



DRIPPING SPRINGS  
Texas

# *State of the City*

---

Dripping Springs  
Chamber of Commerce  
January 25, 2023



# Today's Topics



## Planning & Development

- New Development
- Plans for Roads & Traffic
- Coming in the Future
- Comprehensive Plan

## Public Works

## Parks and Community Services

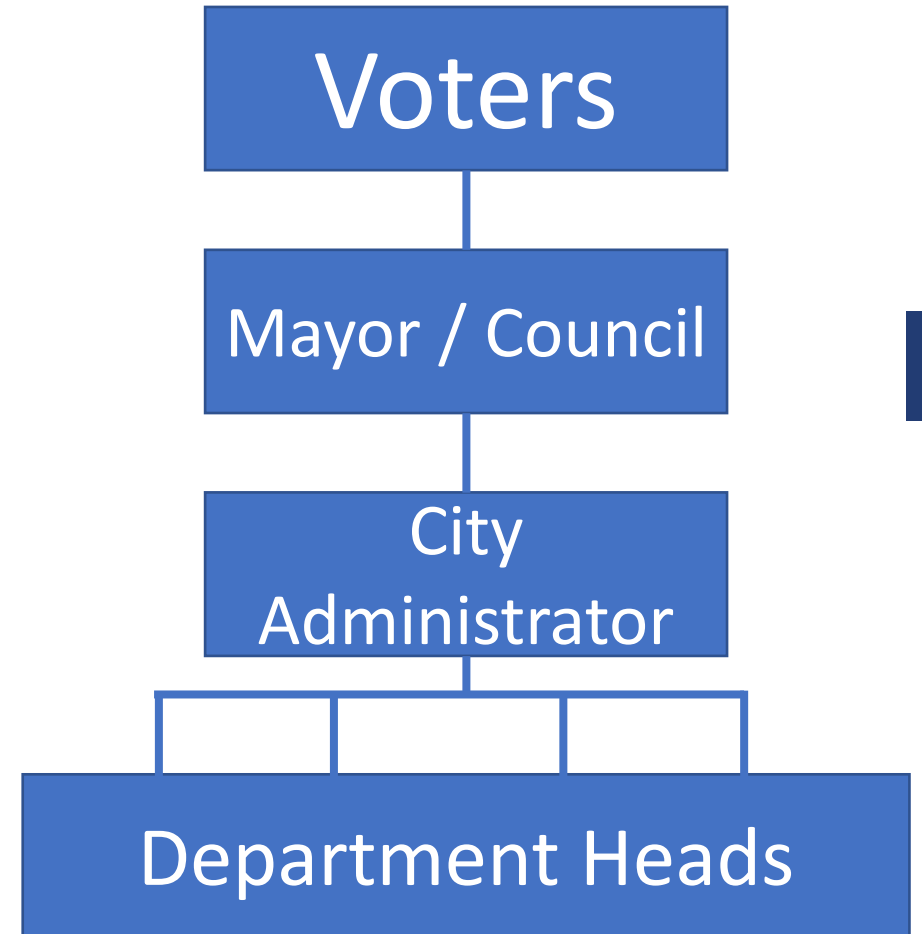
## Other Exciting Things

## Join Us – Commissions, Boards, & More!



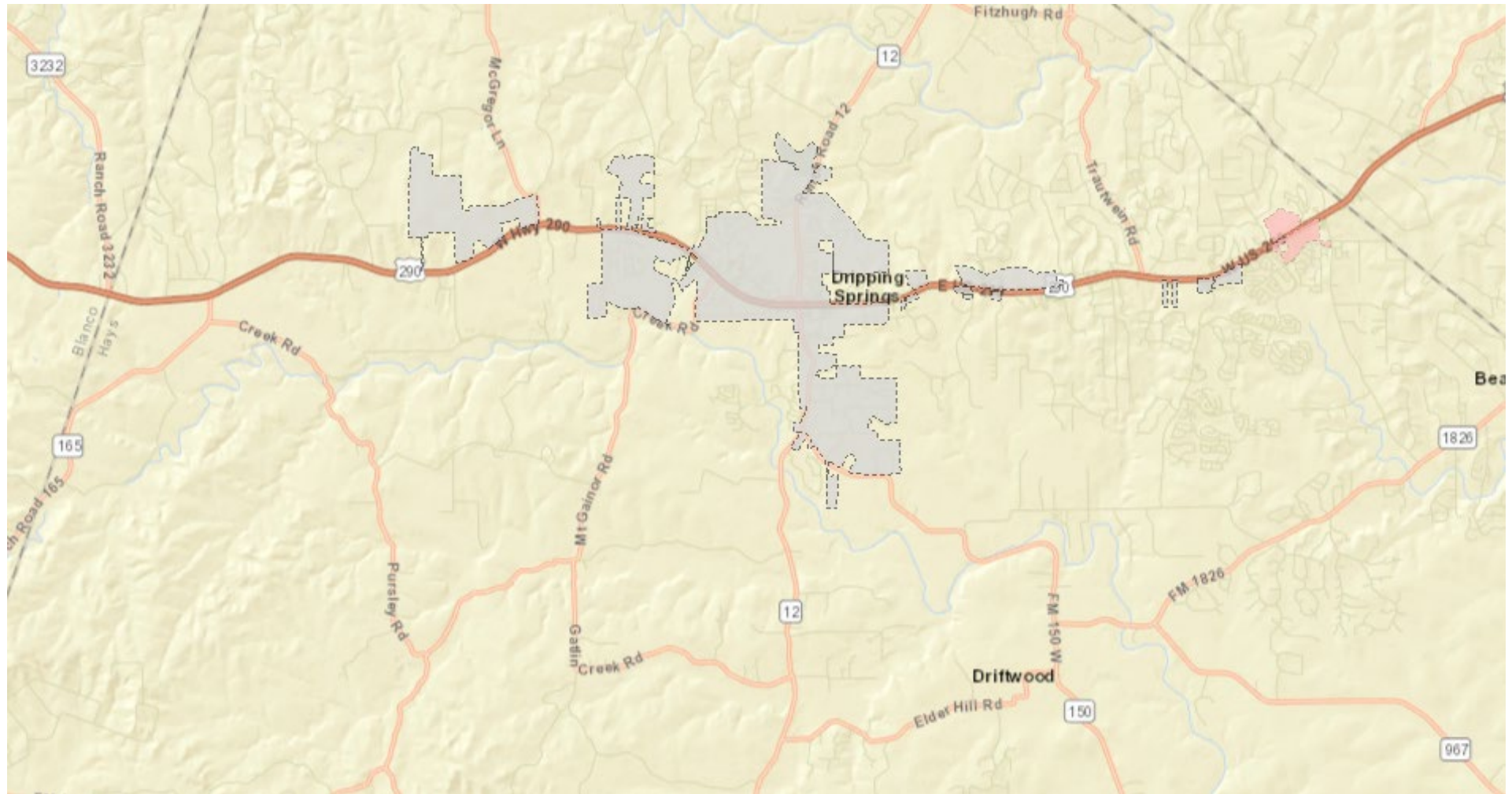
# Type-A General Law City

- **Role of the Mayor**
  - Runs Council Meetings
  - Facilitates communication between elected and appointed officials and city staff
  - Tie-breaking voter
- **Role of Council**
  - Sets big picture City policy
  - Adopts Budget
- **Role of City Administrator**
  - Recruits, hires, and supervises City staff
  - Works toward implementation of policy set by Council
- **Role of Commissions/Committees/Boards**
  - Advises the City Council



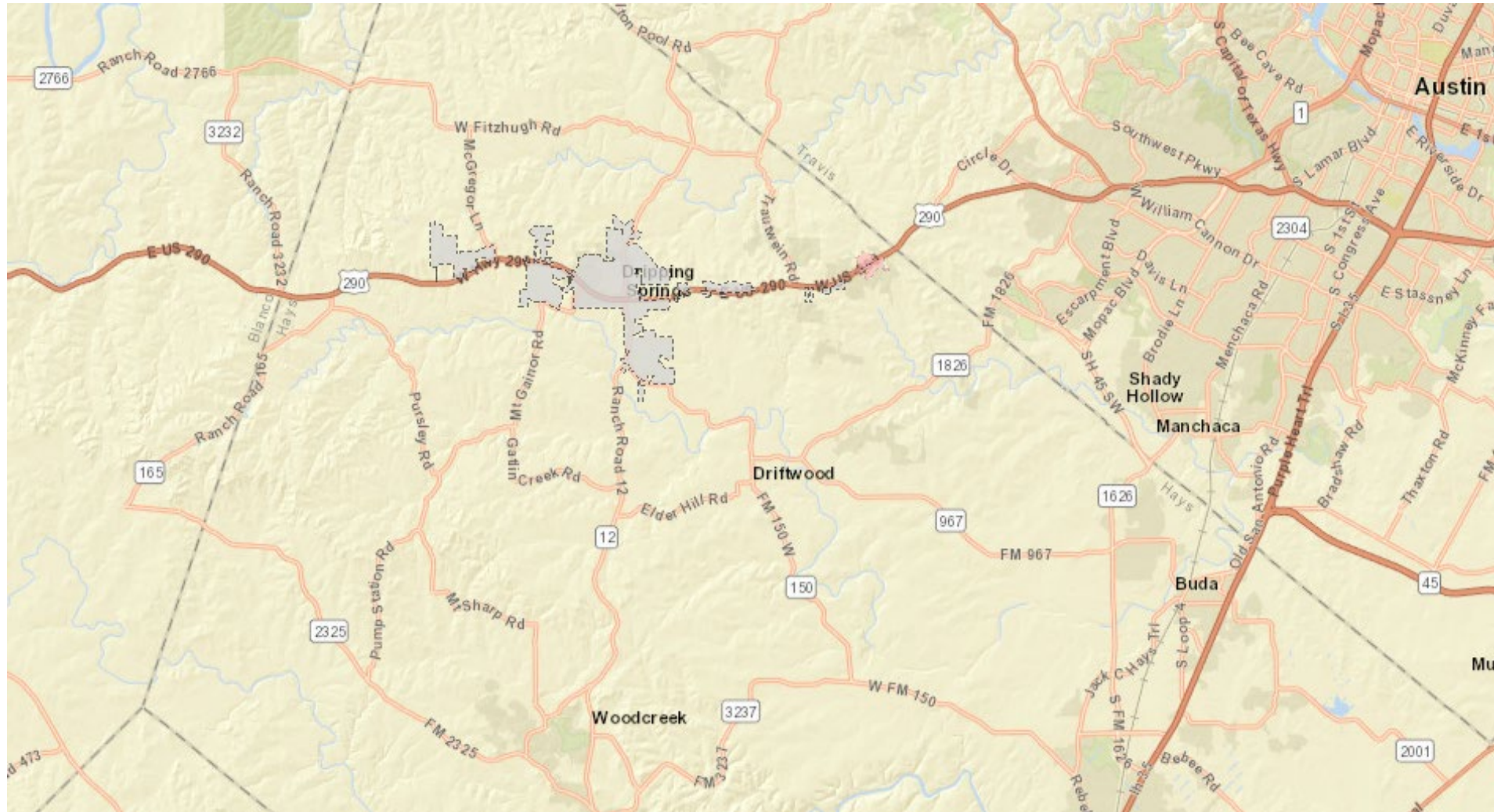


# City Limits

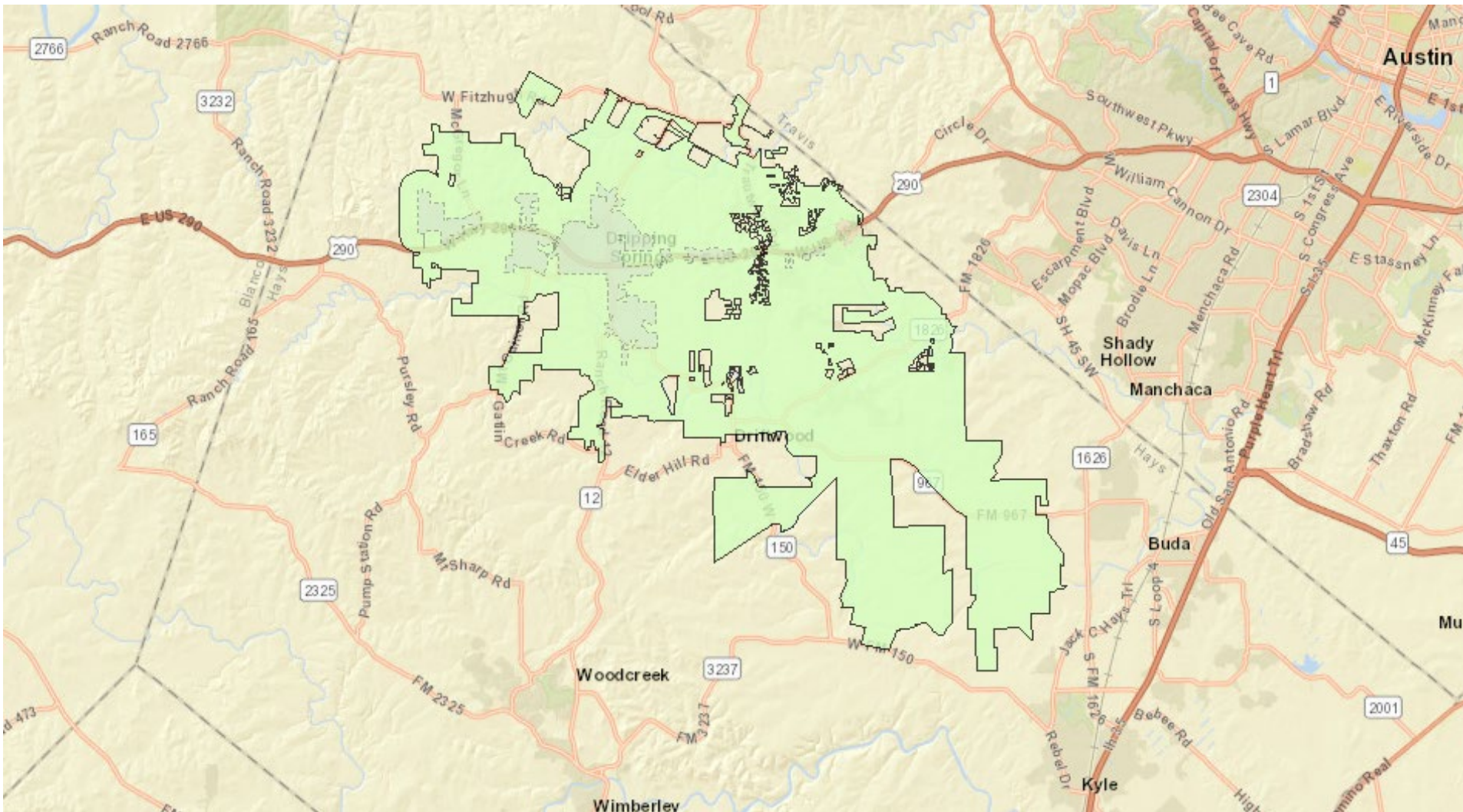




# City Limits

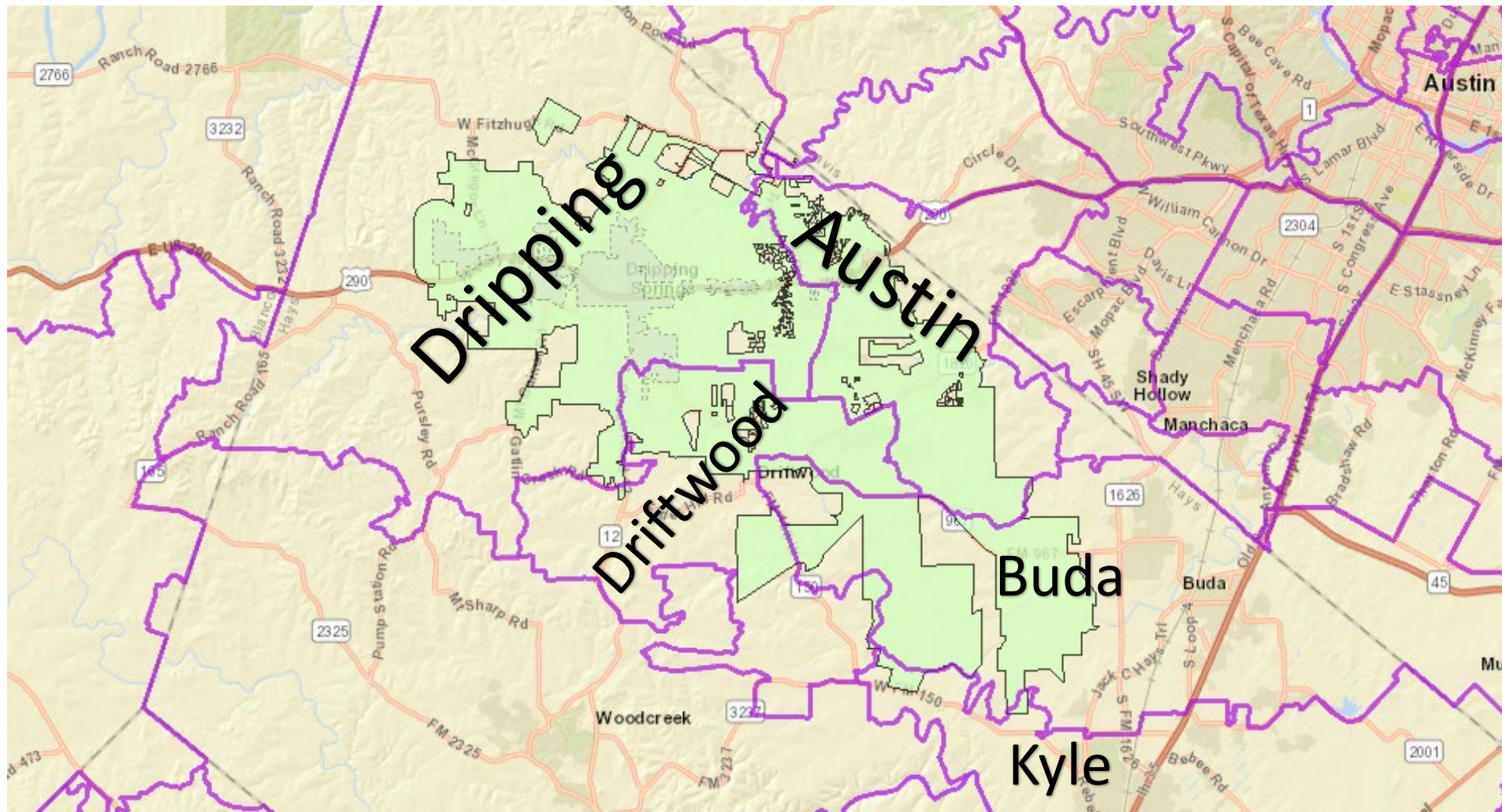


**ETJ**



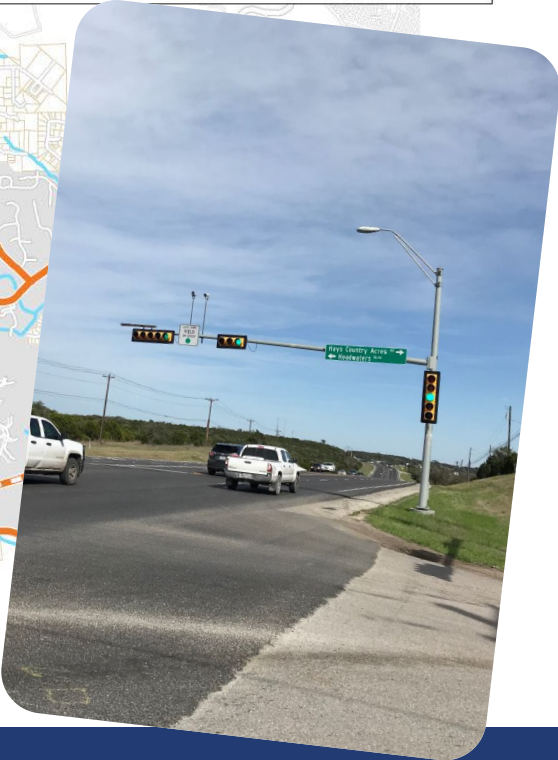
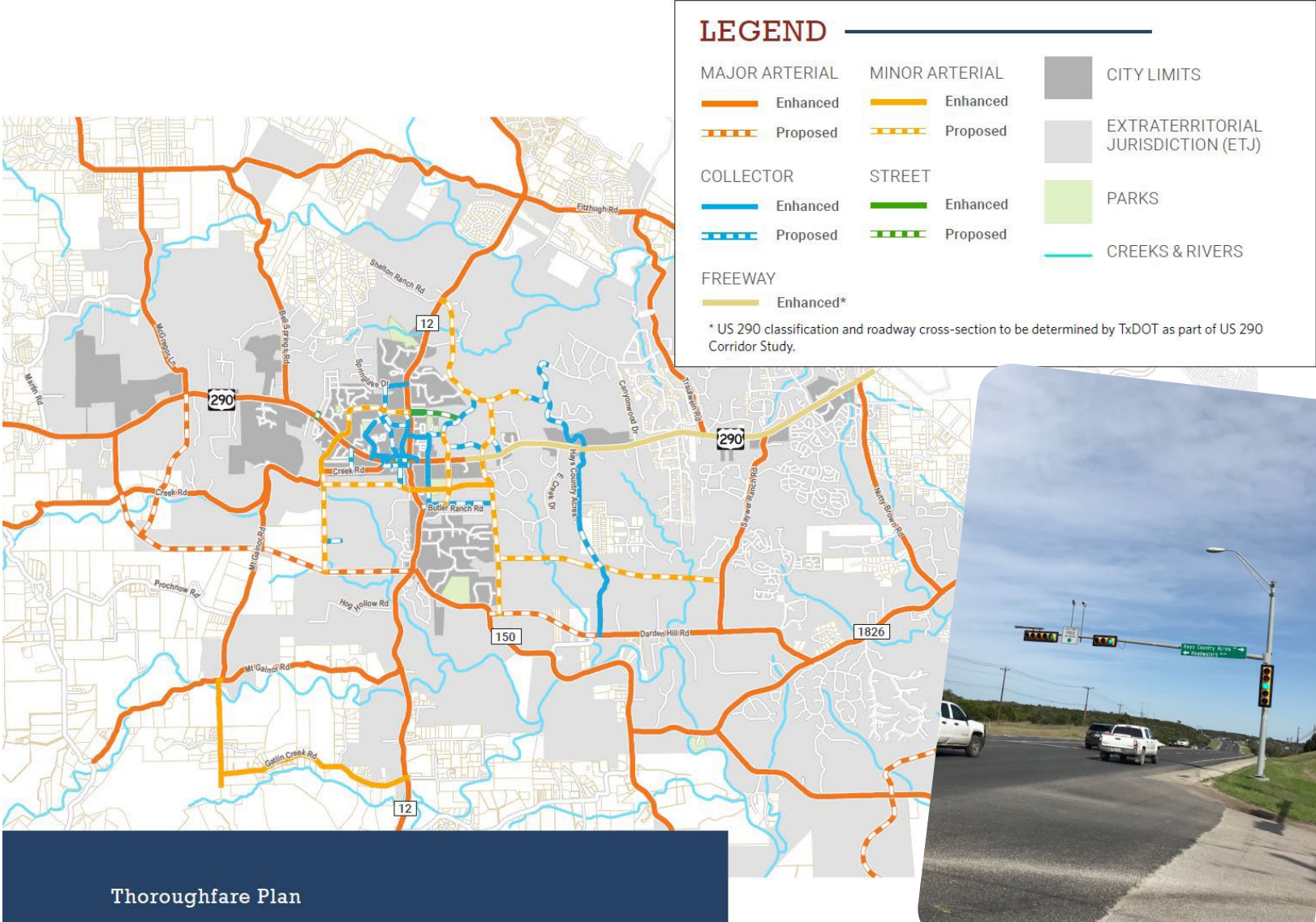


## Zip Codes





# Transportation Master Plan





**DRIPPING SPRINGS**  
Texas

Planning &  
Development

*New  
Development*



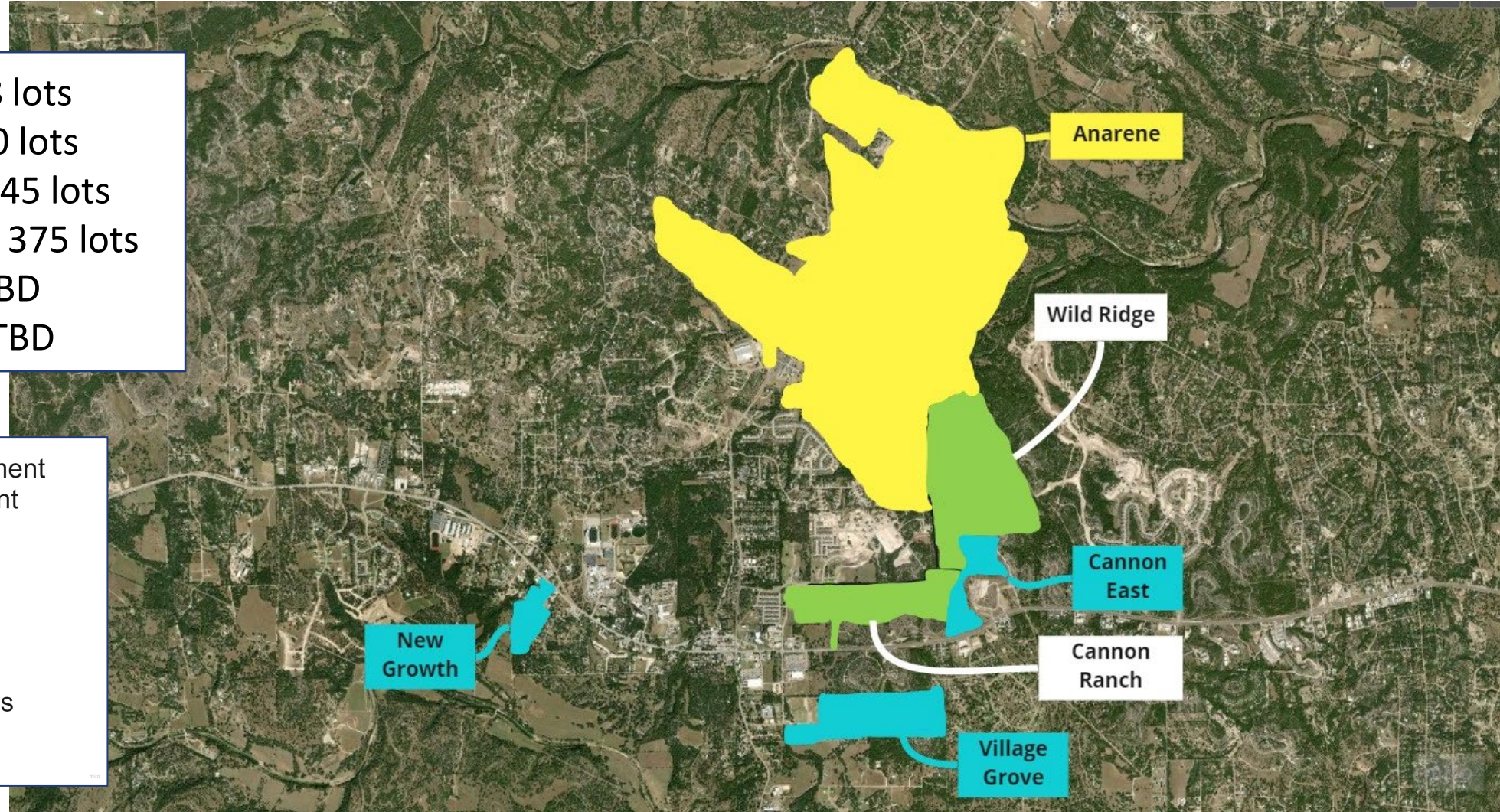
# PDDs and Development Agreements

- Anarene: 2,408 lots
- Wild Ridge: 960 lots
- New Growth: 245 lots
- Cannon Ranch: 375 lots
- Cannon East: TBD
- Village Grove: TBD

 Development Agreement

 PDD

 In Process





# 2022!

- Firestone
- Freebirds
- Mighty Fine
- Anytime Fitness
- Summer Revival
- Massage Heights
- P. Terry's
- Sport Clips
- Los Olivos Market
- Orange Theory Fitness
- Courtyard by Marriott





**DRIPPING SPRINGS**  
Texas

Planning &  
Development

*Coming Up...*





- **Comprehensive Plan**
- **Code Rewrite**
- **Old Fitzhugh Rd. Improvement Project Phase I Engineering**
- **Landscape Ordinance**



# Dripping Springs Comprehensive Plan





**DRIPPING SPRINGS**  
Texas

*Public  
Works*

- 
- Continued to grow the Utilities Department
  - Operated the City's water and wastewater infrastructure and saw a significant decrease in afterhours call outs
  - Oversaw construction of the Rob Shelton sidewalk improvements
  - Began design of the Middle School Sidewalk improvements
  - Accepted street, drainage, water, and wastewater improvements in multiple phases of multiple subdivisions
  - Oversaw construction of improvements at City parks and facilities
- 





# Wastewater Permit Update

- TCEQ Granted the Permit on May 6, 2019
- An Austin opposition group appealed the granting of the Permit to the Travis County District Court
- Both the City and TCEQ appealed the District Court Decision
- The appeals court overturned the District Court decision, and the City is now waiting on a motion for rehearing





**DRIPPING SPRINGS**  
Texas

Parks &  
Community  
Services



# Programs and Events!

- Successful Coyote Kids Nature Camp Program and Tween Scene Night Weekly Program at Dripping Springs Ranch Park.
- Hired a Program Coordinator to expand Coyote Kids Nature Camp year-round during school breaks and holidays. Will also be implementing new youth, adult, and family programs at Dripping Springs Ranch Park.
- Memorial Day Rodeo, Bark in the Park, Festival of Flight, Family Scavenger Hunt and Hayride were successful community events.
- Founders Day and Christmas on Mercer returned bigger and better than ever.





## Other Things Happening!

- Rathgeber Natural Resources Park Master Plan RFQ.
- Park System Signage Phase 1.
- Became Bird City Texas certified.
- Skate Park design and construction.
- Additional parking and parking lot improvements at Founders Memorial Park.
- Rob Shelton sidewalk project from Sports & Recreation Park to Founders Memorial Park.



Future Rathgeber  
Natural Resources Park

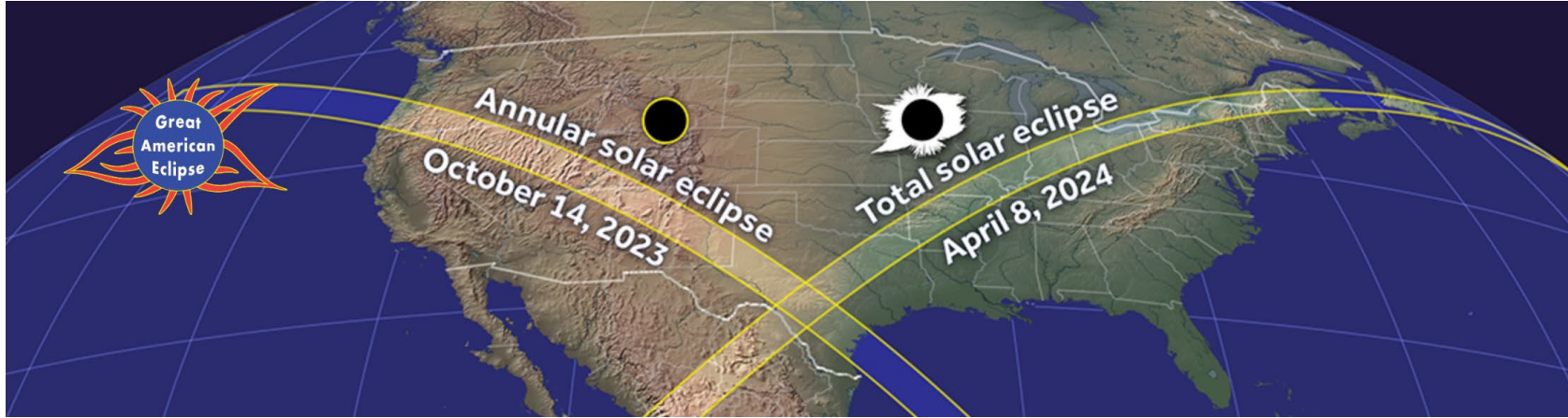


# Check out ***Explore***, our Parks & Community Services 2023 Spring Activities Guide.

The complete guide can be found at [drippingsprings.com](https://drippingsprings.com) under the Parks & Community Services Department.



# Once-in-a-Lifetime Event Coming to Dripping Springs...



**Annular Solar Eclipse**  
October 14, 2023

**Total Solar Eclipse**  
April 8, 2024

The 2023 annular one will not affect us too much. **However, Dripping Springs is directly in the path of totality for the April 2024 Great North American Total Solar Eclipse.**

Not only will people be watching here but will be traveling to other locations through Dripping Springs. Fredericksburg is the heart of totality.

Task Force has been created and meets monthly with reps from City, Chamber, EMS, Destination Dripping Springs and more. Goals are to plan and educate. We need to plan for traffic; food & lodging; small businesses; and so much more.

Look for more information coming in mid-February!





**DRIPPING SPRINGS**  
Texas

## Lighting Ordinance

# International Dark Sky Community

The City has had a Lighting Ordinance since 2000 and became Texas' first International Dark Sky Community in 2014, and the 6<sup>th</sup> in world

There are now 201 IDA Dark Sky Places in the world, 38 of them are dark sky communities, 6 are in Texas



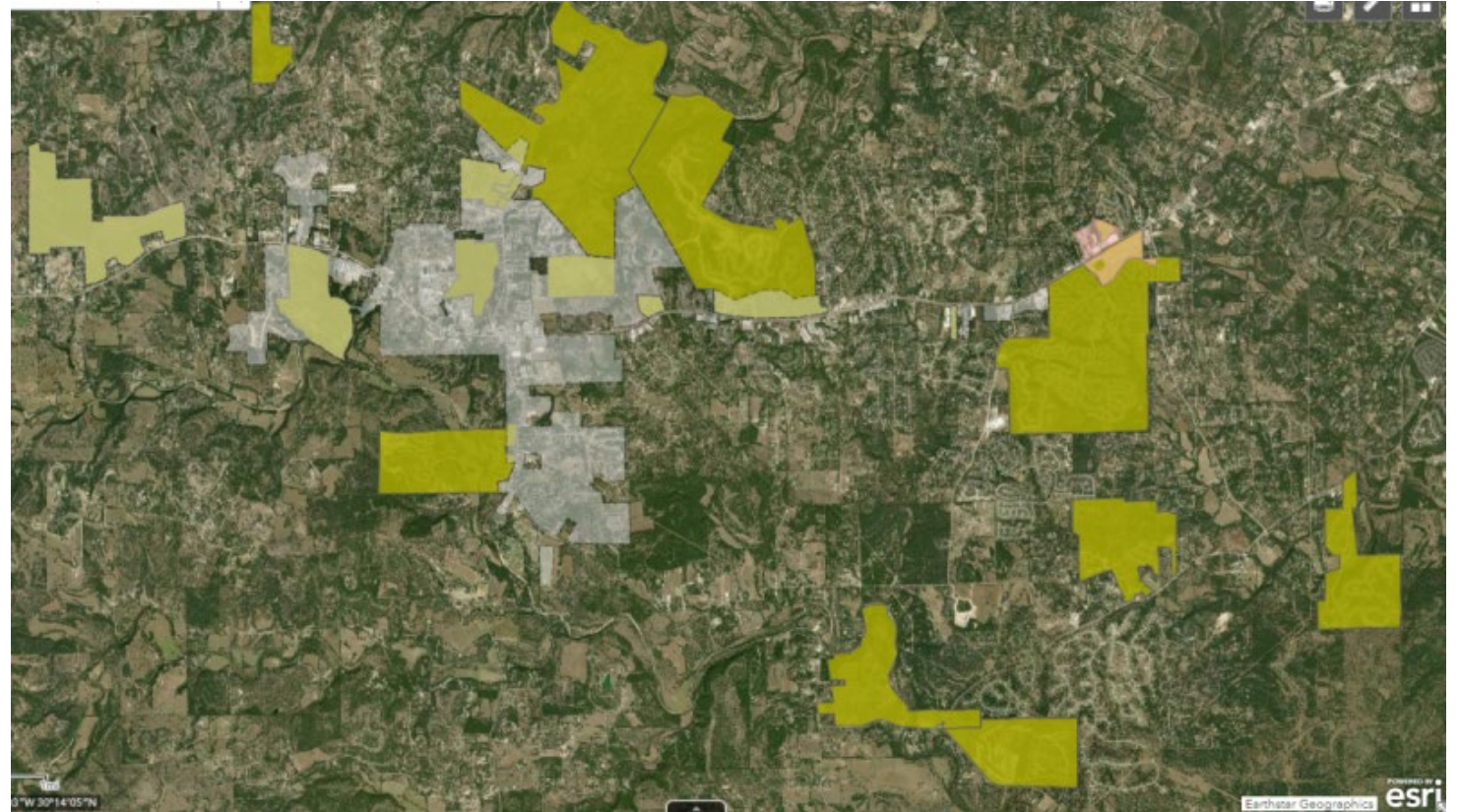


# Applicability of the Lighting Ordinance

- City Limits; applies to ETJ through agreements, as a condition of an approval, and by voluntary compliance
- All signage in the City and the ETJ
- Commercial and residential properties



DRIPPING SPRINGS  
Texas



# The Lighting Ordinance Regulates Light Pollution

Wasted light that  
performs no  
function or task



Artificial light that  
goes where it is  
not supposed to go



# LIGHT TO PROTECT THE NIGHT

## Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting



**Illuminating**  
ENGINEERING SOCIETY



### 5 Principles

#### USEFUL



##### ALL LIGHT SHOULD HAVE A CLEAR PURPOSE

Before installing or replacing a light, determine if light is needed. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and the environment. Consider using reflective paints or self-luminous markers for signs, curbs, and steps to reduce the need for permanently installed outdoor lighting.

#### TARGETED



##### LIGHT SHOULD BE DIRECTED ONLY TO WHERE NEEDED

Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed.

#### LOW LIGHT LEVELS



##### LIGHT SHOULD BE NO BRIGHTER THAN NECESSARY

Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.

#### CONTROLLED



##### LIGHT SHOULD BE USED ONLY WHEN IT IS USEFUL

Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed.

#### COLOR



##### USE WARMER COLOR LIGHTS WHERE POSSIBLE

Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed.

# Benefits of Lighting Ordinance

- Improves Safety & Security
- Saves Money
- Reduces Harm to Humans
- Enhances Property Rights
- Improves Aesthetics
- Reduces Harm to Wildlife & Plants
- Tourism





# Night Sky Program

Website Page:

[cityofdrippingsprings.com/night-sky](http://cityofdrippingsprings.com/night-sky)

Star Parties

International Dark Sky Week in April

Hill Country Night Sky Month in October

Be A Star Award Nominations

Mercer Street Banners



# Night Sky Program

Lights Out Program

Sky Quality Meter Readings

Working with Pedernales Electric Cooperative on Compliance

Chamber of Commerce New Resident Welcome Bags

Mentoring Representatives From Other Communities

Promoting International Dark Sky Association and Hays County Friends of the Night Sky Events & Programs

Educational Lighting Ordinance Presentations







**DRIPPING SPRINGS**  
Texas

Other Exciting  
Things!

# Being Fiscally Responsible For our Citizens

For Fiscal Year 2022  
(October 2021 – September 2022)

Total Sales Tax Received = \$4,193,077.86

- This is a 13.29% increase from FY 2021

Total Local Hotel Occupancy Tax Revenues Received = \$931,260.55

- This is a 63.02% increase from FY 2021

Local Hotel Occupancy Tax Grants Issued by the City:

- \$264,000.00 to Dripping Springs Visitor Bureau
- \$11,500.00 to Pound House

\$709,976.32 received in Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

\$371,340.00 received in Landscape Funds

Total General Fund Revenues = \$11,863,539.43



# New Positions To Meet the Community's Needs...



## New Positions

Deputy City Secretary

Content Marketing Specialist

Dripping Springs Ranch Park Program Coordinator

Two additional Utility Operator 1 positions

Code Enforcement Inspector

City Inspector

Municipal Court Clerk—Part-time

***Everything done by 55 regular employees, 30 seasonal employees, the Mayor, City Council, and 100 volunteers serving on 11 Boards/Commissions/Committees.***



**DRIPPING SPRINGS**  
Texas

*Join Us...*



# Boards, Commissions, and Committees: Volunteers Needed

- The City has multiple boards, commissions, and committees which assist the City Council in making decisions that are in the best interest of the community.
- The City is always taking applications for individuals who wish to serve the community.
- Interested parties can pick up an application at City Hall or on the City Website.



**DRIPPING SPRINGS**  
Texas

## Boards, Commissions, and Committees

- Board of Adjustment
- Dripping Springs Ranch Park Board of Directors
- Economic Development Committee
- Emergency Management Commission
- Farmers Market Committee
- Founders Day Commission
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Planning & Zoning Commission
- Parks & Recreation Commission
- Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #1 and #2 Board
- Transportation Committee
- Utility Commission



DRIPPING SPRINGS  
Texas

Thank you!

City Hall  
511 Mercer Street  
512.858.4725  
[cityofdrippingsprings.com](http://cityofdrippingsprings.com)