

A paved path winds through a wooded area with trees and rocks. The path is made of dark asphalt and is bordered by a line of light-colored rocks. The surrounding area is filled with green trees and bushes, with some fallen branches and logs on the ground. The sky is overcast.

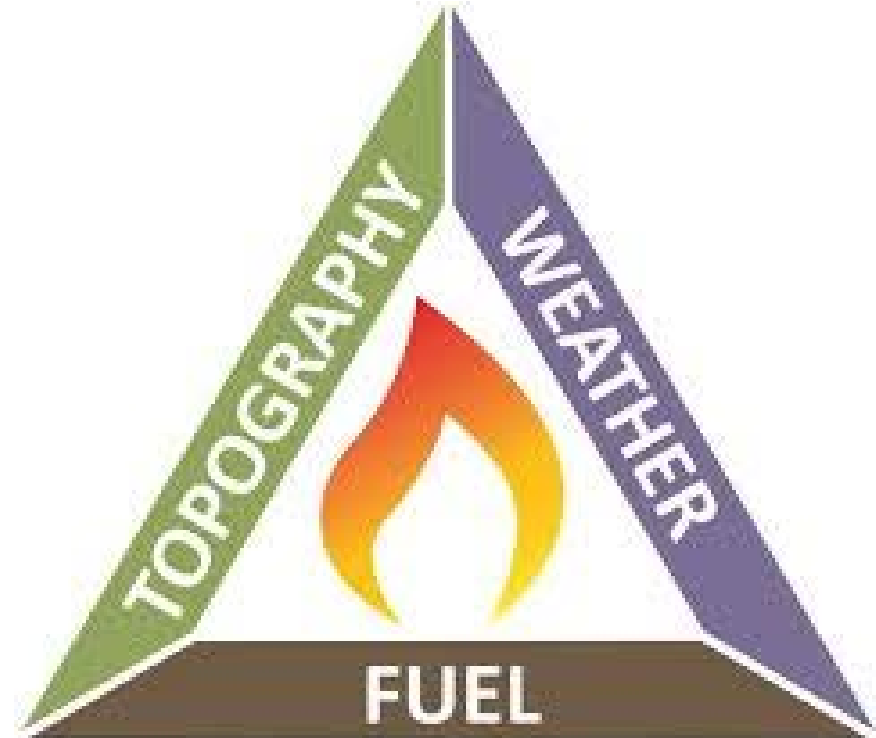
# Austin Parks and Recreation: Fuel Mitigation

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Conservation Program Coordinator

# How Do We Stop Fire??

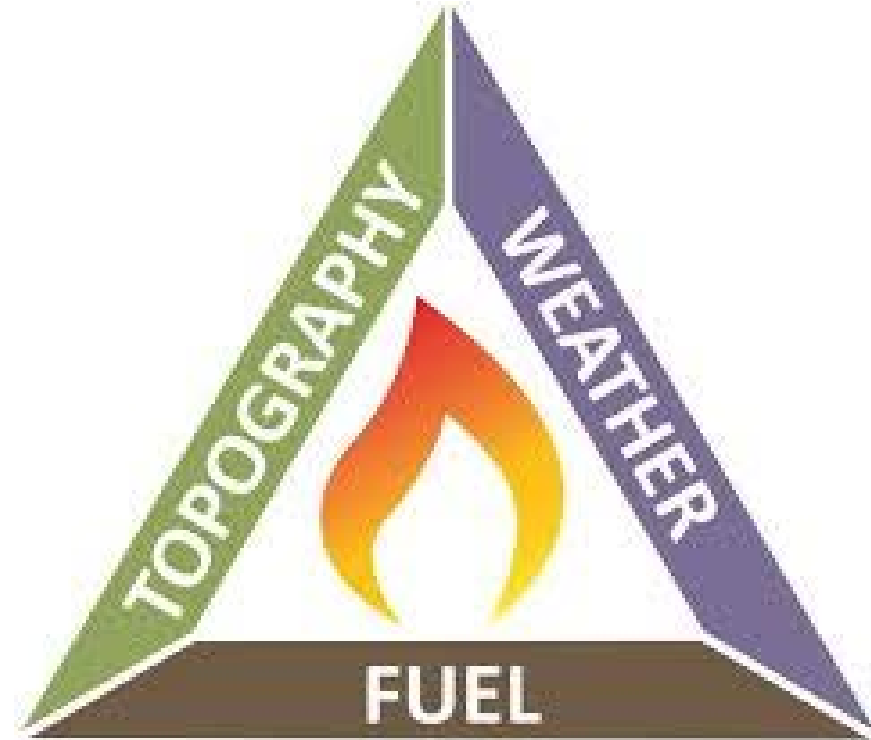


Fire Triangle



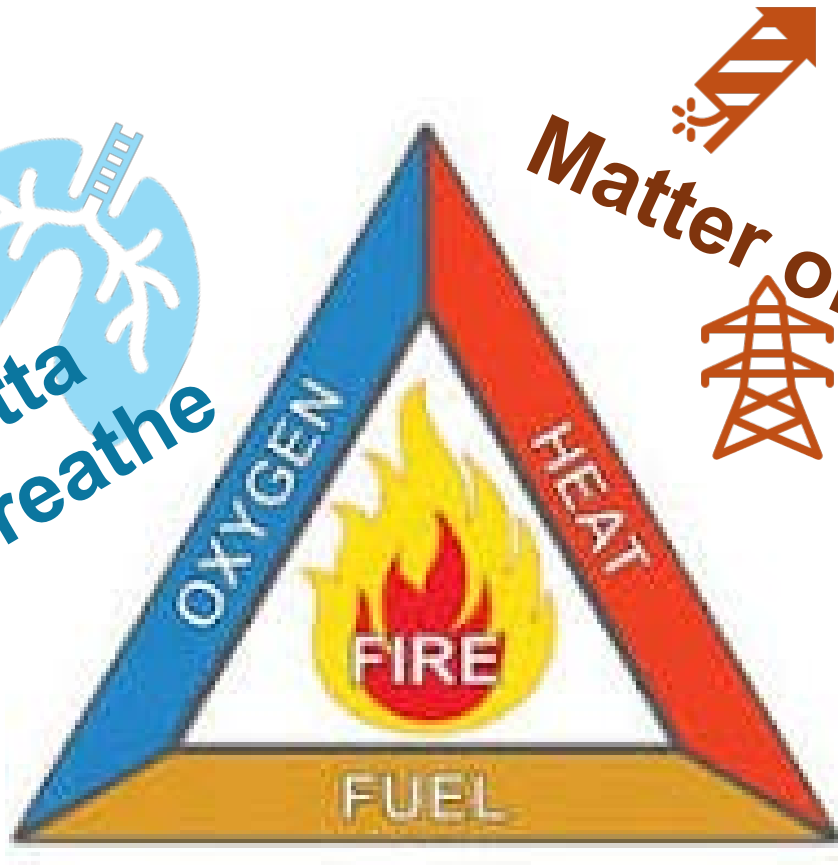
Fire Behavior Triangle

# Remove Oxygen?

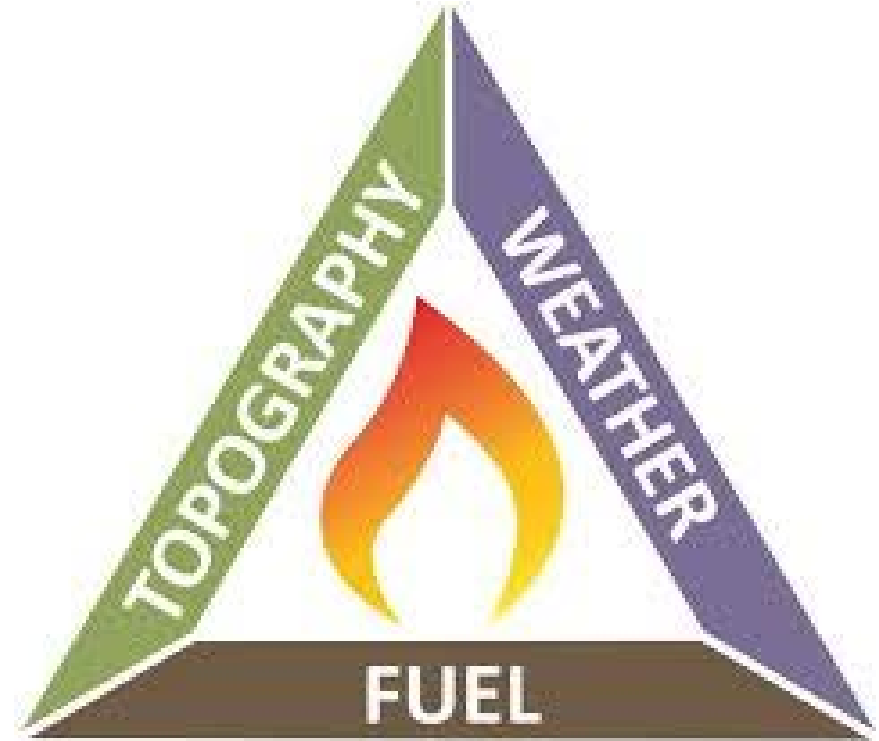


# Stop All Ignitions?

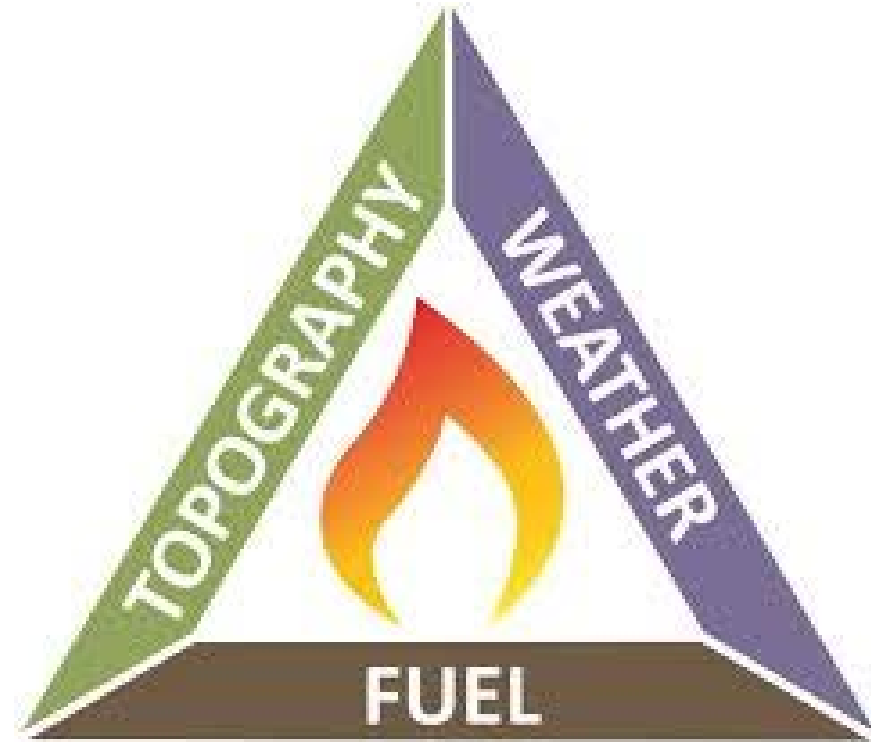
Gotta Breathe



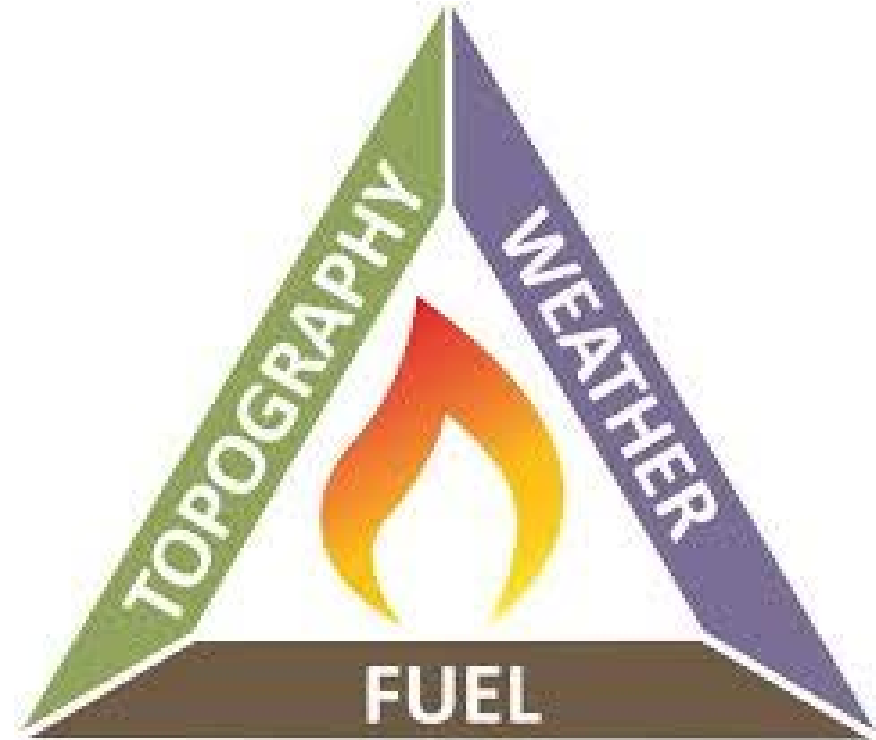
Matter of Time



# Remove All Fuel?



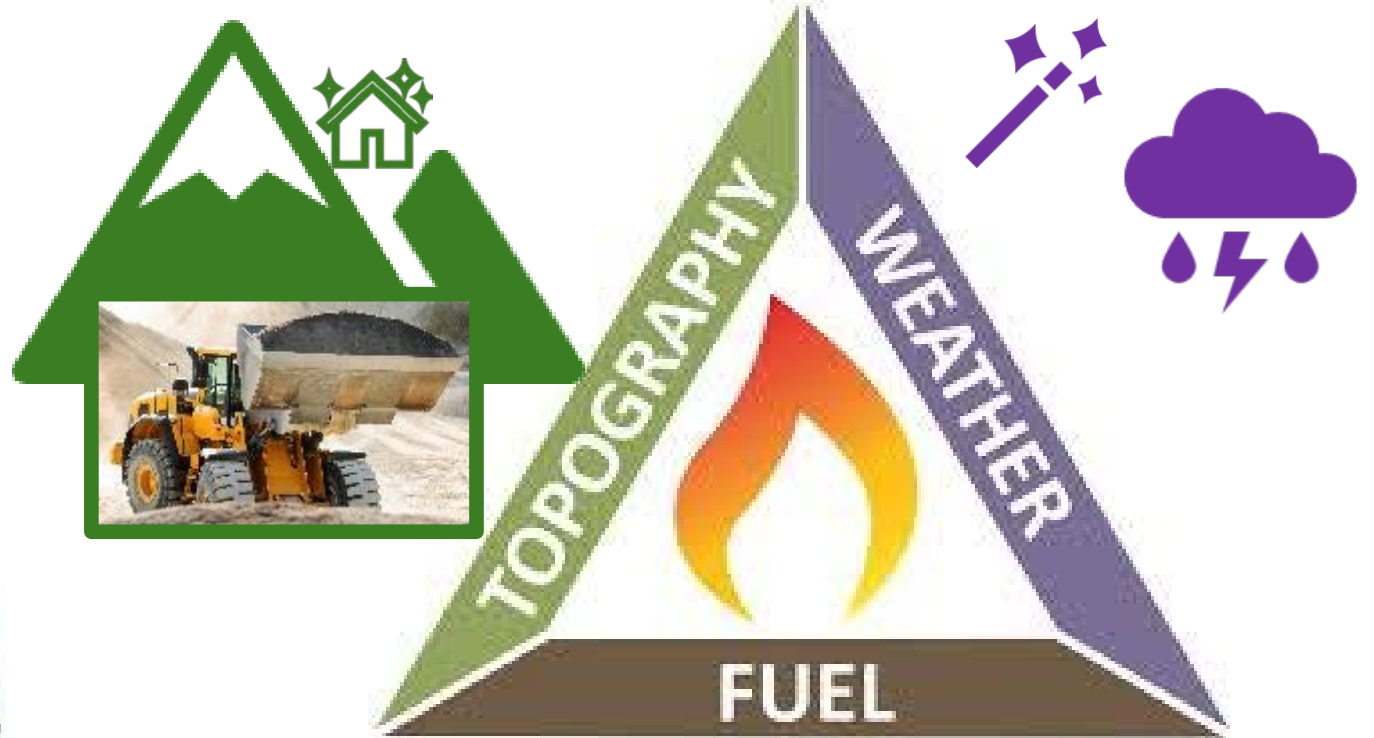
# Can't Stop Fire... Can We Slow It?



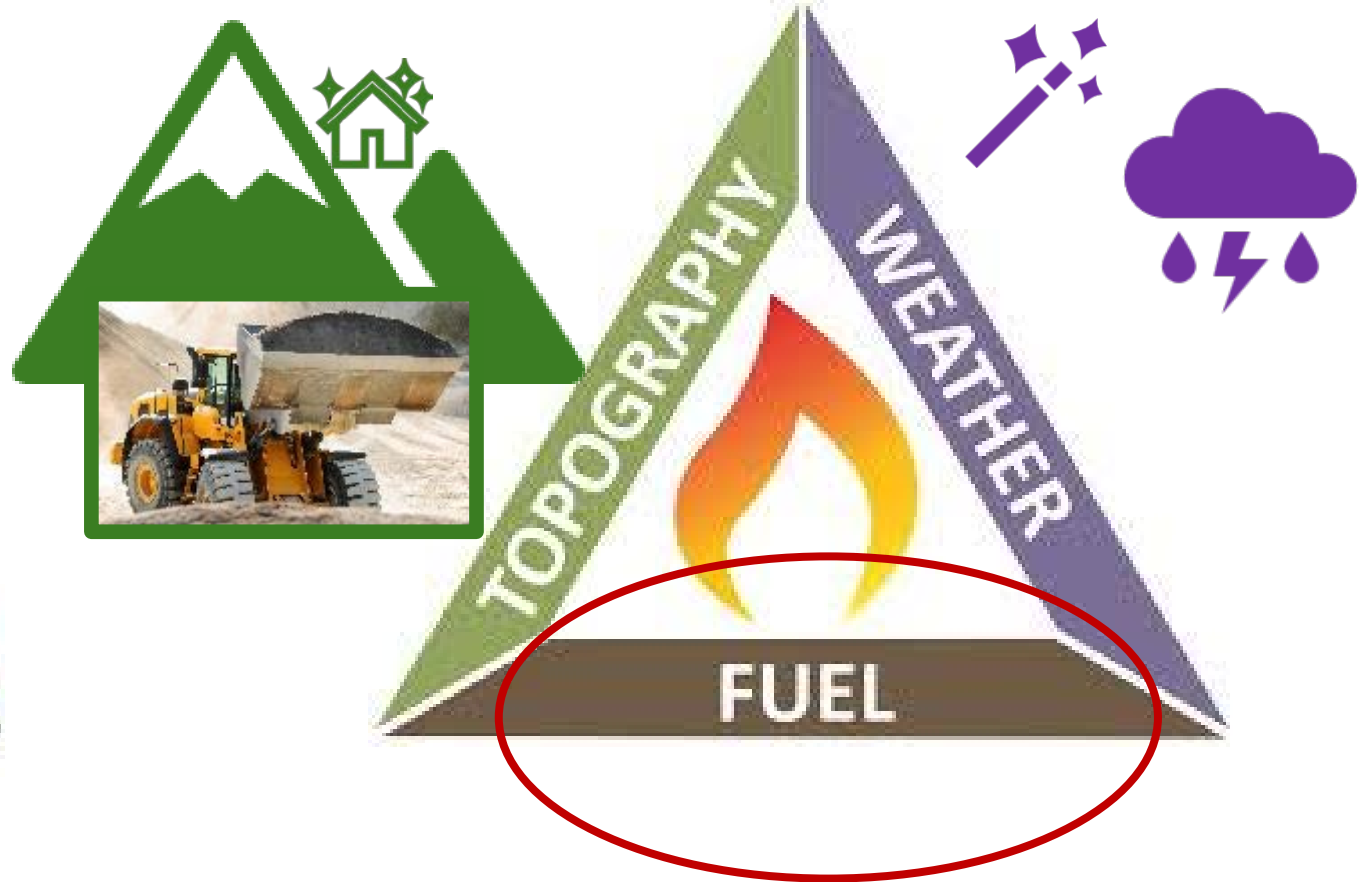
# Flat Earth?



# Weather Magic?



# Changing Fuel Our Last Hope?



# Shaded Fuel Breaks

Zones of woodlands where understory vegetation and woody materials have been removed or rearranged to change fire



## City of Austin Parkland

Total miles of park boundary = 538 miles  
(3912.72 acres)

Potential shaded fuel break = 53.11 miles  
(399.95 acres)

104 acres done (26%) - Retreats need to  
continue every 3-5 years

63.08 acres recommended (15.77%)

76.7 acres treatment not needed (19.17%)

**55.64 acres not viable (13.87%)**

94.06 acres still need inspection (23.5%)

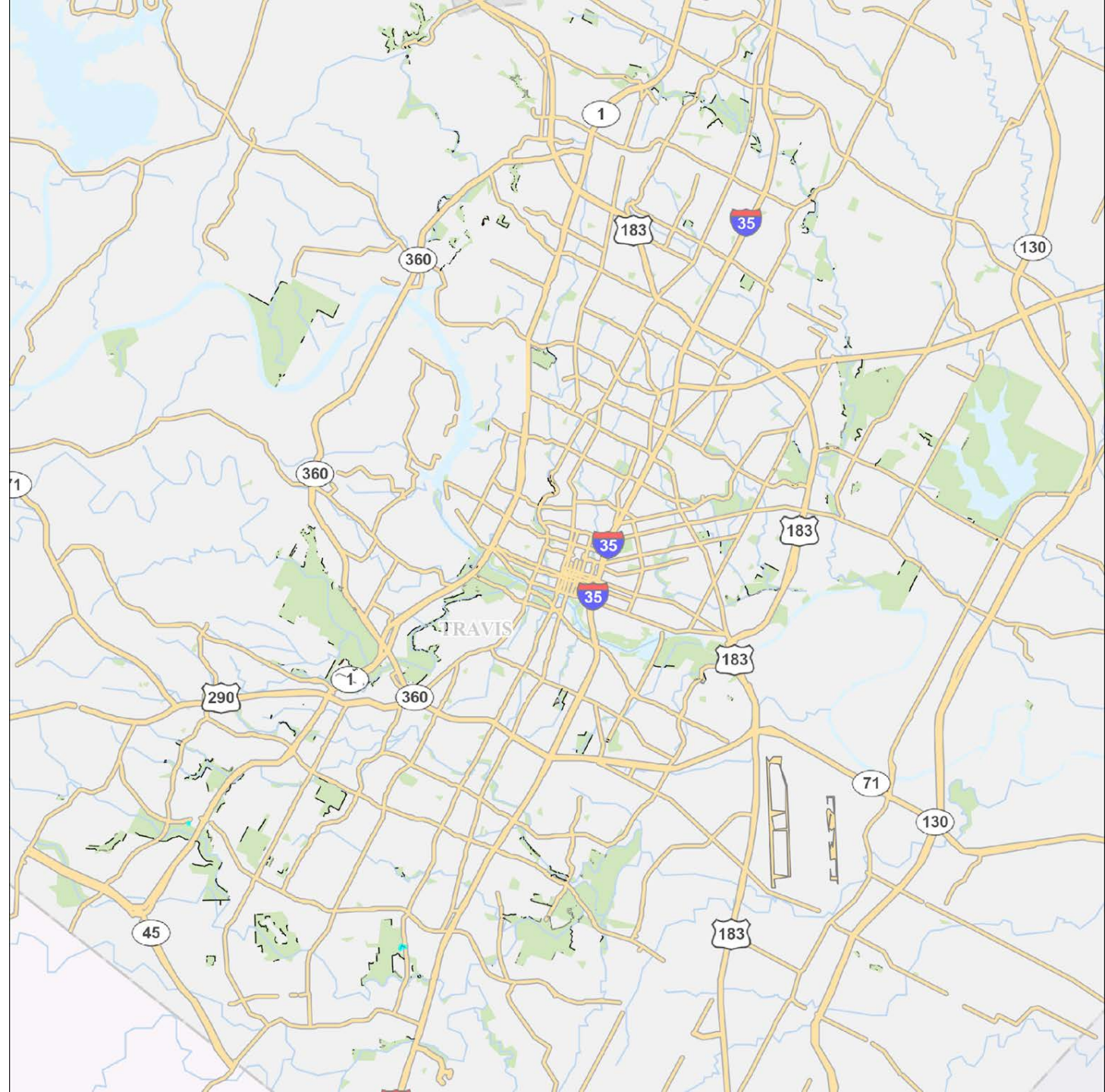
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### Limitations:

\$7,500-25,000/acre vs other treatments \$50-7500/acre

Not all areas are accessible

Focuses only on the 60-100ft from boundary



# 2026 Fuel Mitigation Projects in NW Austin

Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve

Upper Bull Creek Greenbelt

Balcones District Park

Steck Valley Greenbelt (planned)

- Looking at the property more holistically
  - Working off access points and trails
  - Creating a mosaic
  - Improving forest health
- Treatments
  - Dead and down
  - Thinning (not the same as in logging industry)
  - Dripline treatments
  - Invasive species removals



# Where do you fit in?

- Firewise and Fire Adapted Communities
  - [Austintexas.gov/fire/wildfire](https://austintexas.gov/fire/wildfire)
  - Embers are the #1 source of ignition
  - Embers can travel long distances; most don't travel more than a few hundred feet.
- Contractors vs. Volunteers
  - Both have their pros and cons
  - Most sites aren't just one or the other
  - Interested in helping on a specific site, get in touch with us.



A gravel path winds through a wooded area with trees and rocks. The path is the central focus, leading the eye into the distance. The trees are mostly green, suggesting a spring or summer setting. The ground is covered with dry leaves and small rocks.

# Questions? See me at the Parks Committee Table

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