



UMLAUF Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification Plan



Letter from the Director of PARD



City of Austin

Austin Parks and Recreation Department
200 South Lamar Boulevard, Austin, Texas 78704

April 4, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

Alongside green spaces and recreational facilities, the Parks and Recreation Department is proud to oversee The Museums and Cultural Programs Division for the City of Austin. Museums and cultural centers provide safe and inclusive spaces that allow people to explore creativity and identity through art, history and the many cultures found here Austin and throughout the world. They promote civic engagement through festivals, performances, exhibitions, social practice, camps, workshops and classes for communities across Austin. The UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum is a shining example of a cultural mainstay within the capital city, and the Parks and Recreation Department is proud to hold partnership with the organization as they continue to provide an outlet for community members to explore creatively.

In 1985, sculptor Charles Umlauf and his wife, Angeline, gifted their hilltop historic homestead (2 acres) on Barton Boulevard, along with their extensive sculpture collection, to the City of Austin, thus creating the UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum (UMLAUF) non-profit organization. The property was granted to the City upon the passing of both Charles (1910-1994) and Angeline Umlauf (1915-2012), and in 1991, the current UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum (6 acres) opened on a site adjacent to the Umlauf homestead.

The UMLAUF, in alignment with its mission to provide educational and cultural experiences to the public, seeks to finally unite the historic homestead with the 1991 sculpture garden and the southern natural zone, creating a fully accessible 8-acre community green space. The Historic Preservation, Expansion and Unification Plan envisions full public access to the entire eight-acre site, while integrating

the currently natural and inaccessible southern section of the site. This unification enhances the UMLAUF’s offerings while contributing to the City’s cultural and natural spaces. Additionally, it is through this unification and expansion that the UMLAUF will continue to provide diverse and equitable experiences for all of Austin, while preserving Charles Umlauf’s legacy and uniting the community with art and nature.

I, Kimberly McNeeley, Director of The Austin Parks and Recreation Department, am proud to offer my full support for The UMLAUF Historic Preservation, Expansion and Unification Plan. This plan will provide tremendous benefit to the City of Austin and will continue to allow the UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum to cultivate curiosity, community, and connection through nature, contemporary artists, and the work of Charles Umlauf.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. McNeeley, M. Ed., CPRP, Director
Austin Parks and Recreation Department

*The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request.*

Letter from the UMLAUF

It has been a tremendous honor to partner with Page and their team on this Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification (HPEU) Plan, a critical step toward realizing Charles and Angeline Umlauf's gift to the City of Austin. Their original 1985 gift was conveyed upon their passing, but recognizing its significance, the community, under the direction of Roberta Crenshaw, came together to open the current garden and museum on adjacent land in 1991. As Austin has grown exponentially over the decades, the imperative to fulfill the original gift and share the entire historic green space with a wider, more diverse public, has also grown.

The UMLAUF Board and Staff were moved by the compelling and detailed proposals submitted by ten firms after releasing the RFP in 2023. Ultimately, Page stood out not only for their extraordinarily skilled and integrated team, but for understanding that a revitalized UMLAUF could address some of the myriad challenges facing one of the most rapidly growing cities in the U.S. Not only is Page an esteemed international firm embedded in Austin's culture for 100 years, their Principal and Design Director, Lawrence Speck, designed the 1991 award-winning UMLAUF gallery and terrace.

This project could not have happened without the support of countless UMLAUF staff, board members, City of Austin staff, volunteers, stakeholders, and community members. In addition to those listed on the following page, we would like to thank the people and companies who graciously provided their services and experience throughout the HPEU Plan process. They include Survey Works, who completed an arduous

topographical and tree survey; City of Austin Urban Forestry, who provided guidance when considering our precious trees on the lower property; Keith Babberney and Jason Traweek of the City of Austin Development Services Department Urban Forestry, who completed a tree assessment for the lower property, and Scott George of Austin Beautiful Trees, who completed a tree assessment for the upper property —two projects vital to realizing the HPEU Plan; Horizon Environmental Services who provided an environmental resources inventory; former longtime Board Member Keith Pool who has been instrumental to the process; Luis Puron of the Rockport Art Center; and Mary Hager of Winstead Attorneys. Special thanks to the UMLAUF's former director and long-time champion, Nelie Plourde; and Aan Coleman, who won a landscape architecture award for designing the garden, and has been dedicated to the UMLAUF from the very beginning.

Throughout, we've benefitted from the experience of City of Austin employees, including Ellen Colfax, Kimberly McNeeley, Kimberly McKnight, and Sarah Talkington. For nearly twenty years, Laura Esparza of PARD has ably guided and advised the UMLAUF.

Last, but certainly not least, we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Page. The team they assembled understands the necessity of a plan that serves the entire community and has guided the UMLAUF through this process with grace and expertise. We are beyond grateful for all they have put into the HPEU Plan, and the thoroughness and care they provided

throughout. Thank you to Lawrence Speck, Ginny Chilton, Melissa Gutiérrez Soto, Ryan Losch, Leland Ulmer, Leah van der Sanden, and so many more. The UMLAUF could not have imagined a better partnership.

This HPEU Plan has been a long time in the making, and the result of an effort from so many invaluable partners. We look forward to taking the next steps toward realizing this vision so we can provide unrivaled art and nature experiences for the entire community.

UMLAUF Staff

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A special thank you to
the many community
members who participated
in the planning process and
contributed to the UMLAUF
HPEU Plan.

Land Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which the UMLAUF exists is the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Tonkawa, the Apache, the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, the Lipan Apache Tribe, the Texas Band of Yaqui Indians, the Coahuitlecan and all other tribes not explicitly stated. Additionally, we would like to acknowledge and pay respects to the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, the Kickapoo Tribe of Texas, Carrizo & Comecrudo, Tigua Pueblo, Caddo, Comanche, Kiowa, Wichita, Chickasaw, Waco nations, and all the American Indian and Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories in Texas, on Turtle Island, the ancestral name for what now is called North America. Not all indigenous peoples listed claim Texas as ancestral lands, as many were forcibly relocated to Texas from their ancestral homelands.

Today, various indigenous peoples from all over the globe visit Austin or call it home. We are grateful to be able to connect with arts and nature in this natural oasis. We wish to recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples as the original stewards of the land we reside on today, known as Austin, Texas.



Preface

The UMLAUF Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification (HPEU) Plan presents a long-range vision for the development and improvement of the sculpture garden and museum.

The UMLAUF is a non-profit organization that was initiated in 1985 when Charles and Angeline Umlauf gifted their hilltop historic homestead on Barton Boulevard and their extensive sculpture collection. Today, the UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum operates in partnership with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department. The site is owned by the City of Austin and is ground leased to the UMLAUF for 100 years with conditional use as a museum.

The UMLAUF provides educational and cultural experiences that encourage the understanding and appreciation of the intersection of nature, sculpture, and the arts. The UMLAUF is primarily funded by donations, visitation fees, and by hosting events in its lush garden setting. It also receives some funding from the City of Austin; as of 2023, about 17% of operational costs were funded by the City.

The plan envisions a future sculpture garden and museum deeply rooted in the site’s historical and ecological context, enriching the cultural fabric of the city and offering diverse and equitable experiences for the entire Austin community. The goal is to become one beautiful, approachable, and accessible venue with a wide number of programmatic offerings to support the community and position the UMLAUF as a top destination in Austin.

As its name implies, the plan’s goals include Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification. Informed by extensive site analysis and community engagement, it proposes a set of strategies to support the UMLAUF’s vision. These strategies aim to preserve Umlauf’s legacy, broaden the UMLAUF’s audience, and address community and site-specific needs. The plan carefully navigates the expansion and positioning of the arts

UMLAUF HPEU PLAN

in the city, all while upholding environmental stewardship and creating a welcoming space that seamlessly connects Austin’s community with art and nature in serene harmony.

Historic Preservation

The plan safeguards the site’s history, honoring Charles Umlauf’s enduring legacy and its profound connection to the city’s ecology and cultural essence. Preserving and expanding access to the artist’s home and studio, the plan aligns with the UMLAUF’s mission to provide educational experiences fostering an understanding and appreciation of the arts.

Expansion

Expansion in the plan goes beyond physical space—it extends the arts and the UMLAUF’s offerings to broader and more diverse audiences. The plan aims to create suitable spaces for exhibiting an expanded permanent collection, broadening opportunities for rotating local exhibitions, hosting diverse community activities, and enriching the overall program to extend the museum’s reach and cultural impact. The HPEU Plan goals align with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department’s goal of “ensuring and preserving equitable access to parks, trails, open space, and recreational opportunities.”

Unification

Furthermore, the plan envisions full public access to the entire eight-acre site, linking Charles Umlauf’s home and studio with the existing museum and sculpture garden, while integrating the currently natural and inaccessible southern section of the site. This unification not only enhances the UMLAUF’s offerings but also contributes to the overall experience and offerings of the cultural scene in the city.

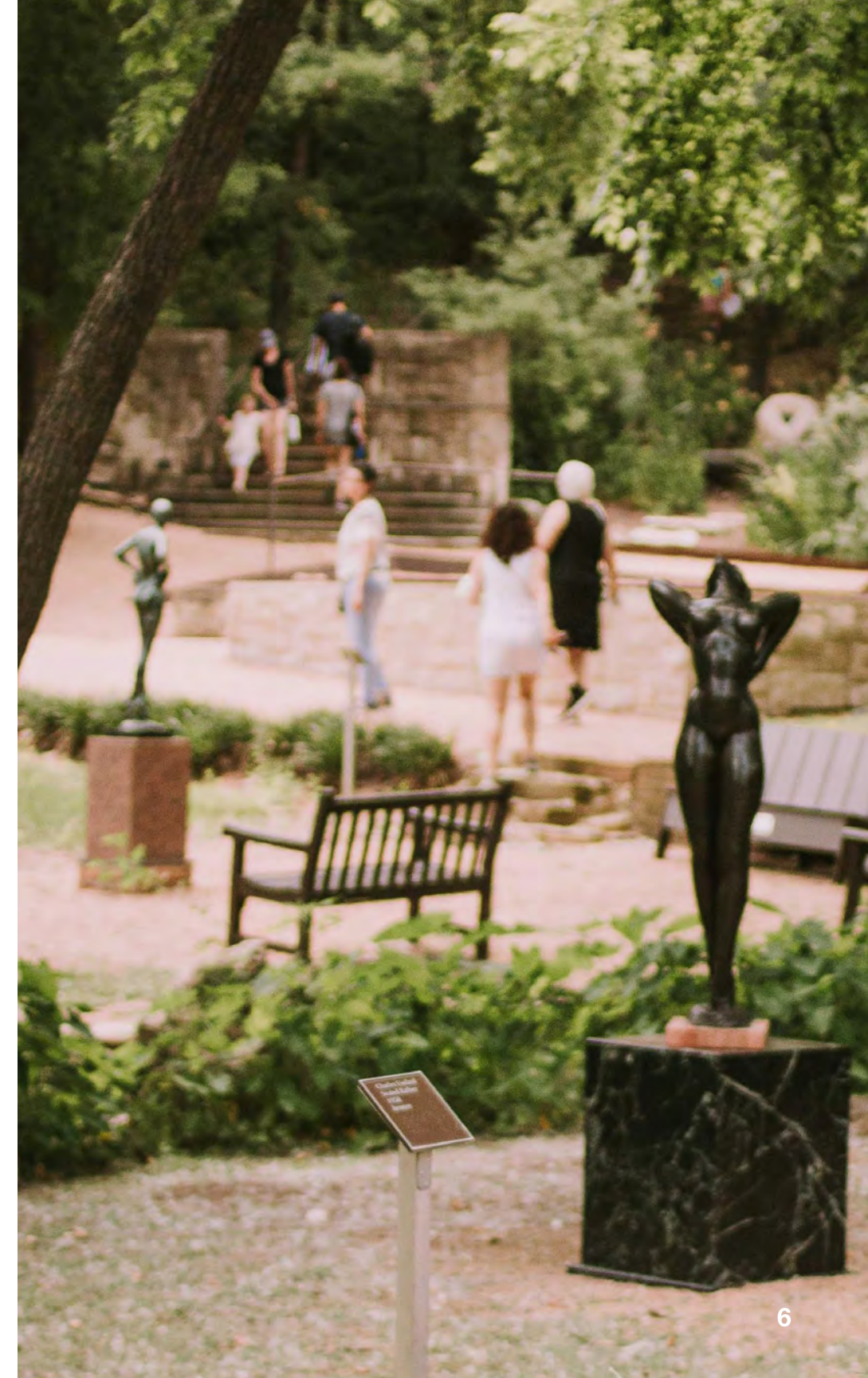


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Glossary

In the report, various acronyms will be used to reference different organizations. Please refer to the list on this page. Additionally, general clarifications for certain terms used throughout the report are included in this glossary. Please refer to the Sustainability Glossary, in the Sustainability + Resilience chapter, for more definitions.

Definitions:

Active travel, active mobility: refers to journeys made by modes of transport that are fully or partially people-powered, for example: walking, wheeling, cycling (including e-bikes), and scooting.

Biophilia: a human tendency to seek connections to nature. In design, biophilia is used to create connections to nature such that the human experience is more enjoyable.

Impervious Cover: water resistant ground cover such as concrete, asphalt, brick, stone, etc.

Pervious Cover: ground cover where water can penetrate into the soil such as soil, rock, grass, etc.

Walking/wheeling: it is used together to refer to the action of moving at a pedestrian’s pace, whether someone is standing or sitting, walking/wheeling unaided or using any kind of aid to mobility.

Acronyms:

City of Austin Departments

- COA:** City of Austin
- PARD:** Parks and Recreation Department
- TPW :** Transportation and Public Works Department
- WPD:** Watershed Protection Department

Other Organizations

- AARC:** Asian American Resource Center
- BCNA:** Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association
- MACC:** Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center
- SOS:** Save Our Springs Alliance
- TCA:** The Contemporary Austin
- ZBG:** Zilker Botanical Garden

Opportunity
for City
Partnership

The “Opportunity for City Partnership” icon is featured on pages where collaboration with the City could significantly improve the plan’s outcomes, benefiting both the community and the surrounding environment. This includes enhancements outside the UMLAUF property that could synergize with on-site improvements, such as upgrades to sidewalks, crosswalks, and other city infrastructure around the area.

01

Executive Summary

Why a Plan?
Who is the UMLAUF HPEU Plan for?
Guiding Principles + Plan Objectives
Illustrative Plan
Site Concept

Why a Plan?

The UMLAUF, in alignment with its mission, seeks to unite the 1985 historic homestead, a gift to the City of Austin from Charles and Angeline Umlauf, with the 1991 sculpture garden and the southern natural zone, creating a fully accessible 8-acre community space. The HPEU Plan serves as a comprehensive guide envisioning a future sculpture garden and museum that provides diverse and equitable experiences for all of Austin, while preserving Charles Umlauf's legacy and uniting the community with art and nature. This document proposes strategic measures in planning, architecture, landscape, and historic preservation to realize the UMLAUF's goal of preservation, expansion, and unification.

Due to the partnership between the UMLAUF and the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, this plan becomes a vital tool for communicating the UMLAUF's goal of enriching the museum and garden experience for the City of Austin. Additionally, it aligns with PARD's commitment to ensuring equitable access to parks, trails, open spaces, and recreational opportunities within the community.



Who is the UMLAUF HPEU Plan for?

The UMLAUF HPEU Plan is an inclusive vision that considers a broad spectrum of users, including those interested in experiencing arts and ecology, exploring the sculpture-making process, learning new skills, spending time in nature, meditating, exercising, or engaging in community activities. One of the primary objectives of the HPEU plan is to broaden the UMLAUF's programmatic interior and exterior spaces to engage a broader audience. This expansion will enable the UMLAUF to host a broader range of art exhibitions and offer multiple programming opportunities simultaneously. With the goal of expanding the museum's reach and programmatic offerings to a wider and more diverse audience, the plan emphasizes accessibility for all, ensuring the entire site is open and enjoyable for Austin's residents and visitors. The proposed strategies aim to facilitate more community events, diverse arts and environmental programs, and various events catering to Austin's community interests—concerts, performances, health and wellness activities, and many others. The plan proposes integrating spatial and design strategies with other equity-focused programs aimed at engaging communities lacking cultural assets and green spaces in their neighborhoods. The UMLAUF envisions a welcoming space for people of all ages and interests to connect with arts, nature, and Charles Umlauf's artistic legacy.



Guiding Principles

The planning process is guided by harmonizing three principles: Sustainability + Resilience, Legacy, and Community. Recognizing the site’s environmental challenges, sustainability and resilience are introduced as core principles, steering the plan’s decision-making. Community envisions an accessible and unified site, expanding the UMLAUF’s reach, and fostering deep connections with Austin’s community. Legacy seeks not only to preserve the historic zone, but also to amplify Charles Umlauf’s artistic heritage, offering art education opportunities for all. The plan honors Umlauf’s legacy by expanding the museum’s reach through new and diverse programs, all while addressing environmental concerns affecting the sculpture garden and its surroundings. Carefully devised strategies, detailed on the subsequent page, will interlace these principles, ensuring a harmonious integration that preserves the UMLAUF’s essence while guiding it into a sustainable and community-oriented future.



Plan Objectives

Ranging from unifying the site to advancing arts education, the plan objectives serve as a guide for informed decision-making throughout the planning and design process. Each objective encapsulates targeted strategies, ensuring a cohesive approach to the UMLAUF’s vision.



Site unification
Incorporating the adjacent land that includes the home of Angeline and Charles Umlauf, their private sculpture garden, and the artist’s studio into the site’s experience. Seamlessly unifying the three main areas of the site, creating an accessible site-wide experience.



Historic preservation
Preserving the Umlaufs’ home, studio, and sculpture garden. Sharing the story of Charles Umlauf and the Umlauf family with the community through an interpretive experience.



Sustainability + environmental rehabilitation
Managing energy and water responsibly, addressing site issues, and respecting the city’s environment while safeguarding the ecology and biodiversity of the site.



Community connection
Implementing community-driven planning and creating spaces that foster a welcoming and inclusive experience for everyone in the city to enjoy while connecting with art and nature.



Arts education expansion
Infusing the site with learning and exploration opportunities, making the whole site a learning experience.

Illustrative Plan

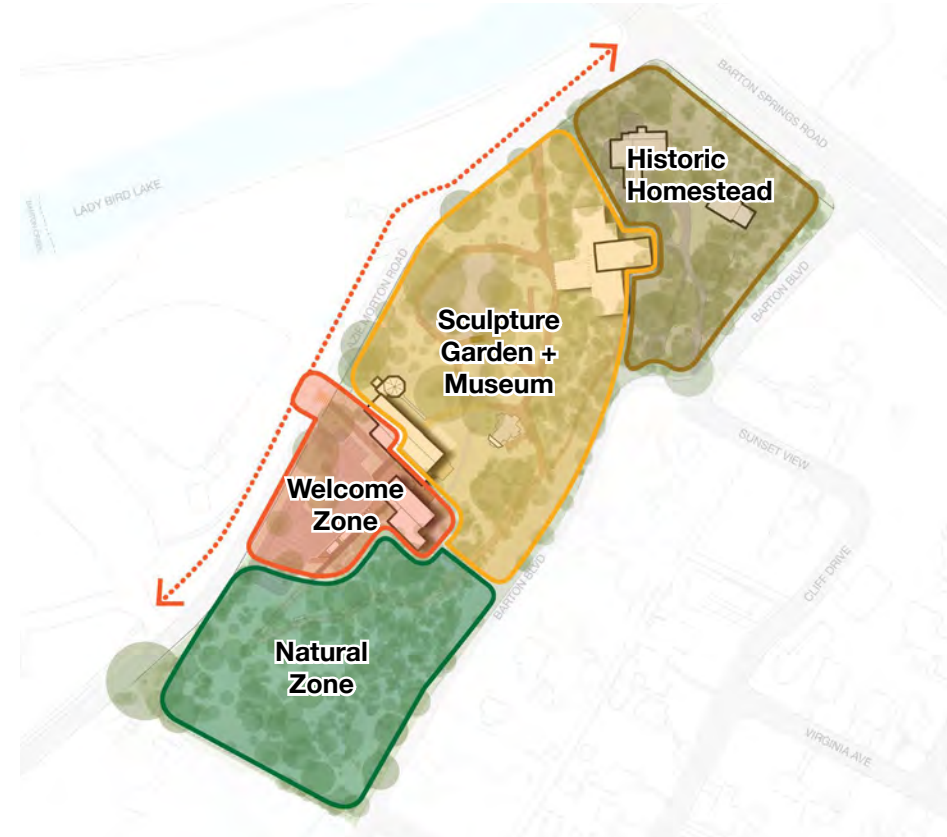
The UMLAUF HPEU Plan is the product of a collaborative planning process that brought together members of the community, technical experts, community representatives in arts, education, environmental, and neighborhood matters, and the UMLAUF staff and affiliates, resulting in a vision that reflects the community's priorities and ideals, as well as responsibility toward the site's and city's ecological and social fabrics.

The plan carefully connects the currently inaccessible areas of the site with the museum and sculpture garden, prioritizing the user experience and connection with the site from the moment of arrival. The plan aims to create a seamless and accessible site-wide experience, offering both indoor and outdoor spaces for diverse programming. The plan suggest improvements to accommodate large gatherings, workshops, art classes, expanded exhibition opportunities, and a more diverse set of programs and events. Respecting existing structures and the ecosystem, the plan ensures a harmonious integration of new and existing structures, all while maintaining the UMLAUF's unique legacy and sense of exploration.



Site concept

The UMLAUF HPEU Plan strategically links the four main site areas through two key connectors, ensuring adequate programming and enhancing accessibility. The activation of the site's edges creates a more welcoming arrival and overall experience around the site.



Zones

Four main zones, each possessing distinct characters and functions, seamlessly blend into one another for a cohesive and harmonious integration.



Connectors

The gateway and treehouse serve as connectors, increasing accessibility and linking previously inaccessible areas. Simultaneously, they accommodate essential museum operations and offer expanded spaces for events, education, and exhibitions.



Active Edges

Strategic interventions along the site edges foster openness to the community, crafting friendlier and subtler boundaries with improved visual connections and an enhanced entry experience.

02

Introduction

History of the UMLAUF

Charles Umlauf

The UMLAUF's Vision

Current Programs

UMLAUF HPEU Plan Vision

Historic Preservation

Expansion

Site Unification

Environmental Considerations

Guiding Principles

Plan Objectives

Planning Process

History of the UMLAUF


The UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum represents so much that is quintessentially Austin: superb art casually set in a shady garden of native Texas plants, a natural oasis near Barton Springs and only blocks from the heart of an urban capital city.

Originally containing small ponds used by soldiers to practice fly casting during the late 1930s and 1940s, these four acres were then forgotten for the next four decades, lost under dewberry vines and illicit dumping.

In 1944, American sculptor Charles and his wife Angeline Umlauf purchased a carriage house that became their home at the top of a hill overlooking Barton Springs Road. In 1985, they gifted their home, property, his art studio and 168 sculptures to the City of Austin for public enjoyment and education. In 1991, the site was transformed into a sculpture garden to showcase over 50 bronze and stone sculptures given to the City of Austin. Landscape architect Aan Coleman designed the garden and the internationally recognized architect Lawrence Speck designed the UMLAUF's gallery and terrace that opened in 1991. The Roberta Crenshaw learning center was added to the site in 2001.

Currently, the Garden, with its waterfall and streams muffling the sounds of traffic, offers visitors a peaceful oasis in one of the fastest growing cities in the country.





“ The UMLAUF provides educational and cultural experiences that encourage the understanding and appreciation of the intersection of nature, sculpture, and the arts. ”

Charles Umlauf

Charles Julius Umlauf (1910-1994) was the sixth of eight children born to French and German immigrant parents on a farm outside South Haven, Michigan. When he was eight, the family moved to Chicago where Umlauf's fourth grade teacher recognized his talents and helped him earn summer scholarships at the Art Institute of Chicago. Working under master sculptors Lorado Taft and Albin Polasek, Umlauf gained competence in a wide array of media. In 1937, Umlauf married fellow Art Institute student Angeline "Angie" Allen. The couple moved to Austin in 1941 when Umlauf became a Life Drawing and Sculpture professor at the University of Texas' Art Department. He taught at UT for 40 years, retiring as Professor Emeritus in 1981.

Umlauf's sculptures range from haunting expressionism, to detailed neoclassical realism, to lyrical abstraction. His materials are equally diverse: exotic woods, terra cotta or cast stone in his early work, rich bronzes and alabasters and luminous marbles in his prime. With equal facility, Umlauf sculpted family groupings, whimsical animals, religious and mythological figures, and sensuous nudes.

Umlauf won numerous prestigious awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Ford Foundation Grant. He was honored in 1985 by the Houston Art League as "Texas Artist of the Year" and in 1993 by the City of San Antonio as "Alcalde." Public collections and museums across the United States own his work, including the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. In Texas, there are more Umlauf sculptures in public locations than there are works by any other single sculptor.





“ *The UMLAUF's vision is to become the epicenter of Austin's cultural arts scene and of experiential activities available to our community.* ”

The UMLAUF's Vision

Since its founding over 30 years ago, the UMLAUF has been committed to arts education in one of the most picturesque settings in Austin. As our collection and grounds have grown, so have our ambitions. The goal is to become one beautiful, approachable and accessible venue with a number of programmatic offerings to support the UMLAUF as a top destination in Austin.

The UMLAUF will become the arts destination in Austin to learn, discover and reflect. Our vision is to make the entire eight-acres accessible and available to the public, connecting Charles Umlauf's artist studio, the Umlauf family home and property to the existing museum and sculpture garden. We seek to make improvements to the grounds, expand access to the permanent collection, and broaden our ability for rotating exhibitions and community activities.

As a culturally rich arts destination, the UMLAUF envisions using its expanded collection and facilities to increase awareness of Charles Umlauf's impact and influence as an artist, educator and philanthropist, and to honor the Umlauf family's gift to the community by providing experiences that include art in nature, immersive exhibitions and educational opportunities, health and wellness programs, a venue for gatherings and events, and a peaceful breathing space within the heart of an urban capital city.



Current Programs

The UMLAUF hosts a wide range of programs for adults, children, and families. With rotating exhibitions of art by Charles Umlauf and both major 21st century and community artists, as well as other offerings such as art talks, camps, wellness activities, markets, and storytime, these programs forge strong community connections, opening the space to all of Austin. Some events such as Family Day, are admission-free and provide the entire community an opportunity to explore the sculpture garden and connect with local vendors and art. One of the plan's objectives is to broaden the possibilities for hosting a variety of indoor and outdoor programs, ensuring that the UMLAUF can provide an even wider range of programs and events for the Austin community.

Current programs / events:

- Family Day
- Sculpture Garden Storytime
- UMLAUF After Dark
- Insights Artist Talks
- Health + Wellness
- Shaping Space
- Design Shine installations in the garden
- Straw Fest
- Garden Party
- Summer Camp
- Free monthly docent-guided tours with admission
- Rotating exhibitions in the gallery and garden





*“ The UMLAUF will become
the arts destination in Austin
to learn, discover, and reflect.”*

UMLAUF HPEU Plan Vision

The UMLAUF Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification Plan aims to unify Charles and Angeline Umlauf's original 1985 gift to the City with the 1991 sculpture garden in order to create a fully accessible 8-acre site for the community.

The plan is intended to improve access to and expand the use of the UMLAUF's sculpture garden, museum, and grounds, while preserving and incorporating an adjacent site that includes the home of Angeline and Charles Umlauf, their private sculpture garden, and the artist's studio. The plan will also address the environmental issues affecting the site and its surroundings. The UMLAUF is located adjacent to Barton Creek, near the Barton Hills and Zilker neighborhoods, and it has been affected by the same environmental and water concerns of the area, such as storm water runoff and surface pollutants.



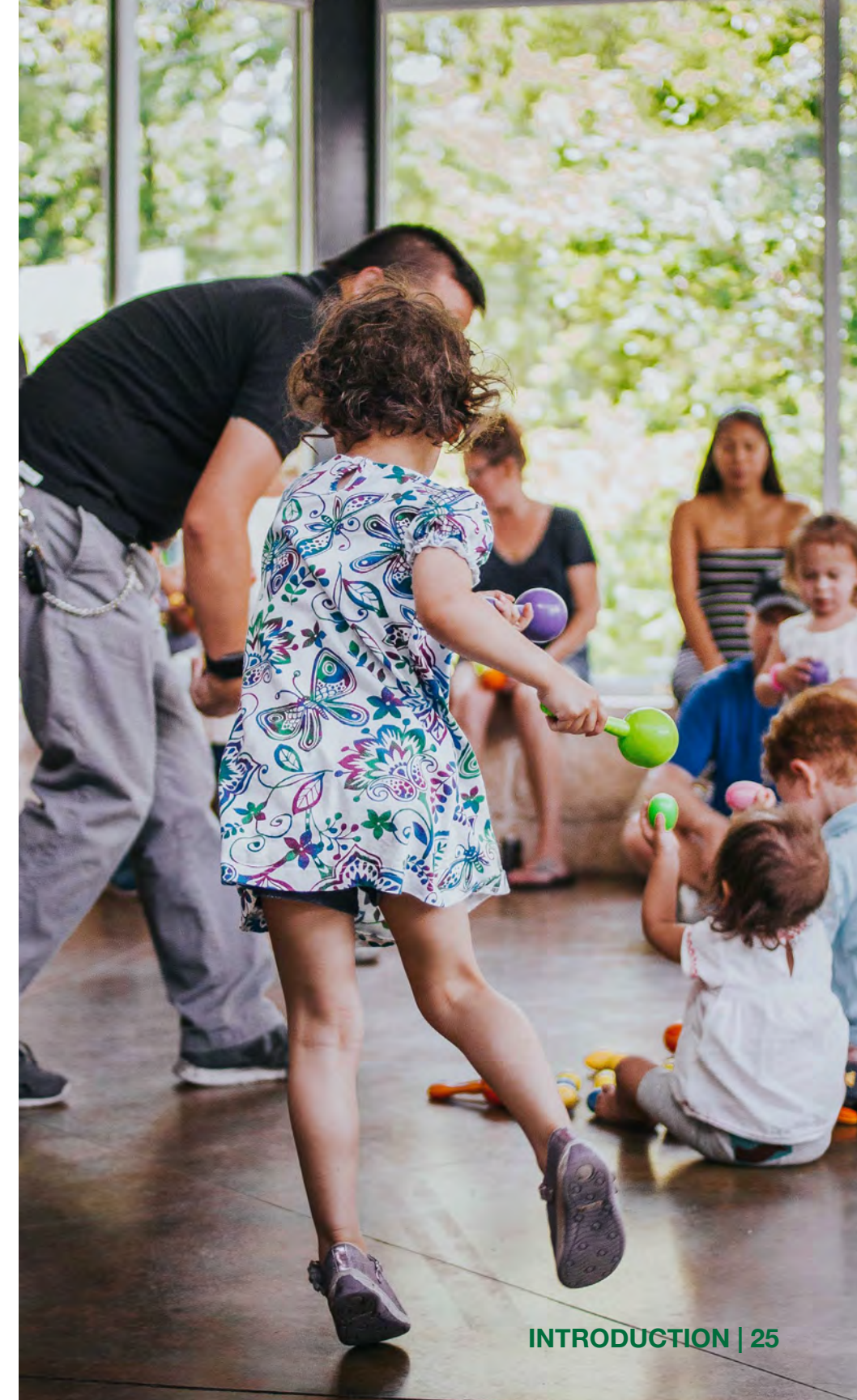
Historic Preservation

The plan includes the preservation of Charles and Angeline Umlauf's residence—an iconic carriage house atop the hill along Barton Springs Road. In 1985, the Umlaufs generously donated their property, which they had acquired in 1944, along with their home, art studio, and a collection of 168 sculptures to the City of Austin for public enjoyment and education. Preservation strategies focus on transforming this historic space into an educational haven, providing insights into an artist's life and sculptural process. Additionally, the plan is dedicated to enhancing accessibility, ensuring this part of the site becomes a welcoming and informative destination for all. By safeguarding this cultural gem, the UMLAUF seeks to create a dynamic environment for learning, appreciation, and connection with the Umlaufs' artistic legacy.



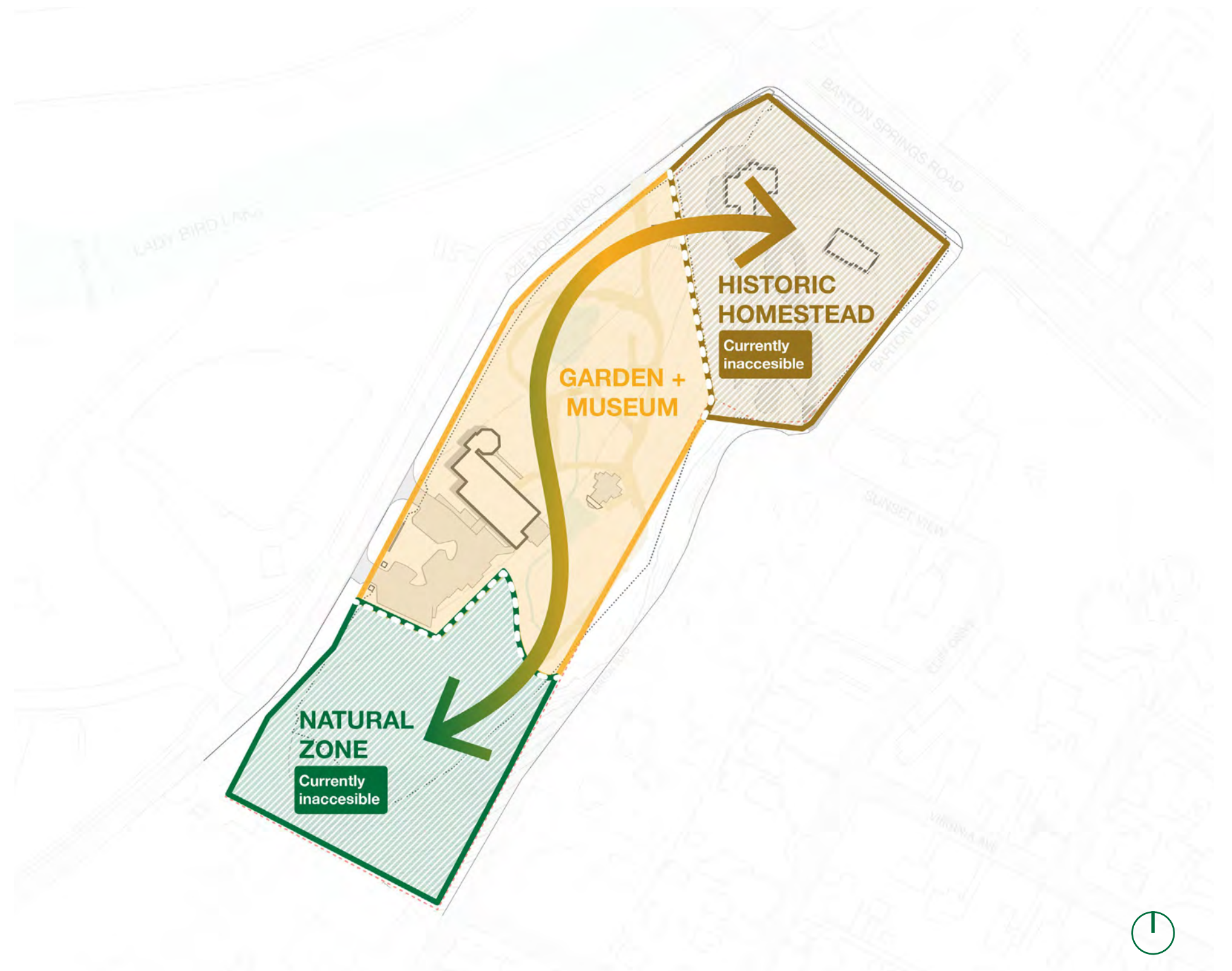
Expansion

The UMLAUF HPEU Plan focuses on expanding usable indoor and outdoor space for events, education, and exhibitions, aiming to broaden the UMLAUF's programmatic offerings and exhibitions of community art. By providing more areas for free admission visits, the plan seeks to extend its reach to even more diverse audiences. Essential to achieving the UMLAUF's mission of creating an accessible and diverse space, the plan emphasizes the need for ample space to host private and public events, along with indoor and outdoor educational spaces suitable for all age groups. Furthermore, considering exhibition spaces that meet the necessary standards will enable the UMLAUF to broaden its displayed collection and feature a greater number of local, national, and international exhibitions. This not only provides the public with increased opportunities to engage with art but also encourages repeat visits to the museum throughout the year for schools, families, tourists, and other community members and groups. This expansion strategy is crucial for transforming the UMLAUF into an inclusive and vibrant cultural hub for everyone in the community.



Site Unification

The plan's goal is to seamlessly unify the three main zones of the site, two of which are currently inaccessible to the public. Emphasizing sustainability and resilience, the plan is committed to preserving and honoring Umlauf's legacy, the history of the site, and safeguarding its cultural significance. Furthermore, the project aims to create openness to the community, fostering inclusivity and engagement. By weaving together these elements, the plan envisions a connected, sustainable, and inclusive project.



Environmental Considerations

Nestled within Austin's green network alongside Barton Springs, Zilker Park, and Lady Bird Lake, the UMLAUF's sculpture garden site connects Austin's residents with nature. However, this location exposes the garden to the environmental challenges prevalent in the area. Notably, stormwater runoff from uphill developments poses a shared concern. Acknowledging this, the plan underscores the importance of addressing and mitigating such issues. By implementing sustainable practices and innovative stormwater management strategies, the plan aims not only to preserve its natural surroundings but also to contribute positively to the broader environmental health of Austin, ensuring that this cultural gem remains intertwined with the city's ecological resilience.



Guiding Principles

These principles guide the planning process, harmonizing Sustainability + Resilience, Legacy, and Community. Recognizing the site’s environmental challenges, Sustainability + Resilience are introduced as core principles, steering the plan’s decision-making. Community envisions an accessible and unified site, expanding the UMLAUF’s reach, and fostering deep connections with Austin’s community. Legacy seeks not only to preserve the historic zone, but to also amplify Charles Umlauf’s artistic heritage, offering art education opportunities for all. The plan honors Umlauf’s legacy by expanding the museum’s reach through new and diverse programs, all while addressing environmental concerns affecting both the sculpture garden and its surroundings. Carefully devised strategies, detailed on the subsequent page, will interlace these principles, ensuring a harmonious integration that preserves the UMLAUF’s essence while guiding it into a sustainable and community-oriented future.



Plan Objectives

Aligned with the Guiding Principles, the plan objectives group a series of main strategies. Ranging from unifying the site to advancing arts education, these objectives serve as a guide for informed decision-making throughout the planning and design process. Each objective encapsulates targeted strategies, ensuring a cohesive approach to the UMLAUF’s vision.



Site unification

Incorporating the adjacent land that includes the home of Angeline and Charles Umlauf, their private sculpture garden, and the artist’s studio to the site’s experience. Seamlessly unifying the three main areas of the site, creating an accessible site-wide experience.



Historic preservation

Preserving the Historic Homestead, comprising Umlauf’s home, studio, and private sculpture garden. Sharing the story of Charles Umlauf and the Umlauf family with the community through an interpretive experience.



Sustainability + environmental rehabilitation

Managing energy and water responsibly, addressing site issues, and respecting the city’s environment while safeguarding the ecology and biodiversity of the site.



Community connection

Implementing community-driven planning, and creating spaces that foster a welcoming experience for everyone in the city to enjoy while connecting with art and nature.

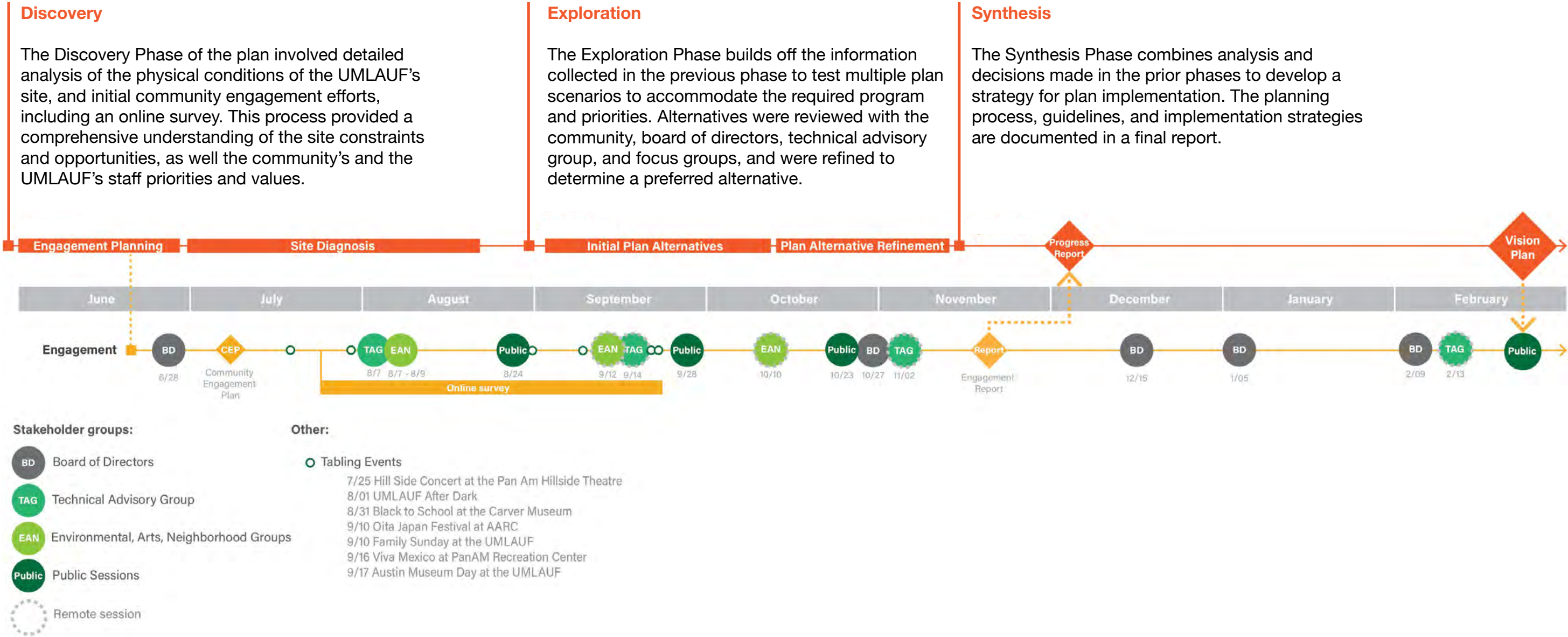


Arts education expansion

Infusing the site with learning and exploration opportunities, making the whole site a learning experience.

Planning Process

The planning process matches two main timelines: planning and design, and community engagement. Please refer to the Community Engagement section for more details about the stakeholder engagement sessions.



03

Community Engagement

Community Engagement Tools

Community Engagement Plan

Public Sessions

Work Sessions

Technical Advisory Group

Community Events

Survey

Community's Priorities

Community Engagement Tools



TAG

TAG sessions

The Technical Advisory Group is comprised of a group of technical experts from the City of Austin that provide their insights, skills, guidance, and expertise. The TAG guided the planning group with their policy, community, and technical knowledge on topics around water management, transit, historic preservation, sustainability, and other topics.



EAN

Work sessions

The work sessions, or focus groups, were attended by three groups of community stakeholders on topics of relevant matter for the UMLAUF’s plan: Neighborhood, Arts + Education, and Environment. The working groups provided thoughtful feedback from their first-hand experience and community knowledge.



Public

Public Sessions

Public sessions were integral to the planning process, gathering members of Austin’s community for discussions about their priorities and concerns around the project. Community members actively participated, offering valuable feedback on initial concepts, fostering a collaborative and inclusive approach to the plan’s development.



Community Events

Tabling at community events facilitated engagement, created connections with the community, increased survey participation and broadened outreach for the UMLAUF. This approach not only increased awareness of the plan but also introduced the sculpture garden to community members previously unfamiliar with it.

UMLAUF Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification Plan

Introduction:

UMLAUF Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification Plan is a project to expand the use of UMLAUF’s sculpture garden, museum, and grounds, while preserving an adjacent site that includes the home of Angeline and Charles Umlauf, the garden, and the artist’s studio. The plan will also address the environmental impacts and its surroundings. The UMLAUF is located adjacent to Barton Creek, near the neighborhoods, and it has been affected by the same environmental and water issues such as storm water runoff and surface pollutants. **The feedback collected will be used to inform the planning process for UMLAUF’s Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification Plan. All your answers will remain anonymous. Thank you for your time and participation.**

Estimated time 6-8 minutes.

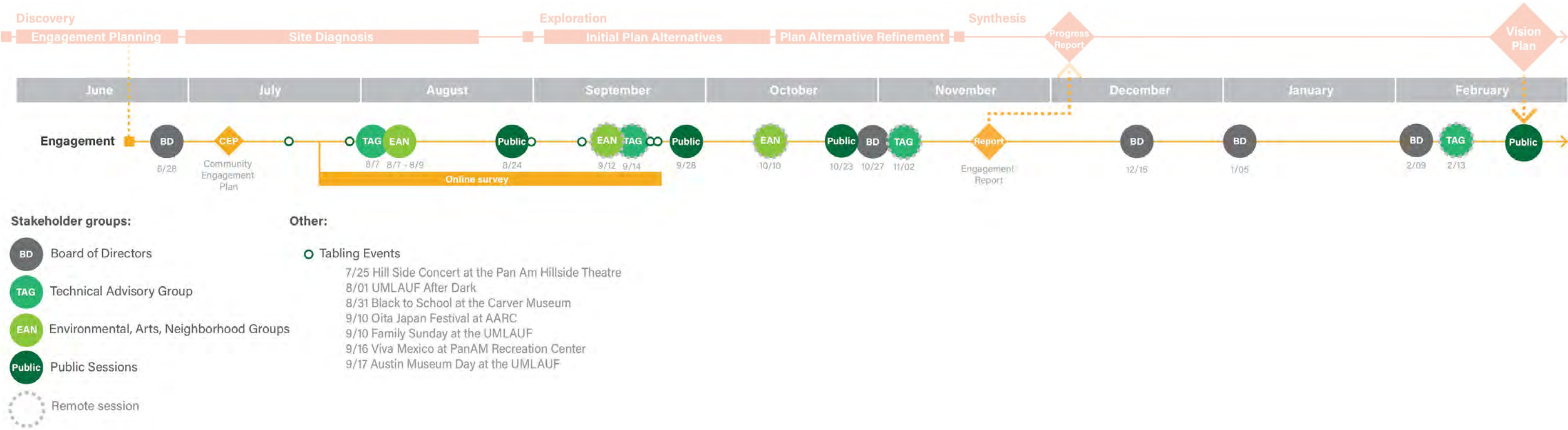
Online Survey

Over 600 complete responses were gathered through an online survey, drawing feedback from both new and existing community members, enriching the plan’s insights with a diverse range of perspectives.

Online Presence: UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum website, City of Austin PARD website, City of Austin PARD newsletter

Community Engagement Plan

The plan conducted three rounds of community engagement during the discovery and exploration phases. Each round comprised a TAG session, an environment-arts-neighborhood a work session, and a public meeting. The first round introduced the site and gathered initial ideas and concerns. The second round sought feedback on plan alternatives, and the third gathered input on refined plan ideas. An online survey and tabling at a series of community events were also part of the community engagement process. This comprehensive approach ensured collaborative decision-making and enhanced the overall development process. The final plan will be shared with the community in an additional public session.





Public Session

Round 1

36
attendees

Location: UMLAUF

Date: September 28, 2023

Format:

In-person session

1. Home and studio tour
2. Project introduction
3. Card game
4. Card game summary

Attendees:

Full list included in appendix



The card game serves as a prioritization exercise, encouraging community members to engage in conversations and select their top priorities for the plan, fostering inclusive decision-making.

Public Session

Round 1

Card game:

The card game serves as a prioritization exercise, with a deck symbolizing plan needs identified by the UMLAUF, technical advisory group, community focus groups, and initial site analysis. Comprised of a deck of 32 cards, addressing topics like accessibility, sustainability, arts + education, historic preservation, community, mobility, and operations, each card is assigned a score correlating to estimated investment (5 to 40 points). Three blank cards were also provided per team to invite new ideas to be shared. Teams negotiated and discussed, striving to reach 400 points, fostering collaborative decision-making and aiming for diverse perspectives to contribute to the project’s priorities. The full deck of cards is shown to the right. The top 11 cards that were prioritized among the teams are highlighted and were considered to build the community’s priorities that guided the planning process.



+ 3 blank cards

Re-wilding	✓ Neighborhood Stormwater Runoff Through the Sculpture Garden	Paths and Viewing Platforms	Space for Environmental Education	Neighborhood Stormwater Runoff to Barton Creek	Natural Terracing	Irrigation System	Outdoor Infrastructure for Ecology, Nature, and Wildlife Programs
Increased Vegetation	Lighting in Garden	✓ Indoor Space for Child and Teen Education	Living Space for Artists in Residence	Outdoor Spaces for Art-Making	✓ Expanded Exhibition Space for Permanent Collection	Exhibitions About Umlauf’s Life and Process	Indoor Space for Rotating Exhibitions of Local and Contemporary Art
✓ Expanded Garden Exhibit Space	Enhancements of Existing Garden Exhibit Space	New Dedicated Spaces for Outdoor Public Events	Dedicated Spaces for Private Events	Food Concessions and Coffee Stands	✓ Make the Gallery ADA Accessible	✓ Make the Sculpture Garden ADA Accessible	✓ Make the Home, Studio and Private Garden Accessible
✓ Preservation of Umlauf’s Home	✓ Preservation of Umlauf’s Studio	✓ Preservation of Angie’s Garden	Increased On-site Parking	Shuttle from Off-site Parking and Nearby Places	✓ Enhanced Crosswalks and Sidewalk Access	Additional admin and office space for expanded staff	Purpose-built storage space for art collection



The cards sparked insightful conversations about the needs of the UMLAUF and the community among the attendees.

Public Session

Round 2

16
attendees

Location: UMLAUF

Date: August 24, 2023

Format:

In-person session

1. Presentation of community engagement feedback and design options
2. Role play and site exploration of the two proposed sites
3. Team sharing and open discussion

Attendees:

Full list included in appendix



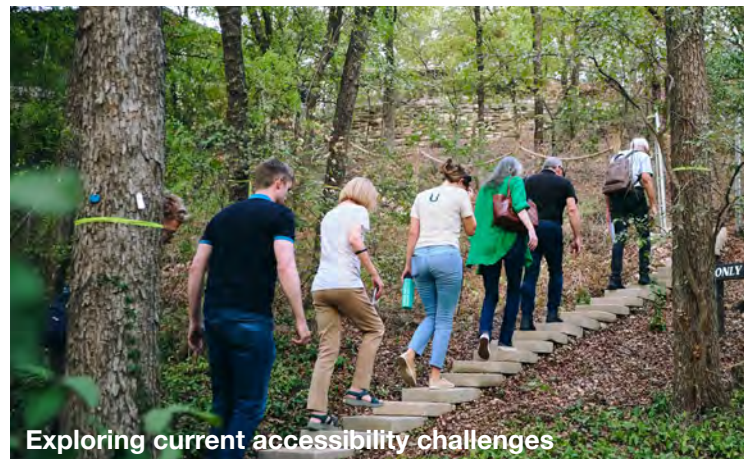
Exploration walk



Visiting the treehouse site



Envisioning the gateway site



Exploring current accessibility challenges



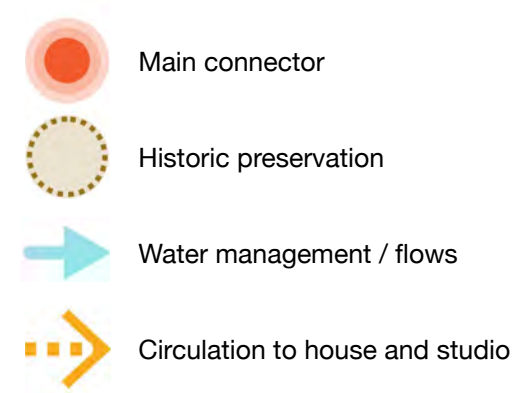
Update on plan explorations

Attendees were encouraged to explore the two site alternatives beyond their individual viewpoints, considering how other users would experience it.

Public Session

Round 2

During the second public meeting, attendees were presented with two accessibility scenarios: treehouse and gateway. These scenarios responded to the community’s priorities that were shared during the first round of engagement efforts. The treehouse suggested a connection in the north area of the site, linking the sculpture garden trail to the historic zone with an elevator. The gateway strategy proposed an accessible connection at the arrival area, connecting to the house and studio through a natural and interpretive promenade along the site’s eastern side. Both options would host necessary programmatic elements for events and education. These early explorations, crucial in making the higher area of the site accessible, evolved into the current plan based on feedback from the public, technical experts, community representatives, and UMLAUF staff.



- Treehouse exploration**
- ① Historic preservation of home, studio, and garden
 - ② Main connection point



- Gateway exploration**
- ① Historic preservation of home, studio, and garden
 - ② Main connection point

Public Session

Round 2

In the second public meeting attendees were presented with both scenarios, followed by a site walk to both sites. The attendees were given a card that represented a user (see below) and were encouraged to imagine how that user would experience the site. Participants envisioned and discussed challenges and opportunities, fostering an interactive exploration of both scenarios. The received feedback carefully informed the evolution of the plan.



A wheelchair user
visiting the
sculpture garden



A dad and kids
having outdoor time



A 7-year-old kid
going to summer
arts camp



A bride/groom on their
wedding day at the
UMLAUF



An arts college student
looking to learn more
about sculpture



A garden party attendee
(or vendor)

Community's feedback:

Treehouse

- Fosters a beneficial connection between arts education and the house and studio.
- It creates a concentration of activity around the house and studio, which could be positive.
- The connection from the parking lot to the treehouse elevator (for events, vendors, deliveries), might be too long.
- Concerns of relying too much on elevator to get to the hill. Would like to see other ways to explore the site.
- Would need ADA parking on top level, not only on the big parking lot on Azie Morton.

General

- Overall accessibility concerns, would like it to be an experience throughout the site, and not concentrated in one single location.
- Must consider the elevator's capacity for multiple wheelchairs, vendors, and sculptures.
- Must preserve the site's sense of discovery and exploration.
- Explore interpretation, wayfinding and education strategies.
- Improve lighting, consider the garden experience at night, while being respectful of other species.

Gateway

- It created a positive connection to the waterfall, with maximized views and sounds of nature.
- Creates an opportunity to re-consider the pedestrian access, connection to the building from the current entry.
- It brings all the accessibility to the front of the site, instead of it being a journey. Would like see more explorations on accessibility around the site.
- It can be a long walk to get to the House and Studio from the gateway scenario.
- More sculptures along the pathway to the house and studio would be crucial for enhancing the experience and interpretation.

Public Session

Round 3

25
attendees

Location: UMLAUF

Date: October 23, 2023

Format:

In-person session

1. Presentation of refined plan and design guidelines
2. Guided discussion
3. Open Q&A
4. Presentation of next steps

Attendees:

Full list included in appendix

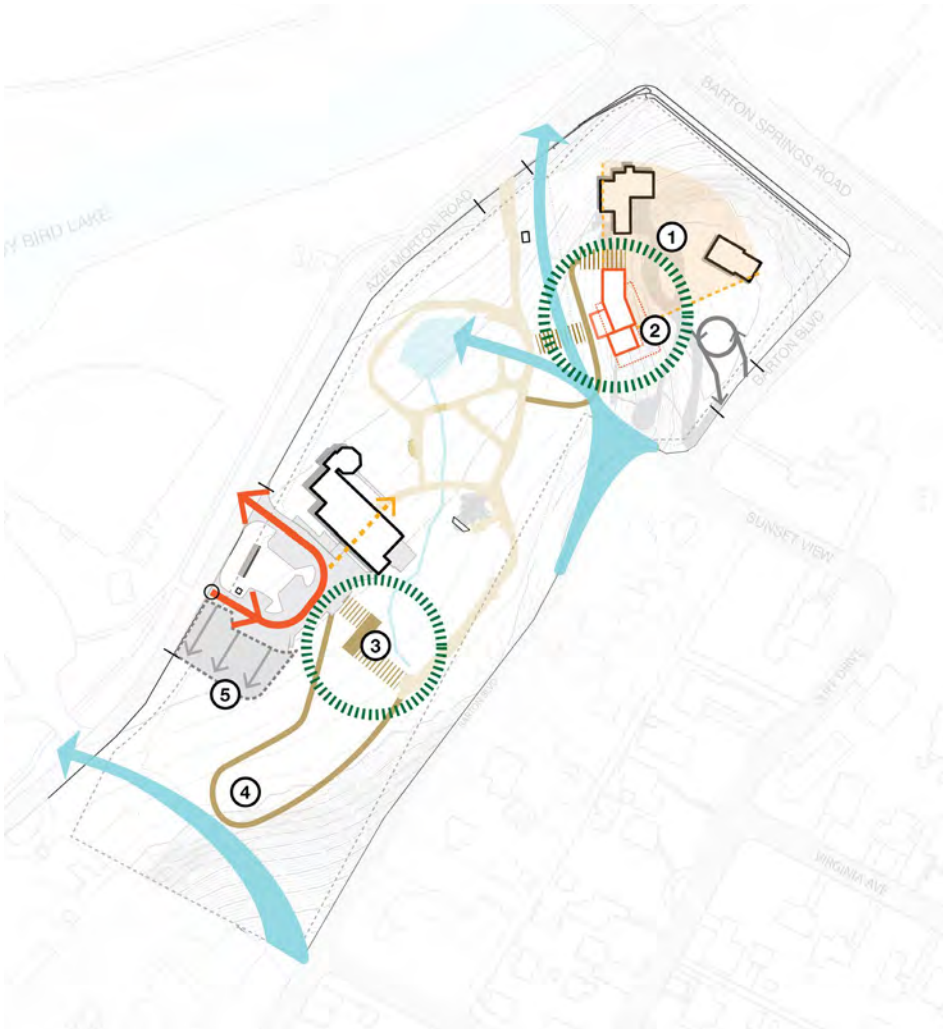


Participants responded to a refined plan and design guidelines during an open discussion, contributing with insightful perspectives for shaping the project in the synthesis phase.

Public Session

Round 3

In the final public session, attendees were presented a refined plan, seamlessly merging elements from the gateway and treehouse explorations. This responsive integration addresses feedback to distribute accessibility efforts across the site, and preserving the site’s exploratory essence. The refined exploration aligns with current programmatic needs, expanding art and education spaces for the community and accommodating museum operations and storage. This holistic approach ensures the project serves diverse needs, including dynamic and inclusive spaces for exhibitions and community events, and expanding the arts and environmental education opportunities across the whole site. The refined scenario unifies the UMLAUF’s site, activating pivotal locations: the gateway, enhancing the arrival experience and providing options for free exploration, and the treehouse, linking the historic area with the museum garden, and housing education and event spaces. This refined version carefully evolved into the current plan considering the feedback received from the public, technical experts, community representatives, and UMLAUF staff and Board of Directors.



Refined Plan

- ① Historic preservation of home, studio, and garden
- ② Treehouse, connecting the garden with the historic zone
- ③ Gateway, connecting with the promenade
- ④ Natural zone trail
- ⑤ Parking extension

The Community’s Feedback:

- Prioritize natural lighting with wildlife impact in mind.
- Incorporate water sounds into the experience.
- Address UMLAUF’s parking, it should meet the needs of the community.
- The planning process itself is educational on itself, it could be part of the educational program.
- Identify all the vegetation species on site and include them in the learning experience.
- Landscape and sculpture maps could be included in the user’s experience.
- Introduce accessible trails in the wild area.
- Guarantee the integration of buildings with the natural landscape, demonstrating utmost respect for ecosystems.
- The treehouse looks like a part of the exploration experience and not the main element. The green roof minimizes the impact, it looks very accessible.
- It is crucial to tackle water concerns, including both on-site issues and the water leaving the site.
- The treehouse would benefit from having program in the mid-levels.
- The goal should be to create a great building that is “invisible.”



Work Sessions

Round 1

3
sessions

9
attendees

Format: In-person

- 1. Project introduction
- 2. Site walk
- 3. Discussion

Attendees:

Arts + education

Marie Ortiz (MACC)
Rosa Fry (Preservation Austin)
Tony Vo (AARC)
Matthew Gaston (ZBG)
Danny Orendorff (TCA)

Environmental

Bill Bunch (SOS)
Cynthia Klemmer (ZBG/PARD)
Holly Hawk (ZBG)

Neighborhood

Ingrid Weigand (BCNA)

Arts + education

Diversity and Inclusion:

- Focus on diversity and opportunities to showcase different cultures.
- Consider spaces for hosting teen/youth internships and programs.

Community:

- Include concessions and coffee stands without admission, open to the community.
- Users need spaces in the garden to cool-off in summer days.
- Think of a food program, not only for garden visitors, but for everyone around.

Other programming:

- Dedicated spaces for private events are needed, it will avoid interrupting public and education programs.
- Consider more and diverse outdoor programming, and appropriate outdoor spaces to host it.
- An art residency with outdoor art-making opportunities could be integrated.
- The UMLAUF will need more space for office and storage once the spaces are restored.
- Improved accessibility from the parking across the street is crucial.

Neighborhood

Environmental

- Consider re-wilding and ecological restoration of the site.
- It is important to include ecological education in the program and planning process.
- Avoid concrete, think of this space as an oasis.
- The wilder you go with landscape, the better.

Mobility

- A shuttle for the arts and nature could alleviate parking needs and mobility issues.
- Full-site accessibility would be great.

Environmental

Environmental

- Consider natural terracing for water management.
- Think of re-wilding strategies to tackle urban heat islands.
- Create a wildlife corridor, consider biodiversity.
- Create new paths, trails, and viewing platforms around the site.
- Prioritize storm water management.

Work Sessions

Round 2

1
session

8
attendees

Date: September 12, 2023

Format: Remote
1. Project introduction
2. Discussion

Attendees:
Cynthia Klemmer (ZBG/PARD)
Jack Nokes (Neighborhood)
Katie Robillard (Austin Parks Foundation)
Matthew Gaston (ZBG)
Rosa Fry (Preservation Austin)
Marie Ortiz (MACC)
Ingrid Weigand (BCNA)
Danny Orendorff (TCA)

Content

During the second workshop, attendees were presented the first design explorations (treehouse and gateway). During this phase, the design team was exploring two potential sites. During the discussion, attendees were asked about concerns and opportunities for both sites.

Feedback

- The southern end of the site is unimproved. Ideally, this would be an opportunity for wilding (not re-wilding since it is kind of already there with almost no invasive species).
- A wildlife corridor could have a viewing deck, birding programs etc. if it is kept as a natural space with minimal access.
- Consider a hybrid option that includes both potential sites working together.
- Almost need both options (treehouse and gateway), a walk to the home and studio from the gateway site sounds lovely even if its strenuous.

Round 3

1
session

4
attendees

Date: October 10, 2023

Format: Remote
1. Project introduction
3. Discussion

Attendees:
Bill Bunch (SOS)
Rosa Fry (Preservation Austin)
Marie Ortiz (MACC)
Matthew Gaston (ZBG)

Content

Workshop 3 was a virtual session using Miro as a tool to collect feedback and guide participants through the revised plan suggestions, facilitating an interactive and collaborative online engagement experience.

Feedback

- Consider making improvements to the Azie Morton crossing.
- Accessibility improvements will still be needed in the garden: grading, surface improvements.
- Appreciation for the low-impact parking solution and goal of net neutral impervious cover.
- Consider the interpretive experience - showing how Charles Umlauf lived and worked.
- There is a challenge for Historic Preservation, there is a risk with higher visitation and potentially uncontrolled exposure.
- Make sure to maintain the site’s sense of discovery.
- Consider a cafe for the gateway, and take advantage of the nice views in that spot.
- A portion of the site should be open to the public, even if not during regular museum hours.
- Water runoff should be managed in a way that integrates an engineered solution with the needs of the site.

Technical Advisory Group

3
sessions

11
members

TAG members:

Laura Esparza, PARD
Christine Chute Canul, PARD
Ellen Colfax, PARD
Greg Montes, PARD Planning
John Middleton, WPD
Juan Bustillos, PARD
Justin Good, TPW
Kimberly McKnight, PARD
Melissa Alvarado, COA
Heritage Tourism
Leslie Lilly, WPD
Paulinda Lanham, TPW
Steven Linett, PARD

Formats:

Meeting 1: on-site, site
exploration
Meetings 2 + 3: virtual
sessions



The planning team
convened with the
TAG group three times,
seeking technical insights
and subject-matter
expertise related to the
site and its context.

Presence at Community Events

The UMLAUF actively engaged in community events, discussing the project with community members and promoting the online survey to ensure ample and diverse feedback for the comprehensive development of the plan.



Hillside Concert

Date: July 25, 2023
Location: Pan Am Hillside Theatre



UMLAUF After Dark

Date: August 1, 2023
Location: UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum



Black to School: Block Party

Date: August 31, 2023
Location: George Washington Carver Museum, organized by Joyous Tutoring



Oita Japan Fest

Date: September 9, 2023
Location: Asian American Resource Center



Viva México

Date: September 16, 2023
Location: Pan Am Hillside Theatre

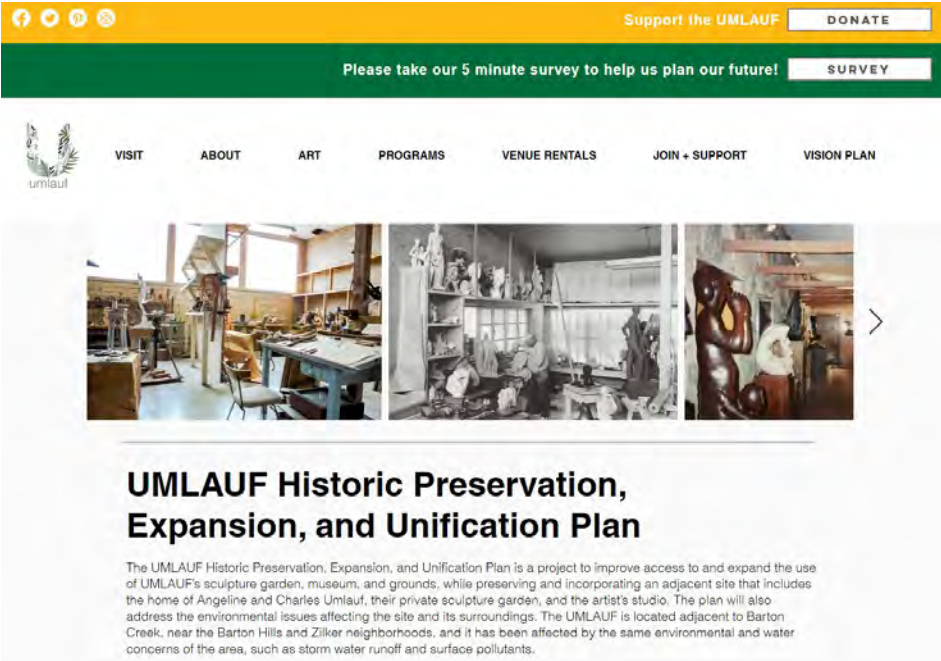


Austin Museum Day

Date: September 17, 2023
Location: UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum

Survey

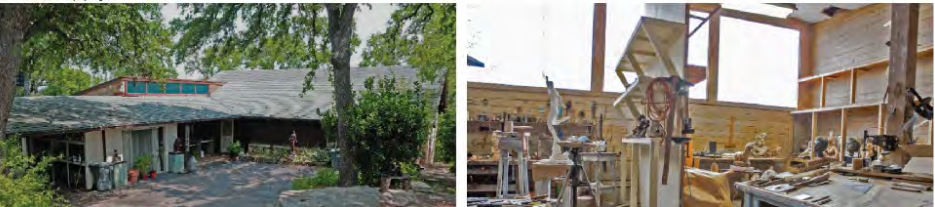
The online survey served as a comprehensive tool to collect ample and diverse feedback from the community. With approximately 20 questions, it featured two versions: one for those who have visited the UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum and another one for those who hadn't. The survey questions covered key plan areas such as historic preservation, water management, sustainability, arts and education, and community and private events. Through rankings, multiple-choice, and open-ended questions, community feedback was analyzed and categorized to identify the community's priorities. The version for community members that have not visited the UMLAUF aimed to identify obstacles faced and opportunities to make the UMLAUF more appealing and accessible to Austin's diverse public, contributing to a more inclusive and informed plan. The survey additionally served as a means to introduce community members unfamiliar with the sculpture garden to the UMLAUF's mission, programs, and upcoming public events.



7. The UMLAUF is looking to solve a major water pollution problem. How familiar are you with the environmental concerns of the site, such as storm water discharge concentration and poor water quality caused by upstream development? 0

- ☐ Not at all familiar
- ☐ Not so familiar
- ☐ Somewhat familiar
- ☐ Very familiar

8. In 1985, Charles and Angeline Umlauf gifted their home, property, and his art studio for public enjoyment and education. The house and studio are currently on the property but have no public access (see photos below). How do you think the artist's historic home and studio could better serve the community? (Please select all that apply)



UMLAUF Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification Plan

Project Introduction:

The **UMLAUF Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification Plan** is a project to improve access to and expand the use of UMLAUF's sculpture garden, museum, and grounds, while preserving and incorporating an adjacent site that includes the home of Angeline and Charles Umlauf, their private sculpture garden, and the artist's studio. The plan will also address the environmental issues affecting the site and its surroundings. The UMLAUF is located adjacent to Barton Creek, near the Barton Hills and Zilker neighborhoods, and it has been affected by the same environmental and water concerns of the area, such as storm water runoff and surface pollutants. **The feedback collected from this survey will be used to inform the planning process for UMLAUF's Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification. All your answers will remain anonymous. Thank you for your time and valuable feedback.**

Estimated time 6-8 minutes.



Survey
Results

634

completed surveys*



Participation window:
July 24, 2023 to
September 21, 2023

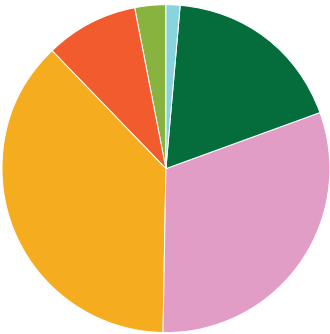
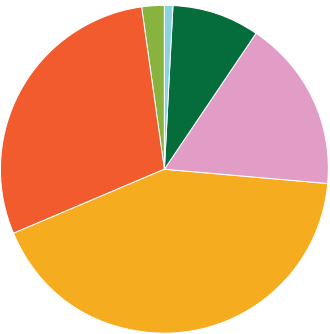
*A total of 740 surveys were received, of which 106 only answered to the first question of “Have you visited the UMLAUF Museum + Sculpture Garden?”

Demographics

Have visited
the UMLAUF

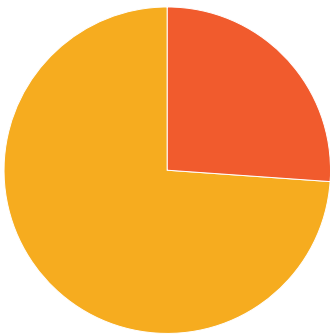
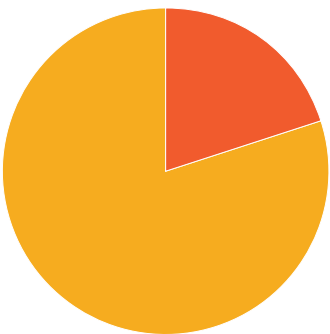
Have not visited
the UMLAUF

Age:



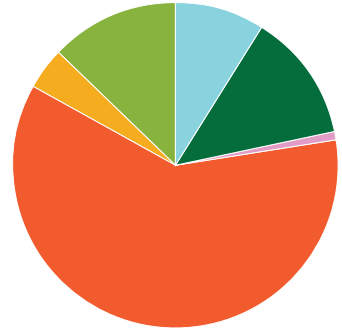
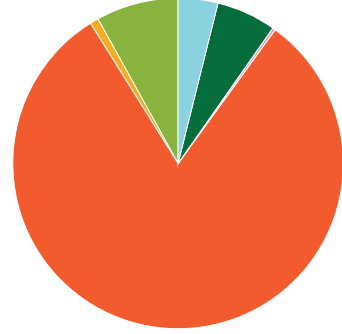
- 60+
- 35 to 59
- 25 to 34
- 19 to 24
- Under 18
- Prefer not to answer

Ethnicity:



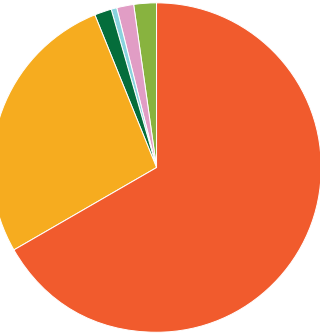
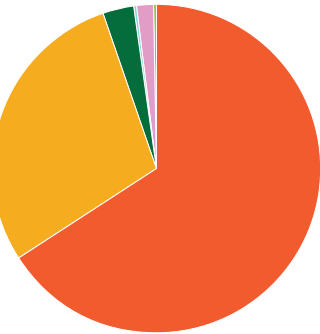
- Hispanic or Latino
- Non-Hispanic or Latino

Race:



- White
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Asian
- Black
- Other

Gender:

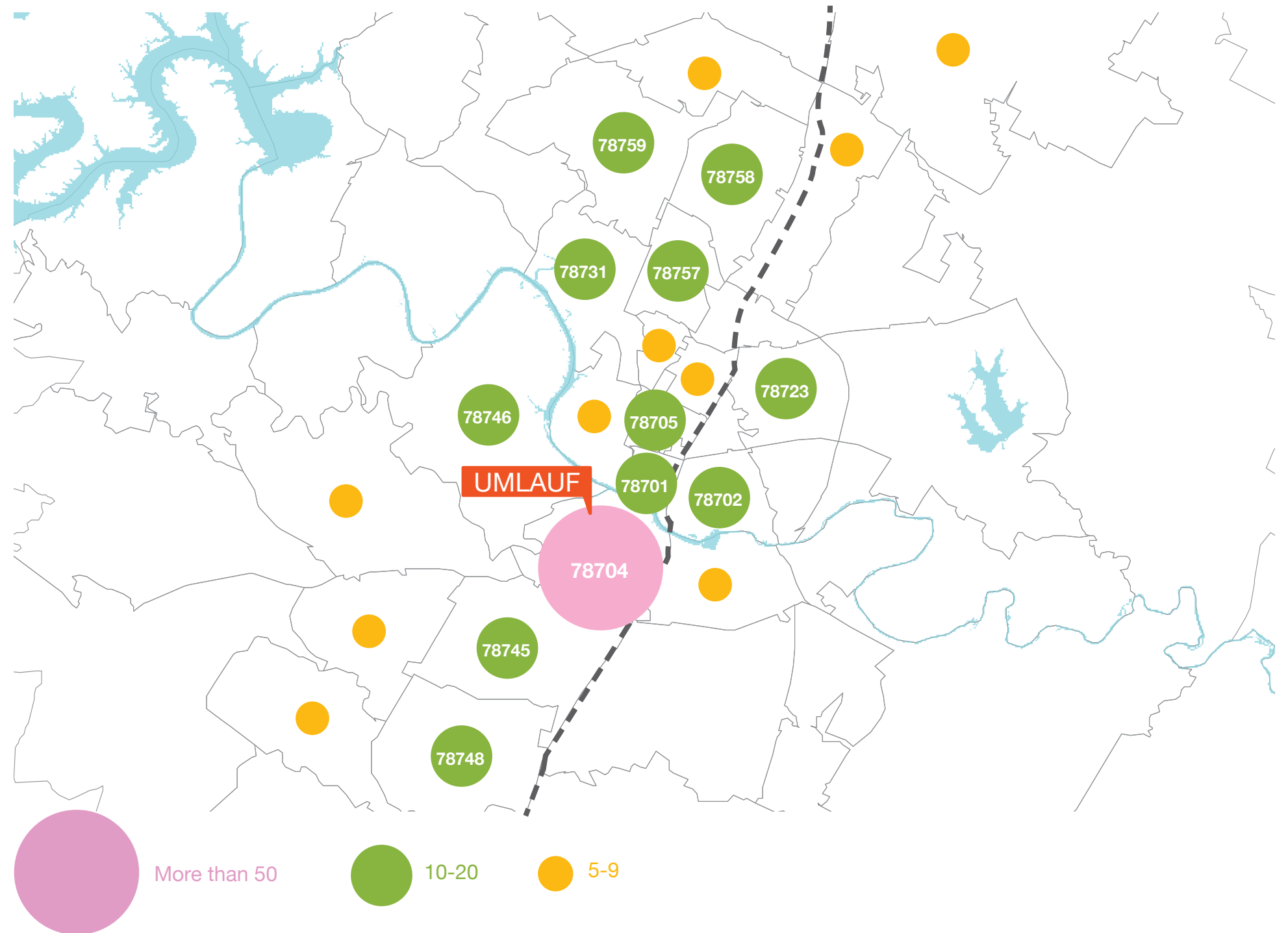


- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Transgender
- Prefer not to answer
- Other

Survey Results

Zip Code

The survey received a significant number of submissions from the 78704 zip code, which includes neighborhoods such as Barton Hills, Travis Heights, Zilker, and Bouldin Creek, all adjacent to the UMLAUF. However, while we observe good distribution across the city, there is a lower participation from the eastern area. Efforts were made to engage with neighborhoods east of I-35, including partnering with local organizations, participating in community events, and displaying posters in local shops to increase visibility. To enhance awareness of the UMLAUF in eastern neighborhoods, the plan recommends implementing marketing and program strategies targeting East Austin communities, with a special focus on highlighting opportunities for free admission. A continuous engagement plan to solicit feedback on programming and accessibility will pave the way for more equitable and inclusive offerings. This approach will enable a wider segment of the Austin population to access and enjoy all that the UMLAUF has to offer.

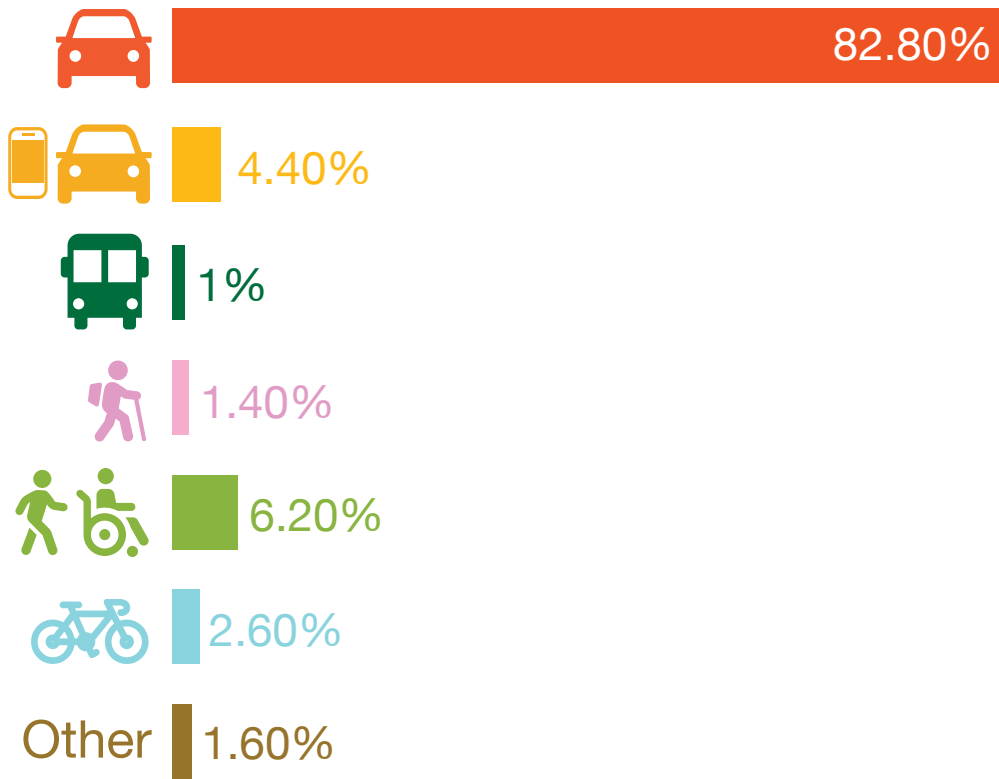


Survey
Results

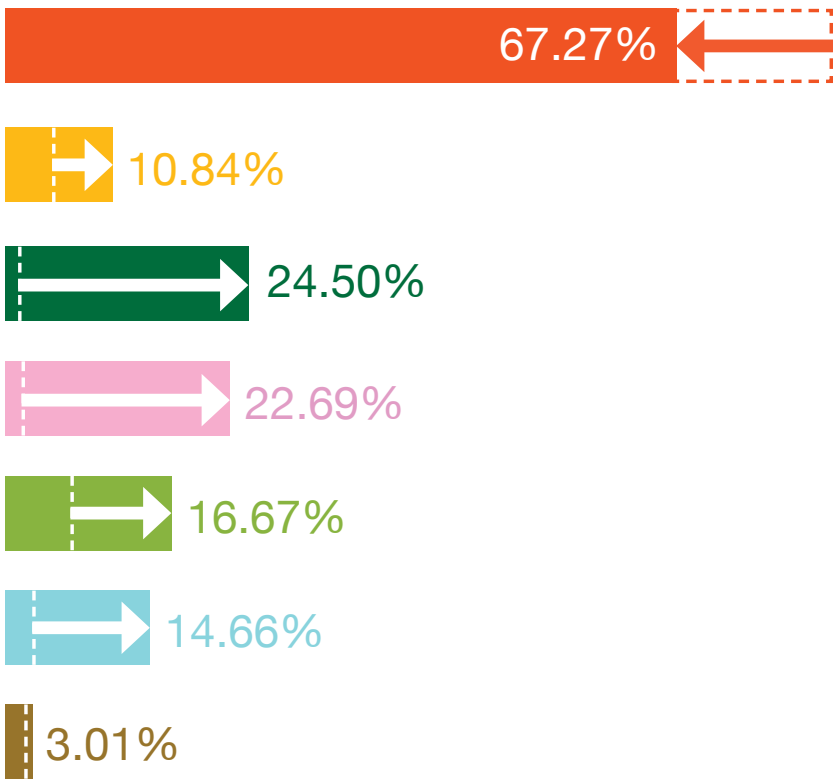
Mobility + Transit

The survey inquired about survey-taker’s current and preferred modes of transportation to the UMLAUF. The preference for personal car travel decreased by 15.53%, while the inclination towards public transit grew by 23.5%. “Using the Lady Bird Trail” also saw a notable increase of 21.29%. Despite these shifts, personal car usage remained the most favored option, suggesting factors like limited connectivity from people’s homes to the UMLAUF or the convenience of private vehicles. While respondents expressed a desire for alternative transportation, the continued popularity of personal cars underscores the need to address existing barriers to accessing the site and mobility preferences in the planning process. The increase in options such as public transit, biking, and using the trail, reveal an opportunity to improve active mobility connections to the site and consider different modes of arrival to the sculpture garden.

How do you **usually** get to the UMLAUF?



How **would you prefer** to get to the UMLAUF?

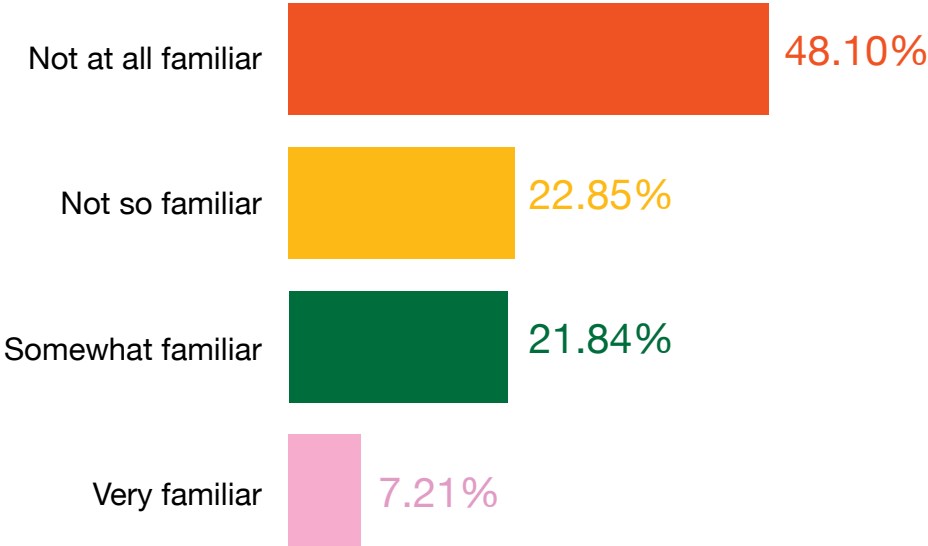


Environmental

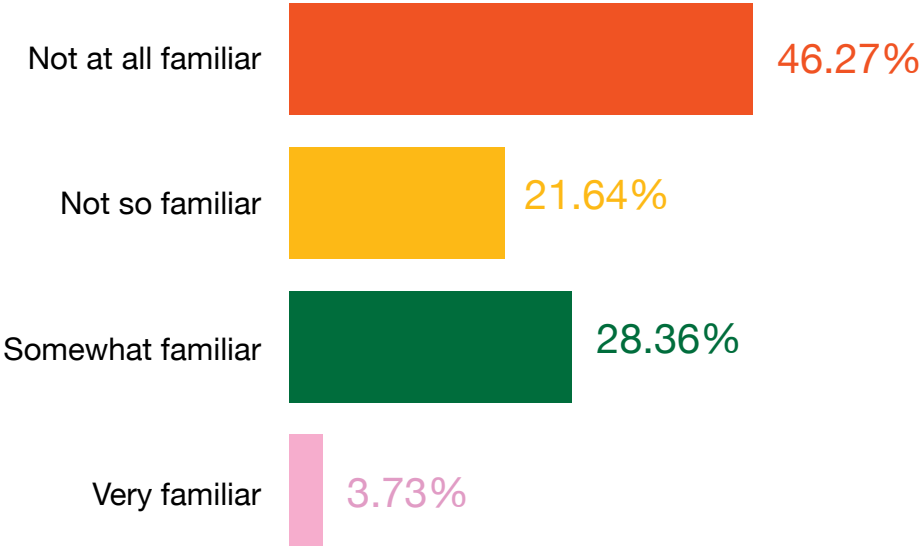
The survey aimed to gauge community awareness of historical environmental issues impacting the UMLAUF, specifically storm water runoff and water pollution. Nearly 50% from both surveyed groups indicated they were not familiar with these concerns. This highlights an opportunity for environmental education within the plan and underscores the need to incorporate these critical site issues in engagement efforts, ensuring a well-informed community and fostering a deeper understanding of the environmental context surrounding the UMLAUF.

The UMLAUF is looking to solve a major water pollution problem. How familiar are you with the environmental concerns of the site, such as storm water discharge concentration and poor water quality caused by upstream development?

Have visited the UMLAUF:



Have not visited the UMLAUF:



Survey

Results

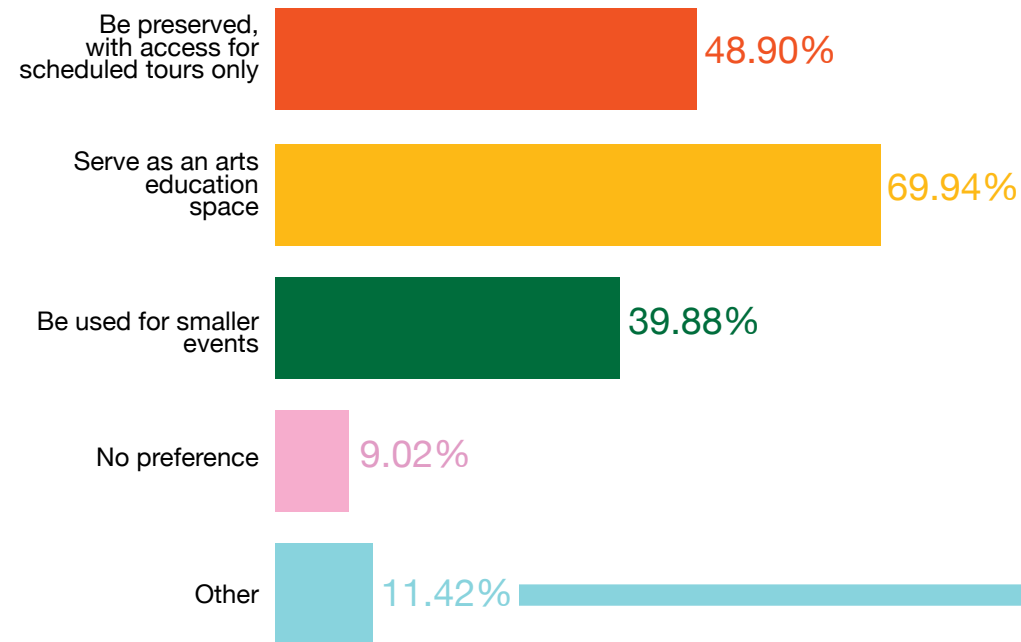
Historic Preservation

The survey also served an educational role, offering insight into historic preservation. Accompanied by photos, a brief overview of the current state of the home and studio preceded a question seeking community preferences about the spaces' programming. Nearly 70% expressed a desire for the space to function in arts education, while 48% also prioritized preservation with access for scheduled tours. Additional suggestions included research and art residency use, and broadening access from private to public tours. The full list of recommendations is available in the report's appendix.



Photos of the home and studio included in the survey

In 1985, Charles and Angeline Umlauf gifted their home, property, and art studio for public enjoyment and education. The house and studio are currently on the property but have no public access (see photos below). How do you think the artist's historic home and studio could better serve the community? (Please select all that apply)



Other:

- Use for scholars' research, and artist residency award
- I would love it if somehow the grounds could be included in a self guided walking tour of the rest of the Umlauf gardens
- Make accessibility part of the museum/garden experience
- Virtual/video tour shown online and in main gallery
- Historic preservation and teaching about sculpture is most important
- Art school
- Be a precedent of ecology and environmental superiority
- Conduct art shows for local artists to show their works
- Certain number of free events and times/dates free community rentals
- Display vintage pieces of furniture and phones, etc.
- Be a space for public tours also
- I would imagine art lessons would honor his legacy
- Preserve some parts that show process, but open up more to work in his space

Find full list of comments in appendix

Survey

Results

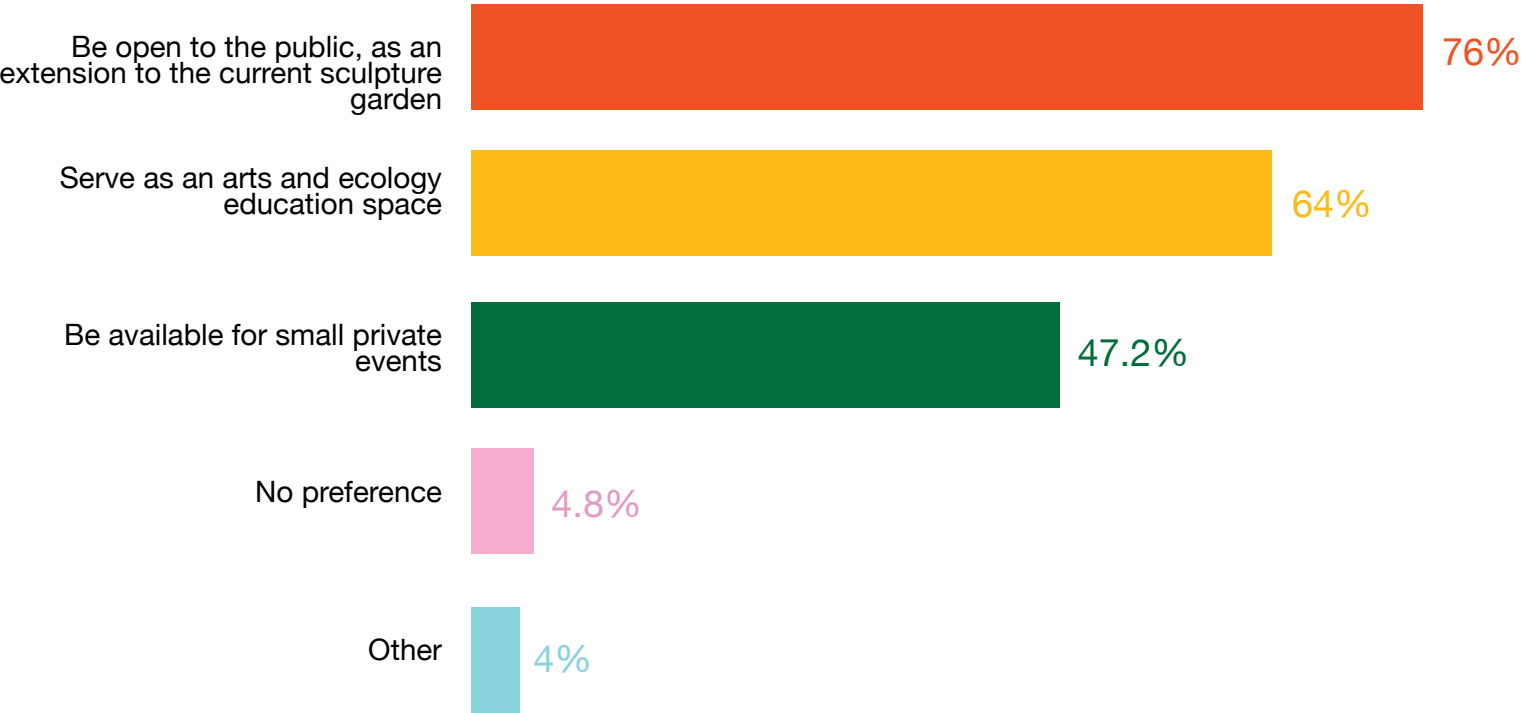
Historic Preservation

Building on the Historic Preservation topic, the survey inquired about the community’s preference for the private sculpture garden surrounding the home and studio. A majority (76%) favored it becoming publicly accessible as an extension to the existing sculpture garden, followed by it serving as a space for arts and ecology education.



Photos of the private sculpture garden included in the survey

The artist’s home and studio are surrounded by an ample private garden (see photos below). How do you think the garden could better serve the community? (Please select all that apply)



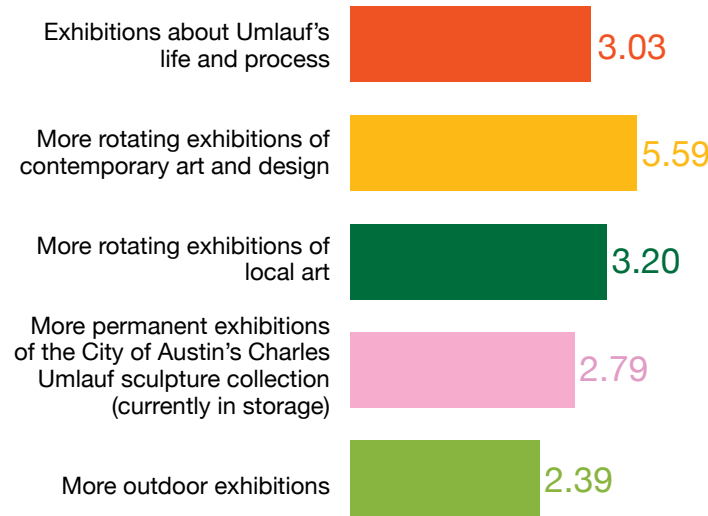
Survey

Results

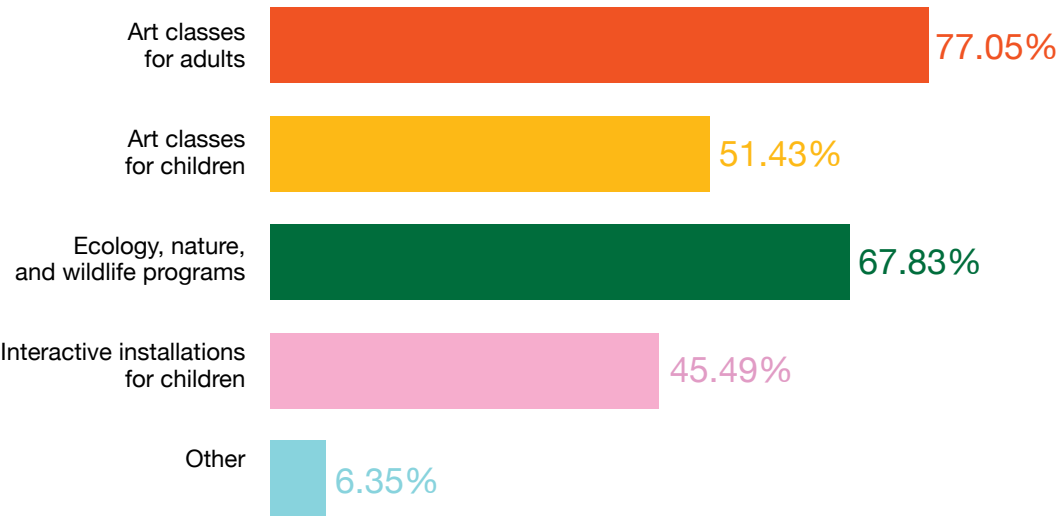
Programming

The survey also included questions regarding arts and education programming. For art exhibitions, “More rotating exhibitions of contemporary art and design” was ranked the highest. The plan will consider enhanced and accessible exhibition spaces to provide more options for the public to return to the UMLAUF. Regarding education, “Art classes for adults” were preferred by 77% of respondents, followed by “Ecology, nature, and wildlife programs” chosen by 67.83%. The plan will consider these preferences by proposing spaces for arts and environmental education, both indoors and outdoors, to enrich the UMLAUF’s programmatic offerings.

What additional arts exhibitions would you like to see at the UMLAUF? *Please rank in order of personal relevance*



What additional education opportunities would you like to see at the UMLAUF? *Please select all that apply*



Other:

- Umlauf’s drawings on display
- Nature journaling and en plein air classes/groups
- Programming for blind/disabled persons
- More rotation. We’d love to bring our students more but the feedback we get is they’ve already seen it multiple times already
- Would like to ensure that children’s classes are accessible to families with limited financial resources

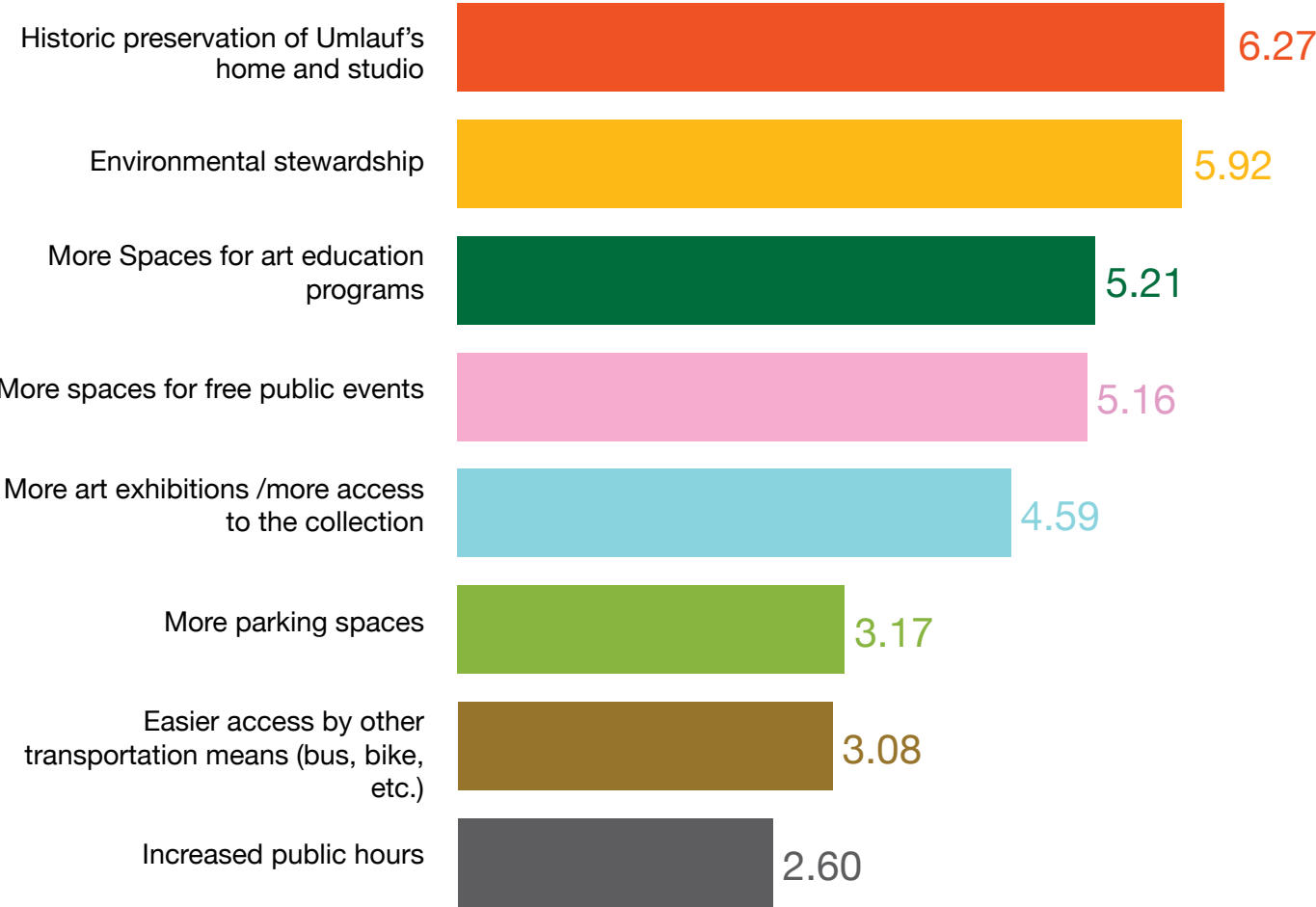
- Multicultural exhibits and programming
- Have a meditation space and programs like yoga classes and dance lessons
- Art classes for senior citizens
- Zoology classes
- A focus on sculpture or fine art
- Permanent exhibit explaining Umlauf’s life

Find full list of comments in appendix

Priorities

A ranking exercise followed the introduction to different project areas in previous questions. “Historic preservation of Umlauf’s home and studio” was ranked as top priority, closely followed by “environmental stewardship.” Notably, “more parking spaces” ranked low (sixth of eight options), despite the preference for private vehicle that was expressed in prior mobility questions. This insight guides the plan towards prioritizing preservation, sustainability, education, and public access, while underscoring the importance of balancing transportation options for different needs.

As the UMLAUF envisions their future, what is more important to you? Please rank in order of personal relevance.



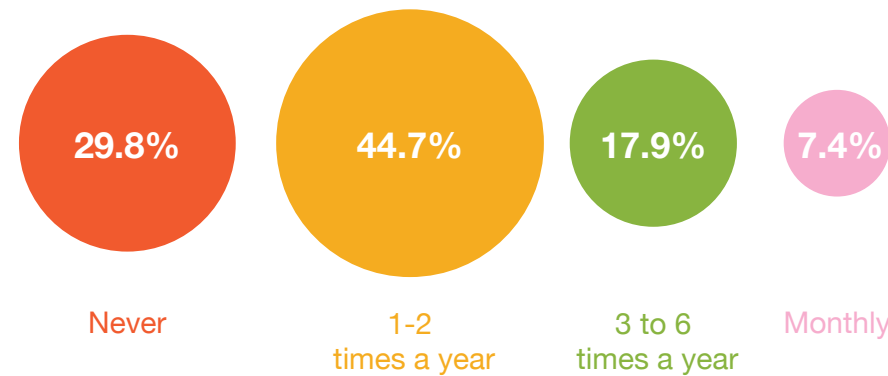
Survey

Results

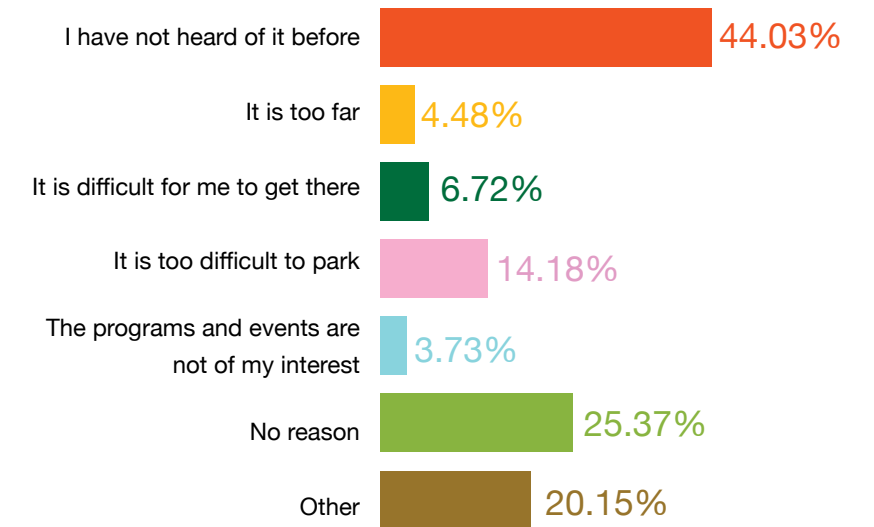
Have not visited the UMLAUF

To ensure a diverse range of perspectives, the survey extended questions to those who have not yet visited the UMLAUF. More than 60% of respondents indicated that they visit other museums in the city at least 1 or 2 times a year, while nearly 30% reported never visiting museums. The primary reason cited for not visiting the UMLAUF was a lack of awareness. The plan will address this by boosting visibility through improved site edges, connections, and spaces for diverse programming to attract a broader audience. Those who haven't visited expressed openness to doing so with increased awareness of museum activities, more public events, and improved parking availability, highlighting the importance of free admission opportunities, extended hours, and kid-friendly programs.

How often do you visit other museums in Austin?



I have not visited UMLAUF because:



What would help you to consider visiting the UMLAUF?

1. Awareness

Increase advertising, reach out to schools and other institutions

2. More events

More diverse and inclusive activities

3. Parking

More and free parking options

4. Free admission

Free events and free admission days

5. Hours

Extended hours. Night programs, and early hours for kids

6. Programs for kids

More events and other options for small children

Find full list of comments in appendix

Survey

Results

Is there anything else you would like to share about the UMLAUF?

The survey concluded with an open question, providing respondents an opportunity to expand on their feedback or include topics that were not considered in the set of questions. The 95 received comments were categorized into common topics. Affordability emerged as the predominant theme, with a desire for more free and affordable programming. Accessibility, diverse programming, and maintaining the garden's intimate scale and experience were also key topics. This valuable feedback informs the project's focus on creating additional spaces for community events, enhancing the welcoming arrival experience, and strengthening spatial connections with the community. It also guides the plan to preserve and enrich the intimate and relaxing ambiance of the garden, ensuring alignment with community preferences.

Main topics:

1. Increase affordability
2. More accessible to the community, more inclusive
3. More diverse programming
4. Maintain its intimate and relaxing experience
5. More about Charles Umlauf
6. Increase awareness of the UMLAUF
7. More rotating and local art
8. Prioritize educational and interpretive experience
9. More parking and/or public transit connections
10. Offer a gift shop and souvenirs
11. Provide food options

Community’s Priorities

The community’s priorities, gathered from public sessions and surveys, were encapsulated into nine key plan strategies. Encompassing historic preservation, accessibility, sustainability, arts and education, community, and mobility, these priorities steered the planning and design process. Subject-matter experts on the team, specializing in accessibility, sustainability, energy, water management, historic preservation, and landscape, actively supported the decision-making process to align the plan with these community’s priorities.



Community’s Priorities

Within the report, community voices will be represented in dialogue boxes, featuring feedback from the survey. The feedback will be color-coded according to plan topics as shown below. This approach ensures the community’s diverse perspectives and opinions are considered through the process, enhancing the transparency and accessibility of the feedback gathered through the community engagement process.

-  **Historic Preservation**
-  **Accessibility**
-  **Sustainability**
-  **Art + Education**
-  **Community**
-  **Mobility**

“...when I first saw it, it was hard to tell if it was private property or not. It didn't look super welcoming until I looked it up and saw it was a museum.”

“Such a beautiful space that can be used for many more exhibits from local artists along with the beautiful Umlauf sculptures.”

“Accessibility for all spaces at UMLAUF is needed. Extend the current sculpture trails seamlessly to a new path getting up to the house and studio on the hill.”

04

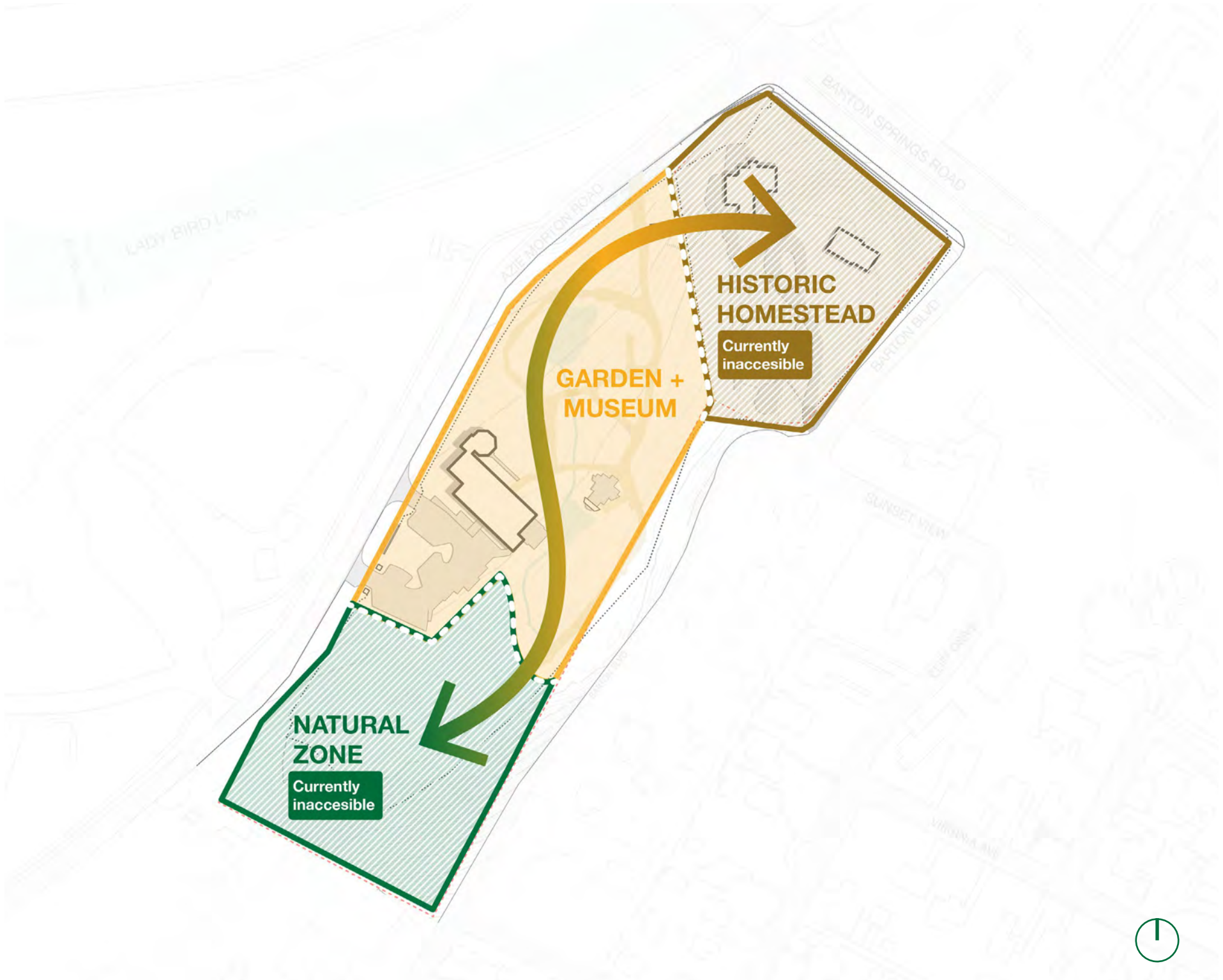
Site Analysis

Main Zones
Mobility + Transit
Cultural Assets
Watershed, Watershed Management
Aquifer Recharge Zone
FEMA Floodzones
COA Fully Developed Floodplains
Erosion + Waterway Setbacks
Other Environmental Features
Drainage
Zoning
Impervious Cover
Overlays

Circulation
Site Access
UMLAUF Signage
Edge Study
Existing Buildings
Outdoor Spaces + Landscape Features
Slope Analysis
Trees
Accessibility + ADA Compliance
Views
Site Constraints

Main Zones

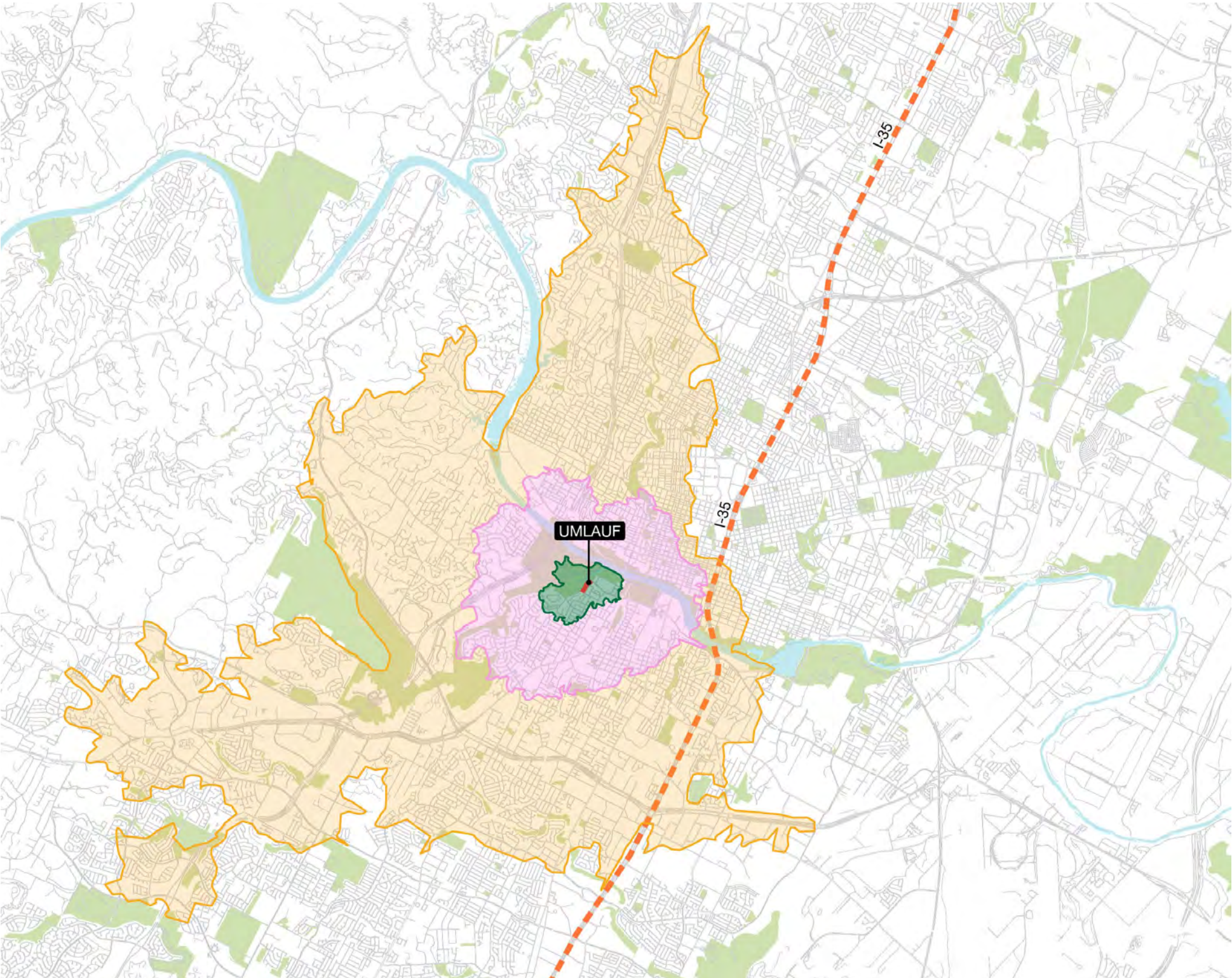
The UMLAUF’s site currently comprises three zones: the garden + museum, the historic homestead, and the southern natural zone, both currently inaccessible to the public. The garden + museum zone, in yellow, currently accommodates all the UMLAUF programs, while the historic homestead area poses accessibility challenges, making it a restricted zone, for exclusive use of the UMLAUF’s staff. The southern natural zone, currently not hosting any program or structures, is integral to the UMLAUF site. Unifying these areas is a primary plan goal, ensuring the site’s maximum potential for public enjoyment while upholding the ecological richness and diversity of the whole site.



Mobility + Transit

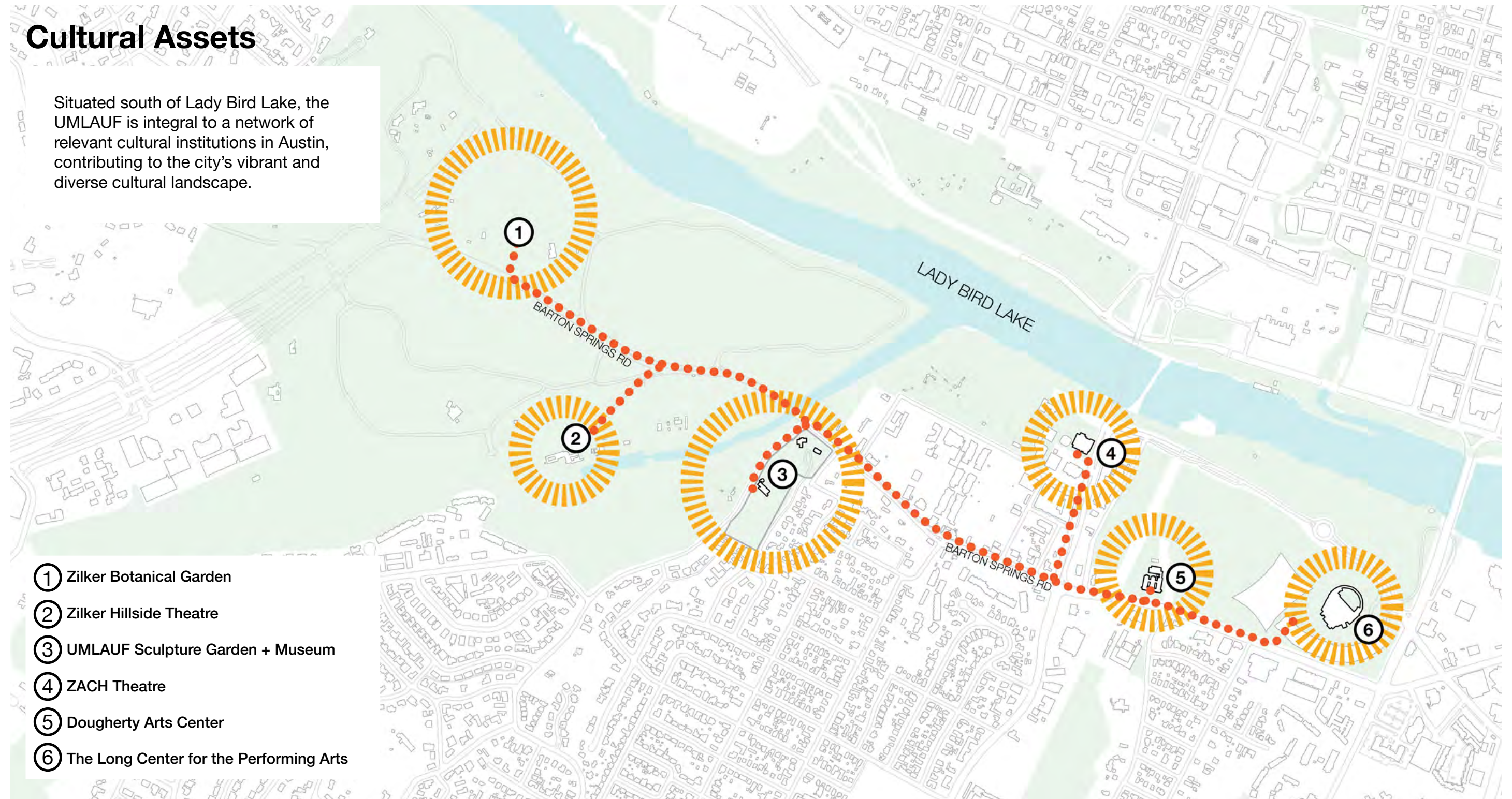
The UMLAUF is in a unique location, situated within natural surroundings and in close proximity to significant cultural institutions. To support the expansion objective of the plan, a commute-time study was conducted, delineating 15-minute travel time zones by walking, biking, and driving. The analysis revealed a lack of connectivity towards the east side of the city, even for vehicular transportation. This finding suggests the necessity for the introduction of mobility initiatives aimed at broadening audience reach across various zip codes. Such measures would support the expansion objectives and promote equitable access to the UMLAUF grounds.

- 15-minute walk
- 15-minute bike
- 15-minute drive



Cultural Assets

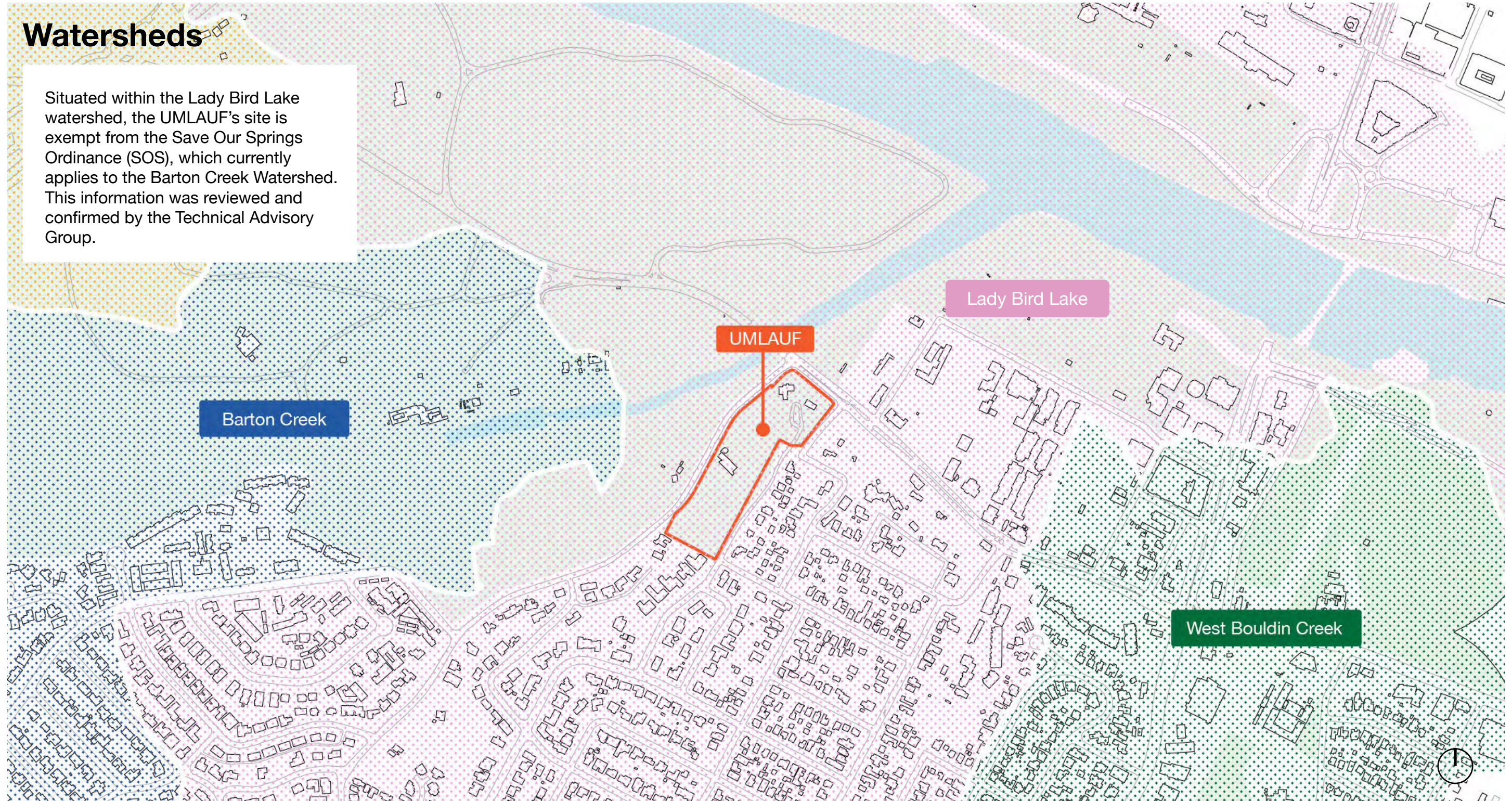
Situated south of Lady Bird Lake, the UMLAUF is integral to a network of relevant cultural institutions in Austin, contributing to the city's vibrant and diverse cultural landscape.



- ① Zilker Botanical Garden
- ② Zilker Hillside Theatre
- ③ UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum
- ④ ZACH Theatre
- ⑤ Dougherty Arts Center
- ⑥ The Long Center for the Performing Arts

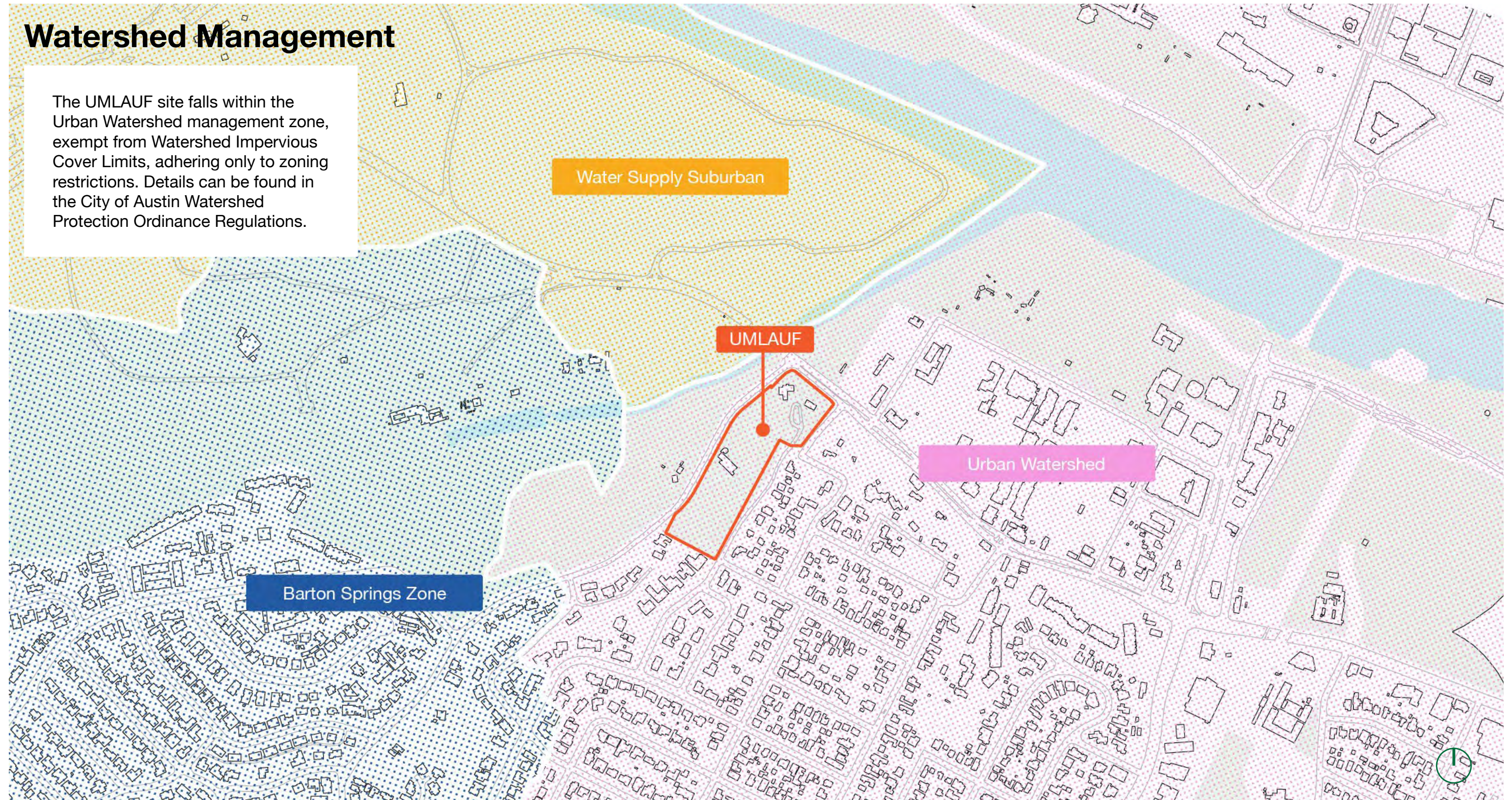
Watersheds

Situated within the Lady Bird Lake watershed, the UMLAUF's site is exempt from the Save Our Springs Ordinance (SOS), which currently applies to the Barton Creek Watershed. This information was reviewed and confirmed by the Technical Advisory Group.



Watershed Management

The UMLAUF site falls within the Urban Watershed management zone, exempt from Watershed Impervious Cover Limits, adhering only to zoning restrictions. Details can be found in the City of Austin Watershed Protection Ordinance Regulations.



Aquifer Recharge Zone

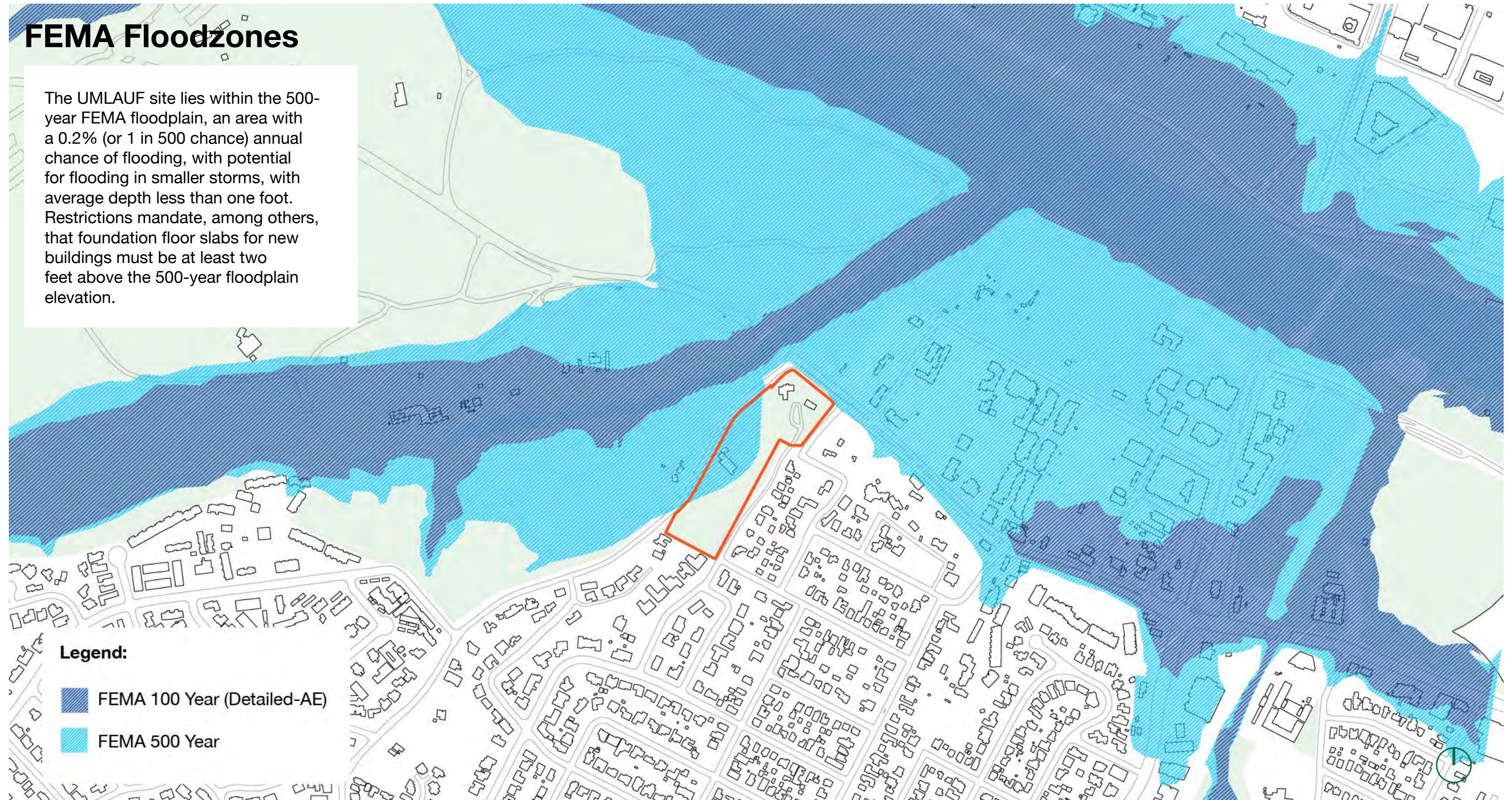
The UMLAUF is not situated in the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone, nor in the Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone, as defined by the City of Austin. This information has been confirmed by the Technical Advisory Group. Please see Environmental Resource Inventory in appendix. However, considerations for strategies like greywater use may be influenced by its location on the “Transition Zone”. Details on this will be elaborated in the sustainability chapter. Activities in these zones undergo a two-stage review in plan applications.

Edwards Aquifer
Recharge Zone

Edwards Aquifer
Transition Zone

FEMA Floodzones

The UMLAUF site lies within the 500-year FEMA floodplain, an area with a 0.2% (or 1 in 500 chance) annual chance of flooding, with potential for flooding in smaller storms, with average depth less than one foot. Restrictions mandate, among others, that foundation floor slabs for new buildings must be at least two feet above the 500-year floodplain elevation.



Legend:

- FEMA 100 Year (Detailed-AE)
- FEMA 500 Year

COA Fully Developed Floodplains

The UMLAUF site lies beyond the Fully Developed Floodplains designated by the City of Austin. However, given its proximity to the COA Fully Developed 100-year floodplain, it is advisable to regularly reassess the city's model, particularly on the northwestern side of the site.




Legend:

- COA Fully Developed 100-year floodplain
- COA Fully Developed 25-year floodplain
- 100-year Detailed AE

Erosion + Waterway Setbacks

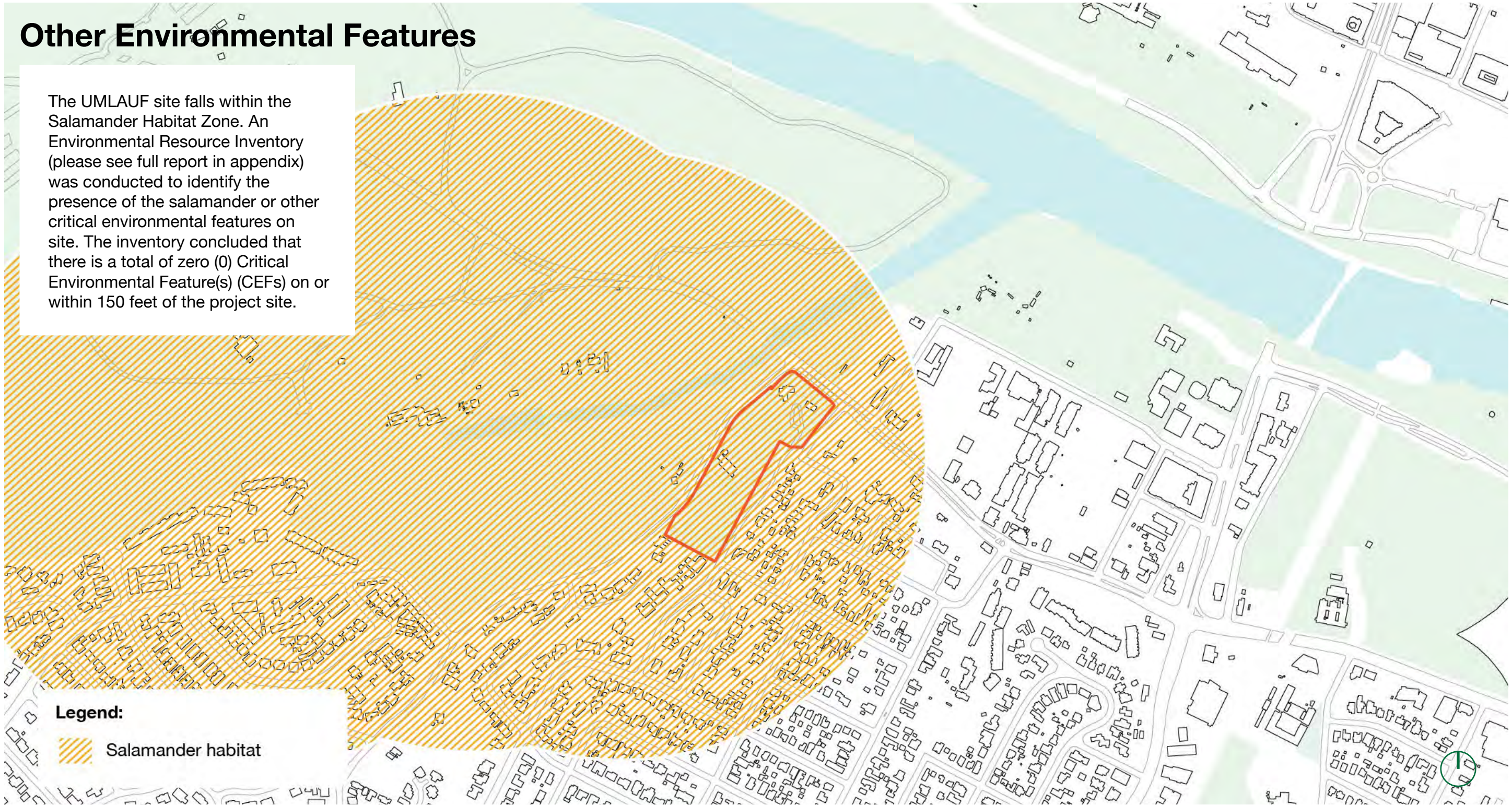
The UMLAUF site is not impacted by areas officially designated as erosion hazard or waterway setbacks. The drainage pattern from the site, coming from the onsite pond, is represented as part of the COA creek network. However, it lacks regulatory setbacks, related to the amount of water it carries.

Legend:


-  Erosion hazard
-  Waterway setbacks
-  COA Creek lines

Other Environmental Features

The UMLAUF site falls within the Salamander Habitat Zone. An Environmental Resource Inventory (please see full report in appendix) was conducted to identify the presence of the salamander or other critical environmental features on site. The inventory concluded that there is a total of zero (0) Critical Environmental Feature(s) (CEFs) on or within 150 feet of the project site.

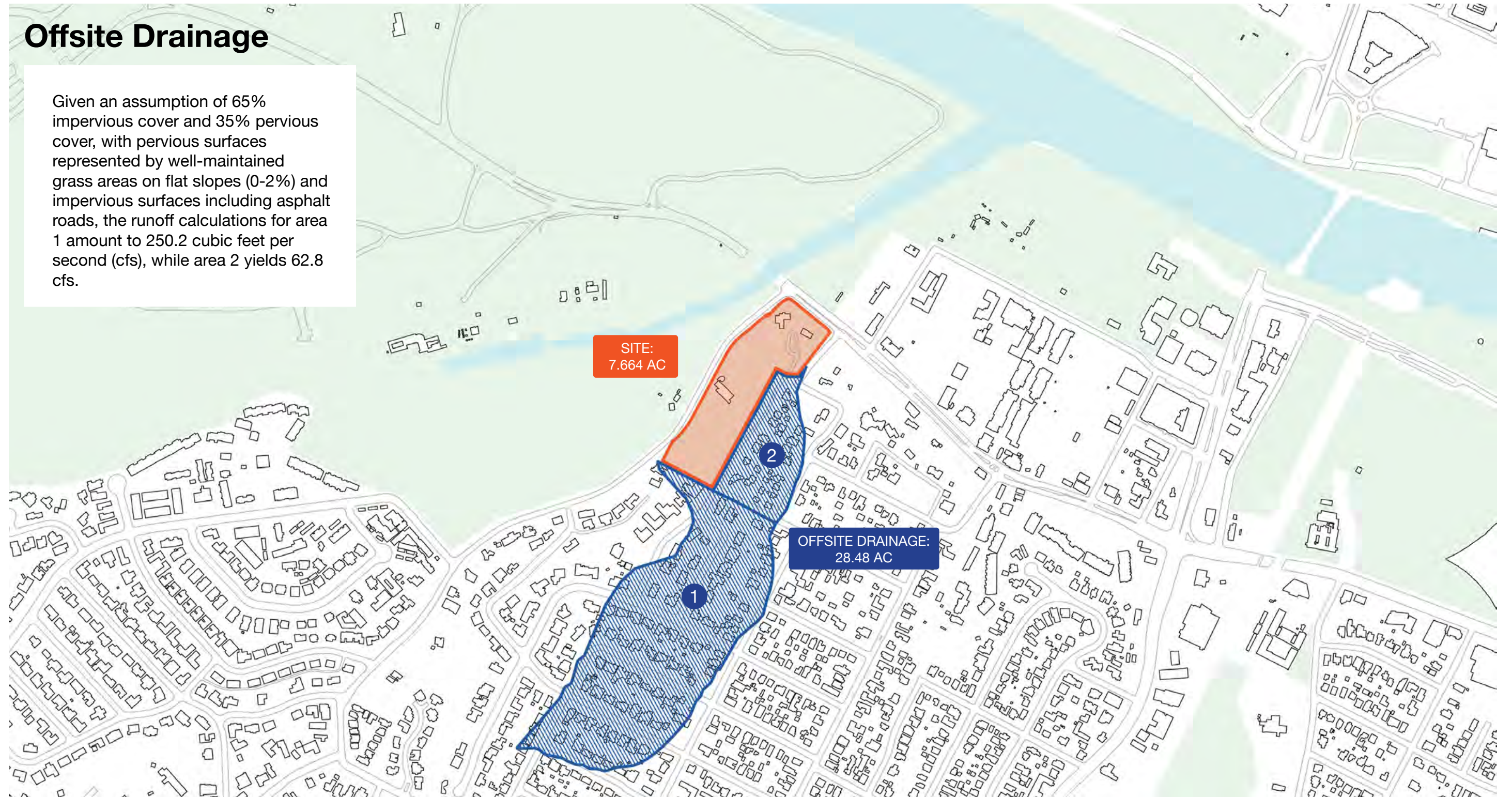


Legend:

 Salamander habitat

Offsite Drainage

Given an assumption of 65% impervious cover and 35% pervious cover, with pervious surfaces represented by well-maintained grass areas on flat slopes (0-2%) and impervious surfaces including asphalt roads, the runoff calculations for area 1 amount to 250.2 cubic feet per second (cfs), while area 2 yields 62.8 cfs.



Zoning

The UMLAUF site is comprised of two properties: Lot 1 (605 AZIE MORTON RD), and Lot 2 (506 BARTON BLVD). Lot 1 is zoned SF-3, while Lot 2 has a portion zoned as SF-3 and the area along Barton Springs Road zoned as CS. See descriptions below.

SF-3 Family Residence

The Family Residence district is intended for moderate density single-family residential use, with a minimum lot size of 5,750 square feet.

CS General Commercial Services

General Commercial Services district is primarily designated for commercial and industrial activities of a service nature, characterized by traffic service requirement that are typically incompatible with residential environments.

In both zones, community recreation and cultural services are permitted or conditional uses.



Impervious Cover

The UMLAUF site's lots are subject to impervious cover requirements dictated by their respective zones. Lot 1 currently exhibits 18% impervious cover, whereas Lot 2, encompassing the area of the historic homestead, boasts 21% impervious cover. Lot 1 has a maximum allowable coverage of 45%, while Lot 2's impervious cover allowance ranges from 45% to 95%, contingent upon the specific zone designation. Please refer to the detailed descriptions provided below for further clarification.

Lot 1 (5.437 ac)

Zone: SF-3

Maximum Impervious Cover allowed: 45%

Current Impervious Cover: 18%

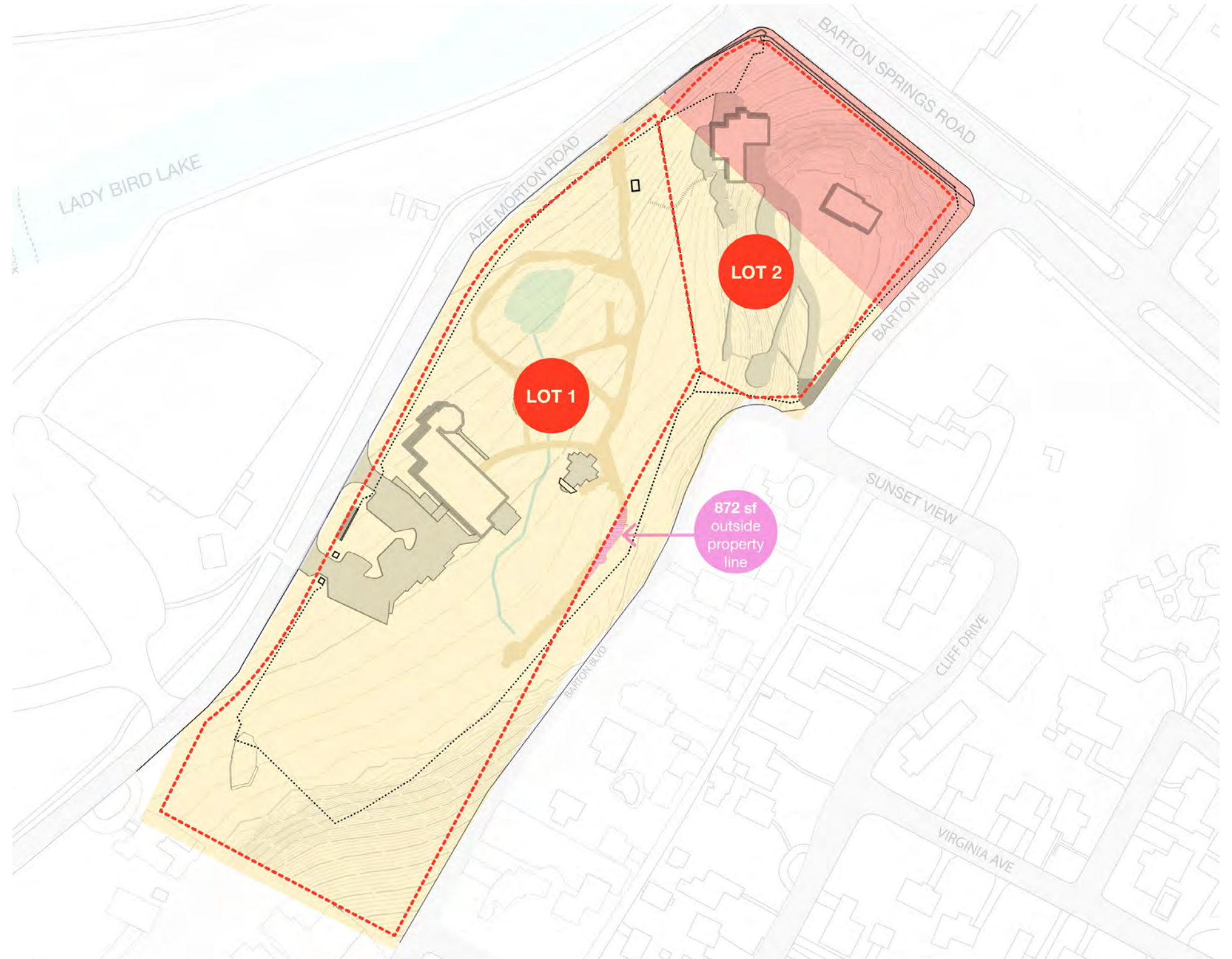
Lot 2 (1.928 ac)

Zone: SF3/C

Maximum Impervious Cover allowed in SF3 zone: 45%

Maximum Impervious Cover allowed in C zone: 95%






Current Impervious Cover: 21%

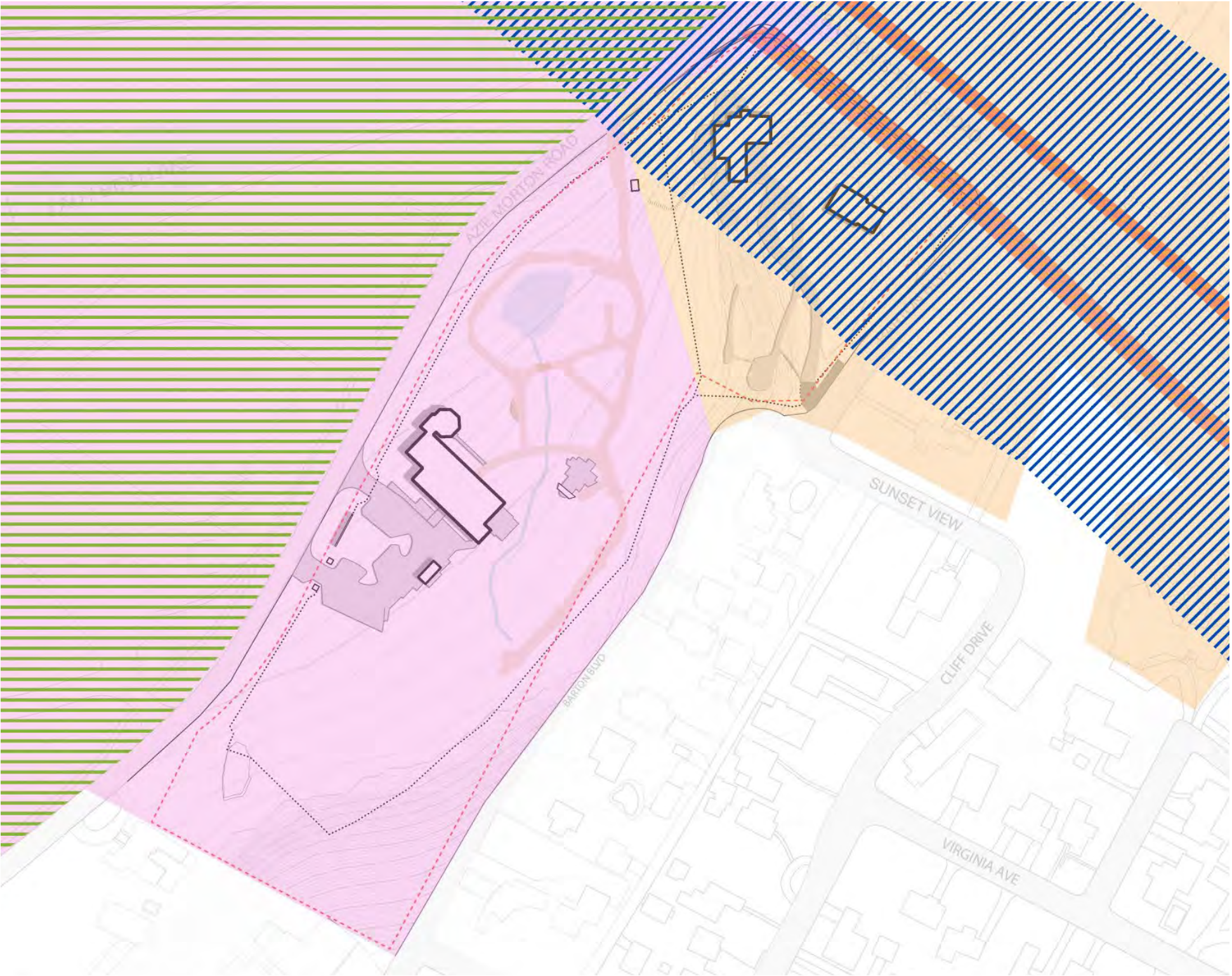


Overlays

The UMLAUF site is included in two waterfront overlays, which prohibits uses that are not related to the UMLAUF’s program. The scenic Roadways Overlay suggests that, where possible, scenic vistas from the roadways should be preserved.




Residential Design Standards: LDC/25-2-Subchapter F
Scenic Roadways Overlay: BARTON SPRINGS ROAD
Waterfront Setbacks Overlay Waterfront Overlay: BUTLER SHORES, ZILKER PARK

-  Scenic Roadways Overlay: Barton Springs Rd
-  Wildland Urban Interface
-  Waterfront Overlay: Zilker Park
-  Waterfront Overlay: Butler Shores
-  Required waterfront setback



Circulation

The UMLAUF’s existing parking capacity is a modest 20 spaces with the entrance and exit on Azie Morton Road. Parking is supplemented by adjacent lots across the street for overflow. Currently, the site’s access primarily favors vehicles, neglecting alternative mobility options. Additionally, two gated entries exist, with Azie Morton Road’s entry serving heavy deliveries and trash pickup, while the Barton Blvd entry, closer to the home and studio, is used by staff. The limited parking infrastructure and distribution of entries underscore the need for a comprehensive approach to enhance accessibility, accommodate diverse transportation methods, and optimize operational functionality within the UMLAUF site.

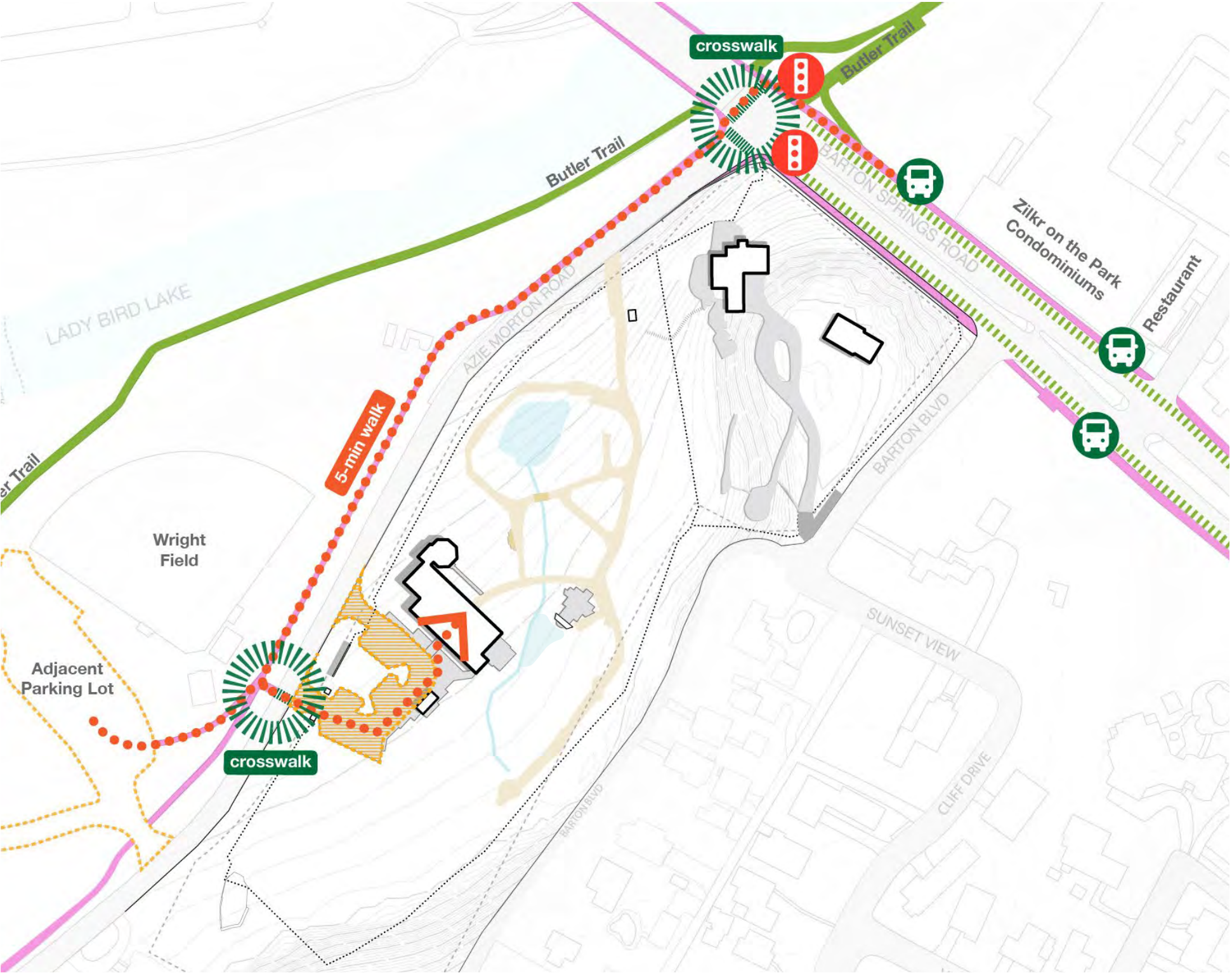
-  Vehicular access
-  Vehicular exit
-  Street direction



Site Access

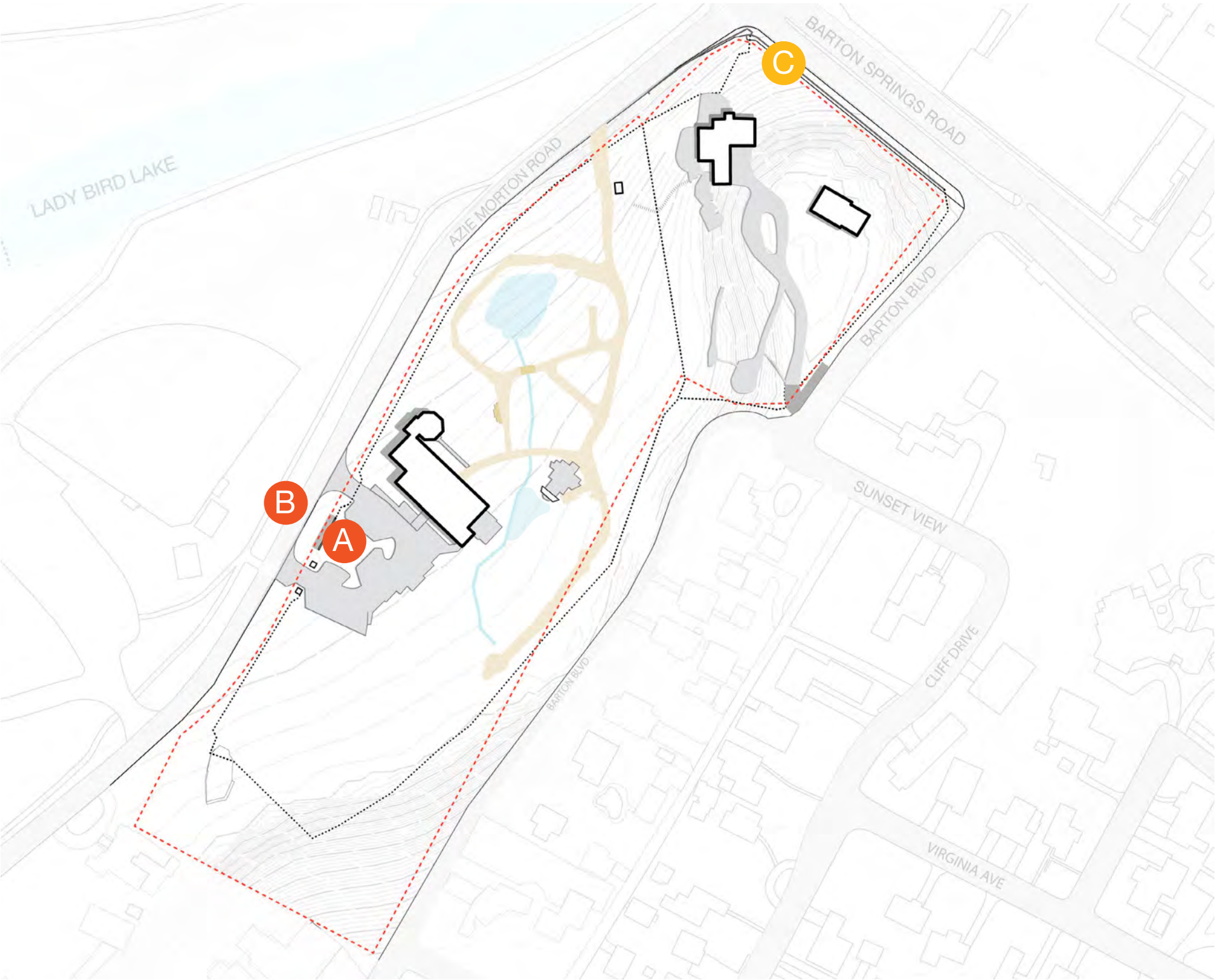
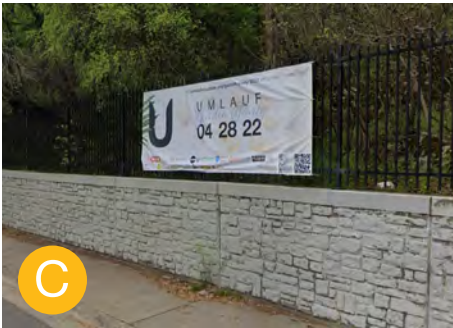
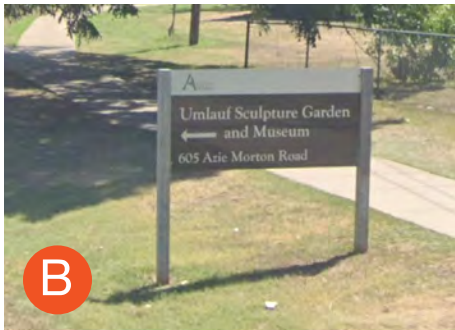
The current UMLAUF access point prioritizes private vehicles, posing challenges for users arriving from adjacent parking lots, the bus stop, or the city network. When arriving by walking/wheeling, users must navigate around the parking lot to reach the museum, with the crosswalk connecting directly to vehicular access, compromising safety. Additionally, the ADA Accessibility Assessment found the ADA assigned parking and access to the gallery non-compliant, please see page 88 for more information. To foster a more welcoming experience, it is vital to improve the connection to the Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail and relocate the crosswalk. Wayfinding strategies could enhance these connections, seamlessly integrating the UMLAUF site into the city’s green network, promoting accessibility, safety, and a more inclusive and enjoyable experience for visitors from various modes of transportation.

- Sidewalk
- Trail
- Unprotected bike lane
- Walking route
- Crosswalk
- Bus stop
- Traffic light



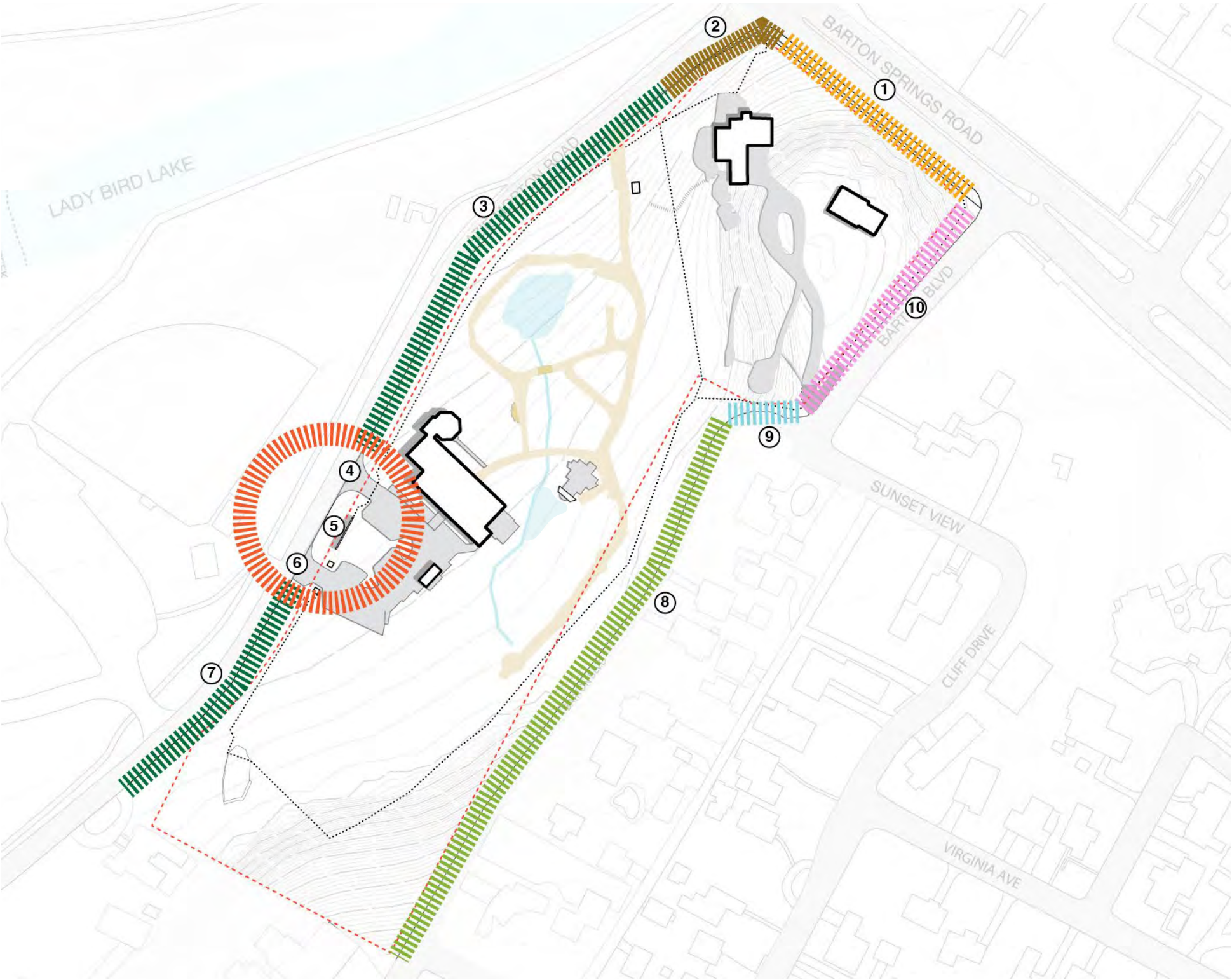
UMLAUF Signage

Enhancements to signage around the UMLAUF could significantly elevate the welcoming experience and draw in more visitors. Currently, only two permanent signs are situated along Azie Morton Road, with one serving as the primary entrance and the other positioned across the road to guide drivers. Additionally, temporary canvas signs are placed along Barton Springs Blvd to announce forthcoming events and exhibitions. Expanding and refining the signage network could greatly enhance visibility and attract a broader audience to the UMLAUF. Please see the Edge Study on the following page.

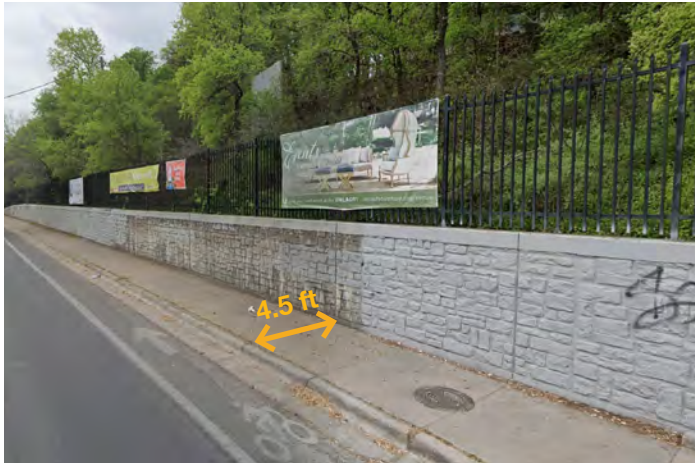


Edge Study

Currently, the site edges disconnect the UMLAUF site from its surroundings. Enhancing the immediate context to the city and neighborhood is possible through thoughtful and effective edge treatments. Edge zone 2 is especially crucial, as it features a retaining wall that requires maintenance and a sidewalk that abruptly ends at the corner which presents navigational challenges. The following page includes images and concise descriptions of each of the eight identified edge conditions for further insight.



Edge Study



① Barton Springs Road

The Barton Springs Road side creates a monotonous pedestrian experience. Public feedback indicates a challenge in recognizing the museum behind the wall.



② Azie Morton Rd / Barton Springs Rd

The corner’s retaining wall exhibits dangerous and neglected conditions. Another type of treatment could enhance the public’s experience.



③ Azie Morton

Along Azie Morton Rd, a fence defines the site, providing visibility into the garden but also exposing garden visitors to the road’s noise and views.



④ Vehicular exit

The vehicular exit is currently used also by walking/ wheeling users.



⑤ Signage

The UMLAUF signage in Azie Morton Road marks the site’s entry



⑥ Vehicular access

The vehicular access is connected to the crosswalk, it is also used by walking/wheeling users to access the site



⑦ Azie Morton Rd

A more natural edge is seen on the southern part of the site along Azie Morton, where a fence covered by vegetation defines the site’s limits.



⑧ Barton Blvd

There is no immediate fence or physical division along Barton Blvd, as the fence is located down the slope. This road is commonly used by the neighborhood as a promenade.