



ATX FLOOD SAFETY

AUSTIN FLOOD READINESS

Presented by Director Jorge L. Morales, P.E. CFM | August 26, 2025

And Director, Jim Redick, MPA, CEM



Overview

- Watershed Protection Video
- Austin Flood History
- Austin Flood Challenges
- Flood Preparedness Strategy
- Investments to Date
- HSEM Flood Response
- Questions

What does Watershed Protection do?



WATERSHED
PROTECTION

Austin Flood History

**JULY
1869**

THE COLORADO RIVER'S FLOOD OF RECORD

1915

FLOODING DISASTER ON SHOAL AND WALLER CREEKS

2013

FLOOD OF RECORD ON ONION CREEK

1900

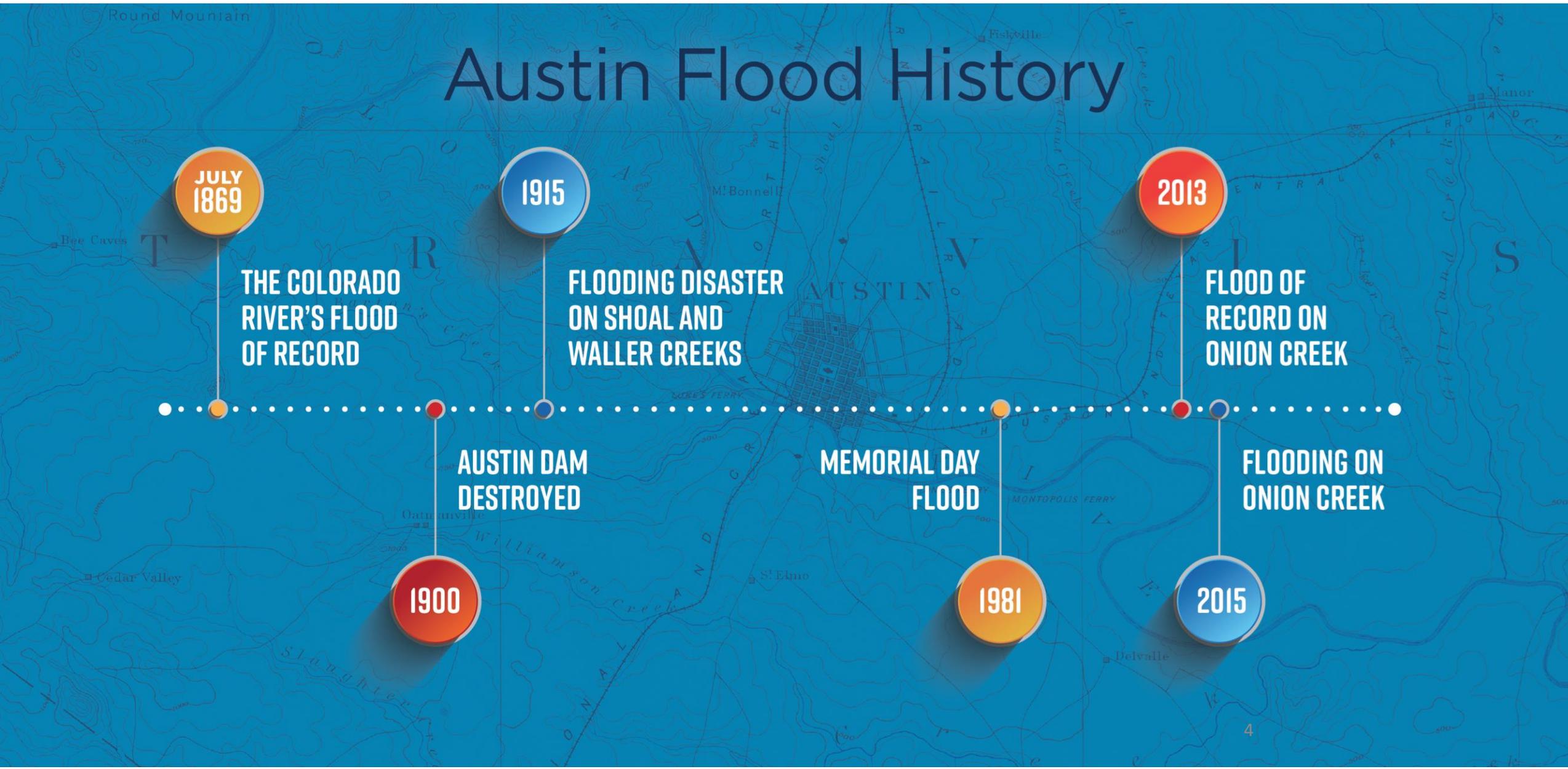
AUSTIN DAM DESTROYED

1981

MEMORIAL DAY FLOOD

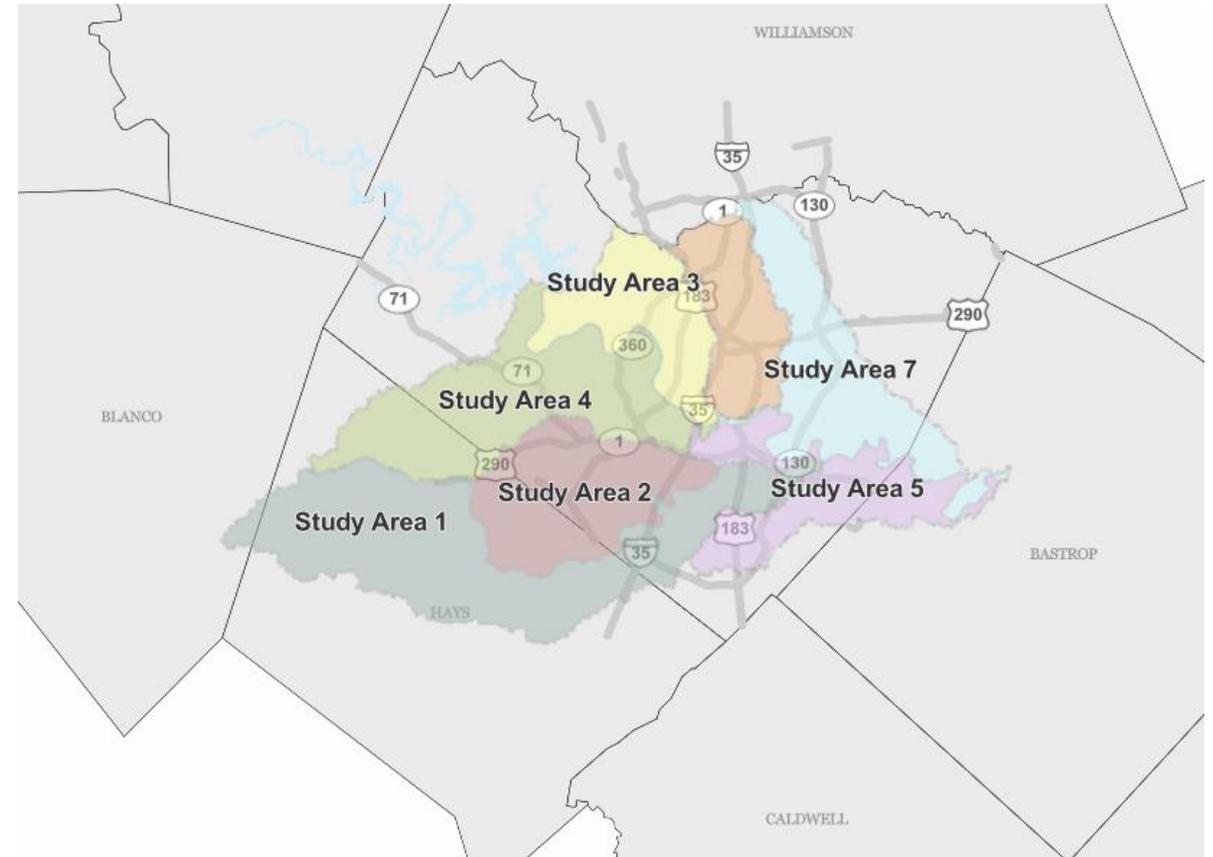
2015

FLOODING ON ONION CREEK



Austin Flood Challenges

- Atlas 14 data shows Austin is experiencing more frequent and heavier rainfall
- Austin has shallow soils and world record rainfall rates
- 10% of land in Austin is in the floodplain and subject to flash flooding
- More than 10,000 buildings and 400 roads are prone to flooding during a 100-year flood





Flood Preparedness Strategy

- Flood Mitigation
- Flood Preparedness
- Flood Response



Flood Mitigation

- Capital Improvement Projects
- Floodplain & Drainage Regulations
- Operations & Maintenance
- Vegetation & Land Management
- In-house Drainage System Upgrades



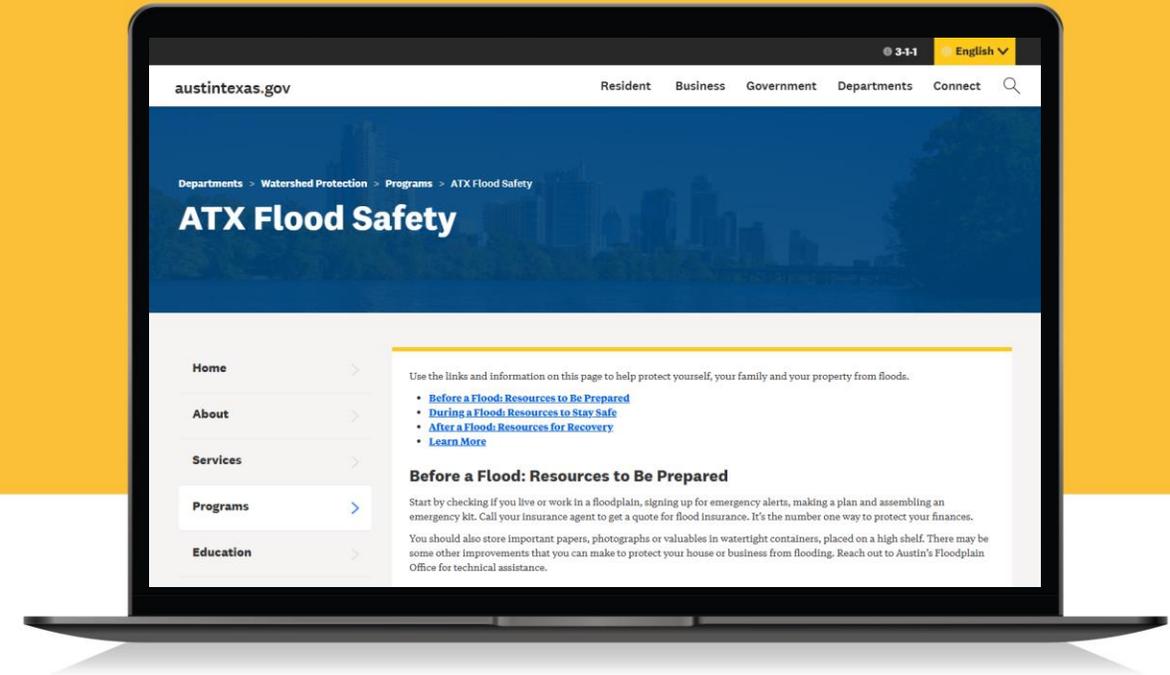
Flood Preparedness

- Preventative maintenance of drainage system
- Pre-storm checks on critical locations
- Monitor the weather for potential flooding
- Coordinate with partner departments, Austin-Travis County Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) and Stakeholders
- Communication & Engagement



Flood Response

- Flood Early Warning System (FEWS)
- Watershed Protection Department Emergency Management Team
- Department Operations Center
- Flood Reconnaissance and Debris Management



Flood Impacts & Response

May 28, 2025

Department OPCON Level 2

- 8 low water crossing closures
- 35 flooded structures
- 2 WPD buildings impacted (back-up generation)
- 298 Service Requests
- 5 reconnaissance teams investigated areas with high intensity rainfall and met with impacted community members
- Collaborated with Development Services Department to create resource documents and handouts for affected residents
- 1,000 tons of debris removed from drainage system
- Coordinated with Austin Resource Recovery and Transportation & Public Works for debris management
- Participated in media requests to include city-wide press conference



Watershed Protection Department Operations Center (DOC)

First time activated on May 29-30 for
OPCON Level 2

Flood Impacts & Response

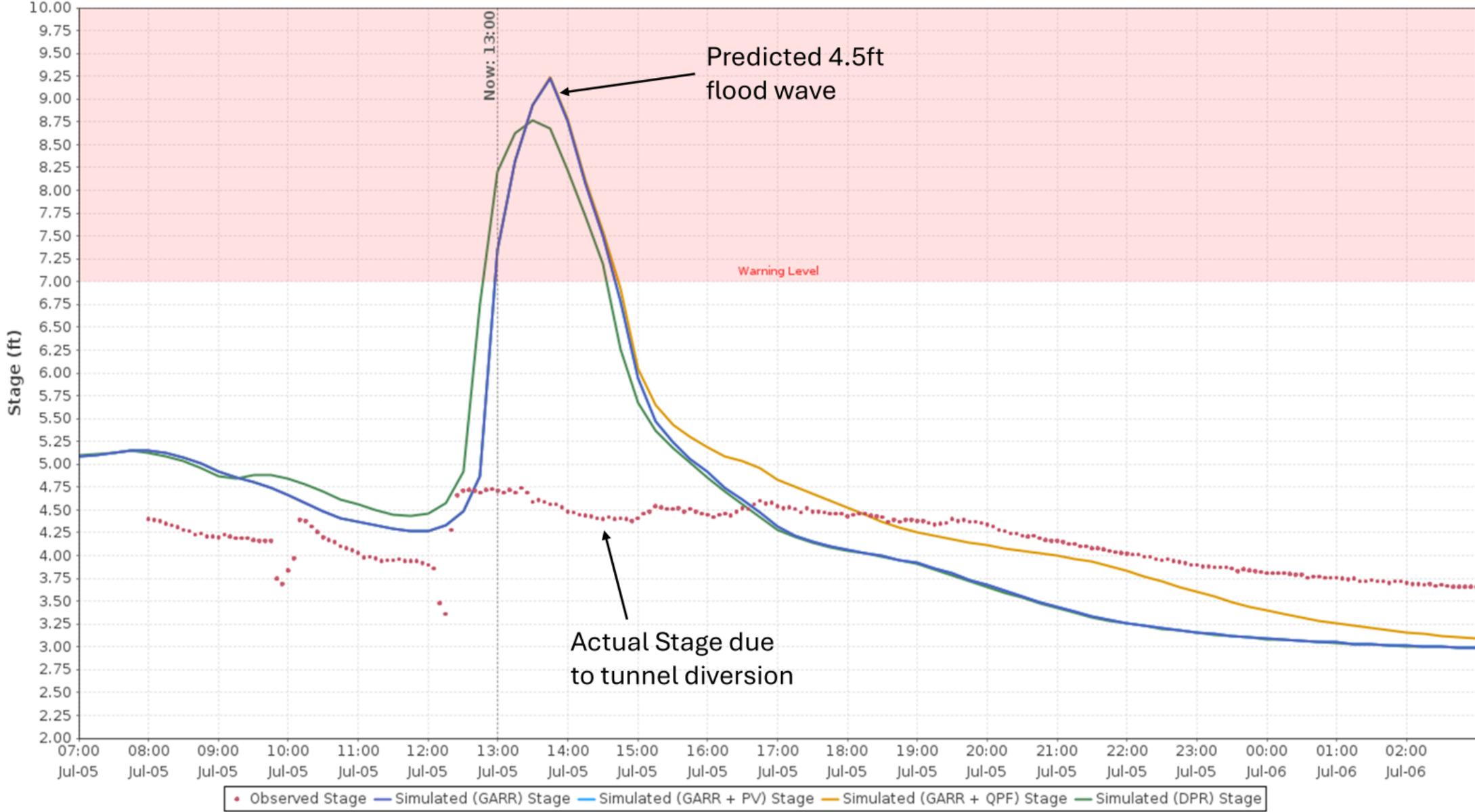
July 5, 2025

Department OPCON Level 3

- Impacts to Shoal, Bull, Waller, Walnut, Little Walnut, Boggy Creeks
- 13 low water crossing closures
- 5 flooded structures
- 170 Service Requests
- Reconnaissance teams investigated areas with high intensity rainfall
- Over 500 tons of debris removed from drainage system



Waller Ck at Red River St



Investments to Date

Historical Spending

- Bond funds used towards 50 stormwater projects since 2001
- Total 114 flood projects have completed phases, costing approximately \$567M
- Funding sources include GO bonds, cash transfer from drainage charge revenue, and grants
- Remaining 2018 Bond funds will be spent down by end of 2026

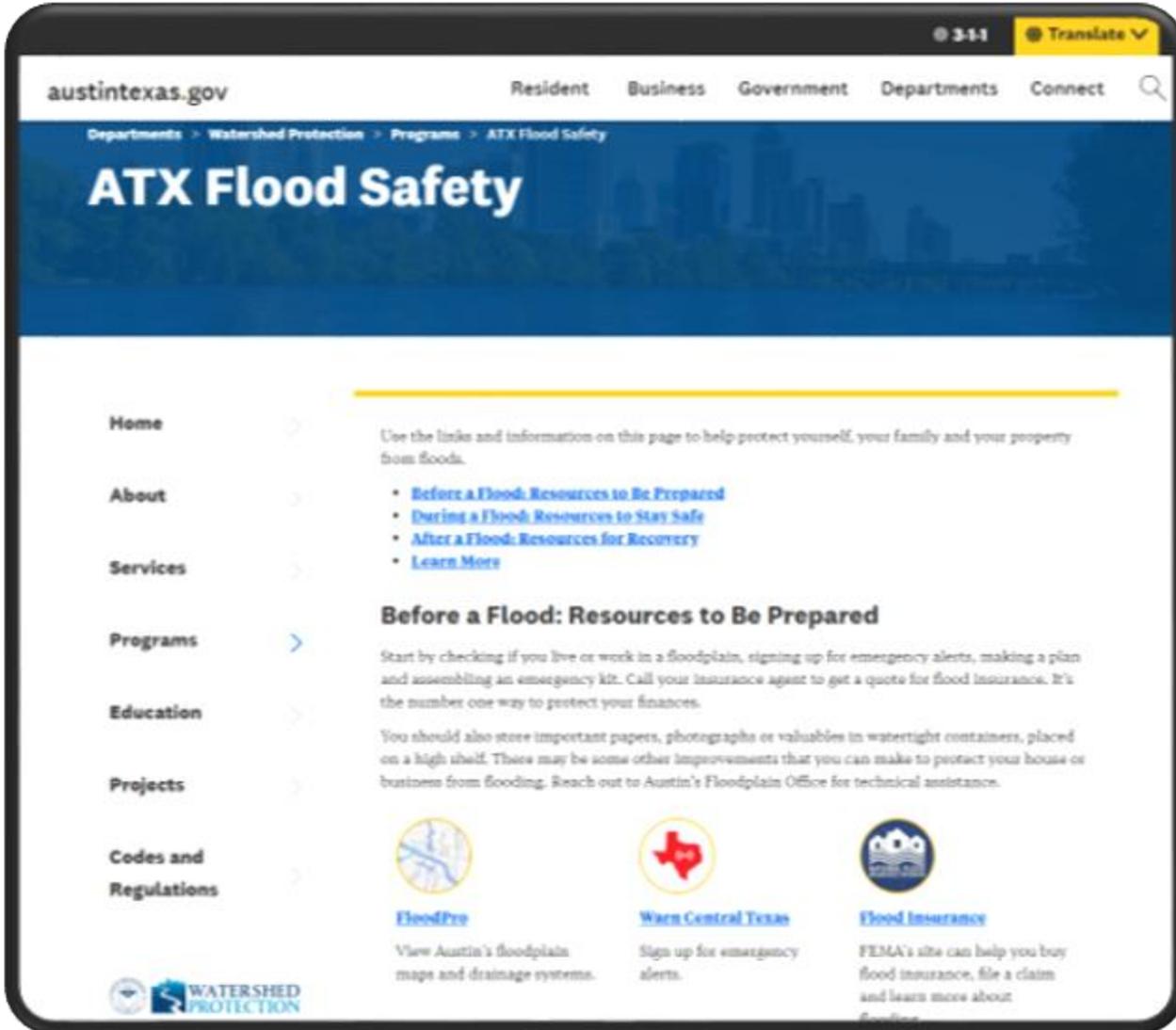
Challenges

- Price escalations for construction after the pandemic
- As Austin becomes more compact and connected there is little open space available for drainage detention, escalating project costs
- Lower number of grant funding opportunities

HSEM Flood Response

- Monitor NWS Forecast Products
- Co-locate with FEWS
- Briefings / Conference Calls
 - NWS / TDEM / Austin
- Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)
 - Alerting Authorities
 - NWS / CAPCOG / County / Austin
 - No subscription necessary
- Warn Central Texas
 - Subscription necessary
- Gap / Recommendation
 - Delegation of Authority to Order Mandatory Evacuation





Flood Resources

- [ATXFloodSafety.com](https://www.atxfloodsafety.com)
- [FloodPro](#)
- [Warn Central Texas](#)
- [ATXFloods](#)
- [Active Emergency Information Hub](#)
- [Neighborhood Preparedness Guide | AustinTexas.gov](#)
- [Aug 20, 2025 Environmental Commission - Austin, TX](#)



Questions?



¡Su voz importa!

Ayúdanos a formar el plan de Austin para proteger nuestras comunidades, vías de agua y reducir el impacto de las inundaciones. ¡Complete la encuesta – exprésese y hágase oír!



RaintoRiverATX.com



Si tiene preguntas, por favor comuníquese con:
RaintoRiverATX@austintexas.gov
512-974-2237



Tiếng nói của bạn rất quan trọng!

Hãy góp phần định hình kế hoạch của thành phố Austin nhằm bảo vệ cộng đồng, nguồn nước và giảm thiểu tác động của lũ lụt. Tham gia khảo sát của chúng tôi – lên tiếng và để tiếng nói của bạn được lắng nghe!

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Nếu bạn có câu hỏi, vui lòng liên hệ:
RaintoRiverATX@austintexas.gov
512-974-2237

Your voice matters!

Help shape Austin's plan to protect our communities, waterways, and reduce the impacts of flooding. Take our survey – speak up and be heard!

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