



MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Nadia Barrera, Urban Trails Program Manager, Public Works Department

DATE: June 24, 2014

SUBJECT: Urban Trails Master Plan: Comments Received from Urban Forestry and Environmental Boards

CC: Angela Hanson and D’Anne Williams, Parks and Recreation Department
 Michael Embesi and Keith Mars, Planning and Development Review Department
 Matt Hollan, Mateo Scoggins, and John Clement, Watershed Protection Department
 Chad Crager, Public Works Department

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a comprehensive list of the Urban Forestry Board and Environmental Board comments received during the Urban Trails Master Planning (UTMP) process, and to provide responses to those comments. These responses have been coordinated interdepartmentally to take advantage of existing expertise. Staff listed above (cc-ed), have provided the responses below. The yellow highlighted cells indicate those comments that will result in a change to the UTMP.

Urban Forestry Board – May 21, 2014

Comment	Response
Critical Management Zones (CMZ, sensitive areas) are defined as: steep slopes, thin soils, wetlands, undisturbed greenbelts and flood plains, forest elements, riparian areas, and river and stream banks.	Staff has not found reason to create this definition. The City of Austin (CoA) has existing environmental restrictions in place for Critical Environmental Features, Critical Water Quality Zones, Erosion Hazard Zones, Heritage Tree protection.
A thorough environmental assessment, including a cultural resources assessment, shall be performed by a qualified independent ecologist or wildlife habitat specialist and a qualified independent certified arborist prior to determination of trail routes,	Environmental assessments and review of cultural resources will be executed and are required for all Federally funded projects and for locally funded projects as needed. Currently, the CoA uses contractors or subcontractors to complete this work and is completed as part of the Preliminary Engineering Report.

<p>Following the environmental and cultural assessments, trail routes, creek crossings, trail access points and trail heads shall be designed and built in accordance with criteria recommended by a qualified, independent ecologist or wildlife habitat specialist to establish and protect native riparian areas and wildlife corridors and habitat. Qualified city staff or independent consultant shall oversee installation of all trails and other corridors to assure that the above criteria are met.</p>	<p>Design of Urban Trails (UTs) will be approved by the Planning and Development Review, Watershed Protection, Public Works, Parks and Recreation and other departments as necessary. Qualified construction inspectors are required for all construction projects.</p>
<p>Funds for the environmental and cultural assessments, criteria development, and subsequent supervision, including the contracting of qualified, independent ecologist or wildlife habitat specialist, shall be included in the budget of the trails project.</p>	<p>Thorough environmental assessments, environmental impact statements, and review of cultural resources will be executed and are required for all Federal, state and local projects. Currently, the City of Austin uses contractors or subcontractors to complete this work. This work is completed as part of the Preliminary Engineering Report.</p>
<p>A qualified independent ecologist or wildlife habitat specialist shall determine which greenbelts shall be left for wildlife corridors, where only small primitive trails shall be allowed.</p>	<p>Thorough environmental assessments, environmental impact statements, and review of cultural resources will be executed and are required for all Federal, state and local projects. Currently, the CoA uses contractors or subcontractors to complete this work. This work is completed as part of the Preliminary Engineering Report.</p>
<p>A no-build option shall exist when any of the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Environmental constraints, including not being able to build concrete trail outside the 5 yr. floodplain in CMZ. b. Existence of a better alternative route. c. Lack of neighborhood support. d. Neighborhood priority relative to other Public Works or Transportation Department projects. e. Cost benefit analysis indicates that cost is excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use. f. No need or low need (rural or low density area). g. Private ownership of a portion of the proposed route that cannot be negotiated. h. Unresolved public safety concerns. i. Unresolved maintenance concerns. 	<p>The City reserves the right to not build UTs if there are un-avoidable environmental constraints and/or the existence of a better, alternative route. Due to the high cost of design, construction, and maintenance of UTs, the CoA will prioritize those UTs that have existing community support, are cost effective, and serve the most potential users. Add to Trail Design Guidelines.</p>

<p>Prioritization criteria shall include equal weighting for each of the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Environmental impact b. Neighborhood support/opposition c. Cost d. Ownership of property along proposed route e. Connectivity 	<p>The UTMP calls for a preliminary round of prioritization that is based on current City Code, Technical Manuals, standards, and policies. The purpose of the UTMP is to consolidate past trail planning and implementation efforts. The prioritization method does this by plugging in a database of potential, conceptual routes developed from existing trail plans and public feedback received during the UTMP public input process, and prioritizing those routes based upon the aforementioned existing plans/policies. The method creates High, Medium, and Low ranking UTs. The CoA will then systematically analyze the feasibility of each High Priority UT through the PER process, and will consider any collaborative opportunities such as public-private partnerships or coordination with adjacent jurisdictions for implementation of the UTMP.</p>
<p>Public input shall be included when deciding trail location. Neighborhood involvement shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Notification to all communities of interest and neighbors within 500 ft. of the trail corridor when the design process starts, b. At least 2 open houses for the trail corridor, c. Additional public meetings with communities of interest and neighbors within 500 ft. of CMZ that are part of the proposed trail corridor. 	<p>The CoA will notify via signs, flyers, and other media outlets the affected area and will also notify by e-mail registered community organizations within 500 feet of the affected area. Staff will hold at least two Open Houses and will collect feedback electronically, by mail, or by telephone. Additional Open Houses may occur as needed.</p>
<p>Periodic notification of initiation of trail designs and review of trail site plans by the Urban Forestry Board and the Environmental Board.</p>	<p>Staff will brief Boards and Commissions about UTs when required by existing City Code, procedures and Technical Manuals and as appropriate.</p>
<p>Define "Critical Management Zones" (CMZ, sensitive areas) as steep slopes, thin soils, wetlands, undisturbed greenbelts and floodplains, riparian areas, and river and stream banks.</p>	<p>Staff has not found reason to create this definition. The CoA has existing environmental restrictions in place for Critical Environmental Features, Critical Water Quality Zones, Erosion Hazard Zones, Heritage Tree protection.</p>
<p>Change Objective 6.2 to say, "Whenever possible, locate trails outside CMZ and utilize existing paved routes. In CMZ, locate trails outside the Erosion Hazard Zones (except for low water crossings) and no closer to a creek than within WP ordinance outer buffer."</p>	<p>The Watershed Protection Ordinance addresses placement of trails in Critical Water Quality Zones and Erosion Hazard Zones.</p>

Change Objective 6.4 In CMZ, construct UTs no wider than 12 feet.	Staff has not found reason to create a CMZ. The CoA has existing environmental restrictions in place for Critical Environmental Features, Critical Water Quality Zones, Erosion Hazard Zones, Heritage Tree protection.
Adherence to the Protected and Heritage Tree Ordinances, and the Environmental Criteria Manual (preservation criteria, tree and CRZ protection guidelines, etc).	UT design will adhere to existing City Code, Technical Criteria Manuals, standards, and policies.
In the CMZ Asphalt shall not be used for UTs.	Staff has not found reason to create a CMZ. The CoA has existing environmental restrictions in place for Critical Environmental Features, Critical Water Quality Zones, Erosion Hazard Zones, Heritage Tree protection.
Distance from edge of urban trail to adjacent trees shall be at least 5 ft. and root barriers shall not be used.	UT design will adhere to existing City Code, standards, Technical Criteria Manuals, and policies.
Tree species selection shall consist of long lived native shade trees and native understories appropriate for the site, and shall not be based on minimizing vegetative litter on trail or root uplifting of pavement.	UT design will adhere to all existing City Code, Technical Criteria Manuals, standards, and policies and will coordinate trail maintenance and landscaping with appropriate staff.
In CMZ, the urban trail width shall be 12 ft. maximum and the shoulder width shall be 2 ft. maximum.	Staff has not found reason to create a CMZ. The CoA has existing environmental restrictions in place for Critical Environmental Features, Critical Water Quality Zones, Erosion Hazard Zones, Heritage Tree protection.
Riparian setback in CMZ shall be 100-200 ft.	Staff has not found reason to create a CMZ. The CoA has existing environmental restrictions in place for Critical Environmental Features, Critical Water Quality Zones, Erosion Hazard Zones, Heritage Tree protection.
The number of low water crossings shall be minimized to avoid impacts to the creek and shall be designed to prevent people from leaving the trail and entering the creek.	UT design will adhere to existing City Code, standards, Technical Criteria Manuals, and policies.
In CMZ, if site conditions allow it, design trail access points not closer than 1 mile apart and trailheads not closer than 2 miles to access points. Use existing infrastructure if available and appropriate.	Staff has not found reason to create a CMZ. The CoA has existing environmental restrictions in place for Critical Environmental Features, Critical Water Quality Zones, Erosion Hazard Zones, Heritage Tree protection.
In CMZ, trailhead amenities shall be kept at a minimum.	Staff has not found reason to create a CMZ. The CoA has existing environmental restrictions in place for Critical Environmental Features, Critical Water Quality Zones, Erosion Hazard Zones, Heritage Tree protection.

UTs do not provide green infrastructure and shall not be used to enhance CMZ. UTs shall be used to restore waterways in CMZ only when areas are eroded and need restoration.	Well-designed UTs will include appropriate green infrastructure such as rain gardens, vegetated filter strips, and directed sheet flows to manage stormwater and contribute to sustainable vegetation management.
Artificial nighttime lighting shall be Dark Sky compliant.	UT design will adhere to existing City Code, standards, Technical Criteria Manuals, and policies.
All healthy heritage and prominent trees shall be preserved.	As feasible, heritage and protected trees will be preserved.
A certified arborist shall be required for the approval of trail layout when trees are in the path or near the trail.	UT design will adhere to existing City Code, standards, Technical Criteria Manuals, and policies.
Trails shall be designed to avoid the full CRZ of trees (especially healthy heritage and prominent trees) whenever possible. Younger trees may tolerate impact to ½ CRZ but heritage trees need ¾ (minimum) or the full CRZ (best).	UT design will adhere to existing City Code, standards, Technical Criteria Manuals, and policies.
Encroachment on more than one side of the CRZ of the tree shall be avoided. Previously impacted areas should be given priority for trail routing.	UT design will adhere to existing City Code, standards, Technical Criteria Manuals, and policies.
If it is not possible to design trails outside the tree's full CRZ, the concrete trail inside the CRZ shall be built above grade (no trenching, no root cutting, no soil compacting) utilizing the sand technique or other methods.	UT design will adhere to existing City Code, standards, Technical Criteria Manuals, and policies.
Distance from edge of urban trail to adjacent trees shall be at least 5 ft. and root barriers shall not be used.	UT design will adhere to existing City Code, standards, Technical Criteria Manuals, and policies.
Total impervious cover shall be less than 35% of the CRZ. If needed, impervious cover shall be removed elsewhere from the CRZ without damaging roots. Permeable trail surface materials shall be used when feasible.	UT design will adhere to existing City Code, standards, Technical Criteria Manuals, and policies. Permeable trail surface will be used when feasible. Add to Trail Design Guidelines.
Maintain natural drainage for trees.	Add to Trail Design Guidelines.
All planting inside CRZ shall avoid damage to tree roots and shall utilize smallest container possible not to exceed 1 gallon.	UT design will adhere to existing City Code, standards, Technical Criteria Manuals, and policies.
Trail shoulders shall be 2 ft. wide.	Standard trail shoulder width shall be 2 ft. wide.
Maintenance plans shall include watering existing heritage and prominent trees during periods of insufficient rainfall.	During UT construction appropriate care will be taken to water existing trees located within 5'-10' from the UT. Add to Trail Design Guidelines.
During construction and maintenance, appropriate measures shall be utilized to avoid soil compaction, such as 4" layer of mulch with rubber matting.	UT construction will adhere to existing City Code, Technical Criteria Manuals, standards, and policies.
Trail work areas shall be restored by planting site appropriate native planting.	UT construction will adhere to existing City Code, Technical Criteria Manuals, standards, and

	policies.
Qualified city staff or independent consultant shall oversee installation of all trails and other corridors	UT construction will adhere to existing City Code, Technical Criteria Manuals, standards, and policies.
Tree protection fences shall be installed according to the Environmental Criteria Manual, preferably at the edge of the full CRZ, or according to city standards if not feasible.	UT construction will adhere to existing City Code, Technical Criteria Manuals, standards, and policies.
Fence and mark CRZ from motorized vehicle use.	Motorized vehicles are not permitted on UTs.
Contractor shall not damage trees or cut roots larger than 2 inches without a certified arborist present.	UT construction will adhere to existing City Code, Technical Criteria Manuals, standards, and policies.
Contractors shall follow all rules in CoA's Environmental Criteria Manual and other Tree Protection regulations, including the Oak Wilt Policy.	UT construction will adhere to existing City Code, Technical Criteria Manuals, standards, and policies.
Contractor shall have designated areas to store chemicals that shall not be located within the CRZ of trees.	UT construction will adhere to existing City Code, Technical Criteria Manuals, standards, and policies.
The project budget shall include compost, mulch and other after care for mature trees.	UT construction will adhere to existing City Code, Technical Criteria Manuals, standards, and policies.
Critically impacted trees shall be watered deeply when starting and ending the job, and during periods of insufficient rainfall while the trail work is ongoing.	UT construction will adhere to existing City Code, Technical Criteria Manuals, standards, and policies.
Artificial nighttime lighting shall be Dark Sky compliant.	UT construction and design will adhere to existing City Code, standards, Technical Criteria Manuals, and policies.
In CMZ, trails shall not be built on steep slopes and wet or shallow soil to minimize soil erosion and disruption of vegetation.	UT construction and design will adhere to all existing City Code, standards, Technical Criteria Manuals, and policies. Additionally, staff has not found reason to create a CMZ. The CoA has existing environmental restrictions in place for Critical Environmental Features, Critical Water Quality Zones, Erosion Hazard Zones, Heritage Tree protection.
Understories and low vegetation beyond the trail shoulder shall not be removed, including for safety reasons.	Understories and low vegetation beyond the trail shoulder may not be removed, dependent upon sight conditions and a case-by-case basis.
In CMZ, creek to trail buffer shall be at least 100 ft.	Staff has not found reason to create a CMZ. Austin has existing environmental restrictions in place for Critical Environmental Features, Critical Water Quality Zones, Erosion Hazard Zones, Heritage Tree protection.

<p>Habitat fragmentation along creeks and wildlife corridors shall be minimized. Trails shall not be built to run along the length of creeks, and a minimum amount of creek access points shall be created with spurs branching off from a main trail outside the corridor.</p>	<p>The Watershed Protection Ordinance addresses placement of trails in Critical Water Quality Zones and Erosion Hazard Zones.</p>
<p>Creek crossings and access points shall be designed to prevent people from leaving the trail and entering the creek. Creek crossings shall be designed to be sustainable.</p>	<p>The Watershed Protection Ordinance addresses placement of trails in Critical Water Quality Zones and Erosion Hazard Zones. Additionally, obstruction, such as a railing, would likely not be allowed on a low-water crossing for flood control and maintenance reasons.</p>
<p>In CMZ, the maximum width of a concrete trail shall be 12 ft.</p>	<p>Staff has not found reason to create a CMZ. The CoA has existing environmental restrictions in place for Critical Environmental Features, Critical Water Quality Zones, Erosion Hazard Zones, Heritage Tree protection.</p>
<p>A trail's impervious cover shall require stormwater runoff controls (rain gardens, additional open green areas, etc.) and erosion control.</p>	<p>UT construction will adhere to all existing policies. Well-designed UTs will include appropriate green infrastructure such as rain gardens, vegetated filter strips, and directed sheet flows to manage stormwater and contribute to sustainable vegetation management.</p>
<p>Dual tracks shall be prohibited in CMZ.</p>	<p>Staff has not found reason to create a CMZ. The CoA has existing environmental restrictions in place for Critical Environmental Features, Critical Water Quality Zones, Erosion Hazard Zones, Heritage Tree protection. The Watershed Protection Ordinance addresses placement of trails in Critical Water Quality Zones and Erosion Hazard Zones.</p>
<p>Asphalt shall not be allowed in the CMZ</p>	<p>Staff has not found reason to create a CMZ. The CoA has existing environmental restrictions in place for Critical Environmental Features, Critical Water Quality Zones, Erosion Hazard Zones, Heritage Tree protection. The Watershed Protection Ordinance addresses placement of trails in Critical Water Quality Zones and Erosion Hazard Zones.</p>
<p>Define "Critical Management Zones" (CMZ, significant areas) as "steep slopes, thin soils, wetlands, undisturbed greenbelts and floodplains, riparian areas, and river and stream banks." pg. 1.5</p>	<p>Staff has not found reason to create a CMZ. The CoA has existing environmental restrictions in place for Critical Environmental Features, Critical Water Quality Zones, Erosion Hazard Zones, Heritage Tree protection.</p>
<p>Change Objective 6.2 – "Avoid placement within Whenever possible, locate trails outside CMZ and</p>	<p>The Watershed Protection Ordinance addresses placement of trails in Critical Water Quality</p>

utilize existing paved routes. In CMZ, locate trails outside the Erosion Hazard Zones (except for low water crossings) and no closer to a creek than within the outer buffer.”	Zones and Erosion Hazard Zones.
Add description of trail to creek centerline buffers required by the Watershed Protection Ordinance and the requirement to locate trails in the outer part of the buffer whenever possible, pg. 4.4.	The Watershed Protection Ordinance addresses placement of trails in Critical Water Quality Zones and Erosion Hazard Zones.
Add "Objective 6.4 In CMZ, construct UTs no wider than 12 feet.”	Staff has not found reason to create a CMZ. The CoA has existing environmental restrictions in place for Critical Environmental Features, Critical Water Quality Zones, Erosion Hazard Zones, Heritage Tree protection. Additionally, Urban Trail width will be determined on a case-by-case basis given context and existing constraints.
Add “Critical Environmental Features and endangered species” to list of environmental constraints in “Constructing Future UTs,” pg. ix, 3rd paragraph.	Add
Add “Environmental protection” to list of overarching design principles, pg. A-4.	Environmental considerations are discussed in the "Design with Nature section of the Guidelines. However, the title of the section beginning on pg. A-4 does not fit the content. Change title to, "Standard Urban Trail Widths."
Add “Environmental advocacy groups” and “Policy Guidance for environmental protection, education” under “Partnership Opportunities,” pg. 4.9.	Add
Add “Protected Tree Ordinance” and “AUIFP” to “Policy Considerations,” pg vii and “Relevant Policies,” pg. 4.5, including a description of the Protected Tree Ordinance in pg. 4.5. The UTMP only includes the Heritage Tree Ordinance.	Add
Add “Protected and Heritage Tree Ordinance, Environmental Criteria Manual” to list of resources for Trail Criteria Guidelines, pg. A-3.	Add
Add "Protected Tree Ordinance and Environmental Criteria Manual” to list of regulations that the UTMP will comply with, pg. A-7.	Add
Add “The preferred surface material for an Urban Trail is asphalt. However, asphalt shall not be used for UTs in CMZ” in pg. A-4 and table A.1, pg. A-6.	Staff has not found reason to create a CMZ. The CoA has existing environmental restrictions in place for Critical Environmental Features, Critical Water Quality Zones, Erosion Hazard Zones, Heritage Tree protection.
Change “distance from edge of urban trail to adjacent trees to be at least 2 ft. 5 ft.” pg. A-6. Delete “root barriers”, pg. A-6.	UT design and construction will adhere to all existing City Code, Technical Criteria Manuals, standards and policies.

Delete "Tree species selection and placement should minimize vegetative litter on trail and root uplifting of pavement" pg. A-20. Replace with "Tree species selection shall consist of long lived native shade trees and native understories appropriate for the site."	Add
Add "UTs in CMZ shall have a maximum 12 ft. width" to "Watershed Protection Ordinance section," pg. 4.4.	Staff has not found reason to create a CMZ. The CoA has existing environmental restrictions in place for Critical Environmental Features, Critical Water Quality Zones, Erosion Hazard Zones, Heritage Tree protection.
Add "In CMZ, the overall corridor width shall be 16 ft. or less, and the shoulder shall be 2 ft. or less" pg. A-6.	Staff has not found reason to create a CMZ. The CoA has existing environmental restrictions in place for Critical Environmental Features, Critical Water Quality Zones, Erosion Hazard Zones, Heritage Tree protection.
Add "Recommended riparian setback in CMZ shall be 100-200 ft." pg. A-8.	Staff has not found reason to create a CMZ. The CoA has existing environmental restrictions in place for Critical Environmental Features, Critical Water Quality Zones, Erosion Hazard Zones, Heritage Tree protection.
Add "The number of low water crossings shall be minimized and crossings shall be designed to prevent people from leaving the trail and entering the creek" pg. A-8.	The Watershed Protection Ordinance addresses placement of trails in Critical Water Quality Zones and Erosion Hazard Zones.
Add "In CMZ, if site conditions allow it, trail access points shall not be closer than 1 mile apart and spacing between trail access points to trailheads shall not be closer than 2 miles. Use existing infrastructure if available and appropriate." pg. A-12.	The Watershed Protection Ordinance addresses placement of trails in Critical Water Quality Zones and Erosion Hazard Zones.
Add "In CMZ, trailhead amenities should be minimum" pg. A-13 and A-18.	Staff has not found reason to create a CMZ. The CoA has existing environmental restrictions in place for Critical Environmental Features, Critical Water Quality Zones, Erosion Hazard Zones, Heritage Tree protection.
Add "UTs do not provide green infrastructure and shall not be used to enhance CMZ. UTs shall be used to restore waterways in CMZ only when areas are eroded and need restoration." to opportunities offered by trail to restore and enhance the waterway or environmentally CMZ, pg. A-8.	Add to Pg. A-8 "UTs may include appropriate green infrastructure such as rain gardens, vegetated filter strips, and directed sheet flows to manage stormwater and contribute to sustainable vegetation management."
Artificial nighttime lighting shall be Dark Sky compliant, pgs. A 10-11.	Add

Change public process in pg. ix from “a public open house” to “notification to all communities of interest and neighbors within 500 ft. of the trail corridor when the design process starts, at least 2 open houses for the trail corridor, and additional public meetings with communities of interest and neighbors within 500 ft. of CMZ that are part of the trail corridor.”	Add or Clarify: The CoA will hold at least two Open Houses; one at the initiation of the PER, and another after the PER has almost been completed. In addition to these Open Houses, staff will collect feedback electronically, by mail, or by telephone. Additional Open Houses may occur as needed.
Add “Forestry” to list of reviewers in pg ix.	Add
Remove “Where possible” in pg 2.2: Urban Trail corridors and alignments should be designed to enhance linkages between parks, neighborhoods, schools, civic facilities and community destinations as well as complement the on-street bicycle and sidewalk network.”	Remove "Where possible" on p. 2.2
Correct Dr. Kevin Anderson’s profession in page 2.3 from “wildlife biologist” to “degrees in Geography and Philosophy” or “Coordinator of the Hornsby Bend Environmental Center.” Kevin is not a wildlife biologist.	Change to, "Executive Director of the Center for Environmental Research at Hornsby Bend (a CoA wildlife sanctuary)."
Add “trees and vegetation” to “PARD Partnership Opportunities,” pg. 4.8.	Add
Add “following Environmental Criteria Manual regulations (Oak Wilt City Policy)” to “certified arborist pruning branches that overhang over the trail” pg. A-20.	Add and clarify that as opposed to all overhanging branches being pruned, Code has limitations on pruning for clearance.
Add “In CMZ, mowing shall be limited to no more often that twice per year and only on a 2 ft. shoulder” pg. A-20.	Staff has not found reason to create a CMZ. The CoA has existing environmental restrictions in place for Critical Environmental Features, Critical Water Quality Zones, Erosion Hazard Zones, Heritage Tree protection. Additionally, mowing will occur as needed to maintain sight lines and for the purposes of safety and accessibility.
Add “Watering critically impacted trees during periods of insufficient rainfall” to list of trail maintenance, pg. A-22.	Well-designed UTs will include appropriate green infrastructure such as rain gardens, vegetated filter strips, and directed sheet flows to contribute to sustainable vegetation management. During UT construction appropriate care will be taken to water existing trees located within 5'- 10' from the UT. Maintenance-related items would be dependent on available budget in the responsible managing department for those activities. Add to Trail Design Guidelines if not already discussed.

Add "Mulching trees" to list of trail maintenance, pg. A-22.	During UT construction appropriate care will be taken to water existing trees located within 5'-10' from the UT. Maintenance-related items would be dependent on available budget in the responsible managing department for those activities. Add to Trail Design Guidelines if not already discussed.
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Environmental Board - June 4, 2014

Comment	Response
Why doesn't the prioritization matrix include environmental constraints?	The prioritization matrix is used to rank high-priority opportunities to conduct Urban Trail feasibility studies, or Preliminary Engineering Review. A PER will identify environmental constraints and will include alternative routes that will accommodate all environmental features.
When is a wildlife biologist required?	The PER includes a study on impact on wildlife.
How do you address invasive species?	Encourage volunteerism and involvement from trail users. Add to Trail Design Guidelines.
The Plan should include clear criteria that would indicate trail projects that must come before the Board and Commissions for review. Criteria that may exceed those indicated in current code such as trails constructed in the erosion hazard zone, trails constructed in the half critical water quality zone, trail construction in the ¾ critical root zone, and trails constructed within required CEF setback.	UT implementation, design, construction will adhere to all existing City Code, Technical Criteria Manuals, standards and policies. Clarify in UTMP. Additionally, any Urban Trail project that does not meet minimum environmental criteria will be presented to the appropriate boards and commissions.
The UTMP should set a clear process with target implementation dates for creation of the Trail Criteria Manual which will consider and integrate much of the more detailed environmental concerns and criteria voiced during review of this plan.	The TCM will be initiated upon the approval of the UTMP by Council. It will take approximately 6-8 months to draft the TCM. The TCM will go through the rules posting process as indicated by Section 1-2 of the Land Development Code. The rule posting process takes approximately 6 months. Therefore, the TCM should be implemented by winter 2015.
The plan should clearly lay out a public input process for each trail project requiring a public meeting at the beginning of the PER to obtain public input that will inform that report and again toward the end of that process to report findings and present potential alignments for public input.	The Urban Trail Master Plan will be amended to include notification and an Open House meeting for neighbors and other stakeholders when the PER process is launched and prior to completion of the PER so as to allow for stakeholder feedback to be included in the final report.

<p>The UTMP will include preservation and improvement of wildlife habitat as a goal and indicate the inclusion of a certified wildlife biologist or ecologist as a strategy for implementation of this plan.</p>	<p>The UTMP will be amended to include this goal and will include a wildlife biologist as a required part of the team needed to complete a PER.</p>
<p>Staff will take into consideration the comments and recommendations of the UFB as they work through the process.</p>	<p>Staff has worked interdepartmentally to produce responses to the comments received by the UFB. These responses are listed above and will be available on-line.</p>