

ZILKER
METROPOLITAN
PARK
VISION PLAN

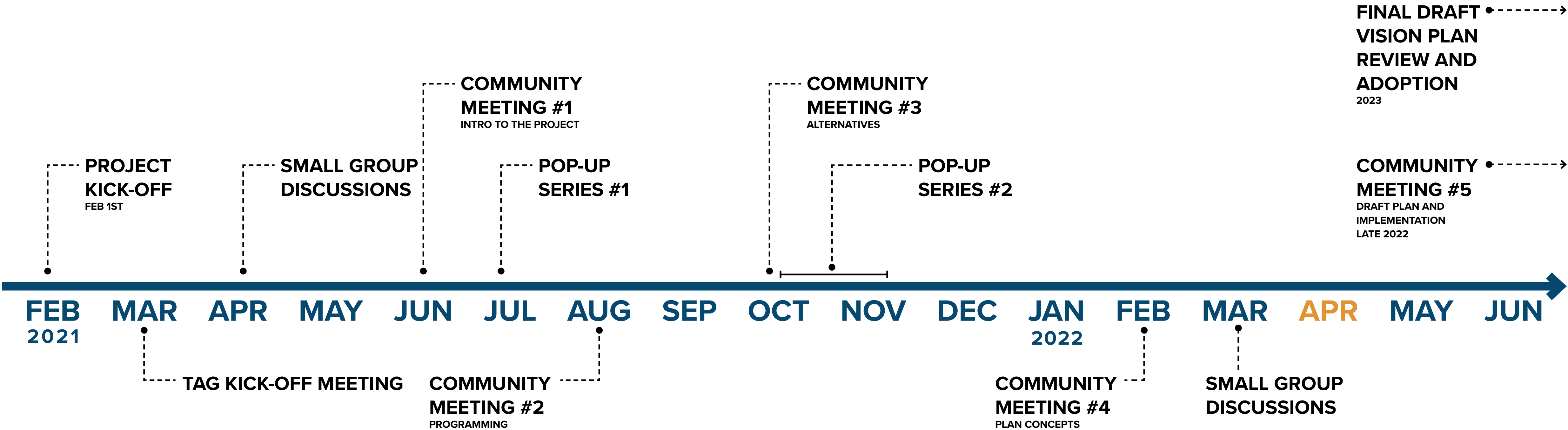
AUSTIN PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING APRIL 25, 2022



DESIGNWORKSHOP

ZILKER PARK VISION PLAN

Project Schedule



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Vision and Goals

Vision

A transparent and well-documented community engagement process, which engages the city, but also seeks and considers the input of interested persons and parties with direct involvement in park and/or parties that are impacted by the park. The engagement process shall include guiding values, direction, and feature a clear step-by-step process, which includes presentation of the vision plan process.

Goals

1.
Educate the community about Zilker Park’s history, current City of Austin programs, operations, and future City of Austin operational needs, and provide opportunities for comment.

2.
Gather community input, feedback, and stories to develop a plan for the future of Zilker Park that represents the diversity of Austin.

3.
Identify and educate the community on environmental considerations and respond to those considerations throughout the project.

4.
Utilize equity strategies to develop community connections with and engage traditionally underserved and marginalized communities in Austin.

5.
Provide opportunities for engagement that are accessible to all abilities.

6.
Identify and engage with PARD Parkners and other organizations, concessionaires, and groups associated with park programming.

7.
Connect with communities around interpretive storytelling and placemaking to identify key opportunities in the park.

8.
Correct any misinformation about the vision for the park and acknowledge any concerns or challenges identified by community members.

9.
Create an environment of excitement for the proposed Vision Plan and future park development.

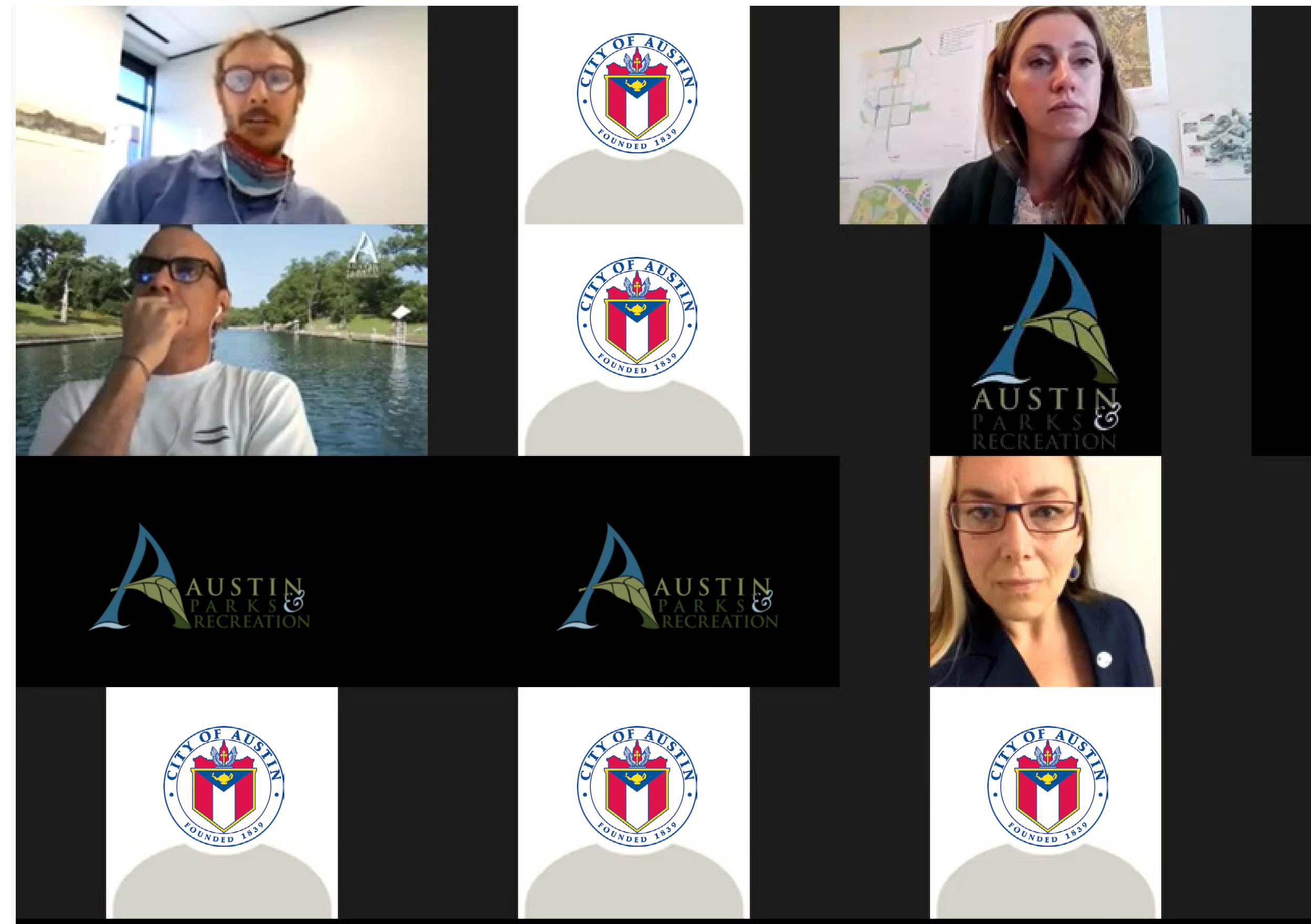
10.
Create community support for the proposed Vision Plan and future park development.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement Goals: 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Technical Advisory Group

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was comprised of City of Austin representatives from various departments who provided technical expertise on different elements and concerns in and around Zilker Park. The members of the TAG ensured their department's goals, policies, plans, and constraints were understood in relation to Zilker and communicated with the project team. All meetings were recorded and posted for review by community members.



TAG Members

City of Austin Representatives: Parks & Recreation Department, Austin Transportation Department, Public Works, Watershed Protection, Office of Real Estate Services, Marketing and Communications Office, Austin Water, Austin Energy, Housing and Planning, Office of Sustainability, Austin Resource Recovery, and Austin Fire Department

Partner Representatives: Capital Metro and TxDOT/CTRMA

- Meeting #1, March 3, 2021
- Meeting #2, May 5, 2021
- Meeting #3, July 7, 2021
- Meeting #4, August 18, 2021
- Meeting #5, October 27, 2021
- Meeting #6, February 23, 2022

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement Goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Small Group Discussions

Conduct small-scale, focused group meetings to garner detailed information any relevant issues affecting the enhancement of Zilker Park.



Small Group Discussion Round 1

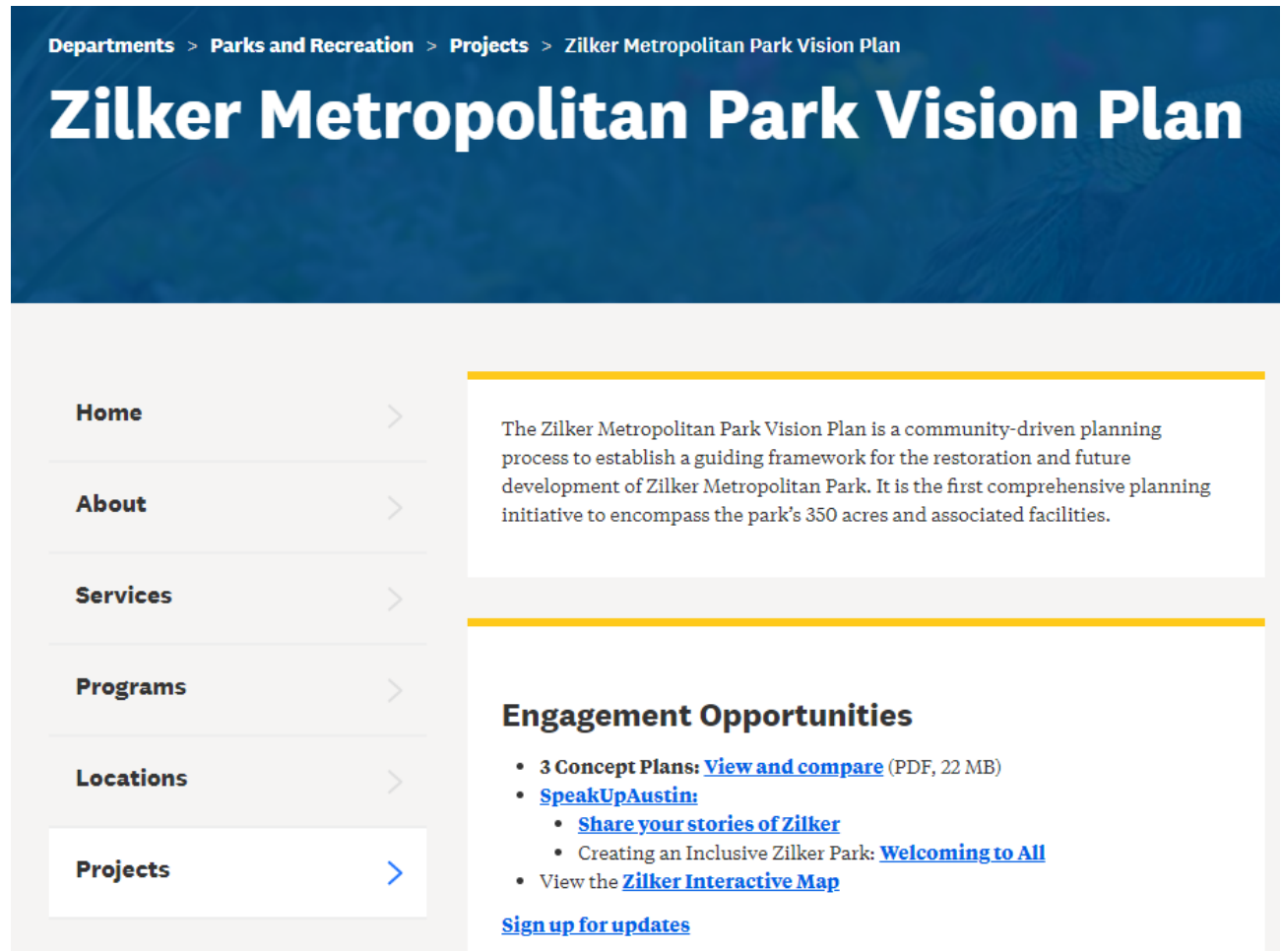
- PARD Operations: April 29, 2021
- Environment-Water Issues: May 3, 2021
- Events (Large): May 3, 2021
- Events (Small): May 4, 2021
- History-Culture-Tourism: May 6, 2021
- Neighbors II: May 7, 2021
- Area Businesses and Concessionaires: May 10, 2021
- Exploring Equity and Inclusion: May 10, 2021
- Parkners and Nonprofits: May 11, 2021
- Higher Education Partners: May 12, 2021
- Recreation: May 12, 2021
- K-12 Schools and Youth Partners: May 13, 2021
- Circulation-Connectivity-Transportation: May 14, 2021
- Neighbors I: May 18, 2021
- Exploring Equity and Inclusion 2: May 27, 2021
- Texas School for the Deaf: June 28, 2021

Small Group Discussion Round 2 (Ongoing)

- Equity and Inclusion at Zilker: March 1, 2022
- Interpreting the Park through Equity Lens: March 23, 2022
- HACA City Wide Meeting: March 8, 2022
- HACA South Properties Resident Council: March 24, 2022
- HACA Goodrich Resident Council: March 24, 2022
- Black Women Who Kayak: March 30, 2022
- HACA I-MOM Program: April 5, 2022
- Boys and Girls Club of Austin: April 14, 2022

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Online Engagement



AustinTexas.gov Project Website

Community Engagement Goals: 1, 8, 9, 10



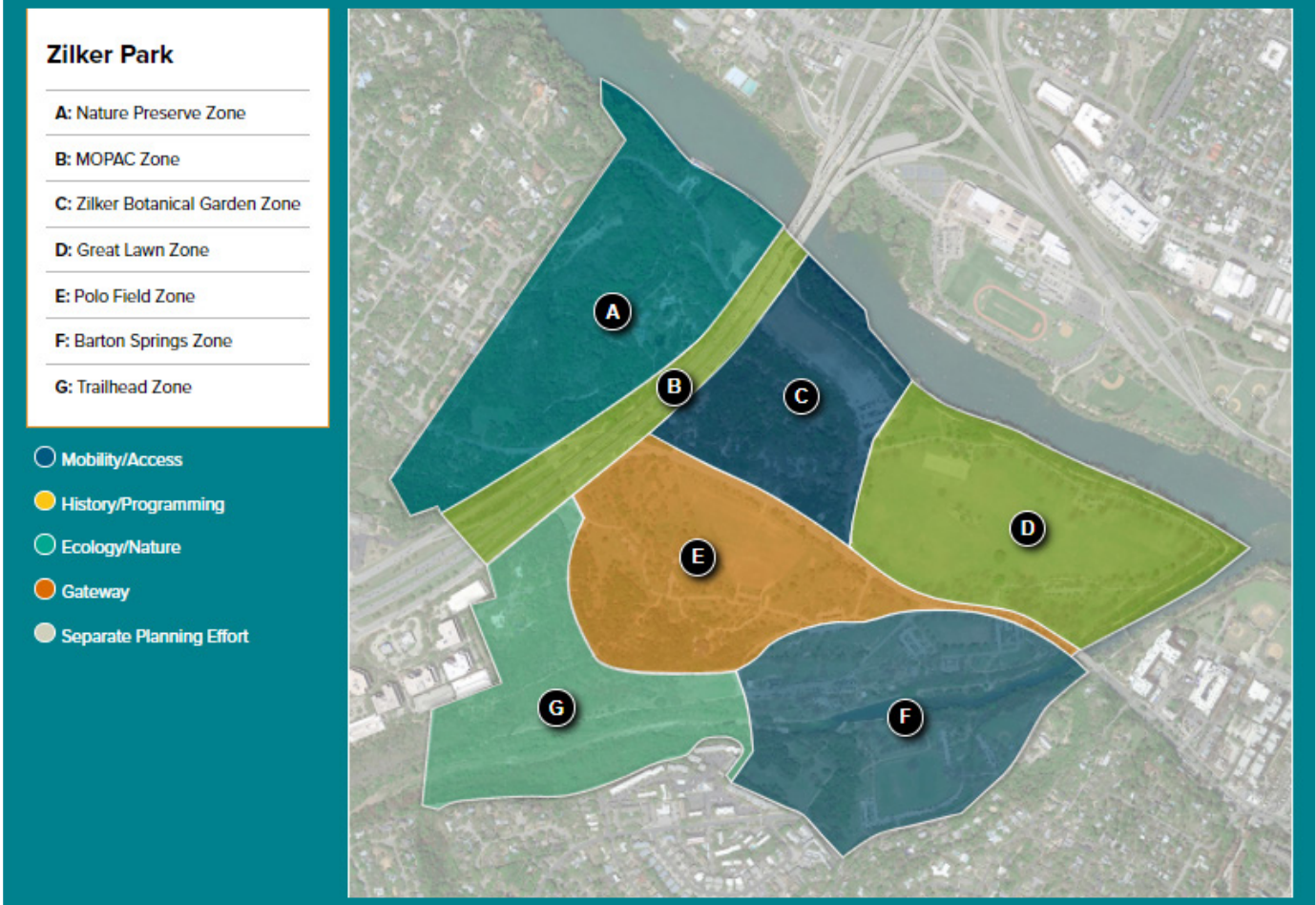
Welcome to SpeakUp Austin!

Thanks for visiting *SpeakUp Austin!* the community engagement website for the City of Austin. Please check out the project pages below to learn about what's happening in our community. Also, please take a moment to sign up to share your ideas and feedback.

Sign up + Speak up!

SpeakUpAustin.org

Community Engagement Goals: 1, 2, 3



StoryMaps

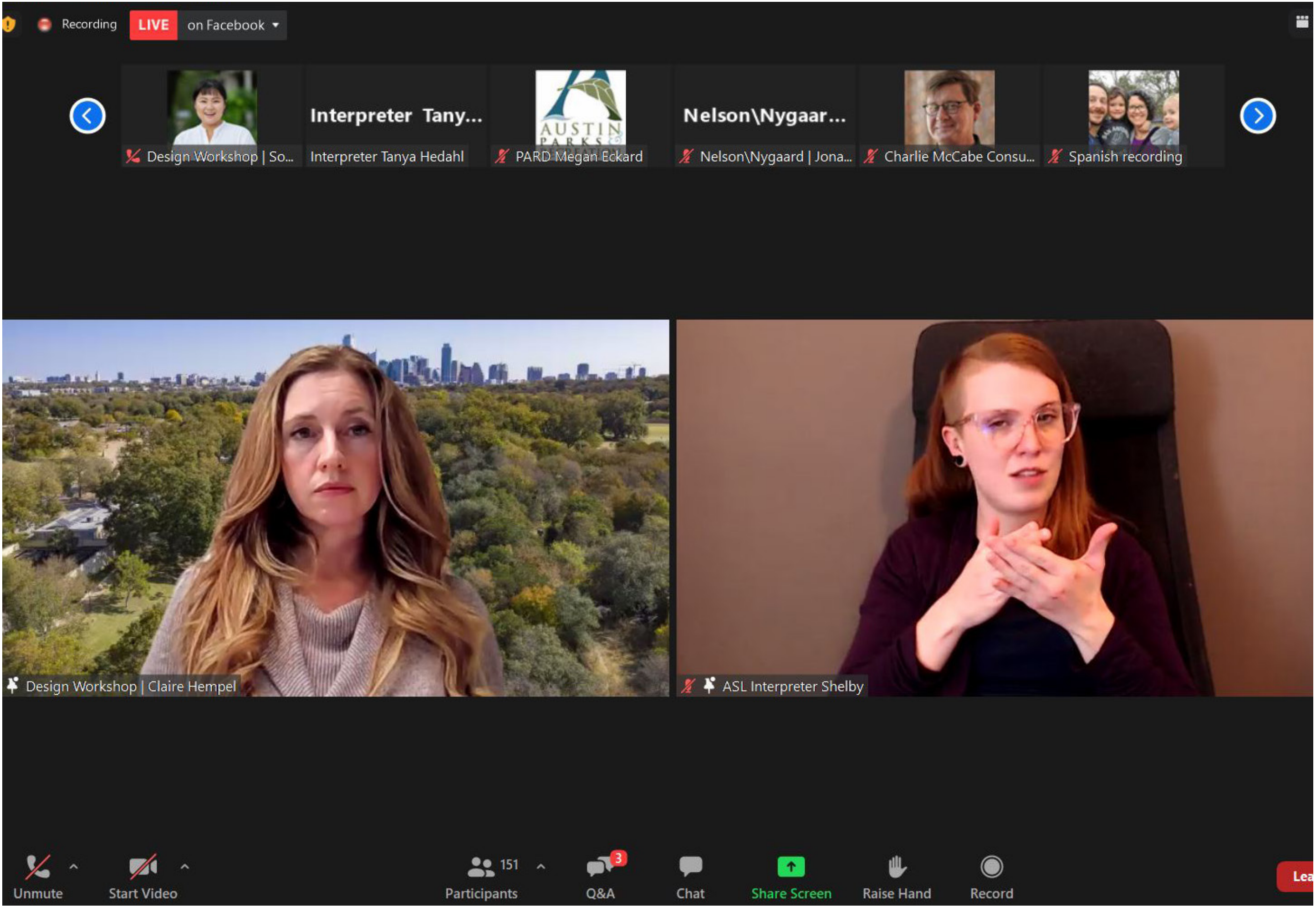
Community Engagement Goals: 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement Goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9

Community Meetings

Zoom with Live Polling, Recorded and posted to website, Stream Facebook Live, Translation and interpretation to Spanish and other languages
Summary report of the meeting to be posted on the project page



Community Meeting #1

140 Zoom Participants
125 Live Poll Participants
14 Facebook Live Participants
63 Questions/Comments

Community Meeting #2

100 Zoom Participants
63 Live Poll Participants
15 Facebook Live Participants
102 Questions/Comments

Community Meeting #3

127 Zoom Participants
7 Facebook Live
103 Live Poll Participants
107 Questions/Comments

Community Meeting #4

177 Zoom Participants
27 Facebook Live
148 Live Poll Participants
235 Questions/Comments

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement Goals: 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10

Pop-up Series

Pop-ups will be low-production events, often consisting of a table and a tent, that supplement community meetings and bring the questions presented in these meetings into closer connection to community members throughout Austin.



8/10/2021 Blues on the Green

Pop-up Series #1

Date	District	Location
7/3/2021	1	Givens Park
7/10/2021	5	Garrison Pool
7/11/2021	4	Bartholomew Pool
7/16/2021	8	Barton Springs Pool
7/17/2021	3	Govalle Pool
7/18/2021	2	Dittmar Pool
7/19/2021	6	Northwest Family YMCA
7/24/2021	9	Shipe Neighborhood Pool
7/25/2021	7	Balcones Neighborhood Pool
7/26/2021	7	Southwest Family Y
7/31/2021	10	Ramsey Neighborhood Park
7/27/2021	8	Zilker Park Great Lawn
7/27/2021	3	Pan American Park
7/28/2021	8	Zilker Park Great Lawn
8/1/2021	8	Circle C Ranch Metropolitan Park
8/6/2021	1	Mt. Zion Baptist Church
8/7/2021	7	Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park
8/7/2021	3	Oak Springs School Park
8/8/2021	9	Republic Square
8/10/2021		Blues on the Green

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement Goals: 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10

Pop-up Series

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Pop-up Series #2

Date	District	Location
10/25/2021	8	Outside Barton Springs Pool
10/26/2021	2	Dove Springs Recreation Center
11/19/2021	3	South Austin Recreation Center
10/30/2021	4	COA/North Austin YMCA
11/1/2021	9	Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center
11/5/2021	7	North Village Branch, Austin Public Library
11/7/2021	6	H Mart
11/13/2021	5	Manchaca Road Branch, Austin Public Library
11/13/2021	8	Circle C Ranch Metro Park Playground
11/15/2021	10	Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library
11/17/2021	4	Gus Garcia Recreation Center
11/17/2021	1	Turner-Roberts Recreation Center
11/18/2021	1	Turner-Roberts Recreation Center
11/20/2021	1	Eastlink Trail: Boggy Creek Trail
11/28/2021	8	Zilker Park: Zilker Holiday Tree Lighting
12/4/2021	3	Krieg Field
12/10/2021	3	Fiesta Gardens Degollado Pavilion
12/12/2021	9	Republic Square
12/14/2021	9	Meadowbrook Apartments (HACA)
12/14/2021	3	Bouldin Oaks (HACA)
12/15/2021	9	Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center
12/15/2021	1	Asian American Resource Center
12/16/2021	7	Northwest Recreation Center
12/18/2021	3	Pan-American "A.B. Cantu" Recreation Center
12/29/2021	8	Zilker Park Playscape and Hike-and-Bike Trail
12/29/2021	1	George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement Goals: 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10

Pop-up Series

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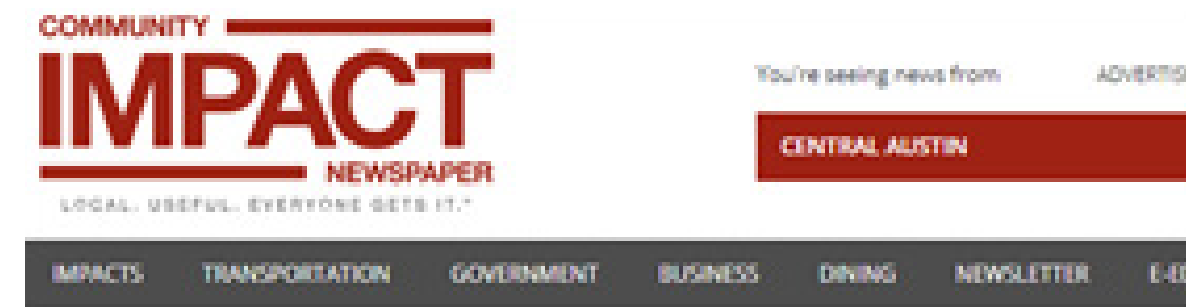
Pop-up Series #3

Date	Location
2/17/2022	Zilker Park
2/19/2022	Carver Museum Black History Month Block Party
3/8/2022	Housing Authority for the City of Austin City Wide meeting
3/12/2022	Elisabet Ney Museum Nature Day
3/14/2022	Mendez Recreation Center
3/16/2022	Bartholomew Park and Mueller Lake Park
3/16/2022	Give a Bark About Your Park and Great Lawn outreach
3/18/2022	Gus Garcia Recreation Center
3/18/2022	Bartholomew Park and Mueller Lake Park
3/18/2022	Carver Museum Book Club
3/21/2022	Montopolis Recreation Center
3/22/2022	Dittmar Recreation Center
3/23/2022	Gus Garcia Recreation Center
3/24/2022	Goodrich Resident Council Meeting (HACA)
3/24/2022	South Properties Resident Council Meeting (HACA)
3/26/2022	Carver Museum Vendor Fair and Carver Genealogy Center
3/29/2022	Asian American Resource Center (AARC)
4/3/2022	ABC Kite Fest
4/5/2022	HACA I-MOM Program
4/9/2022	Ceremonial Moment of Silence & Splash Honoring Joan Means Khabele

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Other Opportunities

Community Engagement Goals: 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10



Austin seeking input on future of 'loved to death' Zilker Metropolitan Park



Media

- Austin American-Statesman
- Fox 7 (Video)
- KXAN
- The Austin Chronicle
- Community Impact
- Austin Monitor
- El Mundo Newspaper
- Austin Culture Map
- Towers
- Patch
- KAZI Radio & Despierta Austin

Emails

PARD staff sent email notices to community members across several mailing lists. The email notices contained information about the project and engagement opportunities including, community meeting schedule and materials, survey links and results, and pop-up event schedules



Social Media

The City shared updates, community meeting details, and other opportunities on all of PARD’s social media accounts, including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor.

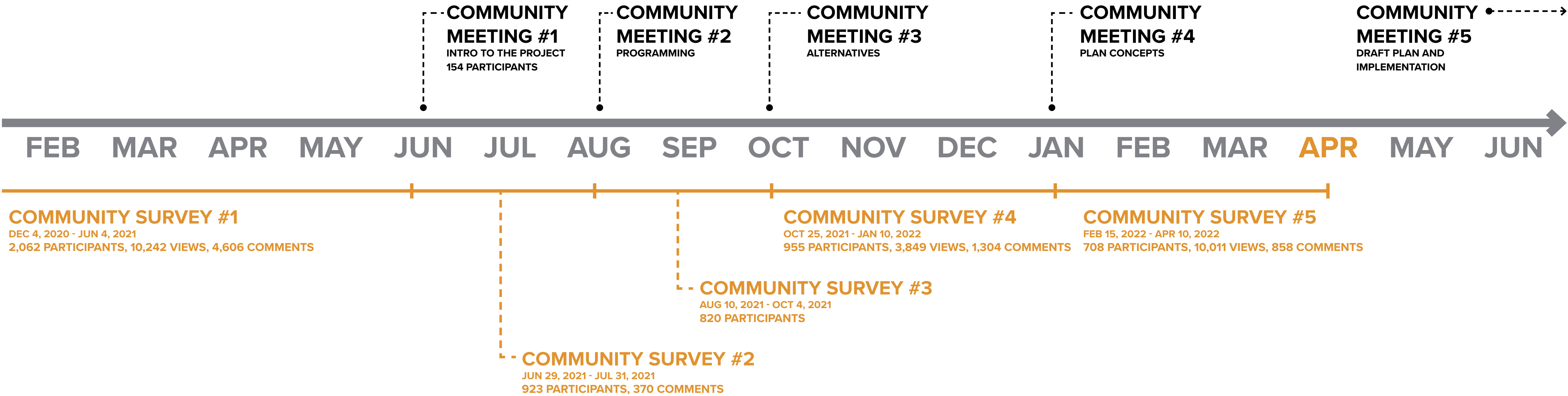
Signs and Banners

2,895 people used the QR code on the 50 yard signs the project team installed in Zilker Park and in metropolitan and districts parks throughout Austin

ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEYS

Schedule

Community Engagement Goals: 2, 3, 4



INTERCEPT SURVEY

OBTAIN ON-THE-GROUND INPUT FROM PARK USERS, OR AUSTINI- TES WHO LIVE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE CITY, ON VARIOUS AS- PECT OF THE PARK PLANNING PROCESS. THESE SURVEYS CAN BE USED TO BOOST INPUT FROM AREAS OF THE CITY THAT MAY NOT BE WELL-REPRESENTED IN THE PROCESS TO DATE.

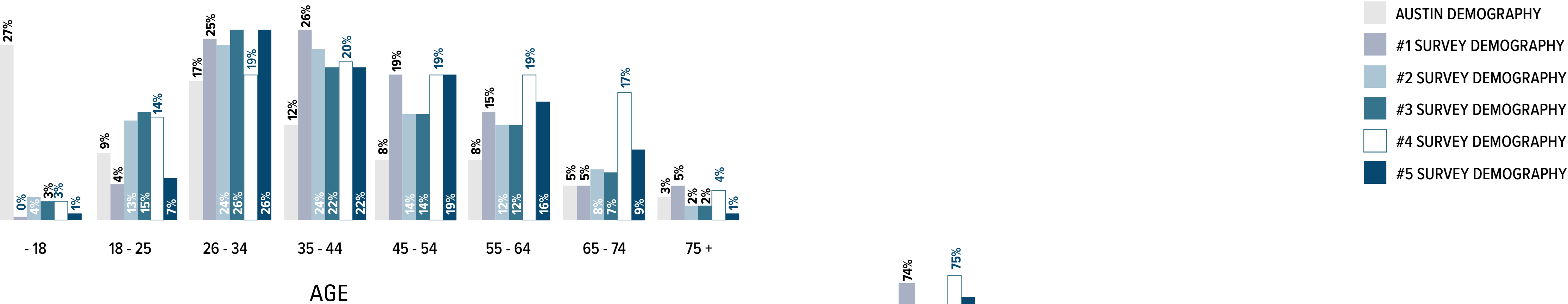
Community Engagement Goals: 2, 5, 7

Summary of 5 Surveys

5,468 Participants
7,958 Comments

ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEYS

Survey Takers



SURVEY #5 DEMOGRAPHY



SURVEY #4 DEMOGRAPHY



SURVEY #3 DEMOGRAPHY



SURVEY #2 DEMOGRAPHY



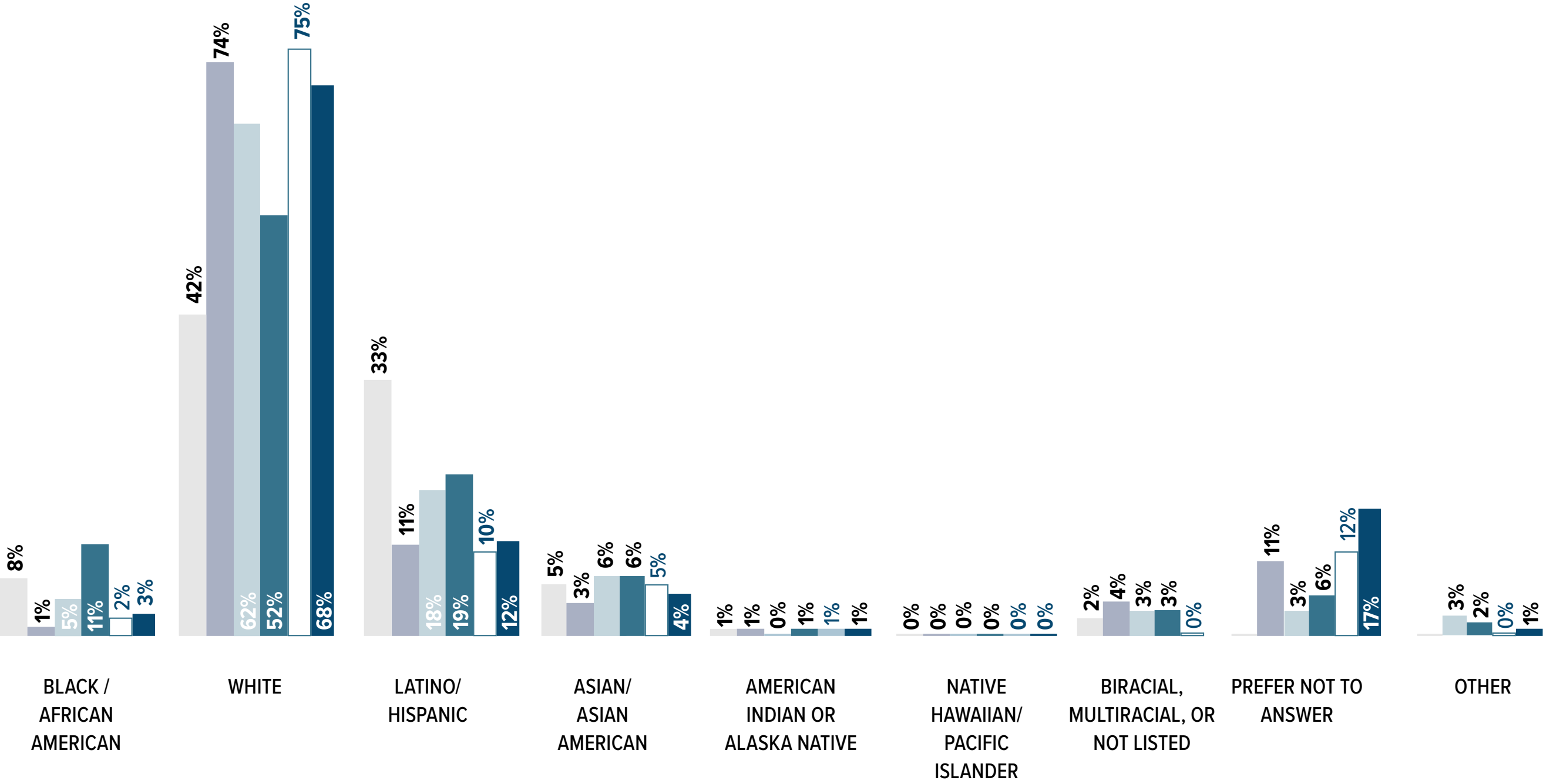
SURVEY #1 DEMOGRAPHY



AUSTIN DEMOGRAPHY



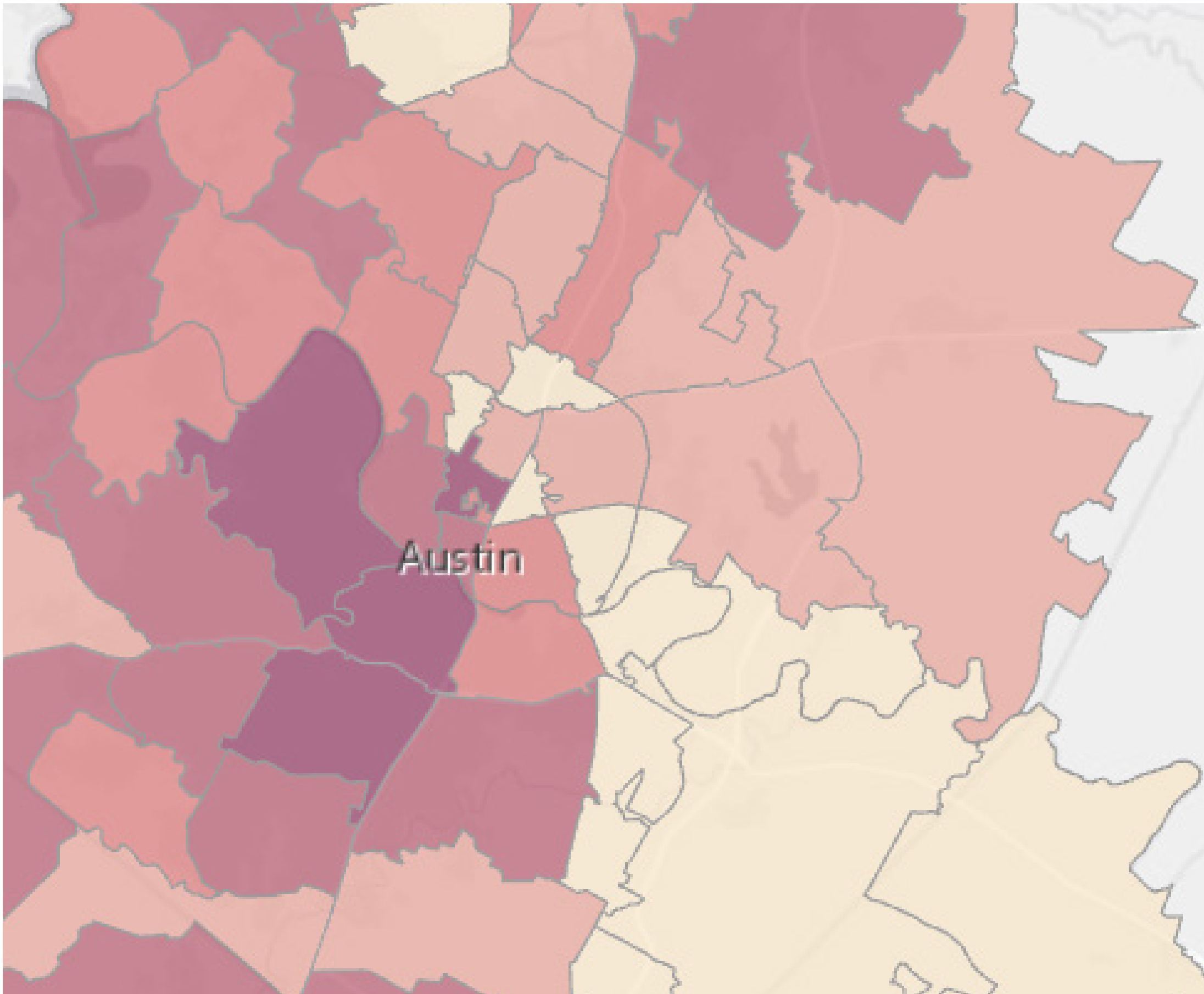
GENDER



RACE/ETHNICITY

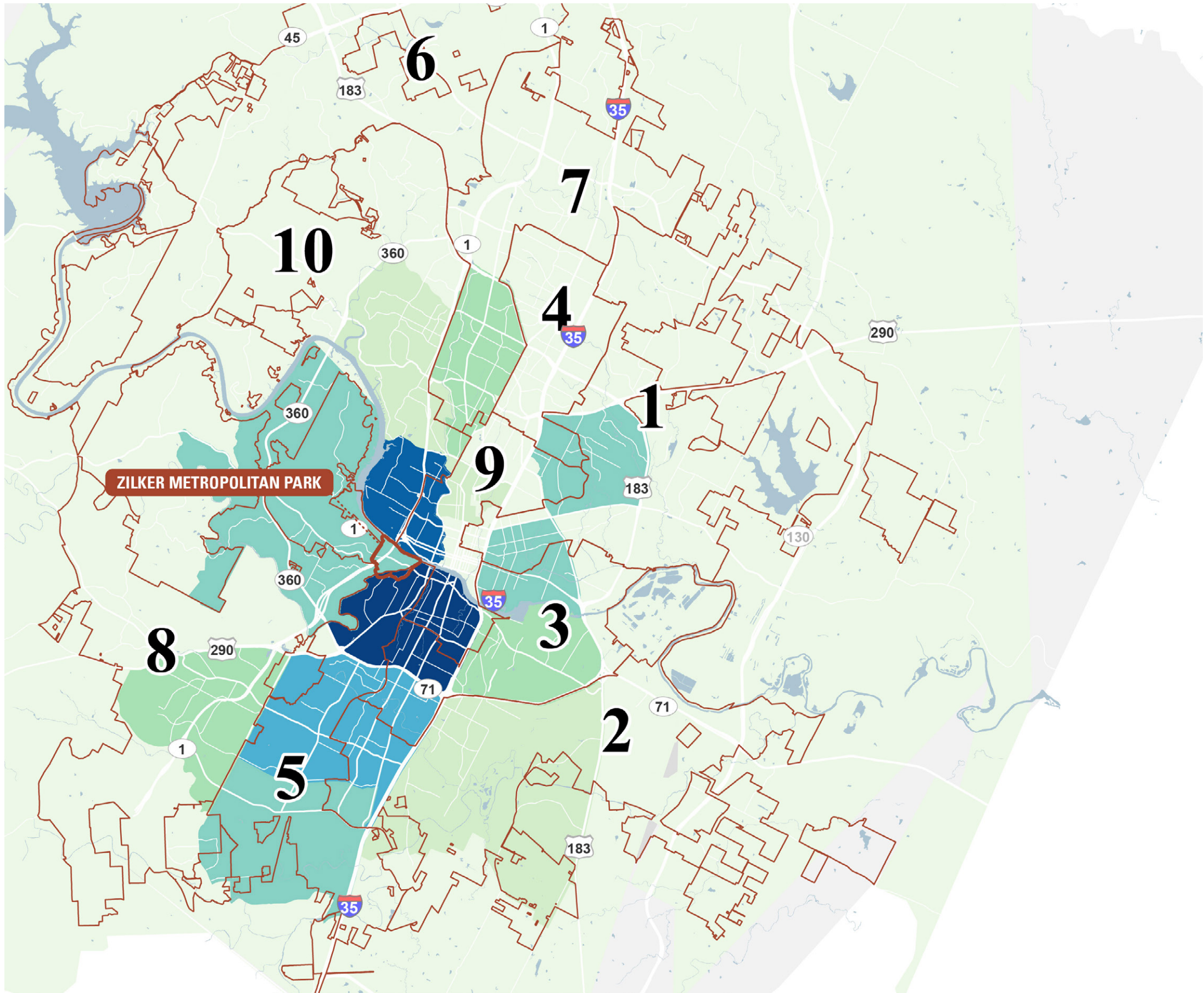
ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEYS

Survey Takers and Zilker Park Visitorship



Zip code of Zilker Visitors

Based on Cellular Data



Zip code of Zilker Survey #4 Takers



Sources: Safegraph

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Equity and Inclusion Strategy

Vision

The key stakeholders will be engaged directly. In addition to marketing and outreach being directed to traditionally marginalized communities, community leaders should be identified who might be willing to share stories and experiences around Zilker Park. In addition, pop-up events that take place across Austin should be identified using an equity lens tool. The marketing and outreach used to execute the equity and inclusion strategy will be guided by the following principles.

Principles

- 1.**
Invite community members that are representative of Austin’s demographics, including a wide range of ages, races, ethnicities and hard-to-reach residents.
- 2.**
Reduce barriers to participation by creating a fun, culturally sensitive, inclusive and engaging process that allows for honest feedback.
- 3.**
Establish a respectful and reciprocal partnership with the community to better understand resident needs and priorities and to inform the development of the Vision Plan.
- 4.**
Increase education and understanding through tailored, engaging content that helps communities develop a deeper understanding of the Vision Plan.
- 5.**
PARD and the Project Team should commit to ongoing learning and improving throughout the process.
- 6.**
Develop and execute a process that advances systemic equity.

Language Access

Language Access will be a key component in outreach and engagement within Austin. We know many community members prefer communication in their primary language at home, so PARDD is committed to providing opportunities for information and feedback to these community members for engagement techniques and events.

Digital and Non-Digital Access

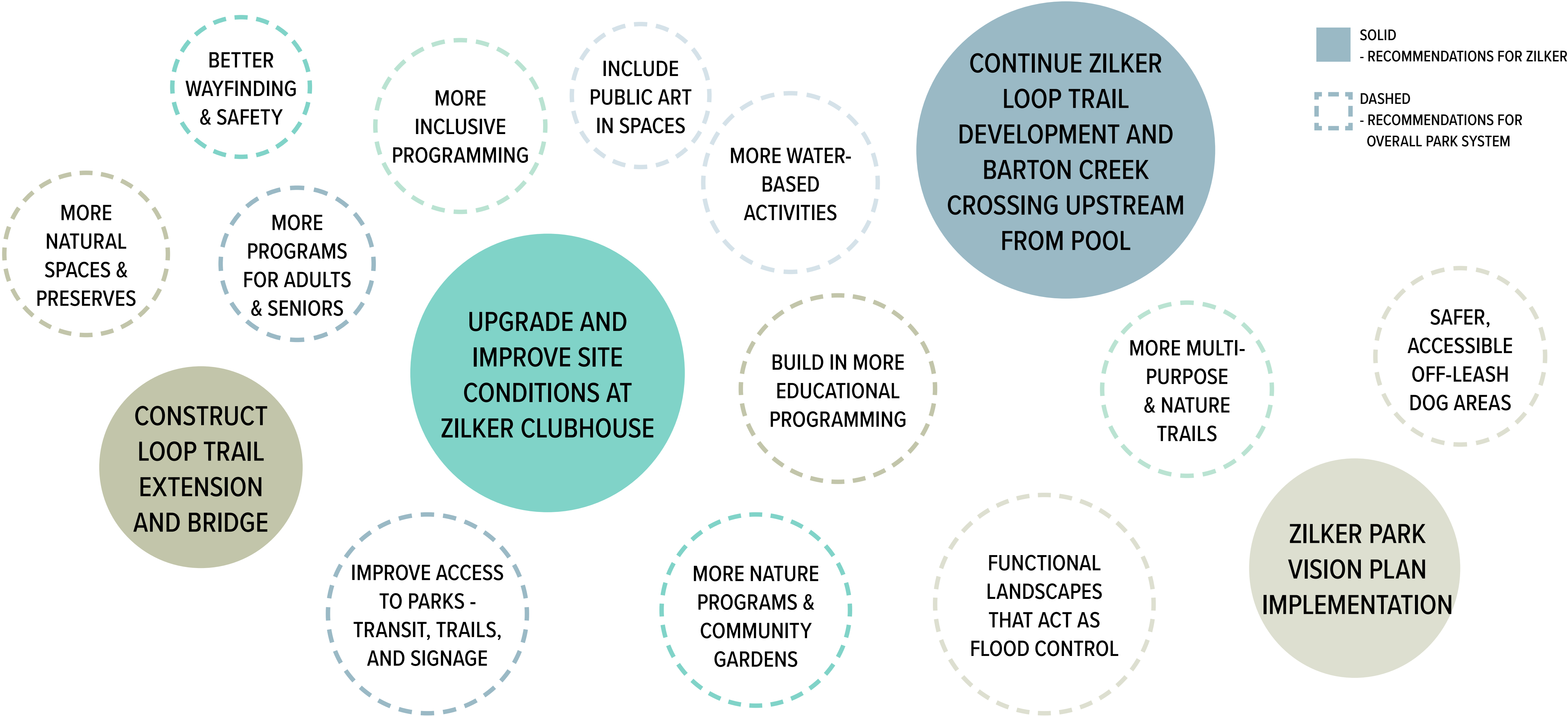
PARDD also acknowledges there is a digital divide when it comes to access to online materials. While many individuals do not have home computers, data shows the digital divide is shrinking, especially when considering smartphone access. Online efforts should accommodate smartphone dimensions.

Additional Outreach and Communication

- Community Ambassadors
- Extra Pop-up Events
- Flyer in multiple Languages: English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Hindi

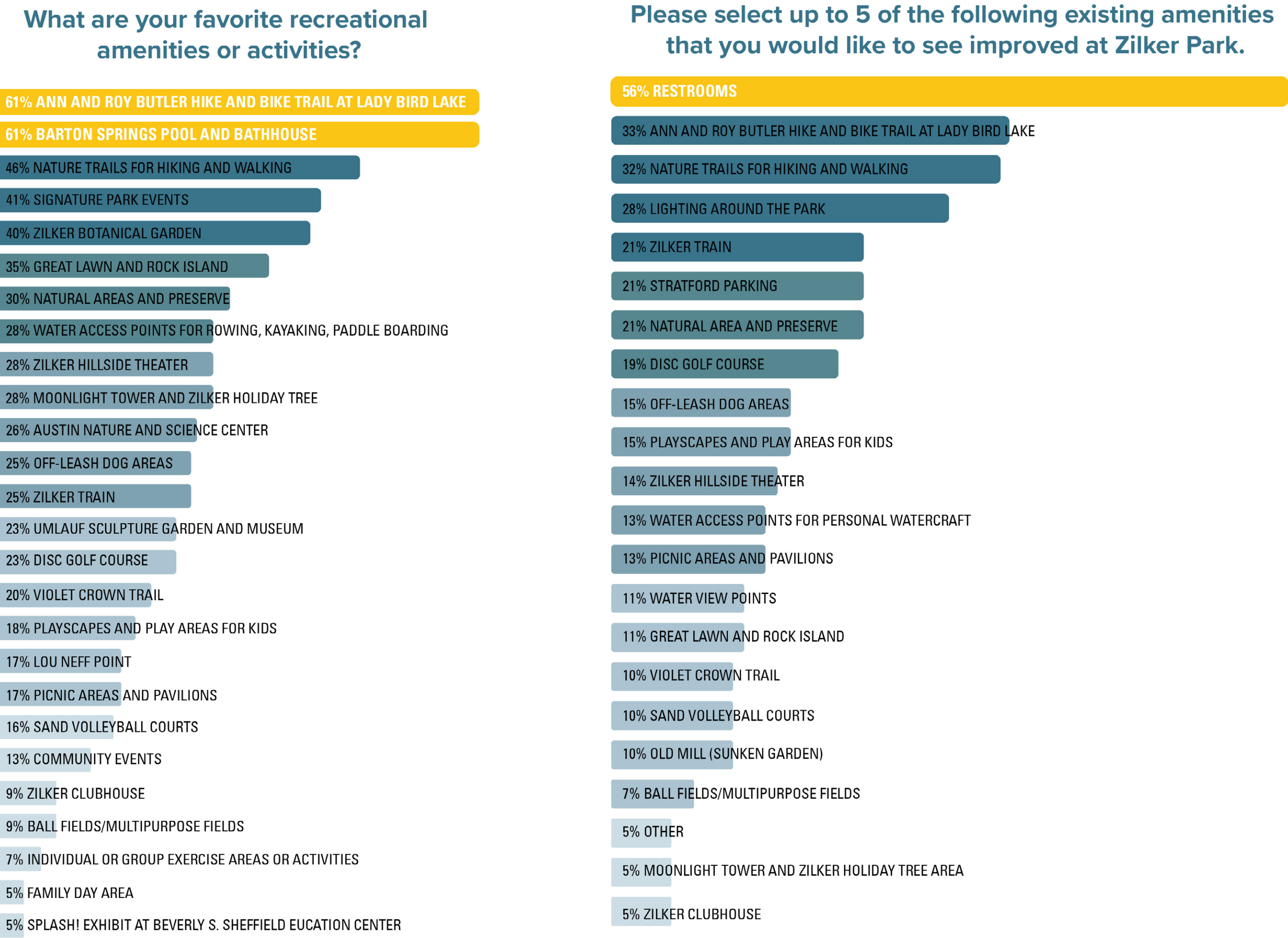
FROM INPUT TO DESIGN

Where we started - Long Range Plan



FROM INPUT TO DESIGN

Where we started - Community Survey #1



61% Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail

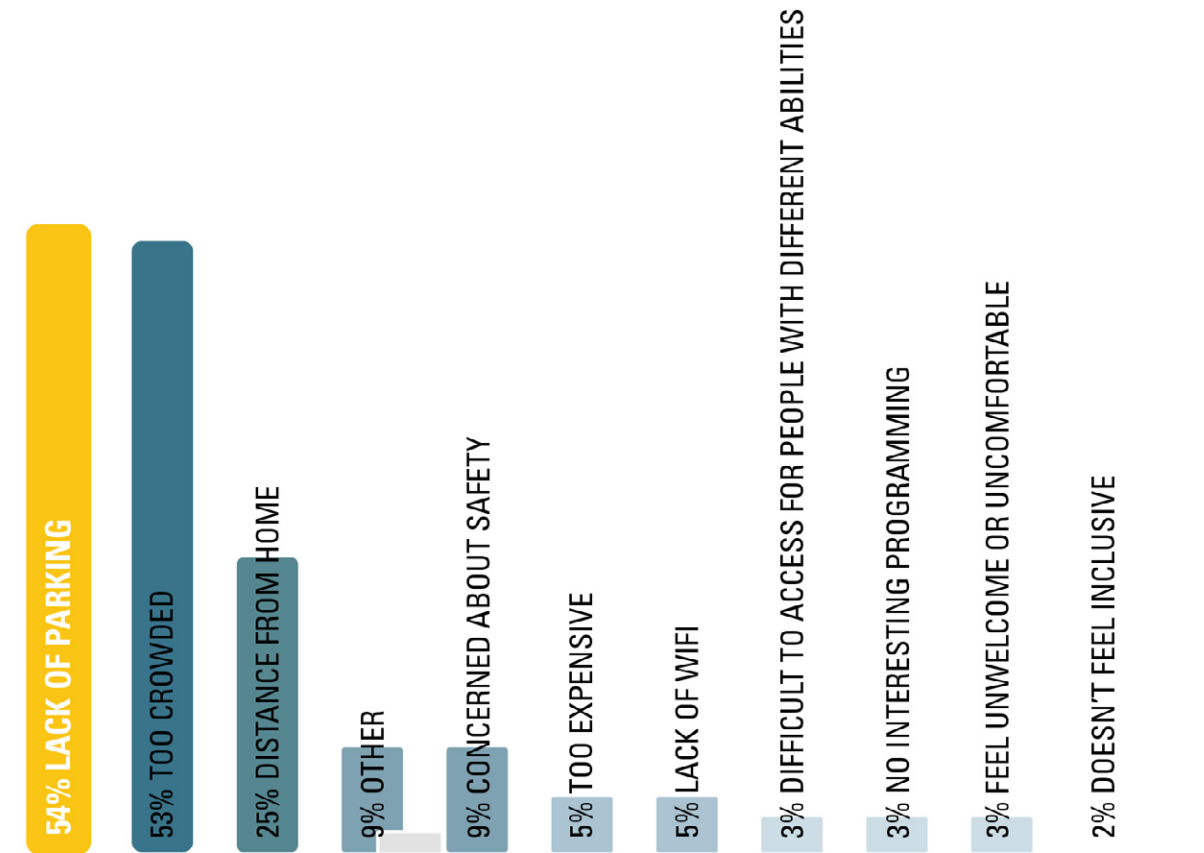
61% Barton Springs Pool and Bathhouse

56% Restrooms

How well are the following facilities or amenities meeting your and your family’s needs?

NATURAL AREAS	80% MEET NEEDS		8% NO OPINION
PARKING AREAS	45% MEET NEEDS	46% DOES NOT MEET NEEDS	9% NO OPINION
PICNIC AREAS	59% MEET NEEDS	17% DOES NOT MEET NEEDS	24% NO OPINION
SPORT COURTS OR FIELDS	45% MEET NEEDS	15% DOES NOT MEET NEEDS	40% NO OPINION
TRAILS	79% MEET NEEDS	13% DOES NOT MEET NEEDS	7% NO OPINION
WATER ACCESS POINTS FOR PERSONAL WATERCRAFT	34% MEET NEEDS	22% DOES NOT MEET NEEDS	44% NO OPINION
WATERFRONT VIEWING AREAS	60% MEET NEEDS	22% DOES NOT MEET NEEDS	18% NO OPINION

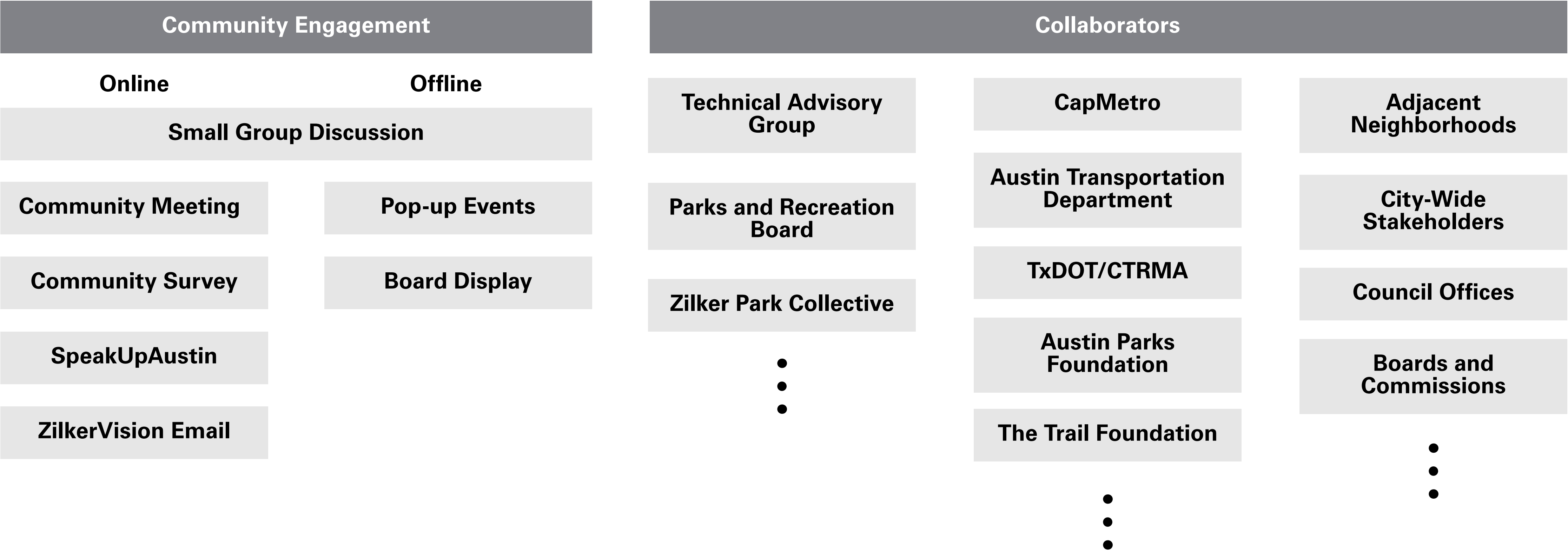
If you DO NOT visit or avoid visiting Zilker Park, why?



54% Lack of Parking

FROM INPUT TO DESIGN

Our Sources for Input



FROM INPUT TO DESIGN

The Result of Survey #5 and Future Design Direction

Barton Springs Road configuration option.

A-Stitch
2 lanes of travel

-----➔ Ranked 4th on the Top 5 Element Question from A-Stitch

B-Edges
2 lanes of travel, on-street parking

-----➔ Ranked 13th on the Top 5 Element Question from B-Edges

C-Regenerate
1 lane of travel, on-street parking

-----➔ Ranked 10th on the Top 5 Element Question from C-Regenerate

08.18.21 TAG Meeting

Barton Spring Road is one of the main connectors from Downtown to MoPac. For that, it is hard to reduce the number of lanes but is great to have separated pedestrians and bikers.

10.01.21 PARD Leadership Meeting

We need to think to use all options in different locations in the park. The level of above/underground would depend on a lot of factors.

12.21.21 Meeting with ATD

Parking along BSR - parallel only; underpass preferred to land bridge due to cost; support medians and curb extensions.

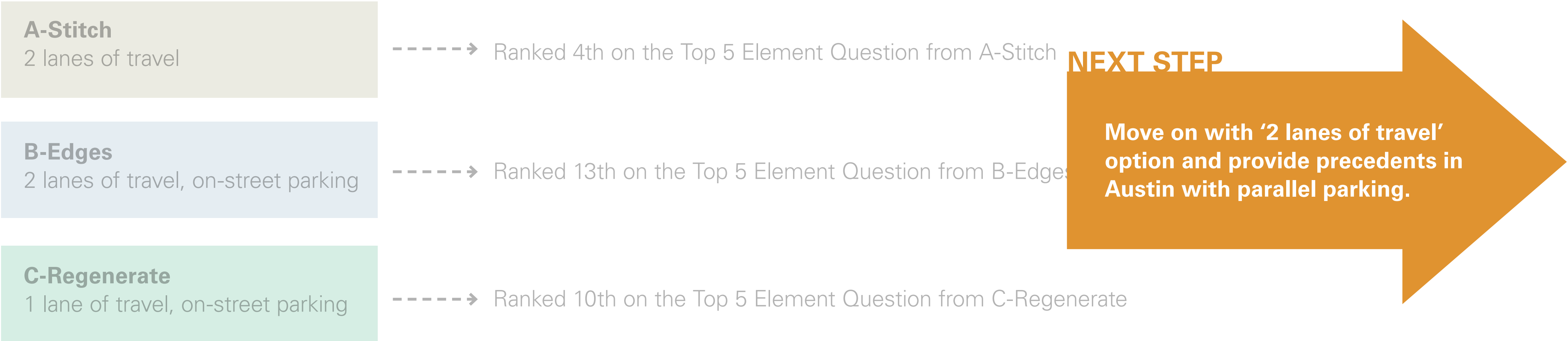
Community Survey #5 Comments

- Imagine the traffic due to the people parallel parking.
- I like:... keeping parking on Barton Springs Rd for disabled parking or unloading spots to naturally slow down traffic...

FROM INPUT TO DESIGN

The Result of Survey #5 and Future Design Direction

Barton Springs Road configuration option.



08.18.21 TAG Meeting

Barton Spring Road is one of the main connector from Downtown to MoPac. For that, it is hard to reduce the number of lanes but is great to have separated pedestrians and bikers.

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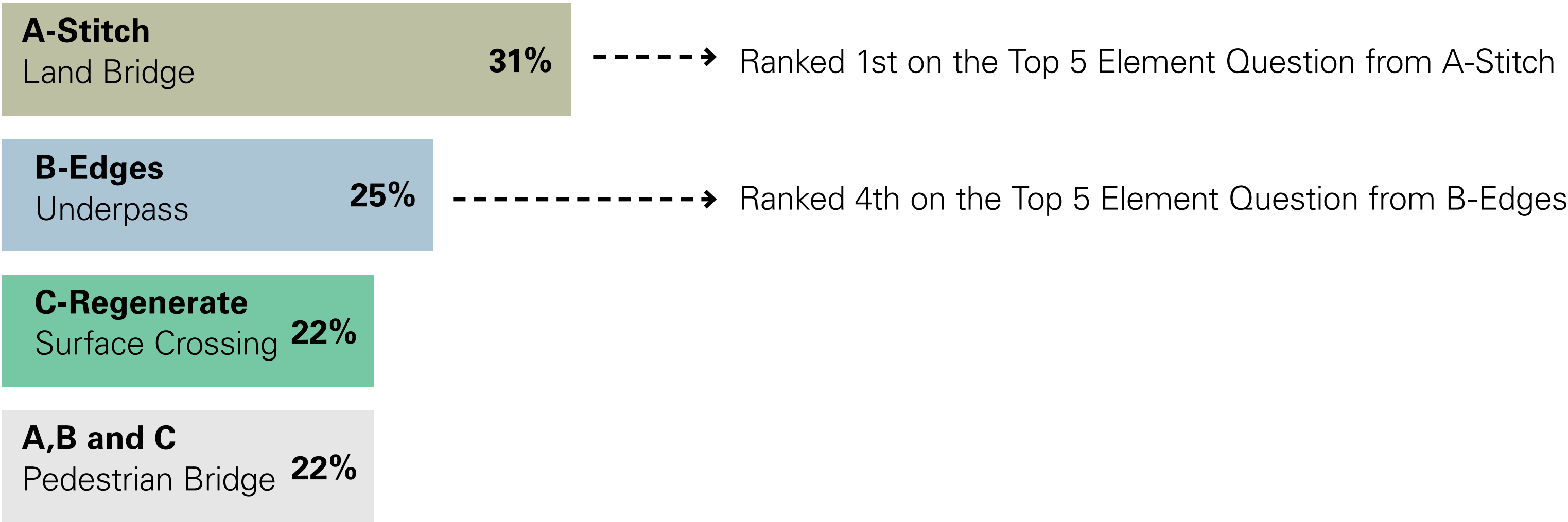
Community Survey #5 Comments

- Imagine the traffic due to the people parallel parking.
- I like:... keeping parking on Barton Springs Rd for disabled parking or unloading spots to naturally slow down traffic...

FROM INPUT TO DESIGN

The Result of Survey #5 and Future Design Direction

Please rank your preferred Barton Springs Road crossing option.



Community Survey #1 Comments

- Consider a land bridge
- Bury Barton Springs Road and Connect park to the pool area

10.01.21 PARD Leadership Meeting

A ‘hybrid’ combining under/over might be one way of implementing the land bridge concept. The level of above/underground would depend on a lot of factors

Community Survey #5 Comments

- Underpasses for peds/bikes are not inviting.
- I’ve been dreaming of land bridge over Barton Springs Rd.
- I love the land bridge and the additional crossings of Barton Springs road.

FROM INPUT TO DESIGN

The Result of Survey #5 and Future Design Direction

Please rank your preferred Barton Springs Road crossing option.

A-Stitch

Land Bridge

31%

----->

Ranked 1st on the Top 5 Element Question from A-Stitch

B-Edges

Underpass

25%

----->

Ranked 4th on the Top 5 Element Question from B-Edge

C-Regenerate

Surface Crossing

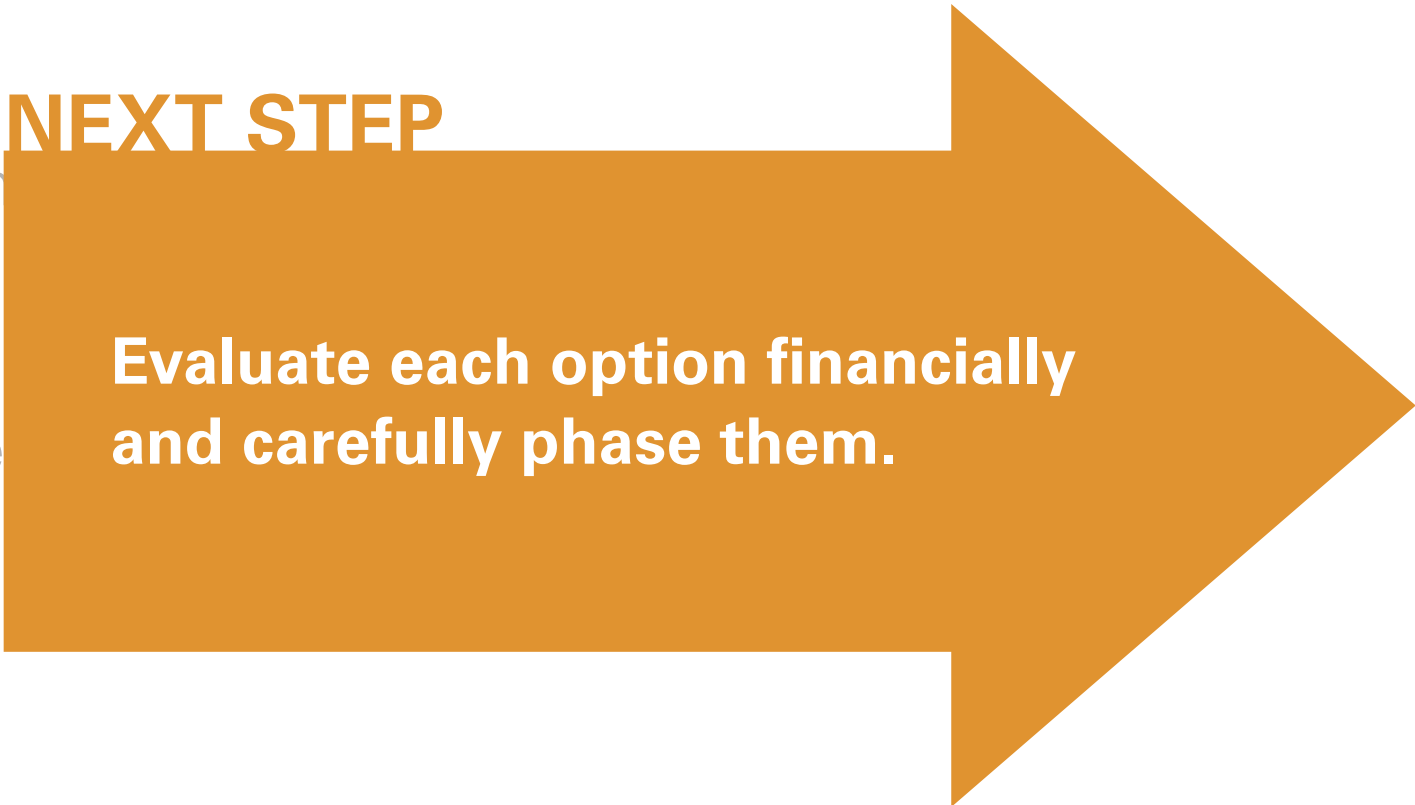
22%

A,B and C

Pedestrian Bridge

22%

NEXT STEP



Community Survey #1 Comments

- Consider a land bridge
- Bury Barton Springs Road and Connect park to the pool area

10.01.21 PARD Leadership Meeting

A ‘hybrid’ combining under/over might be one way of implementing the land bridge concept. The level of above/underground would depend on a lot of factors

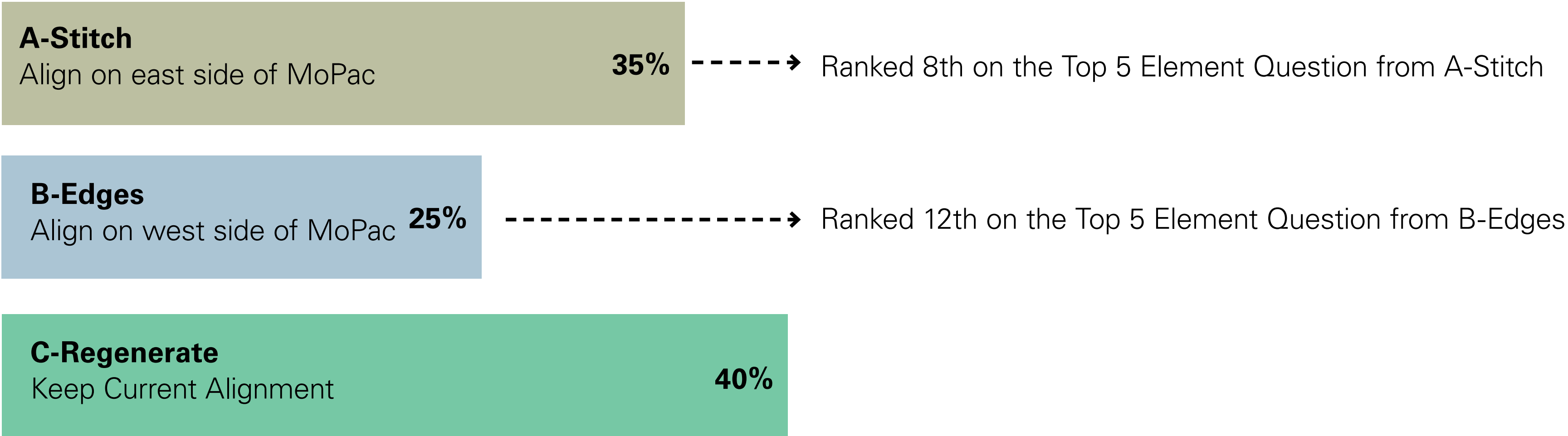
Community Survey #5 Comments

- Underpasses for peds/bikes are not inviting.
- I’ve been dreaming of land bridge over Barton Springs Rd.
- I love the land bridge and the additional crossings of Barton Springs road.

FROM INPUT TO DESIGN

The Result of Survey #5 and Future Design Direction

What improvement of Stratford Dr do you prefer?



08.18.21 TAG Meeting

There are a lot of buses approaching Nature and Science Center along Stratford Dr.

Community Survey #4

- 45% Leave as it is
- 35% Reroute to the west side of MoPac
- 20% Reroute to the east side of MoPac

55%

02.23.22 TAG Meeting

Realigning Stratford on west side of MoPac affects the preschool and facilities at ANSC.

FROM INPUT TO DESIGN

The Result of Survey #5 and Future Design Direction

What improvement of Stratford Dr do you prefer?

A-Stitch
Align on east side of MoPac

35%

-----➔

Ranked 8th on the Top 5 Element Question from A-Stitch

B-Edges
Align on west side of MoPac

25%

-----➔

Ranked 12th on the Top 5 Element Question from B-Edges

C-Regenerate
Keep Current Alignment

40%

NEXT STEP

Continue coordinating with CTRMA about the possibility of Stratford Dr realignment.

08.18.21 TAG Meeting

There are a lot of buses approaching Nature and Science Center along Stratford Dr.

Community Survey #4

- 45% Leave as it is
- 35% Reroute to the west side of MoPac
- 20% Reroute to the east side of MoPac

55%

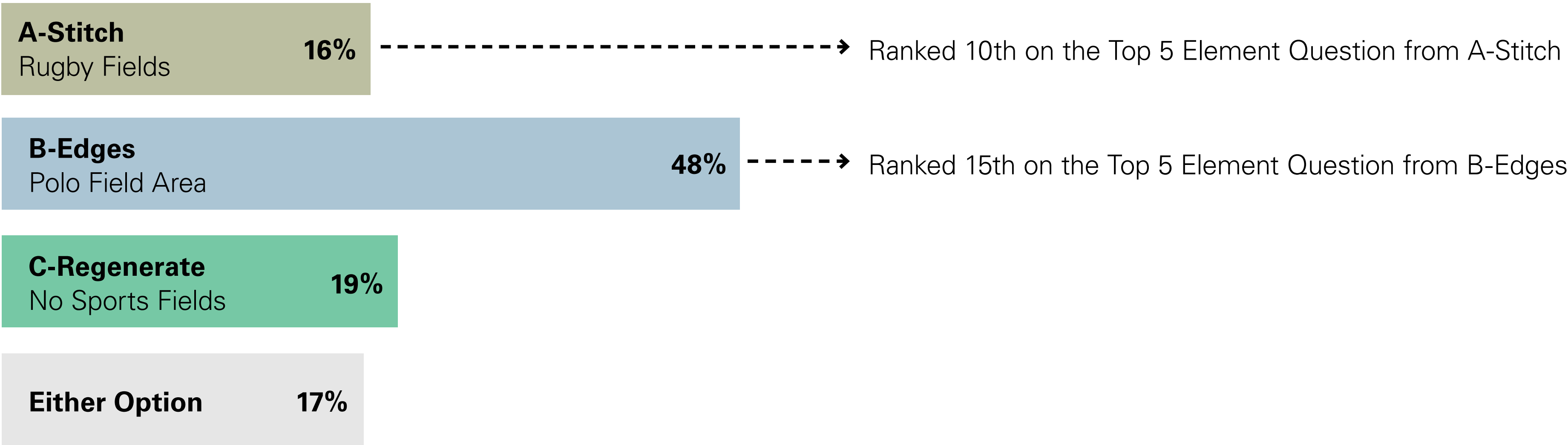
02.23.22 TAG Meeting

Realigning Stratford on west side of MoPac affects the preschool and facilities at ANSC.

FROM INPUT TO DESIGN

The Result of Survey #5 and Future Design Direction

Which sport fields location do you prefer?



10.25.21 Barton Springs Pool Pop-Up Event

Athletic Fields/use on Polo Field instead of parking.

Community Meeting #4 Comments

Adding more sports fields within the riparian zone is NOT a good idea.

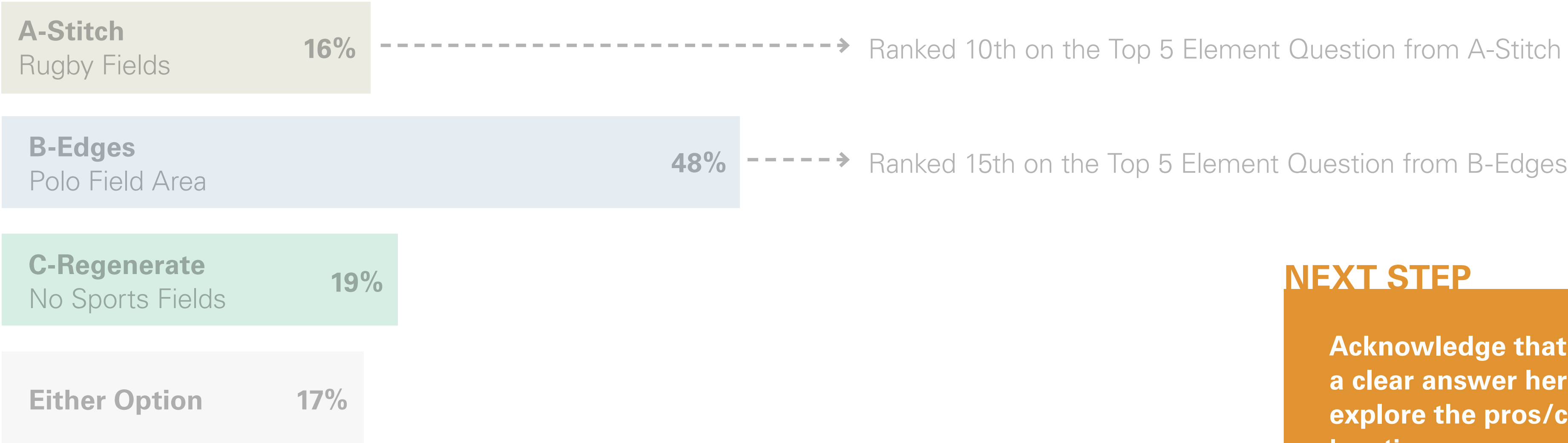
Community Survey #5 Comments

- sports complex is so great, looking forward to it.
- Keep the sports space!

FROM INPUT TO DESIGN

The Result of Survey #5 and Future Design Direction

Which sport fields location do you prefer?



NEXT STEP

Acknowledge that there is not a clear answer here. We will explore the pros/cons of both locations.

10.25.21 Barton Springs Pool Pop-Up Event

Athletic Fields/use on Polo Field instead of parking.

Community Meeting #4 Comments

Adding more sports fields within the riparian zone is NOT a good idea.

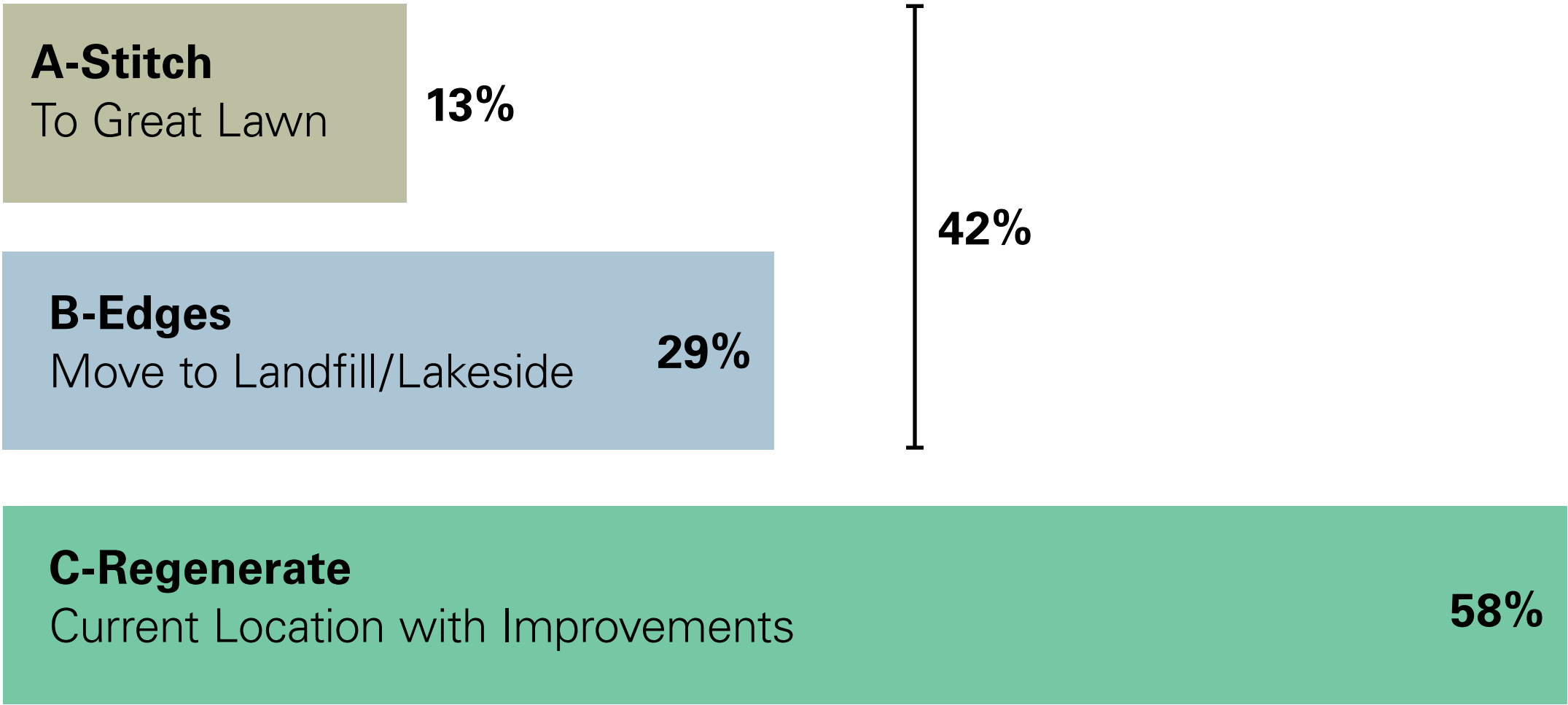
Community Survey #5 Comments

- sports complex is so great, looking forward to it.
- Keep the sports space!

FROM INPUT TO DESIGN

The Result of Survey #5 and Future Design Direction

Which location for Zilker Hillside Theater do you prefer?



05.19.21 Small Group Discussion with Park Staff

Don't actually think the existing location is the best place to have a theater due to not enough parking, accessibility, and outdated facilities.

04.14.22 PARD Facilities Group Meeting

Putting ZHT on the water, people would love that.

Kite Festival Pop-Up Event

Expand Hillside Theater

Community Survey #5 Comments

- Moving the theater seems to bring a lot of potential disruption to theater attendees with mixing with people on the Great Lawn, their music, their dogs.

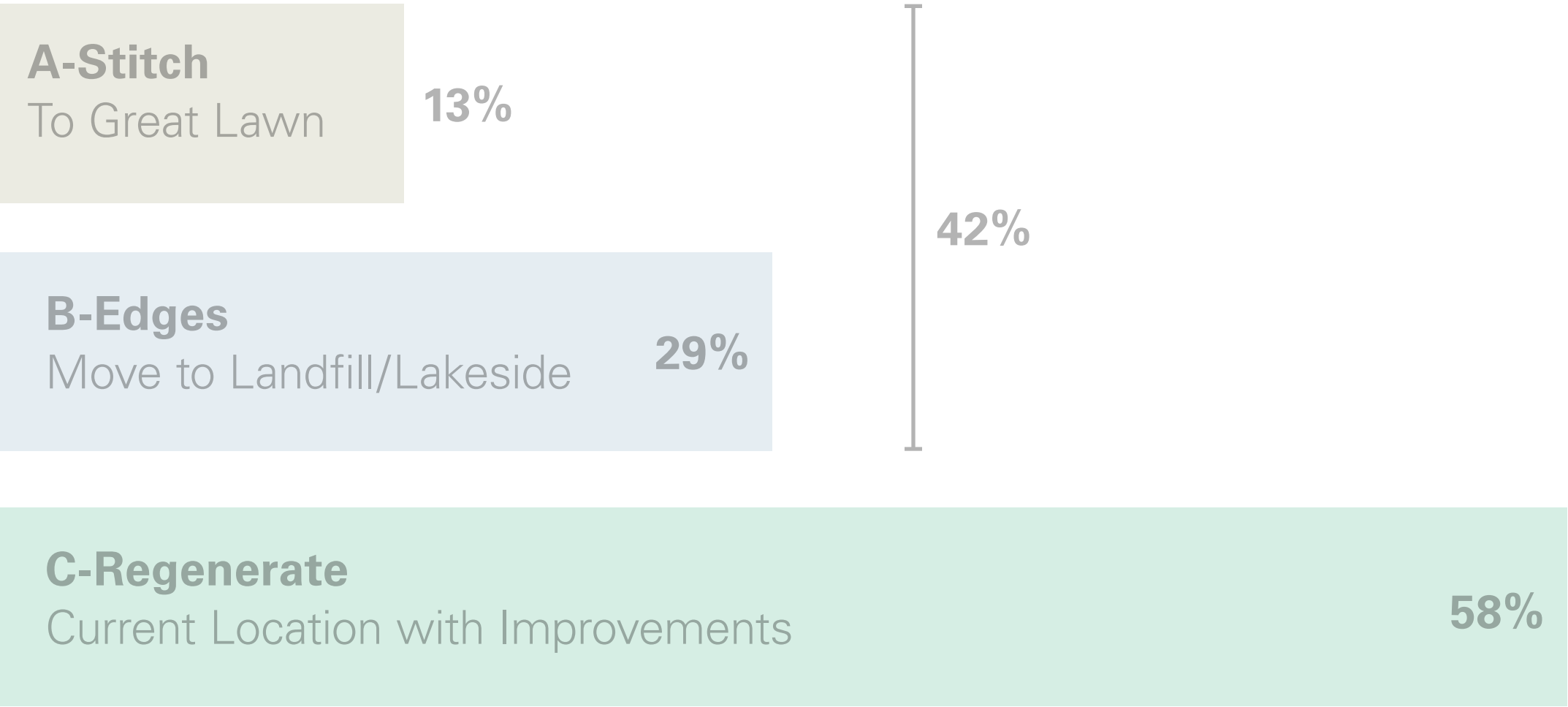
04.08.22 Meeting with CTRMA

We are doing noise analysis and will make the level below 66 decibel with proper mitigation.

FROM INPUT TO DESIGN

The Result of Survey #5 and Future Design Direction

Which location for Zilker Hillside Theater do you prefer?



NEXT STEP

Show options in greater detail for both locations, detailing the pros/cons with each for more clarity.

05.19.21 Small Group Discussion with Park Staff

Don't actually think the existing location is the best place to have a theater due to not enough parking, accessibility, and outdated facilities.

04.14.22 PARD Facilities Group Meeting

Putting ZHT on the water, people would love that.

Kite Festival Pop-Up Event

Expand Hillside Theater

Community Survey #5 Comments

- Moving the theater seems to bring a lot of potential disruption to theater attendees with mixing with people on the Great Lawn, their music, their dogs.

04.08.22 Meeting with CTRMA

We are doing noise analysis and will make the level below 66 decibel with proper mitigation.

THANK YOU



DESIGNWORKSHOP

FY23 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Priorities

		Rank
Economic Opportunity & Affordability	Housing	3
	Skills and capability of our community workforce	10
Health & Environment	Accessibility to quality health care services, both physical and mental	7
	Climate change and resilience	1
	Homelessness	6
	Accessibility to quality parks, trails, and recreational opportunities	2
Mobility	Safety	8
Safety	Community compliance with laws and regulation	5
	Emergency prevention, preparedness and recovery	4
Government that Works for All	Financial cost and sustainability of city government	9

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT PROCESSES

Park Plan	Survey/Community feedback on developing the plan	Community feedback on final plan	Parks Board	City Council
WEL	Strong advocates for a golf course on the northeast part of the park associated with a public/private partnership.	Lots of community support to preserve the natural area and trees as a passive recreation area, not a golf course.	Parks Board did not support a golf course at WEL and recommended the plan as presented.	Council did not support the decision of a golf course or a public/private partnership.
Trevino	Some community members desired a skate park and bike pump track.	Strong community desire against these traditionally urban amenities	The final plan compromised to provide an adventure play area that would be geared toward recreation for older teenagers (13+)	Adventure play retained as part of overall approved plan.
Holly	New ped/bike bridge crossing LBL to the island in the lake then to the parkland to the south	No ped/bike bridge crossing LBL to the island then to the parkland to the south		Included language that stated No new ped/bike bridge until IH-35 and Pleasant Valley ped/bike crossing are improved first.
Given District Park	New off leash area	Existing longtime residents were opposed to this use.	The final plan does not include an off leash area.	
NW District Park	Strong community desire to increase the health and visual appeal of the pond. WPD engineers recommended an expanded pond to increase habitat and improve pond health.	Due to existing pond disruption and removal of existing mature trees, the community feedback called for the existing pond layout to remain.	The final plan retains the pond layout with no tree removal.	