

Shoal Creek Trail: Vision to Action Plan CAG/TAG/Community Workshop #1

June 7-21, 2017



SCC Vision & Mission Statement:

- **VISION:** Shoal Creek will be a vibrant corridor that integrates the flow of water and people, engages the community, and inspires the public.
- **MISSION:** To restore, protect, and enhance the ecological, social and cultural vibrancy of Shoal Creek for the people of Austin by engaging the public and partnering with the community.



Photos: Ted Lee Eubanks

Shoal Creek Trail: Vision to Action Plan Project Area is from Lady Bird Lake to Walnut Creek Greenway

Create a master plan for improving, connecting and extending the Shoal Creek Trail for education, recreation, transportation in a way that builds on its natural and historic character.

Final Plan completed – February 2018

www.shoalcreekconservancy.org/trailplan/



project timeline: spring 2017 to spring 2018

TAG MEETINGS

- June 7, 2017
- August 30, 2017
- November 1, 2017

CAG MEETINGS

- June 14, 2017
- September 6, 2017
- November 8, 2017

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

- June 21, 2017
- September 13, 2017
- November 15, 2017

Final Plan completed – February 2018

www.shoalcreekconservancy.org/trailplan/

Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Role:

- Represent your organization by providing critical feedback at project milestones,
- Help us identify other groups that should be involved, and
- Help us identify relevant plans, policies, and projects in the watershed.

www.shoalcreekconservancy.org/trailplan/



Community Advisory Group (CAG) Role:

- Represent your organization by providing critical feedback at project milestones,
- Help us identify other groups that should be involved,
- Invite your networks to get involved and attend the community meetings

www.shoalcreekconservancy.org/trailplan/



Thank You:

- This community project is made possible by private donations from the Downtown Austin Alliance, Jack and Carolyn Long, Constructive Ventures, the Georgia B. Lucas Foundation Fund, and the Charles and Betti Saunders Foundation Fund.
- Activity Table: Austin Youth River Watch
- Meeting Space: Cirrus Logic
- Printer: Dynamic Reprographics
- Food/Snacks: Fresa's Chicken Al Carbon, Upper Crust Bakery, Shoal Creek Saloon



Consultant Team & Project Partners:



City of Austin

Shoal Creek Conservancy

Consultant Team: McCann Adams Studio & Siglo Group

Historical & Cultural Interpreter: Ted Eubanks, Fermata Inc.

Community Advisory & Technical Advisory Group Members



the purpose of the first round of meetings is to understand:

- why this project, why now, and where we are in the continuum of planning for the Shoal Creek corridor
- the project scope, process and products
- the planning context of the project
- the physical, environmental and cultural framework of the corridor



the six guiding principles



1. HISTORY & CULTURE



2. NATURAL RESOURCES & ECOLOGY



3. CONNECTIVITY & COMMUNITY ACCESS



4. SAFETY, HEALTH & WELL-BEING



5. ACTIVITIES & RECREATION



6. PROJECT ADVOCACY & IMPLEMENTATION



Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting #1



Janae Spence put together the dynamic 30 member TAG

Austin Independent School District
Austin Public Library
Austin Police Department
University of Texas Austin
CapMetro
CTRMA
CITY OF AUSTIN DEPARTMENTS:
Public Works
Watershed Protection
Planning Development & Review
Public health
Parks & Recreation
Austin Energy
Economic Development
Development Services
Austin Water
Office of Sustainability
Planning and Zoning
Transportation

DEFINE *Katina*
• SUSTAINABLE
• RESILIENT
ACCESS
• POINTS OF EGRESS IN
TRAILS IN FLOODPLAIN
REGULATION
• AREAS THAT CAN
DOUBLE AS FLOOD
MITIGATION (LIKE
NIN PARK TODAY)

#4 ... For ALL
CITIZENS.

Identify and integrate
best practices in
environmental stewardship,
sustainability and
resilience

TAG Meeting #1: Guiding Principles Exercise 6/7/17

Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting #1



CAG Meeting #1 Photos 6/14/17

oasis
respite
potential
nice walk
value/valuable
sweat
transportation
urban-wildlife
green spine
heritage
connectivity
hidden
beauty
shade
connectivity
emerald necklace
community

artery
biking
connectivity
discover
ecosystems services
safe passage
test rides
scottie
sacred
access
Eeyore's
bikeway
jogging
history
enjoyable education
opportunity
happiness

alive
bikes
tranquil
flooding
flooding education
fossils
gift
relax
Revitalizing
youth
home
generosity
natural areas
education
transportation
recreation
butterflies

CAG: One Word Association Exercise

Community Workshop #1



Over 70 people attended the first Community Workshop and provided feedback on all aspects of the 13-mile pathway.

Community Workshop #1: 6/21/17



Introductory Exercise: Where do you Live/Work/Play?

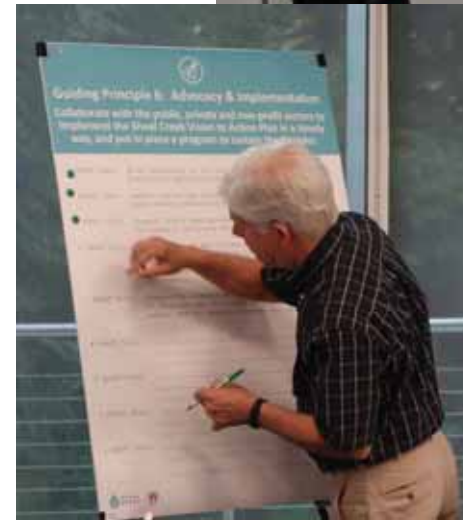


Community Workshop #1 Presentation

Community Workshop #1



Participants shared feedback at the Six Guiding Principles Break-Out Tables.



Participants prioritize Goals under each of the Six Guiding Principles.

Existing Conditions: A Walk Along the Creek

SEGMENTS A - C

A1: LADY BIRD LAKE - 5TH (DOWNTOWN)

A2: 5TH - 10TH (DUNCAN PARK)

A3: 10TH - 15TH (HOUSE PARK)

A4: 15TH - 24TH (PEASE PARK)

A5: 24TH - 31ST (SPLIT ROCK CANYON)

A6: 31ST - 38TH (SEIDERS' SPRINGS SEGMENT)

B7: 38TH - 45TH (THE GROVE)

B8: 45TH - 2222 (AUSTIN MEMORIAL PARK)

B9: 2222 - FOSTER LANE (NORTHWEST REC CENTER)


C10: FOSTER LANE - 183 (NORTH SHOAL CREEK NPA)

C11: 183 - WALNUT CREEK GREENWAY TRAIL (HEADWATERS)



Existing Conditions: A Walk Along the Creek

SEGMENT A

- 
- A1: LADY BIRD LAKE - 5TH (DOWNTOWN)**
 - A2: 5TH - 10TH (DUNCAN PARK)**
 - A3: 10TH - 15TH (HOUSE PARK)**
 - A4: 15TH - 24TH (PEASE PARK)**
 - A5: 24TH - 31ST (SPLIT ROCK CANYON)**
 - A6: 31ST - 38TH (SEIDERS' SPRINGS SEGMENT)**



Existing Conditions:

A1: Lady Bird Lake to 5th St (Downtown)



RETAINING WALL OF GAP PROJECT CONSTRUCTION, LOOKING NORTH TOWARD 5TH ST BRIDGE



"Gap" Project Under Construction



Seaholm District (Photo Atelier Wong)

HISTORIC 3RD ST TRESTLE, BRIDGE, LOOKING NORTH



3rd St Rail Trestle

WATERLOO SETTLEMENT, APPROXIMATE LOCATION



3rd St Pedestrian Bridge

SHOAL CREEK TRAIL WAYFINDING POST

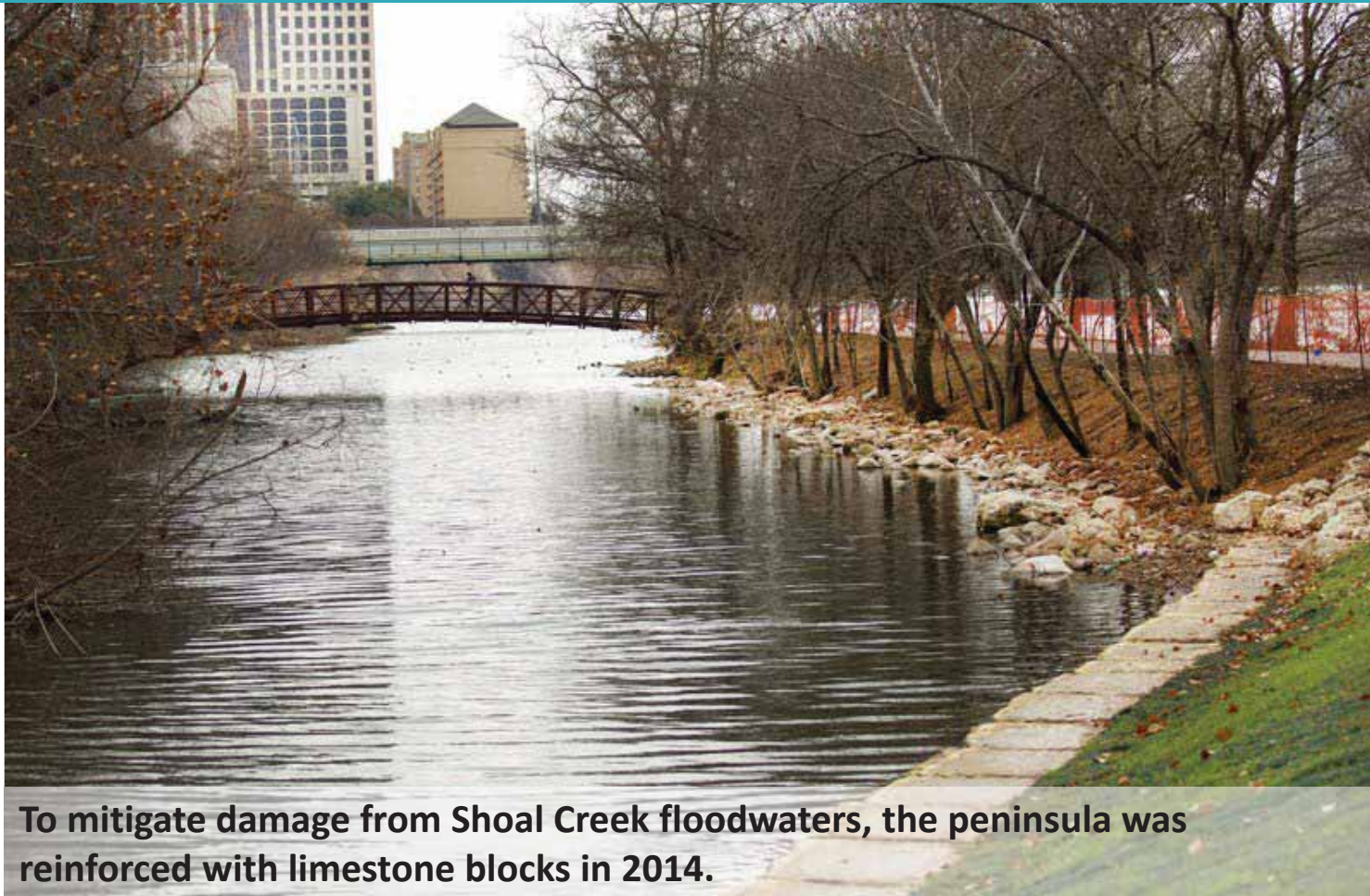


Peninsula at Lady Bird Lake



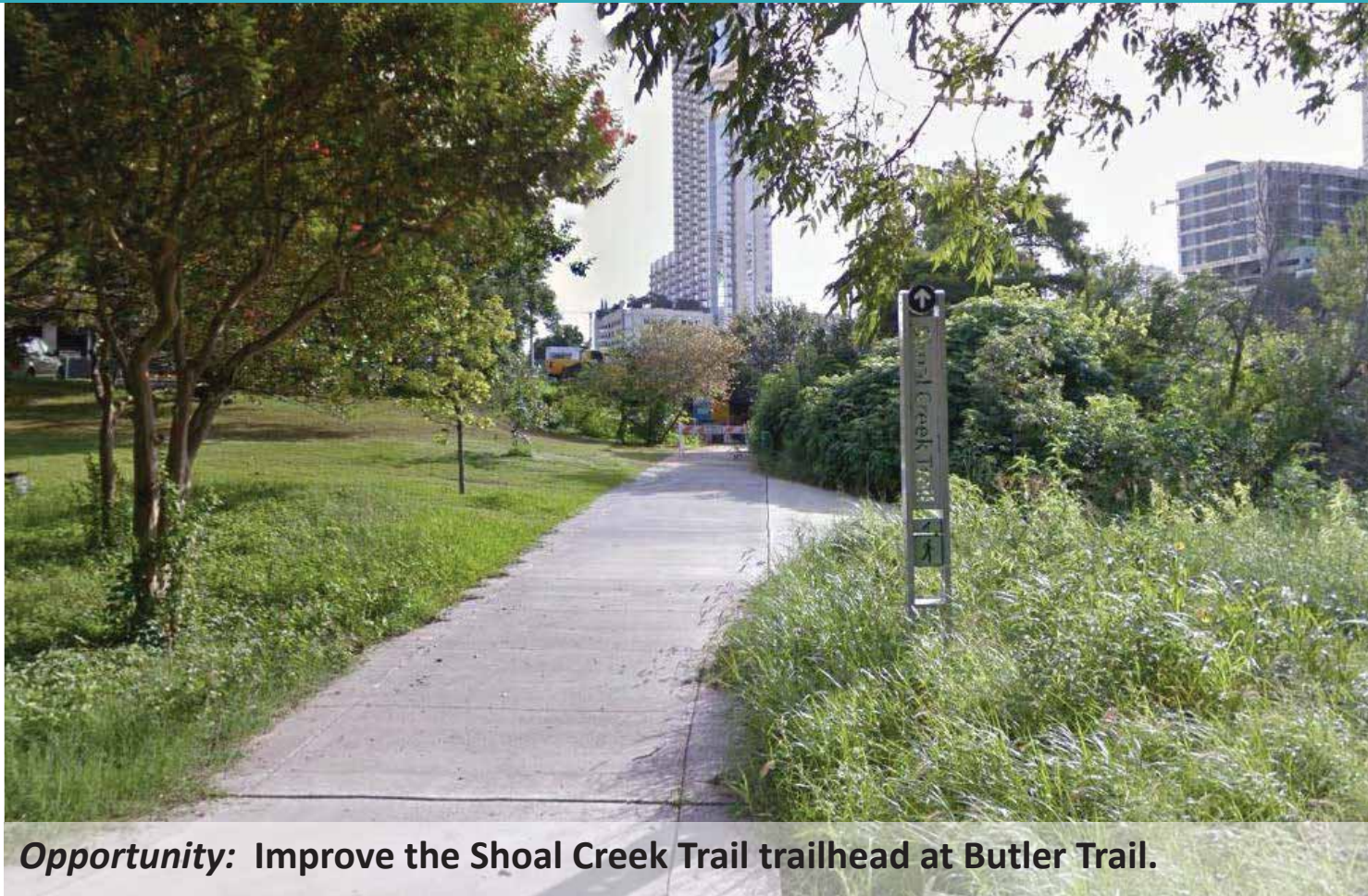
Trailhead at Lady Bird Lake

A1: Lady Bird Lake to 5th St (Downtown)



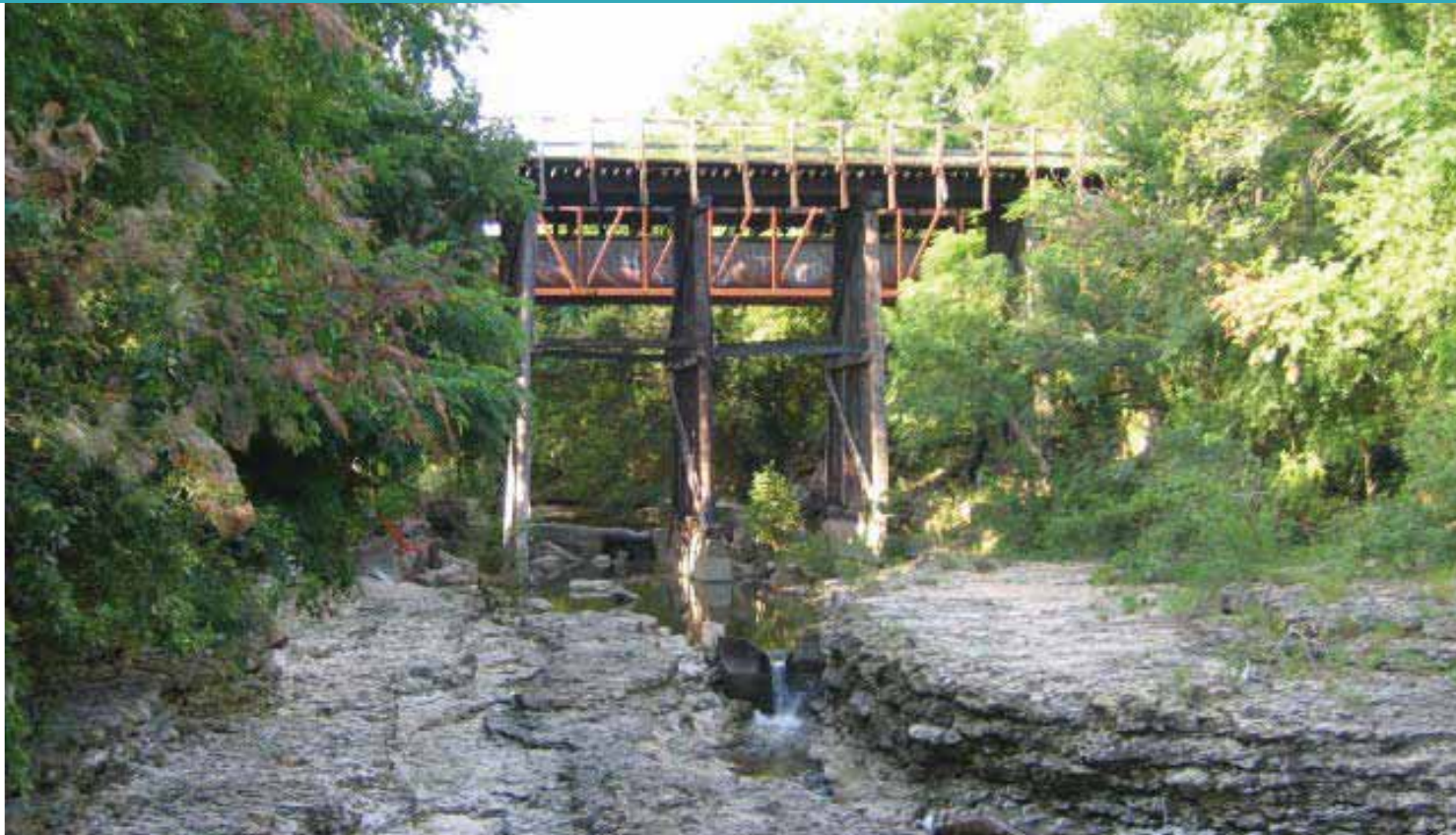
To mitigate damage from Shoal Creek floodwaters, the peninsula was reinforced with limestone blocks in 2014.

A1: Lady Bird Lake to 5th St (Downtown)



Opportunity: Improve the Shoal Creek Trail trailhead at Butler Trail.

A1: Lady Bird Lake to 5th St (Downtown)



Opportunity: Transform the 1925 3rd Street Rail Trestle into a public plaza along the Shoal Creek Trail.

A1: Lady Bird Lake to 5th St (Downtown)



Opportunity: Widen and improve the 3rd St pedestrian bridge connecting the Seaholm District to downtown.

A1: Lady Bird Lake to 5th St (Downtown)



The former Seaholm Power and Green Water Treatment Plants have been redeveloped into an anchor district that includes the new central library.

A1: Lady Bird Lake to 5th St (Downtown)



The City's "gap" project will provide an accessible bicycle and pedestrian path between 5th Street and West Avenue.

Existing Conditions:

A2: 5th to 10th St (Duncan Park)



SPRING

COMMUNITY GARDEN

**HISTORIC WOOD ST
SETTLEMENT**

HISTORIC 6TH ST BRIDGE



Duncan Park Lawn



Trail at Looking North to 10th St



9th St BMX



Shoal Creek Saloon Patio

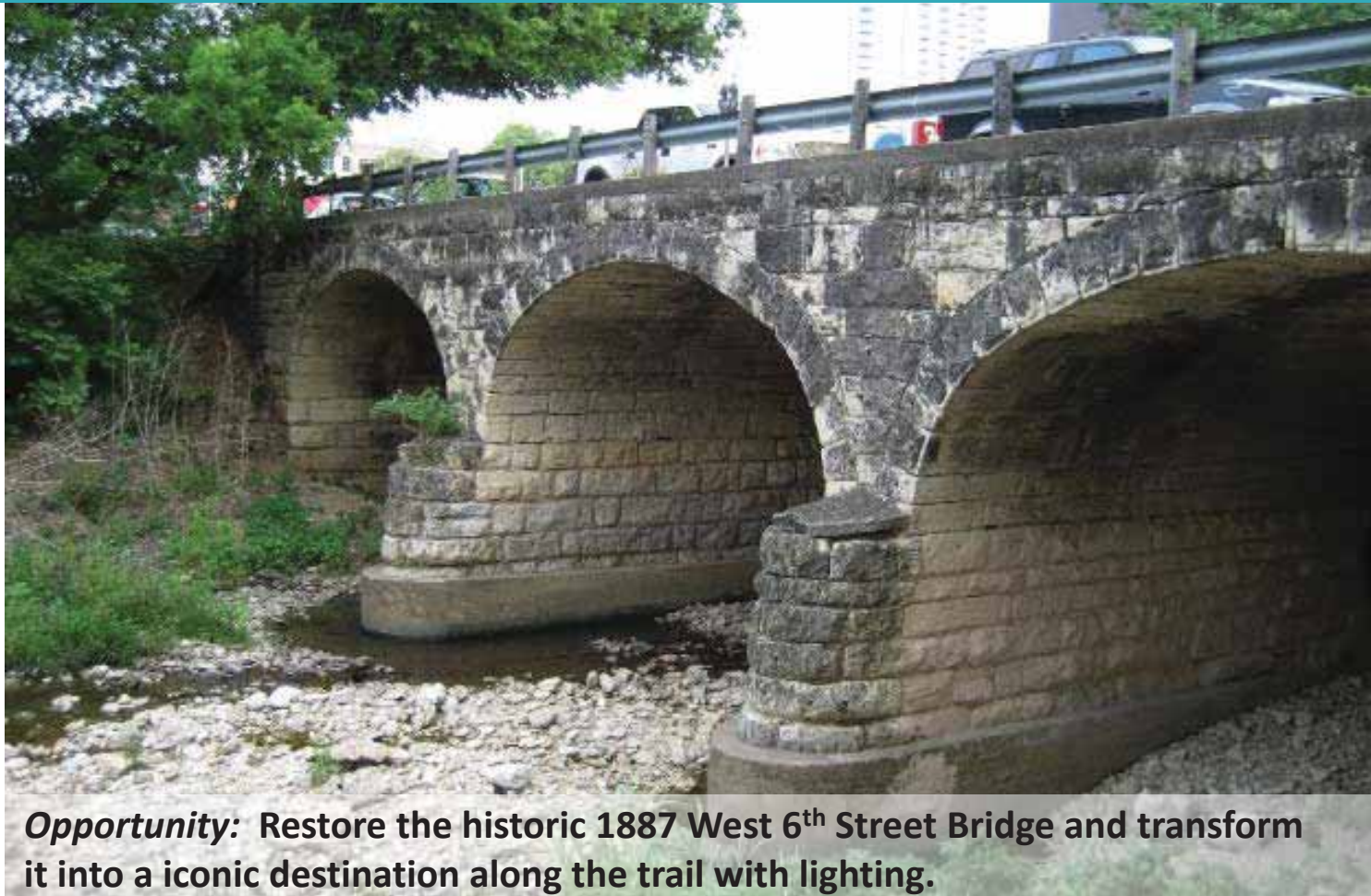


Historic 6th St Bridge



Deep Roots Community Garden

A2: 5th to 10th St (Duncan Park)



Opportunity: Restore the historic 1887 West 6th Street Bridge and transform it into a iconic destination along the trail with lighting.

A2: 5th to 10th St (Duncan Park)



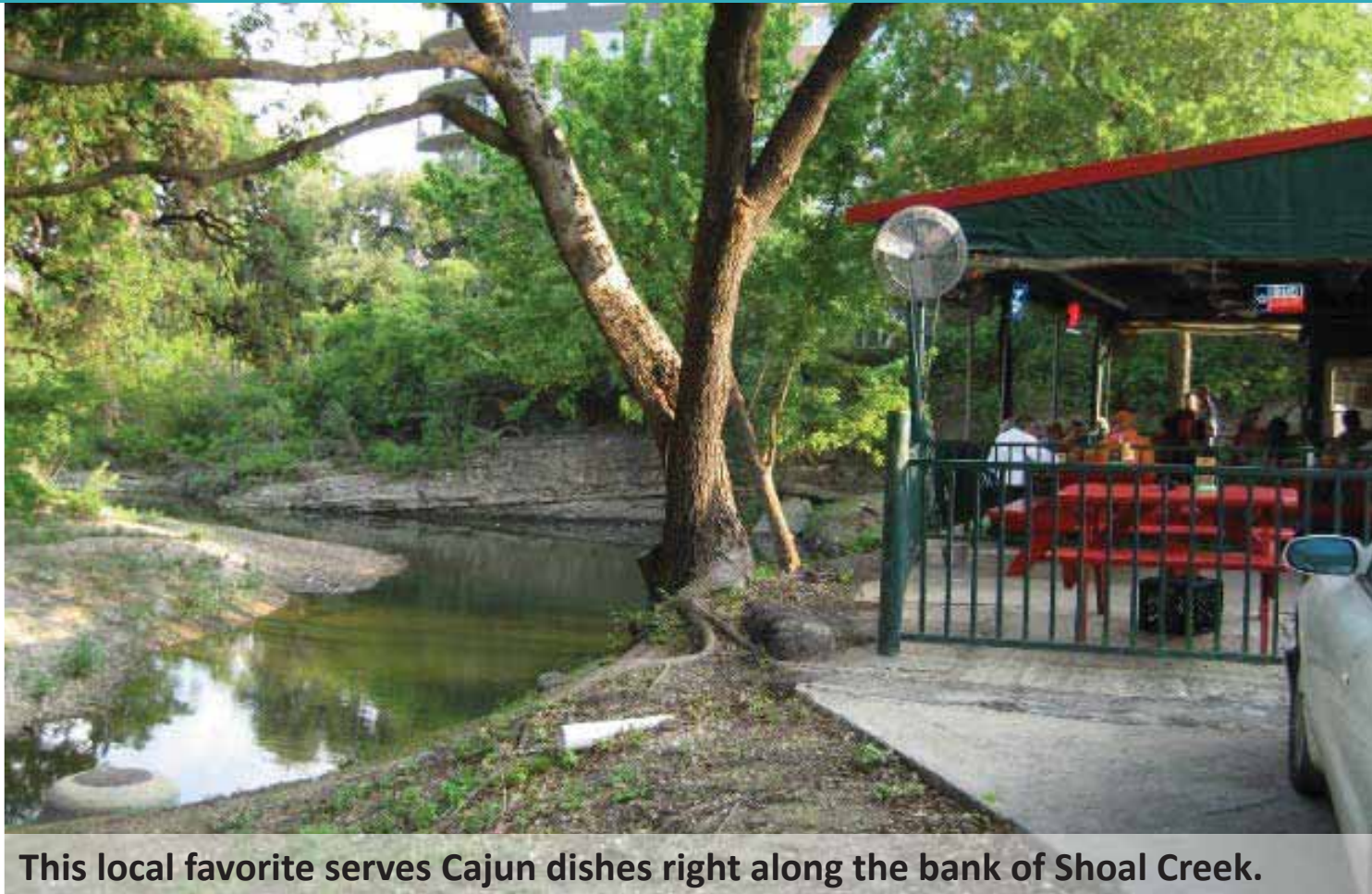
The Deep Roots Community Garden, a project of Whole Foods Market, is available to neighborhood residents and non-profit partners.

A2: 5th to 10th St (Duncan Park)



The 9th St BMX Park began 25 years ago as a grassroots effort with minimal City involvement. It is now an international destination.

A2: 5th to 10th St (Duncan Park)



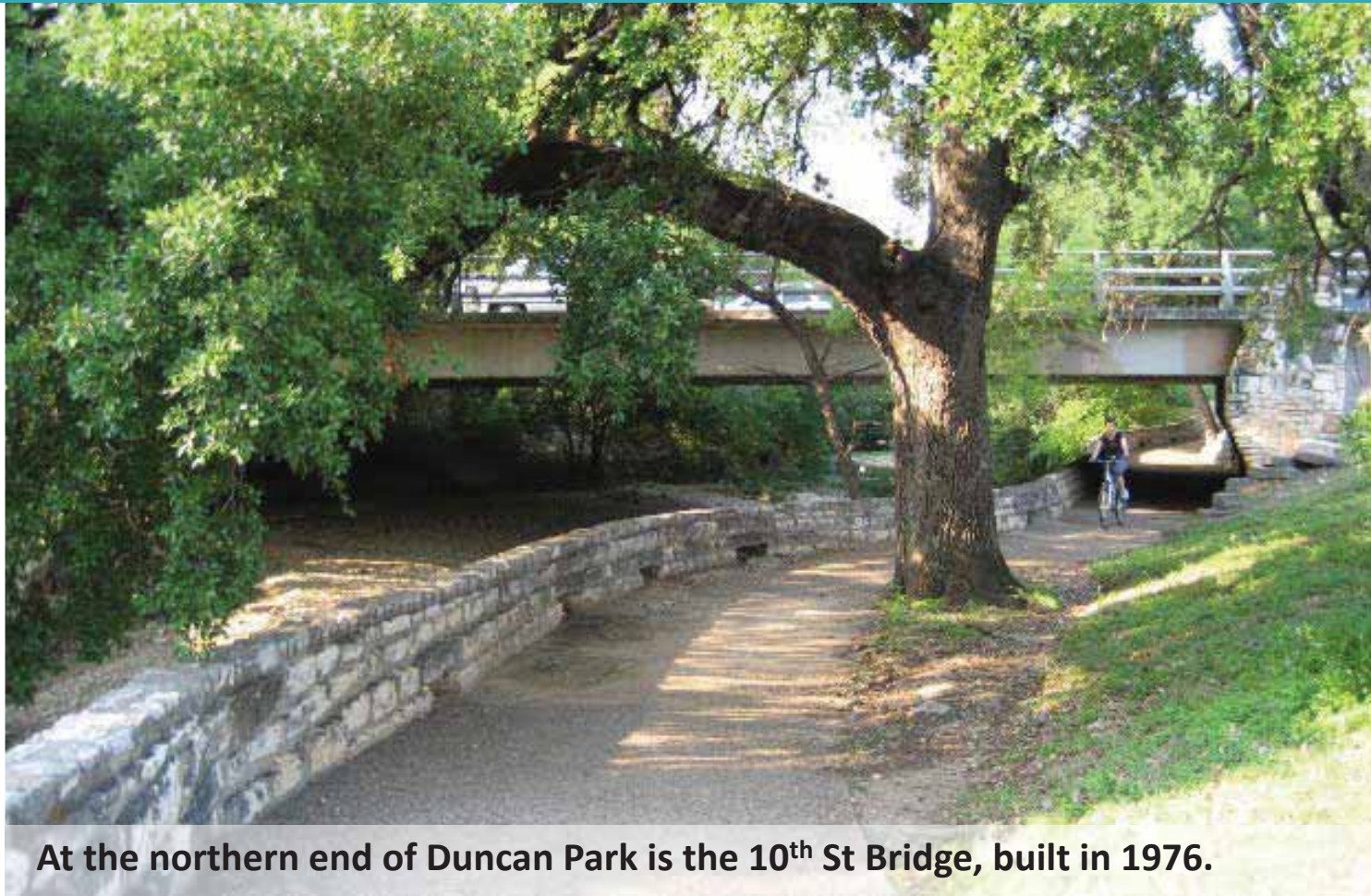
This local favorite serves Cajun dishes right along the bank of Shoal Creek.

A2: 5th to 10th St (Duncan Park)



Opportunity: Create a formal Shoal Creek Trailhead at Duncan Park as a part of the plan.

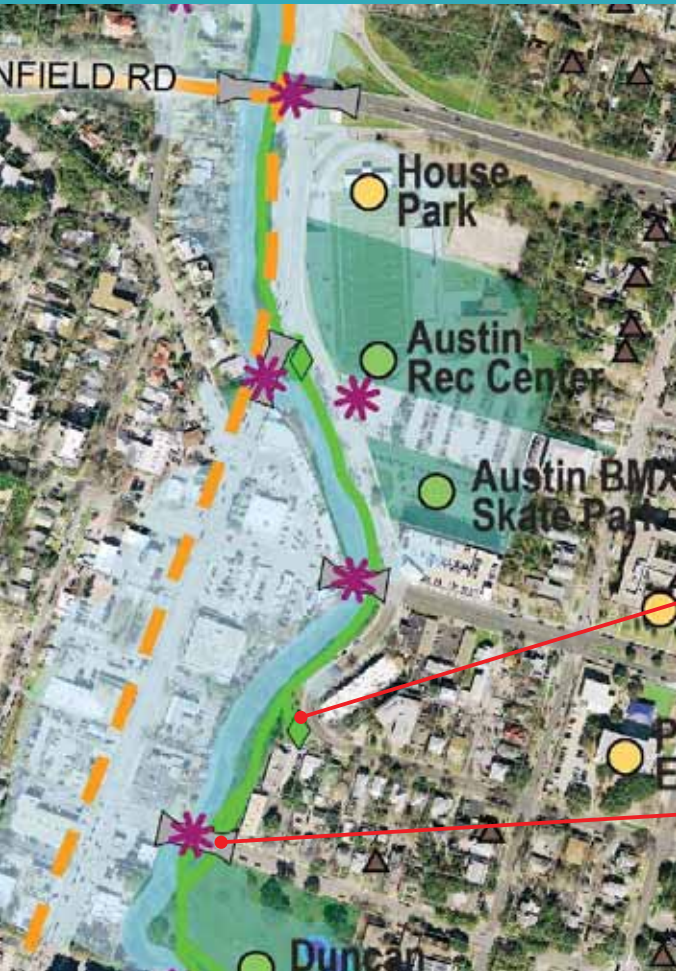
A2: 5th to 10th St (Duncan Park)



At the northern end of Duncan Park is the 10th St Bridge, built in 1976.

Existing Conditions:

A3: 10th to 15th St (House Park)



A3: 10th to 15th St (House Park)



The Heath Eiland and Morgan Moss BMX Skate Park is located near House Park Recreation Center and includes art inspired by Shoal Creek's flood waters.

A3: 10th to 15th St (House Park)



The Lamar Bridge crossing over the Trail near House Park dates back to 1941.

A3: 10th to 15th St (House Park)



House Park opened in 1938 and is still used by AISD for high school football.

A3: 10th to 15th St (House Park)



Shoal Creek Trail crosses under the 15th St Bridge, across from House Park.

Existing Conditions:

A4: 15th to 24th St (Pease Park)



**NEW TRAIL
UNDERCROSSING AT
24TH CROSSING**

CUSTER'S MEADOW

**TUDOR COTTAGE
PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
KINGSBURY ENTRYWAY**



Looking South from Pease Park Ped Bridge



Pease Park Sidewalk Along Lamar



Lamar & 24th St Bikeway Underpass



Tudor Cottage & Historic Limestone Walls



Historic Gateway



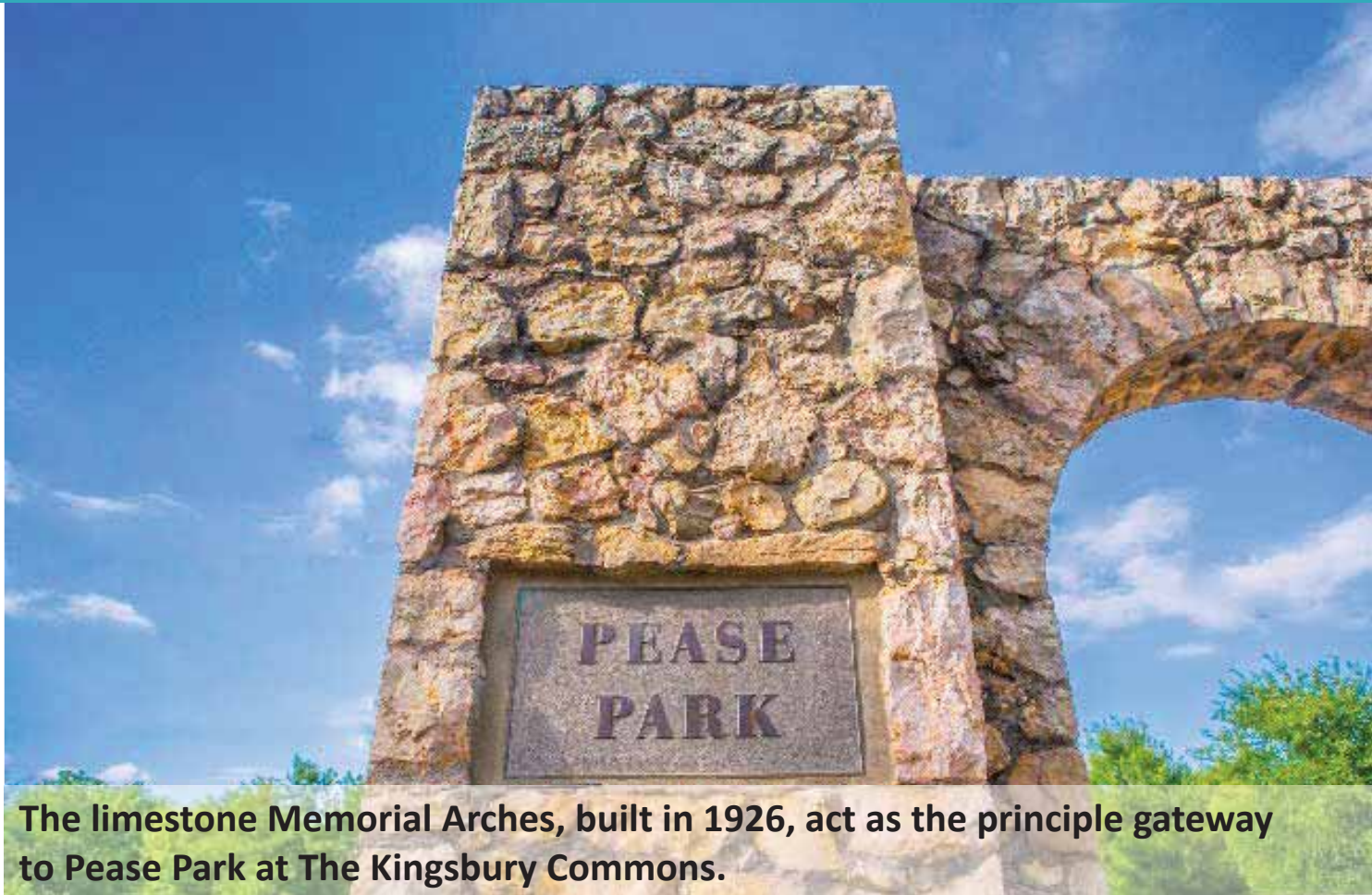
Pease Park Lawn

A4: 15th to 24th St (Pease Park)



Austin's skyline is visible when looking south from the Pease Park pedestrian bridge near Lamar & 15th St.

A4: 15th to 24th St (Pease Park)



The limestone Memorial Arches, built in 1926, act as the principle gateway to Pease Park at The Kingsbury Commons.

A4: 15th to 24th St (Pease Park)



The old restroom known as the Tudor Cottage, was designed in the mid-1920s, and is one of the earliest buildings in Austin to be used as a park facility.

A4: 15th to 24th St (Pease Park)



Pease Park was originally part of the 365-acre Woodlawn Plantation owned by former Texas Governor & Mrs. E.M. Pease.

A4: 15th to 24th St (Pease Park)



Opportunity: Widen this sidewalk to serve as a multi-use pathway, and improve the transition between the new 24th St Bridge underpass and the existing sidewalk.

Existing Conditions:

A5: 24th to 31st St (Split Rock Canyon)



SPLIT ROCK CANYON

SPRING



Split Rock Canyon



29th St Bridge Underpass

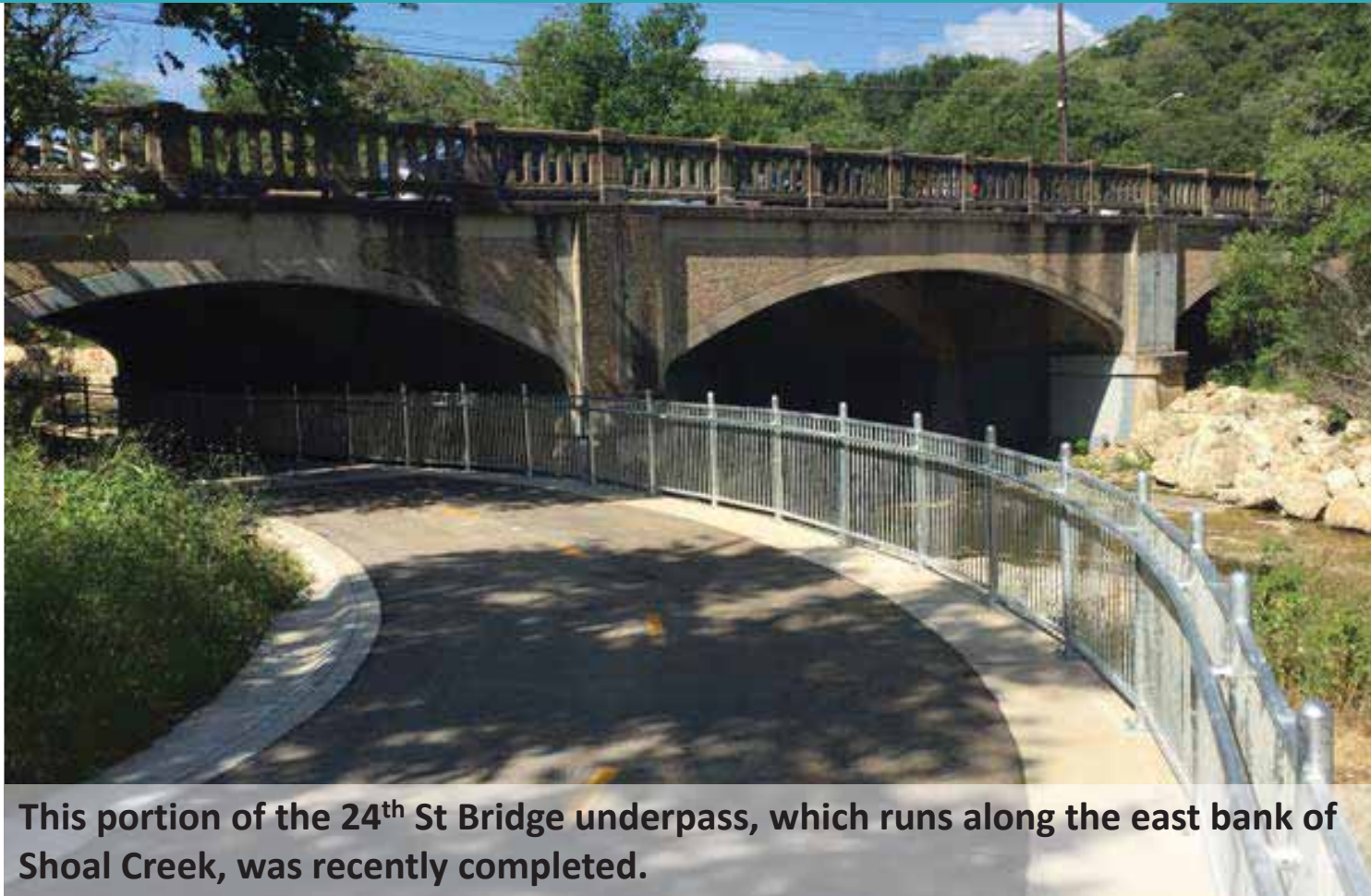


Lamar & 24th St Bikeway Underpass



Off-Leash Dog Park

A5: 24th to 31st St (Split Rock Canyon)



This portion of the 24th St Bridge underpass, which runs along the east bank of Shoal Creek, was recently completed.

A5: 24th to 31st St (Split Rock Canyon)



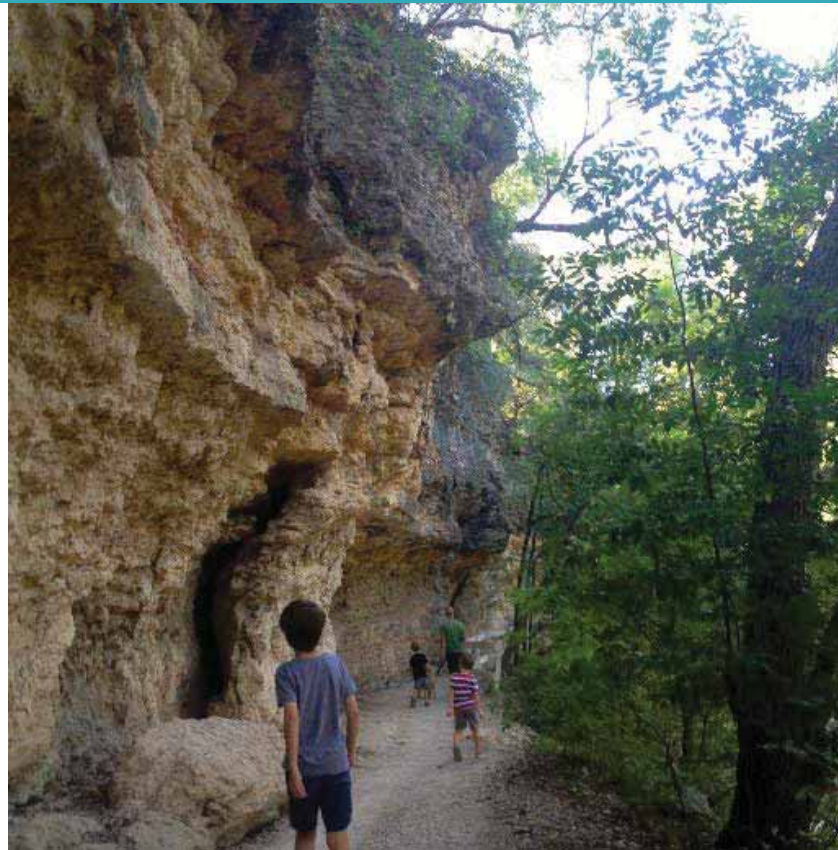
The portion of the Trail from 24th St to 29th St is designated as an off-leash zone in Pease Park.

A5: 24th to 31st St (Split Rock Canyon)



This bridge was built in 1939 to improve traffic flow from downtown to the west side of Shoal Creek.

A5: 24th to 31st St (Split Rock Canyon)



This portion of the Trail has scenic bluffs that can make bicycling here a challenge.

Existing Conditions: A6: 31st to 38th St (Seiders' Springs)



**SEIDERS
SPRINGS**

**OUTDOOR
CLASSROOM**

**SHOAL CREEK
GAZEBO**



A6: 31st to 38th St (Seiders' Springs)



Shoal Creek Trail was under reconstruction until recently, barring access from this particular entrance just next to Lamar Blvd at 31st St.

A6: 31st to 38th St (Seiders' Springs)



Opportunity: Enhance the Gazebo to function better for activities and events.

A6: 31st to 38th St (Seiders' Springs)



The outdoor classroom near Bryker Woods Elementary has limestone blocks for seating under heritage trees.

A6: 31st to 38th St (Seiders' Springs)



The pedestrian bridge leads to the two springs on the east side of Shoal Creek.

Existing Conditions: A Walk Along the Creek

SEGMENT B

B7: 38TH - 45TH (THE GROVE)

B8: 45TH - 2222 (AUSTIN MEMORIAL PARK)

B9: 2222 - FOSTER LANE (NORTHWEST REC CENTER)



Existing Conditions:

B7: 38th to 45th St (The Grove at Shoal Creek)



**THE GROVE AT
SHOAL CREEK PUD**



Texas State Library Archives



Creek Side at The Grove



Old Infrastructure in Creek Bed



Creek Bed Above 38th St



Trail Underpass at 38th St



Beginning of Trail at 38th St

B7: 38th to 45th St (The Grove at Shoal Creek)



Opportunity: Install safety lighting at the 38th St Bridge, built in 1955.

B7: 38th to 45th St (The Grove at Shoal Creek)



B7: 38th to 45th St (The Grove at Shoal Creek)



The wide stream channel and perennial pool to the left flows from the springs north of 38th St.

B7: 38th to 45th St (The Grove at Shoal Creek)



There has been substantial erosion of the banks and scouring of the creek bed below the State Library and Archives Commission building.

B7: 38th to 45th St (The Grove at Shoal Creek)



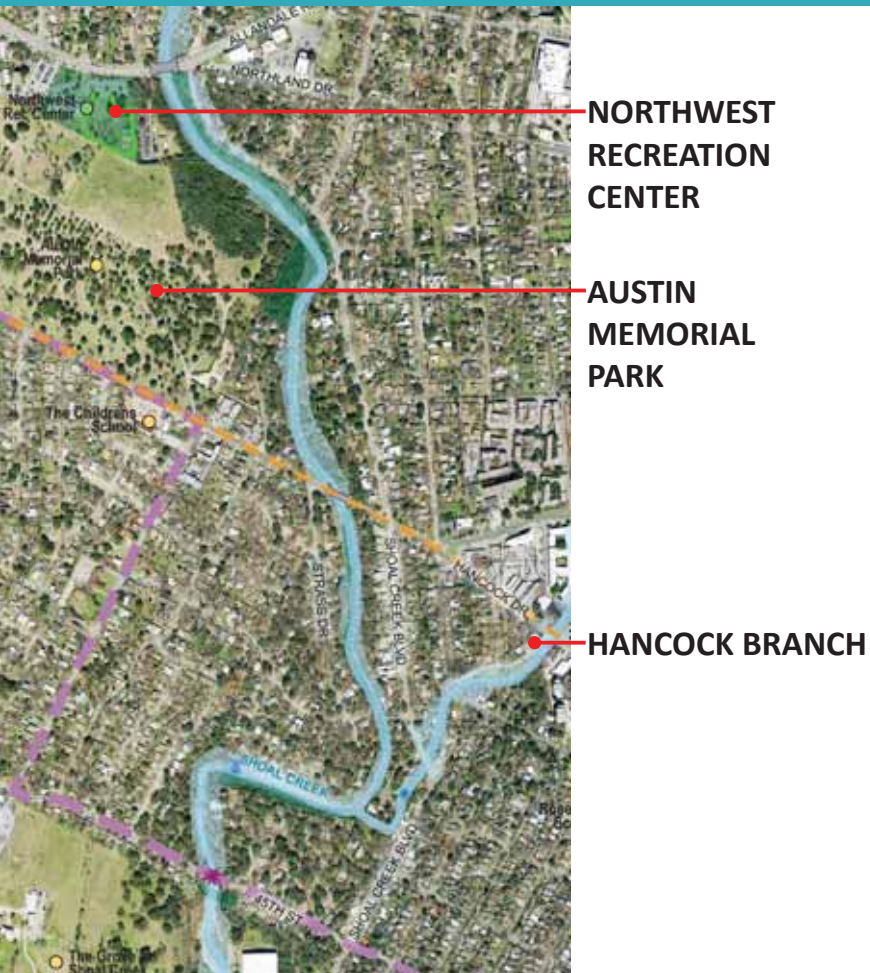
This area will become a signature public park as part of The Grove at Shoal Creek development.

B7: 38th to 45th St (The Grove at Shoal Creek)



The Library and Archives Commission building is located on the east side of Shoal Creek across from the future park at The Grove.

Existing Conditions: B8: 45th to 2222 (Austin Memorial Park)



B8: 45th to 2222 (Austin Memorial Park)



Much of Shoal Creek Blvd has a shoulder that allows both car parking and bicycling.

B8: 45th to 2222 (Austin Memorial Park)



An invasive Ligustrum forest is located on the west bank of Shoal Creek, below the Austin Memorial Park.

B8: 45th to 2222 (Austin Memorial Park)



An informal trail, lined with new seedlings, is located along the east bank of Shoal Creek, near Allandale Rd/2222.

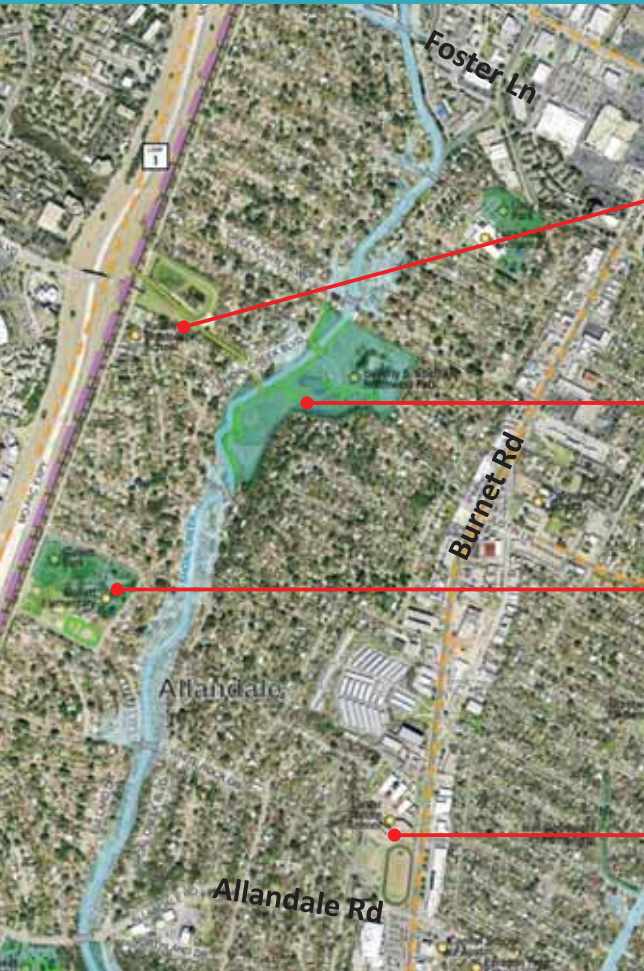
B8: 45th to 2222 (Austin Memorial Park)



This section of the creek is shallow and heavily vegetated.

Existing Conditions:

B9: 2222 to Foster Ln (Northwest Park)



**GREAT NORTHERN DAM
AND FAR WEST TRAIL
CONNECTION**

**NORTHWEST
PARK**

**GULLETT
ELEMENTARY**

**LAMAR
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

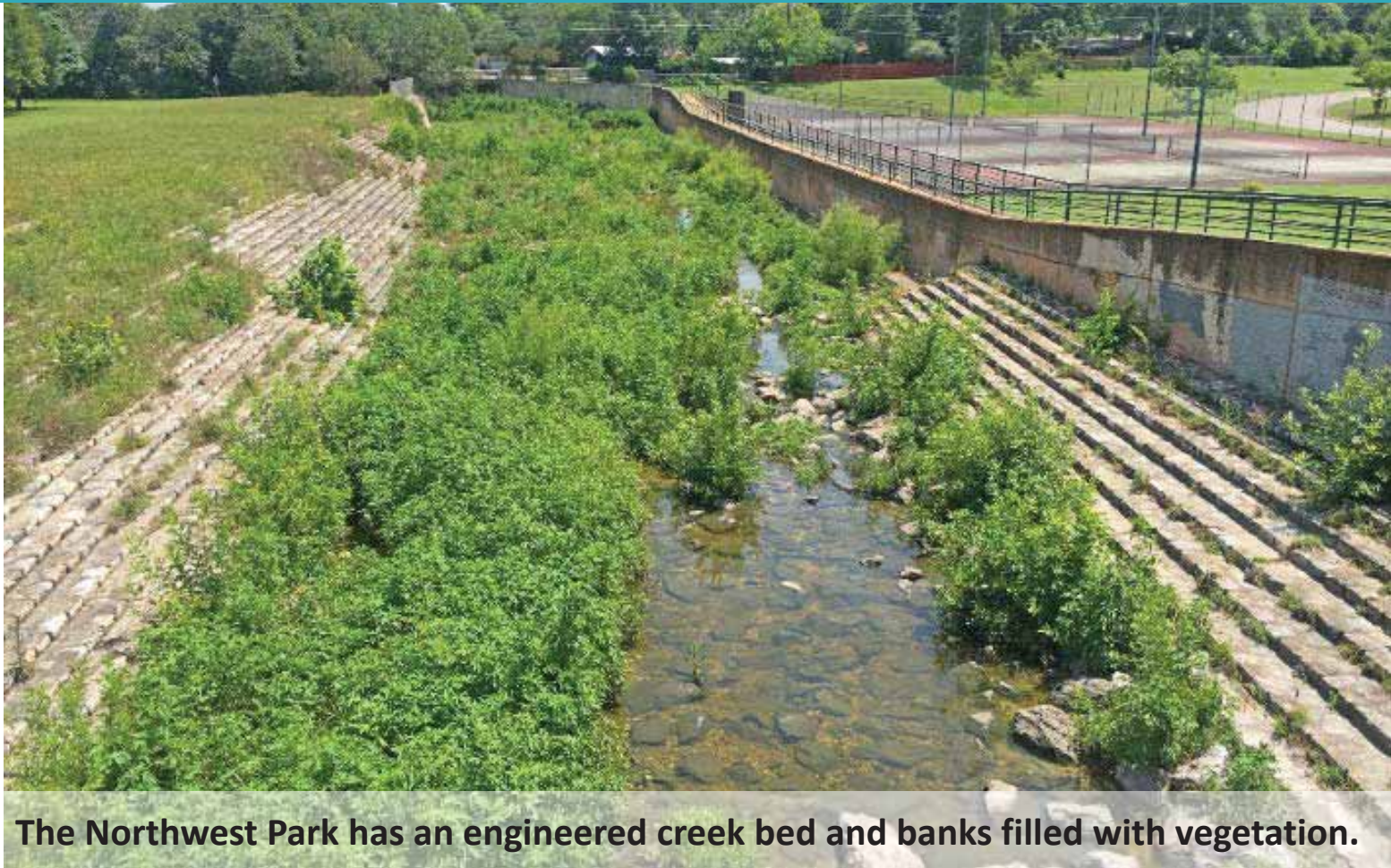


B9: 2222 to Foster Lane (Northwest Park)



Northwest Park is a popular community park for socializing and ball games and serves as a retention pond for Shoal Creek floodwaters.

B9: 2222 to Foster Lane (Northwest Park)



The Northwest Park has an engineered creek bed and banks filled with vegetation.

B9: 2222 to Foster Lane (Northwest Park)



The Silverway Dr pedestrian bridge is popular for bird-watching.

B9: 2222 to Foster Lane (Northwest Park)



Shoal Creek Blvd, looking south towards Foster Ln, has sub-standard bicycle and pedestrian facilities

Existing Conditions: A Walk Along the Creek

SEGMENT C

C10: FOSTER LANE - 183 (NORTH SHOAL CREEK NPA)

**C11: 183 - WALNUT CREEK GREENWAY TRAIL
(HEADWATERS)**



Existing Conditions: C10: Foster Ln to US 183 (North Shoal Creek NPA)



INFORMAL TRAIL
UNDER 183, FUTURE
SHARED USE PATH

PILLOW
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

FOSTER BRANCH



Shoal Creek Blvd Crossing Shoal Creek



Headwaters at 183



Shoal Creek Blvd Looking South



Creek Character

C10: Foster Lane to US 183 (North Shoal Creek NPA)



There is significant creek-side open space between Anderson Ln and Steck Ave.

C10: Foster Lane to US 183 (North Shoal Creek NPA)



This wider section of Shoal Creek Blvd. has unprotected, one-way bike lanes.

C10: Foster Lane to US 183 (North Shoal Creek NPA)



Shoal Creek, north of Anderson Ln, is surrounded by light industrial uses.

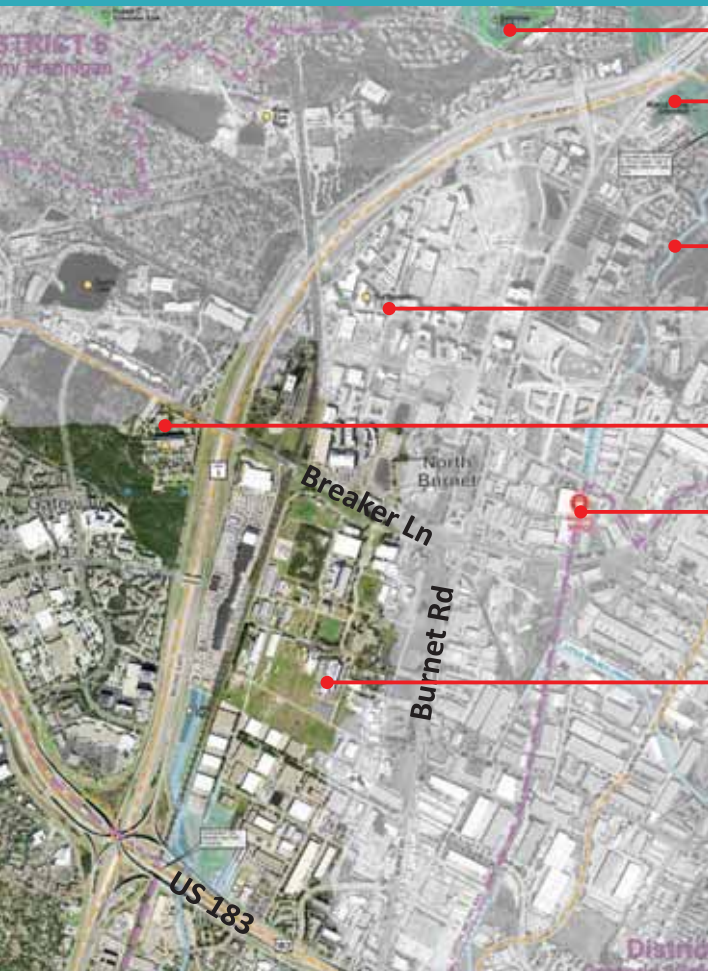
C10: Foster Lane to US 183 (North Shoal Creek NPA)



Shoal Creek crosses under US 183 in culverts and pipes.

Existing Conditions:

C11: US 183 to Walnut Creek Greenway (Headwaters)



BALCONES PARK

NORTHERN WALNUT
CREEK TRAIL

LITTLE WALNUT CREEK

DOMAIN

PICKLE RESEARCH
CAMPUS (WEST)

METRORAIL
KRAMER STATION

PICKLE RESEARCH
CAMPUS (EAST)



Informal Trail



Detention Field, North of 183



UPRR Bridge

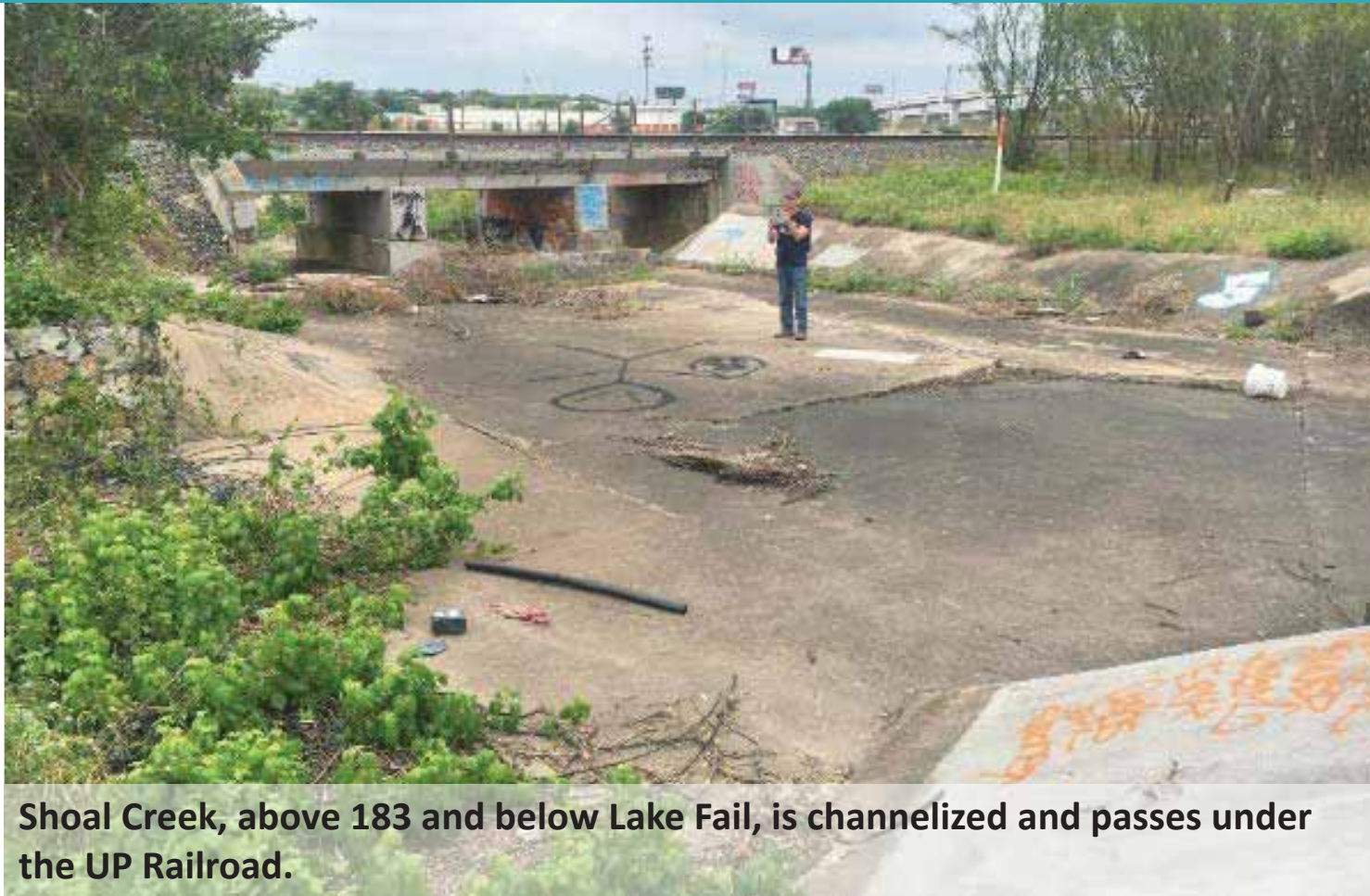


Lake Fail



Possible Trail Connection on Longhorn Blvd & Neils Thompson Dr

C11: US 183 to Walnut Creek Greenway (Headwaters)



Shoal Creek, above 183 and below Lake Fail, is channelized and passes under the UP Railroad.

C11: US 183 to Walnut Creek Greenway (Headwaters)



Lake Fail, created to detain stormwater, provides a rich wetland area and is a popular birding destination.

C11: US 183 to Walnut Creek Greenway (Headwaters)



A new bicycle crossing under US 183 will soon be constructed as part of the MOPAC Improvement Project.

C11: US 183 to Walnut Creek Greenway (Headwaters)



The North Austin Soccer Alliance soccer fields are located in the stormwater detention area.

C11: US 183 to Walnut Creek Greenway (Headwaters)



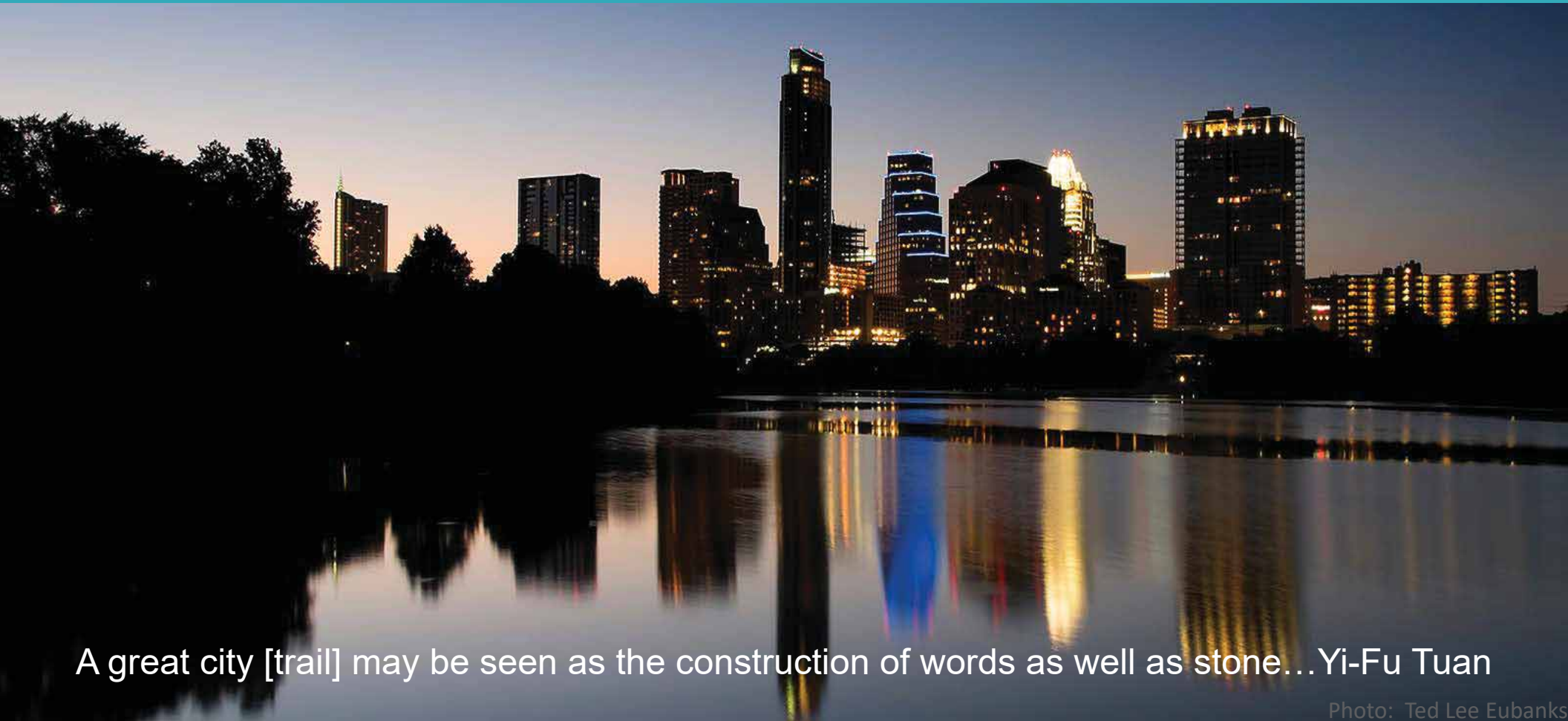
history & culture



Tell the stories: interpret and celebrate this area's unique history and culture in a way that's informative and engaging to diverse communities.

Photo: Ted Lee Eubanks

history & culture: interpretive planning



A great city [trail] may be seen as the construction of words as well as stone...Yi-Fu Tuan

Photo: Ted Lee Eubanks

history & culture: finding & telling the stories



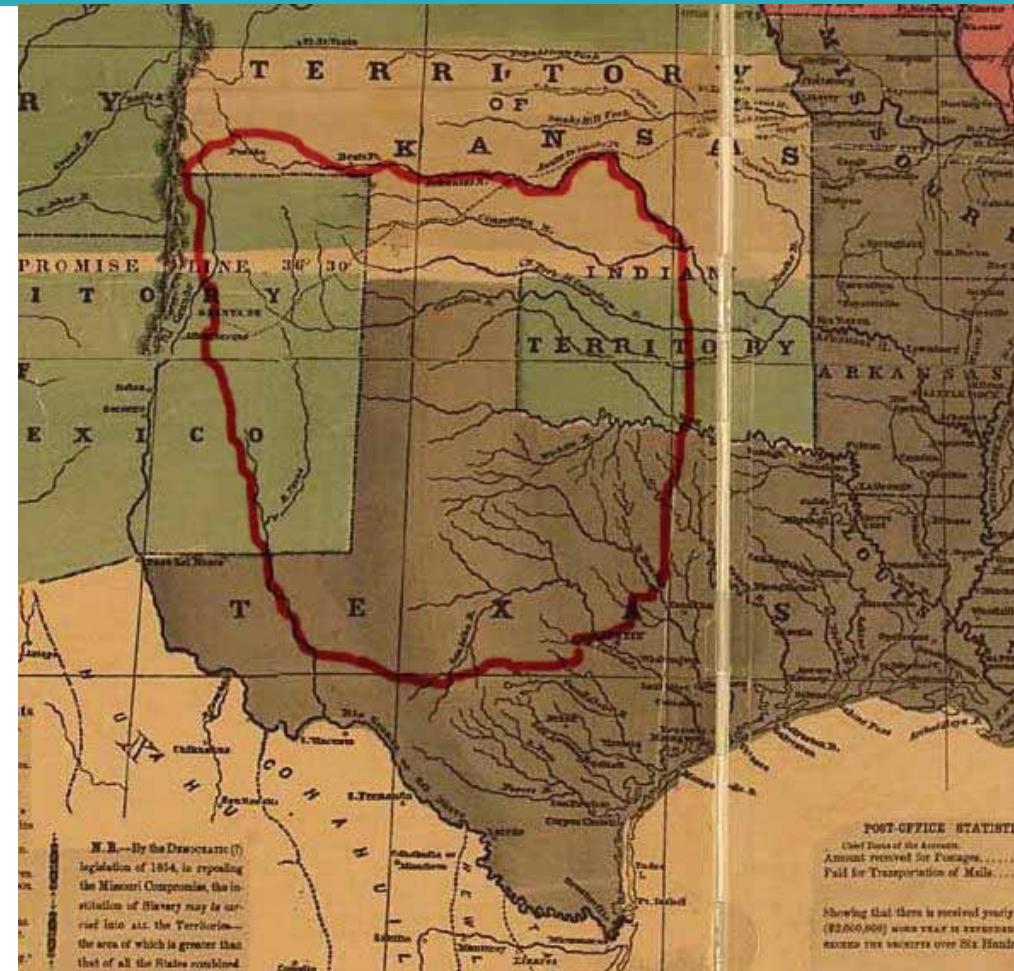
Narratives (stories) are used in planning to connect new with old and to foster a sense of identity and community.

history & culture: potential storylines



Austin's origins storyline:

- Comancheria
- Early Settlement
- Waterloo
- 1839 City Plan



history & culture: potential storylines



the New Deal storyline

- Governor Pease, the Woodlawn Estate and Jacob Fontaine
- Civil War and Reconstruction
- The Great Depression and the New Deal
- The New City Arises



austinsplitrock.wordpress.com/the-trail/

history & culture: potential storylines



“edge of the plateau” storyline

- Geology (Balcones Escarpment and the Edwards Plateau)
 - Flooding
 - Springs
- Paleontology
- Biological Crossroads
- One of a Kind (Endemism)
- Great Plains

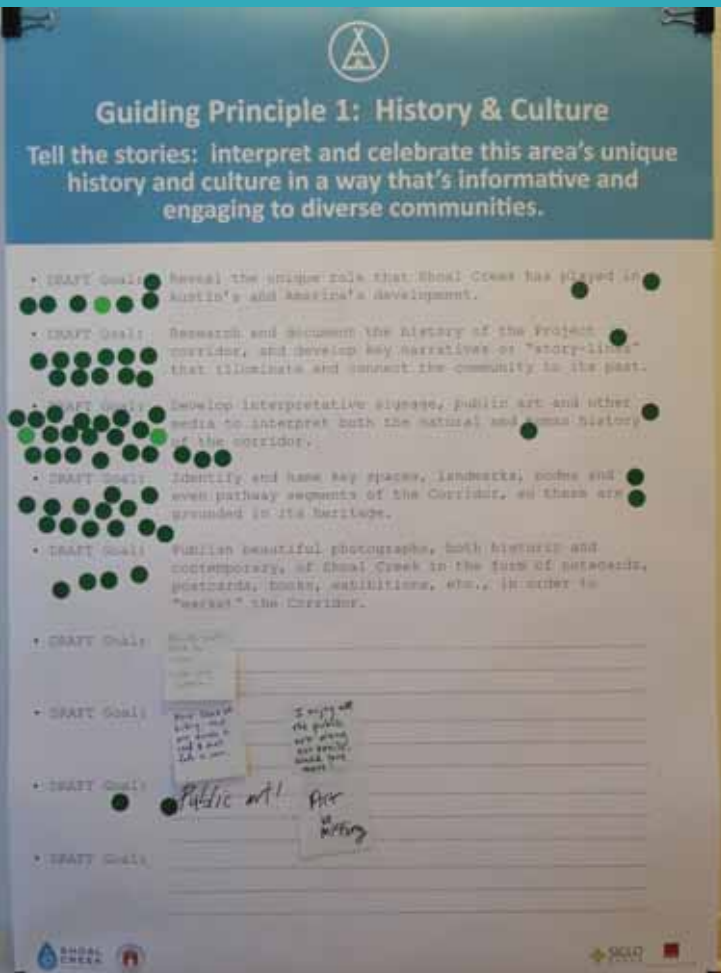


history & culture



Workshop participants engage in discussions surrounding the History & Culture of the Shoal Creek Corridor.

history & culture



Top 3 Community Prioritized Goals:

- Develop interpretative signage, public art and other media to interpret both the natural and human history of the corridor.
- Identify and name key spaces, landmarks, nodes and even pathway segments of the Corridor, so these are grounded in its heritage.
- Research and document the history of the Project corridor, and develop key narratives or "story-lines" that illuminate and connect the community to its past.

natural resources & ecology



Identify and integrate best practices in environmental stewardship, sustainability and resiliency.

Photo: Ted Lee Eubanks

natural resources & ecology: urban watershed facts



Total basin area: 13 square miles

Creek length: 11 miles

2000 population: 59,011

2030 projected population: 78,759 (33% increase from 2000)

“the edge of the plateau”...

...shifting in geology and topography from Hill Country to Prairie - shift in biotic distributions from east to west.

Sources: COA 2014 EII Watershed Summery Report

IMPORTANCE OF HEADWATERS

Perennial Vegetation

Provides habitat & durable slope stabilization

Annual Vegetation

Provides understory habitat, forage & cyclical slope stabilization

Meandering Riparian Corridor

Provides numerous water quality benefits, habitat and forage, dissipates flood energy

Vegetated Slopes

Critical for water quality and erosion prevention

Image sources: www.saveourspicewood.com

natural resources & ecology: Shoal Creek headwaters



Institutional

(University of Texas, Pickle Research Campus)

Commercial Surface Parking

Extensive commercial Buildings and parking, across headwaters and lining major transit corridors

Infrastructure

Major infrastructure, including US183 and Loop1

Industrial

Large clusters of light industrial in the east side of the basin around 183

Single-Family Residential

Expansive detached single-family neighborhoods with few remaining open land parcels

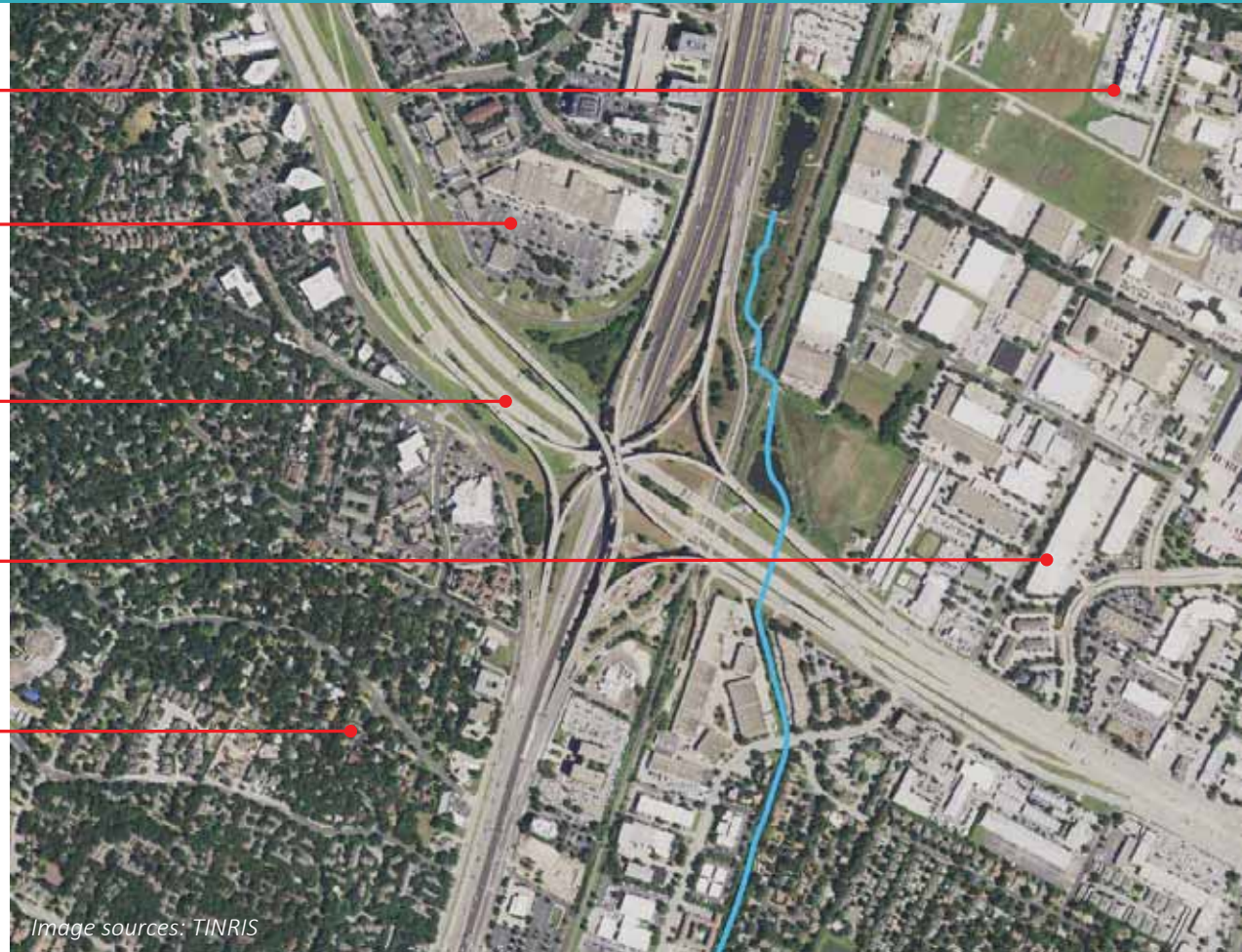


Image sources: TINRIS

natural resources & ecology: impervious cover



- impervious cover varies significantly within basin, as shown right
- 2003 impervious cover: 47.3 %
- 2013 impervious cover: 53.3 %

183 Industrial



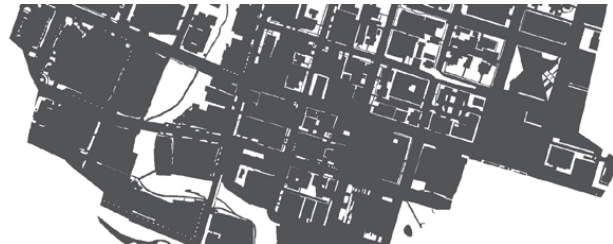
Rosedale



West Campus



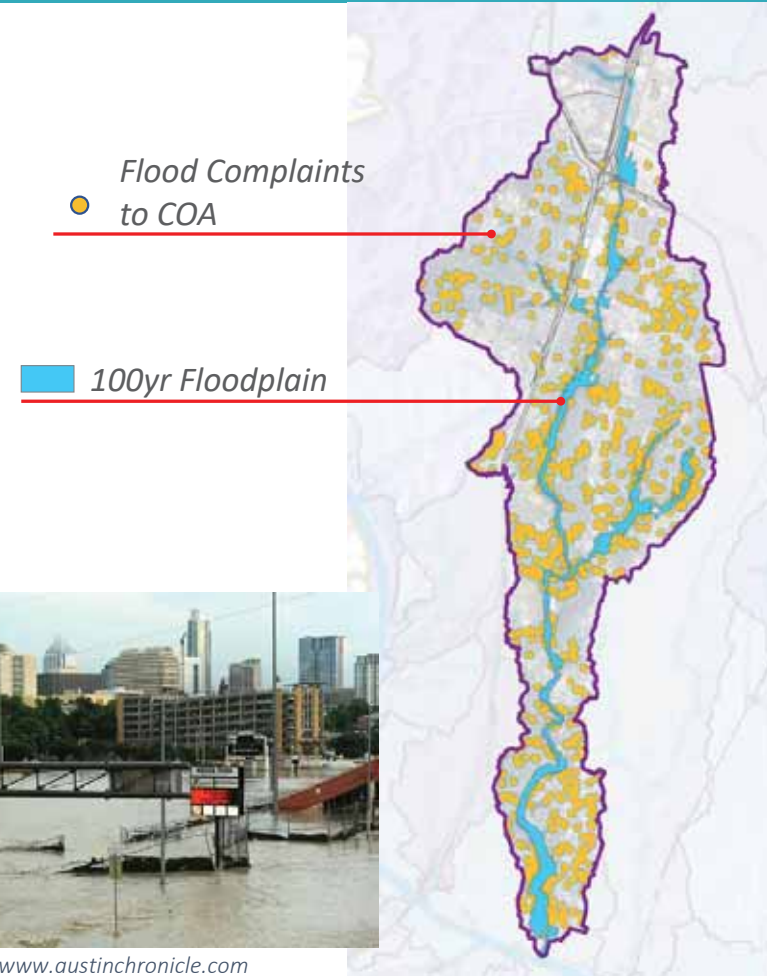
Downtown



natural resources & ecology: flooding



- 1915 flood killed 23.
- 1981 Memorial day flood killed 31 and caused \$35.5 million in damages.
- A second large Memorial Day flood struck in 2015.
- Lower Shoal Creek is top problem area in Austin, based upon City's problem severity ranking.
- Since 1981 Memorial Day Flood, City has spent over \$65 million dollars to construct detention ponds, channel modifications and other flood mitigation facilities in the Shoal Creek watershed.



1915



Image sources: Austin History Center

1981



Image sources: www.statesman.com

2015



Image sources: www.austinchronicle.com

natural resources & ecology: erosion



Erosion issues range from simple sheet erosion to extreme bank erosion and the erosion of infrastructure along the creek corridor.



Locations of Identified Substantial Erosion



natural resources & ecology: water quality & quantity



Environmental Integrity Index (EII) Scores

- The overall indicator of watershed ecological integrity is scored from vigorous (100) to critically imperiled (0).
- These include assessments of toxins in sediment, litter, bacteria from animals, sewage, nutrients construction runoff, poor riparian vegetation, and unstable channels.

Shoal Creek's Overall EII Scores by Year

2000: 60 2009: 63
2003: 54 2011: 57
2006: 55 **2013: 59**

Index Scores* for Shoal Creek Sites by Year

Reach	Site	Site Name	Year	Water Quality	Sediment*	Contact Rec.	Non-Contact Rec.	Physical Integrity	Aquatic Life	Benthic subindex	Diatom subindex	Total EII Score
SHL1	122	Shoal Creek Upstream of 1st St.	2013	66	62	26	56	41	82	80	84	50
SHL2	116	Shoal Creek @ 24th Street	2013	60	62	31	83	47	81	80	82	61
SHL3	117	Shoal Creek @ Shoal Edge Court (EII)	2013	74	62	48	63	58	83	84	81	65
SHL4	118	Shoal Creek DS of Crosscreek Drive	2013	71	62	28	83	56	62	66	57	60

* blank cells indicate parameter was not collected, blank columns indicate site was dropped **sediment samples only collected at the downstream site

100-87.5 Excellent 87.5-75 V. Good 75-62.5 Good 62.5-50 Fair 50-37.5 Marginal 37.5-25 Poor 25-12.5 Bad 12.5-0 V. Bad



natural resources & ecology: invasive species



Shoal Creek is colonized by many common Central Texas invasive species.



Giant Reed
Arundo donax



Cat Claw Vine
Macfadyena unguis-cati



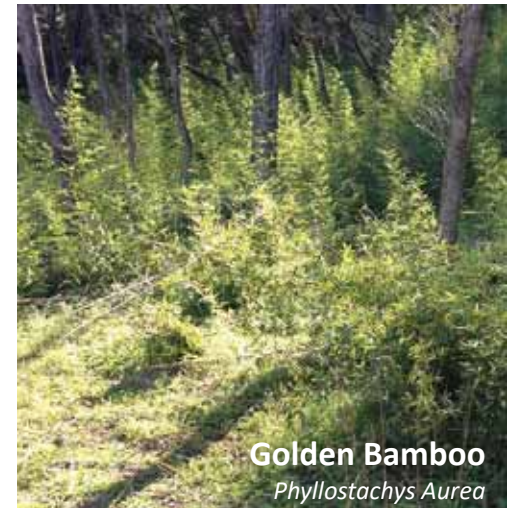
Mexican petunia
Ruellia simplex



Large Leaf Privet
Ligustrum sp.



Chinaberry
Melia azedarach



Golden Bamboo
Phyllostachys Aurea



natural resources & ecology: permeable land & parks



Pervious Land Cover

To a large extent land cover in the basin is a reflection of land use, with notable qualitative and quantitative variations between single family residential, multi-family, industrial commercial, and infrastructure



Roadway Infrastructure



Industrial/Commercial



Multi-Family Residential



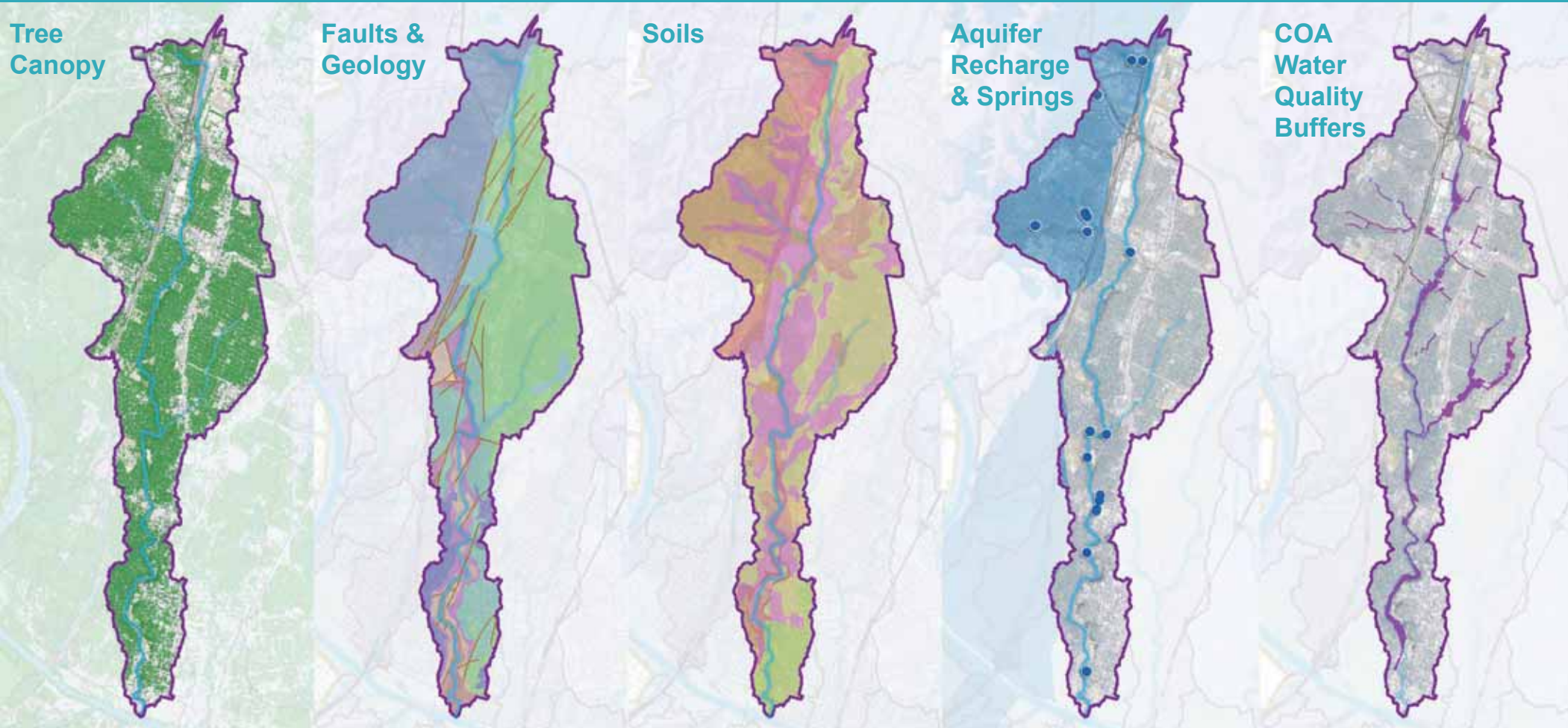
Single-Family Residential

Parks

There are 26 parks in the basin totaling 288 acres, roughly the size of the main area of Zilker Park



natural resources & ecology: environmental systems



natural resources & ecology: critical environmental features



Shoal Creek Basin Critical Environmental Features, Identified by feature

- FEMA 100 Year Flood Plain
- COA Critical Water Quality Buffer
- Springs, with 150ft buffer
- Wetlands, with 150ft Buffer
- Rim Rock Outcroppings, with 150ft buffer
- Significant Erosion points, with 150ft buffer
- Slopes Greater than 15%
- Northern Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone
- Parks

Wetlands, with 150ft Buffer

Northern Edwards

Aquifer Recharge Zone

COA Critical Water

Quality Buffer

Slopes Greater than 15%

Significant Erosion points,
with 150ft buffer

Rim Rock Outcroppings,
with 150ft buffer

Springs, with 150ft buffer

Parks

FEMA 100 Year Flood Plain



natural resources & ecology: critical environmental features



Critical Environmental Features, Prioritized in a three tier system

■ Critical Environmental Features, Highly Sensitive

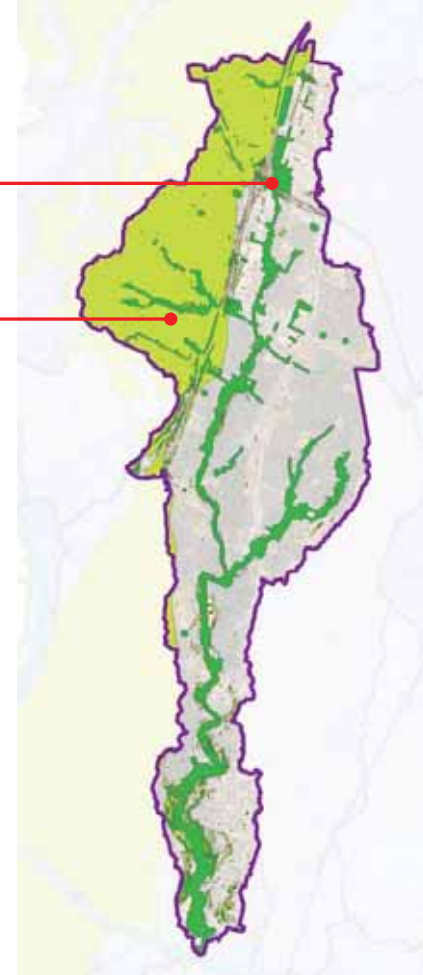
- FEMA 100 Year Flood Plain
- COA Critical Water Quality Buffer
- Springs, with 150ft buffer
- Wetlands with 150ft Buffer
- Rim Rock Outcroppings, with 150ft buffer
- Significant Erosion points, with 150ft buffer
- Slopes 60% and Greater (Potential Rim Rock)
- Slopes 25% to 60%

■ Critical Environmental Features, Moderately Sensitive

- Slopes 15% to 25%
- Northern Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone

■ *Highly Sensitive*

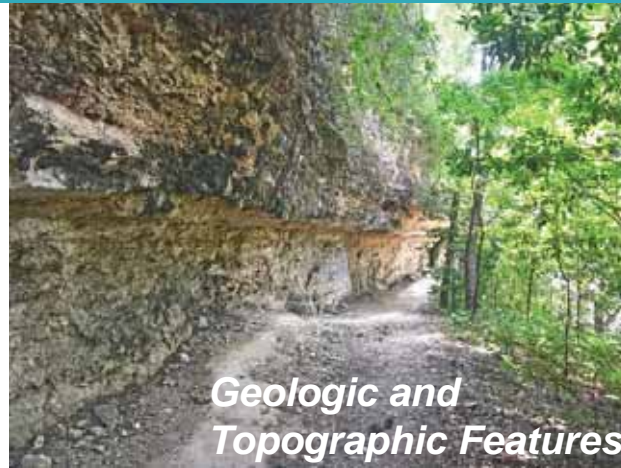
■ *Moderately Sensitive*



natural resources & ecology: important environmental features



Springs & Seeps



*Geologic and
Topographic Features*



Riparian Habitat



*"Trees are the answer."
- Don Gardner, arborist*

natural resources & ecology: natural area management



Riparian & Woodlands:

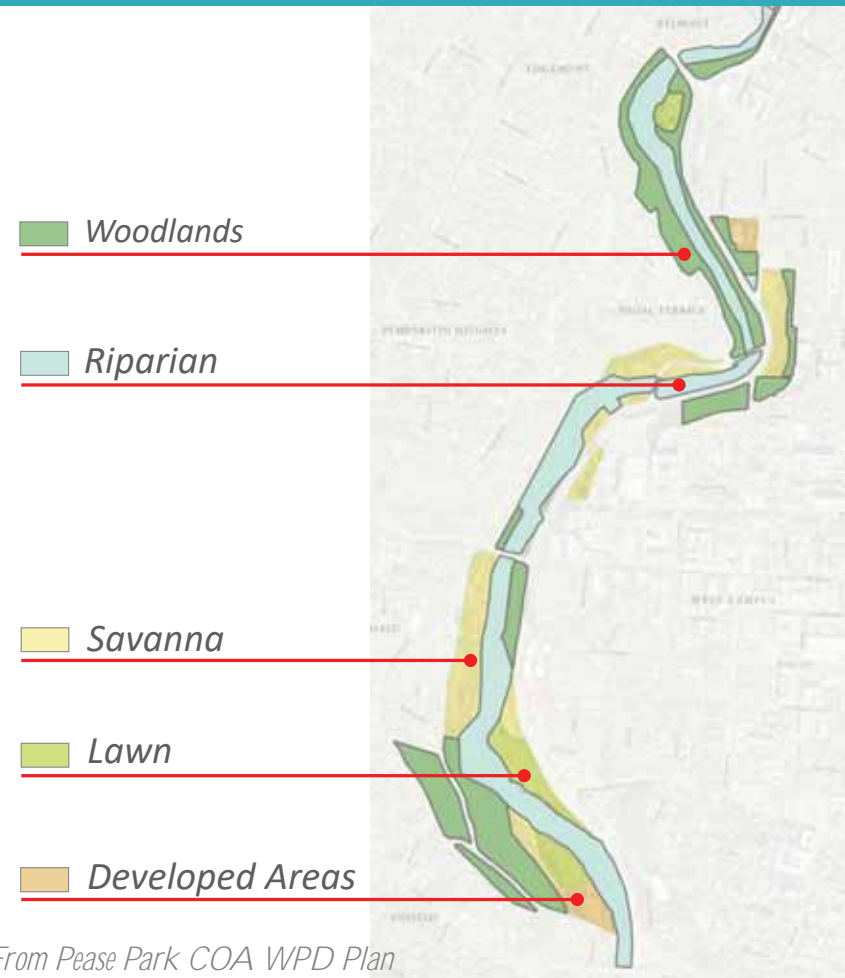
Natural area management should inform recreational opportunities.

Restore and maintain ecological processes; establish native vegetation, manage invasive species; widen riparian areas, revitalize soils; expand “no-mow” areas; use vegetation to buffer and define views; enhance canopy, understory and groundcover; create protocols for establishing vegetation.

Savanna, Lawn & Developed Areas

Natural areas management should respond to and support recreation and programming.

Establish signature plantings; provide tree care for safety, shade, and tree health; enhance tree canopy; revitalize soils; create stormwater absorption areas; enhance riparian edges; increase diversity where feasible; define user experience in sensitive areas.



From Pease Park COA WPD Plan

natural resources & ecology: natural area management



Example Infrastructure Project Specifications

Plant Species, Planting Protocols, Soil Preparation, Irrigation, Integration of disturbance mitigation, On-going Care and Management, Adaptive Management Approach, Incorporation of Green Infrastructure, No Negative Water Resource Impact Goal...

Example Metrics of Success

- Reduce the highest priority invasive species populations by XX% area in X years.
- Increase species observations for major taxa by XX% in XX years.
- Plant XX container trees in the next X years.
- Plant XX tree seedlings in the next X years.
- Increase shade over trail to XX% over XX years.



natural resources & ecology: natural area management



Example Goals Associated with Natural Areas and Ecology
(from The Butler Trail at Lady Bird Lake Urban Forestry and Natural Area Management Guidelines)

- **Restore & Enhance Plant Communities.**
- **Repair & Improve Ecological Function.**
- **Enhance Resiliency.**
- **Enhance the User Experience.**
- **Facilitate Stewardship.**



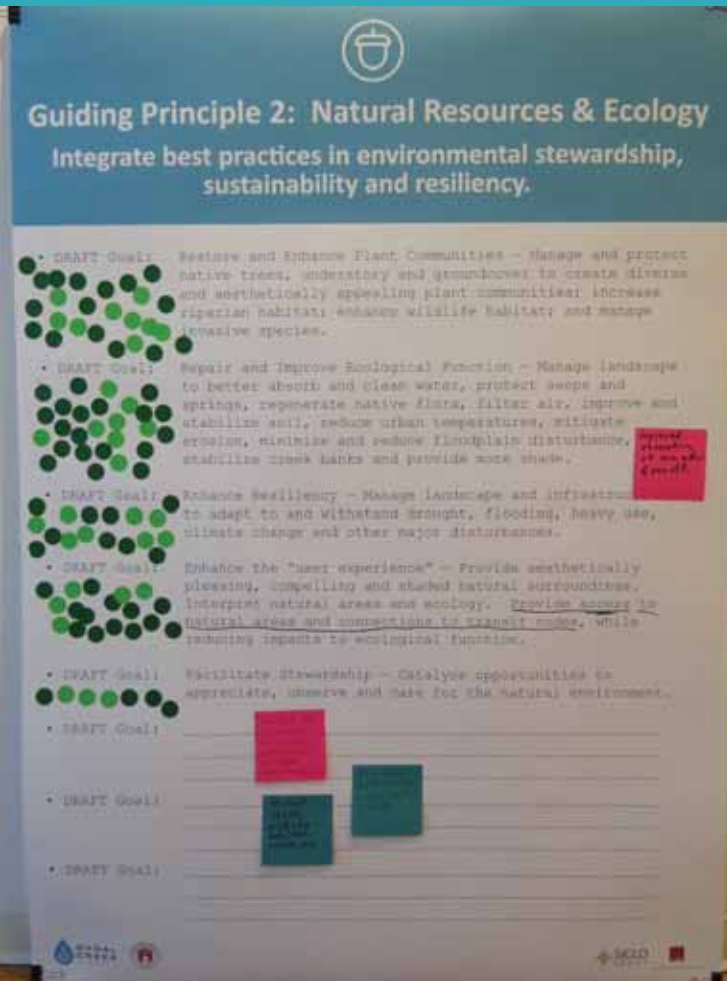
Photo: Ted Lee Eubanks

natural resources & ecology



Workshop participants engage in discussions surrounding the Natural Resources & Ecology of the Shoal Creek Corridor.

natural resources & ecology



Top 3 Community Prioritized Goals:

- Repair and improve ecological function.
- Restore and enhance plant communities.
- Enhance the “user experience”.

connectivity & community access



Increase connectivity and comfort for people of all ages and abilities who are walking, biking and/or taking transit.



connectivity & community access: what is an urban trail?



Goals of Urban Trail Program:

1. Easy **access** to transportation + recreation users from all parts of the City.
2. **Connect** to on-street bicycle + sidewalk networks.
3. **Adequate width** to accommodate transportation + recreation users.
4. Include **trail amenities/features** that create unique greenways.
5. **Adequate funding** and resources to **maintain + operate**.
6. **Context-sensitive, environmentally sustainable, preservation + improvement upon wildlife** habitat.

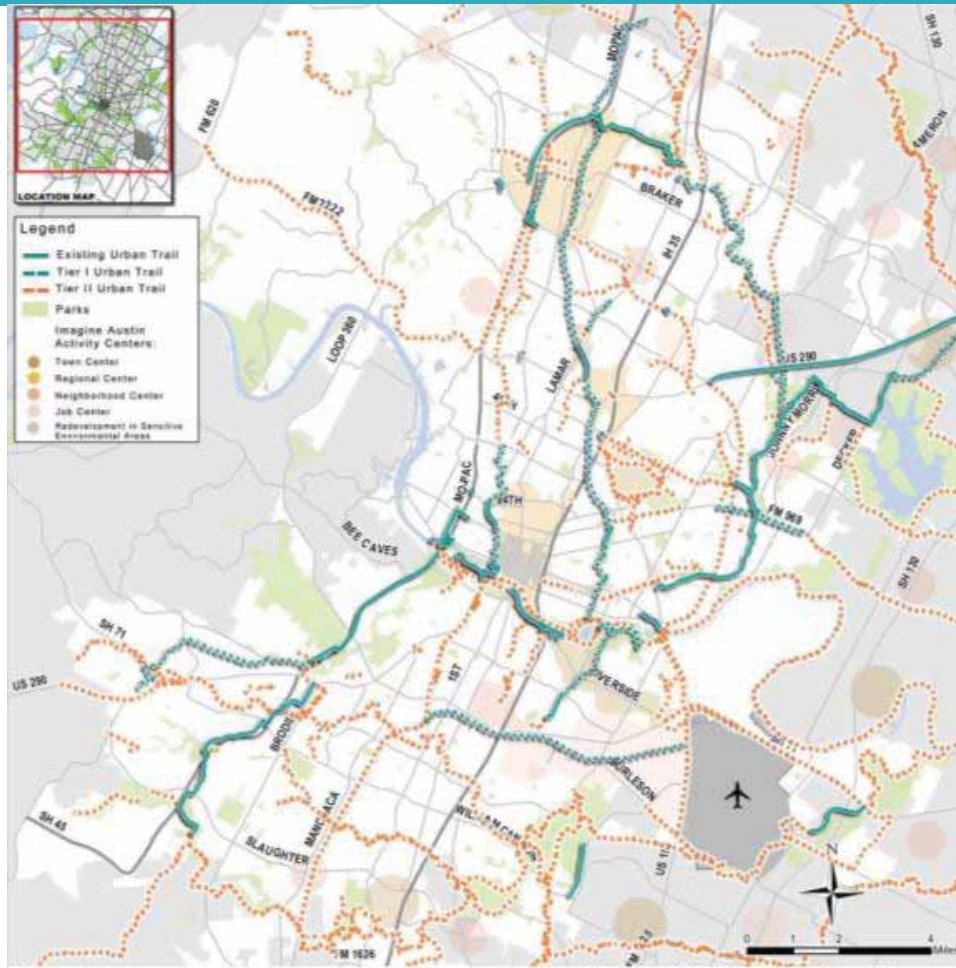
connectivity & community access: construction projects



Shoal Creek Restoration Project: MLK to north of 24th Street



connectivity & community access: Urban Trails Master Plan



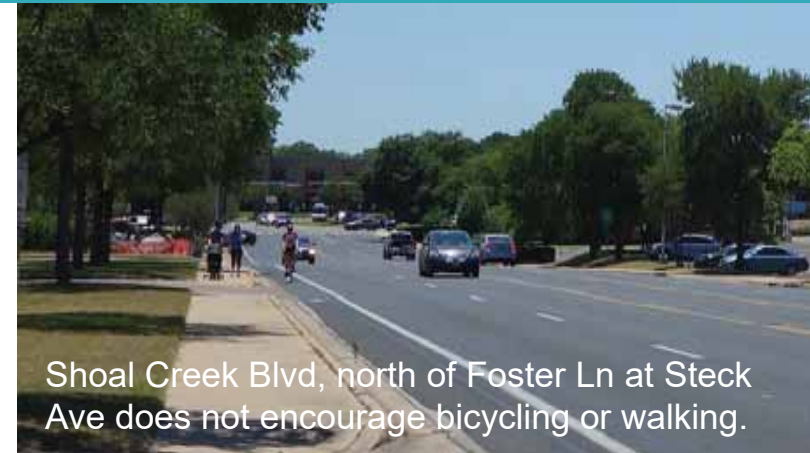
Build Urban Trails Network

- The Shoal Creek Bicycle Route is considered a key feeder route to the central city.
- Shoal Creek Trail is Identified as Tier I up to 38th and Tier II north of 38th
- Partnership with Shoal Creek Conservancy

connectivity & community access



- The goal is to create access for “wheeled” and “non-wheeled” users traveling through parks and in public rights-of-way.
- Shoal Creek Blvd, from Research Blvd to 38th St is could become a “buffered” bicycle facility.
- These are known as “cycle tracks”, and are key to achieving an “all ages and abilities network”.



Shoal Creek Blvd, north of Foster Ln at Steck Ave does not encourage bicycling or walking.



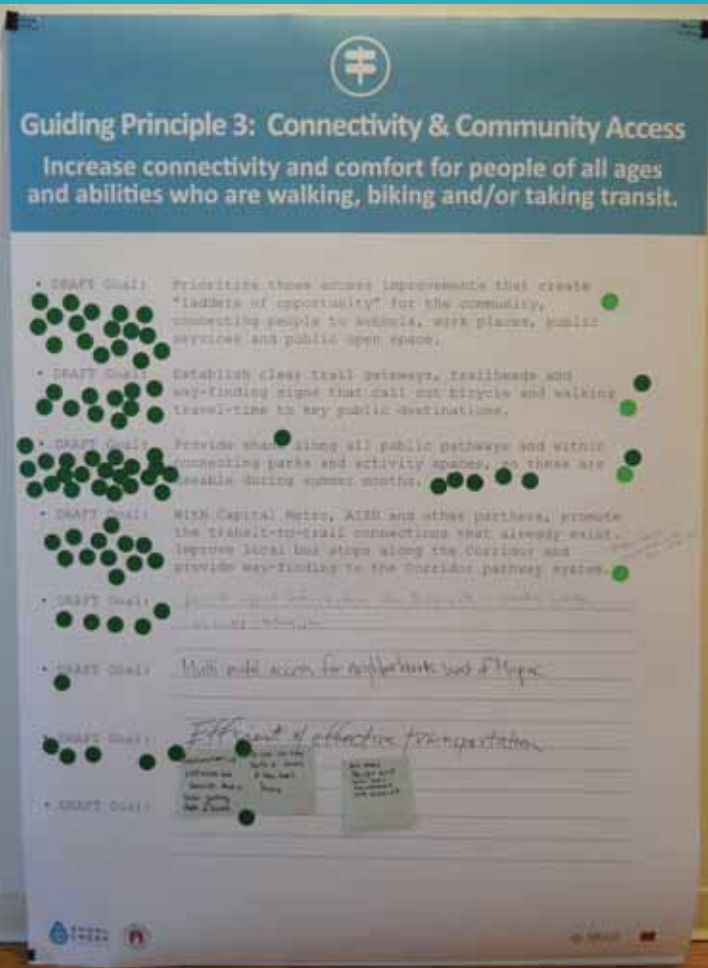
Example of a 2-way cycle track on Bluebonnet Ln

connectivity & community access



Workshop participants engage in discussions surrounding the Connectivity & Community Access of the Shoal Creek Corridor.

connectivity & community access



Top 4 Community Prioritized Goals:

- Provide shade along all public pathways and within connecting parks and activity spaces, so these are useable during summer months.
- Prioritize those access improvements that create “ladders of opportunity” for the community, connecting people to schools, work places, public services and public open space.
- Establish clear trail gateways, trailheads and way-finding signs that call out bicycle and walking travel-time to key public destinations.
- With Capital Metro, AISD and other partners, promote the transit-to-trail connections that already exist. Improve local bus stops along the Corridor and provide way-finding to the Corridor pathway system.

safety, health & well-being



Create a safe pathway system that makes being active the fun, easy and daily choice.



safety, health & well-being



Austin Public Health

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention Unit Programs

- Diabetes Empowerment Education Classes
- WalkTexas & More 10-Week Challenge
- Yoga Beginner Series
- Live Tobacco-Free Austin
 - Tobacco-free Parks, Housing, Workplaces & Events
- SmokefreeTXT (Smoking Cessation)
- Farm Stands & Mobile Markets
- Healthy Corner Stores
- Mayor's Health & Fitness Council
 - Employer Partner Certification
 - Healthiest Workplace & Healthiest Schools Award
- Breastfeeding and Mother-Friendly workplace support
- Healthy Vending
- Child, Inc. Healthy Family Innovation
- Car Seat Safety Checks
- Bike Safety education
- Safe Sleep education

safety, health & well-being



Health of
Austin/Travis
County

Physical activity

Access to green space

Reduced pollution

Injury Prevention

- 61% of residents are **overweight or obese** = 717,000 people
- 13.6% have been diagnosed with **pre-diabetes or diabetes** = 160,000 people
- 9.0% of residents have **asthma** = 106,000 people
- 5% have been diagnosed with **cardiovascular disease** (heart disease or stroke) = 59,000 people

Data Source: Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2015; US Census 2015 Population Estimates

safety, health & well-being



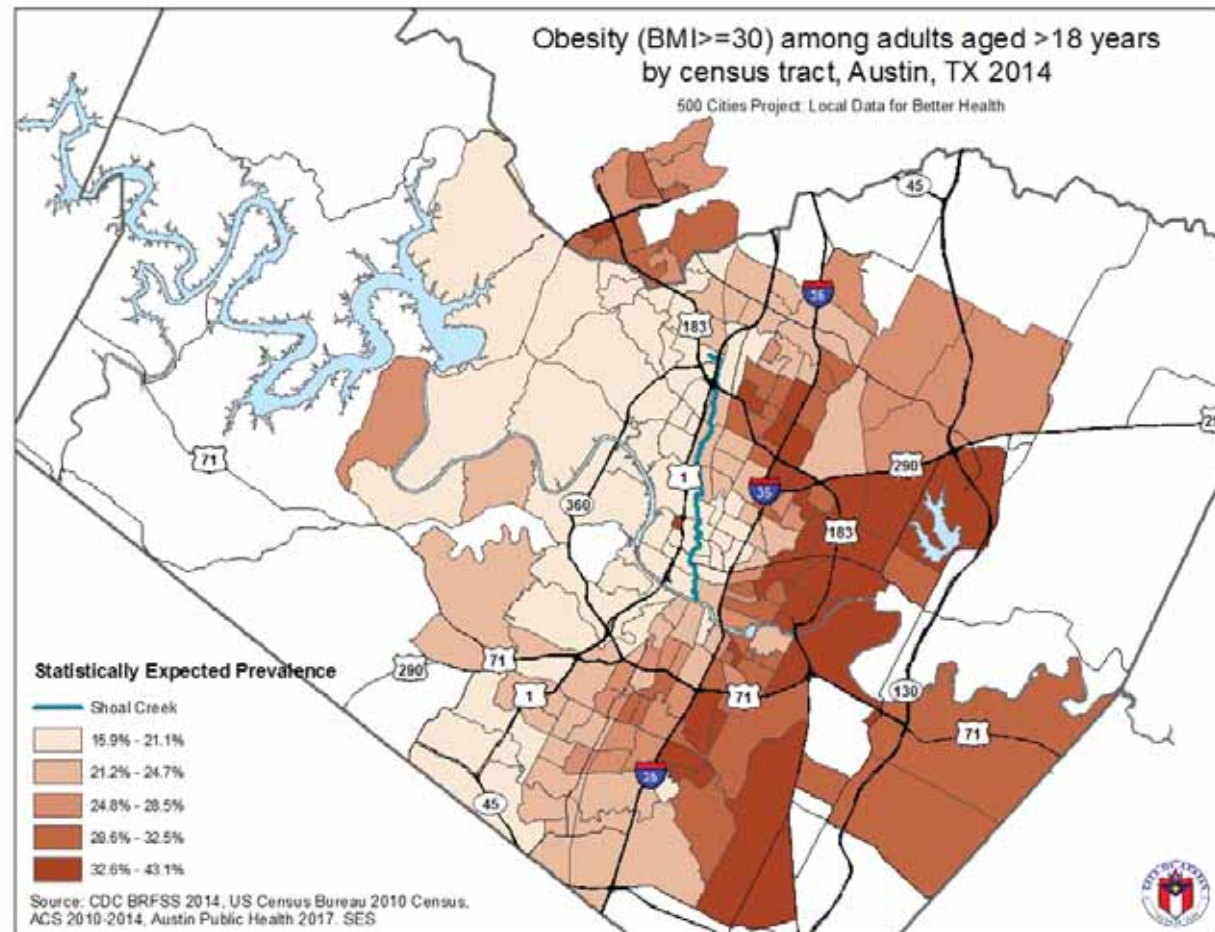
Health of Austin/Travis County

Physical activity

Access to green space

Reduced pollution

Injury Prevention



Data Source: CDC 500 Cities & Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2014

safety, health & well-being



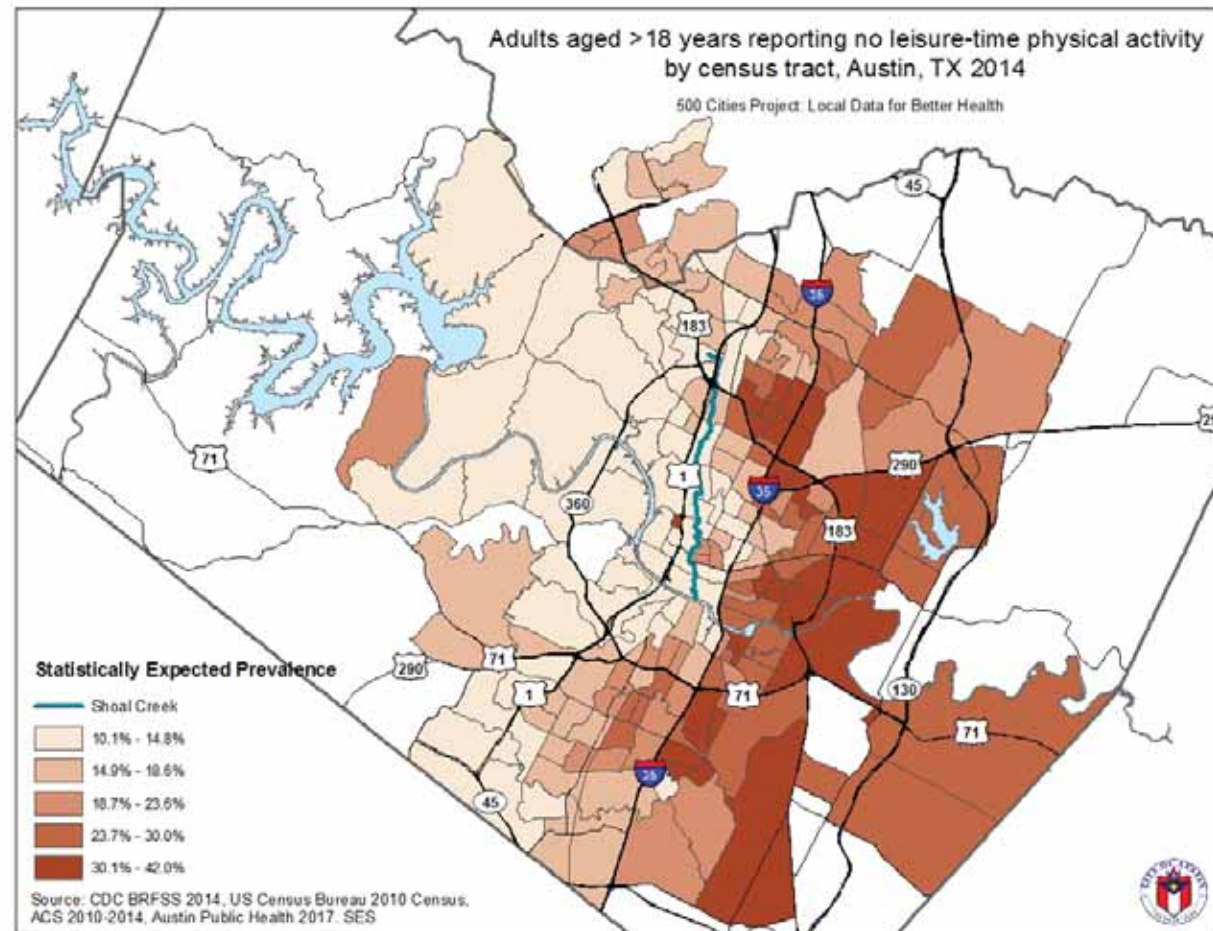
Health of Austin/Travis County

Physical activity

Access to green space

Reduced pollution

Injury Prevention



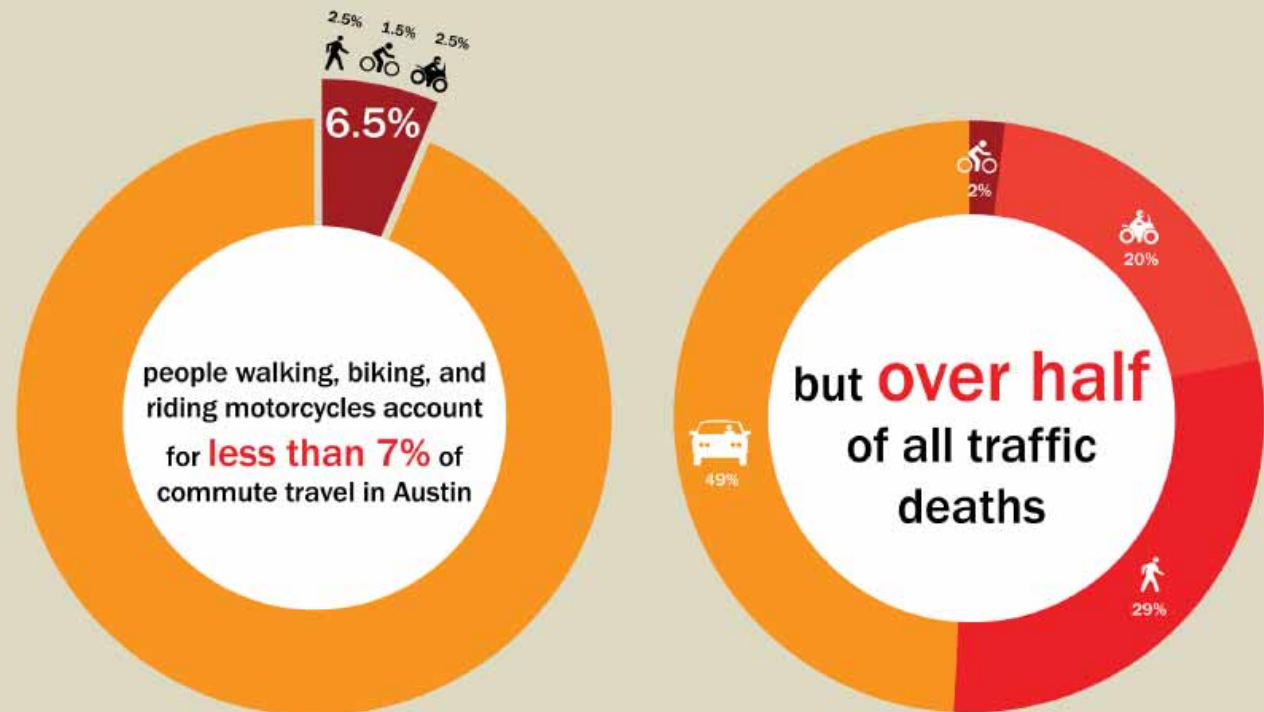
safety, health & well-being



- In 2012, Austin ranked seventh in the number of pedestrians killed in U.S. cities with populations greater than 500,000.
- Austin had a fatality rate of 3 pedestrians killed per 100,000 residents

Equity

People walking, biking, & riding motorcycles




Source: APD and Census 2013 5-year ACS Journey to work

safety, health & well-being




A **Health Impact Analysis (HIA)** is a systematic process that uses an array of data sources and analytic methods, and considers input from stakeholders to determine the potential effects of a proposed policy, plan, program, or project on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population.




This is Austin Public Health

Supporting well-being through health and human services
In Austin & Travis County




Public health protects the entire community by preventing disease and promoting healthy behaviors.




www.austintexas.gov/health
facebook.com/austinpublichealth
twitter.com/austpublichealth
health@austintexas.gov
3-1-1



Programs and Services



- Adolescent health
- Birth & death certificates
- Early childhood and youth development
- Emergency preparedness
- Health alerts
- Health equity programs
- Health screenings
- Injury prevention
- Nutrition and fitness



- Preventing HIV and Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Restaurant inspections
- Rodent and pest control
- Tobacco cessation
- Tracking disease outbreaks
- TB Clinic
- WIC (Women, Infants, and Children Program)
- Vaccinations



Helping people reach their full potential through:

- Basic needs support at neighborhood centers
- Affordable and accessible early childhood education
- Preventive mental health and primary care
- Youth and young adult readiness to graduate from high school and go on to a job or further education
- Helping families find resources for daily living
- Assistance for homeless persons
- Treatment for substance use disorders and mental health problems
- Connecting people to move from poverty to self-sufficiency
- Helping older adults receive services
- Providing services and support for persons with disabilities



safety, health & well-being



NATURE CAN IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- 23% of residents are **not participating in any physical activity**
- 51% of residents are **insufficiently active** (<150 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per week)
- 17.7% of residents have been diagnosed with **depression**
- 11.2% of residents report 14 or more days per month of **poor mental health**

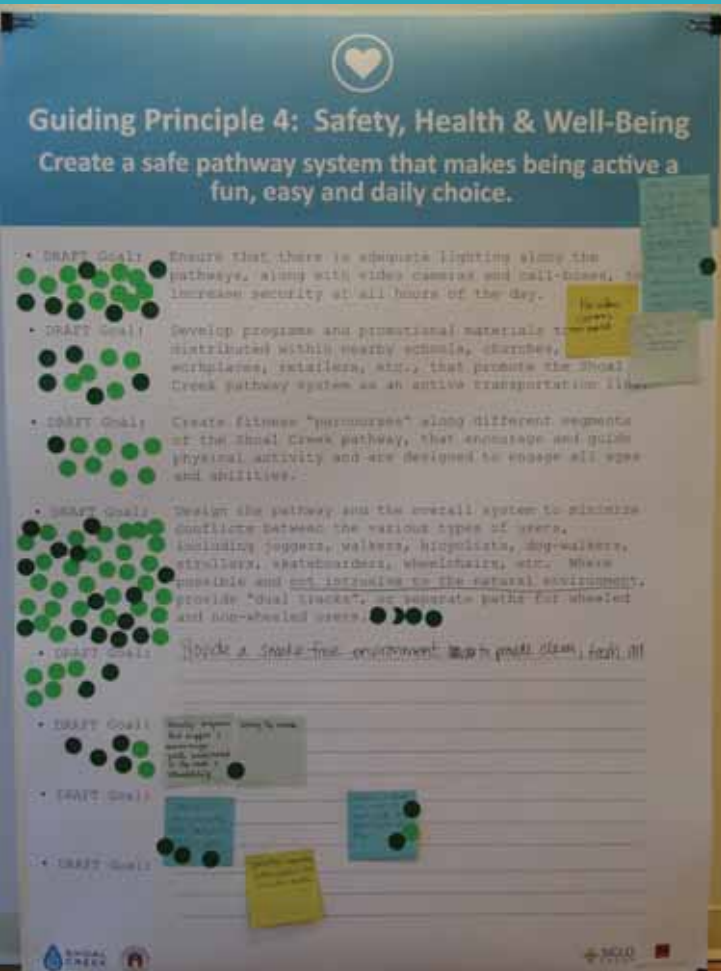


safety, health & well-being



Workshop participants engage in discussions surrounding the Safety, Health & Well-Being of the Shoal Creek Corridor, and were encouraged to participate in a health survey, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/shoalcreekvision>

safety, health & well-being



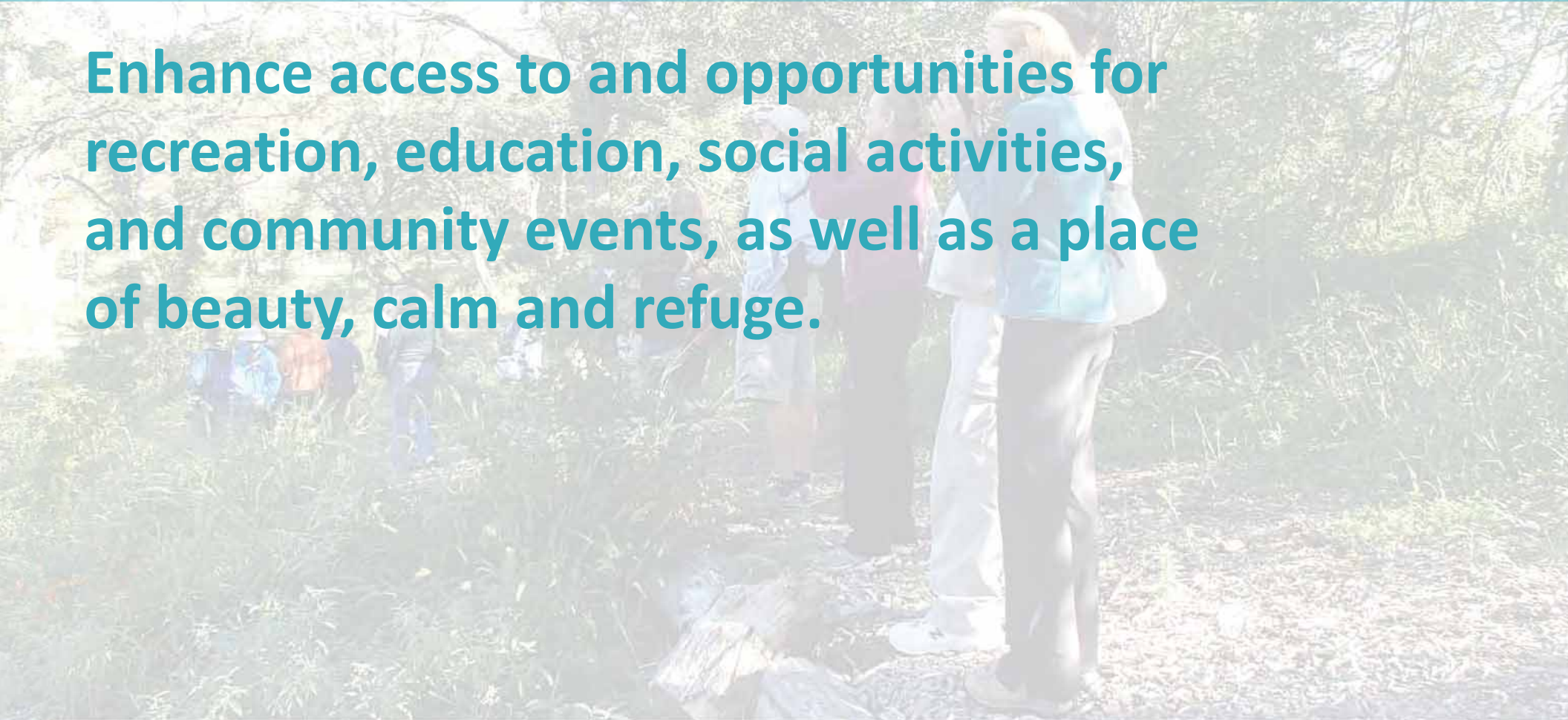
Top 3 Community Prioritized Goals:

- Design the pathway and the overall system to minimize conflicts between the various types of users. Where possible and not intrusive to the natural environment, provide “dual tracks” or separate paths for wheeled and non-wheeled users.
- Ensure adequate lighting along the pathways, along with video cameras and call-boxes to increase security at all hours of the day.
- Develop programs and promotional materials to be distributed within nearby schools, churches, workplaces, retailers, etc., that promote the Shoal Creek pathway system as an active transportation link.

activities & recreation



Enhance access to and opportunities for recreation, education, social activities, and community events, as well as a place of beauty, calm and refuge.



activities & recreation:



PLAN FEATURES

1. FLEX LAWN
2. NATIVE SHADE/
UNDERSTORY
VEGETATION
3. BIOSWALE
4. WET MEADOW
5. RIPARIAN PLANTING
6. ECO-BOARDWALK
7. INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE
8. NATIVE WOODLAND
9. SHELTERED PICNIC
PAVILION
10. TRAILHEAD PAVILION
RESTROOM
WATER FOUNTAINS
BI-CYCLE
CITY VISTA POINT
11. TERRACE STEPS
12. CENTRAL SEATING AREA
13. SHOAL CREEK HIKE/
BIKE TRAIL
14. 9TH STREET TRAFFIC
CALMING
15. PARK POINTS OF ENTRY
16. CEFS: SEEPS AND FERN
GARDEN
17. POLLINATOR GARDEN

activities & recreation



PUBLIC EVENTS (REVENUE-GENERATING?)



- movies-in-the-park
- performances
- organized sports
- concessions
- community-wide gatherings, runs, walks
- birthday parties
- weddings
- family reunions
- employee celebrations
- boot camps
- sports & movement classes



ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES & RECREATION



- organized team sports
- parcourse training circuits
- ultimate frisbee
- bocce and petanque
- orienteering and exploring
- geocaching
- skate park & BMX park



INFORMAL ACTIVITIES & RECREATION

- trailhead with stretching & other amenities
- jogging and walking
- recreational & transportation bicycling
- children's playgrounds
- exercise stations
- small-group pick-up sports
- dog-walking and dog parks
- giant and table chess
- ping-pong
- community gardening



TRANQUIL ACTIVITIES

- meditation
- reading
- bird-watching
- fishing
- hammocking
- yoga
- relaxation

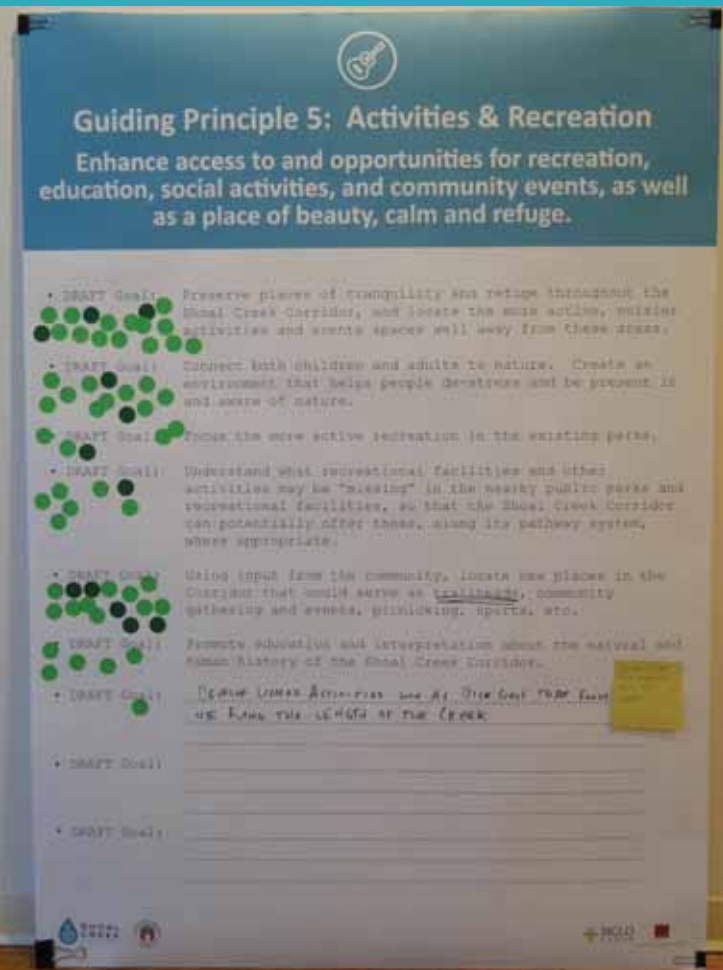


activities & recreation



Workshop participants engage in discussions surrounding the Activities & Recreation of the Shoal Creek Corridor, and were encouraged to place dots showing where Activities & Recreation occur and are desired along the creek.

activities & recreation:



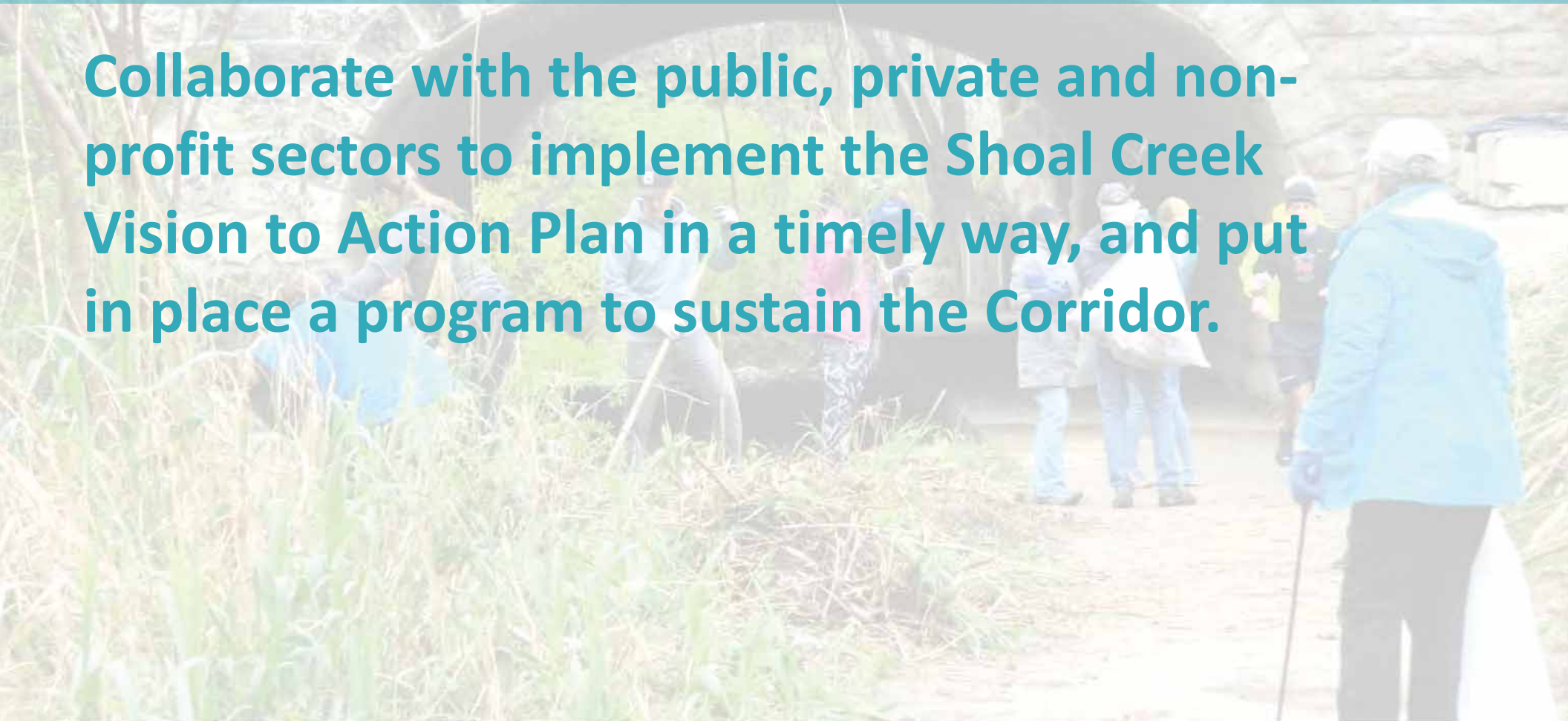
Top 3 Community Prioritized Goals:

- Preserve places of tranquility and refuge throughout the Shoal Creek Corridor, and locate the more active, noisier activities and events spaces well away from these areas.
- Using input from the community, locate new places in the Corridor that could serve as trailheads, community gathering and events, picnicking, sports, etc.
- Connect both children and adults to nature. Create an environment that helps people de-stress and be present in and aware of nature.

project advocacy & implementation



Collaborate with the public, private and non-profit sectors to implement the Shoal Creek Vision to Action Plan in a timely way, and put in place a program to sustain the Corridor.

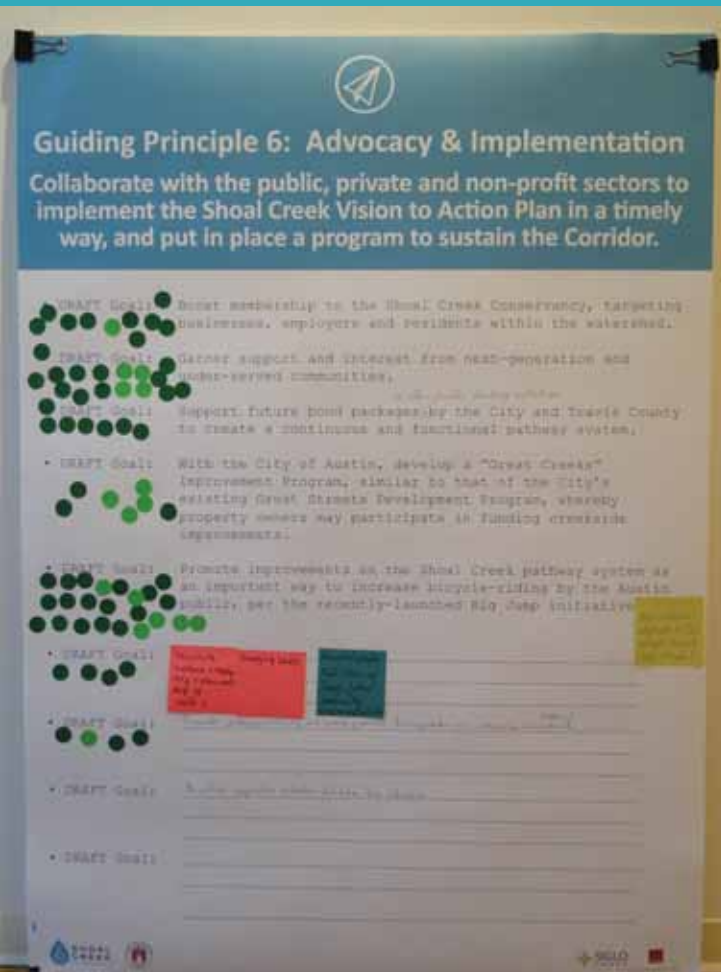


project advocacy & implementation



Workshop participants engage in discussions surrounding the Project Advocacy & Implementation of the Shoal Creek Corridor.

project advocacy & implementation



Top 3 Community Prioritized Goals:

- Promote improvements on the Shoal Creek pathway system as an important way to increase bicycle-riding by the Austin public, per the recently-launched Big Jump initiative.
- Garner support and interest from next-generation and under-served communities.
- Boost membership to the Shoal Creek Conservancy, targeting businesses, employers and residents within the watershed.

break-out sessions

six project themes & their guiding principles



1. **HISTORY & CULTURE:** Tell the stories: interpret and celebrate this area's unique history and culture in a way that's informative and engaging to diverse communities.



2. **NATURAL RESOURCES & ECOLOGY:** Identify and Integrate best practices in environmental stewardship, sustainability and resiliency.



3. **CONNECTIVITY & COMMUNITY ACCESS:** Increase connectivity and comfort for people of all ages and abilities who are walking, biking and/or taking transit.



4. **SAFETY, HEALTH & WELL-BEING:** Create a safe pathway system that makes being active the fun, easy and daily choice.



5. **ACTIVITIES & RECREATION:** Enhance access to and opportunities for recreation, education, social activities, and community events, as well as a place of beauty, calm and refuge.



6. **PROJECT ADVOCACY & IMPLEMENTATION:** Collaborate with the public, private and non-profit sectors to implement the Shoal Creek Vision to Action Plan in a timely way, and put in place a program to sustain the Corridor.

list of relevant plans, policies & projects

1930s Civilian Conservation Corps Improvements
1976 Austin Creeks
1998 Shoal Creek Greenway Action Plan
2000 Seaholm District Master Plan
2004-Ongoing City of Austin Neighborhood Plans*
2007 Rails with Trails Plan
2010 Heritage Tree Ordinance*
2010 PARD Long Range Plan*
2010 Lower Shoal Creek & New Central Library
Planning & Design Coordination
2011 Downtown Parks & Open Space Master Plan*
2012 Community Health Assessment
2012 Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan*
2012 Invasive Species Management Plan*
2013 Watershed Protection Ordinance*
2013 Shoal Creek Conservancy Feasibility Study
2013 Downtown Wayfinding Master Plan
2014 Urban Forest Plan*
2014 Urban Trails Master Plan*
2014 Bicycle Master Plan*
2014 Pease Park Master Plan*
2014 City Council Resolution*

2014 Shoal Creek Peninsula Stabilization
2014 STAR Community Rating
2014 Community Climate Plan
2015 Sidewalk Master Plan*
2016 Vision Zero Action Plan*
2016 Watershed Protection Master Plan*
2016 Lamar Beach Master Plan*
2016 5th to 15th PER
2016 CapMetro Connections 2025
2017 3rd to 5th Gap Project
2017 Duncan Park Preliminary Plan
2017 The Grove at Shoal Creek PUD*
2017 Pedestrian Safety Action Plan
2018 Lower Shoal Creek Flood Hazard
Mitigation Study
2018 Draft North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Plan
TBD Project Connect 2.0
In Progress Seaholm Intake Facility
In Progress MOPAC Improvement Project
TBD CodeNEXT – Park Typologies

** Adopted by Austin City Council*

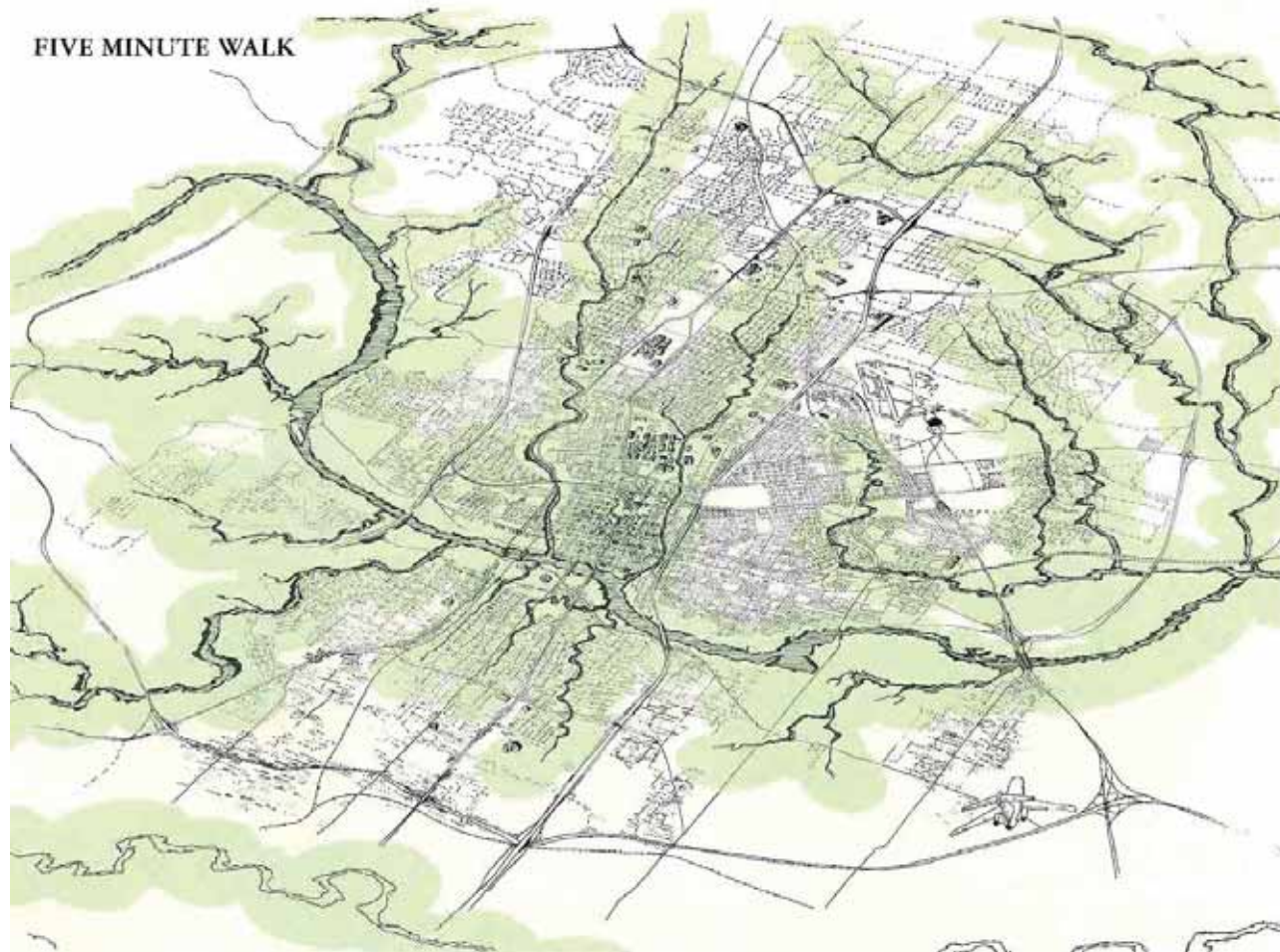
plans & policies: 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

- The CCC was part of the Works Progress Administration program to employ men after the Great Depression to develop national and state parks.
- The CCC formalized the trails along Shoal Creek that were forged by Native Americans and early Waterloo Anglo settlers.
- In addition, the CCC built Pease Park facilities, such as the stone Kingsbury gateway and the picnic tables.



plans & policies: 1976 “Austin Creeks”

- This publication was part of the Austin Bicentennial Project, *“to protect, preserve and enhance our creeks and waterways”*.
- An off-street, multi-use trail network in the form of creek-side greenbelts was envisioned to provide public access throughout Austin.



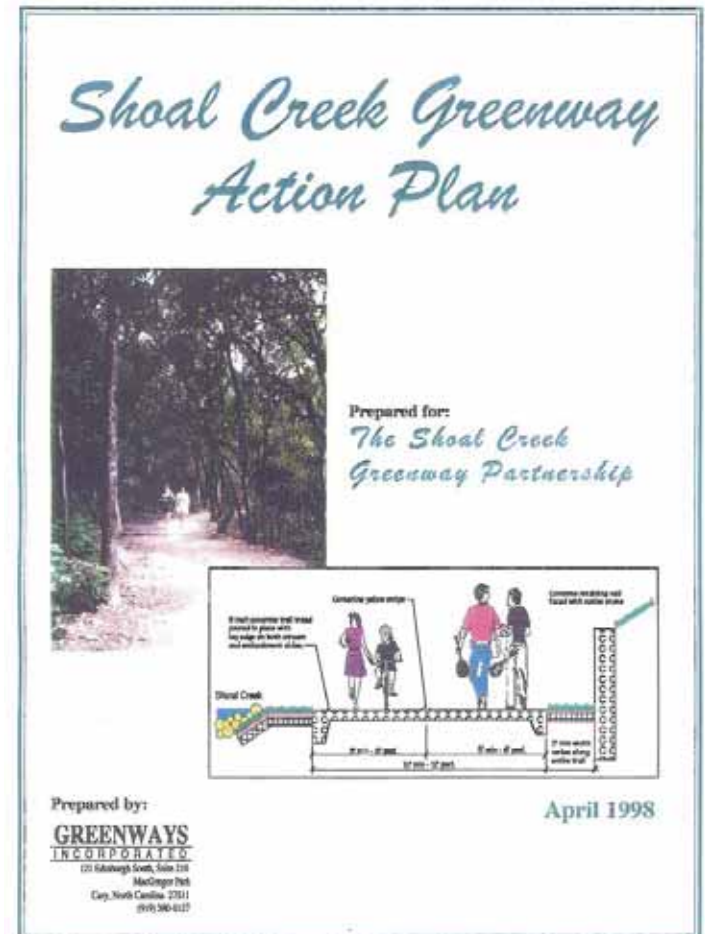
plans & policies: 1976 “Austin Creeks”

- In 1974 City Council approved initial \$1 million, in part to complete the Shoal Creek Hike-and-Bike Trail from 9th Street to Town Lake, shown right.

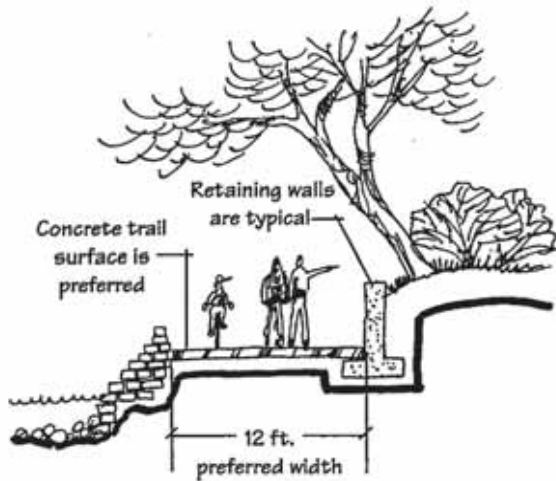


plans & policies: 1998 Shoal Creek Greenway Action Plan

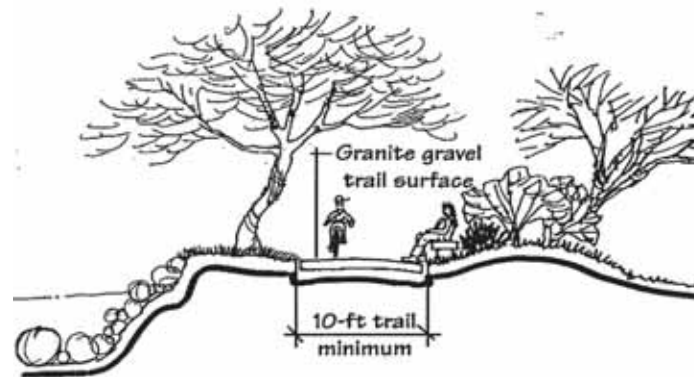
- Provide a 10' to 12' minimum width for the trail.
- Pave trail with concrete.
- Ensure trail is ADA-accessible.
- Improve hydrology to address flooding and erosion.
- Use “natural” design for streambank, rather than “utility” design.
- Strengthen connections to surrounding land uses and neighborhoods.
- Provide lighting from Lake to Duncan Park.
- Develop comprehensive signage program.



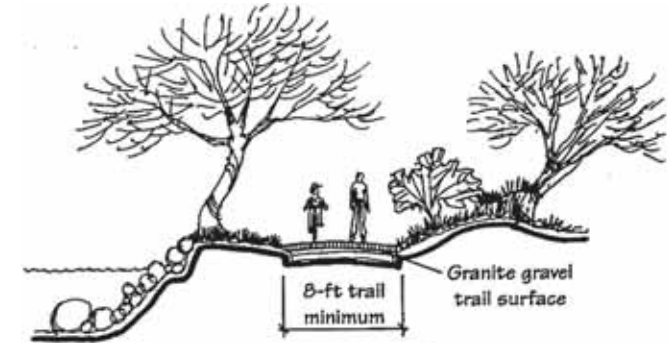
plans & policies: 1998 Shoal Creek Greenway Action Plan



“URBAN”
Lake - 15th St



“PARKLAND”
15th – 29th St



“SUBURBAN”
29TH to 45th St

plans & policies: 2000 Seaholm District Master Plan

Although never adopted by City Council, this master plan has guided both public and private investment, including:

- Re-use of the Seaholm Power Plant and surrounding district
- Reconfiguration and addition of public park space
- Extension of the Pfluger Bridge
- Bowie Street underpass
- Treatment of Lance Armstrong Bikeway
- New passenger rail station



plans & policies:
2004-2018 Neighborhood Planning Areas (NPAs) *

2004 Central Austin Combined Neighborhood Plan

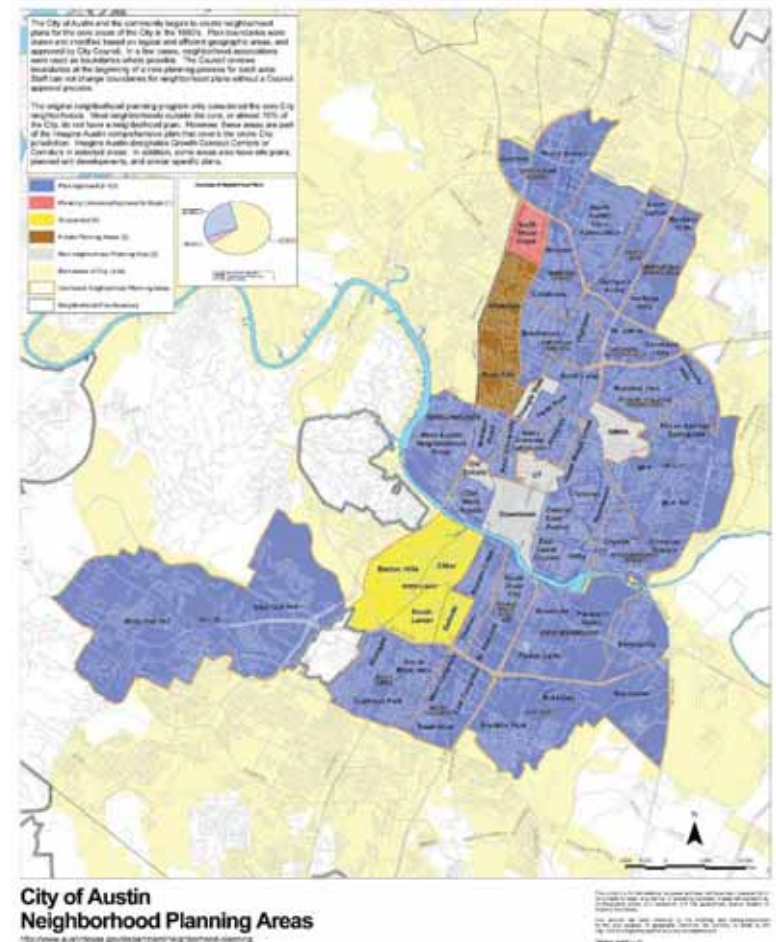
2004 Brentwood/Highland Neighborhood Plan

2004 Crestview/Wooten Combined Neighborhood Plan

2007 North Burnet/Gateway Master Plan

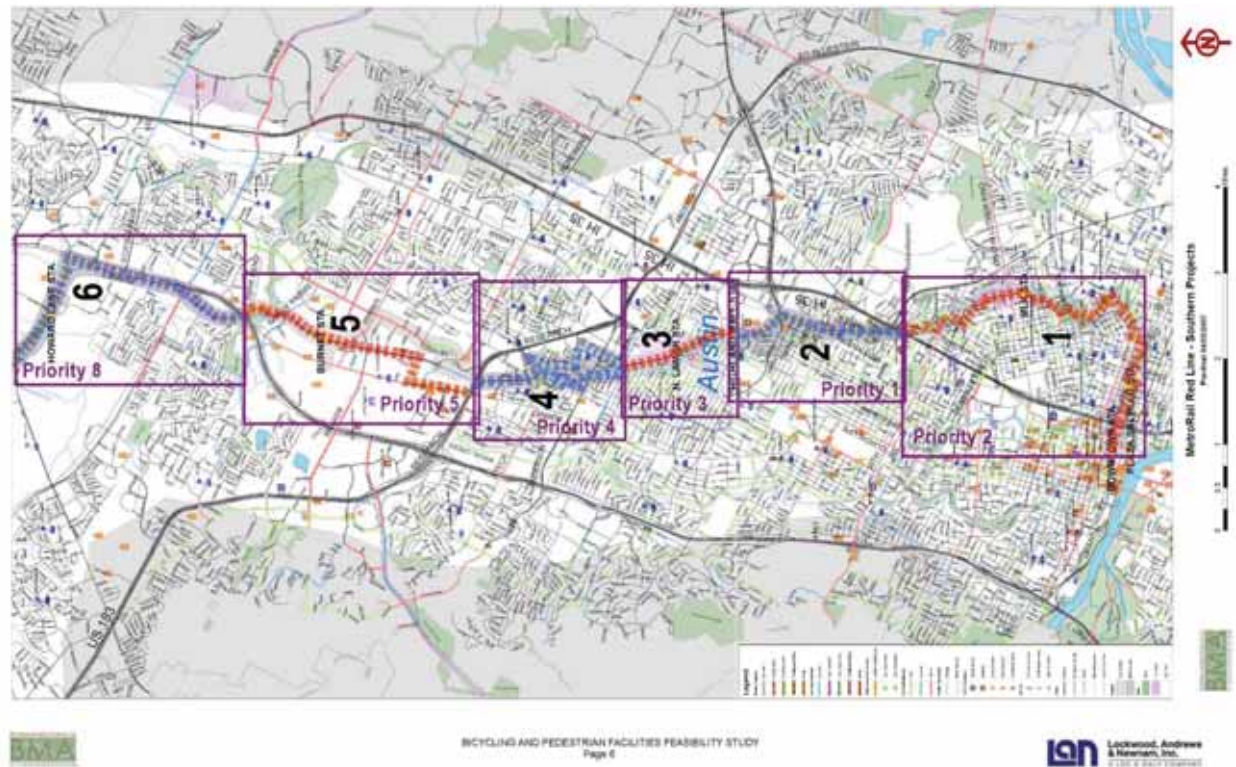
2010 Central West Austin Neighborhood Plan

In progress: North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Plan



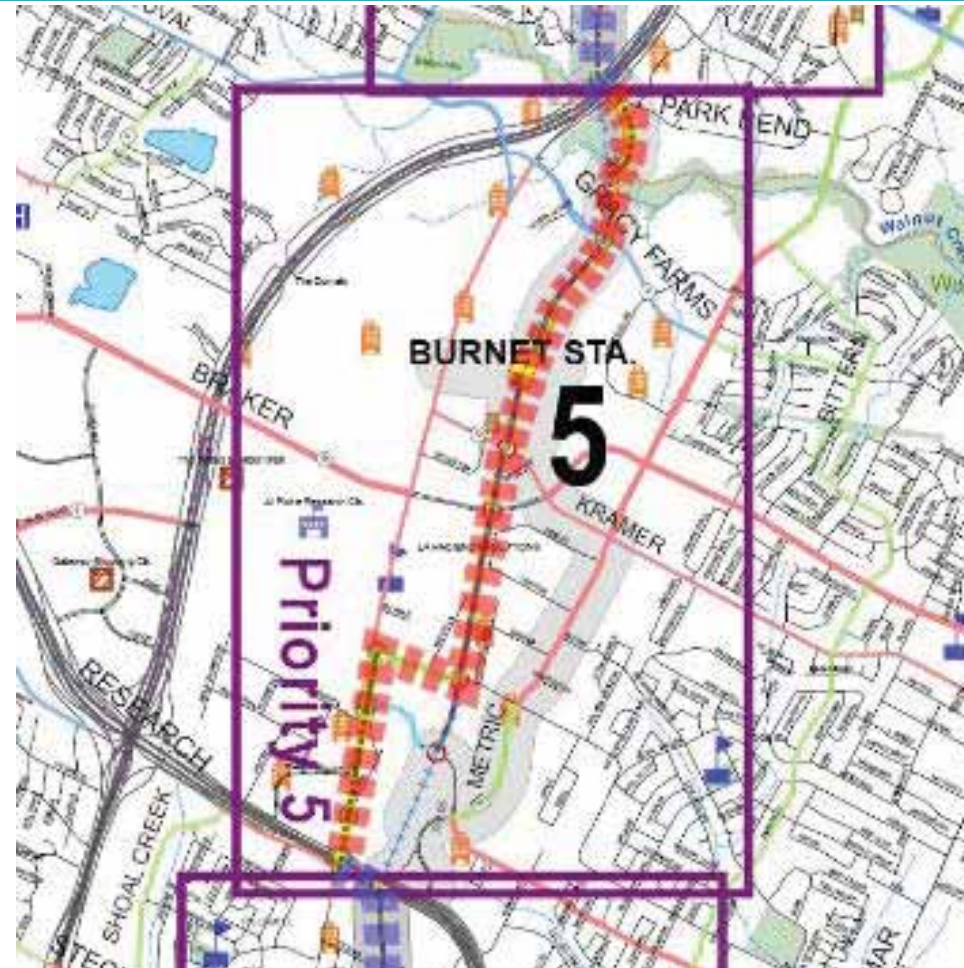
plans & policies: 2007 Rails with Trails Plan

- Capital Metro has planned a shared or mixed-use pathway along its entire Austin-to-Leander MetroRail corridor.



plans & policies: 2007 Rails with Trails Plan

- The 5th priority for implementation is the segment between Research Boulevard (183) to MoPac at Park Bend.
- This segment will be a key link to the City's already-programmed Walnut Creek Trail.

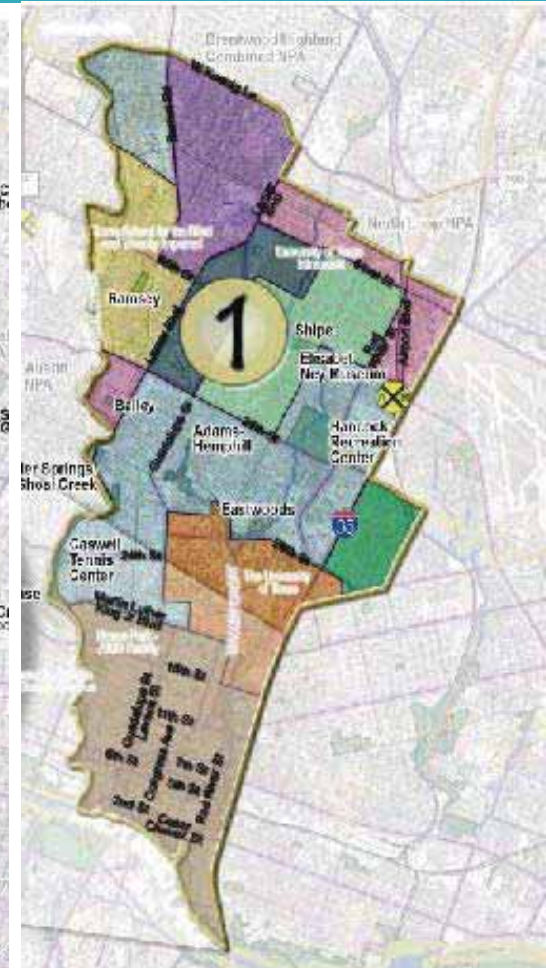


plans & policies: 2010 Heritage Tree Ordinance*



plans & policies: 2010 PARD Long Range Plan*

- The City's Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) Long Range Plan aims to “promote connectivity of parks and trails from existing neighborhoods and High Density Areas (such as TODs, VMUs, etc.)”, and make these safe and accessible.
- The Shoal Creek Corridor improvements and trail extension to Northwest Recreation Center is a top priority.



plans & policies: 2010 Lower Shoal Creek & Central Library planning & design coordination

The City's major goals for this area's redevelopment are:




1. Connect Lower Shoal Creek to its immediate surroundings and the broader community.
2. Make Lower Shoal Creek a destination and a “place”, in and of itself.
3. Have Lower Shoal Creek be a model for the integration of the urban environment in a natural context.
4. Achieve these connections, place-making, and sustainable urbanism through design excellence.



plans & policies:

2011 Downtown Parks & Open Space Master Plan*

- The Downtown Austin Plan recommends strengthening the linear parkway system along Shoal Creek to “unite a diverse community by connecting and serving existing and new neighborhoods alike.”
- The Plan recommends linear greenways like Shoal Creek to maintain its “predominantly naturalistic environment”.

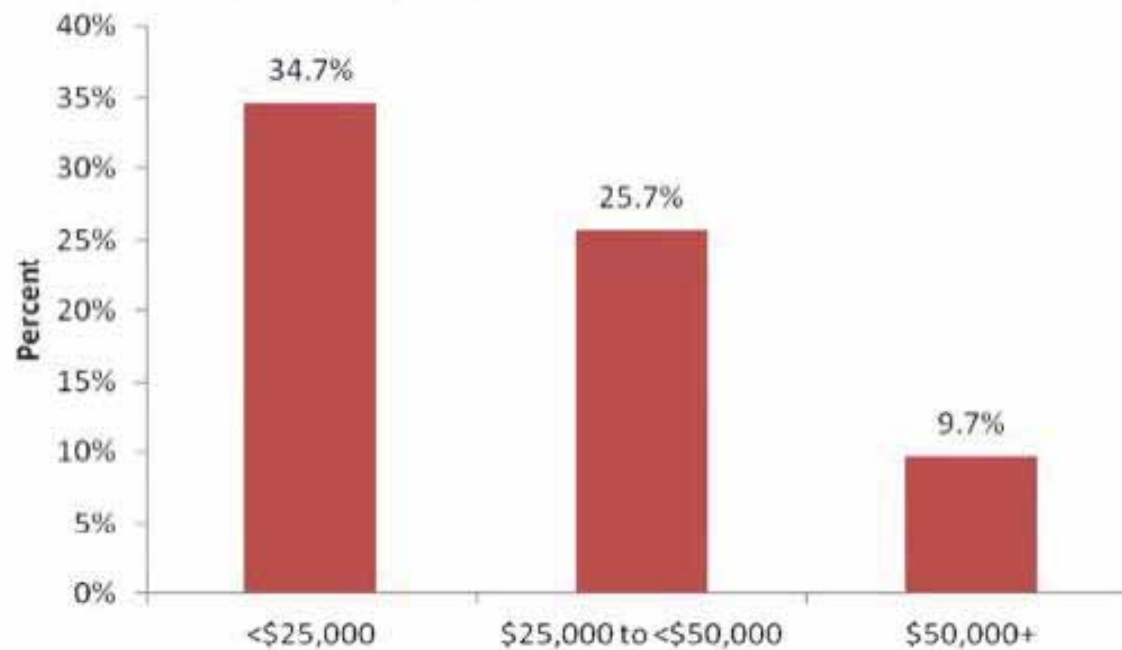
-  Principal Connecting Streets
-  Publicly-Owned Park/Open Space
-  Privately-Owned Park/Open Space



plans & policies:

2012 Community Health Assessment (CHA)

- The CHA is Austin and Travis County's community health plan.
- Lack of transportation services and walkability are two main concerns affecting residents' perceived quality of life, stress level and ease of accessing services.
- Mental health is a growing, pressing concern, and one in which the current services are considered inadequate to meet the current demand.



Percentage of Adults Reporting No Participation in Any Physical Activities or Exercise by Income in Travis County, 2008 - 2010

plans & policies:

2012 Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan *

The eight priority programs are:

1. Invest in a compact and connected Austin.
2. Sustainably manage our water resources.
3. Continue to grow Austin's economy by investing in our workforce, education systems, entrepreneurs, and local businesses.
4. Use green infrastructure to protect environmentally sensitive areas and integrate nature into the city.
5. Grow and invest in Austin's creative economy.
6. Develop and maintain household affordability throughout Austin
7. Create a Healthy Austin Program.
8. Revise Austin's development regulations and processes to promote a compact and connected city.



plans & policies:

2012 Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan *

LUT A32

Develop standards for public spaces, such as parks, plazas and streets, to create integrated, tree-covered places.

LUT P34

Integrate green infrastructure elements such as the urban forest, gardens, green buildings, stormwater treatment and infiltration facilities, and green streets into the urban design of the city through “green” development practices and regulations.

CE A4

Improve policies and incentives for restoration of damaged natural resources areas.

CE A19

Review tree planting regulations to ensure that invasive species are not permitted. Create incentives to remove invasive plant species and replace them with native species.

CE A20

Create a heritage tree inventory and monitoring system to create stronger mechanisms for protecting heritage trees.

CE P2

Conserve Austin’s natural resources systems by limiting development in sensitive environmental areas that including the Edwards Aquifer and its contributing and recharge zones and endangered species habitat.

CE P3

Expand the city’s green infrastructure network to include such elements as preserves and parks, trails, stream corridors, green streets, greenways, and agricultural lands.

CE P4

Maintain and increase Austin’s urban forest as a key component of the green infrastructure network.

CE P6

Enhance the protection of creeks and floodplains to preserve environmentally and other sensitive areas and improve the quality of water entering the Colorado River through regional planning and improved coordination.

CP7

Protect and improve the water quality of the city’s creeks, lakes, and aquifers for use and the support of aquatic life.

CE P8

Improve the urban environment by fostering safe use of waterways for public recreation, such as swimming and boating, that maintains the natural and traditional character of waterways and floodplains.

CE P9

Reduce the carbon footprint of the city and its residents by implementing Austin’s Climate Protection Plan and developing strategies to adapt to the projected impacts of climate change.

CE P14

Establish policies that consider the benefits provided by natural ecosystems, such as ecological processes or functions in wetlands and riparian areas, that have value to individuals or society.

CFS A10

Develop, through a process engaging the general public and professionals, context-sensitive trail, park, and greenway standards to ensure high-quality, environmentally sustainable design.

CFS A1

Limit, buffer, or prohibit public access to certain environmentally sensitive areas to maintain their value (i.e. wildlife protection and erosion control).

CFS A5

Ensure adequate funding for the maintenance of parks and trees on City of Austin property through Best Maintenance Practices.

CFS A7

Revise tree planting and tree care standards to be more sustainable and reduce tree mortality.

CFS A8

Restore trees and vegetation along degraded waterways, especially in eastern watersheds.

plans & policies:

2012 Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan *

CFS A35

Create a green infrastructure plan for public land or in public rights-of-way to preserve Austin's ecosystem, improve the water cycle, reduce the urban heat island effect, improve air quality, enrich public space, and provide for traffic calming. Examples include open space, trails, wetlands, community gardens green streets, infiltration facilities, and the urban forest.

CFS P8

Reduce pollution in all creeks from stormwater runoff, overflow, and other non-point sources.

CFS P10

Protect and improve the health of Austin's streams, lakes, and aquifers for sustainable uses and the support of aquatic life.

CFS P11

Protect the health of creeks and prevent public and private property damage by minimizing erosion.

CFS P14

Integrate erosion, flood, and water quality control measures into all City of Austin capital improvement projects.

CFS P48

Maintain existing partnerships and develop new relationships among City of Austin departments, regional governments, other governments, community organizations, and volunteers to support recreational services and achieve higher levels of service.

LUT P43

Continue to protect and enhance important view corridors such as those of the Texas State Capitol District, Lady Bird Lake, and other public waterways.

LUT P44

Preserve and restore historic parks and recreational areas.

LUT P29

Develop accessible community gathering places such as plazas, parks, farmers' markets, sidewalks, and streets in all parts of Austin, especially within activity centers and along activity corridors including Downtown, future TODs, in denser, mixed use communities, and other redevelopment areas, that encourage interaction and provide places for people of all ages to visit and relax

LUT P30

Protect and enhance the unique qualities of Austin's treasured public spaces and places such as parks, plazas, and streetscapes; and, where needed, enrich those areas lacking distinctive visual character or where the character has faded.

E P5

Enhance Austin's draw as a premier national and international tourist destination by strengthening and diversifying the arts and entertainment offerings, enhancing natural resources, and expanding the availability of family-friendly events and venues

CFS P43

Maximize the role of parks and recreation in promoting healthy communities and lifestyles.

CFS P44

Feature superior design in parks and recreational facilities and include opportunities for public art and green and sustainable design solutions.

LUT P23

Integrate citywide and regional green infrastructure to include such elements as preserves and parks, trails, stream corridors, green streets, greenways, agricultural lands, and the trail system into the urban environment and the transportation network

CFS P42

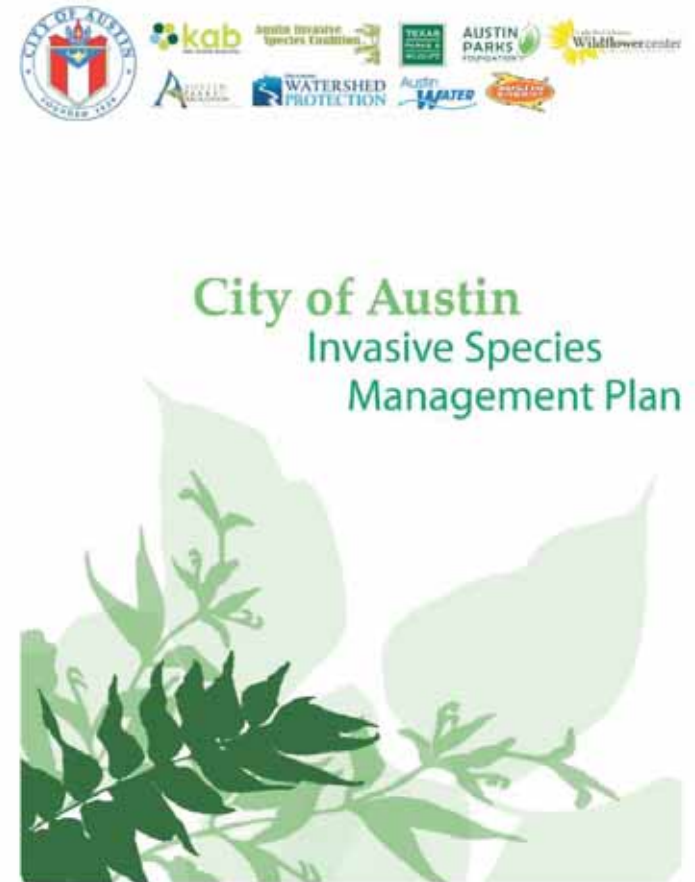
Increase connectivity between neighborhoods and from neighborhoods to parks and greenways through the use of sidewalks, bicycle lanes, multi-use paths, and trails.

S P11

Develop public transportation options that link all areas of the City, are affordable to economically disadvantaged groups, and provide access to job opportunities and services

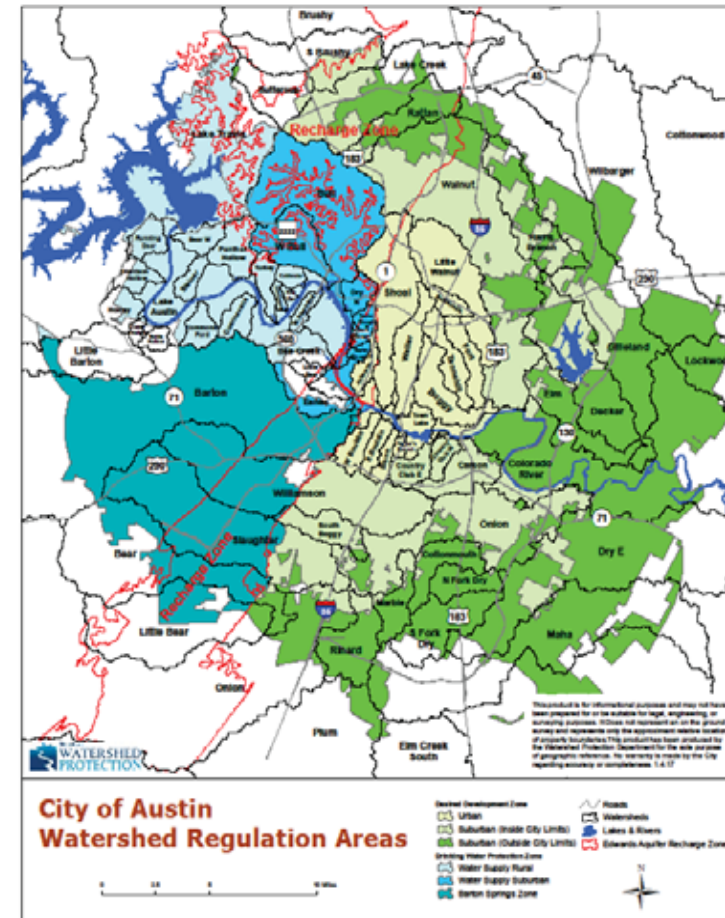
plans & policies: 2012 Invasive Species Management Plan*

- The Plan serves as a guide for efforts to minimize the harmful environmental and economic impacts of invasive plant species on City-managed properties.



plans & policies: 2013 Watershed Protection Ordinance*

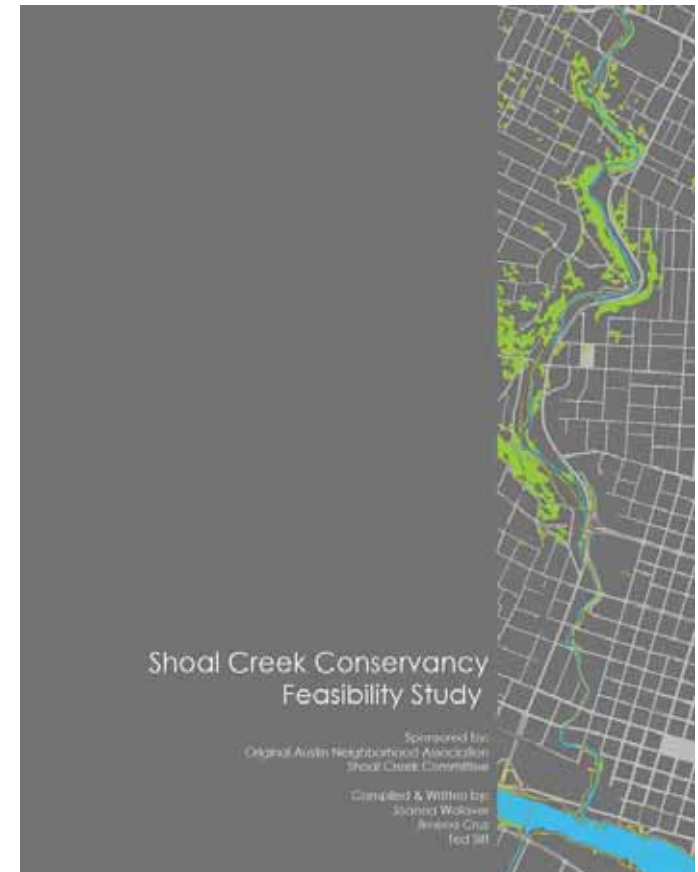
The City's ordinance improves creek and floodplain protection; prevents unsustainable public expense on drainage systems; simplifies development regulations where possible; and minimizes the impact on the ability to develop land.



plans & policies:

2013 Shoal Creek Conservancy Feasibility Study

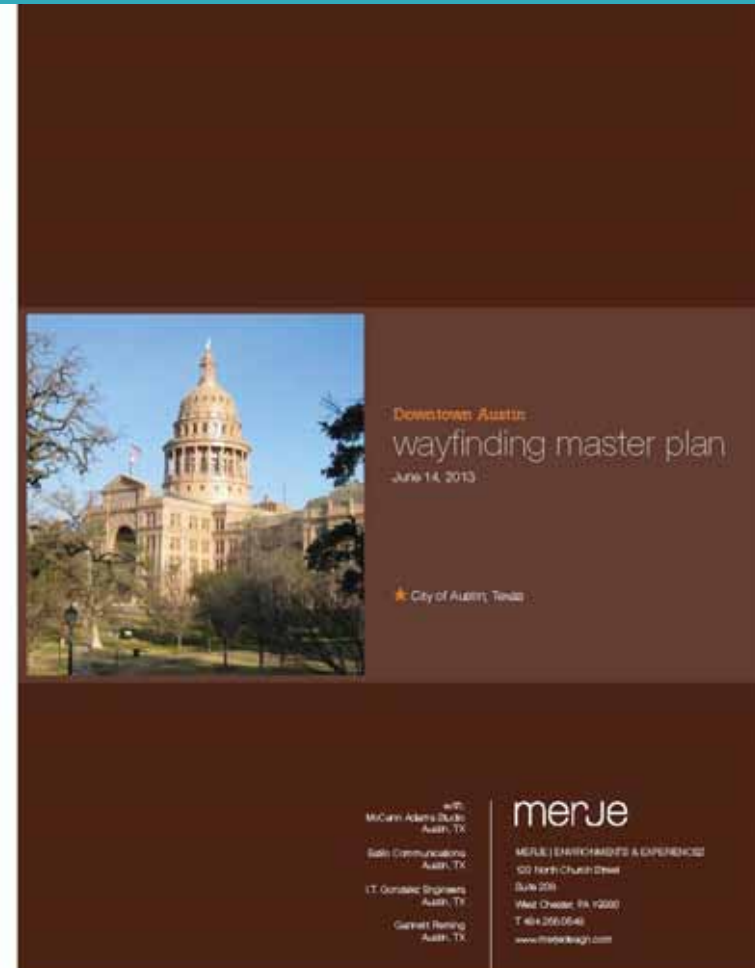
- **CONSERVANCY VISION:** “Shoal Creek will be a vibrant corridor that integrates the flow of water and people, engages the community, and inspires the public.”
- **CONSERVANCY MISSION:** “The Shoal Creek Conservancy’s mission is to restore, protect and enhance the ecological, social and cultural vibrance of Shoal Creek for the people of Austin by engaging the public and partnering with the community.”



plans & policies:

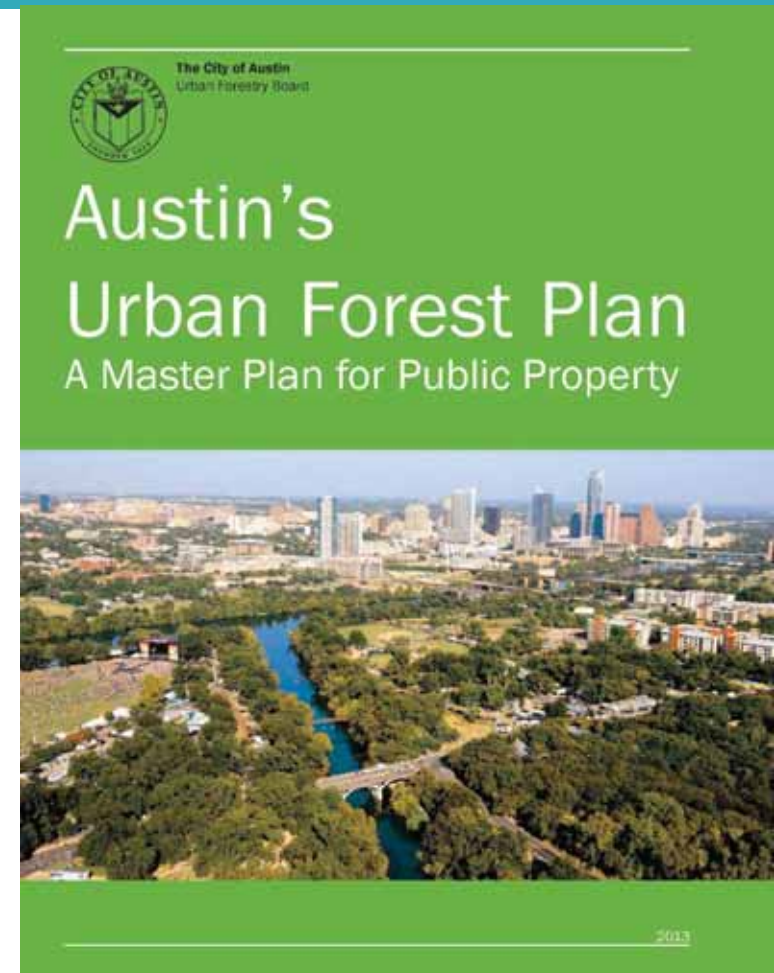
2013 Downtown Wayfinding Master Plan

- The Plan is a signage and wayfinding system for all systems of transportation, and proposes developing key “gateways” to identify and celebrate important nodes in the system.
- The plan calls for “Green Loop” - greenways surrounding downtown - as a strong orienting device that reinforces Austin’s commitment to the natural environment.”
- Such a gateway element at Shoal Creek could take the form of a trailhead and descent, signaled with a light beacon or a strong vertical mast element at the southwest corner of the “Green Loop”.



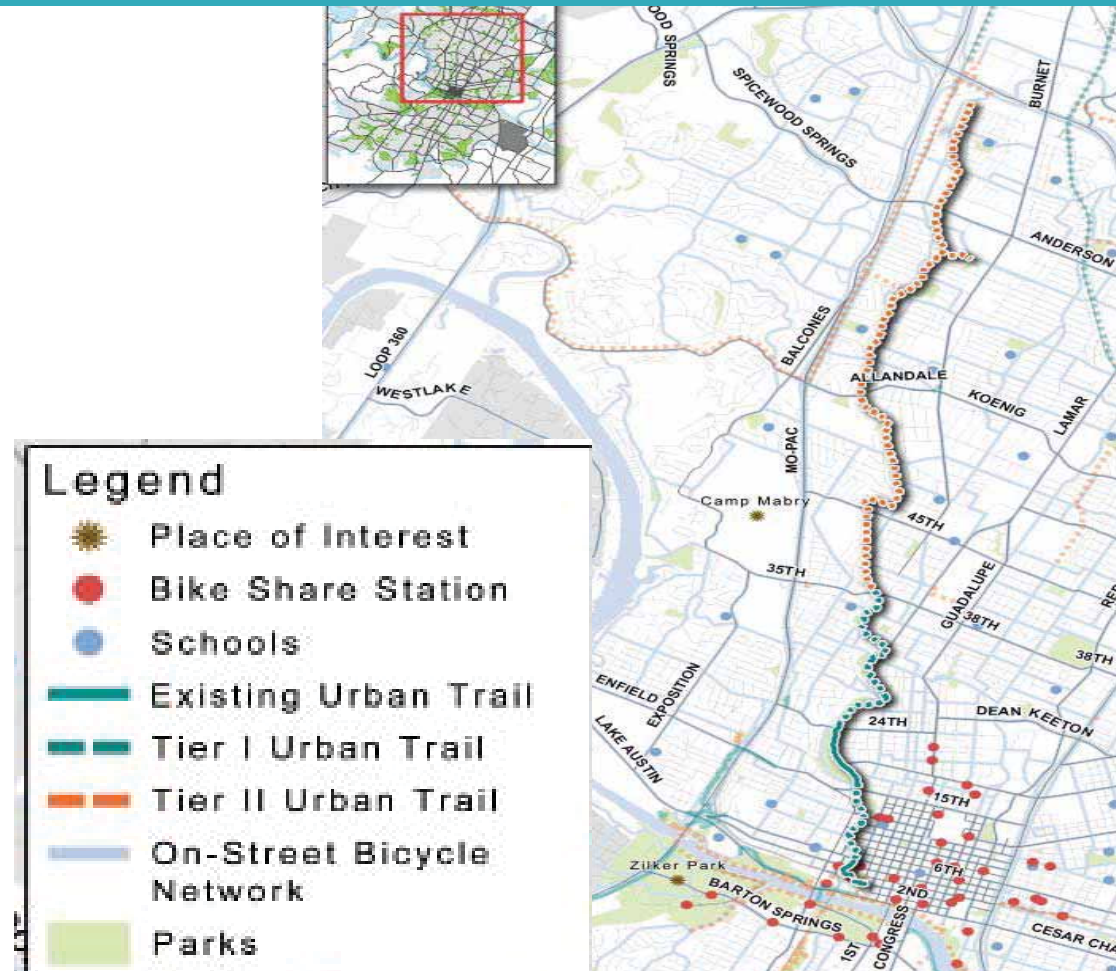
plans & policies: 2014 Urban Forest Plan*

The Plan provides a framework for City departments to use as a guide for managing Austin's public urban forest resources in the form of Departmental Operational Plans.



plans & policies: 2014 Urban Trails Master Plan*

- From LBL to 35th St is designated as a Tier One - or highest priority - trail.
- From 38th to US 183 is designated as a Tier Two trail.
- Many trail segments are only 6 feet wide, and certain lack hard-surface paving.



plans & policies: 2014 Bicycle Master Plan *

- The Shoal Creek Bicycle Route is considered a key feeder route to the central city.
- Shoal Creek Blvd, from Research Blvd to 38th St, is recommended for protected or buffered bicycle facility.
- These are known as “cycle tracks”, and are key to achieving the desired “all ages and abilities network”.



plans & policies: 2014 Pease Park Master Plan*

The vision for Pease Park is to create:

- a green, urban oasis whose natural waterway, Shoal Creek, its forest, open spaces and cultural history are protected and enhanced
- a safe, well-maintained and beautiful destination that is easily accessible for all, and serves the adjoining neighborhoods and all Austinites, and
- a hub of Austin's trail system, where people gather as a community to enjoy recreation and respite.



plans & policies: 2014 Pease Park Master Plan *



GOALS:

- ENVIRONMENT
- CULTURE
- RECREATION
- INFRASTRUCTURE CONNECTIONS

plans & policies: 2014 Pease Park Master Plan *



plans & policies: 2014 City Council Resolution *

“WHEREAS, Shoal Creek is a defining geographic feature of Austin, an artery into its urban core and the western boundary of the original city; and...

“...BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the city manager is directed to explore a public-private partnership for the creation of a Shoal Creek Watershed Management, Trail, Parks, and Open Space Plan;

a strategy for the development, management, and operation of this plan; and to provide Council with a recommendation for the structure of this partnership, potential roles and responsibilities, and an implementation schedule within 180 days.”



plans & policies:

2014 Shoal Creek Peninsula Stabilization

This project was constructed to mitigate the repeated flooding at the mouth of Shoal Creek at Lady Bird Lake, by:

- Reinforcing the eroding shoreline along Lady Bird Lake with limestone boulders
- Paving the trail and adding a new walkway on the western half of the peninsula that connects to the existing trail
- Removing dumped concrete and failing walls along the inside and tip of the peninsula, and reconstructing a sloped shoreline.
- Landscaping the peninsula with native vegetation and removing invasive species.



BEFORE



AFTER

plans & policies:

2014 STAR community rating

STAR is designed to assess a community's sustainability performance in three broad areas:

- 1) prosperity and jobs,
- 2) conservation and the environment,
and
- 3) community health, equity, and cultural vitality.

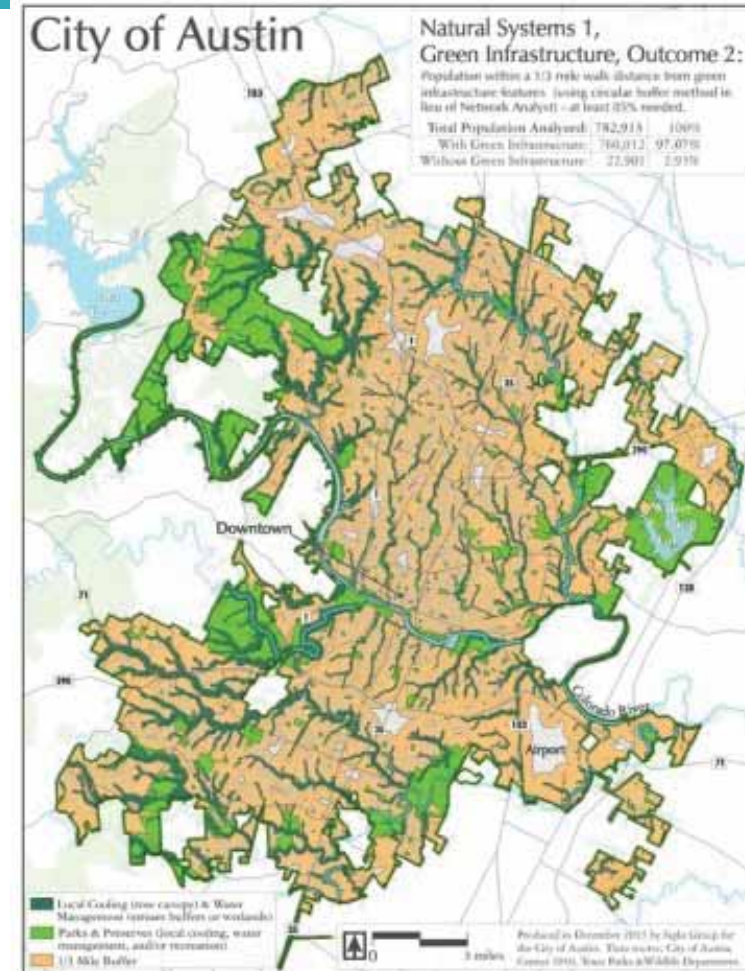
Austin has received certification as a 4-STAR Community.



plans & policies: 2014 STAR community rating

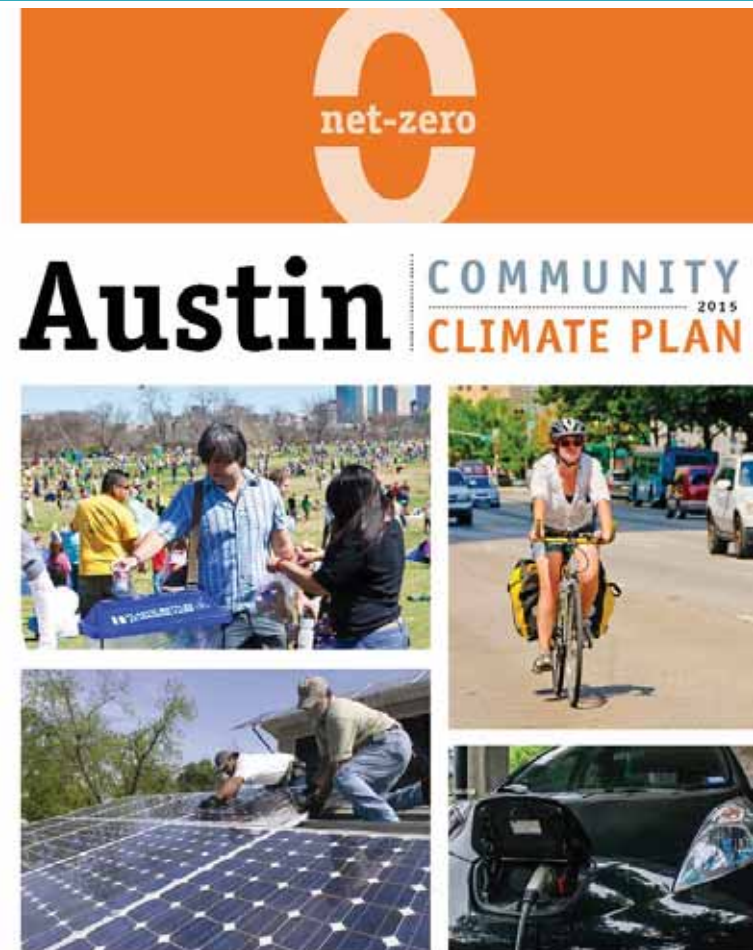
This rating system's evaluation measures define a community scale sustainability plan and present a vision of how Austin can become more healthy, inclusive and prosperous across the following seven goal areas:

Built Environment	Climate & Energy	Economy & Jobs	Education, Arts, & Community	Equity & Empowerment	Health & Safety	Natural Systems	Innovation & Process
BE-1: Ambient Noise & Light	CE-1: Climate Adaptation	EJ-1: Business Retention & Development	EAC-1: Arts & Culture	EE-1: Civic Engagement	HS-1: Active Living	NS-1: Green Infrastructure	IP-1: Best Practices & Processes
BE-2: Community Water Systems	CE-2: Greenhouse Gas Mitigation	EJ-2: Green Market Development	EAC-2: Community Cohesion	EE-2: Civil & Human Rights	HS-2: Community Health	NS-2: Biodiversity & Invasive Species	IP-2: Exemplary Performance
BE-3: Compact & Complete Communities	CE-3: Greening the Energy Supply	EJ-3: Local Economy	EAC-3: Educational Opportunity & Attainment	EE-3: Environmental Justice	HS-3: Emergency Management & Response	NS-3: Natural Resource Protection	IP-3: Local Innovation
BE-4: Housing Affordability	CE-4: Energy Efficiency	EJ-4: Quality Jobs & Living Wages	EAC-4: Historic Preservation	EE-4: Equitable Services & Access	HS-4: Food Access & Nutrition	NS-4: Outdoor Air Quality	IP-4: Good Governance
BE-5: Infill & Redevelopment	CE-5: Water Efficiency	EJ-5: Targeted Industry Development	EAC-5: Social & Cultural Diversity	EE-5: Human Services	HS-5: Health Systems	NS-5: Water in the Environment	
BE-6: Public Parkland	CE-6: Local Government GHG & Resource Footprint	EJ-6: Workforce Readiness	EAC-6: Aging in the Community	EE-6: Poverty Prevention & Alleviation	HS-6: Hazard Mitigation	NS-6: Working Lands	
BE-7: Transportation Choices	CE-7: Waste Minimization				HS-7: Safe Communities		



plans & policies: 2015 Community Climate Plan

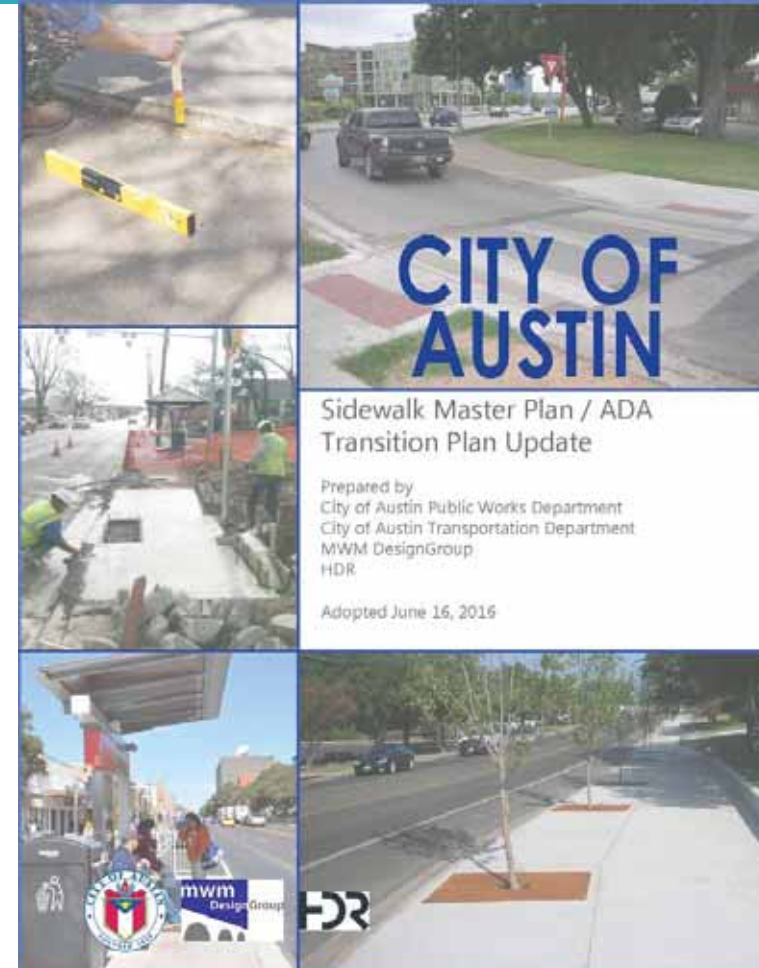
- The Plan recommends a set of strategies and actions that aim to achieve net-zero, community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- It identifies green infrastructure - specifically urban trails, creeks and wildlife habitat - as a strategic elements in meeting this goal.



plans & policies: 2016 Sidewalk Master Plan*

The Plan goals are to:

- Encourage walking as a viable mode of transportation, improve pedestrian safety, and enable people to walk to and from transit stops.
- Update the sidewalk portion of the City's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan and set forth policies that will improve mobility for people with disabilities.
- Include sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities as necessary and integral components of the transportation system.
- Provide an objective mechanism for the City's use in prioritizing new sidewalk construction and existing sidewalk repair.
- Incorporate goals and policies from the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan and updated Complete Streets policy.

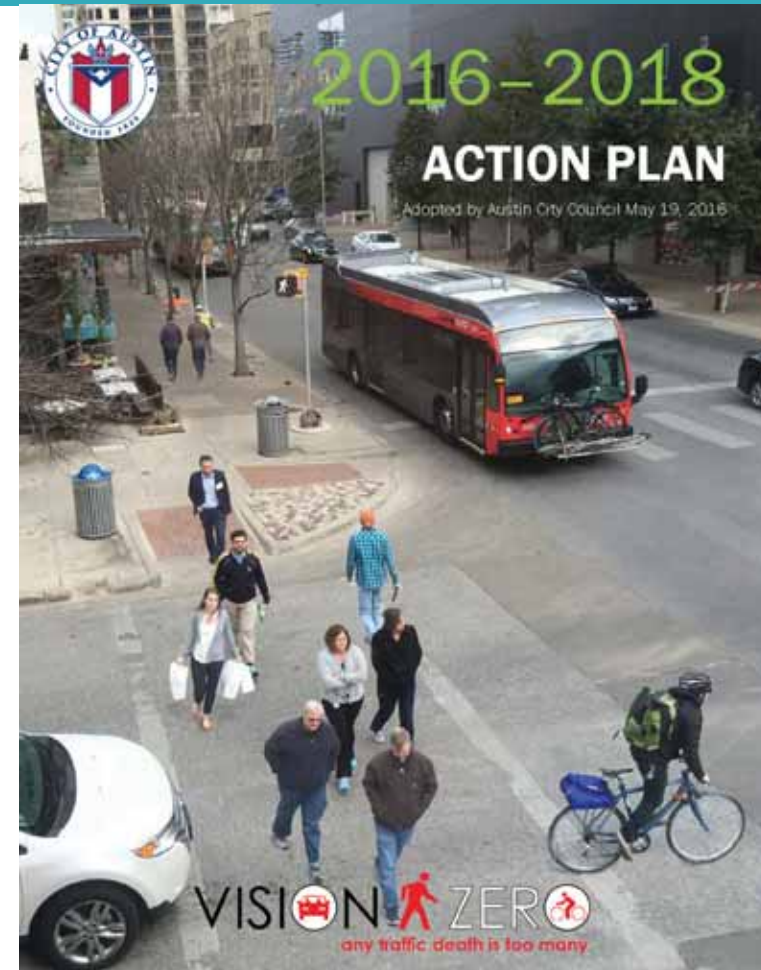


plans & policies: 2016 Vision Zero Action Plan*

- The goal of the Plan is to eliminate traffic deaths deaths and serious injuries by 2025.

The approach involves:

- A holistic approach to land use and transportation;
- A “complete streets” approach to street design;
- Traffic engineering and infrastructure;
- Enforcement and prosecution of dangerous behaviors;
- Education and culture change;
- Public health, equity, and related issues; and
- Policy analysis and changes at the local and regional level.



plans & policies: 2016 Watershed Protection Master Plan*

The Plan identifies Lower Shoal Creek as a priority problem area, ranked second behind Onion Creek, and establishes the following goals:

- Protect lives and property by reducing the impact of flood events.
- Protect channel integrity and prevent property damage resulting from erosion.
- Protect and improve Austin's waterways and aquifers for citizen use and support of aquatic life.
- Improve the urban environment by fostering additional beneficial uses of waterways and drainage facilities.
- Meet or exceed all local, state, and federal permit and regulatory requirements.
- Maintain the integrity and function of Utility Assets.
- Optimize City resources by integrating flood, erosion, and water quality control measures.

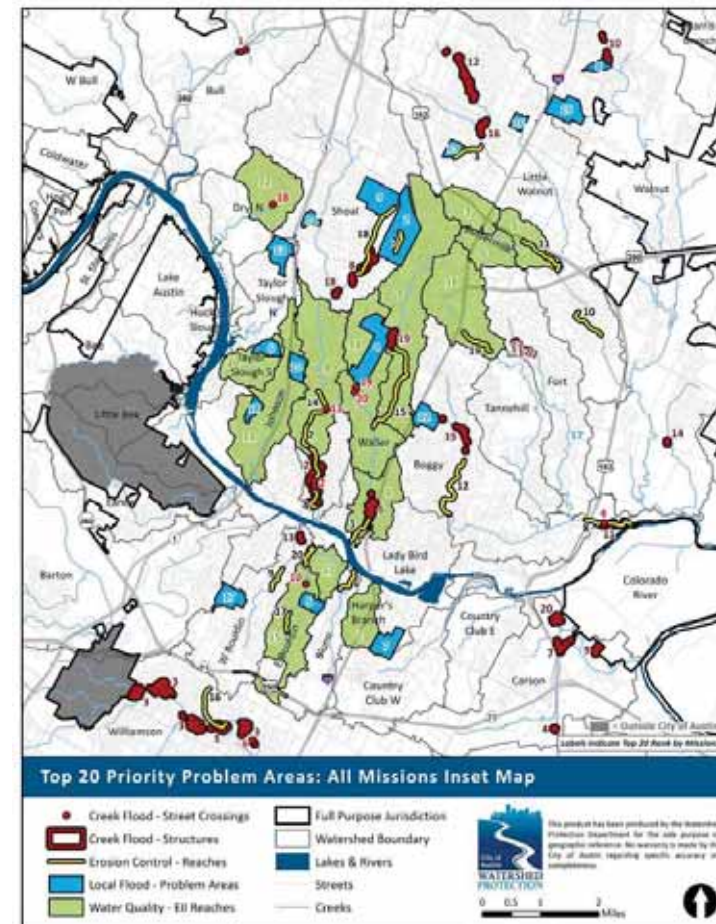
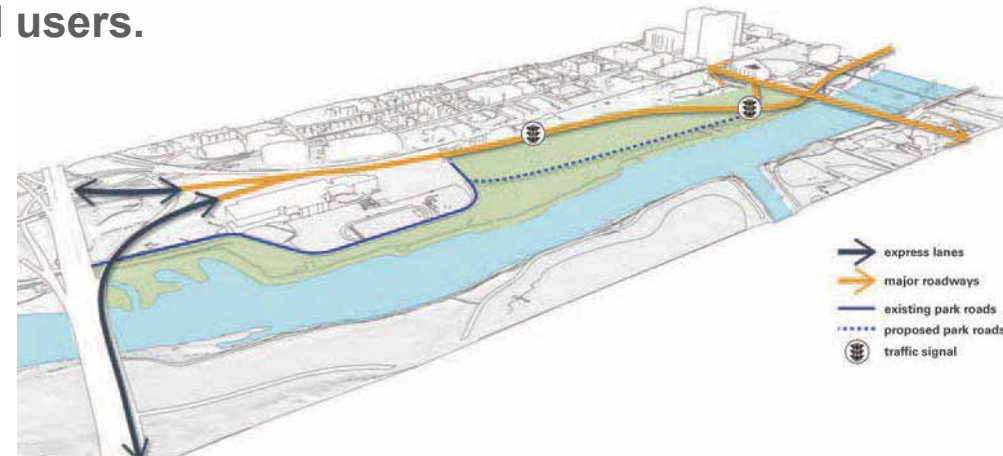


Figure EX-8: Top 20 Priority Problem Areas: All Missions Inset Map (October 2015)

plans & policies: 2016 Lamar Beach Master Plan*

PRINCIPLES:

- Maintain existing program within the park while maximizing efficiency and integrating with the park.
- Increase amenity space for new programming.
- Provide a varied and unique experience along the hike-and-bike trails.
- Provide adequate parking and transit opportunities for all users.
- Provide safe, accessible ways to get to the park from the YMCA, Austin High School and nearby neighborhoods with or without the Pressler Street Extension.
- Think big about the transportation networks through the park to consider different possibilities that improve the experience for all users.

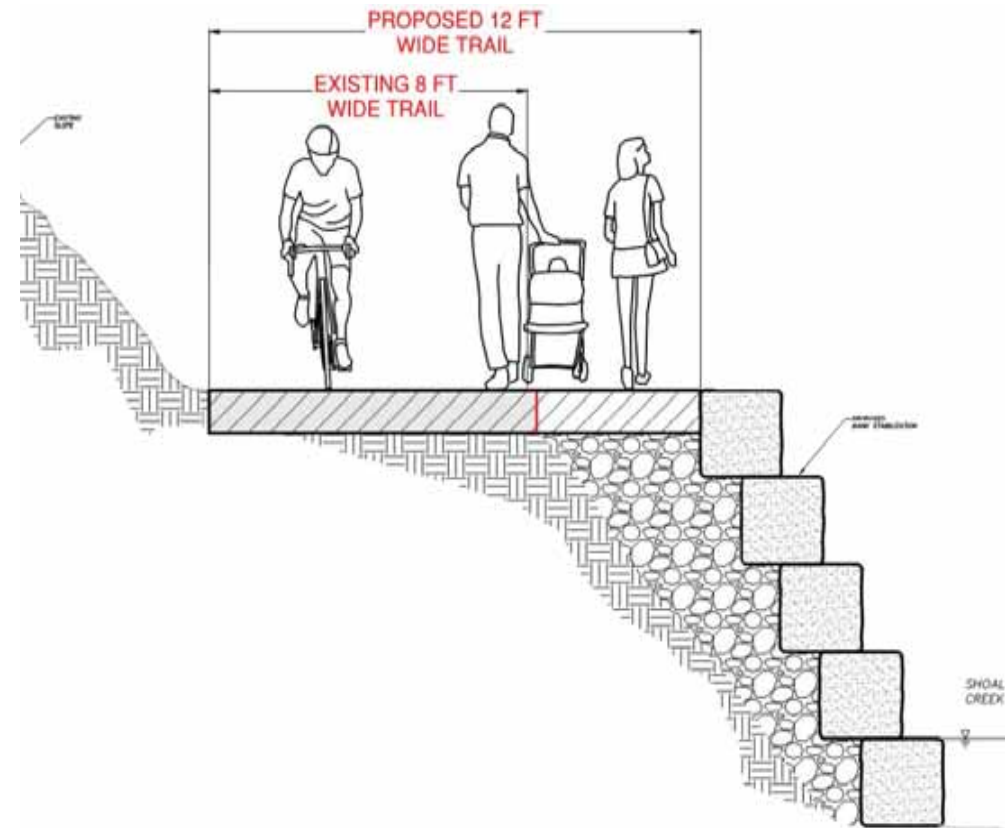


plans & policies:

2016-17 5th to 15th Street PER

This Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) recommends:

- Provide a 12 foot-wide, multi-use urban trail.
- Improve connectivity to streets, sidewalks, trails.
- Add raingardens for stormwater filtration.
- Improve channel and bank stability.
- Improve trail amenities.
- Add areas for nature appreciation.
- Improve section from Pease Park to Lamar Blvd, adding:
 - shade structures, benches
 - traffic barriers to separate bikes from street
- Replace low-water crossing at 9th St with a new pedestrian bridge.



plans & policies: 2016 CapMetro Connections 2025

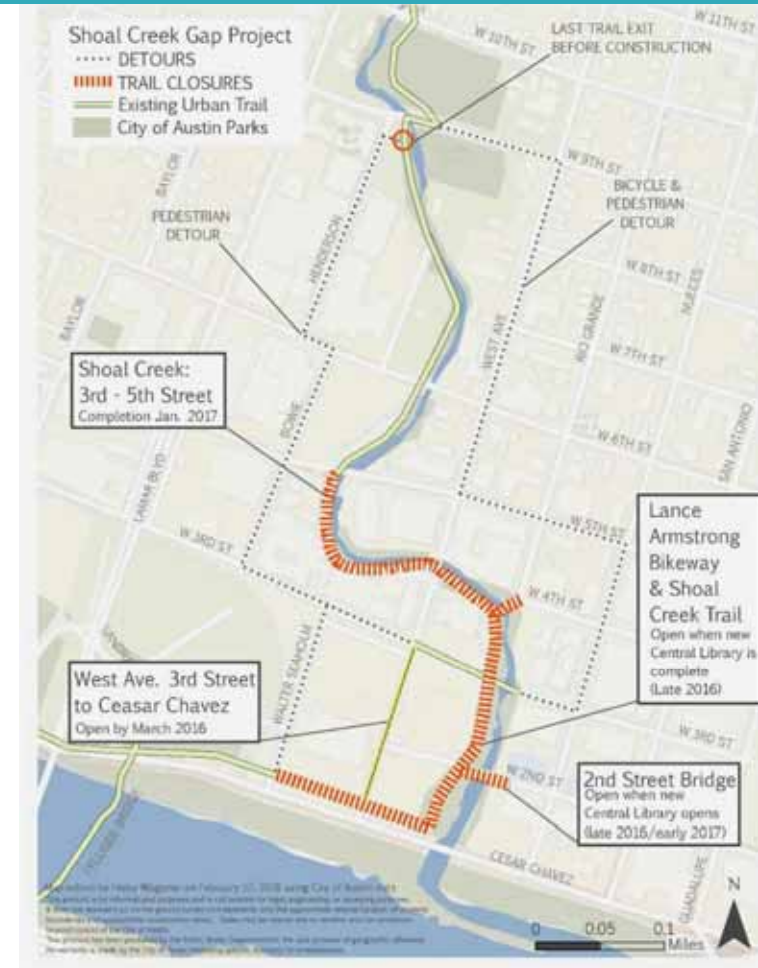
- The Plan triples Capital Metro's High-Frequency Route Network from six to 17 routes, adds two MetroRapid lines, with more east/west service, creates straighter routes and better system connectivity.
- The Plan adds two MetroRapid lines, additional stations that are about 1/3 mile apart, with 7-10 minute frequencies and Local fares instead of Premium.

Capital Metro Transit Development Plan:
Executive Summary
January 2017



plans & policies: 2017 3rd to 5th “Gap Project”

- The project completed ADA-compliant bicycle and pedestrian trail that closes gap between Shoal Creek’s west bank and the existing Trail.
- A new bridge was constructed spanning Shoal Creek at 4th and Rio Grande St, with a southern landing on parkland next to the Independent residential tower - now under construction.



plans & policies:

2017 Duncan Park Preliminary Plan

Planning to revitalize Duncan Park between West 9th and 10th streets, adjacent to Shoal Creek, is still underway.



plans & policies:

2017 the Grove at Shoal Creek PUD*

- The Grove is a 80-acre Planned Unit Development (PUD) which includes a 16-acre signature park that will extend the Trail from Shoal Creek Blvd near the State Archives property to link to 45th St and the new and existing streets nearby.
- Planning is still underway.



plans & policies:

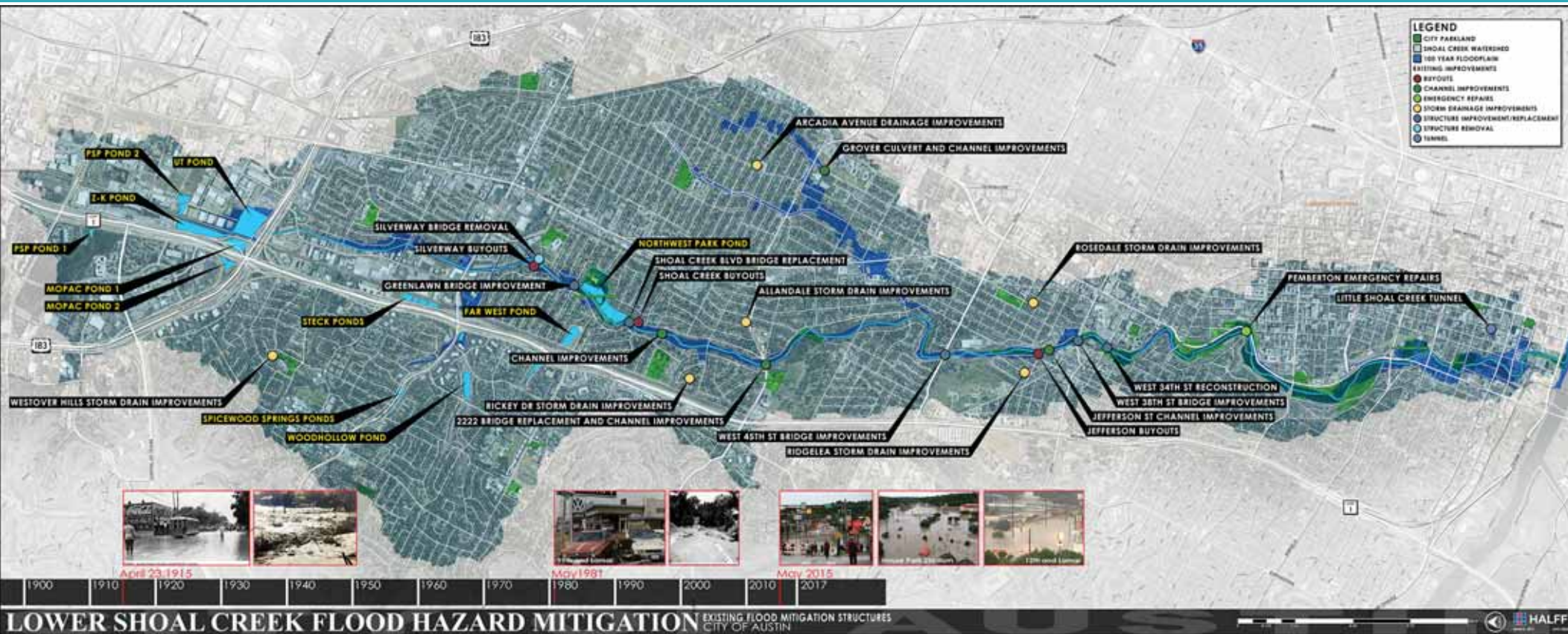
2017 Pedestrian Safety Action Plan

- The Pedestrian Safety Action Plan develops a holistic strategy to reduce and eliminate the dangerous crashes that injure and kill people walking.
- The plan also encourages walking in Austin.
- Focus areas of the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan include engineering, education, enforcement and encouragement.



plans & policies:

2017 - 2018 Lower Shoal Creek Flood Hazard Mitigation Study



This Plan has recently begun and will investigate options to mitigate flooding in the Lower Shoal Creek zone.

plans & policies:

2017 – 2018 North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Plan



Natural



- Public lands or held by a conservancy
- Undeveloped or wilderness areas used for open space, recreation, habitat conservation and protection, and/or for other environmental reasons
- Parks, greenbelts, preserve lands, etc.

Residential Core



- Characteristic of most single-family areas
- Can include houses of worship, libraries, parks, schools, fire stations, etc.
- Specific character will vary in different parts of Austin

Neighborhood Transition



- Mostly residential
- Serves as a buffer between more and less intense areas
- Wide variety of housing (apartments, cottage courts, townhouses, row houses, etc.)
- Depending on local conditions — a small amount of offices/ local-serving commercial

Neighborhood Node



- Mixed use district
- Neighborhood-scaled
- Commercial and mixed use buildings
- Townhouses, row houses, and/or apartments
- Ideally served by transit

Mixed Use Activity Corridor



- *Imagine Austin*
- Linear and mixed use
- Shopping, jobs, services, entertainment, education, parks, houses of worship, variety of housing types
- Well-served by transit

Commerce



- Primarily commercial/office
- Automobile-oriented; located along freeways or frontage roads
- Not well-suited for residential
- Large shopping centers, hotels, car dealerships, office parks, etc.

Industry



- Manufacturing, warehousing, R & D, packaging, etc.
- Located across the city
- Not compatible with residential uses

Special District: Buell Live-Work



- Unique place that doesn't fit into other categories
- Mix of housing, services, art spaces, artisanal business, and offices
- Live-work units, townhouses, and small apartment buildings

plans & policies:

2017 – 2018 North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Plan



Plan Goals:

- Improve connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Make streets safer for all.
- Maintain a balance of housing types for a variety household sizes and incomes.
- Maintain quality public facilities and services.
- Provide a diverse range of shops and services for neighborhood residents and other Austinites.
- Promote health throughout the neighborhood.
- Encourage a sense of community.
- Promote safety and maintenance.

plans & policies: TBD Project Connect 2.0

- **Project Connect is Capital Metro's plan to create a system of high-capacity transit options.**
- **Project Connect will identify and evaluate transit projects that connect activity centers within the focus area and throughout the region.**



plans & policies: TBD Seaholm intake facility

- The study area will span between the Pfluger Bridge and Shoal Creek, and from the Lady Bird Lake shoreline to Cesar Chavez Blvd.

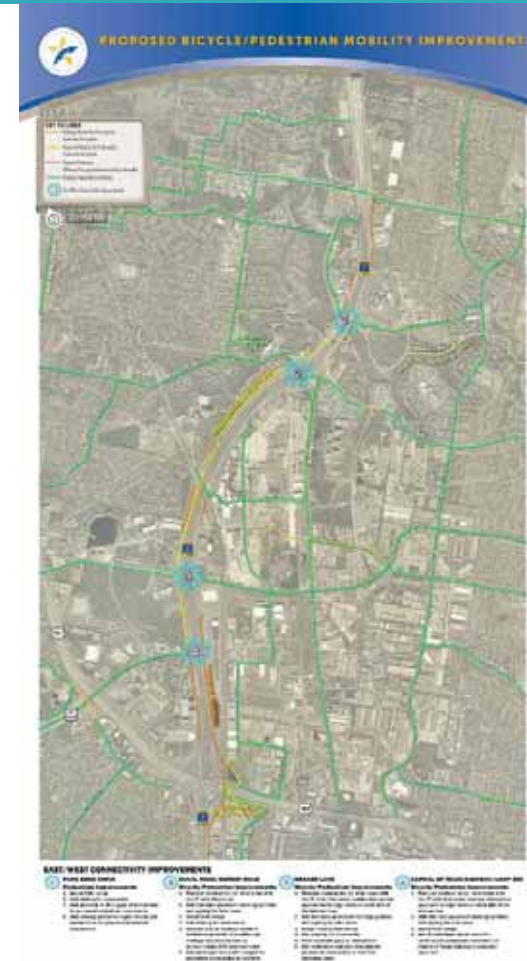
Project goals:

- Develop a long-range vision for the area - with particular focus on the programming, operational and financial model - to develop a world-class facility and a public asset.
- Identify a phased approach to the project so that work can begin in the near future.



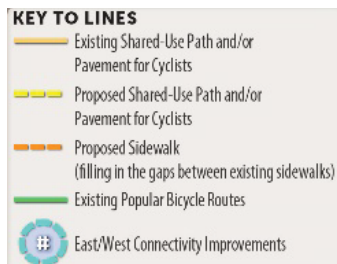
plans & policies: TBD MOPAC Improvement Project

- The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority is building one Express Lane in each direction on north MoPac (Loop 1) from Cesar Chavez Street to Parmer Lane.



plans & policies: TBD MOPAC Improvement Project

- Along with roadway improvements, many bicycle and pedestrian improvements are being made.



EAST/WEST CONNECTIVITY IMPROVEMENTS

1 PARK BEND DRIVE Pedestrian Improvements

1. Install ADA ramps
2. Add striping for cross-walks
3. Add sidewalk to fill-in gaps at intersection for proposed pedestrian movements
4. Add missing pedestrian signal heads and pushbuttons for proposed pedestrian movements

2 DUVAL ROAD/BURNET ROAD Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvements

1. Restripe roadway for 11' wide lanes with two 5' wide bike lanes
2. Add bike lane pavement marking symbols and signing for bike lanes
3. Install ADA ramps
4. Add striping for cross-walks
5. Increase size of roadway island in northwest quadrant of southbound frontage road intersection to accommodate ADA improvements
6. Add yield signs and yield triangles for pedestrian cross-walks at free flow right-turn lanes

3 BRAKER LANE Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvements

1. Restripe roadway for 11' wide lanes with two 5' wide bike lanes; restripe intersection approaches to align lanes on each side of the intersections
2. Add bike lane pavement marking symbols and signing for bike lanes
3. Install missing ADA ramps
4. Add striping for cross-walks
5. Fill-in sidewalk gaps at intersection
6. Add yield signs and yield triangles for pedestrian cross-walks at free flow right-turn lanes

4 CAPITAL OF TEXAS HIGHWAY/LOOP 360 Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvements

1. Restripe roadway for 11' wide lanes with two 5' wide bike lanes; restripe intersection approach to align lanes on each side of the intersection
2. Add bike lane pavement marking symbols and signing for bike lanes
3. Install ADA ramps
4. Install pedestrian signal heads for north/south pedestrian movement on Capital of Texas Highway intersection approach

plans & policies: TBD CodeNEXT – Park Typologies

- The CodeNEXT project to update Austin’s Land Development Code propose a diverse palette of parks and other publicly-accessible to be provided in plans as civic spaces that are essential components of walkable urban environments.

Metropolitan Park	District Park	Neighborhood Park	Riparian Park
A city-wide destination generally centered on a natural resource.	An open space that consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities.	Medium-scale public urban open space that provides basic recreational opportunities close to home.	Natural corridor that often follows a river, creek, ridgeline, valley, or other linear public open space.
PARD Designation: Metropolitan Park	PARD Designation: District Park	PARD Designation: Neighborhood and School Park	PARD Designation: Special Park

Greenway	Green	Square	Plaza
Linear space for community gathering and strolling for nearby residents and employees.	Public urban open space available for civic purposes, commercial activity, unstructured recreation, and other passive uses.	Public urban open space available for civic purposes, commercial activity, unstructured recreation, and other passive uses.	Public urban open space that offers abundant opportunities for civic gathering.
PARD Designation: Neighborhood and School Park	PARD Designation: Neighborhood and School Park	PARD Designation: Neighborhood and School Park	PARD Designation: Neighborhood and School Park

Pocket Plaza	Pocket Park	Family-Friendly Play Area	Community Garden
Small-scale public urban open space that serves as an impromptu gathering place for civic, social, and commercial purposes.	Small-scale public urban open space intended to provide recreational opportunities where (publicly accessible/park) space is limited.	Area within urban open space that is conducive to the recreational needs of families with children. Range in style from urban pocket parks to playscapes within neighborhood parks.	Small-scale open space designed as a grouping of garden plots available to nearby residents for small-scale cultivation.
PARD Designation: Neighborhood and Urban Pocket Park	PARD Designation: Neighborhood and Urban Pocket Park	PARD Designation: Neighborhood and Urban Pocket Park	PARD Designation: Neighborhood and School Park

thank you, and see you next on Wednesday, September 13th
6pm at Congregation Beth Israel for Community Workshop #2

This community project is made possible by private donations
from the **Downtown Austin Alliance, Jack and Carolyn Long,
Constructive Ventures, the Georgia B. Lucas Foundation
Fund, and the Charles and Betti Saunders Foundation Fund.**

Photo: Ted Led Eubanks