Final Draft Master Plan for John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park

City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, Texas
February 2020

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Prepared for

City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD)

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Cover image: Mature heritage oak tree in Treviño Park's Upland Savanna (Image credit: GGN)

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Introduction

Community members learn about John Treviño Jr. and the preferred plan options before embarking on the inauguration of Treviño's Walk at the "Celebrate the Park" community event in December 2019 (Image credit: GGN)

Legacy of John Treviño Jr.

"Whenever we would mention the park his eyes would light up with that wonderful Treviño twinkle."

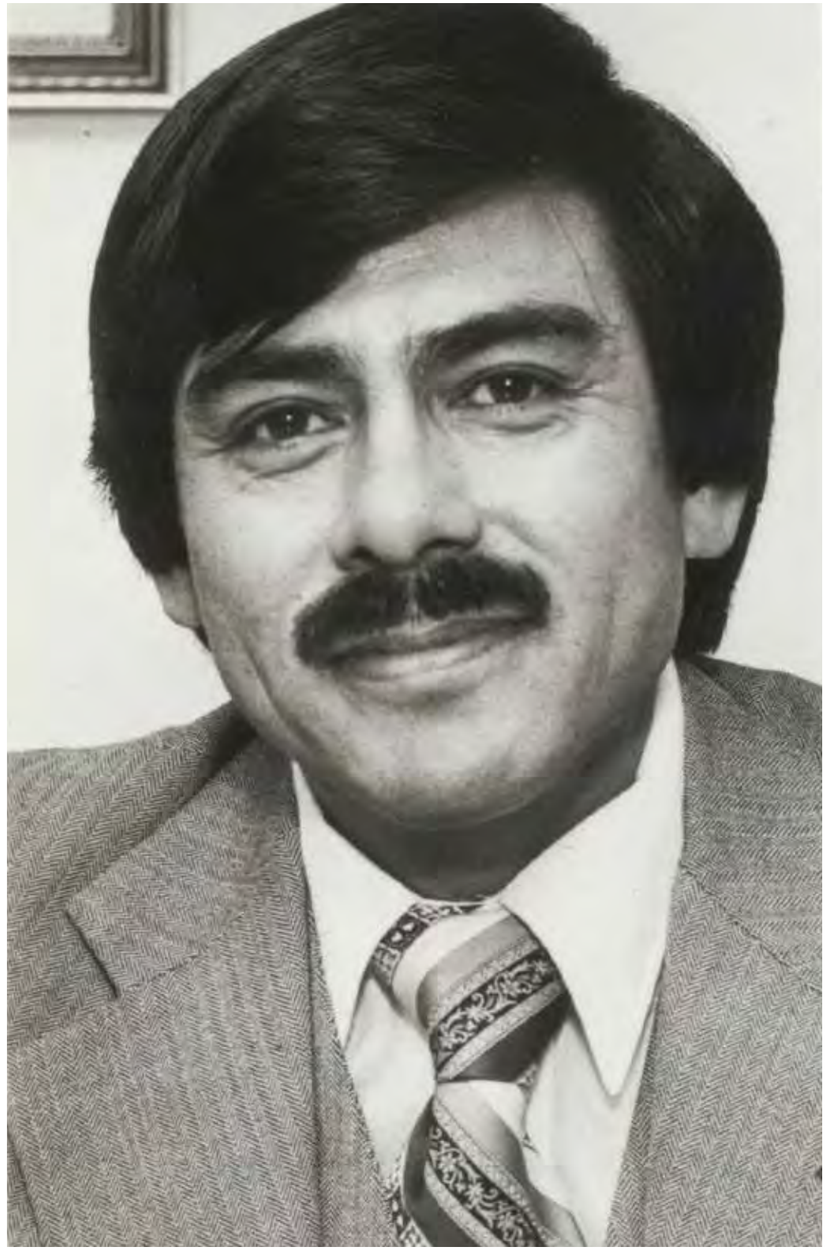
John Treviño Jr. (October 18, 1937 - April 4, 2017) was born and raised in Austin, Texas. As a young boy, Treviño worked a number of odd jobs to help support his family. At the age of 17, with permission from his father, he served in the US Army's 82nd Airborne Division as a paratrooper. Upon his return home, he volunteered his time to a Catholic social service agency dedicated to serving the needy, and it was there that he was inspired to do more for his community.

In 1965, Mr. Treviño became the director of the East First Neighborhood Center in Austin. In this position, he organized citizenship classes, led a citywide cleanup effort, led initiatives resulting in the current Austin Tenant's Council and Meals on Wheels Program, and also advocated for federal funding for improvements in inner-city neighborhoods.

In the 1970s, Mr. Treviño teamed up with other Hispanic leaders such as Gus Garcia, Richard Moya, and Gonzalo Barrientos, to create a lasting Chicano footprint in Texas politics. In 1975, Mr. Treviño became the first Latino elected to the Austin City Council. In 1988, Mr. Treviño became Acting Mayor, making him the first Latino mayor in the history of Austin. As the Mayor and a City Council member, he consistently led initiatives to aid the under-represented, under-served, and under-privileged in Austin.

After leaving city hall in 1988, Mr. Treviño was recruited by the University of Texas at Austin, where he continued his efforts to help under-served populations through the development of the Historically Underutilized Business program.

In 2006, the City of Austin designated John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park at Morrison Ranch in his honor.



John Treviño Jr. (Image credits: Voces Oral History Project, University of Texas at Austin School of Journalism)

John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park

The success of John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park will come from connecting the site's rich layers of ecology and heritage to the legacy of John Treviño Jr. This place seeks to grow the relationship between surrounding communities and this land by supporting opportunities that could only happen here and that resonate with residents.

Parks play a vital role in the life of a city. As public places, parks bring diverse communities together in a shared place and through collective experiences. As natural systems, parks provide habitat and a wealth of species increasingly challenged by urban growth. That this can all occur within a shared experience allows parks – and especially large urban parks – to have a special opportunity to strengthen communities and their connection to the land in which they live. This spirit is embodied in the Austin Parks and Recreation Department motto "Cultural Places, Natural Spaces" and is an attitude central to the approach to the future development of John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park outlined in this document. The design and processes described here seek to build on the intertwined cultural and natural spirit of this land, while empowering community with new resources and opportunities in this place.

John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park's name sets the tone for the kind of place the park should become. John Treviño Jr.'s life of public service challenged the status quo in Austin and gave access to long-denied opportunities for the predominantly Latinx community of East Austin. John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park is located east of I-183 and surrounded by a majority Latinx community today. As the city of Austin undergoes significant growth and gentrification impacts the Latinx community along with other historically underserved communities of East Austin, it is essential that this park is a resource for those living around the park today.

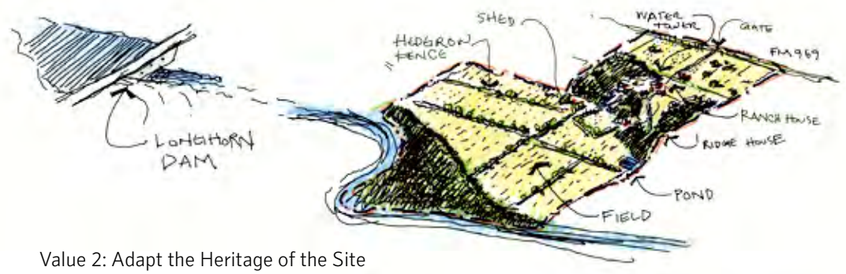
The park's location is also significant in its ability to connect the Colorado River to the upland former prairie lands. These two important regional characters and ecologies along with the park's former ranching history also shaped this master plan. With every visit to the site, the team and our community partners have been in awe of the park's beauty are motivated to ensure that the future of the park does not lose this power of place as it already exists.

The proposed master plan is rooted in three primary and interconnected value "layers" that engage the ecologies of river and prairie, the heritage of the site we know today, and a vision of a place that is a living legacy of John Treviño Jr.'s work. These are rooted in prioritizing the value of the land as it already exists and the importance of the community spirit that this park is already beginning to embody. The park is simply not an empty site waiting for funding to fill it with opportunity.

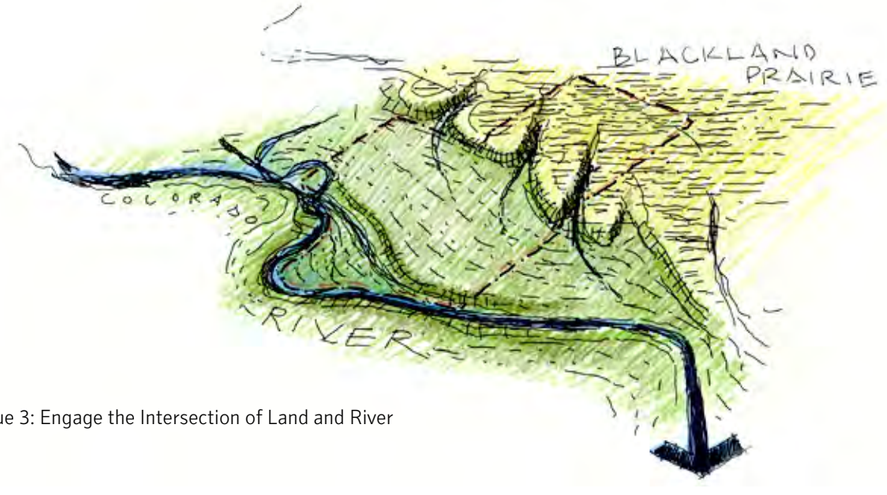
The land itself is John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park's greatest resource. "Seeing" this land and the incredible richness and complexity that already exists has been central to the design and engagement process. Proposals for park concepts, layout, and experiences are all rooted in maximizing the existing characters of the land. The engagement process leveraged opportunities to help communities get to know the land better and understand its opportunities and constraints while also highlighting the needs, priorities, and vision of surrounding residents. The success of the park is dependent on this community engagement growing and expanding.

Through multiple forms of engagement, public input emphasized the value of being in the landscape and the benefit of having access to nature. Residents also emphasized experiences that bring family together to engage a healthy environment and local culture. The Parks and Recreation Department's "Our Parks Our Future" Long Range Plan for 2020-2030 describes broader park goals that resonate with this specific direction: nature trails, pools and water features, natural areas and preserves, community gardens, cultural and historic art centers. Though initially considered

Value 1: Advance the Legacy of John Treviño Jr.



Value 2: Adapt the Heritage of the Site



Value 3: Engage the Intersection of Land and River

as a potential site for large festivals, community feedback has clearly opposed this use of the land as contradictory to the needs of the surrounding community – particularly given the constraints posed by the sensitive ecologies of the river and floodplain. The existing site guides the layout of activity centers, ecological enhancement, and connectivity throughout. The specifics of these designs will be further developed in collaboration with the surrounding communities in the future.

The process of developing the park is already underway through the growing relationships among community advocates and a deepening understanding of the park land. Just as the park should not be described as a future place waiting to be constructed, it should also not be thought of a place that will ever be complete. This document outlines an approach to developing future phases for the park and potential funding opportunities. These should be understood as building on a process with origins before this master plan began. Community events and other opportunities to expand a network of partners aligned with the vision and values of the park should continue throughout the life of the park.

As the city grows, this precious land resource will face new pressures. With each future step, it is critical to reach those voices yet unheard, deepening the representation of local communities and meeting the needs of residents. It is our hope that the vision and values embodied in this document will continue to serve as a guide for a park where a celebration of the land provides new opportunities for a more engaged and empowered community.

Sunset through a heritage grove near the existing barn and water tower (Image credit: GGN)

Park Vision and Values

The following planning values were developed from input given during small group discussions, community meetings, and survey responses. These values directed the design team throughout the master planning process and serve as a guide for the park's future development.

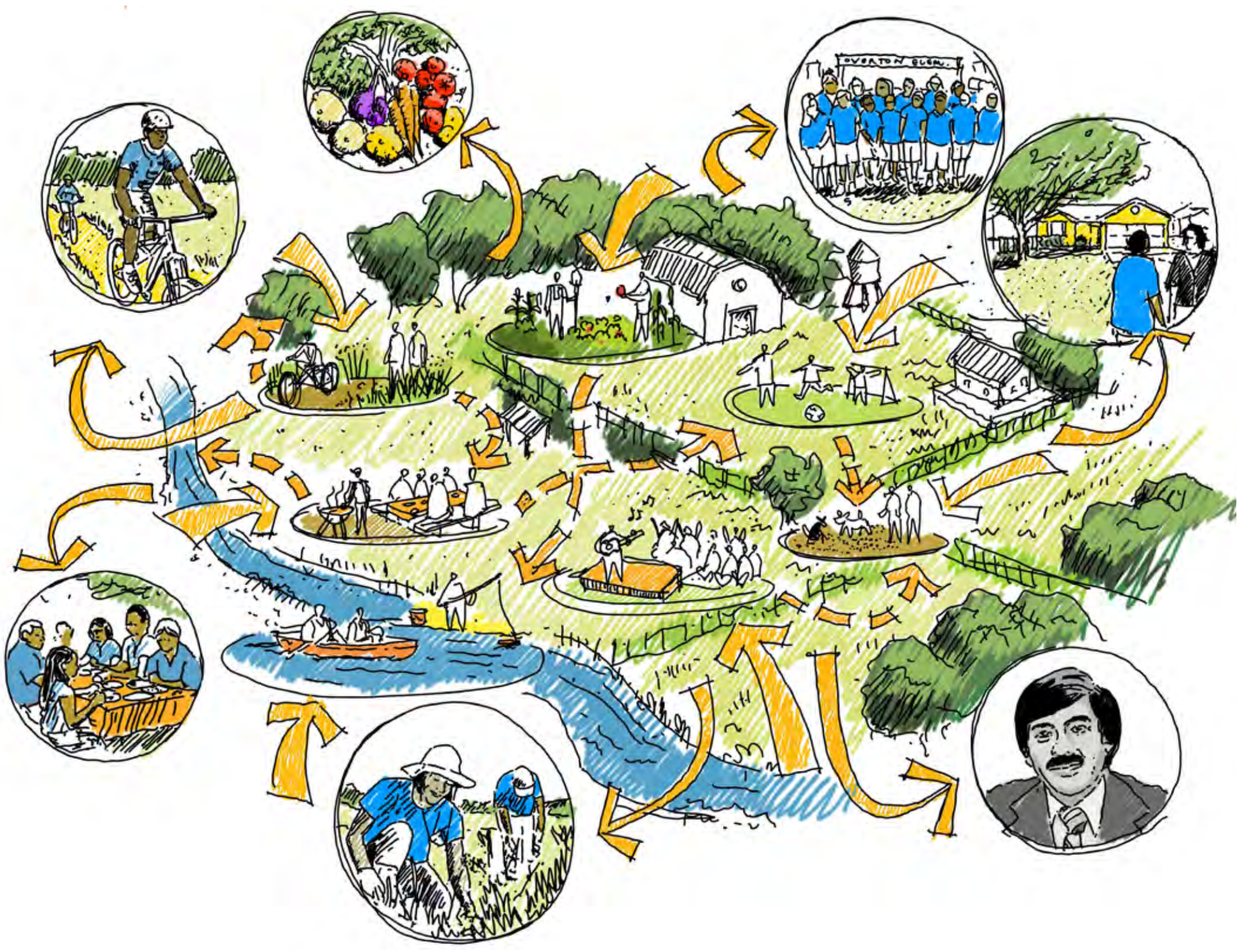
Advance the Legacy of John Treviño Jr.

The legacy of John Treviño Jr. should encompass all aspects of this park. The park was dedicated to honor and communicate the memory of one of Austin's great civic leaders, and it can continue his legacy for future residents. John Treviño Jr. broke down barriers in support of many who face a long history of discrimination and he helped bring essential services to many who have long been denied adequate resources. The park should also acknowledge the East Side's Hispanic and Latinx culture, and support culturally appropriate events that celebrate this growing history.

The park can set new expectations of what a public space and natural resource can offer residents to improve their health and well-being, the strength of their communities, and their opportunities for education and growth. This resource needs to be accessible and welcoming to all through the kinds of activities offered within the park and their means of access. This park can serve as a point of connection between residents and the many partner organizations working around the park. Neighbors should feel empowered to be involved in the shaping of all stages of the park's evolution to ensure it meets their needs and embodies their values as this rapidly changing part of the city continues to grow.

To advance the legacy of John Treviño Jr., John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park seeks to:

- Serve surrounding residents by providing access and opportunities that have historically been lacking in



Treviño Park can provide opportunities not only for people to enjoy activities at a public park, but can also expand its impacts and honor John Treviño's legacy by encouraging organizational partnerships, health and wellness, stewardship, and education.

Vision and Values

the area.

- Host activities that promote community building. Activities or events that have a negative impact on the surrounding neighbors or are inaccessible due to cost should be avoided.
- Become a point of connection among residents, organizations, and surrounding parks to build partnerships for a more equitable and healthier neighborhood.
- Honor and communicate the legacy of John Treviño Jr.
- Increase connectivity and public transportation access to the park.
- Emphasize the importance of family by offering a place for gathering that is essential for the communities around the park.
- Offer opportunities for people of all ages to learn about and connect to nature.
- Include places for play and sport that support health and community.

Adapt the Heritage of the Site

The earliest inhabitants of what is now Austin and this site area along the Colorado River were American Indians who camped and hunted along waterways. In the late 1800s, Western settlers divided the land into parcels for grazing and farming. Prior to becoming a park, this site was the Morrison Ranch where the land was farmed and grazed for decades. The artifacts of this heritage are imprinted on the land and legible throughout the park. Fences, barns, gates, and giant trees all remain as markers of a past life of this place where people carried out their daily lives and cultivated the land. Evidence of this history is increasingly hidden as Austin grows and farmland is turned into housing.

The park can build on the specific existing conditions to inform future opportunities. Rather than erasing or treating the site as a blank slate, it is important to acknowledge the richness of what is already there embodied in the land. Physical structure is not the only

Top left: Council Member John Treviño Jr. (Image Credit: Voces Oral History Project, University of Texas at Austin School of Journalism)

Top right: Youth engage with PARD Rangers and the Austin Parks Foundation at the first community event held onsite in June 2018 (Image credit: GGN)

Right: Overgrown vegetation entangled with former agricultural infrastructure defines the character of many areas of the site (Image credit: GGN)

Vision and Values

trace of this history, but also the act of engaging with the land as a productive community resource that is in sync with seasonal cycles. Incorporating the patterns of fields, fences, and this historical character of land use is essential to preserving the essence of the place as we know it today.

To adapt the heritage of the site, John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park seeks to:

- Acknowledge the long history and heritage of the land, from indigenous inhabitants to more recent residents and uses.
- Utilize existing structures for new purposes where possible.
- Build on the existing fences and hedgerows.
- Offer a connection to the agricultural history of the region while also adapting to the changes that are brought about by population and development growth.
- Carry the site's productive agricultural heritage into the present and future by exploring possibilities for food production and agricultural education.
- Protect the existing beauty, viewsheds and serene quality of the park.

Engage the Intersection of Land and River

A fundamental asset of the park site is its position at the intersection of the upland prairie and the riparian corridor of the Colorado River. As such it is an opportunity to engage the Blackland and Post Oak ecologies that once defined the region and the river valley that is a vital feature of the City of Austin.

A park within this context draws these two fundamental geological and ecological systems into the contemporary city. Increasing the diversity of species and the health of the larger watershed is critical as the city grows around the park. Providing all residents – particularly those who have not historically had access to such natural environments – opportunities to discover, recreate, learn, and contribute to the future health of these important ecologies is a great potential asset of this place.

To engage the intersection of land and river, John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park seeks to:

- Increase habitat within the park to support a healthier city and river for people, plants, and animals.
- Offer opportunities to learn about the site's unique ecologies.
- Offer safe access to the river.
- Strengthen existing or regenerate erased riparian and prairie ecologies.
- Allow for the ongoing evolution of this unique urban ecology.

Wildflowers form a blanket of color that changes its palette throughout the seasons (Image credit: Siglo Group)

The dynamic movement of the Colorado River actively shapes the southern edge of Treviño Park (Image credit: Siglo Group)

Project Timeline and Approach

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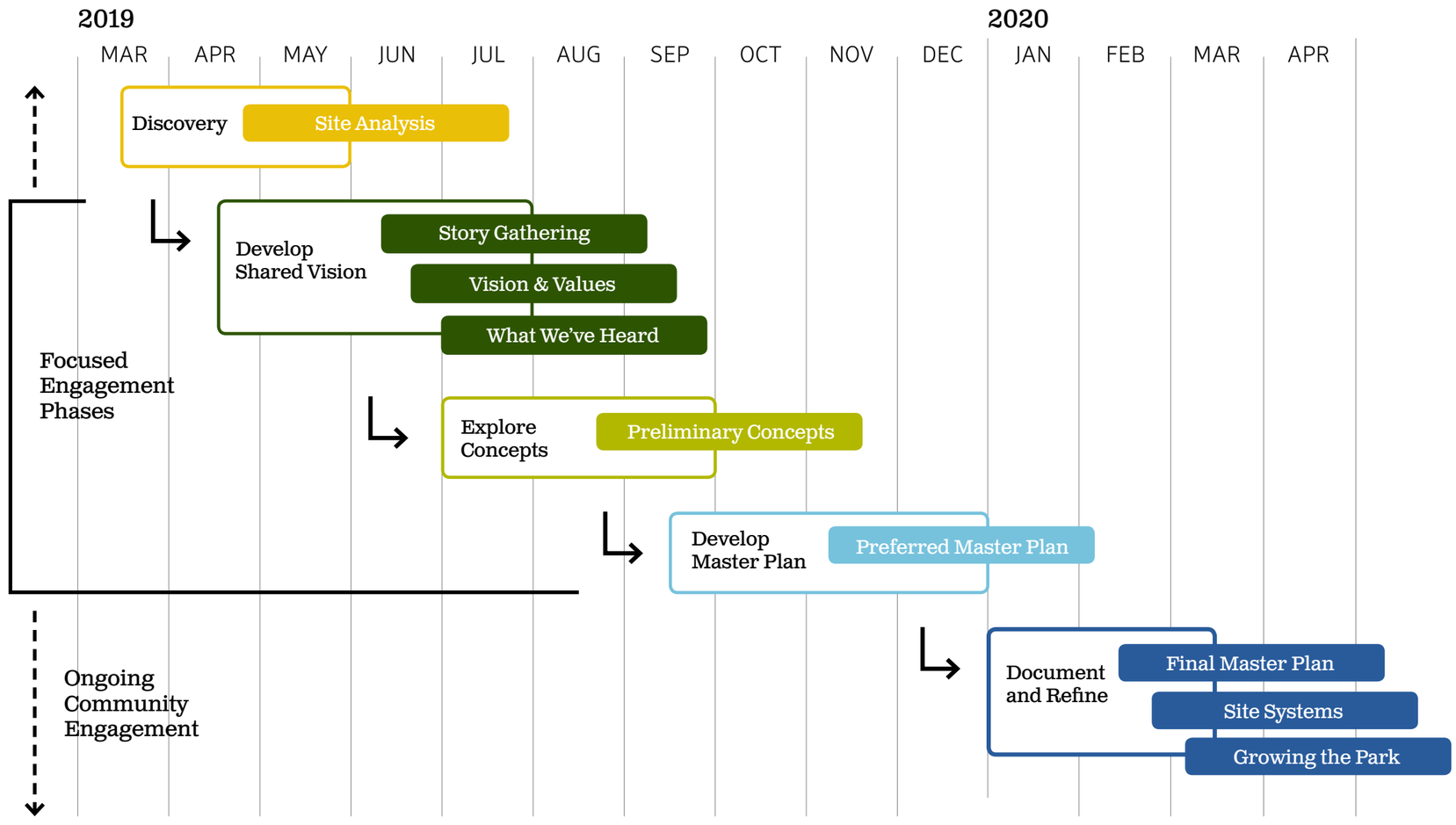
The master planning process for the park is rooted in an on-going dialogue among community members, city agencies, and potential partner organizations around a shared vision for Treviño Park.

This master plan was developed during March 2019 to March 2020. Early in the process the consultant team completed an Existing Conditions, Opportunities, and Challenges (ECOC) report. This analysis along with an on-site community event and small group discussions supported a process of exchange between the park land as it currently exists and the surrounding community identity, history, and priorities for the future of the place.

Early exchanges between community members and the team structured a series of vision and value statements that guided the master plan development with regard to the character and identity of the place as well as the kinds of activities and experiences that should be a part of the park moving forward. This process also identified opportunities unique to this effort that challenged some typical expectations of what a park can do.

Preliminary master plan scenarios shared in a community event, during small group discussions, and on surveys helped refine the park framework for the Final Master plan described in this report. The process also helped guide priorities for early phases of development.



Site Analysis Summary

Gathering around a large heritage oak tree in the Ravine during initial master planning team site visit (Image credit: GGN)

Site Context

Treviño Park is situated on the Colorado River within Austin's eastern crescent, an area that is undergoing rapid transformation.

According to the "Our Parks Our Future" Austin Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan for 2020-2030, the City of Austin's East planning area anticipates a 71 percent increase in population and a 105 percent rise in job growth by 2040. The demand for increasing connectivity to and through Austin east of US 183 is reflected in expansion plans in Urban Trails, the FM 969 corridor expansion, and increased transit service to the area.

The Colorado River is an important site of potential connectivity to this rapidly developing area. While regular flooding impacts the lower riparian terrace of the site, providing river access at Treviño Park would create a safe point of connection between US 183 and a weir dam downstream of the site. This public access point would become another step toward accomplishing the goal envisioned by the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership to provide river access points at least every 6 miles along the Colorado River.

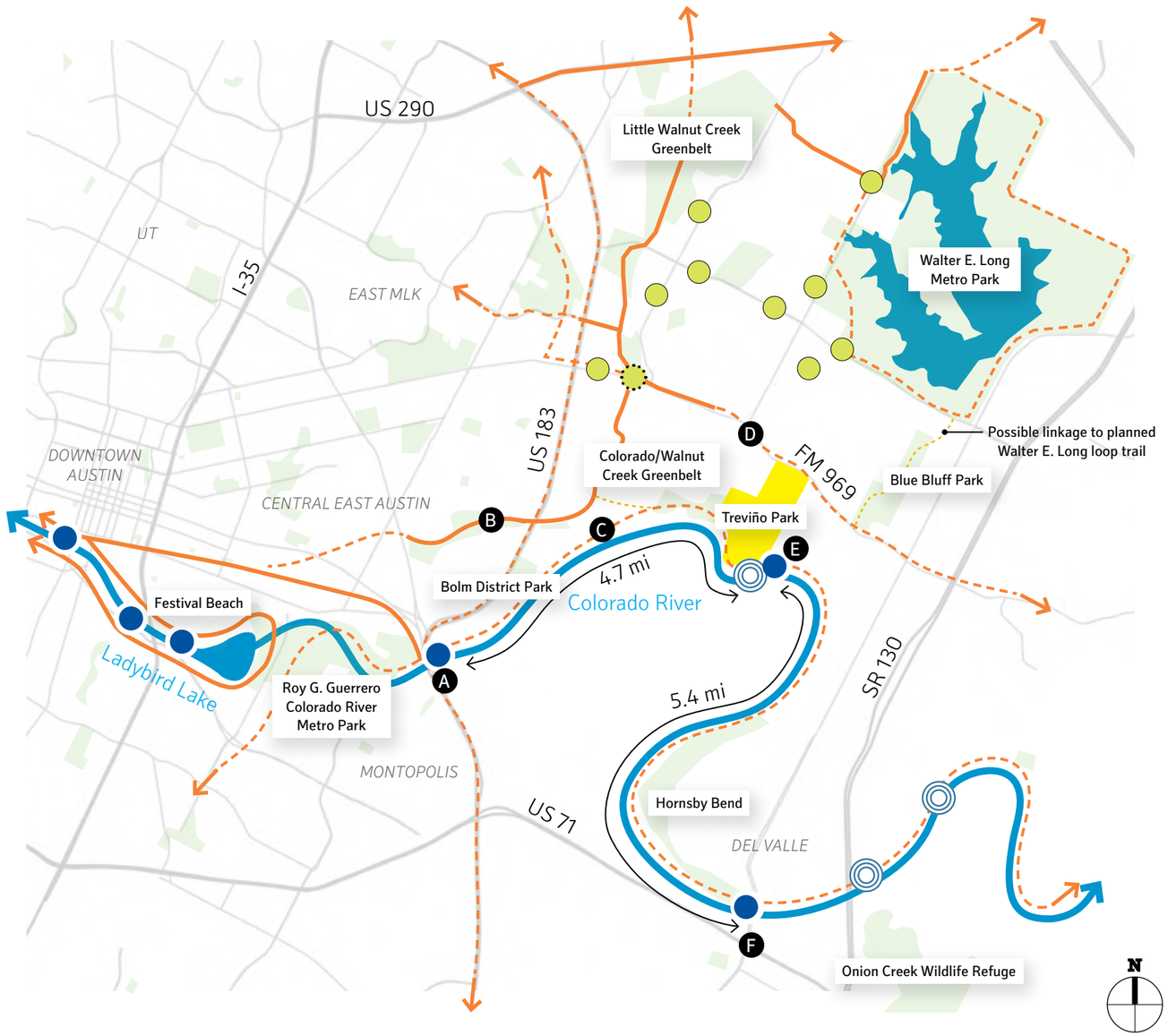
For more information about site context, please refer to the project's Existing Conditions, Opportunities and Challenges Report available online through the City of Austin's John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park Master Plan website: www.austintexas.gov/JohnTrevinoMetroPark.

Planned Connections

- (A) Existing boat access at US-183 bridge
- (B) Existing Southern Walnut Creek Urban Trail (to be extended)
- (C) Proposed Lower Colorado Urban Trail
- (D) Proposed FM 969 Urban Trail
- (E) Existing private boat access at Texas River School
- (F) Existing boat access at FM 973 bridge

Legend

- Existing Urban Trail
- Proposed Urban Trail
- Possible trail connections
- Existing transit stop
- Proposed transit stop
- Existing boat access
- Proposed boat access
- Site



Prairie and River

One of the greatest assets of this land is its ability to connect residents to the upland prairie and the Colorado River basin. This terraced topography establishes the park's primary structure.

Treviño Park sits at an edge between the upland historic prairie land and the alluvial basin of the Colorado River. The two primary territories are separated vertically by 60' of grade change along a steeply sloped edge carved by tributaries, followed by another 30' step down further south into the lowest riparian river terrace.

This basic site structure informs the soils and vegetation, access into and through the site, and poses restrictions on development as it relates to steep slopes and the floodplain. The master plan for the park uses this clear relationship between Prairie level and River level as the foundation for the park's organization and identity. Providing access to both of these important regional characters is a high priority for the future park and the site's natural character should not be overshadowed by the development of traditional park amenities.

Upland Grassland meadow (Image credit: Siglo Group)

Banks of the Colorado River near Walnut Creek (Image credit: Siglo Group)

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Hydrology

The Colorado River, its tributaries, and related topography should guide development. Future design and implementation should balance access and experience of these site features with the health of the water passing through the site and the context of flooding and climate change.

The Colorado River Basin and flood plain occupies two-thirds of the park area. This portion of the Colorado River is beyond the primary control of the system of dams to the east and as such is more dynamic. Increased intensity of storm events and continued developed of the surrounding watershed will likely contribute to more intensive overland flow of water and flooding of the river and its tributaries.

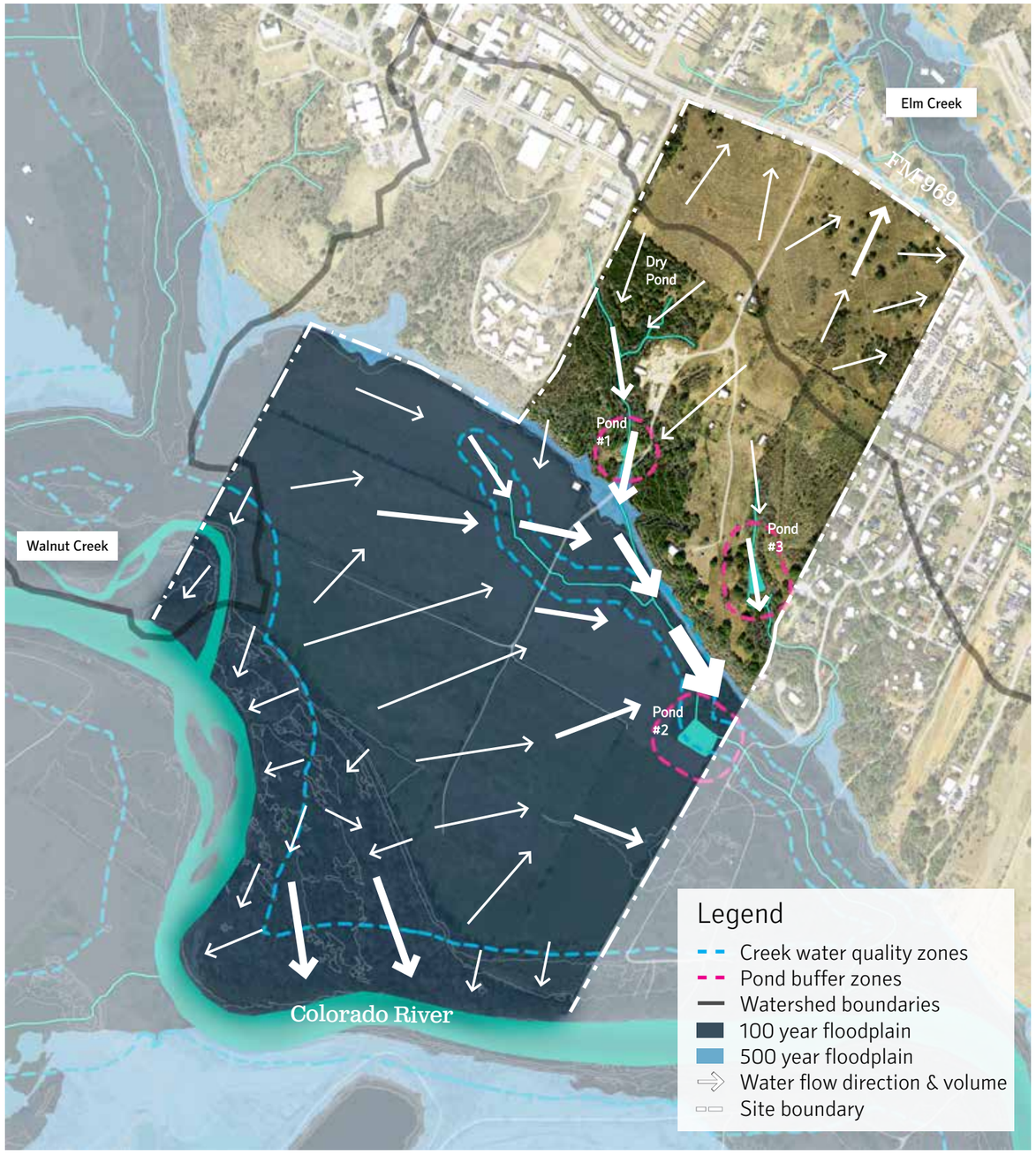
Within the site, two primary tributaries pass through the park from the upland prairie to the river east of the park and are an integral component of the more heavily wooded bluff and ravine character that connect the two levels. These tributaries are fed by a combination of rain water and a spring. During the site's period of intensive agricultural use, ponds were constructed along these channels and are present on the site today.

The presence of water throughout the site creates opportunities to understand the relationship between upland tributaries and the river they feed. This master plan proposes a range of means to protect and highlight the experience of the site's hydrology.

Subsequent development of the park will require further delineation of tributaries, wetlands, and other features to establish minimum buffer setbacks and other constraints for development in accordance with environmental protection and floodplain regulations. Additionally, as a majority of the site lies within the 100-year floodplain, any proposed construction or modification within this area will be required to comply with City of Austin's Land Development Code Chapter 25.7 or request land use variances.

Steep forested slopes lead to several creek tributaries that drain from the upland terrace of the park to the east (Image credit: GGN)

Water collects in a densely vegetated pond near the Bluff House (Pond #3 on map) before continuing into a drainage offsite toward the Colorado River (Image credit: GGN)



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Ecology

Treviño Park's topography and hydrology support numerous ecologies across the site. The richness of these diverse conditions must drive the park's enhancement, restoration, and development.

Former Pasture, 31 acres: Heavily used open pasture/ agricultural land containing Houston Black soils. The shrub layer is composed primarily of immature mesquite.

Savanna, 21 acres: Mostly open grassland with a few woody mottes along drainages and vegetated fencerows. Area is dominated by immature mesquite in open areas.

Mesquite Woodland Thicket, 12 acres: Woody layer is primarily made up of an impenetrable thicket of immature mesquite trees.

Upland Grassland, 14 acres: Area that seems to be the most maintained in the park, and contains ornamentals planted by former residents.

Sloping Woodland, 11 acres: Highest biodiversity of tree and shrub species on the site.

Creekside Woodland, 17 acres: Area with rich plant diversity along steep slopes with serious erosion issues. Contains a system of culverts, ravine creeks, numerous side drainages and man-made ponds.

Juniper Woodland Thicket, 10 acres: Dominated by immature Ashe juniper and contains an old cattle tank.

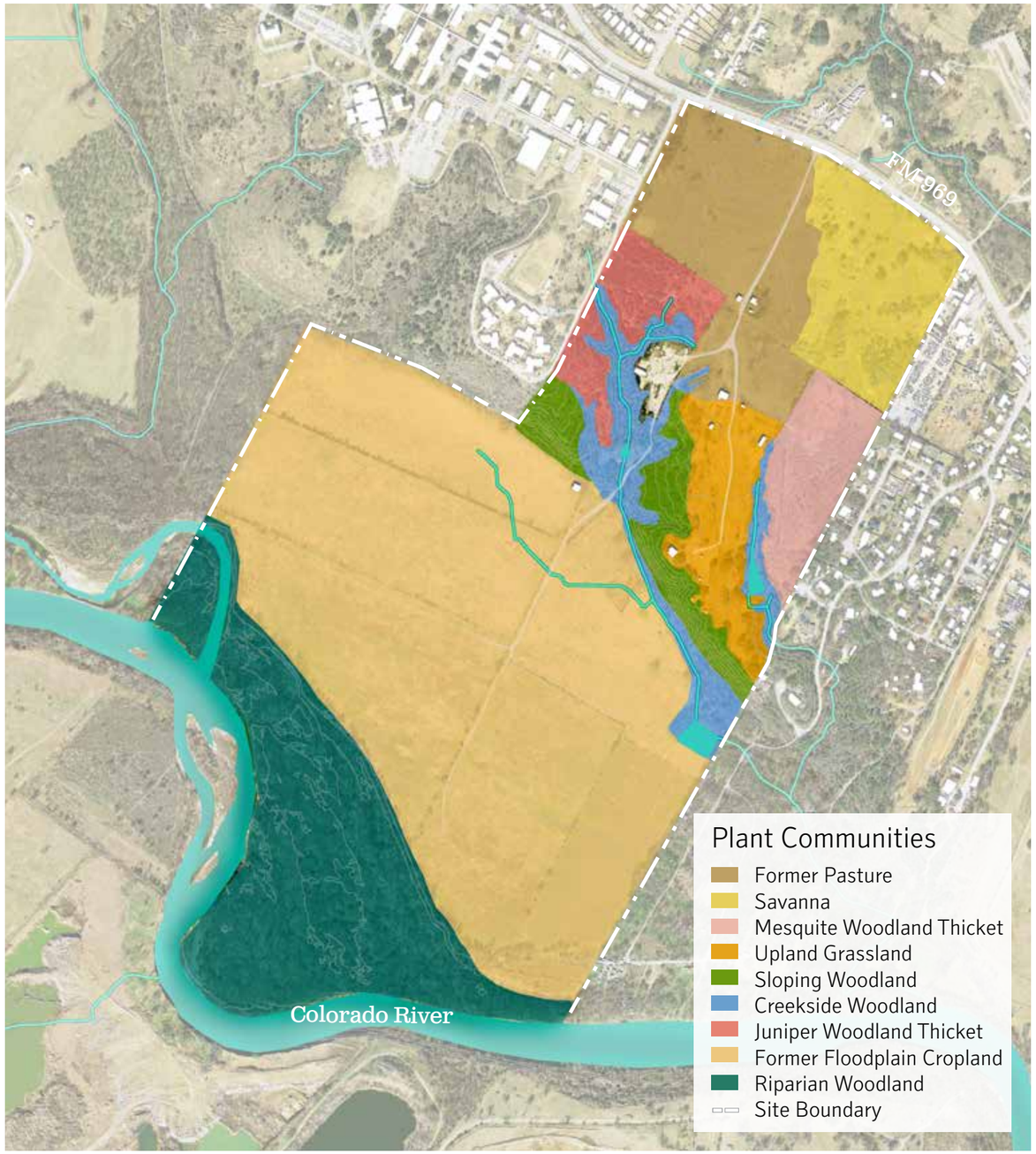
Former Floodplain Cropland, 155 acres: Alluvial soils are covered with open grasslands, segmented by hedgerows of woody trees and shrubs.

Riparian Woodland, 60 acres: Heavily forested corridor of overstory trees and robust herbaceous layer of grasses and vines.

Invasive plant species are present in several plant communities and need to be addressed early on. Areas that are more intact should be prioritized for treatments, including the Creekside Woodland, Sloping Woodland, and Riparian Woodland. For other areas overrun with invasive plants, preservation or restoration areas should take priority in mitigation efforts.

Feral hogs threaten the ecology of Treviño Park and will need to be managed. Many bird species have been noted throughout the site as the area is a major flyway for migratory birds. There are many opportunities for visitors to enjoy wildlife viewing and form collaborations with volunteer groups. A thorough biological survey will benefit the park.

For more detailed descriptions of ecological communities and plant species identified on the site, please refer to the project's Existing Conditions, Opportunities and Challenges Report available online through the City of Austin's John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park Master Plan website: www.austintexas.gov/JohnTrevinoMetroPark.



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Ecology

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Open grasses with occasional mottes of trees in **Savanna**

Meadow clearing with forest edge in **Upland Grassland**

Dense tree canopy in **Sloping Woodland**

Tributaries and diverse plant community in **Creekside Woodland**

Trees growing along fencerows in **Former Floodplain Cropland**

Lush trees and understory typical of **Riparian Woodland**

(Image credits: GGN)

Site Heritage

The site's past uses and constructions shape the land we know today. The future park has an opportunity celebrate this current condition as essential to the special character of this landscape.

The former ranchland bears signs of its past throughout the site. Roads, structures, fences, and patterns of field and forest all speak to years of activity in this place. Decades of ranching and cultivation are also responsible for the large number of imported grasses other non-native species that have come to dominate the open fields at the Prairie and River levels of the park. The future park should be seen as a dialogue with that past, engaging the patterns and character of the land while also reinterpreting and enhancing the landscape to meet the park's vision and values.

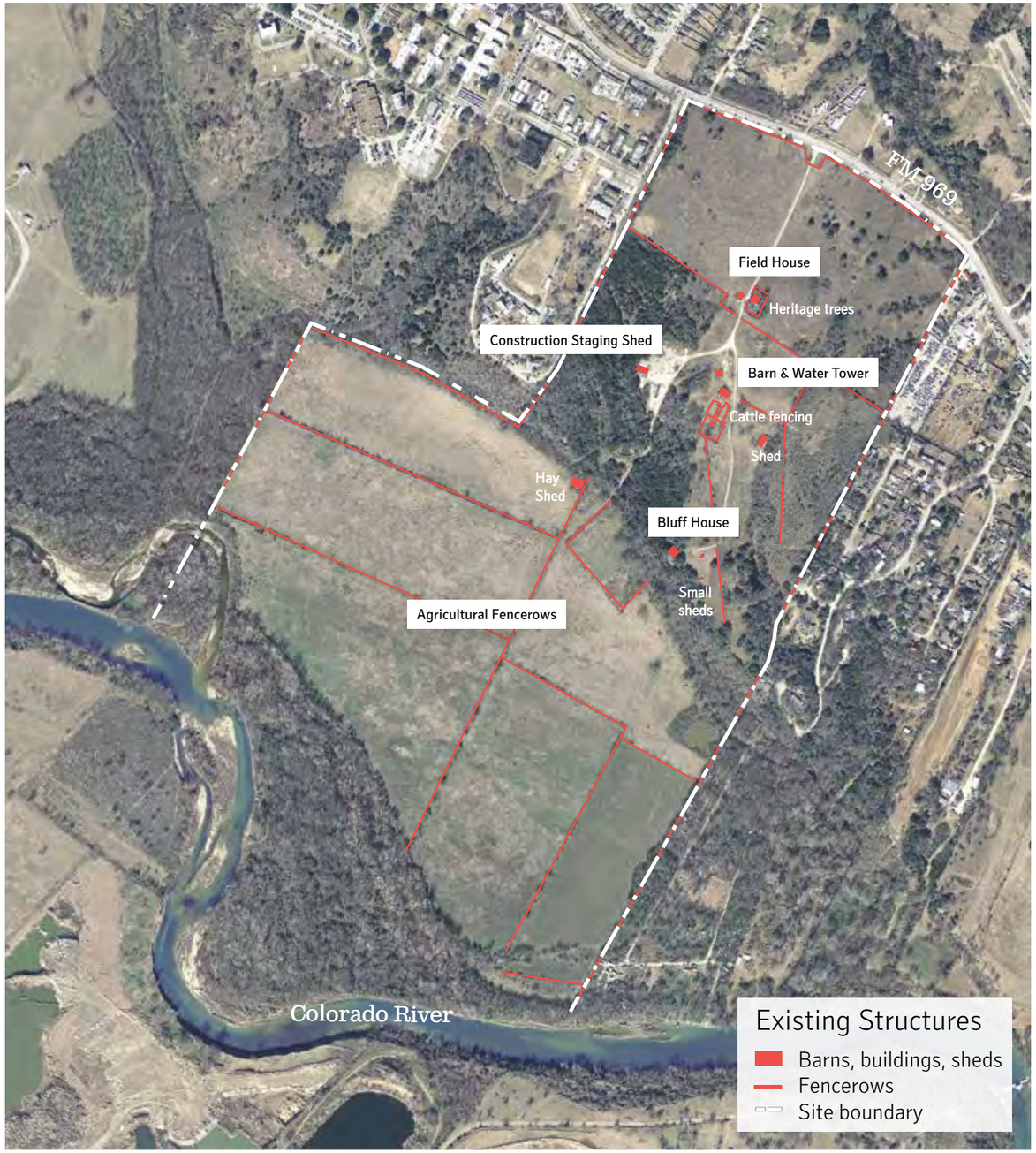
This master plan identifies numerous opportunities to build on site's heritages through specific adaptation of site elements like using the structure of fields and fences in the floodplain to organize reforestation and connectivity, along with broader site organization anchored by existing places like the old barn or house on the bluff. The goal is not preservation in its strictest sense but rather a spirit of value and care for what is unique about this place.

For additional information about existing structures, please refer to the project's Existing Conditions, Opportunities and Challenges Report available online through the City of Austin's John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park Master Plan website: www.austintexas.gov/JohnTrevinoMetroPark.

View of barn and water tower from the north (Image credit: GGN)

Vegetated fence row in former pasture area (Image credit: GGN)

View from north porch of the Bluff House (Image credit: GGN)



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Engagement

Jonathan Ogren (Siglo Group) shares information about existing vegetation communities and proposed Post Oak Savanna restoration during the inauguration of Treviño's Walk at an on-site community event (Image credit: GGN)

Engagement Methods

Beginning in March 2019, the Austin Parks and Recreation Department and the master planning team used a variety of engagement strategies to develop initial connections:

- Established connections with family members and friends of John Treviño Jr.
- Developed an ongoing project stakeholder and interested parties contact list
- Utilized existing community databases and relationships developed during other master planning efforts (such as Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park Master Plan) and development projects in the area
- Developed small-group discussions to gather perspectives and feedback from potential project "champions" with an interest in or identification with the following: Activities and Enrichment, Heritage and Culture, Local Neighborhood, Events and Concessions, and Nature and Ecology
- Developed the project's Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to ensure inter-agency governmental stakeholder input
- Developed relationships with potential future community partner organizations

To advertise Community Meetings, the team used the following public outreach strategies:

- Sent Every Door Direct Mail fliers to individuals and households living in the park vicinity: 4,018 in May; 4,059 in August; and 4,131 in November 2019
- Emailed invitations to individuals listed on the project stakeholder list, neighborhood associations, and community leaders
- Held small group discussions and met with TAG in May, August, and December 2019
- Sent personal follow-up emails and phone calls to project "champions" developed in small group discussion events, small group discussion attendees and TAG group members
- Engaged with media outlets
- Distributed PARD press releases and social media invitations
- Advertised on PARD website
- Printed fliers and large-format banners placed in the vicinity of the park
- Word of mouth

Pink Consulting, the public relations consultant on the master planning team, additionally led the following public outreach and engagement strategies:

- One-to-one engagement with community leaders
- One-to-one engagement with family members of John Treviño Jr.
- Showcased events on Pink Consulting and personal Facebook page, requesting that friends share event information
- Sent personal invitation emails to neighborhood association leadership, school principals, and local parent-teacher associations requesting participation and distribution to neighborhood memberships
- Dropped off event fliers and posters at local recreation and community centers, schools, churches, libraries, and businesses
- Requested local organizations to promote events in e-newsletters to their memberships
- Participated in school events, organization meetings, outreach and neighborhood events, and church services

For detailed descriptions of engagement activities and community survey results, please reference the project's Community Meeting summaries available online through the City of Austin's John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park Master Plan website: www.austintexas.gov/JohnTrevinoMetroPark.

During the first community meeting held at the Bluff House on Treviño Park in June 2019, Gregory Montes (PARD) listens to feedback about what future park visitors would like to see and do at the park (Image credit: GGN)

Story Gathering

The first community event of the master planning phase offered an opportunity to delve into personal history and memory related to parks and outdoor experiences while also gaining an introduction to the land and incredible beauty of Treviño Park.

Early engagement focused on supporting an exchange between people and place. During the community event and small group presentations in June 2019, the design team focused on sharing observations of the site and existing conditions. Holding the event on the park site, which the majority of participants had not yet had a chance to visit allowed people to begin to understand the complexity and liveliness that already characterizes the existing landscape. These engagements focused on gathering the stories of the city, its natural environment, and the legacy of John Treviño Jr. – all important elements that informed a sense of early priorities that would guide the park's future.

The community meeting took place in an open house format, with a range of opportunities for the 75+ participants to engage. Participants audio-recorded anecdotes about John Treviño Jr. and personal stories about the neighborhood, wrote postcards about their time – or imagined future experience – at Treviño Park, shared personal memories and ideas for what they would like to see or do at the park, and had a chance to socialize on the porch of the rustic ranch house while enjoying paletas and taking in a panoramic view of Downtown Austin. During the event, participants also were invited to join a nature talk by Jonathan Ogren (Siglo Group, ecological analysis/mapping consultant on the master planning team) about Austin and the site property, followed by a hike through wildflower meadows, an old barn and water tower, and a former stock pond nearby.

Top left: On the porch, friends and family of John Treviño Jr. pose with cut-outs of native species that could be found at the park.

Top right: Event participants gather in the shade of a heritage oak tree next to the Bluff House.

Right: Mindy Cooper (dwg., local landscape architect on the master planning team), listens to familial memories about John Treviño's life at the "PARD Radio" station in the Bluff House kitchen.

(Image credits: GGN)

What We've Heard

The second community event served as an opportunity for the master planning team to share and reflect feedback received to date, highlighting an ongoing discussion of broader community values and the role of a public park in the city.

Feedback from community members from small group discussions, an online survey, and engagement at Community Meeting #1 helped shape the park's development of values. The following "What We've Heard" community meeting in July 2019 focused on whether the preliminary approach, vision and values for the park were accurately representative of community members' own goals and hopes for Treviño Park.

Throughout the process the lack of resources and opportunities in East Austin came to the forefront and informed hopes for the future of Treviño Park. In addition to defining desired programmatic elements, discussions were often rooted in deeper issues of socio-economic accessibility, family values, cultural identity, and advocacy for the health and success of underserved communities. John Treviño Jr.'s legacy and the values that he fought for during his lifetime were frequently referenced and continue to serve as a driving force in understanding how Treviño Park should function within the community.

The graphic illustrates the variety of online and community meeting responses to the question, "What would you like to see or do at Treviño Metropolitan Park?" Respondents mentioned over 1,000 elements and ideas for the park.

Trails
210 responses

Trails and paths - general (148)
Bike trails/mountain biking (47)
Connections to trail network (10)

General Recreation
168 responses

Picnic areas (41)
Shade and trees (36)
Restrooms (23)
Grills and fire pits (12)
Rest areas/seating (11)
Open/green space (8)

Education & Activities
97 responses

Ecological Education (15)
Interpret heritage, culture, and legacy of John Treviño Jr. (14)
Community gardens/agriculture (13)
Family Activities (12)

Water (natural)
146 responses

River Access (42)
Kayak/Canoe Access (29)
Fishing (25)
Swimming (22)

Nature
81 responses

Nature and natural areas (25)
Wildflowers & Gardens (17)
Native Vegetation (13)
Bird watching (10)
Camping (10)

Sports & Fitness
90 responses

Fitness/exercise equipment (14)
Baseball/softball (13)
Soccer fields (12)
Volleyball (9)
Skate Park (3)

Pets
73 responses

Off-leash dog park (53)
Dog-friendly (7)
Equestrian facilities (2)

Park Qualities
66 responses

Better connections to neighborhood and transportation (18)
Safety/cleanliness (11)
Quiet/meditative (9)
Limited development (9)
Free admission & parking (6)

Pool or Splash Pad
72 responses

Swimming pool (27)
Splash pad (17)
Water feature (17)

Play
72 responses

Playgrounds (58)
Nature play (5)
Sand play (4)

Events
65 responses

Music (18)
Community Events (8)
Arts & Cultural events (8)
Amphitheater/Stage (8)

Summarized list of meeting and survey responses to the question, "What would you like to see or do at John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park?"

Preliminary Concept Plans

Through the third phase of engagement the master planning team heard general support for highlighting the unique character of the site, maintaining a modest level of development, and prioritizing habitat restoration to support a healthy landscape.

Continued engagement focused on highlighting the special qualities and attitudes of different areas of the site and how their unique character could support diverse experiences throughout the park. During Community Meeting #3 and small group presentations in August 2019, the design team presented four preliminary concepts that explored different strategies for character, distribution, and movement through the park.

The design team also focused on discussing how interactions between program, place, and community could generate broader impacts of the park. Each of the four concepts was accompanied by a board of illustrative sketches that showed examples of how the land, site heritage structures, and mixture of programming could come together to set up an exciting day for many different park visitors.

Top left: Event participants learn about four preliminary concepts for Treviño Park and provide their feedback on each set of plans and sketches.

Top right: Neighborhood skate and BMX advocates share their desire for active program spaces that welcome park visitors of all ages.

Right: Relatives of John Treviño Jr. voice excitement about increased opportunities and access for family-focused gatherings.

(Image credits: GGN)

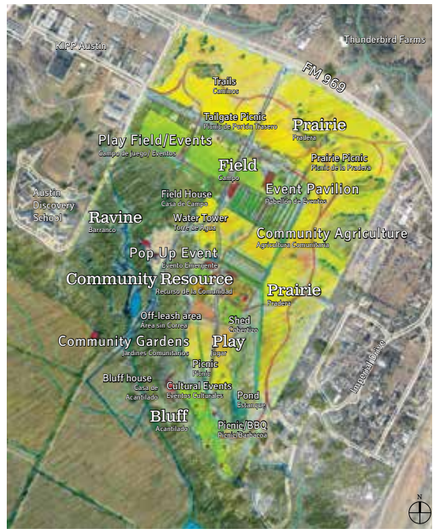
Preliminary Concept Plans

DRAFT

Survey results from the second community event reflected a significant preference for the “Ranch” and “Forest Fields” schemes, which support a progression through distributed zones of distinct character on the upland terrace as well as a focus on reforestation in the floodplain.

The preliminary plans proposed program elements such as a lookout tower, riverside outdoor classroom at the oxbow bend, tailgate picnicking areas, stewardship and participation in ecological restoration, mobile pop-up event area for community resource sharing, and community agriculture plots.

The majority of general comments voiced advocacy for a BMX/mountain bike track and skate park for all skills and ages. Other comments included support for ADA access throughout the site, nature preservation/wildlife, bird watching, open space, disc golf, running trails, a cultural center, agriculture, public boat access, sand volleyball, and roller skating.



Prairie: Ranch

- Three distinct activity centers
- Central access
- Duplicate and distributed park facilities resources
- Larger spaces closer to perimeter

9 votes at community meeting

92 online votes

Prairie: Town

- Central combined activity center
- Perimeter access
- Consolidated park facilities and resources
- Larger prairie frame

15 votes at community meeting

32 online votes

River: Forest Fields

- Varied forested patchwork
- Perimeter access
- Focus on pedestrian and bike access at flood plain level

13 votes at community meeting

113 online votes

River: Clearing

- Central open field
- Central vehicle access to river
- Potential for informal play fields or agriculture in floodplain

9 votes at community meeting

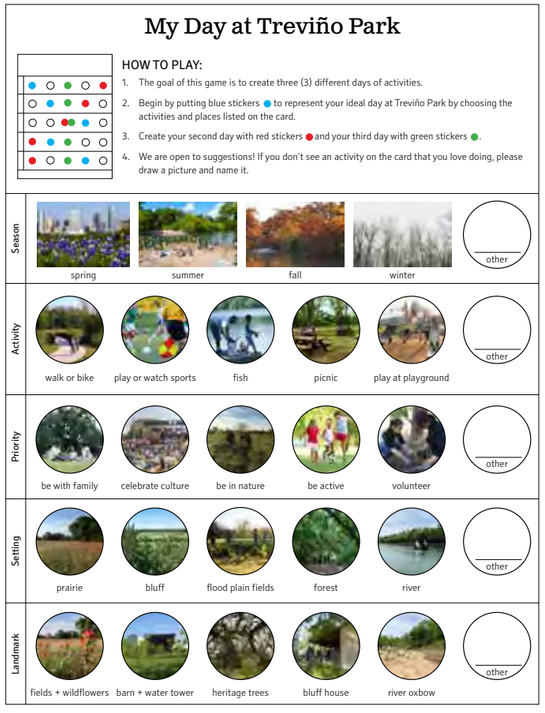
38 online votes

Preliminary Concept Plans

DRAFT

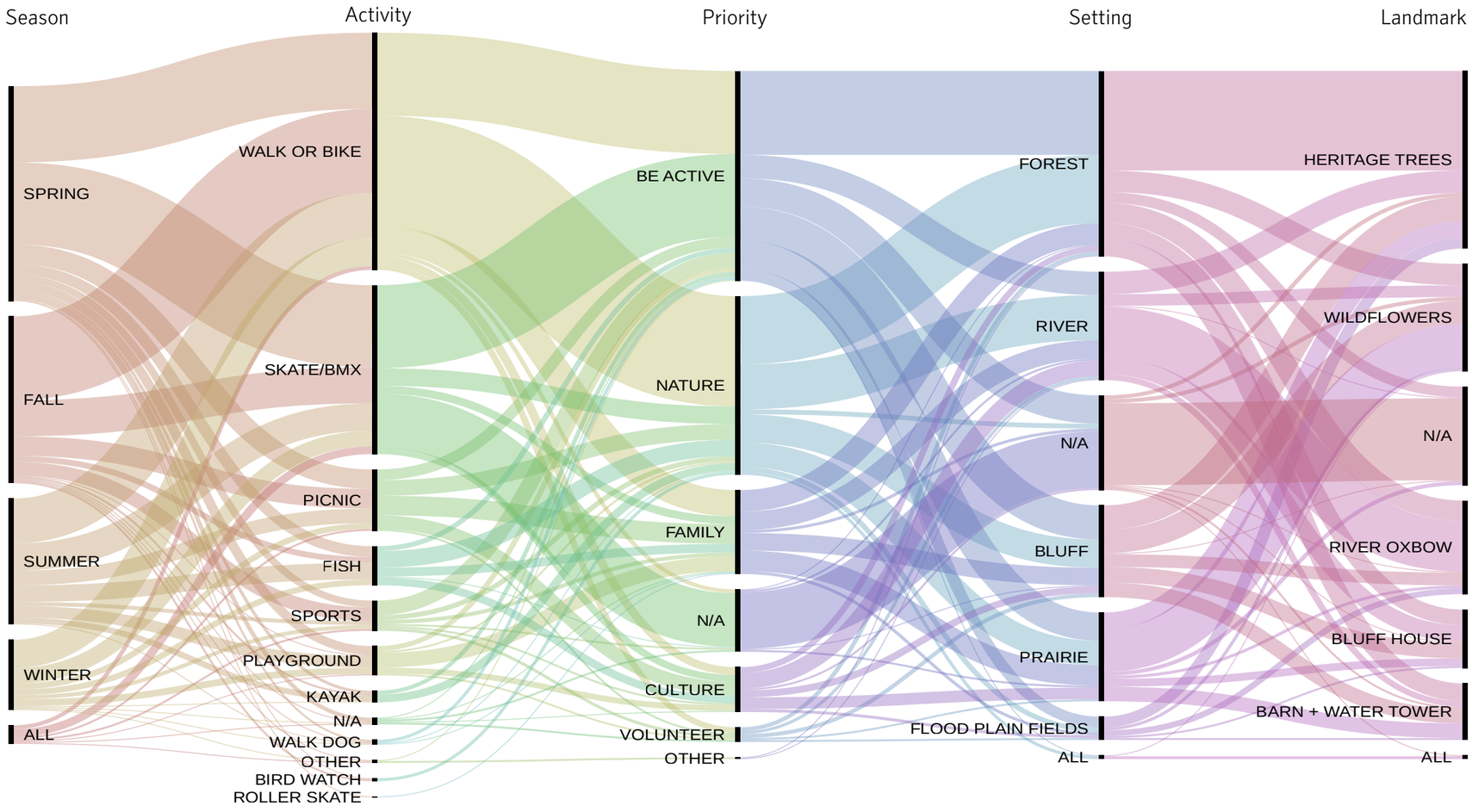
When asked about an ideal day at the park, survey respondents emphasized being active, nature, and family as their main priorities. Respondents were particularly excited about experiencing Treviño Park's forest, river, and wildflowers.

Participants at Community Meeting #3 and survey takers were invited to imagine their ideal day at Treviño Park, creating three different days of activities on a sticker game sheet. Illustrated results include 545 combinations created by 208 participants from the public meeting and online survey.



"My Day at Treviño Park" sticker sheet feedback activity

"My Day at Treviño Park" Survey Results



spring | walk or bike | be active | forest | heritage trees

Preferred Master Plan

In the fourth phase of engagement, event participants came to the site to learn about the preferred master plan, build community with neighbors and potential future park partners, and honor John Treviño Jr. through an inauguration of Treviño's Walk.

In August 2019 over 173 event participants and 8 community organizations came together to connect to the site for Community Meeting #4. While the first phase of development at Treviño Park will likely be focused on getting a basic level of access to the park, the master planning team sought guidance about what should come next based on community priorities. Potential future partner organizations shared information about their work with park's ecology, culture and youth, and how they envision engagement with Treviño Park in the future.

Throughout small group discussions and conversations with event participants, consistent themes that remain top priorities are that Treviño Park is to exist as a place for families, and that enjoyment of nature can only come from dedicated care for the ecological health of the land. This focus on well-being is critical not only the local community but also to larger systems of water, habitat, and healthy environment as a whole.

Top left: The fourth community meeting took place at the barn and water tower, in the location of the proposed "Farm" zone.

Top right: Kevin Anderson, representing the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership, shared information about the Colorado River's unique features near the site.

Right: More than 40 participants joined an inaugural walking tour of a portion of the master plan's proposed "Treviño's Walk," learning about the site's existing qualities and envisioning how they will evolve over time. This future trail loop is a key opportunity to serve as a living legacy of John Treviño Jr. and would connect various program spaces and ecologies through a 1-mile accessible path.

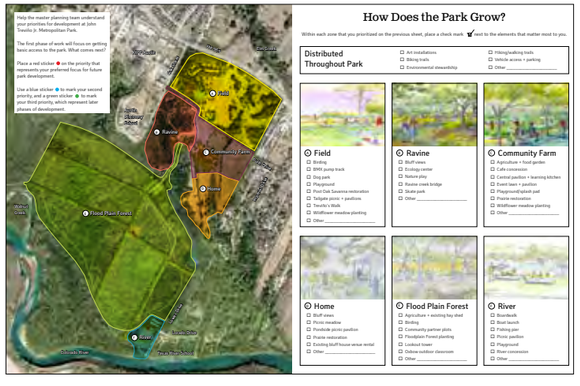
(Image credits: GGN)

Preferred Master Plan

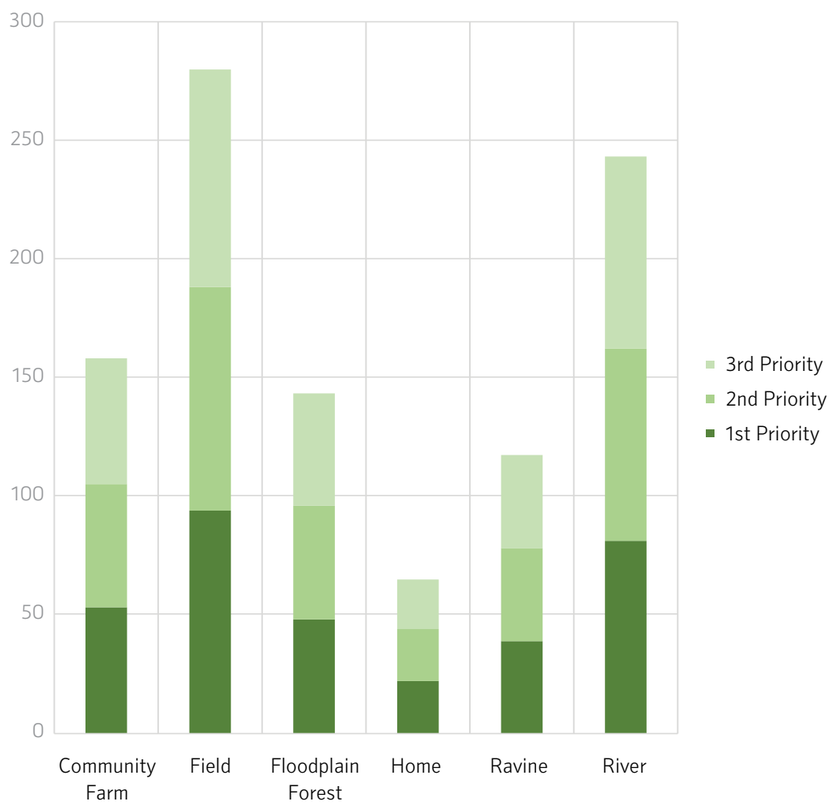
The Community Meeting #4 survey provided an opportunity to give feedback on priorities in program phasing to achieve the preferred master plan. Excitement for the Field and River zones has guided the team in identifying development strategies that will follow the provision of basic access to the park.

Results reflect the input of 428 community stakeholders and event participants who completed the survey to guide the master planning team in developing priorities for future park development. The Field and the River were identified as the highest park zone priorities in the community survey. The top five priorities for specific programming within the park were hiking/walking trails, fishing pier, boardwalk, agriculture + food garden, and nature play.

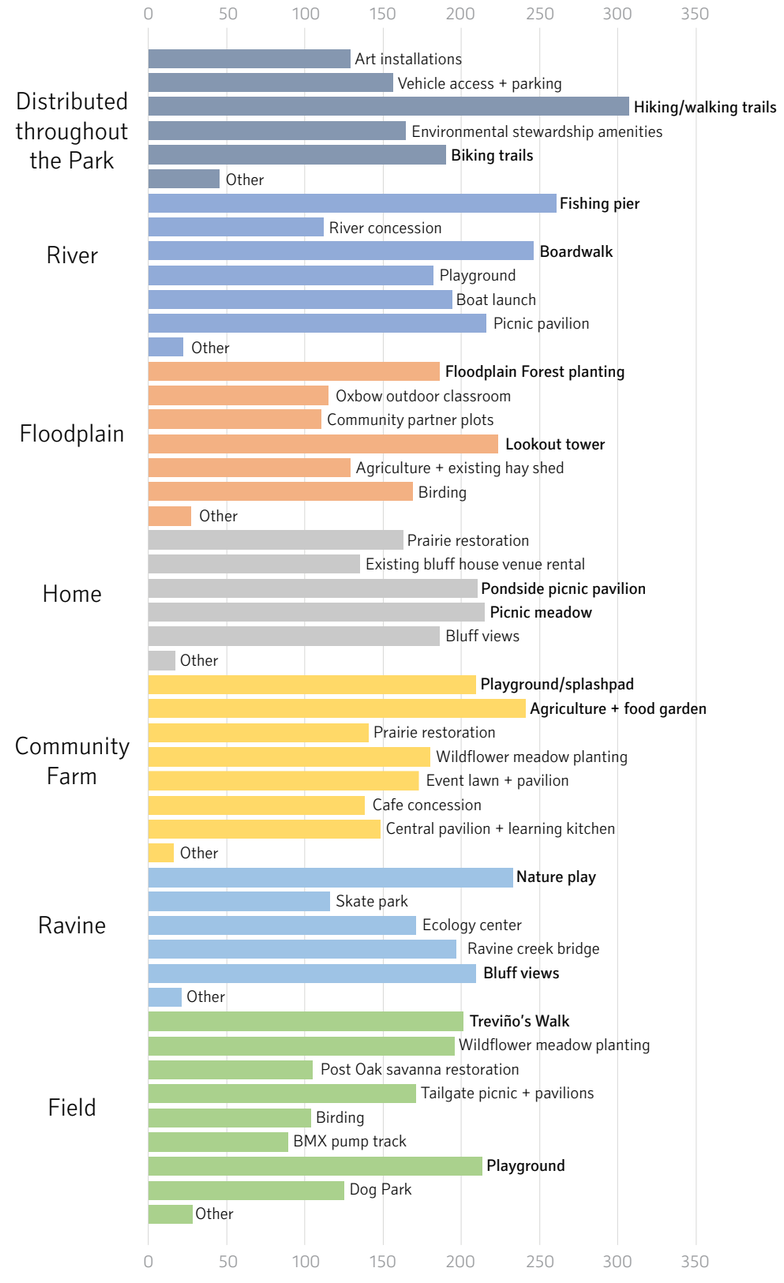
Written comments on the survey included support for a family-friendly park, ADA access, housing, nature, and waste management. Mixed opinions were shared about whether or not skate/BMX elements should be a part of park programming, and survey respondents additionally highlighted the fishing pier, river access, and trails.



"How Does the Park Grow?" survey for Community Meeting #4



Priority Park Zones (survey results)



Priority park programming within zones (survey results)

Final Master Plan

Wildflower meadow in spring near the Bluff House (Image credit: GGN)

Final Master Plan Summary

As a response to feedback heard throughout the project's focused engagement phases, the Final Master Plan expands on the "Ranch" and "Forest Fields" concepts, connecting the ecological characters of the site with the agricultural overlay and social mission of the park. Four distinct activity centers anchor the Prairie level and connect to the diverse ecological characters and historical structures at this higher elevation. At the River level trails through the reforested floodplain are the priority in addition to a river access point.

Prairie Level

(A) Field
Neighborhood park amenities within a wildflower meadow at primary and secondary entries

(B) Ravine
Ecology center leads to creek overlook bridge and shaded forest discovery trail with nature play + skate/bike skills facilities

(C) Farm
Bustling park hub featuring food + education resources, play, and community event spaces

(D) Home
A quiet place at the bluff's edges with large trees, a pond, and the repurposed Bluff House

River Level

(E) Floodplain Forest
Reforestation with numerous trails for biking, running, and walking through the park

(F) River Access
River access point with restroom, parking, and boardwalk for fishing and non-motorized boat launch

Distributed Program

Environmental stewardship

Art installations

Hiking/walking trails

Biking trails

Vehicle access + parking

SCALE: 1" = 800 FEET

0 200 400 800 1600 FEET

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Prairie Level

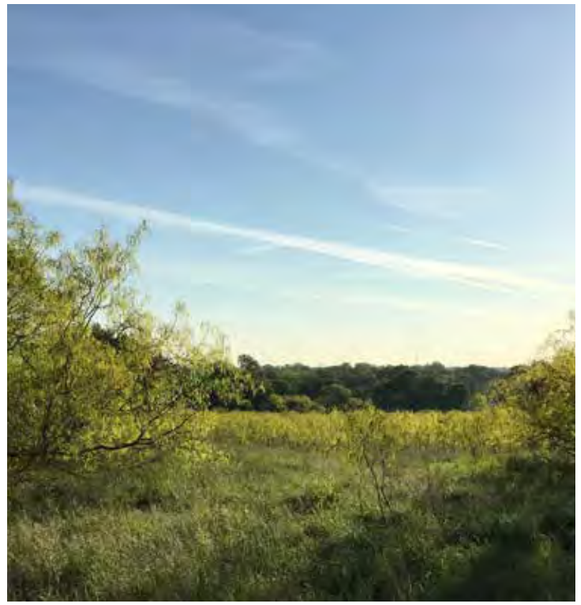
Sitting above the floodplain on former Blackland Prairie and Post Oak Savanna, the Prairie immerses distinct activity centers within a rich upland ecology with ties to the site's ranching history.

The Prairie occupies approximately one third of the total park area. Because this land is above the floodplain and most directly connected to surrounding streets, the majority of more intensively developed areas and parking are located here.

The site topography's subtle ridge line – wrapping from the western edge at the Field shifting south and east through the farm and terminating at Home – anchored the houses, barns, and roads of the former ranch and provides the general structure for new park areas. A series of ranch fences and heritage trees provide additional structure. Vehicular circulation and parking is held to the perimeter of the park to minimize overlaps between pedestrians and vehicles.

Though generally an open field today, there are numerous opportunities to diversify the ecological character of the Prairie. While the majority of infrastructure and activity investment occurs in this portion of the park, it is essential that the larger character define the feeling of the place. This will necessarily limit the extent of development within the Prairie to the centers outlined in this plan.

- (A) Primary entry
- (B) Secondary entry
- (C) Field
- (D) Post Oak Savanna
- (E) Picnic pavilions
- (F) Ravine
- (G) Event meadow
- (H) Farm
- (I) Home
- (J) Wildflower meadow
- (K) Prairie restoration
- (L) Emergency access
- (M) Treviño's Walk
- (N) Bluff overlook trails



Immature mesquite shows evidence of former cattle grazing (Image credit: GGN)

Mature heritage oaks dot the site's upland landscape (Image credit: GGN)

Treviño's Walk

Treviño's Walk is an accessible one-mile loop uniting many of the park's primary spaces and varied ecologies. It is an opportunity for art, discovery, and community to grow over time, serving as a living legacy of John Treviño Jr.

More than a park path, Treviño's Walk will serve as an active memorial to John Treviño Jr. Its route should connect the various park centers, working with the existing topography to ensure a welcoming and comfortable walk for all ages and abilities. Treviño's Walk can structure smaller narrative elements of art or interpretation so that a visitor to the park can learn about this place and Treviño's legacy over the course of the loop. The Walk can also support community activities whether they be stewardship or education, leveraging connections to parking and event infrastructure.

1 Lawn and pavilion

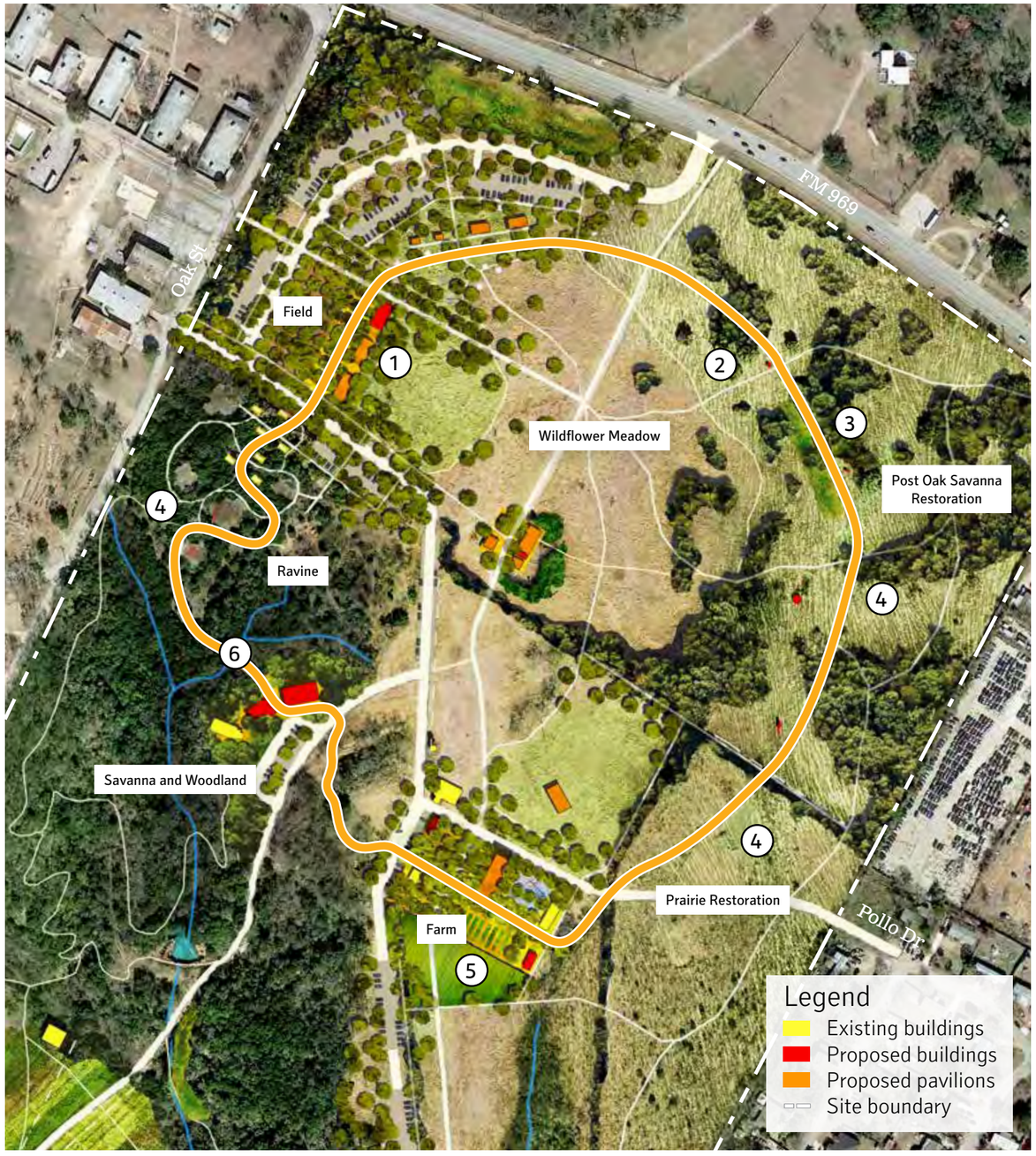
2 Wildflower meadow and art

3 Post Oak Savanna restoration

4 Stewardship + participation

5 Food garden

6 Ravine creek bridge



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N

View Looking South Across Prairie

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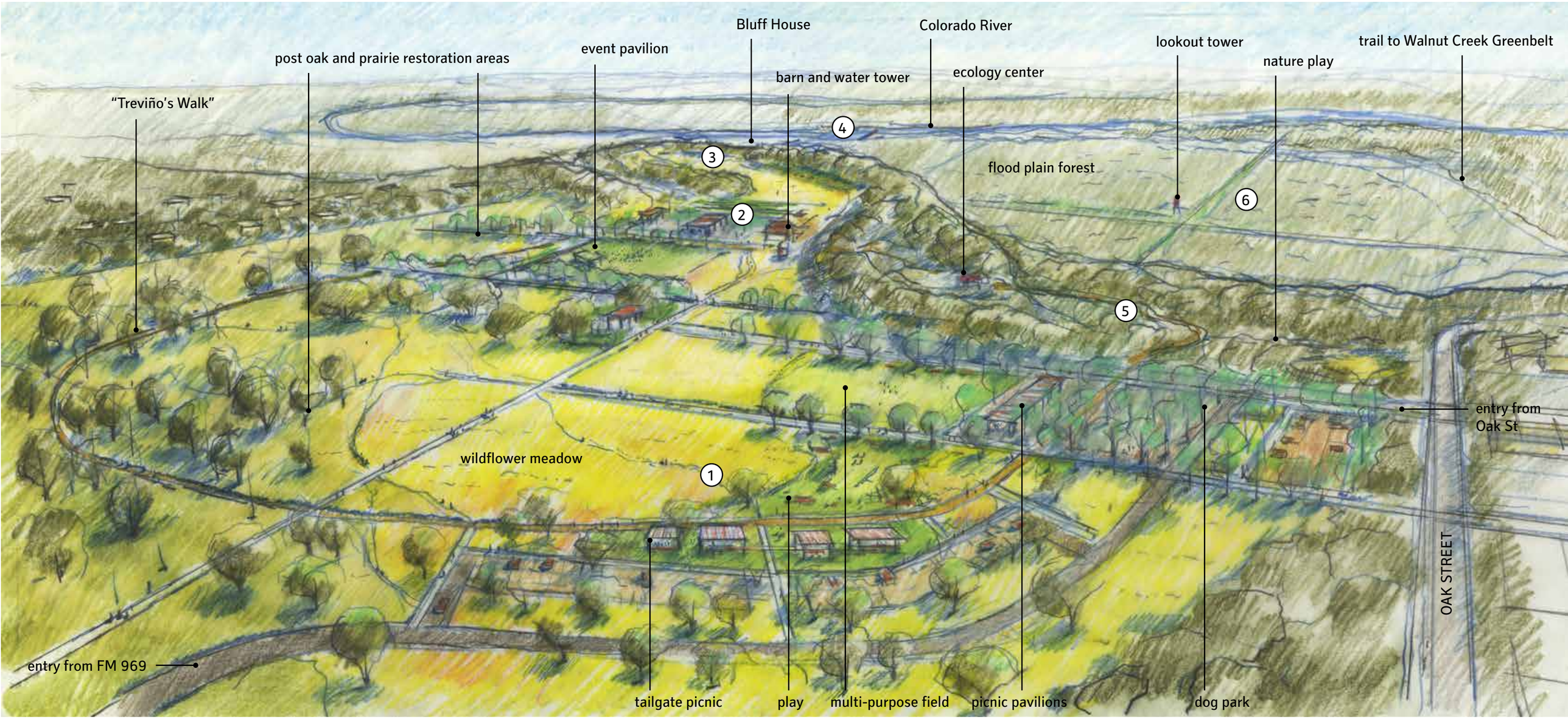


1 Field 2 Farm 3 Home 4 River 5 Ravine 6 Floodplain

The Field

The Field offers daily neighborhood activities set within the larger character of an open meadow. This area is closely connected to surrounding streets with direct access and parking.

The vision for the Field is to immerse the features of a daily-use neighborhood park into the meadow setting of the Prairie Level. Care should be taken to ensure the larger character of the place is felt throughout and that the richness of the land extends to all park edges.

Leveraging the existing topography, the primary activity anchors of a multi-use play field, picnic pavilion, dog park, and play area, extend along the east-west ridgeline. Numerous new trees are proposed through this area to ensure shade, particularly in areas with paving. A new vehicle drive connects a reconfigured park entry along FM 969 on the north to the proposed entry off Oak Street on the west. The existing entry road is repurposed as a multi-use trail. The existing fenceline establishes the southern boundary. Smaller picnic pavilions and tables are sited in close proximity to parking and are oriented with views into the enhanced wildflower meadow at the heart of the prairie. Treviño's Walk connects these picnic areas to the event pavilion and restroom. Numerous smaller trails invite exploration into the meadow.

- (A) Stormwater collection
- (B) Parking (150 spaces)
- (C) Tailgate picnic pavilions + grills
- (D) Playground
- (E) Restrooms and water access in close proximity to picnicking and play field
- (F) Picnic pavilions for larger gatherings or community activities
- (G) Dog park - fenced area with seating and shade trees
- (H) Multi-use field with potential use as temporary parking during events
- (I) Treviño's Walk
- (J) Wildflower Meadow
- (K) Art installations
- (L) Post Oak Savanna restoration
- (M) Birding Station

SCALE: 1" = 150 FEET 0 75 150 300 FEET

N

The Field

DRAFT

An evening in the field could be an opportunity to gather with family and enjoy the spring wildflower bloom. Extensions of lawn and trails allow kids to play in close proximity and then extend the evening with a walk through the meadow.

1 post oak restoration 2 wildflower meadow 3 field pavilion 4 Treviño's Walk 5 barn and water tower 6 multi-purpose field 7 dog park 8 tailgate picnic pavilion

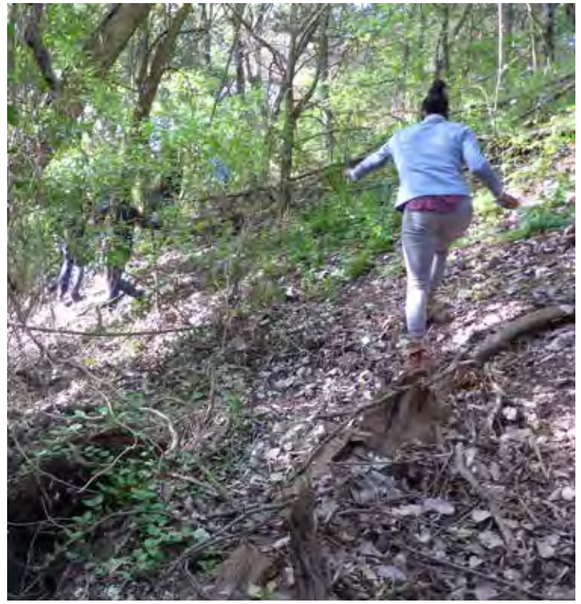
The Ravine

The Ravine creates a destination for play, discovery and environmental education within the existing tree canopy where the Prairie transitions to the River basin.

Existing trees and more dramatic topography set the Ravine in contrast to the open fields of the Prairie. Building on this character the Ravine is envisioned to provide opportunities for active play, nature discovery, and education with trail connections in a more shaded and varied setting. Opportunities for picnicking and group activities are also a priority for this area. No single use should dominate the experience. An existing water tank anchors a potential skate and bike skills activity area. Further study of tributaries and required buffer setbacks will determine appropriate extents of this area. Play should leverage the character of the place with multiple smaller offerings for different ages and experiences.

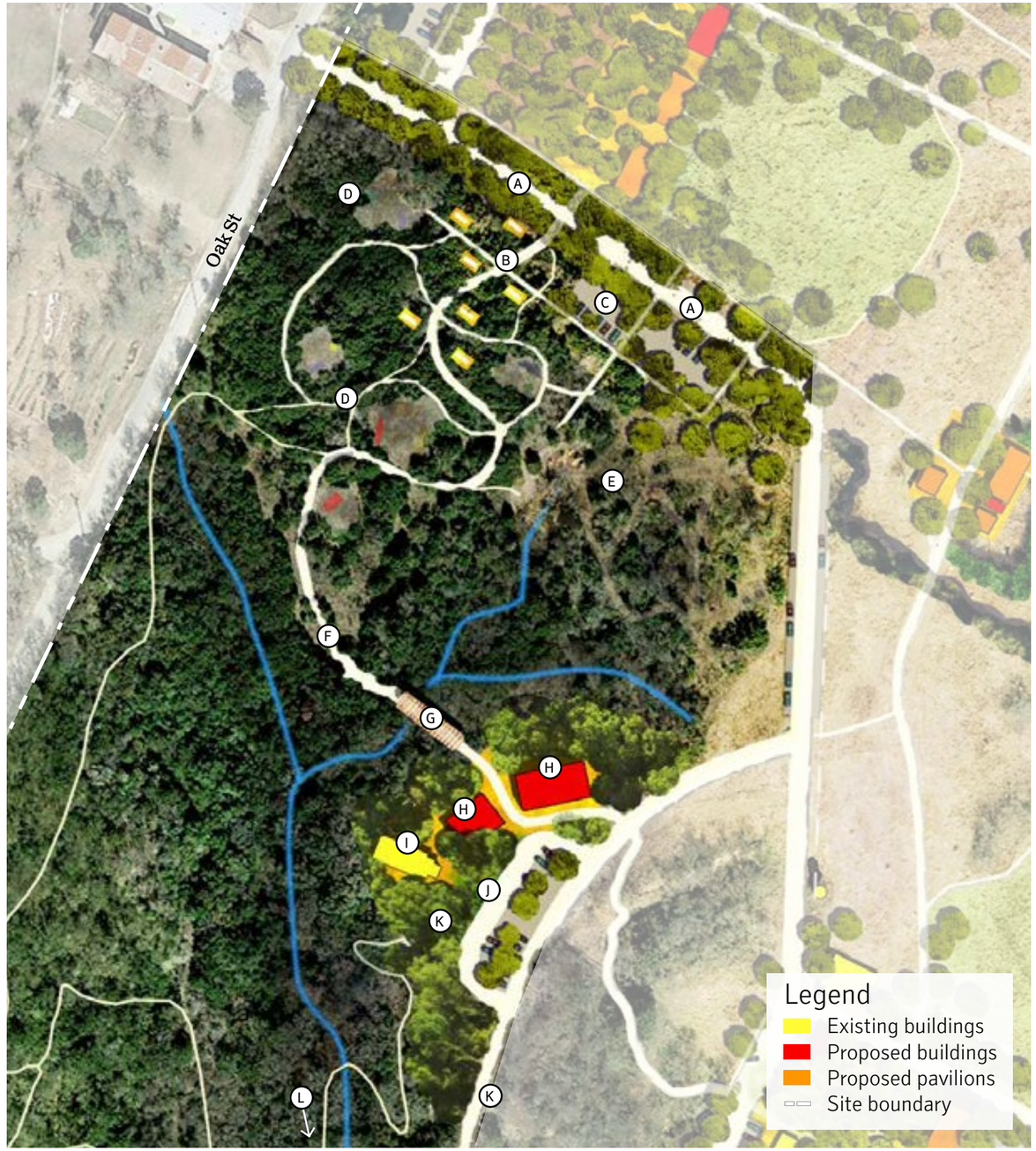
Multiple trails knit the area together and Treviño's Walk serves as a spine for connecting to the adjacent Field and ecology center. A pedestrian bridge over the existing creek will provide views and access through this sensitive ecology while protecting it from damage. This bridge as part of Treviño's walk should be designed to ensure ADA compliance along the entirety of the path as it connects to the ecology center. As a mid point along the road between the Prairie level and River level, the proposed building would connect ongoing stewardship and management of the landscape with opportunities for education, research, and outreach.

- (A) Parallel parking (20 spaces)
- (B) Picnic areas
- (C) Parking (55 spaces)
- (D) Nature play areas
- (E) Skate/bike skills area
- (F) Treviño's Walk
- (G) Creek bridge
- (H) Ecology center and potential office spaces
- (I) Repurposed shed for school group gatherings or outdoor education
- (J) Drop-off
- (K) Stormwater collection
- (L) Overlook Trails and pond



Steep Ravine slopes rising up from creek tributaries below (Image credit: GGN)

Sparsely wooded area of former tank/pond in upper Ravine (Image credit: GGN)



SCALE: 1" = 150 FEET 0 75 150 300 FEET

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The Ravine

DRAFT

An afternoon at the Ravine will be filled with the sounds of play and discovery as school groups and families explore. Treviño's Walk and smaller trails connect other park visitors to this unique ecology.

1 skate/bike skills area 2 Treviño's Walk 3 nature play 4 invasive plant management 5 environmental education

The Farm

The Farm serves as an anchor for community gathering and resources around food, health and culture.

The site of the existing barn, cattle fences and shed structures anchors a unique park place that connects Treviño Park's vision as a resource for an engaged community to the agricultural heritage of the site. Development of the Farm should seek opportunities to connect local food production and education with opportunities for multi-generational participation.

Repurposing the existing barn, shed, and cattle fences sets the character of the Farm. A grove of trees and new pavilion unify the space and provide shade. Play opportunities such as the splash pad could integrate with interpretive elements about the site's agriculture and water use practices, serving as a unique educational element for family outings. Treviño's Walk passes through this tree-lined gathering area, establishing a central walk scaled for market-style events.

To the north of the central Farm an informal field hosts a small pavilion with basic infrastructure for community events and performances. Land for community agriculture and gardens frames the southern edge of the Farm. Throughout the engagement process the team heard support for incorporating food production and education into the park. This is a response not only to a lack of food sources in this part of the city but also a means of connecting to the history of the site and broader community history of agriculture in East Austin.

- (A) Parallel parking (30 spaces)
- (B) Wildflower Meadow
- (C) Existing barn + water tower
- (D) Event meadow + pavilion
- (E) Drop-off
- (F) Parking (45 spaces)
- (G) Potential café concession
- (H) Repurposed sheds for group gathering or park maintenance/storage
- (I) Central pavilion, learning kitchen, restroom
- (J) Play + splash pad
- (K) Demonstration garden + shed
- (L) Food garden (1 acre)

The barn and water tower (Image credit: GGN)

Shed hidden within overgrown vegetation near barn (Image credit: GGN)

SCALE: 1" = 150 FEET 0 75 150 300 FEET

N

The Farm

DRAFT

A warm summer morning brings families out to play and learn in the splash pad area and participate in a cooking demonstration in the pavilion. Volunteers help in the garden and a line of trees provides shade for those who want to watch.

1 demonstration garden 2 repurposed shed 3 mobile pop-up event spaces 4 central pavilion gathering space 5 playground and splash pad

Home

Home is a comfortable and welcoming respite for picnicking, small gatherings, and the occasional larger event. As much as possible, keep it as it is.

Anchored by an existing rustic ranch house with a giant oak tree and porch overlooking Austin's downtown skyline, this place serves as a rural escape and sets the tone of Home. The land surrounding the house drops off to the east and west as tributaries cut down the bluff to the flood plain, emphasizing the character of destination and promontory.

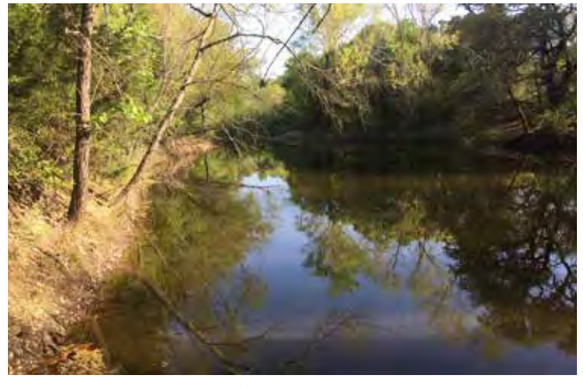
Development of this area should be minimal to maintain the existing character. The addition of picnic tables and grills near shade trees will expand opportunities beyond the existing Bluff House. A picnic pavilion near the existing pond and an extension of the park road with a turnaround and drop-off will ensure a more broadly accessible experience and support occasional events. Further study will be needed to determine whether the pond can potentially be used for fishing or recreation.

The existing Bluff House will anchor activities in this area of the park. Future development of a management and concessions plan should clarify appropriate uses. Public comment has emphasized the importance of free and affordable access to park amenities in this part of the city, where facilities and programming have historically been limited.

- (A) Parking (30 spaces)
- (B) Drop-off
- (C) Existing Bluff House, potential to serve as rentable community venue or offices
- (D) Fire pit
- (E) Pondside picnic pavilion
- (F) Pond
- (G) Picnic tables and grills
- (H) Bluff overlook trail

Open wildflower meadow bordered by dense thickets of trees (Image credit: GGN)

Fire pit and heritage oak tree adjacent to Bluff House (Image credit: GGN)



Pond to the east near Bluff House (Image credit: GGN)

SCALE: 1" = 150 FEET 0 75 150 300 FEET

N

Home

A Sunday afternoon picnic during the spring brings an extended family together in the shade of large oaks. Wildflowers are blooming and views across the Flood Plain Forest and skyline beyond invite visitors to return to the park for more exploration.

1 prairie restoration

2 picnic areas and seating

3 heritage trees

Flood Plain Forest

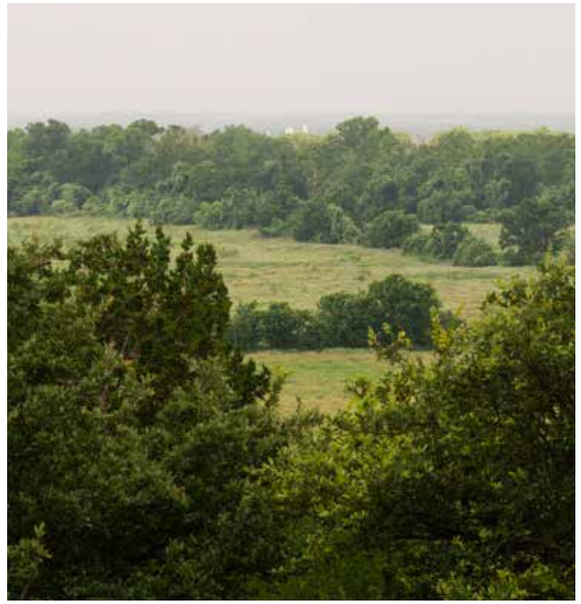
The Flood Plain Forest will transform 144 acres of floodplain from open pasture to a diverse matrix of forested land.

The Flood Plain Forest's designation as a floodplain constrains the level of development. The steep topography between the Prairie level and River level of the park also means that access to the area is highly limited. Given these factors, this large area is recommended for trails and paths, and a series of small destinations within what could become a large forested zone over time.

Trails are intended to offer two distinct experiences – larger looping paths and straight clear paths following the old fence lines. The structure of the former fields is also an opportunity to implement varied strategies for reforestation and ecological regeneration, imagining that these floodplain "forest fields" can serve as a testing ground for multiple strategies, visible and communicable to all those who visit the park. Further study will be required to determine the potential impacts of reforestation (through a mixture of natural and managed succession) and shifting roughness values on flooding effects in the floodplain.

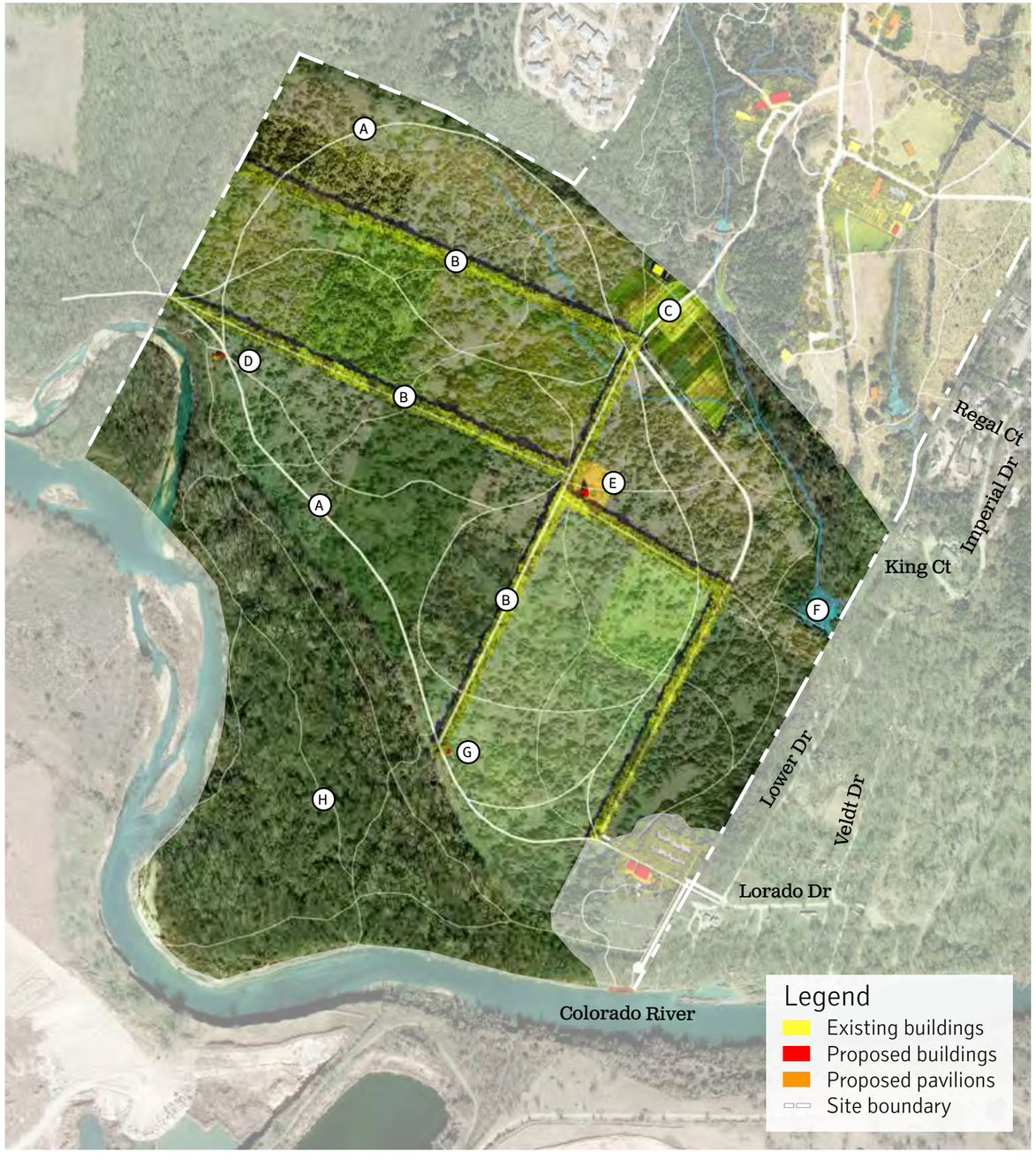
Destinations like the oxbow outdoor classroom, lookout tower, birding station and river access point invite visitors to explore this evolving landscape.

- (A) Floodplain loop trail
- (B) Fencerow path
- (C) Agricultural expansion and existing hay shed
- (D) Oxbow outdoor classroom + composting restroom
- (E) Lookout tower
- (F) Pond
- (G) Birding station
- (H) Lower river terrace forest



Currently fences and hedgerows structure a largely open field (Image credit: GGN)

Woodland trees provide a threshold to the open former cropland areas in the floodplain (Image credit: GGN)



SCALE: 1" = 600 FEET

0 150 300 600 1200 FEET

N

Forest Fields

A lookout tower offers new perspectives on the large, relatively flat floodplain, helping orient visitors and establishing a destination within the floodplain. Educational information and trail maps could expand opportunities of this feature.

The fencerows that structure and break down the scale of the floodplain are re-imagined as clear pedestrian and bike routes through the floodplain providing inviting and direct access through an area that will become more densely wooded over time.

River Access

Access to the Colorado River is a community priority for this park. Opportunities for boating, fishing, or simply interacting with the water will need to negotiate the risks of a dynamic river.

Daily pulsing and flooding make accessing this portion of the Colorado River more challenging than at parks farther west in Austin upstream of the dam. Access to the river should combine physical improvements with outreach about environmental education, recreation, and stewardship opportunities.

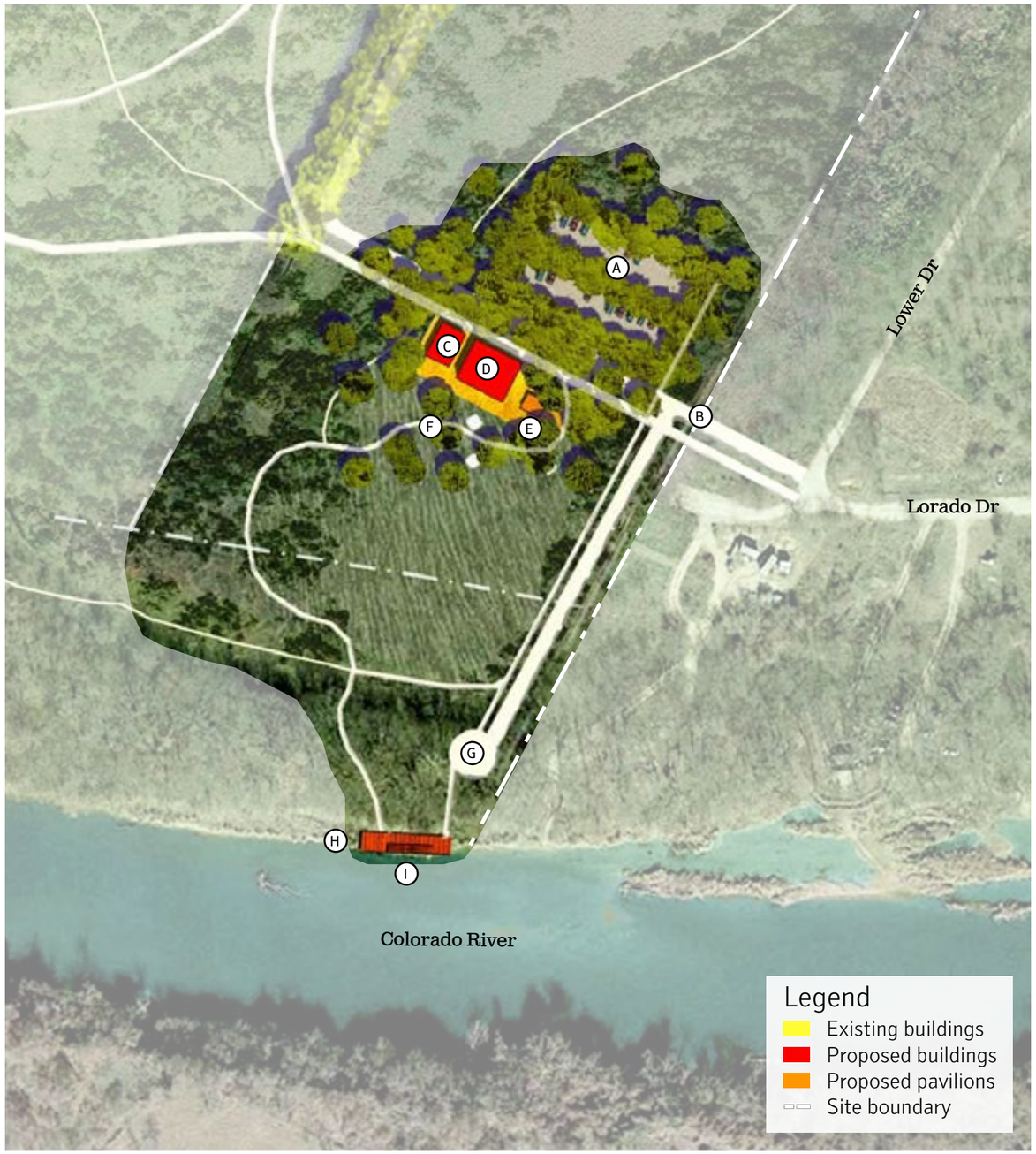
The proposed river access location leverages more gradual topography along the eastern edge of the site and proximity to the existing Lorado Drive. The preliminary design combines parking with restrooms, a small picnic and play area beyond the required river setback above the active flood zone, and a potential future structure for boat rentals. An accessible path connects to a non-motorized boat launch and boardwalk for fishing at the water's edge.

Further development of this access point will need to be coordinated with all regulations for construction within the floodplain, guidelines for accessing the river, and strategies for addressing the regular flooding of the lower river terrace. It is not recommended that this area be designed for swimming.

- (A) Parking (55 spaces)
- (B) Potential river access site entry
- (C) Composting restrooms
- (D) Potential boat rental concession + park maintenance/storage
- (E) Picnic + pavilion
- (F) Playground
- (G) Drop-off
- (H) Fishing pier + boardwalk
- (I) Boat launch

Sandy trails from former river flows weave through the Riparian Woodland on the way to the river's edge (Image credit: GGN)

While several areas of the riverbank are highly eroded, the southeast segment of the park remains part of a healthy ecosystem (Image credit: GGN)



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River Access

At the western edge of the park site an oxbow is forming where Walnut Creek formerly meandered through Treviño Park before flowing into the Colorado River. This unique river feature will anchor an outdoor classroom where park visitors can see the ongoing transformation of the river and school groups can participate in monitoring and discovery first hand.

Access to the River will welcome all abilities through opportunities to learn about river safety and get onto the water, enjoy an afternoon of fishing, or simply watch the water from a shaded picnic table.

Site Systems

On the Colorado River upstream of Treviño Park (Image credit: GGN)

Sustainable Systems

As an ecological and community resource park systems should maximize the impact of this place in achieving the park's vision and values. The design, construction, and ongoing management of these systems should be approached holistically.

Throughout this document it has been highlighted that John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park is a valuable land resource for its location on the river, the community it can connect, the rich beauty of the place as it already exists, and the legacy of John Treviño Jr. that it advances. The design, construction, and management of the multiple and overlapping park systems should be pragmatic and efficient with limited resources. It poses an opportunity for aspirational and imaginative forward thinking toward a sustainable future that maximizes the potential of the place. Climate change and the growth of this part of Austin will bring about complex and unforeseen challenges for this place. The park will only become more and more important in engaging this change with time.

Site systems are understood as spanning the ecological health of the place to the flows of water, power, and waste that are a part of the daily, seasonal, and yearly life of the park. These principles should guide the specific systems constructed but also the management and activation of the park – posing constraints on the scale, nature, and timing of events. The active role of the community should be central to these cycles. Rather than focusing on minimizing the negative impacts of park visitors, the City of Austin need to engage community park champions to advocate for the health and continued management of this place.

As best practices will always be evolving, the specifics of the recommendations that follow can be evaluated against new information as it becomes available. The broader concepts and the intent behind them will remain as the embodiment of the engagement process.

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Natural Areas Management Guidelines

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The Treviño Park Master Plan recognizes that a long-term commitment to protecting the natural setting of the park is essential to preserving it for future generations, and that the degree of thoughtful stewardship is directly related to the quality of its visitor experience.

The following information and suggested guidelines are intended to utilize land management resources efficiently while leveraging natural recovery (self-repair) to set realistic yet ambitious management and restoration objectives.

When sustainable land management techniques are applied in a consistent, incremental, and adaptive manner, the potential outcomes include:

- Repair of primary ecological processes – plant regeneration, soil creation and stabilization, water infiltration and processing, control of invasive species, and erosion mitigation
- Create healthy, complete plant communities – use of native flora including trees, understory, and groundcover, to foster complete riparian, woodland, and savanna plant communities that are diverse and provide for rich wildlife habitat in an urban setting
- Create resilient landscapes – that can adapt and withstand drought, heavy use, and other factors
- Enhance the user experience – through natural landscapes that are aesthetically pleasing, compelling, exciting, and informative

To accomplish these goals, a combination of staff and volunteer service is recommended. While this master plan recognizes the power of volunteer efforts in the park, it is mainly focused on tasks that can be completed by paid staff. Therefore, opportunities to fully utilize volunteers to help meet these land management goals should be articulated in a future natural area management plan for the park.

Treviño Park has irreplaceable value as an open space corridor, recreational amenity, refuge for flora and fauna adjacent to a large urban area, and integral part of the Colorado River Watershed. For more information about the park's ecological context, please refer to the project's Existing Conditions, Opportunities and Challenges Report available online through the City of Austin's John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park Master Plan website: www.austintexas.gov/JohnTrevinoMetroPark.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND PROCESS APPROACH

As a dynamic, living landscape, it is important to remember that the natural areas of Treviño Park may respond differently at different times to the same treatment. In addition, land management practices are processes that often require multiple steps over many years and conditions may change midcourse. For that reason, all information presented here should be viewed through an adaptive management lens. Adaptive management is an iterative process, which allows land management practitioners to learn about the site over time, as circumstances change, and adjust methods accordingly (Figure 1). This technique will prove to be particularly useful in the face of climate change and periods of prolonged drought, which can have substantial impacts on restoration activities within the park.

These recommendations recognize the need for a resilient, adaptive landscape in three primary ways:

- By recommending native plants and plant communities that have naturally evolved in this location and are adapted to the climatic variability that occurs in this area;
- By utilizing plant diversity as a safeguard from ecosystem disturbance (such as drought or climate change) since some species and even some genotypes may do better than others as circumstances change;

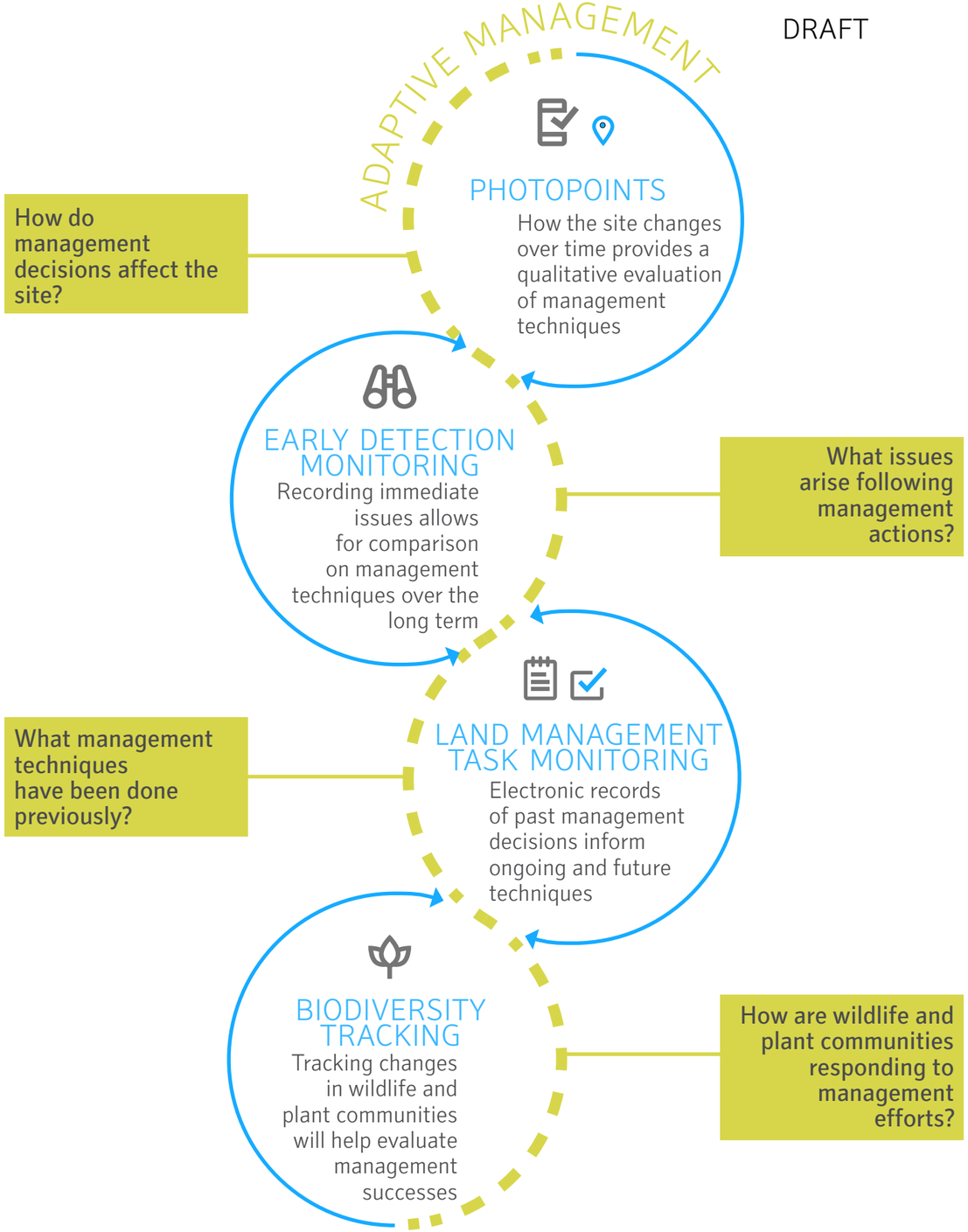

Figure 1: Key components of Adaptive Management

Images characteristic of the Blackland Prairie and Riparian Forest on the Treviño Park site. (Image credits: Siglo Group)

- By breaking the study area down into workable areas for implementation and progress evaluation.

Integrating Natural Areas Management with Recreational Programming and the User Experience

The natural areas of Treviño Park support myriad recreational activities. Common activities include running, walking, skating, biking, and boating. Natural area management of the site will enhance those experiences by increasing shade through the expansion of woodlands, reducing erosion hazards, creating more stable trails, increasing the health of grassland areas, reducing mowing needs, enabling interaction with flora and fauna, framing views, and enhancing aesthetic appeal. Importantly, the master plan and the recommended sustainable land management guidelines provide opportunities for volunteer stewardship that can engage park users and create robust experiences in nature.

Natural Area Management and Ecological Restoration

Ecological restoration is the act of enhancing natural processes in a landscape where they may not exist, are impaired, or simply can be improved. This approach will repair environmental degradation and enhance plant communities and habitat, which will result in more resilient, aesthetically pleasing, and ecologically functional natural areas.

Repairing Environmental Degradation

Environmental degradation can come from many factors both natural and manmade. Before an area can be restored, the major issues impacting it must be addressed or it is likely that the area will fall back into disrepair and restoration efforts will be squandered. There are three main threats to Treviño Park that are expected to be exacerbated when the park is opened to the public: invasive species, erosion, and soil compaction.

Invasive Species

In order to restore the landscape and prevent further damage, invasive plants must be managed where possible. By reducing or removing invasive species, we can make space for native vegetation and habitat and allow natural processes to recover. During the master planning process, 12 invasive plant species that are negatively impacting the property were observed at Treviño Park. These include golden bamboo, Chinaberry, Chinese tallow, Bermudagrass, King Ranch bluestem, Malta star thistle, elephant ear, privet, Japanese honeysuckle, bastard cabbage, nutgrass, and giant cane. Eleven of these species are also included in the City of Austin's top 24 Invasive Species list. A list of invasives that have the highest impact on each management zone can be found in Figure 3. The prompt treatment and removal of these species will alleviate management issues and lower future costs. A full land management document that addresses species-specific approaches to managing these invasives is recommended.

Additionally, feral hogs are non-native mammals that threaten the ecology of Treviño Park by destroying habitat that is important to native wildlife. They often trample new plantings and destroy vital wetland areas. Hogs and evidence of their impacts on the landscape have been observed throughout the park. Their management is critical to successful implementation of the master plan.

Erosion Control

The major erosion issues within Treviño Park are creek erosion, sheet erosion adjacent to existing roads, and riverbank erosion along the Colorado River. With the construction of the park, it is likely that additional erosion will occur and should be addressed as part of the design process and long-term management.

Colorado River Shoreline Erosion

The shoreline along the Colorado River is eroded

and steep, most notably on the upstream side of the property near the confluence with Walnut Creek. Because the river is constantly altering the shoreline in this area, it is recommended that further modeling of the area occurs before any restoration takes place in order to better understand what is needed. Erosion control in this area could include planting, regrading the shoreline, and other shoreline stabilization features. That said, the issue here is substantial and something that should be looked at in greater detail. At this time, it is beyond the scope of this master plan.

Creekbank Erosion

The creek traveling from the northwest portion of the park down to the floodplain shows substantial signs of creek bank cutting as a result of flashy flows resulting from water being diverted onto the property from neighboring properties through a culvert. As management begins in this area, processes to restore the stability of the creek banks and diffuse water will ensure more stability of the area and allow for increased ecological health and user enjoyment. While this is a solvable issue, the solution here will need more study as the park is developed.

Trail and User Traffic Erosion

As the park develops, trails throughout the park and particularly those located in areas with sloping topography must allow for the passage of water to reduce issues associated with water accumulation and eventual erosion. This will be of particular importance on the trails in sloped areas including the creekside woodlands, sloping woodlands, and riparian woodlands. Best practices for trail construction call for water bars or other means to create dispersed water flow downhill, while preventing the formation of channels. Informal paths and trails need to be actively discouraged. Informal paths quickly become denuded of vegetation and often become part of the commonly used trail network causing erosion as well as a host of other issues. At the macro and micro level, the flow of water across the park system and the ability to infiltrate that water as much as possible into the landscape will allow for a healthier park that provides better experiences to its visitors. These concepts will be further articulated in a land management plan for the park and should be incorporated into ongoing design processes.

Soil Degradation, Testing, and Restoration

The soils of Treviño Park have been degraded, primarily due to a century and a half of agricultural use. To better understand the needs of the soils as management activities move forward, soils should be tested throughout the site. These results will likely suggest native, organic amendments in some areas. It is also important to note that soils should be protected during construction activities.

Enhancing and Restoring Plant Communities and Habitat

Once the degradation of an area is under management, we can begin to restore the native vegetation which in turn creates habitat for humans, plants, and wildlife. In many cases, merely stopping the active degradation of a site will result in the natural regeneration of its native flora. In other areas, supplemental seeding and/or planting is necessary in conjunction with a long-term plan for care and management.

RESTORING PLANT COMMUNITIES

The establishment of native flora will occur throughout the plant communities and habitats of Treviño Park. The master plan outlines what this can look like with the recommendation that an extensive land management plan be put in place to carry out these activities. The following section describes the various restoration actions that should occur within the management zones depicted in Figure 2 and further described in Figure 3. Figure 4 depicts the ecological evolution of the site, as historic woodlands regenerate, invasives are removed, and riverbanks are stabilized.

Prairie (14 acres)

The prairie area is former agricultural land that was part

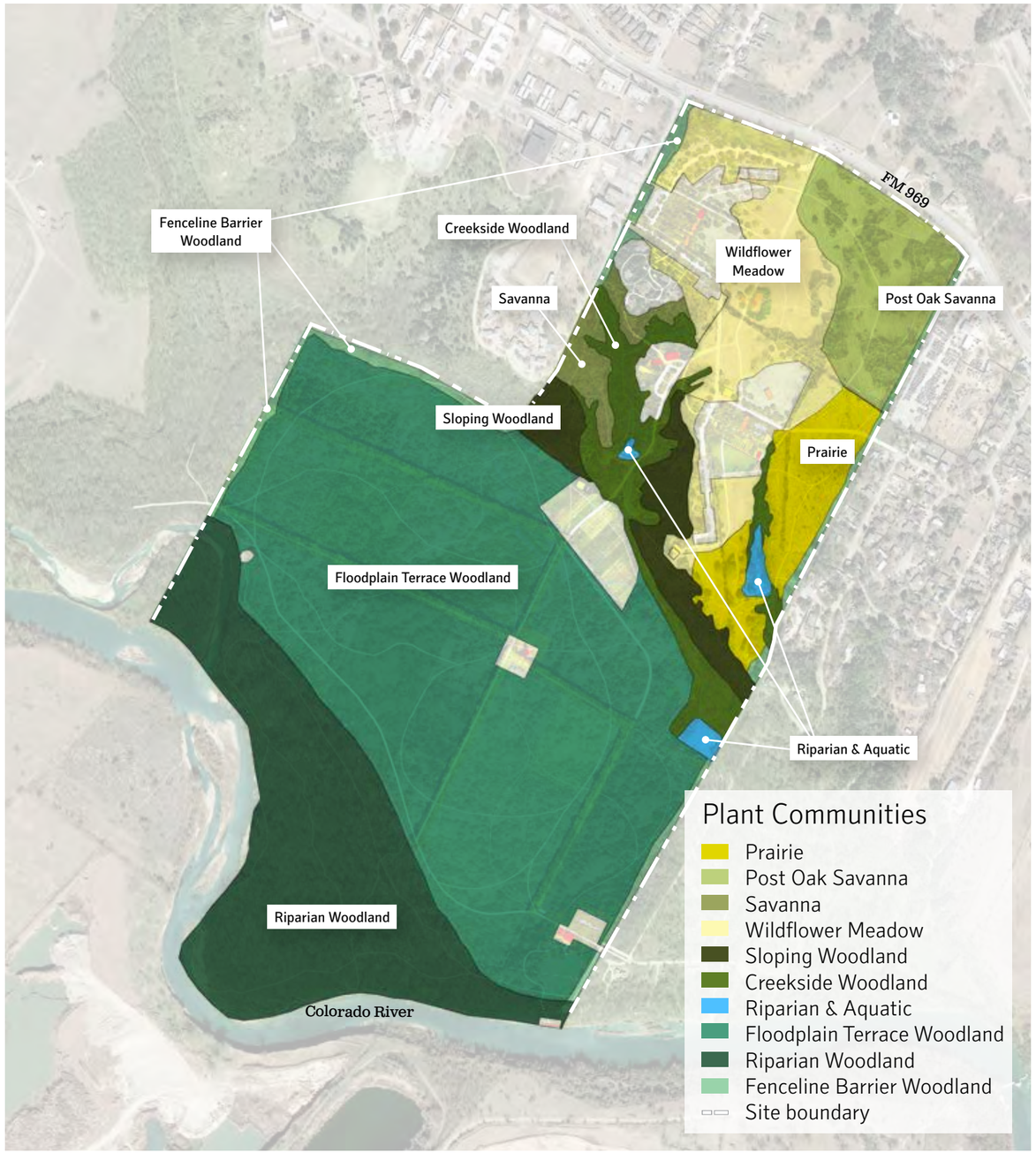

Figure 2: Ecological Management Areas

Natural Areas Management Guidelines

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ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT ZONE	Acres	INVASIVE CONTROL: Mechanical and chemical methods can be used to reduce the vigor and dominance of non-native species. Additionally, control of exotic hog population will aid in restoring native plant populations and reducing erosion in wet areas. Invasive control should occur as soon as possible in order to avoid larger, more costly issues in the future.	PLANTING/ SEEDING: Increase diversity and create more competition for unwanted species, seeding throughout this area can increase the health and user appeal of prairie areas. The park could easily contain over 300 species of native plants.	PRESCRIBED BURN: Mimic natural disturbance processes that help to restore native plants and reduce woody encroachment.	EROSION CONTROL: Erosion is likely to occur throughout the site in heavily trafficked areas along paths as well as near drainages. The west bank of the Colorado River is actively eroding but should be studied further before implementing a restoration method.
Prairie	14	Mesquite, juniper (thinning), KR bluestem, Johnson Grass	X	X	X
Post Oak Savanna	18	Mesquite	X	X	X
Savanna	5	Juniper (thinning), young mesquite, Japanese honeysuckle, Chinaberry, ligustrum, vitex, KR bluestem, Chinese tallow (wet areas)		X	X
Wildflower Meadow	28	Young mesquite, Chinaberry, mulberry, KR bluestem, Johnsongrass	X (wildflower mix)		X
Sloping Woodland	11	Chinaberry, Ligustrum, Japanese honeysuckle			X Monitor possible trail erosion on steep slopes
Creekside Woodland	15	Chinese tallow (wet areas), Ligustrum, Chinaberry, Japanese honeysuckle, KR bluestem, Bermudagrass; exotic hog control			X Monitor possible trail erosion on steep slopes
Riparian & Aquatic	2	Chinese tallow, Bermudagrass; exotic hog control	X (riparian plants like: cottonwood, sycamore, willow)		X
Floodplain Terrace Woodland	144	Bermudagrass, Brazilian vervain, Johnsongrass, Chinaberry, white mulberry	X (woodland expansion: pecan, sycamore, bald cypress, American elm, ash, cedar elm, cottonwood, willow, live oak, and diverse understory)		X
Riparian Woodland	60	giant cane, Chinese tallow, elephant ear; exotic hog control			X River bank stabilization
Fenceline Barrier Woodland	8	monitor for aggressive invasives			

Figure 3: Restoration actions by Ecological Management Zone Matrix

of the Blackland Prairie before being heavily disturbed by intensive land management practices that took advantage of its rich soils. Today, many of these open areas have been invaded by the invasive grass species, King Ranch bluestem. Native plants common in these areas include Texas winter grass, Arkansas yucca, wild garlic, paintbrush, rabbit tobacco, and winecups. As management moves forward, this area can support the plants and wildlife of the Blackland Prairie and provide a place for Austin residents to enjoy and experience this endangered landscape system. Through the use of prescribed fire, removal of invasives, as well as the seeding of native prairie plants, this area can thrive and support a diverse plant community with its associated wildlife that represents one of the rarest ecoregions in Texas.

Post Oak Savanna (18 acres) and Savanna (5 acres)

The Savannas are former pasture and cropland areas where remnant trees remained or thickets have grown up as agriculture moved on. Like the prairie, there are large expanses of grassland in these areas, populated with associated plants and wildlife and interspersed with mottes of trees. These areas now have large oaks, cedar elm, bois d'arc, and hackberry along with substantial amounts of juniper and mesquite thickets that will need to be managed to create thriving Savanna systems. Like the prairie and wildflower systems, King Ranch bluestem will be a major invasive species to manage in these areas. To keep this invasive in check and even reverse its spread in these areas, prescribed burns are a recommended technique. This will open space back up and allow for the reestablishment of a wider variety of native grasses and forbes. While there were no post oaks located on the site, the soils in the northeastern corner of the site suggest that some could survive there and add to the site's diversity.

Wildflower Meadow (28 acres)

Wildflower meadows are former cropland and pasture that are adjacent to high use areas in and around the park. These have some of the same character as the prairies, but represent a system where the emphasis has been shifted from creating a thriving prairie system to providing a more visually compelling landscape, characterized by wildflower blooms and complemented by native grasses. Moving forward, these areas should ideally move towards prairies as management at the park becomes more successful. In the meantime, these areas should be carefully managed, as the wildflowers may face displacement due to some aggressive species in this open landscape including the invasive King Ranch bluestem, Japanese broom, fescue grass, and the incessant mesquite. In the first generation of park management, the continual introduction of invasive species from high use areas and the adjacent roadways will make this a high priority management issue.

Sloping Woodland (11 acres)

The sloping woodland that drops down to the floodplain terrace was not used for agricultural purposes and therefore has a higher diversity of native, intact plants. The canopy consists of live oaks, cedar elms, and juniper with an understory of lotebush, kidneywood, Texas persimmon, and tasajillo, hop-tree, elbowbush, Mexican buckeye, Eve's necklace, and red buckeye. The herbaceous layer ebbs and flows in varying densities and includes false day flower, baby blue-eyes, blanket flower, bedstraw, and Virginia wild rye. Moving forward, the removal of invasive species and an increase of diversity through seeding will create a more biodiverse and resilient landscape. Trails and user activities in this area should be limited due to the steepness of the area.

Creekside Woodland (15 acres)

The creekside woodland lies between the prairie and the floodplain forest below. The topography of this area has been sculpted by creek drainage, originating from a culvert that outfalls on the site from a neighboring property. The creek is deeply incised with actively eroding edges. Upper portions of the Creekside Woodland are dominated by juniper and mesquite. As you move further downslope some of the most majestic live oaks in the park are found in this area along with

Banks of the Colorado River (Image credit: Siglo Group)

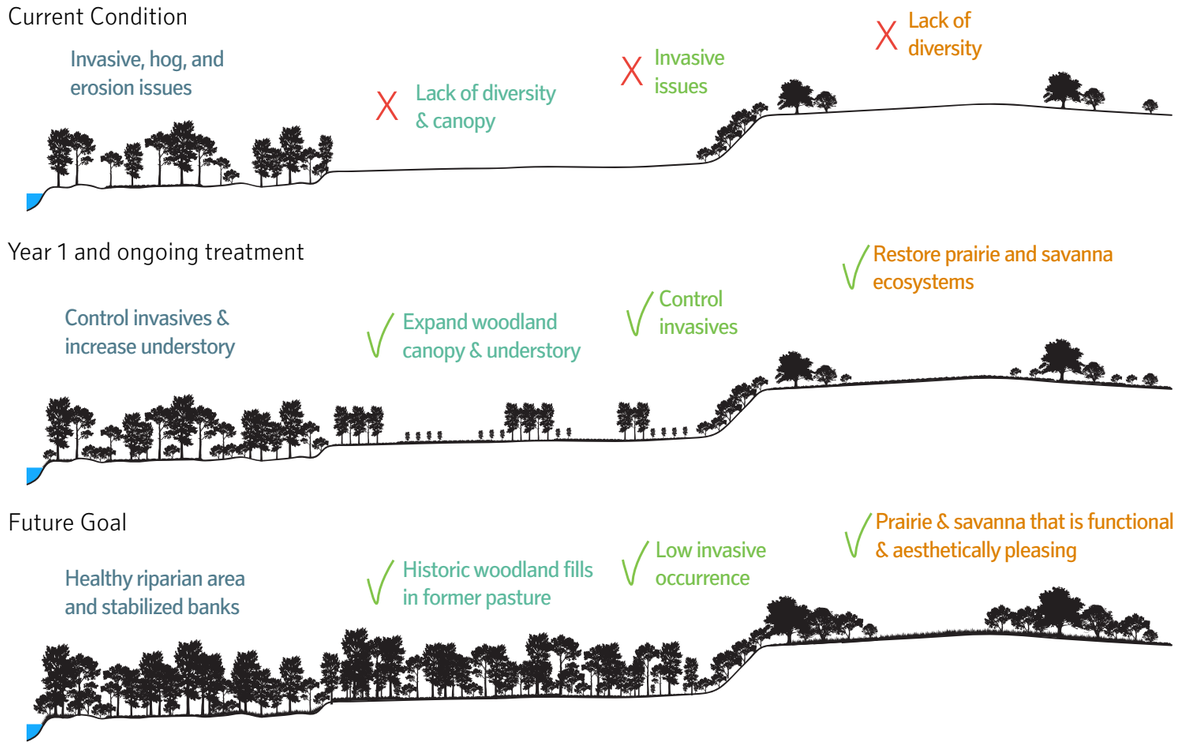


Figure 4: Restoration trajectory at Treviño Park

cedar elm, bois d'arc, Ashe juniper, American elm, mesquite, and palo verde. The understory consists of Mexican buckeye, red buckeye, hop-tree, and privet. The herbaceous layer in the heavily shaded areas consists of Virginia wild rye, false day flower, baby blue-eyes, bedstraw, and other species to a lesser extent. The primary issues in this area are reducing the impacts of the water velocity traveling through it and removing invasive woody material. Over time more care should be given to the biodiversity of the canopy and groundcover.

Riparian & Aquatic (2 acres)

The site includes three ponds that are part of the agricultural tradition of the park to provide a water source for livestock. They have become part of the master plan for the park as unique habitats that provide water for wildlife and offer opportunities to have plant communities that would otherwise be absent at the site that include aquatic submerged plants, emergent plants near the bank, as well as aquatic wildlife. These areas provide a unique experience for park users to observe the flora and fauna found around this water body, while allowing the site to accommodate a greater number of regional species, and provide extremely important water sources for park wildlife.

Floodplain Terrace Woodland (144 acres)

The floodplain terrace is an expansive set of former agricultural fields segmented into at least 6 different pastures divided by fencerows. The area is all within the 100-year floodplain and is dominated by sand alluvial soils that can support a floodplain terrace woodland, which will naturally regenerate with restoration efforts and hog management. The area will include cedar elm and live oak throughout with American elm, and green ash in some areas. Pecans will flourish at the bottom of slopes and cottonwood, sycamore, and willows will establish in wetter areas.

Riparian Woodland (60 acres)

The riparian woodland is the result of shifty river channels that left behind alluvial soils for tree regeneration since the 1940s. This area provides users with a cathedral-like canopy of sycamore, cottonwood, hackberry, pecan, American elm, and box elder. The understory is a collection of immature overstory trees with the addition of ash, bois d'arc, and willow. In addition, Virginia wild rye, inland sea oats, elderberry, some sedges, wild onion, and poison ivy are present. The southern edge of this zone provides access to the Colorado River. The area is relatively intact but is regularly inundated by floodwaters and has shifting sandy soils. The current threats to this area are hogs, bank erosion, and the establishment of giant cane on the river's edge. These are all critical elements to manage. The master plan calls for light recreation throughout this area. Substantial attention will need to be given to how to support a robust user experience without degrading this sensitive landscape.

Fenceline Barrier Woodland (8 acres)

The fenceline barrier woodlands serve as buffers to the property for neighbors and create rooms of activity within the park. They will be populated with native plants as non-natives are removed over time.

WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

Treviño Park already serves as a valuable refuge for wildlife in the urbanized Colorado River Watershed. Over 500 animal species have been documented in the park and surrounding areas. The patches of habitat in the canopy, open areas, and understory of Treviño Park go a long way to providing the shelter, food, and water sources that birds and other wildlife need. Additionally, the ongoing restoration and preservation of intact plant communities, along with reductions in negative human impacts, will continue to improve the park's wildlife habitat over time.

STEWARDSHIP

Long-term management of the park and the enhancement of ecological function are critical to upholding the spirit and integrity of the master plan. Once environmental degradation has been mitigated and native plant communities have been restored, the work will continue and new opportunities to enhance the property will emerge. These opportunities have great potential for public engagement. The use of volunteer groups such as Texas Master Naturalists, Audubon, local high school students, university classes, and even establishing a Friends of Treviño Park group can provide a willing workforce, as well as an opportunity for deepening the user experience as visitors become more invested in the long-term management and care of the site. Park stewardship activities can include trail maintenance and repair, invasive species removal, planting, seeding, and monitoring. Like the adaptive management framework, park stewardship is an ongoing and dynamic process that will require variability based on the skills and abilities of the volunteers as well as the pressing needs of the landscape. The end result is a heightened user experience and enhanced ecological function that catalyzes enjoyment and participation for current and future generations.

SOURCES

[1]City of Austin 2012

[2]City of Austin's Invasive Species Management Plan

Water Story

The Treviño Park site is uniquely broken up between uplands, steep slope transition, and lowland zones. These distinctively different site typologies have set up not only landscape typologies that are defined to respond to these unique shifts but also a stormwater framework that helps to support the water approach for the park.

Watershed Sensitivity

For this site, which is located adjacent to the Colorado River, the approach to water is less about storage and reduction and instead focused on the idea of water as a resource. This places an impetus for the site to maintain design focus on water quality improvement, existing natural patterns and aquifer recharge. In alignment with this principal, it will be important for the design of this site to consider proper measures to limit erosion and to safely convey large storm events. These practices will help to improve the ecosystem both on- and off-site and allow for the park to be a leader in watershed protection.

Uplands

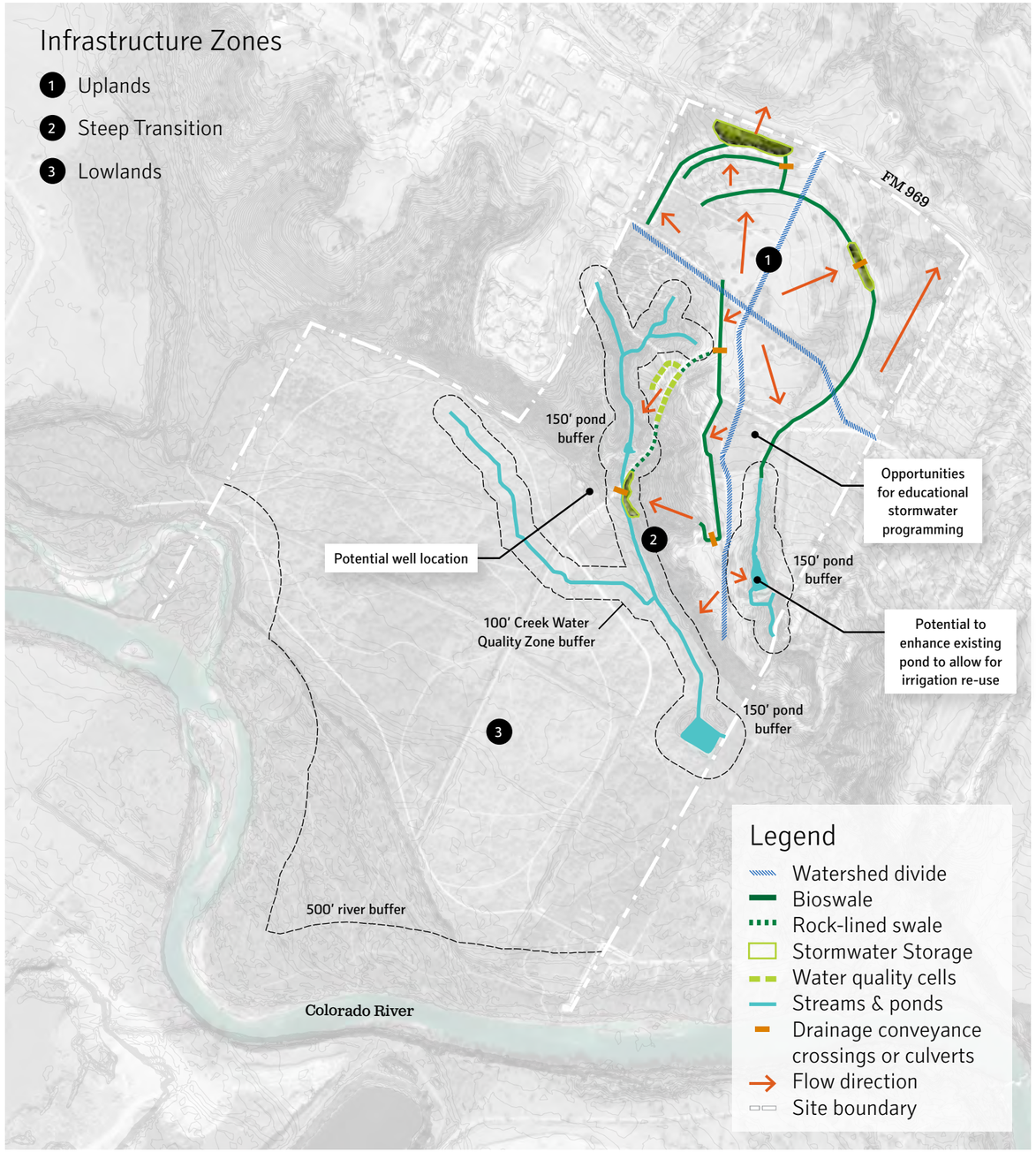
The northern part of the site is expected to have the majority of the built infrastructure. Impervious cover in this zone will be increased with the construction of new driveways, trails, parking and individual buildings. To respond to this increase, the vision is to create a ring of surface conveyance bioswales that align with proposed circulation patterns that will capture, treat, and convey stormwater. These natural systems will be aligned with circulation patterns, existing drainage patterns and focused on improving water quality and promoting aquifer recharge. The design goal for this zone shall also be to maintain existing flows to the upper pond and where feasible provide design interventions that could allow for stormwater reuse for local irrigation as the program and associated demands are finalized in later design phases. All of these features have the opportunity to embed education that could help to enhance the visitor experience and further encourage educational program options for the site.

Steep Transition

Steep slopes and natural ravines exist as the site shifts from higher elevation to the lower elevation within the floodplain. In order to provide for enhanced access it will be important for the site to consider stormwater control and safe conveyance practices when and where new hardscape is proposed. To do so, the design should involve reinforced swales and associated check dams designed to alleviate future erosion and as a way to safely convey increased stormwater runoff flows.

Lowlands

The lower half of this site is uniquely situated within the floodplain of the Colorado River. Design strategies within the floodplain should be focused around reducing/minimizing structures and hardscape, as well as limiting grading/fill to the greatest extent possible. Where access is desired, the associated stormwater design shall allow for safe conveyance, infiltration and low erosive potential. Minimizing grading and special selection of materials for this zone will help to allow for a more resilient floodable space that will be accessible and recover quicker following storm events that produce flooding.



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Utilities Overview

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There are key infrastructure zones that will need irrigation, potable water, septic, wastewater, power, and fire suppression.

Utility Corridors

Designating utility corridors through the site can be an efficient way to dedicate or reserve space for proposed buildings, landscaping, fields, bioswales, trails, roads, etc. A recommended route for water line and septic areas is indicated in diagram*.

Irrigation

Community gardens, agriculture, fields, and plantings near program areas will need irrigation. Reforestation/ restoration areas and bioswales will need irrigation for initial plant establishment. Using collected rainwater for irrigation may be viable at a very small scale in some areas, such as the demonstration gardens at the Farm, but is unlikely to be a significant source of usable water at this site. Sustainable irrigation options, including re-use of water from existing ponds, should be explored further in future phases of design.

Potable Water

Most key upland areas will require potable water service, as indicated by proposed water lines on the diagram. Potable water will be used for restrooms, drinking fountains, and for other plumbing uses such as sinks in a demonstration kitchen at the Farm.

It will be more difficult to provide potable water to areas beyond the upland, including the flood plain. Water options and needs should be explored in future phases of design.

Wastewater

There is currently no public wastewater serving the site and the existing on-site wastewater system is undocumented, although it appears that there is on-site septic serving the existing Bluff House. At the time of this report there are no planned wastewater main extensions to the site. For planning purposes, two new on-site septic fields should be assumed, located within each turf field proposed in the Field and Farm areas.

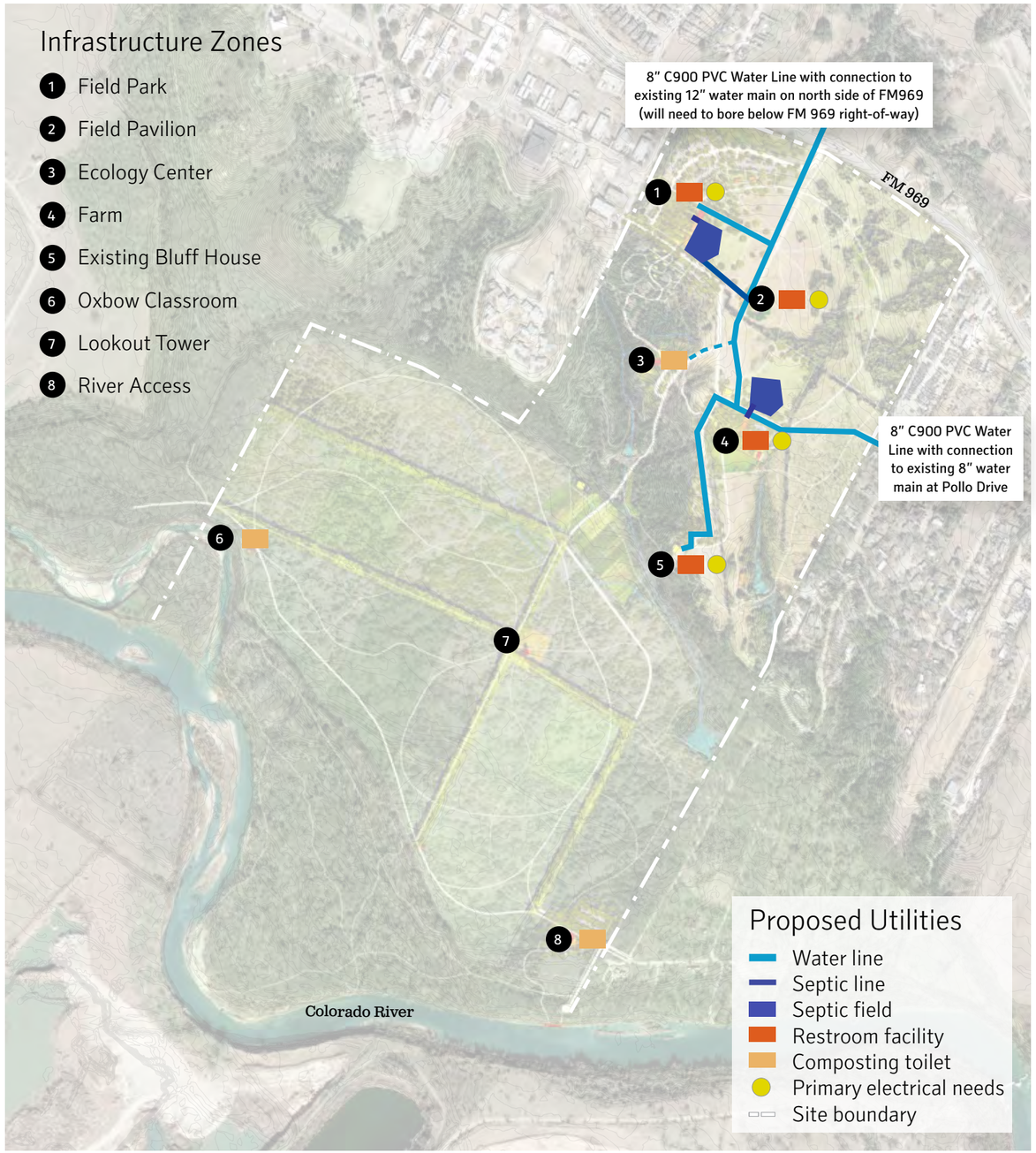
Flows from the future Field neighborhood park restroom and central Field picnic pavilion could be piped to the multi-use north field. The south event meadow within the Farm zone appears to be a convenient location for the Farm restrooms. The existence of the Bluff house septic system needs to be confirmed. For planning purposes, the Bluff House system should be connected to new on-site septic.

If in the future, public wastewater is made available along the project frontage along FM 969 (none is currently planned) then it may be possible for the wastewater flows from both field restrooms to be gravity piped to that public main. This will depend on the depth of that future public main; the two Field restroom areas are higher in elevation than FM 969, which should improve the likelihood of gravity piping to a public main in FM 969 in the future. The Farm restrooms could also be piped to the public main, depending on its planned depth as the Farm restrooms are farther south and about the same elevation as FM 969.

For any proposed restrooms in the Ravine area, the wastewater flows from those restrooms would need to be pumped (using a grinder pump and forcemain) up to a new manhole located at the top of the ridgeline, where it can then gravity flow to a centralized on-site septic area (perhaps within the Field and/or the Field House areas). Composting restroom facilities are recommended here, which would also provide an educational opportunity to integrate with sustainable building practices at the Ecology Center.

Restrooms in the flood plain and river access areas are so remote that composting toilets or temporary/serviced toilets seem to be the best choice. Any permanent wastewater service would require connection to a new forcemain system that is pumped up to a new manhole located at the top of the ridgeline, where it can then gravity flow to a new centralized on-site septic area.

* Facilities and utility lines in diagram are conceptual and not drawn to scale.



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Utilities Overview

Fire Suppression

Fire hydrants are required for assembly uses such as the Bluff House, Barn, and other enclosed structures, depending on occupancy loads. Typically, two fire hydrants are provided per structure (depending on structure layout) to comply with hose lay requirements. Fire protection is not required for pavilions, shade structures, parking areas or fields. Fire hydrants need to be connected to at least an 8-inch waterline.

Low occupant structures of less than 100 people for assembly group A2 (restaurants, cafeterias, bars, banquet halls) would not require sprinklers per IBC 2015 903.2.1.2. Group A3 (art galleries, community halls, dance halls, exhibition halls, gymnasiums, museums, lecture halls) occupancy would not require sprinklers with an occupant load of 300 or less per IBC 903.2.1.3. Single or two story mercantile (drug store markets, retail or wholesale stores) and storage spaces that are less than 12,000 SF do not need to be sprinkled, and Group U (agricultural buildings, barns, carports, greenhouses, livestock shelters, retaining walls, fences over 6ft in height, sheds, stables, tanks, and towers) spaces do not need to be sprinkled unless otherwise noted in IBC2015 section 504.4 and 506.2.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided for concession stands, retail areas, press boxes, and other accessory use areas in excess of 1,000 square feet.

Code requirements and building designations will be determined in later phases with the Head Building Official.

Power and Lighting

Restrooms, some pavilions, buildings, and event stage areas will need power. Lighting throughout site should be energy conscious and comply with dark sky regulations, incorporating timed and controlled lighting technologies. During Austin's hotter months, desired park use will likely be concentrated in the evening, extending required operating hours for lighting.

While there are existing overhead electricity lines on site, it is recommended to run a new electric line (preferably underground) along a shared corridor to serve the future park's primary electrical needs. Austin Energy would be involved in designing a new electric service to the site, including the design of new transformer and meter locations. For more remote areas such as the Lookout Tower and River Access buildings in the floodplain, off-grid alternative energy sources such as solar power should be used.

Communications

Additional work will need to be done to confirm safety and communications throughout the park, along with other potential user amenities such as wifi access.

More information on existing site utilities can be found in the Existing Conditions, Opportunities and Challenges Report available online through the City of Austin's John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park Master Plan website: www.austintexas.gov/JohnTrevinoMetroPark.

Surrounding Access and Connectivity

Safe equitable access is critical for the park to fulfill its vision as a community resource for all.

As an integral part of the surrounding community, the park needs multiple points of access for pedestrians, cyclists, boats, and vehicles. Currently, access is limited to FM969. The scale and speed of this road is prohibitive to safe multi-modal access to the park. Coordination with surrounding city, county, and privately controlled streets and roads should seek opportunities to enhance points of access that benefit the surrounding neighborhood. Coordinating with surrounding greenway development or public land acquisition, contiguous trails expansion, and growing number of river access points will allow the park to support these larger regional efforts and benefit from their connections. Increasing access to public transportation must be a priority as the park and surrounding neighborhoods develop. Transit stops in close proximity or within the park itself can be coordinated with efforts to expand sidewalks and safe crossings to ensure FM969 is not a barrier to access.

Currently the park is expected to be closed at night. Fences and gates will control access to site entries. These structures should support the larger character of the park and guide appropriate use while ensuring a welcoming environment.

The following recommendations highlight proposed changes on surrounding streets and opportunities to improve safety conditions for all transportation modes:

FM 969: Main Vehicular Park Entry

- 3-lane driveway: one entrance lane, two exit lanes (dedicated right turn and left turn lanes)
- 100' driveway throat provides for queuing
- Installing a traffic signal at the park's northern entrance drive would increase pedestrian safety by slowing traffic along FM 969. Installation of an intermittent light or signal on FM 969 would need to be coordinated with TXDOT, and would require a traffic warrant study.
- Future Plan for FM 969 Corridor (East MLK/ FM 969 Mobility Program Report, Future Plan Superstreet US 183 - SH 130)
  - One inbound lane to be added for eastbound traffic as use increases
  - TxDOT ROW taking of current property (approx. 50' toward the south into Treviño Park) for roadway widening
  - Driveway throat and portion of park road to be modified with TxDOT widening

Oak Street

- Potential secondary vehicular park entry, contingent upon agreement with private property on the park's western boundary by KIPP Texas-Austin.
- If secondary entry is planned for construction, a traffic light is recommended at the intersection of Oak Street and FM 969 to provide safe access both to the park and neighboring schools to the west. Access locations need to follow the industry standard traffic signal analysis that is outlined in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

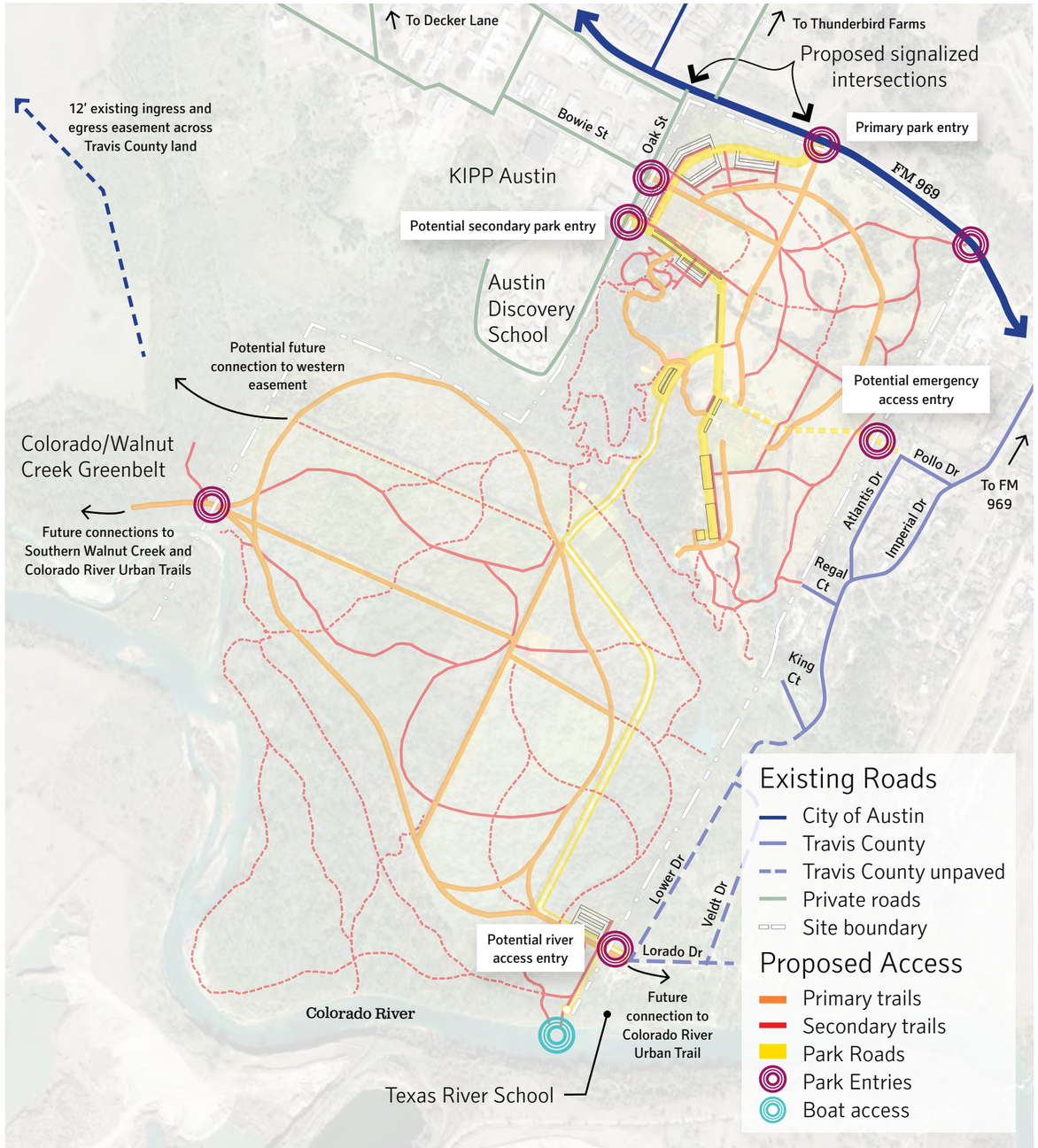
Other Potential Access Points

Pollo Drive: Potential emergency vehicular access with long-term potential to transition into secondary vehicular park access.

Lorado Drive: Potential vehicular entry to river access area could be aligned with future Travis County improvements to Imperial Drive and Lower Drive.

Colorado River: Proposed river access point with future potential to coordinate boat put in and take out with Bolm District Park located upstream on the river.

Future possibilities: There is an easement beginning west of Treviño Park, extending through Travis County land and Travis State Jail property to FM969. Further study would be required to evaluate feasibility for possible connections to this easement.



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Site Access and Connectivity

It is important to focus on safe connections throughout the park that support a broad range of park visitors – whether enjoying occasional school or family outings, weekend bike rides through the area, daily dog walks, shady hikes during hot summer spells, or to just time spent in nature.

Pedestrian access and movement should be prioritized throughout the site. In places where trails and roads intersect, crosswalks are to be installed. Paths should not feel like a city sidewalk, but rather what the site currently offers – a walk through heritage ranchlands that opens up opportunities to explore and be immersed in the landscape. Vehicular routes wrap around the perimeter of the site where possible, maintaining a buffer of safety for internal multi-use or pedestrian paths and minimizing the number of crossing conflicts.

Roads

At the primary park entrance to the north on FM 969, the vehicular drive begins at the existing entry driveway, immediately looping to the west in order to preserve the existing entry character of a vast meadow vista. A potential secondary park entry is located on Oak Street. This would serve as a greater incentive to signalize a currently unmarked and difficult-to-cross intersection at FM 969, enhancing the safety of neighbors, park visitors, and the students and families of KIPP Austin and Austin Discovery School.

The secondary road type is located in the floodplain. This narrower drive may eventually incorporate tailgate picnicking along the fencerow before reaching the river. While there are limitations to development in the floodplain, a low-impact road will provide an opportunity to reach the lower terrace and river from within the site.

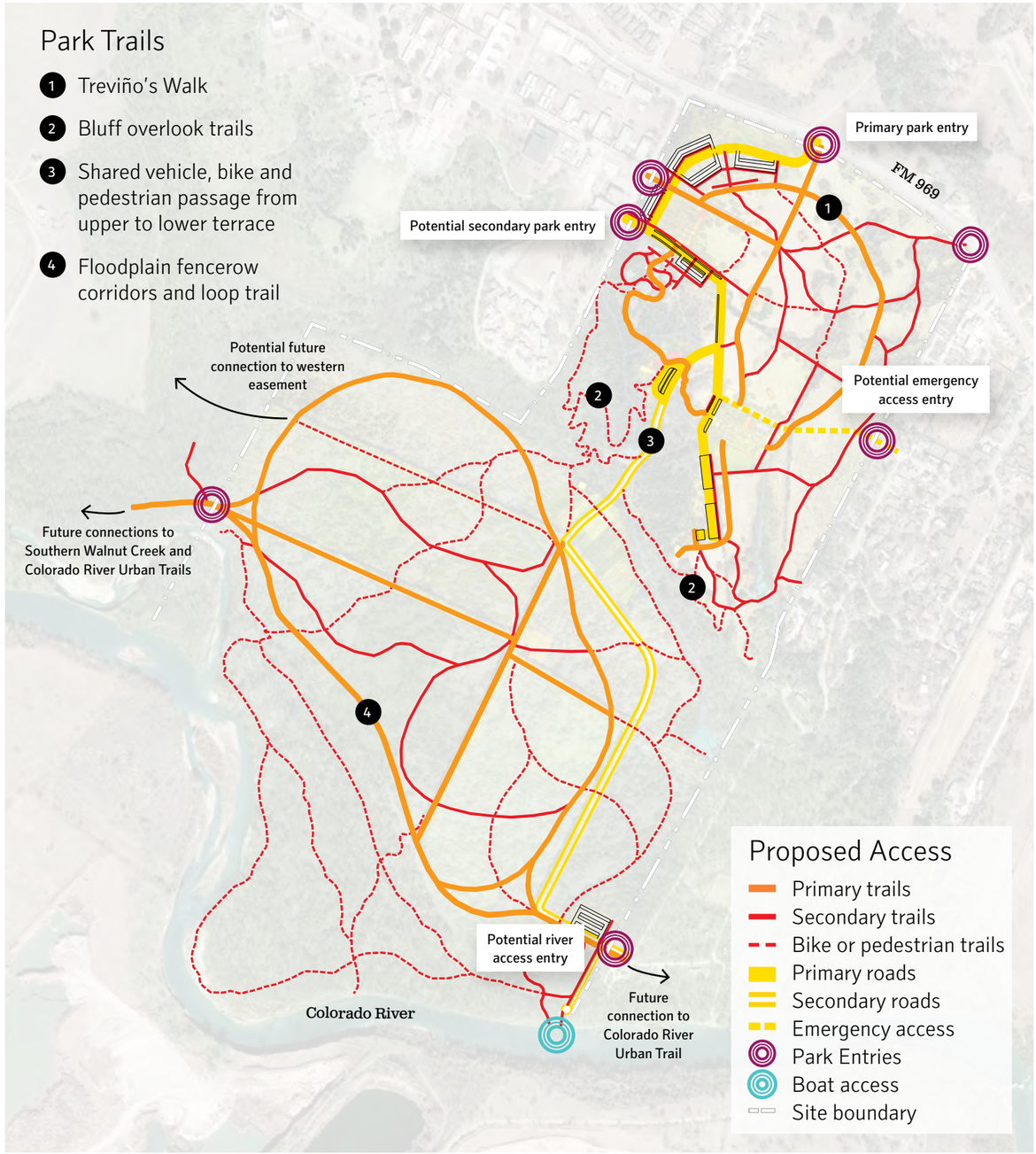
Trails

Primary trail corridors are the main multi-modal paths of travel through and within the site. They connect people to larger events or smaller programs like bird blinds and art installations that generate seasonal interest along the paths. A portion of the existing paved upland road will be converted into a multi-use trail for pedestrians, bicycles, and service vehicles. Treviño's Walk is a primary trail, offering an accessible route through main program zones in the upland area.

While the site's steep slopes constrain options for an accessible connection from FM 969 to the River through the site, outdoor guidelines provide higher percentage slope allowances for accessible routes in difficult terrain. The primary road leading south past the ecology center transitions into shared vehicle and pedestrian/bicycle lanes, connecting back into primary trails once down in the floodplain. The southernmost primary floodplain trail extends along the east-west Riparian Bottomland ridgeline connects to the planned Urban Trail system along the river (See page 10 for context diagram of proposed adjacent Urban Trails). The floodplain fencerow corridors and loop trail should minimize impact in the floodplain while still providing an adequate route for multi-use passage and service vehicle access.

Secondary trails are accessible routes that form varying lengths of loops in the floodplain to accommodate different needs. Upland, these trails can serve as fire breaks for habitat restoration efforts and offer a striking experience of transition between ecosystems at various stages of succession.

Bike or pedestrian nature trails are modest, low-impact single track routes that provide opportunities for immersive wildlife viewing. Variable terrain in the Sloped Woodland and Creekside Woodland areas open up to stunning bluff views back to Downtown Austin. In the Riparian Bottomland, trails will offer views along the river's banks. These informal trails will likely be flooded several times a year, and will need to be implemented and maintained with these variable conditions in mind.



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Trails

Connective paths through the site are not only reflective of the diverse character of different areas, but also respond to varying ecological conditions.

High performance landscapes adjacent to trail loops and the main road should blend into surrounding plant communities while also creating a green infrastructure network that can help improve water quality, reduce erosion and buffer views of hardscape zones. Subtle topography shifts in the land and trails will convey water toward stormwater storage areas to retain water and improve water quality. Trail materials should differ by site location (Uplands, Steep Transition, Lowlands). Accordingly, arterials and trail locations shall be defined in a hierarchy that responds to future levels of service/activation, existing stormwater flow patterns and the floodplain. Images provide local precedents of trail and path character.

Primary multi-use trails

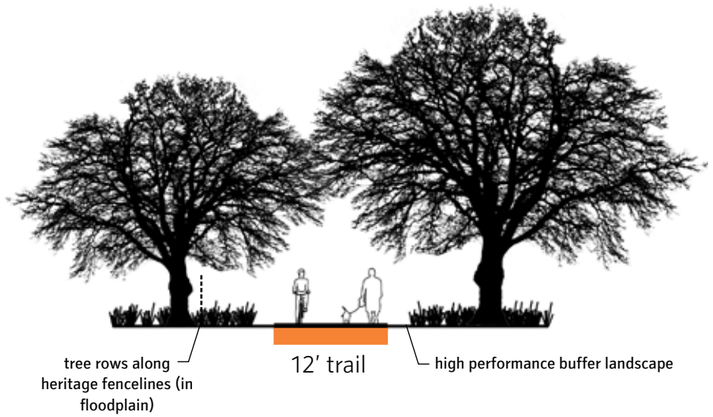
- 12′ wide primary trails and loops, including "Treviño's walk" in the upper park area and main loop and corridors in the flood plain. Trails will maintain accessible grades and materials should match character of the site. For pedestrians, bicycles, and service/emergency vehicles.
- In the Ravine zone, primary trail may become a wooden boardwalk to prevent trail erosion and damage to sensitive ecology. Materials for trails used within the floodplain shall be low impact and flood tolerant.

Secondary multi-use trails

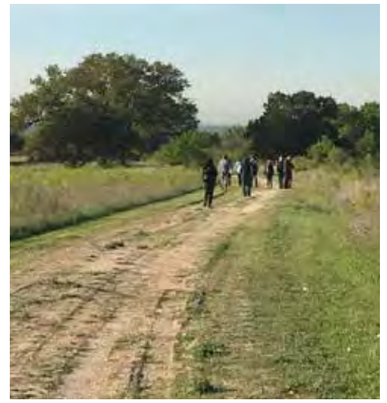
- 6′ wide secondary routes, accessible surfaces. For pedestrians and bicycles.

Pedestrian and bicycle nature trails

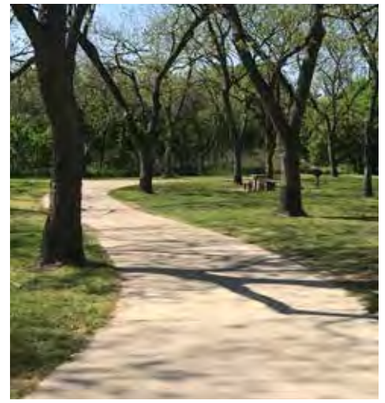
- 4′ wide informal routes similar to hiking trails, natural materials for narrow pedestrian paths or single bike tracks. No concrete. For pedestrians and/or bicycles. Trails in lower river terrace will be subject to frequent flooding and should be designed accordingly.



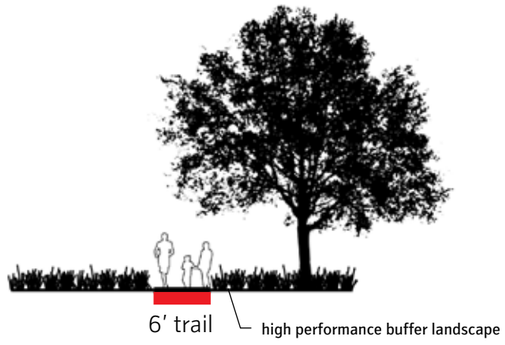
Typical sections of primary multi-use trails



Existing upland road at Treviño Park (Image credit: GGN)

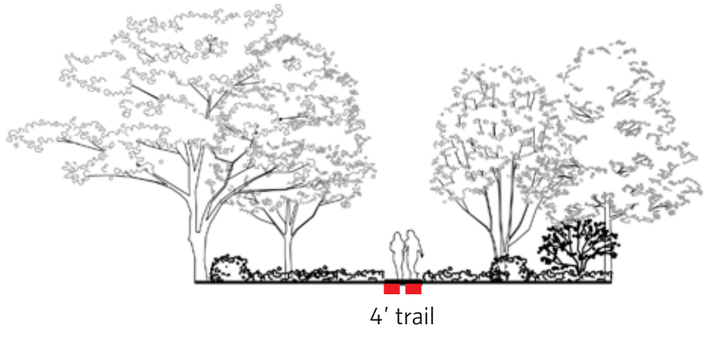


Concrete paths at Richard Moya Park, Travis County TX (Image credit: GGN)



Typical section of secondary multi-use trail

Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail at Lady Bird Lake, Austin TX (Image credit: GGN)



Typical section of a bicycle or pedestrian trail

Nature trails at McKinney Roughs Nature Park, Cedar Creek TX (Image credit: GGN)

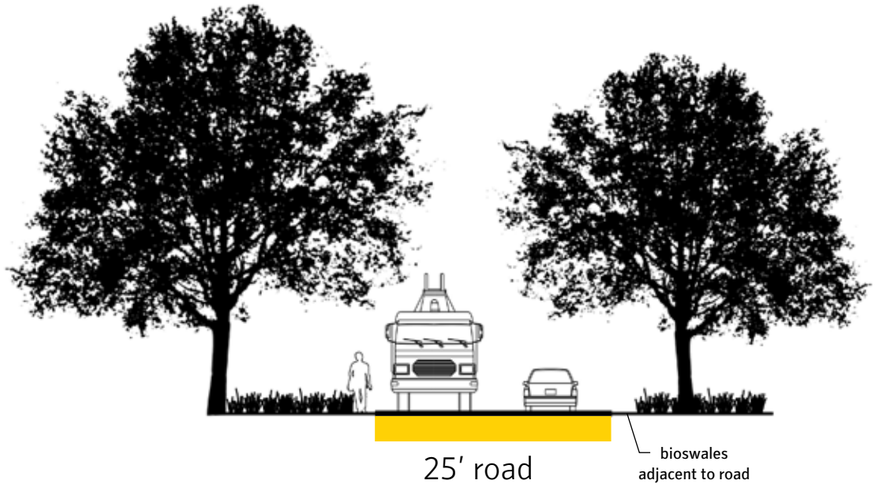
Park Roads

New roads in the park should remain reflective of the humble existing ranch character.

To reduce material and stormwater piping costs and to retain the existing character of site circulation, the intent for the road system is to be void of curb and gutter. Instead, high performance landscape bioswales will be designed to collect, treat, infiltrate and convey stormwater from the roadways. This design will help to eliminate point source erosion, return surface water to the aquifer and provide a landscape that is performance based.

Primary Roads

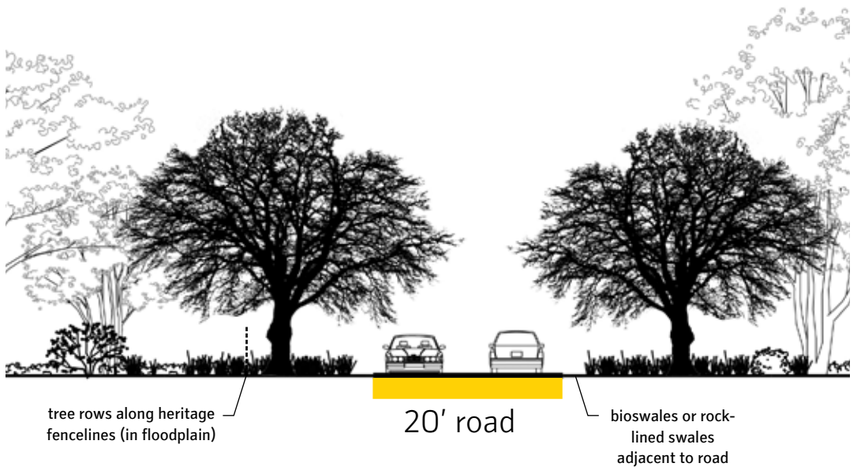
- 25' wide, two-way public, fire truck and service/ emergency vehicle access.
- No curbs. Bioswales for stormwater conveyance.



Typical section of a primary road

Secondary Roads

- 20' wide, two-way public and service vehicle access.
- No curbs, swales for stormwater conveyance. Rock lined swales with water quality cells along steep route leading from Ravine to Floodplain.
- Potential for future expansion into tailgate picnic zones along fencerow in the Floodplain.



Typical section of a secondary road

Existing gravel and asphalt roads at Treviño Park (Image credits: GGN)

Proposed character and edge condition of curbless asphalt roads throughout the park (Image credits: Sherwood Design Engineers)

Parking

Performance Criteria

Parking on all large open space projects needs to be accommodated but can be done in a way that is also beneficial to the site's ecology. It will be important for any large parking zones to consider not only materials but also landscape and stormwater integration.

Where feasible it is recommended that trees shall be maximized (at least 1 tree planted for every 5 parking stalls within in parking lots) to provide shade. Alternative materials for stalls shall be considered to reduce runoff, maximize infiltration and reduce heat island effect. Additionally, spaces allocated for infrequent event parking shall be designed to be primarily landscaped. Reinforced turf, grass pavers or stabilized gravel zones should be considered.

Parking Counts

Parking requirements for development in the City of Austin are based upon the proposed specific land use as identified in the Land Development Code. There are, however, a number of land-uses that are not covered by the Code and a Public Park is one of those land-uses. As such, the industry standard is to utilize the parking generation rates from the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), which collates parking data collected from a myriad of land-uses across the nation.

Within the ITE Parking Generation Manual, 5th Edition, the parking generation of a Public Park peaks on a Sunday at 1.21 spaces per acre. For the 330 acre park this would equate to 399 parking spaces. These parking spaces would service individual programs such as neighborhood park amenities, picnicking, ball fields office use, and river access. They also encompass larger distributed uses like hiking trails.

All parking facilities shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the criteria outlined in the City of Austin Transportation Criteria Manual Section 9. The criteria highlights parking space dimensions and drive aisle width as well as bicycle parking space layout and pedestrian visibility.

Heavy duty traffic rating surface (Image credit: Sherwood Design Engineers)

Permeable pavers (Image credit: Sherwood Design Engineers)

Natural paved parking surface that is integrated with surrounding vegetation (Image credit: Sherwood Design Engineers)

SCALE: 1" = 800 FEET 0 200 400 800 1600 FEET

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Park Events

Events held at the park should be modest in scale, culturally aligned with the park's vision and values, and avoid negative impacts on surrounding neighbors.

Community feedback has consistently emphasized a desire for event spaces to be limited to smaller gatherings such as family reunions, cultural events and neighborhood celebrations, and movies or performances in the park. Feedback has included suggestions to host annual events that celebrate and reflect the area's Latinx culture such as Cinco de Mayo, Diez y Seis de Septiembre, LULAC picnic, and the Limon family gathering. The park should not act as a host to large for-profit music festivals or other major destination events.

The event meadow is located adjacent to the central Farm so that gatherings can leverage the Farm's resources without prohibiting use of proposed programming. The space is intended to provide flexibility for a wide variety of desired community uses. Pan-American Neighborhood Park amphitheater and Zilker Hillside Theatre are appropriate precedents for size and intention of events.

Diagrams illustrate how a potential ticketed event could be organized, which could also work well for an open and free admission area. All uses of this area need to keep in mind the park's primary value of thoughtful and equitable community access.

Event Elements

Stage Structure: The stage structure provides a flexible and accessible place to house power and other basic infrastructure. An open, double sided stage can provide a range of options for lighting and speakers. The overhead structure provides not only shade but also a place to hang and mount temporary lighting and audio equipment. A small performance equipment package could be set up and left for a summer season, or provided by the user and set up as needed.

Support zone behind or next to stage: Flat grass zone for casual use, or small tents for longer events. Small electrical services at each stage "front" for use by stage front or support, depending on orientation.

Food Truck Zones: Shown at adjacent roadways, using what is already available in the central Farm area. No electrical service required, but could be provided.

Experience/play/picnic zone: Could be used for family reunion or community event that has need of space other than performance.

Shade Trees: Great for shaded seating that doubles as a natural visual and sound barrier.

Temporary Event Parking

Event parking has a different parking demand and generation from the day-to-day activities that will occur at the park. The Institute of Transportation Engineers Parking Generation Manual, 5th Edition states an average of 0.38 parking spaces per attendee for live events. With an expected attendance of up to 1,500 people at events and a demand of 0.38 spaces per person, the maximum required parking need would be approximately 570 spaces.

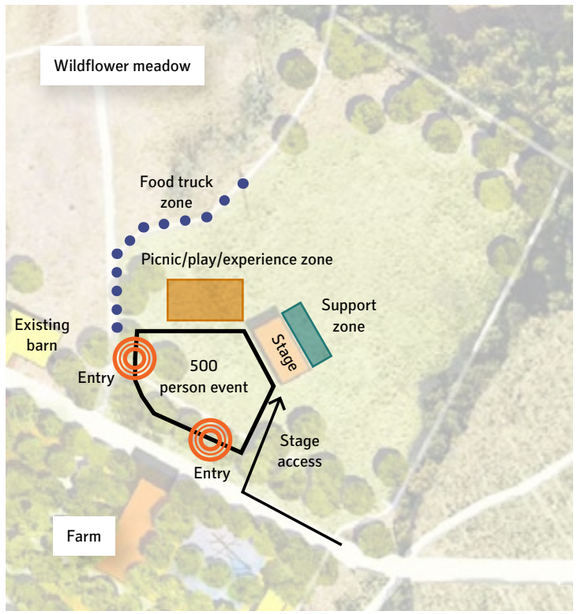
Temporary alternative access strategies:

- Off-site parking with shuttle drop-off at two existing proposed locations within the park
- Potential to coordinate with neighboring properties such as KIPP Texas-Austin to utilize adjacent surface parking for weekend or special events

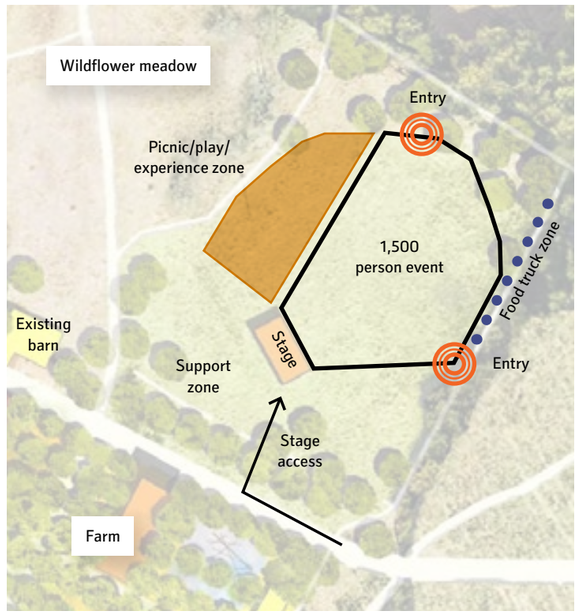
Temporary on-site parking strategies:

- North Field (potential to reinforce turf surface to accommodate events about once a year)
- Wildflower meadow west of Farm and prairie restoration area east of Farm (infrequently mowed parking areas, to be coordinated with periodic disturbance regime as part of ecological maintenance); could accommodate approximately 300 total spaces

Sketch showing intended character of events at the Treviño Park



Event meadow layout for 500 person event*



Event meadow layout for 1,500 person event*

*A 15 square feet per person spacing has been adopted for sizing, which offers a casual and comfortable use of grass seating zones that better accommodates a family friendly environment in comparison to tighter spacing (such as 5 square feet per person) typical of larger festival events.

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Park Structures

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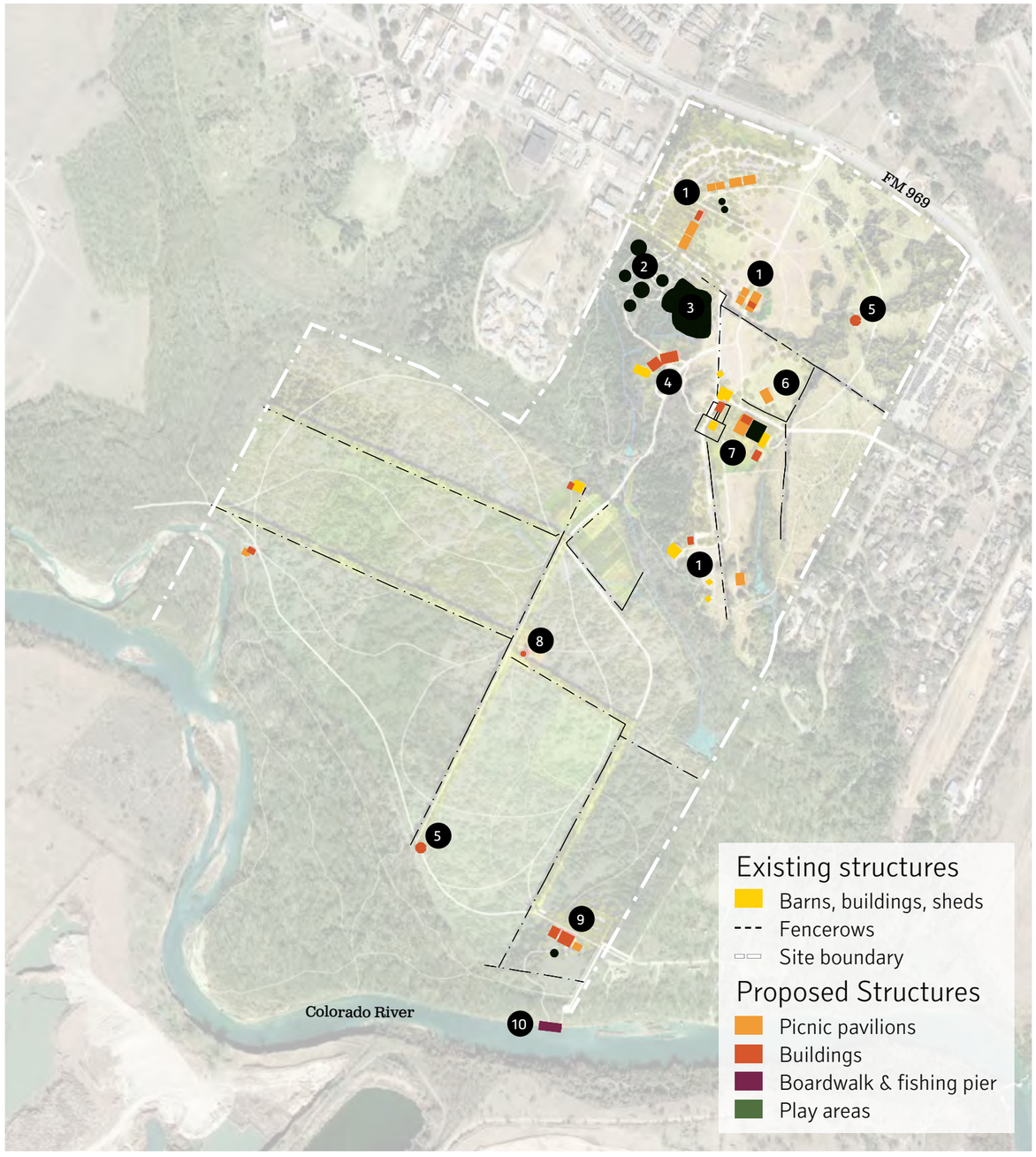
Pragmatic structures should reflect the history of the site by maintaining an informal agricultural character and highlight elements of their natural surroundings.

1. **Picnic & gathering pavilions:** Simple, prefabricated structures combined into creative geometries that have a strong connection to nature.
2. **Nature Play:** Joyful and interactive structures to augment learning about the environment through play.
3. **Skate and Bike Skills Area:** Structures for skating made of informal found materials such as oversized pipes. Enhance the feeling of spontaneous discovery with structures that respond to the land and invite play without formalizing it.
4. **Ecology Center:** A permanent structure meant to highlight natural materials and demonstrate sustainable building strategies.
5. **Bird Blinds:** Outdoor rooms enclosed by screens.
6. **Stage:** A low maintenance, versatile structure which is approachable for small performances and capable of hosting larger cultural events.
7. **Barn, Sheds, and Demonstration Garden:** A new community pavilion adjacent to an existing barn and shed which are to be repurposed as a cafe and greenhouse respectively. Together, all structures will celebrate agriculture in both program and design.
8. **Lookout Tower:** A whimsical and inviting metal structure with opportunities to view out at different vantages as one climbs to the top.
9. **River Outpost:** A small boat rental facility.
10. **Fishing Pier & Boardwalk:** A flexible platform with a floating element that serves many purposes and safely connects park goers to the river.

Open air wood and metal pavilion (Image credit: Casey Dunn)

Wood pavilion (Image credit: Casey Dunn)

Metal framed pavilions (Image credits: left, Fillopo Bologese; right, Piero Lissoni)



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Growing the Park

Wildflowers along heritage fenceline in the Home area (Image credit: GGN)

Growing the Park

The construction of Treviño Park is already underway in the growing connections between communities and this special land. Future development should advance this mindset through physical investment and continued opportunities for engagement.

John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park is not a future place to be completed only once funds are available. This master plan captures a moment within a larger process of building relationships between diverse communities and the park land. By helping people form new ways of understanding the land and how they might connect to this place, the transformation of the park has already begun.

The proposals that follow suggest an approach to park growth that is a direct extension of a process already underway. Programming and events should engage the partner organizations and community advocates that have started to build a connection to the park through the small groups and community events during the master plan phase. Simultaneously steps should be taken to begin preparing the site for more regular access and laying the groundwork for a healthier ecology that will evolve for years to come. Finally, strategies for periodic physical investment will ensure increasing access to and through the park along with opportunities highlighted through the engagement process as appropriate for this place and currently unavailable in the surrounding community.

Approach to Phasing

Rather than depending on traditional construction phases based on capital availability, building the park over time should be structured around a balance of events and educational opportunities to increase the community's connection to the site along with targeted investments that expand the park's offerings.

This incremental approach to the growth of the park includes three facets: Improving the health of the land, planning and building physical improvements to the site, and creating opportunities for people to engage with the land and each other.

Health of the Land

Understanding the inherent qualities and potential of this site starts with a focus on improving the health of the ecosystems. This is not a short term project with a defined completion point, but rather an ongoing series of well-planned interactions with the land. Early interventions such as invasive species removal and development of a seed bank will have long-term payoff, setting systems on a positive course that can ease later restoration work.

Community Engagement

Even before the first capital improvements are realized, it is important for people to have opportunities to experience and engage with the site. This type of connection began with the sign unveiling and dedication ceremony to John Treviño Jr. in 2016, continued with the community events held on site as part of the master planning process, and have an opportunity to become more frequent as the park evolves.

Events might include stewardship work parties for restoration and trail building, informal pop-up events like performances or concerts, fundraisers and auctions, and community meetings to discuss future developments in the park.

Capital Improvements

This category includes the physical improvements that comprise a more traditional idea of what it means to build a park. Funding will likely be directed toward the park on an intermittent basis from a constellation of sources, whether government bond funds or private foundations. The master plan can be used as a resource for determining priorities and level of development as capital becomes available.

Growing the park will be a combination of ongoing ecological enhancement and stewardship, community engagement, and targeted investment through future phases.

Community event participants pass through heritage trees and an old shed structure in the Upland Grassland during an inaugural walk of Treviño's Walk at the park (Image credit: GGN)

Potential community partners Kirsti Harms (Native Prairies Association) and Julissa Gonzales (Girl Scouts of Central Texas) engage with participants at the "Celebrate the Park" community event on site at the barn. (Image credit: GGN)

Park Partnerships

The relationship between people and this place is critical to the park's success. An active and engaged community should guide future decisions and opportunities to build community as well as the physical park.

Throughout the master planning process, a growing community of participants has been a part of shaping the future of Treviño Park. Engagement has supported a vision of a place that is a broader community resource (rather than a traditional park) with an emphasis on Latinx culture, agriculture, food health, education, and stewardship opportunities. Rather than understanding this stage of park planning as isolated from future "real" construction, the community that has begun to organize around this place should continue to be engaged and expanded.

Austin already has a wealth of community, recreational, environmental, and advocacy organizations with their own networks and expertise. Throughout the planning stages a number of these organizations were involved in the process, and the master plan reflects excitement about the potential for a variety of ongoing programming opportunities: demonstration gardens and even larger-scale community agriculture could support farmer's markets in partnership with food justice organizations; local students could join educators for field trips and outdoor STEM education programming; site concessions could support vocational training opportunities through job training initiatives, and people of all ages could participate in stewarding the land through hands-on service learning with ecological restoration groups.

Ongoing park development will benefit from leveraging the following network of potential partners who have the resources and experience to enhance the opportunities within the park and increase awareness and participation from residents.

Groups that engaged in the 2019-2020 Treviño Park master planning process:

Neighbors and Friends

- Friends and Family of John Treviño Jr.
- Austin Discovery School
- Barbara Jordan Early College Prep
- East Austin College Prep
- Gus Garcia Young Men's Leadership Academy
- Volma Overton Early College Prep
- Agave Neighborhood Association
- Colony Park Neighborhood Association
- Knollwood on the Colorado Neighborhood Association

Groups and Non-Profit Organizations

- Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership
- Austin Parks Foundation
- Austin Saltillo Sister Cities Association
- Austin Youth River Watch
- Capital Metro
- Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems
- Colorado River Alliance
- Environmental Survey Consulting
- Girl Scouts of Central Texas
- Limon Family Reunion Committee
- Native Prairies Association of Texas
- People Organized in Defense of Earth and Her Resources
- Skate/BMX Advocates
- Texas River School
- The Nature Conservancy
- Travis Audubon Society

Governmental departments

- Austin Fire Department
- City of Austin Park Rangers
- City of Austin Office of Sustainability
- City of Austin Office of Watershed Protection
- Emma S. Barrientos Mexican-American Cultural Center
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Travis County Economic Development & Strategic Investments

Additional potential future partners:

- Austin History Center
- KIPP Texas-Austin
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
- Treefolks
- Community First
- Equestrian/livestock agriculture uses

Phase 1: Trailhead, Tailgate, and Opening the Nature Park

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The first efforts following the master plan will focus on refining the plan design, laying the groundwork for future developments, and doing the preliminary work necessary to open the gates and allow people to start enjoying the beauty and natural resources already existing in the park. This phase corresponds to Level I Development (Limited Use) in PARD's standard park development process.

Preparation, Planning & Design

The following planning, design and survey activities will be needed to prepare for the first phase of park construction:

- **Concept design and strategy for overall site and/or key areas identified for early development.**

  Phase 1 design work will serve as a bridge from the Master Plan to detailed Schematic Design and Construction Documents for areas to be built future phases. Initial design development may extend beyond the immediate areas that will be included in first phase of capital improvements to make sure the overall design for the park is cohesive and coordinated, and the elements built in the first phase do not constrain or impede future phases.

- **Site Survey**
- **Natural Feature Survey**
  (includes wetland delineation)
- **Adaptive Land Management Plan**
  (See additonal discussion in Natural Areas Management Guidelines section of this report)
- **Community Engagement Plan**
- **Begin developing funding strategies for this and subsequent phases of work**

Physical Investments

Begin work identified in Adaptive Land Management Plan

The Adaptive Management Plan will detail specific recommendations for ecological management throughout the site. Early priorities will likely include:

1. Preparation in the Wildflower Meadow and Prairie area – i.e. prescribed burns
2. Woodland areas – removal of invasive species
3. Start reforestation efforts in the Flood Plain Forest

Site demolition and preparation work

- Remove barbed wire fences
- Demolish unsafe structures
- Address any other general hazards to make it safe for people to access the overall site.

Initial Access and Infrastructure Improvements

- A Entry, gates, and signage
- B Trailhead parking near entry
- C Modest picnicking facilities
- D Informal (mowed or mulch) trails
- E Restrooms and septic system (Phase 1 Alternate)

Preliminary Cost Range:

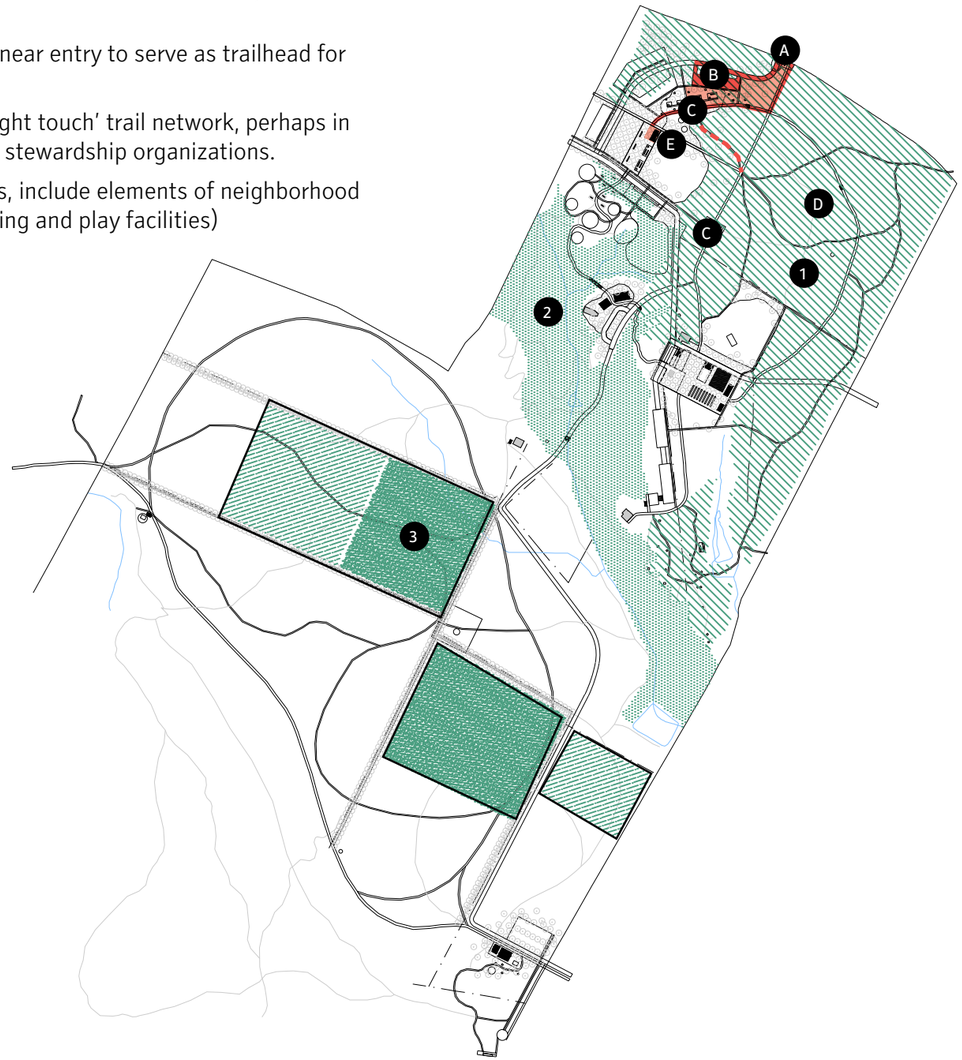
$4.6 - $5.5 million* for Phase 1

$1.5 - $1.8 million* for Phase 1 Alternate

*Note: Costs can vary widely depending on the selected scope, the timeline for executing the work, and more detailed development of the design. Potential cost ranges are provided here for preliminary reference, but will need to be vetted and further refined as the work progresses. Significant variations from the costs represented here should be expected.

Phase 1 Priorities and Goals:

- Open the gates and allow public access to the park!
- Establish vehicular access and initial utility connections
- Provide parking near entry to serve as trailhead for Prairie zone
- Begin to build 'light touch' trail network, perhaps in partnership with stewardship organizations.
- As budget allows, include elements of neighborhood park (i.e. picnicking and play facilities)



Future Phases: Neighborhood Park and River Access

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The next phase of development should build on the basic infrastructure and groundwork established in Phase 1 to provide additional program amenities and broaden access to other areas of the park, including the River.

The priorities reflected in this Future Phase scenario reflect feedback received from the public during the master plan community process, including community meetings and input submitted online. Priorities should be confirmed through ongoing community engagement when the funding for this subsequent phase becomes available and design can begin in earnest.

This phase corresponds to Level II Development in PARD's standard park development process.

Preparation, Planning & Design

- **Evaluate and update the Adaptive Land Management Plan**
- **Detailed Survey of area identified for Phase 2 work**
- **Community Engagement to confirm priorities to be included in Phase 2**
- **Design and Construction Drawings for Phase 2 work**

Physical Investments

The Upland and River phases can be broken up into separate phases based on the park's access to funding.

- Continue work indicated in Adaptive Land Management Plan (not pictured in diagram)
- Extend utility connections and site lighting (not pictured in diagram)

A. Extend road to additional parking further into site

B. Build Treviño's walk and other key elements of the trail system

C. Develop multi-purpose field and plaza space in Field area

D. Build play and picnic facilities in the upper Ravine wooded area

E. Road access from Lorado Drive and parking at river access point

F. Play and picnic facilities at river access

G. Composting toilets at river access

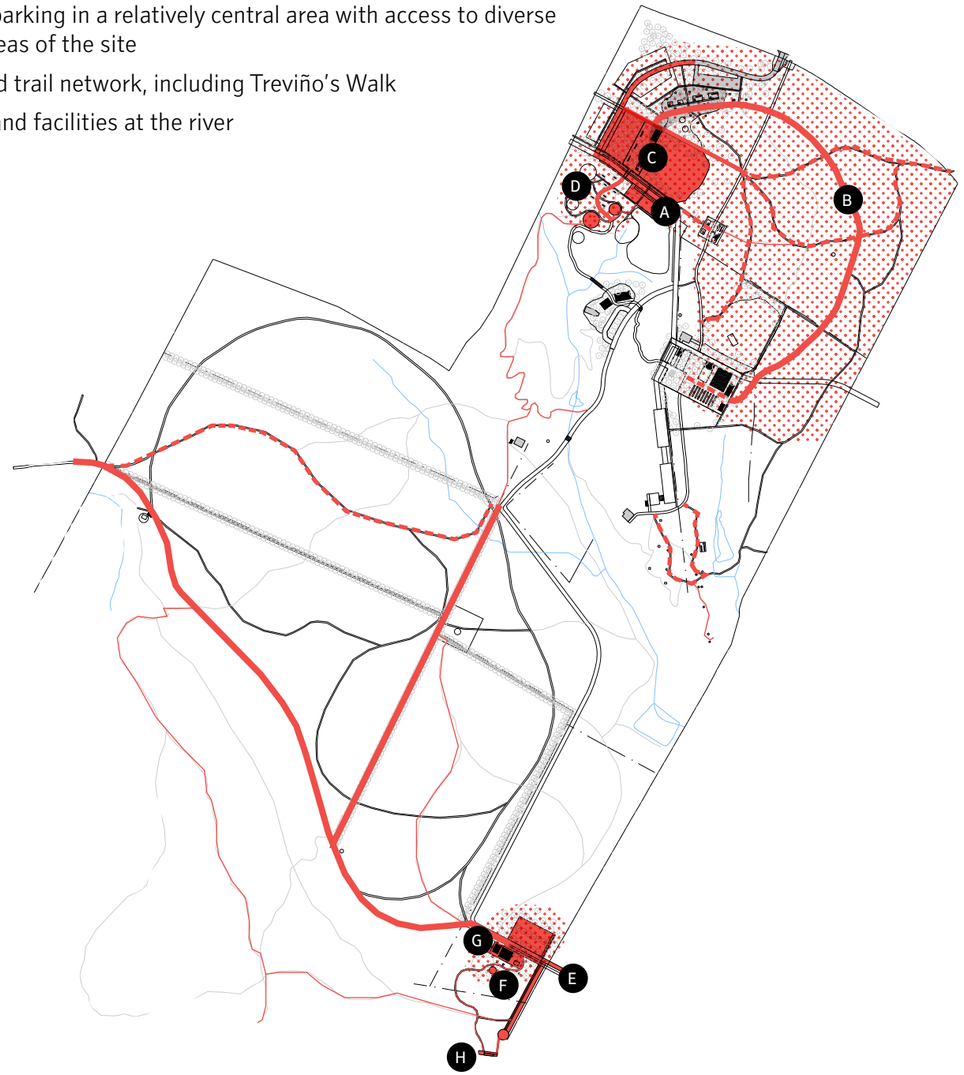
H. Dock/fishing pier

Preliminary Cost Range:
$15.2 - $17.8 million* for Upland
$11.1 - $12.9 million* for River

*Note: Costs can vary widely depending on the selected scope, the timeline for executing the work, and more detailed development of the design. Potential cost ranges are provided here for preliminary reference, but will need to be vetted and further refined as the work progresses. Significant variations from the costs represented here should be expected.

Future Phase Priorities and Goals:

- Provide additional elements of a neighborhood park to encourage regular use – flexible lawn, play areas, dog park, picnic pavilions etc.
- Establish more parking in a relatively central area with access to diverse elements and areas of the site
- Continue to build trail network, including Treviño's Walk
- Provide access and facilities at the river



Partner Projects: Grow Park Zones and Build on Partnerships

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Subsequent phases of development will be guided by an ongoing community engagement process, to identify the needs and priorities of a growing and changing city. Phasing of projects will also be influenced by potential partnerships, which could help fund particular elements and programs in the park.

Potential Projects

- Expansion of trail network within park, and connections to other trails

A Complete parking and other elements in Field area

B Nature play area and trails in Ravine

C Skateboard/Bike Skills facilities in Ravine

D Bridge and Ecology Center

E Central event field and stage

F Farm: parking, pavilion, restroom, splash pad, etc.

G Home: picnic facilities, restroom, pond-side picnic pavilion,

H Extension of road through park to river

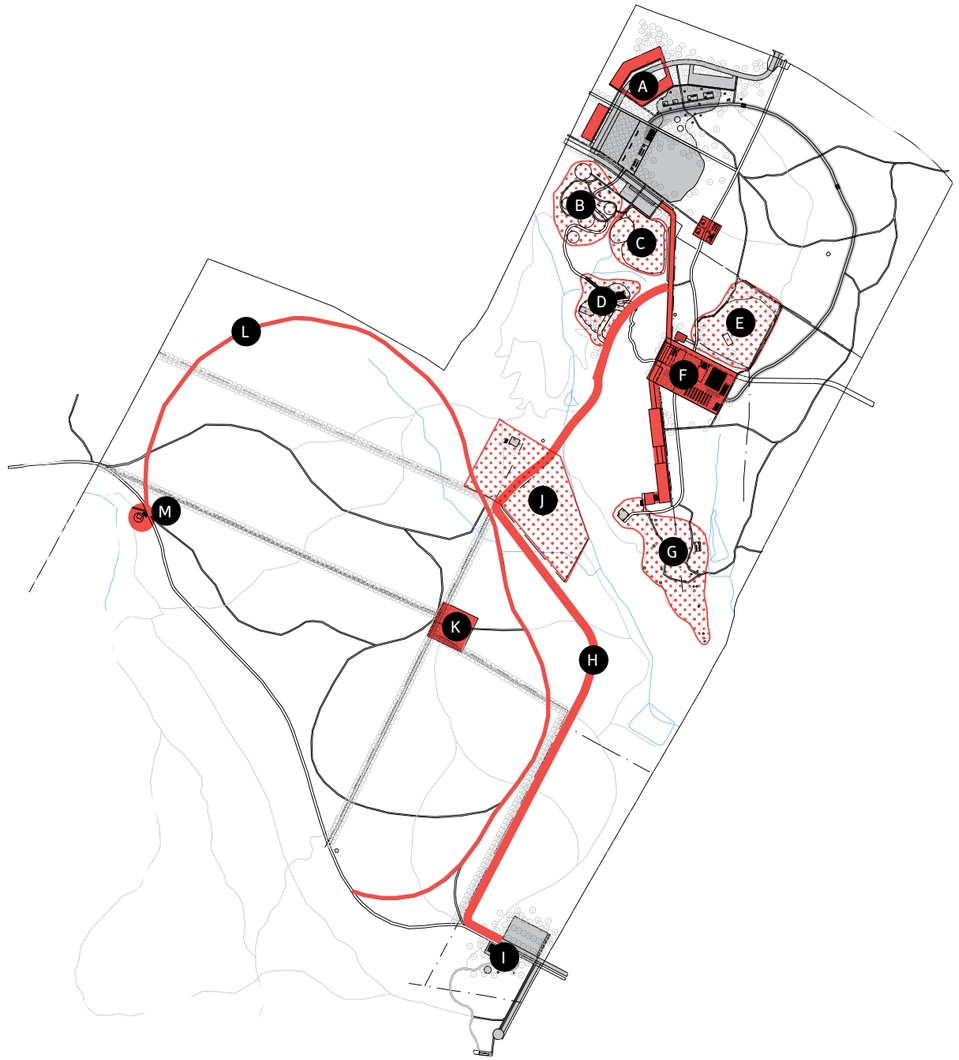
I Expand uses at River level - potential boat rental concession

J Agricultural area in floodplain

K Lookout tower

L Floodplain loop trail

M Oxbow outdoor classroom



Funding Strategies

Over the duration of multiple phases of implementation, the park will require funding for both capital projects and ongoing operations and maintenance (O&M) needs. As the first phase and each subsequent phase is built, it will be critical to develop a business plan that establishes financial sustainability for the park. O&M funding will likely derive from four major sources, including public funding, contributed income, earned income, and to a lesser extent, value capture strategies.

The mix of sources, described below, will help preserve the master plan vision and sustain well-maintained spaces throughout the park.

Public Funding

Public funding from the City or other government entities is a crucial base of O&M support for a public park. The City's Park and Recreation Department (PARD) has the experience and scale of operations to provide a baseline of routine maintenance activities. Given the ambitious scale of the park, public funding alone cannot fully pay for O&M of the park. City funding mechanisms that leverage public access to financing resources can, however, support the capital costs for ongoing improvement projects, primarily through general obligation bonds.

General Fund (O&M)
The City of Austin can devote General Fund dollars within the PARD budget towards the overall maintenance of parks and open space, as appropriated by the City Council. Due to the needs of Austin's expansive network of parks and recreation facilities, it is likely that the PARD financial support may not provide a large source of funding.

Bonds (Capital)
The 2018 bond cycle included the adoption of Proposition C, which provides $149 million for improvements and renovations to Austin's parks. Of this, it is estimated that $5 million will be dedicated towards the first phase of capital improvements of the park, focusing on the highest-priority projects that will open the park to the general public. It is recommended that capital improvement for the park be included in future bond measures, based on refined capital cost estimates.

Contributed Income

Contributed income from philanthropic, corporate, and individual donors and sponsors can both increase the visibility of the park and the community's vested interest in its success. While donors and sponsors are compelled to support exciting design and capital improvements, ongoing sponsorships, grants, and individual contributions can help sustain O&M if there is an organization devoted to stewardship of and advocacy for the park.

Donations and Grants (Capital)
Private donations should be pursued in a variety of forms, including funds, recreation equipment, services and expertise, or art and cultural projects. The park can also pursue grant funding, particularly for early-stage ecological restoration, as it continues to grow its local funding base.

Membership Programs (O&M)
While not anticipated in the early stages of the Treviño Park master plan, membership programs can increase the sense of community around a park, while serving as a sustained revenue source for O&M. Building up a base of ongoing O&M support through contributed income requires a dedicated effort and staff resources that can manage development campaigns and fundraising efforts. While it may not be likely for the park to develop this capacity on its own, it may leverage existing capacity in other mission-aligned environmental or park organizations. This could include partnerships with local ecological organizations or hobby recreationists, who might be interested in frequently using the space or having some influence over the park's daily operations.

Corporate Sponsorship (Capital or O&M)
Sponsorships are often used to develop new or existing facilities in park systems, or to invest in programs and events. Values-aligned and/or local corporations may be interested in sponsoring a physical space within the park or support ongoing programming and events.

Earned Income

Earned income from concessions (e.g., a percent of revenue or annual lease) or rentals and other usage fees may also support ongoing O&M needs. While net revenue from earned income typically increases over time as visitation and programming expand, net revenue is directly tied to the level of intensity of the programming and activation plan. Furthermore, concessions and rentals play an important role in activating the park and improving the park experience, even if they provide minimal or no net revenue. Community and stakeholder engagement during the master planning process has underscored the importance of providing free and low-cost programming and concessions to ensure equitable access to enjoyment of the park.

Concession Sales (O&M)
Concession expectations should align with the equity goals of the project, and are not anticipated to be a major factor in the O&M budget. However, in later phases of implementation, concessions that align with job creation and economic opportunity in the neighborhood can help increase activation of the park. Potential concessions may be located the proposed picnic facilities, pavilion, Ecology Center, skateboard/bike facilities, central stage, and others. This could generate income from permanent institutions, including the proposed food kiosk, or other pop-up or temporary institutions, including seasonal waterfront activities like kayaking.

Rentals and Usage Fees (O&M)
Hosting regular events can support diverse programming and maintain space activation, while increasing the earned income of the site. The master plan supports the construction of an event site, which can be used for celebrations, festivals, markets, or community gathering.

Value Capture

Due to the location of Treviño Park, value capture strategies like a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) are not anticipated to play a major role in capital improvement funding. However, as development moves further east of downtown Austin, value capture tools should remain a part of long-term O&M considerations.

Ground Lease Revenue (O&M)
When the central event stage, Ecology Center, and waterfront activation structures are constructed as part of subsequent phases, it is possible to collect ground lease revenue from institutions or organizations that occupy the on-site locations.

Parkland Dedication Fees (Capital)
Parkland Dedication fees, which have generated around $1 million to date and are not currently a major source of revenue, could be included in long-term financing strategies as development continues to expand eastward towards Treviño Park.

Public Improvement District (Capital or O&M)
A public improvement district (PID) is a defined area in which an additional tax is levied to fund improvements in the district, which could include operation and maintenance needs at the park or capital improvement. It is currently unlikely that the surrounding property owners, largely residing in single-family homes, would support this tax, though as development increases, such a mechanism may become more viable.

Operations and Maintenance

The required O&M costs will be a function of the desired activation of the site, and can vary depending on size, usage, conditions, and quality of construction.

Based on national precedents, annual operating costs can range from $1,000 per acre for natural areas, $5,000 per acre for minimally programmed neighborhood parks, $25,000 per acre for multi-use regional parks, $250,000 per acre for Downtown linear parks, and $1,000,000 per acre for densely programmed Downtown parks.

Successful parks must prioritize programmatic elements to ensure that operating costs are maintained at a manageable level. This will be particularly important to the phased implementation strategy of Treviño Park, in which the O&M budget will continue to grow from year to year as new areas become open to the public and more heavily used and activated. For example, even in the first phase, which includes modest play and picnicking facilities, there will be a need for maintenance staff to provide routine maintenance as well as engagement and marketing for the new park. Early stages should utilize natural, unprogrammed areas for the majority of space, helping to minimize costs. As later phases are completed, including river facilities and a central event venue, earned income can help offset the costs of the O&M budget.

Public-Private Partnership Model

An active and engaged community is critical to the long-term success and stewardship of the park. Developing a public-private partnership can amplify the voice of neighbors and other local stakeholders in making management decisions for the park, while fostering a built-in community of volunteers and committed park-users and reducing strain to the City of Austin's resources. Many park partnerships exist today in Austin, demonstrating the successful relationships PARD has cultivated. These include the Trail Foundation, which focuses on the Butler hike-and-bike trail and is one of Austin's oldest public-private partnerships, and the Waterloo Greenway Conservancy, which leads efforts to enhance and restore Waller Creek.

There is an opportunity to align local partnerships and conservancies to foster an interconnected parks network throughout the Austin region, including Treviño Park. The development of a public-private partnership, or integration into an existing organization, can greatly enhance the stability of a long-term operating budget. Over time, this model can provide the backbone for a cohesive funding strategy to align public funding, contributed income, earned income, and value capture opportunities.