

A Sustainable Greenway for South Austin

Presentation to the Parks and Recreation Board August 24, 2021















Supports the City of Austin Strategic Direction 2023: Health and Environment

- Strategies
 - To support, maintain, and expand parks, open spaces, recreational facilities, and our urban trail network.
 - Provide accessible, diverse, and inclusive parks and recreation programs and amenities.

Supports the Council Approved PARD Long Range Plan:

- Specific Recommendations
 - Develop a Vision Plan for Williamson Creek Greenbelt
 - Acquire parkland and improved trail connection/development

Supports Council Approved Neighborhood Plans:

- Southeast Combined
- South Congress Combined
- South Austin Combined
- Oakhill Combined

Identified in Council Approved Urban Trails Master Plan:

Tier II Urban Trail

Community Engagement

Joint Community and City collaboration through working groups

Direct feedback tools on plan progress:

- Social Pinpoint interactive map
- Creek Idea Cards
- Participatory Budgeting activity
- Comment platform for reviewing drafts

Person to Person conversations:

- Virtual Community Picnics
- Creek Chats (Virtual & in-person Pop-ups)
- Individual & group meetings as requested

"Take home" and individual activities:

- Community storytelling
- iNaturalist
- Conversation Toolkit
- Virtual Creek Stomps
- Creek Stomp Journal
- Flat Stanley Creek Stories

General outreach:

- Newsletters
- Door hangers
- Yard signs
- Direct mail event invitation
- Social media notifications
- Project and neighborhood listservs
- Maintain active project website

Team Roles

Community Powered Workshop

- Facilitate engagement process in collaboration with Working Groups
- Grant partner

The Nature Conservancy

- Liaise with City of Austin Departments
- Conduct field assessments and mapping
- Grant partner

Asakura Robinson

Landscape Architecture consultant

Community Working Group

- 8 residents
- Collaborate on engagement activities and process
- Conduct outreach with neighbors and neighborhood groups
- Provide direct feedback on plan progress

City Working Group

- 11 City of Austin staff + 2 National Park Service staff
- Technical expertise on parks, trails planning, and environmental restoration
- Advise on City of Austin requirements for proposed plan elements and planning processes

Engagement Numbers

5,327	TOTAL				
28	observers on iNaturalist				
20	storytellers				
234	newsletter subscribers on Mailchimp				
133	participants in all virtual and socially-distanced events				
999	unique users on Social Pinpoint Creek Idea Cards and Vision Plan draft				
651	unique users on Social Pinpoint Interactive Map				
1,136	unique visitors to Central Williamson Creek Greenway website in 2021 (Jan 1 - May 25)				
2,126	unique visitors to Central Williamson Creek Greenway website in 2020				

THE FUTURE CENTRAL WILLIAMSON CREEK IS...

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

DESIGN STRATEGIES

Support community-built projects

Create inviting gathering spaces at key nodes

Integrate community agriculture and agroforestry

A COMMUNITY-CENTERED GREENWAY 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

DESIGN STRATEGIES

Integrate accessible creek experiences

Connect to public transportation and community resources

Create activities for all ages

AN
ACTIVE AND
CONNECTED
GREENWAY

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.



Creek & Woodland Restoration



Environmental Signage



Green Infrastructure



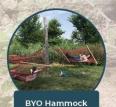
Invasive Species
Management



Pollinator Nesting Boxes



Wildflower Planting



Grove

Community Gardens



Community Message Boards



Food Forests



Labyrinth



Nature Play



Music Groves



Bonded Mulch Trail



Potential Easement or Land Acquisition



Natural Surfac



Wayfinding Signage



Veather Warning Signage



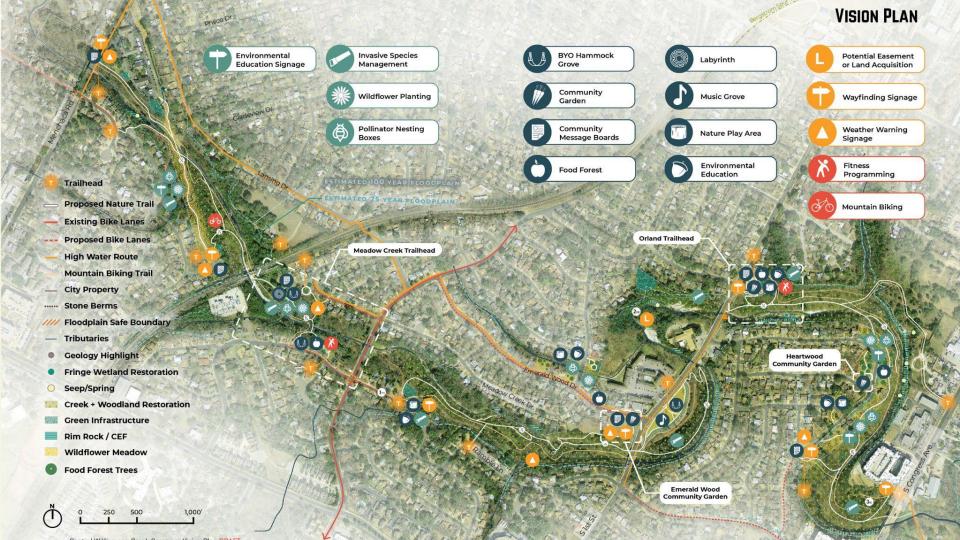
On-Street



Fitness



Mountain Biking



IMPLEMENTATION STREAM

Tier 1 Projects

Community -led collaborations with City of Austin landowners Watershed Protection, and the Parks and Recreation Department.

They can involve work and support with non-profits such as Austin Parks Foundation and Keep Austin Beautiful. All projects must have prior approval by City of Austin property owners.

Toolkit Items Include:

- Nature Trails
- · Creek and Woodland Restoration
- · Fitness Programming
- Food Forest
- · Community Gardens
- · Mountain Bike Trails
- · Invasive Species Removal
- Labyrinth
- Music Grove
- Seating
- · Pollinator Nesting Boxes

Maintenance Considerations:

For Tier 1 community and city-partnered projects, a maintenance agreement must be developed and approved by the City of Austin.

Tier 2 Projects

These are City of Austin landowner projects of \$50,000 dollars or less. They are part of the missions and plans of WPD or PARD, but require advocacy from the community. The community may also be involved for portions of these projects such as planting days.

Toolkit Items Include:

- · Nature Play
- Green Infrastructure
- Wildflower Meadows
- · Community Message Board
- Bonded Wood Mulch Trail
- BYO Hammock Grove

Maintenance Considerations:

Tier 2 projects should be maintained per City code and operations; however, the City may partner with non-profits and community groups to perform maintenance.

Tier 3 Projects

Projects that require long-term study and funding by City of Austin landowners that will total more than \$50,000 dollars and require major construction. Funds and grants may be raised on behalf of the community to implement these projects.. They will have required community engagement on their further development and route to implementation.

Toolkit Items Include:

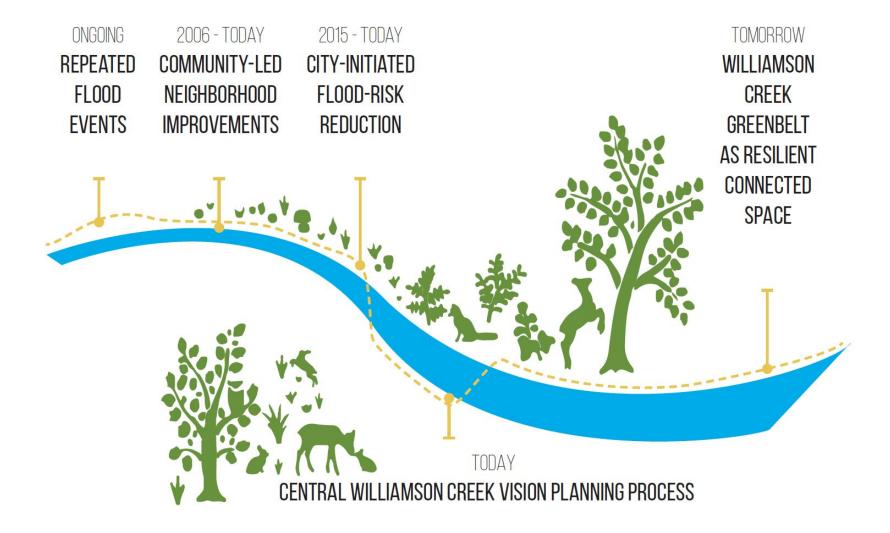
- · Land Acquisition and Easements
- · On-street Bicycle Lanes
- · Sidewalk-Shared Use Path
- Green Infrastructure (Large Scale)

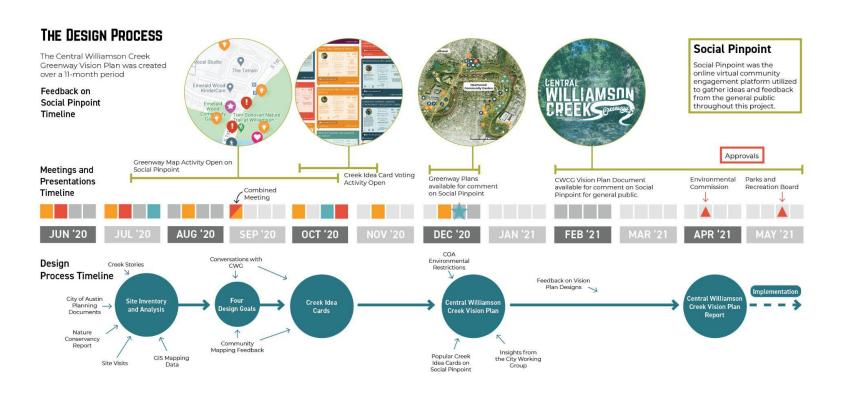
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ADDITIONAL REFERENCE

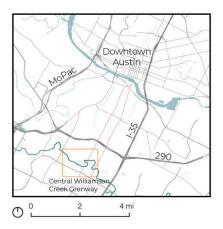


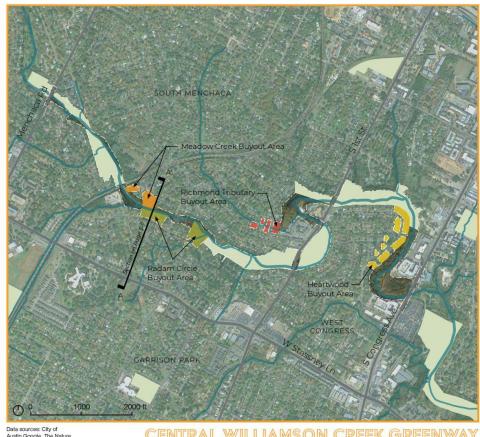




CENTRAL WILLIAMSON CREEK GREENWAY







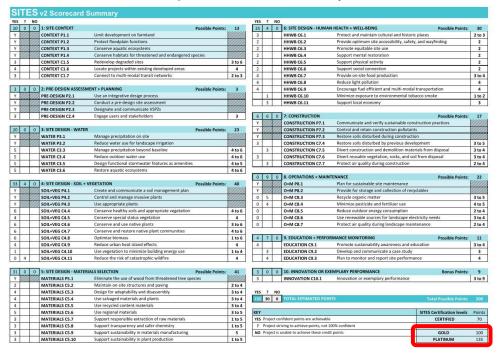
Data sources: City of Austin Google, The Nature Conservancy, USGS

CENTRAL WILLIAMSON CREEK GREENWAY



SUSTAINABLE SITES AND CENTRAL WILLIAMSON CREEK GREENWAY

Meets PreCertification, Targets Gold-Platinum for Implementation



Vision Plan Includes SITES Materials and Plants Criteria

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS CRITERIA

Selecting sustainable and safe materials for construction along Williamson Creek will ensure the continued health of the creek and lessen the environmental impacts of construction and development. Learn more about these strategies through the Sustainable Sites Initiative (sustainablesities or of).

Recommendation	Intent	Strategy 1	Strategy 2	Strategy 3	More Resources
Use sustainable wood sources	Many commonly-used landscape wood products are sourced from thretened free species or threatened ecosystems. Minimize impact on these species by purchasing sustainably-sourced wood from non-threatened tree species.	Review the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) website to review the status of tree species and ensure that is, not threatened with extinction or listed as requiring trade controls to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival. www.cites.org/eng/resources/ species him!	Review the Internationan Union for Conservation of Nature's 'Red List of Endangered Species to ensure the species is not in danger of extinction. www.lucnredlist.org.	Use recycled plastic, composite lumber, or another material instead of wood.	
Use salvaged materials and plants	Salvaging landscape materials from on-site or from re-use suppliers like a member of the Building Materials Reuse Association is an effective way to divert waste from landfills and conserve financial resources Salvaged plant materials also conserves native, local plant genetic pools.	Identify salveged materials suppliers or local demolition and construction projects. Search directiones of reuse stones here. Building Metroils Geuse Association, www.buildingreuse. org. Habitat for Humanity's Restore, www.habitat.org/envirestores.aspx	Get in touch with a local native plant conservation group. Many of threes groups rescue in solving and many the solving and may be able to provide locally sourced salvaged plants.		Green Building Research Guide's searchable database, www.greenguide.com/ exchange/search.html Reuse Development Organization, www.redo. org
Use materials with a high recycled content	Use of new materials with a high recycled content reduces resource extraction and diverts materials away from land fills and into the production of new materials.	Speak with load materials suppliers about products that suppliers about products that suppliers of some materials include plastic lumber with recycled content, spinalt with recycled apphat aggregate, and high recycled content steel.	Lean more about recided postduct and industry materials recycling. The U.S. EPA Industrial Materials website. www.epa.gov/ industrialmaterials. The U.S. EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Outdelines. www.epa.gov/comprehensive Procurement Outdelines.		California Department of Resources and Recycling Recycled Content Products Directory, www.califecycle ca.gov/RCPIdefault.asp











BILINGUAL CREEK IDEA CARDS EXAMPLE

English | Ingles



Spanish | Español





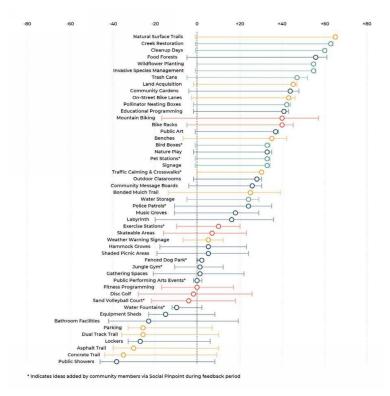


SCORING AND APPLICATION OF CREEK IDEA CARDS

Idea Card Scores

Once the voting period on Social Pinpoint closed, the results were tabulated and summarized. This graphic shows the net score each creek idea card received, Idea

cards received one point when they received a "thumbs up" and one negative point when they received a "thumbs down," The sum of these points produced the net score.



After the voting period on Social Pinpoint closed, the idea cards were then placed along the Greenway using information gathered from existing conditions, conversations with the working group, and the initial Social Pinpoint Greenway Mapping Exercise. A conceptual design for the entire greenway, as well as two trailheads at South 1st and Orland streets and Meadow Creek Drive were available for comment until January 18th, 2021.



Vision Plan-Placement of Creek Idea Cards