



City of Austin, Texas

City profile downloaded from CitiesWithNature

27 May 2025

Chapter 1

Profile overview



About

Austin, Texas, boasts a distinctive environmental landscape that sets it apart from other urban areas. Nestled in the Texas Hill Country, Austin features a unique combination of rolling hills, limestone karst formations, and an extensive network of springs, rivers, and lakes. The Edwards Aquifer, a critical water source, supports the city's diverse ecosystems, including rare species such as the Barton Springs Salamander found only in the Barton Springs Pool. Austin is also renowned for its vast urban green spaces, including the expansive Zilker Park and the scenic Lady Bird Lake, which provide residents with ample opportunities for outdoor recreation and nature appreciation. The city has embraced sustainability through initiatives like the Austin Community Climate Plan, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy use. Furthermore, Austin's vibrant cultural scene is deeply intertwined with its natural environment, hosting numerous events and festivals that celebrate both the arts and the outdoors, solidifying its reputation as a city where nature and culture coexist harmoniously.

Overview

975000

Population size

United States

Country

North America

Region



Leslie Pool, Mayor of City of Austin, Texas

Head of government

I believe the Berlin Nature Pact is a testament to our commitment to a greener future. Protecting and enhancing our natural environment is not just an ecological necessity but a fundamental part of improving the quality of life for all. This pact represents our dedication to preserving biodiversity, combating climate change, and fostering a healthy, vibrant urban ecosystem. By working together, we can ensure that Austin remains a leader in sustainable urban development and a beacon of environmental stewardship for cities around the world.

Platform engagement statistics



12

Actions made on the Action Platform

Achievements

Profile awards

The city has updated their profile and achieved the following:



Starter profile
100% complete



Frontrunner profile
80% complete



Star profile
0% complete

The Nature Pathway

The city has engaged with the Nature Pathway to integrate nature throughout their city's plans, policies and operations.



Starter profile
0% complete



Frontrunner profile
0% complete



Star profile
0% complete

Tools & resources hub

The city has made uploads to the CitiesWithNature tools & resources hub, which provides a knowledge-sharing platform for cities to share information and inspire one another.



Starter profile
0% complete



Frontrunner profile
0% complete



Star profile
0% complete

Action Platform

The CitiesWithNature Action Platform is endorsed by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity for cities to make commitments, share their actions and set targets for people and nature to flourish.



Starter profile
100% complete



Frontrunner profile
100% complete



Star profile
50% complete


Chapter 2

The Action Platform



The Action Platform

The CitiesWithNature Action Platform is endorsed by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity for cities to make commitments, share their actions and set targets for people and nature to flourish.

Action area 1

Protect and restore nature

Commitment Made:
Protect, connect and restore ecosystems



Restore and/or rehabilitate terrestrial, freshwater and coastal ecosystems.

Description of how city is taking action

The Austin Climate Equity Plan calls to include all City-owned lands under a management plan that results in neutral or negative carbon emissions and maximizes community co-benefits. Additionally, all new and existing natural areas (approx. 70,000 acres) will be managed for resilience.

Increase protected areas

Description of how city is taking action

The Austin Climate Equity Plan calls for the protection of an additional 20,000 acres of carbon pools on natural lands.

Increase connectivity between natural areas

Description of how city is taking action

The Austin Climate Equity Plan calls for protected lands to consider connectivity, and also for green infrastructure to create continuous green corridors.

Commitment Made:
Conserve and restore fauna and flora



Maintain or increase the diversity of native species

Description of how city is taking action

The Austin Climate Equity Plan's provisions to protect and restore natural lands has a focus on creating structural diversity and increasing native species. Austin Water's Balcones Canyonlands Preserve is a 33,000 acre conservation area, dedicated to protecting the habitat of the native Golden Cheeked Warbler, a songbird that nests exclusively in Central Texas.

Restore habitat for threatened and locally valued species

Description of how city is taking action

Austin Water's Balcones Canyonlands Preserve is a 33,000 acre conservation area, dedicated to protecting the habitat of the native Golden Cheeked Warbler, a songbird that nests exclusively in Central Texas.

Reduce plastic consumption and the amount of plastic waste generated and discarded

Description of how city is taking action

Austin Resource Recovery has a goal to reduce trash sent to landfills by 90% by the year 2040. Zero waste is a philosophy that goes beyond recycling, to focus first on reducing trash and reusing products and then recycling and composting the rest.

Reduce the urban heat island effect by working with nature

Description of how city is taking action

The Austin Climate Equity Plan sets a target of 50% citywide tree canopy cover by 2050.

Increase the carbon sequestration potential of urban nature

Description of how city is taking action

The Austin Climate Equity Plan calls for the inclusion of all City-owned lands under a management plan that results in neutral or negative carbon emissions and maximizes community benefits.

Promote integration of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches into urban infrastructure maintenance & development.

Description of how city is taking action

The Austin Climate Equity Plan calls for the city to identify and reclaim mono-use, underused, and unconventional public spaces to increase community access and ecological function — such as utility easements, road rights-of-way, stormwater wet ponds, and cemeteries — with a focus on green infrastructure.

Reduce other types of pollution, such as solid waste, air pollution, noise pollution and light pollution

Description of how city is taking action

The Austin Climate Equity Plan has set several goals and linked impacts related to different types of pollution
Solid Waste: 90% solid waste reduction by 2040
Air Quality: ● Reducing the reliance on people driving alone in gas-powered vehicles lowers greenhouse gas emissions and the pollutants that cause smog. ● Increasing energy efficiency and shifting to clean energy sources also decreases greenhouse gas emissions, particulate matter, and the pollutants that cause smog. ● More trees and natural spaces can help pull carbon out of the atmosphere and filter particulate matter, mitigating harmful climate and air quality impacts. ● Reducing consumption of goods reduces air and water pollution associated with manufacturing and water pollution from improper disposal of products.

Other commitments under this action area

Manage invasive alien species



Use nature sustainably

Commitment Made:

Promote people's access to green and blue spaces

Increase equitable and inclusive access to nature to enhance people's health and wellbeing.

Description of how city is taking action

The Austin Climate Equity Plan calls for the city to work towards increasing community access and positive perceptions of public land and access to nature. Decisions in areas ranging from parkland acquisition, to tree planting, to protected natural lands, should be made through an equity lens to address environmental justice issues caused by historical development patterns.

Enable meaningful experiences of nature for the health and well-being of urban communities

Description of how city is taking action

The Austin Climate Equity Plan calls for the city to work towards increasing community access and positive perceptions of public land and access to nature.

Other commitments under this action area

Equitable benefits through sustainable use of wild species

Biodiversity in urban agriculture, aquaculture and forestry



Action area 3

Develop tools and solutions

Other commitments under this action area

Mainstreaming biodiversity values

Sustainable production and consumption

Use relevant knowledge, including traditional knowledge, for effective biodiversity management

Equitable and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in biodiversity-related decision-making

Mobilize resources for biodiversity actions

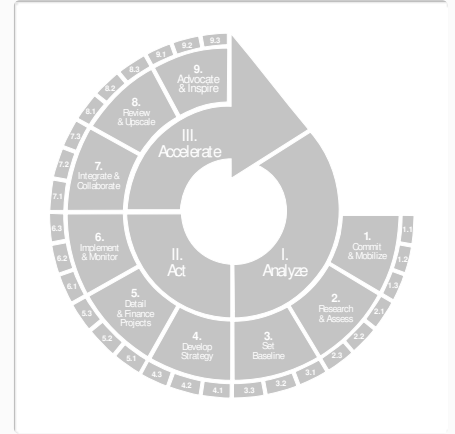
Chapter 3

Nature Pathway



Nature Pathway

The Nature Pathway assists cities with integrating nature throughout their city's plans, policies and operations.



I. Analyze

1. Commit & mobilize

No uploads or resources have been linked

2. Research & assess

No uploads or resources have been linked

3. Set Baseline

No uploads or resources have been linked

II. Act

4. Develop strategy

No uploads or resources have been linked

5. Detail & finance projects

No uploads or resources have been linked

6. Implement & monitor

No uploads or resources have been linked

III. Accelerate

7. Integrate & collaborate

No uploads or resources have been linked

8. Review & upscale

No uploads or resources have been linked

9. Advocate & inspire

Chapter 4

City Biodiversity Index



City Biodiversity Index

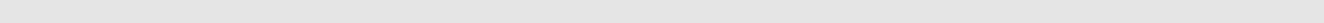
The City Biodiversity Index (CBI) is a self-assessment tool for cities to evaluate and monitor the progress of their biodiversity conservation efforts against their own individual baselines.

This city has measured the following total CBI score out of 112 points:

0 Points

Native biodiversity in the city

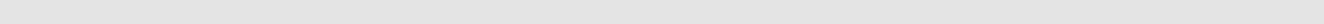
Core Component Total Score: 0 of 36 points



City of Austin, Texas has not started on this biodiversity index section

Ecosystem services provided by biodiversity

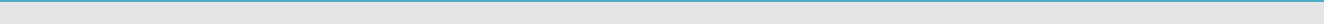
Core Component Total Score: 0 of 20 points



City of Austin, Texas has not started on this biodiversity index section

Governance and management of biodiversity

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 56 points



City of Austin, Texas has not started on this biodiversity index section

Chapter 5

Tools & resources



Tools & resources

All tools & resources the city has uploaded to the CitiesWithNature Tools & resources hub.

City of Austin, Texas has not yet posted any tools and resources



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