



Vision: Shoal Creek will be a vibrant corridor that integrates the flow of water and people, engages the community, and inspires the public.

The mission of the Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC) is to *restore, protect, and enhance the ecological, social, and cultural vibrancy of Shoal Creek for the people of Austin by engaging the public and partnering with the community.*

To achieve this mission, the SCC has established a number of specific goals. Any concerns or objections to a proposed project or impact to the creek will be considered within the context of these goals. Any public statement made or position taken by the SCC or a representative of the SCC will be consistent with these goals.

The following list of goals is a work on progress. From time to time, the SCC may amend this list to better reflect the efforts and the aspirations of the organization.

Goals Statement

Water Program

Water Quality

The Clean Water Act (CWA), including the sweeping amendments to it passed in 1972, requires that all states restore their waters to be “fishable and swimmable.” Most of Shoal Creek is impaired. The SCC will work with the City of Austin (COA) and landowners adjacent to the creek to restore Shoal Creek waters to a quality that is fishable and swimmable.

Goal: Shoal Creek will be fishable and swimmable.

Stormwater Management

SCC will work with the COA and public and private stakeholders in the short-term to eliminate the risks of flooding from 10-to-15-year rain events. SCC will work with the COA and public and private stakeholders to eliminate the long-term risks of flooding from a 100-year rain event.

Short-term Goal: Eliminate flood risks from 10-to-15-year rain events.

Long-term Goal: Eliminate flood risks from 100-year rain events.

Parks and Trails Program

Parks

Austin is among the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the country, and the Shoal Creek watershed is one of the fastest growing areas of Austin. The watershed suffers from an deficit of parks and parkland.

Goal: Increase parkland and green space in the Shoal Creek watershed.

Goal: Enhance the quality of the parks that currently exist.

Goal: Engage the public in park conservation, enhancement, and support.

Trails

Shoal Creek offers Austin the unique opportunity to connect Lady Bird Lake, downtown, the University of Texas, west Austin neighborhoods, the near northwestern neighborhoods, and the major commercial and employment centers just for north of 183 with a continuous hike-and-bike trail.

Goal: Complete the Shoal Creek hike-and-bike trail the entire length of the watershed from Lady Bird Lake Butler Trail to the Northern Walnut Creek trail.

Goal: Upgrade the quality of this trail.

Nature Program

Imagine Austin, Austin's most recent comprehensive plan, envisions a city where "our open spaces and preserves shape city planning, reduce infrastructure costs, and provide us with recreation, clean air and water, local food, cooler temperatures, and biodiversity." Shoal Creek is one of the most significant stretches of green space in the urban core. For nature to thrive in Austin, the Shoal Creek corridor and its habitats will need to remain vibrant and interconnected.

Goal: Restore Shoal Creek, where possible, to its natural state.

Goal: Eliminate invasive species.

Goal: Engage the public in appreciating and conserving the biodiversity of Shoal Creek through education and interpretation.

History Program

The history of Austin and the history of Shoal Creek are intertwined. From Austin's founding at Waterloo (located near the mouth of Shoal Creek), Austin's history is seen in Shoal Creek's bridges and architecture.

Goal: Restore and improve the areas surrounding the bridges of Shoal Creek, beginning with the 1887 West 6th Street Bridge.

Goal: Engage the public in appreciating and preserving Shoal Creek's historical resources through education and interpretation.