

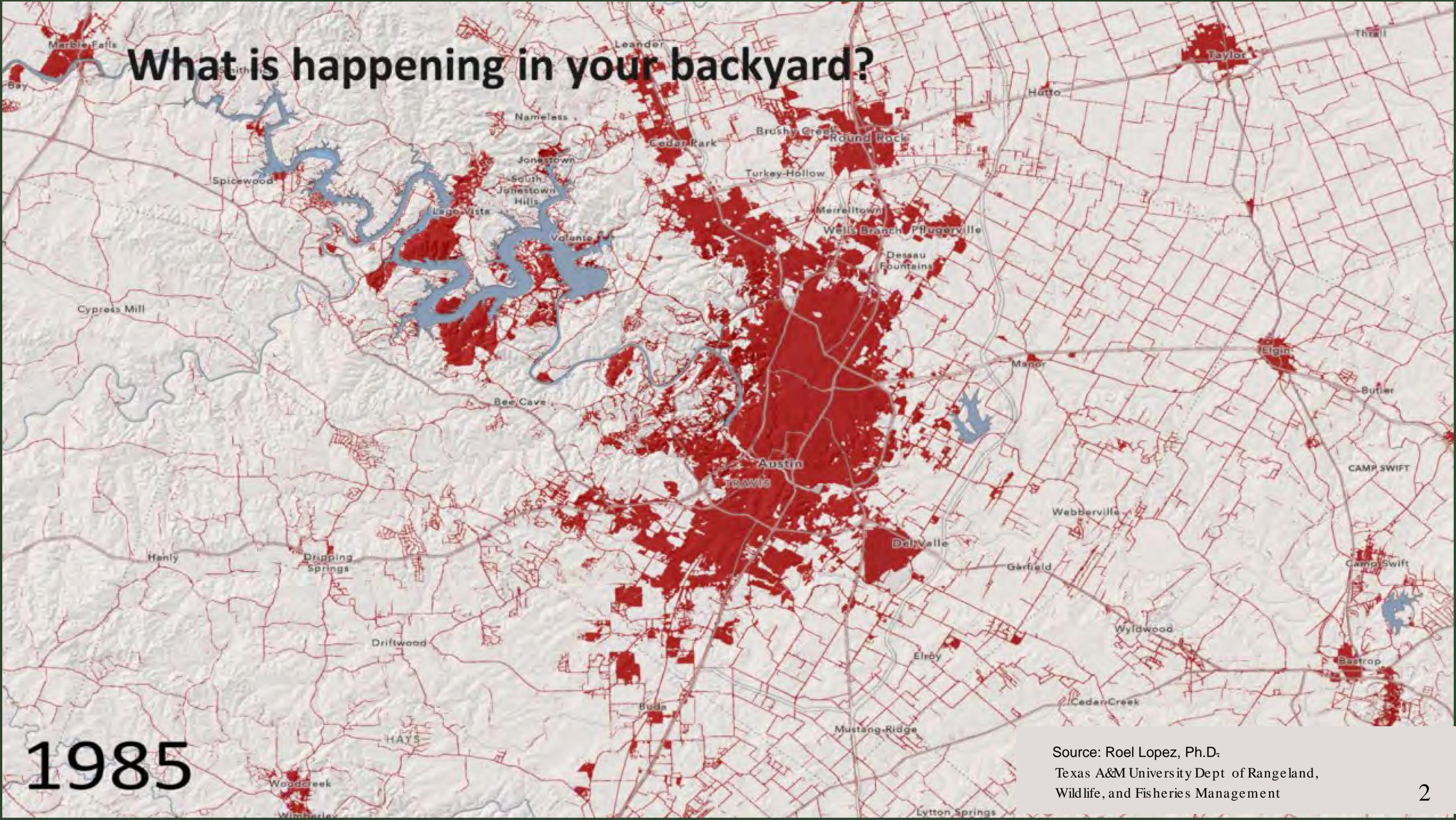


EverGreen Austin -- a group of diverse, informed, and invested women with ties to Austin's green communities.

We are committed to ensuring Austin invests urgently, generously and equitably in green space and green infrastructure.

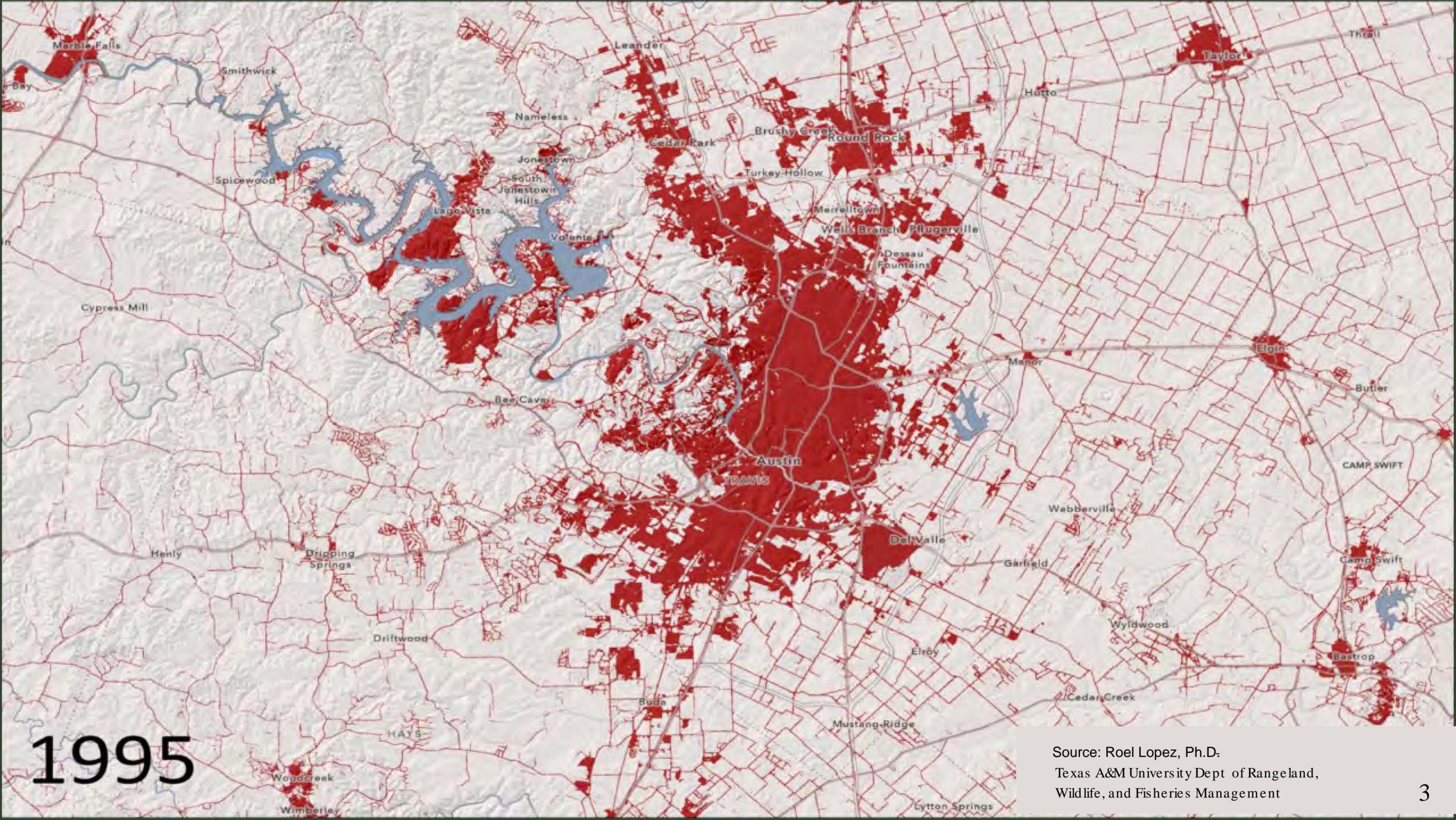


What is happening in your backyard?



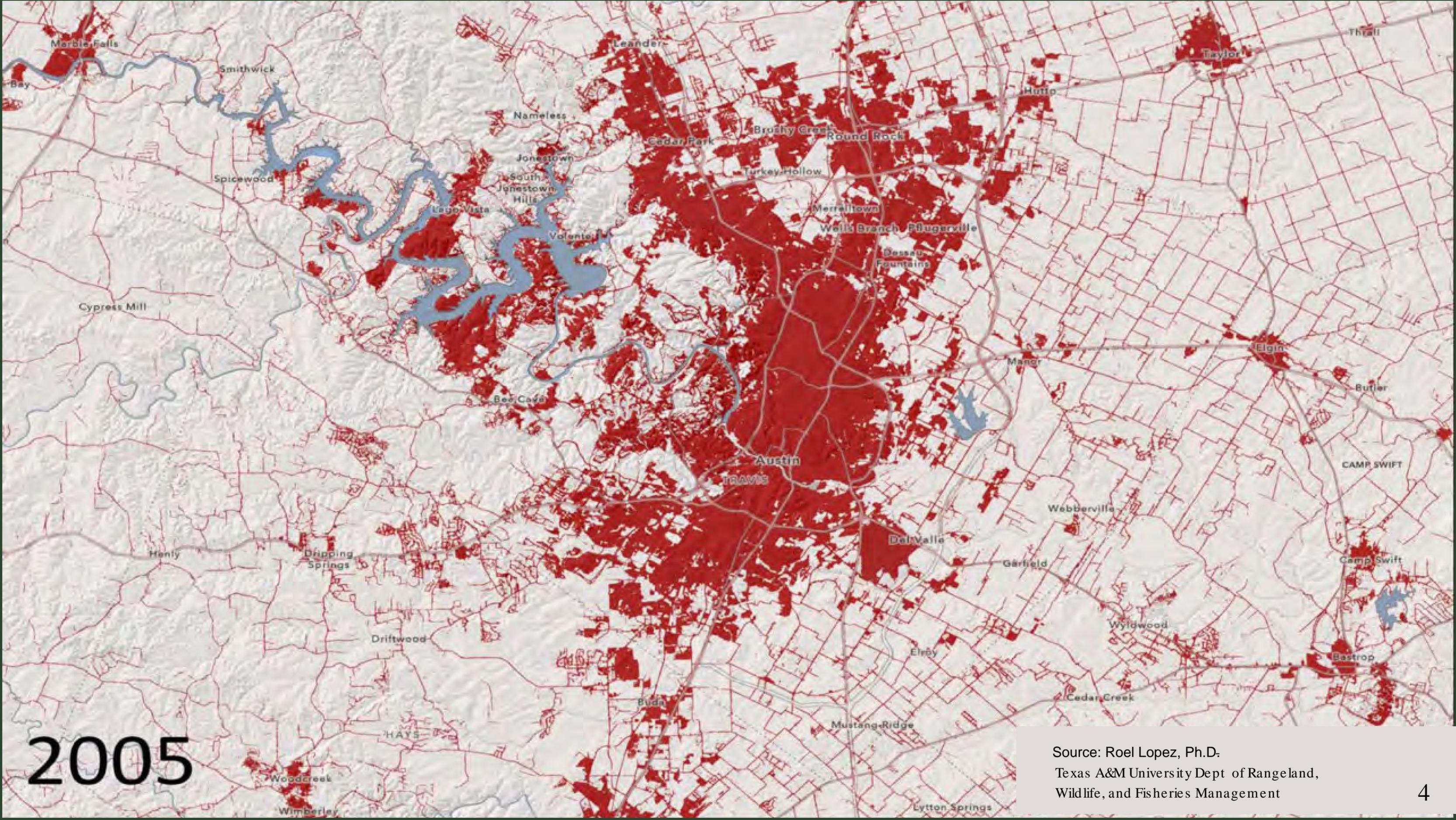
1985

Source: Roel Lopez, Ph.D.
Texas A&M University Dept of Rangeland,
Wild life, and Fisheries Management



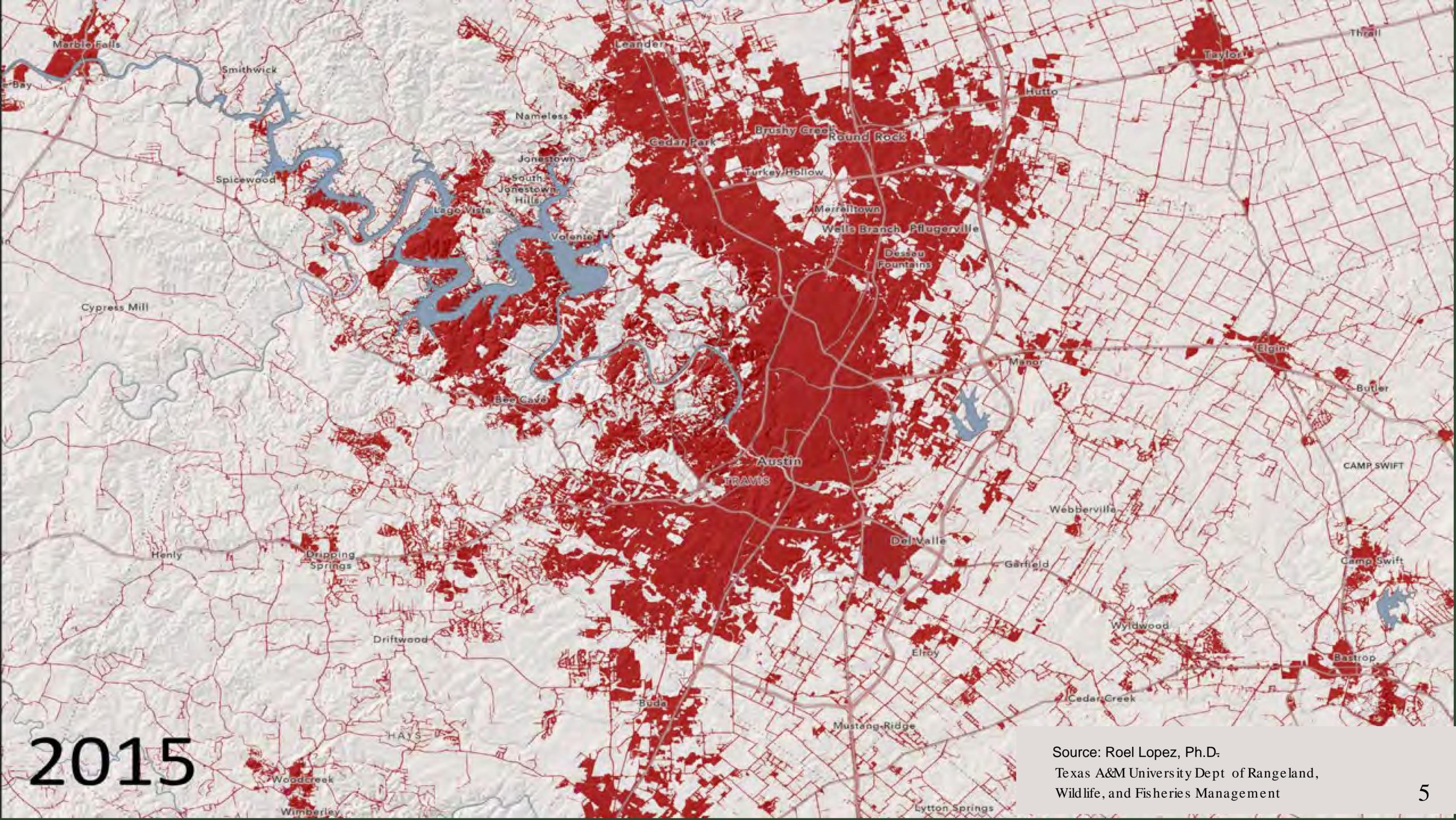
1995

Source: Roel Lopez, Ph.D.
Texas A&M University Dept of Rangeland,
Wild life, and Fisheries Management



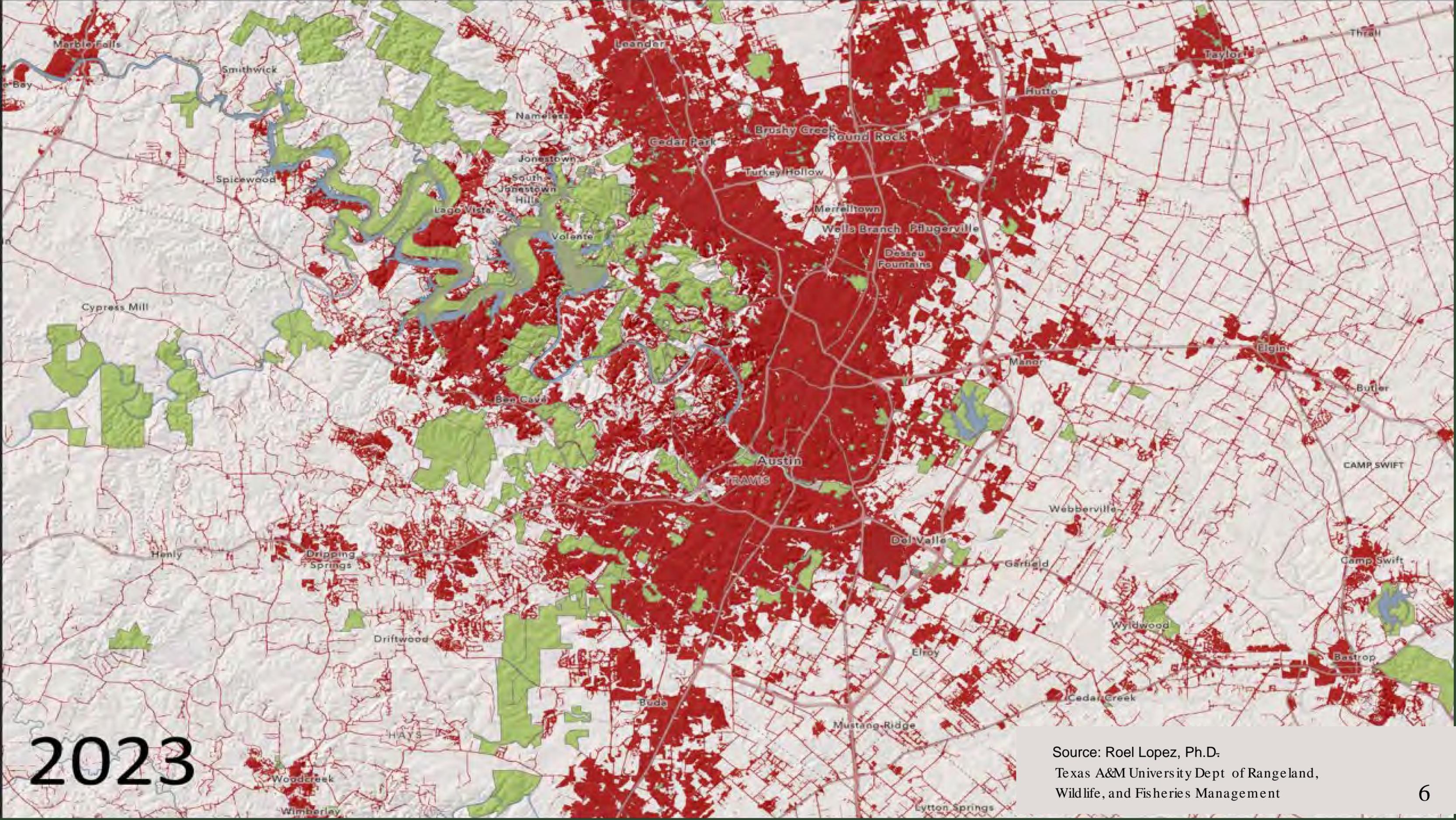
2005

Source: Roel Lopez, Ph.D.
Texas A&M University Dept of Rangeland,
Wild life, and Fisheries Management



2015

Source: Roel Lopez, Ph.D.
Texas A&M University Dept of Rangeland,
Wild life, and Fisheries Management



2023

Source: Roel Lopez, Ph.D.
Texas A&M University Dept. of Rangeland,
Wildlife, and Fisheries Management

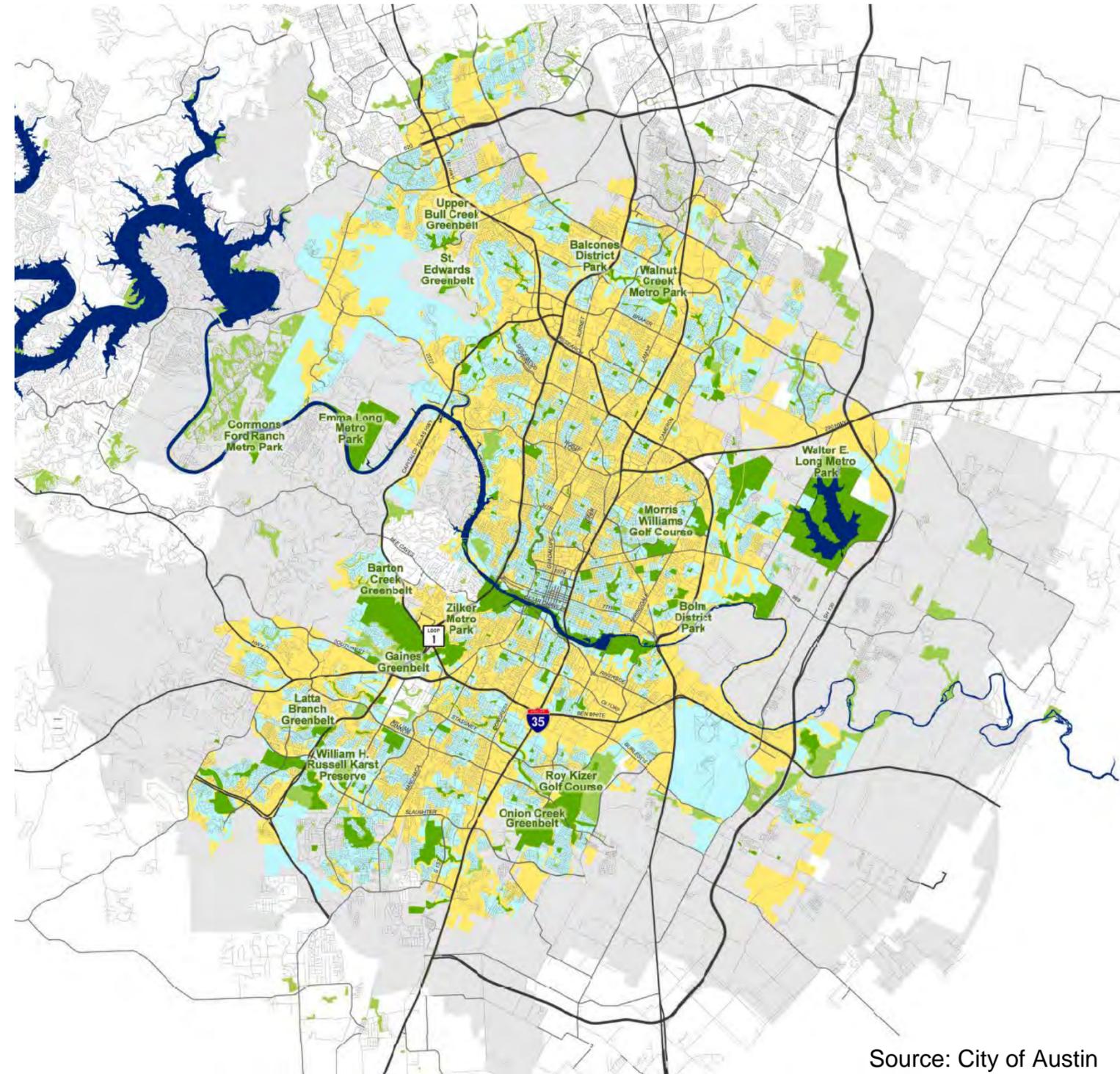
Note: This bond chart does not include Parkland Dedication fees (PLD), park donations or any other City open space projects by other city departments.

<u>Bond Date</u>	<u>Total PARD Package</u>	<u>Land Acquisition Allocation</u>	<u>Land Portion</u>	<u>Voter Approval</u>
Barton Creek Wilderness Park				
<u>August 1992 (Prop 11)</u>	\$20M	\$20M	100%	60%
Greenway & Destination Parks				
<u>November 1998 (Prop 2)</u>	\$79,925M	\$40.5M	50%	59%
<u>November 2006 (Prop 3)</u>	\$84,700M	\$20M	23%	72%
** Single Member Districts Voter's approved in 2012				
<u>November 2012 (Prop 14)</u>	\$77,680M	\$4M	5%	59.25%
<u>November 2018 (Prop C)</u>	\$149M	\$45M	30%	80.73%
	\$411,305M	\$129,500M	31%	

Credit: [EverGreen Austin](#)

LOSS OF PARKLAND DEDICATION FEES

- Parkland dedication fees were producing about 20M a year in land acquisition funds. Until the 88th TX Legislature ended almost all of the fees in 2023.
- Bottom line, after PARD spends its portion of the 50M saved from the climate equity plan, it basically has nothing for land acquisition. As it turns out, we relied too much on parkland dedication fees.



**OUR PARK SCORE KEEPS SLIPPING
AND EVERY DISTRICT IS PARK DEFICIENT**

THE CLIMATE MITIGATION URGENCY

Funding for:

Land Acquisition

- 4,000 and 8,000 acres of new parkland
- Meeting Park Access goals for all Austin residents

Urban Forests

- A comprehensive tree inventory
- Community forestry projects
- Tree maintenance on public lands
- Achieving UN Biodiversity Goals

Agricultural Lands

- Initiate a Working Farm Fund
- 1 new FTE to supporting regenerative agricultural and oversee agricultural land
- A farmland inventory

Sustainable Land Management of City Lands

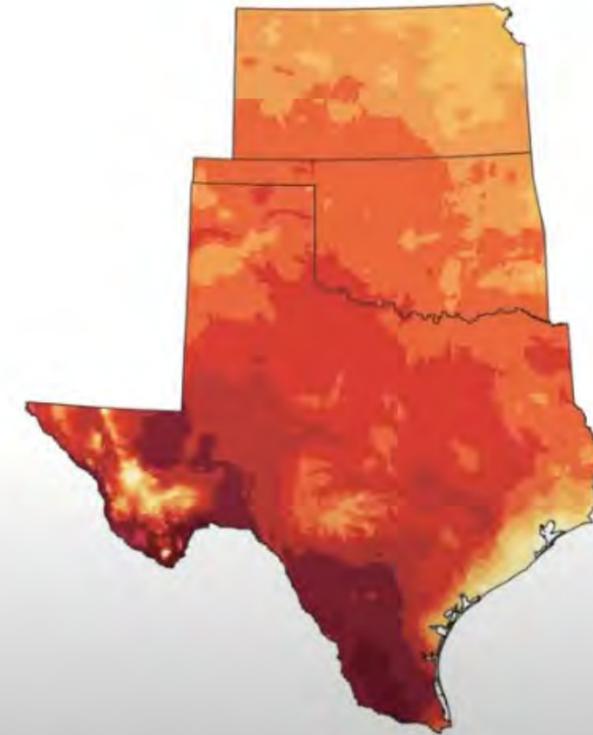
- 2 new FTE PARD Biologist Positions
- PARD Land Management Program.



AUSTIN'S CLIMATE IS CHANGING

Model projections: Late 21st century (2070-2099)
(Fourth National Climate Assessment, 2018)

CHANGE IN
DAYS OVER
100 DEGREES



Change in number of 100-degree days

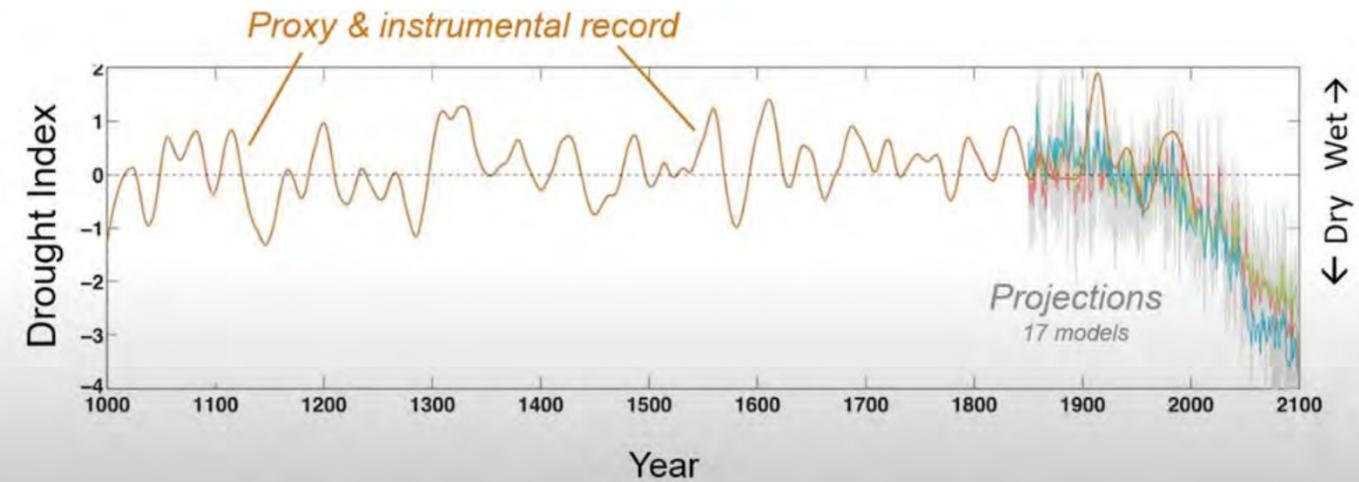


Source: Jay L Banner
Director, Environmental Science Institute,
Jackson School of Geosciences. UT Austin

AUSTIN WILL GET DRIER

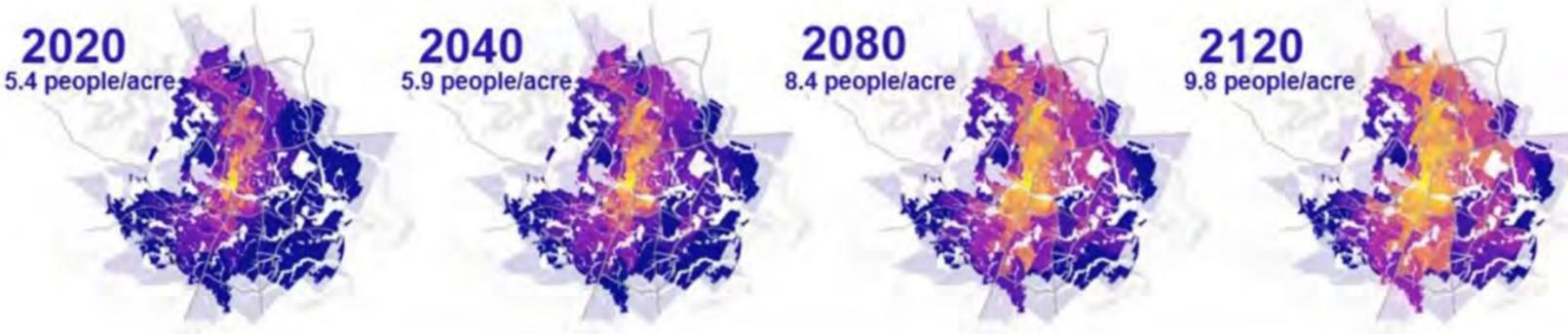
DROUGHT PROJECTIONS

Drought record and 21st century projections for Southwest U.S., including Texas



Source: Jay L Banner
Director, Environmental Science Institute,
Jackson School of Geosciences. UT Austin

AUSTIN WILL GET THIRSTIER

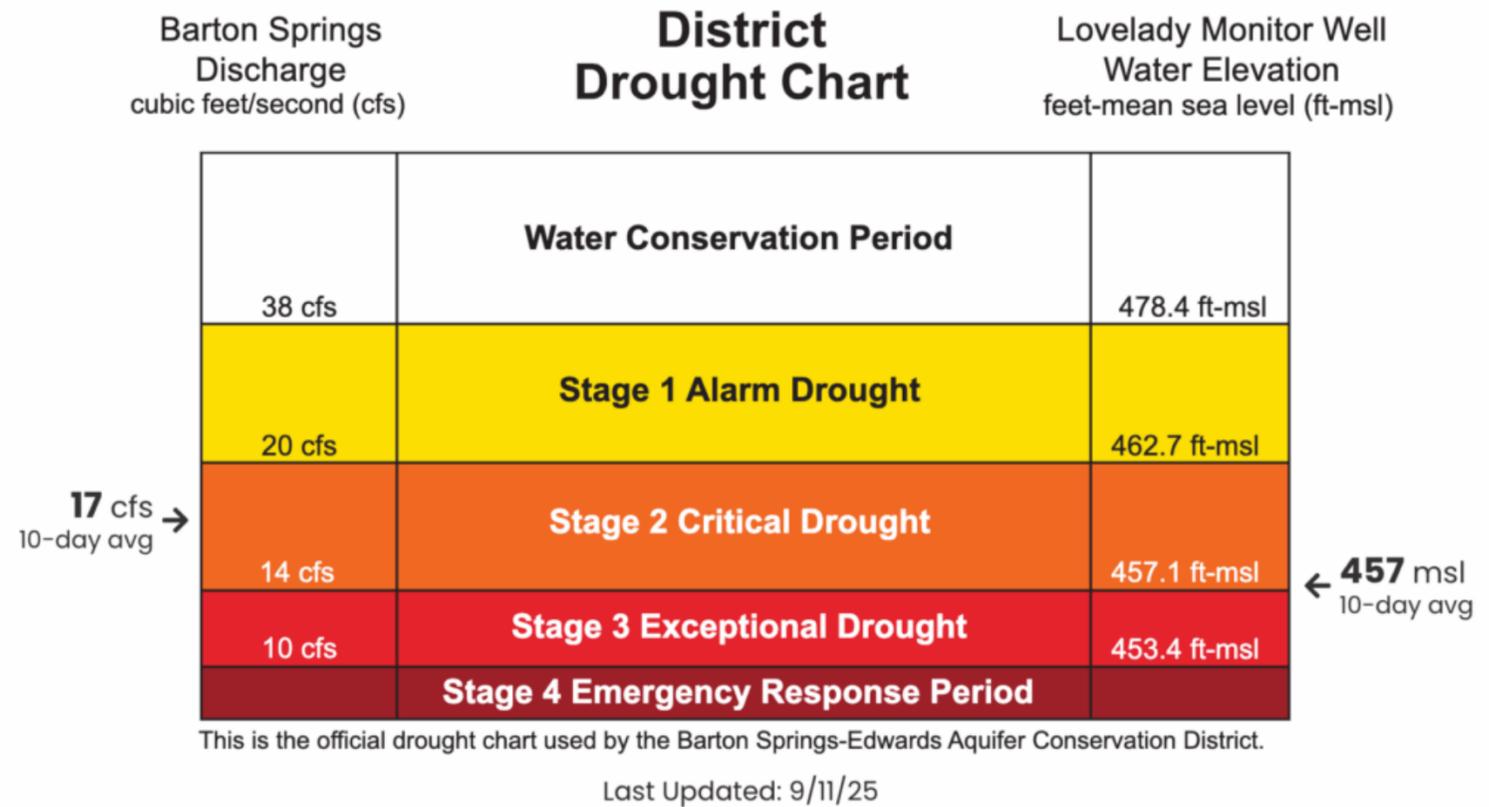


Austin Water Served Population Projections			
Year	Low Projection	Medium Projection	High Projection
2020	1,065,000	1,065,000	1,065,000
2040	1,475,000	1,524,000	1,576,000
2080	2,321,000	2,458,000	2,602,000
2120	2,866,000	3,209,000	3,594,000

Source: Dr, Robert Mace
 Exec Dir, Meadows Center for Water

EDWARDS ACQUIFER DROUGHT

The Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District declared a Stage 3 Exceptional Drought, effective Oct. 1, marking only the second time in its 38-year history.



Source: KXAN

WHAT DOES THE PUBLIC WANT

VOTERS BOND HISTORY

Austin voters have overwhelmingly supported bonds that support green efforts.

2024 POLL OF AUSTIN VOTERS

Key Findings



81%
are more likely to **vote** for City Councilmembers who support preserving and acquiring parks and green spaces



88%
say we must protect green space from development because **once it's gone, it's gone**

HEB REGIONAL POLL

Only Metro Area in Texas where the environment was a top priority.



GREEN BENEFITS

- Real Estate Values
- Attraction / retention of jobs
- Green Infrastructure
 - Clean Air
 - Clean Water
- Health
- Mental Health
- Safety
- Tourism



Enhanced Property Values

Property values can decrease for every foot further from parkland it's located.

Nicholls, S., and Crompton, J. L. (2005). Impacts of regional parks on property values in Texas. J. Park Recreat. Adm. 23 (2), 87-108.



Boosts Tourism

Town Lake Metro Park and Zilker Metro Park are two of the Top 10 Most Visited Locations in Austin.

Zartico, Mobile Geolocation Data (January-December 2024), based on visitor-to-resident ratios



Reduces Healthcare Costs

Residents who use parks and trails for physical activity save \$1,545 for adults aged 18 to 64, and \$3,100 for adults over 65 on healthcare annually.

TPL estimates



Reduces Air Pollution

The reduction of air toxins by Austin's green space is worth \$6.2M in reduced healthcare costs each year

i-Tree. "OurTrees Benefits: Austin, TX." <https://ourtrees.itreetools.org/#/report?longitude=-97.7430608&latitude=30.267153&tab=benefits>



Reduces Stormwater Runoff

The tree canopy across Austin reduces stormwater runoff by 628 million gallons per year, and intercepts 3.1 million gallons of rainfall across the city

i-Tree. "OurTrees Benefits: Austin, TX." <https://ourtrees.itreetools.org/#/report?longitude=-97.7430608&latitude=30.267153&tab=benefits>



Supports Economic Development

Residents spend \$168M each year on sports, recreation and exercise equipment which supports 1,319 retail jobs

Euri Business Analyst. "Sport and Leisure Market Potential: Austin, TX" 2024 Data.



WHAT ARE OTHER CITIES DOING?



Preserve a minimum of 10,000 acres of open space over the next five years.



Dallas Greening Initiative: The city partners with the nonprofit Trust for Public Land to map city-owned land for potential park development.

Texas Trees Foundation: A major driver of Dallas's greening efforts, this foundation plants trees on public land and leads projects like the "Tree Equity Planting Map" that helps direct tree-planting to areas with the greatest need.



Plant 4.6 million new native trees by 2030

LAND BANKING

Trevino Park was purchased for \$8M 25 years ago—
It is estimated to be worth \$100M today .

The Open Space program (Water quality)
spent \$250M on land conservation easements in 1998
that are now estimated to have
a replacement cost of \$5B today .



**BUY IT NOW BECAUSE
ONCE IT IS GONE ITS GONE**

NATIVE SOLUTIONS

Planting Native grasses on land banks would help: sequester carbon, help with flooding and erosion, and draw water towards our aquifers.

With careful planning and minimal inputs, you can sequester 20-30 tons of CO2 sequesters over 10 years.

Total establishment costs \$800 -2000 per acre. Maintenance costs after 2 years are \$75-250 per acre.



**BUY IT NOW BECAUSE
ONCE IT IS GONE ITS GONE**



OUR ASK

Fund, protect and preserve
Austin's unique green
spaces.

- Fund \$300M toward land acquisition through the 2026 Bond.
- Advance bond funds in full (in year one) vs. the normal six year cycle.
- Develop a viable strategy to fund in full the approved Climate Equity Plan and build in annual reports to the public of your progress.
- Put Austin's banked lands to use sequestering carbon.



SOURCES

Aaron Abelson

Managing Partner, Dallas

HR&A Advisors- Real Estate and Economic Development Consultants

Dr. Jay Banner

F. M. Bullard Professor, Department of Geological Sciences in the Jackson School of Geosciences,
Director of the Environmental Science Institute at the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Roel Lopez

Professor and the department head of the Texas A&M University Department of Rangeland,
Wildlife, and Fisheries Management
Director for the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute.

Dr Robert E. Mace, Ph.D., P.G

Executive Director and Chief Water Policy Officer, Meadows Center for Water and the Environment
Professor of Practice in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Texas State University.

Elmqvist, T. et al. (2015). Benefits of restoring ecosystem services in urban areas.
*Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*14, 101–108.

OUR BOARD

Alexandria Anderson

Anne Ashmun

Lucia Athens

Catalina Berry

Demekia Biscoe

Meredith Bossin

Vera Bowen

Karen Brimble

Lynne Dobson

Sue Edwards

Monica Flores

Caroline Haley

Rebecca Leonard

Sheridan Lorenz

Jes Maniccia

Amanda Masino

Katie Naranjo

Jennifer Orr

Peggy Pickle

Junie Plummer

Shalini Ramanathan

Holly Reed

Molly Stevens

Wendy Dunnam

Tita

Jennifer Vickers

Melba Whatley

Jill Wilkinson

Peggy Winkler

THANK
YOU

