

Archiving the History and Science of Waller Creek, Austin, TX in a Publicly Accessible Repository

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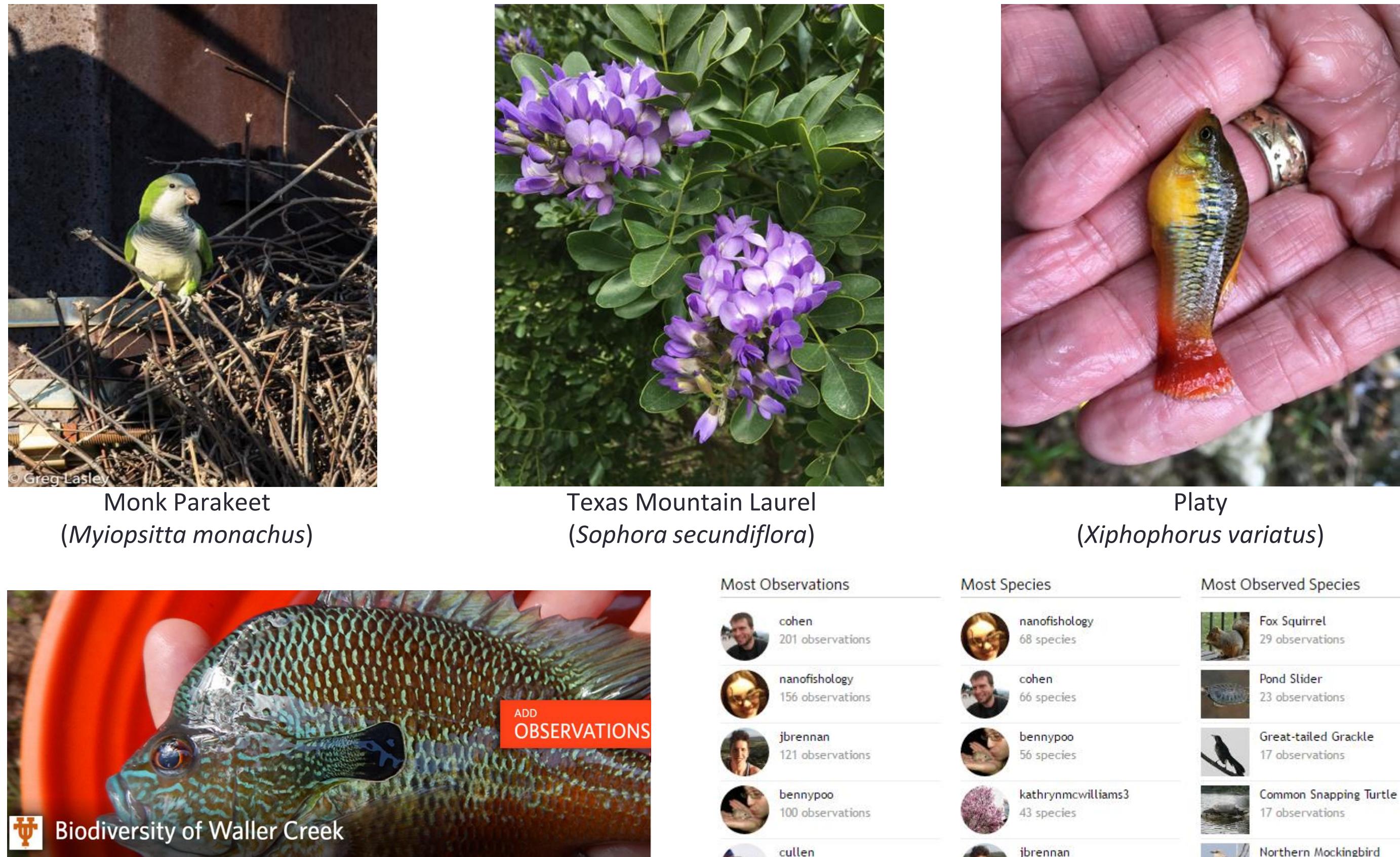
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Introduction

Waller Creek watershed is wholly contained within the city limits of Austin, Texas. Headwaters flow through residential neighborhoods then the stream bisects the University of Texas campus to continue through the heart of Austin's central business district. The creek has degraded significantly but still provides important urban habitat for hundreds of species and is now being further modified to provide new outdoor parks and natural spaces in downtown Austin¹. To improve watershed-wide coordination and help provide a more comprehensive and interdisciplinary perspective for the watershed's stakeholders, we, The Waller Creek Working Group, are developing a publicly accessible, permanent repository to archive published and unpublished data, images, and diverse information pertaining to the creek. Through this archive, we hope to facilitate continued research on the creek and act as a repository for future information gathered from it.

iNaturalist

<http://bit.ly/2lap3za>



iNaturalist has proven very helpful for documenting Waller Creek biodiversity by making it very easy to post images to the iNaturalist website where identifications are confirmed by a very active global community of enthusiasts and researchers. By inclusion of geographical locations, even those users unaware of our project end up contributing data to it, and iNaturalist shares its data to other global biodiversity data servers. Currently, we have 1,349 observations of 477 species contributed by 200 people.

Waller Creek is Constantly Changing



Photographed by Jacob Hendrickson on 2006-12-28.

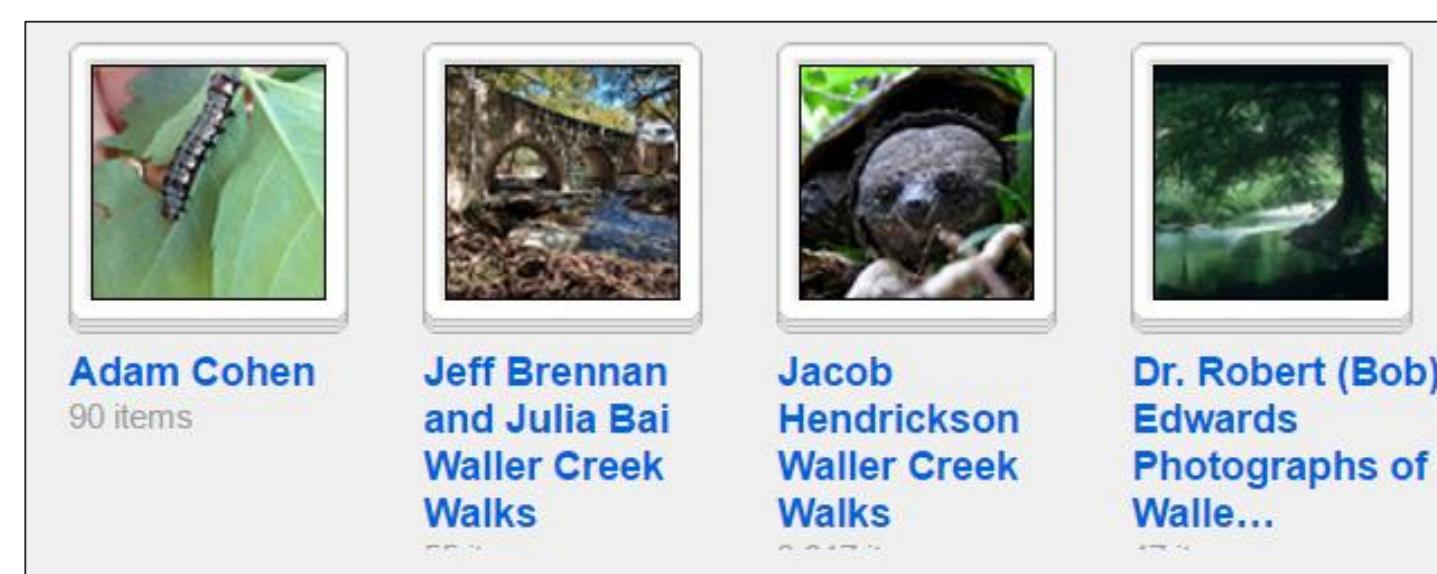
Photographed by Jeff Brennan on 2017-01-20.

Image Archives – Flickr

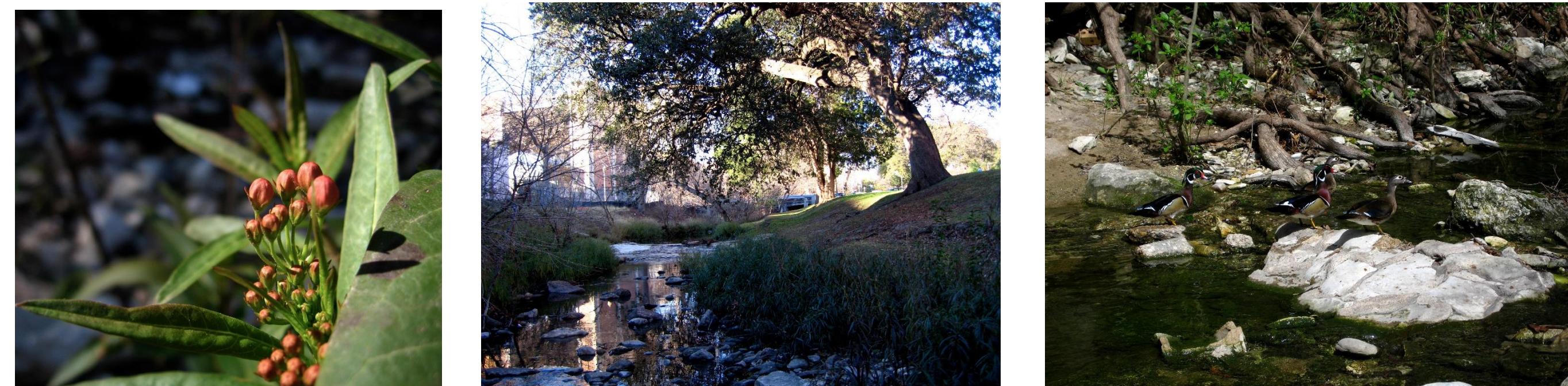
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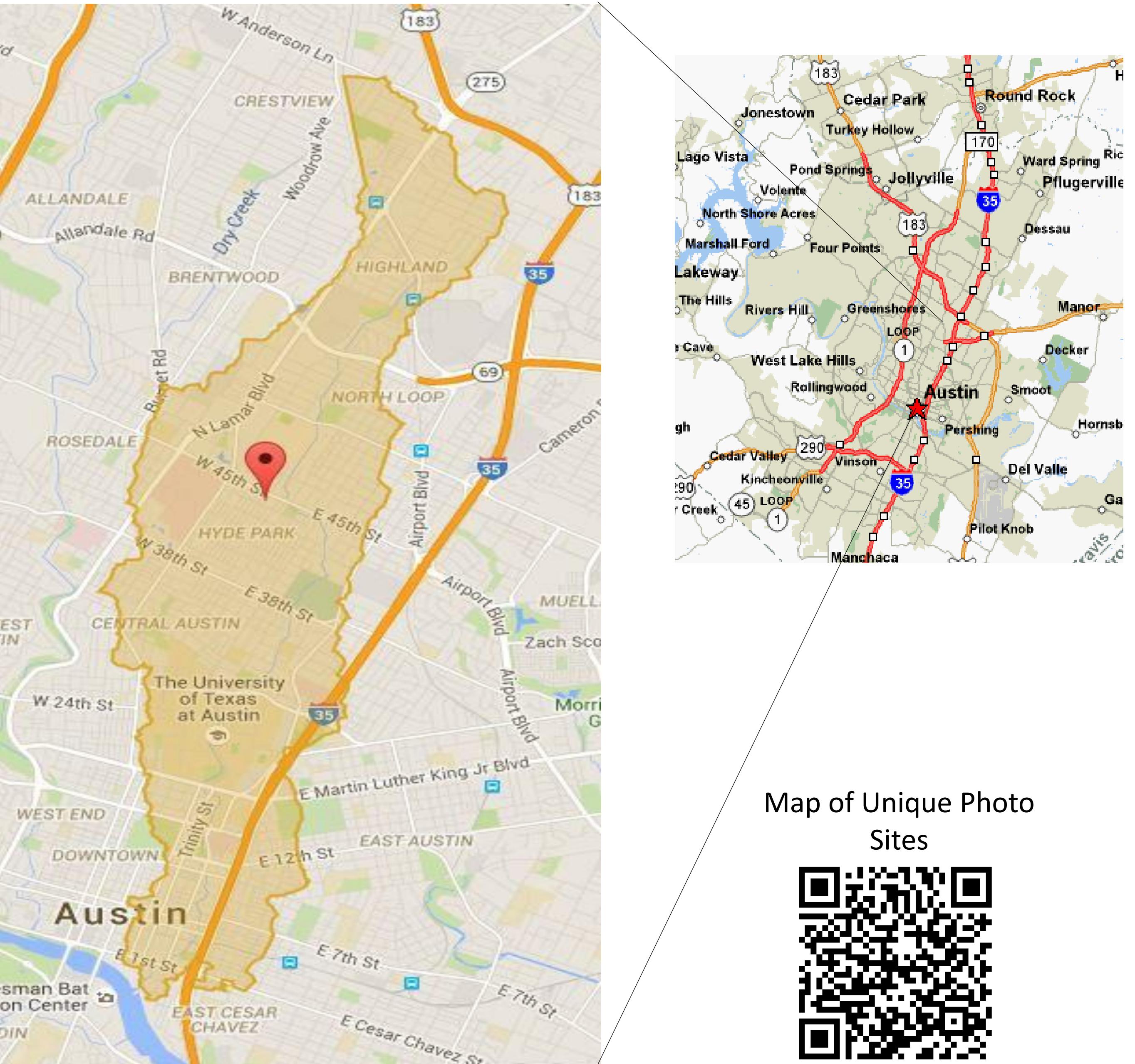
We have discovered historic photo archives, georeferenced embedded metadata, and uploaded over 3000 digital images from as early as the 1970s to the Waller Creek Working Group Flickr account where they can be viewed and mapped. Providing images on Flickr makes them available to a large audience who can comment and use them for diverse purposes. These images will also be permanently archived in the University's digital repository.



Screenshots from our Flickr image archive showing 4 albums in development (left) and images from the archive (below).



Waller Creek Watershed



Monthly images of Waller Creek were taken repeatedly between 2006-2008 at 43 unique locations. These images are publicly available in our Flickr archive.

Texas Scholar Works

<http://bit.ly/2mpMQAO>

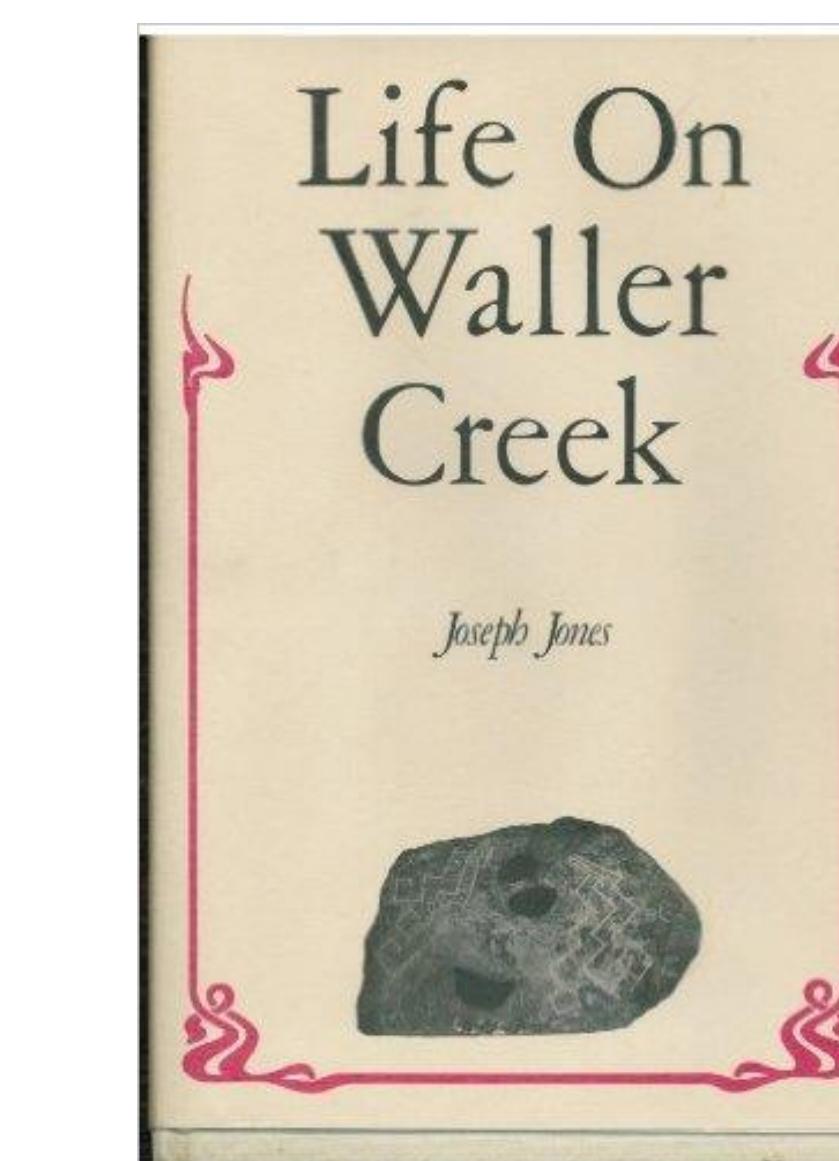
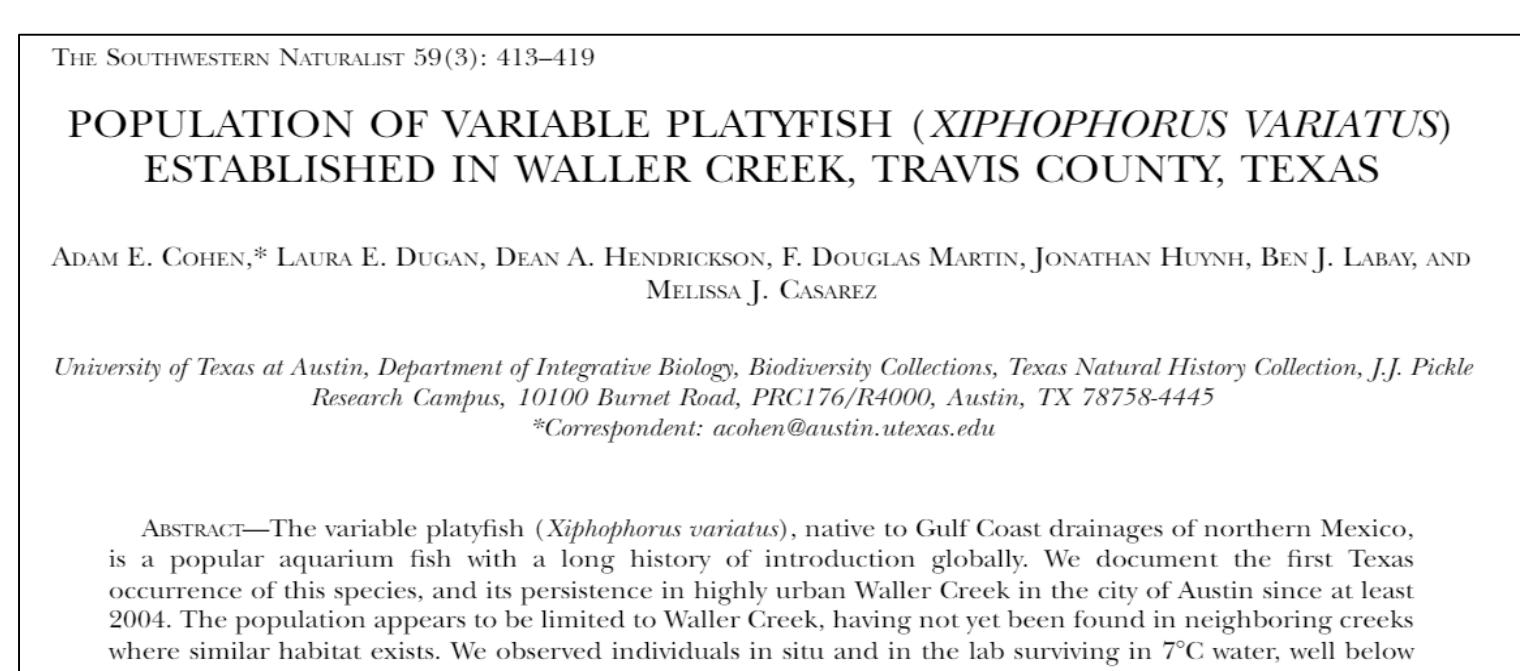


We are permanently archiving and making publicly available published and unpublished resources relevant to Waller Creek history, management and sustainability. Archived resources were obtained via extensive literature searches and community outreach including active community surveys, personal interviews, open symposia, and word of mouth. Our first 566 archived items include newspaper articles, published journal articles, maps and books, as well unpublished documents, datasets and images. These items will soon be uploaded to The University of Texas at Austin's digital repository, Texas Scholar Works. Once archived there, content will be publicly accessible and easily findable by major web indexing services. The archive's comprehensive content and easy "one stop" shopping for information about Waller Creek will prove useful to all interested in any aspect of urban creek management and sustainability issues. By assuring permanent availability of diverse, and often previously inaccessible resources and baseline data sets covering extended time periods, the archive will facilitate future before and after analyses, and promote increased research activity and development of urban creek management and sustainability.

Type of Resource	Number
Technical Report	202
Article	93
Data set	44
Presentation	36
Image	30
Video	27
Map	25
Other	25
Thesis	17
Book	15

Waller Creek resources we have currently found are from a variety of published and unpublished sources (left).

Examples of publications (below).



PICA 04632, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

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Waller Creek Working Group
<http://bit.ly/2laEes9>

Acknowledgements:

This research was made possible by the UT Green Fee program
<https://texasgreenfee.wordpress.com/>

References

¹ Waller Creek Conservancy, Austin, TX.

<https://www.wallercreek.org/about/>