

...take it outside! The Next Ten Years

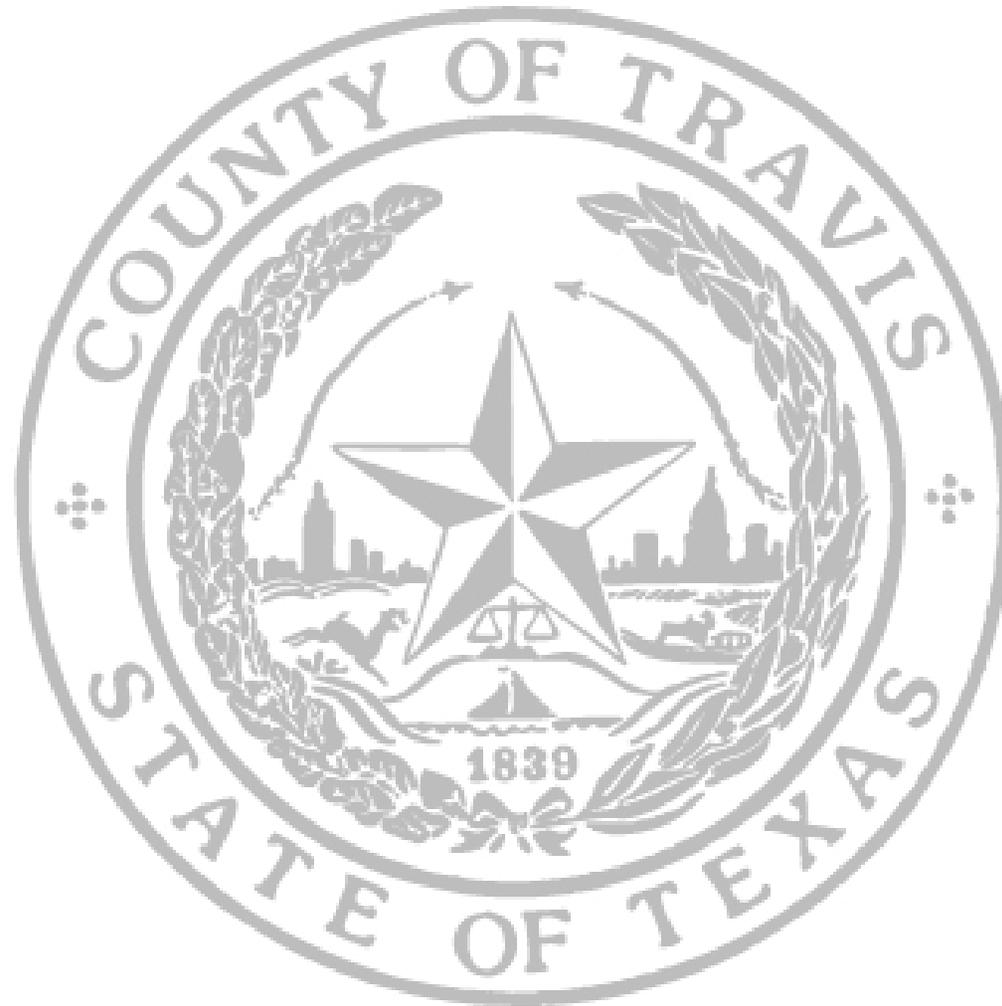
Executive Summary

Draft 2/22/2016



Austin, Texas





Cover Photo: Hamilton Pool

Travis County Commissioners Court



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Commissioner, Pct. 3

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Commissioner, Pct. 2

Ron Davis
Commissioner, Pct. 1

County Executive

Steven M. Manilla, P.E., County Executive, TNR

Master Planning Team

Travis County Parks

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Long Range Planning

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Executive Summary

Travis County Parks...take it outside!

The mission of Travis County Parks is to get people outside for their health and wellbeing. This master plan provides the framework for building a park system that supports this mission. It identifies land acquisition priorities, types of parks to be developed, and recreational facilities to be provided. It establishes capital improvement priorities which will be implemented primarily with voter-approved bond funds. It is the third plan prepared by staff under the leadership of Charles Bergh, Parks Director, and continues the initiatives launched in previous master plans. Today, the county park system has 9,666 acres of parkland and 26 parks open to the public.

The People

Approximately 1.1 million people lived in Travis County in 2014, a number that is forecasted to grow to approximately 1.2 million by 2019. According to the 2010 Census, approximately two-thirds of the county population is "White Alone"; an almost equal number are either "Black Alone" or "Asian Alone" (8.5% and 6.1% respectively); and approximately one-third are of "Hispanic Origin".

Approximately three-quarters of the population reside east of MoPac, a concentration of population that is forecasted to continue through 2019. Nearly one-half of this population is Hispanic; and the highest percentage of Blacks, as part of the overall population, is found in northeast Travis County. Conversely, the population west of MoPac is predominantly white; and the highest percentage of Asians, as part of the overall population, is found in northwest Travis County.

The Place

Travis County is an ecologically diverse place: it has the Edwards Plateau to the west and Blackland Prairie, Post Oak Savanna, and Floodplains and Low Terraces of the Colorado River to the east. The acquisition priorities set in this plan will protect this ecological diversity. They include:

- 100-hundred Year Flood Plains and Low Terraces and Bluffs along the Colorado River and eastern creeks
- Pedernales River Corridor
- Post Oak Savanna and adjacent bluffs
- Significant natural springs and water features

Park Development Concepts

Regional Parks and Preserves

Regional parks and preserves that are at least 200 acres are preferred over smaller tracts for the benefits derived from their size:

- Increases nature-based recreational opportunities
- Preserves natural drainage patterns and maximizes groundwater recharge
- Reduces fragmentation of ecosystems and wildlife habitat
- Preserves rural landscapes and vistas
- Consolidates maintenance operations

Greenways and River Corridors

Greenways along creeks and river corridors are preferred because of benefits derived from their linear configuration:

- Accommodates connectivity and integrated trail systems
- Attenuates impact of stormwater on creek and river water quality
- Mitigates impact of flood events
- Protects riparian ecosystems and wildlife habitat
- Provides corridors for wildlife movement
- Preserves rural landscapes and vistas

The Next Ten Years

This plan has a ten year time frame. It will be implemented with voter-approved bond funding, parkland dedications, federal and state grants, floodplain buyouts, and donations. The capital improvement priorities for the different planning areas and associated maps follow.

Northeast Implementation Priorities

- 1) Complete parkland acquisition for Gilleland Creek Greenway
- 2) Develop Gilleland Creek trail and other recreational facilities
- 3) Renovate Ben E. Fisher Park
- 4) Acquire parkland for Colorado River Corridor
- 5) Acquire parkland for Wilbarger Creek Greenway
- 6) Acquire parkland for TO BE NAMED Creek Greenway
- 7) Acquire Post Oak Savanna and adjacent bluffs
- 8) Develop boat ramp at FM 973 crossing
- 9) Acquire strategic parkland (location to be determined)

Southeast Implementation Priorities

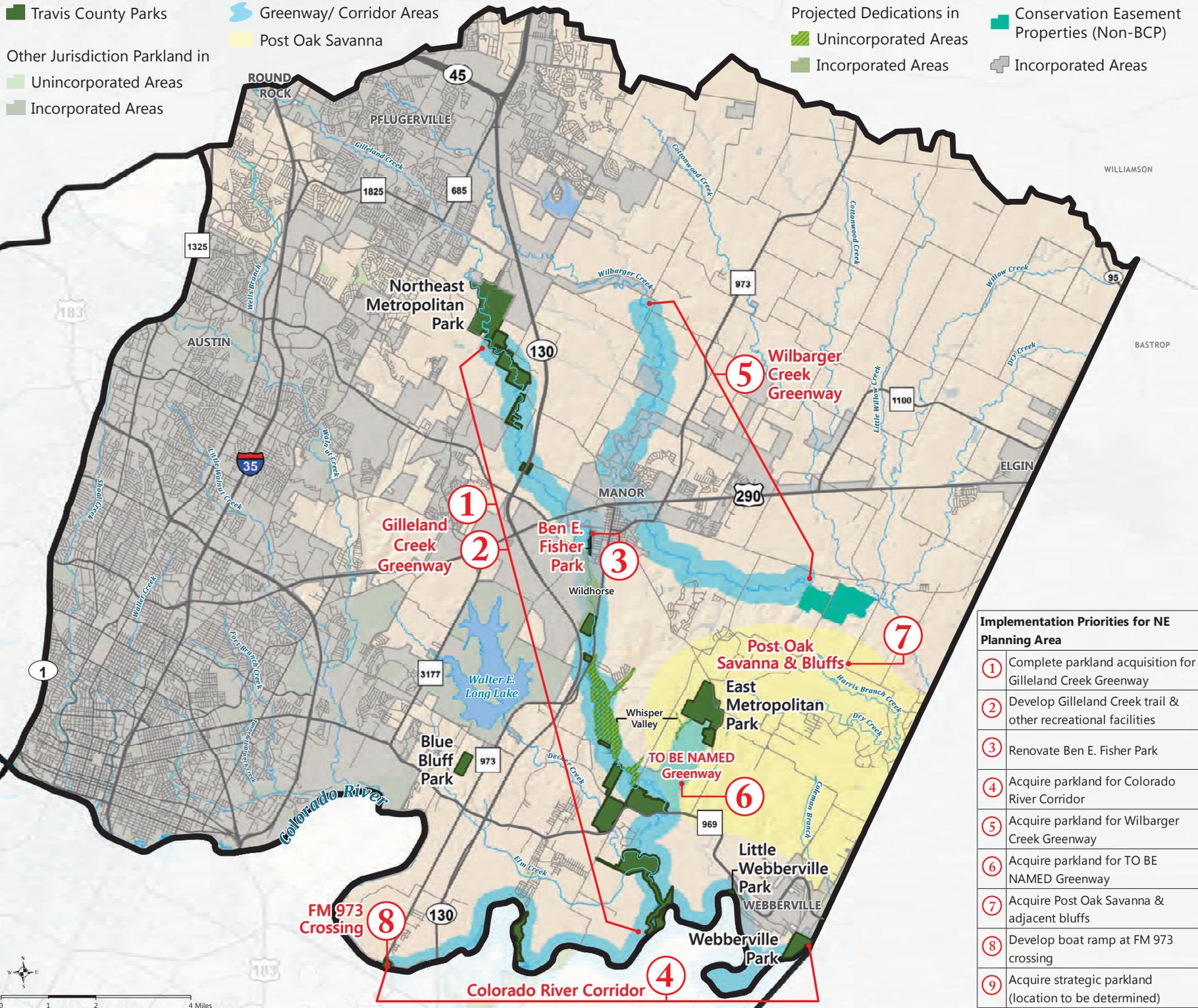
- 1) Complete parkland acquisition for Onion Creek Greenway (coordinate with the City of Austin, State of Texas, and Austin-Bergstrom International Airport continuation of trail on their properties)
- 2) Complete Onion Creek trail and other recreational facilities
- 3) Acquire parkland for Colorado River Corridor
- 4) Develop pool/water play area at Southeast Metro Park (pool to be managed by other entity such as the YMCA)
- 5) Acquire parkland for Dry Creek Greenway
- 6) Acquire strategic parkland

Southwest Implementation Priorities

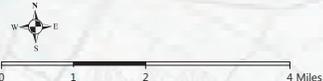
- 1) Acquire parkland for the Pedernales River Corridor
- 2) Develop Reimers Ranch Park campground and expand trail system
- 3) Improve day use areas and develop campgrounds at Pace Bend Park
- 4) Acquire strategic Lake Travis properties

Northwest Implementation Priorities

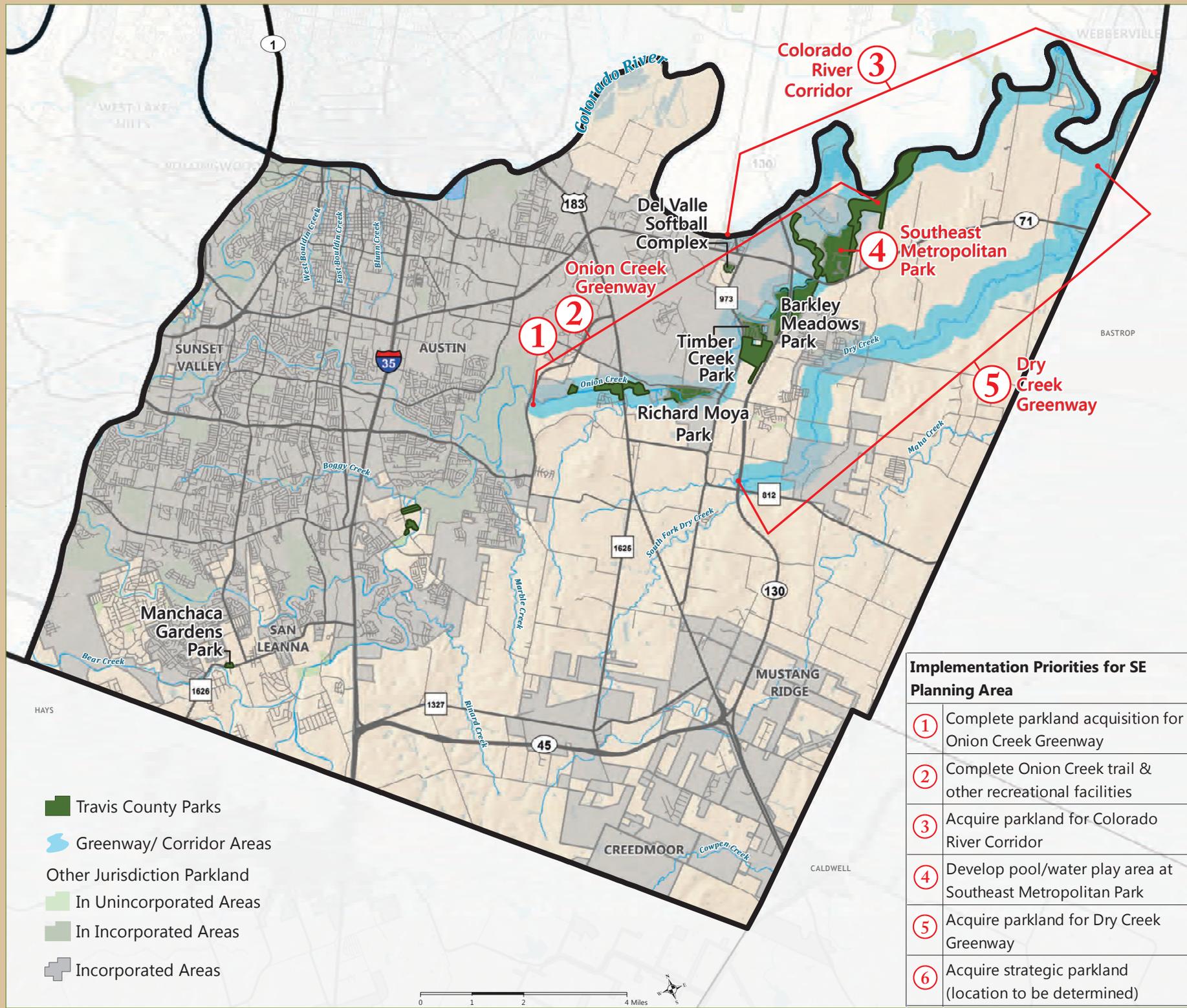
- 1) Develop Trails End Preserve
- 2) Improve Bob Wentz Park facilities
- 3) Improve Hippie Hollow Park entrance area
- 4) Acquire strategic Lake Travis properties



Implementation Priorities for NE Planning Area	
①	Complete parkland acquisition for Gilleland Creek Greenway
②	Develop Gilleland Creek trail & other recreational facilities
③	Renovate Ben E. Fisher Park
④	Acquire parkland for Colorado River Corridor
⑤	Acquire parkland for Wilbarger Creek Greenway
⑥	Acquire parkland for TO BE NAMED Greenway
⑦	Acquire Post Oak Savanna & adjacent bluffs
⑧	Develop boat ramp at FM 973 crossing
⑨	Acquire strategic parkland (location to be determined)

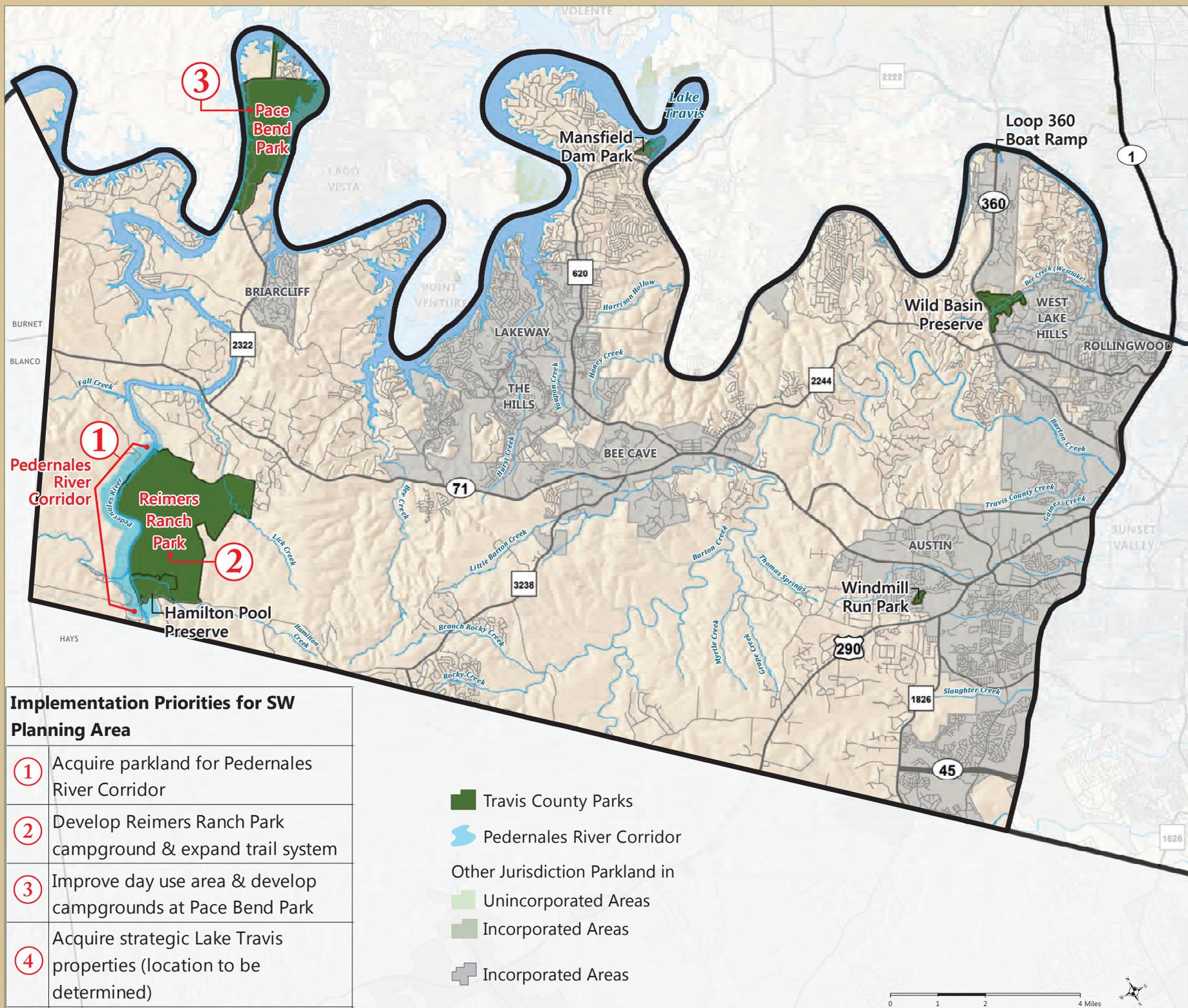


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Implementation Priorities for SE Planning Area	
①	Complete parkland acquisition for Onion Creek Greenway
②	Complete Onion Creek trail & other recreational facilities
③	Acquire parkland for Colorado River Corridor
④	Develop pool/water play area at Southeast Metropolitan Park
⑤	Acquire parkland for Dry Creek Greenway
⑥	Acquire strategic parkland (location to be determined)

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Implementation Priorities for SW Planning Area

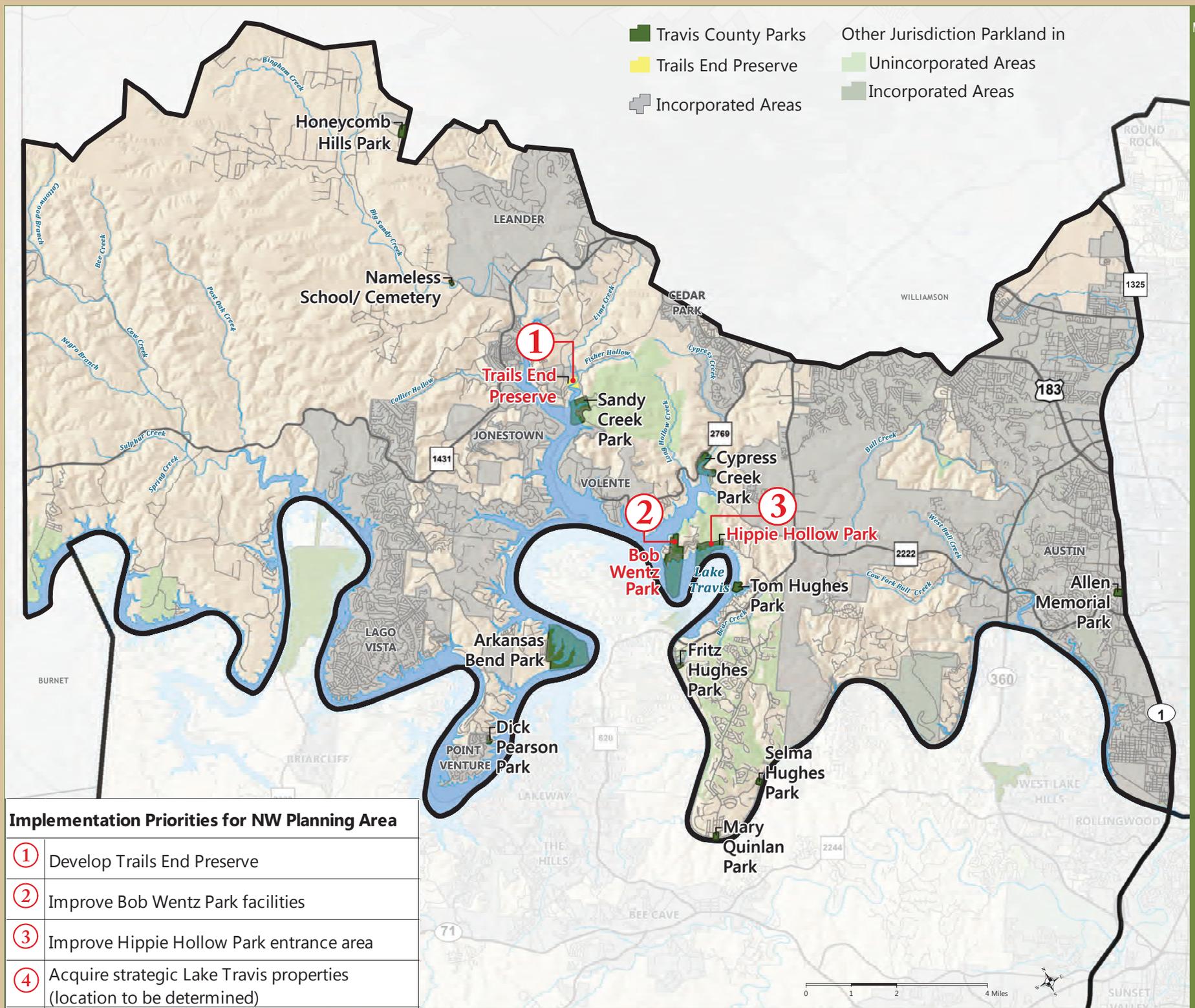
- ① Acquire parkland for Pedernales River Corridor
- ② Develop Reimers Ranch Park campground & expand trail system
- ③ Improve day use area & develop campgrounds at Pace Bend Park
- ④ Acquire strategic Lake Travis properties (location to be determined)

- Travis County Parks
- Pedernales River Corridor
- Other Jurisdiction Parkland in
 - Unincorporated Areas
 - Incorporated Areas
 - Incorporated Areas



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- Travis County Parks
- Trails End Preserve
- Other Jurisdiction Parkland in
- Unincorporated Areas
- Incorporated Areas



Implementation Priorities for NW Planning Area

①	Develop Trails End Preserve
②	Improve Bob Wentz Park facilities
③	Improve Hippie Hollow Park entrance area
④	Acquire strategic Lake Travis properties (location to be determined)



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