



2006 Travis County Greenprint for Growth

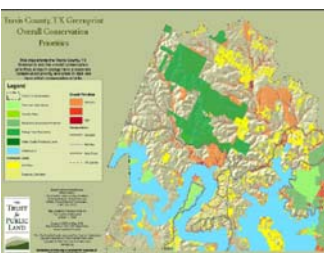


Greenprint Process for Travis County

The Trust for Public Land (TPL), a nonprofit land conservation organization, in partnership with the City of Austin, Travis County, and

the University of Texas School of Architecture, coordinated the **Travis County "Greenprint for Growth", a project designed to help citizens and government officials prioritize lands to be conserved and to develop strategic plans for land use and conservation.**

The results of this year-long open space needs assessment for Travis County demonstrated the need for land conservation efforts to increase focus on the **Colorado River corridor** and its creek corridors in the eastern portions of Austin and Travis County, **infill and city parks** in central and east Austin, and **aquifer recharge lands** that connect existing city-owned water quality and habitat protection properties. A stakeholder focus group established the community parks and green space priorities. The Greenprint maps (*see reverse*) indicate the areas that should be conserved based on the priorities identified by the community. The four main Travis County priorities are **protecting water quality and quantity** including the Colorado River, creek ways, and the Edwards Aquifer; providing **equitable access to recreational opportunities**, additional local and neighborhood parks; **protecting sensitive and rare environmental features** such as high quality woodlands and endangered species habitat; and the need to **protect local cultural resources** such as historic, scenic, and agricultural sites.



Travis County Priorities

The Travis County Greenprint identifies approximately **22,000 acres of highest to moderate priority lands** that need to be acquired and protected. These

priority lands include areas that provide connectivity between existing City of Austin owned water quality lands, water quality lands within the Colorado River corridor and along major creeks like Walnut, Gilleland, Wilbarger and Onion Creeks, land

providing recreational access within the Colorado River corridor, recreational access in central and north central Austin, and habitat and water quality lands in western Travis County within the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve and the Balcones National Wildlife Refuge areas. **At current land values, these priority acquisitions translate into over \$500 million in conservation acquisition funds.** No public agency within Travis County has the capacity to bring conservation funding at this level to address all the needs. Partnerships between public agencies, private and non-profit conservation organizations, as well as the business community are necessary to ensure that critical resource and park lands within Travis County are protected and provided to Travis County residents. The Travis County Greenprint will be available to the City of Austin, Travis County, and cities within the county to help identify and prioritize local land for conservation planning and acquisition efforts.

Travis County Partners

The Travis County Greenprint for Growth Stakeholder Group included Austin Metro Trails and Greenways, Austin Neighborhood



Council, Austin Parks Foundation, Austin to Bastrop Colorado River Corridor Council, Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, Bull Creek Association, Capital Area Council of Governments, City of Austin, Creating Common Ground, Envision Central Texas, Hill Country Alliance, Hill Country Conservancy, Lower Colorado River Authority, National Parks Service, Nature Conservancy of Texas, People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources, Save Barton Creek Association, Save our Springs Alliance, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Travis County, The Trust for Public Land, and the University of Texas at Austin - School of Architecture.

Funding for the Travis County Greenprint came from the Trust for Public Land, Advanced Micro Devices, Westhill Foundation for Nature, Land/Water/Sky, Travis County, Reese Foundation, Shield Ayres Foundation, GF Family Foundation, Milo Burdette and Bryan Hale. TPL hopes to continue this effort, in partnership with Envision Central Texas, for Williamson, Hays, Bastrop, and Caldwell Counties to ultimately Greenprint the entire five-county Central Texas area.

Map 7: Travis County Greenprint with existing green space and development (land use data current as of 2003)

