

# Open Government Initiative: Community Perspective



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After much excitement and anticipation, our Open Government efforts are flagging and may be on the brink of failure



# Open Data Portal

Open Gov Datasets by Department/Category

Data portal: [data.austintexas.gov](http://data.austintexas.gov)  
 Breakdown by: date created  
 As of: Wed Aug 28 2013 03:17:07 GMT-0500 (CDT)



Search:

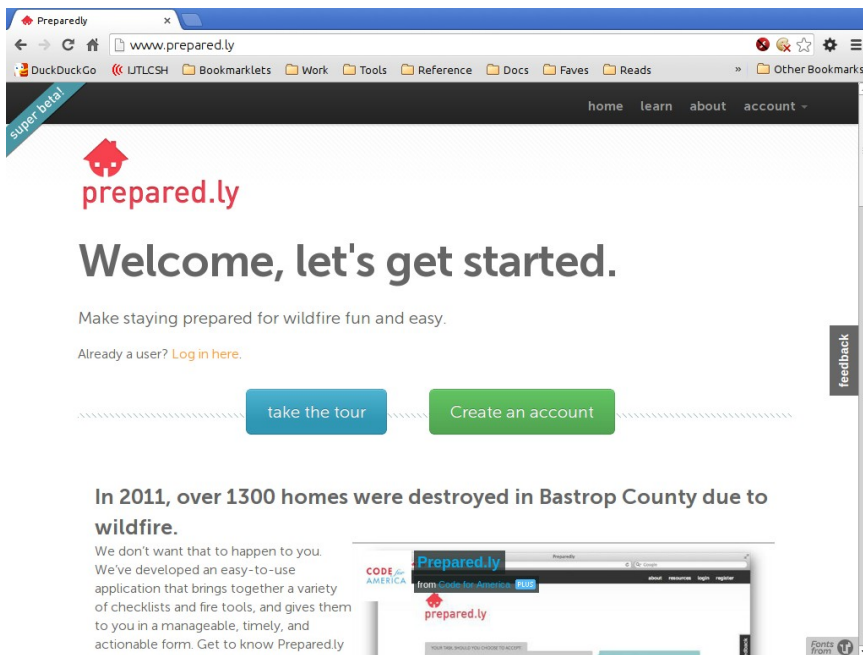
Department or Category	0-30 days	31-90 days	91-365 days	>365 days	Total Datasets
Communication and Technology Management	1	2	13	2	18
Financial Services	0	9	0	4	13
Parks & Recreation	0	2	0	0	2
Planning and Development Review	0	2	0	0	2
Watershed Protection	0	1	2	0	3
Public Information Office	0	1	1	0	2
Telecom & Regulatory Affairs	0	1	0	0	1
Austin Energy	0	0	0	10	10
Austin Water Utility	0	0	9	0	9
Austin Police	0	0	1	6	7
Environmental	0	0	0	7	7
Austin Resource Recovery	0	0	0	6	6
Code Compliance	0	0	5	0	5
Health and Human Services	0	0	3	2	5
Other	0	0	2	2	4
Undefined	0	0	0	4	4
Emergency Medical Services	0	0	3	0	3
Neighborhood Housing and Community Development	0	0	0	2	2
Animal Services	0	0	1	1	2
Public Safety	0	0	0	2	2
Public Works	0	0	0	1	1
Government	0	0	0	1	1
Library	0	0	0	1	1
Austin Fire	0	0	0	1	1
Mayor & Council	0	0	1	0	1
Business	0	0	0	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>113</b>

Showing 1 to 26 of 26 entries

<http://data.open-austin.org/data-catalogs/views/by-department.html>

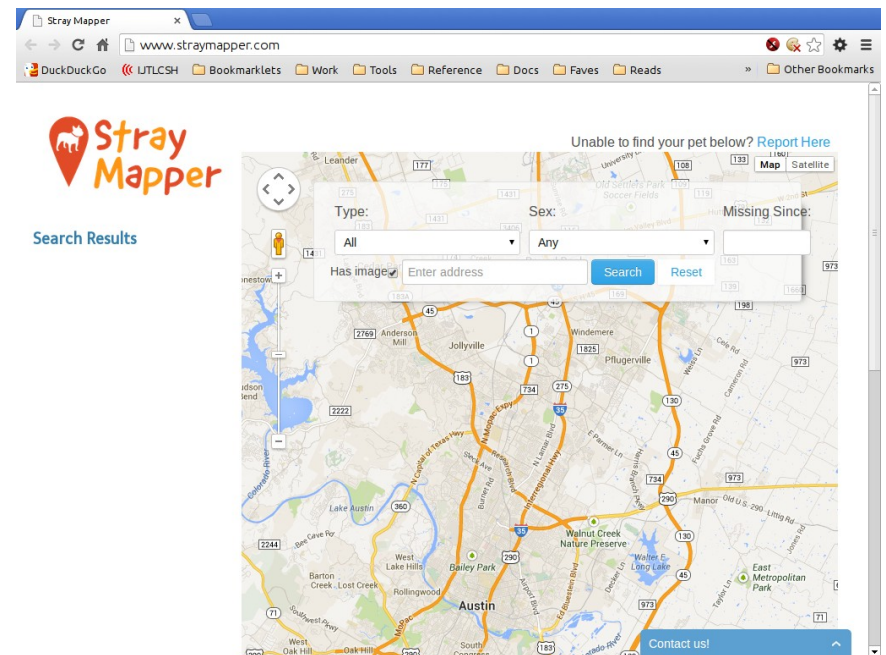
# Code for America Applications

prepared.ly



The screenshot shows the homepage of prepared.ly. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'home', 'learn', 'about', and 'account'. Below the navigation bar is the prepared.ly logo, which consists of a red house icon and the text 'prepared.ly'. The main heading reads 'Welcome, let's get started.' followed by the subtext 'Make staying prepared for wildfire fun and easy.' There is a link to 'Log in here.' for existing users. Two prominent buttons are visible: a blue 'take the tour' button and a green 'Create an account' button. A 'feedback' link is located on the right side. The bottom section features a testimonial: 'In 2011, over 1300 homes were destroyed in Bastrop County due to wildfire.' Below this, it states 'We don't want that to happen to you. We've developed an easy-to-use application that brings together a variety of checklists and fire tools, and gives them to you in a manageable, timely, and actionable form. Get to know Preparedly' and includes a small inset image of the application interface.

Stray Mapper



The screenshot shows the Stray Mapper website interface. It features a map of Austin, Texas, with various search filters and options. The Stray Mapper logo is at the top left. A search bar is present with the text 'Search Results'. The map displays several search results as orange pins. A search filter panel is open, showing options for 'Type' (All), 'Sex' (Any), and 'Missing Since'. There is also a 'Has image' checkbox and an 'Enter address' field. A 'Contact us!' button is located at the bottom right of the map area. The browser's address bar shows 'www.straymapper.com'.

# Open Government Resolution

- Adopted Dec 2011
- Supported by *Open Austin*
- Calls for an *Open Government Framework* with elements:
  - Open Government Directive
  - Funding requirements and implementation timeline
  - Collaborate on national standards for *open data*
  - Report bi-monthly to ETT
- Identifies role for Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission

# Office of Civic Innovation

- Proposal presented by *Open Austin* in Aug 2012, to bring leadership focus to open government initiative
- Council approved \$250K to pilot program in FY2013
- Community has had opportunity to participate in development of this initiative
- First community contact was at July 2013 CTTC meeting, at conclusion of development phase, to kick-off recruiting effort
- FY2014 budget includes \$251K and 2 FTEs for “Innovation Office” in Financial Services – *we're not sure what that means*
- Neither CTTC nor *Open Austin* have endorsed this initiative

The Open Government Directive  
represents an opportunity to restore  
forward motion to a stagnant  
process



# *Moving Forward:* Open Gov Framework

- The *Open Government Directive* is just one element of the framework
- Council should be prepared to iterate on *open government* policy
- The *Innovation Office* should play a leadership role in this effort



## *Moving Forward:*

# Collaboration and Accountability

- Staff should either open a community role in the process, or ask Council to update the resolution
- Council should clarify if there is a community role in the *Innovation Office* initiative
- ETT should request bi-monthly updates

# *Moving Forward:* Civic Tech Resources

- CTM needs resources to support civic tech initiatives
- CTTC budget recommendation 20130612-010 proposes some “shovel ready” ideas:
  - Issue Management System
  - Open Data Dashboard
  - Open Data Administrator
  - Civic Software Hosting Platform