

# City of Austin Urban Trails Master Plan

Environmental Board

June 4, 2014



# Existing Urban Trail Related Policies



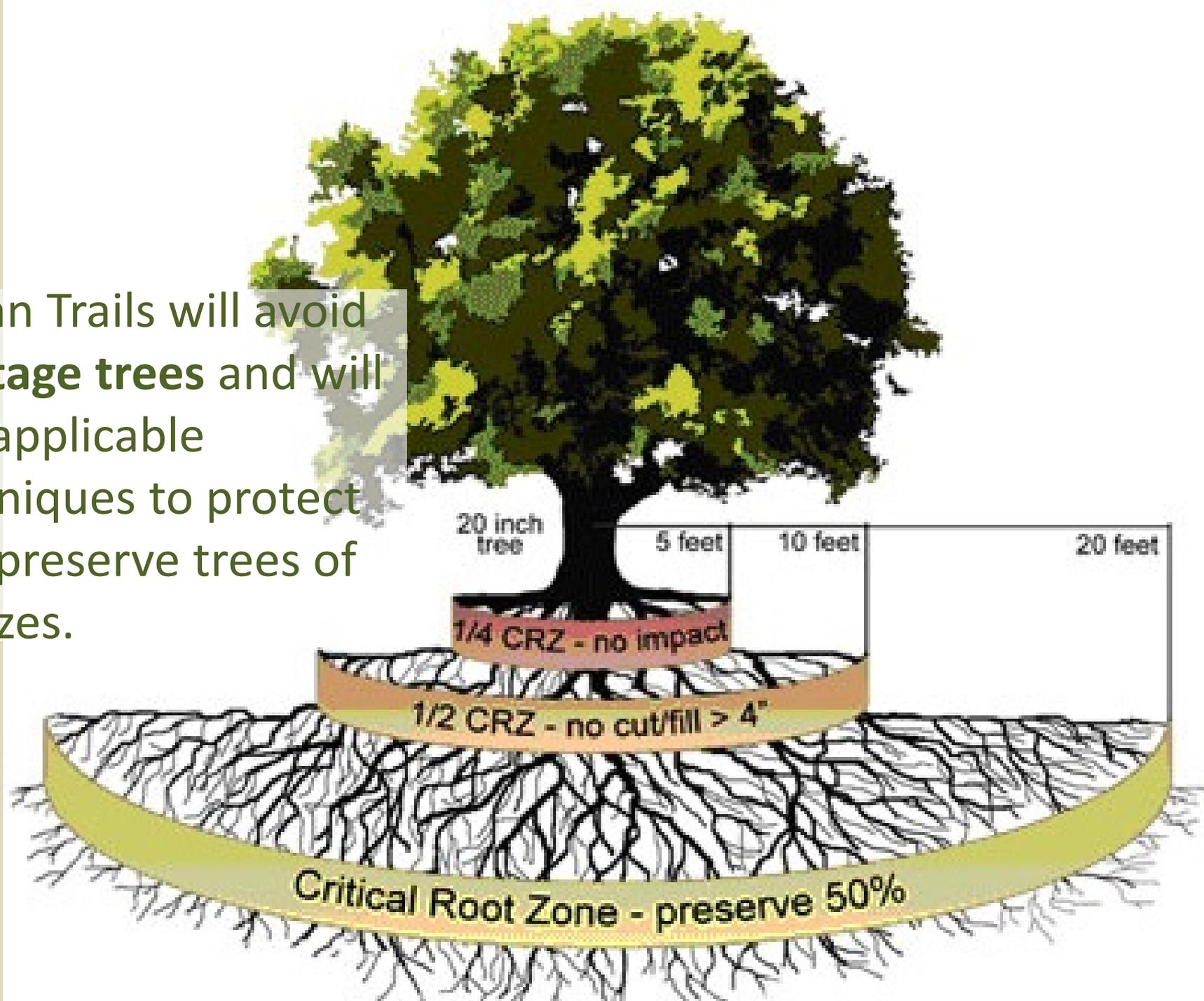
# Catalyst to the UTMP:

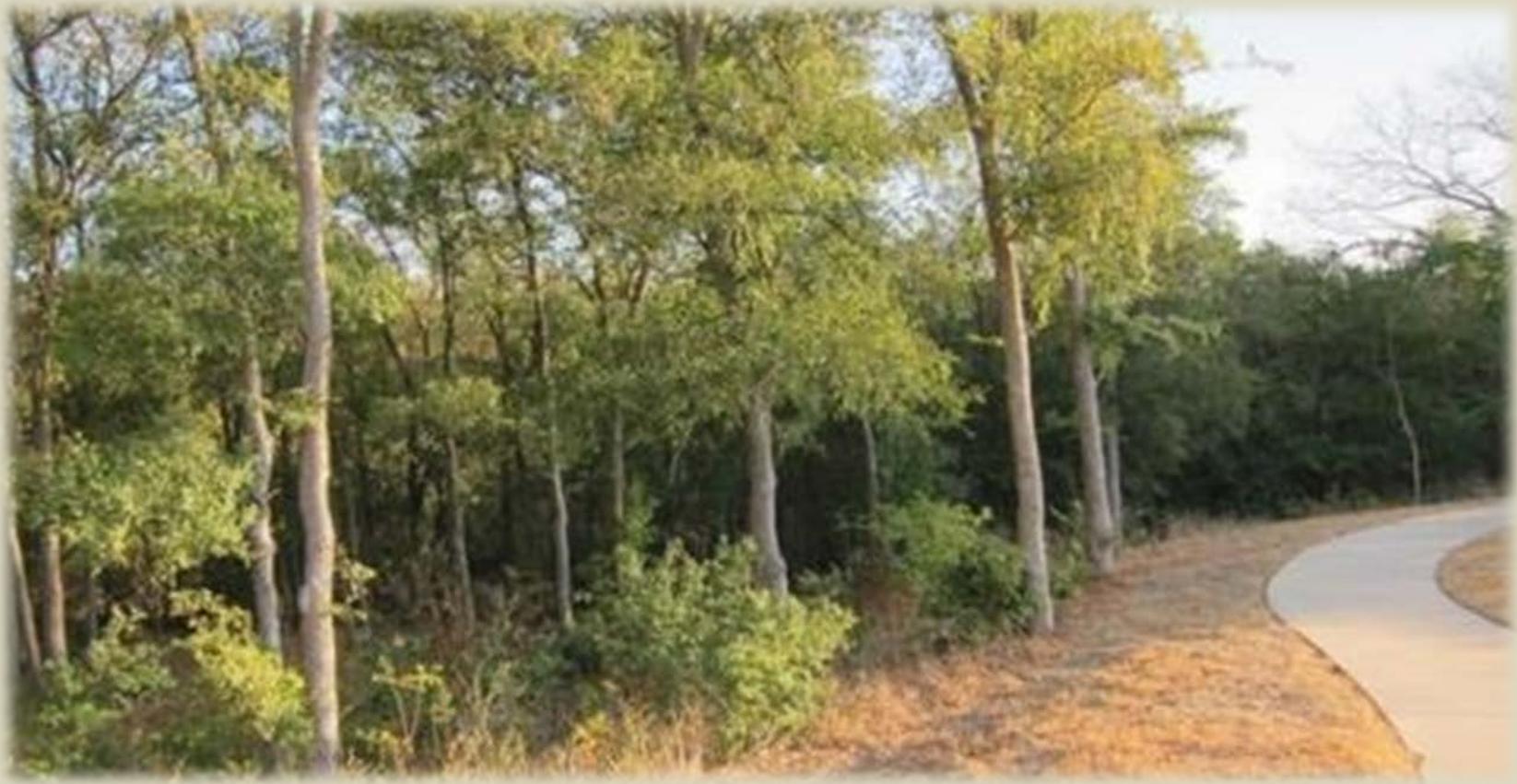
## Resolution 20080424-064:

- PWD and PARD to develop comprehensive, interconnected trail plan.
- Coordinate with other Departments (AWU, AE, ARR, WPD) to implement trail plan.
- Provide:
  - Interdepartmental consultation and coordination ,
  - Development of map, and
  - Identification of other processes/plans that would aid implementation.



Urban Trails will avoid **heritage trees** and will use applicable techniques to protect and preserve trees of all sizes.





"Explore opportunities to encourage a development pattern that better protects public and private property, preserves floodplains, creeks and open spaces, and provides access and connectivity with greenways and trails."  
- **Watershed Protection Ordinance**

**Community Voices:**  
“Plant trees by  
bicycle paths.”  
- **Austin’s Urban  
Forest Plan**



The City of Austin  
Urban Forestry Board

# Austin’s Urban Forest Plan

A Master Plan for Public Property



# Austin Parks & Recreation Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities and Programs



## LEGEND

### PARKS

-  City of Austin Parks
- Northern Walnut Creek Park Trails (transportation funded)
  -  Phase 1
  -  Phase 2
-  Southern Walnut Creek Park Trails (transportation funded)
-  Proposed Unfunded Park Trail

### GENERAL

-  Interstate 35
-  US Highway
-  State Highway
-  MOPAC / Loop 1
-  Railroad
-  Lance Armstrong Bikeway
-  Proposed Austin to Manor (under design)
-  Creeks
-  Major Roads
-  Streets

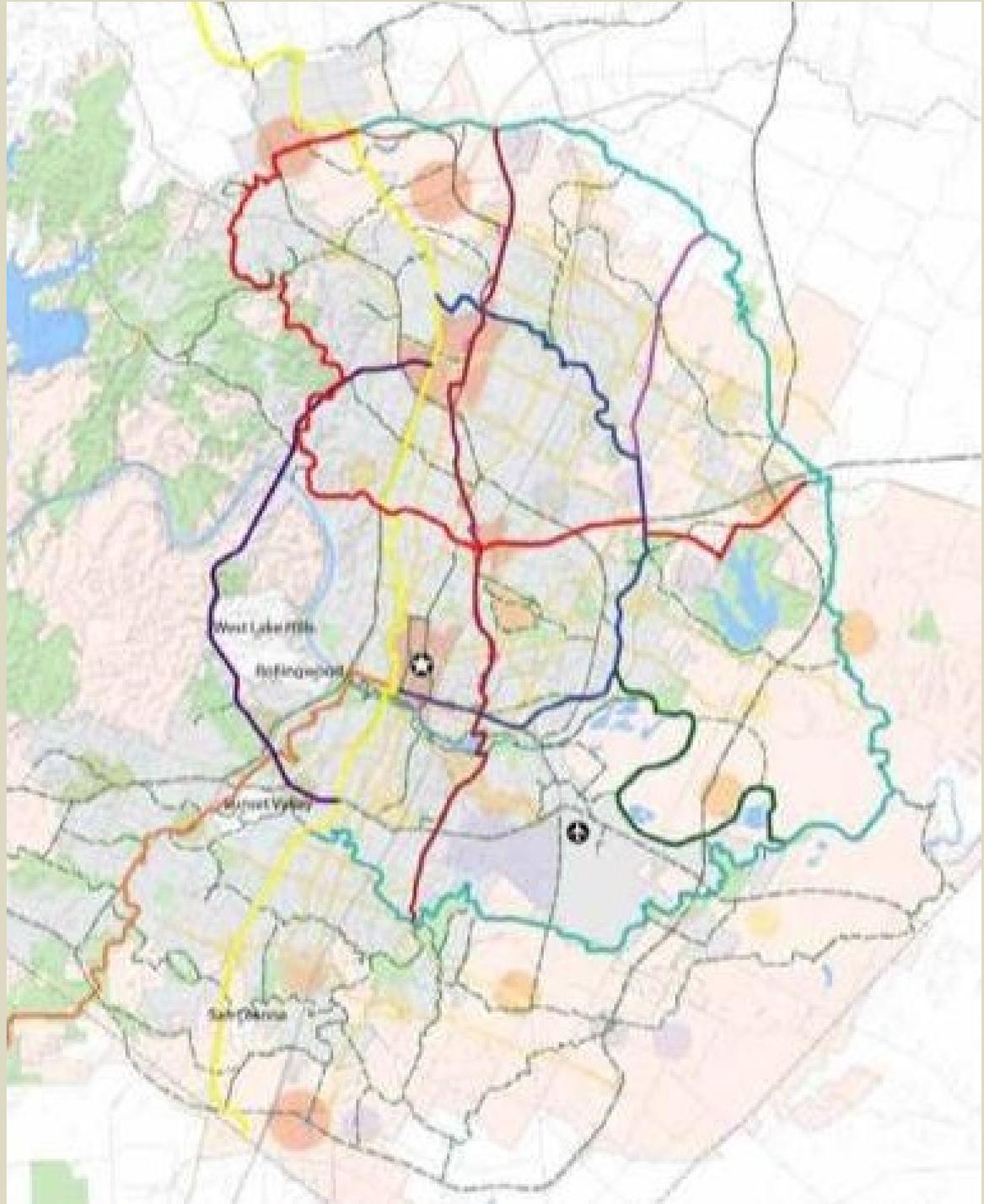


## NORTH & SOUTH WALNUT CREEK PARK TRAILS



“Urban trails serve **recreation and transportation** functions, including biking and hiking, and also **provide important environmental benefits** by creating open space linkages and expanding the City of Austin’s green infrastructure network.”

- **Imagine Austin**



# Why an Urban Trail Master Plan?

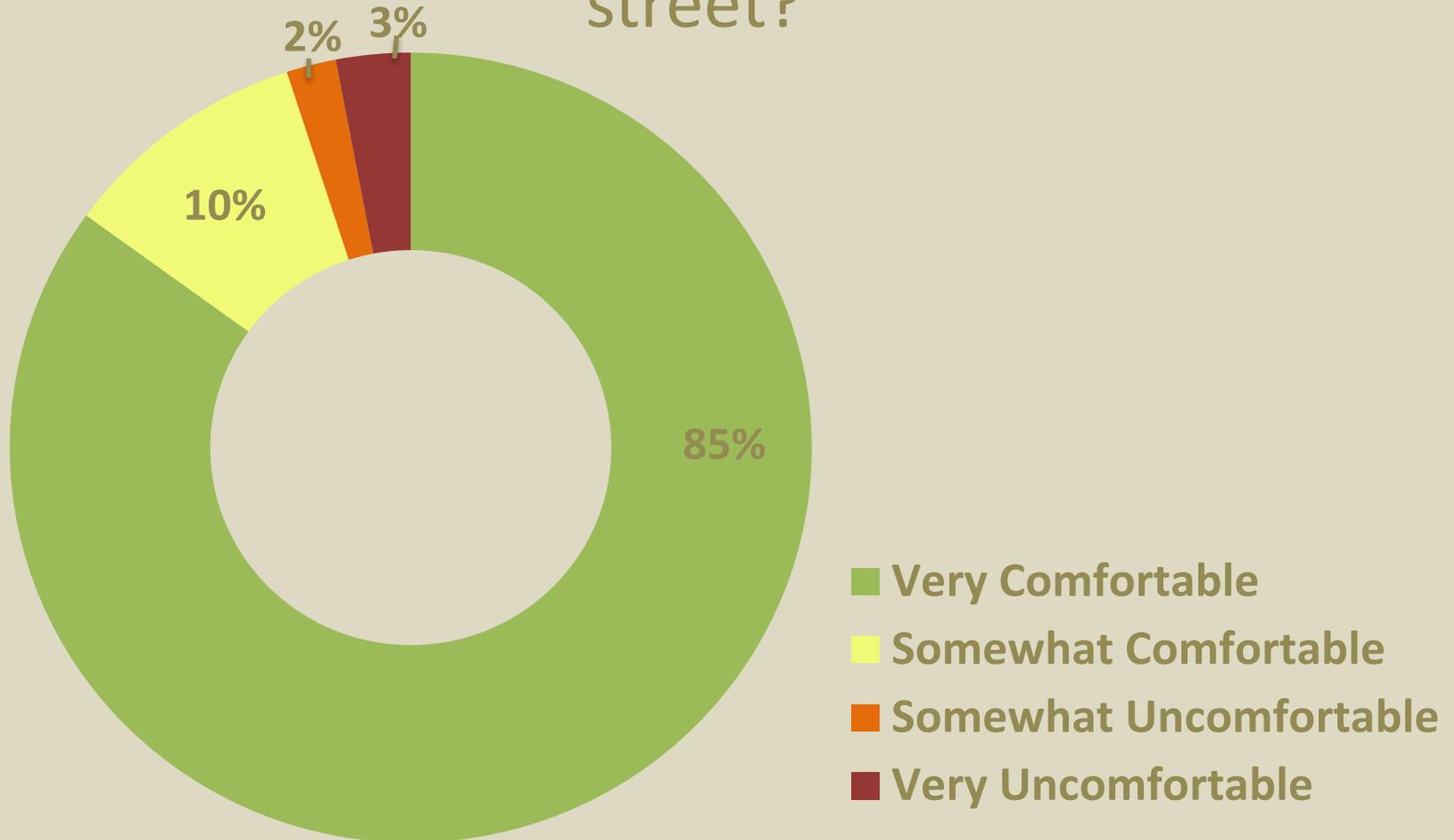


1. Implement existing plans/policies,
2. Create Urban Trail design guidelines, and
3. Plan for and implement Urban Trail maintenance.



# Public Input:

How comfortable do you feel riding your bicycle on a path or trail that is separate from the street?



# What is an Urban Trail?



- 
- A wide, paved multi-use trail in an urban setting. The trail is light-colored and runs alongside a road with a white fence and young trees. In the background, a city skyline with several tall buildings is visible under a blue sky with white clouds. A red and white traffic cone is on the grass to the right.
- **Hard surface,**
  - **All-weather,**
  - **For recreation and/or transportation,**
  - **Accommodates bicycles, pedestrians, rollerbladers, skateboarders, and those with disabilities.**

# Urban Trail Design Considerations



# The Typical Urban Trail



Southern Walnut Creek Trail

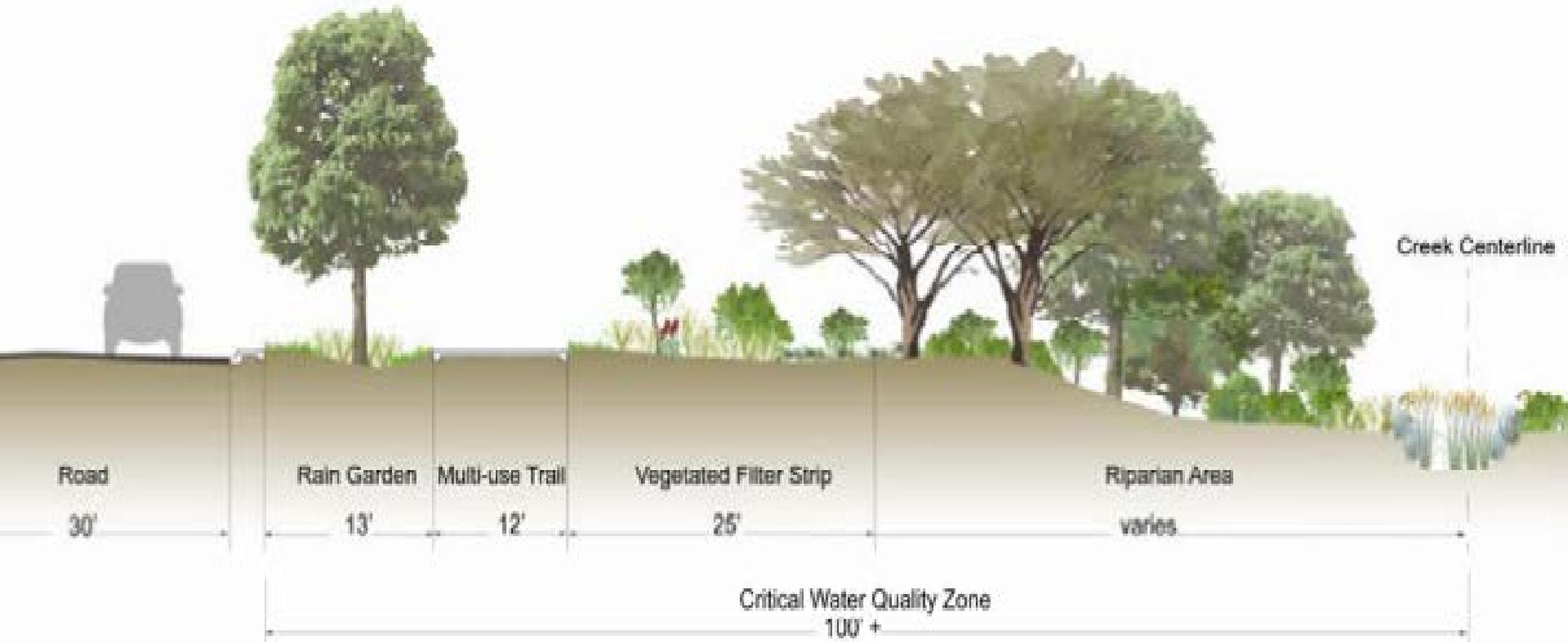
	Criteria
Standard Width	12'
Maintained Vegetated Shoulder	2'
Standard Vertical Clearance	10'

# The Dual-Track Urban Trail



	Criteria
Standard Width	5' for pedestrian side 10' for bicyclist side
Maintained Vegetated Shoulder	5' user separation 2' shoulder
Standard Vertical Clearance	10'

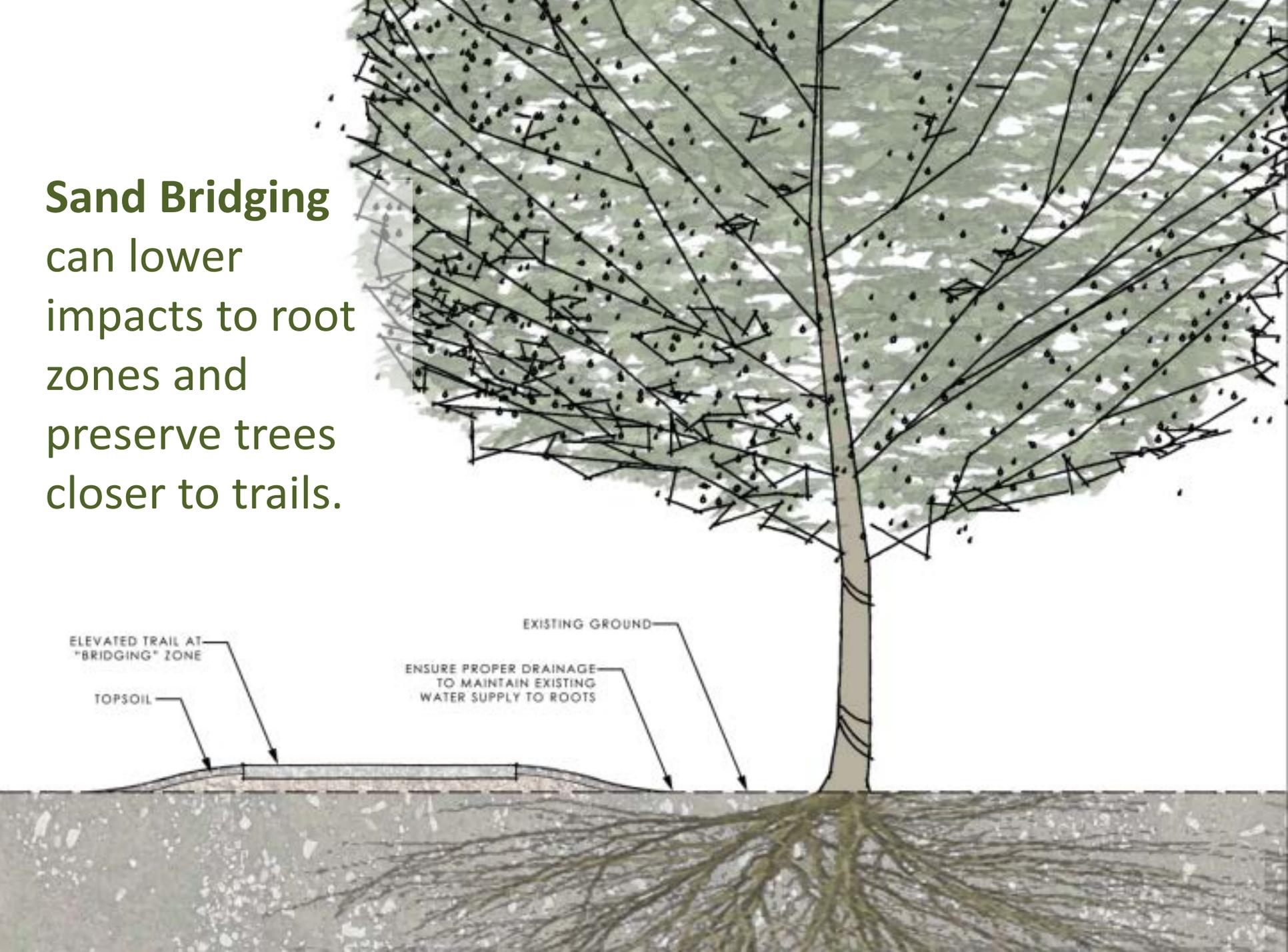




- **Diffuse** run-off as opposed to concentrated run-off.
- Creek crossings **as needed**.
- Informal **rain gardens** and **vegetated filter strips**.



**Sand Bridging**  
can lower  
impacts to root  
zones and  
preserve trees  
closer to trails.



ELEVATED TRAIL AT  
"BRIDGING" ZONE

TOPSOIL

EXISTING GROUND

ENSURE PROPER DRAINAGE  
TO MAINTAIN EXISTING  
WATER SUPPLY TO ROOTS

# Lighting where appropriate



# Wildlife Considerations

“For urban wildlife, trails are about connectivity too – corridors for movement through the urban landscape especially since our trails mostly follow waterways which are natural corridors through the city.”

– Dr. Kevin Anderson,  
Director, Center for  
Environmental Research,  
Hornsby Bend.



Golden-cheeked Warbler  
(*Dendroica chrysoparia*)



Tawny Crazy Ants (*Nylanderia fulva*)



Barton Springs Salamander (*Eurycea sosorum*)



Tooth Cave spider (*Tayshaneta myopica*)

# Design with nature



# Security & emergency access



# Wayfinding

TNC  
BLACK CAP CONNECTOR TR. 3.9  
← BLACK CAP MTH. 3.9  
← PEAKED MTH. VIA PEAKED MTH. TRAIL 1.6  
← HURRICANE MTH. ROAD 4.8

TNC  
MIDDLE MTH. TRAIL  
MIDDLE MTH. TRAIL  
PEAKED MTH. VIA MIDDLE MTH. TRAIL  
← THOMPSON RD. PARKING 1.5



**Promote developer incentives**



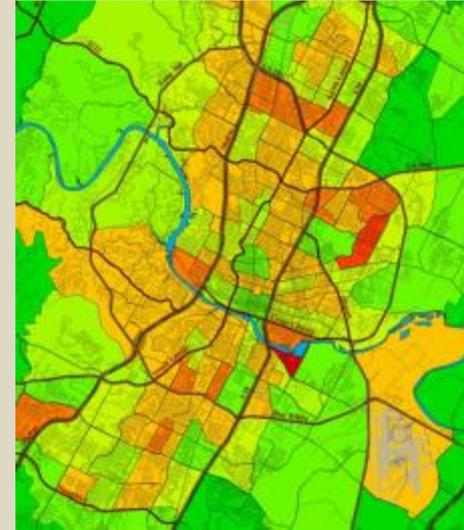
Create a sense of place



# Urban Trail Corridors – Prioritization Criteria



**Attractors/Destinations**



**Population Within .5 Mile**



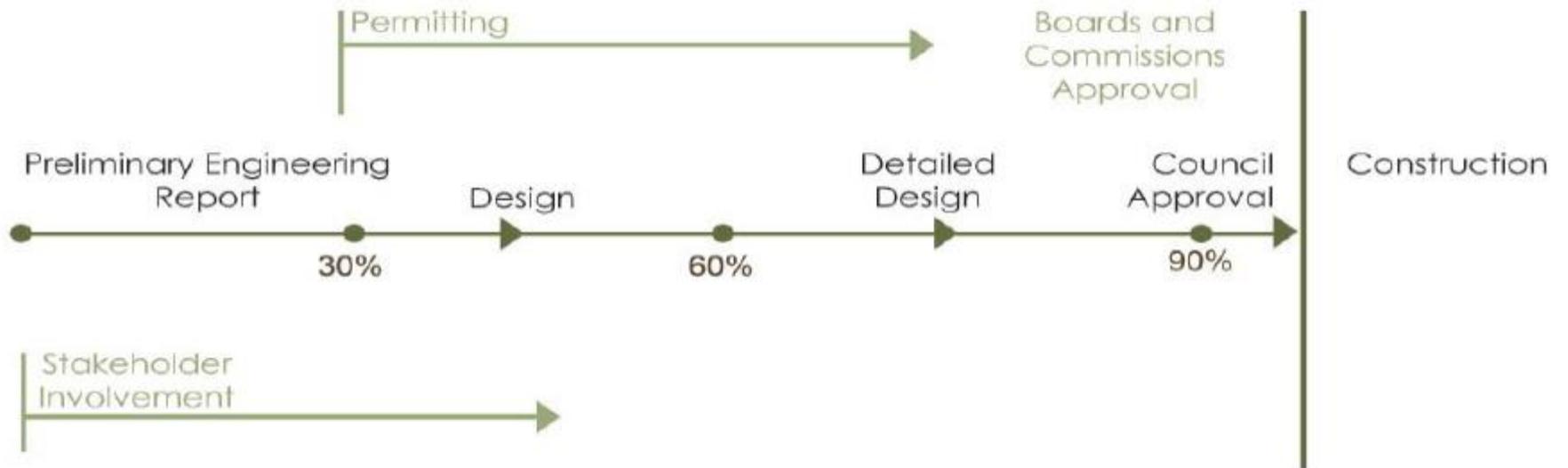
**Connectivity**



**Community Support**

# Next Steps:

Urban Trail Implementation Plan Diagram





Questions?