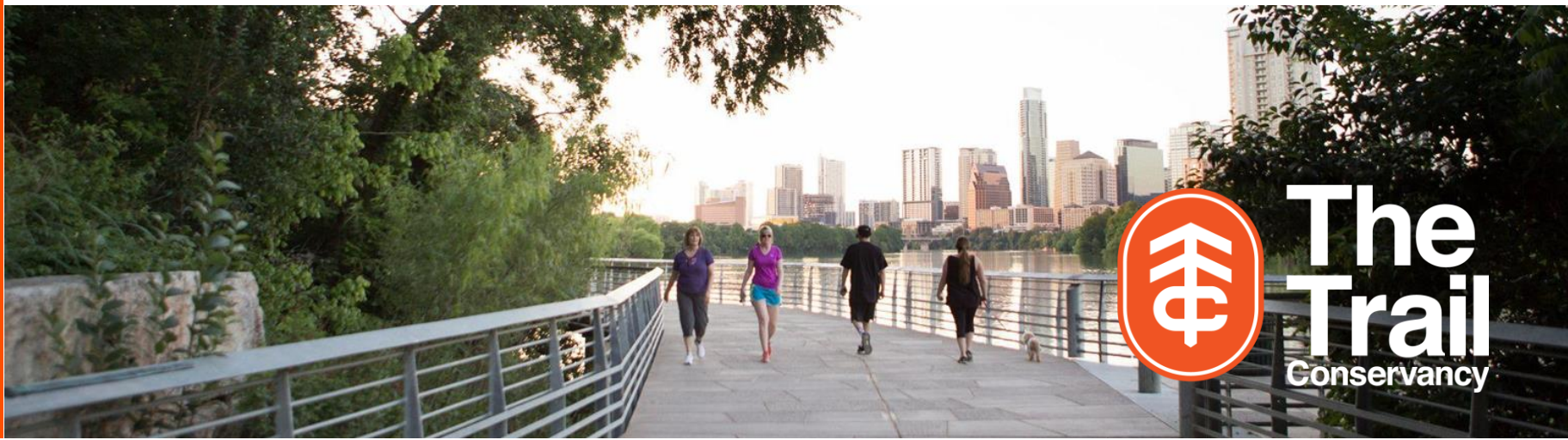




## The Trail Conservancy, *previously The Trail Foundation*

- 501(c)(3) formed to Protect, Enhance and Connect the Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail
- Identifies and completes projects based on Community Engagement and Ecological Demand
- Invested over \$19 million across various improvements to the Trail
- Park Operations and Maintenance Agreement (POMA): signed in 2022 to serve as primary caretakers of the Hike-and-Bike Trail



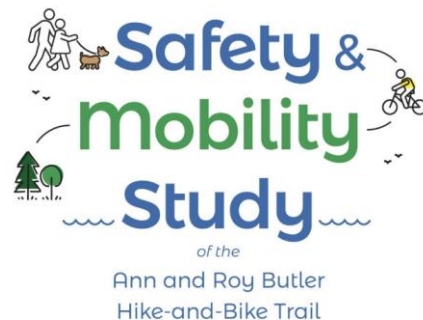
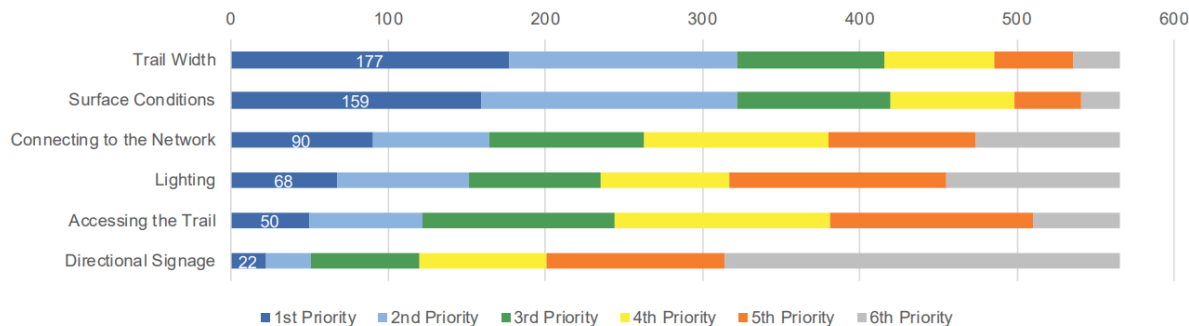


## Trail-wide Safety and Mobility Study | completed 2021

- Team & Stakeholders: TTC, Nelson Nygaard, Studio Balcones, Oldner Lighting, PARD, ATD, and Urban Trails | Public Works
- Based on Austin Community Input: Over 660 community members reached

## Primary Feedback and Considerations

- Top Priority: Trail Width and Surface Conditions, Trail Network Connectivity
- Lower Priority: Lighting, Trail Access, Directional Signage





## Trail Lighting:

Potential Project Type	Intended Outcome
<i>Mitigate glare and light trespass</i>	<i>Improve visual environment and comfort for all Trail users while minimizing impact on local ecosystem</i>
<i>Improve lighting in areas perceived as unsafe by public</i>	<i>Increase sense of safety and comfort for all trail users</i>
<i>Improve nighttime wayfinding of unlit trail</i>	<i>Improve orientation while keeping unlit areas naturally dark</i>

Lighting solutions must be dark sky compliant per city regulations and should minimize negative ecological impacts, especially near sensitive riparian zones. Lighting should also be off during curfew hours.

### Rainey Area

- Issue Identified: High glare and light trespass levels due to adjacent commercial zone
- Solution: Install transition lighting from high levels to very low levels to minimize perceived darkness



## Rainey Street Trailhead Project | estimated completion early 2024

- Based on Austin Community Input: Over 575 community members reached
- Downtown Commission presentation and approval: January 19th, 2022

### Primary Feedback and Goals

- Improve ecological function
- Provide better access to the Lake
- Create stronger and more accessible neighborhood connections for the growing district
- Add lighting and safety measures

### Provided Solution

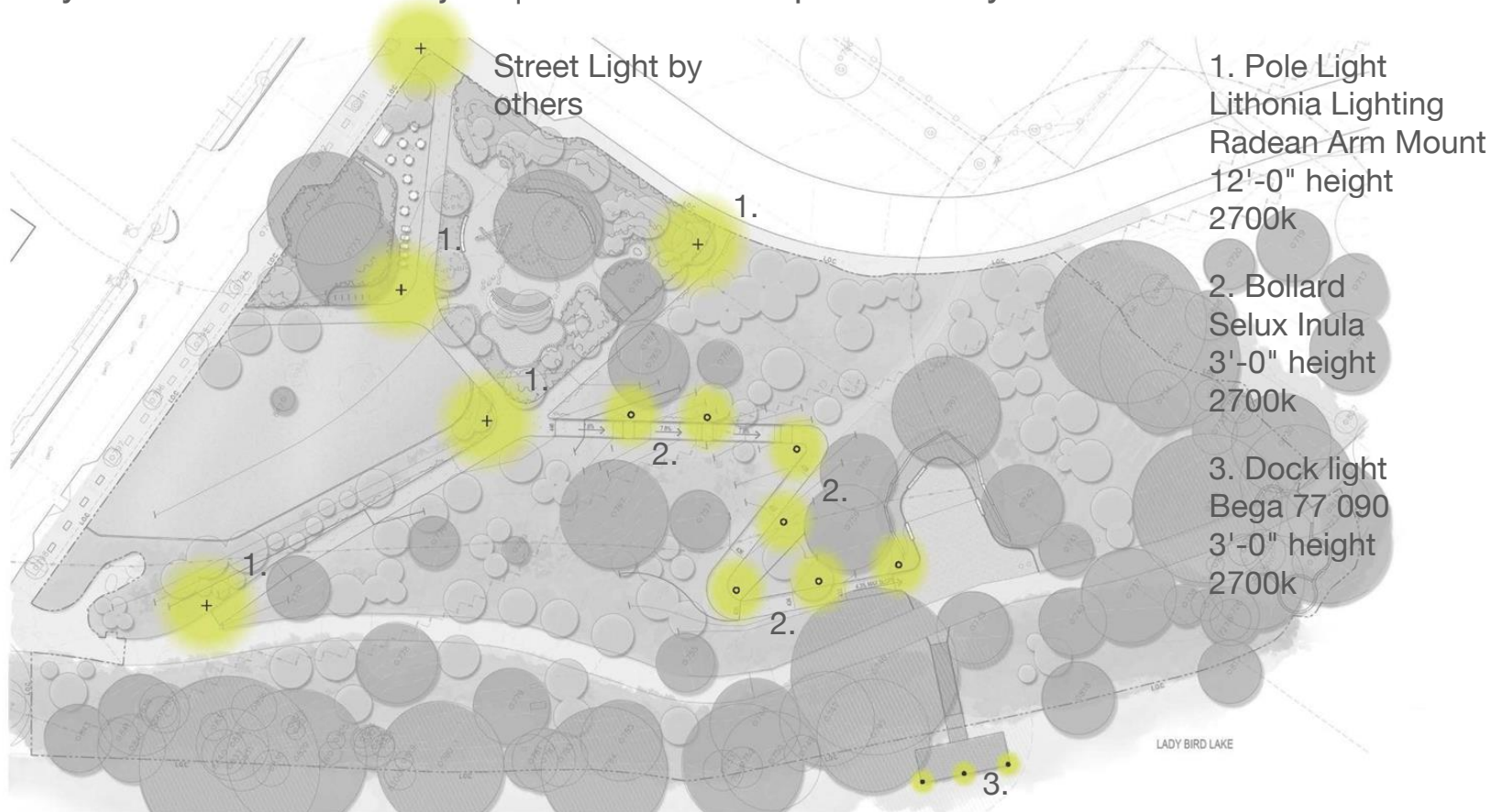
- Restoring 1.5 acres of lawn to natural areas
- Formalized water access for fishing and launching of kayaks and SUPs
- Improving the neighborhood lawn, adding family nature play and a seating lounge, and providing criss-crossing paths to connect the district and the Trail
- Hard-wired lighting will be added with the highest levels near the commercial area and gradually lowered lighting at the Trail. Tall native plantings between Trail and Lake create visual separation

## Rainey Street Trailhead Project | estimated completion early 2024





## Rainey Street Trailhead Project | estimated completion early 2024





## Summary of Recommendations

- TTC will complete the Rainey Street Trailhead scope
- TTC will complete a Comprehensive Signage Plan in 2023 to promote Trail wayfinding, safety and etiquette. This will be based on Austin community feedback
- Consider additional low-level 'breadcrumb' lighting with the intent to promote safety if individuals are present, but not to encourage Trail use after hours
- Keep split rail fencing along steep slopes to promote safety, but remove elsewhere given Austin community desires to view and access the water
- Test other low-cost infrastructure such as reflectors to determine how they encourage Trail safety



**The  
Trail**  
Conservancy

## **STAGE 1: 3/10/2023**

Temporary safety measures including solar lighting, split rail fencing, and warning signage have been installed by PARD. Lighting levels are being monitored.

## **3/24/2023**

Cross Departmental organizational meeting hosted by PARD to inform creation of implementation plan for permanent features

## **4/7/2023**

Trail Monitoring





**3/16/2023**

## Scope of Work Created

Using the recommendations and outcomes of the Safety & Mobility study, the consultant will develop a concept plan proposing lighting and other improvements. In addition, the consultant will evaluate the following features and propose additional feature for consideration:

- Safety beacon / call button
- Cameras
- Signage
- Fencing / barriers
- Reflectors, curbs, or other misc. safety features

**4/5/23**

Consultant selected- and contract being negotiated implementation plan and recommendations expected in coming months



## Stage 2: 7/6/2023

### Concept Plan for Permanent Improvements

Using the recommendations and outcomes of the Safety & Mobility study, the consultant team has developed a plan with the following proposed improvements:

- Permanent camera at the corner of Rainey St and Cummings St
- Strategies to encourage the use of alternate pedestrian routes after the trail closes at 10:00pm, including:
  - New sidewalk extension along East Ave
  - Pedestrian scale lighting fixtures,
  - Traffic calming measures
  - Increased visual distinction between the Trail and sidewalk
- Wayfinding signage that notifies of park closure times
- Improvements to reduce potential tripping hazards
- New pedestrian scale lighting to the Trail and the restroom at the corner of Rainey and Cummings. The trail lighting will be dimmed after park closure hours to encourage the alternative pedestrian route.



### Safety and Mobility Study Implementation

- Implementation Scope of Work Boundary
- TxDOT Temporary Staging Area

## Stage 2: 7/6/2023

### Schedule, Cost, and Next Steps

Based on the current plan components, the expected cost of improvements is approximately \$800K-\$1,000,000. The cost will be updated and refined as the plans progress into implementation. Funding can be realized through:

- Reallocation of PARD's 2018 bond funding utilizing remaining funding slated for trail improvement projects until the next bond program and potentially deferring active projects, including the 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Street School Creek rehabilitation project
- No Parkland Dedication Funding in the vicinity is scheduled to be appropriated in the fiscal year 2024 budget

Detailed design and permitting will occur throughout Summer 2023

PARD anticipates the improvements to be installed by Summer 2024

Installation of a permanent camera will be expedited and is expected to be installed by Fall 2023. Timeline is subject to change

