

ZILKER METROPOLITAN PARK VISION PLAN

Parks And Recreation Board Briefing

FEBRUARY 27, 2023



DESIGNWORKSHOP

ZILKER PARK

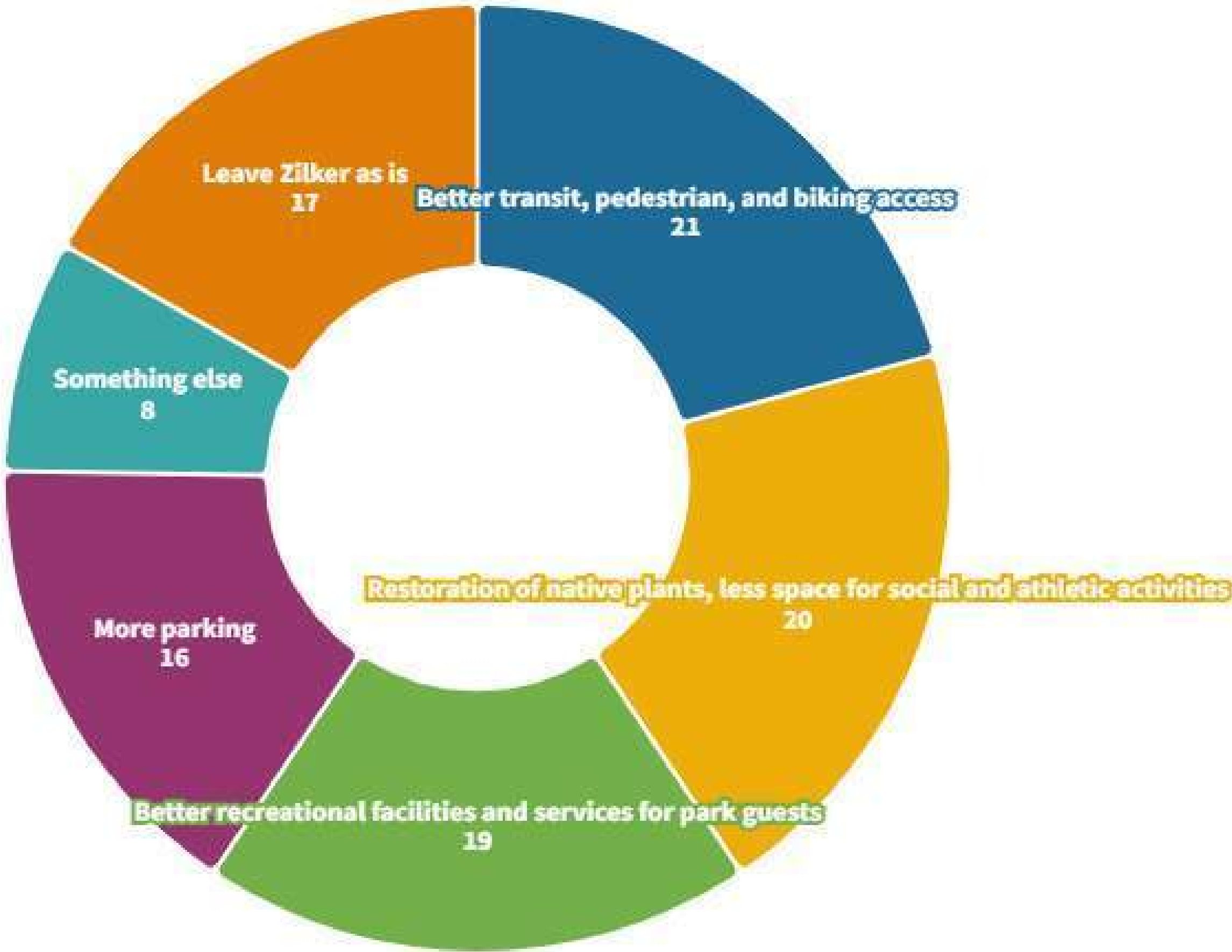
Notley/Monitor Poll: Austinites can't agree on greatest park challenges or solutions

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023 BY
NINA HERNANDEZ

Austin residents regularly use city parks but are divided over how they should be maintained, according to a January/February poll of 429 voters commissioned by Notley and conducted by national pollster Change Research for the Austin Monitor.

The poll comes as Austin leaders continue to focus on parks and open space and projects like the Texas Capitol Complex and the Waterloo Greenway, and as the city considers its role in the Interstate 35 Capital Express project. The city is working with the Texas Department of Transportation to incorporate open and park space into the designs for the section that will run through Austin.

Zilker Park is undergoing a planning process called the Zilker Metropolitan Park Vision Plan. What do you think is the most critical improvement that can be made to Zilker Park?



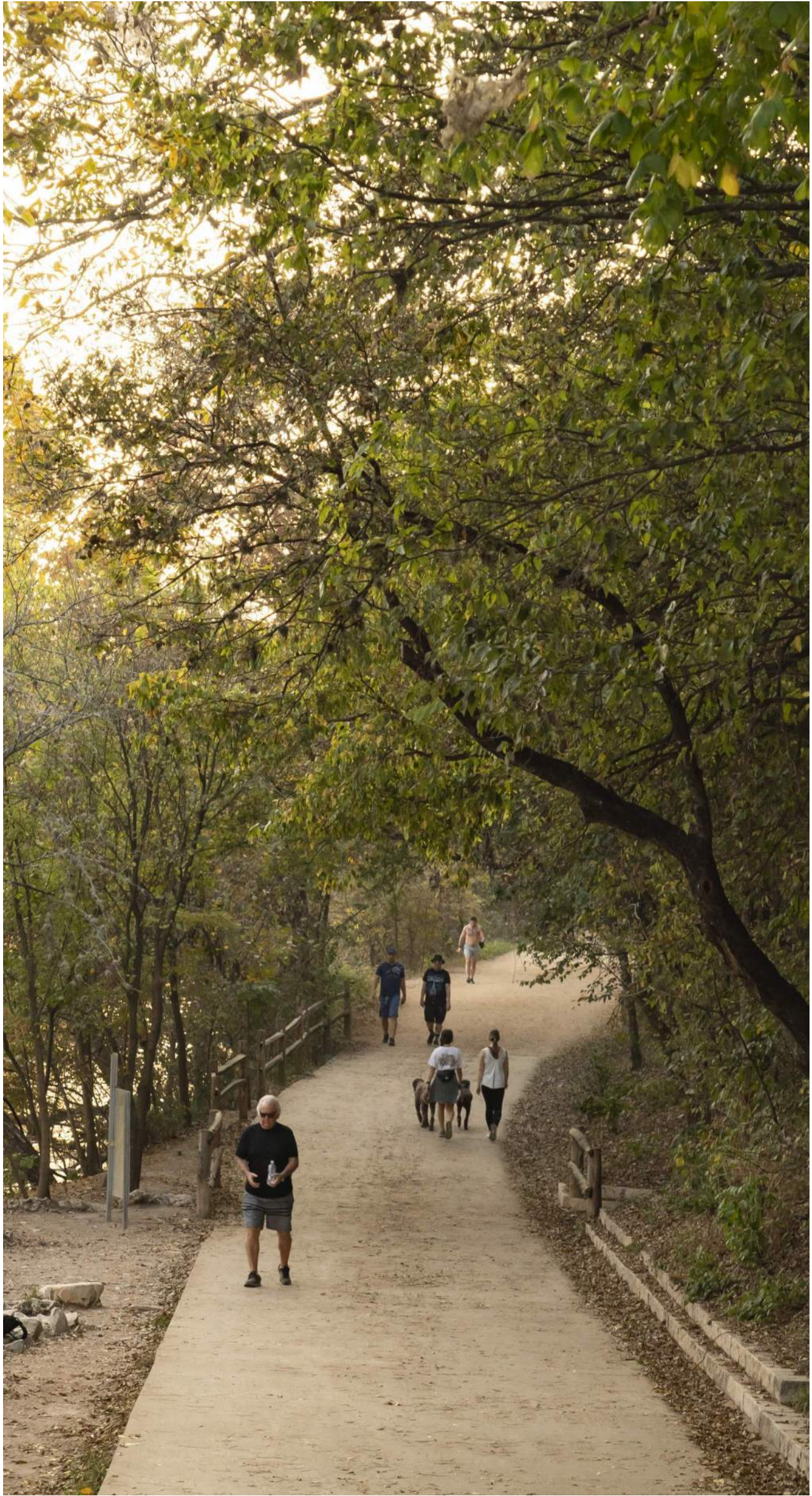
ZILKER PARK: AN AUSTIN TREASURE



Barton Springs



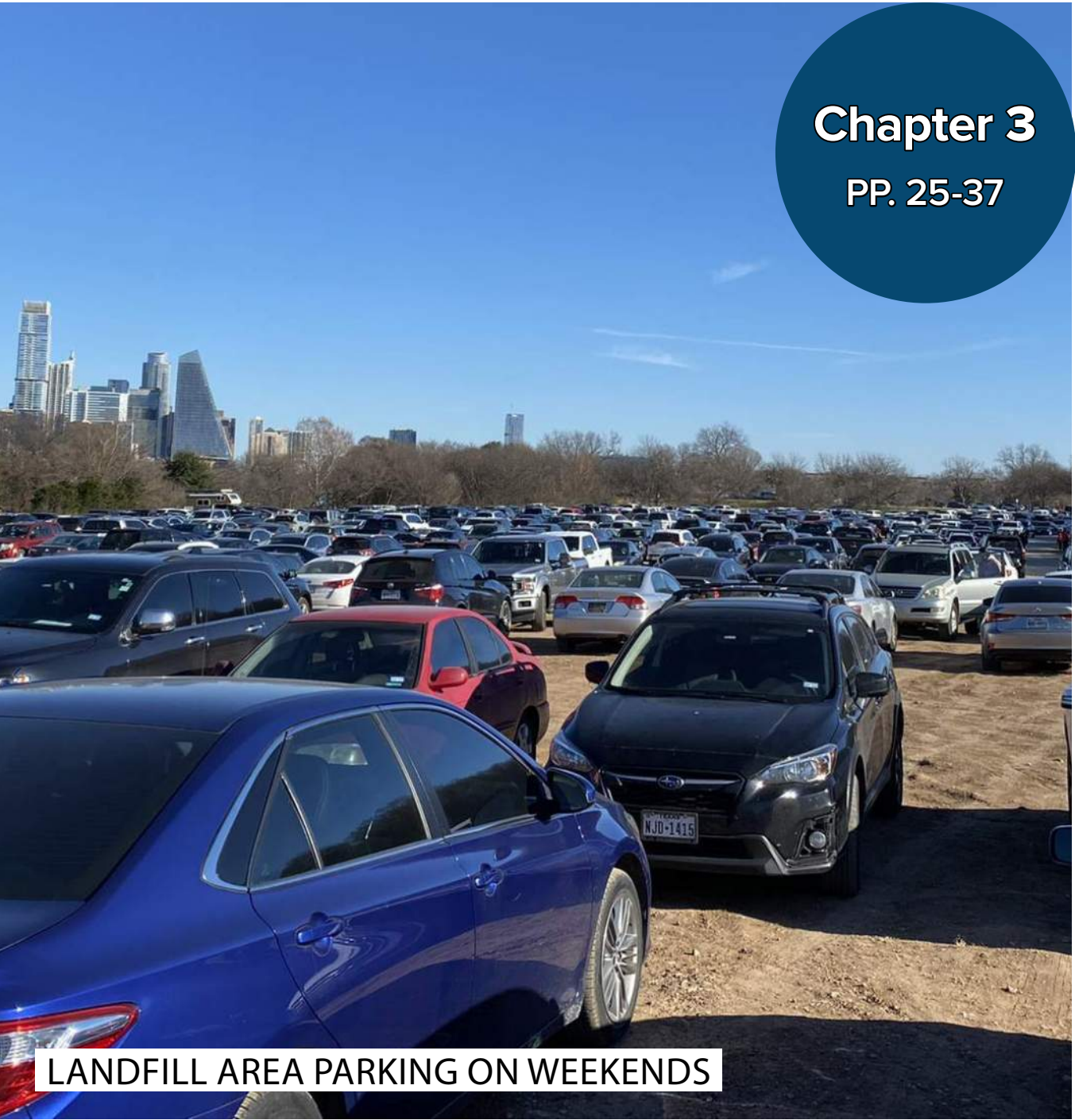
Great Lawn and Rock Island



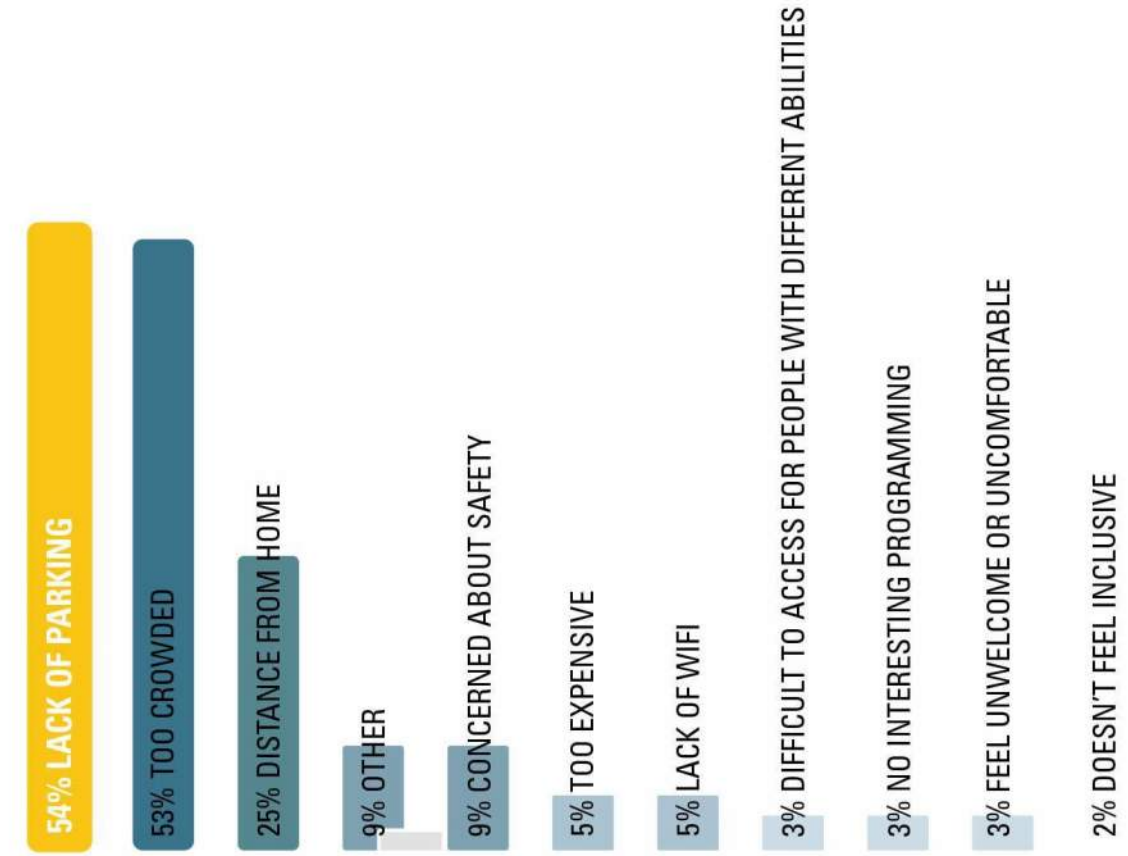
CALL TO ACTION

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

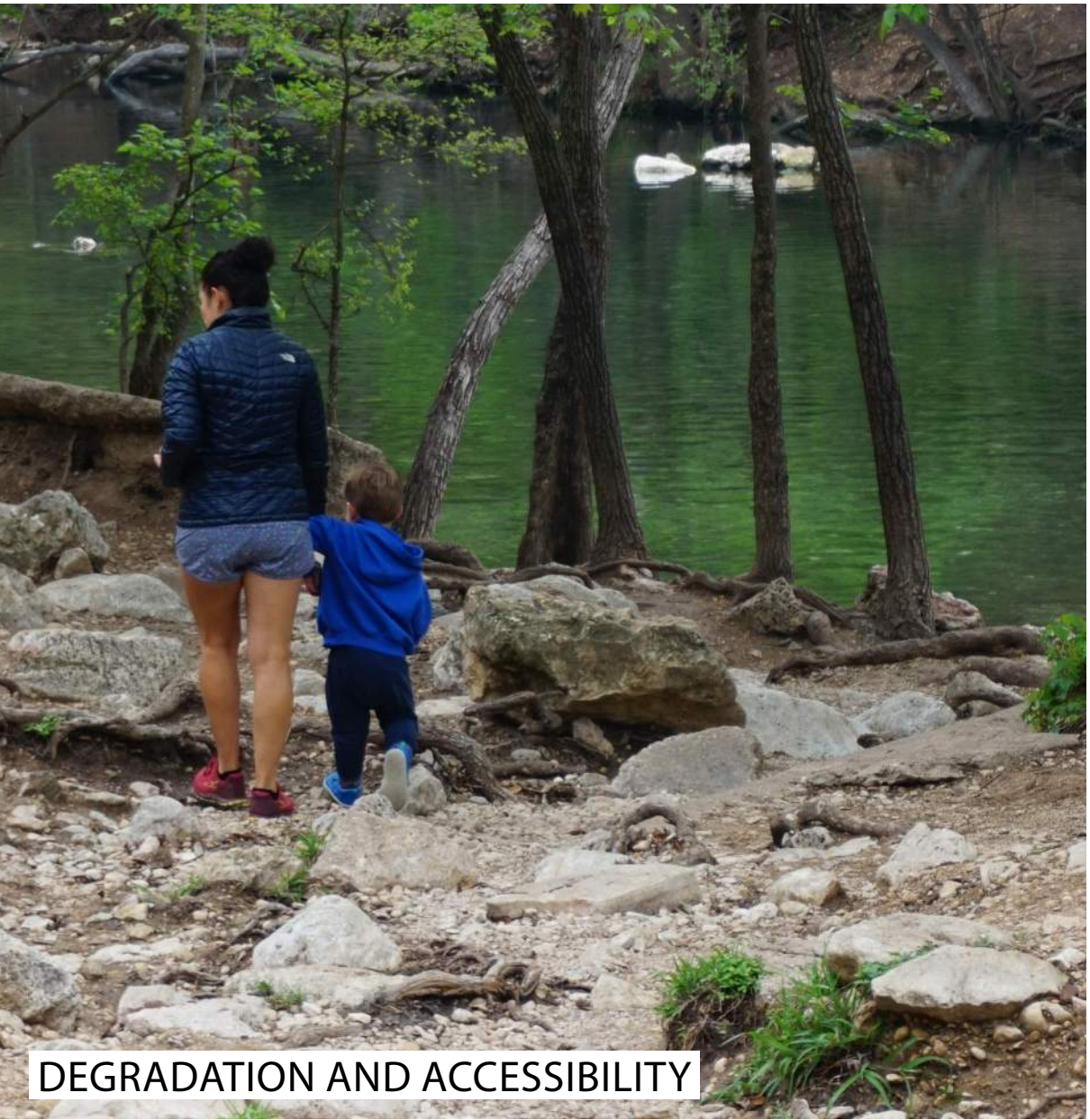
NATURAL AREAS	80% MEET NEEDS		8% NO OPINION
PARKING AREAS	45% MEET NEEDS	46% DOES NOT MEET NEEDS	9% NO OPINION
PICNIC AREAS	59% MEET NEEDS	17% DOES NOT MEET NEEDS	24% NO OPINION
SPORT COURTS OR FIELDS	45% MEET NEEDS	15% DOES NOT MEET NEEDS	40% NO OPINION
TRAILS	79% MEET NEEDS	13% DOES NOT MEET NEEDS	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



GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND GOALS



Sustainability



Accessibility



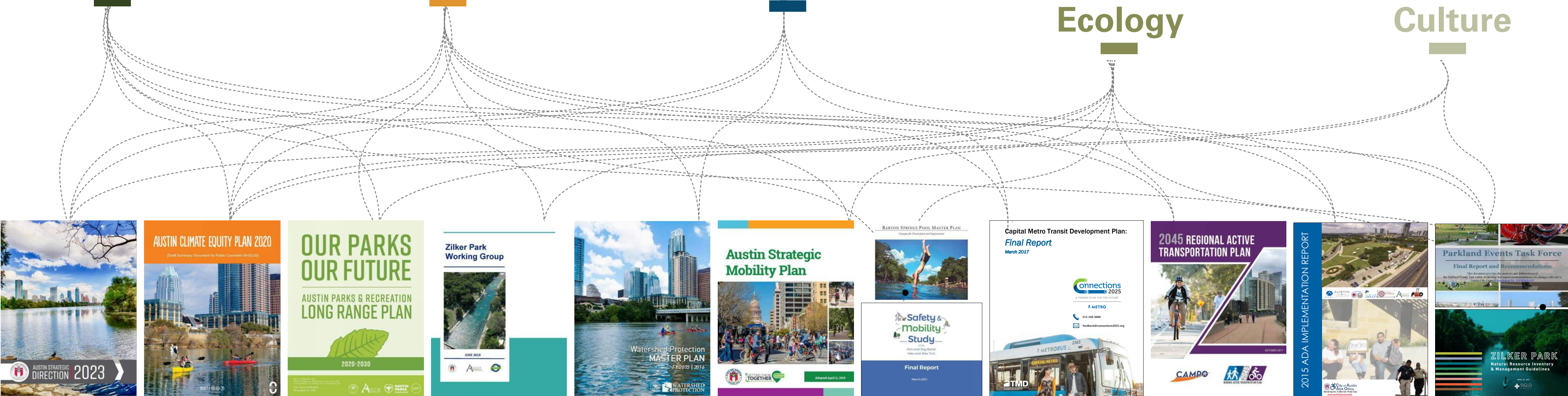
Equity



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture



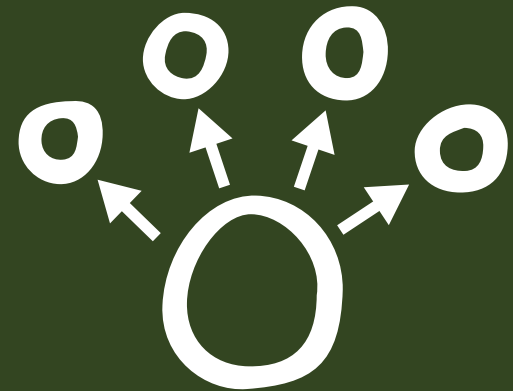
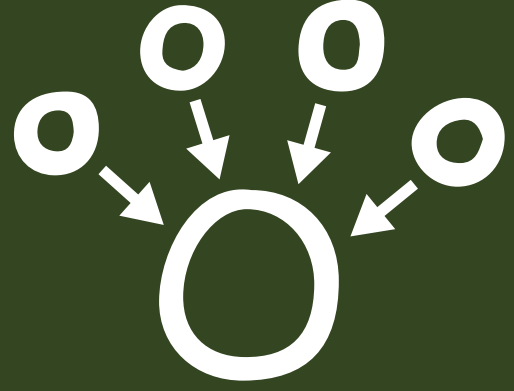
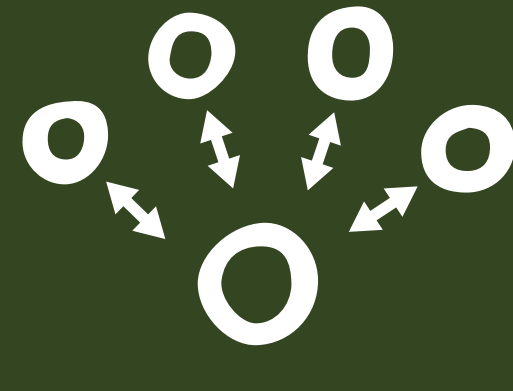
Project Schedule

Chapter 5

PP. 99-114



IAP2 SPECTRUM OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

 Inform	 Consult	 Involve
Goal		
To provide balanced and objective information in a timely manner	To obtain feedback on analysis, issues, alternatives, and decisions	To work with the public to make sure that concerns and aspirations are considered and understood
Promise		
‘We will keep you informed’	‘We will listen to and acknowledge your concerns.’	‘We will work with you to ensure your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the decisions made.’
Small Group Discussion		
Pop-up		
Board Display	Community Survey	Adjacent Neighborhoods
	Citywide Stakeholders	Zilker Collective Impact Working Group
		Technical Advisory Group

- Parks & Recreation Department
- Austin Transportation Department
- CapMetro
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Public Works
- Watershed Protection
- Office of Real Estate Services
- Communications and Public Information
- Austin Water
- Austin Energy
- Housing and Planning
- Office of Sustainability
- Austin Resource Recovery
- Austin Fire Department
- Public Works Department
- Watershed Protection Department



Sustainability



Accessibility



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



Nature and Ecology



History and Culture

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Meeting #5 and Survey #6

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

148

Zoom Participants

77

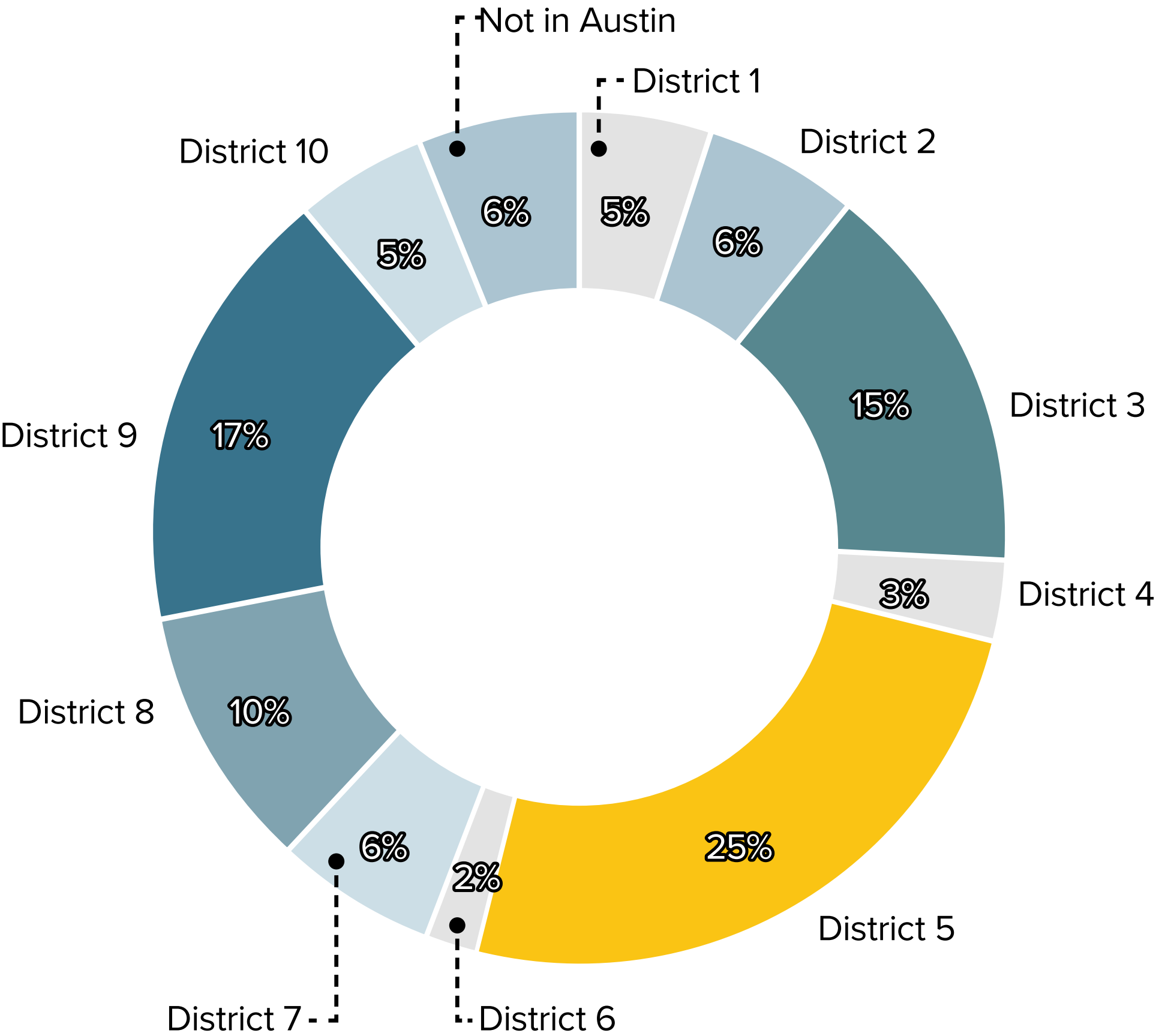
Live Poll Participation

130

Open House Attendees

298

Questions/Comments from Open House



OPEN HOUSE PARTICIPANTS

COMMUNITY SURVEY #6

2,898 Participants, 3,430 Comments, More than 2,300 Commenters, 26,904 Views

About 30% of commenters reside around Zilker Park (Zip Code: 78704, 78745)

There are more than 6,000 views on the draft walk through video.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Changes after Community Meeting #5 and Survey #6



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Kept Rowing Dock in existing location

Kept Disc Golf Course layout and added Warm-Up Area

Relocated and reduced Sports Area

Reduced the size of playscapes

EXTERNAL SHUTTLE

CONNECTING TRANSPORTATION HUBS AND EXTERNAL PARKING GARAGES



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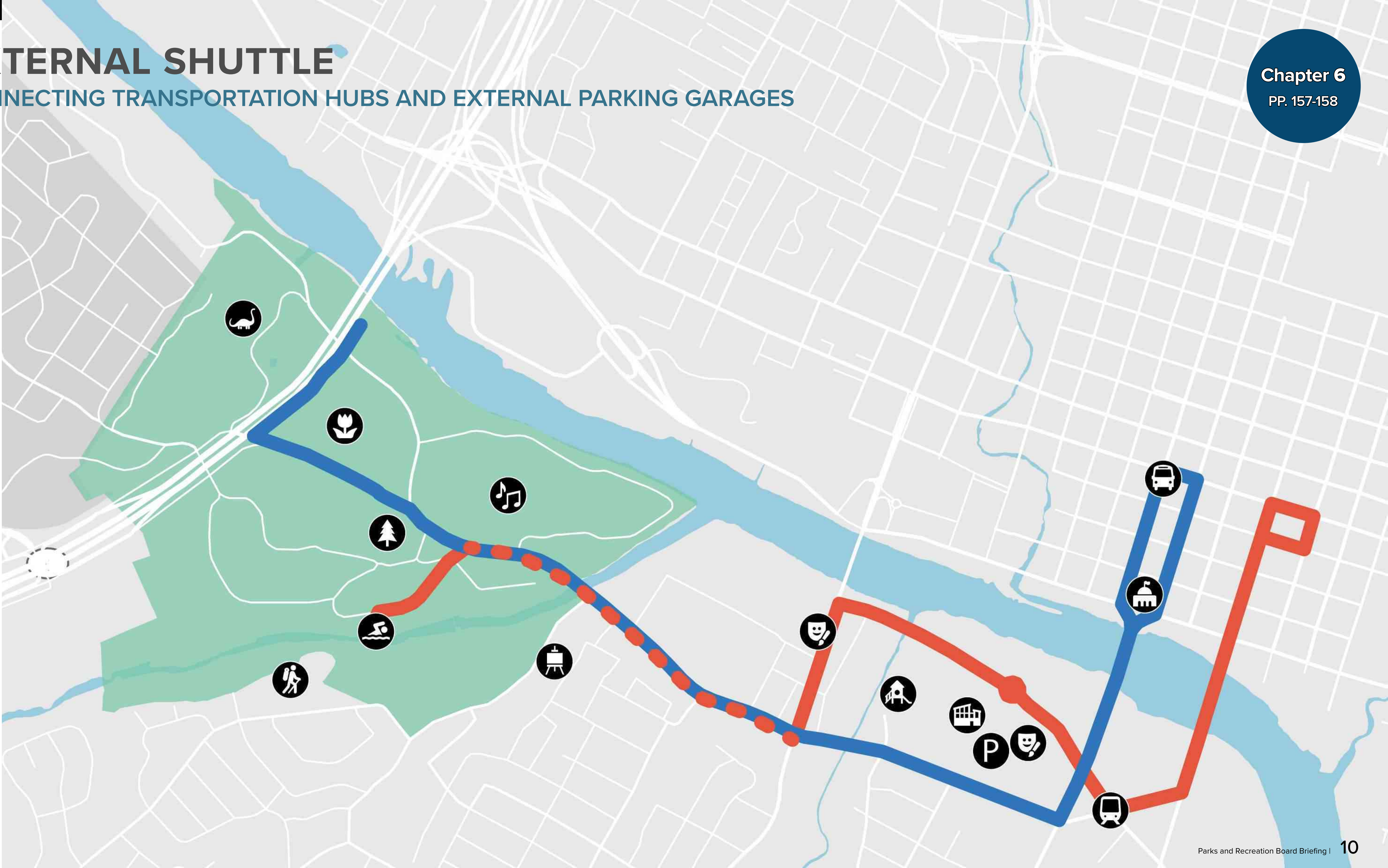
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ACCESSIBILITY AND MOBILITY

VEHICULAR CIRCULATION

- 

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- 

Accessibility
- 

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
- 

Nature and Ecology
- 

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	EXISTING	PROPOSED
Parking	2,450 Spaces	2,450 Spaces
Formal Parking	1,300 Spaces	2,450 Spaces
Informal Parking	1,150 Spaces	0 Spaces

Impervious Cover	36 Acres	27 Acres
Roads	20.9 Acres	19.9 Acres
Parking Lots	12.52 Acres	3.5 Acres
Programs	2.5 Acres	10.87 Acres

-  Traffic Light
-  Vehicular Stop Sign
-  CapMetro Stop
-  Internal Shuttle Stop
-  Zilker Eagle Stop
-  Parking Garage
-  Street Parking along Barton Springs Road
-  Surface Parking

ACCESSIBILITY AND MOBILITY

PROPOSED BARTON SPRINGS ROAD CONFIGURATION

- 

Sustainability
- 

Accessibility
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Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
- 

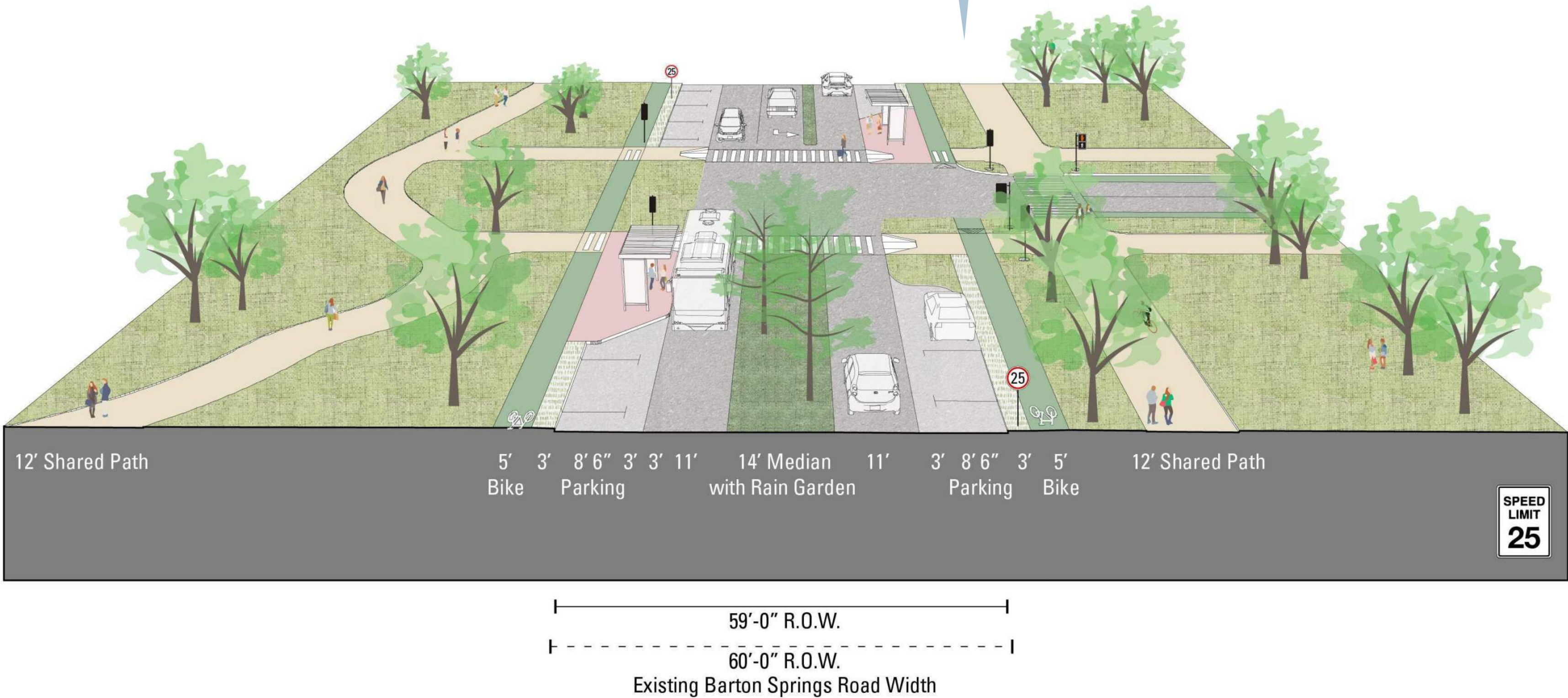
Nature and Ecology
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WHAT ABOUT CAPACITY?

There is often concern about reducing the capacity of a four-lane undivided roadway in half by converting it to a two-lane with a turn lane cross section. Practitioners have found some cases of the four-lane undivided road operating as a de facto two-lane with a turn lane roadway due to turning movements and driver behavior. Therefore, the effective capacity reduction is much less than the theoretical reduction assumed before implementation.

Source: Road Diet Informational Guide, FHWA Safety Program, US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/road_diets/guidance/info_guide/rdig.pdf



ACCESSIBILITY AND MOBILITY

PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE CIRCULATION

- 

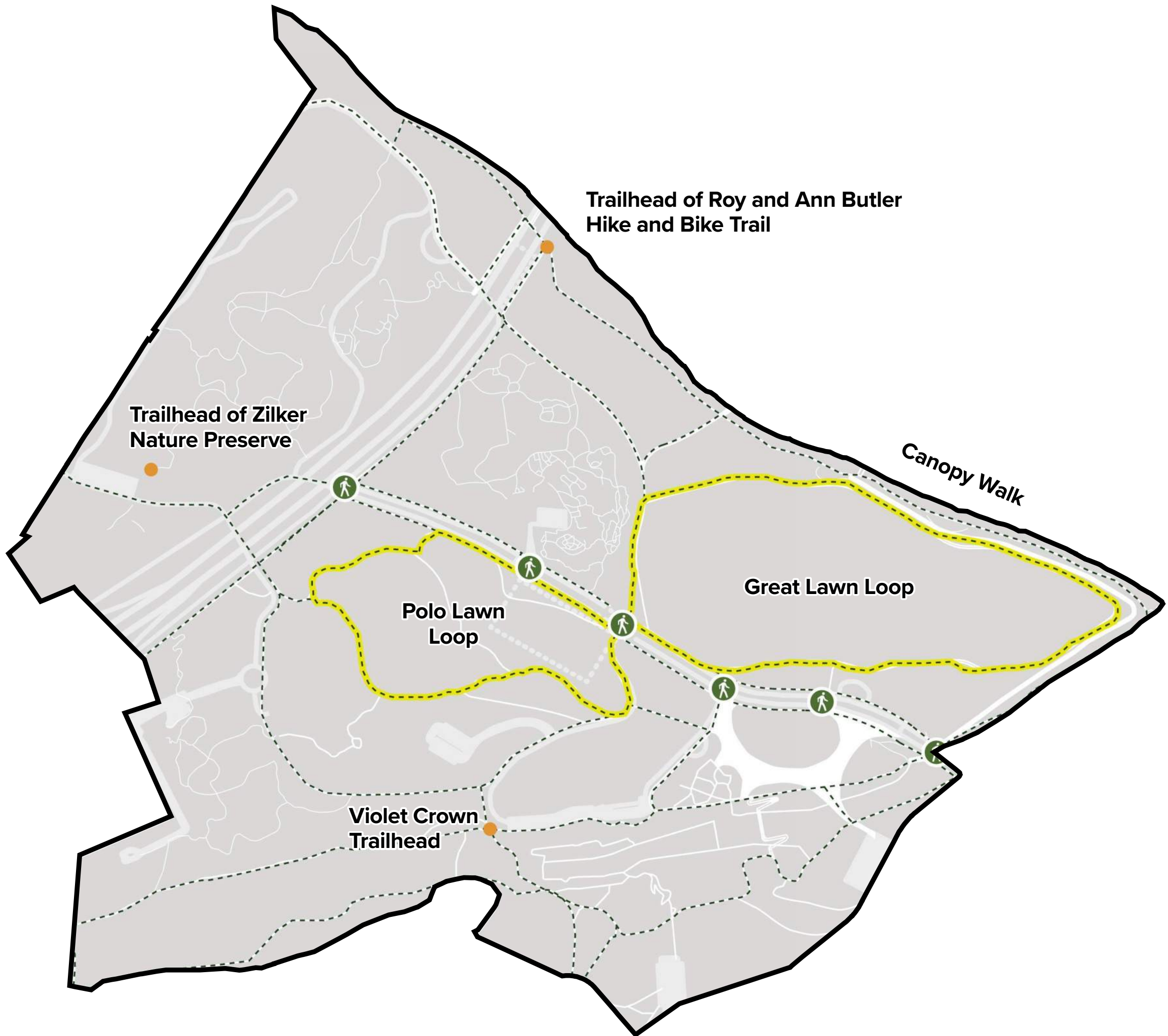
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Accessibility
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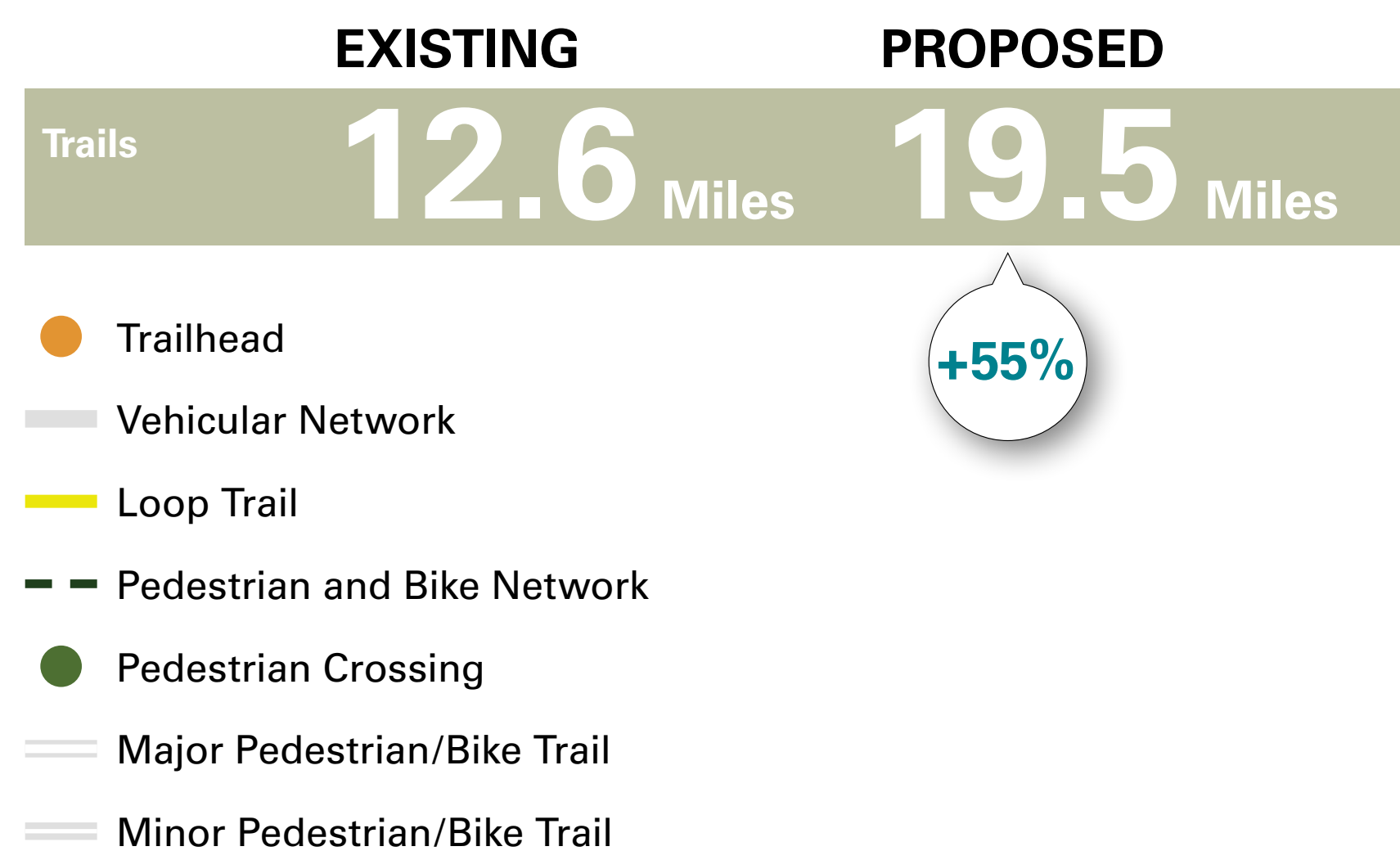
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
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Nature and Ecology
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History and Culture



Canopy Walk in Serravalles Park.
Source: <https://scalemag.online/architecture/the-canopy-walkway-in-serravalles-park/>



ECOLOGICAL UPLIFT

THE UPLIFT IN ZILKER PARK



	EXISTING	PROPOSED	
Total Natural Area	166 Acres	256 Acres	+92 Acres
Upland Woodland	96 Acres	114 Acres	+18 Acres
Riparian Wetland	69.6 Acres	82.6 Acres	+13 Acres
Meadow/Savanna	0.4 Acres	49.3 Acres	+49 Acres
Canopy Enhancement	-	10 Acres	+10 Acres
Green Stormwater	-	2 Acres	+2 Acres
Impervious Cover	36 Acres	27 Acres	-9 Acres

- Upland Woodland

Riparian Wetland

Meadow/Savanna
- Canopy Enhancement

Green Stormwater

Meadow/Savanna

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Accessibility

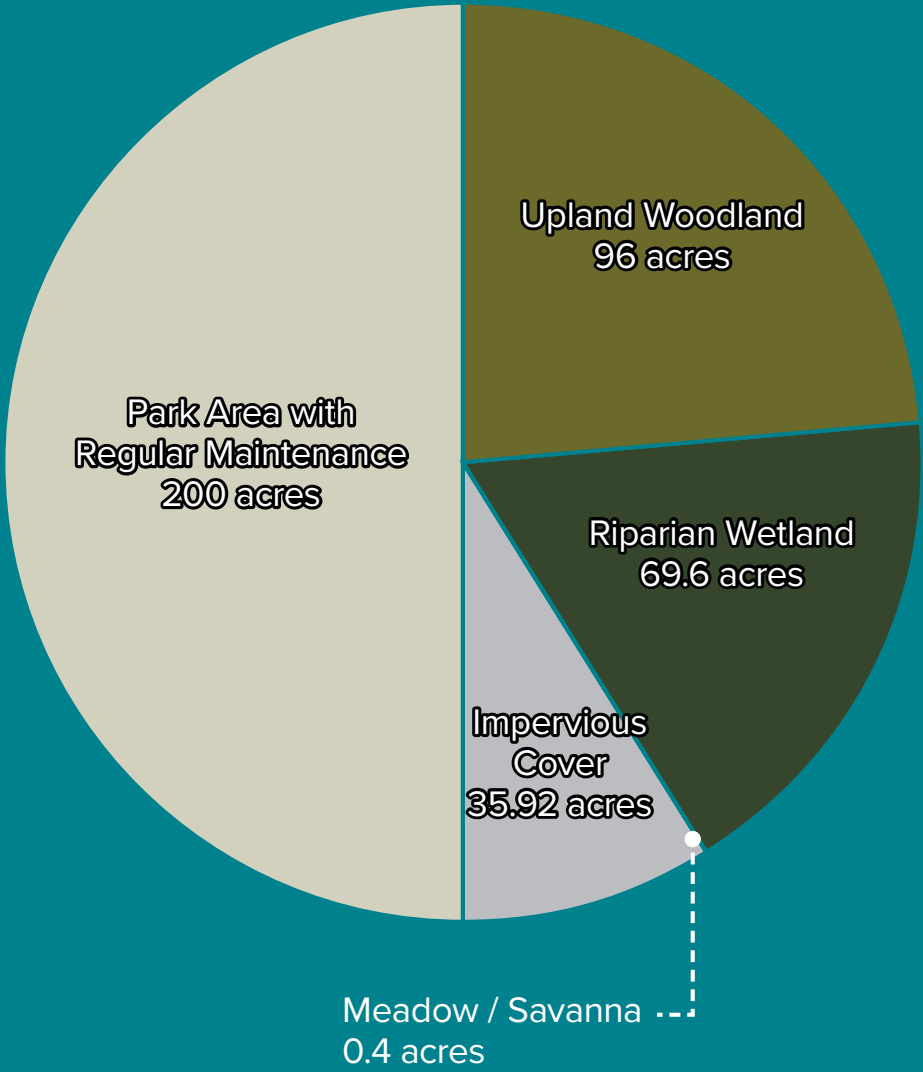
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EXISTING CONDITION

LANDCOVER

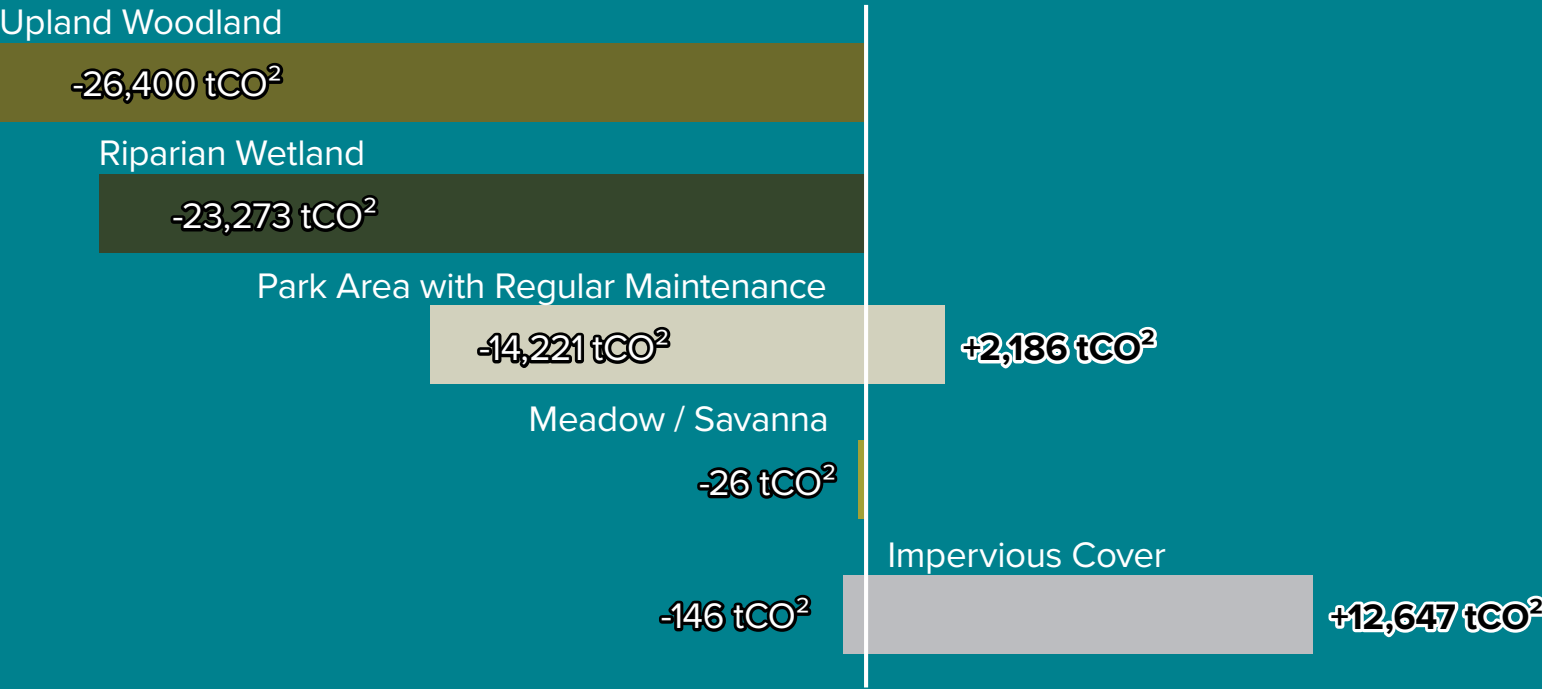


TOTAL CARBON IMPACT BY LANDCOVER

HARDSCAPE	
Impervious Cover	+ 12,501 tCO ²
SOFTSCAPE	
Upland Woodland	- 26,400 tCO ²
Riparian Wetland	- 21,035 tCO ²
Meadow / Savanna	- 26 tCO ²
Park Area with Regular Maintenance	- 9,235 tCO ²

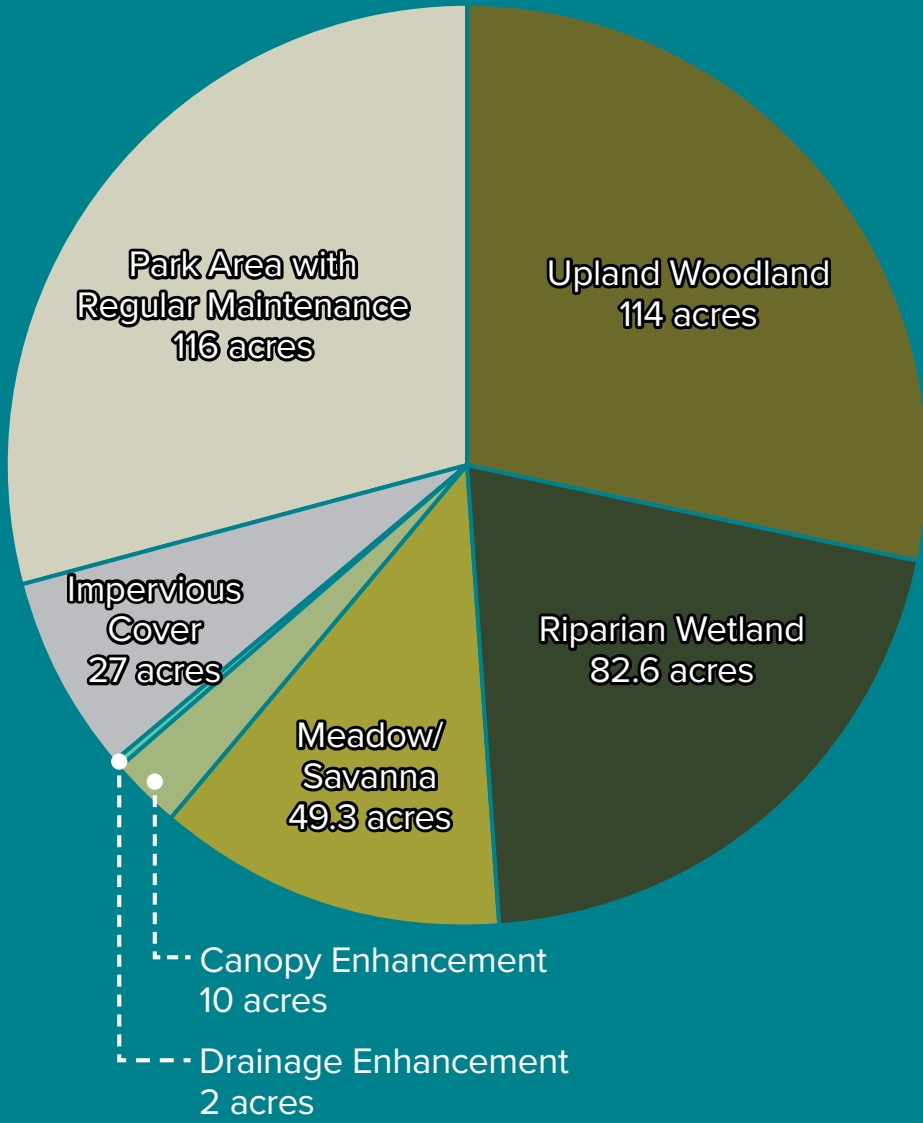
STORED AND SEQUESTERED CARBON

64,066 tCO ² Stored	- 43,842 tCO ² Net	14,833 tCO ² Emitted
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PROPOSED CONDITION

LANDCOVER

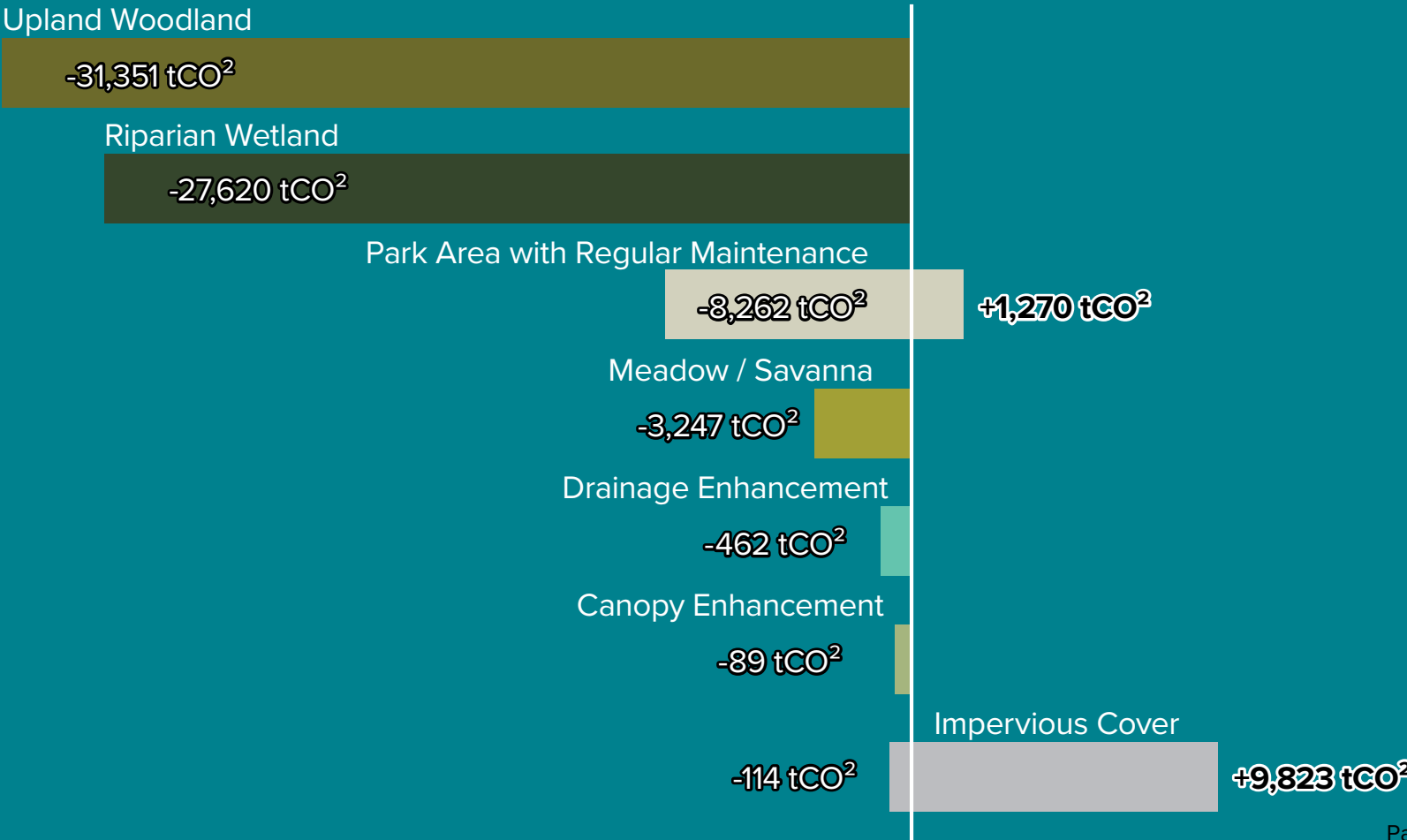


TOTAL CARBON IMPACT BY LANDCOVER

HARDSCAPE	
Impervious Cover	+ 9,823 tCO ²
SOFTSCAPE	
Upland Woodland	- 31,351 tCO ²
Riparian Wetland	- 27,620 tCO ²
Meadow / Savanna	- 3,247 tCO ²
Drainage Enhancement	- 452 tCO ²
Canopy Enhancement	- 88 tCO ²
Park Area with Regular Maintenance	- 6,992 tCO ²

STORED AND SEQUESTERED CARBON

71,145 tCO ² Stored	- 56,025 tCO ² Net	11,104 tCO ² Emitted
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+28%



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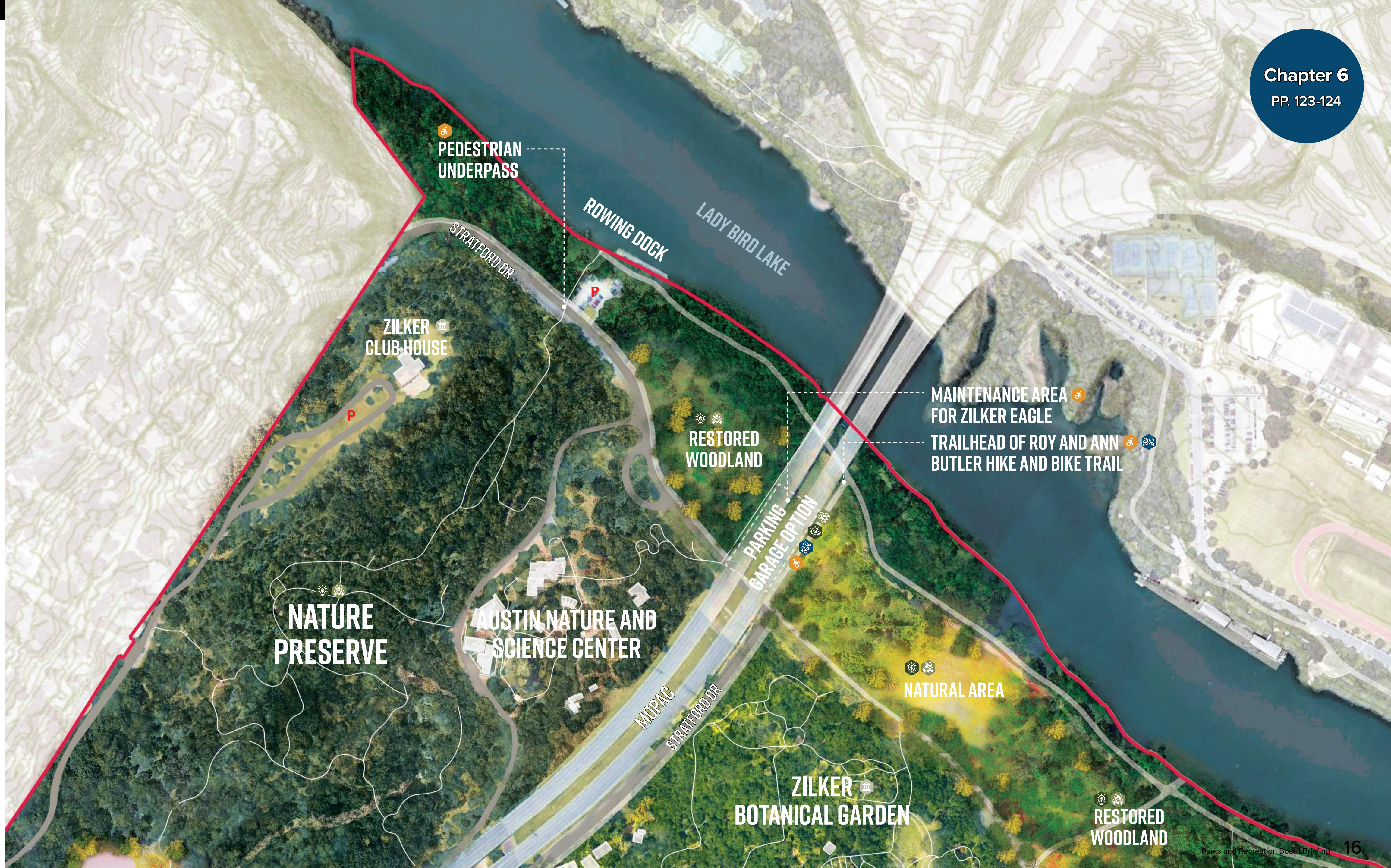
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ECOLOGICAL UPLIFT ON LANDFILL AREA



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ZILKER LAND BRIDGE

Chapter 6

PP. 131-132



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ZILKER HILLSIDE THEATER



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BARTON SPRINGS SPILLWAY



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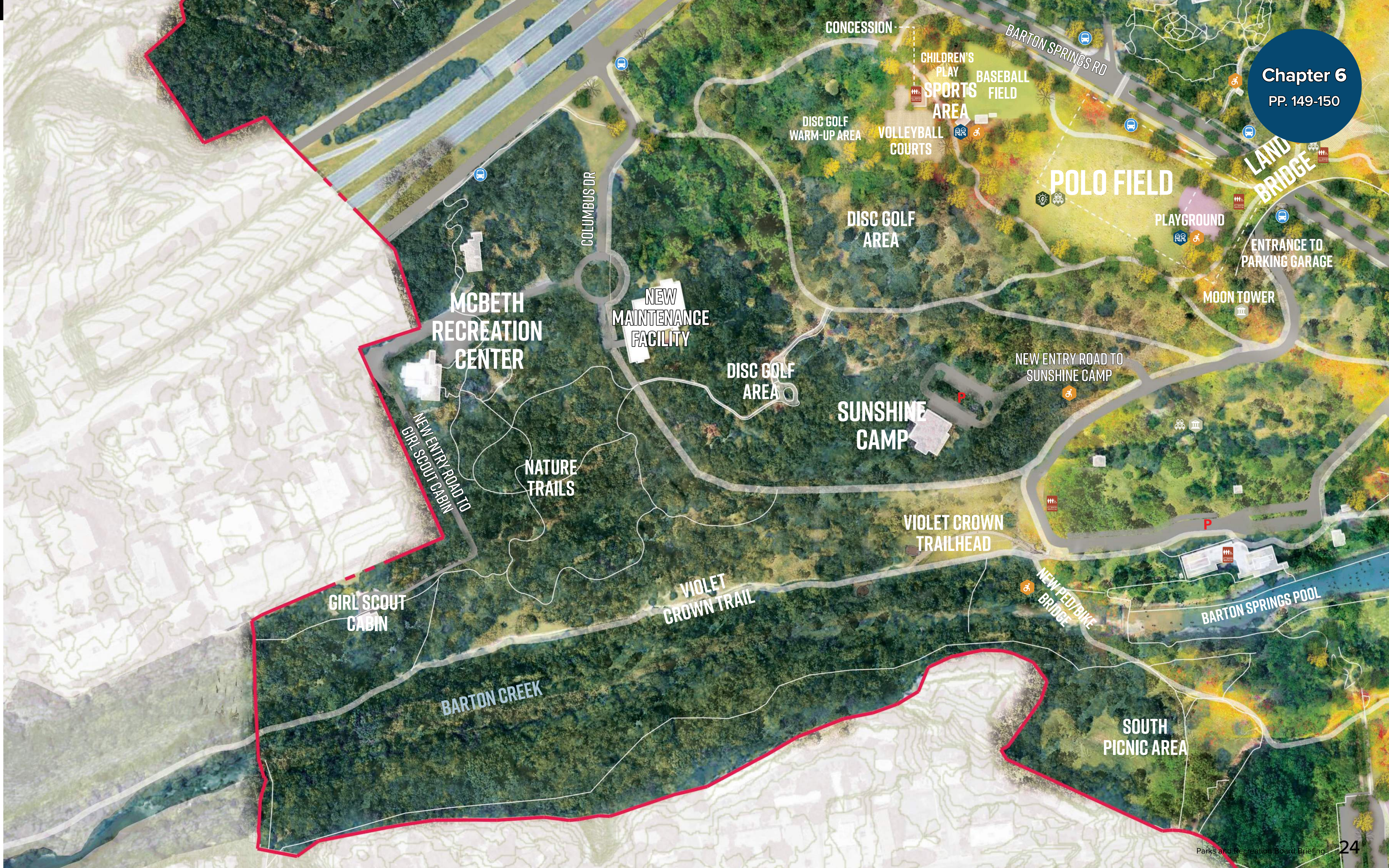
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CHILDREN’S PLAY AT SPORTS AREA



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IMPLEMENTATION

PROJECTS

ADMINISTRATION

ANNUAL BUDGET/ MAINTENANCE REVIEW	ZILKER PARK UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION
DIVERSE VENDORS AND OFFERINGS	DEPARTMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS
ESTABLISHING PARTNERSHIPS	

ECOLOGICAL UPLIFT

DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS	RESTORATION OF LANDFILL AREA
RESTORATION OF OLD ZILKER HILLSIDE AREA	MITIGATION OF EROSION ISSUES
INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL	RESTORATION OF POLO FIELD
RESTORATION OF BARTON CREEK BANKS	TREE CANOPY ENHANCEMENT

ACCESSIBILITY

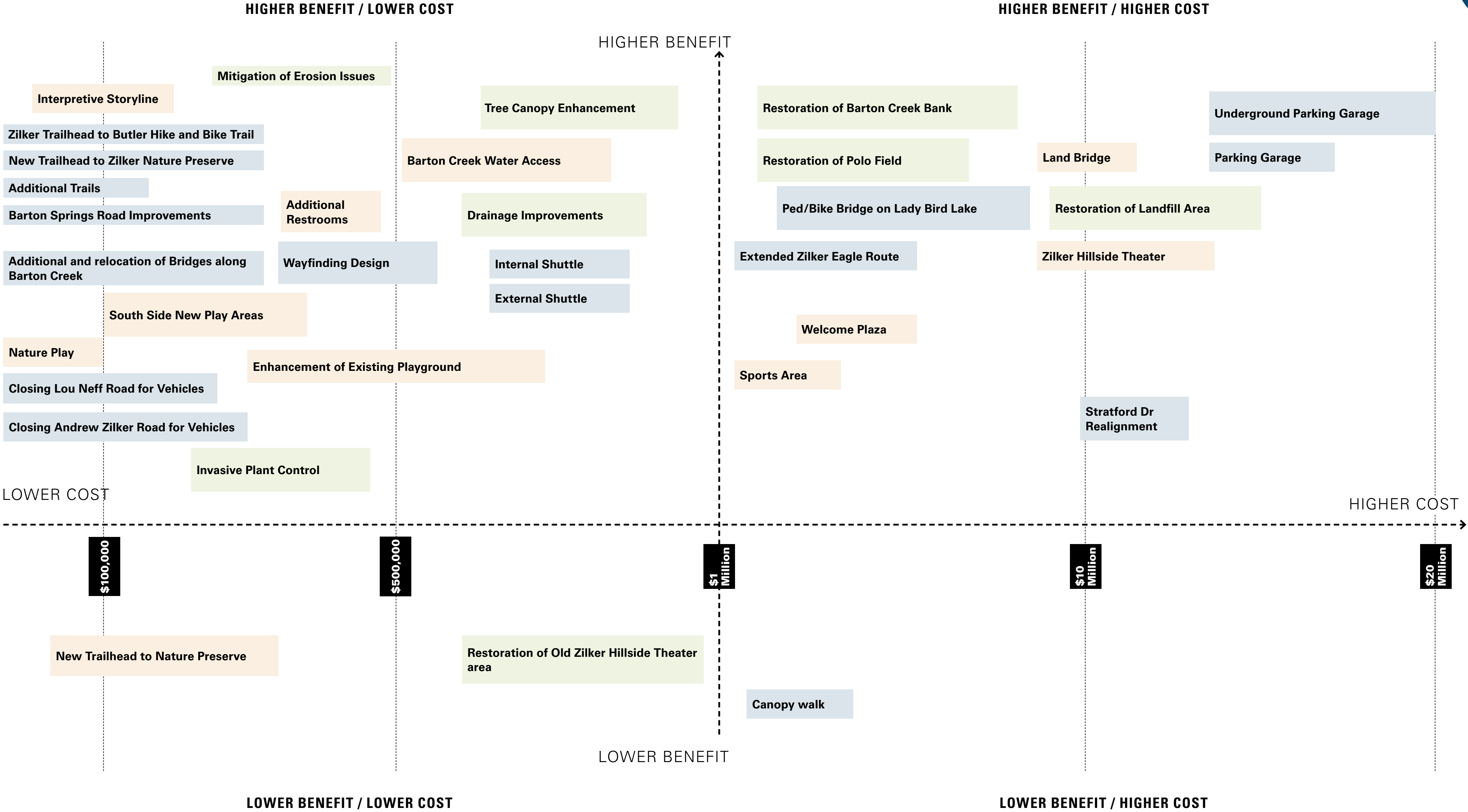
STRATFORD DR REALIGNMENT	ADDITIONAL AND RELOCATION OF BRIDGES ALONG BARTON CREEK	CLOSING ANDREW ZILKER ROAD FOR VEHICLES
ZILKER TRAILHEAD	CLOSING LOU NEFF ROAD TO VEHICLES	PED/BIKE BRIDGE ON LBL
WAYFINDING DESIGN	INTERNAL SHUTTLE	EXTENDED ZILKER EAGLE ROUTE
CANOPY WALK	ADDITIONAL TRAILS	PARKING GARAGE(S)
REMOVAL OF SURFACE PARKING	BARTON SPRINGS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS	NEW TRAILHEAD TO NATURE PRESERVE
UNDERGROUND PARKING GARAGE		EXTERNAL SHUTTLE

FACILITY/PROGRAM

ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING PLAYGROUND	BARTON CREEK WATER ACCESS	SOUTH SIDE NEW PLAY AREAS
PLAYGROUND NEAR THE LAND BRIDGE	NEW PICNIC AREA WITH CONCESSION	WELCOME PLAZA
NATURE PLAY	SPORTS AREA	ZILKER HILLSIDE THEATER
ADDITIONAL RESTROOMS	LAND BRIDGE	INTERPRETIVE STORYLINE

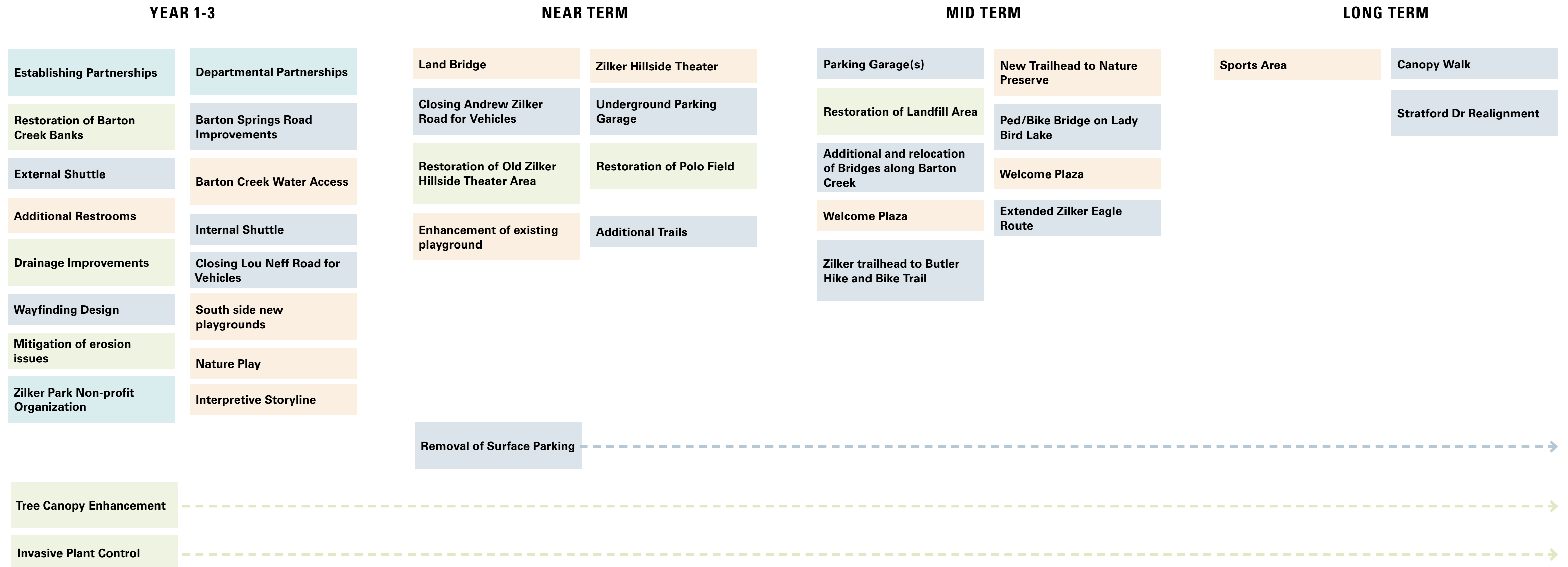
IMPLEMENTATION

COST AND BENEFIT RELATION



IMPLEMENTATION

PROJECT TIMELINE



CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

IMPACT OF THE VISION PLAN

- 1 Balancing Competing Interests
- 2 Urbanizing Recreation Within a Historic Context
- 3 Ensuring Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity
- 4 Linking Programming, Funding and Maintenance
- 5 Improving Mobility to and Inside the Park
- 6 Protecting the Ecological Heritage of Zilker

REVIEW AND ADOPTION

- ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
- URBAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
- DESIGN COMMISSION
- PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
- MOBILITY COMMITTEE
- CITY COUNCIL

JAN

FEB

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

THANK YOU

• Zilker Metropolitan Park Vision Plan Website

<https://www.austintexas.gov/ZilkerVision>

• Contact Information

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ZilkerVision@austintexas.gov



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