



# LITTLE WALNUT CREEK GREENBELT

## Community Master Plan

The Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt Community Master Plan Initiative aims to develop a park plan for the 206-acre greenbelt to guide future improvements and operations. This document presents a needs assessment of the park, feedback gathered through the survey, public meetings, and neighborhood volunteers, and a concept design for the future of Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt.

### Community Engagement

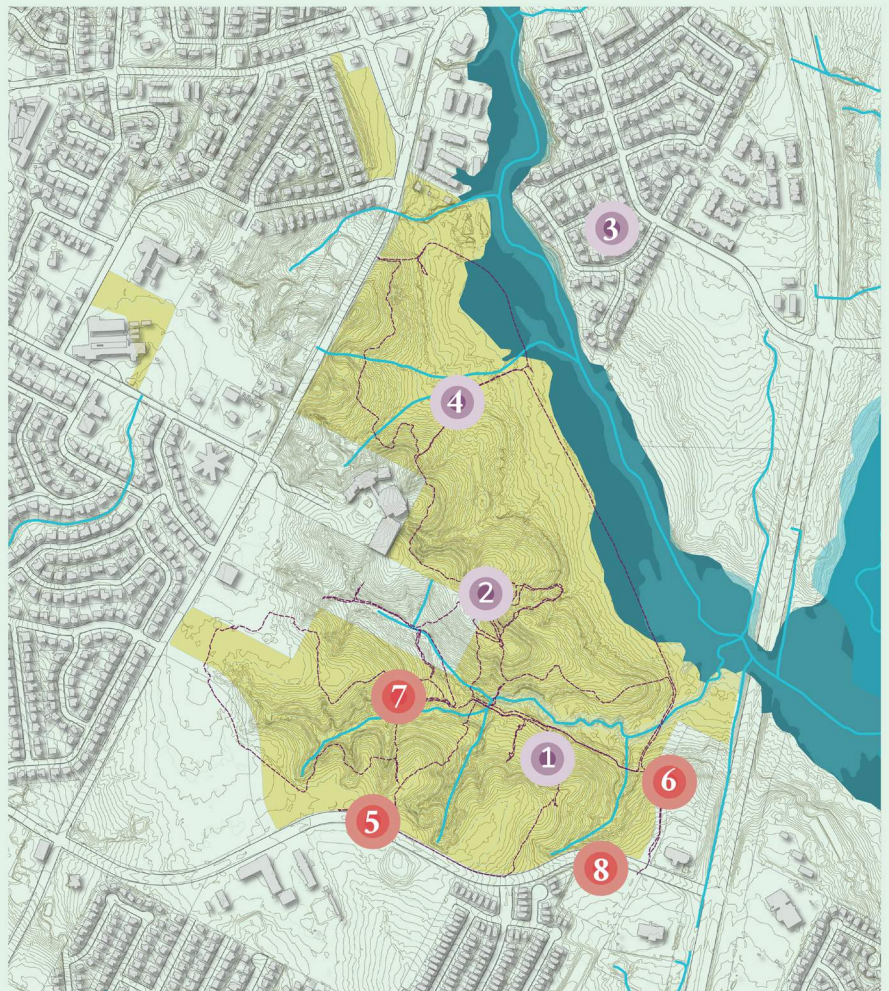
Two public meetings were held to gain feedback from current and future trail users. Attendance at the meetings ranged from 25 to 40 people. Each workshop included a brief presentation about the planning process, followed by an open house with a number of activities that sought input on participant's current perception of and future visions for the park.

### Site Assets

- 1 Four mile trail network
- 2 Outstanding views
- 3 Proximity to East Austin
- 4 Potential creek access

### Site Constraints

- 5 Poor trail conditions
- 6 Homeless encampment
- 7 Poorly draining soils
- 8 Limited access points



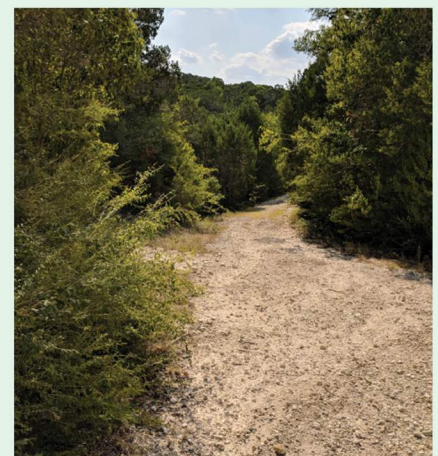
Little Walnut Creek



Trailside Vegetation

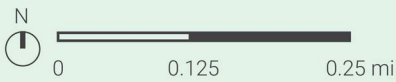


Current Path





# Conceptual Master Plan



- |                     |                 |                    |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Active Edge         | Cycle Track     | Existing Amenities |
| Passive Edge        | Shared-use Path | Proposed Amenities |
| Stewardship Area    | Recreation Path | On-site Parking    |
| Internal Wayfinding | Natural Trail   | Bicycle Parking    |
| Entry Gateway       |                 |                    |



# Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt Concepts

## 1 Create Active Edge and Entrances

One of the most significant obstacles to use of the greenbelt is that it does not present itself as public space on its edges along Springdale Road and E. 51st Street. To combat the perception that the greenbelt is not open for the use of the public and to increase visibility of the trail system and other programming, an "active" edge and clearly marked greenbelt entrances should be developed along these two streets.

### Active Edge

The active edge is the most activated greenbelt zone and will contain most of the programming projects identified in Concept 4.

### Passive Edge

The passive area offers a transition to the environmentally sensitive areas to the center of the park. It will include unpaved trail systems and light amenities.



### Cycle Track

These tracks would be exclusively for bicyclist use and should be 12-16 feet in standard width.



### Shared-use Path

These trails would serve dual use for walking and bicycling and should be a standard 8-12' in width.



### Recreation Path

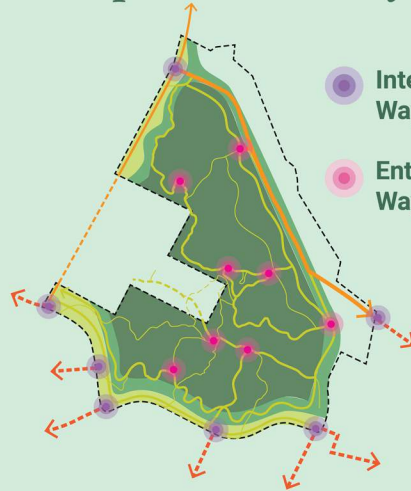
These paths should be installed only in relatively flat areas and would be used for walking, jogging, running, and bicycling.



### Nature Paths

Areas of limited foot traffic, particularly in steep slope areas, would be characterized as nature trails.

## 2 Organize Trails by Use and Develop Internal Wayfinding



### Internal Wayfinding Signs

### Entry Wayfinding Signs

## 3 Concept Three: Create Forest Stewardship Plan for Sensitive Areas

In many areas of the greenbelt, native species are being crowded by invasive species, including Ligustrum (*Ligustrum japonicum*) and Prickly Pear Cactus (*Opuntia* spp.). An Invasive Species Removal Plan may be considered to direct and prioritize future stewardship and forest management. At a minimum, this plan calls for the complete removal of Ligustrum (except in some steep slope areas where it may be beneficial in stabilization).



### Prickly Pear Cactus

Prickly Pear Cactus should be selectively removed from the site where it has become invasive.



### Ligustrum

Ligustrum, or Privet, should be eliminated from the site via cutting and the application of herbicide.



### Volunteer Stewardship

Volunteers can play an integral part of forest stewardship by helping to remove invasive species and planting native plants throughout the greenbelt.



# Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt Concepts

## 4 Incorporate Programming for Community Use



Existing Amenities  
Proposed Amenities

Image: Irmo Park



### Amphitheater

An amphitheater in Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt would provide an opportunity for programmatic integration of parks and the arts. Popular events could include "Shakespeare in the Park" and outdoor movie screenings.

Image: City of Columbia



### Trail Amenities

The integration of trash cans, benches, and water fountains within the park ensure that visitors to Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt will be comfortable and have places to rest along the trail during their visit.

Image: Chronogram



### Dog Park

Designated dog parks separate trails and areas for human use from areas for dogs to safely experience off-leash play and exploration.

Image: Waukesha County



### Picnic Area Pavilion

In our community outreach, visitors to the park expressed a desire to use the park as a gathering space. A covered picnic area pavilion would serve this purpose and provide shade for visitors during Austin's hot summers.

Image: Lake Flato



### Outdoor Classrooms

Outdoor classrooms provide the opportunity for science field trips from local schools to educate students about Austin's wildlife and ecology.

Image: Site Design Group



### Nature Play

Nature-based playgrounds give children the opportunity to play in informal outdoor settings. Playgrounds that integrate natural elements, such as logs and vegetation, connects children to their environment, and encourages physical and social development.

Image: Tahoon Flats



### Bike Parking

Image: Setner Play



### Covered Bike Areas

Image: Cornell University



### Green Infrastructure in Parking Lots

Image: USDA



### Amenities at Trailheads

## 5 Formalize Parking and Active Transportation

