

Mayfield Park

3505 West 35th St., Austin, TX 78703

ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES HIKE

1. Small Tree of the Year
2. Rimrock
3. Mayfield Spring
4. Protected Tree
5. Wetland

6. Wetland
7. Creek View
8. Shelter Cave
9. Heritage Tree
10. Rimrock



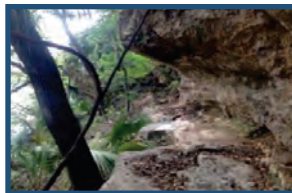
Mayfield Park

ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES HIKE

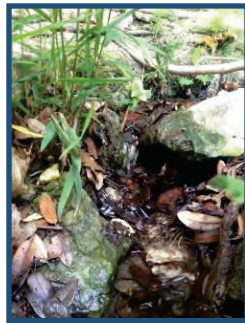
1. This **Texas persimmon tree** was celebrated as the 2009 Small Tree of the Year. The Texas persimmon is native to the state and is a food source for birds, mammals and butterflies.



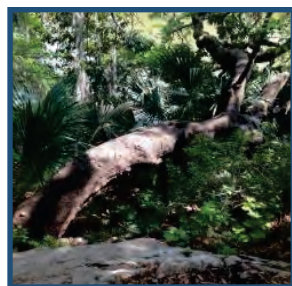
2. **Canyon rimrock** is a short cliff, greater than 50 feet long and greater than four feet tall. They are critical environmental features.



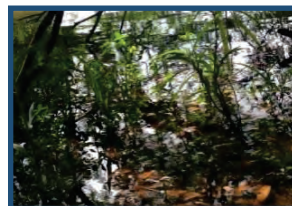
3. **Mayfield Spring** is not visible from the trail, so please don't risk climbing down to find it. The spring flows underground beneath your feet and then discharges on the slope below the trail. Springs are Critical Environmental Features because they provide baseflow to our creeks and rivers.



4. This twisty, curvy live oak is protected under Austin's Land Development Code. **Tree preservation** provides habitat for wildlife and reduces the effects of urban heat islands.



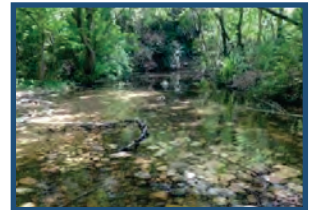
5. **Wetland fringes** help protect the lake's shoreline from erosion, provide habitat for young fish, and help remove pollutants from the water.



6. While Lake Austin currently struggles with a lack of aquatic vegetation, where conditions are right, certain species of wetland plants are able to thrive on the shoreline. This wetland species is **American water willow** *Justicia americana*.



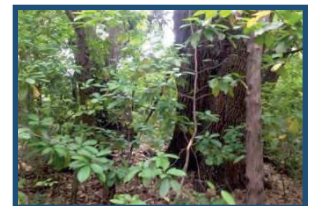
7. **Creeks** with drainage areas greater than 64 acres are protected from development by an area called a Critical Water Quality Zone. The Zone buffers the creek. This creek is named Taylor Slough North.



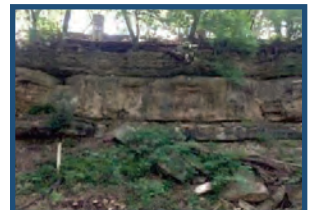
8. This **shelter cave** formed when a softer limestone layer eroded below a hard limestone layer. This is different from the dissolution of limestone that creates underground caves. This shelter cave has been used by animals and humans for thousands of years.



9. **Heritage trees** are certain long-lived native species like oaks, elms and bald cypress, among others, that are at least 24 inches in diameter (measured 4.5 feet from the ground).



10. Development along this **canyon rimrock** happened long before adoption of the Comprehensive Watersheds Ordinance. Current rules prevent development from occurring right at the rock edge.



Cave and Wetland Critical Environmental Features (initially defined in the *Comprehensive Watersheds Ordinance*) are found in the park. **Buffers for these features and Taylor Slough North help sustain baseflow and provide recreational opportunities, while also protecting our drinking water supply.**

In May 2016 we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Comprehensive Watersheds Ordinance.



WATERSHED PROTECTION

www.austintexas.gov/watershed