

ZILKER METROPOLITAN PARK VISION PLAN

Urban Transportation Commission

April 4, 2023



DESIGNWORKSHOP

ZILKER PARK

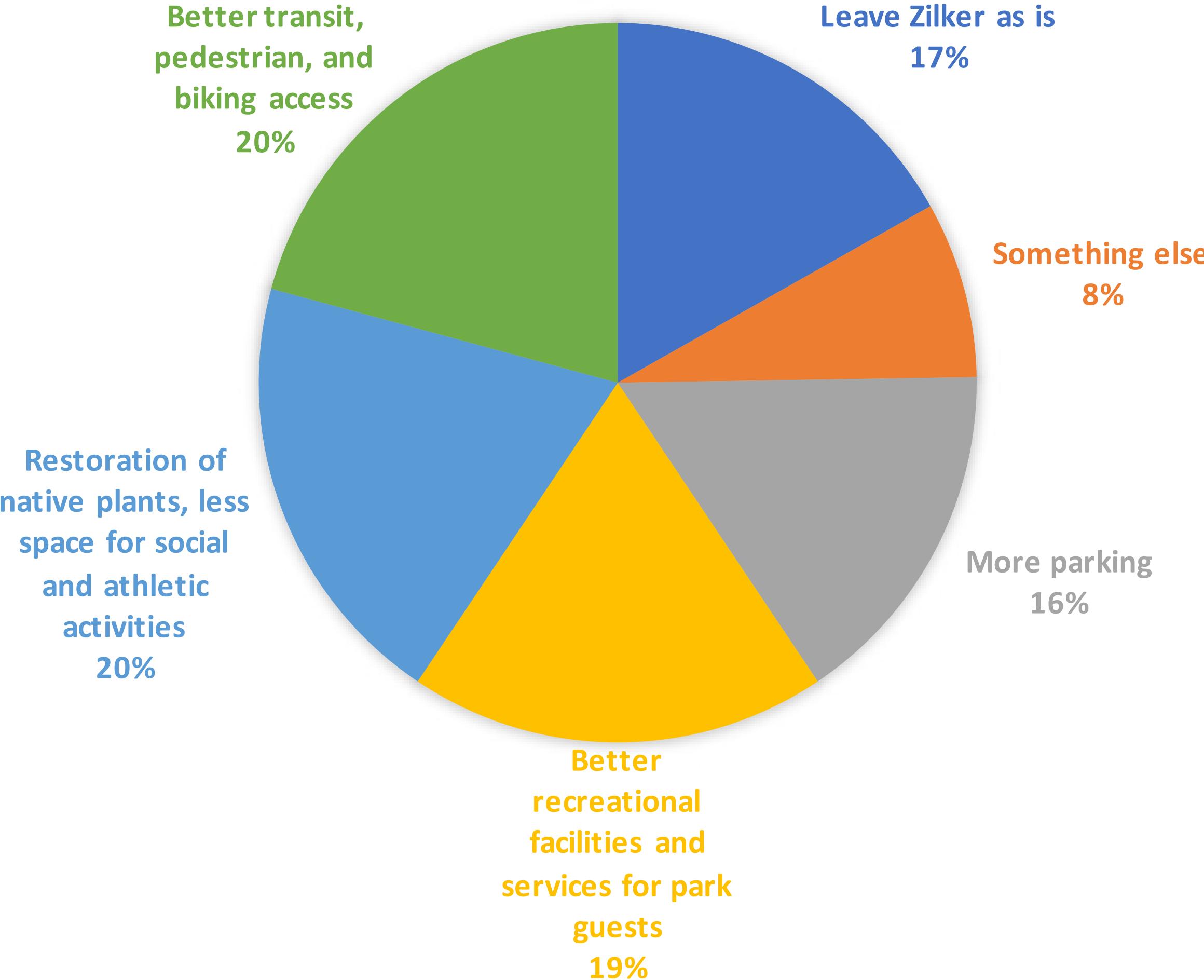
Notley/Monitor Poll: Austinites can't agree on greatest park challenges or solutions

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



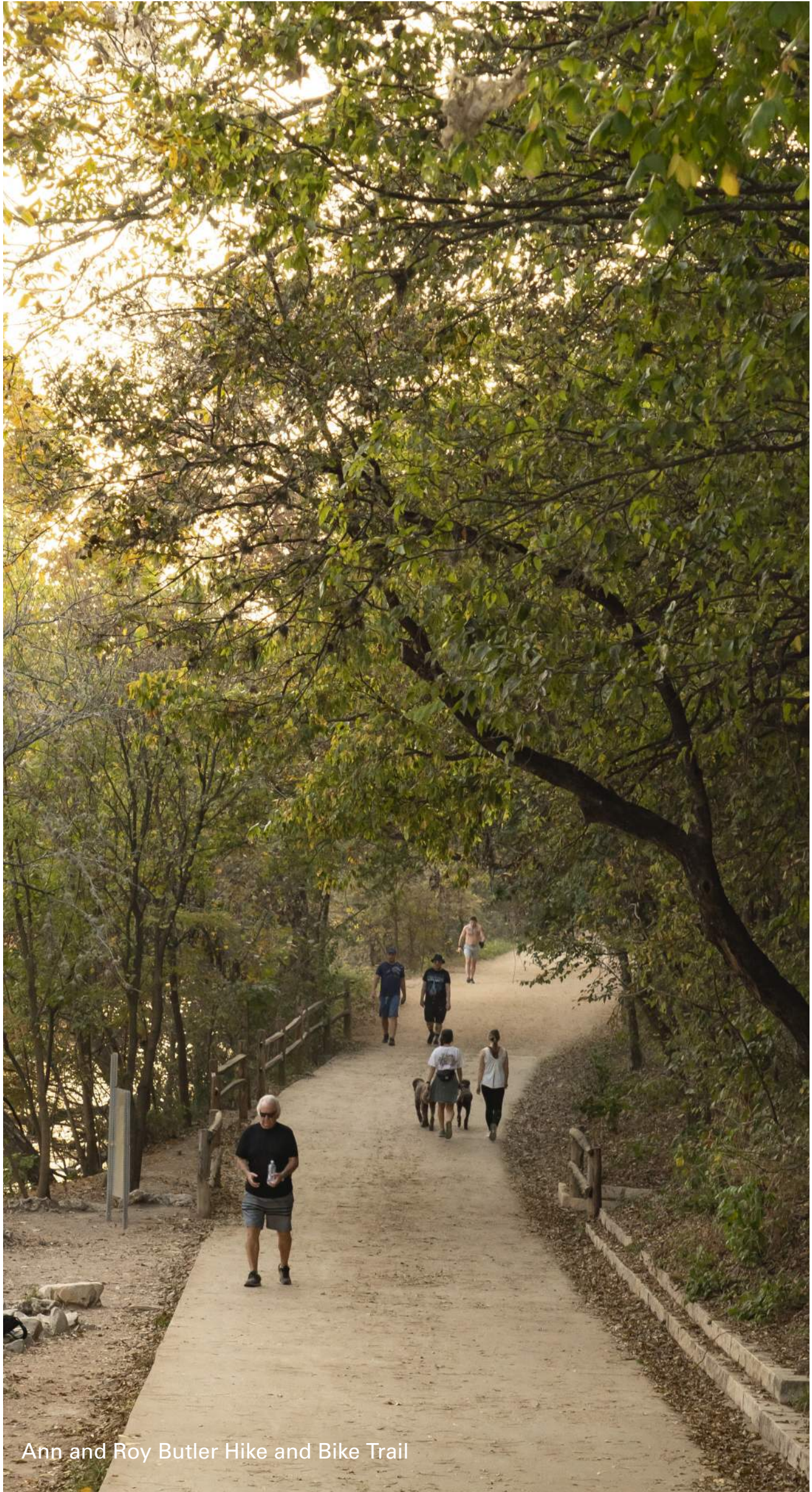
Great Lawn and Rock Island



Zilker Botanical Garden



Pedestrian and Bike Bridge over Barton Creek



Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail

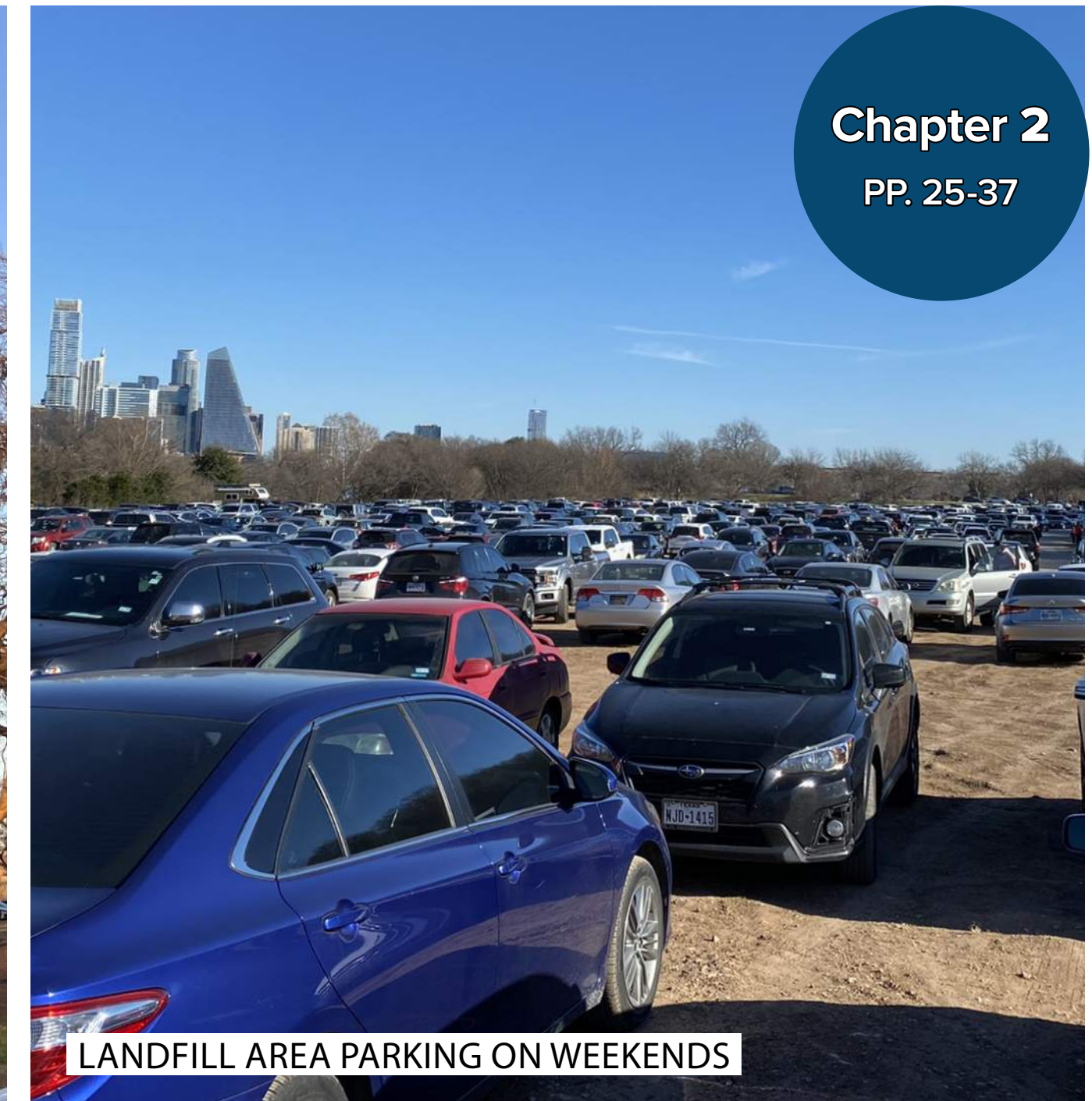
CALL TO ACTION

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

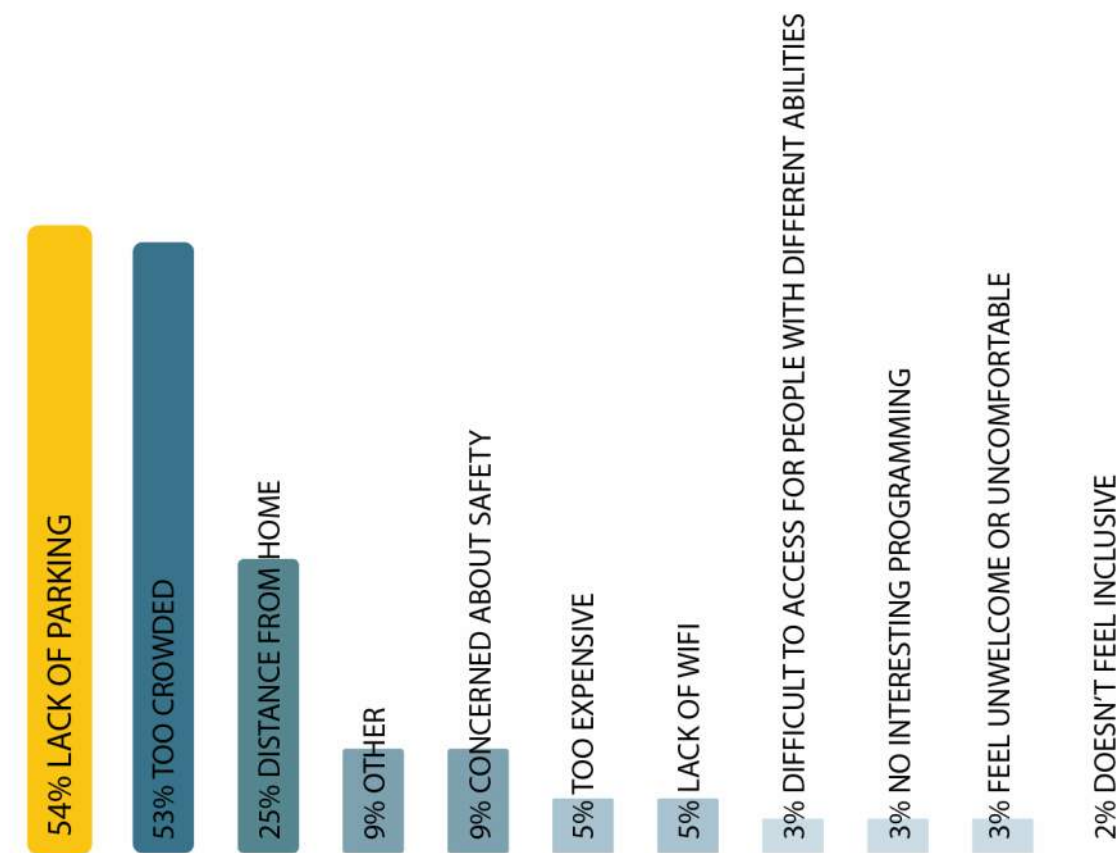


LANDFILL AREA PARKING ON WEEKENDS

Chapter 2

PP. 25-37

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



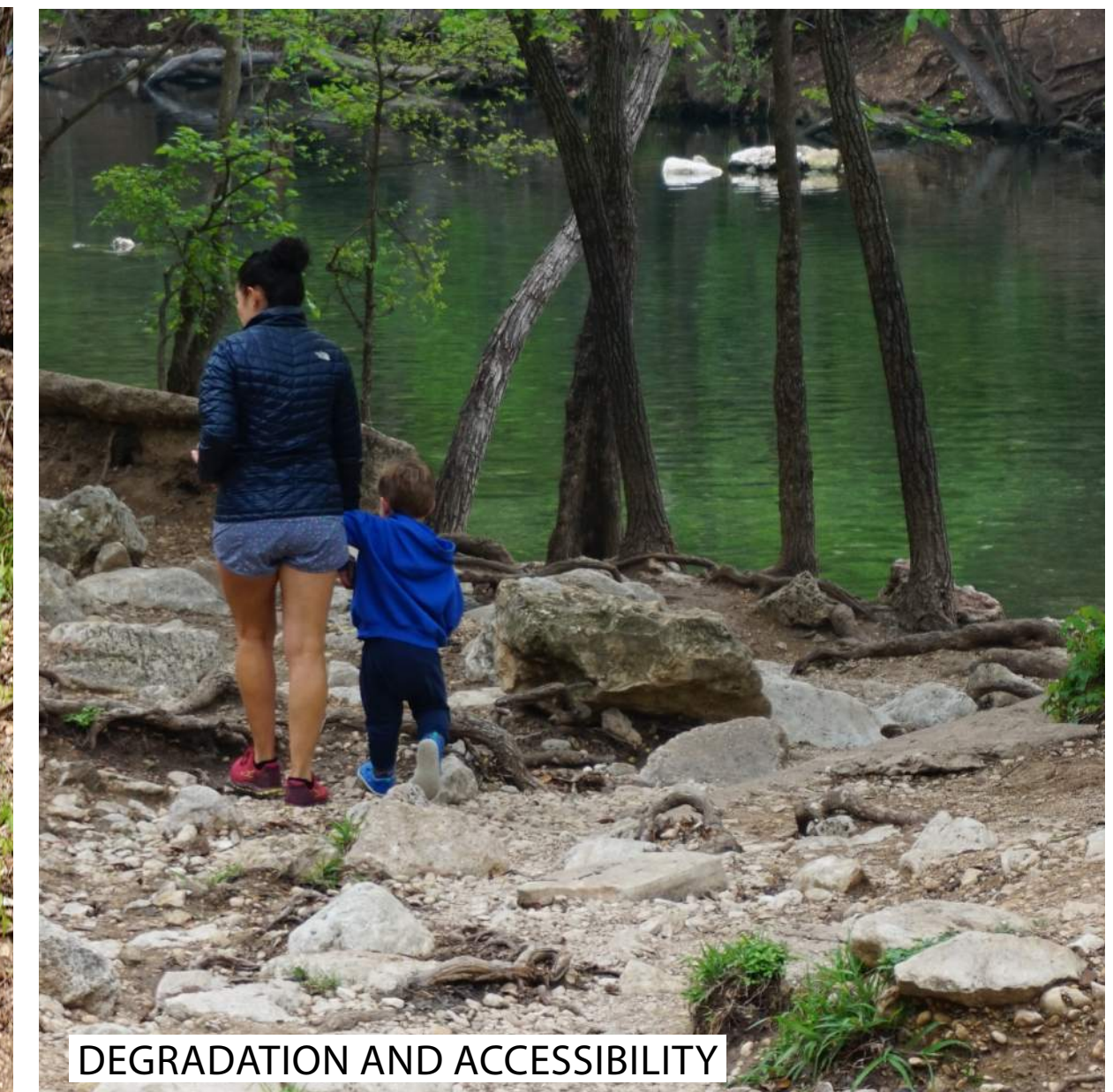
54% Lack of Parking



BARTON SPRINGS SPILLWAY ON WEEKENDS

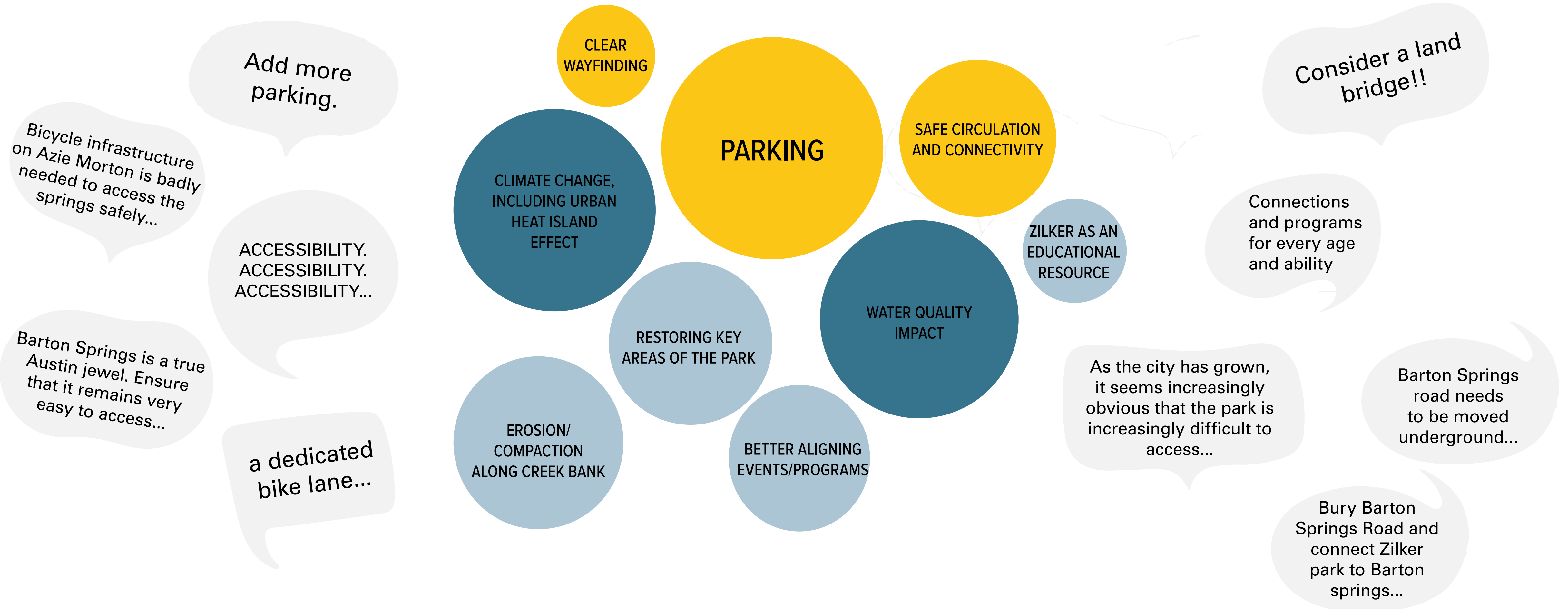


DRAINAGE AND EROSION



DEGRADATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

CALL TO ACTION



What We Heard The Zilker Park Vision Plan Should Address

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



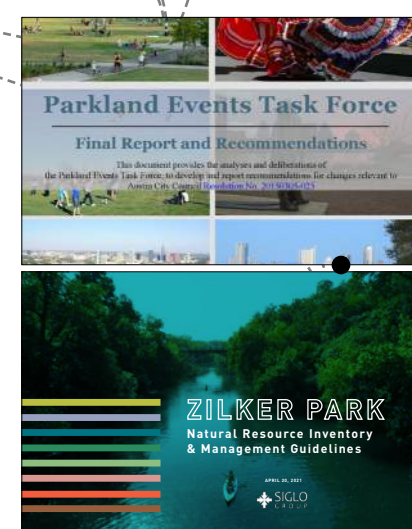
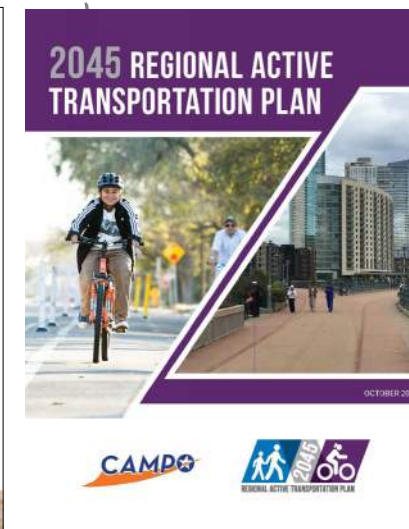
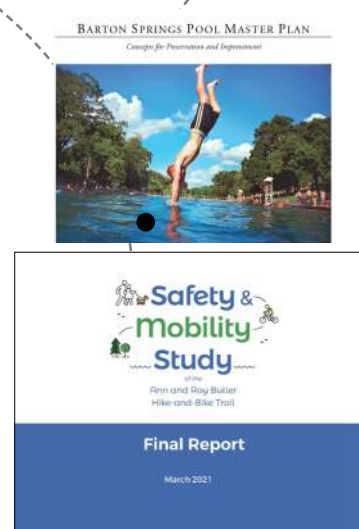
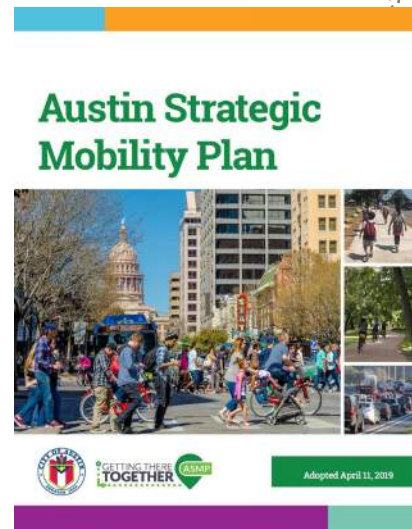
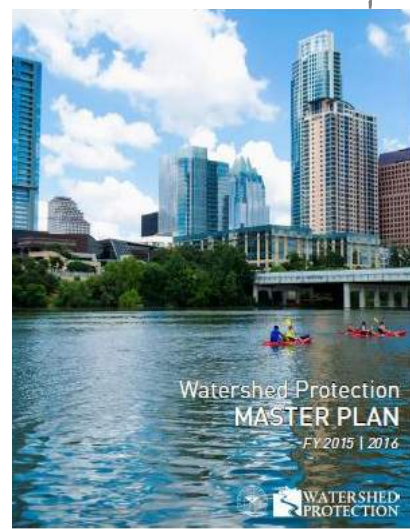
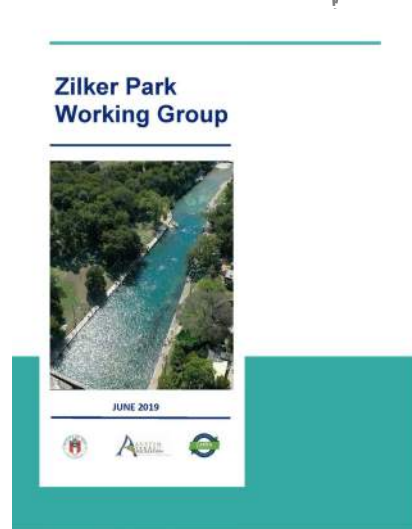
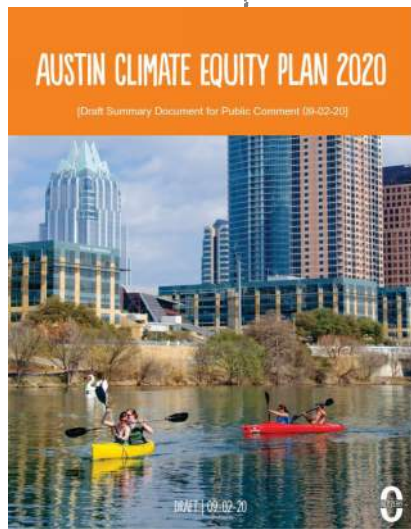
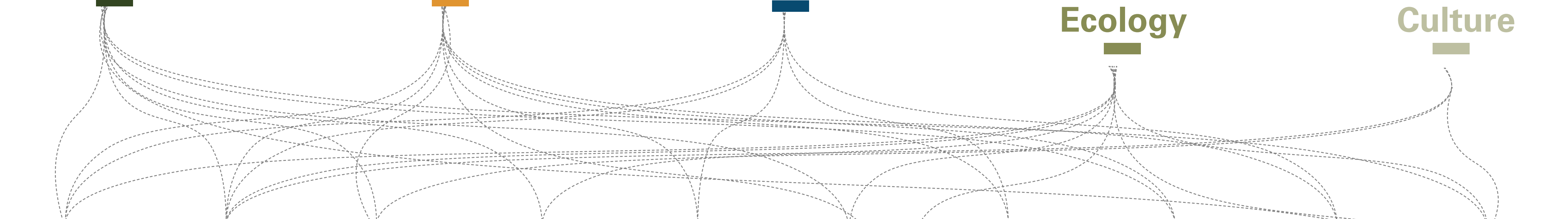
Equity



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture





ZILKER PARK VISION PLAN AND AUSTIN STRATEGIC MOBILITY PLAN


Mobility Goals

In reviewing past public engagement efforts, eight mobility goals emerged as recurring themes raised by Austin residents that serve as the goals for the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan: **Commuter Delay, Travel Choice, Health & Safety, Affordability, Sustainability, Placemaking, Economic Prosperity, and Innovation.**


-  Sustainability
-  Accessibility
-  Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
-  Nature and Ecology
-  History and Culture

 **Commuter Delay**
Reduce the amount of time workers spend traveling between home and work.

 **Placemaking**
Build a transportation network that encourages social interaction through quality urban design, and connects users to the many places that make Austin unique.


 **Travel Choice**
Promote a balanced transportation network and the ability to make informed choices based on personal needs and preferences.

 **Economic Prosperity**
Promote economic growth for individuals and the city through strategic investments in transportation networks that meet the needs of the 21st century.

 **Affordability**
Lower the cost of traveling in Austin by providing affordable travel options.

 **Sustainability**
Promote integrated designs and quality additions to the built environment while reducing impacts and promoting efficient use of public resources.

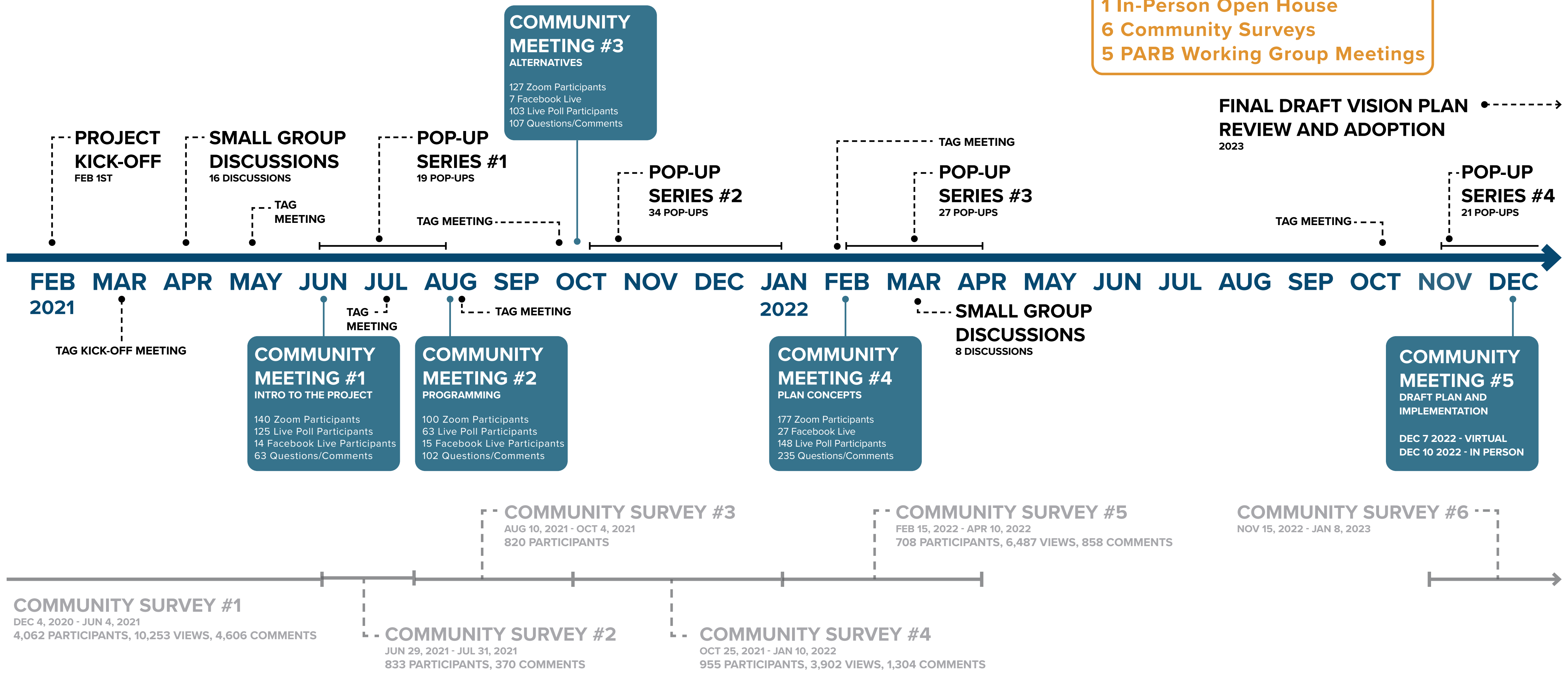
 **Health and Safety**
Protect Austinites by lowering the risk of travel-related injury and promoting public health.

 **Innovation**
Draw inspiration from forward-looking cities around the world, change the way we think about what's possible, and set an example for the rest of the country.

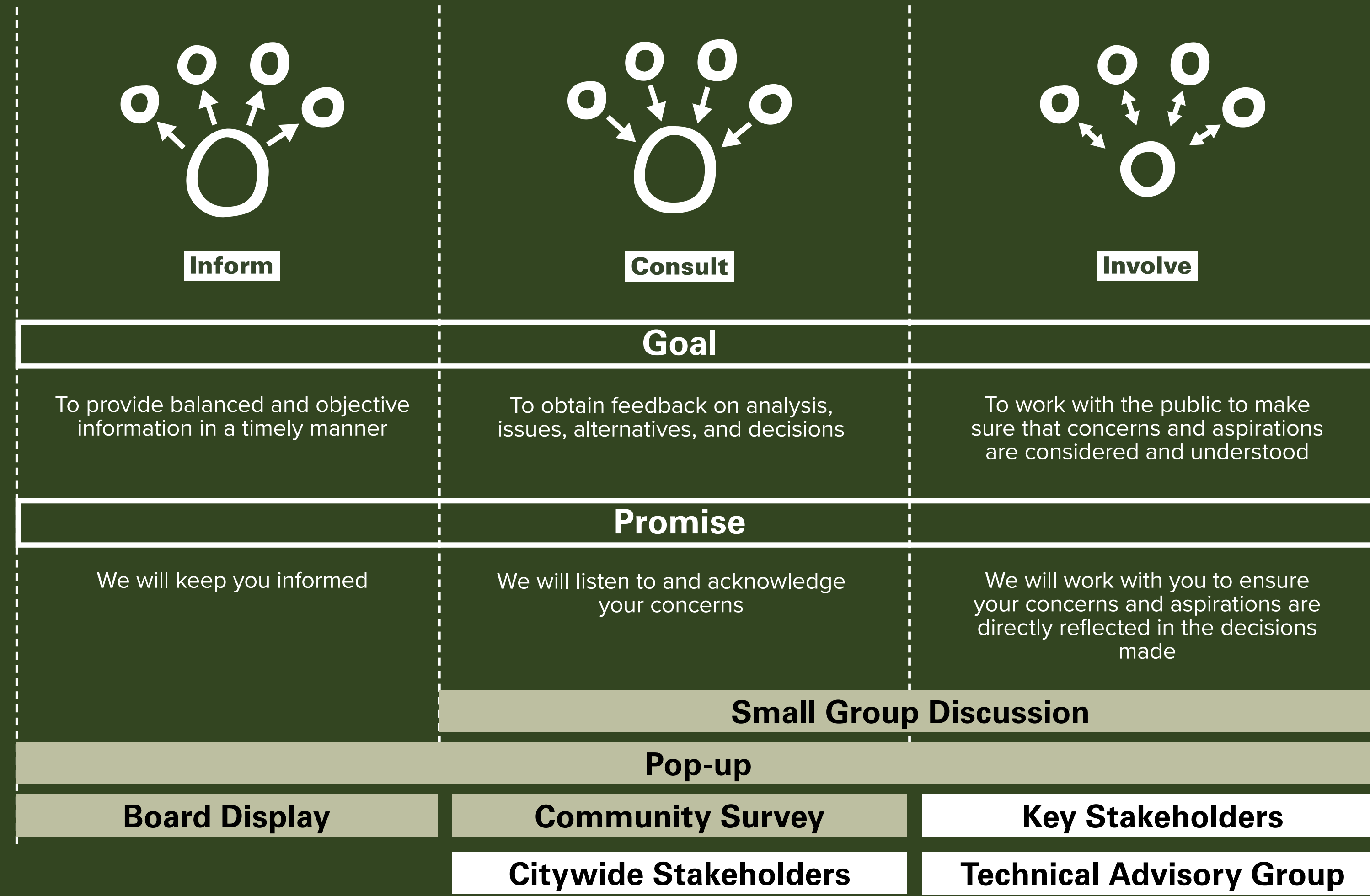
ZILKER PARK VISION PLAN

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
 - Public Works Department
 - Watershed Protection Department
 - 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



Sustainability



Accessibility



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Meeting #5 and Survey #6

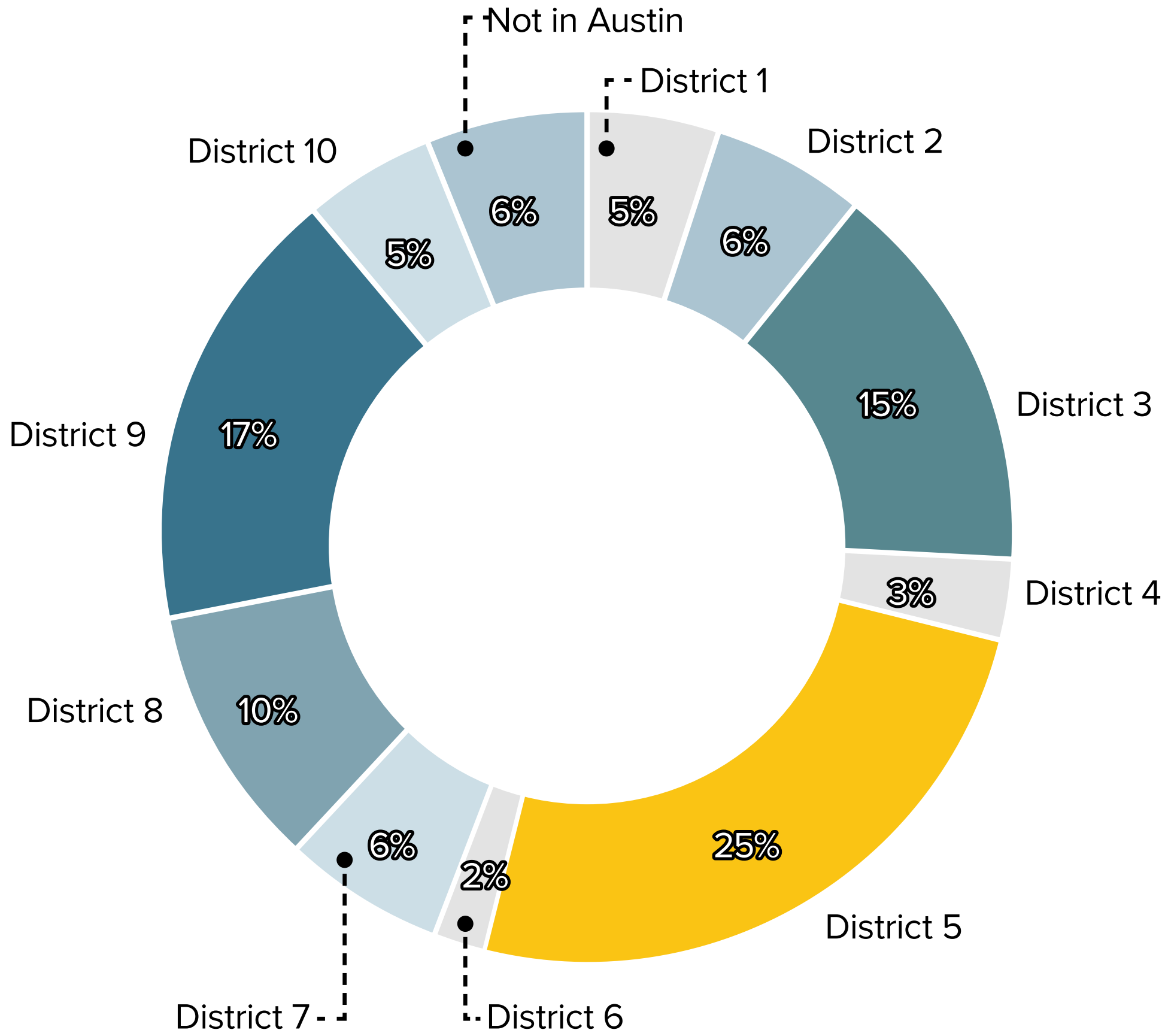
MEETING PARTICIPANTS

148
Zoom Participants

77
Live Poll Participation

130
Open House Attendees

298
Questions/Comments from Open House



OPEN HOUSE PARTICIPANTS

COMMUNITY SURVEY #6

2,898 Participants, 3,430 Comments, More than 2,300 Commenters, 26,904 Views

About 30% of commenters reside around Zilker Park (Zip Code: 78704, 78745)

There are more than 6,000 views on the draft walk through video.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Changes after Community Meeting #5 and Survey #6



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Kept Rowing Dock in existing location

Kept Disc Golf Course layout and added Warm-Up Area

Relocated and reduced Sports Area

Reduced the size of playscapes

EXTERNAL SHUTTLE

CONNECTING TRANSPORTATION HUBS AND EXTERNAL PARKING GARAGES



Sustainability



Accessibility



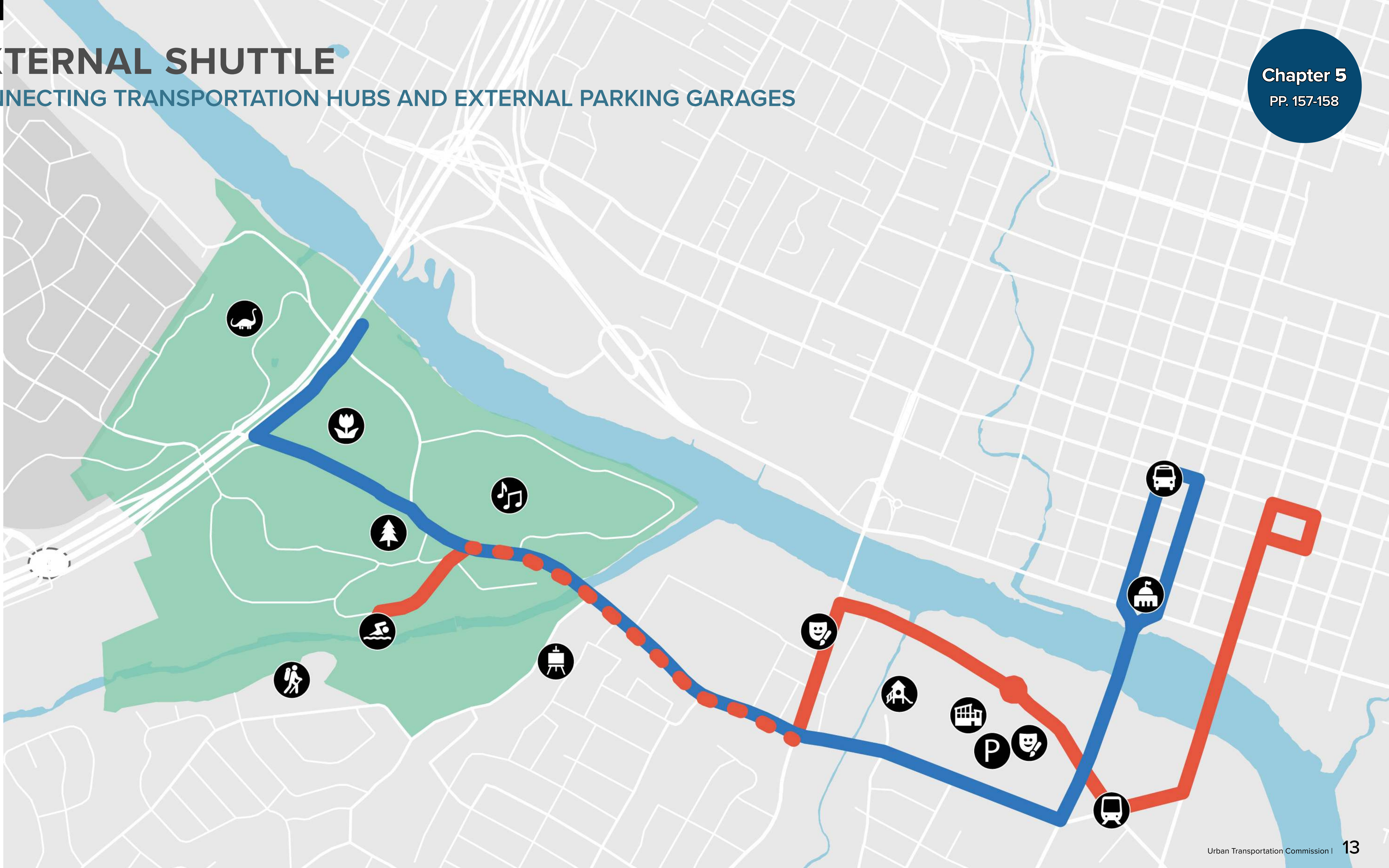
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture



ACCESSIBILITY AND MOBILITY

VEHICULAR CIRCULATION

-  Sustainability
-  Accessibility
-  Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
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	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	3.6 Acres

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

ACCESSIBILITY AND MOBILITY

PROPOSED BARTON SPRINGS ROAD CONFIGURATION



Sustainability



Accessibility



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

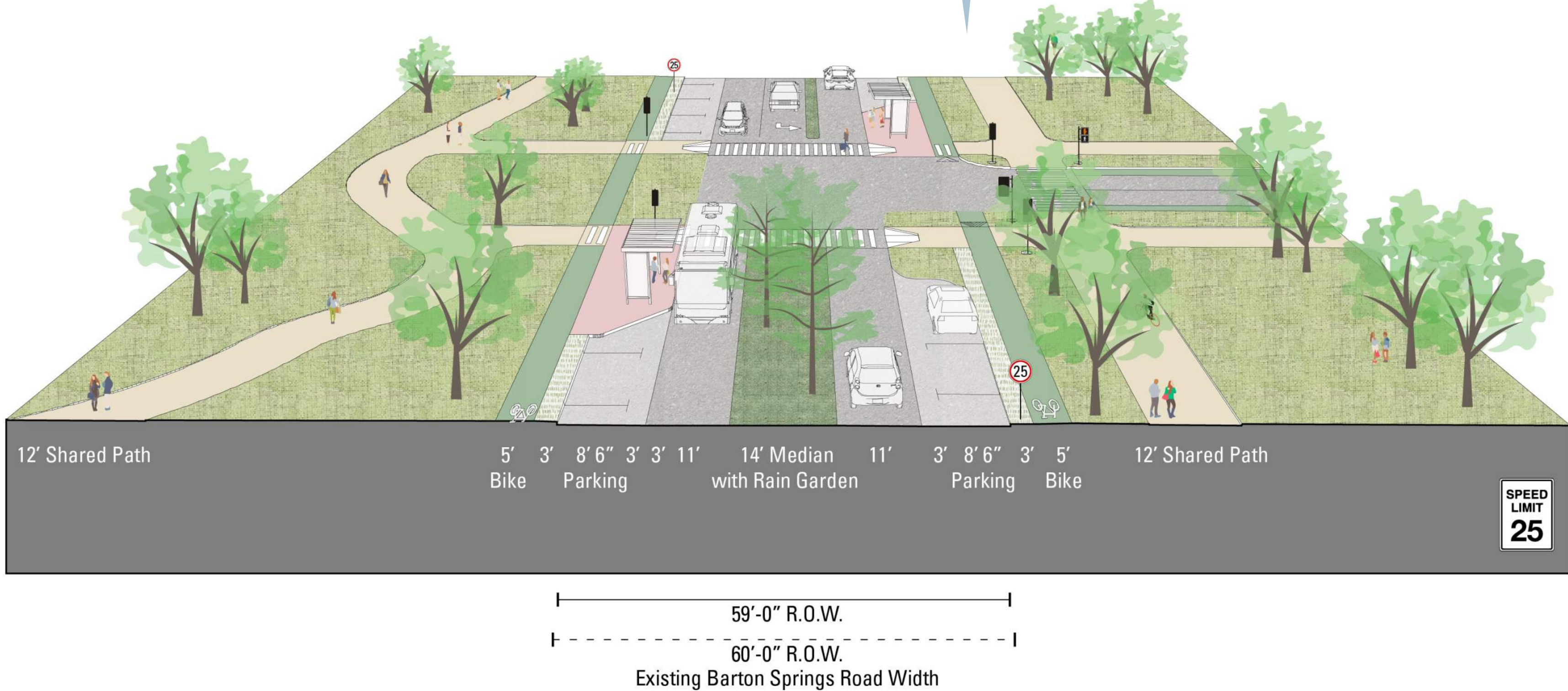


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WHAT ABOUT CAPACITY?
 There is often concern about reducing the capacity of a four-lane undivided roadway in half by converting it to a two-lane with a turn lane cross section. Practitioners have found some cases of the four-lane undivided road operating 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



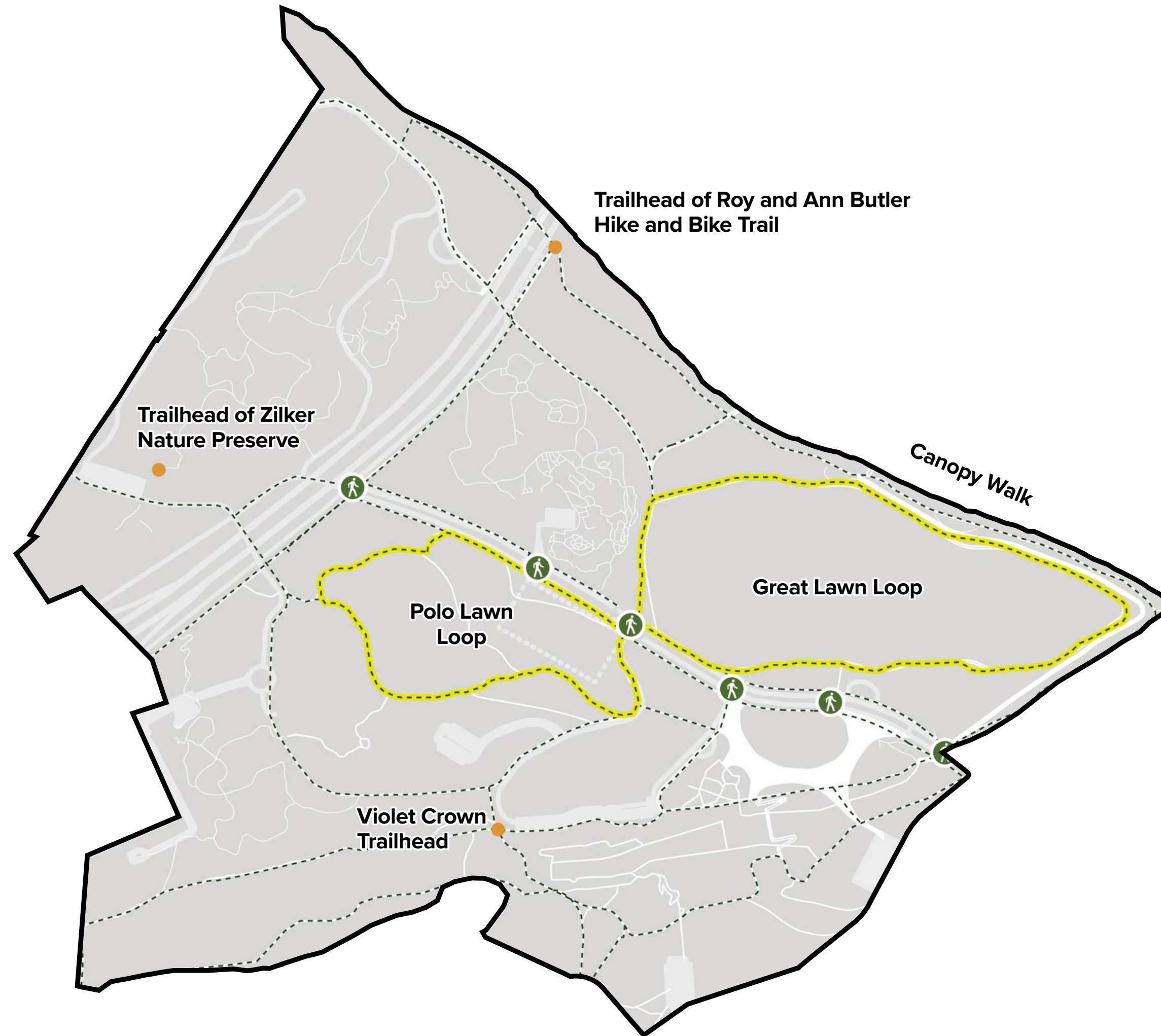
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Canopy Walk in Serravalles Park.

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



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ECOLOGICAL UPLIFT ON LANDFILL AREA



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ZILKER LAND BRIDGE



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ZILKER HILLSIDE THEATER



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BARTON SPRINGS SPILLWAY



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Sustainability



Accessibility



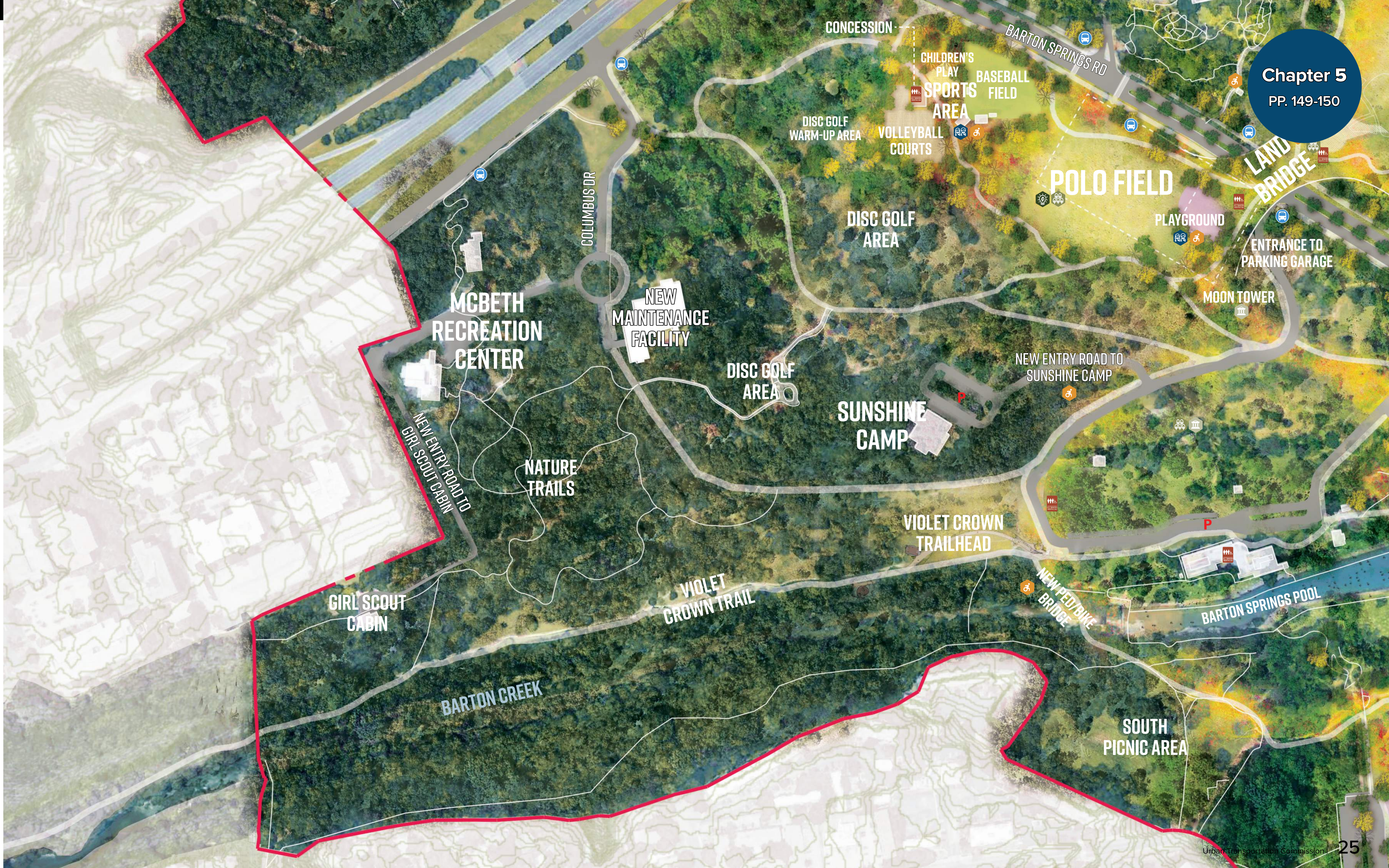
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CHILDREN'S PLAY AT SPORTS AREA



Sustainability



Accessibility



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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

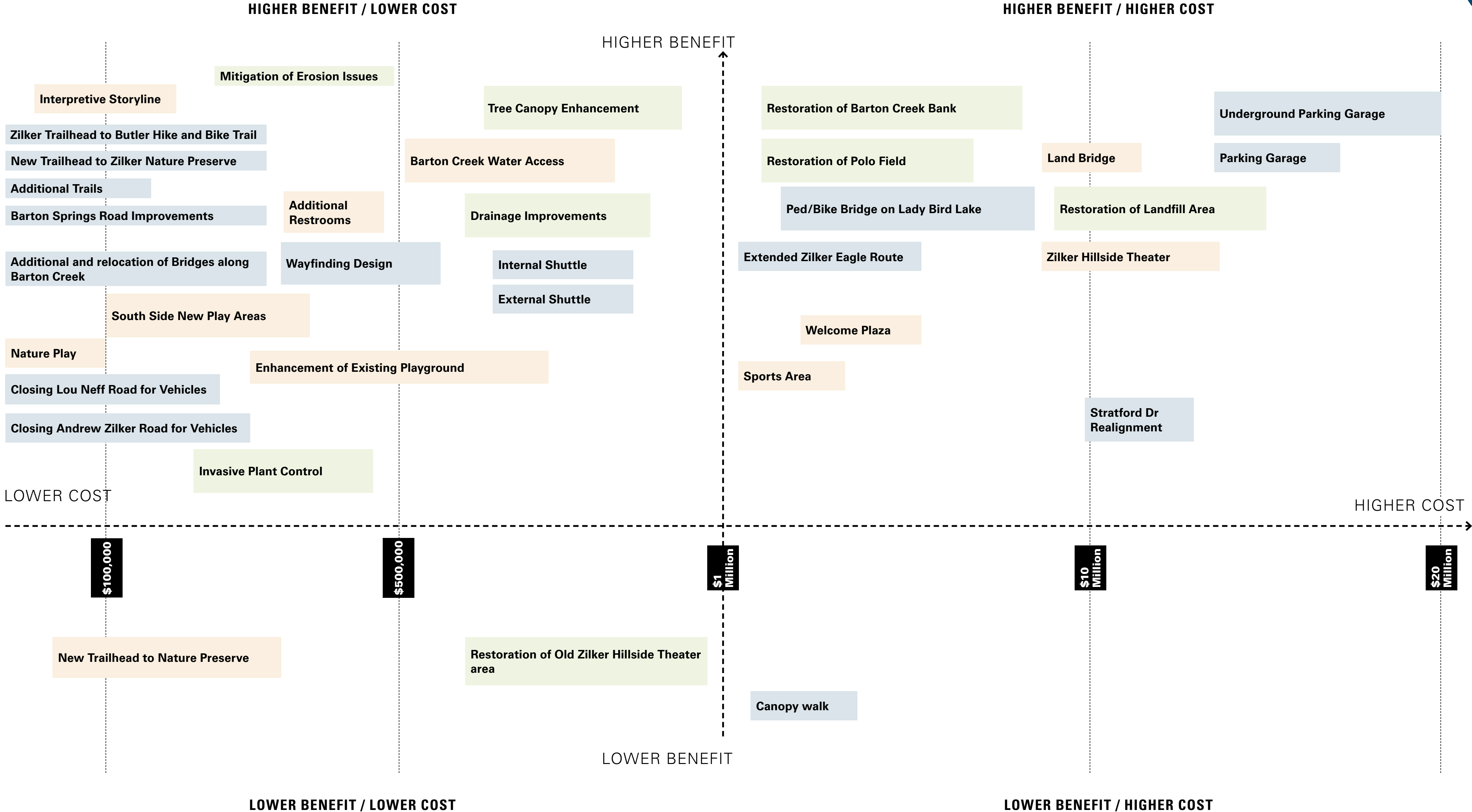
STRATFORD DR REALIGNMENT	ADDITIONAL AND RELOCATION OF BRIDGES ALONG BARTON CREEK	CLOSING ANDREW ZILKER ROAD FOR VEHICLES
ZILKER TRAILHEAD	CLOSING LOU NEFF ROAD TO VEHICLES	PED/BIKE BRIDGE ON LBL
WAYFINDING DESIGN	INTERNAL SHUTTLE	EXTENDED ZILKER EAGLE ROUTE
CANOPY WALK	ADDITIONAL TRAILS	PARKING GARAGE(S)
REMOVAL OF SURFACE PARKING	BARTON SPRINGS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS	NEW TRAILHEAD TO NATURE PRESERVE
UNDERGROUND PARKING GARAGE		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

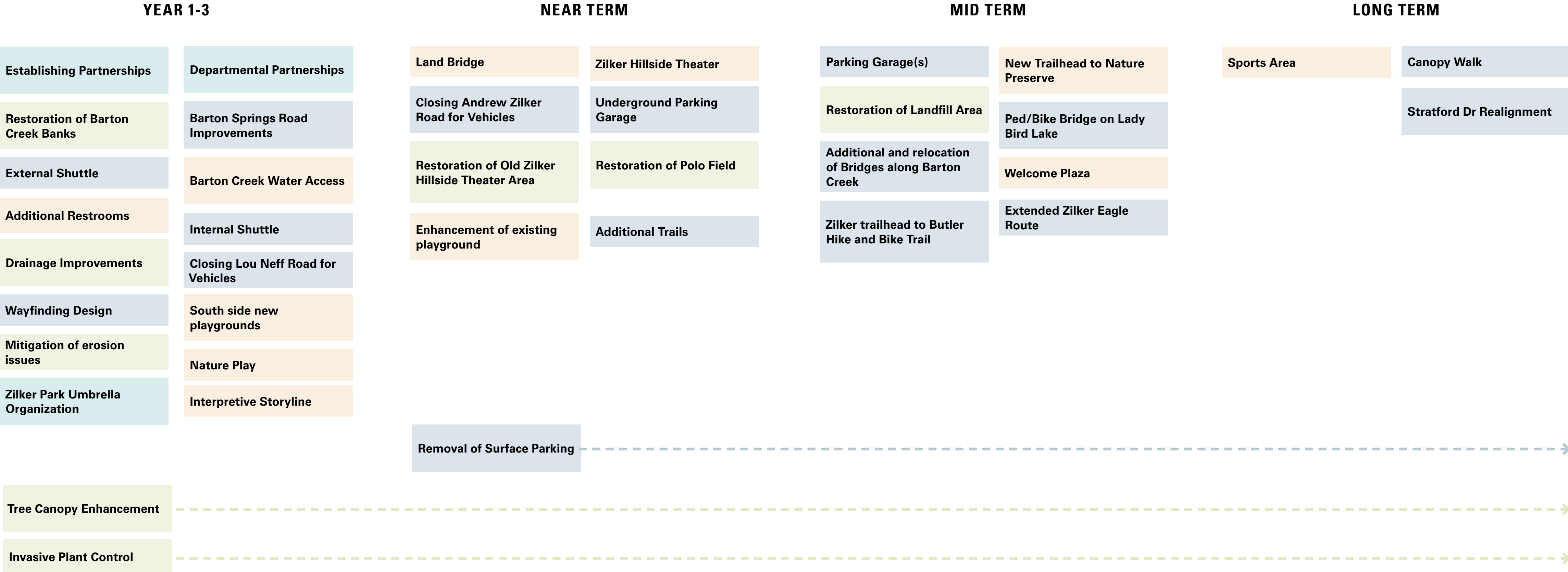
IMPLEMENTATION

COST AND BENEFIT RELATION



IMPLEMENTATION

PROJECT TIMELINE



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

- DESIGN COMMISSION
- URBAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
- ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
- PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
- PUBLIC HEALTH 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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