

City of Austin Urban Trails Master Plan

Parks and Recreation Board
May 27, 2014



Existing Urban Trail Related Policies



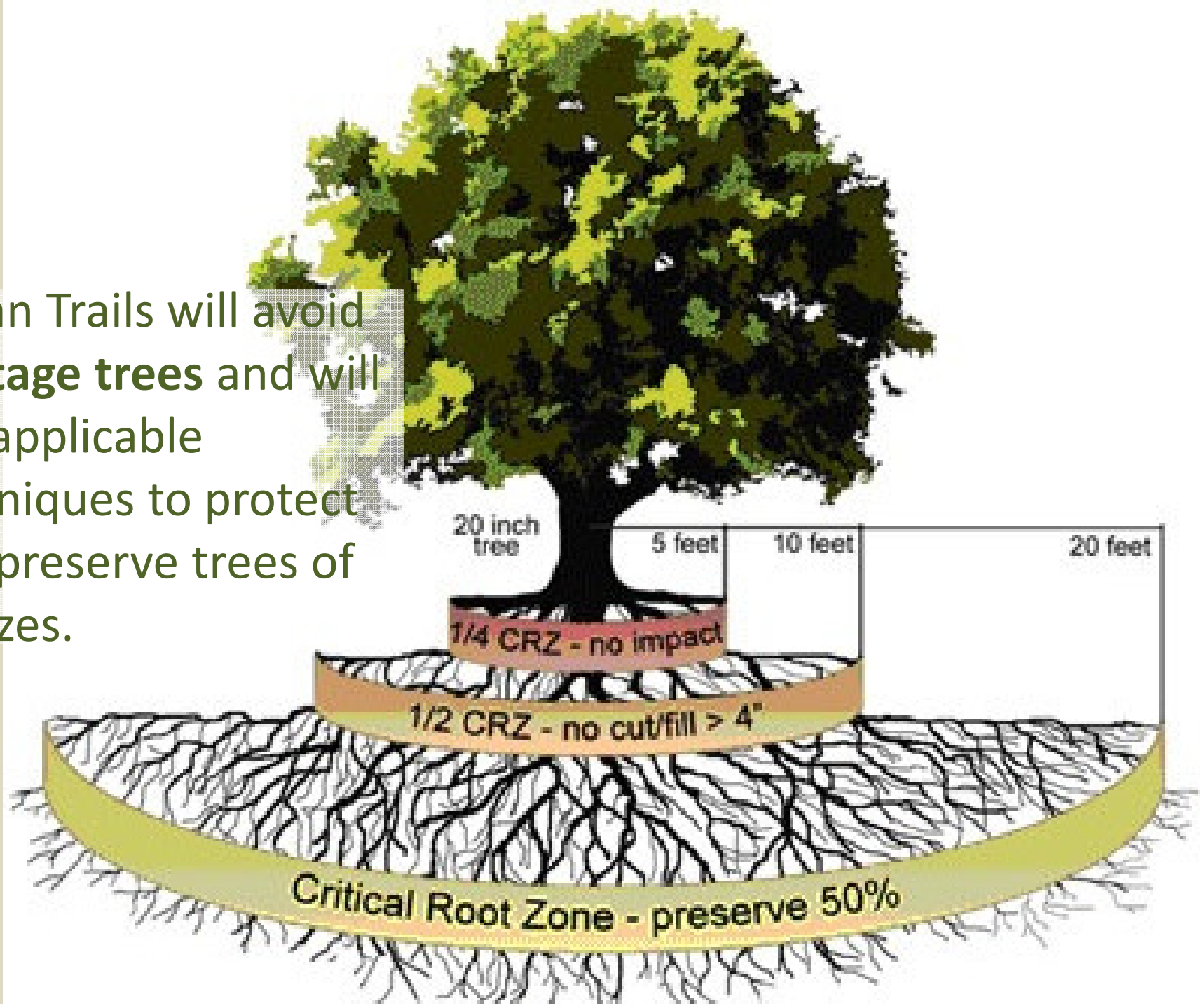
Catalyst to the UTMP:

Resolution 20080424-064:

- PWD and PARD to develop comprehensive, interconnected trail plan.
- Coordinate with other Departments (AWU, AE, ARR, WPD) to implement trail plan.
- Provide:
 - Interdepartmental consultation and coordination ,
 - Development of map, and
 - Identification of other processes/plans that would aid implementation.



Urban Trails will avoid **heritage trees** and will use applicable techniques to protect and preserve trees of all sizes.





"Explore opportunities to encourage a development pattern that better protects public and private property, preserves floodplains, creeks and open spaces, and provides access and connectivity with greenways and trails."
- **Watershed Protection Ordinance**

Community Voices:
“Plan trees by
bicycle paths.”
- **Austin’s Urban
Forest Plan**



The City of Austin
Urban Forestry Board

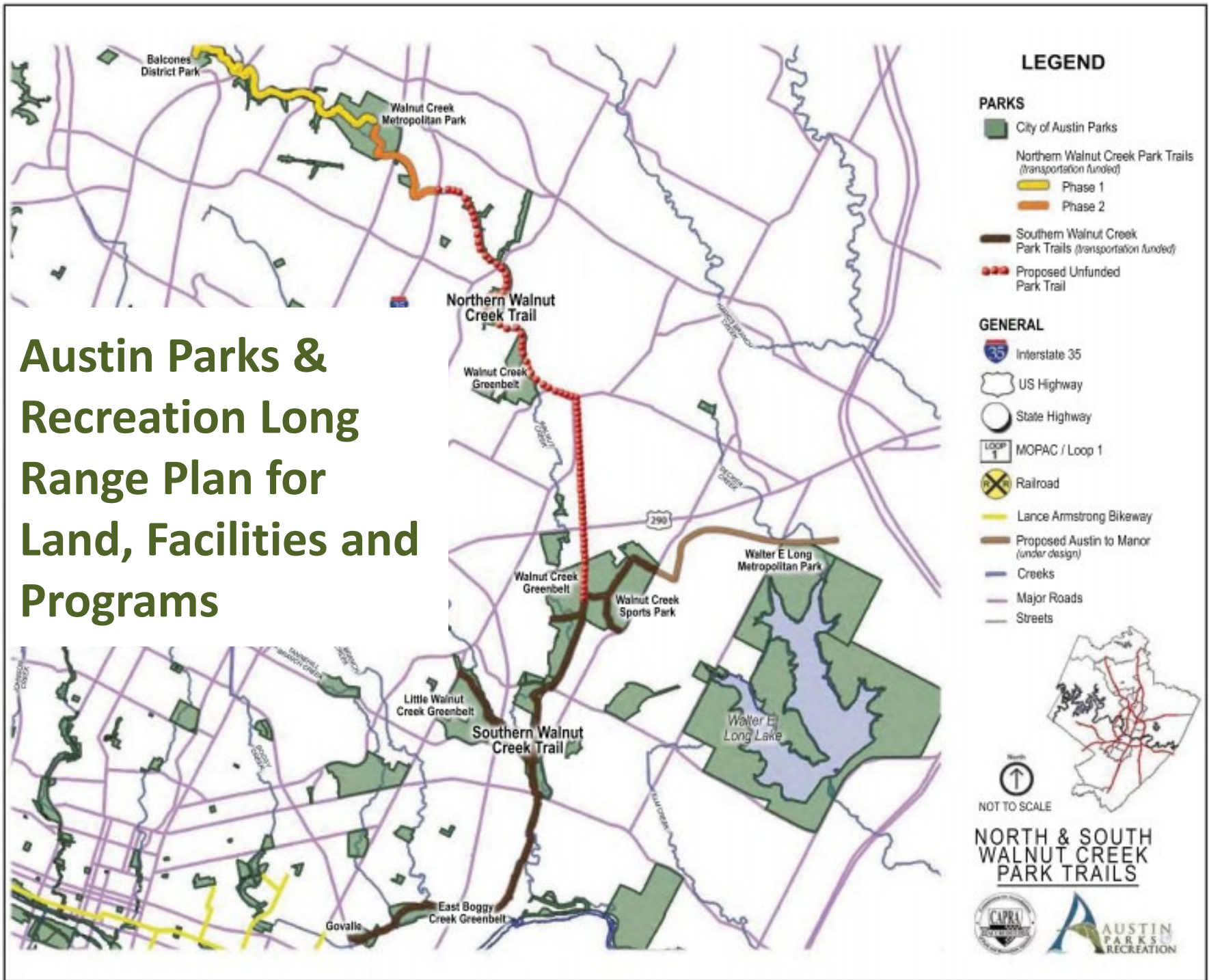
Austin's Urban Forest Plan

A Master Plan for Public Property



2013

Austin Parks & Recreation Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities and Programs



“Urban trails serve **recreation and transportation** functions, including biking and hiking, and also **provide important environmental benefits** by creating open space linkages and expanding the City of Austin’s green infrastructure network.”

- **Imagine Austin**



Why an Urban Trail Master Plan?

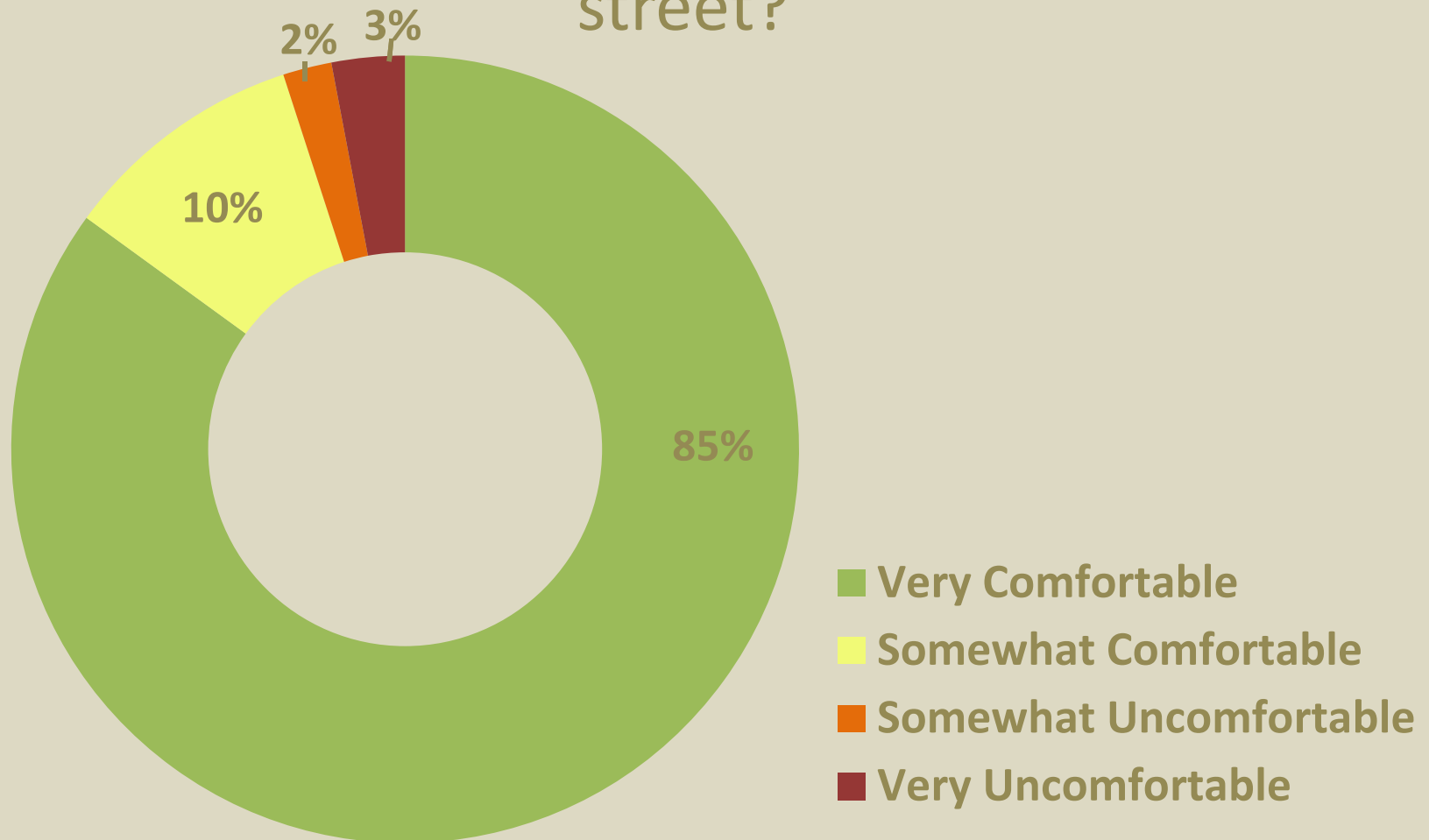


1. Implement existing plans/policies,
2. Create Urban Trail design guidelines, and
3. Plan for and implement Urban Trail maintenance.



Public Input:

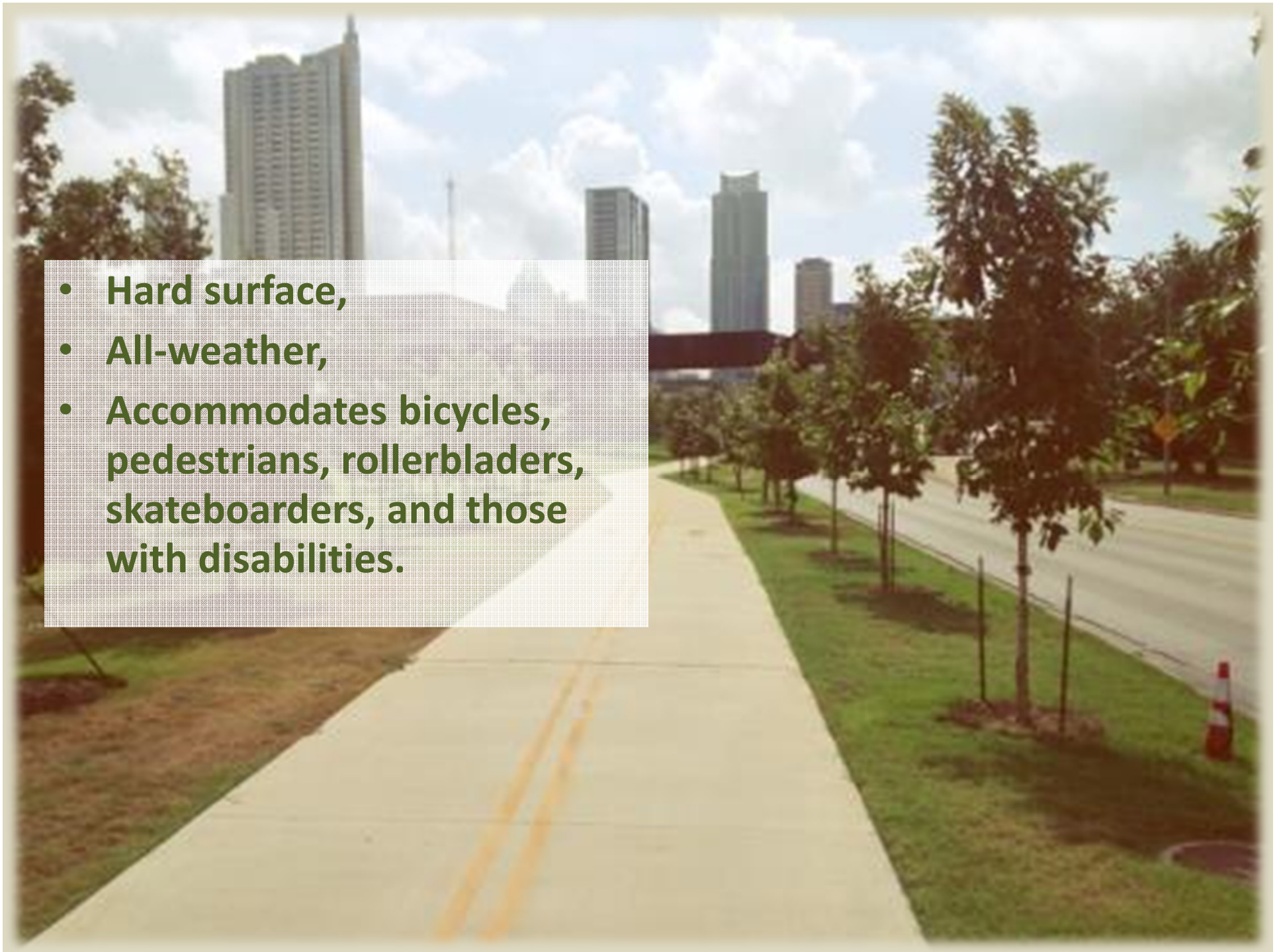
How comfortable do you feel riding your bicycle on a path or trail that is separate from the street?



What is an Urban Trail?



- **Hard surface,**
- **All-weather,**
- **Accommodates bicycles, pedestrians, rollerbladers, skateboarders, and those with disabilities.**



Urban Trail Design Considerations



The Typical Urban Trail



Southern Walnut Creek Trail

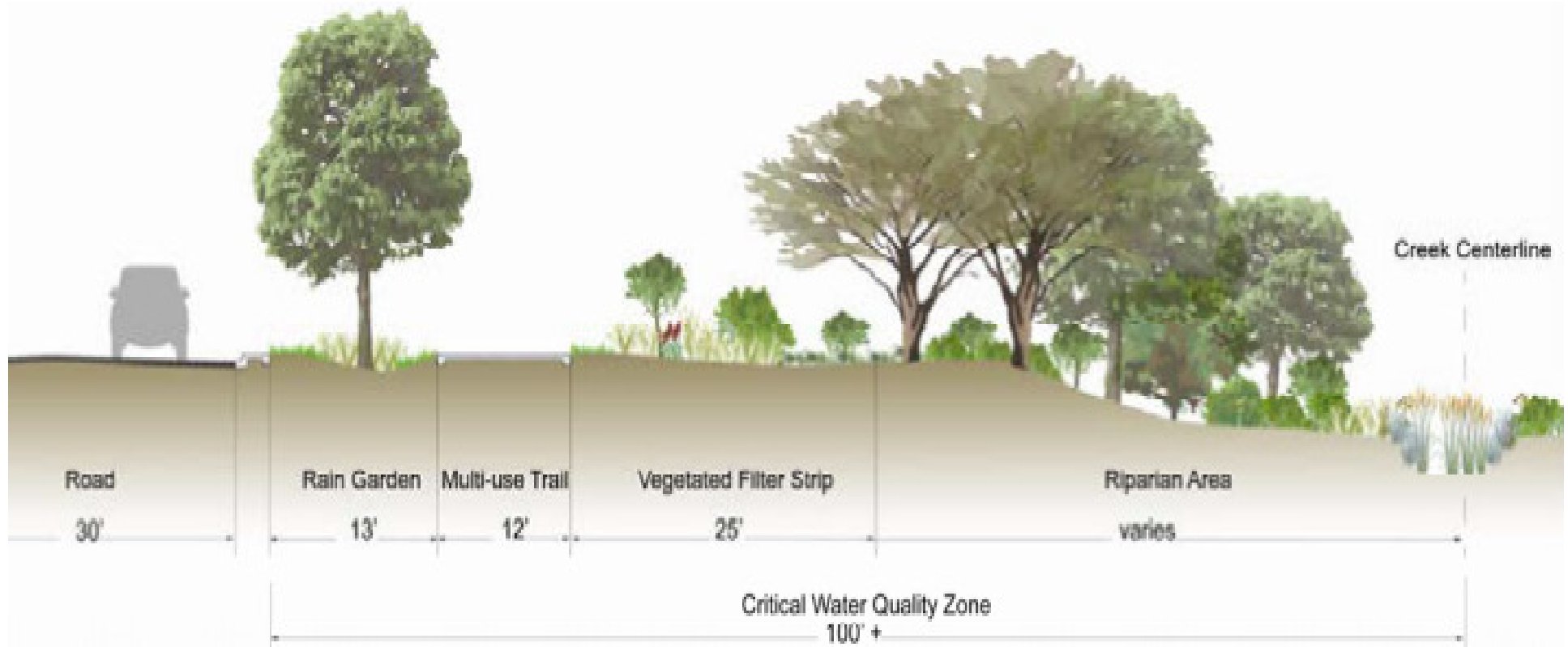
	Criteria
Standard Width	12'
Maintained Vegetated Shoulder	2'
Standard Vertical Clearance	10'

The Dual-Track Urban Trail



	Criteria
Standard Width	5' for pedestrian side 10' for bicyclist side
Maintained Vegetated Shoulder	5' user separation 2' shoulder
Standard Vertical Clearance	10'

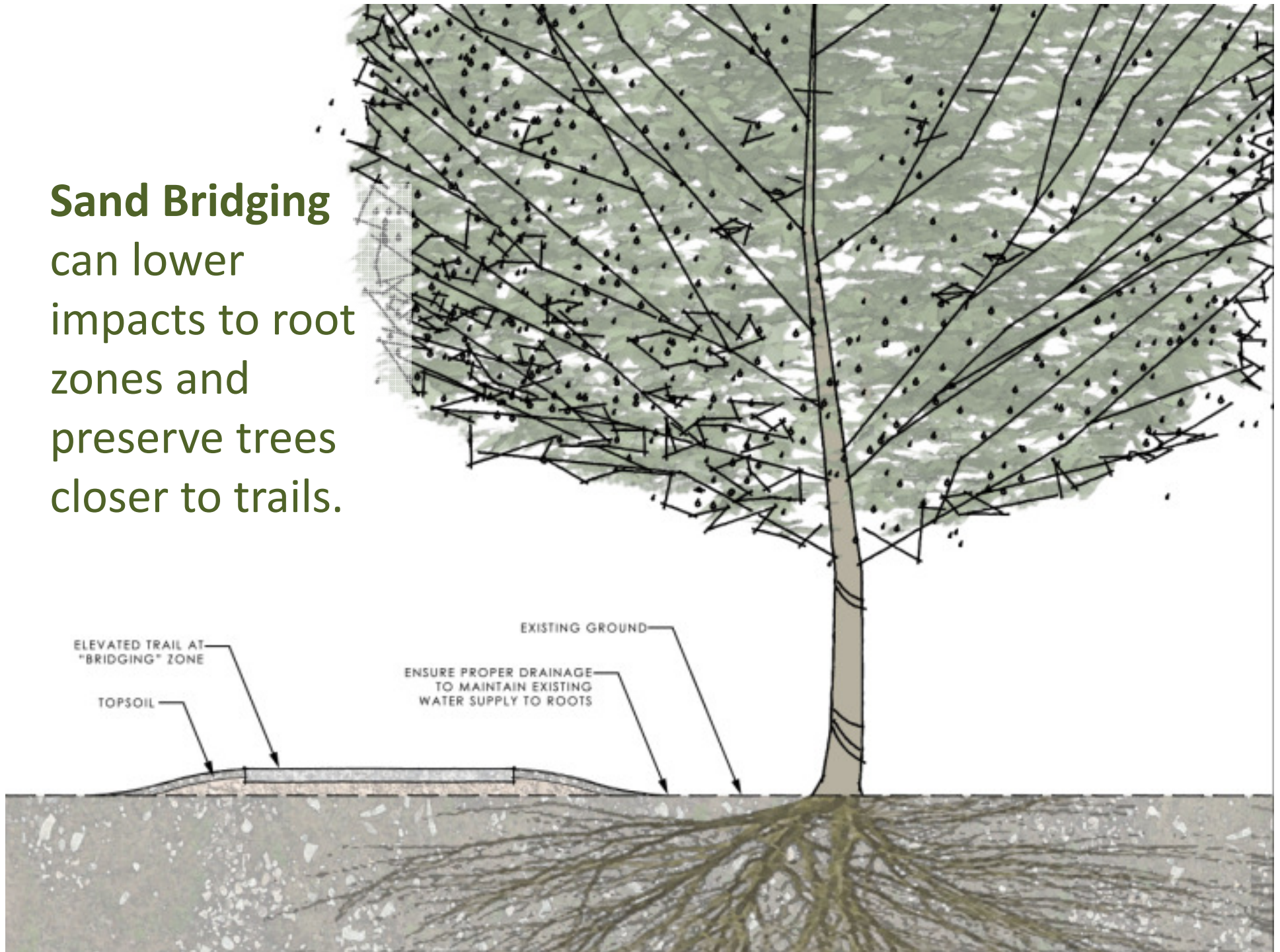




- **Diffuse** run-off as opposed to concentrated run-off.
- Creek crossings **as needed**.
- Informal **rain gardens** and **vegetated filter strips**.



Sand Bridging
can lower
impacts to root
zones and
preserve trees
closer to trails.

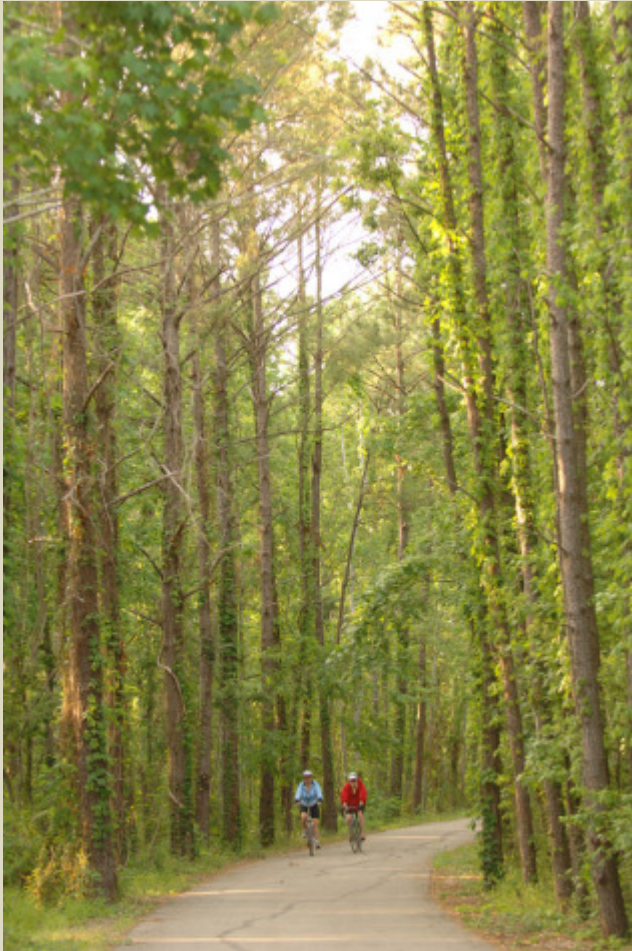


Lighting where appropriate



Kevin Jahnhardt 2-12-2011

Design with nature



Mopac Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge

Wildlife Considerations

“For urban wildlife, trails are about connectivity too – corridors for movement through the urban landscape especially since our trails mostly follow waterways which are natural corridors through the city.”

– Dr. Kevin Anderson,
City of Austin
Wildlife Biologist



Security & emergency access



Wayfinding





Promote developer incentives



Create a sense of place

- This map depicts a conceptual plan for route connectivity.
- Routes may be modified dependent upon:
 1. environmental feasibility,
 2. stakeholder input, and
 3. available funding.

Urban Trail Corridors – Prioritization Criteria



Attractors/Destinations



Population Within .5 Mile



Connectivity

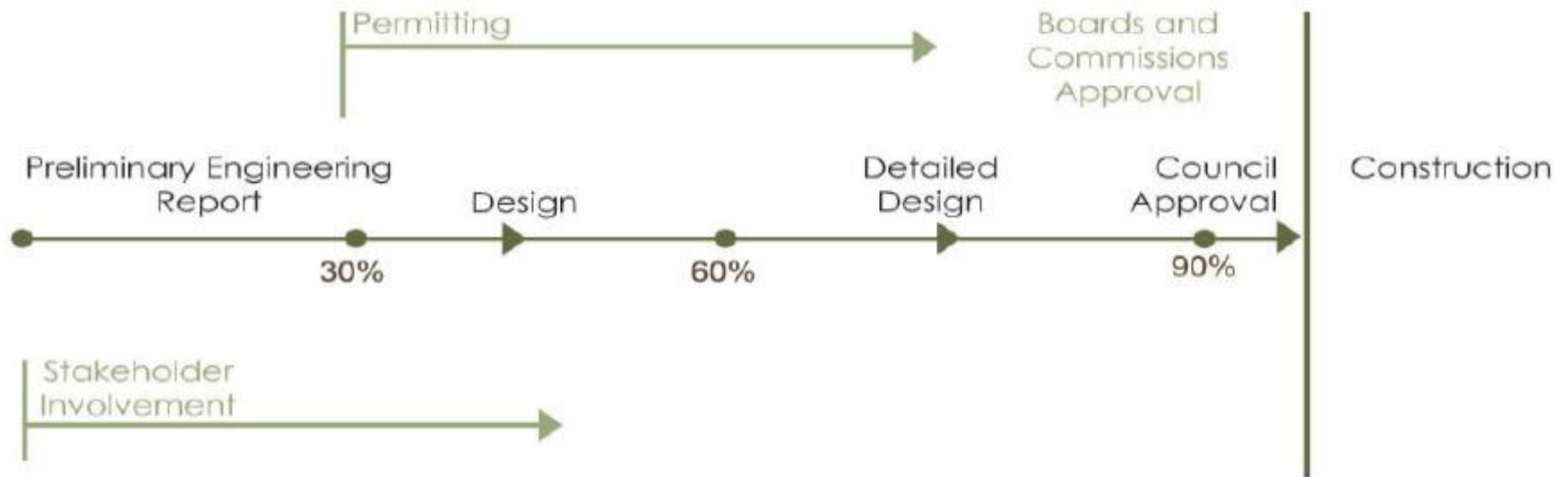


Community Support

Next Steps:

- Develop Trail Criteria Manual through the rule posting process.
- Work with CodeNEXT to codify development agreements.
- Interdepartmental Maintenance Agreement with PARD and WPO for maintenance.

Urban Trail Implementation Plan Diagram



Questions?