ZILKER METROPOLITAN PARK

VISION PLAN

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

MAY 19, 2021

SIGLO GROUP

CITY OF AUSTIN

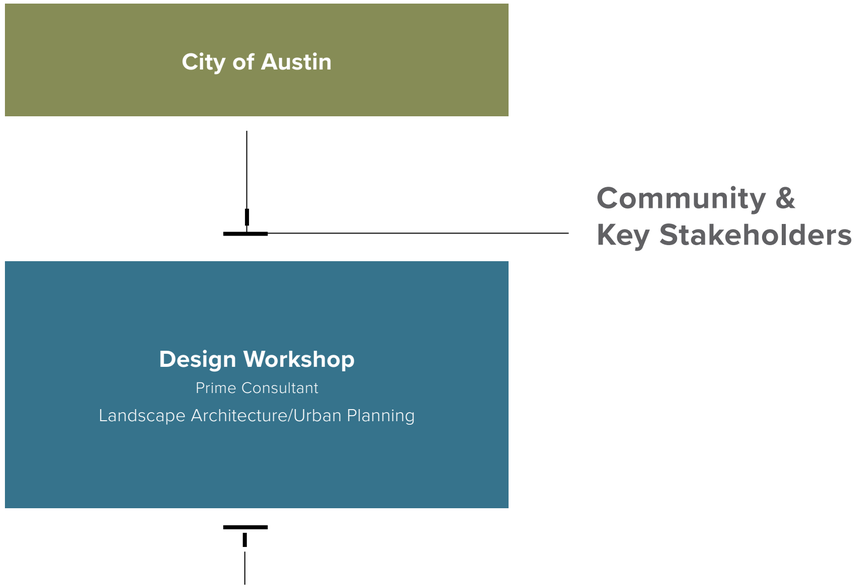
DESIGNWORKSHOP

AGENDA

1. Introduction
2. Site Analysis and Needs Assessment Report Overview
3. Discussion
4. Goals and Guiding Principals

INTRODUCTION

TEAM OVERVIEW



Engagement & Equity	Economics	Environmental, Ecology & Land Use	Historical Preservation & Cultural Resources	Infrastructure
CD&P	HR&A	Siglo Group	Limbacher & Godfrey	Nelson/Nygaard
Buie & Co.	Charlie McCabe Consulting	Drenner Group	MuseWork	GarzaEMC
Kardia Advisory Group	Majestic Services, Inc			Encotech
				Altura Solutions

CLIENT/TAG OVERVIEW

Client Group

City of Austin

Parks and Recreation Department

Ricardo Soliz

Gregory Montes

Megan Eckard

Justin Schneider

Kasey Corpus

Technical Advisory Group

PARD

ATD

Public Works

Watershed Protection

Office of Real Estate Services

Marketing and Communications Office

Austin Water

Austin Energy

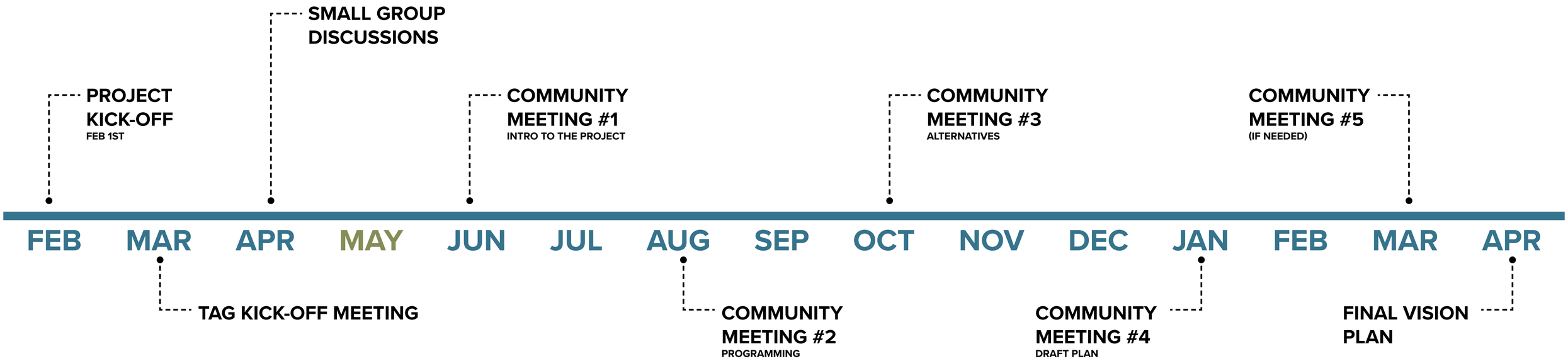
Management Services

Austin Resource Recovery

Cap Metro

TXDOT

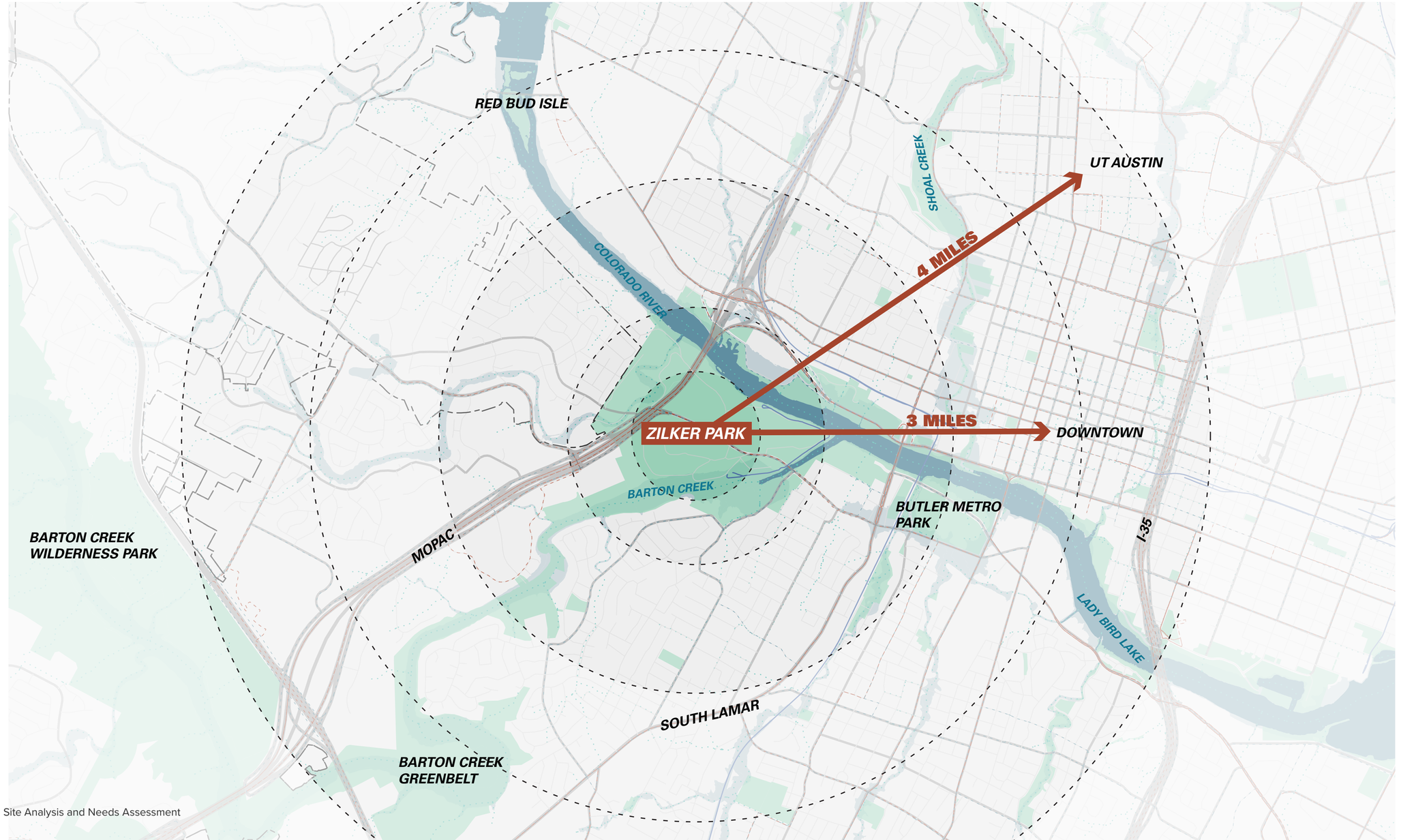
SCHEDULE



Strategic Kick-Off and Project Initiation	Site and Contextural Analysis and Data	Project Meetings	Stakeholder/Community Participation	City Staff, Public Review/Boards, Commissions, Council Review	Vision Plan Report Preparation
Project Work Plan Kick-Off Meeting Technical Advisory Group Meetings Progress Reports	Site Analysis and Needs Assessment Report **Presentation of the Site Analysis and Needs Assessment Report** Presentation of the Site Analysis and Needs Assessment Report to City Commission, Boards, City Manager and City Council Community Wide Survey	Project Meetings Materials Stakeholder Contract List Meeting Minutes and Summaries	Community Outreach and Engagement Plan Community Engagement and Outreach	Draft Vision Plan Final Draft Vision Plan Document Presentation of Final Draft Vision Plan Document to City Commission, Boards, City Manager and City Council	Provide a Needs Assessment Report Preliminary Vision Plan Concepts Final Vision Plan Document

SITE ANALYSIS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

REGIONAL CONTEXT



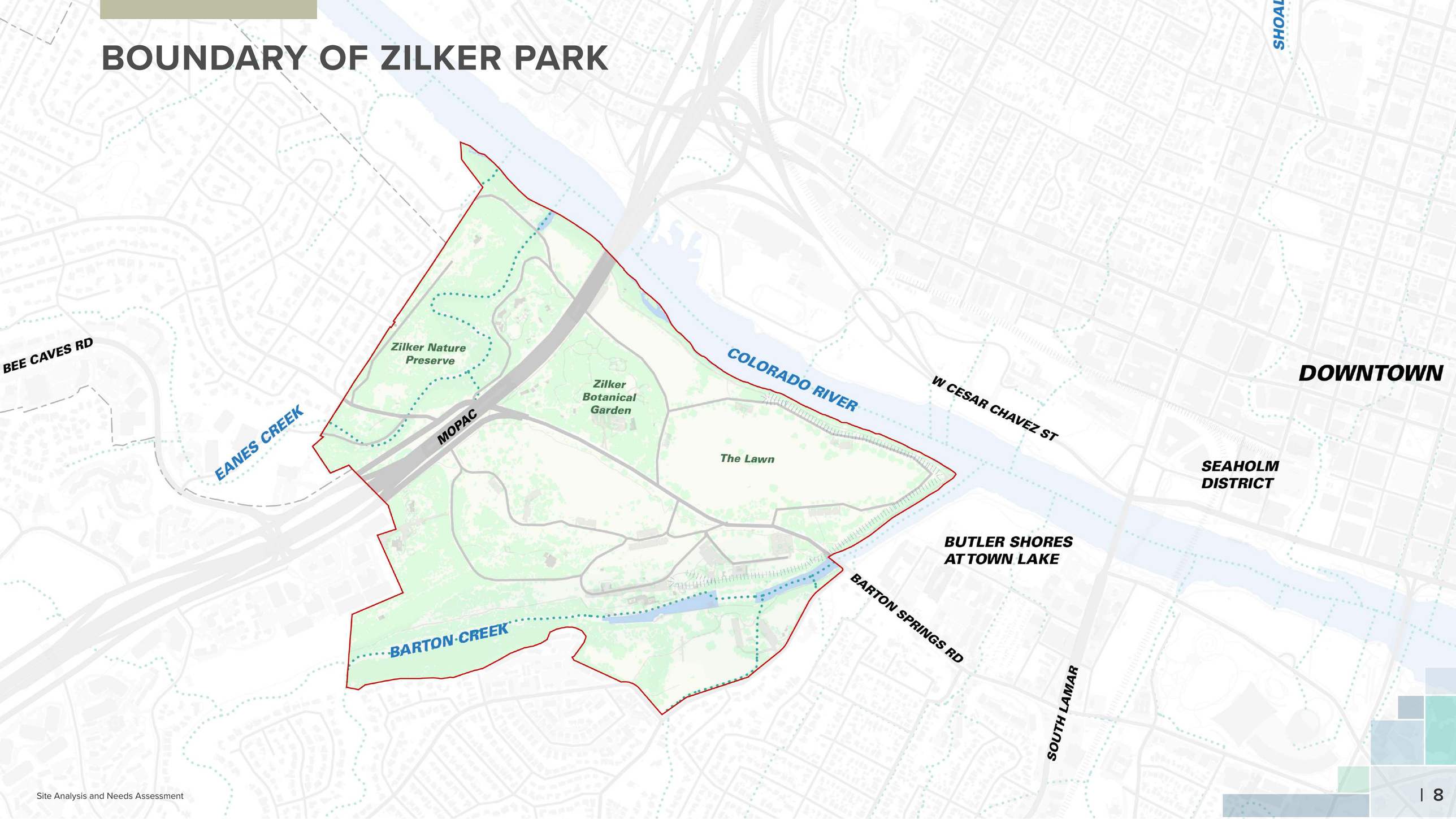
City Limit
Roadway
Buildings

Bus Routes
CAMPO Bikeway

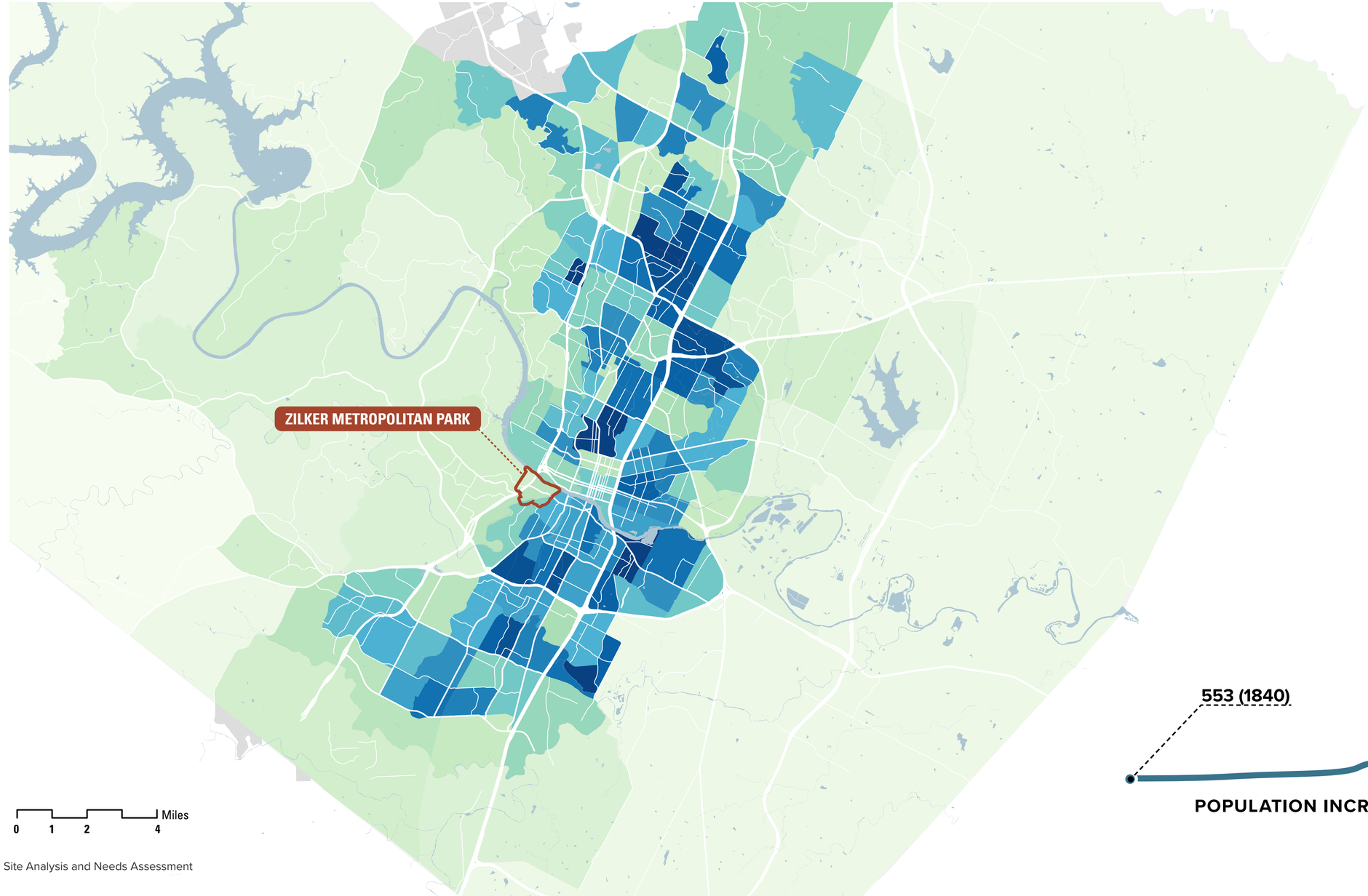
Creek Line
Lake
Park
100yr Floodplain

0 2,000 4,000 8,000 Ft

BOUNDARY OF ZILKER PARK

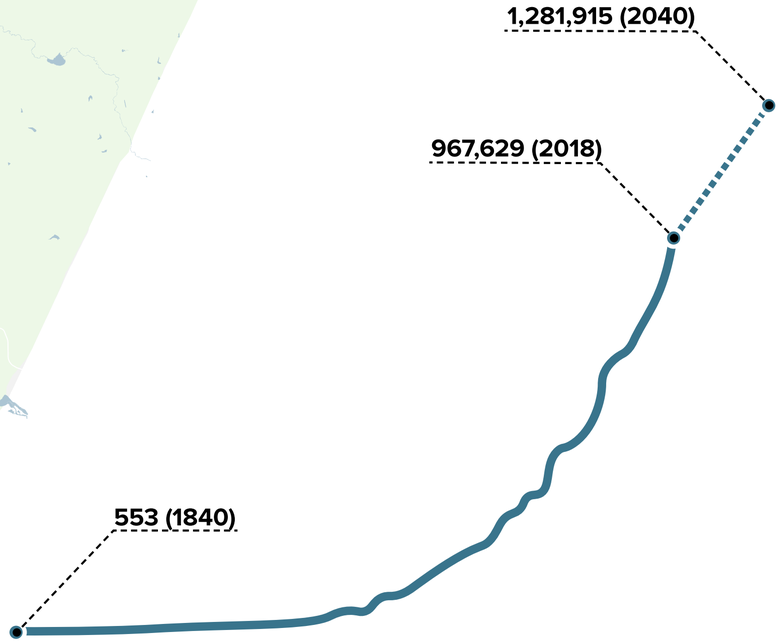


AUSTIN POPULATION PROJECTION



Higher Population Density

Lower Population Density

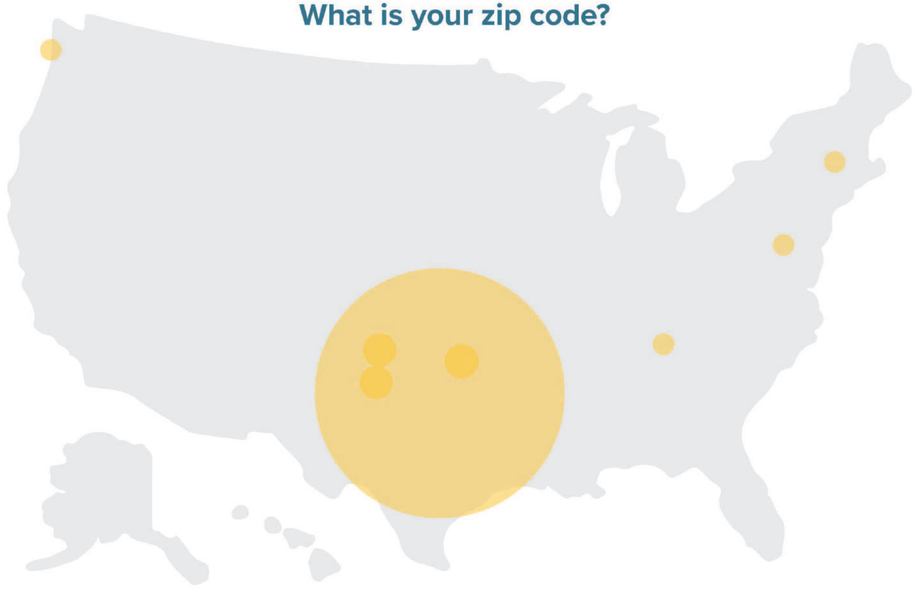


POPULATION INCREASE FROM 1840 TO 2040

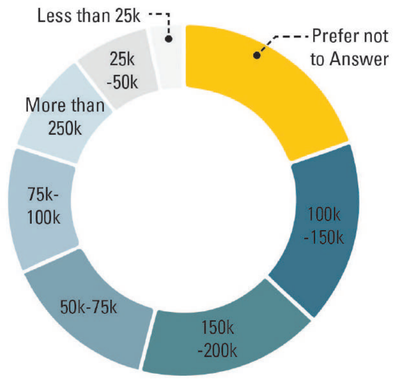
ZILKER VISITOR DEMOGRAPHICS

81,011 Responses (2,952 Participants)

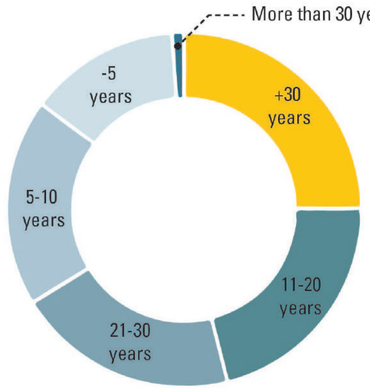
What is your zip code?



What is your household income?

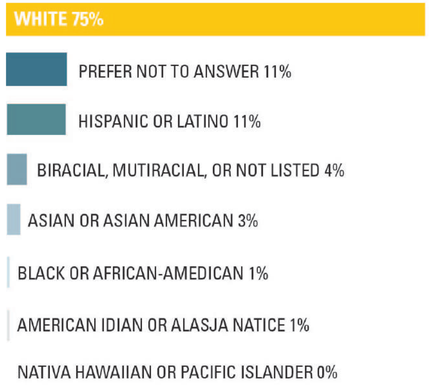


How long have you lived Austin?

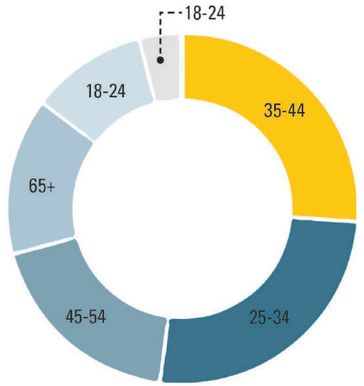


What is your gender?

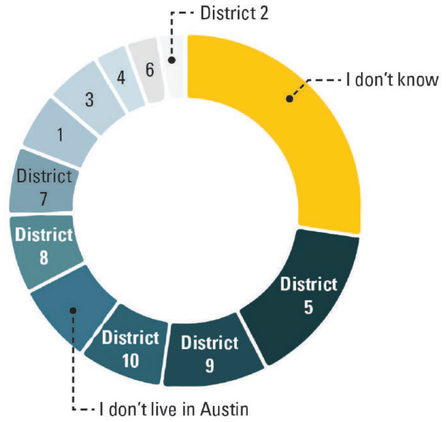
What is your race/ethnicity?



What is your age range?



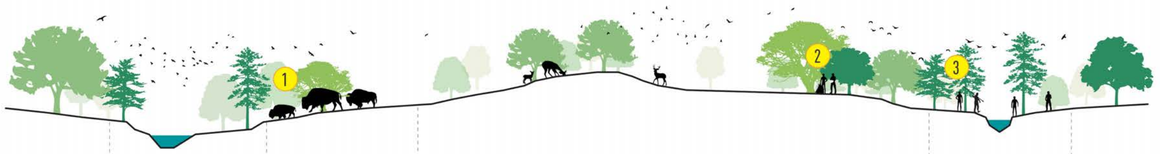
Which City Council District do you live in?



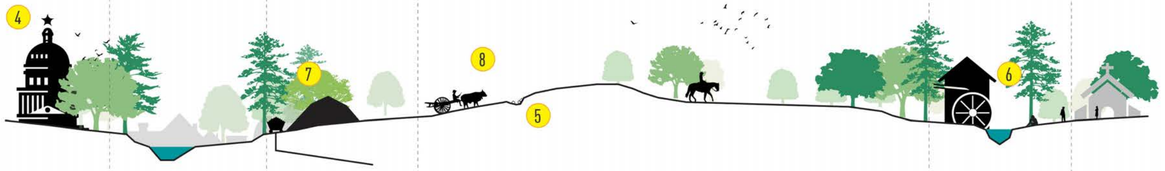
ENVIRONMENT

ZILKER TIMELINE

FOREST, SAVANNA, AND SPRINGS



INDUSTRIAL & AGRICULTURE



RECREATIONAL

Colorado River/ Lady Bird Lake | Butler Landfill | Great Lawn | Barton Creek

FOREST, SAVANNA, & SPRINGS

7000 B.C.E. - 17th Century
Wildlife is abundant, bison and deer roam the landscape and are a major food source for indigenous peoples hunting in the area.

Indigenous peoples' encampments are near Barton Creek. Numerous tribes frequented the area—of these, the Tonkawa, Comanche, and Lipan Apache were among those documented in written records.

People fish along Barton Creek.

INDUSTRIAL & AGRICULTURE

1839
Austin named the capital of the Texas Republic in part because of its abundant wildlife and forage for livestock.

1860
Early settlers already report lack of game, lack of forage, and erosion issues.

1870
Colonists start industry. Mills are built along Barton Creek, which is also used for swimming.

1900
Mining takes place along the Colorado River and includes a conveyor to the north side of the Colorado River.

1910
Great Lawn is cleared and used for agriculture.

RECREATIONAL

1920s - 1940s
Barton Springs Pool & Bathhouse are formalized. Charles Page park plan developed; New Deal programs begin in the park.

1948 - 1967
Butler Landfill is used to dispose of trash.

1960
Lady Bird Lake is formed through the construction of the Longhorn Dam on the Colorado River.

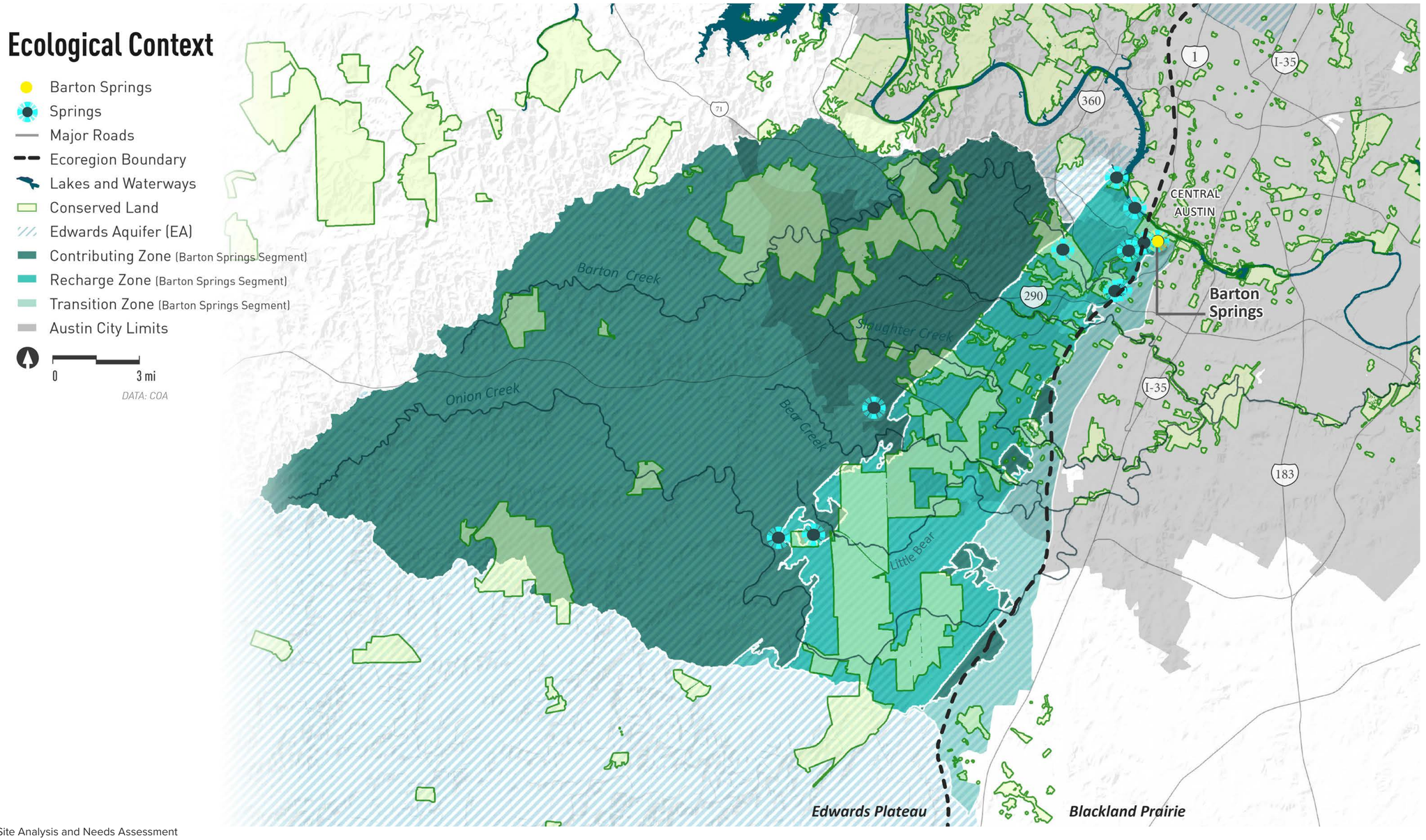
2000
Major events take place in the Big Field, including ACL and the Zilker Kite Festival

ENVIRONMENT

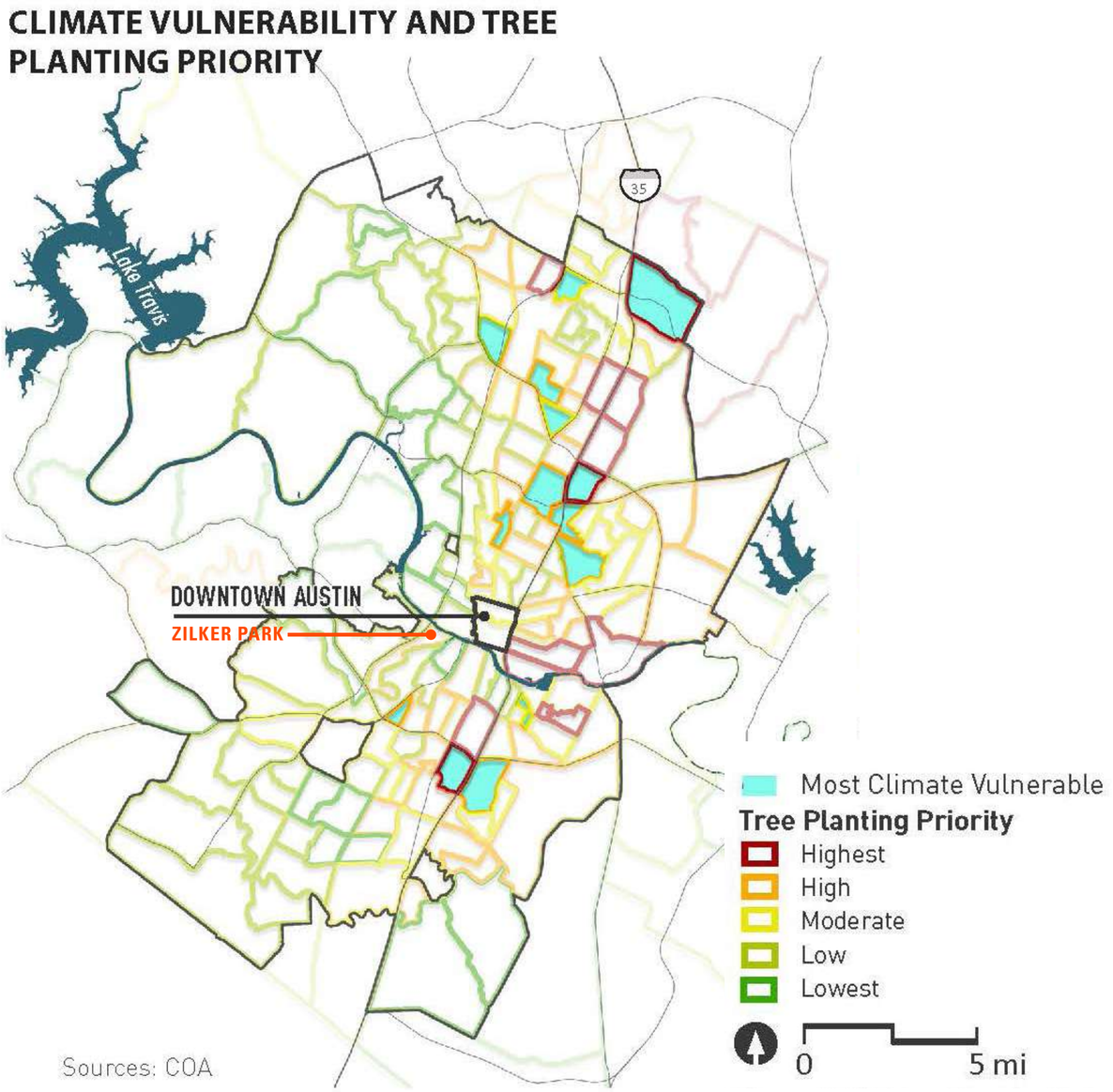
Zilker bathhouse exterior, 1948 (from The Austin History Center via UNT Texas History Portal)

Bathers at Barton Springs Pool, 1940-1969 (from The Austin History Center via UNT Texas History Portal)

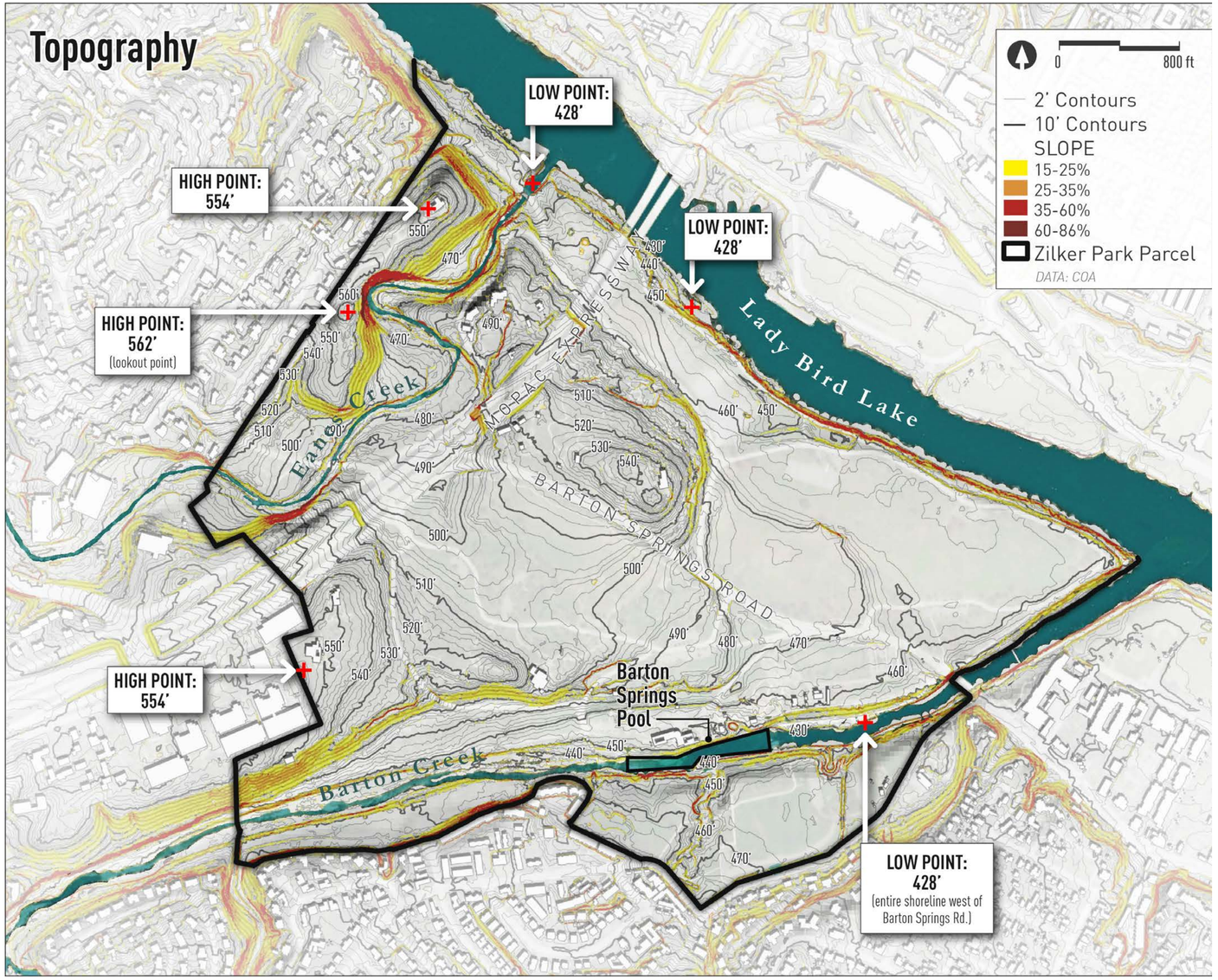
ENVIRONMENT

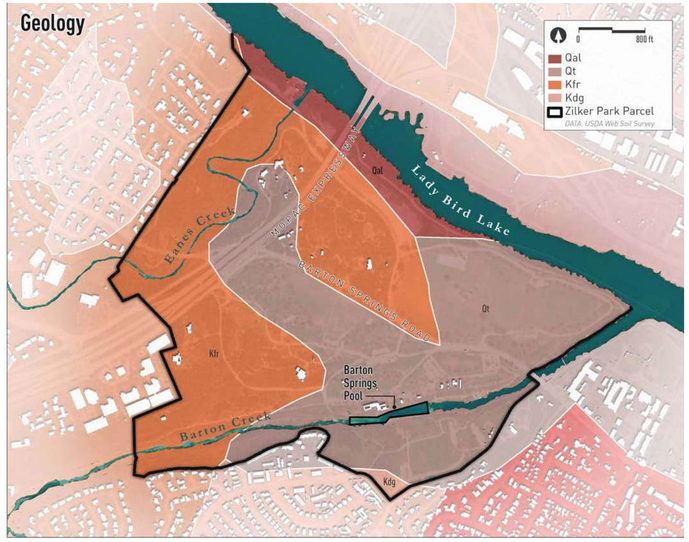


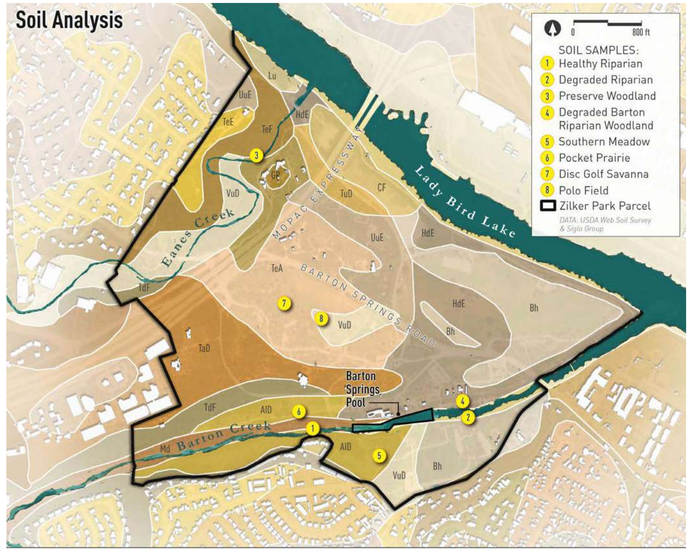
ENVIRONMENT



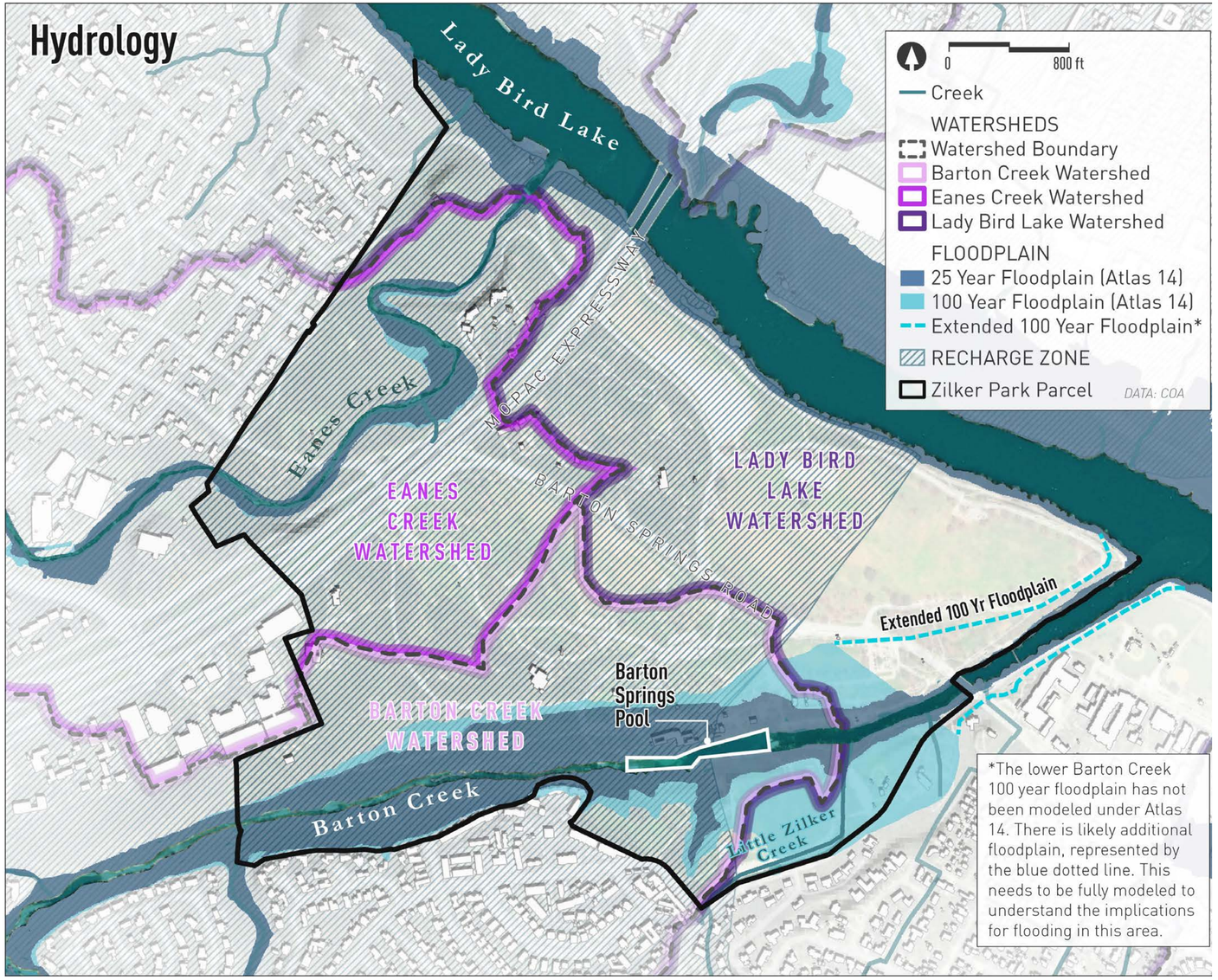
ENVIRONMENT

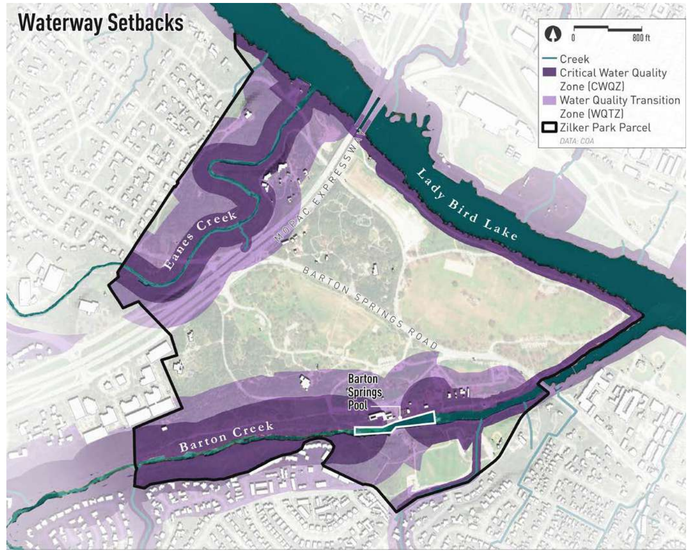




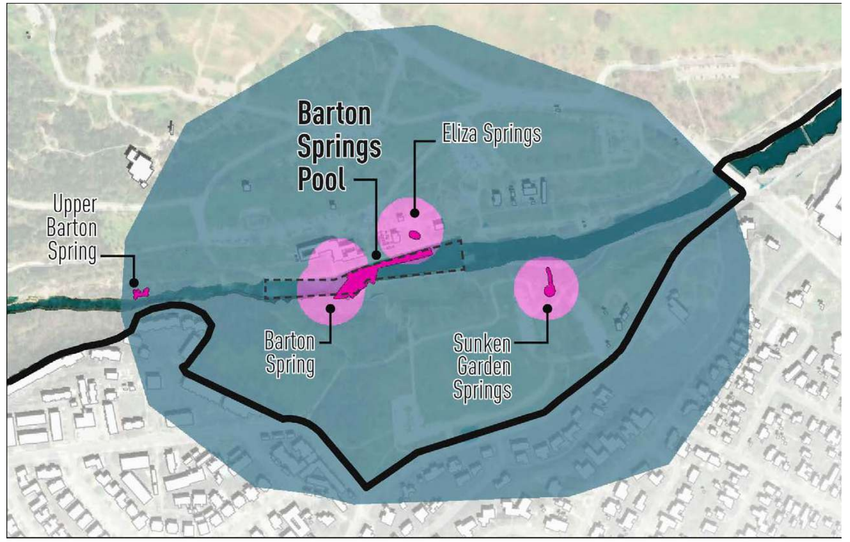


ENVIRONMENT





ENVIRONMENT



Salamander Habitat (COA - HCP)
Surface Critical Habitat Boundary
Subsurface Critical Habitat
Zilker Park Parcel

0 800 ft

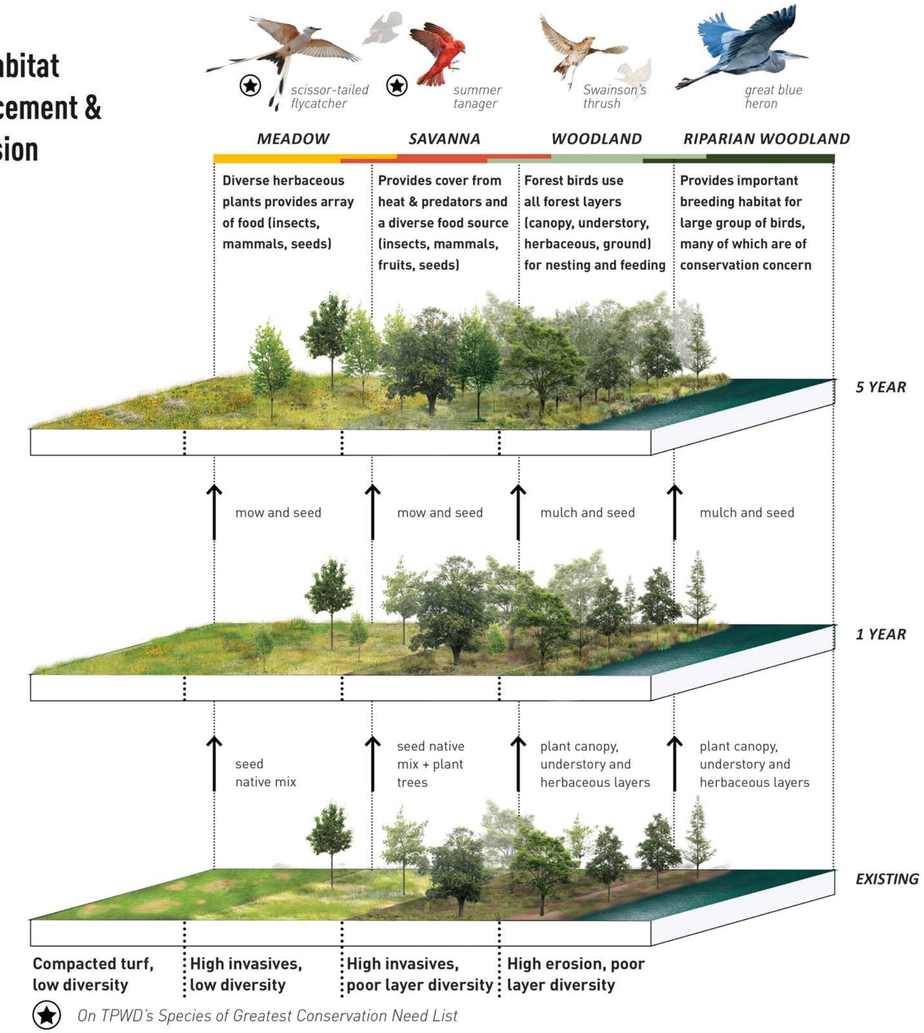
DATA: COA , FWS 2013

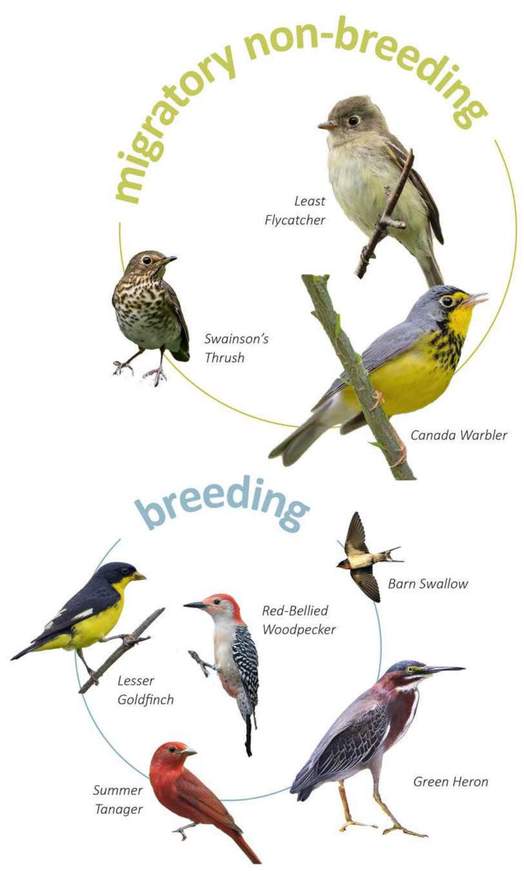
ENVIRONMENT

ZILKER PARK'S HABITATS WERE GROUPED IN 16 PLANT COMMUNITIES (FIGURE 3.8). THE PLANT COMMUNITIES ARE INFLUENCED BY THE SOIL AND GEOLOGY DESCRIBED ABOVE, AS WELL AS THE HISTORY OF HUMAN INFLUENCE. THESE PLANT COMMUNITIES INCLUDE OVER 380 PLANT SPECIES (TABLE 3.1).

ENVIRONMENT

Bird Habitat Enhancement & Expansion

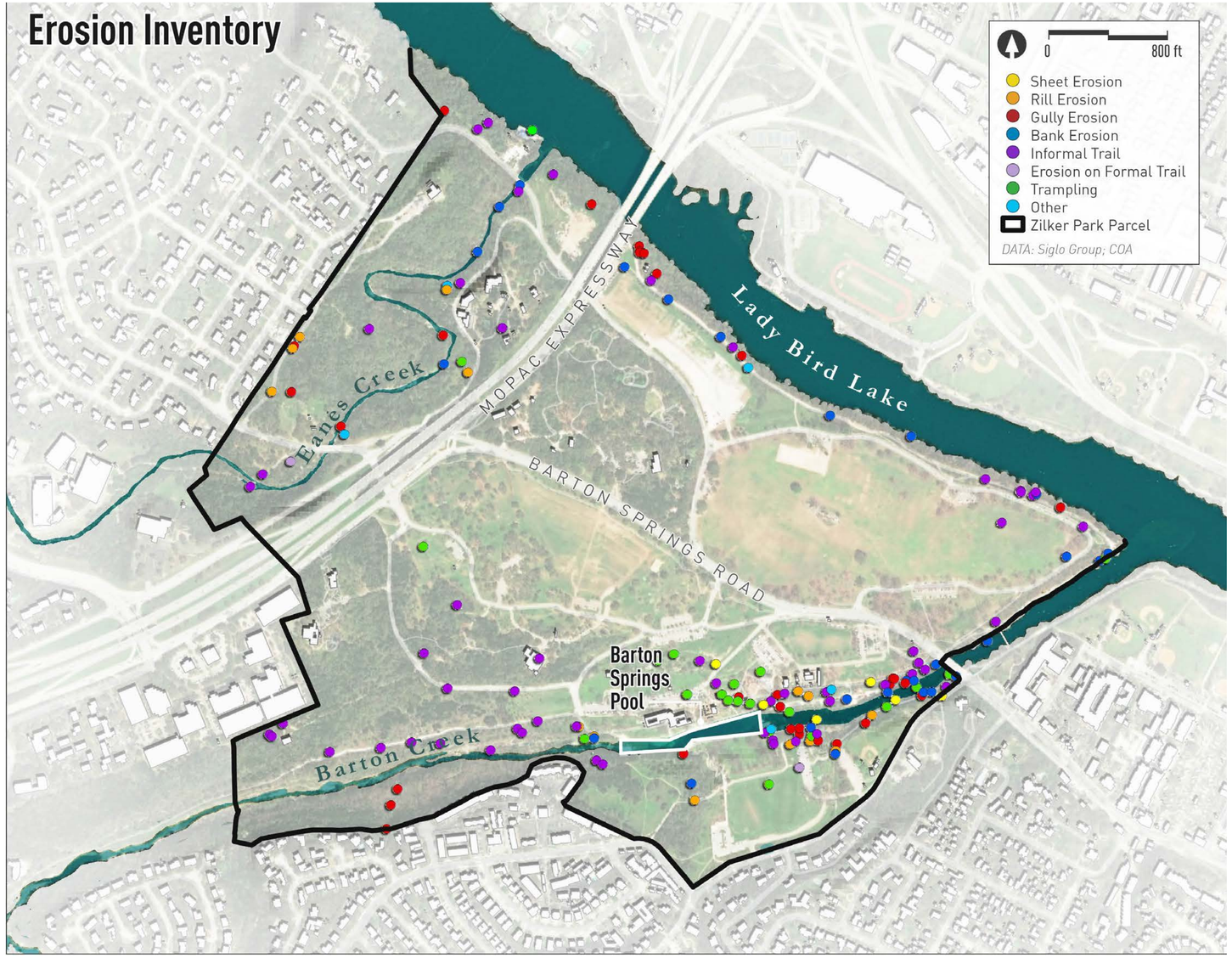




Produced by Siglo Group

262 WILDLIFE SPECIES, INCLUDING SIX AMPHIBIANS, TWO FISH, ONE MOLLUSK, 224 BIRDS, NINE MAMMALS, AND 20 REPTILES

ENVIRONMENT

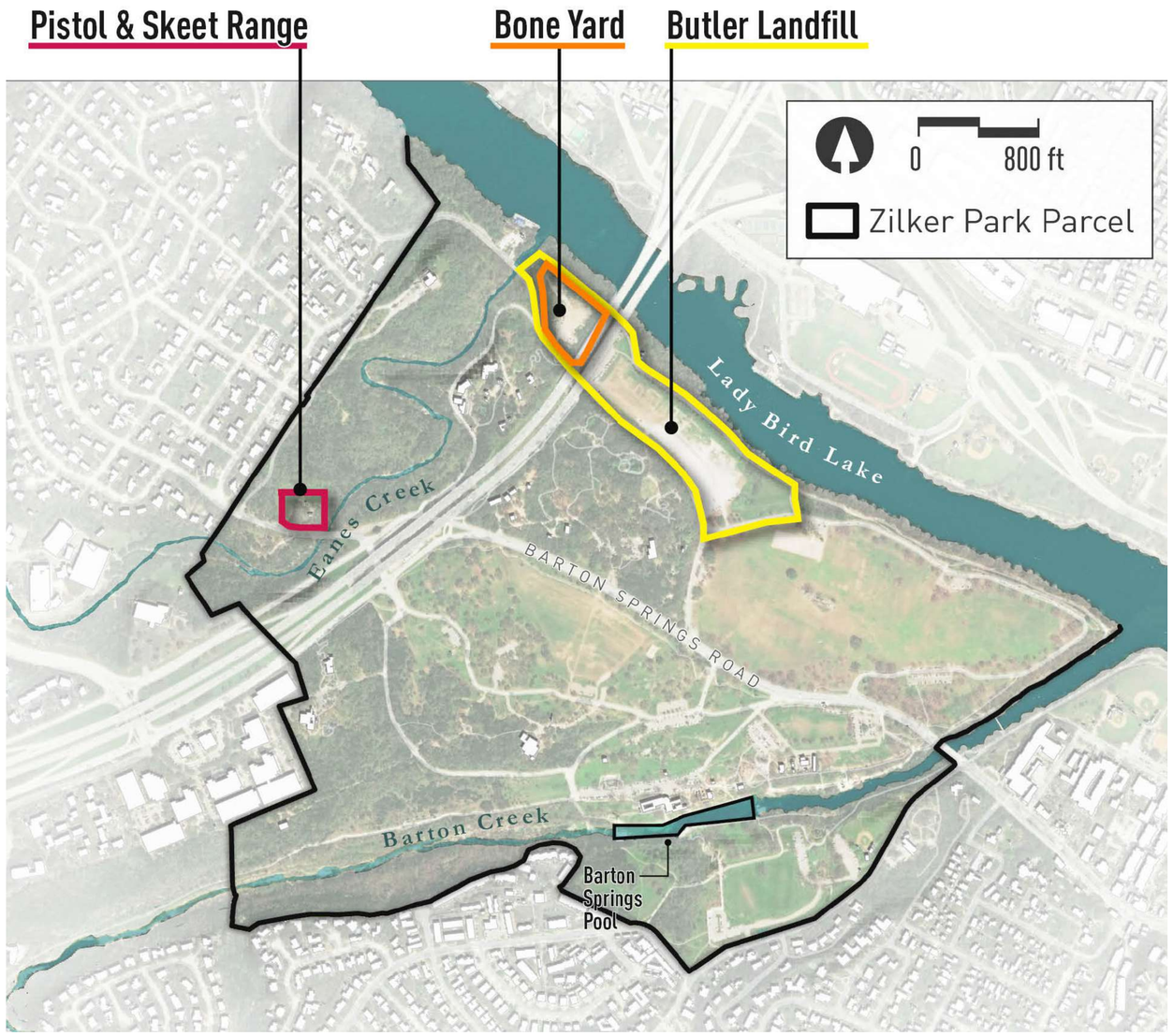


Invasive Plants

Common Name	Botanial Name	TX Invasive	COA	Siglo
Arundo	*Arundo donax*	x	x	x
Bamboo	*Phyllostachys aurea*	x	x	
Bastard cabbage	*Rapistrum rugosum*	x	x	x
Bermudagrass	*Cynodon dactylon*	x	x	x
Catclaw vine	*Macfadyena unguis-cati*		x	x
Chinaberry	*Melia azedarach*	x	x	x
Chinese parasol tree	*Firmiana simplex*	x	x	x
Chinese pistache	*Pistacia chinensis*	x	x	x
Chinese tallow	*Triadica sebifera*	x	x	
Nandina	*Nandina domestica*	x	x	x
Hedge parsley	*Torilis arvensis*	x		x
Japanese honeysuckle	*Lonicera japonica*	x	x	x
Johnsongrass	*Sorghum halepense*	x	x	x
King Ranch bluestem	*Bothriochloa ishaemum*	x	x	x
Ligustrum	*Ligustrum lucidum and L. sinense*	x	x	x
Malta star thistle	*Centaurea melitensis*	x	x	x
Paper mulberry	*Broussonetia papyrifera*	x	x	x
Sweet autumn clematis	*Clematis terniflora*			x
Tree of heaven	*Ailanthus altissima*	x	x	x

Table 3.5 *Invasives at Zilker Park. These have been identified through cross-checking lists from Texas Invasives, the City of Austin In Species Management Plan, and Siglo Group's expertise.*

ENVIRONMENT



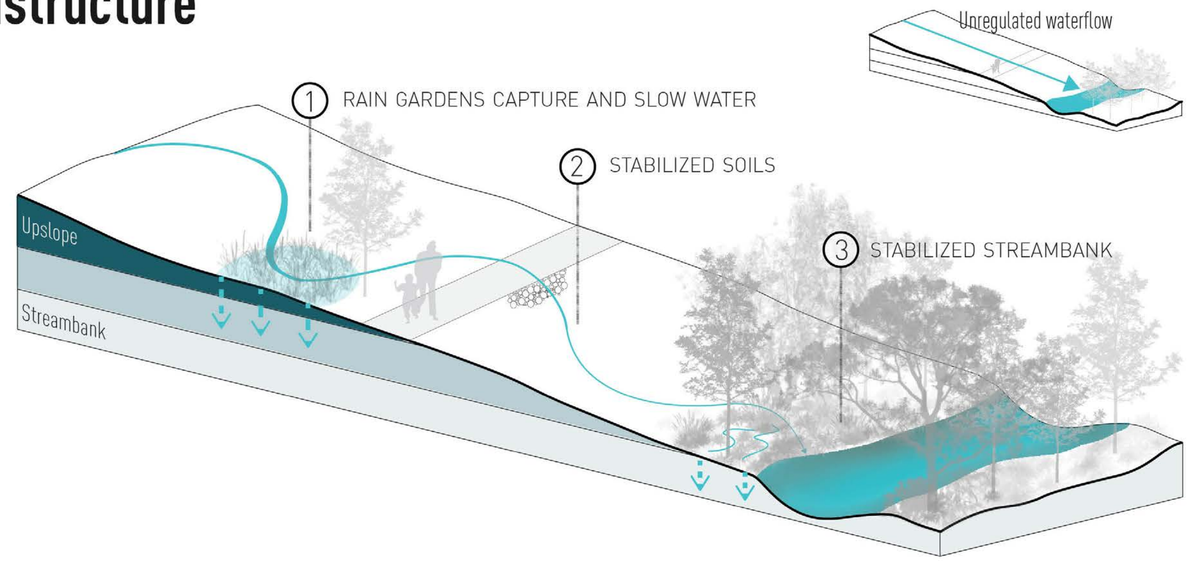
THE BONE YARD, 2021, SIGLO GROUP.

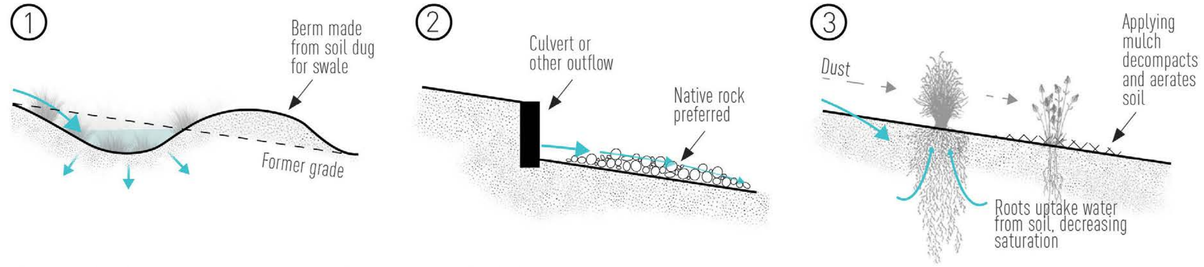
DENSE WOODLAND HABITAT SURROUNDS THE PISTOL AND SKEET RANGE, 2021, SIGLO GROUP.

AUSTIN'S SKYLINE IS THE BACKDROP AT THE HISTORIC BUTLER LANDFILL, 2021, SIGLO GROUP.

ENVIRONMENT

Green Infrastructure Methods

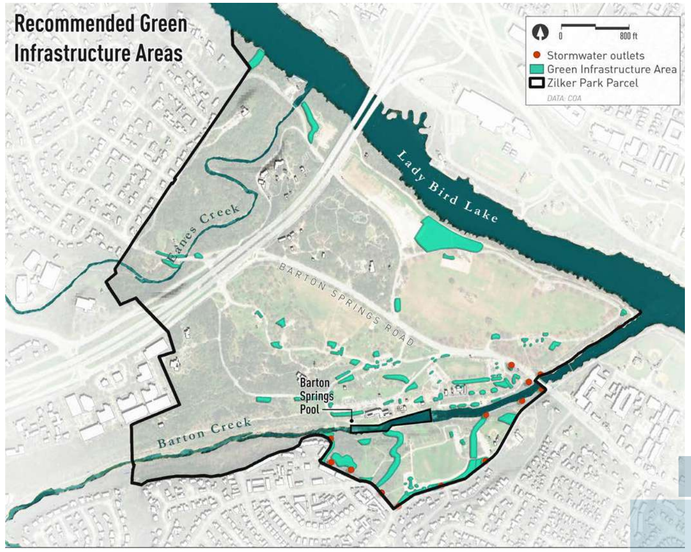




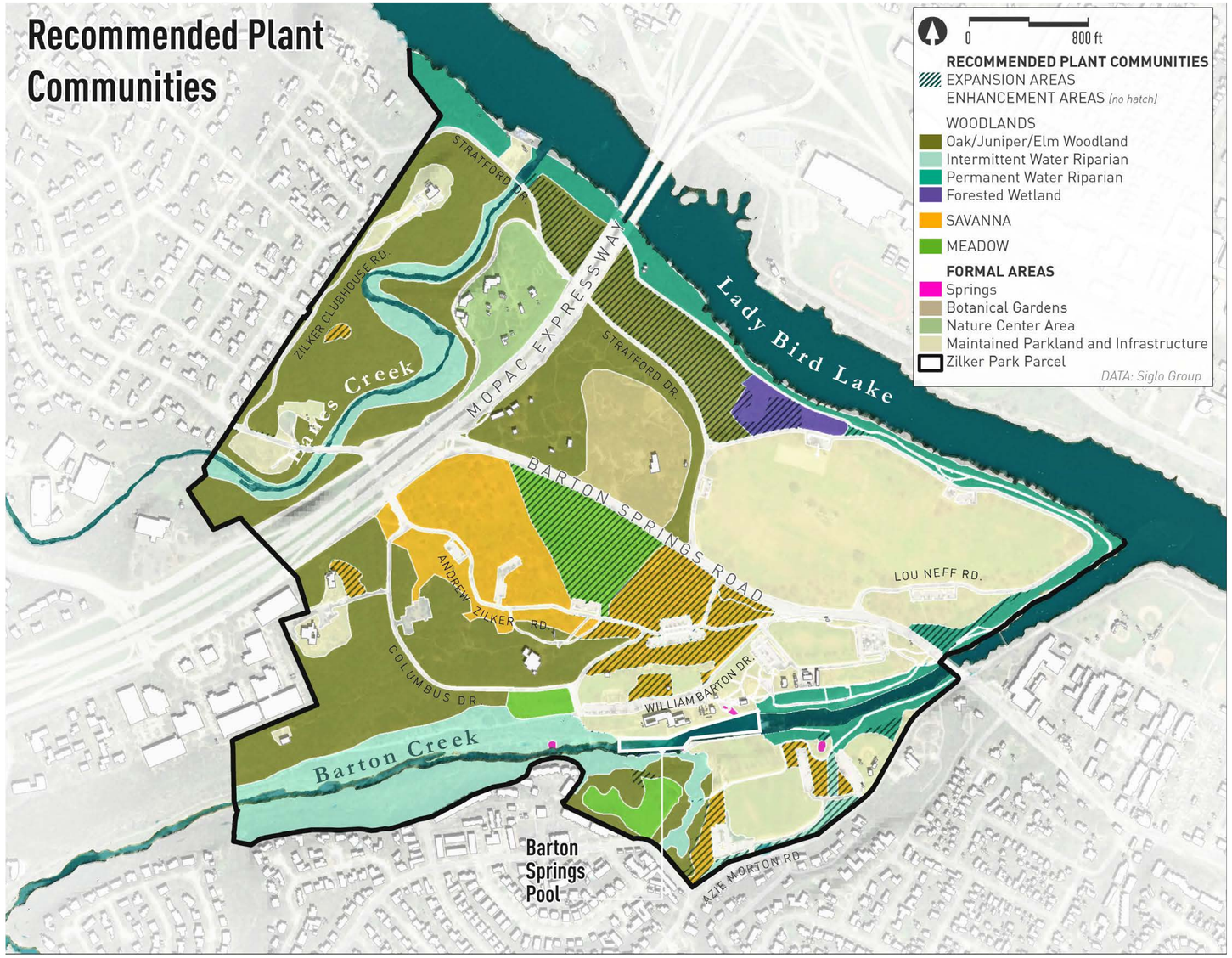
Berm and swales capture waterflow, and infiltrate water into soil

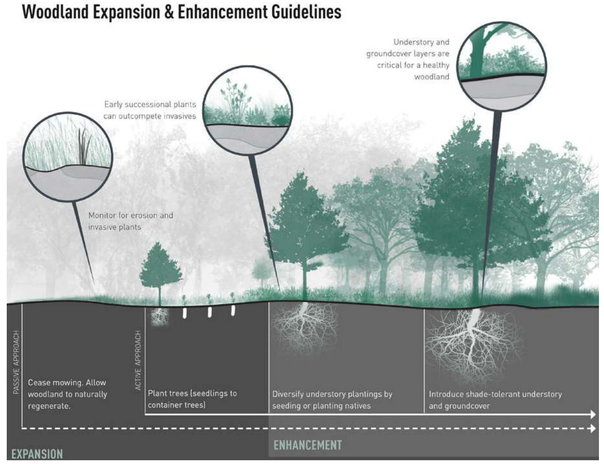
Armoring (riprap, concrete, limestone, granite block gabions, or erosion mats) near outflows will slow waterflow and stabilize soils

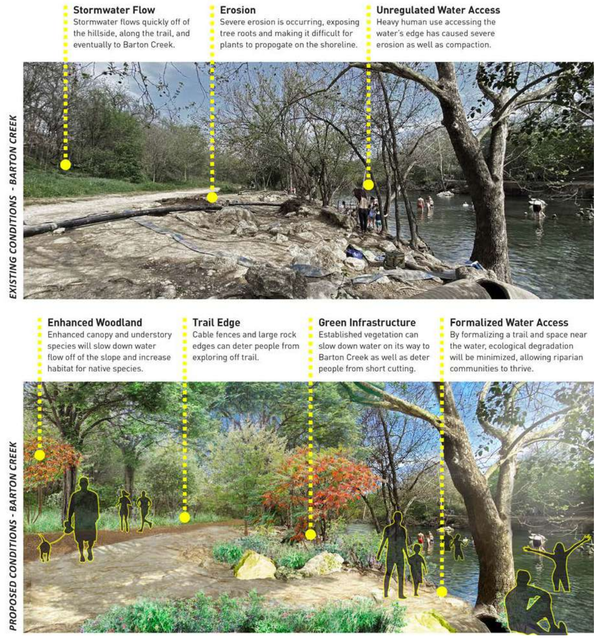
Understory plants stabilize soils, increase water uptake, and reduce dust dispersion — reducing sediment deposits in creekbed



ENVIRONMENT







COMMON THEMES

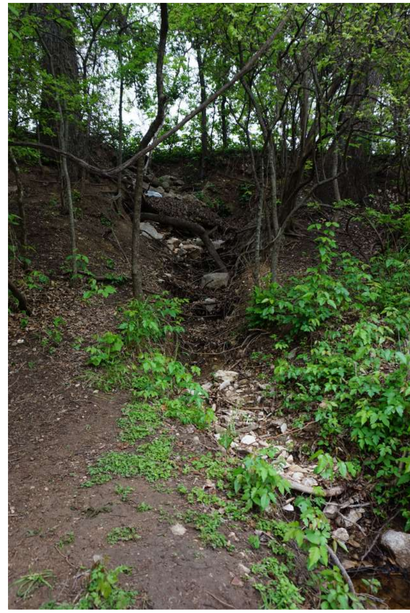
Circulation

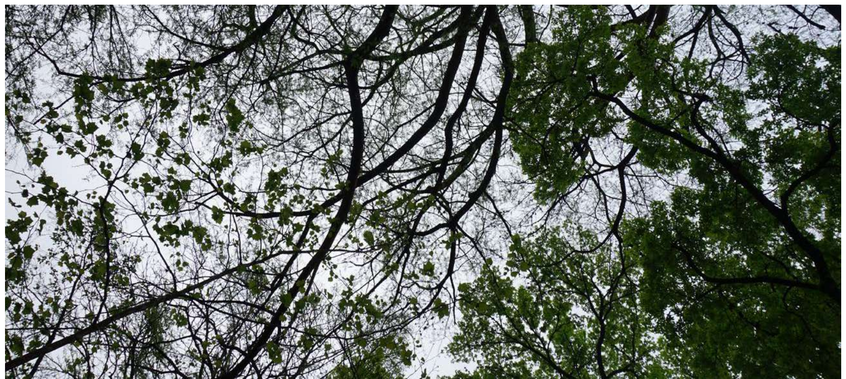
1. Parking
2. Carrying capacity
3. Safe circulation
4. Clear wayfinding

COMMON THEMES

Environmental

1. Erosion/compaction
2. Water quality impacts
3. Balance of park use with environmental protections
4. Environmental education
5. Re-wilding
6. Addressing urban heat island effect

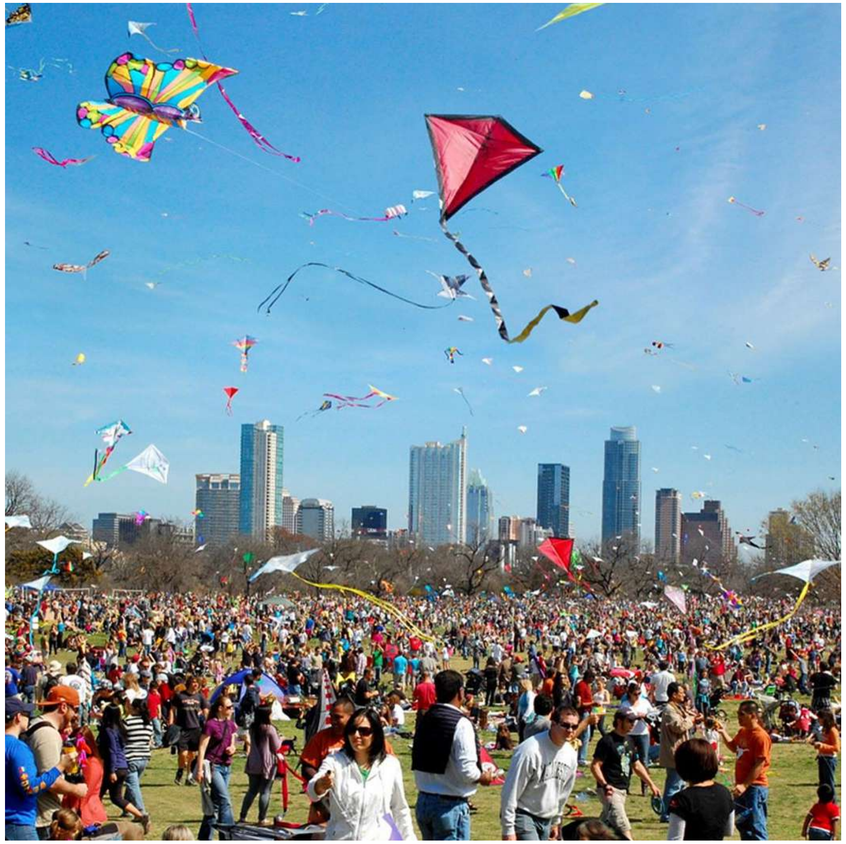


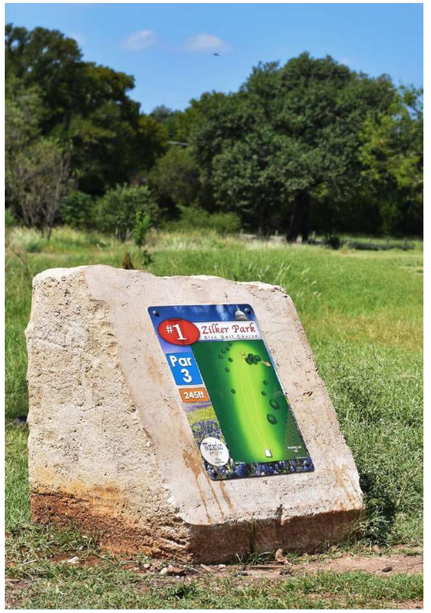


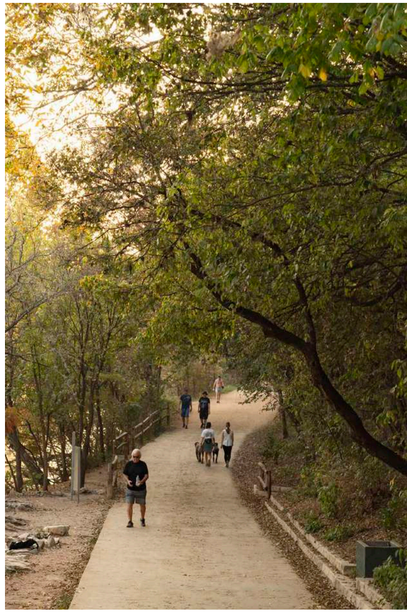
COMMON THEMES

Programming

1. Events
2. Park identification







DISCUSSION

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND GOALS

We need your input!

1. Economics
2. Environment
3. Community
4. Character/Placemaking/Art
5. Accessibility
6. Equity and Inclusion

EXAMPLE OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **EXCEED CUSTOMER EXPECTATIONS.**
- **LIVE THE GOLDEN RULE.**
  : TREAT OTHERS WITH COURTESY AND RESPECT
- **BE A LEADER.**
- **PARTICIPATE AND CONTRIBUTE.**
- **PURSUE EXCELLENCE.**
- **WORK AS A TEAM.**
- **SHARE KNOWLEDGE.**
- **KEEP IT SIMPLE.**
  : MAKE IT EASY FOR CUSTOMERS TO DO BUSINESS WITH US AND FOR US TO WORK TOGETHER

EXAMPLE OF GOALS

I WILL OBTAIN A JOB AS A HIGH SCHOOL MATH TEACHER WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER GRADUATING WITH MY BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION.

- **SPECIFIC**
  : THE GOAL OF BECOMING A HIGH SCHOOL MATH TEACHER IS WELL-DEFINED
- **MEASURABLE**
  : SUCCESS CAN BE MEASURED BY THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS, INTERVIEWS AND JOB OFFERS.
- **ACHIEVABLE**
  : THE GOAL SETTER WILL HAVE THE APPROPRIATE DEGREE FOR THE JOB.
- **RELEVANT**
  : THE GOAL SETTER IS PLANNING TO GET A JOB IN THE EDUCATION INDUSTRY AFTER GETTING AN EDUCATION DEGREE.
- **TIME-BASED**
  : THE GOAL SETTER HAS SET A DEADLINE TO ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVE WITHIN THE THREE MONTHS FOLLOWING GRADUATION.

CONTACT

GREGORY MONTES

gregory.montes@austintexas.gov