



Throughout the past year, actions by the City Council and Austin's Parks and Recreation Department have represented Austin's strong environmental ethic. From updated parks to the construction of new LEED certified buildings, our City is committed to addressing climate change through a lens of equity.

City Council Actions

- **Austin Parks and Recreation Department in the City Budget.** This year's City Budget included funding for programs within the Austin PARD, wildfire preparedness, watershed protection land acquisition, and more. Funding was provided for PARD [after-school programming](#), an expanded [Park Ranger program](#), and [park maintenance](#) and additional grounds crew.
- **Climate and weather event preparedness in the City Budget.** The budget also included funding for anti-displacement programs to aid people who need housing in unexpected events, like February's winter storm. Funding will also go toward wildfire evacuation assessment to make sure residents have safe escape.
- **Austin Civilian Conservation Corps.** Created by Councilmember Alison Alter in May 2020, the ACCC offers economic and job-building opportunities for Austinites impacted by COVID-19's economic downturn while simultaneously working to maintain and bolster our environment in Austin. Projects range from park development to invasive species management to urban farm maintenance and development.

City Climate Plans

- **Revised Austin Community Climate Plan.** Originally approved in 2015, the [Austin Community Climate Plan](#) was created to help Austin reach net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Since the start of its implementation, the plan has been effective in reducing community-wide emissions. Due to our city's rapid population growth, the increasing urgency with which climate change needs to be addressed, and recognition that climate change

does not impact all members of our community equally, the Community Climate Plan is being updated. With the goal of addressing racial equity within the Community Climate Plan, the City has convened 6 advisory groups and launched a [Climate Ambassadors Program](#) so that people from the parts of Austin most impacted by climate change can directly work on updating the plan.

- **Water Forward Implementation to be advanced.** With the [current iteration of the plan](#) approved in 2018, Austin's integrated water resource plan is centered around drought, protecting the Colorado River as our water supply, reusing water, and conservation. This fall, the implementation process will be advanced.

Public Use of Parks, Resources, and Buildings

- **Waterloo Greenway.** [Waterloo Greenway](#) opened in mid-August of this year. Its 1.5 miles of trails in an 11-acre park space act as the final connector for Austin's 35-acre greenway system. The Greenway is home to playgrounds, a restored Waller Creek, and Moody Amphitheater. Waterloo Greenway Conservancy's commitment to equity will ensure the park and its programs will be enjoyed by any and every interested Austinite.
- **Austin's Municipal Pools.** Throughout the summer, City pools [continued to open and hours expanded](#). As of last month, 16 public pools were open throughout the city, all of which are open 7 days a week to the public as a place to connect and cool off. Additionally, the 2021-2022 City Budget includes \$2.2m towards the design of a new pool at Colony Park (D1) and completing pool renovations at Givens Park (D1), Beverly Sheffield Park (D7), Montopolis Neighborhood Park (D3), and Parque Zaragosa (D3).
- **Proposition B on Mobility.** In November 2020, voters approved \$460M in general obligation [bonds for infrastructure](#). Sidewalks, urban trails, bikeways, and safe pathways to schools are all priorities of this funding, the plan for which was created by Councilmember Ellis.
- **Leed Certified Buildings.** Previously, Austin City Hall and the Austin Central Library were awarded with LEED Gold and LEED Platinum certifications, respectively. Most recently, [Austin FC Q2 Stadium](#) is on track to become a LEED certified venue. Building/area features include
 - increased CapMetro transit frequency on game days, free bike valet, electric vehicle charging stations
 - Enhanced recycling, composting, and waste management systems, including water stations to reduce single-use plastic waste
 - 8 acres of green space on site, connected to local trailways

- Rooftop solar panel project underway with a local renewable energy partner