

ABOUT

The bulk of this Guide's content was culled from a series of participatory public events that took place during 2015/2016. The intent of the resulting publication is twofold: 1) it aims to document the South Central Waterfront as it is today, as it is on the cusp of notable morphological change AND 2) it acts as an exploratory tool for those interested in learning more about the area.

TIMELINE

- 1839 Edwin Waller created the first city plan.
- 1888 Completion of the current Capitol building.
- Early 1900's Because it was a flood plain, the SCW was used for agriculture that consisted of cattle pastures and spinach fields.
- 1910 Completion of the current Congress Street Bridge
- 1960's Creation of the Long Horn Dam and Town Lake.*
- 1980 Concrete reinforcement of the Congress Bridge, and the arrival of the bats.
- 1981 The completion of the Austin American Statesman building at 305 South Congress Ave.
- 2013 Initial planning process for the SCW begins.
- 2014 The Boardwalk opens.
- 2016 The City Council approves and adopts the South Central Waterfront Master Plan.
- *The creation of the dam allowed the South Central Waterfront to develop from a flood plain, into what it is today, a mix of parkland, office, retail, residential, and civic uses.

SCW DATA

- Area: 118 Acres.
- Green Space: 9.8 Acres (8% of 118).
- Estimated Impervious Coverage: 95.5 Acres (81% of 118).
- Elevation: 440 feet above sea level.
- Average Annual Rainfall: 34 inches.
- Tallest Building: The Catherine @ 19 stories.
- Shortest Building: Aussie's @ a very low 1 story.
- Outdoor Swimming Pools: 6 (all private).
- Sustenance: 9 restaurants, 2 bars, 2 coffee shops, 1 market, 1 liquor store, and 1 donut shop.

NATIVE

- Live Oak
- Mountain Laurel
- Bald Cypress
- Cross Vine
- Georgian Pine
- Poison Ivy
- Northern Red Oak
- Tree of Heaven?
- Elephant Ears



Walk & Draw/ Oct. 2015: Fairy Jacuzzi, Artist Unknown



Found Object Walk/ Artist Unknown

FLYING FAUNA

- A FEW of the common airborne creatures you can spot along the wild river's edge or in green areas:
- Great Blue Heron
- Green Heron
- Yellow Crowned Night Heron
- Grackles
- Domestic Ducks and Geese
- Turkey Vultures
- Common Egret
- Muted Swan
- Damselflys and Dragonflies

AND the INFAMOUS Mexican Free-tailed Bat....

- BAT FACTS
- * Bat watching season: March thru November @ dusk.
- * Birthing season is in early June.
- * Bats are NOT blind. They use echolocation as their primary navigational tool, but they have eyes/sight.
- * Mama bats use their nose/ears to find their one pup among the hundreds of thousands under the bridge.
- * Lucky for us, the bats under the bridge eat 10 to 30,000 pounds of insects every evening!



This Guide was a collaboration between the City of Austin, residents, Austin's Atlas, Emma Gundlach, and Ann Armstrong

To learn more visit: austintexas.gov/waterfront, austinsatlas.com, emmagundlach.com, ann-made.org



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SOME QUESTIONS TO PONDER....

- * What makes Austin feel like home?
- * What is your favorite memory of Lady Bird Lake?
- * What local green spaces do you frequent the most?
- * If you could influence one aspect of the future development of the SCW, what would it be?
- * As the City grows and changes, what part of Austin do you not want to lose?

Photo Safari/ Oct. 2015: Where the City Meets the Landscape, Davie M.



Found Object Walk/ Sept 2015: 82 Cigarettes, Emily E.

ACTIVITIES



With the SCW as your territory, take a 30 minute stroll and complete one or both of the activities described below.

A FREE STYLE photo HUNT:
Capture the 10 themes on the list below with your camera.

- A. where the cityscape meets the landscape.
- B. a circle created by nature.
- C. creatures in the wild.
- D. a frayed edge.
- E. a photo of what's above.
- F. a photo of what's down low.
- G. feet on the trail (not yours).
- H. where the magic is found.
- I. how shadows and/or light play.
- J. a shrine (if you can't find one, make one).

Found Object WALK:
Collect objects you find on the ground as you go. When you arrive at a stopping point, find a smooth flat surface on which to compose your finds. Arrange and photograph when complete.

Send resulting snapshots to austinsatlas@yahoo.com and we'll add them to our collection. Tag any photos you post from the above activities with [#southcentralwaterfront](https://twitter.com/southcentralwaterfront)

Photo Safari/ Oct. 2015: Where the City Meets the Landscape, Ana M.

SCW SONIC BINGO

 BIKE ON GRAVEL	 BIRDS	 CARS DRIVING
 CONSTRUCTION	 BATS	 RUSTLING LEAVES
 WOOF! DOG BARK	 MUSIC	 SQUIRRELS
 WATER SPLASH	 LAUGHTER	 SNEEZE

MOST SURPRISING SOUND?

MOST COMMON SOUND?

18 POINTS OF INTEREST

1. Bald Cypress snorkels.
2. Where "82 cigarettes" originated.
3. The tallest lobby.
4. An endless kiss between two buildings, on a property line.
5. An owl, hidden in the city grid.
6. Willie N. Festus (aka the Terminix Bug), c.1960.
7. One Texas Center/ Development Services.
8. The BATS, of course.
9. A secret, yet publicly accessible courtyard.
10. The emptiest corner.
11. East Bouldin Creek.
12. The Fairy Jacuzzi.
13. A solitary picnic spot.
14. Where a Cypress falls in love, with a Sycamore.
15. Where time stands still.
16. Scenic city view.
17. The Boardwalk.
18. Where the wild things are...at dusk.

Colorado River
Lady Bird Lake, AKA, Town Lake
LADY BIRD LAKE BIKE AND BIKE TRAIL
South First
Barton Springs
Riverside
South Congress
E. Bouldin Creek
20-25 min walk
South Central Waterfront boundary
Blum Cr.

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AUSTIN'S ATLAS

Photo Safari/ Oct. 2015: Creatures in the Wild, Beau F.

To the Gulf of Mexico >>>

