



The Nature
Conservancy



ASAKURA
ROBINSON

CENTRAL WILLIAMSON CREEK

Greenway

VISION PLAN

DRAFT

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Project Team

Nicole Joslin, AIA, LEED AP
Executive Director

Marla Torrado, Ph.D.
Planning Director

Shavone Otero
Community Coordinator

Thomas Medina
Community Planner

Amy Belaire, Ph.D.
Texas Director of Science
and Strategy

Katie Coyne, AICP, ESA, SITES AP
Principal-In-Charge

**Claire Eddleman-Heath
PLA, LEED AP, SITES AP**
Project Manager

Kari Spiegelhalter
Deputy Project Manager

Andrew Wright
Landscape Designer



Community Working Group

Mary Olmstead
Anna Pittala
Steve Prather
Jessica Sager
Nicole Sanford
Greg Stevens
Michael Usher
Esther Weekes

City of Austin Working Group

Christine Chute Canul Parks and Rec. Dept.	Justin Stewart Parks and Rec. Dept.
Marc Coudert Office of Sustainability	David Trujillo Watershed Protection Dept.
Megan Eckhard Parks and Rec. Dept.	LaJuan Tucker Parks and Rec. Dept.
Sydney Garcia* National Parks Service	Staryn Wagner Watershed Protection Dept.
Leah Gibson Watershed Protection Dept.	Katie Wettick Urban Trails Program
Marie Lancaster Watershed Protection Dept.	Jessica Wilson Watershed Protection Dept.
Gibran Lule-Hurtado* National Parks Service	

City Departments

Watershed Protection Department
Parks and Recreation Department
Public Works
Office of Sustainability
Office of Innovation
Housing and Planning Department
Equity Office

*Working Group Members from the
National Parks Service

LETTER FROM THE COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

Williamson Creek is a gem crossing West to East in South Austin between Oak Hill and McKinney Falls State Park. Residents of the neighborhoods surrounding Williamson Creek have enjoyed this natural beauty for more than twenty years. Community efforts over a number of years, including trash pick-ups, tree planting and the removal of invasive species, have resulted in improving the health of the creek and supporting the native flora and fauna. Central Williamson Creek Greenway is slowly becoming a more welcoming green space for residents to connect with nature and for nature to thrive.

We are thrilled to envision the future of a place we love so dearly with the Central Williamson Creek Greenway Vision Plan. This Vision Plan represents a 12-month process of both Williamson Creek Working Group (WCWG) formal and creative efforts to engage the community and input derived from public engagement. Community engagement activities included: community members recording their own oral histories through WCWG interviews; virtual community picnics; virtual mapping that enabled community members to propose ideas such as food forest planting and hiking trails in and around the creek; several in-person and socially-distanced “Creek Chats” to engage the community; and a final community picnic to unveil the Vision Plan and offer an opportunity to provide community feedback in 2021.

Implementation of the community’s spirited ideas for this plan, in part or entirety, will transform Central Williamson Creek Greenway from its current state to one that will serve nature and the community in the future.

Thank you to the St. David’s Foundation for providing the grant used to draft this Vision Plan, to Community Powered Workshop for facilitating the process, and to Asakura Robinson for co-creating this Vision Plan with us. We also want to thank members of the City of Austin Working Group for their dedication and time. We are excited to move forward with the support of Austin Parks & Recreation, the Watershed Protection Department, and their affiliates. Lastly, we would like to thank and acknowledge those longtime friends who have supported and participated in efforts to maintain Williamson Creek since 2005.

Sincerely,
The Central Williamson Creek Working Group

<i>Mary Olmstead</i>	<i>Steve Prather</i>	<i>Nicole Sanford</i>	<i>Michael Usher</i>
<i>Anna Pittala</i>	<i>Jessica Sager</i>	<i>Greg Stevens</i>	<i>Esther Weekes</i>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments.....2

Letter From the Community Working Group.....3

1: Project Overview..... 7

Central Williamson Creek Greenway.....8

Vision Plan Overview 12

Community Goals..... 13

The Design Process 14

Opportunities and Constraints..... 17

2: Central Williamson Creek Vision Plan 21

Overall Vision Plan.....22

Vision Plan Elements.....24

Vision Plan27

Meadow Creek Trailhead33

Heartwood Buyout Area.....36

Orland Street Trailhead.....43

3: Developing the Vision..... 45

Articulating Common Goals..... 48

Goal #1: A Restored, Biodiverse Greenway 50

Goal #2: A Community-Centered Greenway.....58

Goal #3: An Accessible and visible Greenway.....66

Goal #4: An Active and Connected Greenway72

4: Community Engagement..... 79

Engagement Strategy..... 80

Digital Engagement 80

In-Person Engagement..... 84

5: Existing Conditions 87

Community Context..... 89

Local Ecology95

Greenway Access.....105

Hydrology 115

6: Implementation..... 121

Implementation Stream122

Ongoing City of Austin Projects.....126

Sustainable Sites.....128

Implementation By Idea130

People Experiencing Homelessness138

7: Afterword & Appendices..... 141

Afterword.....143

Bibliography 144

Recommended Plant List.....146

Recommended Materials Criteria 148

All Community Engagement + Communications216

Nature Trail and Track Guidance Near Trees..... 274

A Guide to Commonly Used Acronyms

CWCG: Central Williamson Creek Greenway

COA: City of Austin

PARD: Parks and Recreation Department

WPD: Watershed Protection Department

CWG: Community Working Group

CPW: Community Powered Workshop

1: PROJECT OVERVIEW

A Note from Community Powered Workshop (CPW)

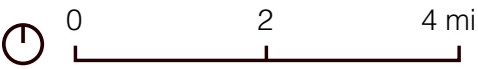
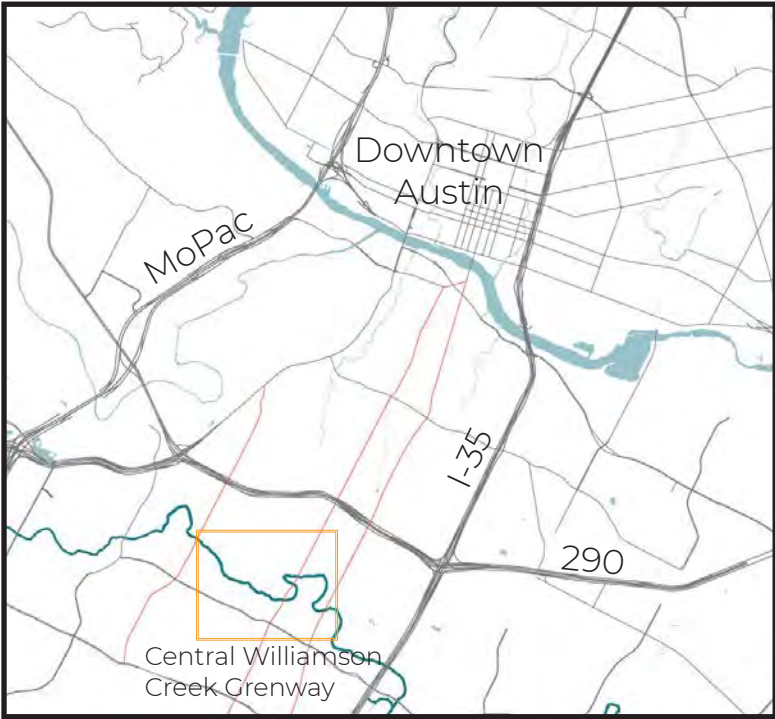
[Community Powered Workshop](#) is an Austin-based, non-profit architecture and planning organization that works alongside communities to create powerful and equitable places that promote a healthy future and break barriers of systemic injustice through collaborative planning, community-driven research and social impact design. We entered this community-led effort to create the Central Williamson Creek Vision Plan in 2017 alongside community members in the Central Williamson Creek area to re-imagine this green space as a resilient, healthy and connected public space. For this Vision Planning process, Community Powered Workshop facilitated the convening of a Community Working Group to bring local voices and perspectives to the table, and a City of Austin Working Group composed of staff from multiple City of Austin departments and the National Parks Service. With the goal to build long-term, collaborative working relationships between community members and public land managers, these working groups place community members and City staff on equal footing in the planning process as a way to balance community priorities that also support a sustainable and healthy environment.

CENTRAL WILLIAMSON CREEK GREENWAY

Central Williamson Creek is a stretch of nearly continuous greenway along Williamson Creek in Austin, Texas. This section of the creek, which runs for about two miles between S. Congress Avenue and Menchaca Road, and just north of Stassney Lane, is located in a primarily residential area of South Austin. Much of the land directly adjacent to the creek is publicly owned by The City of Austin Parks Department and the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department as a result of a floodplain home-buyout project that transitioned formerly residential land into floodable green space. This land now presents a significant opportunity to create a connected recreational greenway for a park-deficient community in South Austin.

Legend

- Meadow Creek Buyout Area
- Radam Circle Buyout Area
- Richmond Tributary Buyout Area
- Heartwood Buyout Area
- Parks and Recreation Department Land
- Creeks



Data sources: City of Austin Google, The Nature Conservancy, USGS

CENTRAL WILLIAMSON CREEK GREENWAY

Home Buyout Program

The homes in the neighborhood adjacent to and within the Williamson Creek floodplain have experienced repeated destructive flooding over the past two decades. All homes in the neighborhoods are at an increased risk as floods continue to intensify due to climate change and Austin’s rapid growth and development. Major floods in 1998, 2001, and 2013 prompted a consideration of a buyout program in this area, and in 2015, the first phase of a home buyout program began through a partnership between the City of Austin and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As of 2019, fifty-one properties have been purchased by the city and demolished to prevent future redevelopment. There are a total of four buyout areas along the project site: the Meadow Creek buyout area, Radam Circle buyout area, the Richmond Tributary buyout area, and the Heartwood buyout area (see map on page 9). The land and floodplain recovered from this effort is now owned

and maintained by the City of Austin’s Watershed Protection Department with the goal of maintaining it as an open, floodable space to protect adjoining residences from flooding.

Community-Driven Open Space

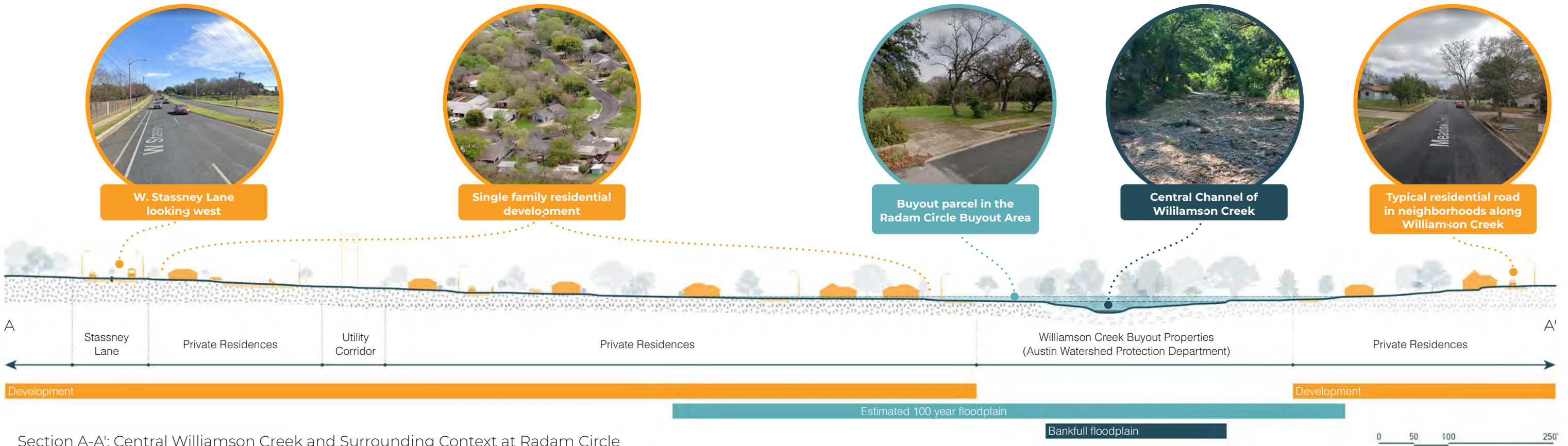
In addition to the home buyout properties, Central Williamson Creek is bordered by about fifty-eight acres of undeveloped parkland owned by the Austin Parks and Recreation Department and sixteen acres of residential floodplain buyout properties owned by the Austin Watershed Protection Department. This publicly owned land adjacent to the rich biodiverse riparian ecosystem of Williamson Creek presents a unique opportunity to connect residents of South Austin to urban ecological systems, recreation, and gathering spaces.

For more than 20 years residents have discussed and imagined ways to preserve and protect this corridor and make it more

connected and accessible where possible. They have dedicated themselves to the greenway through creek clean-ups, invasive species removals and hosted community potlucks and nature walks. Two community gardens were established in addition to wildflower meadows and the Tom Donovan trail. In 2019 community leaders in the Southwood neighborhood partnered with local non-profits and conservation organizations to initiate a series of community engagement and activation events called *Explore! Williamson Creek*. Many desires emerged, including interest in a creekside nature trail, social gathering spaces, community gardens, wildlife habitat, and other amenities. The outcome of these activations highlighted the passion community members hold for Williamson Creek and their desire to have a voice in the planning and design process. This vision plan process continues this effort through an engaged Community Working Group feedback process and Community Workshops.

Previous Planning Efforts

- City of Austin Neighborhood planning documents addressing South Austin acknowledge Williamson Creek as a priority area for parks and recreation.
- South Austin Combined Neighborhood Plan:** Create bike lanes on major roads, provide a greenbelt path along Williamson Creek.
- Southeast Combined Neighborhood Plan:** Add more sidewalks, create hike and bike trail along Williamson Creek, add mixed-use zoning.
- Southeast Combined Neighborhood Plan:** Maintain Williamson Creek in a natural state, improve pedestrian connections, and develop a new neighborhood park.



Section A-A': Central Williamson Creek and Surrounding Context at Radam Circle

VISION PLAN OVERVIEW

This Vision Plan report provides a comprehensive guiding vision for the future of the Central Williamson Creek Greenway. The recommendations in this plan were created through close collaboration with a community working group, the City working group, and feedback from the general public.

Chapter 2 | Pages 21-44
Vision Plan

The Vision Plan chapter presents the overall designs for the Williamson Creek Greenway from S. Congress Avenue to Menchaca Road, along with examples of more detailed concept designs for two trailheads at Orland St and S. 1st Street and at Meadow Creek Circle.

Chapter 3 | Pages 45-78
Developing the Vision

This chapter provides a detailed overview of the four community goals that drove this plan, how they were developed, and each goal's corresponding design strategies utilized in the Vision Plan to achieve those goals.

Chapter 4 | Pages 79-86
Community Engagement

This Vision Plan was developed in close collaboration with community members, and this chapter provides an overview of the digital and in-person community engagement process and outcomes.

Chapter 5 | Pages 87-120
Existing Conditions

The Existing Conditions chapter provides an overview of current ecological, hydrological, and social conditions of the creek and its immediate surrounding neighborhood.

Chapter 6 | Pages 121-140
Implementation

Chapter 6 lays out a three-tiered approach to funding and constructing the Vision Plan designs over time based on project effort and feasibility, and provides maintenance recommendations.



COMMUNITY GOALS

The following four goals emerged from a design process that listened to and engaged with community priorities through a series of virtual and in-person engagement events, described in detail in Chapter 4.

1. A RESTORED, BIODIVERSE GREENWAY

The future Central Williamson Creek Greenway will be a healthy, functioning riparian ecosystem, rich with plant and animal life and free from ecologically destructive invasive species. Volunteer and city ecological restoration efforts, green infrastructure installations, and low-impact trails will preserve the creek's wild character, protect sensitive species, and improve water quality.

2. A COMMUNITY-CENTERED GREENWAY

The future Central Williamson Creek Greenway will be a system of trails, parks, community gardens, and other gathering spaces where neighbors and South Austin residents gather to socialize and exercise. Community-built art, urban agriculture, restoration and other projects along the greenway will create a sense of ownership and pride.

3. AN ACCESSIBLE AND VISIBLE GREENWAY

The future Central Williamson Creek Greenway will provide a continuous trail from S. Congress Avenue to Menchaca Road through key land acquisition and low-impact trail construction. Visitors to the greenway will be able to orient themselves through clear wayfinding signage, and learn more about the unique history, ecology, and geology of the creek through educational signage.

4. AN ACTIVE AND CONNECTED GREENWAY

The future Central Williamson Creek Greenway will be an important public health amenity for the neighborhood and the broader Austin community. It will provide a key east-west connection to South Austin neighborhood resources and public transportation. The trail system will connect all communities to the creek and provide accessible creek experiences for those of all abilities. Mountain biking trails, fitness programming, and community gardens along the trail network will further enhance neighborhood health.

THE DESIGN PROCESS

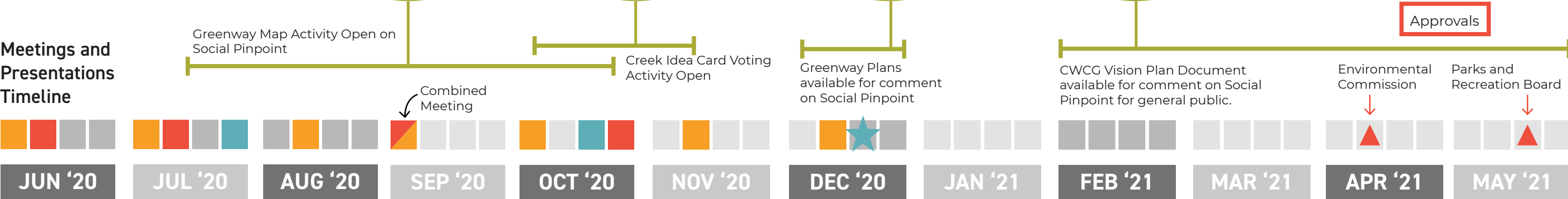
The Central Williamson Creek Greenway Vision Plan was created over a 11-month period

Feedback on Social Pinpoint Timeline

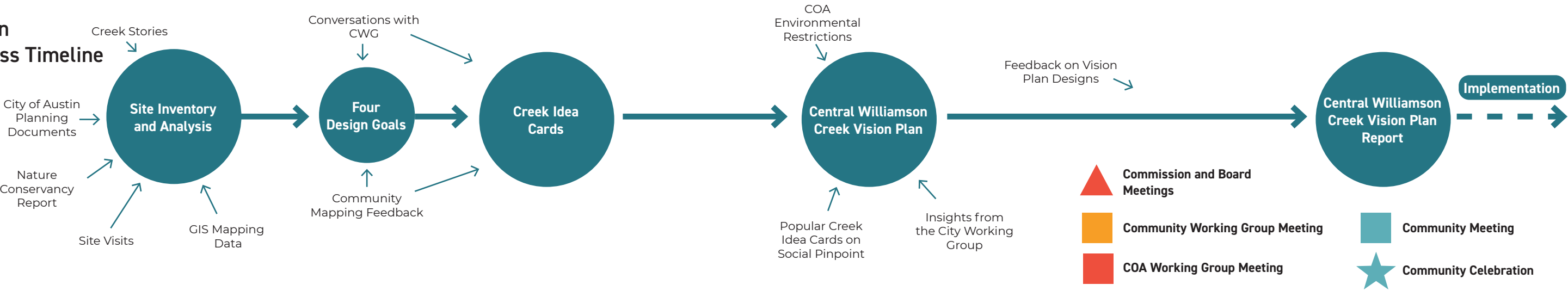


Social Pinpoint
Social Pinpoint was the online virtual community engagement platform utilized to gather ideas and feedback from the general public throughout this project.

Meetings and Presentations Timeline



Design Process Timeline



Community Working Group

The Community Working Group of eight community members living in the neighborhoods adjacent to the creek was established to collaboratively envision the future of the creek and to build community capacity for future implementation of this plan. The group was given a stipend for participation and met monthly to participate in collaborative visioning activities with the design team and to provide feedback on design deliverables.

City of Austin Working Group

The City of Austin Working Group was formed to create a group of experts able to provide advice on parks, trails planning, and environmental restoration, as well as an understanding of the City of Austin's legal requirements for proposed designs. The City Working Group was comprised of 11 City of Austin staff members, representing the Parks and Recreation Department, the Watershed Protection Department, and Office of Sustainability, and the Urban Trails Program. Two members represented the National Parks Service.



Heartwood Community Garden is a community gathering space along the greenway where neighbors can grow their own food.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

Williamson Creek is a rich ecological and social resource with great potential for increased use by local residents. It provides local residents with a green space for recreation, relaxation, and gathering. The Heartwood and Emerald Wood Community Gardens serve as hubs of community activity. Due to the Watershed Protection Department floodplain buyout program, there are many vacant areas that could provide more opportunities to interact with the creek.


However, there are considerations and limitations to increased community access to the creek. While PARD and WPD own most of the properties along the creek, some sections are privately owned. This poses challenges to the creation of a continuous east-west trail along the creek. Many city-owned properties, meanwhile, are in the Williamson Creek floodplain. In these areas, site improvements must be low-impact and flood safe. In other areas, the creek's rugged terrain and steep slopes limit access.

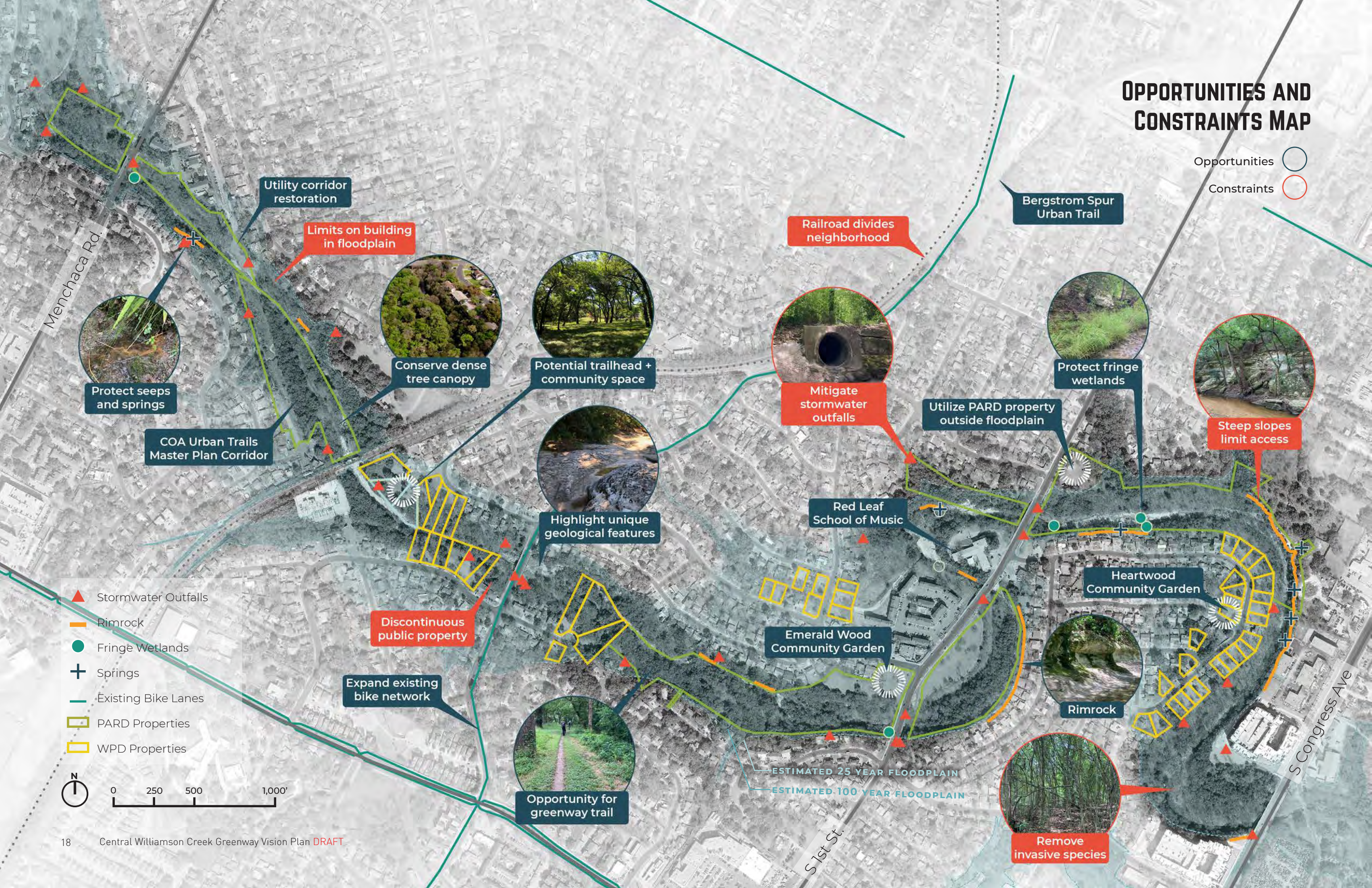
Many of these challenges also present opportunities. Rugged trails can present moments to highlight south Austin's unique geology. Properties in the floodplain can host green infrastructure and floodplain restoration. Community members can work together to help manage invasive plant species. Each obstacle presents unique opportunities for creativity, teamwork, and stewardship.

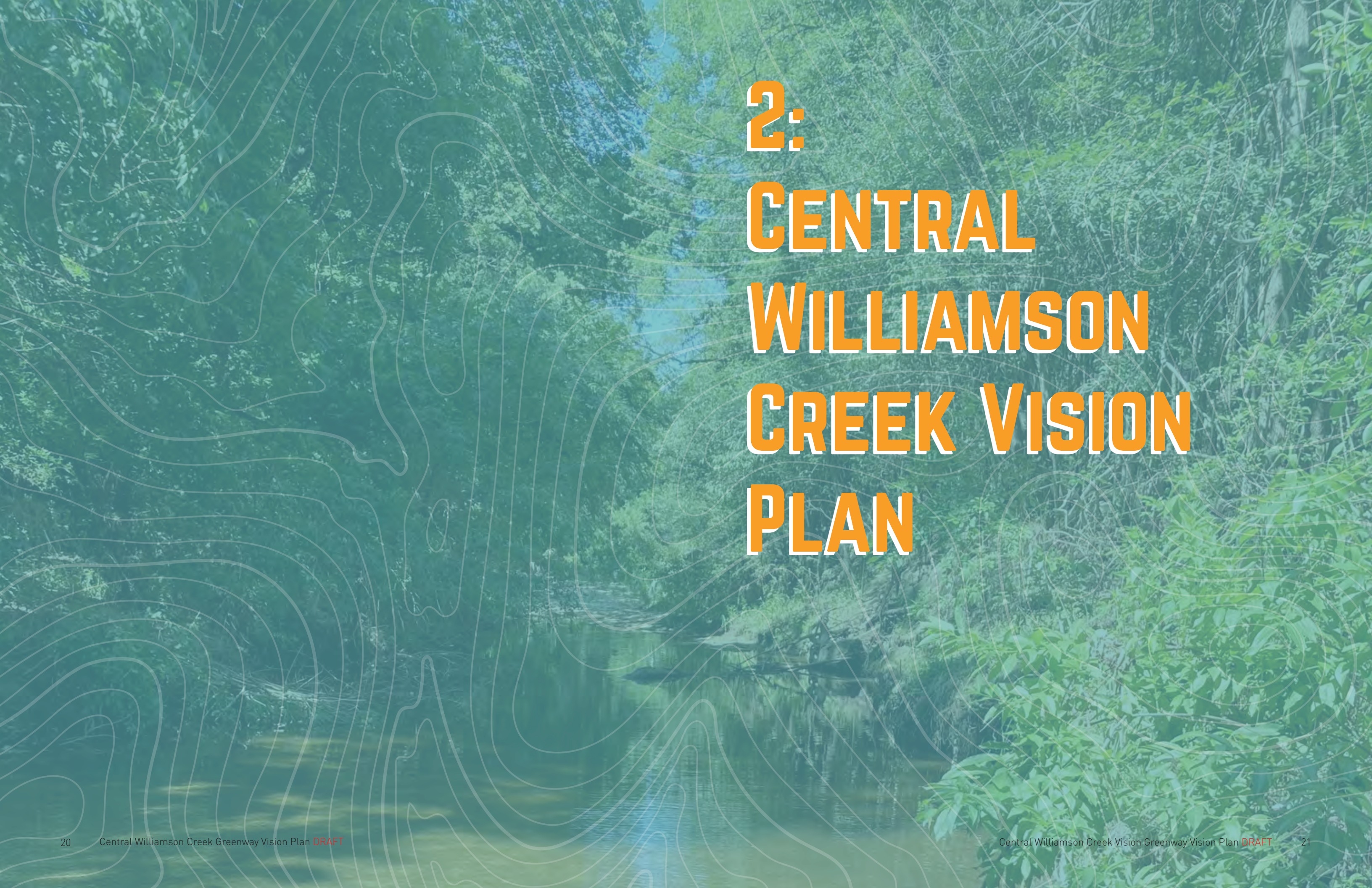
Floodplains

It should be noted that due to a new precipitation study from the National Weather Service known as Atlas-14, the floodplain maps of the entire city will be re-mapped within the next 3-5 years. The floodplains are shown in this document to reflect an estimation of this future update. It reflects these upcoming changes by showing "estimated" 25 year and 100 year flood events. According to the City of Austin's FloodPro "Fully Developed Floodplain" scenario that can be found at <https://www.austintexas.gov/floodpro/>

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS MAP

Opportunities 
Constraints 



The background of the slide is a photograph of a narrow creek flowing through a dense forest. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding greenery. Overlaid on the entire image is a network of thin, light-colored contour lines, similar to those found on a topographic map, which follow the natural curves and elevations of the landscape.

2: CENTRAL WILLIAMSON CREEK VISION PLAN

OVERALL VISION PLAN

This Vision Plan design for the Central Williamson Creek Greenway provides conceptual trail and open space designs for Williamson creak, focusing on the Parks and Recreation and Watershed Protection Department-owned land along the length of the creek.

This overall design details the placement and locations of several design components:

1. Trails

Trail Materials

Austin’s 2014 Urban Trails Plan identifies Williamson Creek as a Tier 2 trail, indicating that it should be constructed with a paved material. Throughout the community engagement process for this Vision Plan, the community emphasized their desire for natural, low-impact trails along the greenway. This document recommends mulch or bonded mulch trails to align as closely as possible to community desires. However, a City-led preliminary engineering report and corresponding community engagement are recommended as the next steps in the process to create a balanced approach to trail development.

Trail Placement

Trail placement along the creek was determined by the following factors:

1. Slope

Slope analyses identify changes in elevation in the land. Areas with a shallow slope were prioritized for trail placement because it is difficult for trail users to walk on steep slopes. Creating a trail on steep slopes also requires greater ecological disturbance and potential for erosion. See Chapter 5 for a detailed slope analysis.

2. Property Ownership

Trail placement runs primarily along City-owned PARD and WPD property; however, there are several locations where land adjacent to the creek is privately owned. This plan recommends acquiring easements in those properties. In the meantime, trail users may walk in the City-owned creek bed when water is not flowing in the creek. After rains, trail users should utilize “high water” routes on city sidewalks to avoid trespassing on private property. These high water routes are short detours that quickly reconnect to the greenway trail on City-owned property.

3. Sensitive Ecological Features

Central Williamson Creek’s biodiversity and unique geological features are a primary draw for visitors, however, these sensitive natural assets must be protected, and are protected legally through the City of Austin’s environmental restrictions. According to this code, trails can not be placed within a 50’ buffer of a Critical Environmental Feature (CEF) without an environmental variance. CEFs include seeps, springs, fringe wetlands, and rim rock. The placement of the trail along Central Williamson Creek maintains a 50’ distance from these features, unless it is absolutely necessary to pass within the buffer zone to provide trail connectivity.

4. Neighborhood Connectivity

When considering trail placement, community input on common access points to the creek and identification of existing community assets and resources took high priority. This trail placement identifies a network of access points at key intersections, bridges, neighborhoods, and community resources.

2. Vision Plan Elements

Creek Idea Cards

The Vision Plan Elements, which include features such as signage, community gardens, and community message boards, arose from the Creek Idea Card community engagement process outlined in Chapter 4. This involved the development of 50 Creek Idea cards that were voted “up” or “down in” popularity by community members. Both popularity and feasibility were taken into consideration when selecting the final cards to be included in the plan as a Vision Plan Element. Each Element corresponds with one of the four overall goals, which can be identified by their color. See pages 24-25 for a full list of Vision Plan Elements and the goals they support.

3. Example Trailheads

Site Selection

Detailed conceptual designs for two trailheads are included in this plan. The purpose of these designs are to show examples of how activated trailheads and community gathering spaces at key nodes along the trail can further social, ecological, and community health goals. These sites were selected based on hydrological, ownership, and social factors.

Meadow Creek Trailhead

This land is buyout property that is owned by WPD. This site was selected to take advantage of funding offered by the department for ecological restoration and tree planting on buyout property. It is the largest continuous piece of buyout property and and straddles both the north and south sides of the creek.

Orland Trailhead

This land is owned by PARD. It was chosen as an example trailhead because it is out of the floodplain, and can thus have built structures or other features that would otherwise be destroyed by flooding if they were in the floodplain.

4. Environmental Features

Ecological Restoration

Significant opportunities exist for multiple types of ecological restoration along Williamson Creek:

1. Creek Restoration
2. Woodland Restoration
3. Wildflower Meadows
4. Fringe Wetland Restoration

Opportunities for these four types of restoration are located and identified throughout the Overall Vision Plan. The Chapter 6 Implementation Plan outlines how both volunteer efforts and City-led efforts can work in tandem over time to achieve restoration goals.

Reclaimed Branch Berms or Wattle Fence

Reclaimed branch berms are neatly-stacked piles of 3-inch or larger branches that provide habitat and cover for small animal species and line trails to improve wayfinding and minimize impact to the surrounding environment by visitors.

Stone Berms

Stone berms slow rainwater flow before it enters the creek, helping to remove some sediments and decrease erosion.

VISION PLAN ELEMENTS

These vision plan elements included in this design are a result of the “Creek Cards” community engagement process outlined in Chapters 3 and 4.

Goal Key

1. A Restored, Biodiverse Greenway

2. A Community-Centered Greenway

3. An Accessible and Visible Greenway

4. An Active and Connected Greenway



Creek & Woodland Restoration



Environmental Signage



Green Infrastructure



Invasive Species Management



Pollinator Nesting Boxes



Wildflower Planting



BYO Hammock Grove



Community Gardens



Community Message Boards



Food Forests




Labyrinth



Nature Play



Music Groves



Bonded Mulch Trail



Land Acquisition or Easement



Natural Surface Trail



Wayfinding Signage



Weather Warning Signage



On-Street Bike Lanes

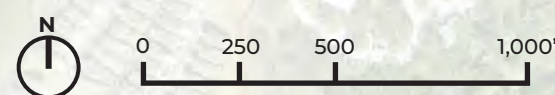


Fitness Programming



Mountain Biking

VISION PLAN



Note: Mapped locations are conceptual. Final locations must be approved by city property owners and meet City of Austin Environmental Code, including protection of tree critical root zones. Refer to the implementation section and appendices.



Wayfinding Signage

Weather Warning Signage

Pollinator Nesting Boxes

Wildflower Planting

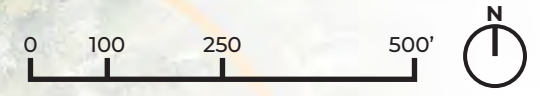
Environmental Education Signage

Invasive Species Management

Mountain Biking

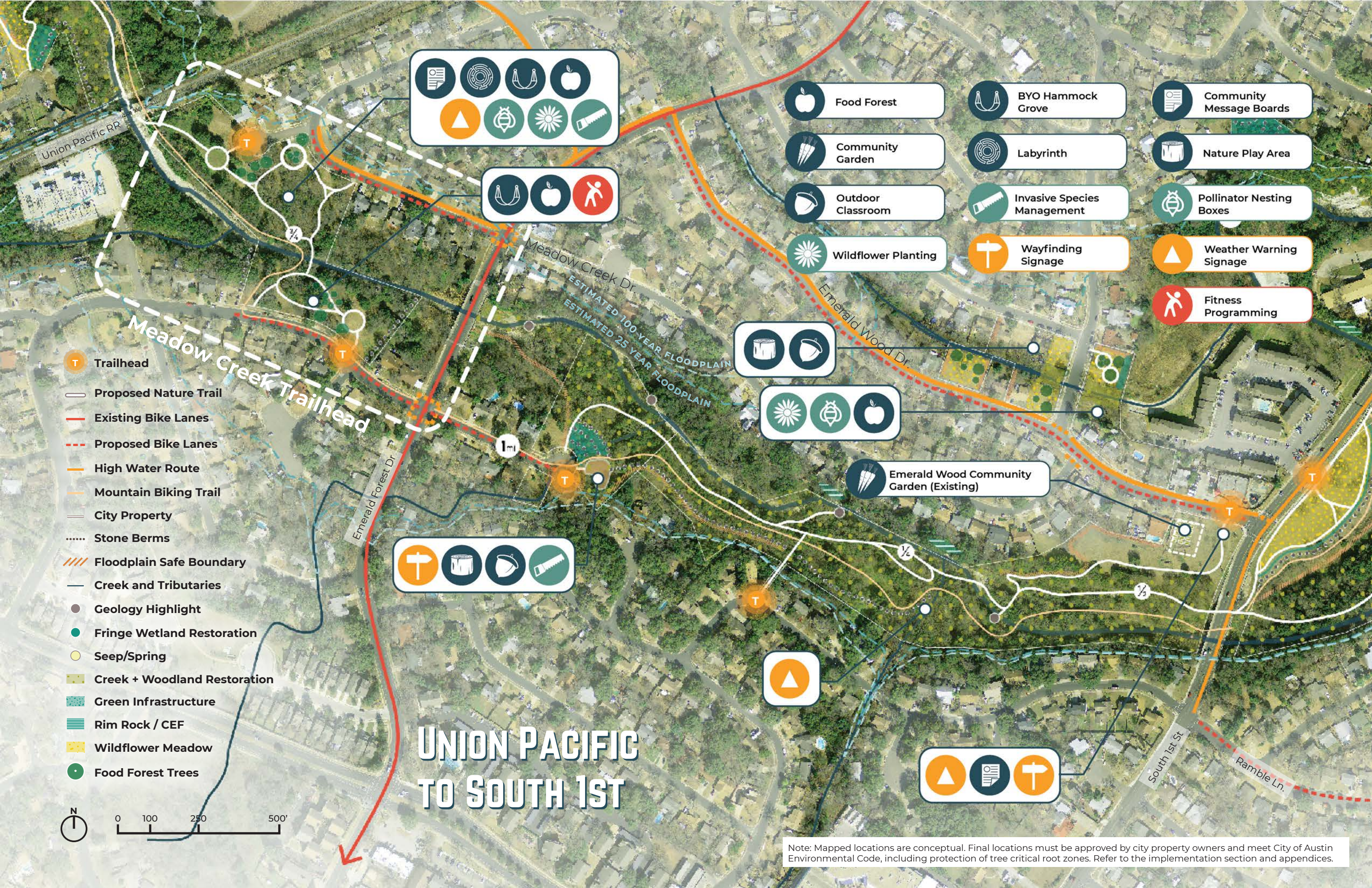
Community Message Boards

- Trailhead
- Proposed Nature Trail
- Existing Bike Lanes
- Proposed Bike Lanes
- High Water Route
- Mountain Biking Trail
- City Property
- Stone Berms
- Floodplain Safe Boundary
- Creek and Tributaries
- Geology Highlight
- Fringe Wetland Restoration
- Seep/Spring
- Creek + Woodland Restoration
- Green Infrastructure
- Rim Rock / CEF
- Wildflower Meadow
- Food Forest Trees



MENCHACA TO UNION PACIFIC

Note: Mapped locations are conceptual. Final locations must be approved by city property owners and meet City of Austin Environmental Code, including protection of tree critical root zones. Refer to the implementation section and appendices.



- Trailhead
- Proposed Nature Trail
- Existing Bike Lanes
- Proposed Bike Lanes
- High Water Route
- Mountain Biking Trail
- City Property
- Stone Berms
- Floodplain Safe Boundary
- Creek and Tributaries
- Geology Highlight
- Fringe Wetland Restoration
- Seep/Spring
- Creek + Woodland Restoration
- Green Infrastructure
- Rim Rock / CEF
- Wildflower Meadow
- Food Forest Trees



Food Forest

BYO Hammock Grove

Community Message Boards

Community Garden

Labyrinth

Nature Play Area

Outdoor Classroom

Invasive Species Management

Pollinator Nesting Boxes

Wildflower Planting

Wayfinding Signage

Weather Warning Signage

Fitness Programming

Emerald Wood Community Garden (Existing)

UNION PACIFIC
TO SOUTH 1ST

Note: Mapped locations are conceptual. Final locations must be approved by city property owners and meet City of Austin Environmental Code, including protection of tree critical root zones. Refer to the implementation section and appendices.

MEADOW CREEK TRAILHEAD

A group of contiguous floodplain buyout properties west of Emerald Forest Drive presents an opportunity for a major trailhead and community gathering space. Because these properties are within the floodplain, all site improvements must be low-impact and flood safe. Amenities shown here include a fitness lawn, hammock groves, and a labyrinth, providing spaces for neighbors to gather, relax, and stay healthy. Wildflower meadows, pollinator nesting boxes, and green infrastructure help to conserve and improve the creek environment. Other programming ideas include invasive species management, public art, and expansion of existing seating areas.



SOUTH 1ST TO SOUTH CONGRESS

- Trailhead
- Proposed Nature Trail
- Existing Bike Lanes
- Proposed Bike Lanes
- High Water Route
- Mountain Biking Trail
- City Property
- Stone Berms
- Floodplain Safe Boundary
- Creek and Tributaries
- Geology Highlight
- Fringe Wetland Restoration
- Seep/Spring
- Creek + Woodland Restoration
- Green Infrastructure
- Rim Rock / CEF
- Wildflower Meadow
- Food Forest Trees

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Food Forest | Fitness Programming | Invasive Species Management |
| Community Garden | Nature Play Area | Environmental Education Signage |
| BYO Hammock Grove | Community Message Boards | Wildflower Planting |
| Music Grove | Outdoor Classroom | Pollinator Nesting Boxes |

- Wayfinding Signage
- Potential Easement or Land Acquisition
- Weather Warning Signage

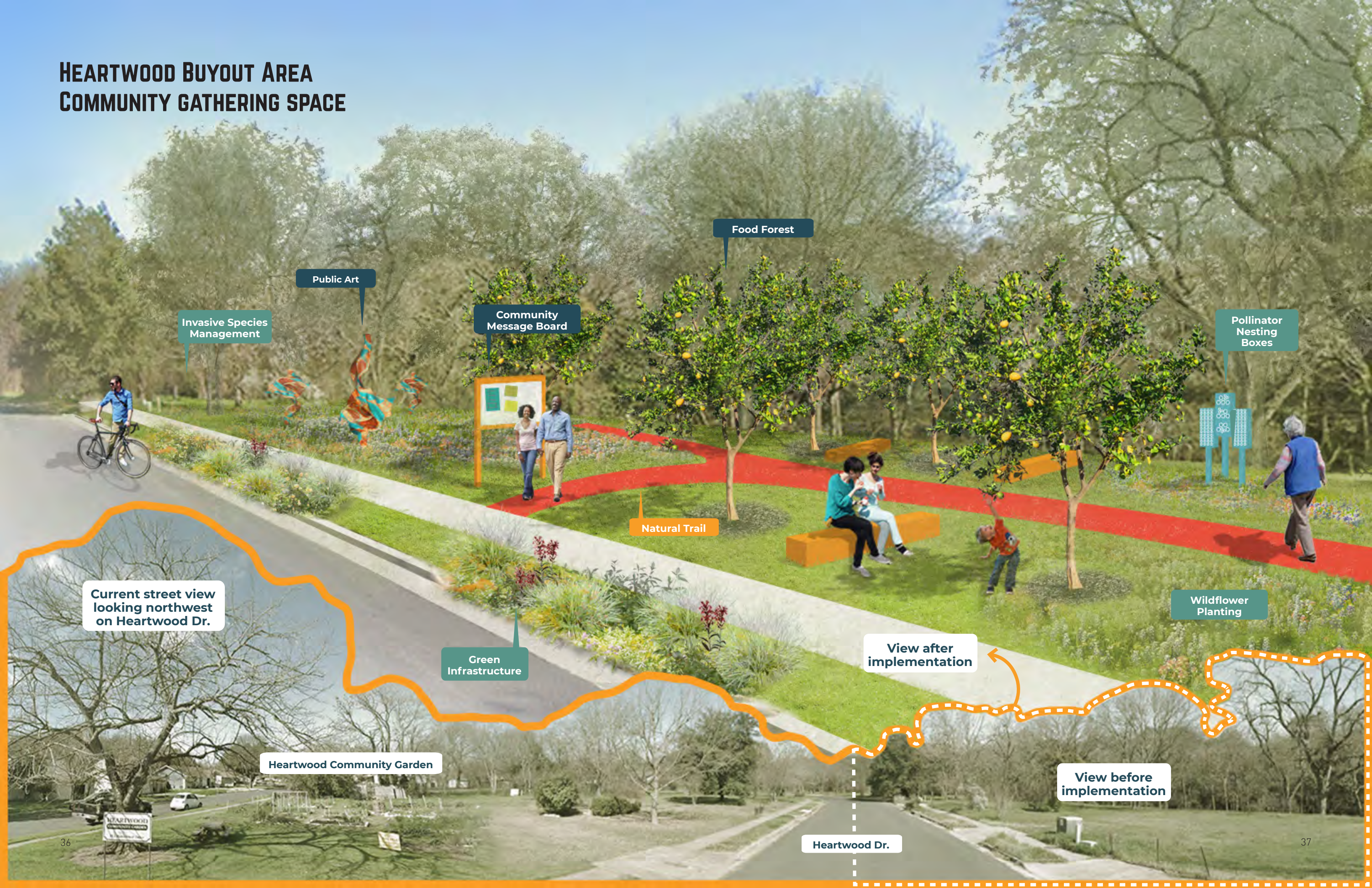
Orland Trailhead

- Heartwood Food Forest (In Progress)
- Heartwood Community Garden (Existing)



Note: Mapped locations are conceptual. Final locations must be approved by city property owners and meet City of Austin Environmental Code, including protection of tree critical root zones. Refer to the implementation section and appendices.

HEARTWOOD BUYOUT AREA COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACE



Invasive Species Management

Public Art

Community Message Board

Food Forest

Pollinator Nesting Boxes

Natural Trail

Wildflower Planting

Current street view looking northwest on Heartwood Dr.

Green Infrastructure

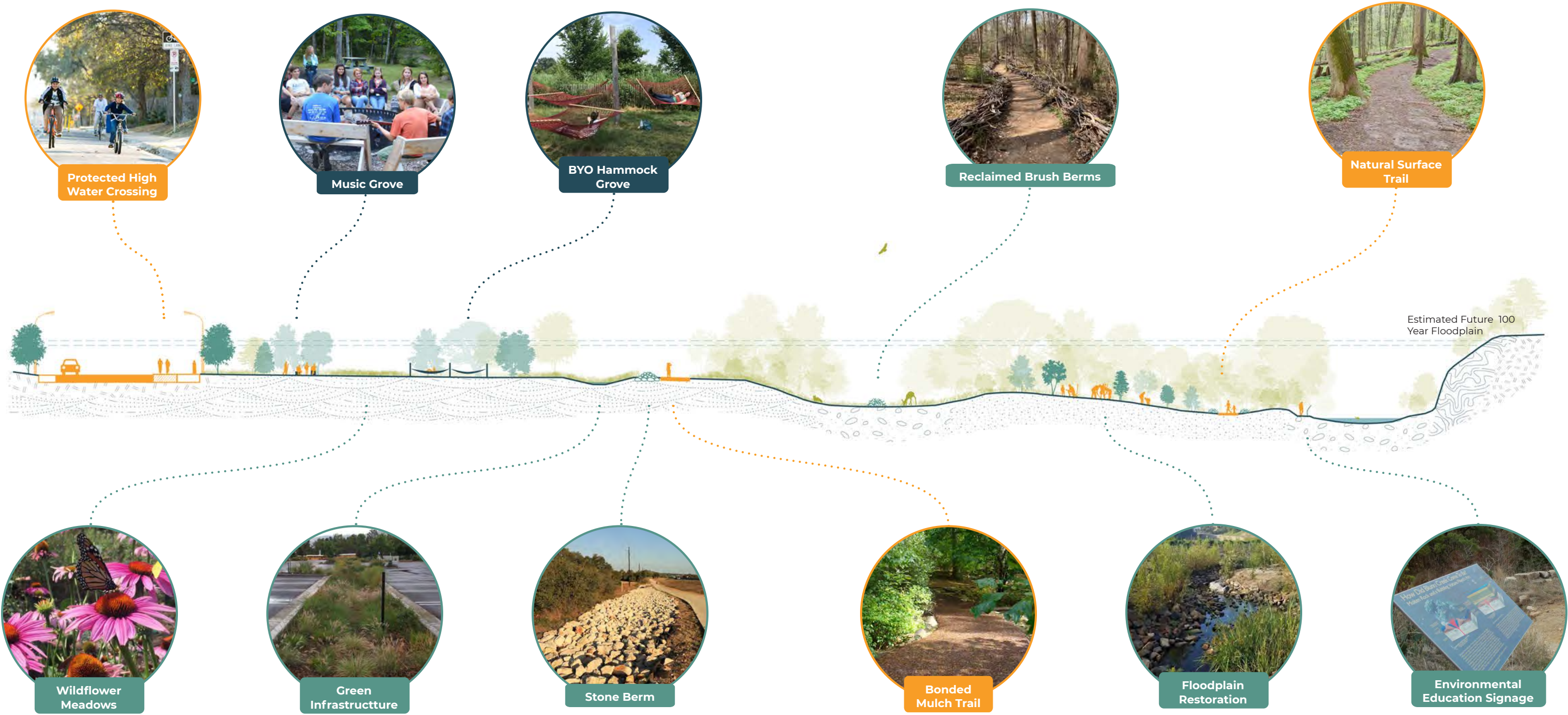
View after implementation

Heartwood Community Garden

View before implementation

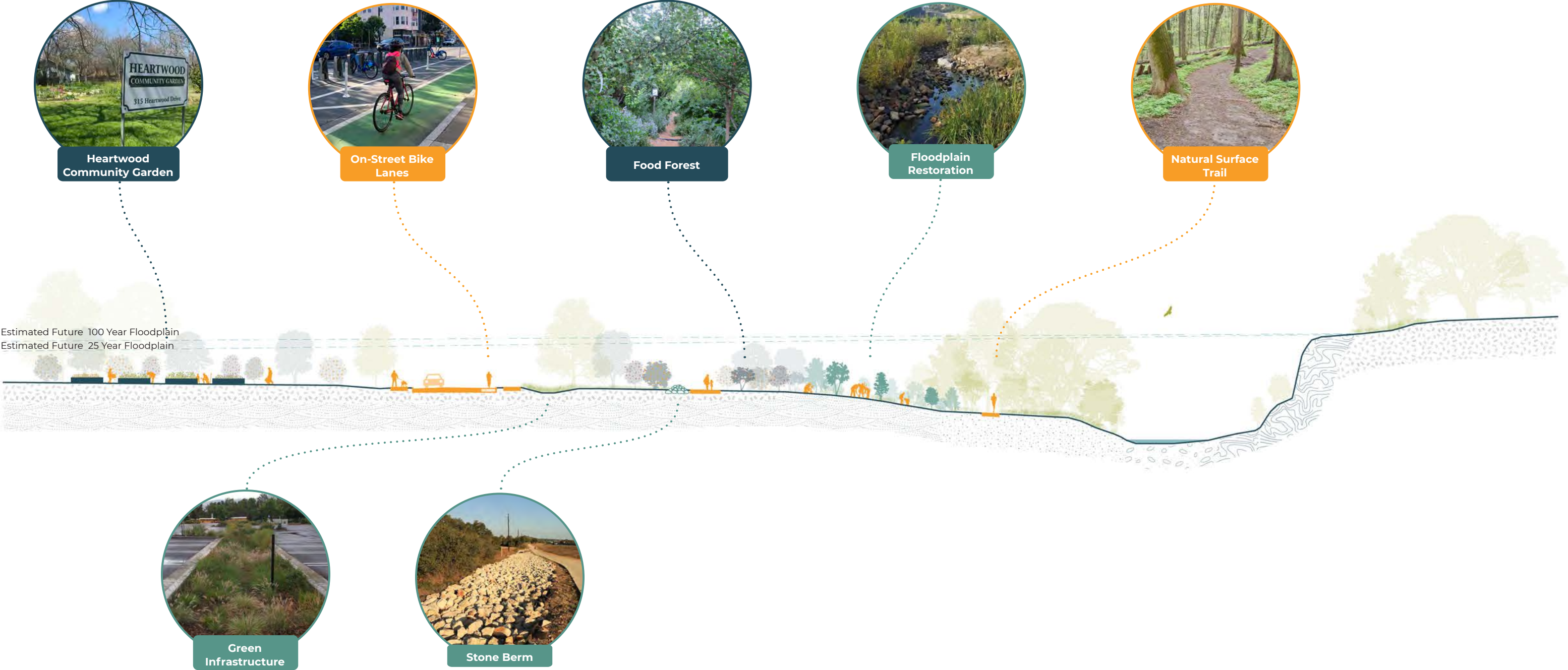
Heartwood Dr.

VIEW NORTHEAST AT TOM DONOVAN PARK
Section A-A':



VIEW NORTHEAST AT HEARTWOOD COMMUNITY GARDEN

Section B-B':



ORLAND STREET TRAILHEAD

A PARD-owned site at the intersection of South 1st and Orland streets presents opportunities for creek access and amenities. This property includes outside the floodplain, meaning it can accommodate a wider variety of programming and site improvements. This flexibility allows the site to serve as a potential hub for activities such as community gardening, environmental education, nature play, and invasive species management. The site also features a steep descent into the floodplain. A boardwalk or other more extensive site improvements may be necessary to ensure creek access and connectivity.



Note: Mapped locations are conceptual. Final locations must be approved by city property owners and meet City of Austin Environmental Code, including protection of tree critical root zones. Refer to the implementation section and appendices.



3: DEVELOPING THE VISION

THE FUTURE CENTRAL WILLIAMSON CREEK IS...

1.

A RESTORED, BIODIVERSE GREENWAY

DESIGN STRATEGIES

- Enhance biodiversity through floodplain restoration
- Preserve the creek's wild character
- Reveal ecology through environmental education experiences
- Balance access with conserving floodplain ecology

3.

AN ACCESSIBLE AND VISIBLE GREENWAY

DESIGN STRATEGIES

- Connect all communities to the creek
- Orient through clear wayfinding
- Reveal the creek's ecology and history
- Prioritize key land acquisition for trail connectivity

2.

A COMMUNITY-CENTERED GREENWAY

DESIGN STRATEGIES

- Support community-built projects
- Create inviting gathering spaces at key nodes
- Integrate community agriculture and agroforestry

4.

AN ACTIVE AND CONNECTED GREENWAY

DESIGN STRATEGIES

- Integrate accessible creek experiences
- Connect to public transportation and community resources
- Create activities for all ages

ARTICULATING COMMON GOALS

The four primary goals and design strategies were developed in close conversation and collaboration with the Central Williamson Creek Community Working Group, The City of Austin Working Group, and the general public. This community engagement process is described in greater detail in Chapter 4.

Creak Idea Cards

“Creek Idea Cards” were used as part of the community engagement process on the digital platform Social Pinpoint and at in-person, socially distanced events to gain an understanding of the types of programs, trails, amenities, and other uses the Community Working Group and general public desired along the trail. These idea cards were organized into four categories, each helping to achieve one of the four main goals of the project.



Idea Card Placement

The most popular idea cards were selected by the community using a digital voting activity on Social Pinpoint. After this process, the design team placed the cards along the greenway using information from existing conditions, comments on the cards, other community engagement outcomes, and conversations with the Community Working Group.

Idea Card Key

- 1. A Restored, Biodiverse Greenway
- 2. A Community-Centered Greenway
- 3. An Accessible and Visible Greenway
- 4. An Active and Connected Greenway

Example Idea Card

Name and Description

This section provides a general overview of the toolkit item.

Limitations

From top-left to bottom-right, these icons indicate the relative cost (low to high), appropriate age-groups (child, youth, adult), flood suitability, and whether the item could be implemented by community volunteers or by a professional contractor.

Goals

These icons indicate which visioning goals the toolkit item supports. From left to right, the goals are “Conserve the Creek Environment,” “Represent the Community,” and “Make the Greenway Visible and Accessible.” A darkened icon indicates that the toolkit item supports the goal.

Colors

Each toolkit item is color-coded to one of four different categories: Green for nature, blue for community, orange for access and connectivity, and red for active recreation.

Sliders

These sliders provide a detailed overview of the various strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities presented by each toolkit item, as well as the appropriate phase or phases during which the item could be implemented.

Community Voices

Toolkit items were developed through community input and feedback. This section displays comments and quotes from community members relevant to the toolkit item.

Considerations

Each toolkit item comes with its own unique design considerations. Look here for important comments, caveats, and information.

Pairings

The success and viability of each toolkit item is strengthened when paired with other complementary items. This section provides some suggested pairings.

GOAL #1:

A RESTORED, BIODIVERSE GREENWAY

1. Enhance biodiversity through floodplain restoration

Williamson Creek and its floodplain are home to an abundance of aquatic and terrestrial creatures. However, this habitat is threatened by large swaths of invasive species. Floodplain restoration, including the removal of invasive species, and planting of native species, will increase biodiversity.

Toolkit Items:

CLEAN-UP DAYS

WILDFLOWER PLANTING

CREEK RESTORATION

POLLINATOR BOXES

2. Preserve the creek's wild character

Central Williamson Creek Greenway will be kept as natural as possible. This reflects the desires of the neighboring community to have as little impact as possible on the ecology of the creek and to preserve the sense of wilderness in the heart of South Austin.

Toolkit Items:

NATURAL TRAILS

WILDFLOWER PLANTING

CREEK RESTORATION

3. Reveal ecology through environmental education experiences

Educational experiences along the greenway will facilitate the discovery of the unique ecology, hydrology, and geology of the creek environment.

Toolkit Items:

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

4. Balance access with conserving floodplain ecology

The trails along Williamson Creek will maintain a safe distance from critical environmental features, such as seeps and springs, fringe wetlands, and rim rock. Low-impact trail materials and interventions will be prioritized.


Toolkit Items:

NATURAL TRAILS

CREEK RESTORATION





 Invasive Species Management

 Wildflower Planting

 Pollinator Nesting Boxes

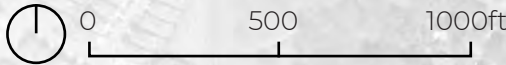
 Environmental Education Signage

GOAL 1: A RESTORED, BIODIVERSE GREENWAY

Goal 1 prioritizes the ecological functioning of Williamson Creek and its floodplain, as well as community-based environmental education experiences. Habitat-creation strategies, including pollinator nesting boxes for bees, bats, and nesting birds, and multiple types of restoration, may be paired with educational signage that explains the ecology and hydrology of the creek and its importance to urban wildlife. Reclaimed branch berms and stone berms slow the flow of water, create habitat, and delineate trail and property edges using natural materials. Green infrastructure infiltrates and filters water before it enters the creek.


LEGEND

-  Proposed Trail
-  Stone Berms
-  Floodplain Safe Boundary
-  Creek and Tributaries
-  Geology Highlight
-  Seep/Spring
-  Fringe Wetland Restoration
-  Creek + Woodland Restoration
-  Green Infrastructure
-  Rim Rock / CEF
-  Wildflower Meadow
-  Est. 100-Year Floodplain
-  Est. 25-Year Floodplain
-  City Property



Note: Mapped locations are conceptual. Final locations must be approved by city property owners and meet City of Austin Environmental Code, including protection of tree critical root zones. Refer to the implementation section and appendices.

Creek Idea Cards



Wildflower Planting

Siembra de Plantas Silvestres

Planting native wildflowers and grasses that are native to central Texas. These native species provide habitat and food for urban wildlife, such as monarch butterflies and pollinator bee populations.

Sembrar flora nativa de Texas. Estas especies nativas proveen hábitat y comida para la vida silvestre urbana, como las mariposas monarcas y abejas polinizadoras.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada

Pairs well with... / Va bien con...

Invasive Species Management
Días de Limpieza

Creek Restoration
Manejo de Especies Invasivas

Community Garden
Restauración del Arroyo

Considerations / Consideraciones...

• Vacant lots are ideal candidates for wildflower meadow planting. Las parcelas vacantes son buenas candidatas para praderas de plantas silvestres.

• Meadows require maintenance, especially in the years immediately after planting.

"Plant wildflowers along the creek"

"Sembrar plantas silvestres a lo largo del arroyo"



Invasive Species Management

Manejo de Especies Invasivas

Removal of invasive species, either by volunteers or professionals. Methods may include hand-pulling plants, herbicide application, or cutting down woody vegetation.

Remoción de especies invasivas por voluntarios o profesionales. Algunos de los métodos incluyen remoción manual, aplicación de herbicida, o cortando vegetación leñosa.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada

Pairs well with... / Va bien con...


Clean-Up Days
Días de Limpieza

Wildflower Planting
Siembra de Plantas Silvestres

Creek Restoration
Restauración del arroyo

Considerations / Consideraciones...

• Consult with ecological restoration experts to determine plan of removal to minimize herbicide usage and erosion potential. Consultar con expertos de restauración ecológica para establecer un plan de remoción que minimize el uso de herbicidas y potencial de erosión



Clean Up Days

Días de Limpieza

In urban streams like Williamson Creek, trash is often washed into the floodplain from upstream sources or left behind by visitors to the creek. Creek clean-ups are community events where volunteers remove trash and other debris from the creek.

En arroyos urbanos, como el Arroyo Williamson, es común encontrar basura que llega de río arriba o que han dejado visitantes del arroyo. Los días de limpieza son eventos comunitarios donde voluntarios recogen basura a lo largo del arroyo.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada

Pairs well with... / Va bien con...

Invasive Species Management
Manejo de Especies Invasivas

Wildflower Planting
Siembra de Plantas Silvestres

Creek Restoration
Restauración del Arroyo

Considerations / Consideraciones

• Consult with ecological restoration experts to determine plan of removal to minimize herbicide usage and erosion potential.



Creek Restoration

Restauración del Arroyo

Work done to improve the environmental health of Williamson Creek in support of biodiversity, recreation, flood management, and habitat.

Trabajo para mejorar la salud ambiental del Arroyo Williamson para proteger la biodiversidad, recreación, manejo de inundaciones, y hábitats que se encuentran a lo largo del mismo.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada

Pairs well with... / Va bien con...

Clean-Up Days
Días de Limpieza

Invasive Species Management
Manejo de Especies Invasivas


Wildflower Planting
Siembra de Plantas Silvestres

Considerations / Consideraciones

• Consult with ecological restoration experts to determine plan for restoration. Consultar con expertos de restauración ecológica para establecer un plan de restauración.

"Erosion has made fencing fall down"

"La erosión ha causado que cercas se caigan."



Educational Programming

Programación Educativa

Immersive educational experiences that seek to educate children and adults about Williamson Creek and Austin's ecological systems.

Experiencias educativas de inmersión que buscan educar a niños y adultos sobre el sistema ecológico de el Arroyo Williamson.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada

Pairs well with... / Va bien con...


Invasive Species Management
Manejo de Especies Invasivas

outdoor classrooms
Aulas al Aire Libre

Creek Restoration
Restauración del arroyo

Considerations / Consideraciones

- Programming may be coordinated with PARD, or local schools. Programación puede ser coordinada con PARD, o escuelas locales.



Green Infrastructure

Infraestructura Verde

Green infrastructure, which includes features like rain gardens, bioswales, and permeable pavement, is a way to filter polluted stormwater and infiltrate it into the ground before it washes into Williamson Creek.

La infraestructura verde, incluyendo herramientas como jardines de agua, 'bioswales', y pavimento permeable, es una manera de filtrar agua de lluvia contaminada antes de que llegue al Arroyo Williamson.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada

Pairs well with... / Va bien con...


Parking Lots
Estacionamientos

public bathrooms
Baños Públicos

equipment sheds
Casetas de Equipo

Considerations / Consideraciones

- Green Infrastructure should be strategically located to minimize impact of parking lots and other structures on the environment. La infraestructura verde debe ser localizada estratégicamente para minimizar el impacto a estacionamientos y otras estructuras en el ambiente.



Pollinator Nesting Boxes

Cajas de Nidos para Polinizadores

Many nesting bee species in build nests in aboveground cavities or tunnels in wood or plant stems. Pollinator Nesting Boxes provide nesting resources to bees through the use of hollow bamboo rods or drilled holes in wood.

Muchas especies de abejas crean sus colonias en nidos pre-construidos sobre la tierra, o en tuneles de madera o tallos de plantas. Las Cajas de Nidos para Polinizadores proveen nidos para abejas usando bambú hueco o tubos de madera huecos.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada

Pairs well with... / Va bien con...

Wildflower Planting
Siembra de Plantas Silvestres

Considerations / Consideraciones

- These boxes can be hand-made by the community or bought. Estos cajones pueden ser creados a mano por la comunidad o comprados.

"Add Pollinator Nesting Boxes to help Native Bees. Potentially Sponsored by a local business or individuals"

Añadir cajas de nidos para Polinizadores para ayudar a las abejas nativas. Potencialmente auspiciadas por comercios locales o individuos."



Water Storage

Almacenamiento de Agua

Water storage installations, such as rain barrels or underground cisterns, that are used to store water stormwater that runs off roofs or other surfaces during a rainfall.

Instalaciones de almacenamiento de agua, tales como barriles de agua o cisternas bajo la tierra, que se utilizan para almacenar agua de lluvia que baja de los tejados u otras superficies durante lluvias.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada

Pairs well with... / Va bien con...

Parking Lots
Estacionamientos

public bathrooms
Baños Públicos

equipment sheds
Casetas de Equipo

Considerations / Consideraciones

- Water storage should be paired with structures and parking lots to reduce stormwater runoff into the creek. Almacenamientos del agua deben ir a la par con estructuras y estacionamientos para reducir las escorrentías de lluvias hacia el arroyo.

GOAL #2: A COMMUNITY-CENTERED GREENWAY

1. Support community-built projects

Improvements to the Central Williamson Creek Greenway have historically been initiated and completed by passionate community members. These community-led projects will be further encouraged with funding from local grant-giving organizations.

Toolkit Items:

LABRYINTH

PUBLIC ART

2. Create inviting gathering spaces at key nodes

Investments in community gathering spaces at PARD and WPD properties will establish new opportunities for community connection and togetherness at trailheads, community gardens, restoration sites, and outdoor education areas along the greenway.

Toolkit Items:

HAMMOCK GROVES

BENCHES

GATHERING SPACES

3. Integrate community agriculture and agroforestry

There are currently two community gardens along Central Williamson Creek Greenway. As the neighborhood grows, there will be increased interest in establishing more gardens. Much of the buy-out land represents a significant opportunity for groves of fruit and nut trees.

Toolkit Items:

COMMUNITY GARDENS


FOOD FOREST




 **BYO Hammock Grove**

 **Community Garden**

 **Community Message Boards**

 **Labyrinth**

 **Music Grove**

 **Nature Play Area**

 **Food Forest**


GOAL 2: A COMMUNITY-CENTERED GREENWAY

Goal 2 focuses on the community and social aspects of the greenway. Community-built projects, such as food forests, community gardens, and labyrinths, are placed at major trailheads to create places for social connectedness in the neighborhood. Visitors to the greenway can learn about local events at Community Message boards, where organized volunteer opportunities can be posted.

LEGEND

-  **City Property**
-  **Proposed Trail**
-  **Creek and Tributaries**
-  **Food Forest Trees**

Creek Idea Cards



Labyrinth Laberinto

A labyrinth is a curving pathway that winds in concentric circles to a central point. Walking into and out of a labyrinth can be a relaxing, contemplative exercise.

Un laberinto es un camino curvo que lleva a un punto céntrico a través de círculos. Caminar por un laberinto puede ser un ejercicio contemplativo y de relajación.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada

Pairs well with... / Va bien con...


Gathering Spaces
Espacios de Reunión

Wildflower Plantings
Siembre de Plantas Silvestres

Considerations / Consideraciones

- Labyrinths can be made by community members with stones and other materials found in the floodplain. Los miembros de la comunidad pueden crear los laberintos utilizando piedras y otros materiales de la zona inundable.

"It might be cool to have a labyrinth"
"Sería divertido tener un laberinto"



Community Gardens Jardines Comunitarios

Community Gardens in the floodplain of Williamson Creek will provide a place for neighbors to grow food. This may be especially important for those living in multi-family apartment complexes without access to outdoor space to have their own gardens. Jardines comunitarios en la zona de inundaciones del Arroyo Williamson puede proveer un lugar donde los vecinos pueden sembrar comida. Esto puede ser importante para aquellos que viven en departamentos multifamiliares sin acceso a espacios al aire libre y que no pueden tener sus propios jardines.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada

Pairs well with... / Va bien con...

Public Art
Arte Pública

Benches
Bancos

Gathering Spaces
Espacios de Reunión

Considerations / Consideraciones

- Community gardens should placed so they are easily accessible by local neighborhoods. Los jardines comunitarios deben ser accesibles a los vecindarios locales.

"if people push hard enough for community gardens, these two areas are good for urban farming"
"Si la gente genera presión, estas dos áreas son buenas para jardines comunitarios y agricultura urbana."



Gathering Spaces Espacios de Reunión

Gathering spaces provide places for community members to relax, picnic, and spend time with friends and family. They may include benches, shade structures, outdoor tables, games, or other design features that inspire connection. Espacios de reunion proveen lugares donde miembros de la comunidad pueden relajarse, hacer picnic, y pasar tiempo con familia y amigos. Estos pueden incluir bancos, estructuras en la sombra, mesas al aire libre, juegos, y otros atractivos que inspiren conexiones.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada


Pairs well with... / Va bien con...

Labyrinth
Laberinto

Trails
Veredas/Caminos

Considerations / Consideraciones

- Gathering spaces with concrete pads and shade structures can be paired with water storage or green infrastructure to minimize environmental impact. Espacios de reunión con pisos de cemento y tejado pueden tener estructuras para almacenamiento de agua o infraestructura verde para mimizar el impacto ambiental.



Outdoor Classrooms Aulas al Aire Libre

Outdoor classrooms are gathering spaces where either children or adults can gather in a group setting to learn, listen, and interact with the environment.

Aulas al aire libre son espacios de encuentro donde niños o adultos se pueden encontrar en grupos para aprender, escuchar, e interactuar con el medio ambiente.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada

Pairs well with... / Va bien con...

Benches
Bancos


Public Art
Arte Pública

Music Groves
Espacios Musicales

Educational Programming
Programación Educativa

Considerations / Consideraciones

- Outdoor classrooms can be created in collaboration with local schools or other educational institutions. Aulas al aire libre pueden ser creadas en colaboración con escuelas locales u otras instituciones educativas.



Hammock Grove Área de Hamacas

Hammock Groves are designated trees or poles where visitors to Williamson Creek can set up their own hammocks to relax and swing.

Áreas de hamacas son áreas de árboles o postes donde los visitantes del Arroyo Williamson pueden colocar sus hamacas para mecerse y relajarse.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada

1 2 3


Pairs well with... / Va bien con...

Gathering Spaces
Espacios de Reunión

Community Gardens
Jardines comunitarios

Considerations / Consideraciones

- While hammocks can not be placed permanently in parks, community members can bring their own or set up a hammock-share program. A pesar de que las hamacas no pueden ser instaladas permanentemente en los parques, los vecinos pueden traer las suyas o establecer un programa de compartir hamacas.



Community Message Boards Tablero de Mensajes Comunitarios

A community message board may be a small, enclosed bulletin board placed in high-traffic areas to provide a place for community members to advertise community events along Williamson Creek.

El tablero de mensajes comunitario puede ser un tablón cerrado de anuncios pequeño colocado en un área de mucho tráfico para que los vecinos puedan promocionar eventos comunitarios a lo largo del arroyo.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada

1 2 3

Pairs well with... / Va bien con...


Gathering Spaces
Espacios de Reunión

Trails
Veredas/Caminos

Signage
Letreros

Considerations / Consideraciones

- Community message boards should be placed along trails in high-traffic areas. Los tableros comunitarios de mensajes deben ser colocados a lo largo del camino en áreas de mucho tráfico.



Benches Bancos

A bench is a long seat on which multiple people may sit at the same time. They may be placed along the trail to provide places to rest, or at playgrounds and other gathering spaces.

Un banco es un asiento largo donde múltiples personas se pueden sentar al mismo tiempo. Se pueden colocar a lo largo del camino para proveer lugares de descanso, o en parques y otros lugares de encuentro.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada

1 2 3

Pairs well with... / Va bien con...


Gathering Spaces
Espacios de Reunión

Trails
Veredas/Caminos

Signage
Letreros

Considerations / Consideraciones

- Benches can be designed to be a form of public art. Los bancos pueden ser diseñados para ser una forma de arte público.



Public Art Arte Publica

Outdoor public art varies, but may be sculptures, artistic benches, or other installations that enhance the identity of the Williamson Creek community and fosters community pride and a sense of belonging.

El tablero de mensajes comunitario puede ser un tablón cerrado de anuncios pequeño colocado en un área de mucho tráfico para que los vecinos puedan promocionar eventos comunitarios a lo largo del arroyo.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada

1 2 3

Pairs well with... / Va bien con...

Gathering Spaces
Espacios de Reunión

Creek Restoration
Restauración Del Arroyo

Wildflower Planting
Siembra de plantas silvestres

Benches
Bancos

Considerations / Consideraciones

- Public art may be coordinated with Austin's AIPP (Art in Public Places) program. Arte publica puede ser coordinada con el programa de AIPP (Art in Public Places).

"Would love to see Art from local artist along the trail."
"Me encantaría ver arte de artistas locales a lo largo del camino."

GOAL #3: AN ACCESSIBLE AND VISIBLE GREENWAY

Design Strategies

1. Connect all communities to the creek with low-impact trails

Central Williamson Creek Greenway is a local recreational amenity that should be easily accessible to all surrounding communities through a distributed network of clear, visible trailheads and trails that minimize impacts to the environment.

Toolkit Items:

NATURAL TRAILS

2. Orient through clear wayfinding

Continuous signage along the creek and at trailheads will orient visitors as they enter the creek and make their way along the trail or to neighborhood resources, such as community gardens, schools, and convenience stores.

Toolkit Items:

SIGNAGE

3. Reveal the creek's hydrology, ecology, and history

Central Williamson Creek Greenway has an abundance of interesting natural features, such as rim rock, fringe wetlands, evidence of past volcanic activity. Educational signage along the trail will reveal their stories.

Toolkit Items:

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

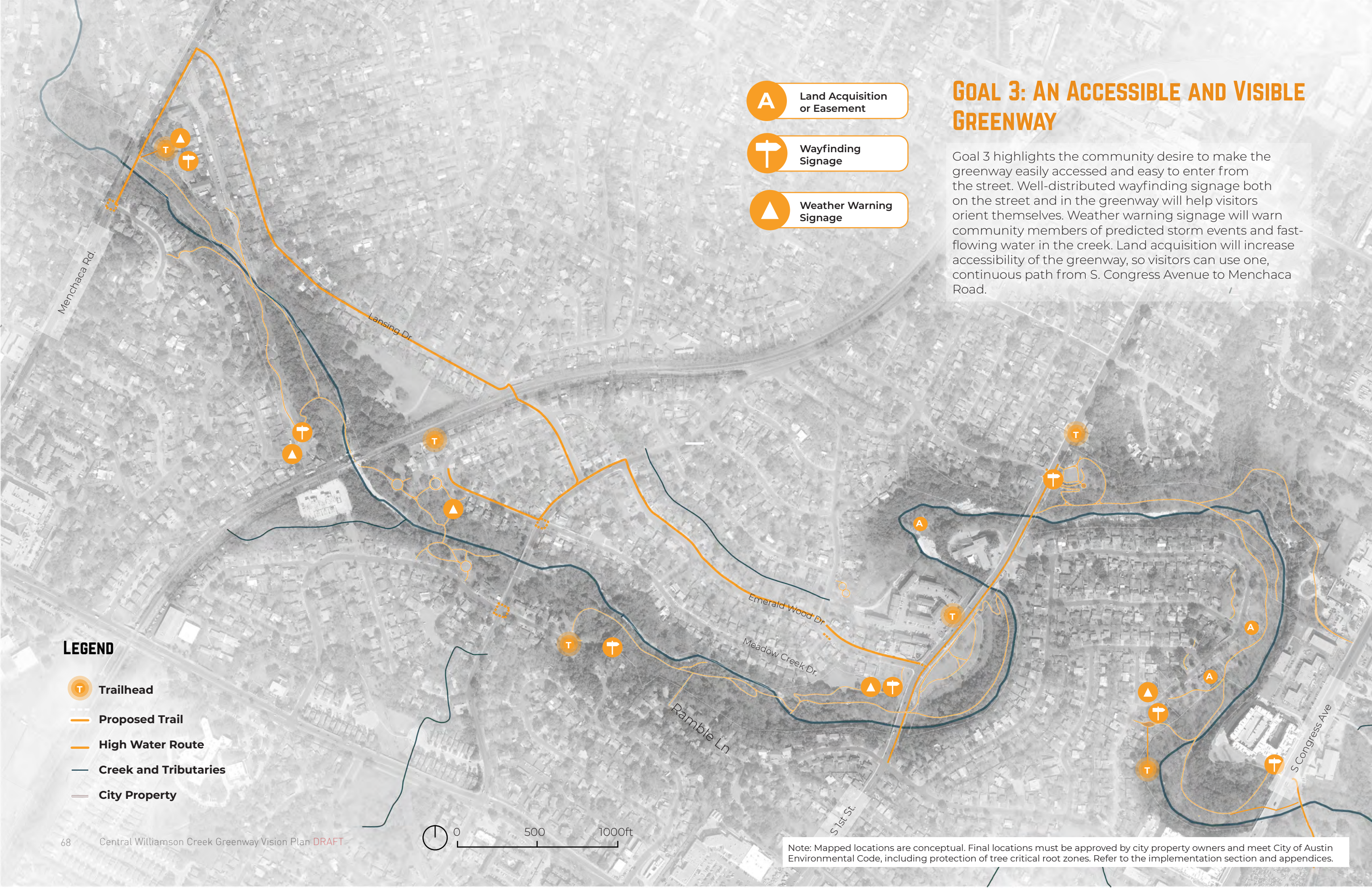
4. Prioritize key land acquisition and easements for trail connectivity

Land acquisition from private property owners adjacent to the creek will create a continuous, connected trail along the Central Williamson Creek Greenway.

Toolkit Items:

LAND ACQUISITION AND EASEMENTS





LEGEND

- Trailhead
- Proposed Trail
- High Water Route
- Creek and Tributaries
- City Property

- Land Acquisition or Easement
- Wayfinding Signage
- Weather Warning Signage


GOAL 3: AN ACCESSIBLE AND VISIBLE GREENWAY

Goal 3 highlights the community desire to make the greenway easily accessed and easy to enter from the street. Well-distributed wayfinding signage both on the street and in the greenway will help visitors orient themselves. Weather warning signage will warn community members of predicted storm events and fast-flowing water in the creek. Land acquisition will increase accessibility of the greenway, so visitors can use one, continuous path from S. Congress Avenue to Menchaca Road.



Note: Mapped locations are conceptual. Final locations must be approved by city property owners and meet City of Austin Environmental Code, including protection of tree critical root zones. Refer to the implementation section and appendices.

Creek Idea Cards



Natural Trail
Vereda Natural

Natural trails do not have any paved or aggregate surfacing. They are typically mowed grass or bare soil, and may be covered in a layer of mulch or other decomposable material.

Las veredas naturales no tienen superficies pavimentadas o agregadas. Usualmente son grama cortada o tierra, y pueden ser cubiertas por una capa fina de mantillo o material que se descompone.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada

Pairs well with... / Va bien con...

gathering spaces
Espacios de Reunión

Benches
Bancos

creek restoration
Restauración del Arroyo

outdoor fitness equipment
Equipo de Gimnasio al Aire Libre

Considerations / Consideraciones

- Natural trails may be eroded during flood events. Las veredas naturales pueden ser erosionadas durante periodos de inundaciones.

"Connect to patchwork lots via the Richmond trib. On these shady lots, we could do a 'figure 8' mulch trail, focus on biodiversity, install benches." "Conectar propiedades a lo largo del tributario Richmond. En estos espacios con sombra se podría hacer una 'figura 8' con manilla, enfocarse en la biodiversidad, e instalar bancos."



Land Acquisition
Adquisición de tierras

Land Acquisition is the process of acquiring property or pieces of property adjoining the creek to create a continuous greenway trail or to create additional public open space.

Adquisición de tierras es el proceso de adquirir propiedades o parte de propiedades para crear una cinta verde continua o crear espacios públicos adicionales.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada

Pairs well with... / Va bien con...


Trails
Veredas / Caminos

Considerations / Consideraciones

- Work with PARD to make recommendations on land acquisition. Trabajar con PARD para hacer recomendaciones de adquisición de tierras.

"There is an abandoned/unused business space right now that has available parking and access to the trail...parks should purchase this space."

"Hay un comercio abandonado/sin usar ahora mismo que tiene estacionamiento disponible y acceso a la vía... [el departamento de] parques debería comprar este espacio."



On-Street Bike Lanes
Carril de bicicletas en la calle

Bike lanes may be placed along roads that access Williamson Creek to provide safe routes of travel for bicyclists from other neighborhoods or major thoroughfares to the Greenway.

Carriles de bicicletas pueden ser incorporados a lo largo de las carreteras que accesan al Arroyo Williamson para proveer rutas seguras de viaje para ciclistas de otros vecindarios o vías mayores de la Cinta Verde.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada


Pairs well with... / Va bien con...

Green Infrastructure
Infraestructura Verde

Considerations / Consideraciones

- Bike lanes should connect CWCG to adjacent trails and the neighborhood. Carriles de bicicletas deben conectar CWCG a otras vías y vecindarios.

"There's a plan to create a trail following an old rail line starting here, could be a great reason to get a sidewalk/bicycle path extension along Vinson to connect that trail and the greenway!" "Hay un plan para crear una vía a lo largo de la línea del tren comenzando aquí, que sería una buena razón para tener una vía de peatones/ciclistas a lo largo de Vinson que conecte esa vía con la cinta verde!"



Weather Warning Signage
Letreros de advertencia del clima

Warning signage and system regarding flash flooding and greenway access.

Letreros de advertencia sobre inundaciones repentinas y acceso a la vía verde.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada

Pairs well with... / Va bien con...

Trailhead
Entrada a la vereda/camino

Considerations / Consideraciones

- Can be a general sign or as complex as an updated series of warnings. Puede ser un letrero o una serie de advertencias.

"Need a warning system for people in the greenway when storms are expected."

"Se necesita una sistema de advertencia para la gente que este en la cinta verde cuando se esperan tormentas."

GOAL #4: AN ACTIVE AND CONNECTED GREENWAY

Design Strategies

1. Connect to Public Transportation and Community Resources

Completion of a continuous trail along Williamson Creek provides an enormous opportunity for an east-west trail connection throughout south Austin. This trail will connect the surrounding neighborhoods to existing and future destinations, such as bus stops, convenience stores, schools, community gardens, and other community resources.

Toolkit Items:

BIKE RACKS

MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS

2. Design for Accessible Creek Experiences

Central Williamson Creek will provide key ADA-accessible creek experiences for those of all abilities.

Toolkit Items:

PATHS

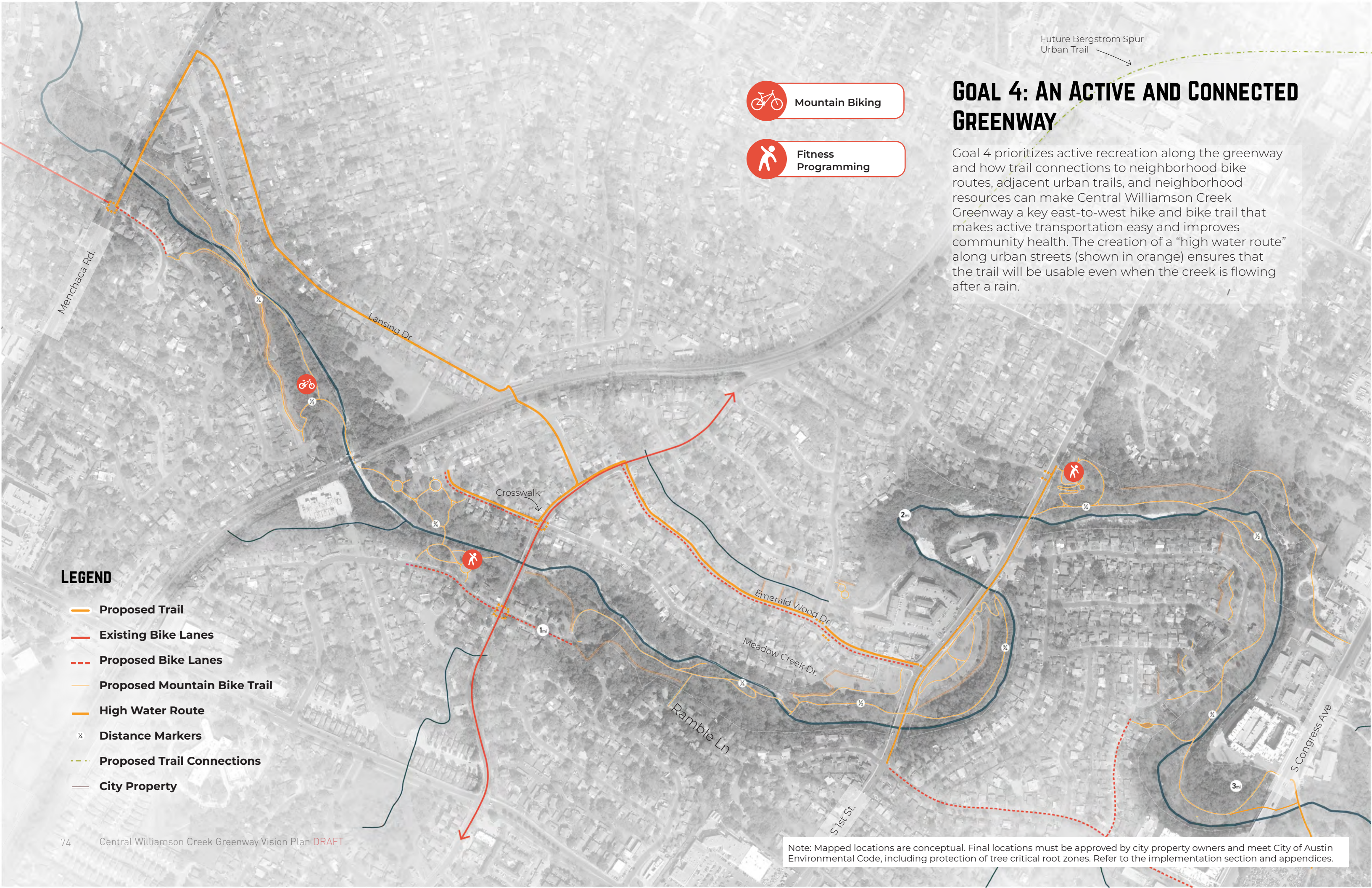
3. Integrate Activities for All Ages

Trailheads and other community gathering spaces will include active and educational activities for all ages, from outdoor classrooms for children to environmental education signage for all ages. At large trailheads, lawns will provide open spaces for all-ages community events and fitness programs.


Toolkit Items:

FITNESS PROGRAMS





 Mountain Biking

 Fitness Programming

GOAL 4: AN ACTIVE AND CONNECTED GREENWAY

Goal 4 prioritizes active recreation along the greenway and how trail connections to neighborhood bike routes, adjacent urban trails, and neighborhood resources can make Central Williamson Creek Greenway a key east-to-west hike and bike trail that makes active transportation easy and improves community health. The creation of a “high water route” along urban streets (shown in orange) ensures that the trail will be usable even when the creek is flowing after a rain.

LEGEND

- Proposed Trail
- Existing Bike Lanes
- Proposed Bike Lanes
- Proposed Mountain Bike Trail
- High Water Route
- Distance Markers
- Proposed Trail Connections
- City Property

Note: Mapped locations are conceptual. Final locations must be approved by city property owners and meet City of Austin Environmental Code, including protection of tree critical root zones. Refer to the implementation section and appendices.

Creek Idea Cards



Mountain Biking Trail
Vías/Caminos de Ciclismo de Montaña

Mountain biking trails provide off-road terrain loops or paths for mountain bikes. These trails are often, but not always, for exclusive use by bikers to prevent accidental collision with pedestrians.

Las veredas de ciclismo de montaña proveen terreno fuera de la carretera para los ciclistas de montaña. Estas veredas a veces, pero no siempre, son exclusivamente para el uso de ciclistas para prevenir accidentes con peatones.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada

Cost: \$\$\$\$ to \$\$\$\$

Context: Community

Pairs well with... / Va bien con...: Skatable Areas / Áreas de patinaje

Considerations / Consideraciones: Mountain biking trails should be carefully designed to avoid erosion. Las vías para ciclistas de montaña deben ser diseñadas con precisión para evitar erosión.



Bike Racks
Aparcabicis

Bike racks provide a place for those visiting Central Williamson Creek Greenway to park and lock their bikes.

Los aparcabicis proveen lugar para estacionar y asegurar las bicicletas para los visitantes de la Cinta Central Verde del Arroyo Williamson.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño

Phasing | Fase Recomendada

Cost: \$\$\$\$

Context: Community

Pairs well with... / Va bien con...: Trails / Veredas/Caminos, Signage / Letreros, Parking Lots / Estacionamientos

Considerations / Consideraciones: Bike racks should be placed at trailheads and next to parking lots. Aparcabicis deben ser colocados en las entradas a las vías/caminos y cerca de los estacionamientos de autos.



Fitness Programming
Programación de Ejercicios

Fitness programming may include a wide variety of planned group activities led by fitness instructors, including outdoor yoga classes, community hikes, and races.

Programas de ejercicios pueden incluir una gran variedad de actividades grupales lideradas por un instructor, incluyendo yoga, caminatas comunitarias, y carreras.

Net Environmental Impact | Impacto Ambiental Neto

Enhances Habitat | ¿Mejora el hábitat?

Enhances Water Quality | ¿Mejora la Calidad del Agua?

Reduces Heat Island Effect | ¿Reduce el efecto de 'isla de calor'?

Reduces Erosion | ¿Reduce la Erosión?

Honors Community Identity | ¿Honra la Identidad de la Comunidad?

Opportunities for Social Connections | ¿Ofrece Oportunidades para Interacciones Sociales?

Accessibility | ¿Accesibilidad?

Size | Tamaño: N/A

Phasing | Fase Recomendada

Cost: \$\$\$\$ to \$\$\$\$

Context: Community

Pairs well with... / Va bien con...: Disc Golf / Disco Golf

Considerations / Consideraciones: Fitness programming can be coordinated with local gyms or PARD. Programación de ejercicios puede ser coordinado con gimnasios locales o PARD.

Note: Mapped locations are conceptual. Final locations must be approved by city property owners and meet City of Austin Environmental Code, including protection of tree critical root zones. Refer to the implementation section and appendices.