

Zilker Metro Park Environmental Priorities

Climate, Water, Environment and Parks
Committee
October 22, 2025

Agenda

- Barton Creek and Barton Springs Pool Area
 - Erosion Reduction
 - Invasive Species Management
- Tree Planting
- Other Projects at Zilker
- Parking and Shuttle Operations



Guiding Site Documents

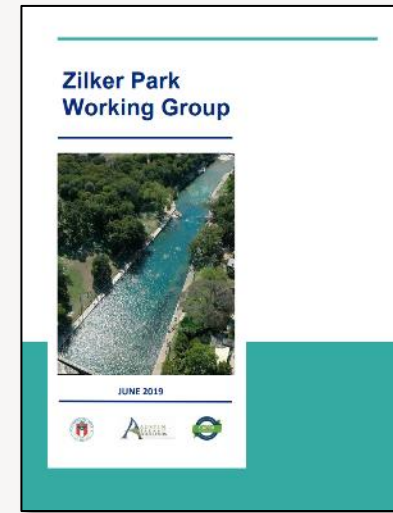
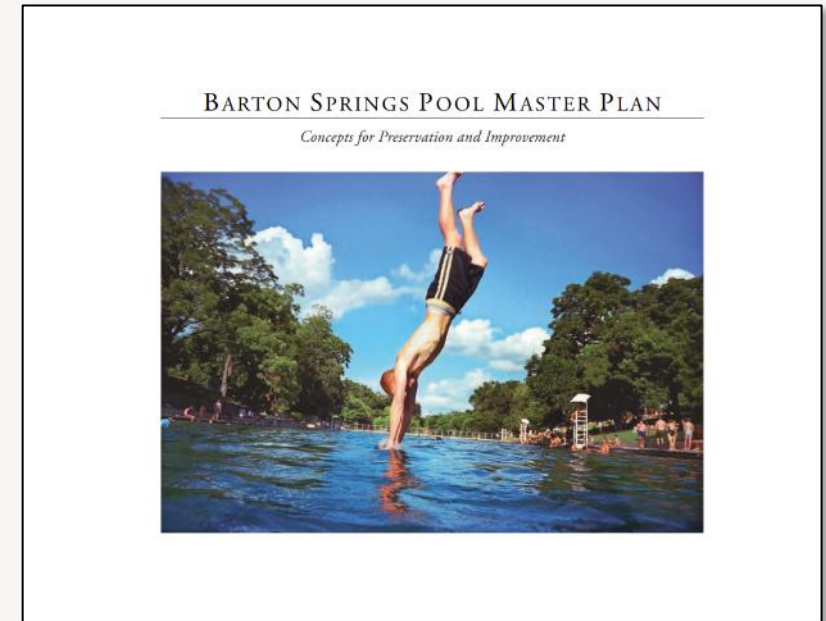
In the absence of a Vision Plan for Zilker Park, improvements in the park are primarily maintenance focused.

Barton Springs Pool Vision Plan

- Adopted by City Council 2009
- Hazard tree trimming of protected trees

Other documents available for reference:

- **Zilker Park Working Group Report**
 - Published June 2019
- **Zilker Park Natural Resource Inventory & Management Guidelines**
 - Published May 2021

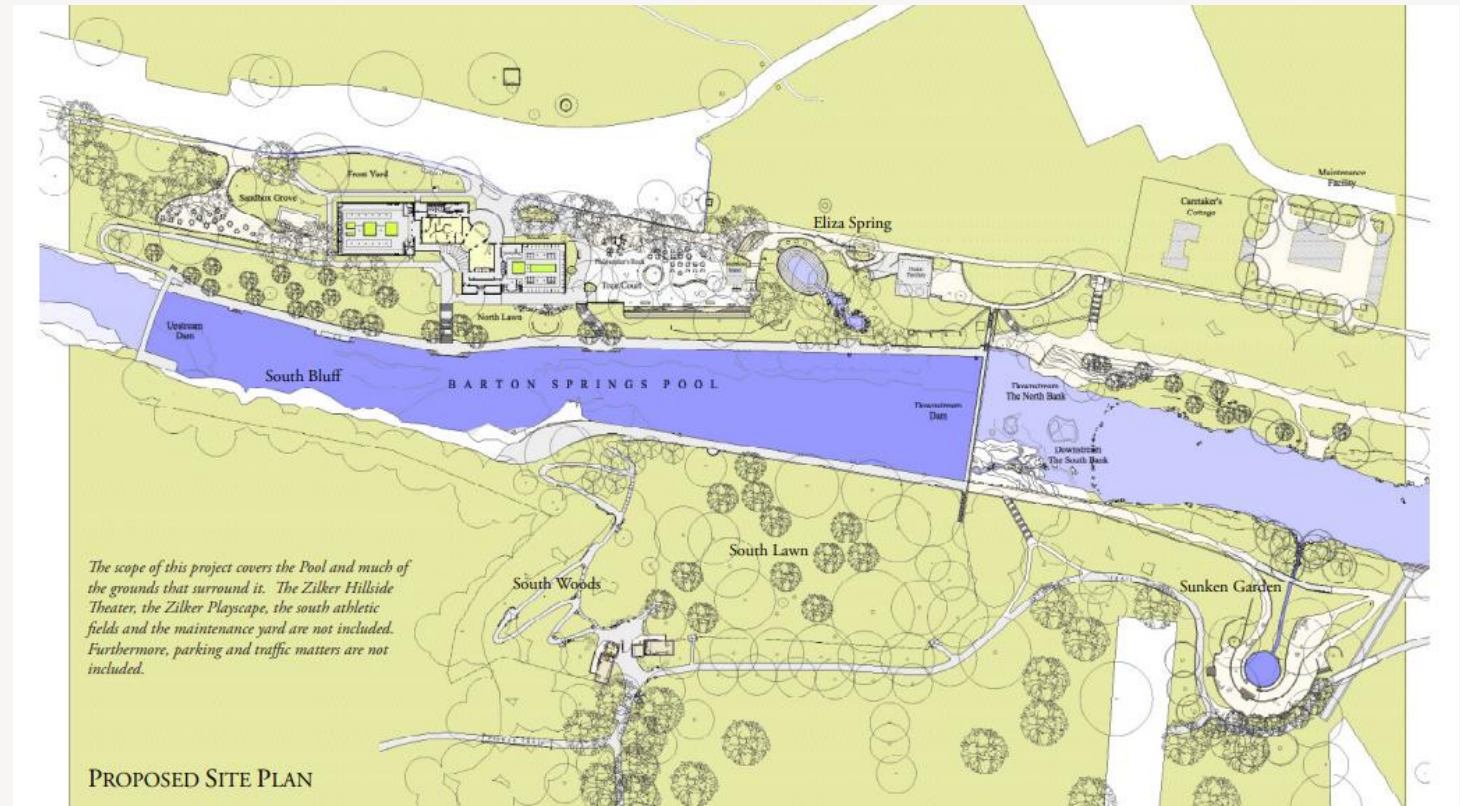


Barton Springs Pool Vision Plan

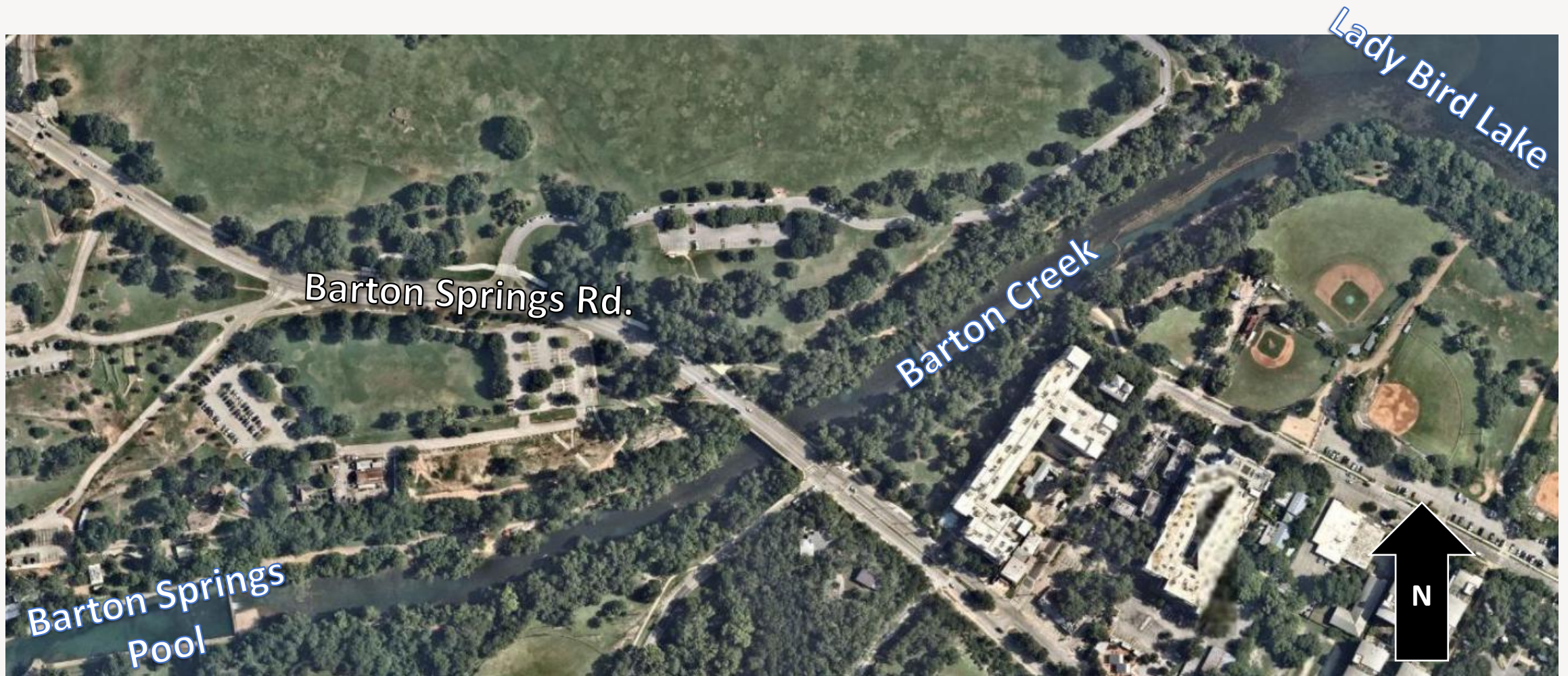
All short-term improvements have been completed.

Long-term improvements are in progress:

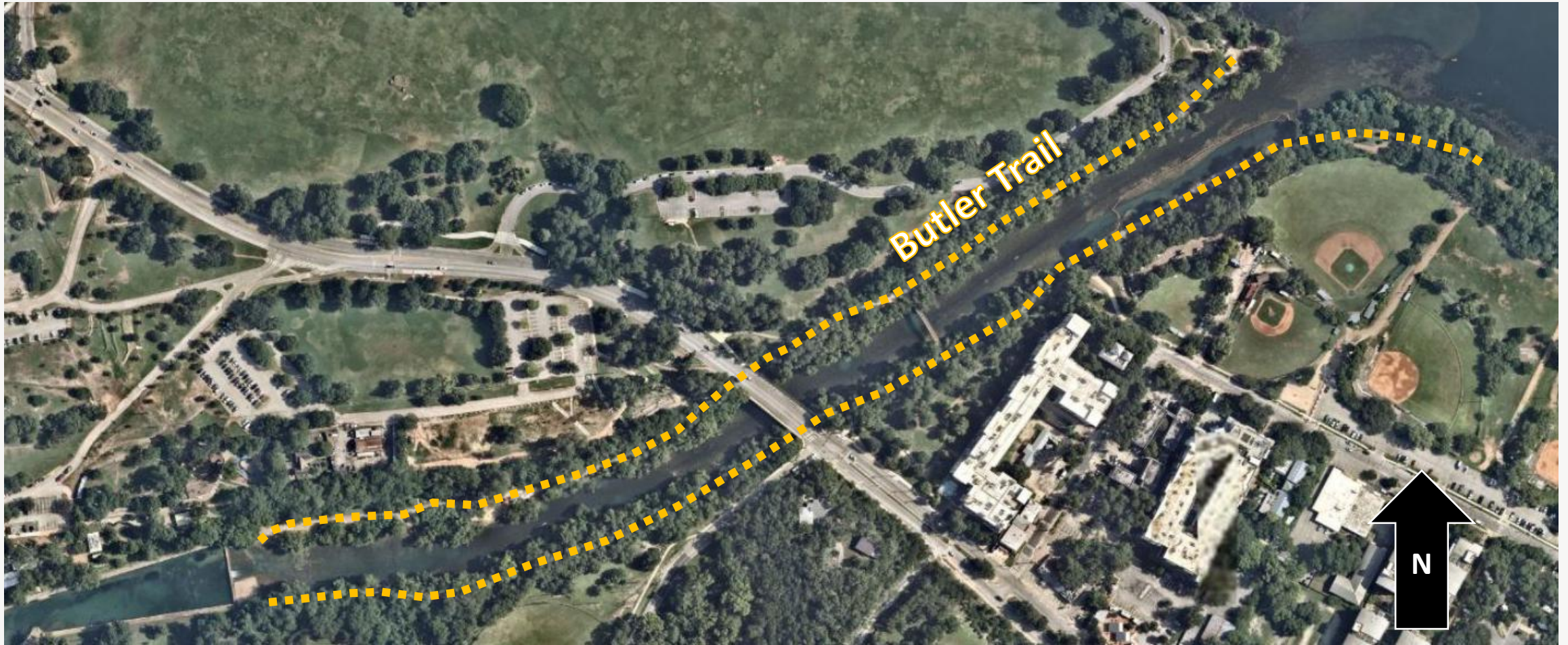
- Joan Means Khabele Bathhouse Rehabilitation: Construction near completion
- Sunken Gardens Improvements: Preliminary Engineering Report in progress



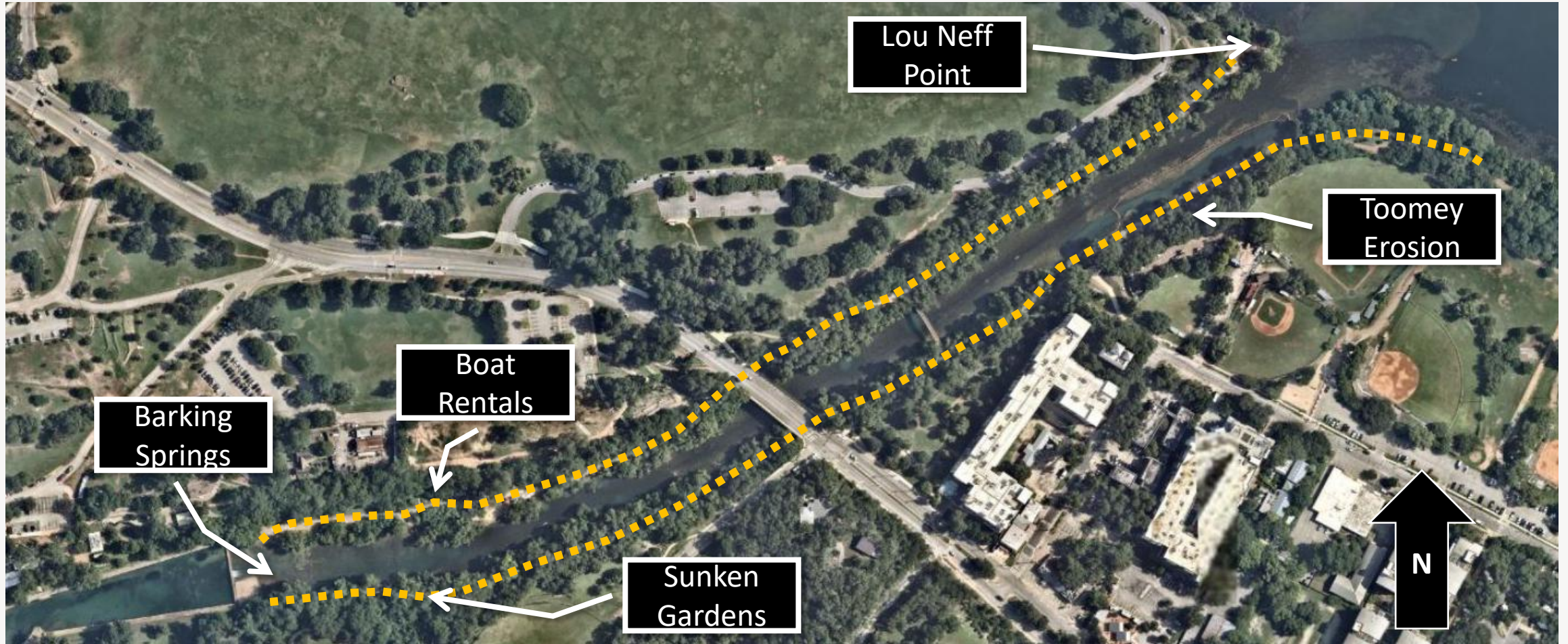
Barton Creek Overview



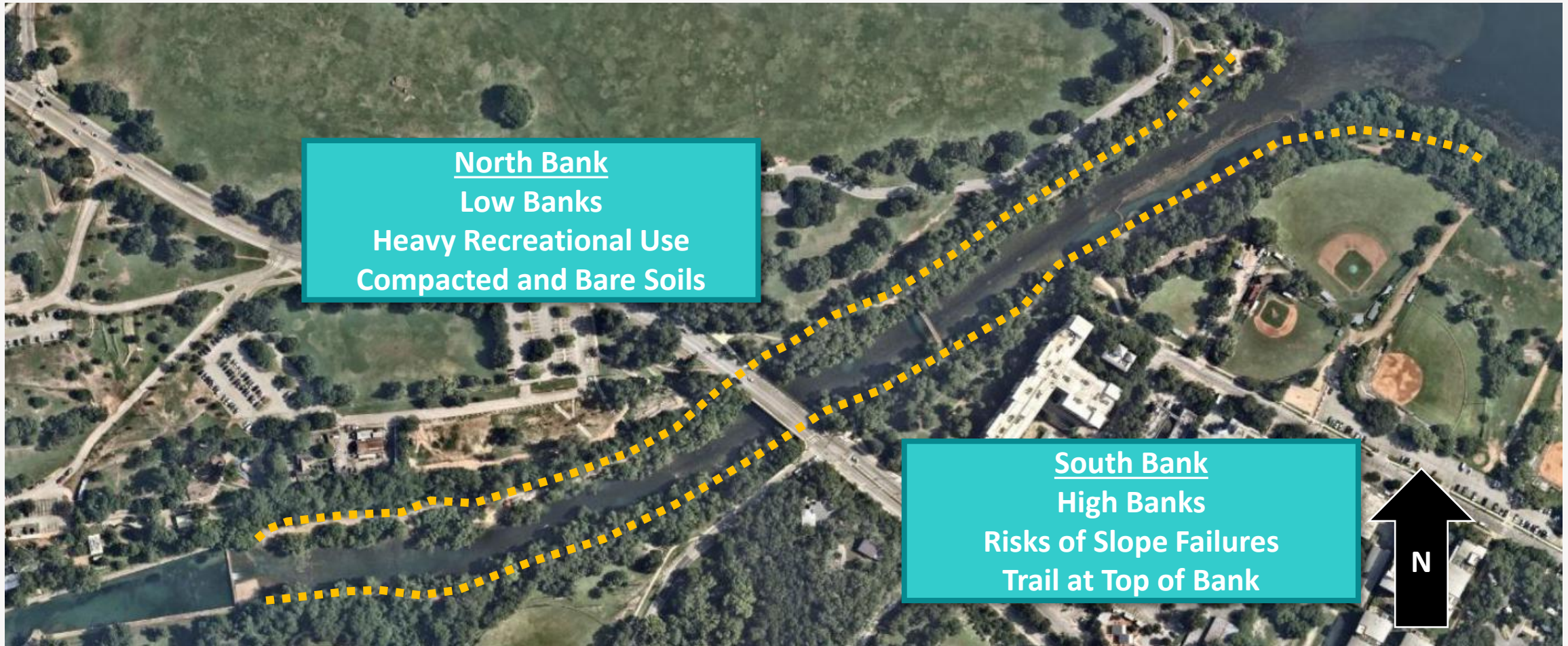
Barton Creek Overview



Barton Creek Overview



Barton Creek Overview



Barton Creek at Sunken Gardens - Outfall Channel Stabilization



Project Objectives:

- Stabilize failed stream bank
- Protect trail infrastructure

Current Phase:

- Under Construction
- Planned completion end of 2025

Funding:

- Engineering Services/Project Management: \$1M
- Construction \$6M
- Fully Funded

Barton Creek at Toomey – Bank Stabilization



Project Objectives:

- Stabilize failed stream bank
- Protect trail infrastructure

Current Phase:

- Under Construction
- Planned completion end of 2025

Funding:

- Engineering Services/Project Management: \$1M
- Construction \$6M
- Fully Funded

Lou Neff Point – Emergency Repair

Collaboration of Austin Parks and Recreation with Watershed Protection, and the City Engineer's Office to make emergency repairs.

Project Objectives:

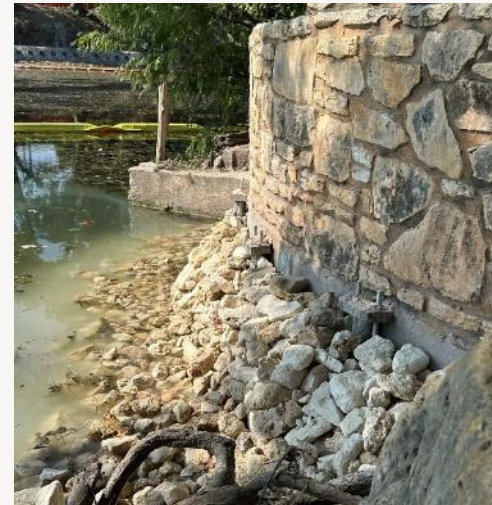
- Address structure settlement and cracking
- Deep injection for leveling
- Backfill voids with stone for erosion protection
- Repair cracked flatwork and masonry walls at the surface

Current Phase:

- Complete September 2025

Funding:

- \$35k from the 2018 Bond



Barking Springs

Safety, sight lines, access, and erosion repair

Short Term Goals

- Invasive removal of ligustrum trees and vine growth
- Hazard tree trimming of protected trees

Mid Term Goals (pending funding availability)

- Establish defined pathways through the vegetation
- Restore soils in non-path areas



Invasive Species Management



Keep Austin Beautiful

- Watershed Protection & Adopt-A-Creek Program

Austin Parks Foundation

- Barton Creek Greenbelt Trail Maintenance & Ecological Restoration

Parks and Recreation & Watershed Protection

- Austin Civilian Conservation Corps



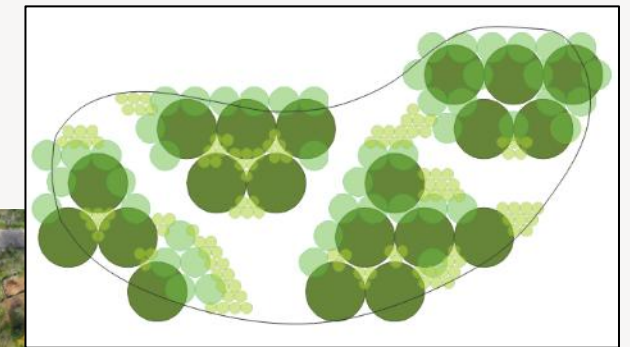
Tree Planting

Pecan Grove Picnic Area – Tree Planting and Drainage Improvements

- Added 18 new trees, irrigation, soil decompaction, and grading for drainage improvements
- Funded by Council Resolution No 20240814 – Allocation of Urban Forest Replenishment Funding to Parkland

Tree Motte – CAPP Project

- Work by TXCC as part of the 3-year Barton Creek Greenbelt multi-year plan for trail and invasive management by Siglo Group
- Funding by Austin Parks Foundation and Zilker 351



Other Zilker Projects

Zilker Clubhouse Rehabilitation

- Preservation and restoration of the historic building, prioritizing the flexibility of the site to host many types of groups and events
- Project is in the Bidding Phase

[Zilker Clubhouse Rehabilitation |AustinTexas.gov](https://www.austintexas.gov/department/zilker-clubhouse-rehabilitation)

Joan Means Khabele Bathhouse Rehabilitation

- Full building historic rehabilitation and site improvements
- New educational exhibit to learn about the importance of protecting the watershed and aquifer, preserving the salamander habitat
- Most of construction will be complete this fall

[Joan MeansKhabele Bathhouse Rehabilitation | AustinTexas.gov](https://www.austintexas.gov/department/joan-means-khabele-bathhouse-rehabilitation)



Zilker Clubhouse



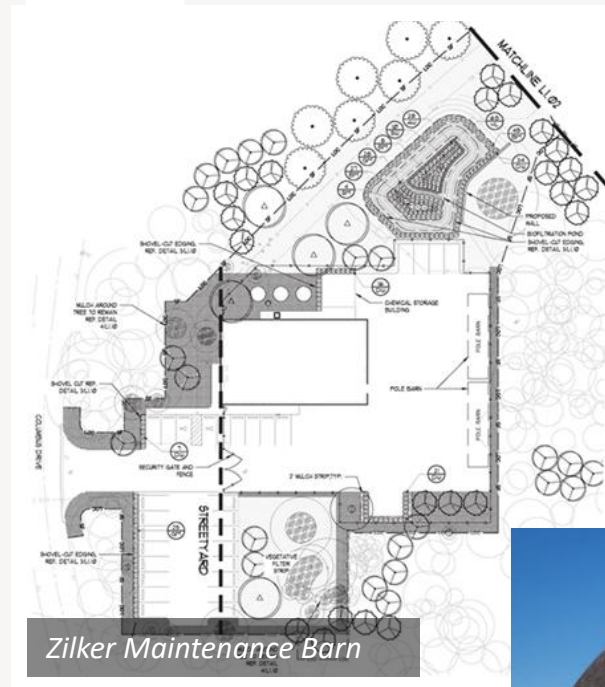
Joan Means Khabele Bathhouse

Other Zilker Projects

Zilker Maintenance Barn

- Construction completion anticipated in Spring/Summer 2026
- Site for Electric Lawn Equipment Pilot
- Recipient of the Toro Award to support electrification efforts

[Zilker Maintenance Barn | AustinTexas.gov](#)



Mile Zero Trailhead

- Hill Country Conservancy-led project
- Funded by APR, HCC, and APF
- Tree planting slated for Fall 2025
- New Rain Garden installation off Andrew Zilker Road

[Mile Zero Trail Head](#) | [AustinTexas.gov](#)



The Zilker Loop

Consistent High Demand:

The internal shuttle served **7,056 riders** on **Saturdays and Sundays Memorial Day through Labor Day**, a figure comparable to the 2024 external shuttle, proving that consolidating parking at the Stratford Lot with a 2-hour free validation was an effective strategy.

Critical Operational Resilience:

The shuttle's value was most evident on weekends when the Polo Field lot was closed due to wet conditions. The two-bus internal loop successfully absorbed displaced visitors, preventing major access disruptions and ensuring a positive park experience.



A wide-angle photograph of the Austin skyline, featuring several tall skyscrapers and construction cranes, viewed from across a large, green, open park area with scattered trees and a few people in the distance. The sky is blue with some white clouds. The word "Questions" is overlaid in white text in the center of the image.

Questions