

# ATLAS 14 QUICK REFERENCE SHEET

## What is Atlas 14?

The National Weather Service, in partnership with many other federal, state, and local agencies, is in the process of reassessing historic rainfall intensities for Texas with a study called Atlas 14. Rainfall intensities tell us the likelihood of rainfall events of different sizes. Rainfall intensities are used by FEMA and local communities to determine flood risk and to make floodplain maps. Rainfall intensities for the State of Texas have not been assessed since 1994. Atlas 14 is an update of this data meant to incorporate almost a quarter century of rainfall data collected statewide since the last study, up to and including Hurricane Harvey. The graphic to the right indicates in green the areas of Texas where rainfall intensities are increasing.

## How Does Atlas 14 Affect Austin?

The Atlas 14 draft study shows the Austin area to be one of the most significantly impacted areas in the State of Texas. In general, this means that, in Austin, what had been considered a 500-year rainfall is in fact a 100-year rainfall. This indicates that many homes and businesses in Austin may be expected to flood more frequently than had been previously thought. However, only 9% of the land area in Austin is projected to be in the new 100-year floodplain.

## How Is the City of Austin Responding?

The **Watershed Protection Department** is acting quickly to respond to this more accurate assessment of flood risk. It is critical that we continue to ensure that future development is built to be sufficiently resilient to protect lives and properties of our residents. To that end, we have initiated a code amendment process to adopt this new rainfall information as well as other changes meant to enable properties to redevelop in a safer fashion.

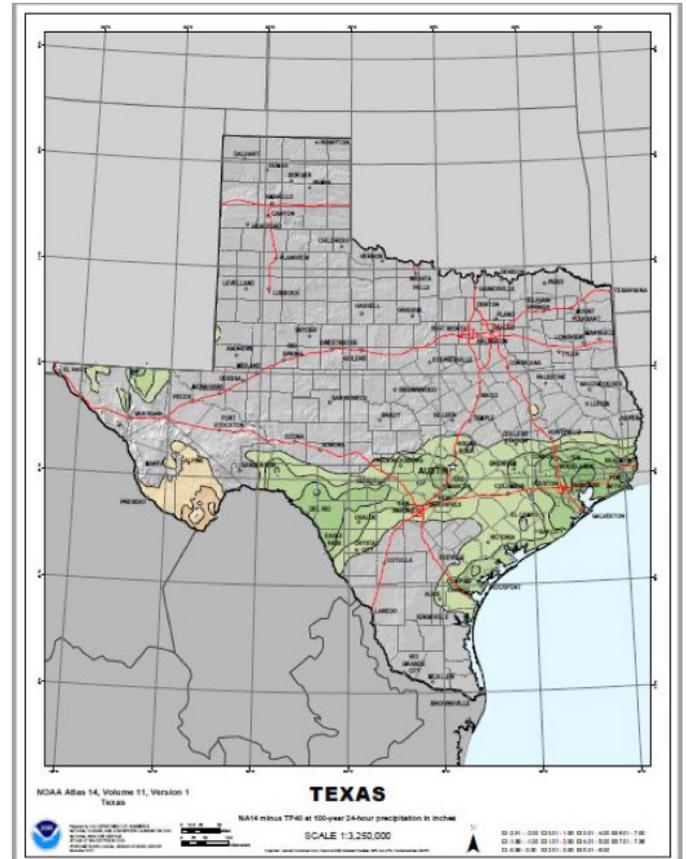
## How Do I Get More Information?

**Website:** [www.AustinTexas.gov/Atlas14](http://www.AustinTexas.gov/Atlas14)

**Email:** [Atlas14@AustinTexas.gov](mailto:Atlas14@AustinTexas.gov)



## MAP CHANGES TO RAINFALL INTENSITY



## IMPACTS TO HOMEOWNERS

### How does this affect my property?

Visit our website [www.austintexas.gov/atlas14](http://www.austintexas.gov/atlas14) to access maps of floodplain changes in Austin.

### Do I need to buy flood insurance?

While FEMA flood insurance rate maps will not be immediately affected, property owners shown in the 500-year floodplain on the current FEMA maps should consider purchasing flood insurance as soon as possible to best protect their property.

### How does this impact development regulations?

Properties located in the City's regulatory floodplain are subject to additional development restrictions. Please visit [www.austintexas.gov/floodplainrules](http://www.austintexas.gov/floodplainrules) to learn more.