



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 20230802-005

Date: August 2, 2023

Subject: PARD Climate Vulnerability Analysis and Management Strategies

Motion by: Jennifer Bristol

Second by: Kevin Ramberg

WHEREAS, the Environmental Commission recognizes the City of Austin has over 10,000 acres of natural areas; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Commission recognizes 87.5% of Austin's public natural areas are west of Interstate 35 and 98.5% of all lands that have received ecological restoration activities are west of Interstate 35. However, socially vulnerable communities depend heavily on healthy ecosystems for their health, well-being, and economic vitality. Most communities classified as high social vulnerability are located east of Interstate 35.

WHEREAS, the Environmental Commission understands the purpose of the Climate Vulnerability Analysis and Management Strategies is to create a more equitable allocation of natural area management. PARD will use this document as a guide in restoring and managing natural areas to mitigate risk, improve resilience, and provide ecosystem services to all Austin residents.

WHEREAS, the Environmental Commission was presented the staff-recommended Climate Vulnerability Analysis and Management Strategies;

THEREFORE, the Environmental Commission recommends the Climate Vulnerability Analysis and Management Strategies with the following recommendations:

1. Be inclusive to community groups, especially neighborhood groups, when developing work plans and ensure contacts are current and up to date.
2. Incorporate additional ways to improve soil health and increase ground hydration in future associated work plans.
3. Ensure work plans include measurable monitoring efforts to detect and correct for any adverse effects of management activities such as prescribed burns and tree thinning.
4. Remove the use of toxic herbicides except to control invasive, non-native species, identify alternatives for pesticide application, and consider additions to the 2017 PARD Integrated Pest Management Plan that take sensitive karst features into consideration.

Vote: 8-0

For: Kevin Ramberg, Perry Bedford, Jennifer Bristol, Hanna Cofer, Peter Einhorn, Haris Qureshi, Melinda Schiera, David Sullivan

Against: None

Abstain: Richard Brimer

Absent: Mariana Krueger and Colin Nickells

Attest:

KEVIN RAMBERG

Kevin Ramberg, Environmental Commission Chair