



# **The Ann & Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike-Trail Comprehensive Signage Plan**

## **Phase 1 Inventory & Analysis Report**

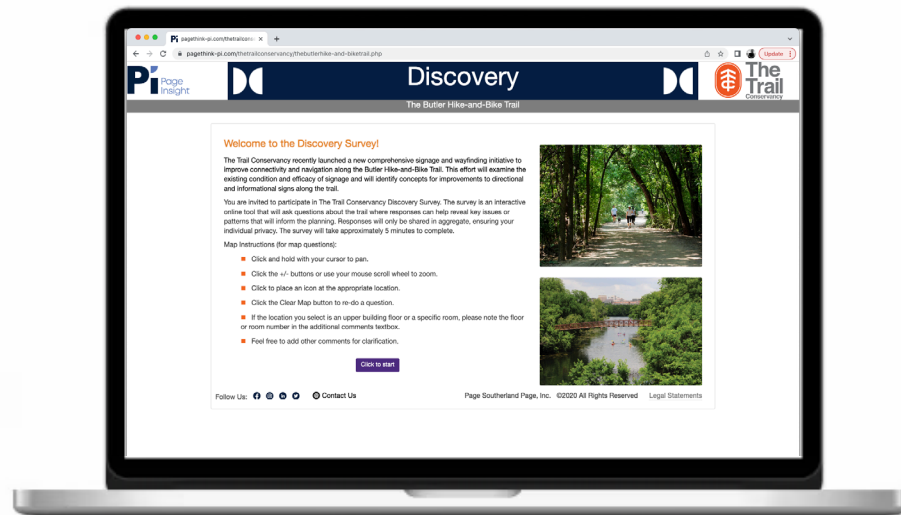
Issued 18 July 2023  
Prepared by Page

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# Community Engagement Findings



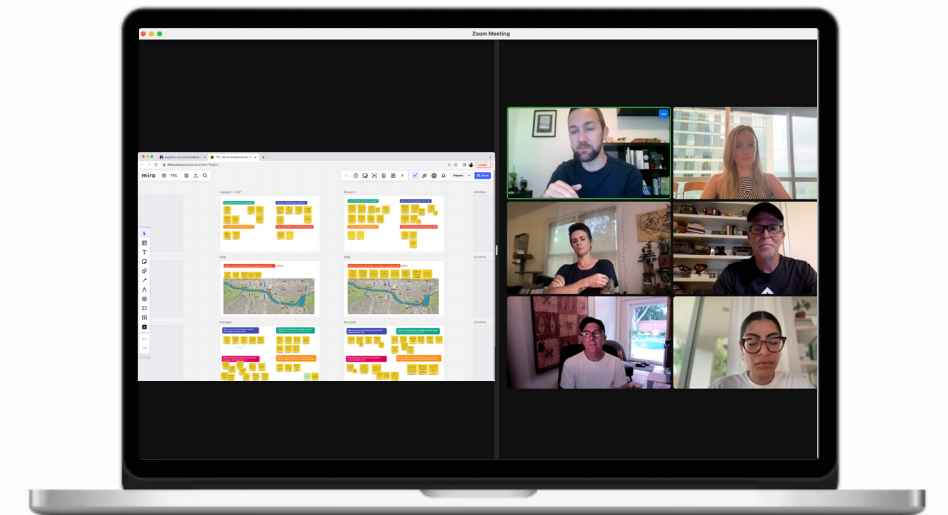
# Community Engagement Phase 1 Activities



Online Survey



Trail Pop-Ups



Focus Group Sessions

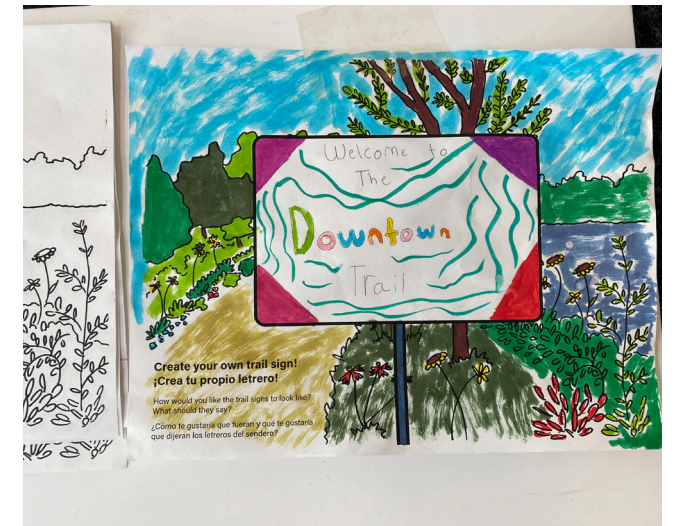
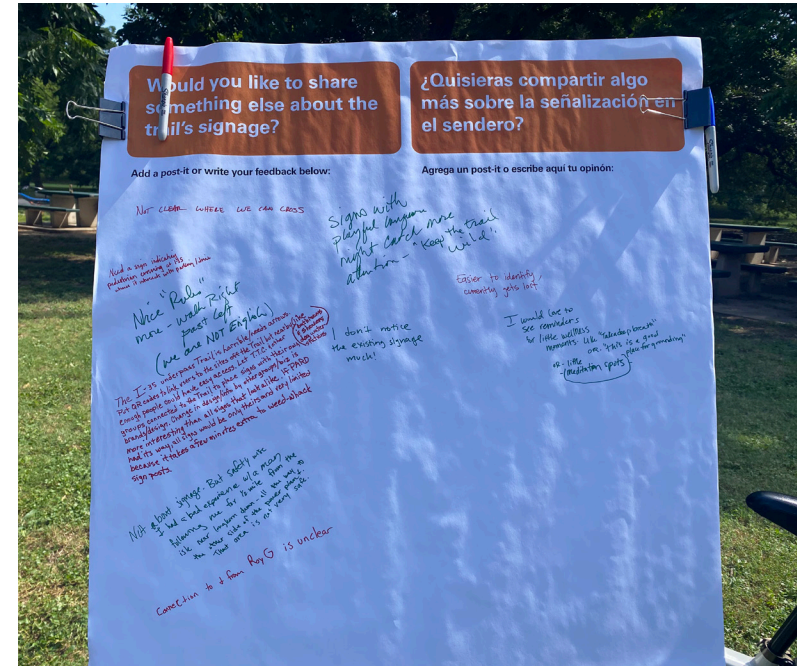
# Pop-up Engagement

55  
board entries

69  
map entries

**tools:**  
community mapping, idea  
boards, coloring activity

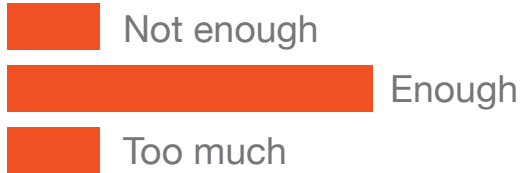
**locations:**  
Auditorium Shores and  
Festival Beach





# Idea boards

## Results:



## Common themes:

1. Didn't notice much signage
2. More attractive signs (playful language and easier to identify)

## One-off comments:

The signage has improved  
 Sign for Festival Beach Food Forest  
 Diverse design rather than unified design  
 Sign at Roy G connection

Do you think that the signage at the trail is currently providing not enough, enough, or too much information?

### Not enough

Not enough signs - more about flora, fauna, more signs about the surrounding neighborhoods like the Tjapala Trails signs at Cornal, tells story of the Star Cesar Chavez hood. Maps pointing to watering holes/camp off the trail.

### Enough

Signs are good now, but update distance markers.

Signs are good now

enough

It's great!

### Too much

Too much. Signs are too small + font is barely readable. Fell like they are just telling what to do.

Would you like to share something else about the trail's signage?

### Didn't notice signage

Didn't notice much signage!

Don't notice, except for temporary

I don't notice the existing signage much!

### Language / look

Signs with playful language might catch more attention "keep the trail wild"

Easier to identify, currently gets lost

### Other comments

The signage has improved and I really appreciated seeing your signs popping up over the last several years

Festival Beach Food Forest would love to have a sign inviting people to come explore the forest off the trail. **Please contact me at [contact@festivalbeach.org](mailto:contact@festivalbeach.org)**

The 1/2 underground trail is terrible, needs more the 90' cones to link users to the site off the trail, but nearby like bathrooms, showers, and dog waste stations, enough people could have way more, and TT and other groups connected to the trail to place signs with their own neighborhoods. Change is brought by other groups to make interesting trail signs that look like if PAWS has its way, all signs would be only there and very limited because it takes a few minutes extra to read which sign posts.

Connection to and from Roy G is unclear

### Other topics

Less concrete, more natural trail to run on. It's easier on our bodies.

Pavement on East Side near Pleasant Valley is unpleasant

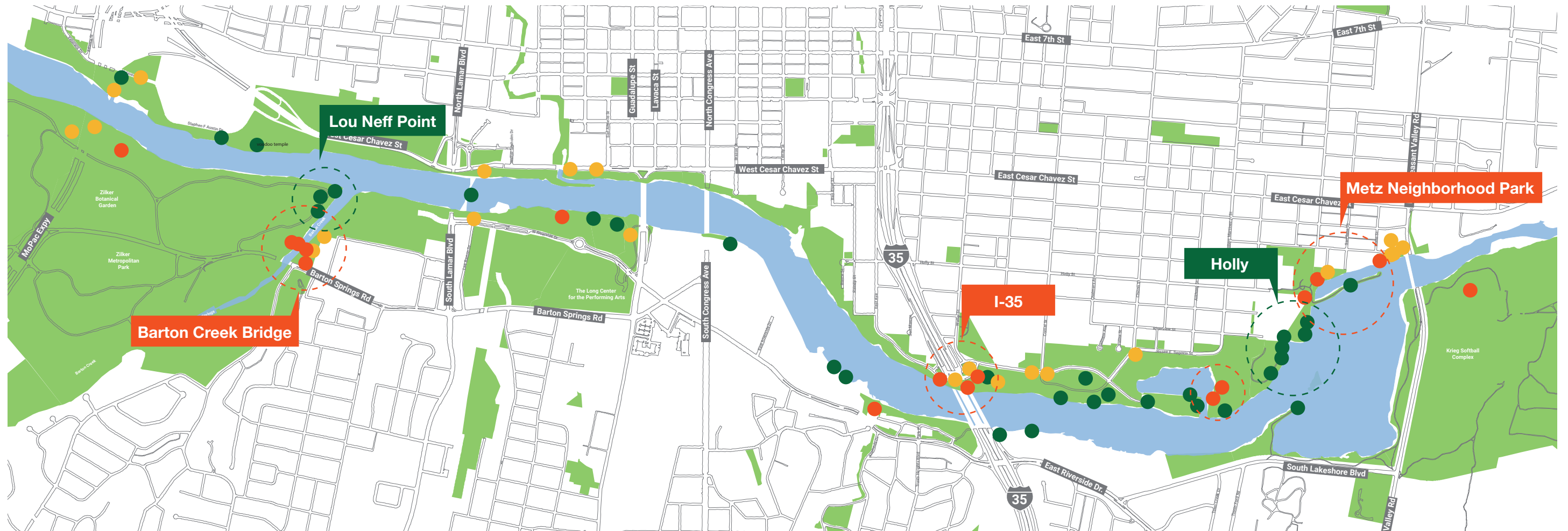
Not about signage, but safety. I had an experience with a man following me for 1/2 mile from the isle near longhorn dam - all the way to the other side of the power plant. That area is not very safe.

# Community mapping

What parts of the trail do you find most confusing to navigate?

What are your favorite places along the trail?

Where do you typically enter the trail?



# Focus Groups

5 focus groups

13 participants

**tools:**  
miro board: general questions, focused questions, and digital community mapping

**groups:**  
trail partners; all-abilities; kayakers, SUP, and canoeing; runners

**Do you find the trail easy to navigate?**

- relatively easy to navigate - for some first time users it might be difficult
- Yes, but I have to remember I've been running it for 20 years. Much easier than it used to be (before board walk)
- Mohe (the rock, Auditorium Shores, people runners) refer to them with different names
- Esp with name changing
- The rock can be a confusing place / decision point
- Confluences with other trails, Shoal Creek - rethink connection (currently difficult, esp if using for the first time)
- Under congress bridge, not clear if you can go right and where that goes.
- I know the measurements of every loop, Shoal Creek has mileage signs
- We make maps for our people (most from suburbs) because they don't know the trail too well

**Have you noticed signage on the trail?**

- Near Barton Springs - some people miss their turn and keep going forward. Some additional signage would be helpful
- Electric Scooter signs. Maybe there's another way to communicate it
- TTC once made a scooter on trail commercial + Trail rules
- Vegetation hiding some signs in some cases
- Intro of large trail maps explaining 10 mile loop has been extremely helpful
- Not clear if on-leash, off-leash in some parts. Auditorium pair
- Run into this issue constantly

**Do you know who maintains the trail?**

- yes

**Do you know what The Trail Conservancy does?**

- There used to be the Trail Foundation (TF), not sure if it's the old TF or separate group
- maintenance and improvement on trail
- Donation, improvement plans

**What are the most difficult places to navigate /run along the trail? XXX**

- Camacho Community Center area. Confusing /not sure where to turn back in
- On East side a lot of people run into the peninsula by mistake
- Arch by baseball fields people have to cross a road
- Mile marks are very helpful - not sure if east side has them
- People having issues to navigate express they can't read a map easily
- They use digital and paper maps to plan their routes
- Start at Pfluger bridge
- We have met at Central Mainway Works - getting to the rail from neighborhood is difficult. No signs that say where trail is - connection to city network
- Under congress bridge, not clear if you can go right and where that goes.

**What uses or areas of interest could be better signed along the trail?**

- Lou Neff point
- Part by Barton Springs /not clear you can get to that part
- Barton Creek signane /changing
- New path on East Side seating area with view on lake peninsula on south side of the trail
- Miles to key sites, for example Xmiles to Barton Springs

**What kind of informational signage would be useful? (history, ecological, mile markers, etc.)**

- Currently some history signs on Cesar Chavez + 51st
- History of trail, Lady bird, having more of that kind of information would be great
- Mileage signs
- Signs asking people to pay attention to their dogs. Empowers people to say something
- Empowers people to say something
- We don't want to overcrowd the trail with signage
- Poison ivy signs /education
- Using QRs to get more information /about trail vegetation, e
- Map linked to QR around the trail

**What information would be more useful for runners along the trail?**

- When runner joins they refer to new big maps to plan route
- More of this
- A way to have a map (digital) to indicate the distance you'd like to run and get directions/loop?
- People don't pay attention at narrow points/traffic. I can always run into someone, trip, etc.
- Trail etiquette -simple rules /our first lesson
- Could be linked by QR code -get this info to people
- Instagram & fb reels on trail etiquette. Get the word out (if it doesn't make it into a sign)

**Are there commonly used sub-routes, access points or meeting points for runners that should be identified?**

- We have all the routes mapped for our runners, for the mile and even half mile
- Start at Pfluger bridge
- We have met at CMW - getting to the rail from neighborhood is difficult. No signs that say where trail is - connection to city network



# Focus Groups

4

focus groups

12

participants

**tools:**

miro board: general questions, focused questions, and digital community mapping

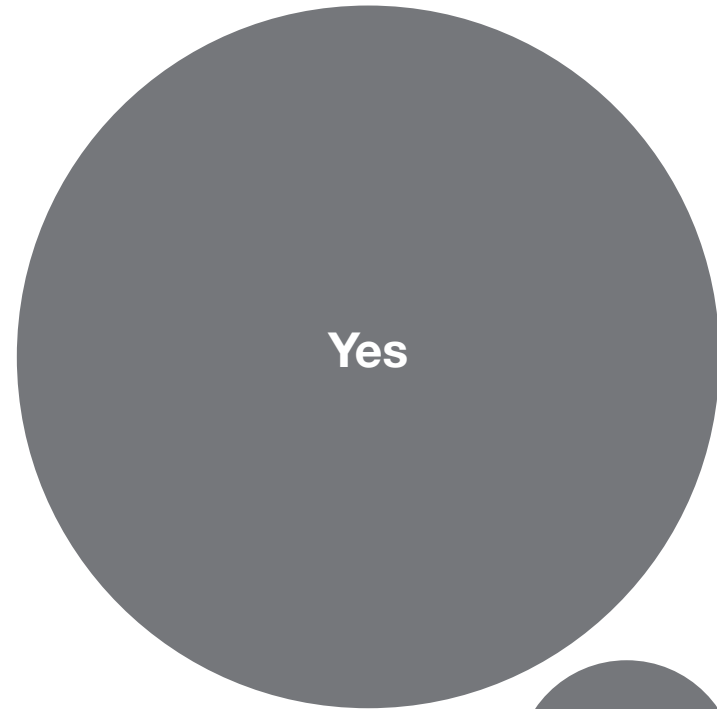
**groups:**

trail partners; all-abilities; kayakers, SUP, and canoing; runners



**Do you know who maintains the trail?**

**Do you know what The Trail Conservancy does?**



If the City is also involved or not



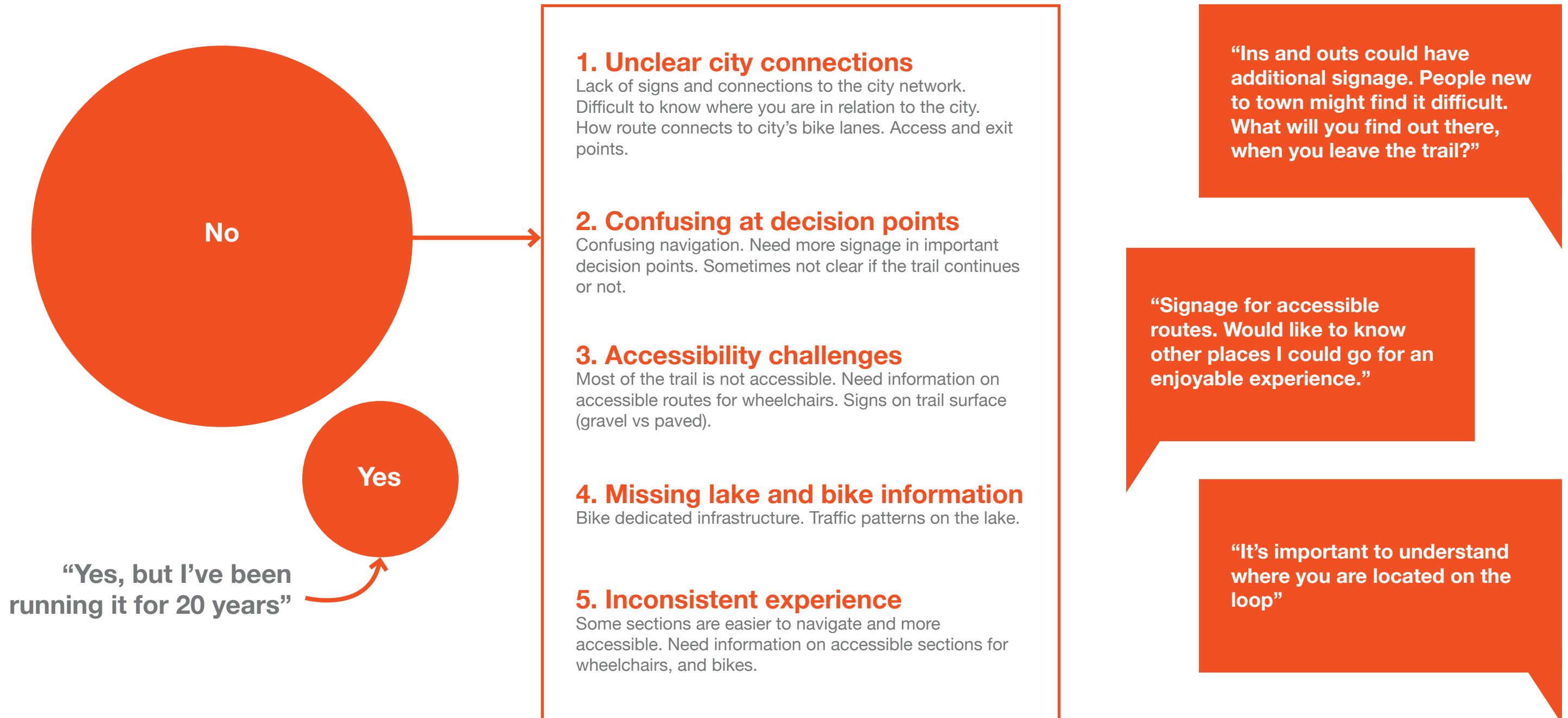
“Maintains the trail, helps preserve it, and enhance it”

“There used to be the Trail Foundation (TTF), not sure if it’s the old TTF or separate group”

“Donations, improvement plans”

“Name is self-explanatory, but not sure which trails it touches”

# General: Do you find the trail easy to navigate?



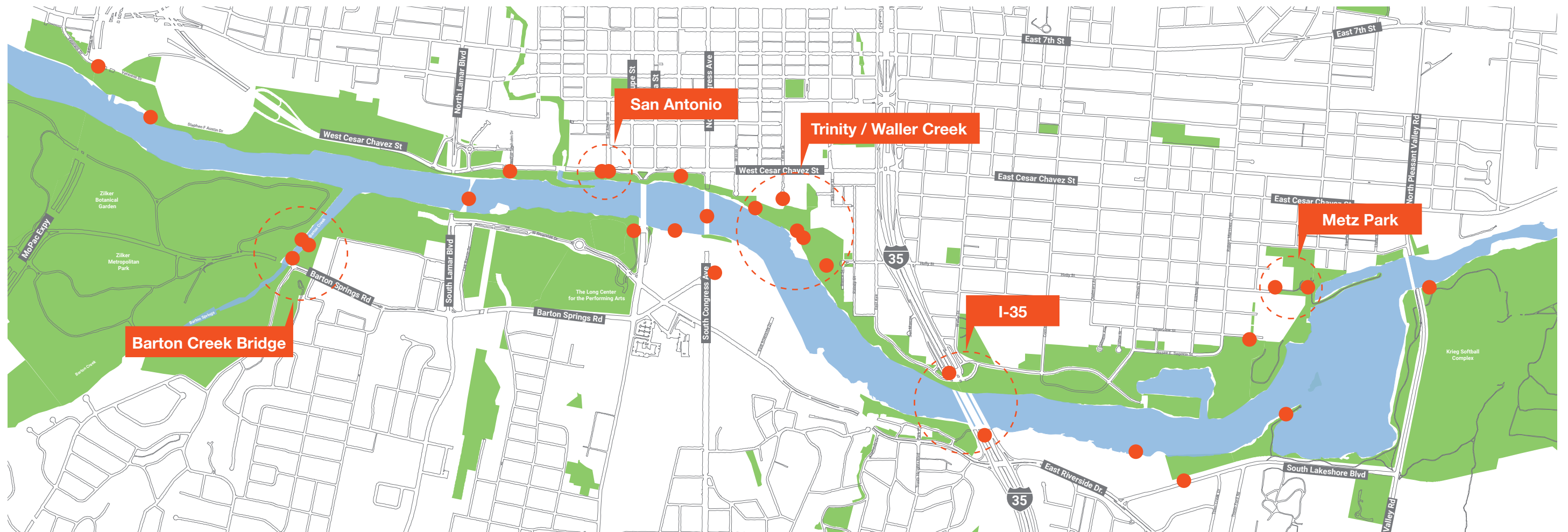
# What are the most difficult places to navigate along the trail?

Pedestrian bridge over Barton Creek

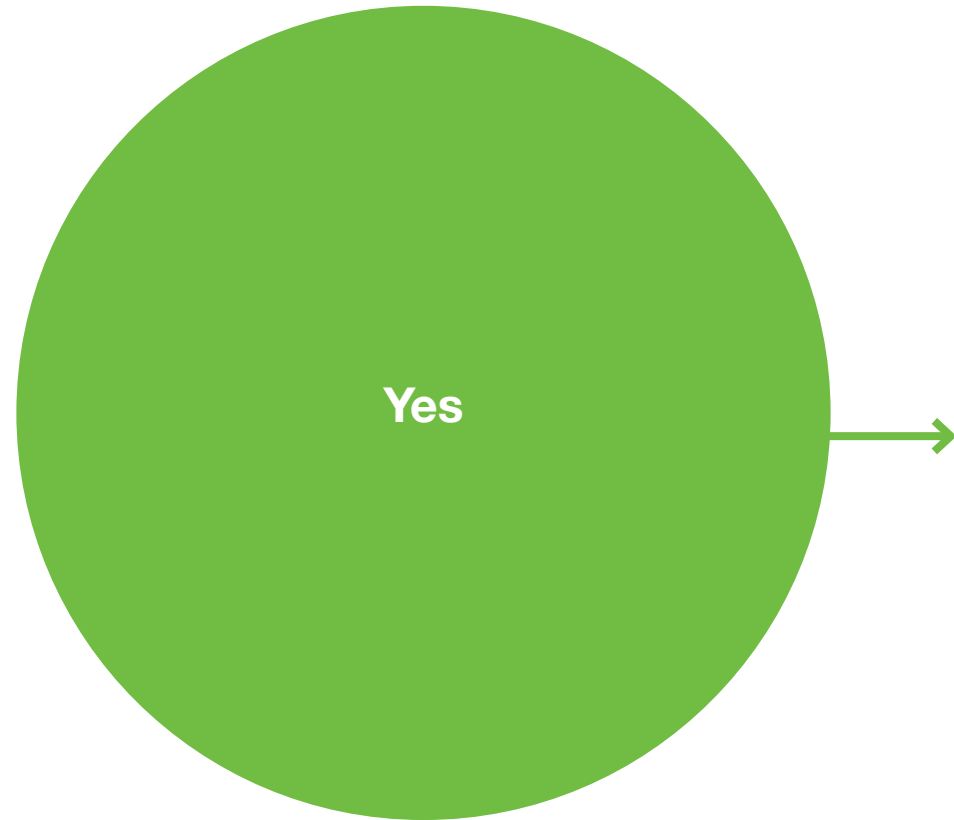
I-35 crossing, it's not clear if you should walk there or running into a highway

Bridge crossings are difficult to understand for first-time users

East side near Camacho Activity Center



## General: Have you noticed signage on the trail?



### 1. Yes, but more signage could be helpful

Have noticed some, but still missing helpful signs such as decision points, maps of accessible routes, trail routes/ loops, arrows, dogs on/off-leash, and others.

### 2. Yes, scooter signs

“No scooters” is fairly well signed.

### 3. Yes, some useful signs

Have noticed educational signs on native vegetation, large trail maps explaining 10 mile loop, bat bridge signs, and others.

### 4. Yes, temporary or non-TTC signs

Have noticed some temporary signage and other non-TTC, such as rowing center signs.

### 5. Yes, but difficult to notice

Have seen some, but they are subtle. Currently vegetation is hiding some signs.

“The introduction of large trail maps explaining 10 mile loop has been extremely helpful”

“I am currently avoiding routes because it’s unclear where they are going.”

“I have noticed some educational signage, like wildflower names. Accessible route signage would be helpful on site.”

# General: What kind of informational signage could be useful?

## 1. Decision points and connections

Signs where different paths cross, such as connections to other trails, two or more path options, and connections to street network.

## 2. Accessible routes

Maps and other signage for accessibility, considering trail surface and slope. Levels of accessibility.

## 3. River safety

Consider visibility from river, wind, mileage and time to navigate in the river. General river safety rules.

## 4. Trail rules & etiquette

## 5. Mile markers

## 6. City places

Distance and exit points to relevant places in the city

## 7. Dogs

On-off leash, and pay attention to your dogs.

## 8. Parking & ride sharing

Properly sign parking; and encourage ride sharing.

## 9. History of the trail

## 10. Vegetation & Poison Ivy

## 11. Other signage:

QR codes to maps and general information.  
Safety related, such as "lock your car".

"Decision points signs. It's currently confusing for people, they miss the closer exit and have to go back, etc."

"Help with accessible decision-making, for example: steep warnings"

"Clearly written park rules are helpful when someone is causing a problem."

# General: What uses or areas of interest could be better signed along the trail?

**Barton Springs:**  
How to get there and  
distance to get there

**Barton Creek**

**Lou Neff Point**

**The Rock**

**Congress bridge**

**Other trails**

**South peninsula**

**Trinity exit**

# Focused: Trail Partners

What type of information have you or are you planning to implement within your signage and wayfinding systems?

Prioritize reading the sign while biking/running. No need to stop.

Main information in big fonts, details in smaller fonts.

Added maps to all the signs. Uncertain about future expansions.

Signs about other parks and public facilities outside the trail.

Other recommendations:

Consider people that don't speak English. Include Spanish version.

Consider how people will experience the signs, if running or as a destination.

It seems like currently mobility happens on the streets, and recreation on the trail. How can the trail be used for mobility?



## Focused: All-abilities

Do you have examples of other exemplary signage/wayfinding systems for this type of public trails/open spaces?

Are accessible routes and entries clearly identified along the trail or where are the gaps in signage?

What is something you would like to see that would improve the experience for people with disabilities while using the trail?

Central Park accessibility signage

National Parks Service (online and on-site)

Accessibility signage in Vienna

Lower Walnut Creek Trail

No, maps currently don't tell me what I need to know

Consider materials, slope

Warnings of lack of accessibility

Levels of accessibility

Information of what is coming ahead

# Focused: Kayakers, SUP, canoing

What information would be more useful for kayaking, SUP and canoing along the trail?

Realistic distances between points of interests and average time to paddle there.

Safe rentals and rowing dock locations, on sidewalk and trail. Visitors are not aware of these amenities.

River traffic flow for safety.

Right-of-way signs.

# Focused: Runners

What information would be more useful for runners along the trail?

More big maps. We always refer to the existing ones when new runners join.

Narrow points/segments.

Trail etiquette (could be via QR code).

Are there commonly used sub-routes, access points or meeting points for runners that should be identified?

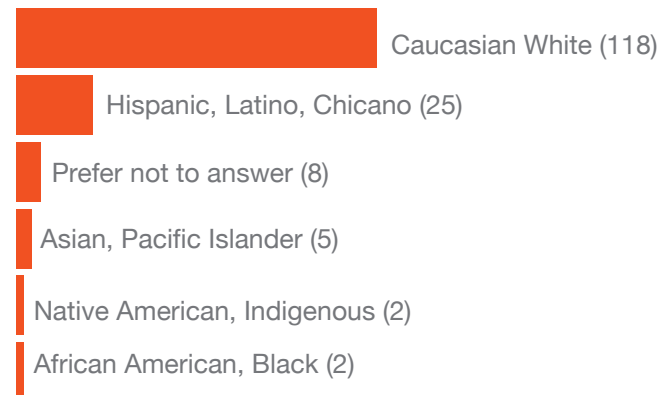
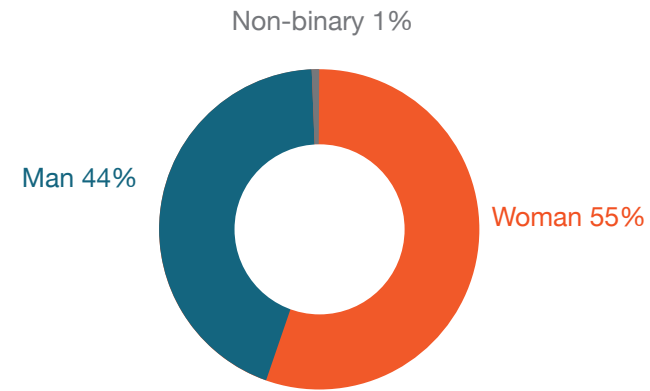
We have all the routes mapped for our runners, by the mile and even half mile.

Start at Pfluger Bridge.

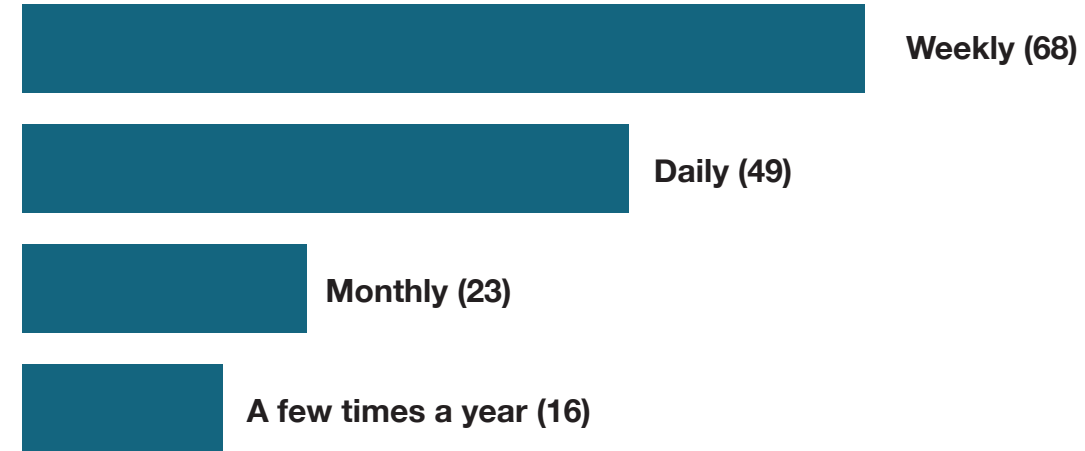
We sometimes meet at Central Machine Works and it is difficult to find the trail access, there are no signs.

# Survey

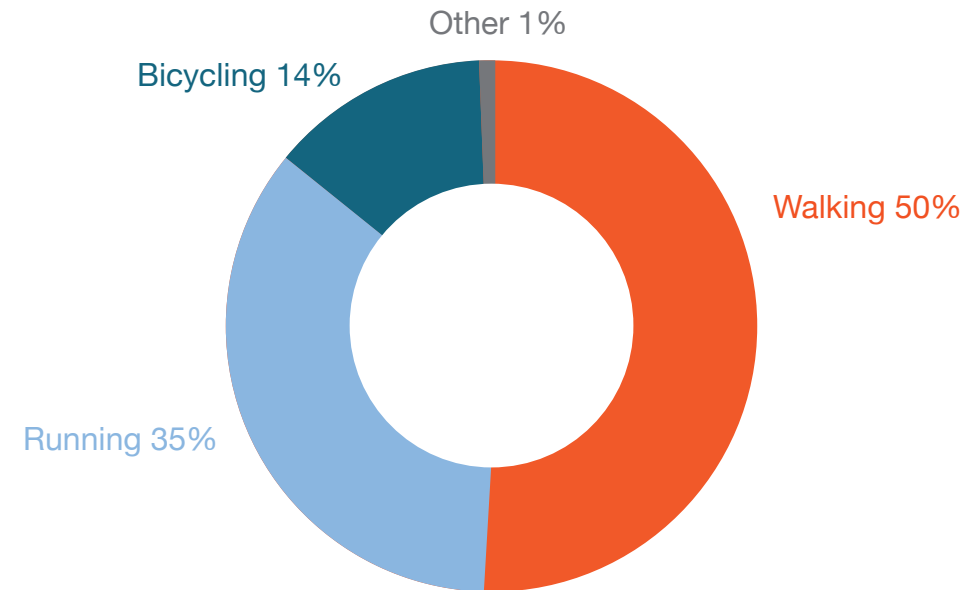
155  
submissions



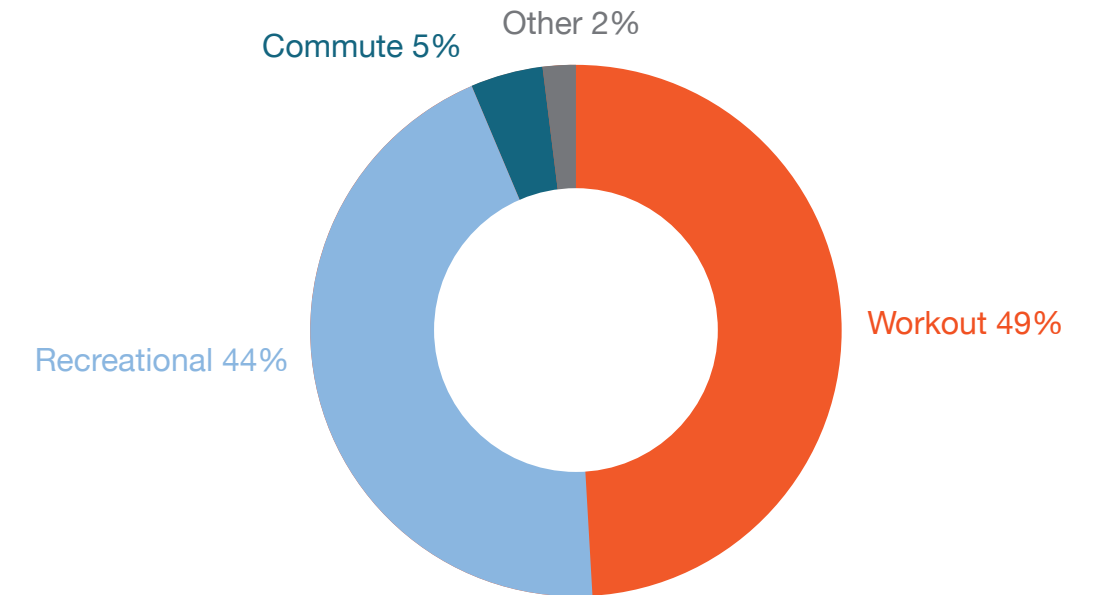
## How frequently do you use the trail?



## What is your primary mode of use along the trail?

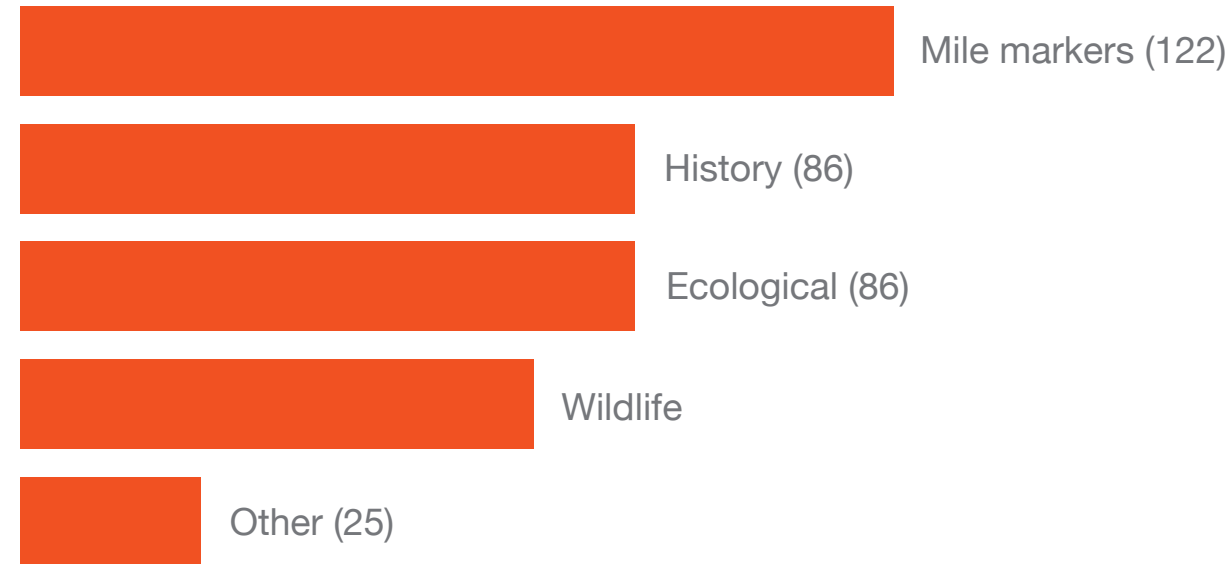


## What is your primary purpose for using the trail?



# Survey

## What kind of informational signage would be useful?

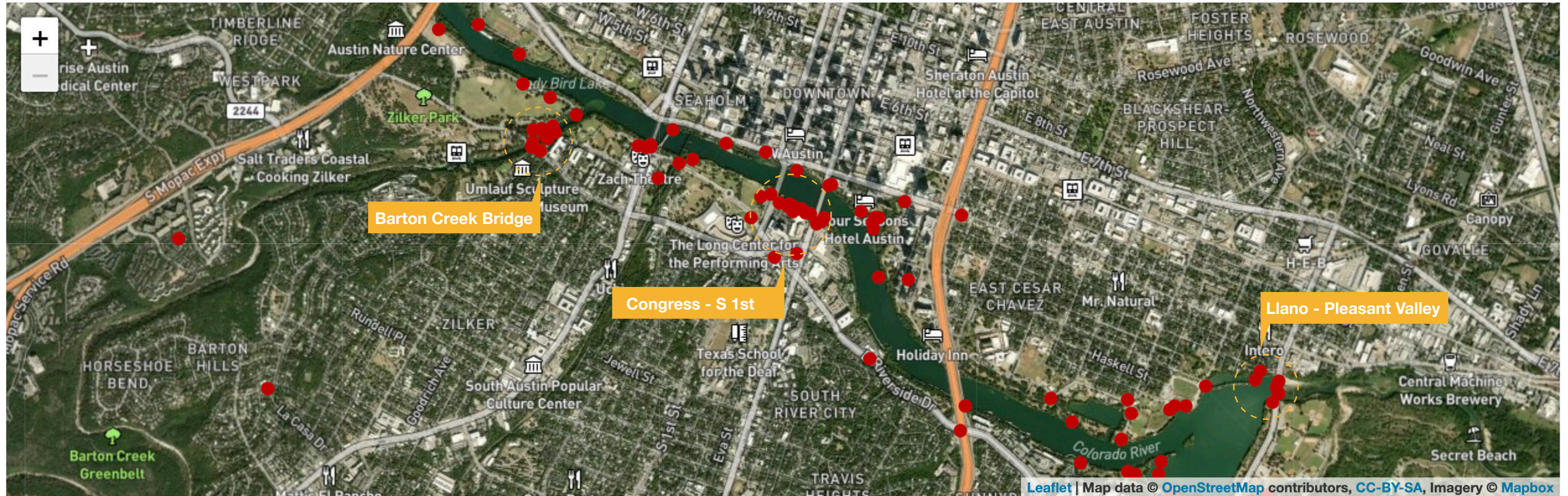


### Other:

- Lockers, pool, major bus stops, the shuttle drop off, parking
- As little as possible!
- Bathroom
- Better way finding for visitors
- Direction
- Directional maps
- Electric bikes are now motorcycles. They should be banned from the trail. Dogs need to Be on leash and under control everywhere.
- Events
- General orientation wayfinding
- History should include enviromental justice and neighborhood history
- I prefer mile markers for walking but less signed the better
- Key points of interest and connections and relative distance to them - ie: UT, Rainey Street, the Capitol, Barton Springs
- Like seeing signs identifying types of trees, plants, etc.
- Maps!
- Maybe better quarter or tenth mile markers
- Minimal signage
- Motor Vehicles
- Nearby streets businesses
- No signage please!
- None. We do not need the clutter of signs on the trail
- Para sacar vehículos con motor
- Plant identification
- Points of interest
- Points of Interest Directional Markers
- Recycling bins
- Rules of the trail - scooters and taking up too much space walking in a large group
- Safety, bike speed, dog leashes
- Speed - someone is going to be killed by a bike
- Speed limit & etiquette
- Speed limit for bikes! Rules of the trail! Emergency beacons!
- Walk two abreast
- Way signs @ Zilker and Barton creek intersections— Omer ther Barton creek bridge. Many Lost tourists
- Where to find paddle place

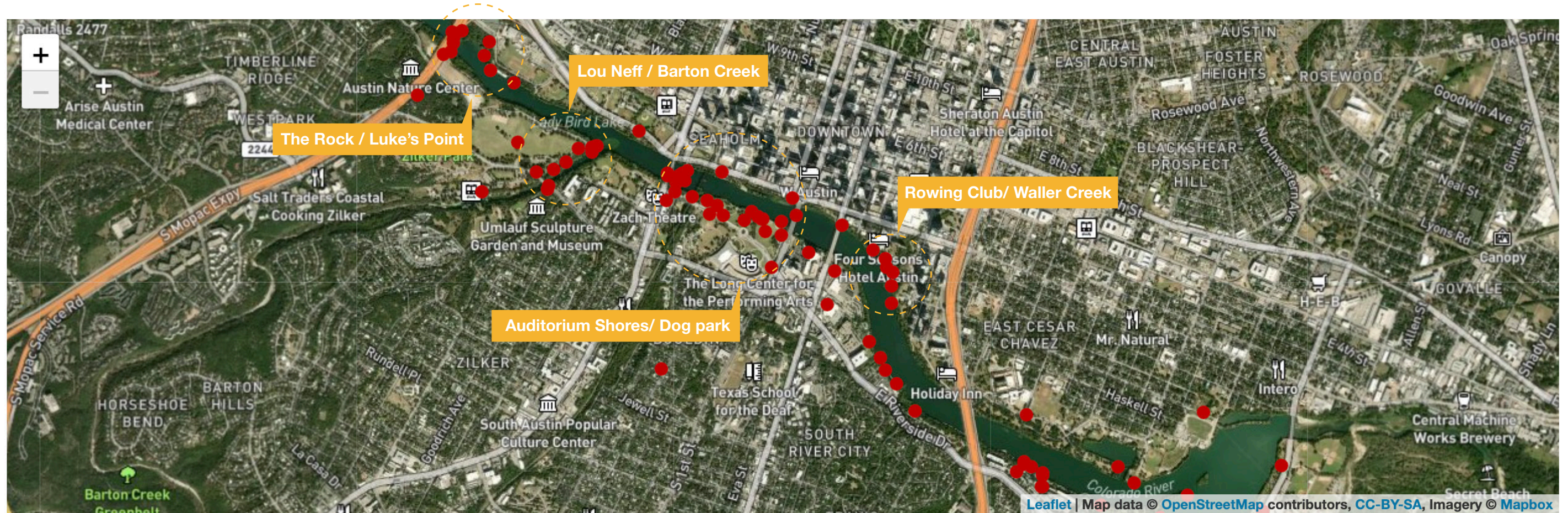
# Survey

Identify up to three areas along the trail that are most difficult to navigate.



# Survey

Identify your three favorite points of interest along the trail.



# Survey

Identify the main places you need to navigate to from the trail.

