

ZILKER
METROPOLITAN
PARK
VISION PLAN

Pedestrian Advisory Council
Bicycle Advisory Council Joint Meeting
Briefing
MARCH 6, 2023



DESIGNWORKSHOP

ZILKER PARK

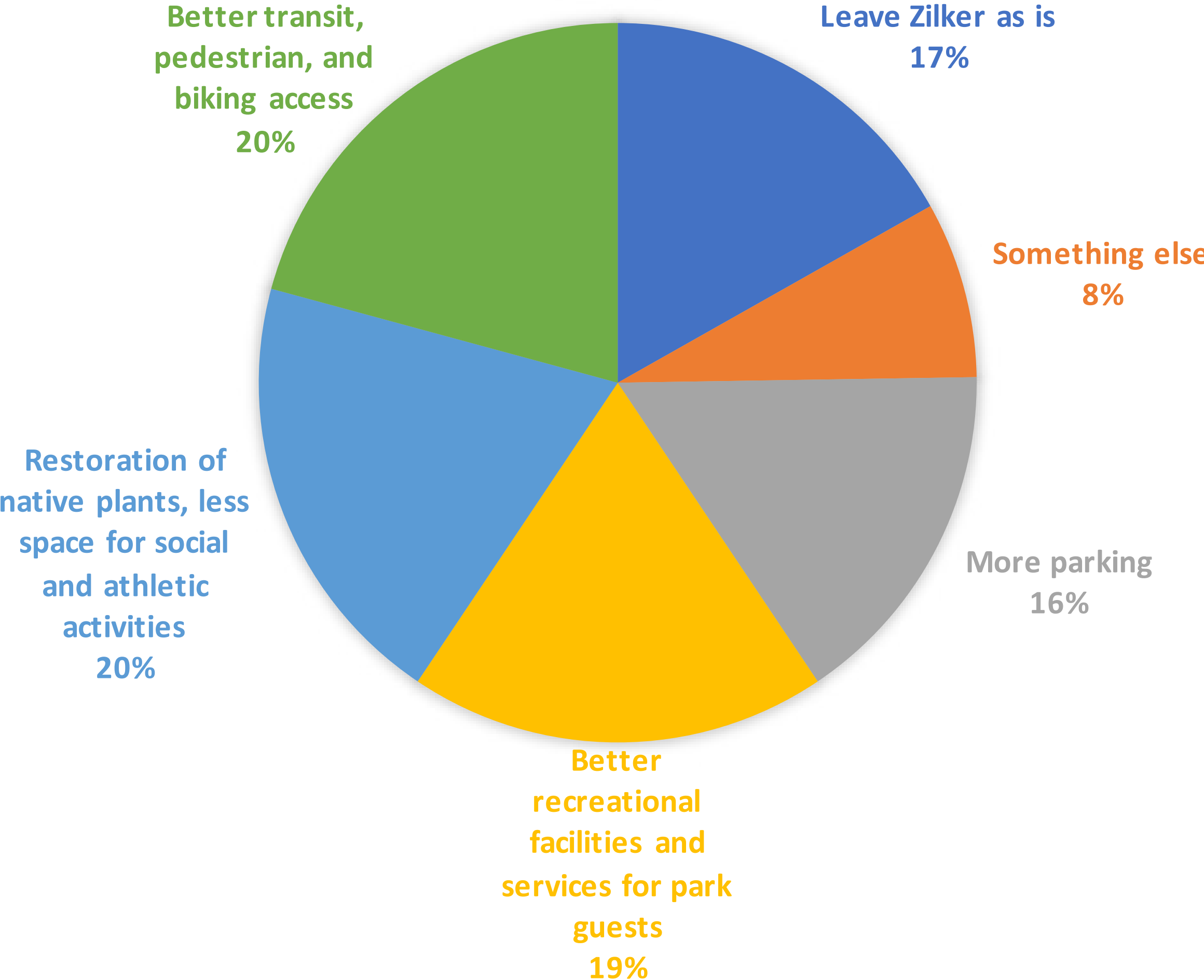
Notley/Monitor Poll: Austinites can't agree on greatest park challenges or solutions

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023 BY
NINA HERNANDEZ

Austin residents regularly use city parks but are divided over how they should be maintained, according to a January/February poll of 429 voters commissioned by Notley and conducted by national pollster Change Research for the Austin Monitor.

The poll comes as Austin leaders continue to focus on parks and open space and projects like the Texas Capitol Complex and the Waterloo Greenway, and as the city considers its role in the Interstate 35 Capital Express project. The city is working with the Texas Department of Transportation to incorporate open and park space into the designs for the section that will run through Austin.

Zilker Park is undergoing a planning process called the Zilker Metropolitan Park Vision Plan. What do you think is the most critical improvement that can be made to Zilker Park?



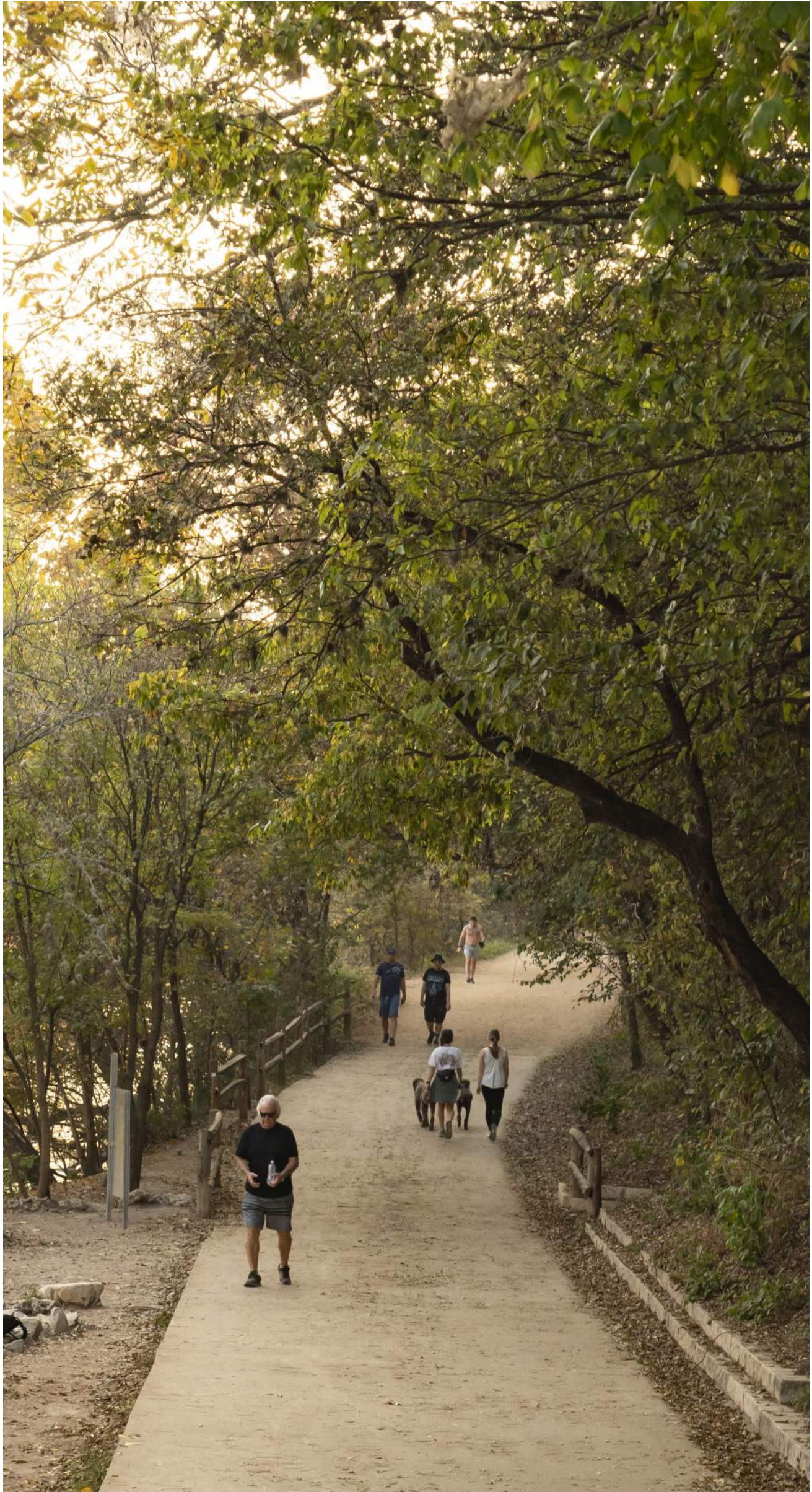
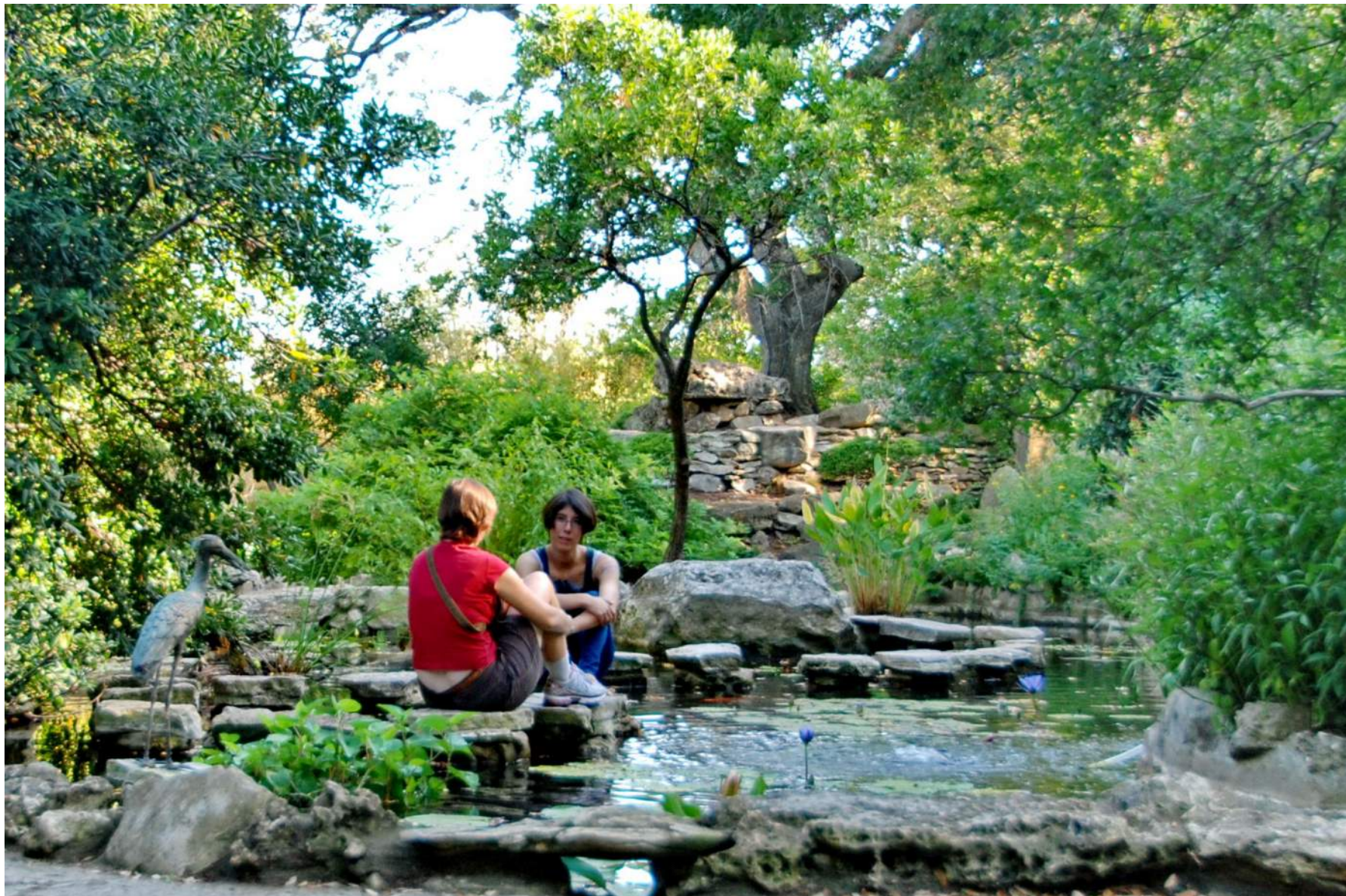
ZILKER PARK: AN AUSTIN TREASURE



Barton Springs



Great Lawn and Rock Island



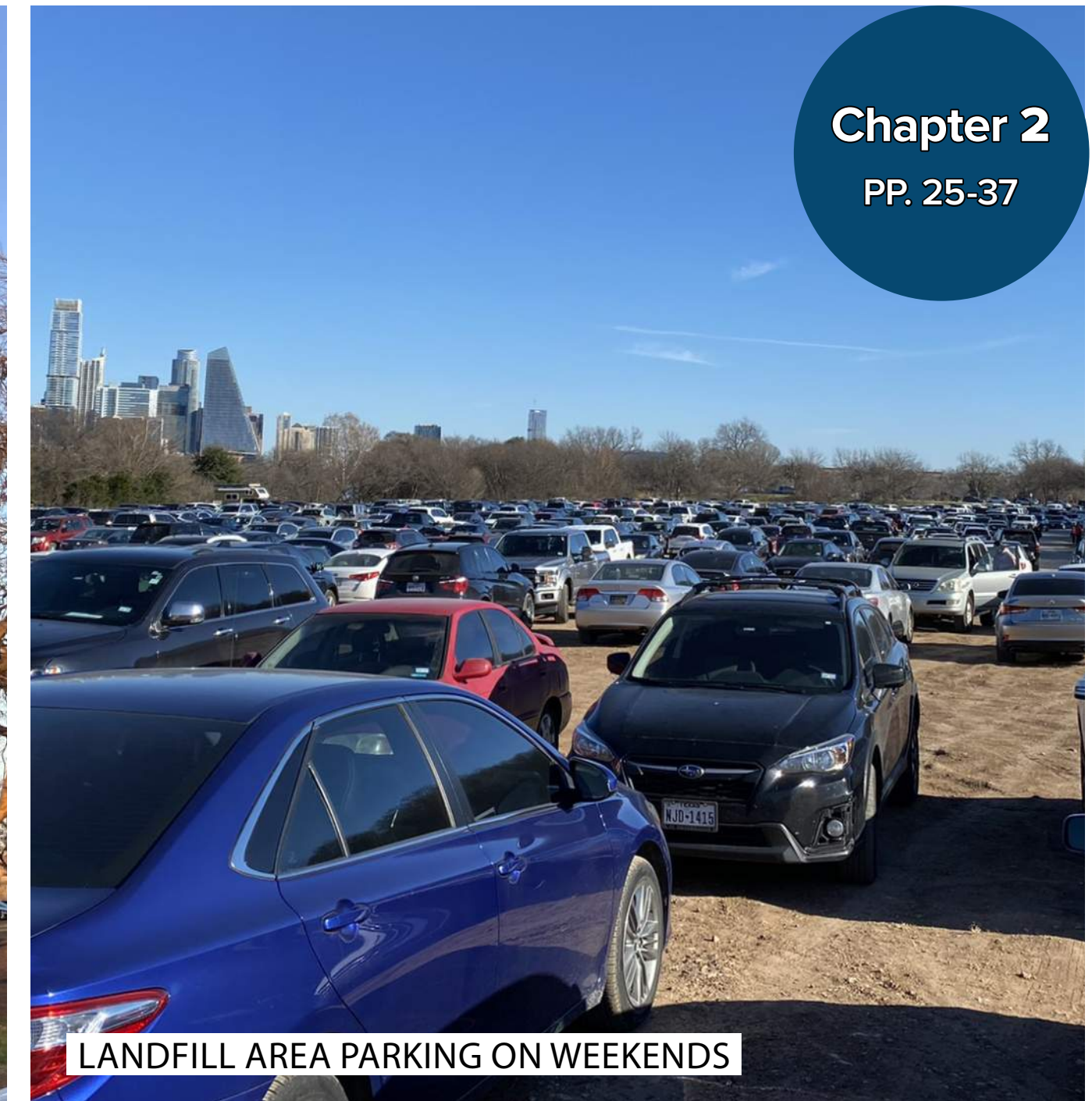
CALL TO ACTION

How well are the following facilities or amenities meeting your and your family's needs?

NATURAL AREAS	80% MEET NEEDS	12% DOES NOT MEET NEEDS	8% NO OPINION
PARKING AREAS	45% MEET NEEDS	46% DOES NOT MEET NEEDS	9% NO OPINION
PICNIC AREAS	59% MEET NEEDS	17% DOES NOT MEET NEEDS	24% NO OPINION
SPORT COURTS OR FIELDS	45% MEET NEEDS	15% DOES NOT MEET NEEDS	40% NO OPINION
TRAILS	79% MEET NEEDS	13% DOES NOT MEET NEEDS	7% NO OPINION
WATER ACCESS POINTS FOR PERSONAL WATERCRAFT	34% MEET NEEDS	22% DOES NOT MEET NEEDS	44% NO OPINION
WATERFRONT VIEWING AREAS	60% MEET NEEDS	22% DOES NOT MEET NEEDS	18% NO OPINION



PARKING ON THE LAWN AREA

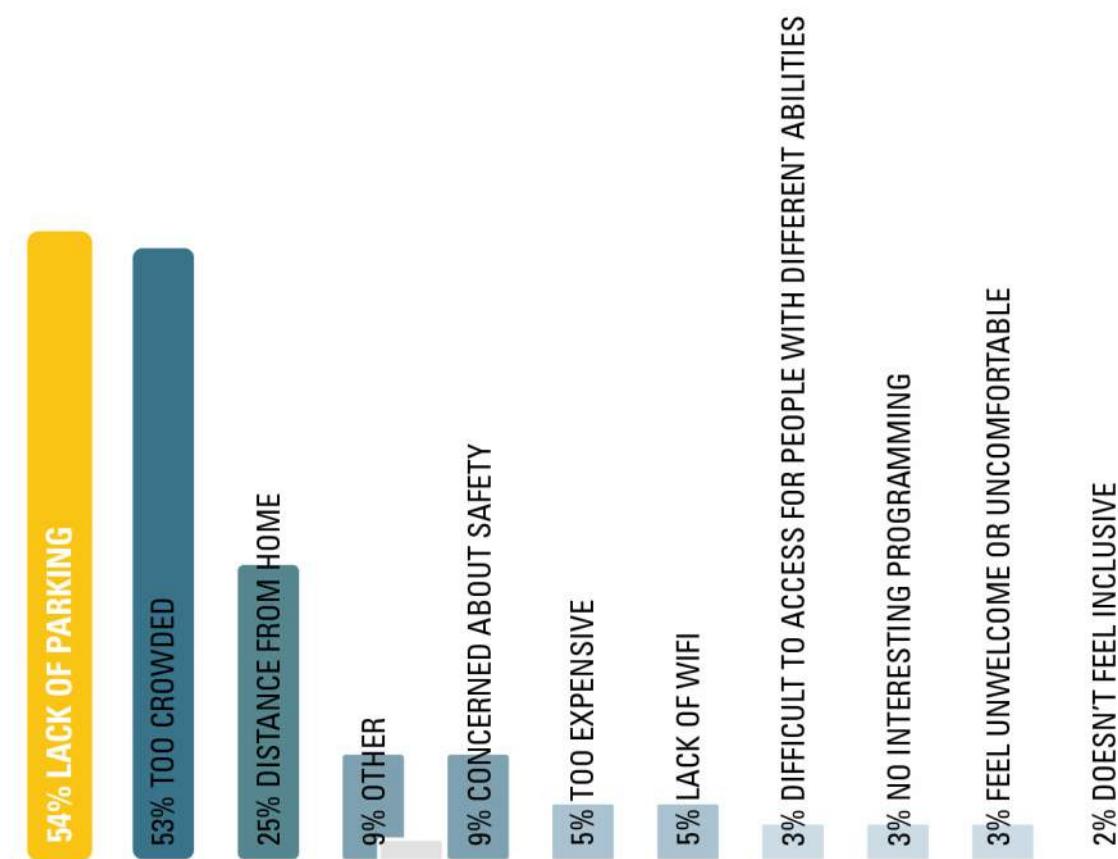


LANDFILL AREA PARKING ON WEEKENDS

Chapter 2

PP. 25-37

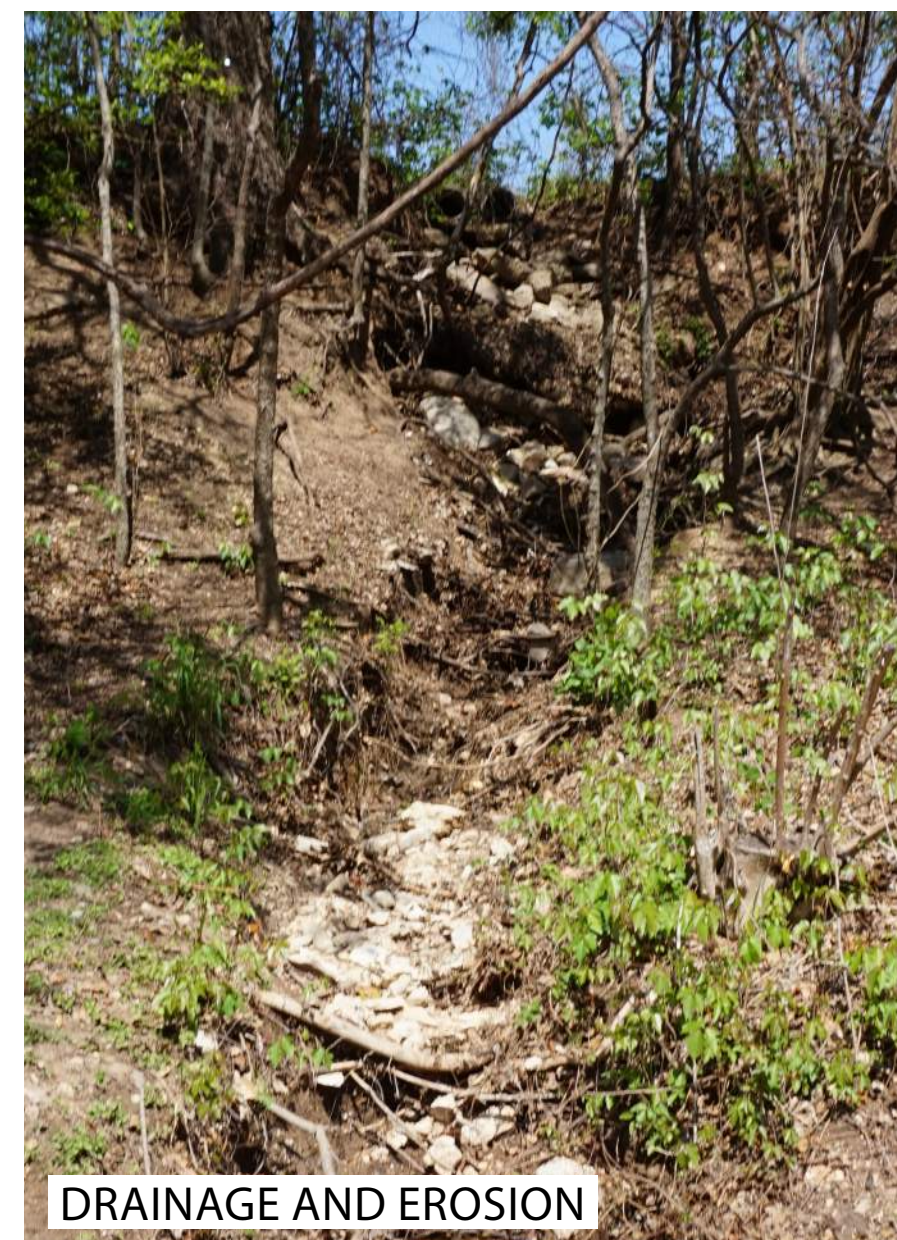
If you DO NOT visit or avoid visiting Zilker Park, why?



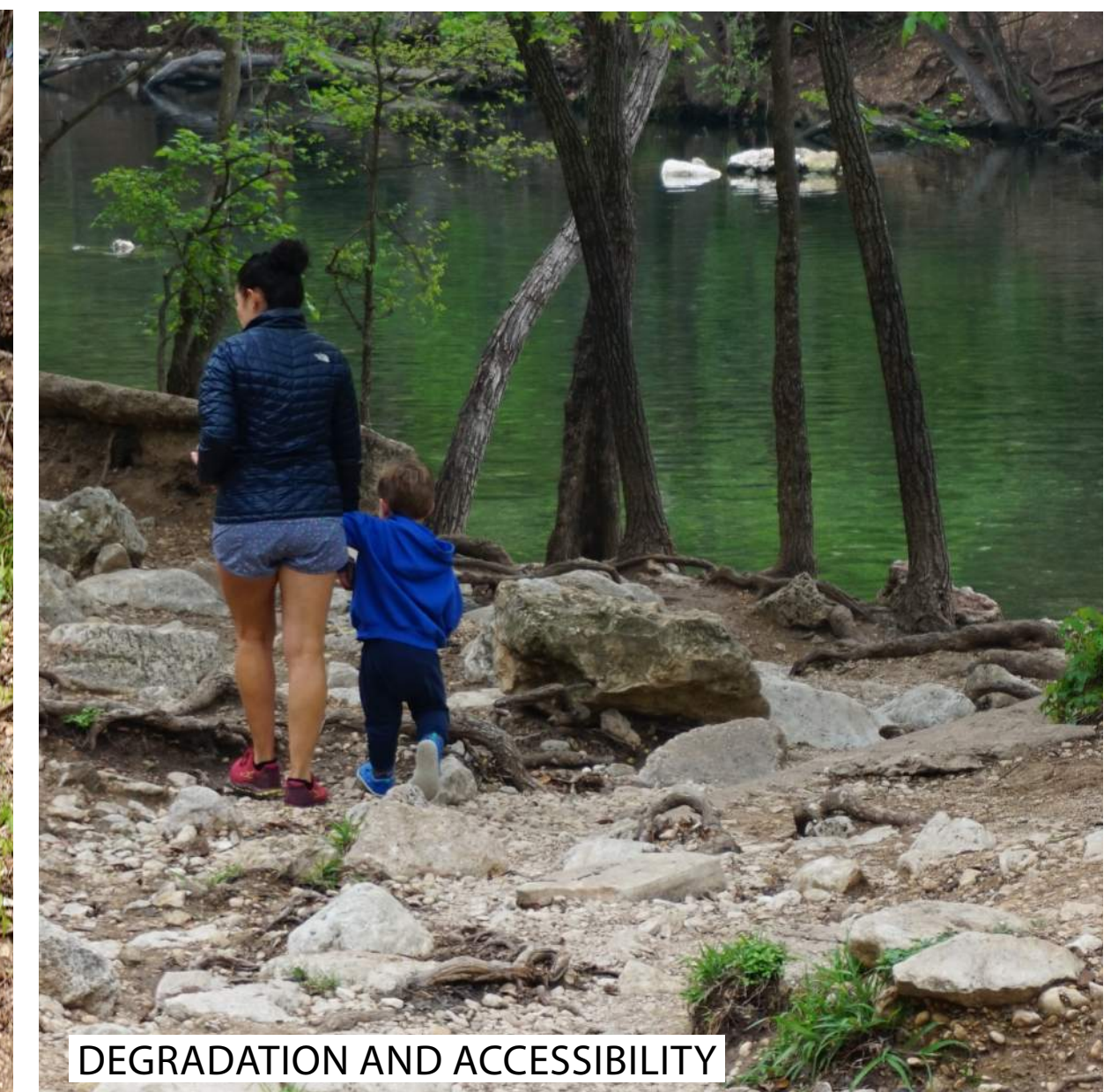
54% Lack of Parking



BARTON SPRINGS SPILLWAY ON WEEKENDS



DRAINAGE AND EROSION



DEGRADATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND GOALS



Sustainability



Accessibility



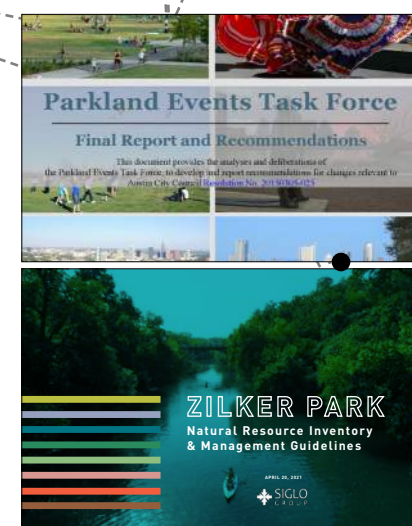
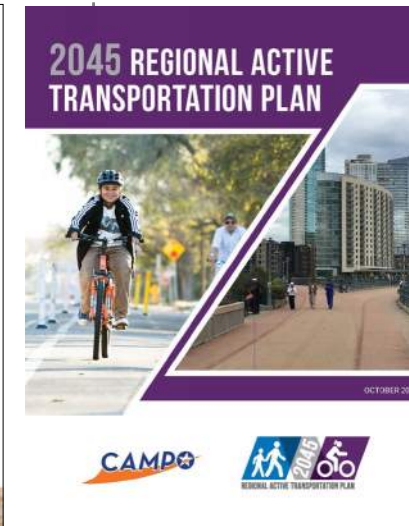
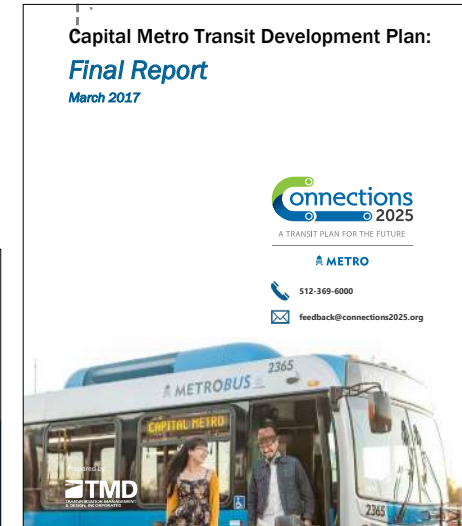
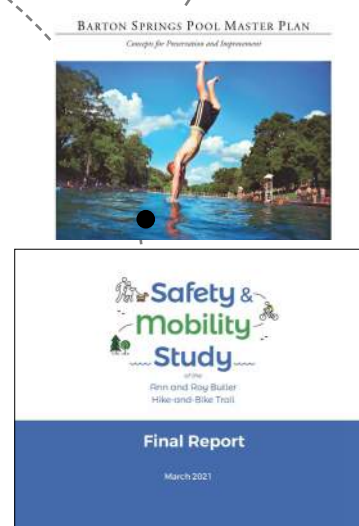
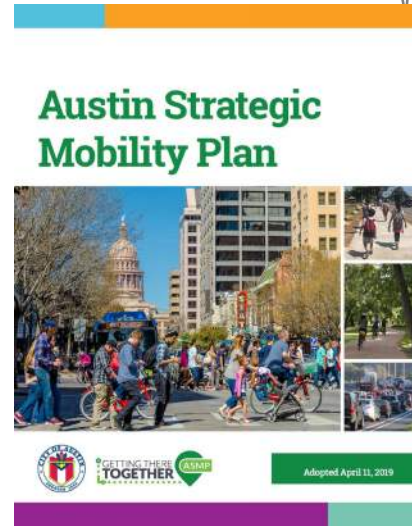
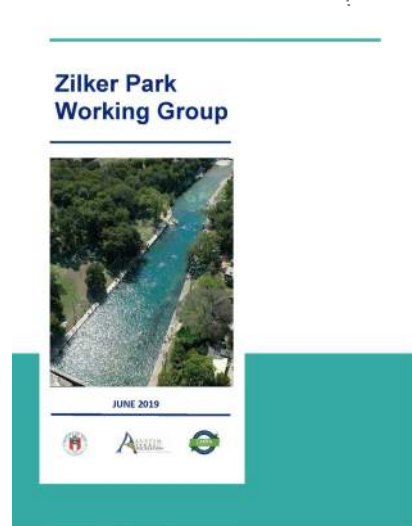
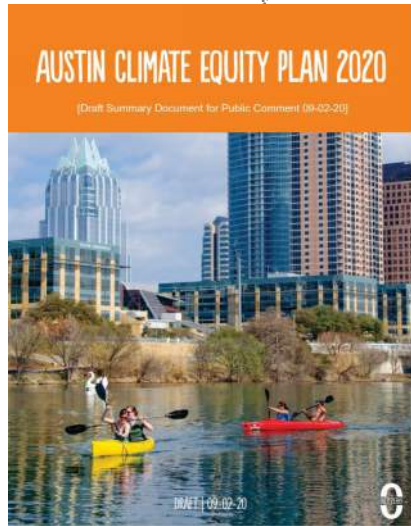
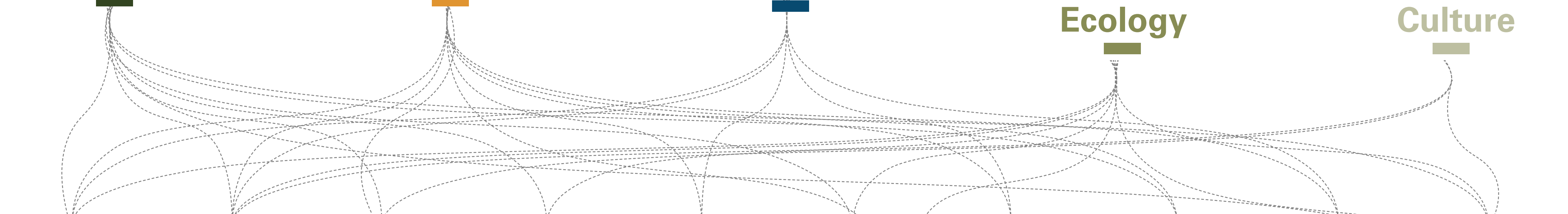
Equity



Nature and Ecology



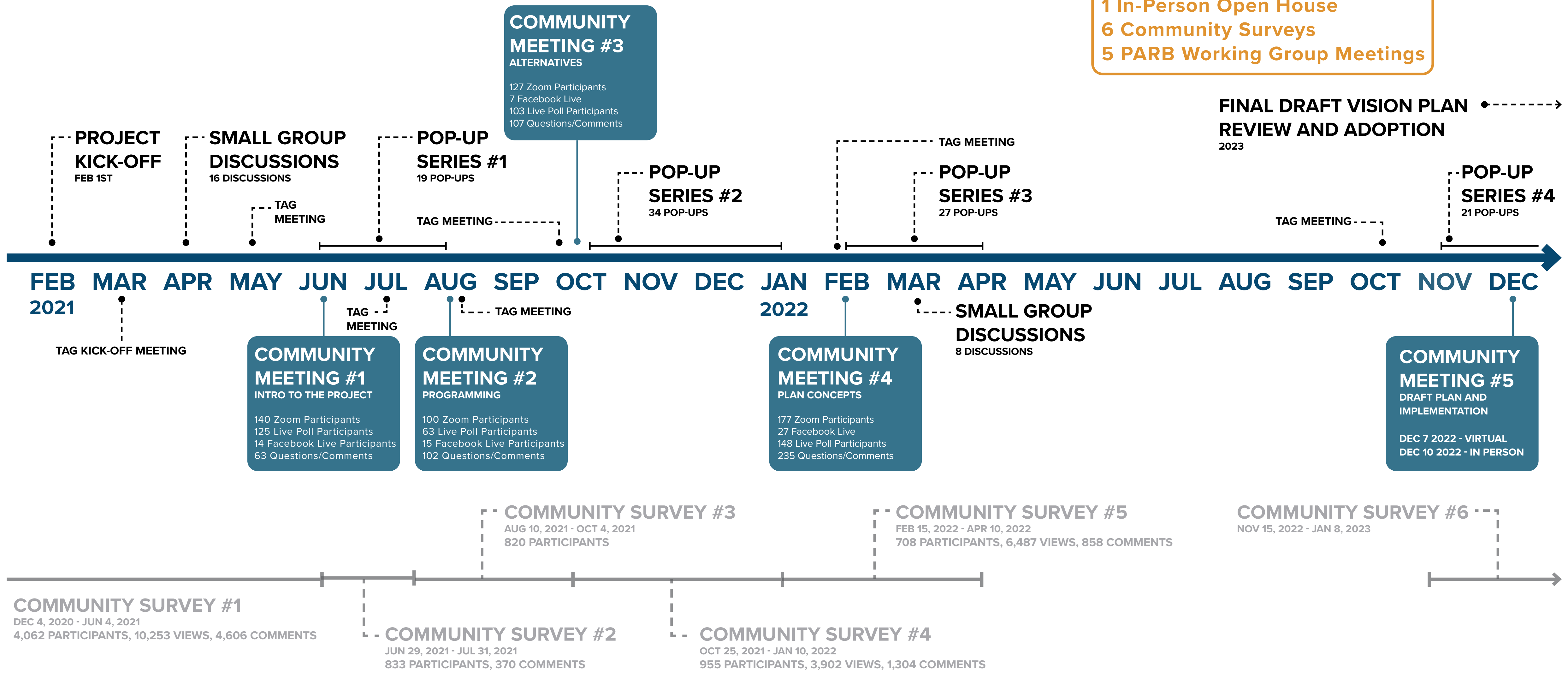
History and Culture



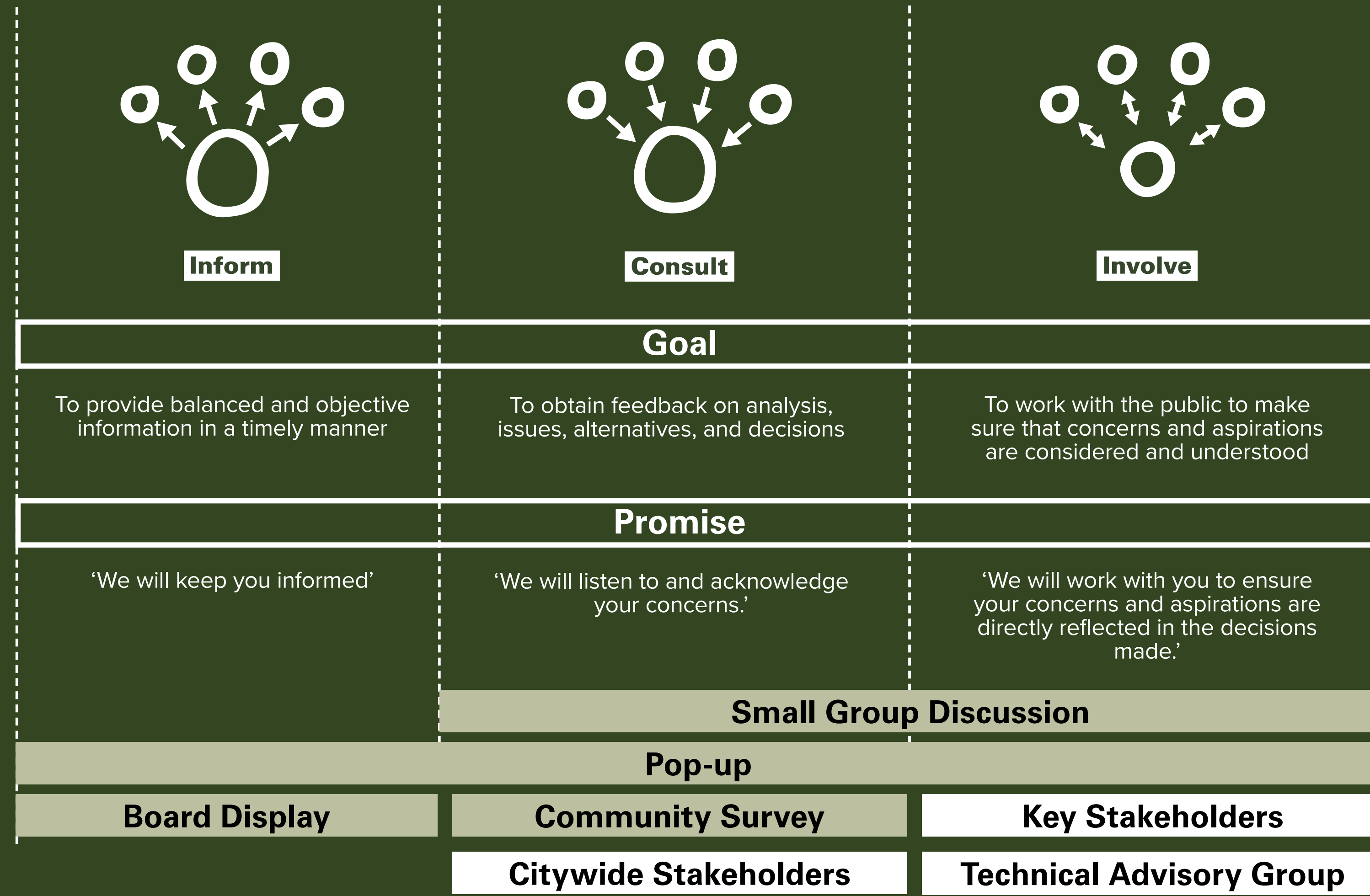
ZILKER PARK VISION PLAN

Project Schedule

- 101 Pop-Ups
- 24 Small Group Discussions
- 7 TAG Meetings
- 5 Virtual Meetings
- 1 In-Person Open House
- 6 Community Surveys
- 5 PARB Working Group Meetings



IAP2 SPECTRUM OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



- Internal City of Austin Stakeholders
 - PARD Parkners at Zilker
 - Concessionaires
 - Nonprofit Organizations
 - Citywide Organizations
 - Local Businesses
 - Event/Festival Organizers
 - Organized Sports
 - Neighborhood Associations
 - Cities Connecting Children to Nature Partners
 - Academic Institutions
 - City-level Governmental Agencies
-
- Parks & Recreation Department
 - Austin Transportation Department
 - CapMetro
 - Texas Department of Transportation
 - Office of Real Estate Services
 - Communications and Public Information
 - Austin Water
 - Austin Energy
 - Housing and Planning
 - Office of Sustainability
 - Austin Resource Recovery
 - Austin Fire Department
 - Public Works Department
 - Watershed Protection Department



Sustainability



Accessibility



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture

ZILKER PARK VISION PLAN



Sustainability



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Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



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History and Culture



DRAFT CONCEPT | COMBINED

DESIGNWORKSHOP

FEB, 2023

EXTERNAL SHUTTLE

CONNECTING TRANSPORTATION HUBS AND EXTERNAL PARKING GARAGES



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Accessibility



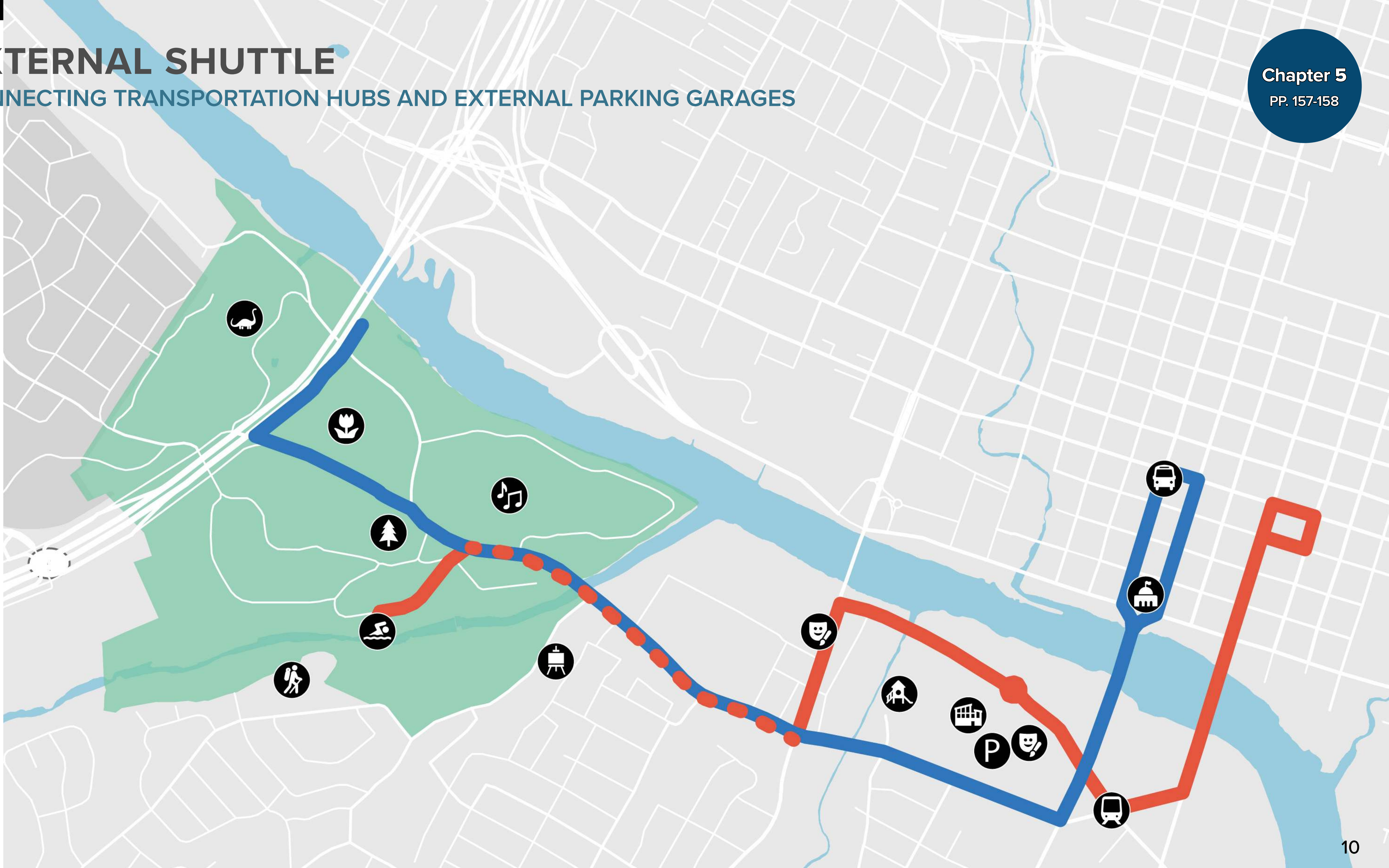
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture



ACCESSIBILITY AND MOBILITY

VEHICULAR CIRCULATION



Sustainability



Accessibility



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture



	EXISTING	PROPOSED
Parking	2,450 Spaces	2,450 Spaces
Formal Parking	1,300 Spaces	2,450 Spaces
Informal Parking	1,150 Spaces	0 Spaces
Impervious Cover	36 Acres	27 Acres
Roads	20.9 Acres	19.9 Acres
Parking Lots	12.52 Acres	3.5 Acres
Programs	2.5 Acres	10.87 Acres

- Traffic Light
- Parking Garage
- Vehicular Stop Sign
- Street Parking along Barton Springs Road
- CapMetro Stop
- Surface Parking
- Internal Shuttle Shop
- Zilker Eagle Stop

ACCESSIBILITY AND MOBILITY

PROPOSED BARTON SPRINGS ROAD CONFIGURATION



Sustainability



Accessibility



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Nature and Ecology

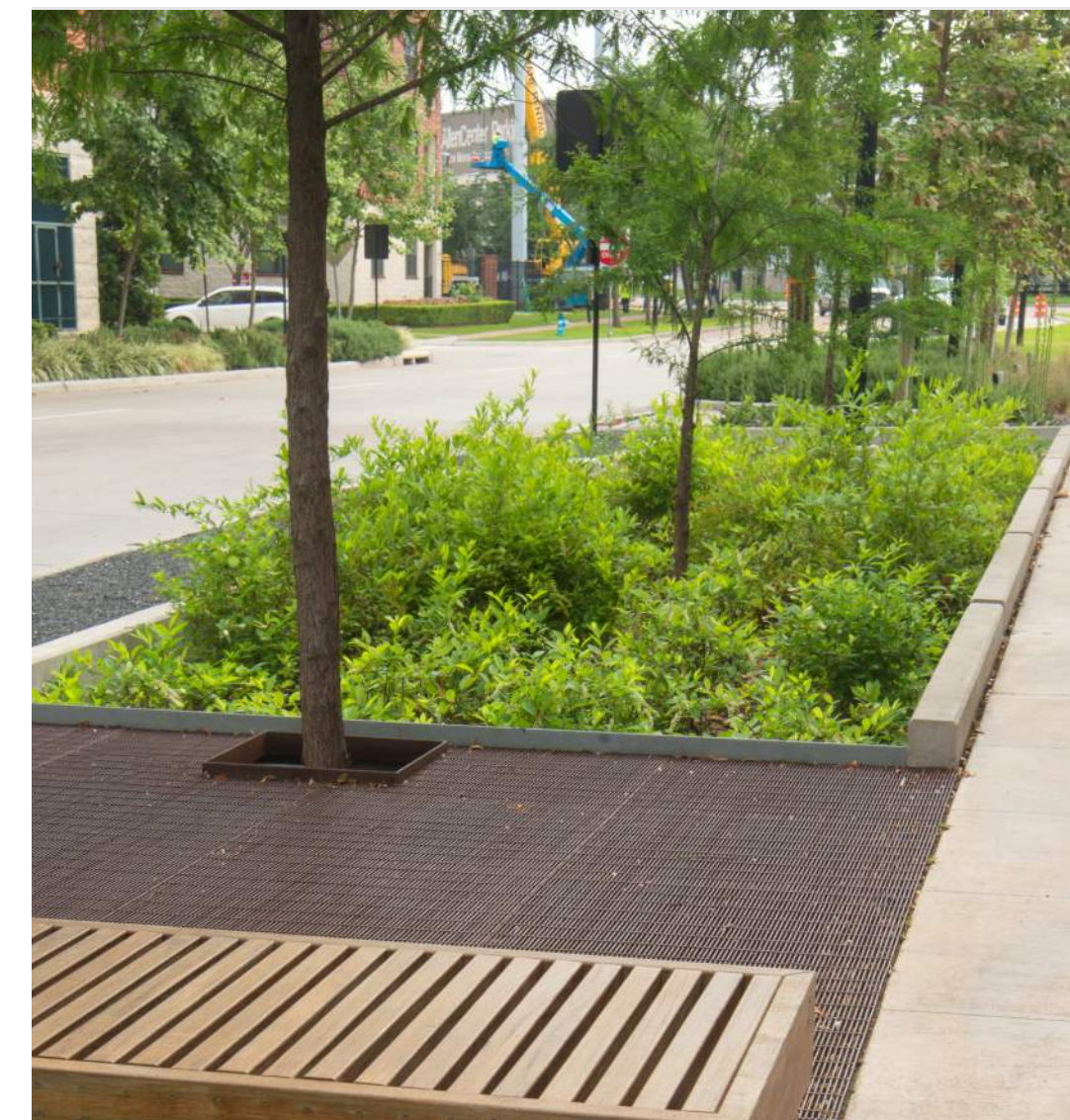
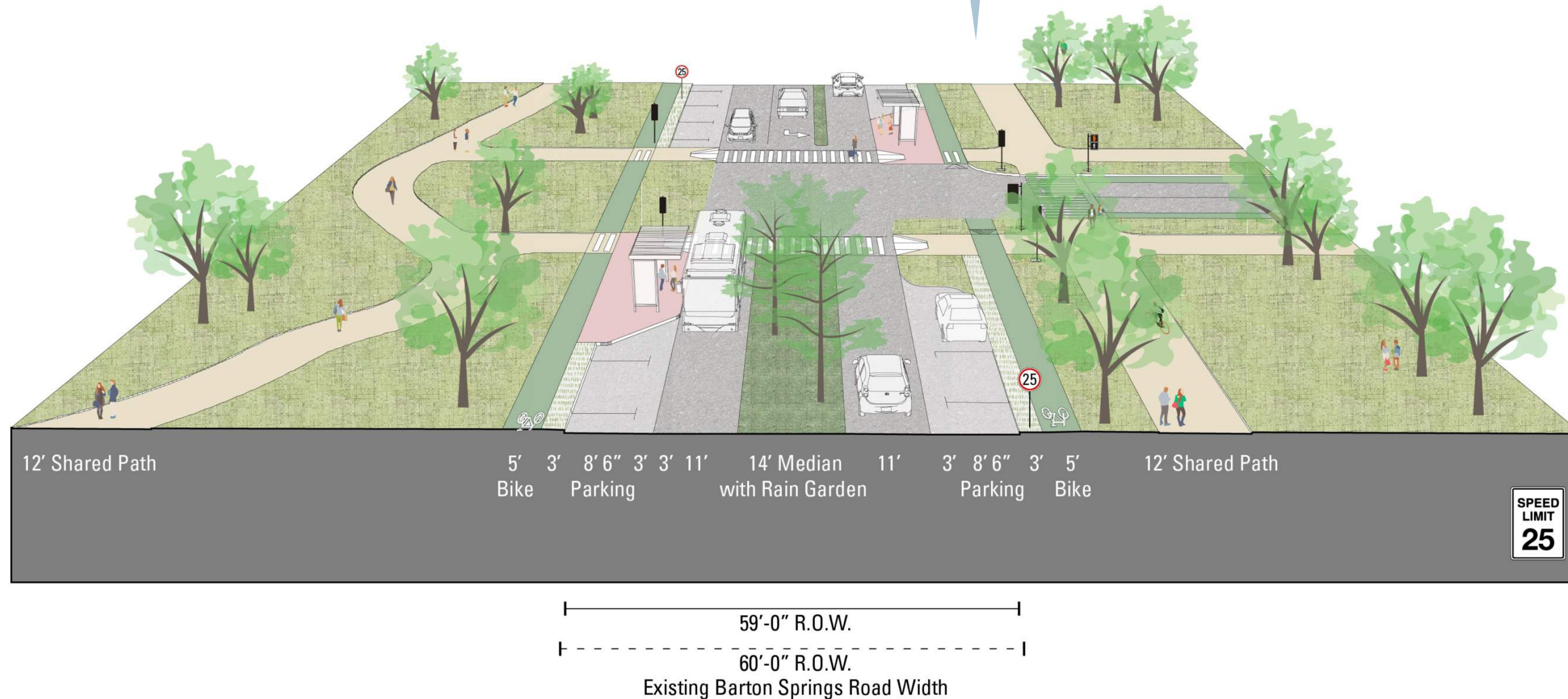


History and Culture

WHAT ABOUT CAPACITY?

There is often concern about reducing the capacity of a four-lane undivided roadway in half by converting it to a two-lane with a turn lane cross section. Practitioners have found some cases of the four-lane undivided road operating as a de facto two-lane with a turn lane roadway due to turning movements and driver behavior. Therefore, the effective capacity reduction is much less than the theoretical reduction assumed before implementation.

Source: Road Diet Informational Guide, FHWA Safety Program, US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/road_diets/guidance/info_guide/rdig.pdf



ACCESSIBILITY AND MOBILITY

PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE CIRCULATION



Sustainability



Accessibility



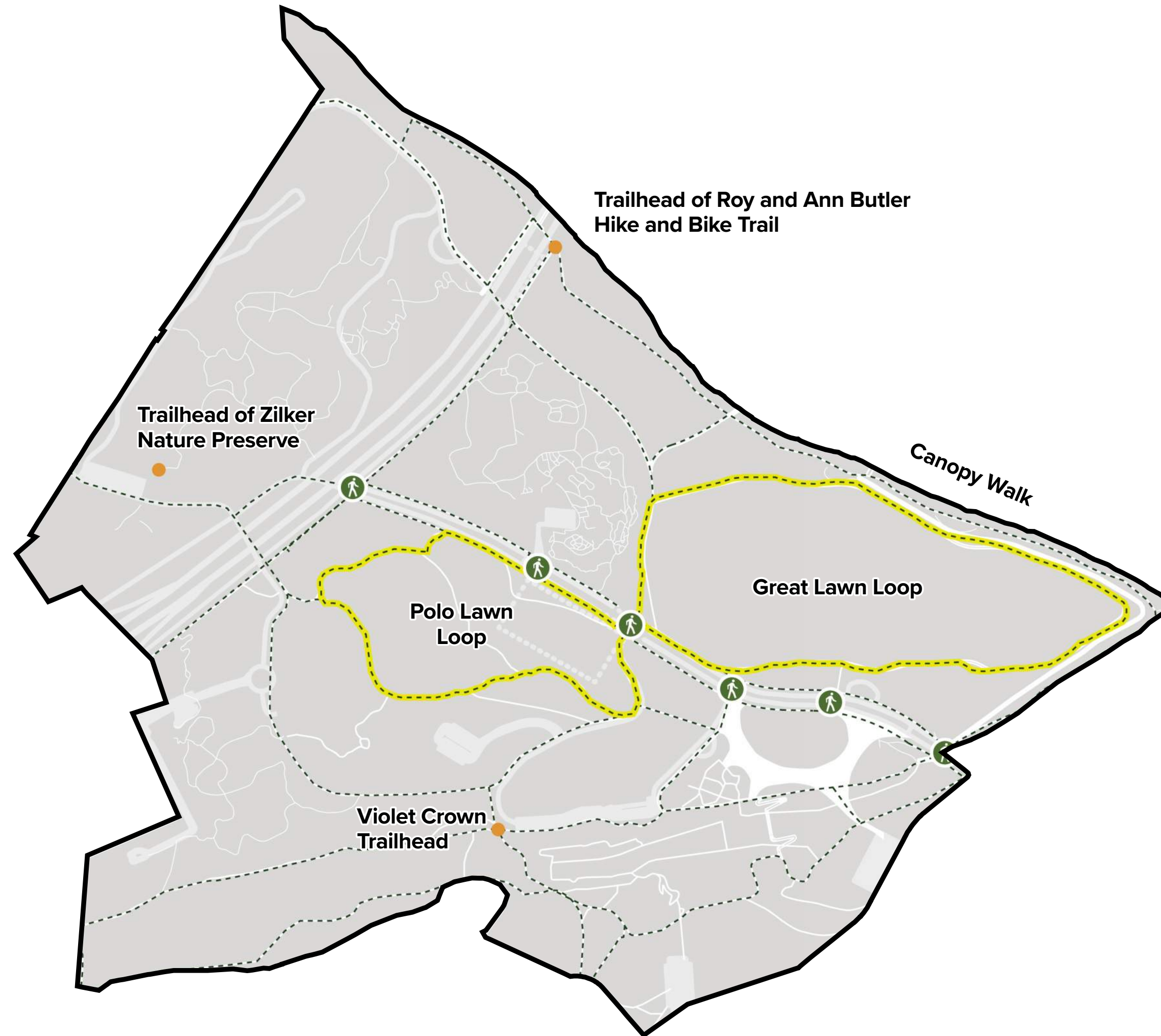
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture



Canopy Walk in Serravalles Park.

Source: <https://scalemag.online/architecture/the-canopy-walkway-in-serravalles-park/>

	EXISTING	PROPOSED
Trails	12.6 Miles	19.5 Miles

+55%

- Trailhead
- Vehicular Network
- Loop Trail
- Pedestrian and Bike Network
- Pedestrian Crossing
- Major Pedestrian/Bike Trail
- Minor Pedestrian/Bike Trail

ECOLOGICAL UPLIFT

THE UPLIFT IN ZILKER PARK



Sustainability



Accessibility



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



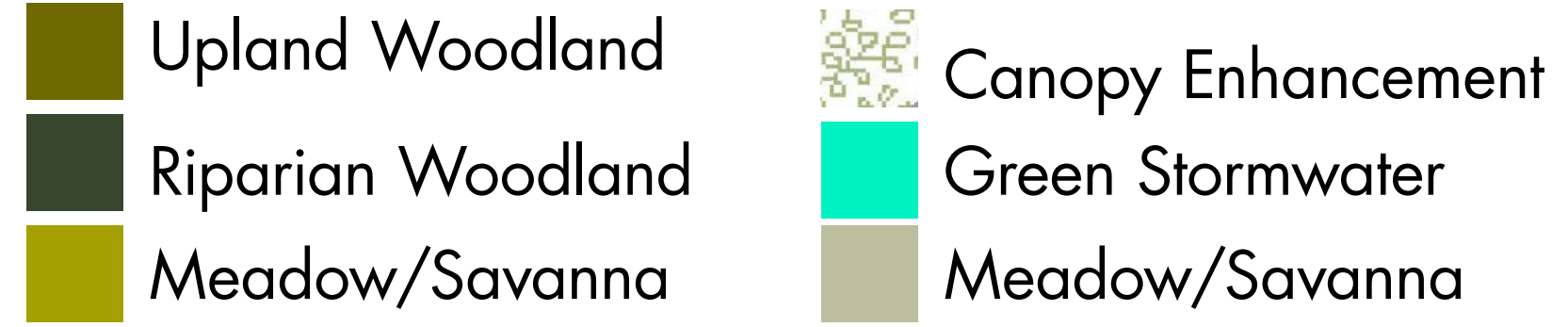
Nature and Ecology



History and Culture

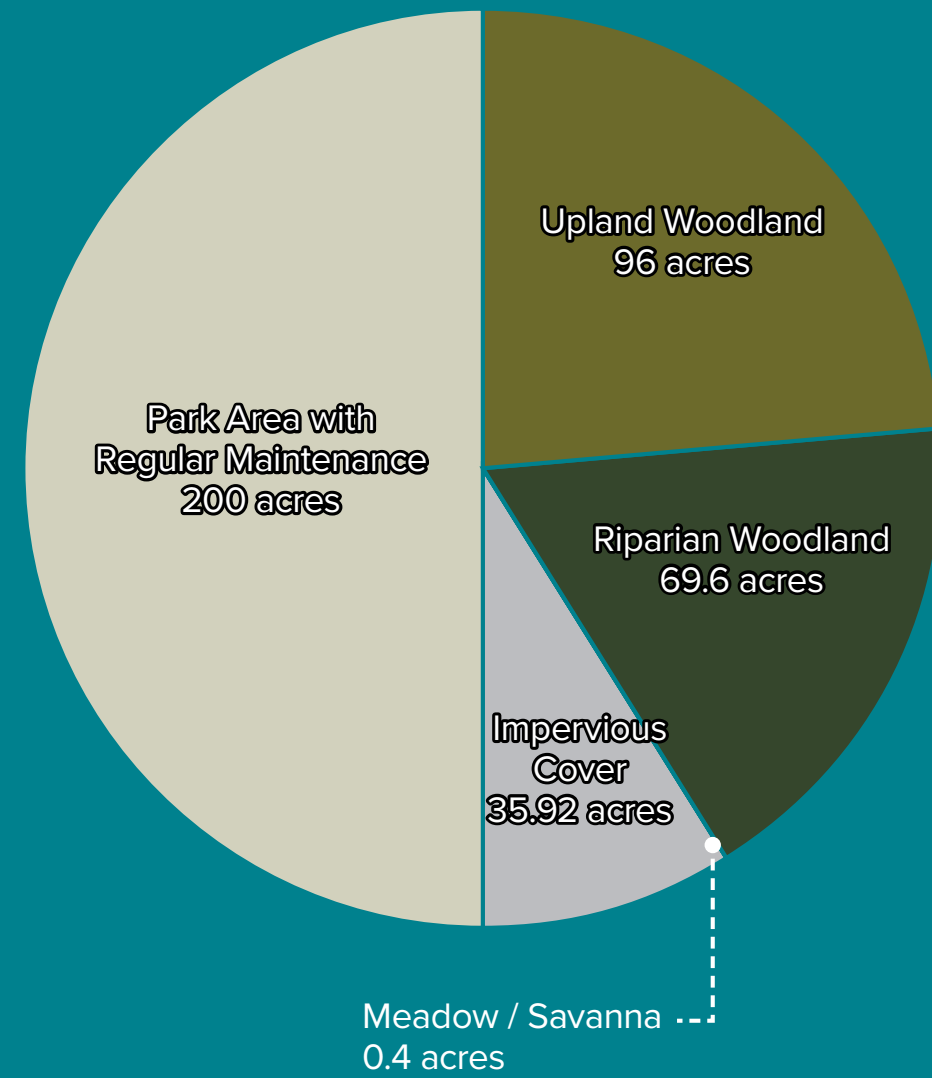


	EXISTING	PROPOSED	
Total Natural Area	166 Acres	256 Acres	+92 Acres
Upland Woodland	96 Acres	114 Acres	+18 Acres
Riparian Woodland	69.6 Acres	82.6 Acres	+13 Acres
Meadow/Savanna	0.4 Acres	49.3 Acres	+49 Acres
Canopy Enhancement	-	10 Acres	+10 Acres
Green Stormwater	-	2 Acres	+2 Acres
Impervious Cover	36 Acres	27 Acres	-9 Acres



EXISTING CONDITION

LANDCOVER



TOTAL CARBON IMPACT BY LANDCOVER

HARDSCAPE	
Impervious Cover	+ 12,501 tCO ²
SOFTSCAPE	
Upland Woodland	- 26,400 tCO ²
Riparian Woodland	- 21,035 tCO ²
Meadow / Savanna	- 26 tCO ²
Park Area with Regular Maintenance	- 9,235 tCO ²

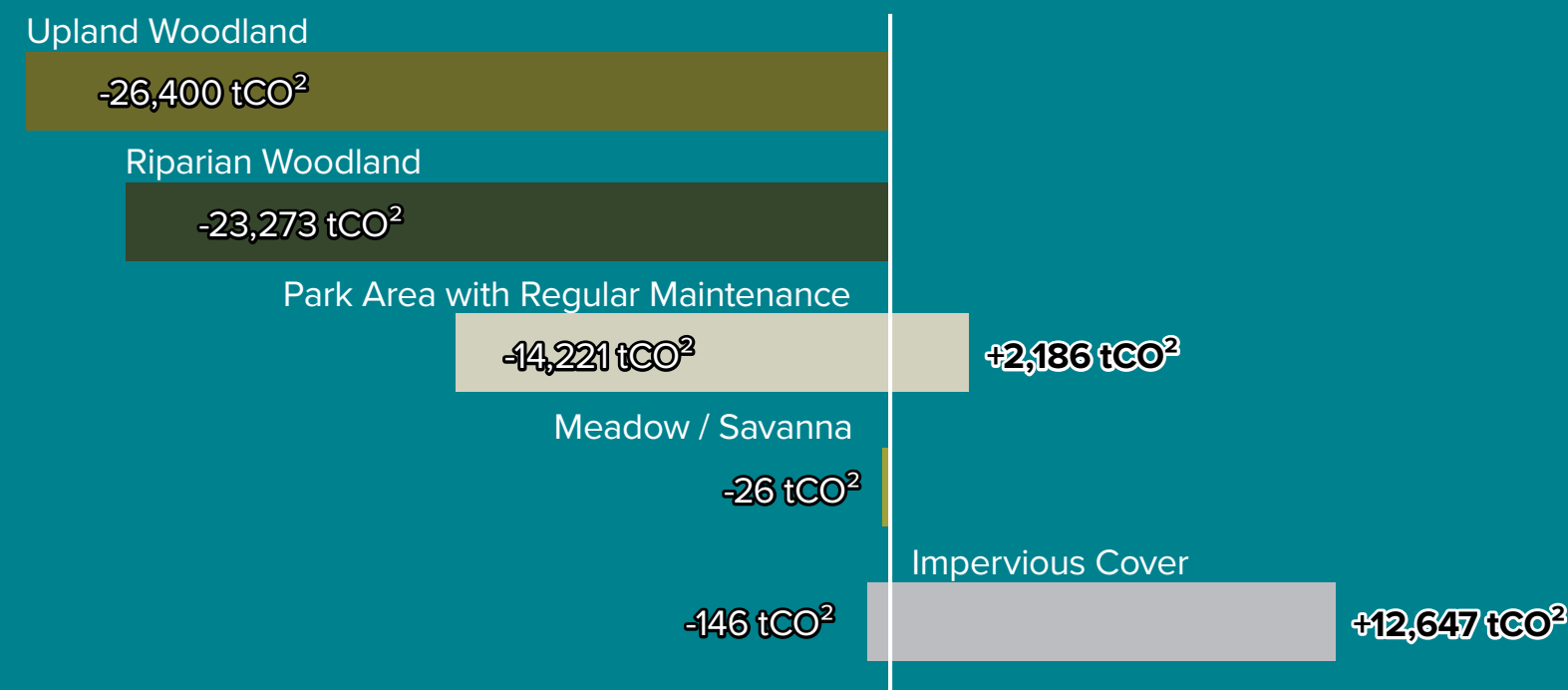
STORED AND SEQUESTERED CARBON

64,066 tCO² Stored

- 43,842 tCO² Net

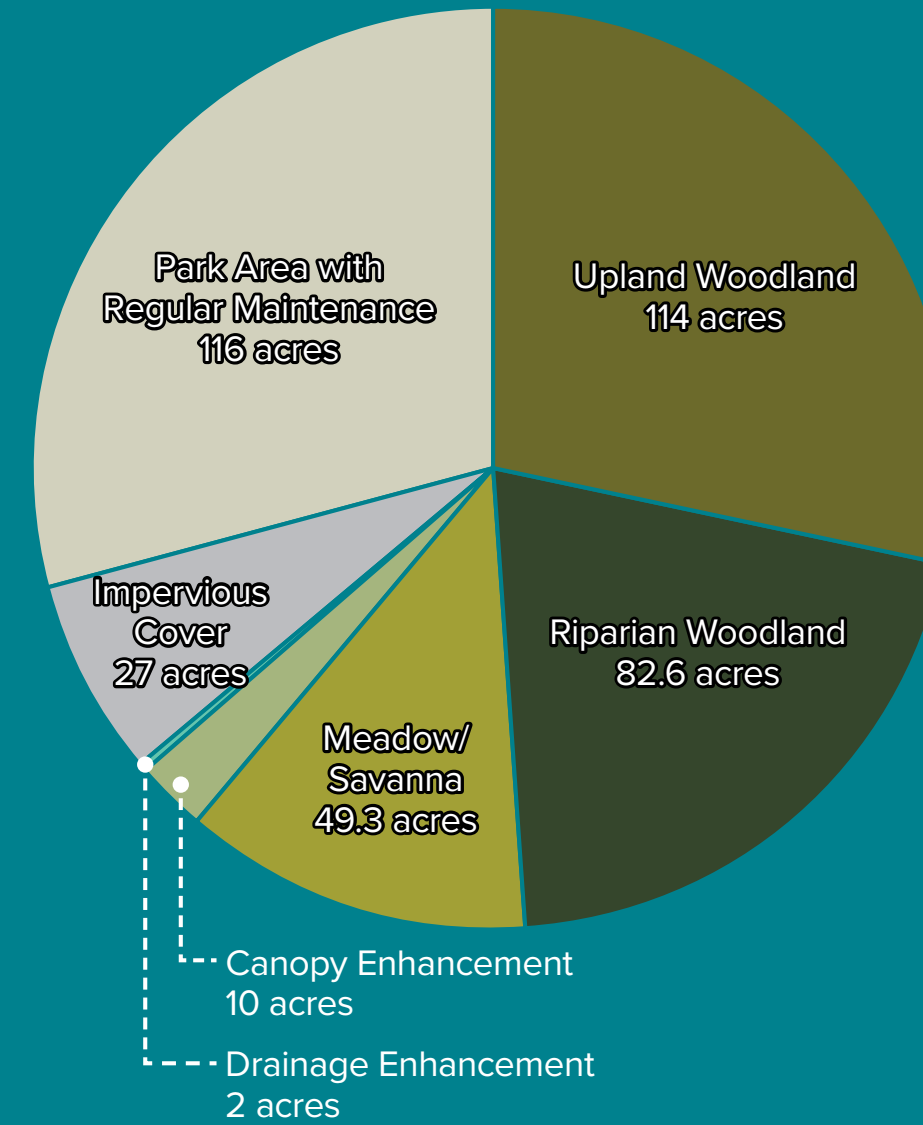
EMITTED CARBON

14,833 tCO² Emitted



PROPOSED CONDITION

LANDCOVER



TOTAL CARBON IMPACT BY LANDCOVER

HARDSCAPE	
Impervious Cover	+ 9,823 tCO ²
SOFTSCAPE	
Upland Woodland	- 31,351 tCO ²
Riparian Woodland	- 27,620 tCO ²
Meadow / Savanna	- 3,247 tCO ²
Drainage Enhancement	- 452 tCO ²
Canopy Enhancement	- 88 tCO ²
Park Area with Regular Maintenance	- 6,992 tCO ²

+28%

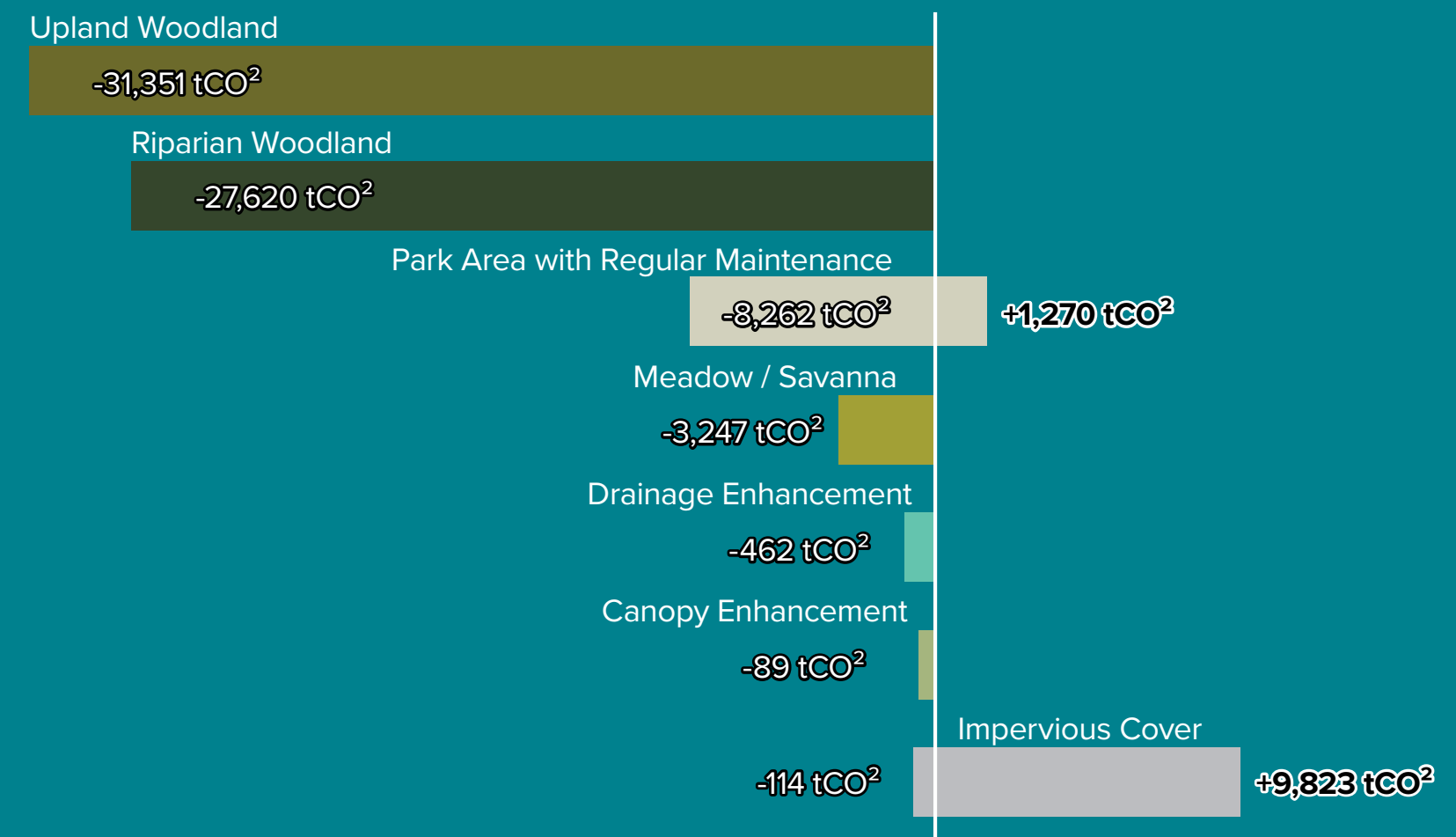
STORED AND SEQUESTERED CARBON

71,145 tCO² Stored

- 56,025 tCO² Net

EMITTED CARBON

11,104 tCO² Emitted



Sustainability



Accessibility



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture



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ECOLOGICAL UPLIFT ON LANDFILL AREA



Sustainability



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ZILKER LAND BRIDGE



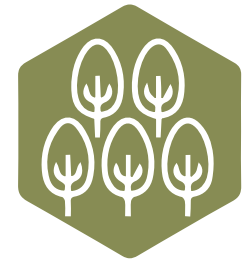
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Sustainability



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ZILKER HILLSIDE THEATER



Sustainability



Accessibility



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Accessibility



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BARTON SPRINGS SPILLWAY



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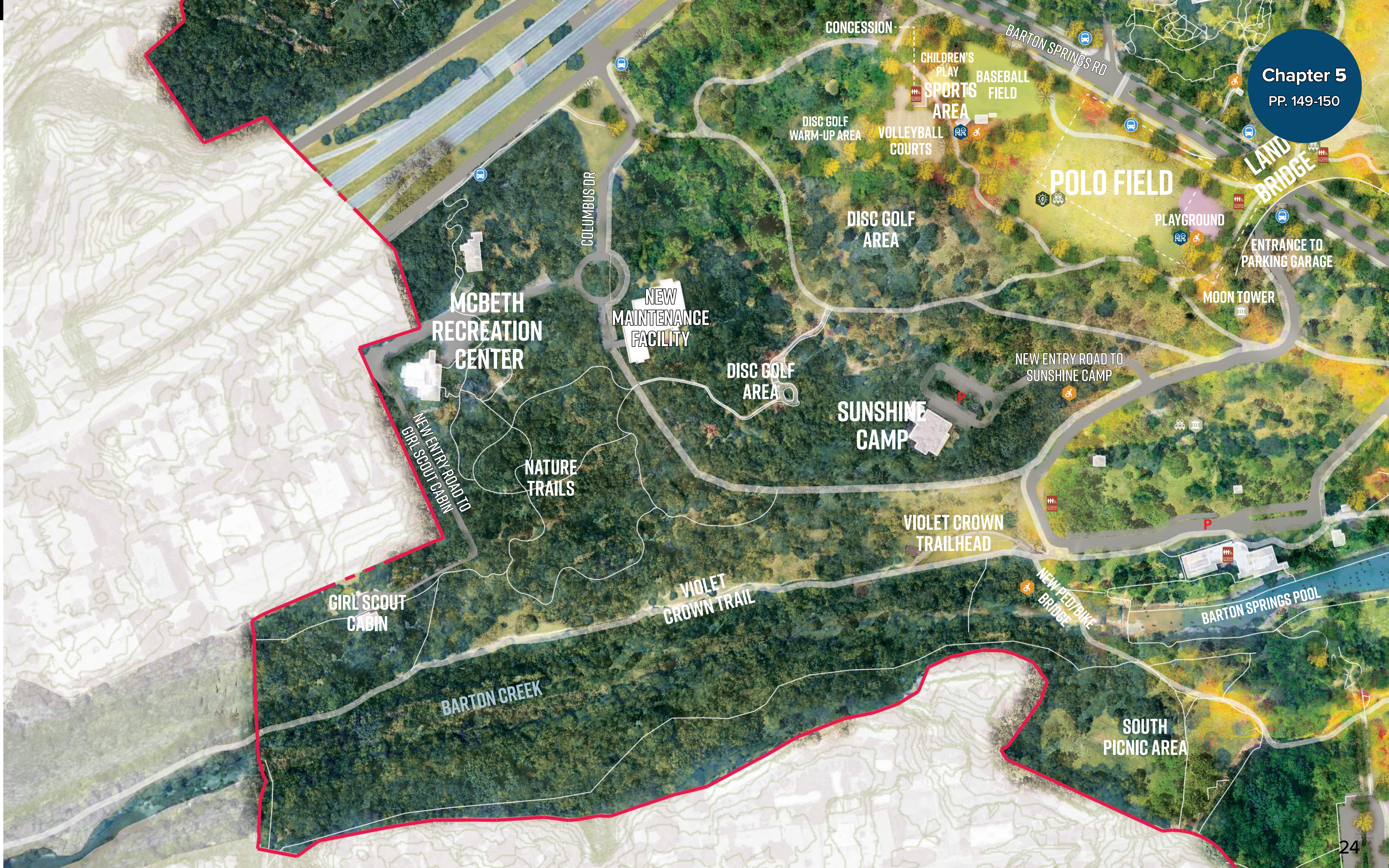


Nature and Ecology



History and Culture





Sustainability



Accessibility



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



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CHILDREN'S PLAY AT SPORTS AREA



Sustainability



Accessibility



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture



IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

ADMINISTRATION

ANNUAL BUDGET/ MAINTENANCE REVIEW	ZILKER PARK UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION
DIVERSE VENDORS AND OFFERINGS	DEPARTMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS
ESTABLISHING PARTNERSHIPS	

ECOLOGICAL UPLIFT

DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS	RESTORATION OF LANDFILL AREA
RESTORATION OF OLD ZILKER HILLSIDE AREA	MITIGATION OF EROSION ISSUES
INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL	RESTORATION OF POLO FIELD
RESTORATION OF BARTON CREEK BANKS	TREE CANOPY ENHANCEMENT

ACCESSIBILITY

STRATFORD DR REALIGNMENT	ADDITIONAL AND RELOCATION OF BRIDGES ALONG BARTON CREEK
ZILKER TRAILHEAD	CLOSING LOU NEFF ROAD TO VEHICLES
WAYFINDING DESIGN	INTERNAL SHUTTLE
CANOPY WALK	ADDITIONAL TRAILS
REMOVAL OF SURFACE PARKING	BARTON SPRINGS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS
UNDERGROUND PARKING GARAGE	

FACILITY/PROGRAM

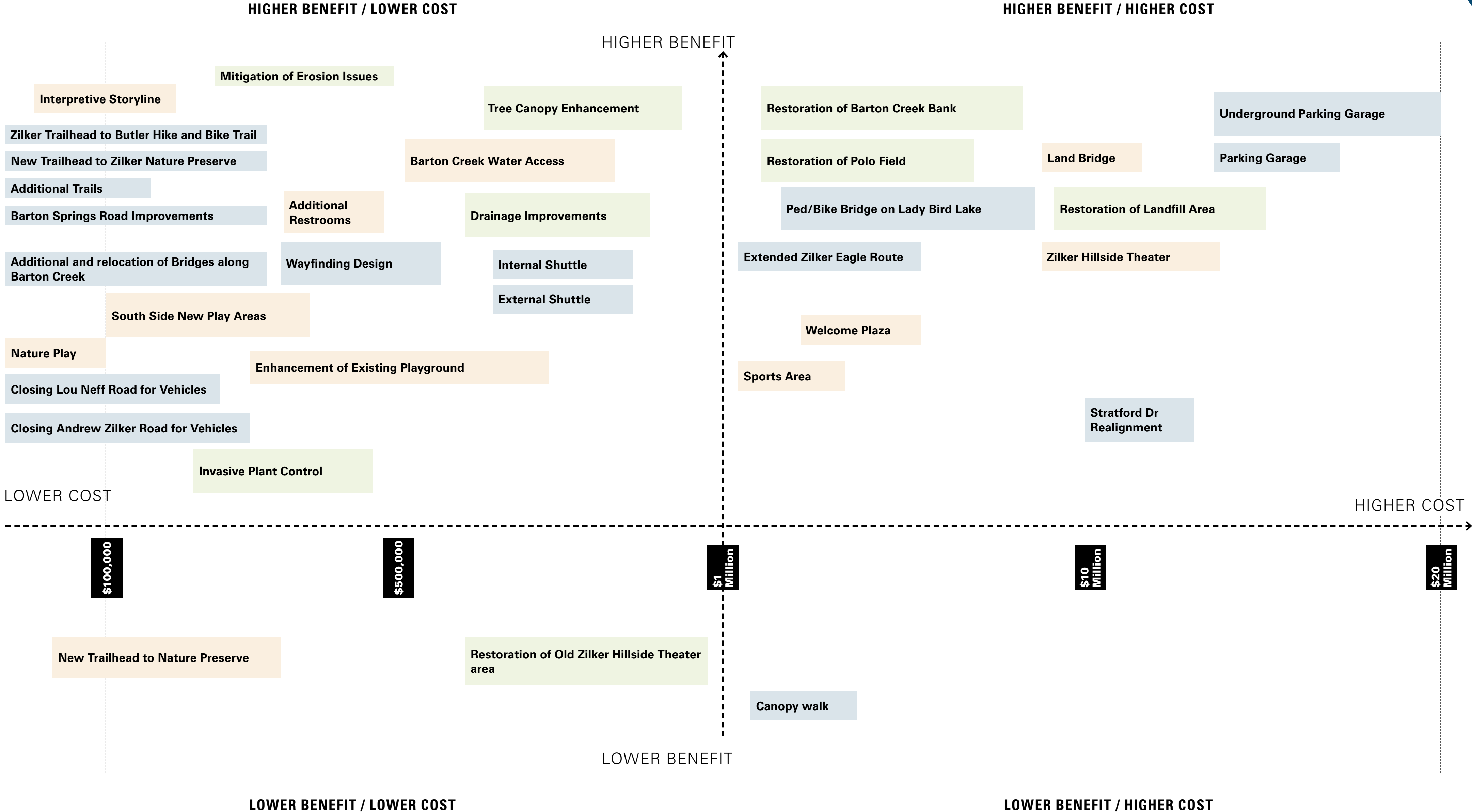
ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING PLAYGROUND	BARTON CREEK WATER ACCESS
PLAYGROUND NEAR THE LAND BRIDGE	NEW PICNIC AREA WITH CONCESSION
NATURE PLAY	SPORTS AREA
ADDITIONAL RESTROOMS	LAND BRIDGE

CLOSING ANDREW ZILKER ROAD FOR VEHICLES
PED/BIKE BRIDGE ON LBL
EXTENDED ZILKER EAGLE ROUTE
PARKING GARAGE(S)
NEW TRAILHEAD TO NATURE PRESERVE
EXTERNAL SHUTTLE

SOUTH SIDE NEW PLAY AREAS
WELCOME PLAZA
ZILKER HILLSIDE THEATER
INTERPRETIVE STORYLINE

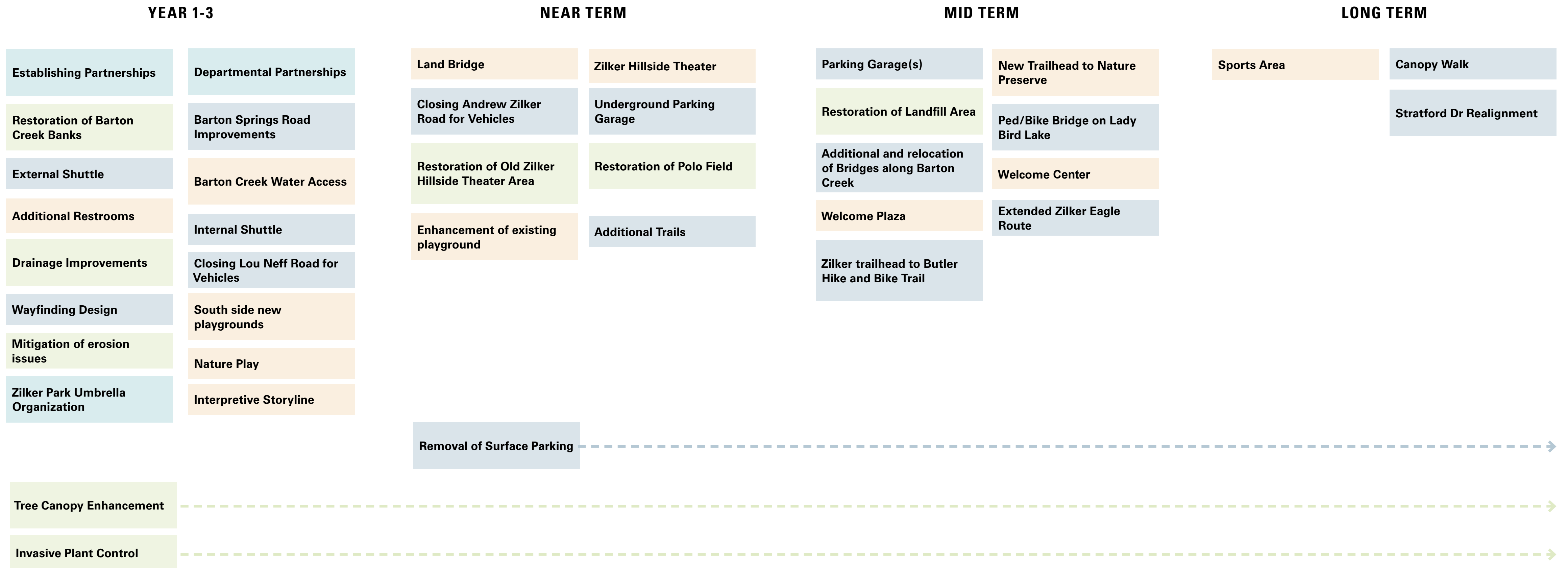
IMPLEMENTATION

COST AND BENEFIT RELATION



IMPLEMENTATION

PROJECT TIMELINE



CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

IMPACT OF THE VISION PLAN

- 1 Balancing Competing Interests
- 2 Urbanizing Recreation Within a Historic Context
- 3 Ensuring Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity
- 4 Linking Programming, Funding and Maintenance
- 5 Improving Mobility to and Inside the Park
- 6 Protecting the Ecological Heritage of Zilker

REVIEW AND ADOPTION

- ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
- URBAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
- DESIGN COMMISSION
- PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
- MOBILITY COMMITTEE
- CITY COUNCIL



THANK YOU



• **Zilker Metropolitan Park Vision Plan Website**

<https://www.austintexas.gov/ZilkerVision>

• **Contact Information**

Gregory Montes:
ZilkerVision@austintexas.gov



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