

# ZILKER METROPOLITAN PARK VISION PLAN

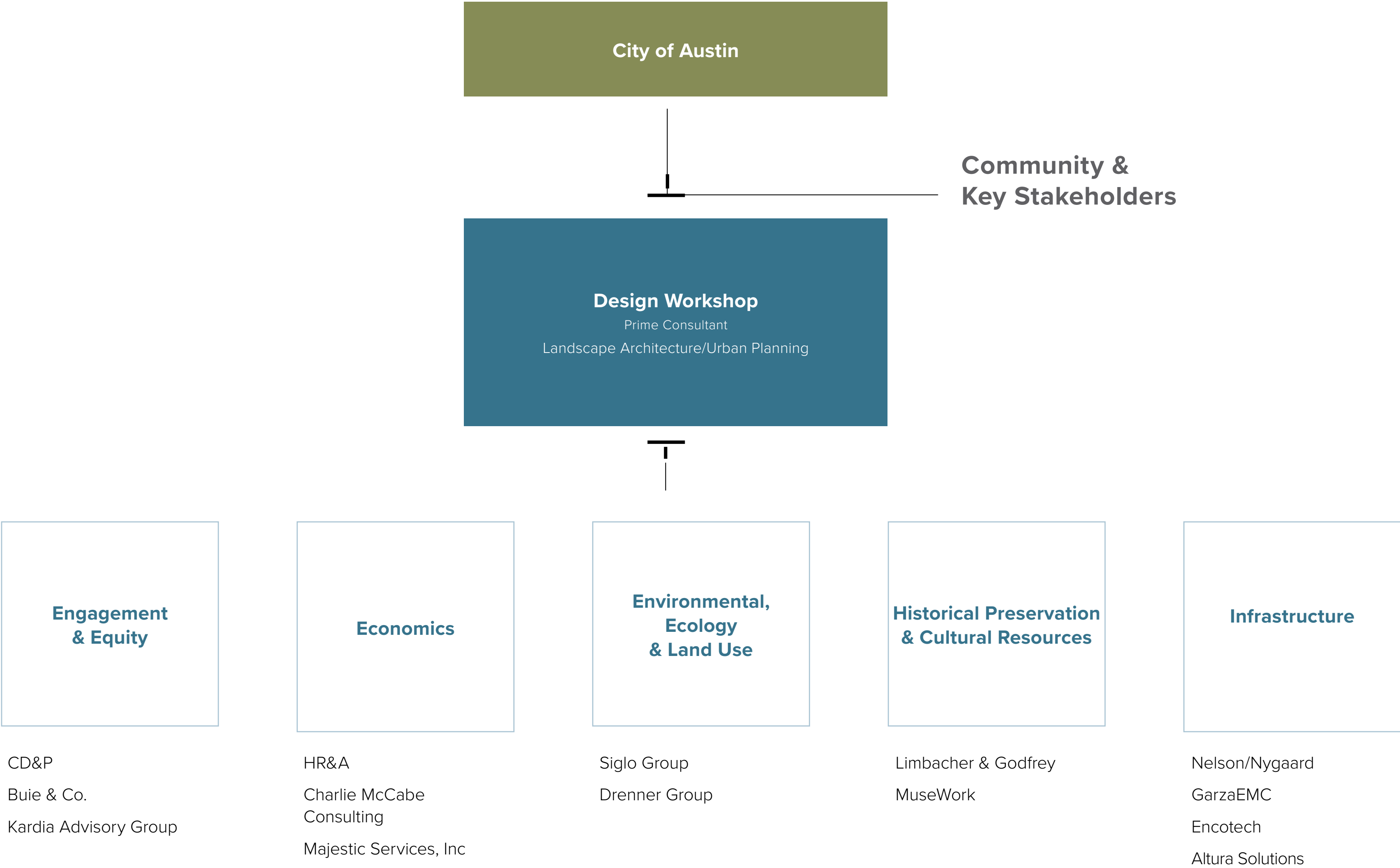
Bicycle Advisory Council Briefing  
January 18, 2022



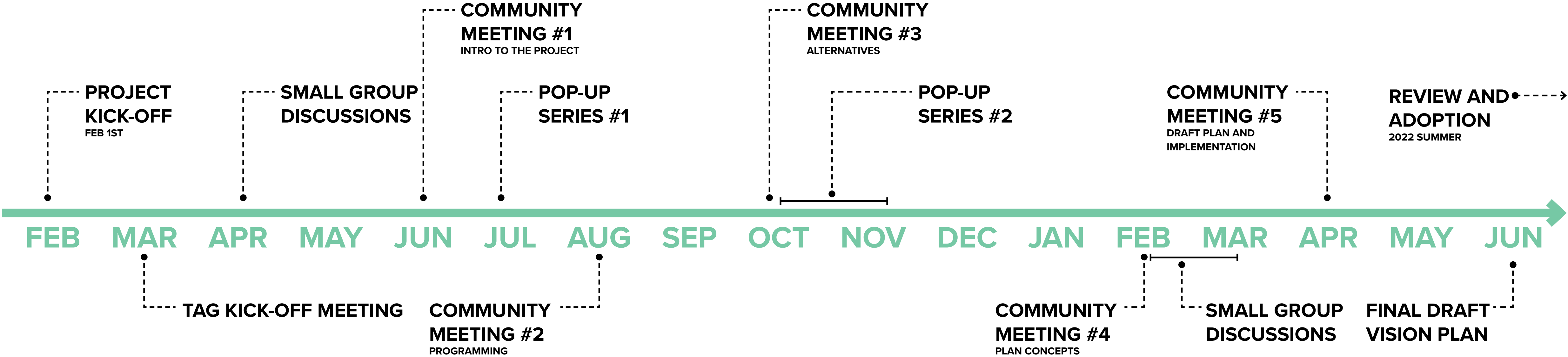
**DESIGNWORKSHOP**



# TEAM OVERVIEW



# 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

# COMMUNITY MEETINGS

THE STRUCTURE OF THE MEETINGS

Community Meeting #1

---

Community Meeting #2

---

Community Meeting #3

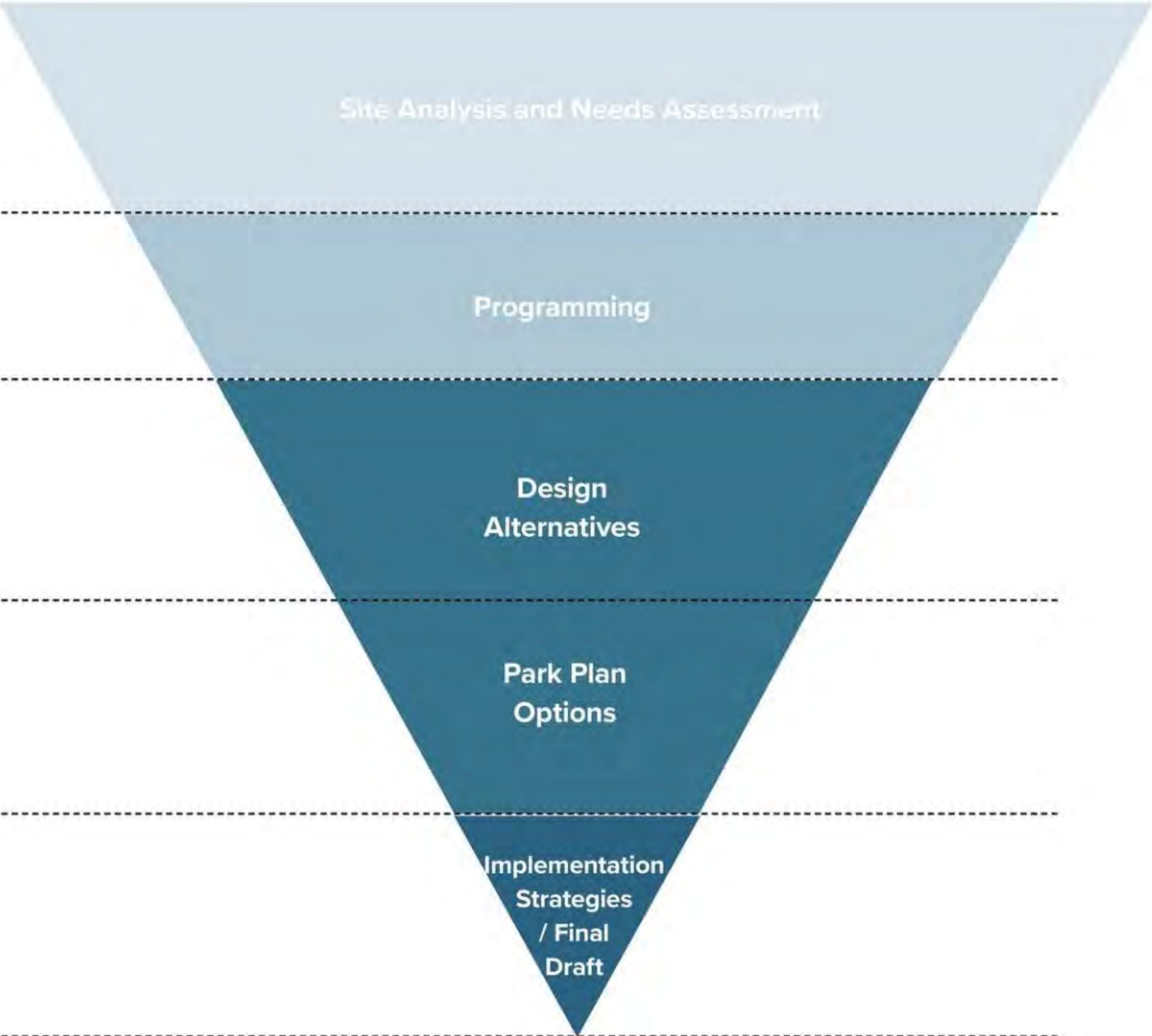
---

Community Meeting #4

---

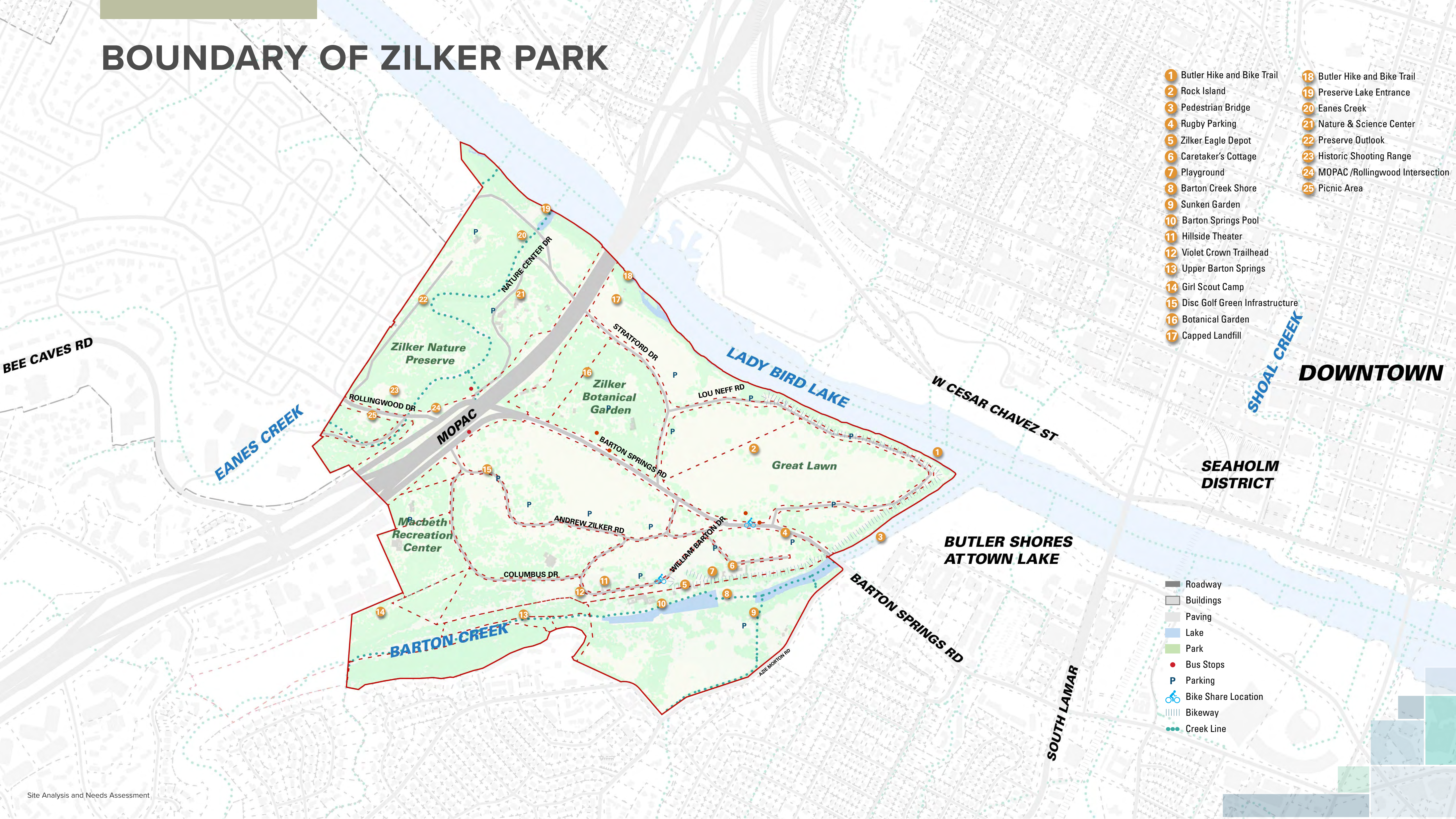
Community Meeting #5

---





# BOUNDARY OF ZILKER PARK





# THE PURPOSE OF ZILKER PARK VISION PLAN

To develop a visionary framework to guide the restoration and future stewardship of Zilker Metropolitan Park

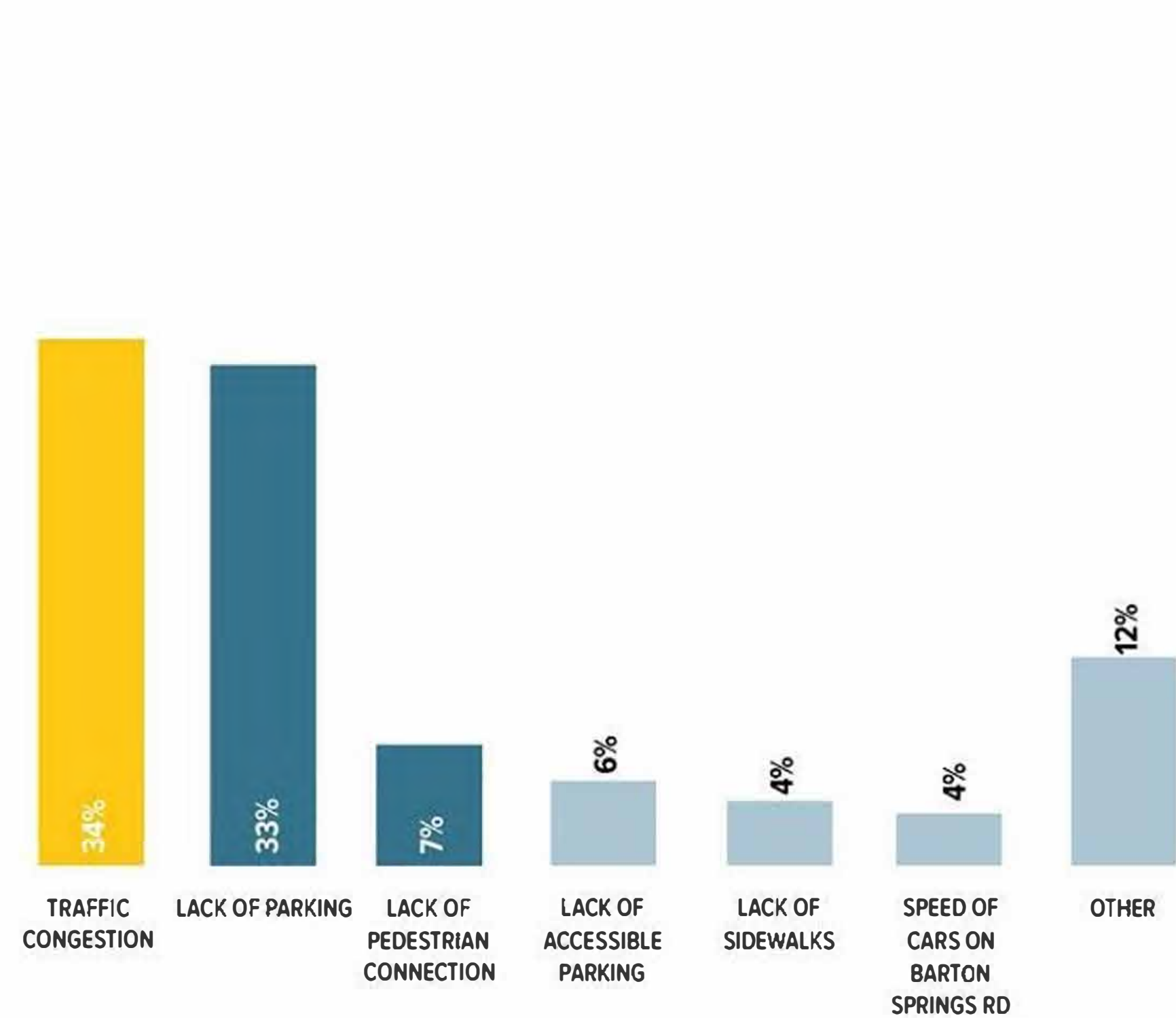
- Recommendations of enhancement of the park's existing facilities and programs
- Determine the recreational and amenity needs
- Restorative focus on the historic, cultural, ecological and cultural features
- Recommendations for mobility within and around the park
- Sustainable revenue strategy



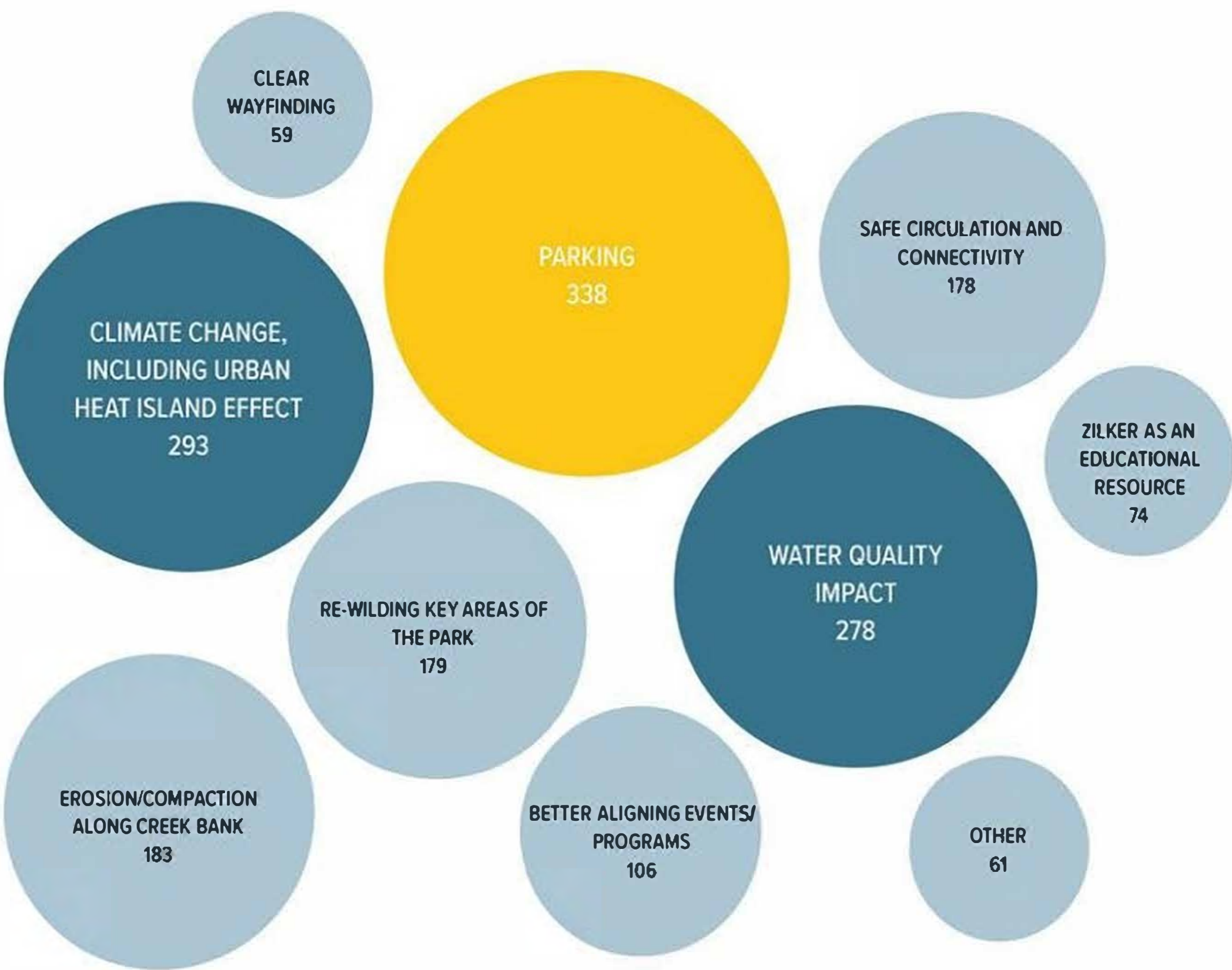


# PURPOSE OF ZILKER PARK VISION PLAN

## PREVIOUS SURVEY RESULT ABOUT PARK CHALLENGES



CURRENTLY, WHAT IS THE BIGGEST BARRIER TO ENJOYMENT OF ZILKER PARK?



CHOOSE THE TOP THREE (3) ISSUES THAT YOU THINK THE ZILKER PARK VISION PLAN SHOULD ADDRESS.





# GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND GOALS




# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

UPDATED FROM YOUR FEEDBACK




- The Plan should treat the Park as an **ecological treasure**.
- Recognize the park's **relation to water** and explore opportunities for interaction.

Nature and Ecology



- The Plan should treat the Park's **historic and cultural resources** as a valued legacy to be celebrated for future generations.

History and Culture



- Zilker Park should **serve the entire community of Austin**.
- Align programs with community interest.

Diversity and Inclusion



- The plan should **knit the segmented pieces** of the park together.
- The park is a place you can arrive to by **multiple travel options**.

Accessibility



- The Plan should be forward-looking for future generations.
- Zilker Park should serve as an example of **sustainability**, protecting and enhancing our natural spaces and assets.

Sustainability



# GOALS

UPDATED FROM YOUR FEEDBACK



## Nature and Ecology

- Protect, enhance, and restore **Zilker's natural resources**.
- Establish an interpretive program to **educate visitors**.
- **Public stewardship** should be developed
- Ensure **safe and sustainable access** to the water.
- Support and rehabilitate **native plants and species**.



## Diversity and Inclusion

- The Park should be **welcoming** to individuals, small groups and able to accommodate large groups.
- **The Plan should support equitable access.**
- Support new and enhance existing learning opportunities within the park.
- Sustain the implementation and maintenance of the park and utilize the support of volunteers.
- **Encourage ethnic, cultural and economic** inclusion.



## History and Culture

- The Plan should honor and respect the **Park's historic and cultural resources**.
- Balance between historic preservation and current/future needs.
- Create opportunities for **local artists**.
- **Celebrate the stories of the people** that lived on the land throughout history.
- Establish and integrate education components.



## Accessibility

- Improve pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular circulation between the north and south side of **Barton Springs Rd.**
- Examine the surrounding trail network to create and extend safe active travel within and through the park.
- Create accessible **multi-modal transportation networks** within the park.
- Improve the **wayfinding**.
- Collaborate with Capital Metro and TXDOT
- Achieve high level of **ADA accessibility** within the park.

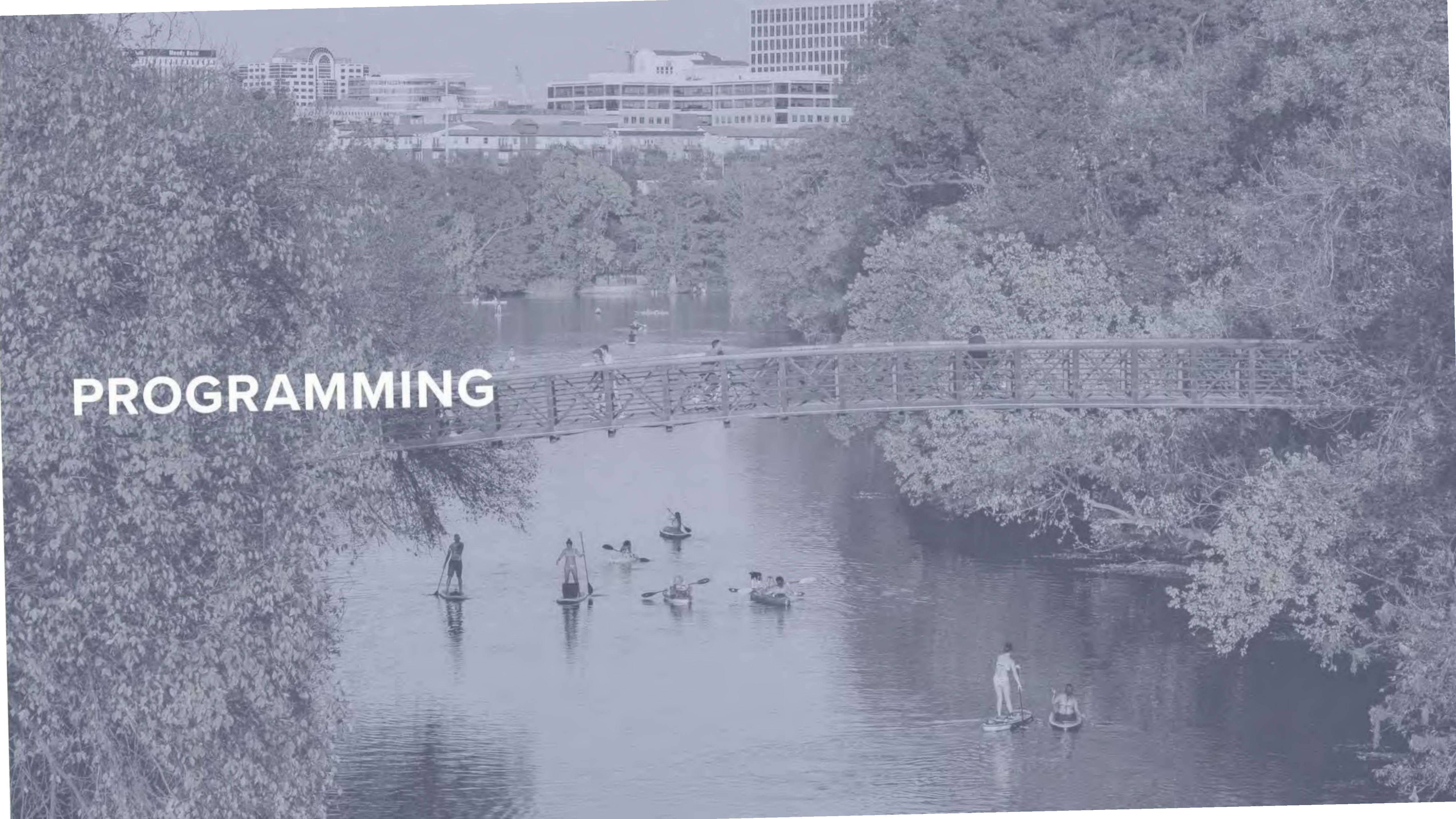


## Sustainability

- Implement adaptive management strategies to **create a resilient landscape in the face of climate change** and dynamic user needs.
- As an urban park, Zilker should achieve **balance between metropolitan use and ecological/environmental**.
- Balance revenue needs with operations and maintenance of the park.
- Explore **public/private partnerships** that extend the reach of the Parks Department to accommodate new opportunities.



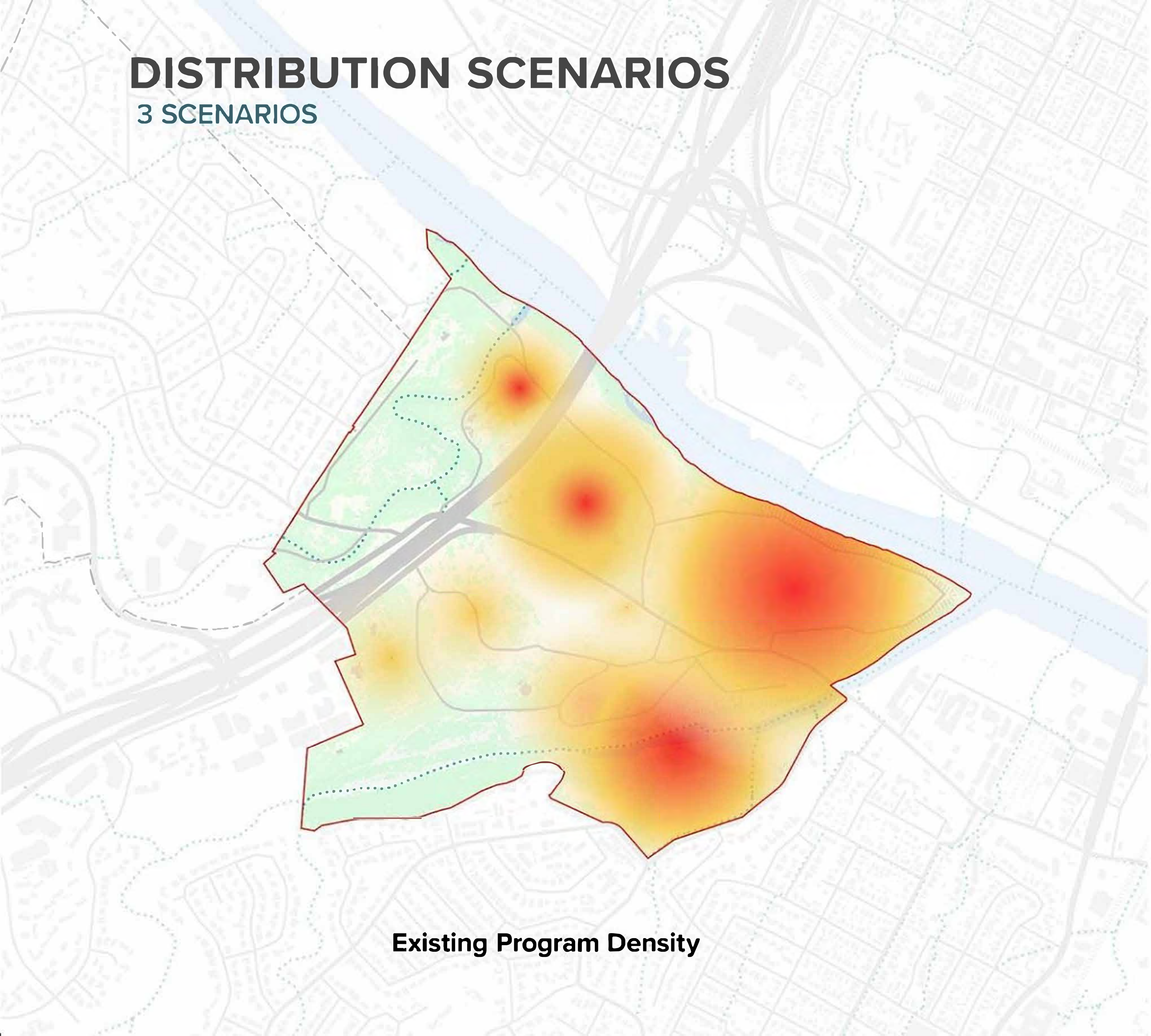
# PROGRAMMING





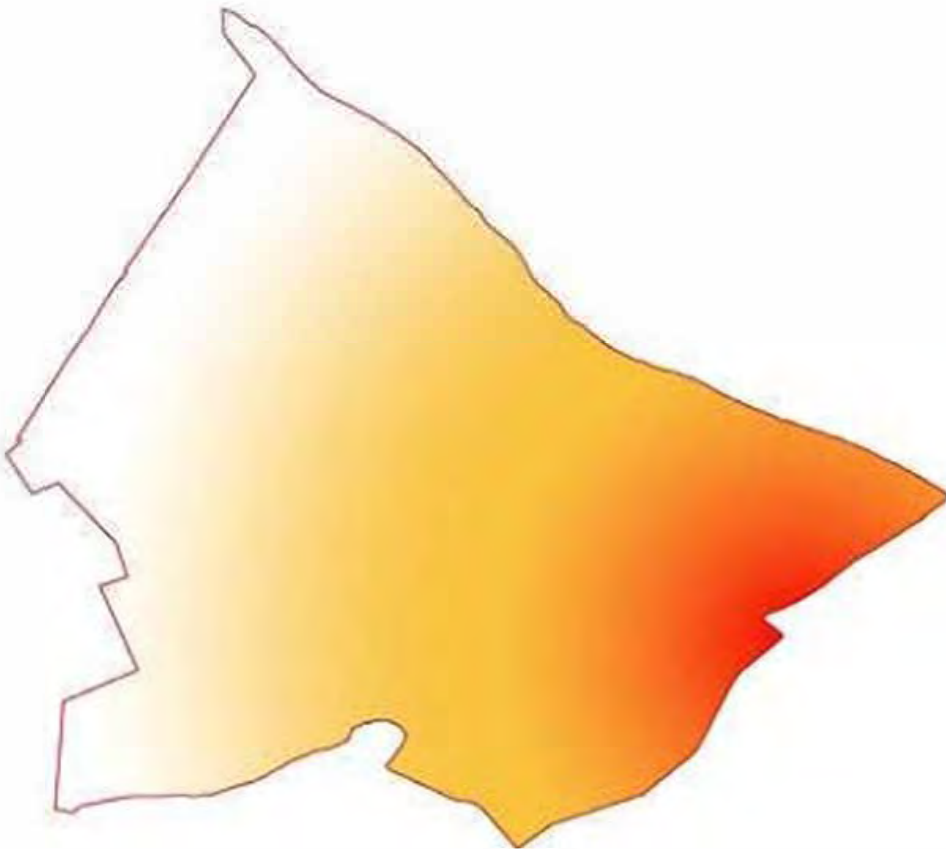
# DISTRIBUTION SCENARIOS

3 SCENARIOS



Existing Program Density

Concentrated



Nodes



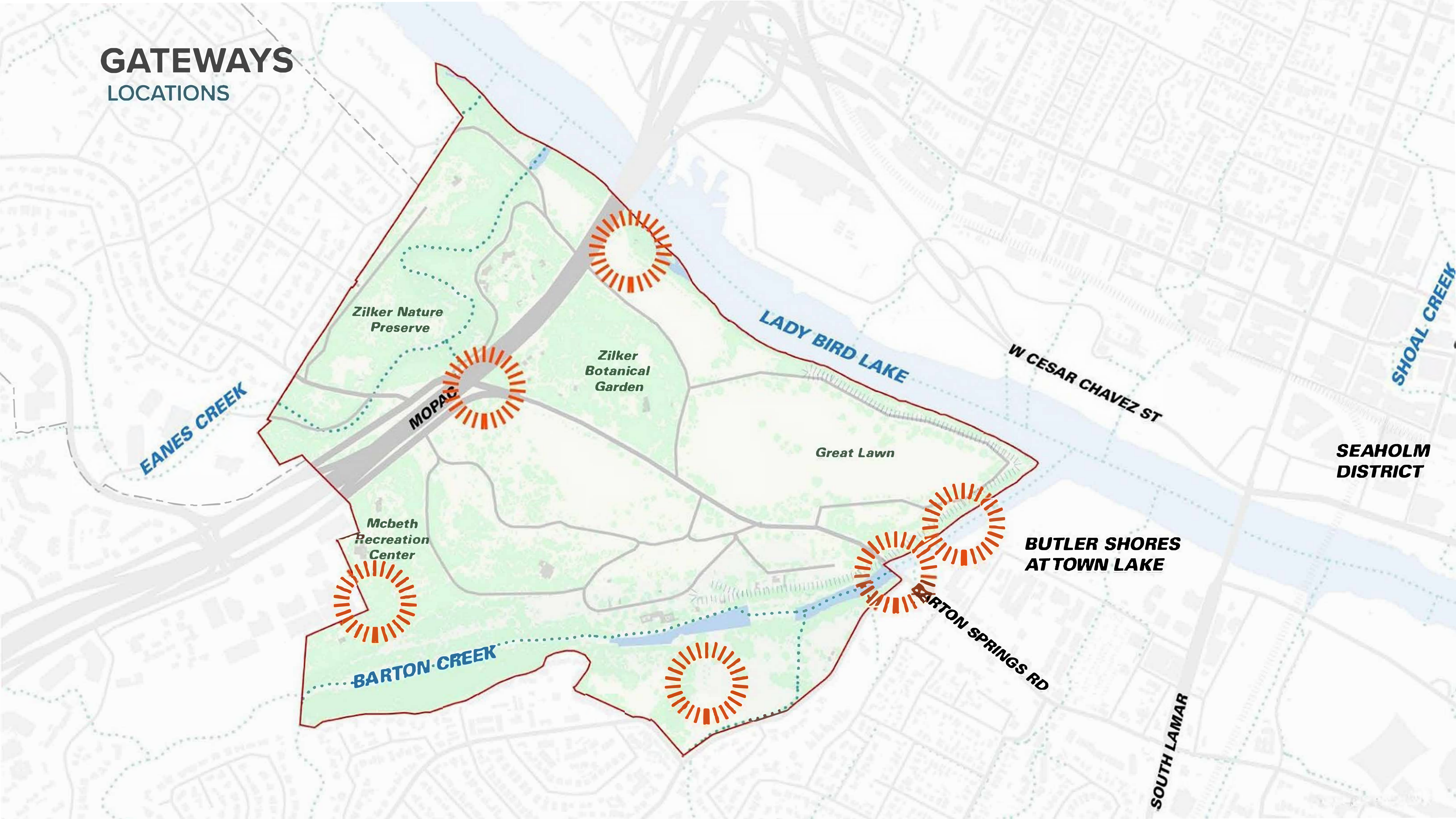
Dispersed





# GATEWAYS

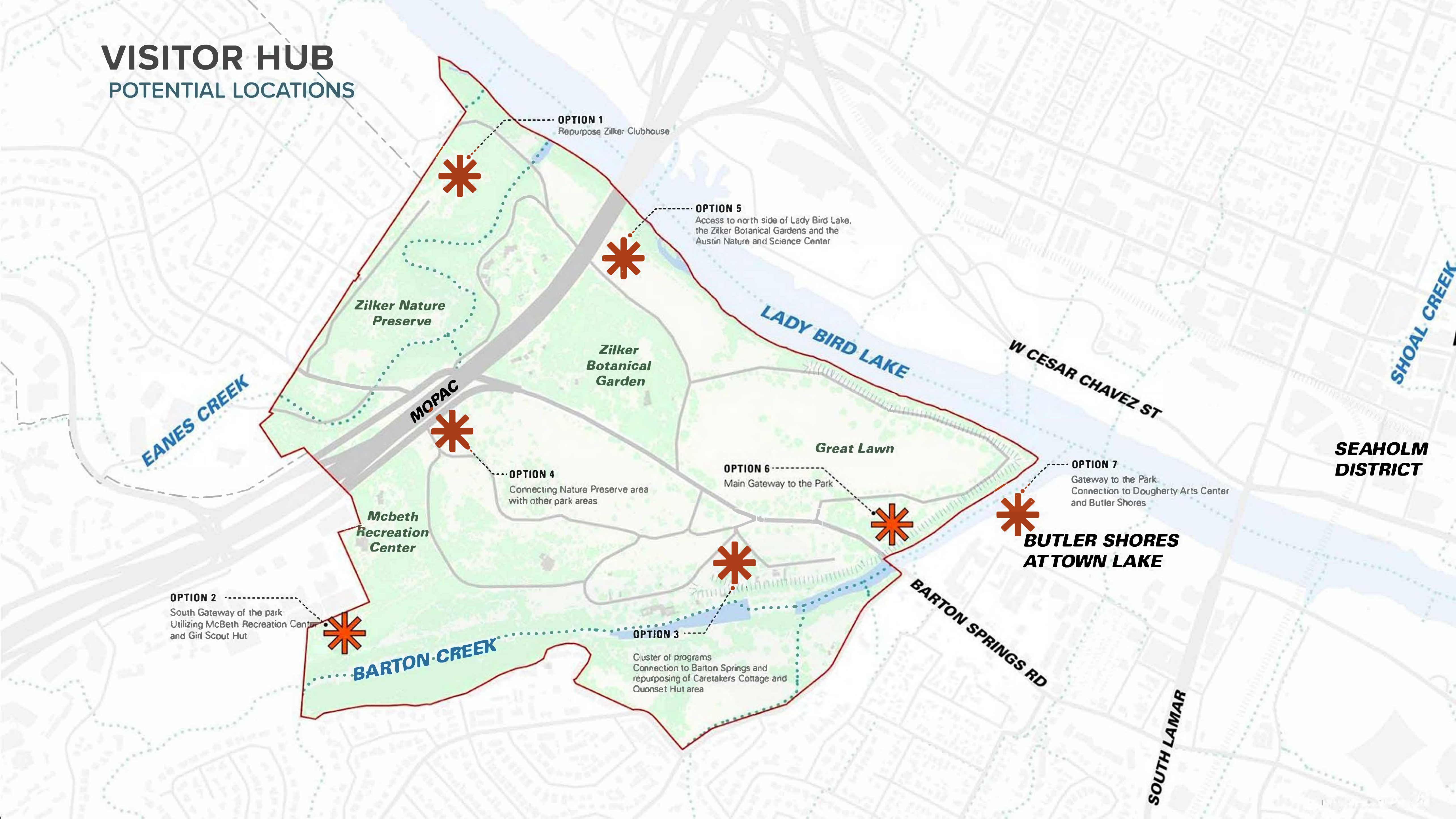
LOCATIONS





# VISITOR HUB

## POTENTIAL LOCATIONS







# ACCESSIBILITY, MOBILITY, AND TRANSPORTATION

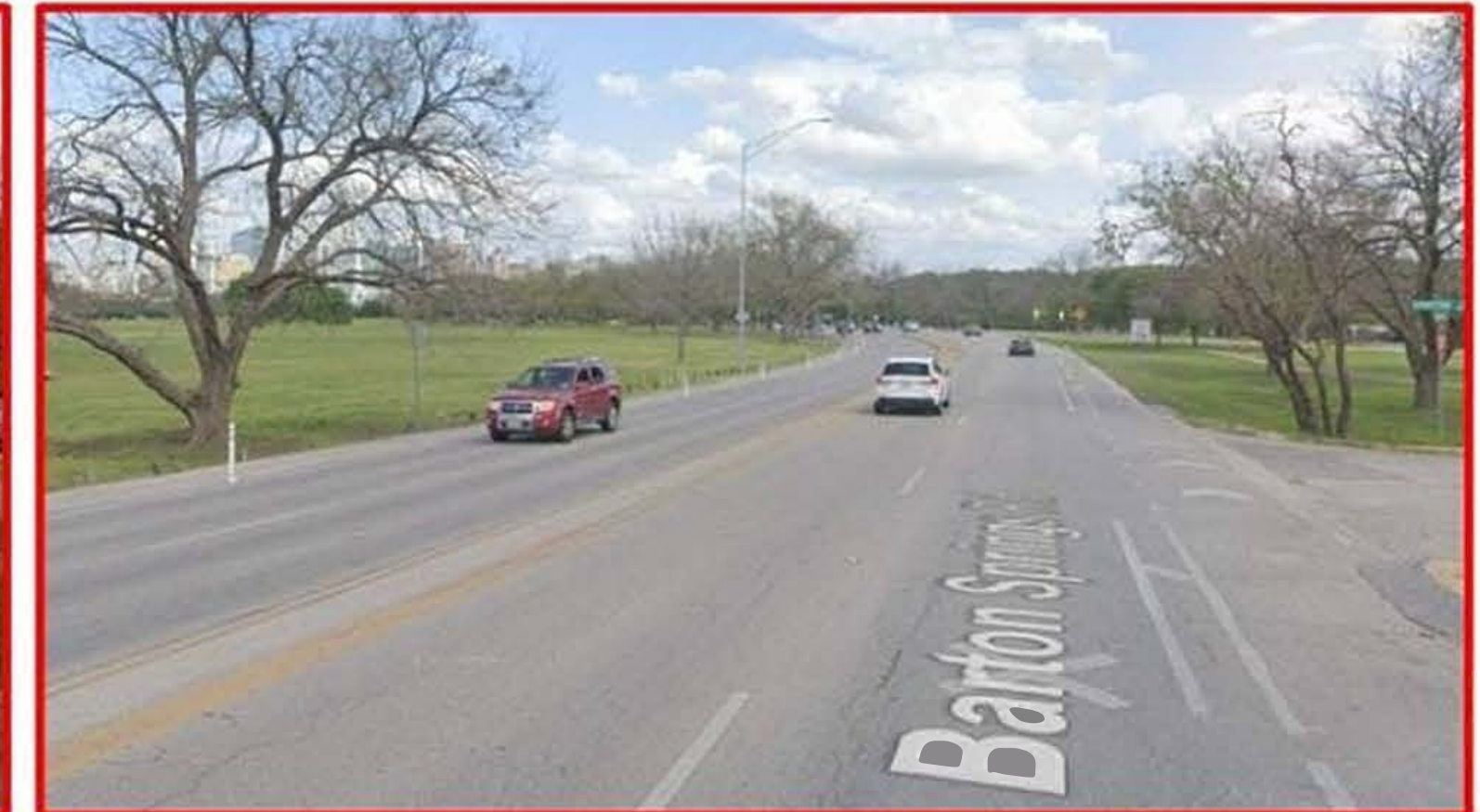


# ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

## TRAVELING BY FOOT, BIKE, AND TRAIL



- Goal: Better connecting the trail system to and from and within the park.
- Bringing the Greenbelt trailhead to a more prominent area nearer park entrance.
- Improving visibility and access points to and from Butler Trail.
- Improving MoPac path access.
- Implementing Butler Trail Safety Plan recommendations, including a new trail bridge across Barton Creek – e.g., at Lou Neff Pt.
- Adding rolling and walking trail network within the park to directly connect attractions and serve people passing through.



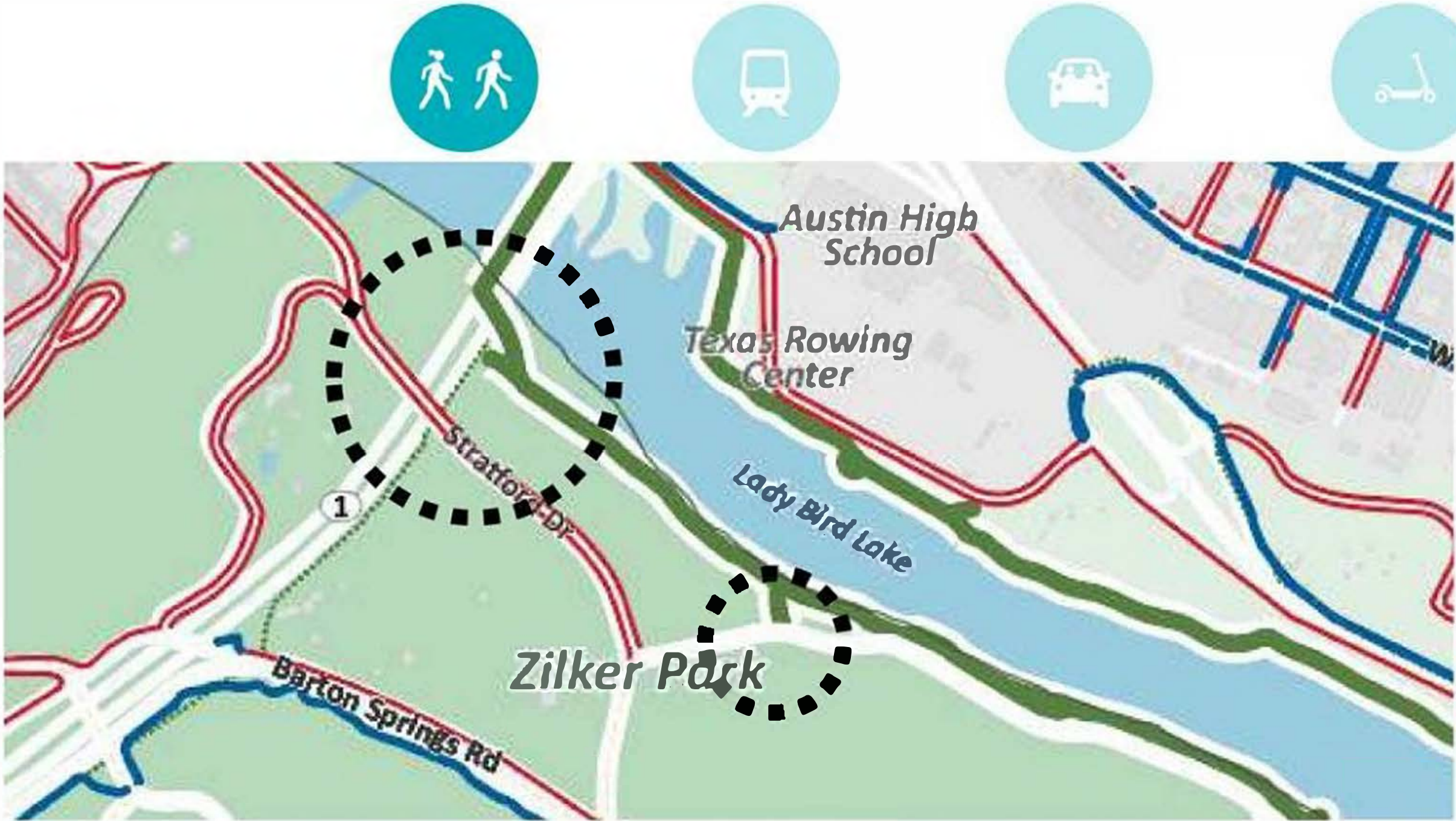


# ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

TRAVELING BY FOOT, BIKE, AND TRAIL



BIKE/PEDESTRIAN NETWORK



REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECTION



ROBERTA CRENSHAW BRIDGE



PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

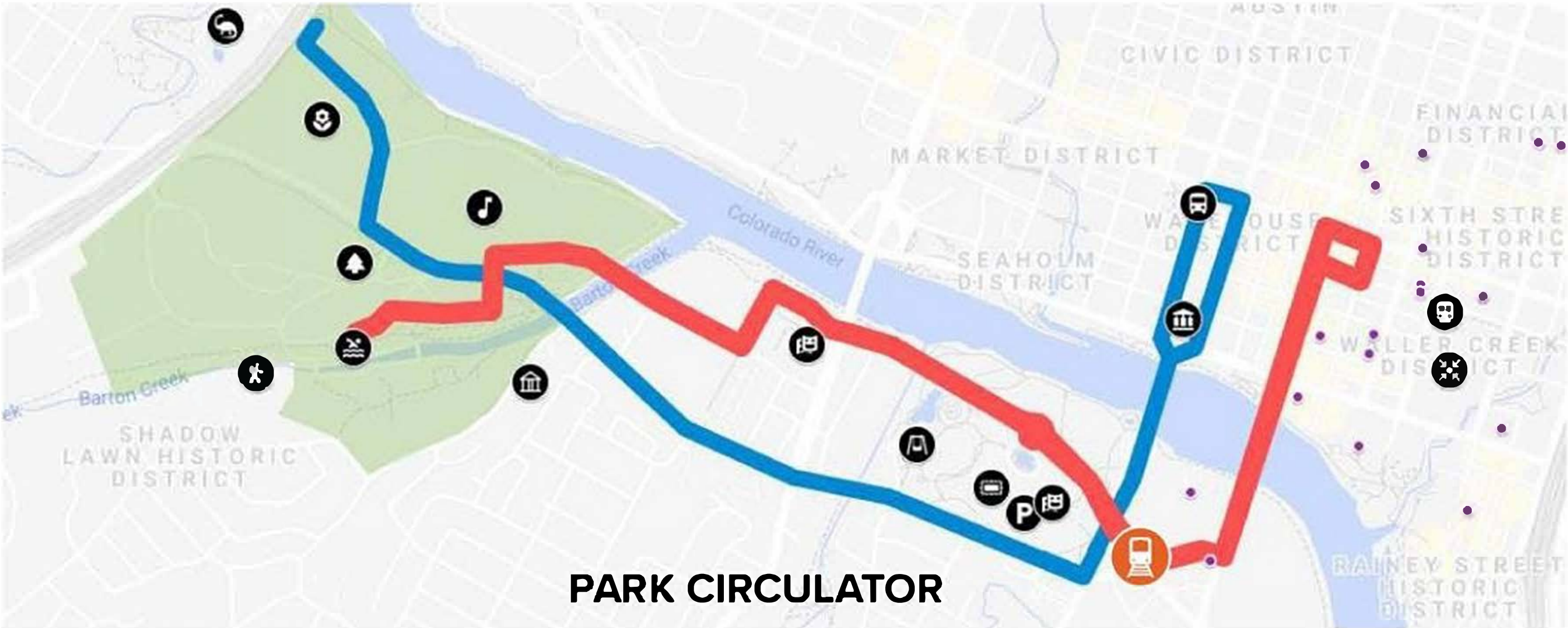


# PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

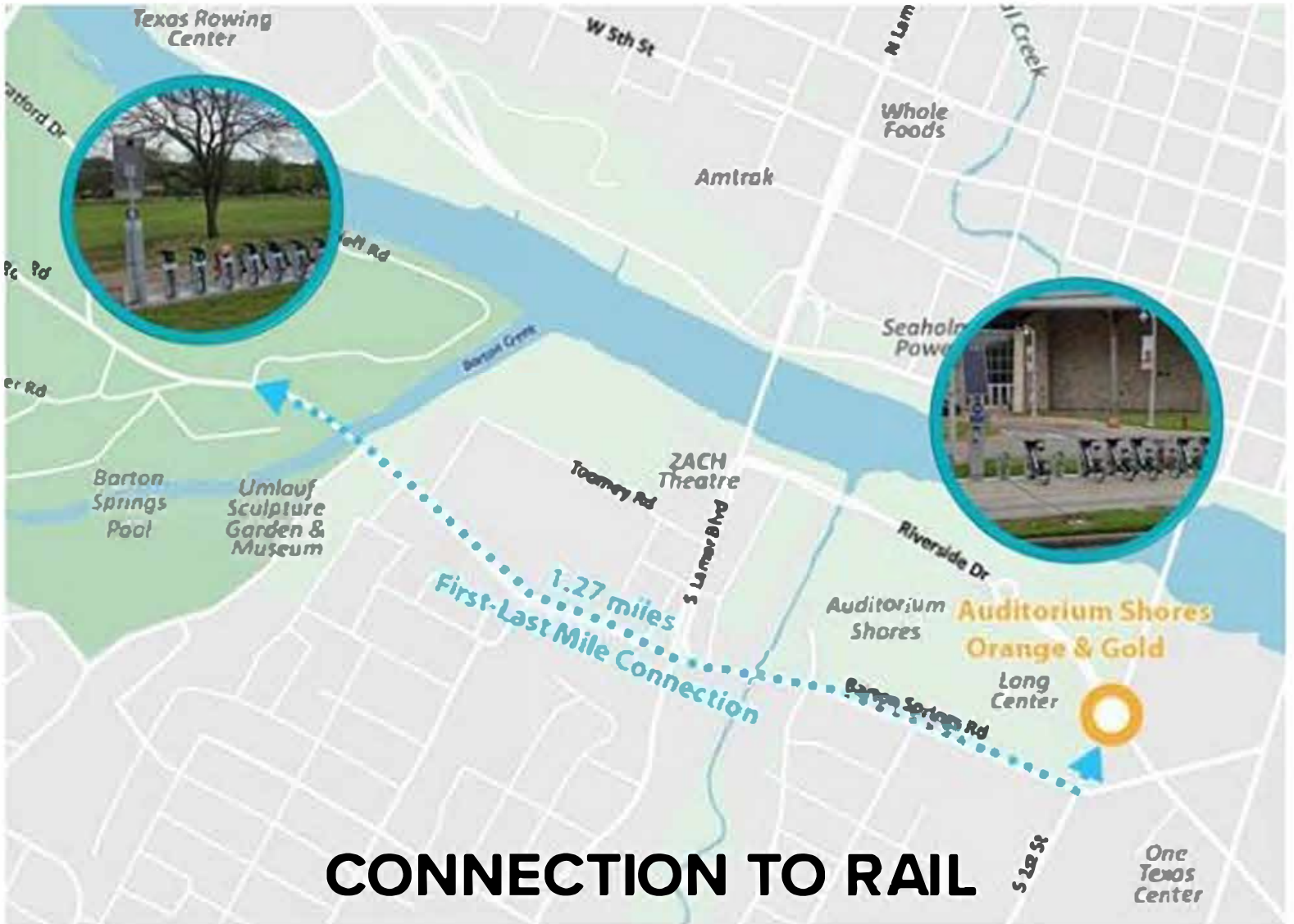
## PARK CIRCULATOR, CONNECTION TO DOWNTOWN AND RAIL



### CONNECTION TO DOWNTOWN



PARK CIRCULATOR



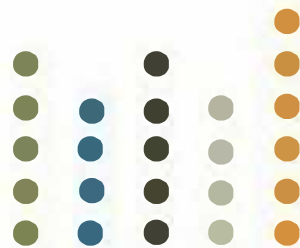
CONNECTION TO RAIL



# VEHICLE NETWORK

## PARKING

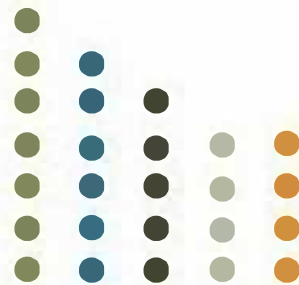
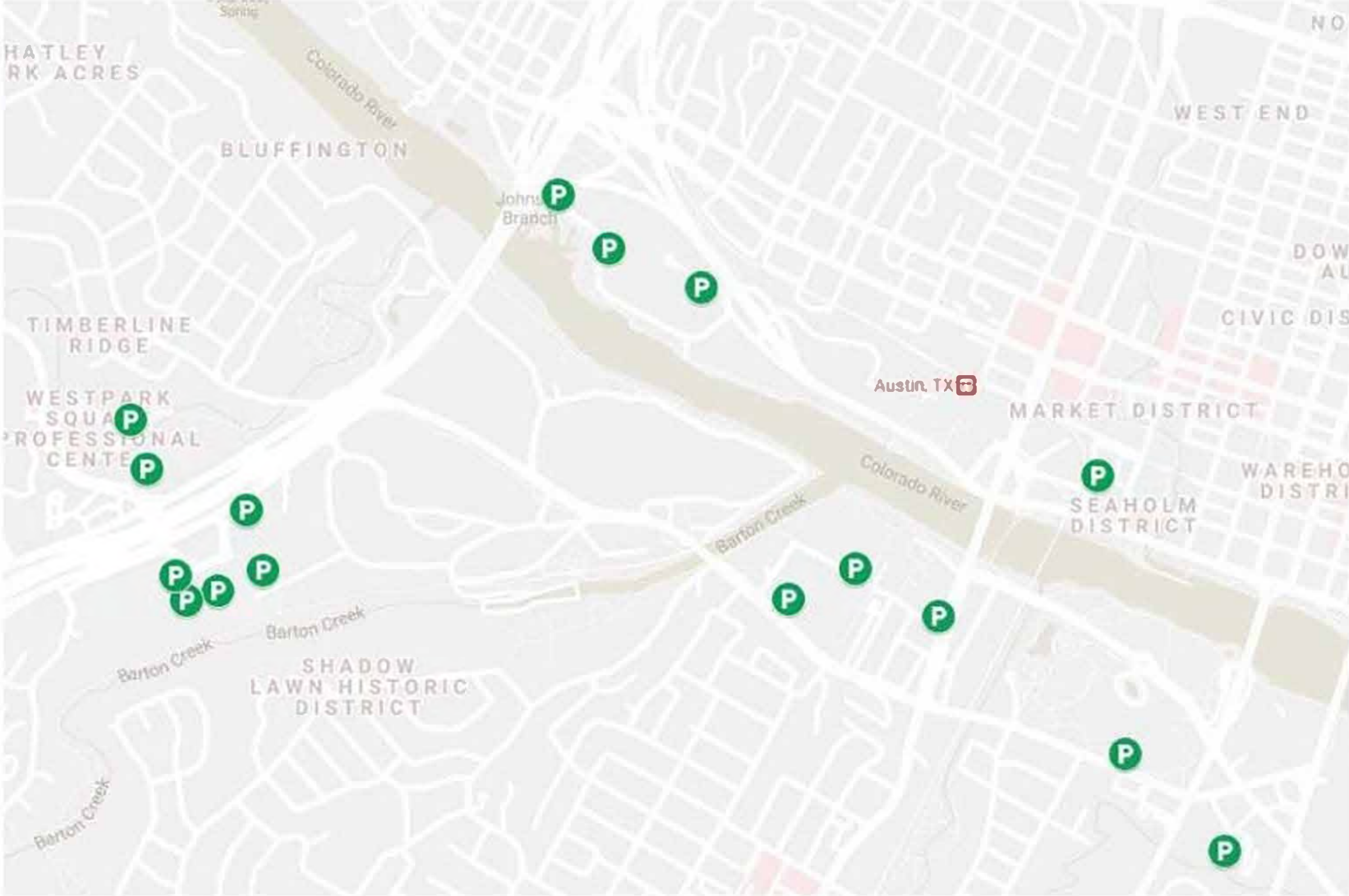
- Nature and Ecology
- Programming
- Sustainability
- History and Culture
- Accessibility/Mobility/Transportation



### CONSOLIDATE DISPARATE LOTS



### SHARED PARKING RESOURCES





# VEHICLE NETWORK

## BARTON SPRINGS ROAD

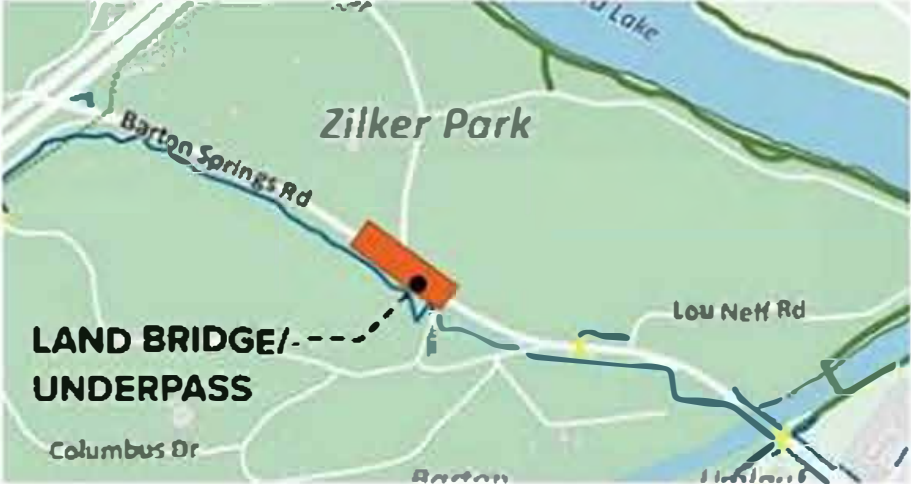
### TEMPORARY INTERVENTION



### TRAFFIC CALMING



### LAND BRIDGE/UNDERPASS



SMALLER

Time and Cost of Implementation

LARGER



# VEHICLE NETWORK

STRATFORD DRIVE



ENTRANCE OF NATURE CENTER DRIVE

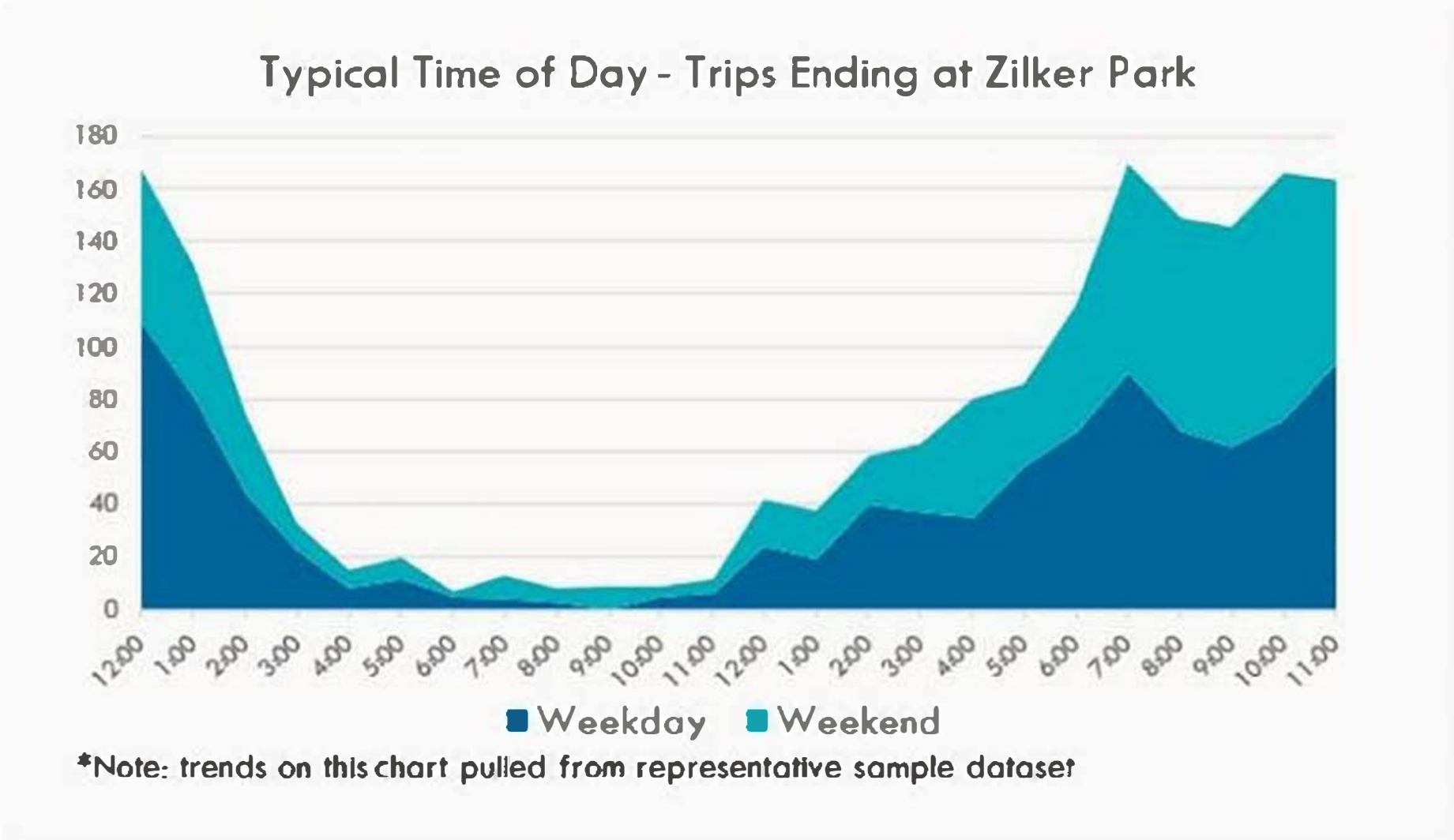


STRATFORD DRIVE ALONG NATURE PRESERVE



# SHARED VEHICLE/SCOOTER

DESIGNATE PARKING, PICK-UP/DROP-OFF ZONE





# ECOLOGY





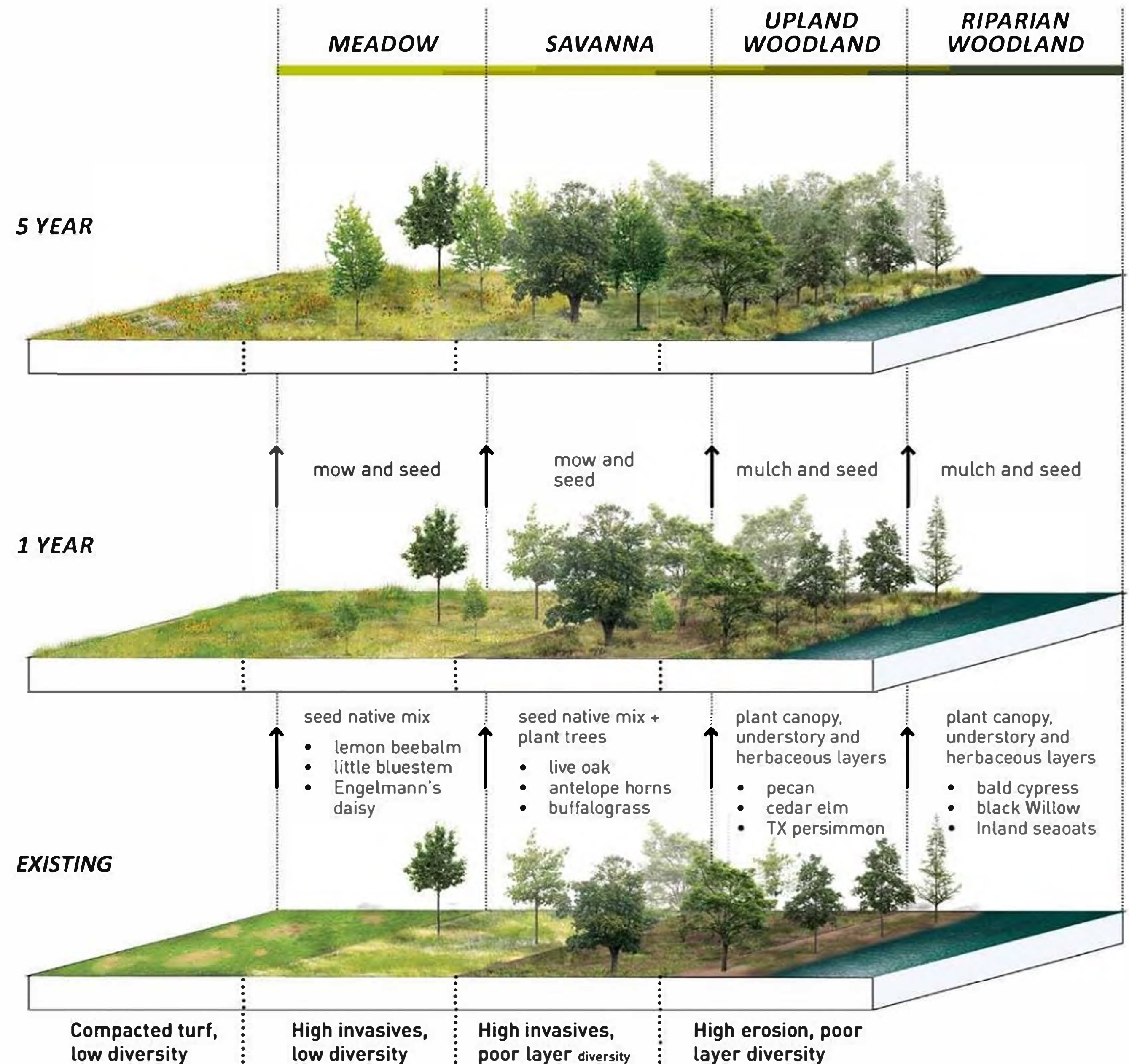
# ECOLOGICAL UPLIFT

## THE DEFINITION

Ecological uplift is the process of enhancing ecological systems in a landscape where they may not exist, are impaired, or simply can be improved.

Ecological Uplift actions at Zilker Park will:

- INCREASE BIODIVERSITY
- IMPROVE ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION
- EXPAND CRITTER HABITATS
- ENHANCE CONNECTION BETWEEN HUMANS AND NATURE
- INCREASE LANDSCAPE RESILIENCY TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS





# ECOLOGY SCENARIO

ECOLOGICAL UPLIFT



UPLAND WOODLAND



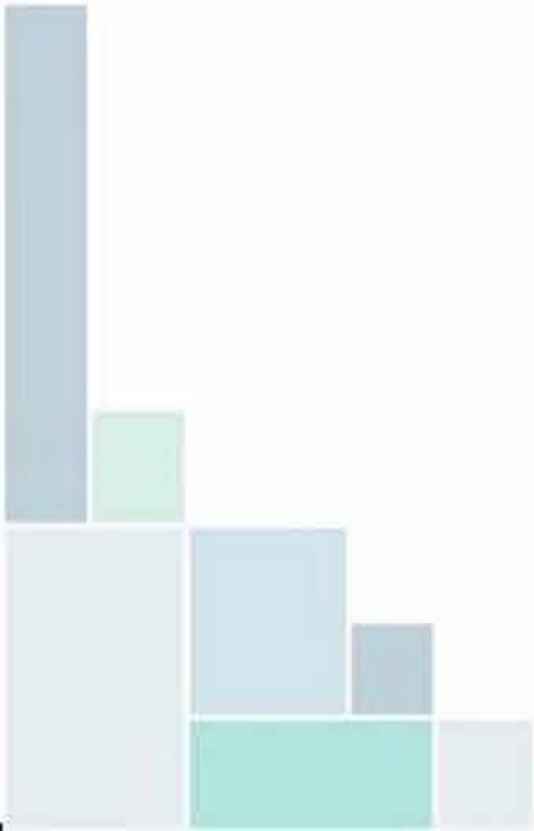
RIPARIAN WOODLAND



SAVANNA



MEADOW





# CANOPY ENHANCEMENT

Canopy enhancement adds shade trees in formal park areas. This not only aids ecosystem services, it improves the user experience as well.

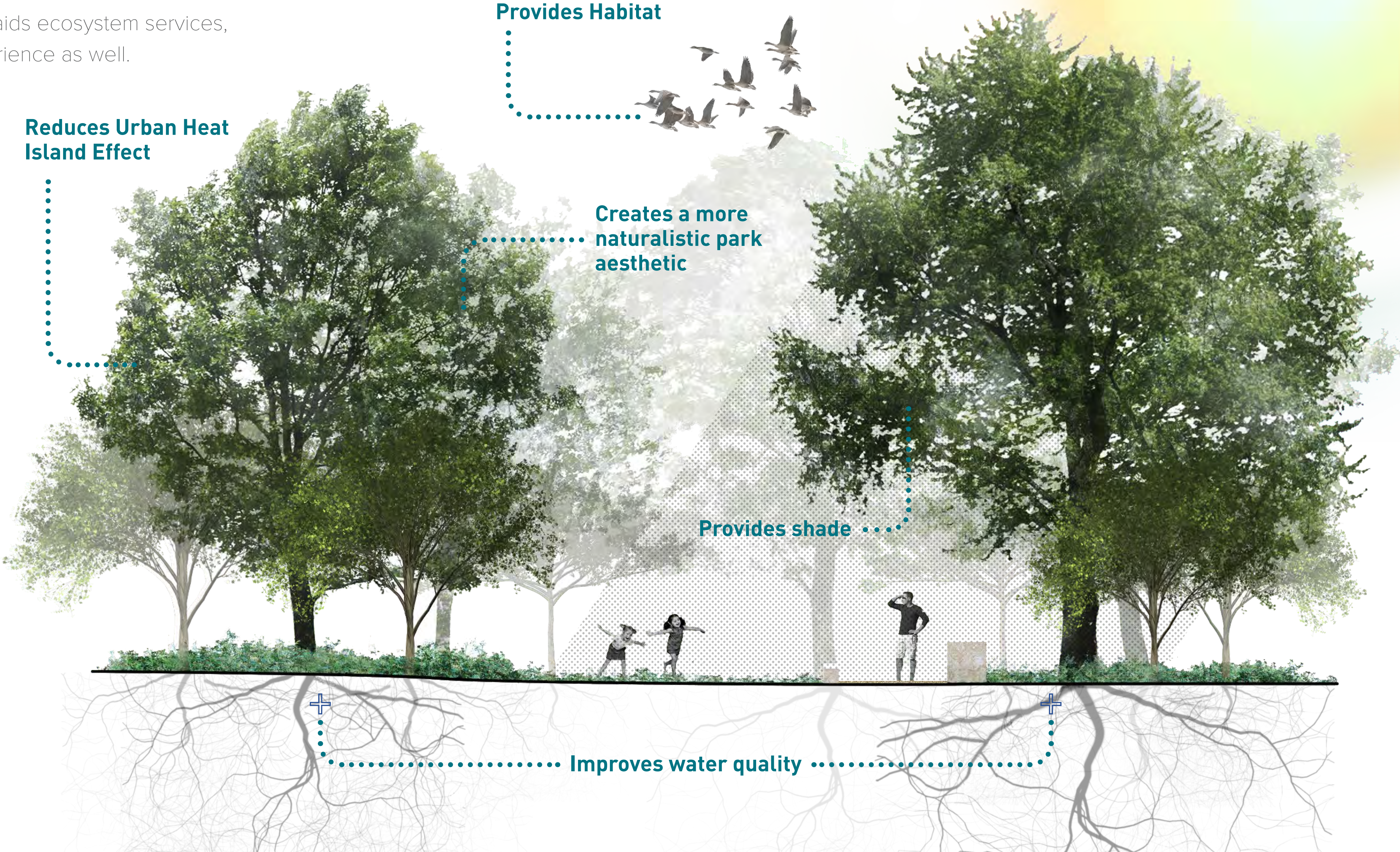
**Reduces Urban Heat Island Effect**

**Provides Habitat**

**Creates a more naturalistic park aesthetic**

**Provides shade**

**Improves water quality**





# SUSTAINABILITY

## GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE OPTIONS

The images depict Green Stormwater Infrastructure precedents found in the Central Texas area.

- Ⓐ A raingarden collects runoff from a building and pathway at **Dell Medical**.
- Ⓑ A swale directs water and allows for interesting vegetation along a pathway at **Hardberger Park** near San Antonio.
- Ⓒ Limestone terraces allow vegetation to be planted along the bank of **Waller Creek**, slowing down water as it flows from the urban areas at **Dell Medical**.





# SUSTAINABILITY

## GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE OPTIONS

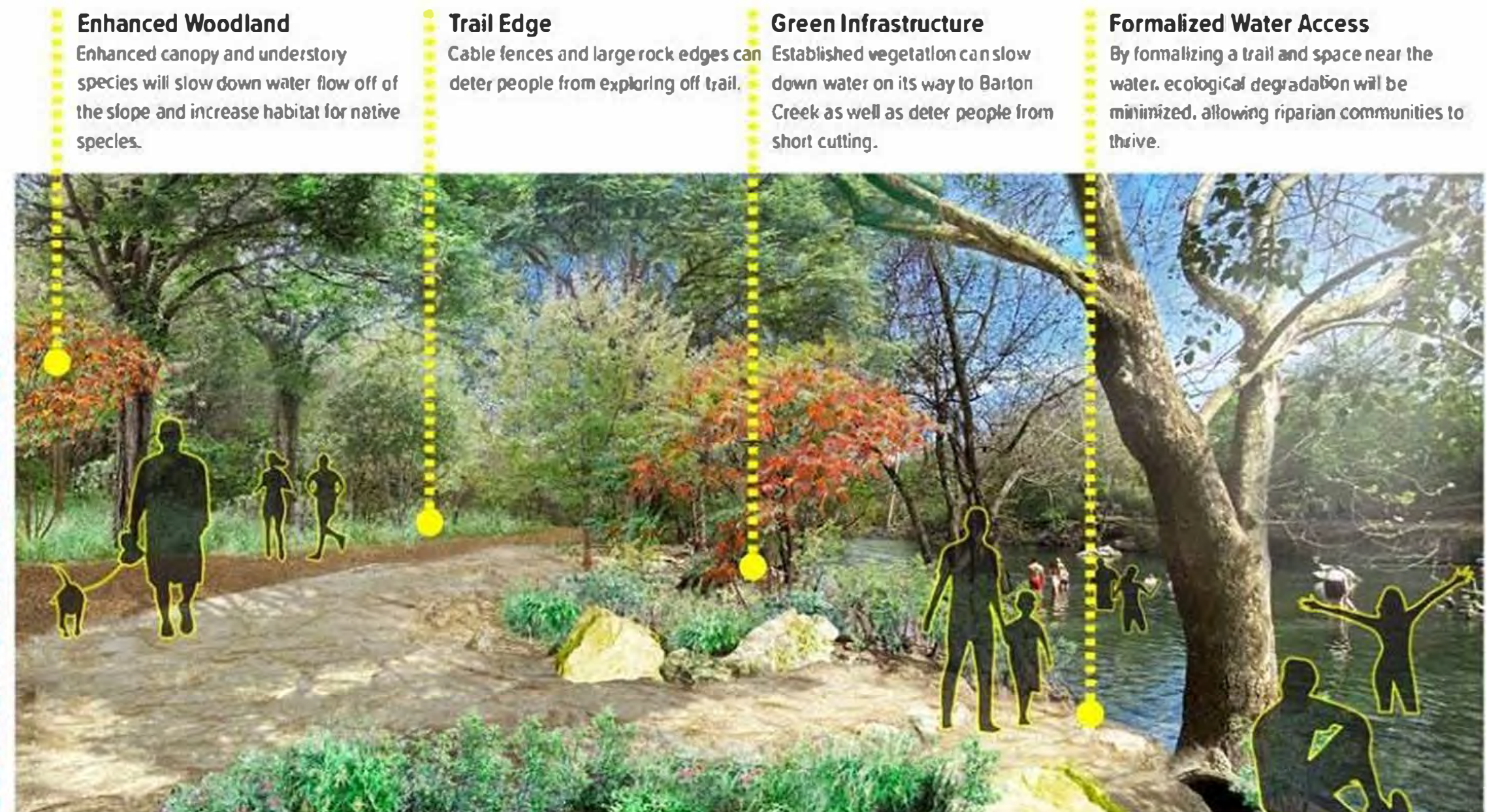
The graphic visualizes the Lower Barton Creek transformation. Green infrastructure works in collaborate with enhanced woodland and formalization of the trail edge and water access in order to create an exceptional space for humans and critters.

- **EXISTING CONDITIONS:** shows degradation from lack of stormwater management upslope, trampling, and flooding that has resulted in compacted soils, erosion, an incomplete canopy, struggling vegetation, and a degraded user experience.
- **PROPOSED CONDITIONS:** shows the ecological health and enhanced user experience that results by addressing upslope stormwater with green stormwater infrastructure, formalizing trails and water access, installing physical barriers to plantings, decompacting soils, and planting robust native canopy, understory, and groundcover vegetation.

EXISTING CONDITIONS  
LOWER BARTON CREEK



PROPOSED CONDITIONS  
LOWER BARTON CREEK





# LANDFILL

## Scenarios

### Existing Condition

#### MAINTAIN SCENARIO (1)

Keep existing condition for parking



### What to do with 17 acres of undertilled lake front land at Zilker Park?



#### EXTRACTION SCENARIO (2)

Extract landfill debris, amend soil for restoration



#### BURY SCENARIO (3)

Import soil on top of cap to support native plant communities



#### STATUS QUO SCENARIO (4)

Berm and swale system with GSI to create planting areas

--- Current ground plane  
— Proposed ground plane  
Cap  
Landfill



Create up to 17 acres of restored native vegetation and wildlife habitat

Enhance the user experience with an opportunity to engage the lake, interact with nature, and/or additional programming.

Construct rain gardens that capture stormwater, protect downslope wetlands, and Lady Bird Lake.

Limited because of landfill cap

Enhance canopy to create shade, increase user comfort, mitigate and adapt to climate change, and improve air quality

Extremely limited

Extremely limited

Not feasible

Limited

Any combination of the three scenarios allows for ecological restoration, active park programming, passive park programming, surface parking, and/or structured parking.





# NEXT STEPS

- Community Meeting #4  
February 15  
Zoom registration on the project website

- Zilker Metropolitan Park  
Vision Plan website  
[www.austintexas.gov/ZilkerVision](http://www.austintexas.gov/ZilkerVision)

- Contact Information  
Gregory Montes:  
[ZilkerVision@austintexas.gov](mailto:ZilkerVision@austintexas.gov)