# 305 SOUTH CONGRESS CONCEPTUAL OPEN SPACE | PARKS PRIORITIZATION PROCESS FINAL REPORT | 6-22-23

#### **BACKGROUND**

Endeavor Real Estate Group (Endeavor) is presenting a new vision to create a dynamic and inclusive destination that builds upon the South Central Waterfront Vision Framework Plan, a City of Austin planning document which provides recommendations on designs, policies, and tools to transform the area into an iconic gateway for downtown Austin.

305 South Congress, the former home of the Austin American Statesman and a central piece of the South Central Waterfront district, will enhance the area's existing roads, bikes, and trail system, further connecting and activating the Lady Bird Lake waterfront. Today, the only public space onsite consists of the existing 15-foot-wide trail. Once redeveloped, over six and a half acres of private land will be made publicly available with new park and open space along the lake, all accessible via Congress and Riverside, from an extension of Barton Springs Road.

The 18.9-acre 305 South Congress site will include:

- Over 8 acres of dedicated parkland and public plaza space
- Over 3.5 acres of public realm streets including protected bike lanes
- 5 new ADA access points from the project to the dedicated parkland upon project completion

#### CITY OF AUSTIN ORDINANCE

Plans for the transformation of the former Statesman Planned Unit Development (PUD), approved by the Austin Planning Commission, were finalized by Austin City Council in December 2022 with the adoption of Ordinance No. 20221201-084. The ordinance identified a minimum amount of \$6,900,000 to satisfy any fee in-lieu of parkland dedication and parkland development fee, to support the development of the 305 South Congress public park space. Additional funding for parkland improvements will be possible through the South Central Waterfront approved tax increment reinvestment zone (TIRZ) or other public funding mechanism. An updated Regulating Plan is anticipated in 2023 with more information from the City of Austin.

The PUD ordinance also provided guidance for the development and planning of a Parks Prioritization Process. This directive requested a collaboration between Endeavor and the City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) to seek stakeholder input on how best to prioritize the list of park amenities that were designed and proposed for the Conceptual Open Space within the PUD:

- Pier
- Water Steps
- Great Lawn

- Boardwalk
- Prairie Terraces
- Nature Play

A map showing the location of the conceptual amenities can be found in Appendix D.

#### **PLANNING**

In coordination, Endeavor and PARD engaged Cultural Strategies (CS), an unrelated third party, to assist in the development and implementation of a Parks Prioritization Process, as outlined in the PUD. CS is an Austin-based public involvement and communications firm that has supported PARD among other City of Austin Departments with public involvement and community engagement services. The scope of work

involved identifying and inviting a list of essential stakeholders to a series of conversations to learn about the parkland amenities, discuss how characteristics for each would serve them and the communities they're connected with, and understand how the amenities might be prioritized. The engagement efforts sought diverse stakeholder perspectives from those that live, work, and play in the area and others who travel to Lady Bird Lake from locations across Austin.

#### STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH GOALS AND PROCESS

The stakeholder engagement process began with an effort to identify and invite a group of stakeholders to participate in a series of virtual online meetings. Outreach was conducted to over 200 area stakeholders including a diverse list of neighborhoods, community and civic organizations, cultural organizations, and adjacent businesses. A complete stakeholder outreach list can be found in Appendix A. Small Group Discussions included individuals representing the following organizations and interests:

- Downtown Austin Alliance
- Go Austin, Vamos Austin (GAVA)
- Friends of Austin Neighborhood
- South Central Coalition

- South Central Waterfront Advisory Board
- South River City Citizens Association
- Texas School for the Deaf
- The Trail Conservancy

Outreach efforts included email blasts, phone calls, and a page on the City's website to share information and encourage stakeholders to participate in meetings and the project survey. Following each engagement meeting, the presentation material and video recording were shared by email and added to the project webpage for on-demand viewing.

Engagement opportunities were designed to provide a variety of settings and methods for gathering stakeholder input. This included two virtual stakeholder engagement meetings, two virtual small group meetings, an online survey, and two in-person tabling events. Details of these engagement methods are as follows:

#### Stakeholder Meeting #1

March 2, 2023 (Zoom – meeting presentation and recording are available on the project website) 39 Registrants / 22 Participants

**Purpose:** Raise awareness of the project's objectives and timeline, share information about the site, the planned parkland amenities, and promote opportunities for stakeholder involvement.

#### **Survey**

Via SurveyMonkey March 2, 2023 – April 5, 2023 66 Respondents

**Purpose:** Gather input on the characteristics individuals felt should be considered for each parkland amenity and how they would prioritize each.

#### **Tabling / Trail Intercepts**

March 24-25, 2023 49 Participants

**Purpose:** Conduct additional input gathering on project objectives with stakeholders who may not have been able to participate in stakeholder or focus group meetings.

#### **Small Group Discussions**

April 3 & 5, 2023 (Zoom)

15 Registrants / 8 Participants

**Purpose:** Conduct interactive stakeholder discussions and gather feedback on the questions being asked in this process, discuss expansion of the existing bike and pedestrian pathways, protecting heritage trees, and supporting the restoration of the shoreline.

#### Stakeholder Meeting #2

April 13, 2023 (Zoom – meeting presentation and recording are available on the project website) 16 Registrants / 11 Participants

**Purpose:** Provide stakeholders with the public input process findings and gather feedback on any key consideration that may have been missed for each amenity.

#### PUBLIC INPUT FINDINGS & THEMES

The public was asked to provide feedback on the two key questions:

- Are there any characteristics of the amenities you would like the team to consider or plan for that would best meet your needs?
- Is there a parkland amenity you feel should be prioritized based on the goals of the South Central Waterfront?

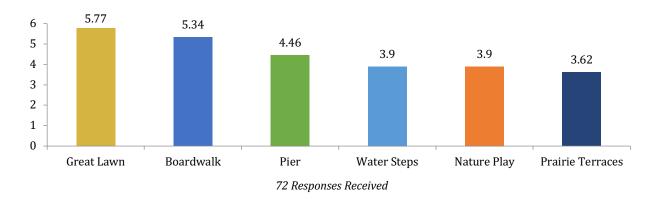
The overall approach invited open-ended responses to these questions in a survey and allowed for discussion during each virtual meeting. An analysis and summary of the public input provided during the process suggests the following list of high-level considerations for the team to design around:

- Make sure the ADA accessibility is prioritized so all individuals can enjoy.
- Concerns over congestion on this area of the trail and conflicts between types of users.
- Importance of bats; appreciation for new opportunities for bat viewing and for areas off trail for users to stop and enjoy.
- Properly address ecological sensitivities (bats, erosion, pollution, native plantings, tree canopy, habitats).
- Mixed views about uses and concerns about concessions, such as kayak rental.
- Programming of these spaces is key; ensure parkland programing focuses on activities and experiences for all Austin residents, not just tenants.

For the prioritization of the amenities, respondents were asked to rank the six amenities from highest priority to lowest priority, with (1) as the highest priority and (6) as the lowest priority. **72 participants** responded to this question, indicating that the Great Lawn, Boardwalk, and Pier ranked as the most important amenities to the community.

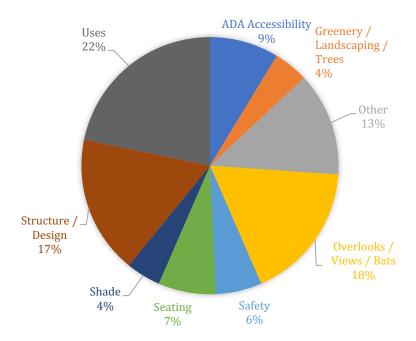
## **Amenity Prioritization Ranking**

(Based on the goals of the South Central Waterfront)



The sections and charts below provide a list of themes and considerations that emerged from the team's review and analysis of the over 370 comments received, organized by each park amenity. The complete list of comments, including feedback provided in Stakeholder Meeting 2, is provided in the Appendix along with the survey's demographic print out.

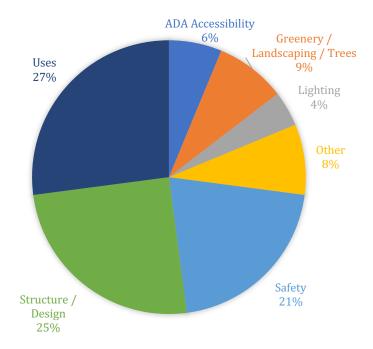
## Pier | Considerations



59 Comments Received

- ADA Accessibility Make it wheelchair accessible; deaf-friendly design including signage.
- **Greenery / Landscaping / Trees** Increase riparian plantings at base of pier; Keep free of invasives and poison ivy; address algae mats that form on lake and cling to pier.
- Overlooks / Views / Bats Great for bat viewing; Help get people off trail who want to sightsee.
- **Safety** Ensure it has barriers / railing; Clear signage to indicate safety risks; Not slippery, Reduce length because unsafe for boaters.
- **Seating** Benches perhaps extend to accommodate more people on the pier.
- **Shade** Shade features to help with comfort; May interfere with bat viewing.
- **Structure / Design** Concerns about concrete or metal; preference for sustainable, low-maintenance materials; Some suggestions to reduce length to increase safety for boaters; Questions regarding height of pier; Consider boat and standup paddle board storage.
- **Uses** Accessible to canoe, kayaks and paddle boards; Concerns over keeping it accessible and not commercial (no rental or concessions); Create area for fishing.
- **Other** Concern about where people would park to launch boats; Comments both supportive of and not supportive of pier.

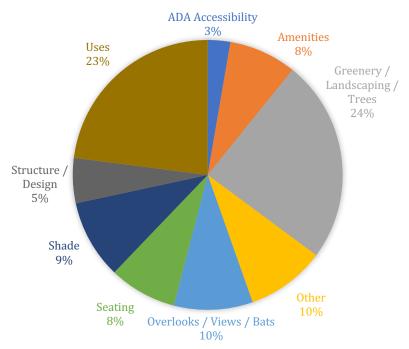
## Water Steps | Consideration



51 Comments Received

- **ADA Accessibility** Desire for meeting ADA provisions for this amenity and making steps usable by people of all abilities.
- Greenery / Landscaping / Trees Thoughtful entryways so surrounding area not trampled; Keep free of invasive trees, shrubs and poison ivy; Ensure plantings don't inhibit viewing and overall experience.
- Lighting Mixed views about lighting: desire for minimal / downlighting but also desire for sufficient lighting for safety.
- **Safety** Minimize risk of drowning; Include safety signage; Concerns about conflicts with trail users; Concerns about dog access to water and interaction with blue algae.
- Structure / Design Like formalized water access to keep people from trampling sensitive areas;
   Ensure sufficient room between steps and trail to avoid conflicts with people with kayaks and paddle boards and trail users;
   Make wider to double as seating and step height that is kid-friendly;
   Low steps for kayak users.
- **Uses** Anticipate users with kayaks, canoe, paddle boards, as well as place for seating and dogs to enter; Concerns over management of kayak traffic and trail conflicts, as well as commercialization.

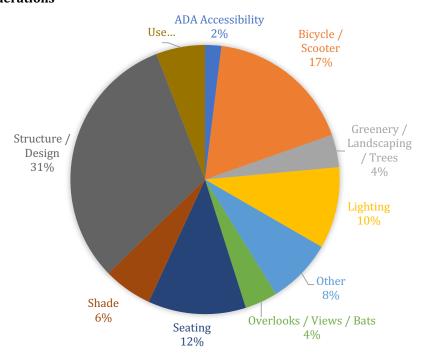
## **Great Lawn | Considerations**



60 Comments Received

- **ADA Accessibility** Create welcoming pathway that it's well lit, ADA compliant, comfortable so people can seamlessly move to the Great Lawn.
- Amenities Provide amenities such as trash cans/composting, water stations, animal waste centers, restroom.
- **Greenery / Landscaping / Trees** Include larger caliber trees; Consider more trees for shade and for privacy/enclosure from street traffic and noise; Create open space with native landscaping; Keep area and lawn maintained; Suggestion to consider artificial turf; Protect trees during construction.
- **Overlooks / Views / Bats** Provide ample room for bat viewing; Perhaps sloped or stadium-style so people can see the bats well; Good people watching.
- **Seating** Seating areas that are safe so you can see surrounding areas; Benches; A few picnic tables; Perhaps tiered seating.
- **Shade** Ensure the area has plenty of shade.
- **Structure / Design** Like large open space; Away from bridge and back off trail; Large lawn of grass and addition of shade and seating around the edges.
- Uses Suggestions for programming and activities (i.e. yoga on the lawn, music, farmers market, food truck); Questions / concerns about dogs; Create all abilities space that's dynamic and child-friendly.

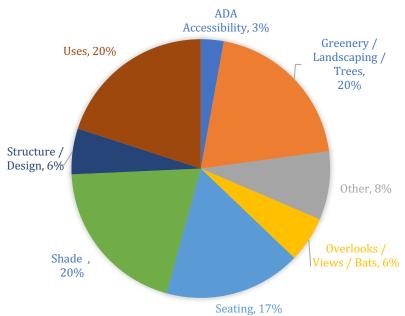
## **Boardwalk Considerations**



51 Comments Received

- ADA Accessibility Important to have good ramp access for wheelchair users.
- Bicycle/Scooters Important to ensure sufficient space so bicycle and pedestrian modes can
  coexist; Some comments to restrict scooters or any wheeled vehicles (except wheelchair/strollers);
  No motorized vehicles.
- **Greenery / Landscaping / Trees** Design so habitat behind boardwalk is protected so it can become thriving estuary; Clear enough line of sight so users know it is there.
- Lighting Ensure it has adequate lighting.
- Overlooks / Views / Bats Excellent place to watch the bats.
- **Seating** Include benches; Ensure sufficient seating.
- **Shade** Provide shade; Similar shading pergola like section east of IH-35.
- **Structure / Design** Sufficiently wide and long; Make similar to existing boardwalk; Mesh fencing and not slippery for safety.
- **Uses** Like that it provides opportunity to users to get off of the trail; Don't allow people to shoot off fireworks from boardwalk.

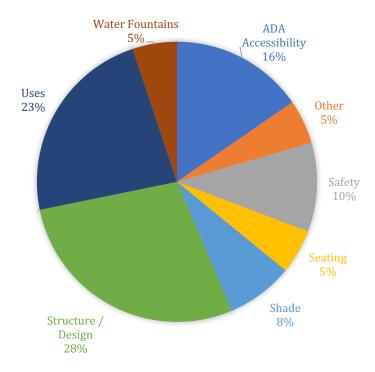
## **Prairie Terraces | Considerations**



40 Comments Received

- ADA Accessibility Include a wheelchair ramp.
- **Greenery / Landscaping / Trees** Plant natives only and add more open space, similar to Pease Park amphitheater.
- **Overlooks / Views / Bats** Helps with stadium-style seating for bat viewing; Question regarding height to ensure visibility of bats from underneath.
- Seating Like additional seating; Terraced seating.
- **Shade** Importance of shade; Concerns that it won't be used enough if not shaded.
- Structure / Design Importance of open space.
- **Uses** Concerns over use by unhoused population; Desire for programming for children would need to be safe; Use for small civic meetings.

## Nature Play | Considerations



44 Comments Received

- ADA Accessibility Want accessible for all ages and abilities.
- **Safety** Concerns about safety; Potential need for fencing to keep children safe; Avoid interaction with trail users.
- Seating Need for seating.
- Shade Importance of shade.
- **Structure / Design** Could be "untraditional"; Suggest a natural aesthetic with limited impervious cover; Other ideas such as splash pad.
- **Uses** Concerns over use as dog area, need to have distinction between children and pet areas; Could be nature learning area.
- Water Fountains Have water fountains in this area.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

The feedback received from the community through this process will be utilized by Endeavor and PARD to inform the design and prioritization of the park amenities within the future parkland at 305 South Congress. It will also inform efforts related to future programming opportunities for these spaces based on what is important to the community.

## Appendix

- A. Stakeholder List
- B. Full List of Comments by Amenity
- C. Survey's Demographic Print Out
- D. Amenity Aerial

## Appendix A - Stakeholder List

- ADAPT of TX
- AIA Austin
- allgo
- Alliance for African American Health in Central Texas
- American Gateways
- American Society
   Landscape Architects
- APA Texas Chapter
- Asian American Resource Center
- Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs (Austin Chapter)
- ATXEJ Austin
   Environmental Justice

   Team
- AURA
- Austin Bat Refuge
- Austin Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC) and Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC)
- Austin Black Caucus
- Austin Chinese American Network (ACAN)
- Austin City Limits Music Festival
- Austin Civic Orchestra (at Zilker Hillside Theatre)
- Austin Dance Ensemble (at Zilker Hillside Theatre)
- Austin Hotel & Lodging Association
- Austin Justice Coalition
- Austin Latino Coalition/HABLA
- Austin Mutual Aid
- Austin NAACP
- Austin Neighborhood Council
- Austin Neighborhood Council Sector 5 Rep
- Austin Parks Foundation
- Austin Rowing Club
- Austin Runners Club
- Austin Sports and Social (Barton Jaycees Fields)
- Austin Sunshine Camps

- Austin Tri Cyclist
- Austin Up
- Austin Urban League
- Austin Youth River Watchers
- Autism Society of Texas
- Barton Springs Conservancy
- BASTA (Building and Strengthening Tenant Action)
- Bat Conservation International
- Bennu Coffee
- Bike Austin
- Black Girls Do Bike
- Black History Bike Tours
- Black Leaders Collective
- Black Professionals
  Alliance
- Black Sovereign Nation
- Blues on the Green
- Bouldin Creek
   Neighborhood Association
- Bouldin Creek
   Neighborhood Plan
   Contact Team
- Butler Park Pitch & Putt
- C3 Presents
- Central Health
- Cidercade Austin
- Cities Connecting Children to Nature (CCCN)
- City Of Austin Parks & Rec
- Coalition for Texans with Disabilities
- Comanche Nation
- Community Not Commodity
- Congress for New Urbanism
- Dougherty Arts Center
- Downtown Austin Alliance
- Downtown Austin Commission Chair
- Downtown Austin Neighborhood Assn. (DANA)
- Downtown Austin
   Neighborhood Association

- East Cesar Chavez
   Neighborhood Association
- Eco Rise
- El Concilio Mexican-American Neighborhoods
- Ending Community
   Homelessness Coalition
   (ECHO)
- Epic SUP
- Explore Austin
- Families in Nature
- Four Seasons
- Four Seasons Hotel
- Freebirds World Burrito
- Friends of Austin Neighborhoods
- Friends of Zilker
- Front Steps
- GAVA
- Gilbert's Gazelles
- Girl Scouts of Central Texas (Zilker Cabin)
- Great Promise for American Indians
- Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce
- Greater South River City Combined Neighborhood Plan Contact Team
- Greenbelt Guardians
- Hill Country Alliance
- Hill Country Conservancy
- Hispanic Impact
   Fund/Austin Community
   Foundation
- Hispanic Women's Network of Texas (HWNT)
- Historic Austin Neighborhood Association
- Homeless Neighborhood Association
- Housing Authority of the City of Austin
- Housing Authority of the City of Austin Lakeside Apartments
- Institute for Community Micromobility
- Islamic Center of Greater Austin (ICGA)

- Long Center for the Performing Arts
- Meadows Center for Water and the Environment
- Meadows Center for Water and the Environment and Bat Conservation International
- Merlin Tuttle's Bat Conservation
- Mexican American Cultural Center
- Mexican American Cultural Center Advisory Board
- Mobility Justice Coalition
- Movability
- National Wildlife Federation
- Nature Conservancy
- Neighborhood Empowerment Foundation
- Norwood Park Foundation
- Outdoor Afro
- Palmer Events Center
- PARD Athletics
- PARD Staff Lead
- Parks & Recreation Department
- Parmer Auditorium
- POC (Planning Our Communities)
- PODER Austin
- Preservation Austin
- PUMA
- Rainey Neighborhood Association
- Real Estate Council of Austin

- Red Line Parkway Initiative
- Retro Boat Rentals
- Ro Fitness
- Rowing Dock
- Save Our Springs Alliance
- Sierra Club Austin Regional Group
- Six Square Austin
- SoCo on the Lake Apartments
- South Asian New Year
- South Austin Little League (Wright Field)
- South Central Coalition
- South Central Waterfront Advisory Board Chair
- South Central Waterfront Advisory Board - Bouldin Creek
- South Central Waterfront Advisory Board -Community Development Commission
- South Central Waterfront Advisory Board -Environmental Commission
- South Central Waterfront Advisory Board - Exofficio
- South Central Waterfront Advisory Board - Parks & Recreation Board
- South Central Waterfront Advisory Board - South River City NA
- South Central Waterfront Advisory Board - Trail Conservancy
- South Central Waterfront Advisory Board - Vice Chair

- South Congress Merchants' Association
- South First IBIZ District
- South River City Citizens Assn.
- Sunrise ATX
- Sunshine Camp
- Texas Hotel & Lodging Association (THLA)
- Texas Restaurant Association
- Texas Rowing Center
- Texas School for the Deaf
- The Catherine
- The Crescent Apartments
- The Trail Conservancy
- Thom's Market
- Thundercloud Subs
- Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Town Lake YMCA
- Travis Audubon
- Tree Folks
- Trek Bicycle Lamar
- Urban Land Institute (ULI)
- Vietnamese American Community of Austin
- Walk Austin
- Water Marq
- Waterloo Disc Club
- Waterloo Greenway
- West Austin Youth Association
- Westcave- CiNCA
- Workers Defense Project
- Zilker Boat Rentals
- Zilker Collective Impact
   Working Group
- Zilker Neighborhood Association
- Zilker Park Boat Rentals

## Appendix B - Full List of Comments by Amenity

**Pier:** Comments received to question "Are there any characteristics of the pier you would like the team to consider or plan for that would best meet your needs?"

- Access for people owning and storing their paddle boards. No rental.
- Accessible and free.
- Accessible and not commercial.
- Accessible to kayaks and paddle boards.
- ADA accessible, drinking fountain for people and dogs
- ADA accessible.
- Allow people to get out on their water activities so they can access the park.
- And maybe consider boat / SUP storage?
- Are the ADA access points actually along required public safety paths?
- Are there any comparable piers we could consider to understand how they're used and what challenges are associated with them?
- Be sure to keep the area open for visitors wanting to park and watch the bats for visitors to park to view this amazing view of the bats leaving the bridge in the evening.
- Benches Extend it out further to accommodate more people on the pier
- Benches.
  - Clean water
  - Clear signage and clearly marked areas of fall risk or safety concerns.
- Could you consider parks and rec providing rental canoes, fishing rods, etc.
- Create an area for fishing and for cleaning fish. There should be stocking and habitat created under the pier. Kayak fisherman should be able to dock and get bait nearby.
- Does the rendering reflect the PUD? The pier looks much shorter and the boardwalk is not included in the ordinance.
- Downlighting only for pier, lowest possible lumen levels so as not to inhibit bat flights
- Easy access
- Ensure it has barriers/security to prevent drownings. And make it look aesthetically pleasing too.
  - Excellent bat watching opportunity. Keep the walk way surrounding pier entry free of poison ivy and invasive trees and shrubs.
  - Great for bats!!
  - Have the end of the pier be circle-shaped, to allow more visitors to be on the end of the pier at once.
  - How will the city or Endeavor keep the stinky algae mats that form on the lake from accumulating around the pier?
  - I think if the pier wasn't too high up into the water and/or not too slippery that'd be great. Pier looks great though
  - Important for getting people who want to sight-see and take pictures. Gets them off the trail.
  - Increase the riparian plantings just on the base of that pier to increase the resilience down where that pier touches the land.
  - Is it PARD's understanding that the pier is PARD property or public property or is the pier potentially a boat dock?
  - Like the pier
- Love the bats!
- Love this idea!
- Low for kayaks.
- Make sure it is deaf-friendly- signages, etc.
- Make use of sustainable materials that are low maintenance. Include railings for safety. Do not allow water access from the pier.
- no
- no concrete

- Options for canoe, board, boat launch
- Pier as rendered is appealing and acceptable
- Pier is not needed. Adds little.
- Pier looks ideal says Merlin
- Prioritizing the bat experts input in this section it's a unique site within the city
- Probably some overhead protection from bat poop would be helpful. Bat Bridge isn't far away, and bats tend to come out flying east across the river.
- Purpose? It is already crowded there for bat watching evenings. Why would we want a pier there?
- Reduce length. Unsafe for boaters
- Seating along pier
- Seating, maybe with shade although that might interfere with bat viewing which will probably be popular here
- Small, away from bats, minimal size.
- That pier would be great! Honestly would help making rowing much more accessible
- Trust the visionary /creative team
- Try to make it not too slippery
- Unobtrusive and shortest smallest pier
- Views bats.
- Walk out and take in views.
  - We're so happy to help and are dedicated to making this the best possible for the bats! Merlin is so proud of his conservation successes here in Austin. www.austinbats.org
  - Wheelchair accessibility
  - Wonder where people would park their car to launch kayaks or paddle boards.
  - Wood Trek type of material, not METAL due to heat and too hot to hold on. Not wood, due to splinters. Solar powered walk way for sunsets.... Multi Layered colorful triangle Solar shade (Very popular in central and south Florida) see link for similar https://www.usa-shade.com/products/sails
  - Would like to launch my kayak from it.
  - Would love seating.

**Water Steps:** Comments received to question "Are there any characteristics of the Water Steps you would like the team to consider or plan for that would best meet your needs?"

- Accessible with rails
- Again, make sure it is user-friendly for everyone.
- Agreed, Luis. It will be much more user-friendly.
  - Appropriate for all abilities
  - Are the water steps ADA accessible or is there a complimentary place for ADA access?
  - As rendered acceptable
  - Away from bridge, follow recs on bat experts.
  - Concern about dogs getting in water and blue algae. Maybe water steps or pier but not both.
  - Dog access
  - Easy access to the water and safe
- Ensure parking available for visitors to park at watch the bats from the congress bat bridge!
  - Handle bars....
  - Have you talked to Watershed Protection about the steps to the water? On projects I've worked on they weren't allowing "bulkheads" on Lady Bird Lake unless there were boat wake issues.
  - How will the city or Endeavor keep the stinky algae mats that form on the lake from accumulating on the water steps?
  - I can see people wanting to bring their kayaks down here. Where do they get to the water steps and how would you minimize interactions/disturbances to Trail users?
  - I can't emphasize safety enough. Look at the issues with the Rainey Street trail.

- I don't understand the point of the water steps. People and dogs are cautioned away from entering the water.
- I have to say that the water steps area scares me for kids because I can just see somebody ending up in the drink there. Really want to have a lot of safety structures there.
- I hope it is not because more conducive to business owners. It needs to stay intact for bats and insects. It is ALREADY too crowded in that area.
- I love being thoughtful about the entryways to the waterfront so that ecologies aren't getting trampled by a whole lot of people.
- I think having the water steps be on the upper side is good, currently folks have to enter/exit under the congress bridge
- If there's going to be kayak traffic, how is this going to be managed and ultimately leased to a
  concessionaire?
- Important because people are accessing the water.
  - Include ADA provisions for the steps.
  - Keep lighting to a minimum, downlighting on rail at most
  - Keep the walkway and surrounding areas free of poison ivy and invasive trees and shrubs that can inhibit visitor viewing and overall experience.
  - Lack of lighting does cause some safety concerns when biking/walking later in the day though
  - Like areas for dogs to access water. Am concerned about dogs swimming free and interacting with bikers and runners.
  - Like idea of sitting by the water.
  - lots of water?
  - Love this idea! If it will keep bat viewers out of the walking bath and give more intimate access to the
    water.
  - Low for kayaks.
- Make it wider.
- Make the steps accessible to kids (not too high)
- Minimize the risk of drownings.
  - n/a
- no
- No
- No
- no concrete
- None
- People like to let dogs in the water. Could be a nice place to sit.
- Pet access
  - Probably make them wider and to double as seating.
  - Room between the steps and trail so that people don't accidently cross into the trail, especially with kayaks/paddleboards. Maybe bollards or benches would help.
  - safety signage
  - The Pier slide mentioned boats. I was not thinking of the pier as a docking place perhaps the water steps would be better for that. What were you all considering?
  - The precedent I'm looking at for this is Brooklyn Bridge Park, which uses water steps for their kayak and canoe rentals. There've been a lot of questions about the sort of market capitalization for the waterfront at this location and the opportunities and demand, but whether that's aligned with PARD and the Trail Foundation's interests.
  - They look good
  - They should be distanced from the trail since dogs and people may not be paying attention when cyclists are moving through on the trail.
  - Water Steps are not needed.
  - We have found that if you plant common rush anywhere near that, it's going to expand and block water access.

- We really like formalized water access because it really funnels people down to the water there as opposed to them trampling some more sensitive communities.
- Wheelchair/ cane accessibility
- Wide access so boats being carried don't conflict with trail. Boat launch for inflatable.

**Great Lawn:** Comments received to question "Are there any characteristics of the Great Lawn you would like the team to consider or plan for that would best meet your needs?"

- A few Picnic tables
- Access from Congress Ave Bridge that we have today. Is that via the "great stairway"?
- Access to the trail.
- Accessible, conserve water for lawn strategies
- add more open space
- Animal waste centers/bags, compost bins and consider placing more trees!
- Are y'all planning on doing plant healthcare for the trees and stuff during and after construction?
- Bats!
- Benches and shaded areas.
- But will there be programing for all communities?
- cant think of one
- Change the name since it is may be just good
- Concerned about loose dogs.
- Ensure it has plenty of shade, maybe clean restrooms in strategic spots (and have measures in place that would prevent homeless people from making huge messes).
- Good, would like an additional tree or trees in the grass area between great lawn and Congress bridge
- Great lawn mentioned poison ivy. Can we bring that up for a second?
- Have to have area to relax.
- How will the city or Endeavor keep the Great Lawn from becoming a campground for people who have drug or psychiatric problems?
- How will you make it feel like a welcoming space for those not living there? To get really specific. how will you make this a safe and welcomina space for our BIPOC community, who don't necessarily always feel welcome in new, fancy, expensive spaces?
- I love this concept.
- I think about the temptation to make this into a venue type space because that probably could be a revenue generator. But I think of how much more lovely it would be to have it be (for) smaller convenings. I just think of how incredibly impressive the Alliance Park is, behind Dougherty Arts. So just being in that public space and the way that you're able to just enjoy the space even as adult with spaces that are really child-friendly and active but not super high risk. Have an all ages, all abilities space that's dynamic and supports all those populations.
- I think big patches of lawn are really hard to maintain in a healthy way with lots of residents and pet owners, so just making sure that there's a very thoughtful maintenance program to keep the grass on the great lawn alive will be important.
- I'm particularly interested in a welcoming pathway, one that not just the residents of the nearby area will be drawn to and also that it's well lit, ADA compliant, comfortable. Things like that so that a person could get off the bus with their wheelchair or stroller and pretty well seamlessly move to The Great Lawn if that's where they're headed.
- I'd say Open Field Play, e.g. a large lawn of grass is good, irrigation would be important) and adding amenities around the edges (e.g. shade, seating) would be good as well.
- If you are protecting the heritage trees, I suspect that you will not be able to see the bats emerge based on the location of the bats currently from the lawn and that actually you'll probably have to get out to the pier or closer to the water, but that is a dynamic population. Who knows what's going to happen during construction, but I don't believe that that's a great bat viewing area.
- Important to help relieve congestion. Like that it is graduated stadium-style so people can see.
- Important. Could do park yoga and more. Leave it.

- In reference to the lawns and landscaping in the developments, are there requirements to avoid chemical use that would run off into the water?
- Include a substantial number of larger caliber trees throughout the lawn area. Make sure there is adequate electric service and distribution for the purposes of holding music events on the lawn.
- It needs good shade and ideally some small shops near by the buildings
- It would be nice to have a small inside/outdoor farmers market alongside the great lawn. It should be easy to get a quick bite or drink then picnic on the lawn.
- Keep the area beautified. There's this area fenced around to prevent the public from going in that area which is possibly contaminated with bat's poo. This is fine but perhaps we could beautify the area then to just fenced it up and let it go. Make it pretty...
- Like enclosed dog spaces.
- Like open space.
- Make it friendly for bat viewing but back off direct access to the trail.
- Make sure that people can enjoy the lawn and enjoy the adjacent through-trail, with minimal conflicts.
- Maybe artificial turf.
- Mix of sun and shade, preserve trees
  - More trash cans that are emptied on a regular basis. Water stations.
  - More tree to allow for more shade and to act as more privacy/enclosure from street traffic and noise
  - nno
  - One of the beautiful part of the current trail is the fore canopy cover over the trail. Will that be maintained?
  - One thing I'd love is if there some small shops or food trucks that were allowed near the area. So you could hangout in the law while eating ice cream or hanging out drinking a coffee or something
  - Open space away from bridge. Combo native scapes.
  - Open space with native landscaping.
- Owner pay for them
  - place to hang out, to watch bats, nice turf to sit on
  - Playground (small).
  - Room for lots of bat viewing / visitors. Trail needs to be wide enough to accommodate bikes, walkers, and bat viewing concurrently. Lighting is an issue / bats? Needs to be significantly improved here.
- Seating and shade. People watching.
  - seating areas that are safe (can see surrounding areas)
  - St. Augustine turf
- That (poison ivy) definitely needs to be dealt with, Scott!
  - That canopy is great'
  - The great lawn area looks fine for playground activities, but will likely have little, if any effect on bats or bat watching. The brush under the bridge and along the coast needs to be managed.
  - The Great Lawn was in the original South Central Waterfront vision framework plan at a much larger size and I do think that it is going to need to be activated with a lot of amenities to make it great in any definition. I mean what we're losing in quantity, maybe we can get with quality. It could be movable furniture or opportunities, other opportunities for shade or water or places for people to actually go and have recreate and also possibly see the bats. But not likely, you'll probably have a really nice view of the people on Congress Avenue looking at the bats that are emerging over the lake, but that could be interesting people watching as well as bat watching.
  - Tiered seating with shade
- water bowls attached to water fountains for dogs
- water faucet for dogs
- Well manicured. Maybe use grass similar to Zilker Great Lawn. Maybe ad some water fountains there.
- Would there be dog park levels on the residential buildings? I'm wondering about the residents bringing their dogs out to the Great Lawn and adjacent western lawn areas. The residents at the AMLI

- at South Shore all use the lawn space between their building and Lakeshore Dr. and you can't even walk through it.
- Yes! Make ADA for wheel chairs.

**Boardwalk**: Comments received to question "Are there any characteristics of the Boardwalk you would like the team to consider or plan for that would best meet your needs?"

- Add light that create good energy at night time, place to display our city history
- Benches
- Clearing of trees so good view line so people know boardwalk is there.
- Consider that thinning of greenery could impact night heron and egret roosts
- Do not allow the Boardwalk or other areas to be used to shoot off fireworks disturbing the wildlife along the lake.
- Ease of access.
- Ensure it has adequate lighting, cameras, barriers to prevent drownings, more benches, etc.
- Extend boardwalk to bypass lawn/traffic areas
- For the Boardwalk, pedestrian/scooter interaction is a huge issue.
- Geofencing
- Helps get people off the trail and keeps entries right off the trail. Like to avoid entrances through treed areas.
- How far off the water is that going to be? Is that tall enough for people to kayak under?
- I could envision bikes, cyclists wanting to do the boardwalk as well. It's like that because... Guess I would want to try it, but I don't know. But it's cool. A personal opinion.
- I like that it goes out over the water
- I like that; it should be relaxing. Scooters are not allowed but some come on anyway. We need to geofence them out.
- I would trade a boardwalk for a proper setback any day and for public space that was not steel and concrete and big construction in a waterway. I think that there's a value to the boardwalk and in other portions of the lake require it.
- I'm pleased to see good ramp access for wheelchair users.
- I've yet to go there. Need to do this, Nothing to input.
- If you put it on the great lawn no one will use it.
  - Include benches for sitting.
  - Is there a way to make it more protective of the shoreline? Watershed does a lot of aquatic fencing all on the shoreline that helps establish plants mostly because of the turtle and nutrient populations in the lake. I'm just curious if maybe that could be something that's included in the boardwalk design so that the habitat behind the boardwalk is then much more protected and able to really turn into this thriving estuary.
  - It needs adequate downward-focused lighting.
- It's a must have feature
- Lighting, seating, dog poop bags, trash cans, bike parking.
- Lighting.
  - Lights.
  - make sure it is not slippery when wet.
  - mesh fencing for safety.
  - Move the buildings away from the shoreline so a boardwalk is not required
- n/a
  - N/a
  - no
  - No
  - No
  - no concrete

- No scooters allowed on the Trail!
- No scooters. please!
- Not long enough.
- On east boardwalk, dog poop is an issue.
  - Owner pay for it not us taxpayers
  - Question about the mixed bicycle and other pedestrian, the mix of those and making sure that they can coexist. That both modes can use the boardwalk.
  - Railing on the boardwalk.
- Restrict no scooters
  - Seating. If its too straight and smooth people on wheels might want to speed down it. For seating I always really liked the waterfront seating near Linda's Lawn in NYC, which were more comforable to relax in vs normal benches.
  - Separate running / biking trail. No wheels on boardwalk except stroller and wheel chair.
  - Shades and benches
  - Similar to existing boardwalk.
  - The board walk will be an excellent place to watch the bats, I expect it will be very popular.
  - There should be a boardwalk for pedestrian and a separate one for cyclists to bypass pedestrian traffic
  - They're already currently geofenced through the butler trail
  - Trek wood please.
  - Water misters when it's extra hot?
  - Who is paying for the boardwalk?
  - Wide
- Wide enough for pedestrians and bicycles, no motorized vehicles
  - Wide enough for walkers and cyclists.
  - Wider than existing boardwalk. Shade.
  - Will the boardwalk design be similar to what was done by the Trail Conservancy?
  - Would be nice to have a shaded pergola with bench seating like what is east of I-35 in a few spots.
  - Yes, make sure that there is plenty of space and less conflict b/w bikes and people
  - Yes, the boardwalk will allow more space for bat watching.

**Prairie Terraces:** Comments received to question "Are there any characteristics of the Prairie Terraces you would like the team to consider or plan for that would best meet your needs?"

- Based on its location and structure, it looked a lot like a rain garden to me. Is that really what that is?
- Benches and shade!
- Can we please commit to something that is family friendly and specifically for kids??
- Could there be some coverage over the terraces and play area for some shade or rain
  - Ensure it has lots of shade.
  - great area for open spaces.
- Helps with stadium-style seating for bat viewing. Wondering how high it will be because people like to see bats from underneath.
- How will the city or Endeavor keep the Prairie Terraces from becoming a campground for people who have drug or psychiatric problems?
- I love terraced seating. Definitely shade is needed.
- I put the terraces somewhat lower but that's because without more shade I have a feeling they'd be very hard to use for a good chunk of the year Similarly with the terraces in the Lady Bird Park to the left of congress
- I think one of the things that's not clear is the differences between the prairie terraces and the great lawn and how those would be used differently and considering they're also somewhat adjacent. Maybe some refining of how they would serve different groups or purposes might be helpful.

- I thought it was interesting that somebody thought the prairie terraces would be great for a civic group to meet at, but not the great lawn. I guess that's the thing is what are we trying to facilitate in one place versus the other?
- I would think, if it were programmed for children, which I think somewhere in this space you should have something that's programmed for children. You you'd want at least some fencing that as a parent you could stand near the gate and let your kids sort of go free and not worry too much about them.
- I've yet to go there. Need to do this, Nothing to input.
- Is this required infrastructure like a rain garden? Exceed code.
- Layered tilted sun shades, multi colored
- Like idea of additional seating.
- Like seating for watching bats.
- In our engagement work we're hearing from parents this need for spaces to just be able to let their kids kind of run without fear of cars or fear of a conflict. I think spaces for kids is really important, but also just thinking about the edges and safety for the Prairie Terrace, how it's kind of drawn on the plan here looks like it's suggesting like an AMPA amphitheater. Is that the intent?
- Looks good. Just shade, shade, and more shade.
- Maybe a good place for civic/neighborhood meetings?
- maybe another water faucet for dogs here
- More plants (Highline in NYC).
- My recommendations is prairie generally is unkempt. We have a lot of shaggy plants that create a lot of habitat for sneaky critters. If it's prairies that have seed enough in it, enough people might avoid it. I would recommend something shorter. Thunder turf we found as a really good alternative.
- n/a
- N/A
- Native grasses and aspects that are similar to Pease park amphitheater
- Native landscaping.
- Native plants (need color).
- no
- No
- No.
- none that I can think of
- Not sure why this is there.
- Owner pay for it not us taxpayers
- plant natives only and add more open space
- Pleasant to sit and read
  - seating on terraces.
  - Shaded areas, please looks lovely but as you know our sun is brutal most of the year
- Terrace seating
- There should be a small outdoor Cafe with chairs near this area.
- Trust the team
  - Well I don't think there would be as much seating on the great lawn. More people would probably bring their own chairs or bring a picnic blanket or something to sit on. I think people were thinking of the prairie terraces as having more seating, terraced seating for that sort of thing.
  - Wheelchair ramp
  - When you say prairie, are you intending to seed that with wildflowers and like a native seed mix?

**Nature Play:** Comments received to question "Are there any characteristics of the Nature Play (area) you would like the team to consider or plan for that would best meet your needs?"

- A clear distinction from play area for children vs pets (dogs).
- accessible for all children

- Accessible, multi ages and capabilities
- Agreed with Samuel. Doesn't even have to be a traditional playscape. The nearby school park has tree stumps the kids love to jump on that also double as seating.
- Are there any places for kids of all abilities to play? Lots of but what about swings kids to play and learn?
- Are you going to have accessible swings or some play equipment for children with disabilities.
- As long as it's structurally safe and hospitable, I think that's what matters more than having swings or whatever, not just saying those are not important. Just the overall structure making it right is what's really valuable for folks to be able to play, have fun in the area.
- Benches and shade!
- Concur with the focus on useability, fun, and safety for kids in the Nature Play (area).
- Elevated nature play? Cool, but can ALL kids access in that case?
- Fantastic! Lots of families come and hang out for hours.
- Great spot for outdoor classroom.
- Have a safe area for dogs.
- How will the city or Endeavor keep the Nature Play (area) from being used as an off leash dog park?
- I don't have kids
- I personally don't love fences but I can see the concern, the height would be a natural protection there
- I've yet to go there. Need to do this, Nothing to input.
- Is a low fence contemplated for safety (e.g., kiddos running out into the trail with bikes moving & folks with dogs moving through)
- Is there an opportunity to have kids help design what goes there?
- Kid friendly
- Make sure it is accessible for all
  - maybe need to add shade area if possible.
  - More science-base.
  - Mounds that have astroturf!!
  - multi ages and abilities
- My cousins and nephews would be the type to get injured sprinting around the water steps
  - n/a
  - N/A
- Natural, blends in. Seating.
- no
- no concrete, natural area playscape, with no impervious cover
  - No playscape for kids.
  - No. Native plantings, scapes. We do not need "playscapes".
- none that I can think of
  - Owner pay for it not us taxpayers Should be kid friendly and larger
- Parents want to see bats but maybe kids don't so this is a good idea.
- Nature Play (area) should be conducive to children with disabilities.
- Safe for children and pets
- See Abilities for All children park for ideas to include children with special needs wheelchair swing
  - Splash pad.
  - There is a severe lack of playground spaces for families along the lakefront
  - There should be ways for kids to explore nature and learn
  - Tree stumps would be kinda brilliant
- Trust the team
  - Water fountain for dogs. Really like childrens? park.
  - Water fountains there. I mean for drinking. Same as above.
  - We need spaces that work for those with younger children specifically

- Will that be surrounded by a low wall? See that the smallest kids won't be running out into the trail in front of people who are maybe moving quickly?
- You know this will be dog park rather than area for children.
- You're right, it's tough for kids.

## Comments received to question "Are there any other comments you'd like to share?"

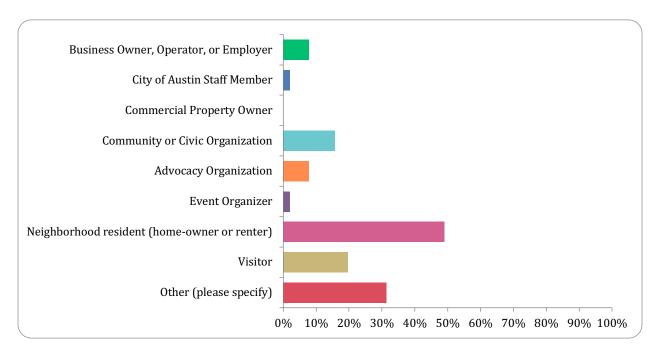
- Add a hike and bike connection from S1st to river along W Bouldin Creek
- Add music. Don't make it the Domain.
- Also what is existing parkland today as it is being used (including easements) vs. 6.5 acres quoted for this project?
- Appreciate Endeavor's outreach to the community. I don't think this will come before me on the Downtown Commission since it isn't downtown (I start on it next week), so I appreciate getting to have input this way.
- Are you also burying the power lines, given the issues recently?
- Bathrooms! Existing ones are too far.
- Been a long time resident here in Austin. Townlake is my favorite place to walk after work. I am excited to see improvements!
- boardwalk and pier are most impactful and helpful for bat viewing our top two favorites :)
- Can you explain the yearly amount and an estimate of each years balance, please?
- Can you make sure you gather input from folks IN their community?
- Can you please remind the group how much the fee in-lieu is.
- Do you have a view of these plans from street level from S. Congress to the north? It seems like the new building that is planned to be directly adjacent to the bridge will block existing views of the lake and greenery... so to accomplish the stated goal to "see views of the lake" will require one to walk into the building complex area (sorry. it's hard for me to call them trails as reflected). Also, what are results of environmental studies on 1) impact on the bats and 2) impervious cover, including impact of additional (residential+) tenants on this land?
- Eliminate parking because there are already too many people. Concerned about degradation of resource. Good to create additional pathways. Add signage about bikes (speed limit). E-bikes go too fast.
- Emergency BUTTON for any situations.... at waist level for people in Wheelchair. STOP with intercom type, many deaf people or foreigners who don't speak English these intercoms are useless.
- Especially for the deaf community who require light and large spaces for communications pathways that are a little bit larger. That way they could when you sign to each other.
- Farmers markets, vendors, food forest or herb garden, signage, exercise area, film viewing, amphitheater. Consider wide range of retail. Prioritize beauty.
- For people on their daily run, they're still trying to get through the area as quickly as possible. Just make sure that the way finding or the space where there are trails that combine is very clear so people who just want to get through can do so in a way that they can still enjoy the scenery and that it is clearly separated or has signage.
- Greener the better.
- Has this plan been developed to align with the Austin climate equity plan, especially the conservation and expansion of. natural areas and increased trees and canopy cover? Hoping this development makes a positive not negative impact.
- How does this design mesh with The Trail Conservancy's recent mobility plan, which included dual-track trails (a.k.a. "double-trails")? This location would be a great opportunity to provide dual-track trails.
- How will you all be sure that the area doesn't become occupied by displaced individuals (homeless)
- I am excited about this project.
- I am more than happy to help with any planning to protect and preserve our bats.
- I just wonder the extent of the coordination to take advantage of some of the possibilities that there may be here with Project Connect.

- I love any and all efforts to make this as ecologically sensitive as possible and to use native and adapted plants wherever possible just to help mitigate, well a couple of things to support our pollinators and be a waste station and all that stuff. And to reduce your water needs and have greener infrastructure and all the things
- I love that this will become more green/community space.
- I think it would be nice to understand what the plans were for those kind of concessions. I mean all along the lake, whether it's the boat dock over at Fiesta Gardens or the Waller Creek Inlet and Boathouse, I mean there are lots of concessions along the lake and this is going to be a point of great market interest and so a lot of people would want to rent a kayak at that point and so if there's going to be a concession, it should be part of the plan on where and how that's managed I think.
- I would hope the new development doesn't impact the flow of traffic on the trail. Doesn't add more pollution to the water.
- I'm honestly most excited to see the hike and bike trail improved. The trail is currently really narrow at this section, and it can feel a little uncomfortable to bike through especially if there is any pedestrian traffic.
- Is the yearly amount to be paid for operations and maintenance? Or what is the intent of this additional yearly amount? You mentioned a yearly amount to bepaid, depending on the "city's calculation". So then we have a total of \$6.9M in fee and the rest is the amount due to the PID, correct? So we have \$6.9M for amenities to prioritize. Got it.
- It does look really lovely and thoughtful. I'm just concerned about cutting off views of the river when NOT in the project I live nearby as well as inadvertently cutting off access to the project by folks not represented here today.
- It is unsafe and definitely not resilient for this area to be developed as south downtown. The land is partially in the Lady Bird Lake floodplain. When the next rain bomb or flood hits this area, it will be impossible to evacuate people living or working in the towers. To build in areas that have previously flooded is not an example of wise fiduciary action.
- It would be great to know how much money is in the fund so we can have an idea of what the range of possibilities are.
- Just FYI I've lived in the area for a bit and that new building (unless I've got some angles messed up) shouldn't block views of the lake
- Keep trees.
- Like idea of multiple pathways. Concerned about erosion.
  - Like the concept
  - Like to see color, foliage and plantings, and dog gardens with pleasant smelling plants.
- Make it feel alive and not sterile. Read Christopher Alexander's books and use those as a blueprint
- Make sure space for families, ADA, elderly, and sensory-friendly (HighLine).
- Make sure the Ada accessibility is prioritized for all individuals to enjoy
- More actual parkland and honest messaging this process and what is for the public. Is the pier actually a boat dock? Are the water steps and prairie terraces actually required infrastructure? Is the lawn "great"?
- n/a
- Nice work.
  - None
  - Not everyone can make it down to the trail ever weekend but still use it. The east side communities, specifically.
- Off-leash dog area. Lighting.
- Owner pay for it not us taxpayers
- Please carefully consider area lighting. We need it safe but not overly bright.
- Please don't block the trail during construction.
- Please please please reconsider leaving the tress on both the south side of the hike and bike trail along the existing statesman building and parking lot. This is the only natural tree canopy along this

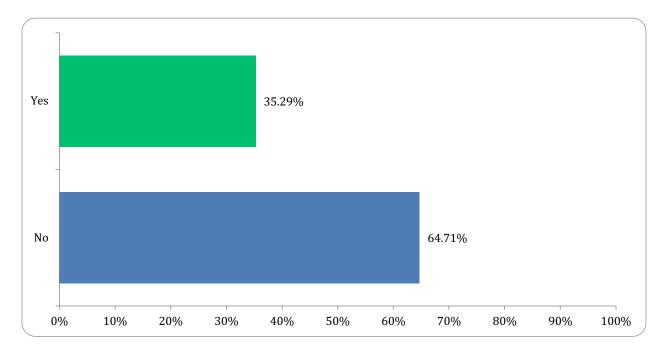
- entire stretch of the trail. It is gorgeous and provides lots of shade. Please go for a walk through there and feel it for yourselves.
- Preservation of bioenvironfent to protect water supply, bats, ecosystem.
- Restaurants or cafe. Good to keep nature but want amenities.
  - Sebastian, I don't feel as though I have enough information to make this ranking. I would need to see more detail on each. An aerial plan view is not helpful.
  - Since Endeavor owns into the water as mentioned by Sander, will they also maintain that area (e.g., litter in water/ along the shore, esp. after rain)?
  - The development needs cultural places like galleries or a cultural amenity with exhibits. I know this is about the grounds, but a cultural amenity could program the great lawn or others. Consider a kiosk if you cannot commit to having a cultural place as part of the development, or both!
- The trail is actually very important east-west connectivity
- There is not enough detail on what each of these amenities offers to make an informed decision. The team is providing plan view, aerial, renderings of the amenities. What are they, and how will the public interact with them? Please provide more detail so we can make an informed decision.
- There should be a permanent farmers market building similar to the Dallas Farmers Market.
- This is an exciting project and Sander and his team have done a lot of work to put this together.
- This is definitely something that should be heavily considered
- This looks so beautiful. Great job.
- Though another pain point that idk if it can be changed easily is the congressing under the congress bridge If that crossing can be expanded, that'd be wonderful!
- Trees and shade.
- Who are the stakeholders? What about the adjacent neighborhood associations: SRCC and BCNA
- Wider under bridge because it is congested. More places off trail to view bats.
- Yeah expanding the trail great
- Yes! Great to see these ideas coming into reality!

## Appendix C - Survey's Demographic Print Out

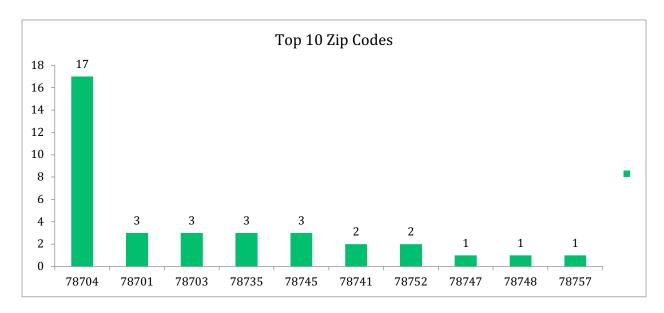
1) Responses to question "Tell us about your relationship to the 305 South Congress project? (Check all that apply)." (Answered: 51 Skipped: 15)



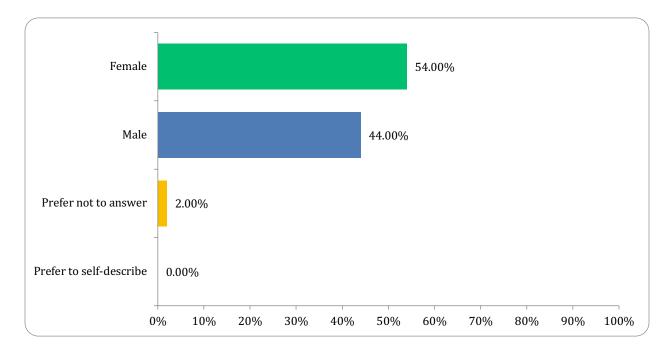
2) Responses to question "Did you participate in the March 2 Stakeholder Meeting or watched the recording? (Answered: 51 Skipped: 15)



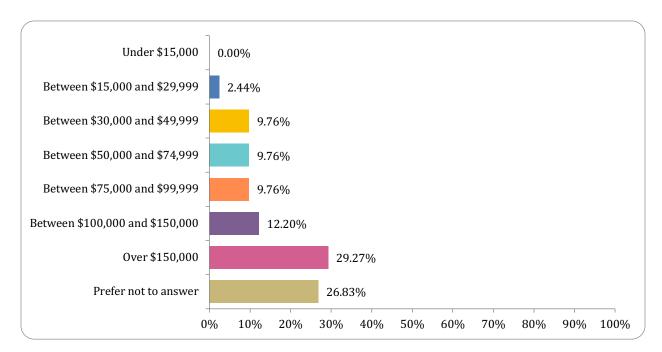
## 3) Responses to question "Please select your zip code." (Answered: 44 Skipped: 22)



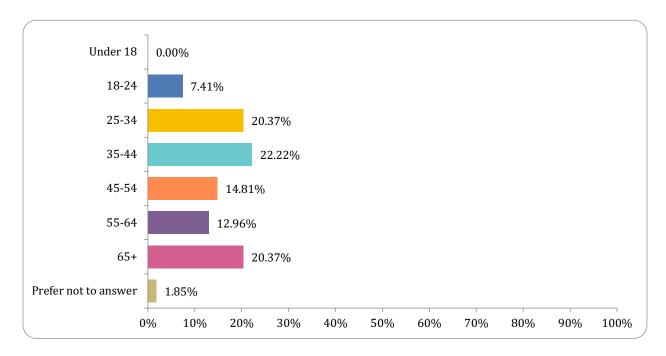
## 4) Responses to question "What is your gender?" (Answered: 50 Skipped: 16)



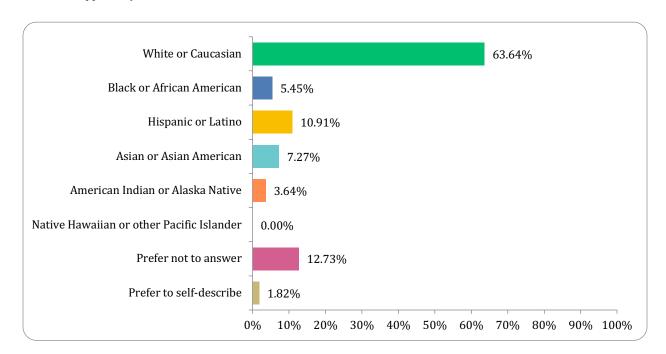
## 5) Responses to question "What is your annual household income?" (Answered: 41 Skipped: 25)



## 6) Responses to question "What is your age range?" (Answered: 54 Skipped: 12)



7) Responses to question: "How would you describe yourself? (Select all that apply)" (Answered: 55 Skipped: 11)



# Appendix D - Amenity Aerial

