# Austin I-Plan 2017 Updates (Years 1 & 2)

**1.1 Increase riparian zones in COA parks by expanding the Grow Zone initiative** (COA-PARD & COA-WPD)

**Task:** Determine feasibility of expanding passive riparian zone restoration Grow Zone Initiatives to all applicable parks in affected watersheds, and develop plan to implement expansion.

**Update:** The impacted watersheds have been evaluated for feasibility of Grow Zone expansion. Specifically:

· Spicewood Tributary – There are no PARD or WPD properties available for Grow Zone expansion in this watershed.

· Taylor Slough South – There is one city park in this watershed, with 933 feet of stream passing through it. A Grow Zone was established along the entire creek segment through the park in 2012. There are no WPD properties available for Grow Zone expansion in this watershed.

· Walnut Creek – City-owned property along the main stem of Walnut Creek consists primarily of an extensive greenbelt system. Due to extensive undisturbed vegetation along this system, there are very few opportunities for Grow Zone expansion on the main stem of Walnut Creek. City-owned properties along the tributaries to Walnut Creek will be evaluated for Grow Zone availability in Year Two.

· Waller Creek – There are several PARD and WPD properties in this watershed that border or contain stream corridors. However, due to flooding concerns caused by the high degree of development in the watershed and the general lack of stormwater detention, many of these corridors may not be appropriate for Grow Zone expansion. These sites will require some level of hydraulic modeling to ensure that structures are not impacted by flooding due to changes in vegetation management. The City is developing a plan to prioritize Grow Zone expansion in this watershed in a way that does not increase risk of flooding.

**1.2 Prioritize the affected watersheds without current adopters for park and creek adoption recruitment** (APF, KAB)

Task: Reach out to all parks within the affected watersheds who are currently without adopters.

**Update:** No update received

**1.3 Supporting the expansion of our Grow Zones to all the applicable parks in the affected watersheds, currently without Grow Zones** (APF, KAB)

**Task:** Reach 33% of un-adopted parks within the affected watersheds to either or both programs

**Update:** No update received

**1.4 Increase protected riparian buffer zone width for new development** (COA-WPD)

**Task:** Document number of linear miles of protected/restored riparian buffer added per year.

**Update:** Sixteen site plans submitted in 2014 and 2015 and approved for construction included portions of impacted creeks that are protected under the new Watershed Protection Ordinance. Combined, the ordinance has protected approximately 2.8 miles of riparian buffer in the impacted watersheds.

**1.5 Increase waterway setbacks in Walnut Creek** (Travis County TNR & EQP)

**Tasks:** Implement 2012 Travis County Code setbacks, and propose and adopt revisions in Title 30 TAC to apply to Austin ETJ subdivisions following adoption of COA Watershed Protection Ordinance.

**Update:** The setback requirements have been fully implemented with each non-subdivision development project. In FY 2015, 1 project resulted in 750 linear feet of setback. The Travis County Commissioners adopted revisions to the Joint City/County Code (Title 30) on Feb. 4, 2014. This established the setback requirements identified in the I-Plan for subdivision development projects in the Austin ETJ. The setback requirements under Title 30 are implemented during the platting process and review by Austin's Watershed Protection Dept. The Travis County Commissioners adopted revisions to Chapter 82 on June 28, 2016 that further implements this measure. The revisions included a new requirement in Sec. 82.941(b) that setback areas be shown on site plans and plats as protective easements and they must be recorded in the official public records.

**2.1 Onsite sewage facilities cut over to sanitary sewer** (COA-AWU)

**Task:** As full purpose annexation occurs or when an OSSF fails or does not meet COA capacity requirements and COA wastewater collection mains are located within 100 ft. of the property.

**Update:** No update received

**2.2 Incentivize onsite sewerage facility repair and Improvements** (Travis County TNR & OSSF Program)

**Tasks:** Recommend Commissioner Court adopt permit fee waiver for proactive repairs to systems, prepare up-to-date mailing list for each property with an OSSF in unincorporated areas of Walnut Creek Watershed, and update Travis County website to describe COA cutover and County fee waiver incentives for proactive repairs.

**Update:** The proposal for the waiver did not occur and is planned for Year 2 of the I-Plan (FY 2017), by December 2016. It was determined this strategy should be implemented for both the Walnut Creek W-S and the adjacent Gilleland Creek W-S, considering the potential impact of OSSFs in each area. A mailing list was compiled using address records and Geocoding. 2044 records/addresses were identified and mapped. (See Attachment C). Work has begun to coordinate with the Austin OSSF program and to update the county website with cutover information and a link to Austin's website. Following approval of the fee waivers, a letter will go to each OSSF owner, the Travis County website will be updated and will include FAQs. Additional planned outreach will include e-mail blasts to Nextdoor, pertinent Homeowner Associations, and Facebook.

**2.3 Wastewater infrastructure and inspection and repair** (COA-AWU)

**Task:** Inspect COA owned wastewater infrastructure in affected watersheds and make repairs when failures are encountered.

**Update:** No update received

**2.4 Inspect wastewater infrastructure in the Waller Creek watershed (main campus) and make repairs as problems are encountered** (UTA-UEM & UTA-EHS)

**Task:** Inspect UTA-owned wastewater infrastructure on Main Campus (Waller Creek Watershed) and make repairs when failures are encountered. Current cycle for inspections and cleaning is once every 5 years.

**Update:** Sanitary sewer piping: Approximately 1,308 hours were expended for installation, repair, and maintenance. Maintained equipment and materials are used to help respond quickly and effectively to sanitary sewer overflows. These materials include pneumatic test plugs and absorbent rolls and pads. Additionally, in this reporting period, approximately 9,500 linear feet of sanitary and storm sewer laterals were cleaned and/or repaired by UEM staff.

**2.5 Sanitary sewer overflow response** (COA-AWU)

**Task:** AWU to investigate and remediate sanitary sewer overflows (SSO) in affected watersheds as they are discovered. AWU to notify WPD for all known SSO. WPD to assess environmental impacts of SSO and advise AWU on sewage removal if necessary. The COA will remediate if SSO is from privately owned system if private entity cannot or will not remediate. COA through various departments will require repairs of private wastewater infrastructure if failures are clearly documented

**Update:** No update received

**2.6 Sanitary sewer overflow response** (UTA-UEM & UTA-EHS)

**Task:** UTA to investigate and remediate sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) in the Waller Creek Watershed if they are found to be originating from the UTA sanitary system of as a result of activities on the UTA Main Campus. UTA to notify CoA-WPD for all known SSOs entering Waller Creek. UTA will work with COA-WPD to assess the impacts and coordinate contaminant removal if found to be necessary

**Update:** None during reporting period (8/1/14 – 9/30/15)

**2.7 Private lateral inspection** (COA-AWU)

**Task:** The jet cleaning and TV inspection of private laterals will continue. In Year One, the program related to the placement of liens on private property with unresolved private lateral failures will be fully implemented.

**Update:** No update received

**2.8 Design and construct outdoor public toilets in high-use locations in the Waller Creek watershed as a pilot program** (COA-WPD; Waller Creek Conservancy)

**Task:** COA and Waller Creek Conservancy to collaboratively develop plan to implement public toilet if feasible

**Update:** City Council passed a resolution on January 28, 2016 (Res. No. 20160128-067) to direct the City Manager to work with stakeholders to make recommendations for a pilot project for downtown public toilets. Following the resolution, the Health and Human Service Department (HHSD) and Public Works Department (PWD) to ok the lead in researching the advantages/disadvantages of different types of public facilities in various cities. HHSD and PWD organized internal and external stakeholder meetings through the Spring of 2016 to explore potential locations and other issues related to public 24hr facilities. HHSD and PWD

presented to the Health and Human Service Committee of City Council on May 24, 2016 which included recommendations for a pilot program using “Pit Stop” facilities at three locations in the Waller Creek watershed as well as recommendations for long term installation. The Health and Human Service Committee made recommendations to City Council (May 24 2016) and Council issued a resolution (Res. No. 20160623-079) directing the City Manager to take steps to expedite and procure accessible public toilet facilities. CMs Tovo and Garza's offices are funding pilot program that, while not in the TMDL watersheds, will provide feasibility information for future public toilets in Waller watershed.

**3.1 Dog waste education and enforcement in parks** ("COA-PARD & COA-WPD)

**Tasks:** Develop updated and customized "Scoop the Poop" signage and implement in 10% of parks in affected watersheds, Perform on-site inspection by park rangers in parks, and conduct citywide "Scoop the Poop" public outreach campaign.

**Updates:** WPD expects to create and install 25 large aluminum signs in 22 City parks located in the TMDL watersheds during FY 17 (See Attachment A for Signage).

WPD works with three non-profit organizations and Austin Animal Center to reach the public year-round at events, at on-site animal adoptions and spay/neuter appointments, and through social media, websites, newsletters, brochures, and giveaways (Scoop the Poop branded clip-on pet waste bag holders, hand sanitizers, and leashes). WPD also conducts our own outreach via social media and a designated STP website, an annual mailing to pet service businesses and dog-friendly apartment buildings to distribute educational brochures, and distribution of free yard signs to residents. Scoop the Poop signage, which includes the City Code, are posted at the pet waste bag dispensers in parks, and large STP signs have been placed at Turkey Creek, Pease Park OLA, Barking Springs, and other parks where pet waste accumulation has been a problem. PARD Rangers provide Scoop the Poop education on-site in parks and have added STP as a component of their current “Leave No Trace” educational campaign.

**3.2 Pet waste bag dispensers in COA parks** (COA-PARD & COA-WPD)

**Task:** Inventory Mutt Mitt dispensers and associated trash cans in COA parks in affected watersheds.

**Update:** Have requested from PARD, but seems like insurmountable task. Purchased more than 3 million pet waste bags for City parks in FY 2016.

**3.3 Walnut Creek off-leash area kiosks** (COA-PARD & COA-WPD, Dog off leash area adopter, Friends of Austin Dog Parks)

**Task:** Install and maintain educational kiosks in dog off leash areas of public parks in the affected watersheds with information regarding park rules including proper collection and disposal of dog waste.

**Update:** Completed in FY 2014-2015.

**3.4 Waste collection in commercial and non-profit pet facilities** (Sierra Club, Chamber of Commerce, unidentified pet allies)

**Task:** Identify pet organization allies. Identify pet businesses. Contact each business by phone. Set up and complete a meeting to educate and distribute brochures.

**Update:** No update received.

**4.1 Austin Neighborhoods Council meetings educational outreach** (ANC)

**Task:** ANC will invite COA-WPD staff to brief each sector (or group of sectors), and one citywide general meeting once per year on COA environmental programs and ways citizens may help to reduce fecal contamination.

**Update:** Completed - the meeting included CoA WPD staff.

**4.2 City staff presentations to Austin Environmental Board** (COA-Environmental Board)

**Task:** Environmental Board will request annual briefing on each of the identified topics, and provide supporting letters, resolutions, and public education as appropriate.

**Update:** Staff presented a briefing on the 303(d) list and TMDLs to the Environmental Commission on 3/2/2016.

**4.3 Homeless Survival Guide Outreach** (COA-WPD)

**Task:** Develop public education materials.

**Update:** This was done in FY 2015 (Please see Attachment B) by collaborating with House the Homeless on their Homeless Resource Guide (and adding water quality protection information) WPD attempted to print more this year, but HTH didn't have their information proofed in time – WPD expect to collaborate again in FY17.

**4.4 Earth Camp, Earth School and Clean Creek Campus outreach** (COA-WPD)

**Task:** Add fecal bacteria curriculum to Earth Camp Program. Find partners willing to financially sponsor expansion of existing Earth Camp education efforts to increase direct outreach to Austin school children.

**Update:** Scoop the Poop messaging is integrated into Earth Camp, Earth School and Clean Creek Campus presentations (curriculum).

**4.5 Riparian and scoop education in volunteer workdays and annual meetings** (APF, KAB)

**Task:** Reach 33% of un-adopted parks within the affected watersheds to either or both programs.

**Update:** No update received.

**4.6 Community communication plan** (Shoal Creek Conservancy (Monnie Anderson); other unidentified organizations)

**Task:** Identify organizations such as neighborhood associations, service organizations, environmental and conservancy groups, churches, pet service and other businesses, etc. Collect their contact information into a database that can be used with a mailing application

**Update:** Hosted series of 6 public meetings, called Shoal Creek Forum Series, in partnership with Watershed Protection to begin a community conversation about creek challenges and solutions ranging from water quality issues to loss of spring flow. Over 170 attendees.

Initiated a watershed planning partnership with the Meadows Center for the Environment and the City to develop the first-ever Shoal Creek watershed plan, which will identify solutions and

an implementation plan to address flood, erosion, water quality and spring flow challenges. Work this summer will focus on identifying key stakeholders to be involved in this process over the next year to two years.

Created a list of neighborhood associations in the watershed and established relationship with the leaders.

SCC (with the support of the City) is applying for a section 319 grant right now for the water quality portion of a comprehensive Shoal Creek watershed plan. SCC will propose to build on the Spicewood Springs tributary TMDL work that has been done to date.

**4.7 PODER educational outreach efforts** (PODER)

**Tasks:** Request annual briefings by COA WPD staff on COA environmental programs, and ways citizens may help reduce fecal contamination, distribute updates at the HABLA and La Raza Roundtable meetings annually, and provide links on PODER Website regarding the Austin bacteria TMDL Implementation Plan and other available resources"

**Update:** PODER was able to present handouts and information regarding the Austin I - Plan to the following groups: HABLA and Raza Roundtable in 2016.

**5.1 Retrofit existing or install new stormwater installation on city lands** (COA-PARD & COA-WPD)

**Task:** Assess opportunity and prioritize water quality structural control installations or retrofits on public lands in affected watersheds

**Update:** Due to extensive development, there are limited opportunities for additional large-scale water quality structural controls in the Waller Creek watershed. The City is currently using hydrologic modeling to evaluate the feasibility of small-scale, distributed controls (rain gardens and rainwater catchment) in the upper reaches of the watershed. COA has completed a retrofit to the Reilly Detention Pond to modify an existing regional flood detention pond system increasing pond volume and adding WQ bio-filtration. COA has also completed modifications in 3 other areas (totaling almost 65 acres) to remove pollutants from urban runoff.

**5.2 Inspect existing City-owned and commercial water quality controls in affected watersheds** (COA-WPD)

**Task:** Inspect existing city-owned and commercial water quality structural controls and repair problems as feasible.

**Update:** COA Field Operations inspected a total of 730 commercial ponds, 123 residential ponds and performed pond maintenance at 24 ponds across the affected watersheds.

**5.3 Inspect and ensure proper operation of privately owned permanent water quality treatment and flood detention structures** (Travis County-TNR, EQP & Travis County Attorney, COA)

**Tasks:** Identify owners of record of 22 known pond facilities, coordinate with COA and MUDs to finalize Travis County inspection list, and obtain any specialized maintenance plans and facility records that are available.

**Updates:** A completed inventory was established with 30 detention and permanent water quality control (PWQC) facilities in the unincorporated portion of the Walnut Creek W-S. Two are County PWQC ponds. All facility records are maintained on the County's MS4 map and

Cartegraph. The city and county departments maintain a storm water management ILA. Coordination under the ILA and I-Plan is ongoing. In Year 2 of the I-Plan, the maintenance plans will be gathered from the responsible parties during inspections. Travis County will collaborate with Austin to obtain records it may have on file.

**5.4 Dry weather storm drain outfall screening** (COA-WPD)

**Task:** Screen all 36" stormwater outfalls in affected watersheds at least once during the five-year period during dry weather conditions.

**Update:** All 36" stormwater outfalls have been screened as of the end of FY 2016.

**5.5 Dry weather screening of storm drain outfalls** (UTA-EHS, UTA-UEM & UTA-PMCS, UT System-OFPC)

**Task:** 20% of outfalls screened.

**Update:** Dry weather monitoring was conducted in various months including February, July, and August of 2014. Seventeen major outfalls were screened and of those screened, 6 were observed with dry weather flows. Field analysis of the discharges did not indicate sanitary or other characteristics of concern.

**5.6 New roadway bacteria reduction BMPs** (Travis County-TNR & EQP, COA CIP)

**Tasks:** Complete design of Arterial A anticipated to be a 1422 ft. multi-lane roadway with 12 of 37 storm drain inlets using the chosen technology, and conduct environmental review of design for adequacy.

**Updates:** A 60% design for Arterial A has been prepared. Development of a 90% and final design is pending resolution of some technical issues relating to geotechnical work near a municipal solid waste landfill. Information and a request to consider the suggested bacteria reduction BMPs was forwarded to Travis County's design engineer consultant. Flood detention and permanent water quality control structures associated with new roadway construction (Tuscany Way) was completed in July, 2014. Ongoing inspections and maintenance is performed by Travis County.

**5.7 Street sweeping** (UTA-EHS & Facilities Services)

**Task:** Continue to sweep UTA-owned streets on a semiannual basis and as needed.

**Update:** The University maintains a program for managing sediment, trash, and organic debris on street and parking areas. The University operates several motorized street sweepers for Main Campus.

**5.8 Construction site inspection and monitoring** (UTA-EHS, UTA-PMCS, Housing & Food, UTA-UEM, UT System-OFPC)

**Task:** Continue to inspect, monitor, and enforce storm water compliance on all UTA construction site projects to minimize storm water runoff, pollution, and sanitary waste from entering UTA's MS4.

**Update:** There were no situations during the reporting period for situations on construction sites or other activity that posed imminent threat to storm water quality.

**5.9 Detection of illicit commercial/industrial discharges and construction site sanitary waste management** (Travis County-TNR & EQP; Travis County Attorney)

**Tasks:** Develop dataset identifying commercial and industrial facilities, update existing construction site checklists to incorporate inspection of sanitary waste practices, and send letter and information to each commercial/industrial entity identifying the I-Plan bacteria reduction strategy and notify them of inspection strategy.

**Updates:** Travis County updated its list of industrial facilities in the unincorporated areas countywide.

Storm water construction site inspection checklists were updated and are in use by staff on SWP3 inspections. The Travis County Commissioners adopted revisions to Chapter 82 on June 28, 2016 that further implements this measure by explicitly requiring management of sanitary waste at construction sites (Travis County Code, 82.937(b)(1)).

Facility dataset is complete. The letter mail out action is planned for Year 2 of the I-Plan (FY 2017)."