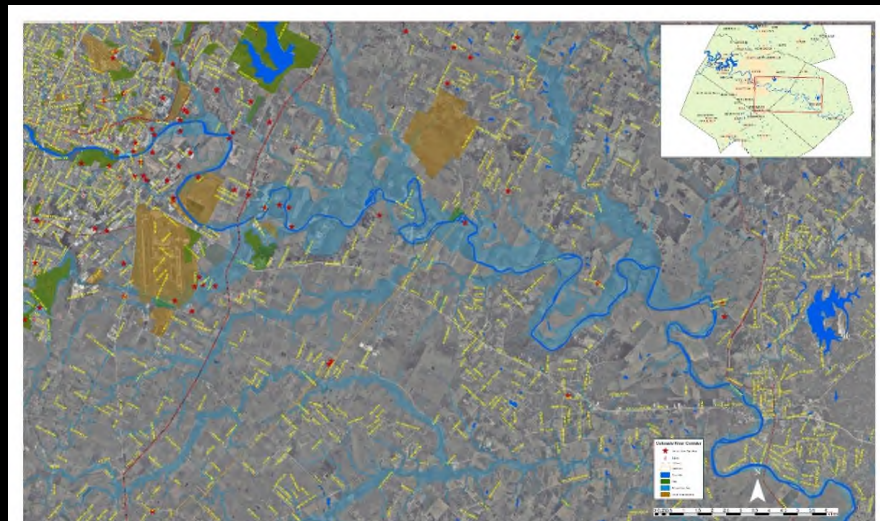
Travis County Planning

TPL

TPL

NPS

TPWD



# Meeting May 2003

## Attendees:

Kevin M. Anderson  
Butch Smith  
Tom Heger  
Rene Barrera  
Brian Noble  
Rob Borowski  
Roy Mann  
Benjamin Larkin  
Nancy Charbeneau  
Jody Slagle  
Prof. Barbara Parmenter  
David Lewis  
Rob Fergus  
Mike Lyday  
Sam Byars  
Kathryn Nichols  
Wendy Scaperotta  
Heather Venhaus  
Mike Wiesner  
Rob Newman  
David Mahler  
Don Trepagnier

AW CER  
COA PARD  
TPWD  
COA PARD  
TCEQ  
TCEQ Clean Texas  
The Rivers Studio  
Trust for Public Land  
Texas Riparian Association  
AW Hornsby Bend Plant  
UT Community and Regional Planning  
LCRA Water Resource Protection  
Travis Audubon Society  
COA Watershed Protection  
Trust for Public Land  
National Park Service  
Travis County Planning  
LBJ Wildflower Center  
NPSOT  
Army Corps of Engineers  
Environmental Survey Consulting  
Rios Verdes News

Official name - All agreed that it was time to commit to a name for this group, so we will call ourselves "The Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership".

We will function as a partnership or coalition of agencies and organizations rather than create a new non-profit. Trust for Public Land and the Texas Riparian Association will support us with non-profit assistance.



**October 2003** – National Park Service begins assisting partnership

**November 2003** – SER riparian restoration design workshop – 70 participants, University of Texas Community and Regional Planning students

**January 2004** - LCRA staff has approval from Joe Beal to give staff time to the Partnership - in particular GIS map production.

**May 2004** – Public workshop - NPS and TPL assist in planning and facilitating. LCRA host the workshop at McKinney Roughs.

**June 2004** – Second river trip – 12 participants Hornsby Bend to Little Webberville Park

**November 2004** – Public workshop hosted by LCRA at Bastrop Riverside Center



# 2004 Public Workshops May and November







2004 Public Workshops  
May and November

2004 Public Workshops  
May and November

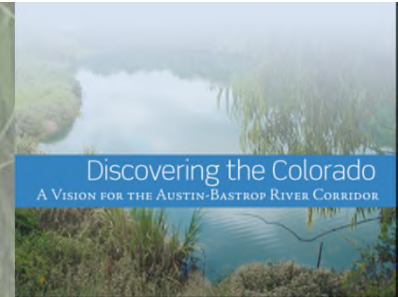


## Key Issues Identified

- **Land Development and Sustainable Development** - Encourage purposeful, ecologically sensitive and community supported land development along the river corridor that brings positive economic impacts
- **Water Quality and Quantity** - Gather information on existing conditions of water quality and quantity; establish biological standards and a regulatory structure to protect and sustain water
- **Sand and Gravel Mining** - Utilize incentives and develop partnering opportunities to protect the attributes of the river corridor that enhance water quality and quantity
- **Limited Public Access for Recreation** - Improve and promote public access and recreation land along the river
- **Natural and Cultural Resource Protection** - Identify natural and cultural resources along the river
- **Need for Increased Public Awareness and Education** - Promote a connection between the Colorado River and people of all ages and backgrounds living along it.



## The Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership



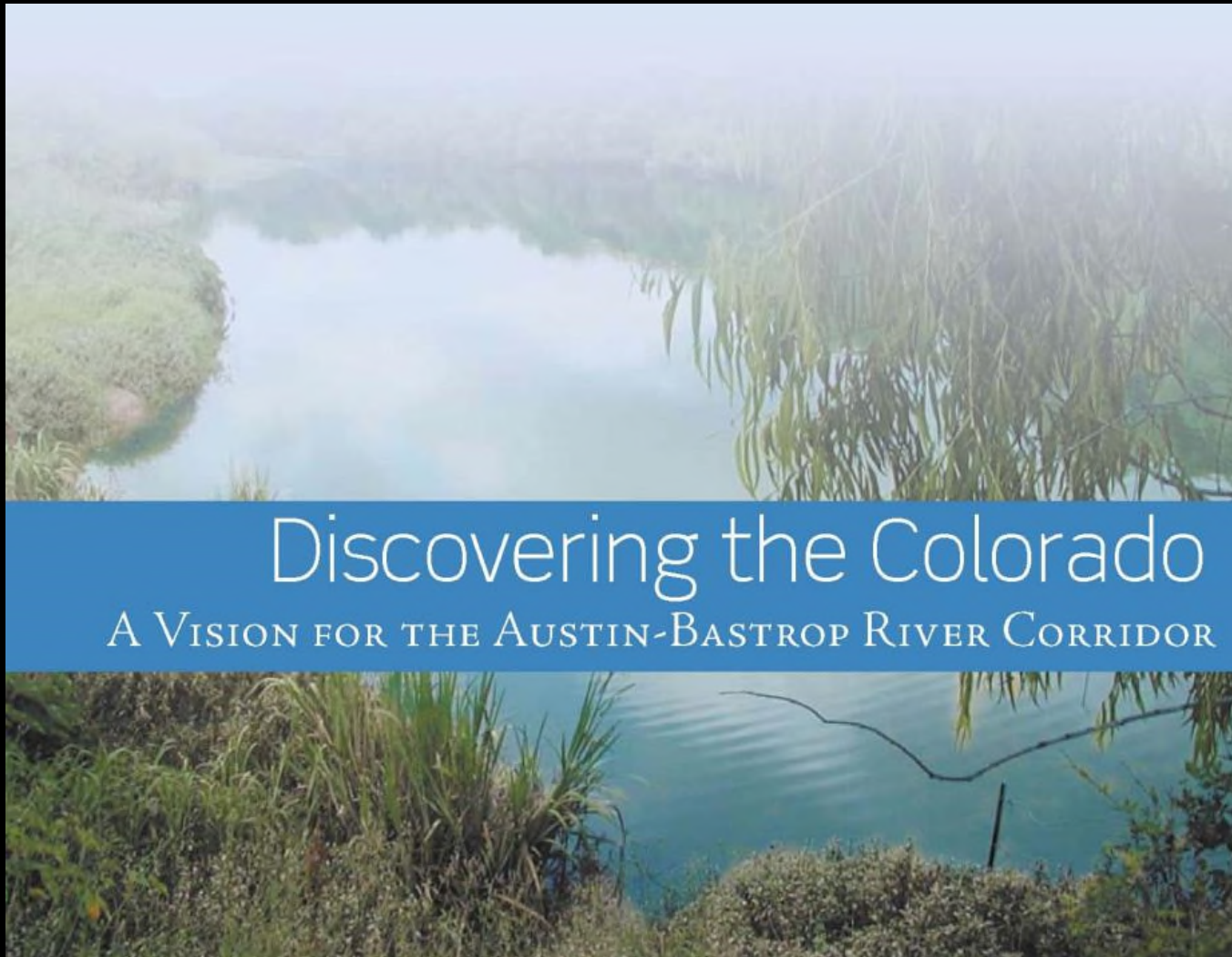
**Sustainability Goal:** To promote economic and recreational use of the river corridor that supports long-term ecological health and social equity.

**Riparian Management Goal:** To promote actions that conserve and maintain a healthy riparian system along the Austin-Bastrop Colorado River Corridor.

**Restoration Goal:** To assist with restoration of riparian habitats along the river corridor.

**Public Awareness Goal:** To create community awareness and support for land-use planning and restoration of the river corridor.

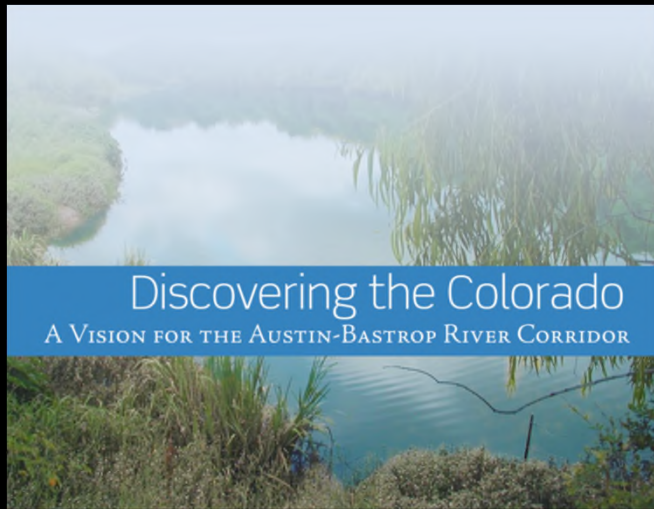
March 2006-January 2007 – research, writing, editing of the Vision Report  
January 2007 – publication of “Discovering the Colorado”



# Discovering the Colorado

A VISION FOR THE AUSTIN-BASTROP RIVER CORRIDOR

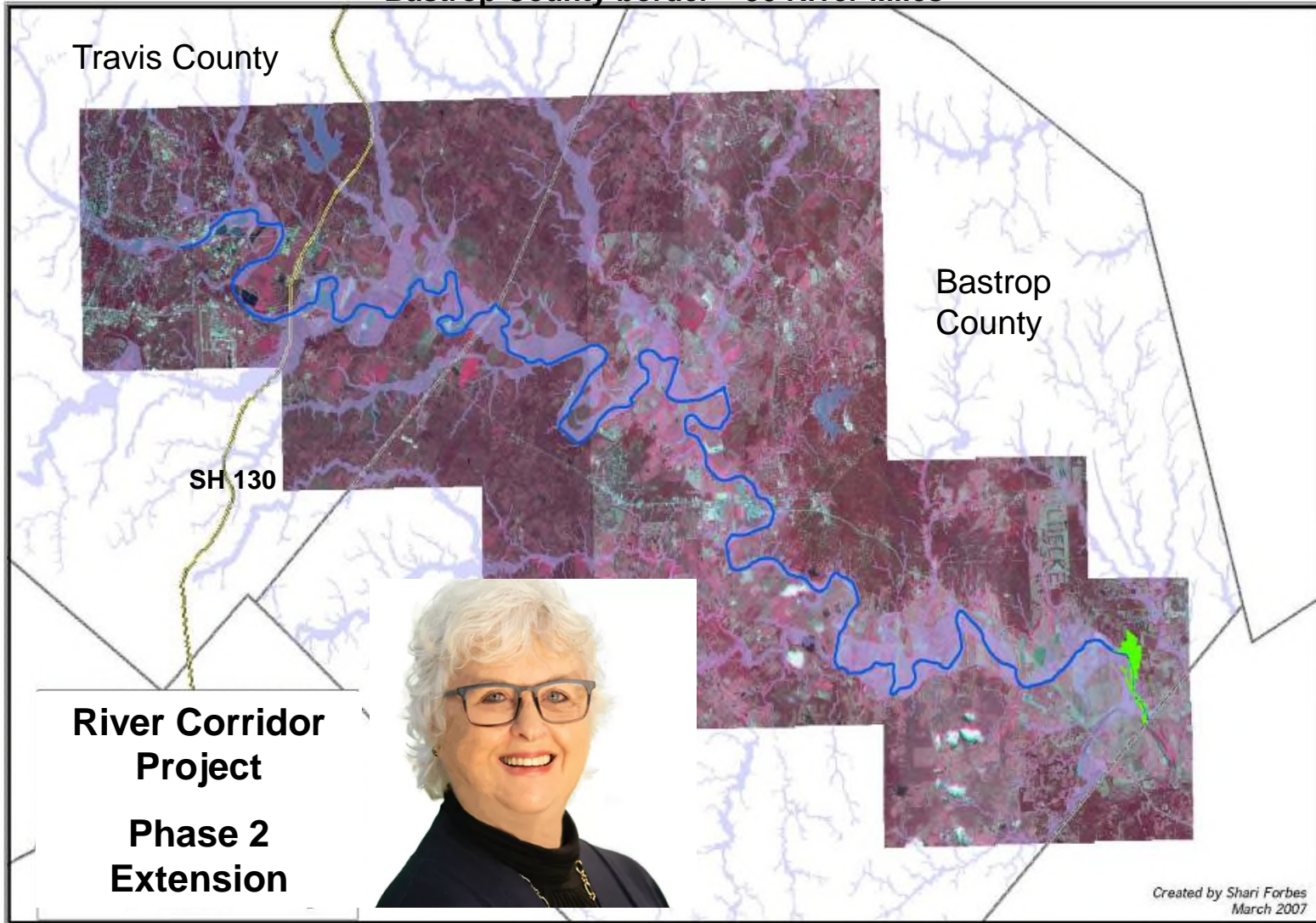
# The Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership

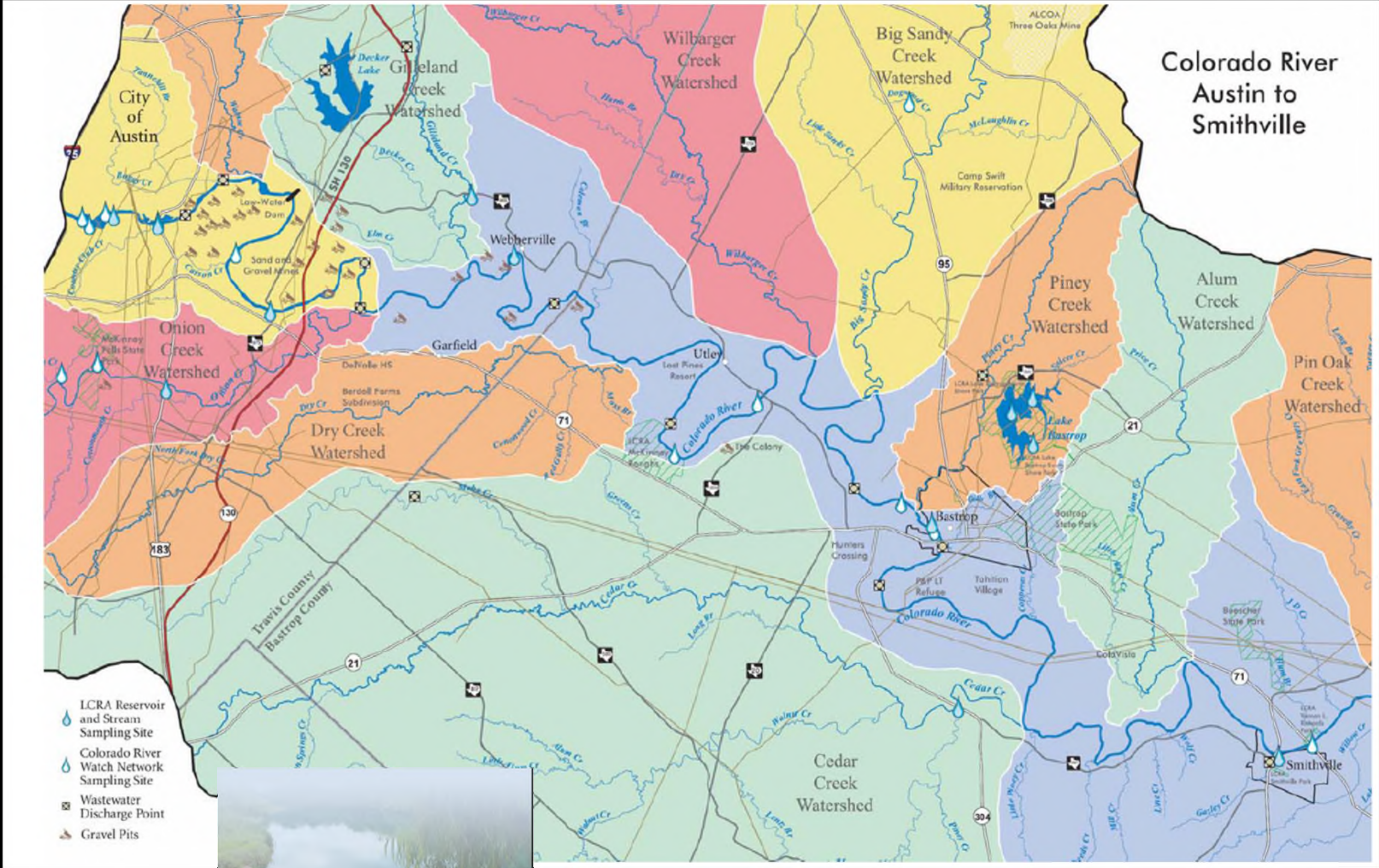


May 2007 – report wins Envision Central Texas Community Stewardship award for Raising Public Awareness



**River Corridor Project Phase 2 Extension – Austin through Smithville to the southern Bastrop County border – 90 River Miles**





**90 miles of the Colorado River**





The Central Texas Greenprint for Growth  
 A Regional Action Plan for Conservation and Economic Opportunity  
 Published by The Trust for Public Land



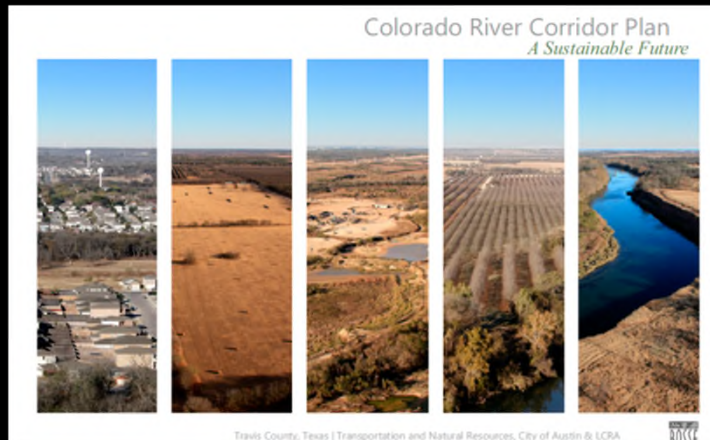
Bastrop  
 County Parks  
 and Open  
 Space Master  
 Plan

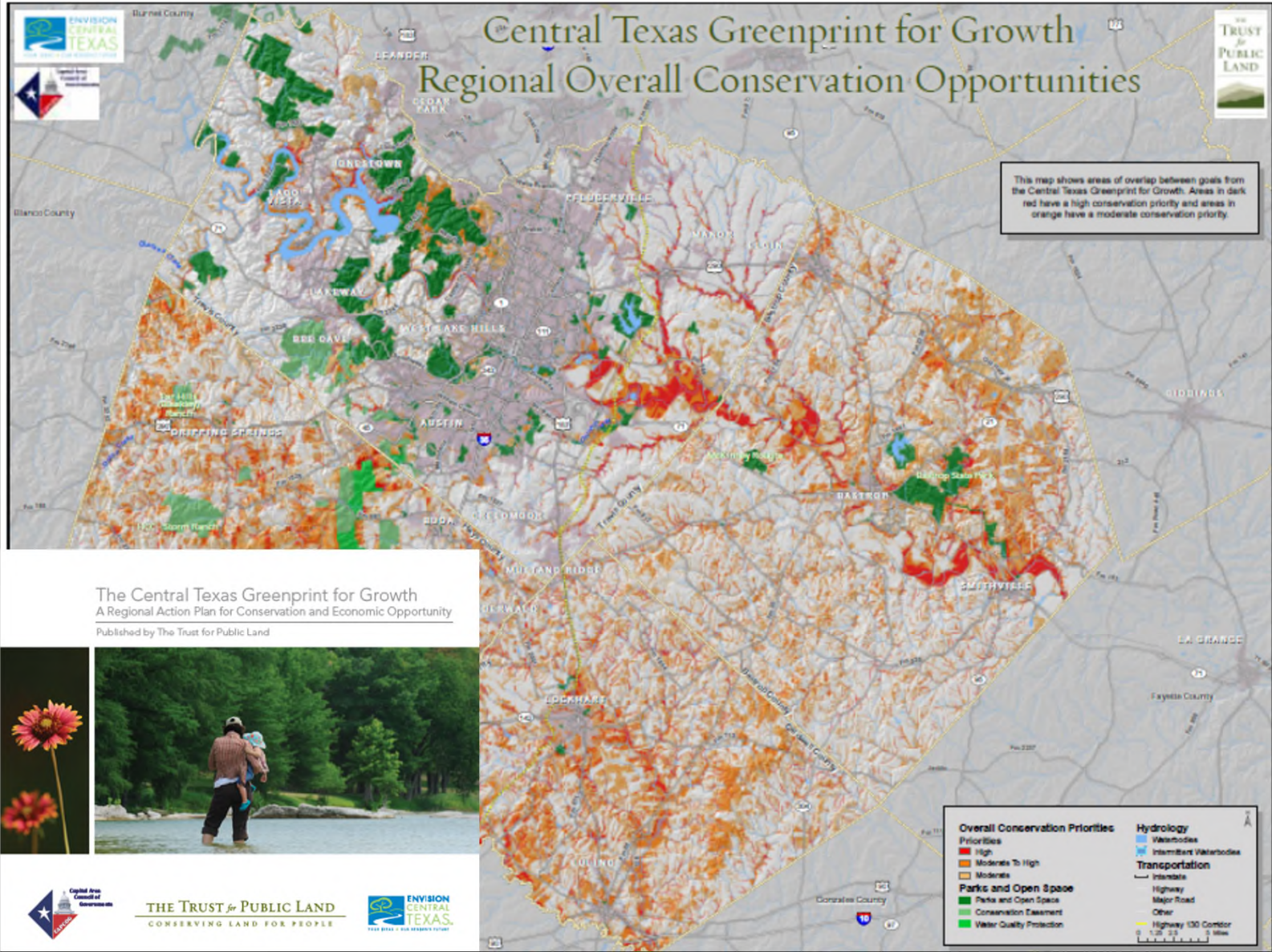
2021-2031

January 2021  
 Draft



## Other Planning Efforts Relevant to the Colorado River Corridor





This map shows areas of overlap between goals from the Central Texas Greenprint for Growth. Areas in dark red have a high conservation priority and areas in orange have a moderate conservation priority.

The Central Texas Greenprint for Growth  
 A Regional Action Plan for Conservation and Economic Opportunity  
 Published by The Trust for Public Land



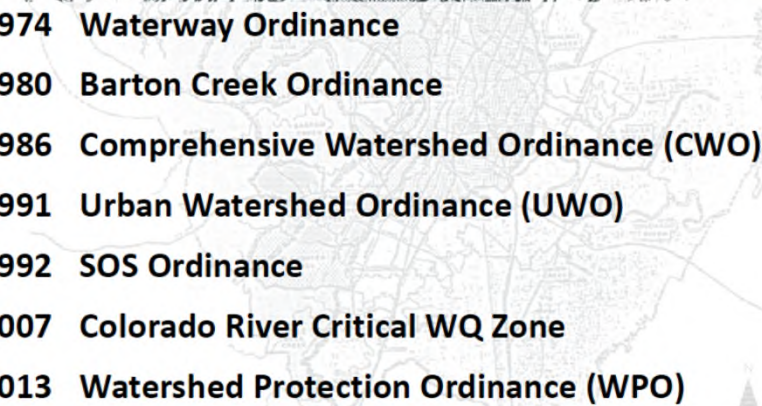
<b>Overall Conservation Priorities</b> Priorities High Moderate To High Moderate <b>Parks and Open Space</b> Parks and Open Space Conservation Easement Water Quality Protection	<b>Hydrology</b> Waterbodies Intermittent Waterbodies <b>Transportation</b> Interstate Highway Major Road Other Highway 130 Corridor 0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles
--	--



THE TRUST for PUBLIC LAND  
 CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE



## Austin's Riparian Protection Milestones

- 
- 1974 Waterway Ordinance
  - 1980 Barton Creek Ordinance
  - 1986 Comprehensive Watershed Ordinance (CWO)
  - 1991 Urban Watershed Ordinance (UWO)
  - 1992 SOS Ordinance
  - 2007 Colorado River Critical WQ Zone
  - 2013 Watershed Protection Ordinance (WPO)

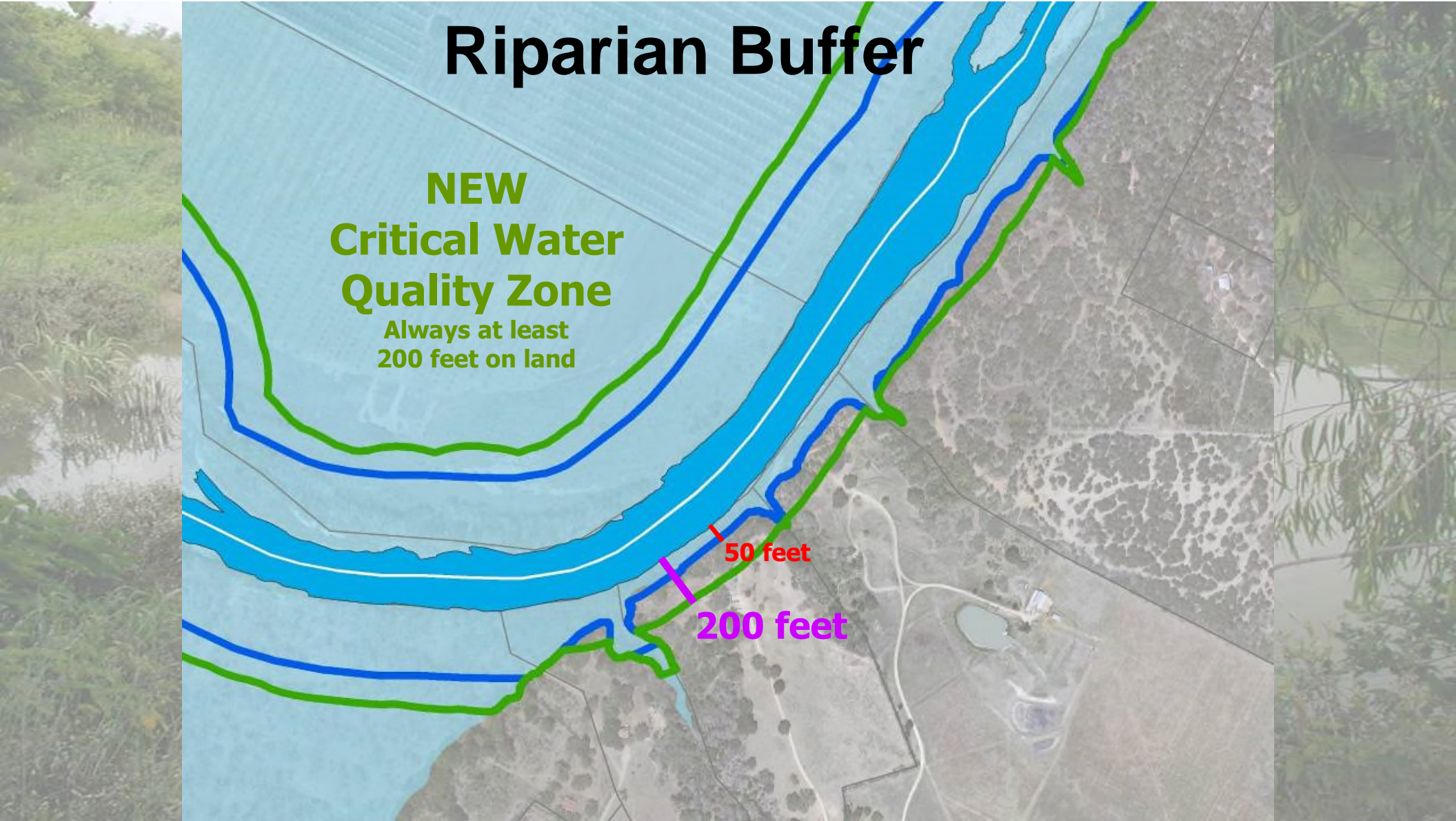
# Riparian Buffer

**NEW**  
**Critical Water**  
**Quality Zone**

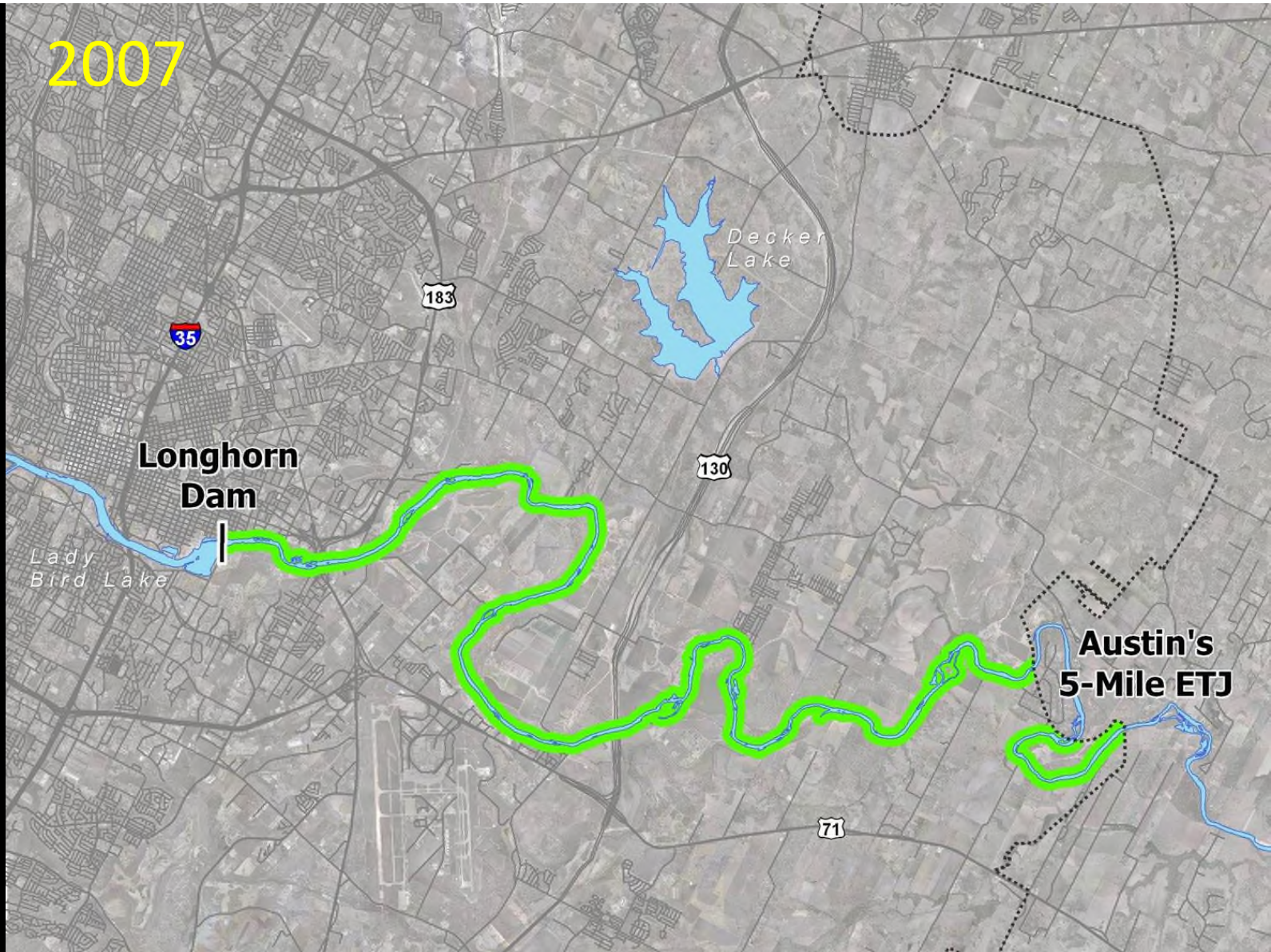
Always at least  
200 feet on land

50 feet

200 feet



2007



**Longhorn Dam**

Lady Bird Lake

Decker Lake

**Austin's 5-Mile ETJ**

35

183

130

71

2012

Colorado River Corridor Plan  
A Sustainable Future



Travis County, Texas | Transportation and Natural Resources, City of Austin & LORA

PLAN SUMMARY

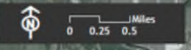
Land Use	Acres	%
Rural Intensity	7,544	24.7
Neighborhood Intensity	3,880	12.7
Urban Intensity	3,675	12.0
Civic/Institutional	1,125	3.7
Recreation and Natural Areas	6,006	19.7
Mining	736	2.4
Post-Mining Open Space	3,655	12.0
Water Bodies	2,529	8.3
Streets and ROW	1,419	4.6

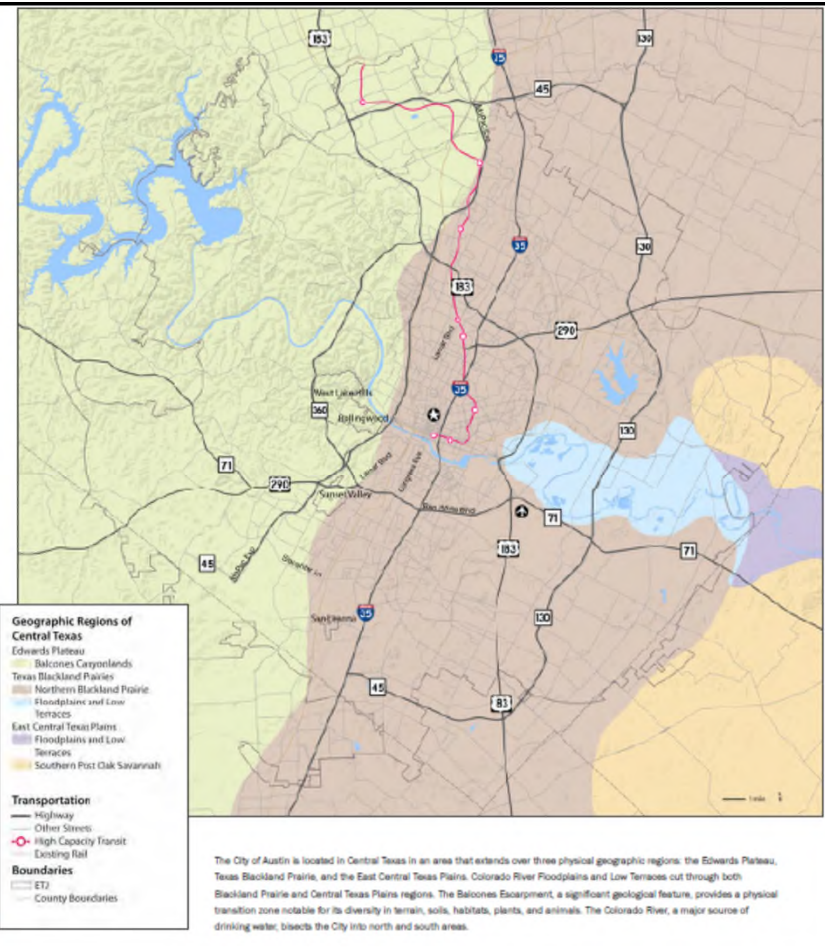
  

Roadway Classification
Major Arterial
Neighborhood Collector
Rural Arterial
Multi-Modal Trail
Future Transit Node (Future segments dashed)



Travis County  
**Colorado River Corridor**  
CONCEPT PLAN





2018

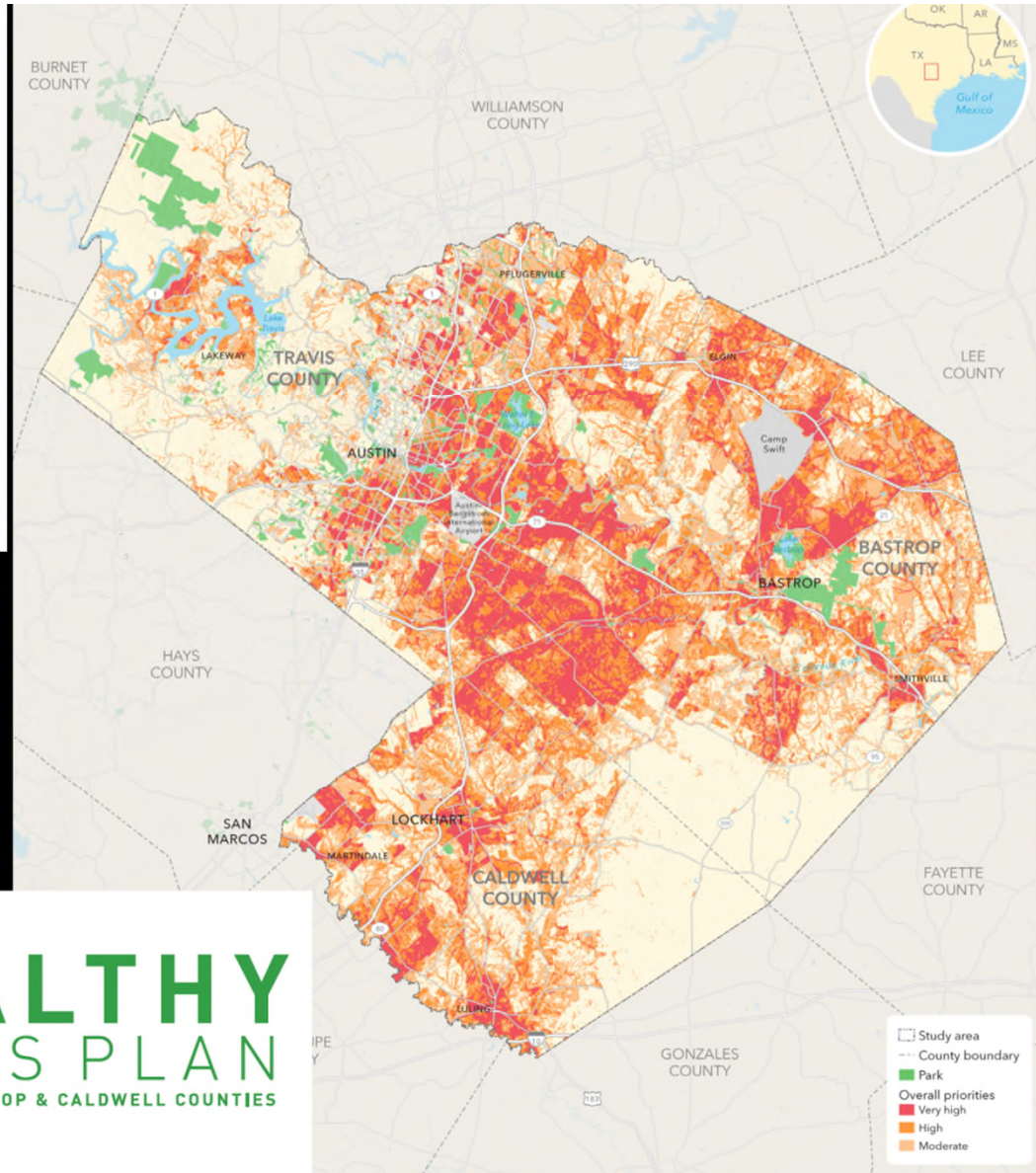
**StDavid's**  
**FOUNDATION**

**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND**

2019



**HEALTHY**  
**PARKS PLAN**  
FOR TRAVIS, BASTROP & CALDWELL COUNTIES





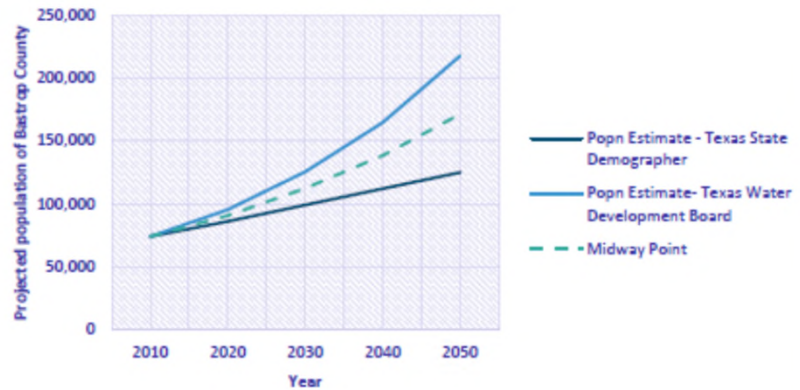
# Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan

2021-2031

January 2021  
Draft



### Bastrop County Population Projection Comparisons

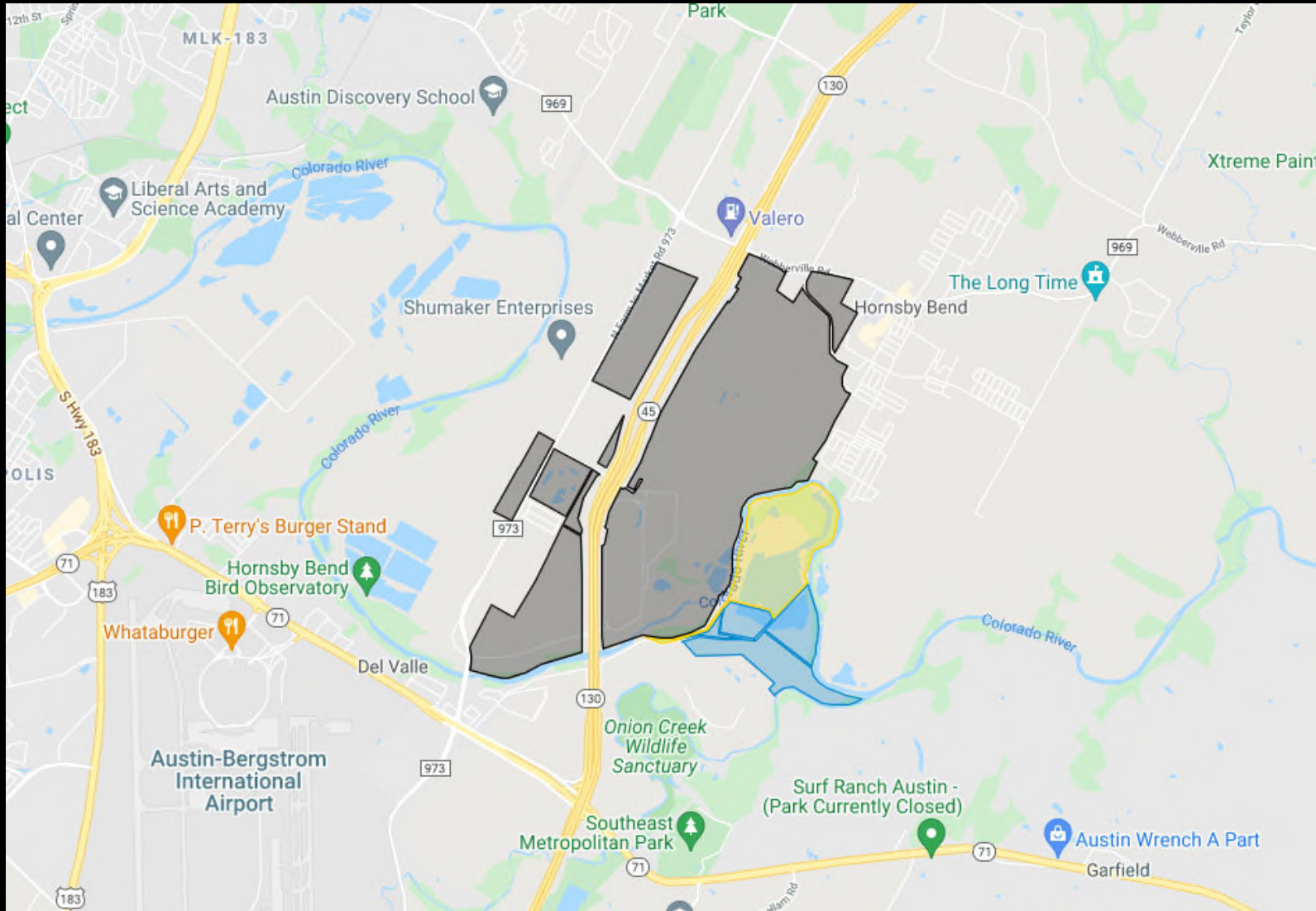


## 2024 Key Issues Today

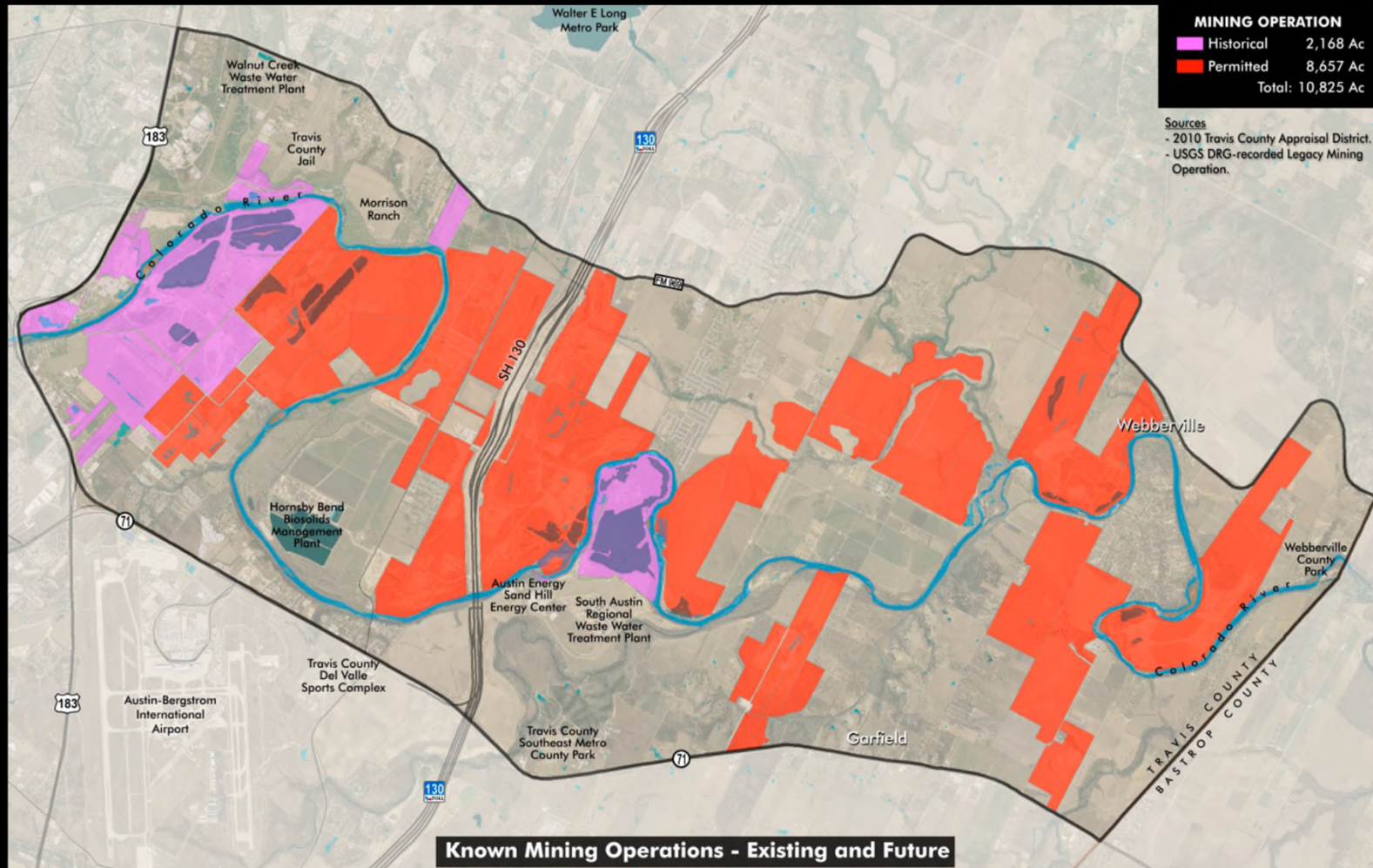
- Land Development and Sustainable Development
- Water Quality and Quantity
- Sand and Gravel Mining
- Public Access for Recreation
- Natural and Cultural Resource Protection
- Need for Increased Public Awareness and Education



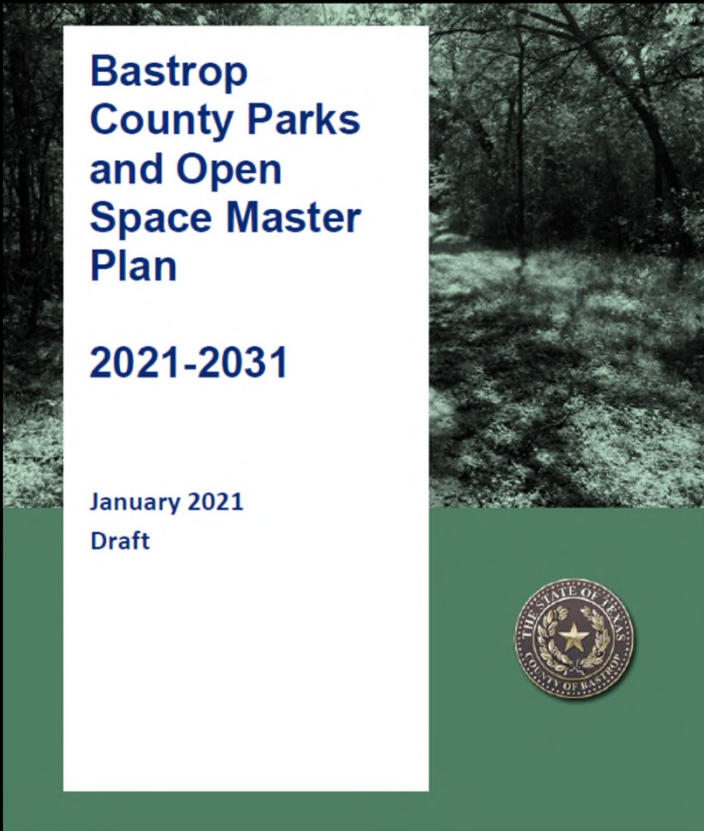
# Teslandia



# Sand and Gravel Mining




# Public Access for Recreation



**Bastrop  
County Parks  
and Open  
Space Master  
Plan**

**2021-2031**

January 2021  
Draft



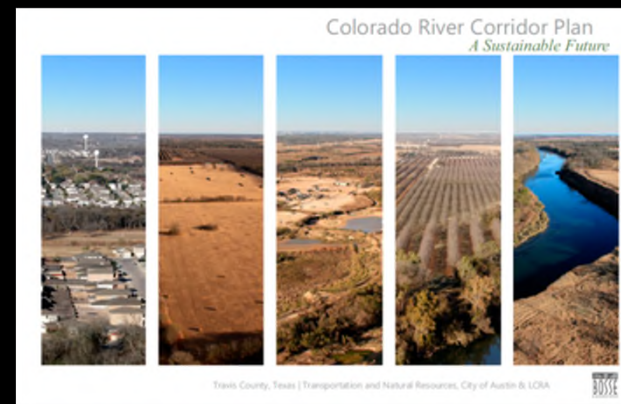
**...take it outside! The Next Ten Years**

**Travis County Parks Master Plan**


August 9, 2016




Austin, Texas



**Colorado River Corridor Plan**  
*A Sustainable Future*



Travis County, Texas | Transportation and Natural Resources, City of Austin & LRSA



# Austin Bastrop River Corridor Partnership Travis County Monthly River Monitoring Trips



1st Saturday of the month - Begun February 2006 (Bastrop LPMN trips, too!)



Lost Pines Master Naturalists  
Bastrop River Monitoring Trips





Bastrop Bird City

The flyer has a teal background with a large yellow circle in the center. The text inside the circle reads: "BIRDWATCHING BIG SIT Free ~ Open to all ~ Come &amp; Go Fourth Saturdays 8:30-10:00am check Bird City Bastrop facebook page for locations". Surrounding the circle are four circular callouts, each containing a different bird: a blue jay, a hummingbird, a sparrow, and a cardinal. The text "Ongoing every 4th Saturday" is in the top-left callout, "Bring your own chairs, optics &amp; field guides" is in the top-right, "BIRD CITY TEXAS BASTROP" is in the bottom-left, and "BASTROP COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY" is in the bottom-right.









# Rediscovery 2024

Discovering the Colorado  
A VISION FOR THE AUSTIN-BASTROP RIVER CORRIDOR



## Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership Bimonthly Meeting

- Open to anyone interested in the Colorado River – a stakeholder partnership about the past, present and future of the river corridor between Austin and Smithville.
- Every other month at a different location between Austin and Smithville
- **Next meeting at the CER – Hornsby Bend Wednesday December 4<sup>th</sup> 10am**



Applause



Questions?

