

ZILKER METROPOLITAN PARK VISION PLAN

Parks and Recreation Board

May 22, 2023



DESIGNWORKSHOP

ZILKER PARK

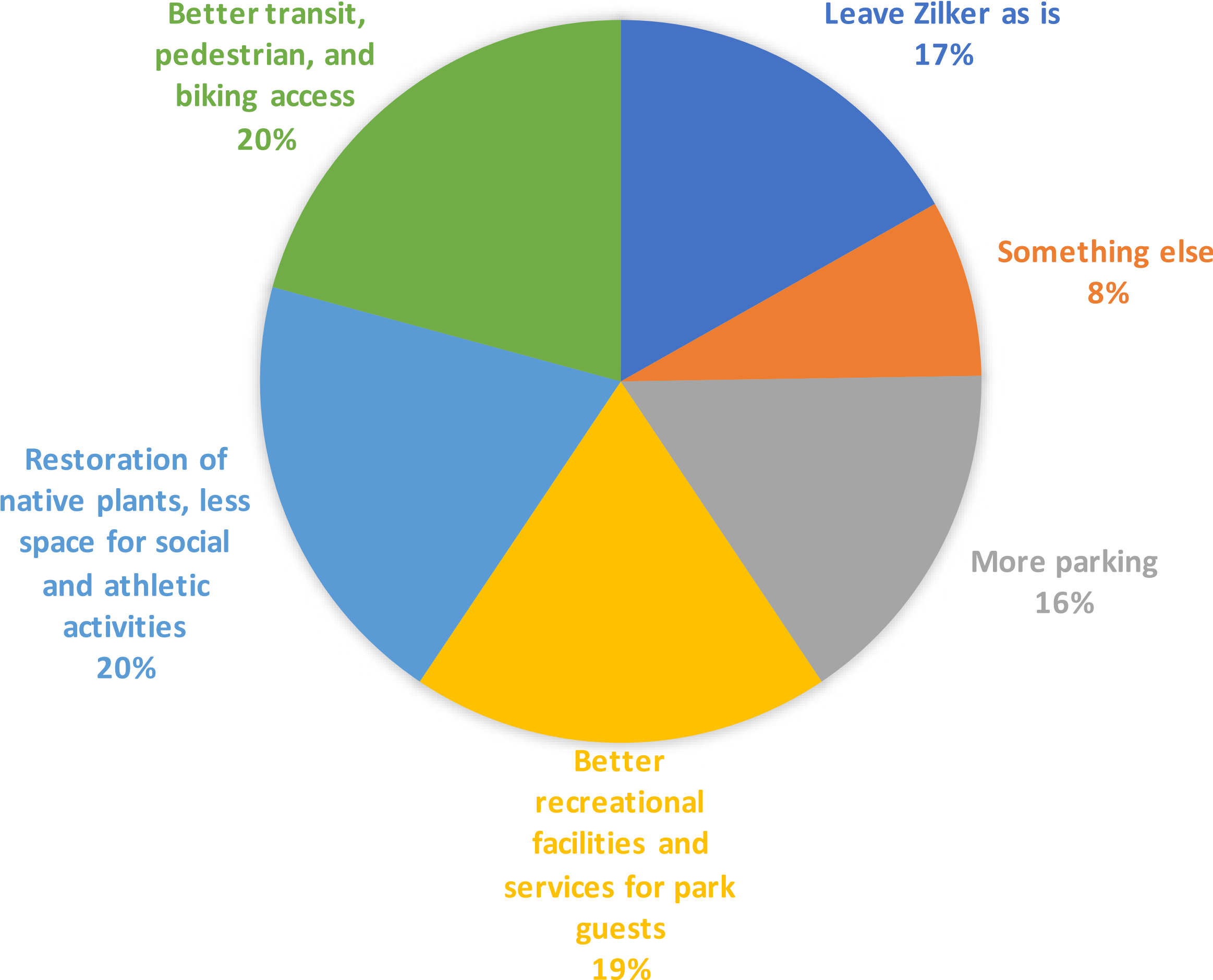
Notley/Monitor Poll: Austinites can't agree on greatest park challenges or solutions

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?



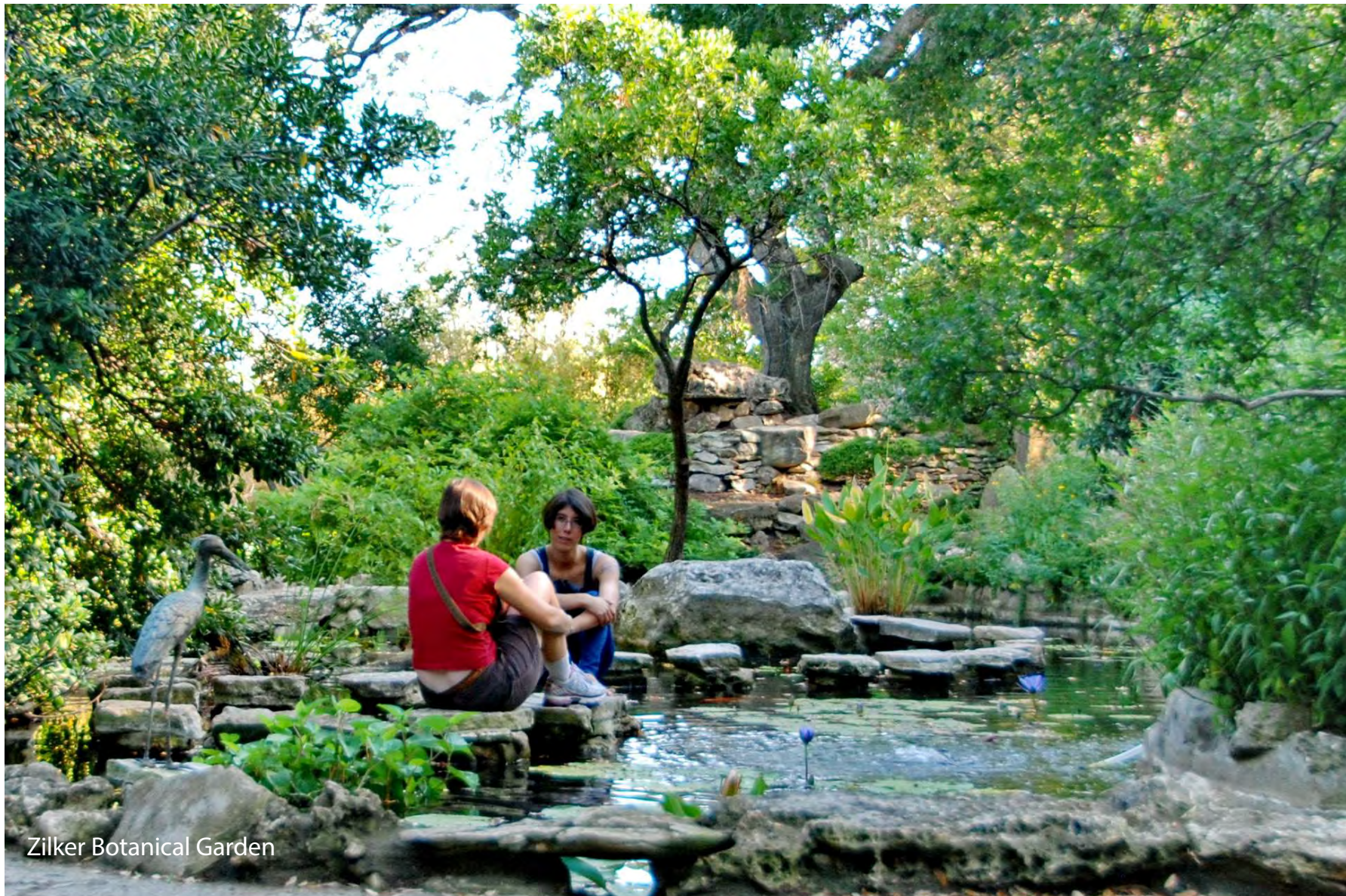
ZILKER PARK: AN AUSTIN TREASURE



Barton Springs



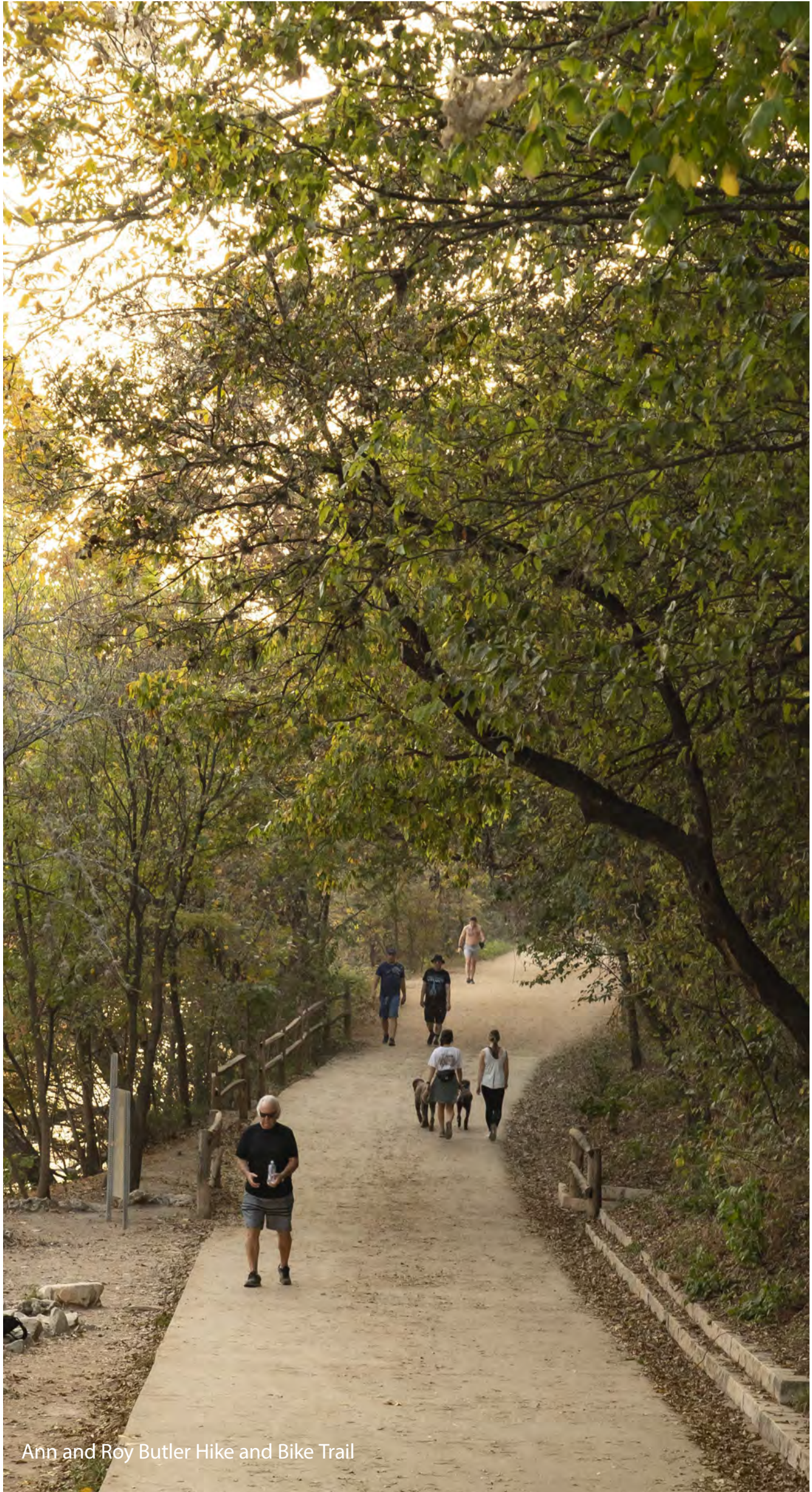
Great Lawn and Rock Island



Zilker Botanical Garden



Pedestrian and Bike Bridge over Barton Creek



Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail

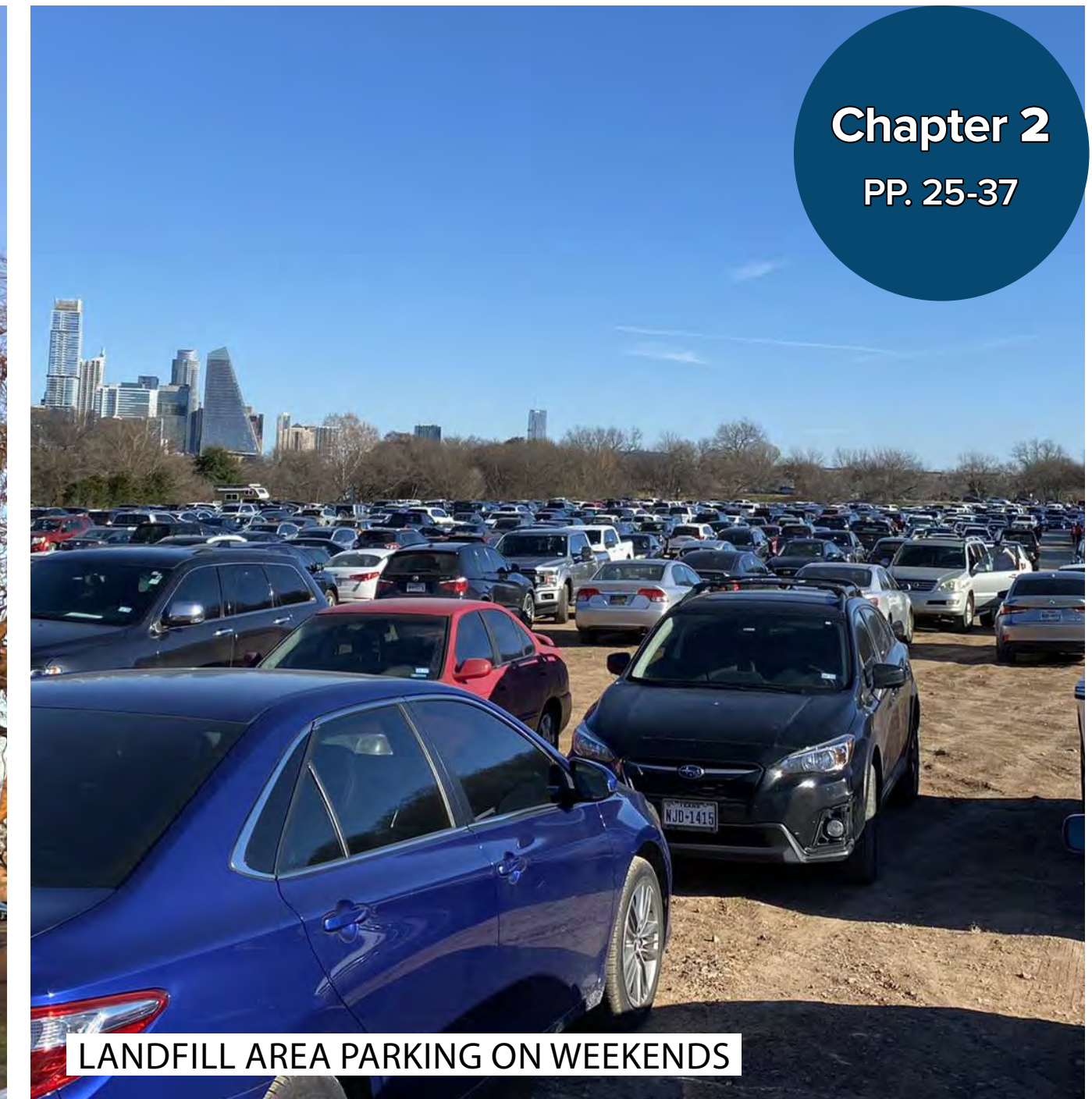
CALL TO ACTION

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

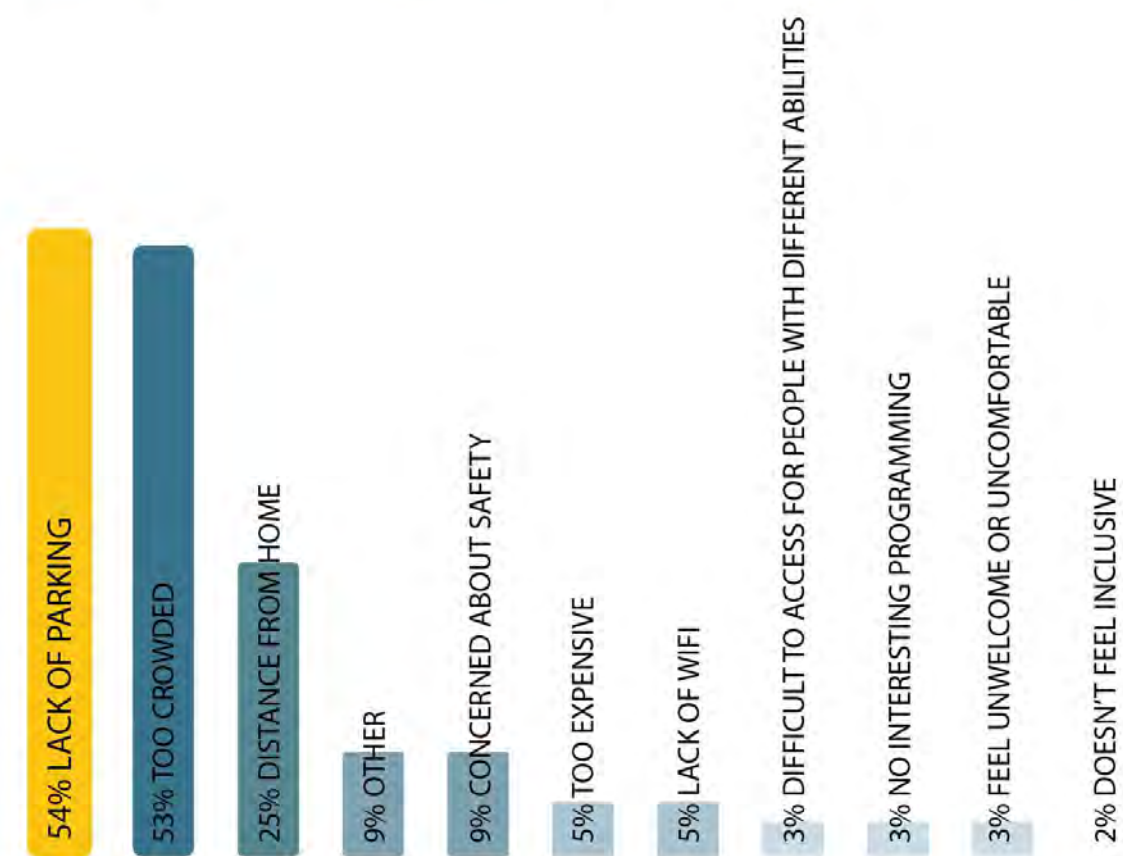


LANDFILL AREA PARKING ON WEEKENDS

Chapter 2

PP. 25-37

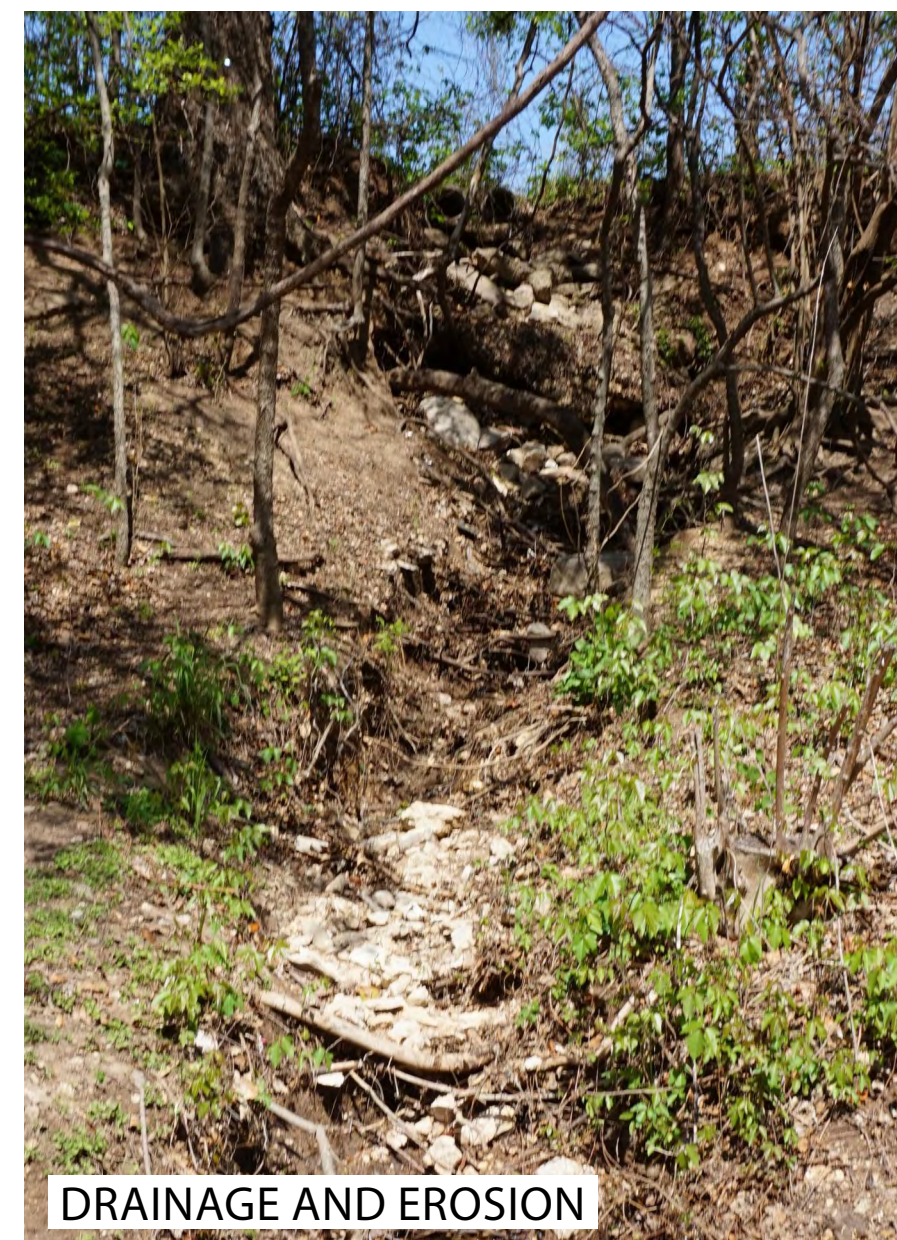
If you DO NOT visit or avoid visiting Zilker Park, why?



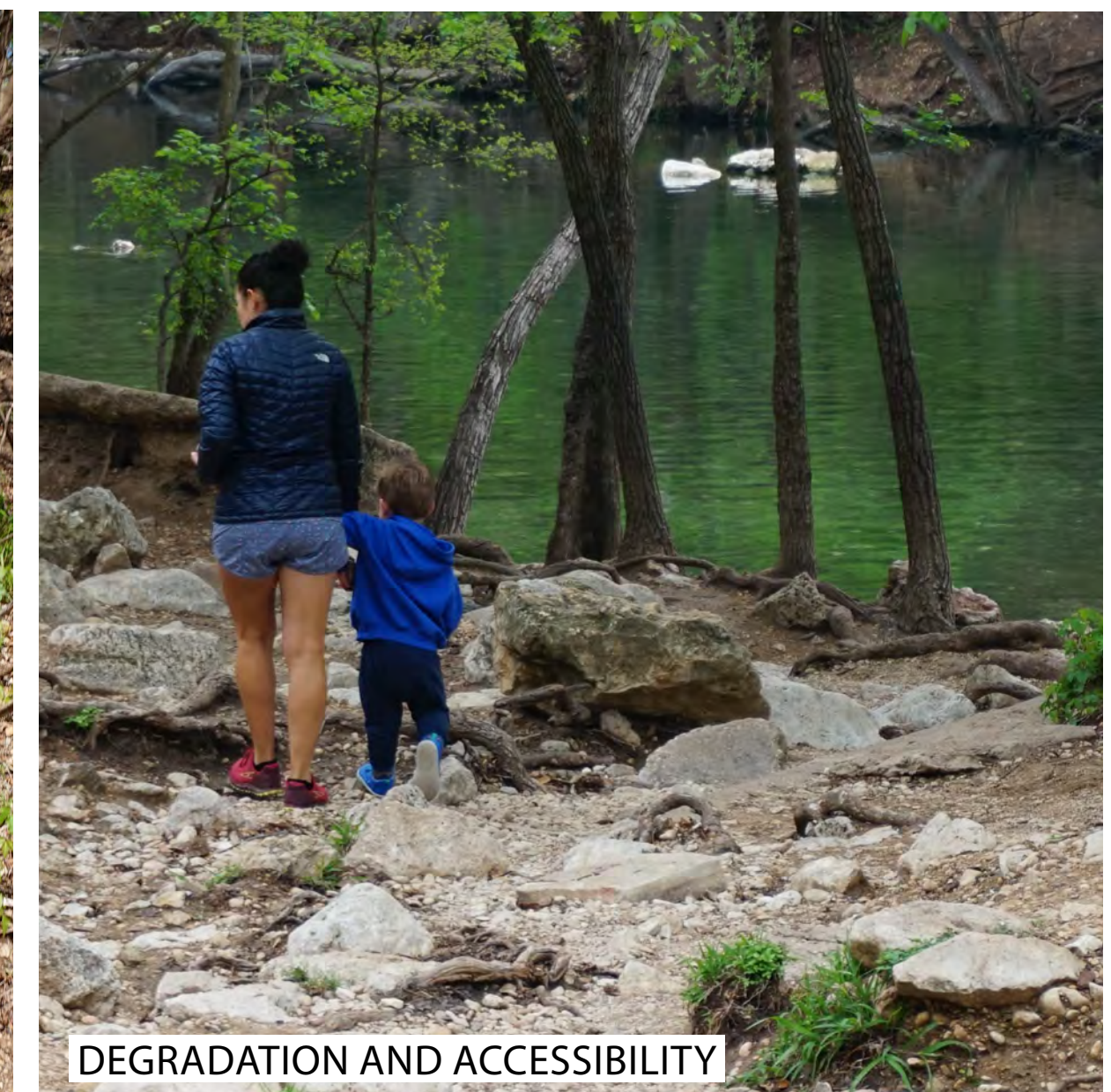
54% Lack of Parking



BARTON SPRINGS SPILLWAY ON WEEKENDS



DRAINAGE AND EROSION



DEGRADATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

WHAT IS A VISION PLAN?

What it is

Outlines the long-term vision, principles, goals, and strategies for the enhancement, management, and operation of Zilker Park

What it is not

Detailed design or construction plans

Detailed plans for day to day park management and maintenance

Detailed budgeting for park enhancements

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND GOALS



Sustainability



Accessibility



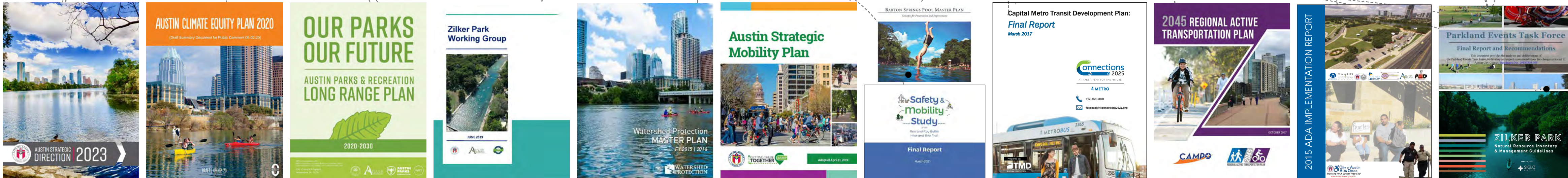
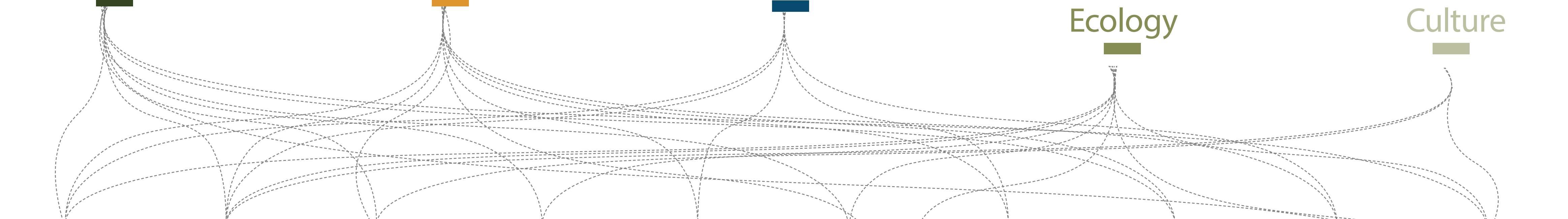
Equity



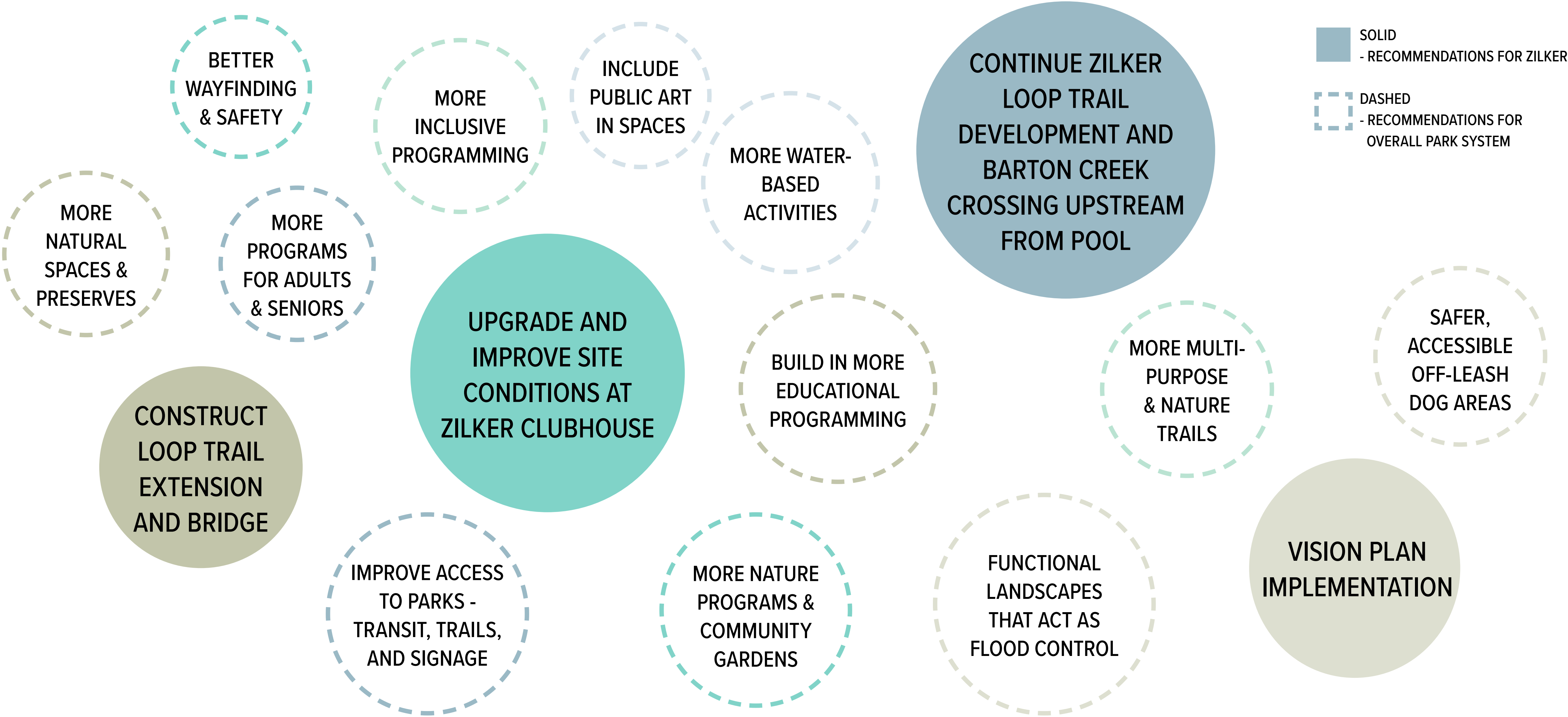
Nature and Ecology



History and Culture



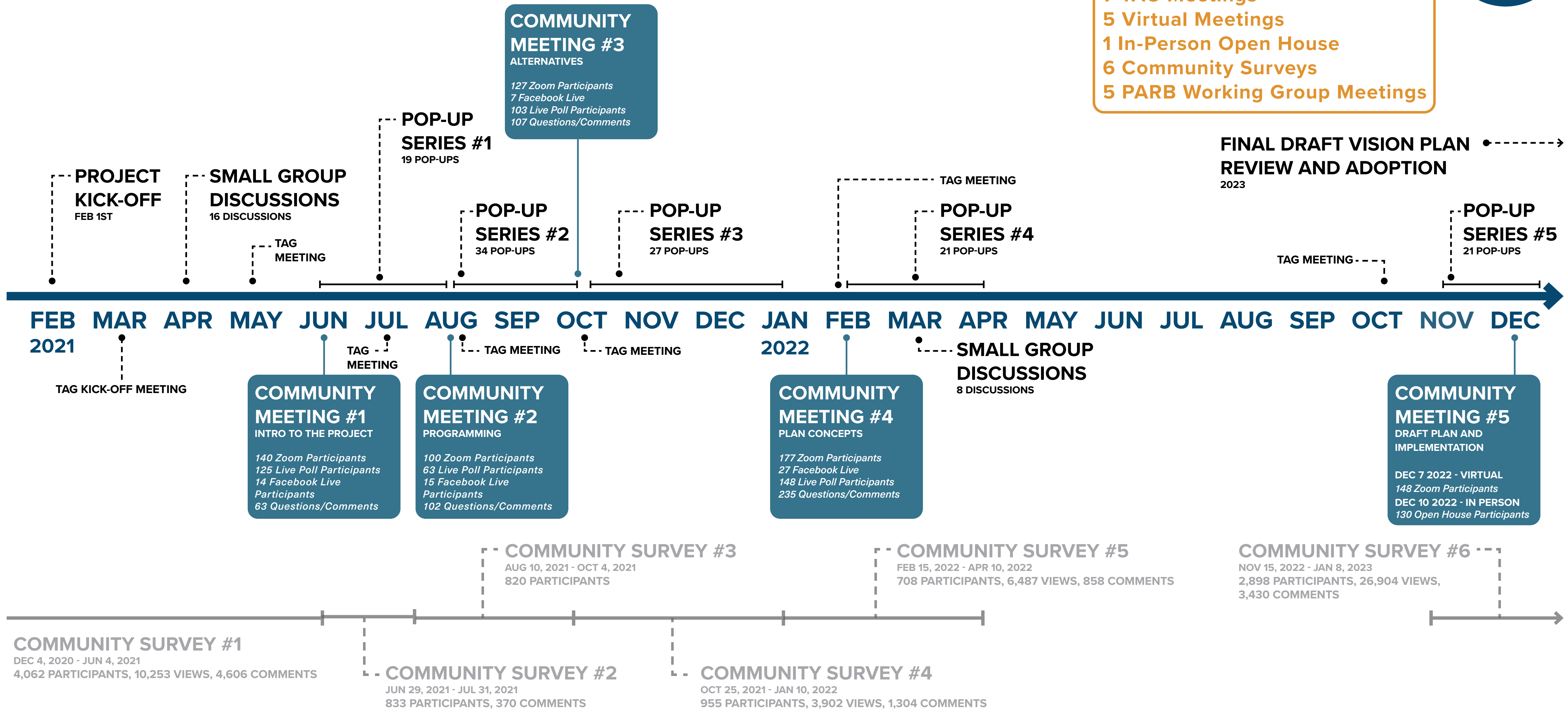
ZILKER PARK VISION PLAN AND PARD LONG RANGE PLAN



ZILKER PARK VISION PLAN

Project Schedule and Community Engagement

122 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



DRAFT ZILKER PARK VISION PLAN

Overall



Sustainability



Accessibility



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture



EXTERNAL SHUTTLE

CONNECTING TRANSPORTATION HUBS AND EXTERNAL PARKING GARAGES



Sustainability



Accessibility



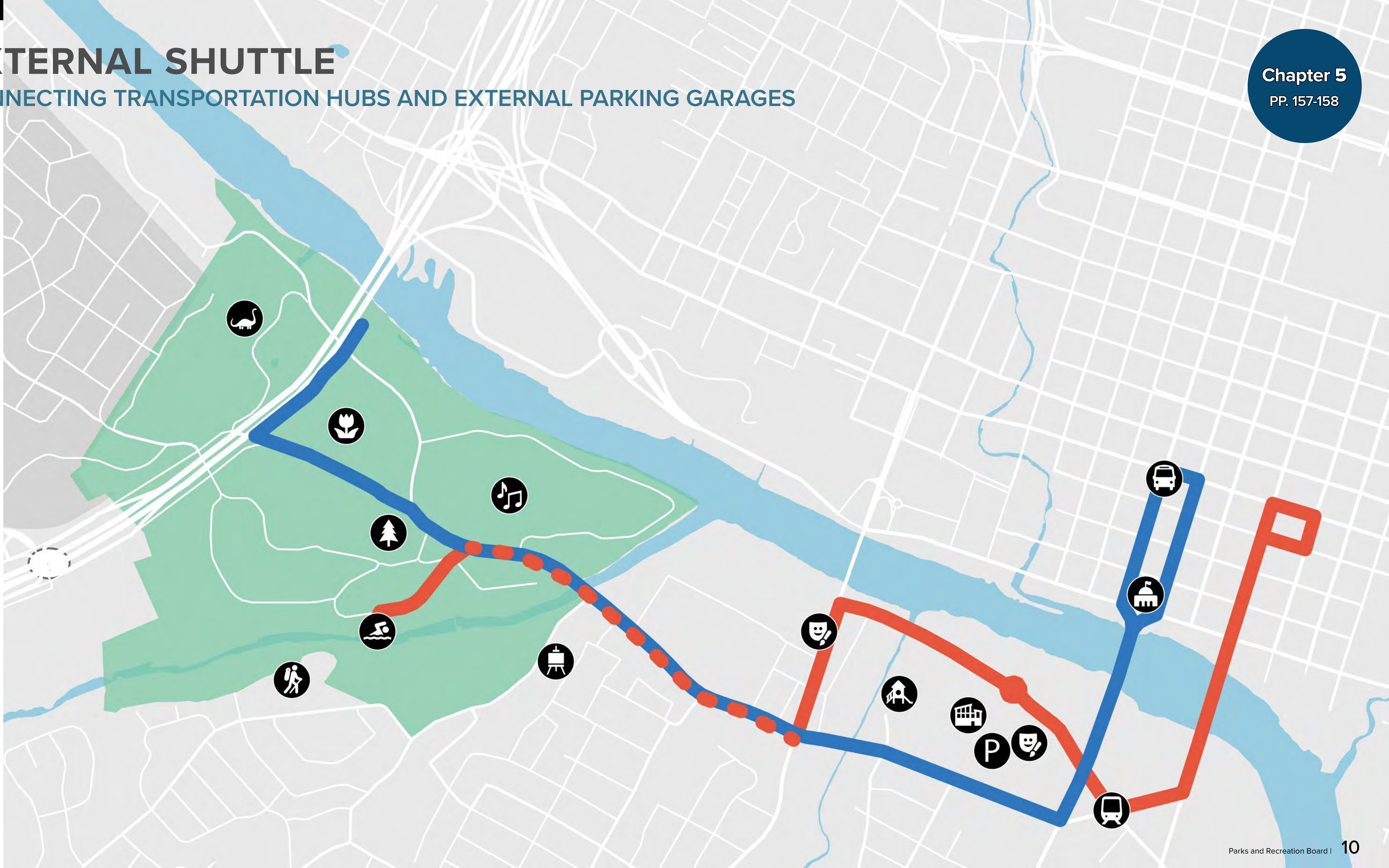
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



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	2,450 Spaces
Formal Parking	1,300 Spaces	2,450 Spaces
Informal Parking	1,150 Spaces	0 Spaces



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

ACCESSIBILITY AND MOBILITY

PROPOSED BARTON SPRINGS ROAD CONFIGURATION



Sustainability



Accessibility



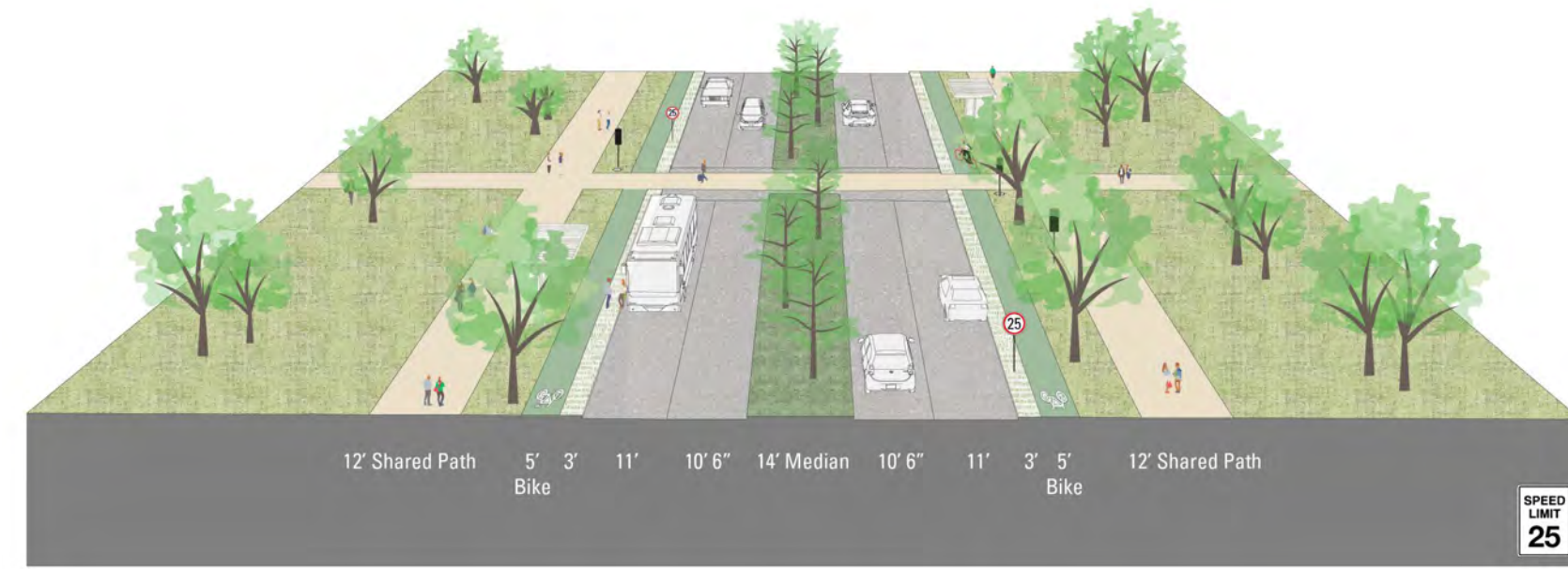
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



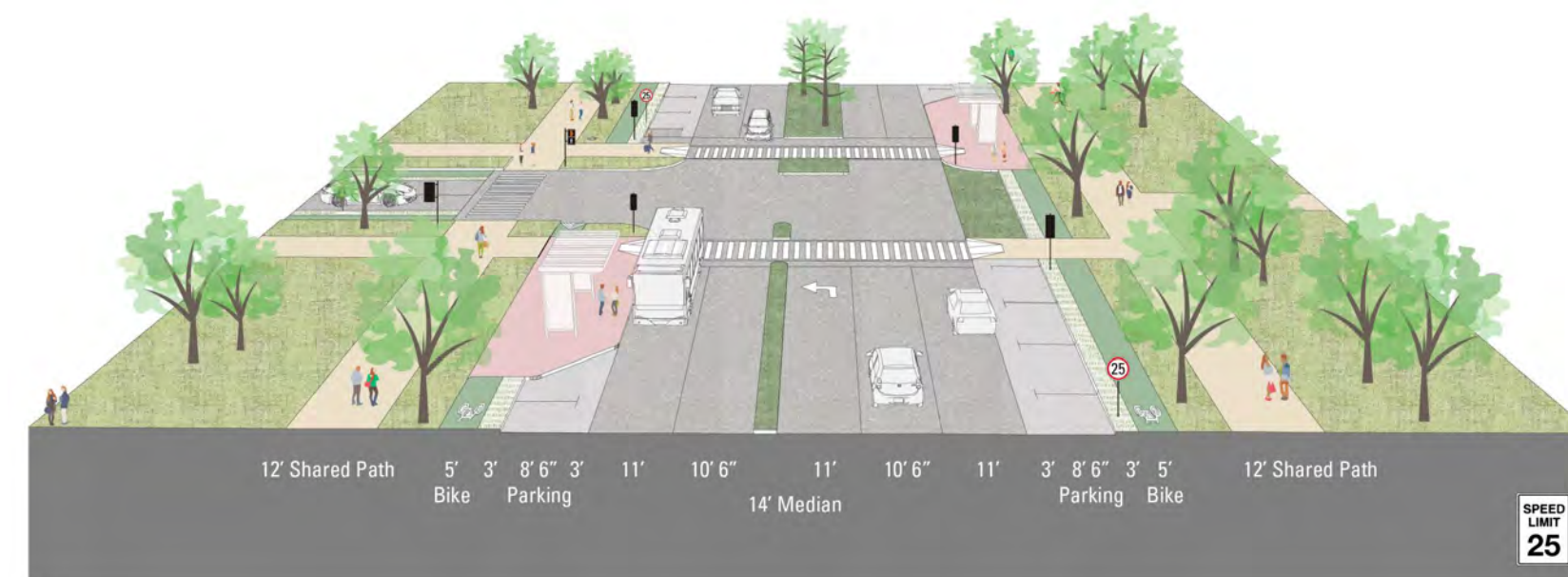
Nature and Ecology



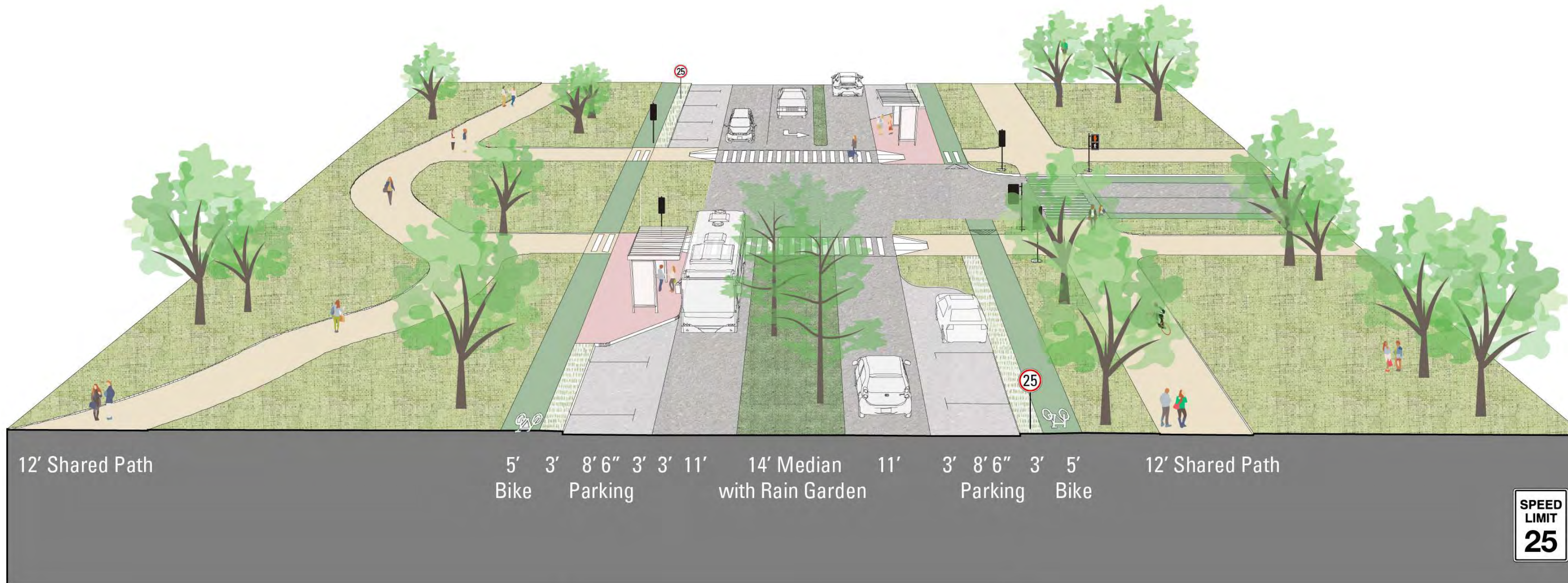
History and Culture



57'-0" R.O.W.
60'-0" R.O.W.
Existing Barton Springs Road Width



80'-0" R.O.W.
60'-0" R.O.W.
Existing Barton Springs Road Width



59'-0" R.O.W.
60'-0" R.O.W.
Existing Barton Springs Road Width

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



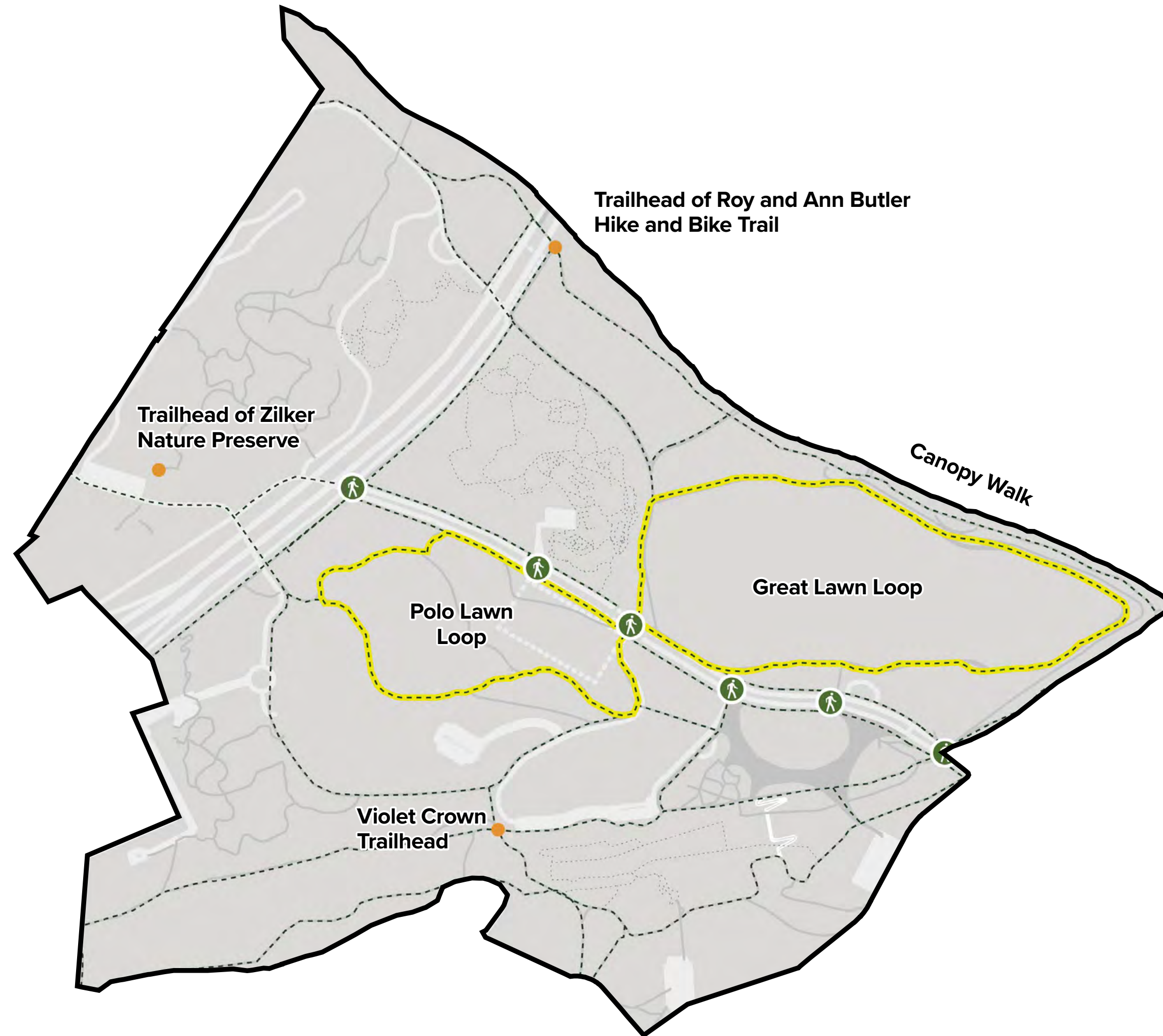
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture



Canopy Walk in Serravalles Park.

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



+55%

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

ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT



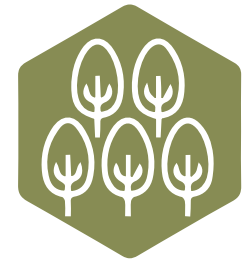
Sustainability



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
Drainage Enhancement	-	2 ACRES	+2 ACRES
Impervious Cover	49.3 ACRES	34.7 ACRES	-15.5 ACRES

- Upland Woodland
- Riparian Woodland
- Meadow/Savanna
- Canopy Enhancement
- Drainage Enhancement
- Parkland with Regular Maintenance

ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT

IMPERVIOUS COVER CALCULATION



Sustainability



Accessibility



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



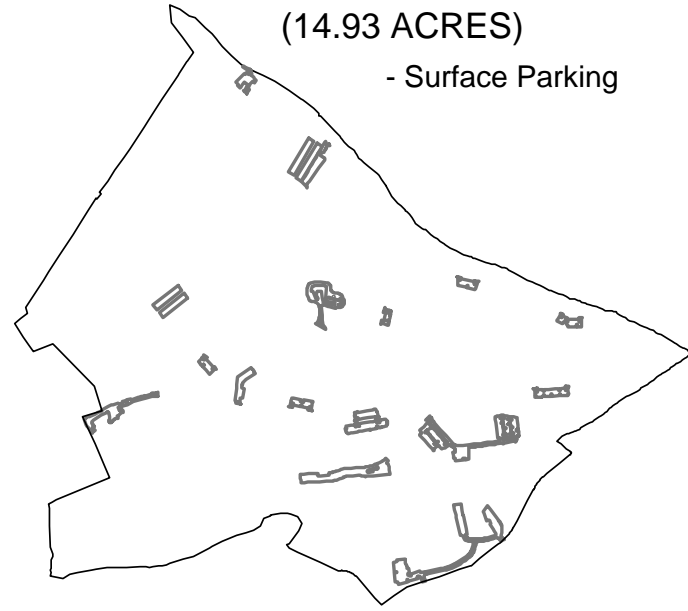
Nature and Ecology



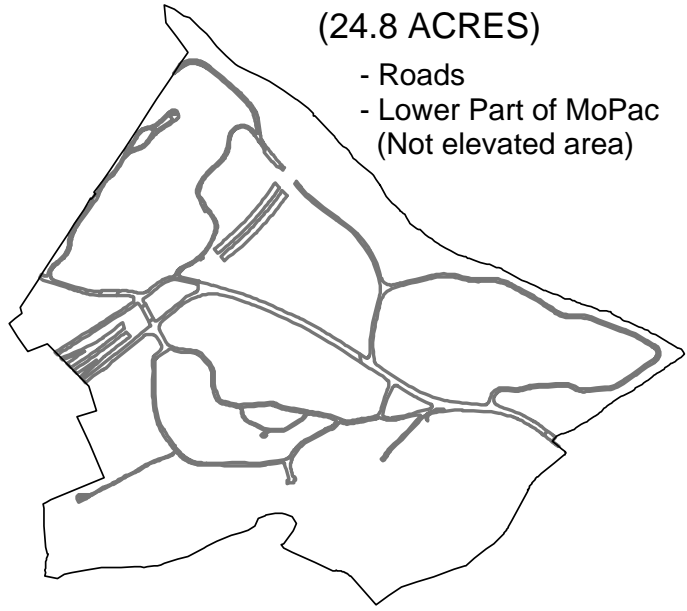
History and Culture



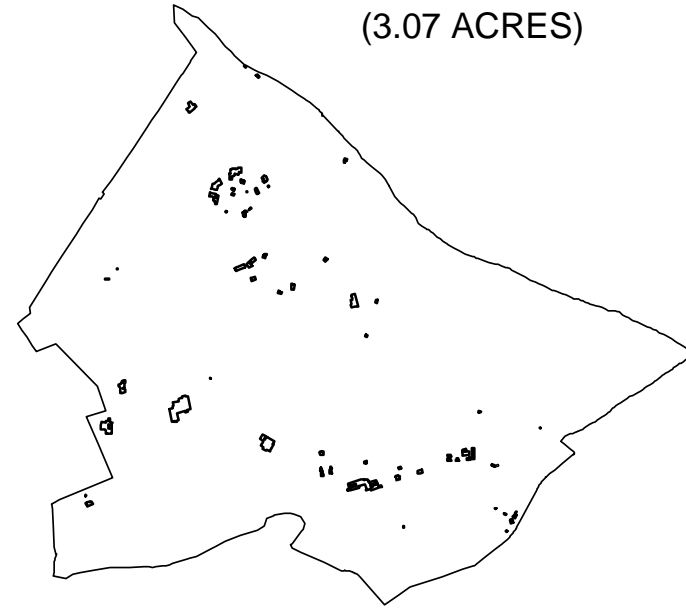
EXISTING SURFACE PARKING
(14.93 ACRES)
- Surface Parking



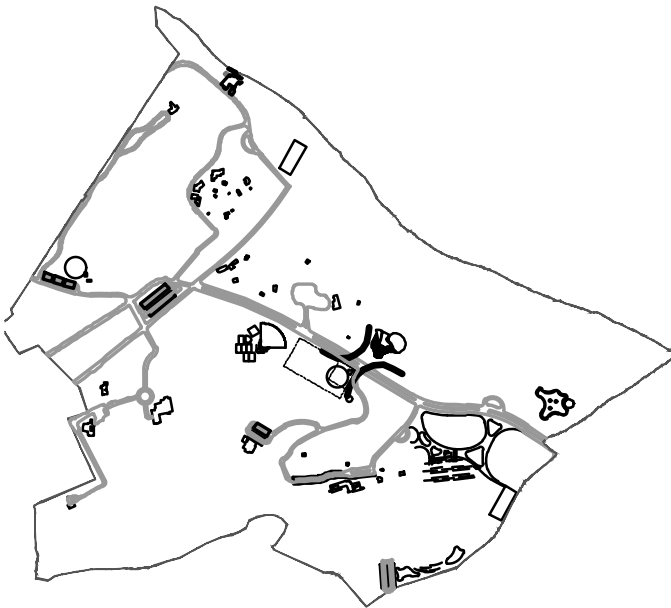
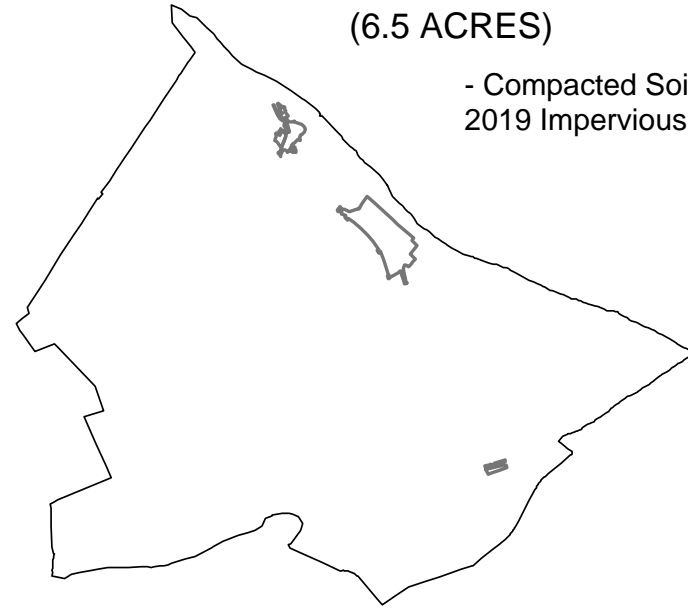
EXISTING ROAD
(24.8 ACRES)
- Roads
- Lower Part of MoPac
(Not elevated area)



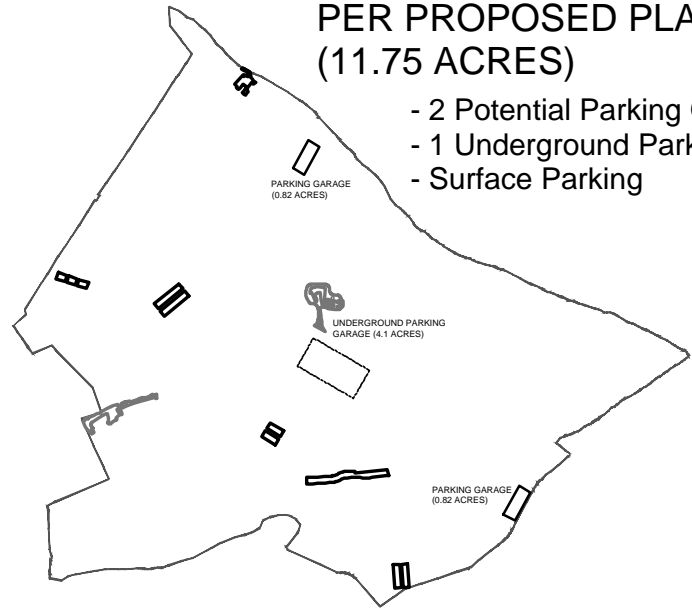
EXISTING BUILDINGS
(3.07 ACRES)



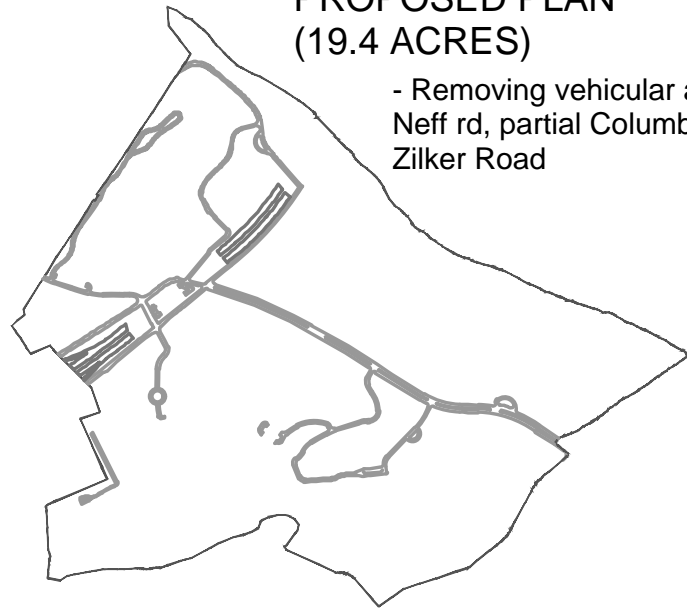
EXISTING COMPACTED SOIL
(6.5 ACRES)
- Compacted Soil Area based on
2019 Impervious Cover GIS Data



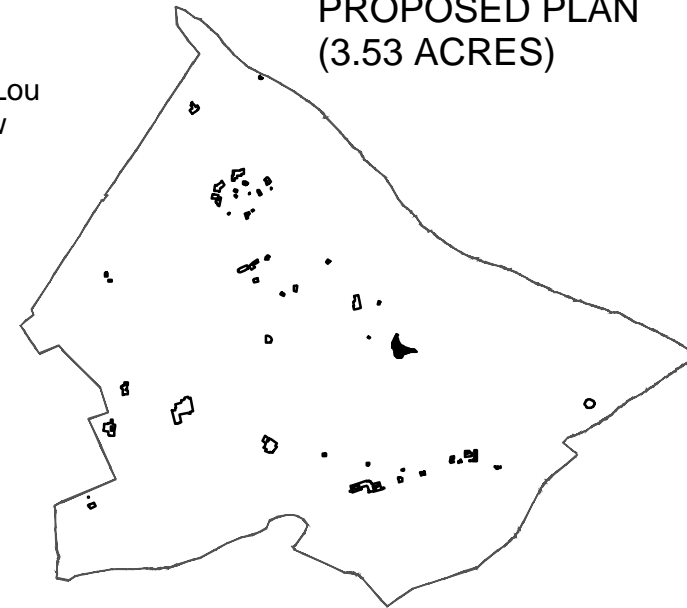
SURFACE PARKING PER PROPOSED PLAN
(11.75 ACRES)
- 2 Potential Parking Garages
- 1 Underground Parking Garage
- Surface Parking



ROADS PER PROPOSED PLAN
(19.4 ACRES)
- Removing vehicular access to Lou Neff rd, partial Columbus/Andrew Zilker Road



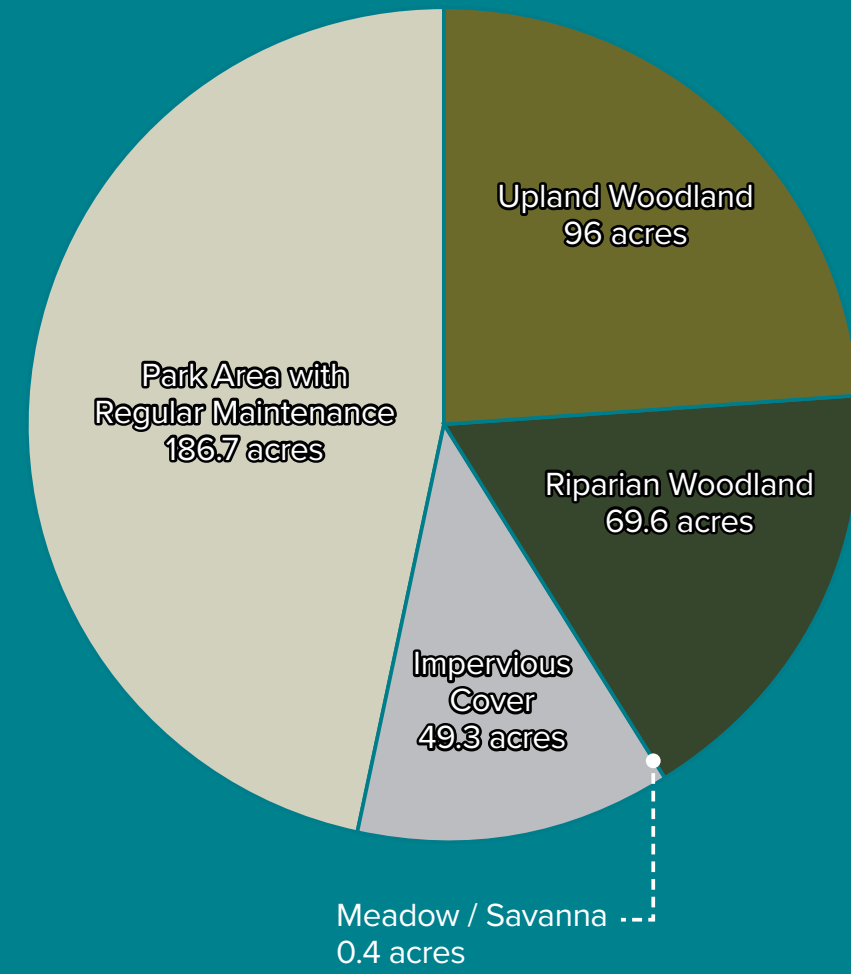
BUILDINGS PER PROPOSED PLAN
(3.53 ACRES)



	Roads	Surface Parking	Buildings	Compacted Soil	Parking Garages	Underground Parking Garage	TOTAL
Existing	24.8	14.93	3.07	6.5	0	0	49.3
Final	19.4	6.01	3.53	0	1.64	4.1	34.7

EXISTING CONDITION

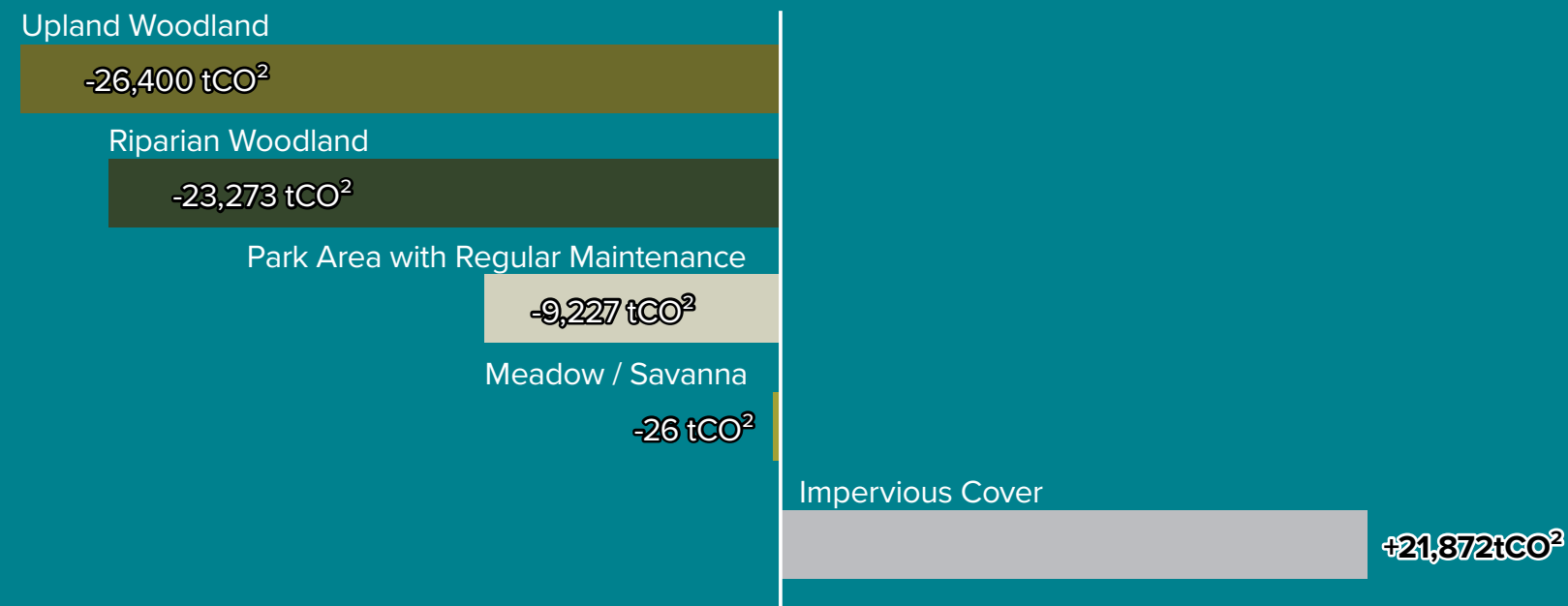
LANDCOVER



TOTAL CARBON IMPACT BY LANDCOVER

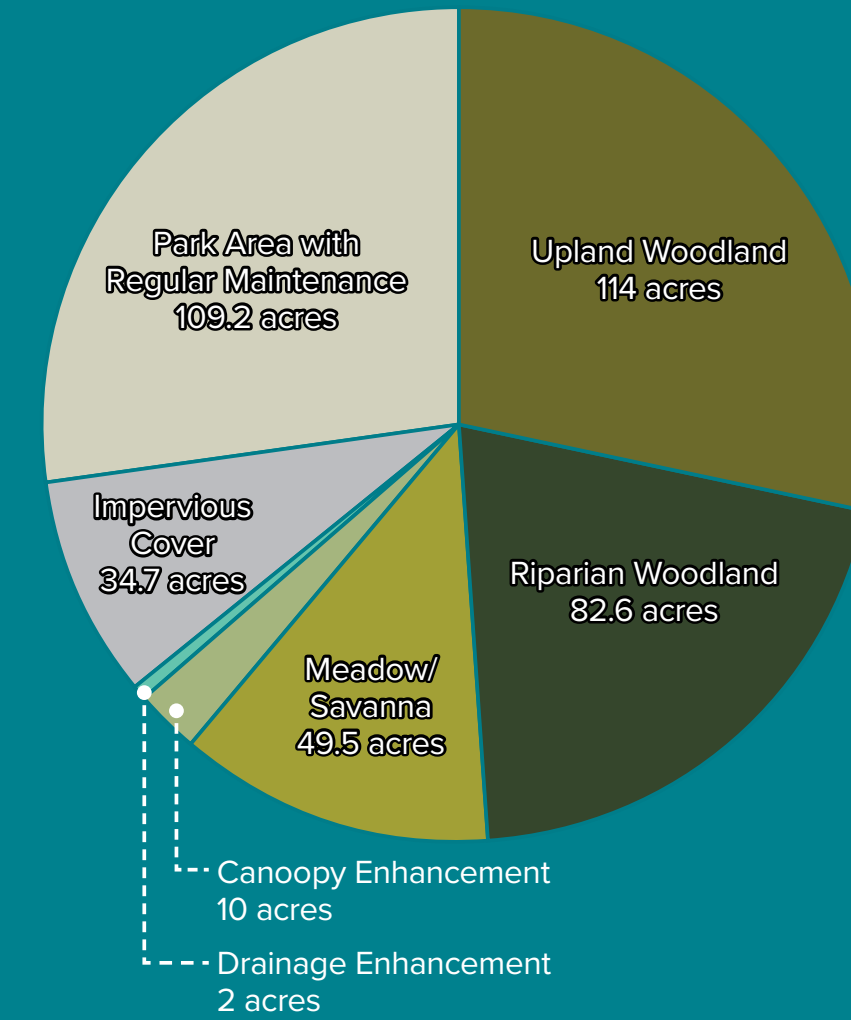
Category	Carbon Impact (tCO ²)
HARDSCAPE	
Impervious Cover	+ 21,872 tCO ²
SOFTSCAPE	
Upland Woodland	- 26,400 tCO ²
Riparian Woodland	- 23,273 tCO ²
Meadow / Savanna	- 26 tCO ²
Park Area with Regular Maintenance	- 9,227 tCO ²

STORED AND SEQUESTERED CARBON



PROPOSED CONDITION

LANDCOVER



TOTAL CARBON IMPACT BY LANDCOVER

Category	Carbon Impact (tCO ²)
HARDSCAPE	
Impervious Cover	+ 10,736 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	- 4,612 tCO ²

STORED AND SEQUESTERED CARBON



+62%



Sustainability



Accessibility



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture



Sustainability



Accessibility



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture



ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT ON LANDFILL AREA



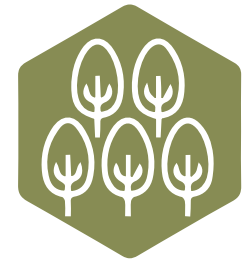
Sustainability



Accessibility



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture





Sustainability



Accessibility



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture

ZILKER LAND BRIDGE



Sustainability



Accessibility



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture





Sustainability



Accessibility



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture



ZILKER HILLSIDE THEATER



Sustainability



Accessibility



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture





POLO FIELD

GREAT LAWN

DISC GOLF AREA

PLAYGROUND

ENTRANCE TO PARKING GARAGE

MOON TOWER

PICNIC AREA

ANDREW ZILKER RD

BARTON SPRINGS RD

NEW ENTRY ROAD TO SUNSHINE CAMP

ENHANCED RUGBY FIELD

ROCK GARDEN

PECAN GROVE PICNIC AREA

COLUMBUS DR

ENHANCED PLAYGROUND

WELCOME PLAZA

MAINTENANCE AREA OR DEPOT FOR ZILKER EAGLE

VIOLET CROWN TRAILHEAD

TERRACE

RELOCATED ZILKER PARK BOAT RENTALS

NEW PED/BIKE BRIDGE

BARTON SPRINGS POOL

NEW PED/BIKE BRIDGE

PARKING GARAGE

SUNKEN GARDEN

SOUTH PICNIC AREA

MONKEY TREE LAWN

TODDLER PLAYGROUND

PLAYGROUND



Sustainability



Accessibility



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture

BARTON SPRINGS SPILLWAY



Sustainability



Accessibility



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture





Sustainability



Accessibility



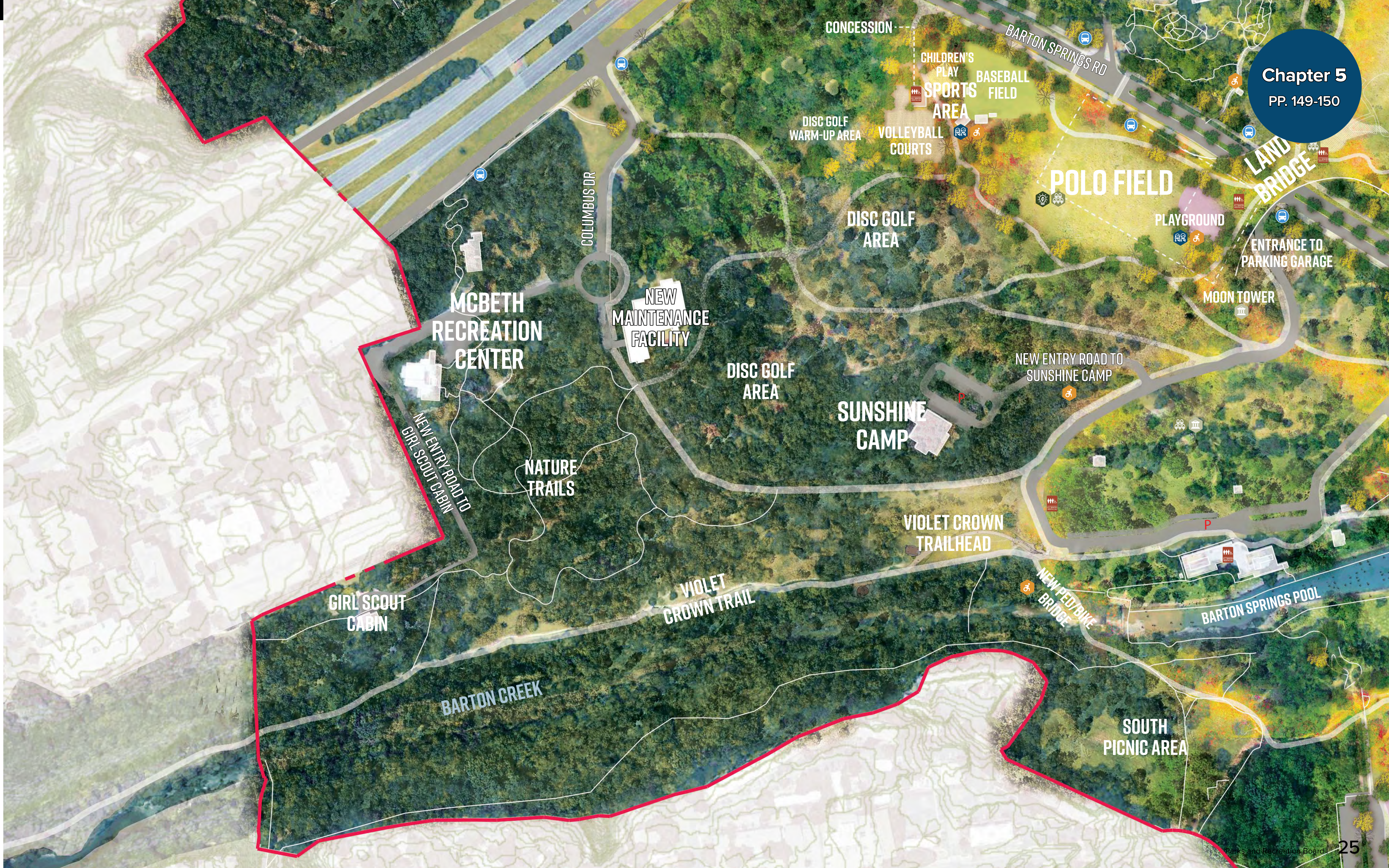
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture



CONCESSION

CHILDREN'S PLAY
SPORTS AREA

BASEBALL FIELD

DISC GOLF WARM-UP AREA

VOLLEYBALL COURTS

POLO FIELD

PLAYGROUND

ENTRANCE TO PARKING GARAGE

MOON TOWER

MCBETH RECREATION CENTER

NEW MAINTENANCE FACILITY

DISC GOLF AREA

SUNSHINE CAMP

NEW ENTRY ROAD TO SUNSHINE CAMP

NATURE TRAILS

VIOLET CROWN TRAILHEAD

GIRL SCOUT CABIN

VIOLET CROWN TRAIL

NEW PED/BIKE BRIDGE

BARTON SPRINGS POOL

BARTON CREEK

SOUTH PICNIC AREA

LAND BRIDGE

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 ENHANCEMENT

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

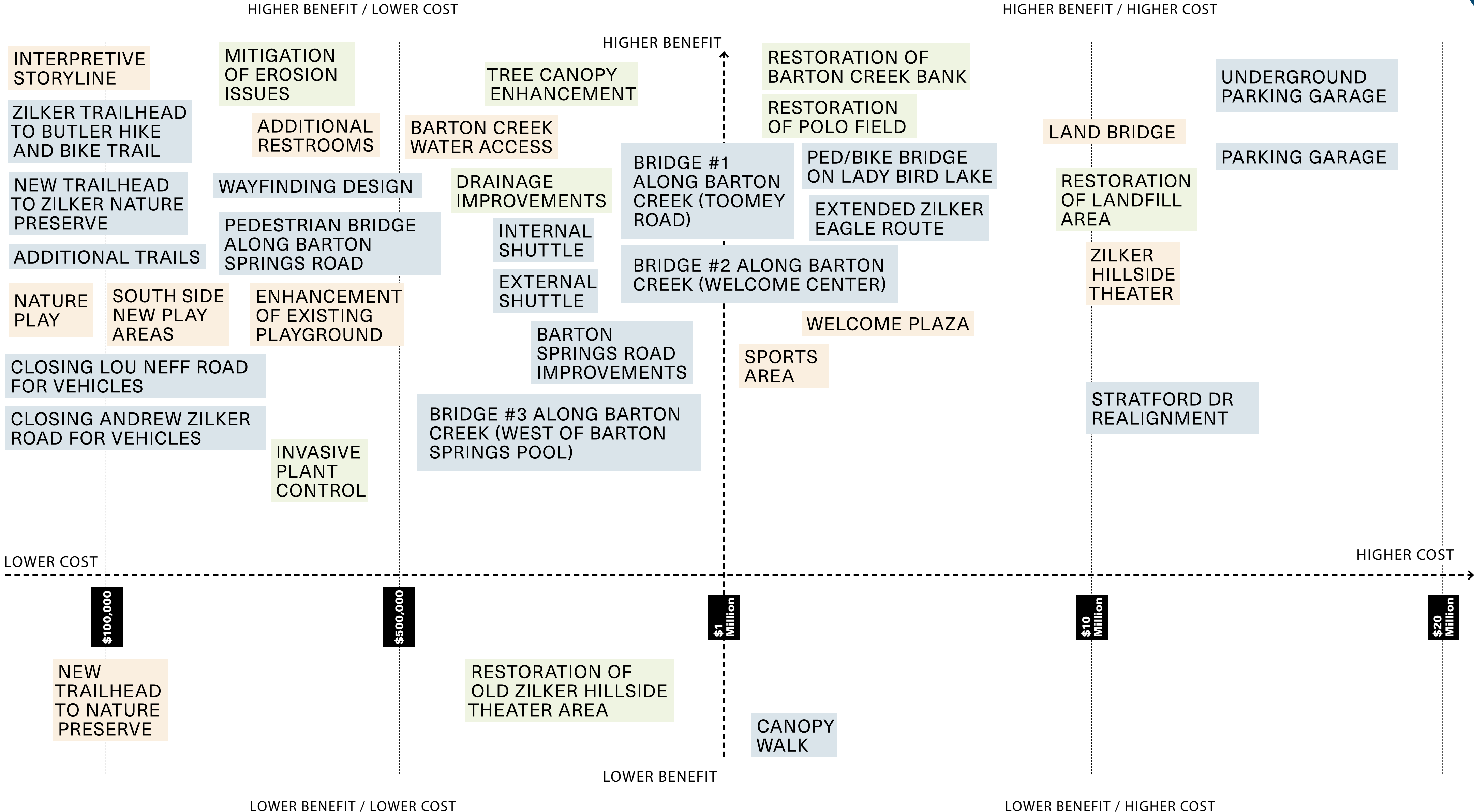
STRATFORD DR REALIGNMENT	BRIDGE #1 ALONG BARTON CREEK (TOOMEY ROAD)	CLOSING ANDREW ZILKER ROAD FOR VEHICLES
ZILKER TRAILHEAD	BRIDGE #2 ALONG BARTON CREEK (WELCOME CENTER)	PED/BIKE BRIDGE ON LBL
WAYFINDING DESIGN	BRIDGE #3 ALONG BARTON CREEK (WEST OF BARTON SPRINGS POOL)	EXTENDED ZILKER EAGLE ROUTE
CANOPY WALK	CLOSING LOU NEFF ROAD TO VEHICLES	PARKING GARAGE(S)
REMOVAL OF SURFACE PARKING	INTERNAL SHUTTLE	NEW TRAILHEAD TO NATURE PRESERVE
UNDERGROUND PARKING GARAGE	ADDITIONAL TRAILS	BARTON SPRINGS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS
		EXTERNAL SHUTTLE

FACILITY/PROGRAM

ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING PLAYGROUND	BARTON CREEK WATER ACCESS	SOUTH SIDE NEW PLAY AREAS
PLAYGROUND NEAR THE LAND BRIDGE	NEW PICNIC AREA WITH CONCESSION	WELCOME PLAZA
NATURE PLAY	SPORTS AREA	ZILKER HILLSIDE THEATER
ADDITIONAL RESTROOMS	LAND BRIDGE	INTERPRETIVE STORYLINE

IMPLEMENTATION

COST AND BENEFIT RELATION



IMPLEMENTATION

PROJECT TIMELINE

YEAR 1-3

- ESTABLISHING PARTNERSHIPS
- RESTORATION OF BARTON CREEK BANKS
- EXTERNAL SHUTTLE
- ADDITIONAL RESTROOMS
- DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS
- WAYFINDING DESIGN
- MITIGATION OF EROSION ISSUES
- ZILKER PARK UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION
- PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE ALONG BARTON SPRINGS ROAD
- DEPARTMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS
- BARTON SPRINGS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS
- BARTON CREEK WATER ACCESS
- INTERNAL SHUTTLE
- CLOSING LOU NEFF ROAD FOR VEHICLES
- SOUTH SIDE NEW PLAYGROUNDS
- NATURE PLAY
- INTERPRETIVE STORYLINE

NEAR TERM

- LAND BRIDGE
- CLOSING ANDREW ZILKER ROAD FOR VEHICLES
- RESTORATION OF OLD ZILKER HILLSIDE THEATER AREA
- ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING PLAYGROUND
- ZILKER HILLSIDE THEATER
- UNDERGROUND PARKING GARAGE
- RESTORATION OF POLO FIELD
- ADDITIONAL TRAILS
- BRIDGE #1 ALONG BARTON CREEK (TOOMEY ROAD)

MID TERM

- PARKING GARAGE(S)
- RESTORATION OF LANDFILL AREA
- ZILKER TRAILHEAD TO BUTLER HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL
- NEW TRAILHEAD TO NATURE PRESERVE
- PED/BIKE BRIDGE ON LADY BIRD LAKE
- WELCOME PLAZA
- EXTENDED ZILKER EAGLE ROUTE
- BRIDGE #2 ALONG BARTON CREEK (WELCOME CENTER)

LONG TERM

- SPORTS AREA
- BRIDGE #3 ALONG BARTON CREEK (WEST OF BARTON SPRINGS POOL)
- CANOPY WALK
- STRATFORD DR REALIGNMENT

REMOVAL OF SURFACE PARKING →

TREE CANOPY ENHANCEMENT →

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL →

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

- BICYCLE ADVISORY COUNCIL
- PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL
- DESIGN COMMISSION
- URBAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
- ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
- PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
- MOBILITY COMMITTEE
- PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
- CITY COUNCIL

JAN FEB MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY

THANK YOU

• Zilker Metropolitan Park Vision Plan Website

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

• Contact Information

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ZilkerVision@austintexas.gov



DESIGNWORKSHOP