

PASADENA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

CITY OF PASADENA PARKS & RECREATION, PLANNING DEPARTMENT, PUBLIC WORKS

HOUSTON PARKS BOARD

CLARK CONDON 06.01.21

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01 VINCE BAYOU GREENWAY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Vince Bayou Greenway is imagined as a 13-mile contiguous shared-use trail along Pasadena's Vince Bayou. Recent planning efforts have identified a 3.7-mile shared-use trail opportunity connecting Memorial Park to Strawberry Park along Vince Bayou. The Pasadena Livable Centers Study (PLCS) and Pasadena Healthy Parks Plan (PHPP), approved by Pasadena City Council in 2021 and 2020 respectively, both identified Vince Bayou Greenway as a priority project. PHPP identified the area as a priority for parks and trails based on the potential of added parks to increase the socioeconomic, environmental, and community health of the area. Parks and green space have the potential to reduce levels of stress, increase social cohesion, and encourage physical activity thereby improving people's health. Green space, particularly tree canopies, can reduce air and noise pollution, and protect residents from extreme heat events.

Parks and green spaces are particularly important to socially vulnerable neighborhoods. These neighborhoods have indicators such as low-to-moderate income. Residents of these areas are likely to have fewer resources and safety nets such as health insurance, savings, and transportation means. This makes it harder for them to recover after disasters. As cited above, parks provide a low- to no-cost method of stress relief, can improve mental and physical health, and encourage community cohesion.

PLCS identified Vince Bayou Greenway as part of an urban trail network that would provide safe pedestrian and bicycle

connections between parks, schools, homes, and job centers.

BAYOU GREENWAY

A bayou greenway is more than a trail. By opening up green space along existing waterways, bayou greenways create linear parks that provide access to nature while also creating connections between destinations. Much like Bayou Greenways 2020 managed by Houston Parks Board within the City of Houston, Vince Bayou Greenway would improve regional connectivity and provide a backbone for a connected park system in the City of Pasadena.

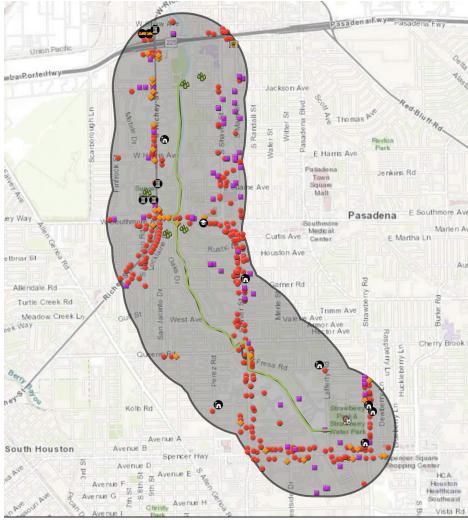
Photo of Brays Bayou Greenway in Houston by Anthony Rathbun

POPULATION SERVED

- 48,446 residents within adjacent census blocks
- 20% below the poverty line
- 66% low-to-moderate income
- 89% minority, 85% Hispanic

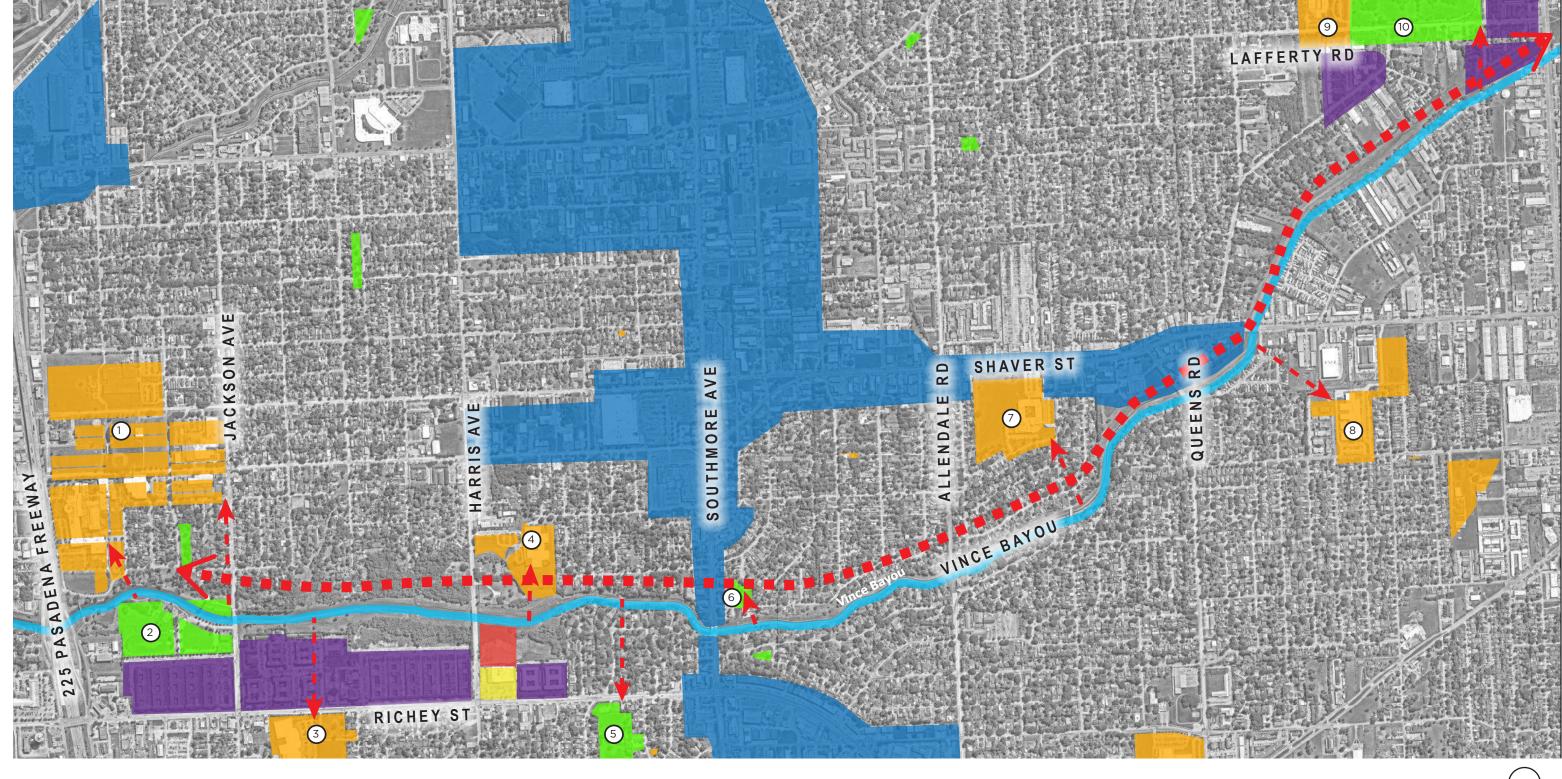
AREA CONNECTIVITY

The map below shows over 400 pedestrian-bicycle destinations within a 10-minute walk (0.5-mile buffer shown below). There are commercial (purple), retail (red), and restaurant (orange) locations, in addition to 16 educational, 24 public and institutional, and 6 parks and recreation areas.



Area Connectivity information from H-GAC ACE Tool

PROJECT EXTENTS: MEMORIAL PARK TO STRAWBERRY PARK





- PASADENA HIGH SCHOOL
- (2) MEMORIAL PARK
- (3) RICHEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- 4 FELIX MORALES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- 5 SUNSET PARK

- (6) PASADENA HIGHLANDS PARK
- 7 SOUTH SHAVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- 8 L.F. SMITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- 9 STRAWBERRY PARK
- 10 BAILEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PROPOSED PROJECT SUMMARY

Recognizing the potential of this project for the area, the Pasadena Economic Development Corporation collaborated with the City of Pasadena and engaged Houston Parks Board to assess the feasibility of the greenway. The Houston Parks Board, working with landscape architecture firm Clark Condon, were charged with identifying the project opportunities and constraints, soliciting community feedback, and developing a phased implementation strategy.

The proposed trail alignment with phasing and an initial estimate of cost is provided on page 50 of this booklet. The team used our experience developing Bayou Greenways throughout the City of Houston and input from Harris County Flood Control District, the City of Pasadena and PEDC, a local steering committee, and community input to determine the proposed route. This route would require some land acquisition. If land acquisition is not possible, alternate routes along street right-of-ways in some portions may be necessary. More details on the project process, partners, and outreach can be found in section 02 - Project Background.

Along with the trail, the team proposes the following amenities which are indicated in section 03 - Proposed Trail Alignment, as well as the proposed alignment maps and existing conditions information.



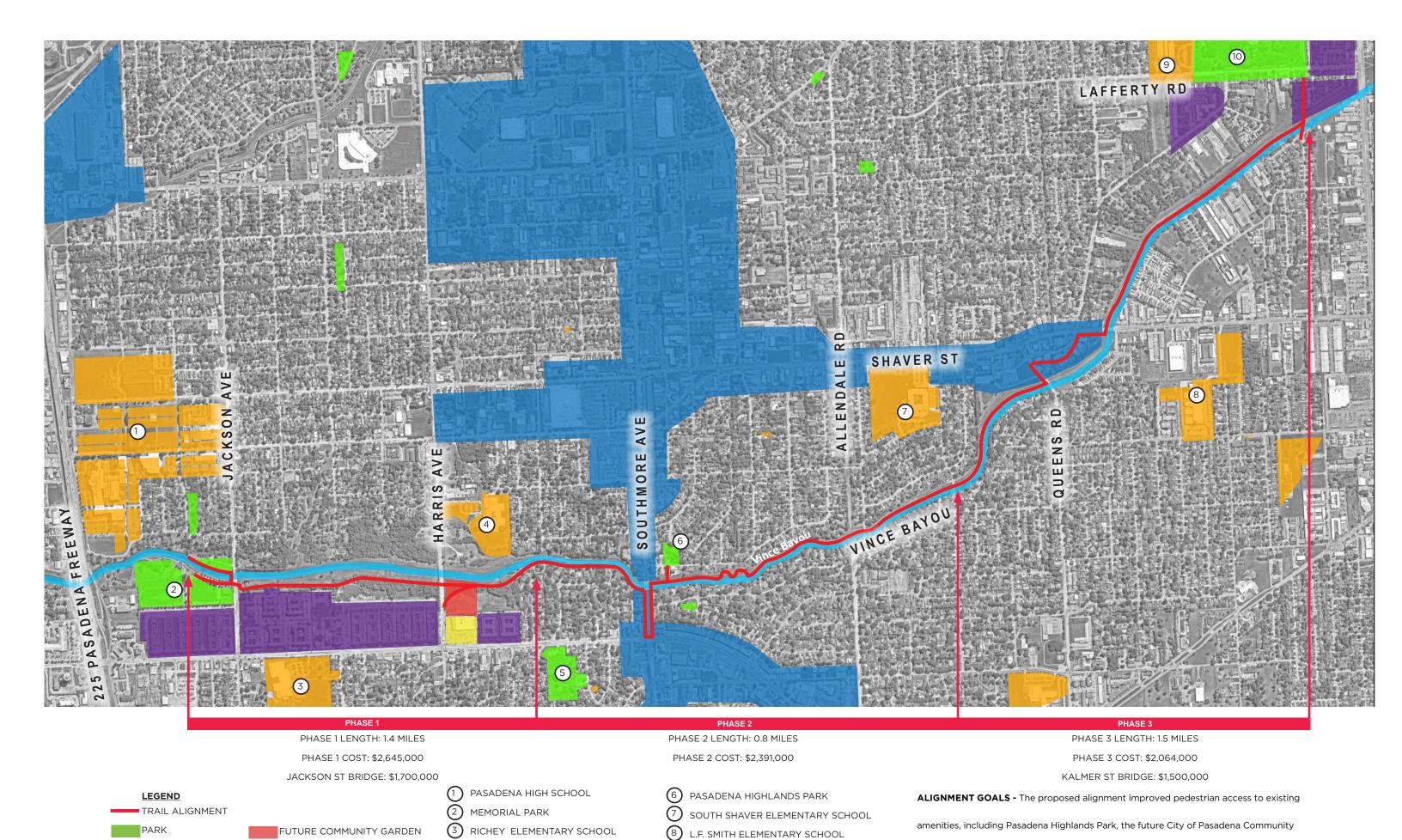
Proposed Trailhead

ROAD CROSSINGS - Five neighborhood road crossings with signage and striping. The trail would go under Harris Avenue. At the busier roads, Southmore Avenue and Shaver Street, the trail would cross at an existing traffic light.

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES - Two pedestrian bridges are proposed; one on the north end at Memorial Park, and one at the south end near Strawberry Park. These bridges are not essential to the trail connectivity and could be implemented at a later date.

TRAILHEADS - Seven trailheads are proposed. These areas with upgrades landscaping and amenities such as lighting, trash receptacles, and benches where the community can access the trail. They typically have parking nearby.

TRAIL AMENITIES - Along the trail signage, 911 markers / mile markers every 0.25 mile, and exercise stations are proposed.



9 STRAWBERRY PARK

10 BAILEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

4 FELIX MORALES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SUNSET PARK

SCHOOL

JOB CENTER

MULTI-FAMILY

GROCERY

Gardens, and seven nearby schools. The trail alignment seeks to provide a safe and

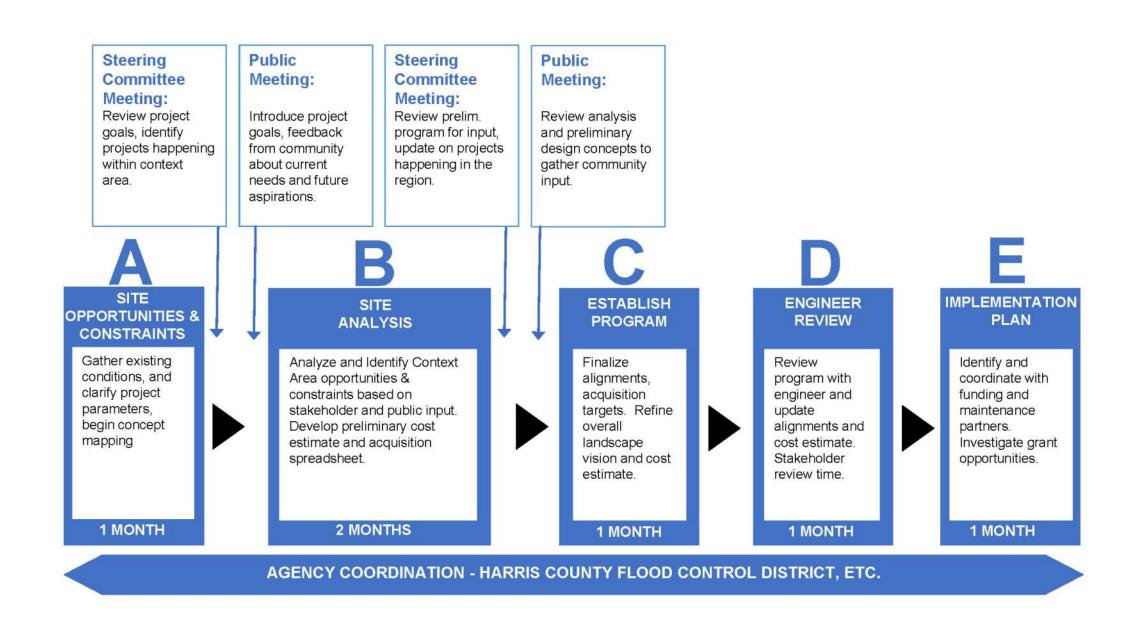
accessible greenway for users of all ages and abilities.



O2 VINCE BAYOU GREENWAY PROJECT BACKGROUND

PROJECT PROCESS

Beginning in December of 2020, the planning study occurred over a 6-month time period. Integrated into this process were a series of public meetings allowing the community to provide feedback at important milestones. The study included an in-depth analysis both of available data and the existing site conditions, which informed the proposed alignment. The final stages of the study incorporated a feasibility and engineer review to aide in defining budget and informing the implementation plan.



PROJECT TEAM AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

PROJECT FUNDER / CLIENT: Pasadena Economic Development Corporation (PEDC)

CITY PARTNERS: City of Pasadena Parks and Recreation, Planning Department, Public Works Department

PROJECT MANAGER: Houston Parks Board (HPB)

DESIGNER: Clark Condon





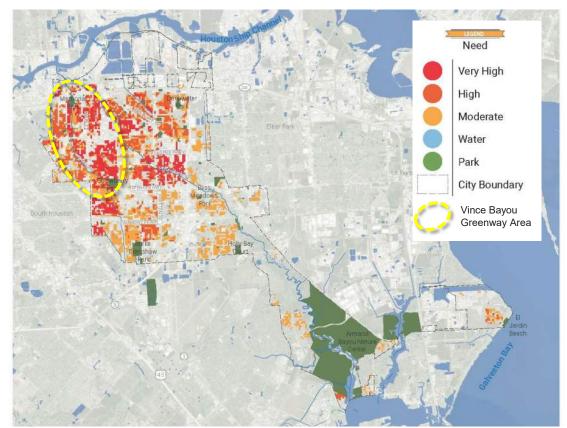


MEMBER GROUPS: Houston-Galveston Area Council, Harris County Precinct Two, Harris County Public Health and Built Environment Unit, Harris County Transit, Pasadena ISD, Pasadena Health Center, City of Pasadena Neighborhood Network Department, University of Texas MD Anderson, Food Town, Community Members



PREVIOUS STUDIES

The Pasadena Healthy Parks Plan and Pasadena Livable Centers Study helped influence the Vince Bayou Greenway alignment by providing insight into areas lacking park access, transportation issues, and community improvement recommendations.





Pasadena Healthy Parks Plan

Pasadena Livable Centers Study

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Vince Bayou programming study included an extensive public outreach program seeking to engage and capture the community's feedback. During the Pasadena Healthy Parks and the Pasadena Livable Centers Studies, the community voiced support for the proposed urban trail network. The new public outreach undertaken within this programming study furthered the discussion on the Vince Bayou Greenway by focusing on defining preferred amenities and the trail alignment. Outreach principles were established to help guide the process.

Transparency, accountability, empathy, and humility were critical components of this process.

At the beginning of the process, a key stakeholder group was identified to provide input on the proposed improvements. As part of this outreach, two community meetings were held to share findings, gauge public needs, and share the proposed alignment with the community. The polls, surveys, and public discussions of the proposed plans helped to guide the decision-making process. A summary of the poll results can be found on page 15.

Additionally, a Vince Bayou Walk and Bird Talk provided an opportunity to gather in-person public input. The popup event was hosted in Memorial Park to give park users an opportunity to visit various stations and discuss the proposed improvements. Positive feedback was gathered from all public outreach, and the community's desire for the Vince Bayou Trail was reaffirmed.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Population within adjacent census blocks:

- 48,446 population
- 13,859 households

GENERAL GOALS PER PUBLIC MEETING

- Outreach to households / residents goal of 140+
- Mailed postcard / outreach to general public goal of 500+
- Overall publicity and promotion community attendance at local events (depending on COVID-19)
- Social media presence via event page and targeted posts
- Attendance goal per meeting: 100 people, 50% community members



OUTREACH PRINCIPLES

- Transparency, accountability, empathy, and humility are critical
- Community members are experts on their own needs
- It is our responsibility to identify and reduce barriers to participation
- We need to acknowledge our own implicit biases and the limits of our cultural competency
- It is important to share decision-making and leadership
- We need to have (and set) flexible and realistic expectations
- Coalition-building, collaboration, and partnerships are key
- We must continually evaluate process and be willing to change course
- BIG PICTURE GOAL: Engagement should help empower community members to foster long-term park and green space stewardship

*Principles based on Pasadena Healthy Parks Plan by Amy Morris/Asakura Robinson/Houston Parks Board



Memorial Park Walk and Bird Talk Event by Houston Parks Board

OUTREACH EVENTS

- 2 Public Stakeholder Meetings
- 2 Public Meetings
- 1 Walk and Bird Talk Event

PUBLIC MEETING POLL RESULTS

Due to COVID-19 there were limitations for in-person public meetings. Two public meetings were held on a virtual platform to inform and solicit feedback from the community. One of the mechanisms for gathering feedback during the meetings was via poll questions. Poll questions focused on identifying potential use and preferred activities along the trail. See poll results for additional information. Community members also were also able to share their enthusiasm via the chat features.

"I currently ride the trail from Strawberry Park to

Crenshaw. Looking forward to this potential new trail."

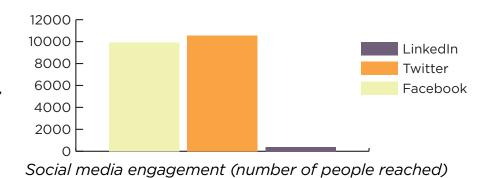
- Charles

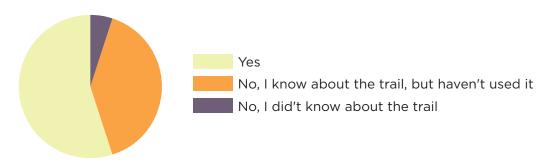
"I'm a resident that would like to see more greenway trail to jog, hike, and bike along."

- Tina

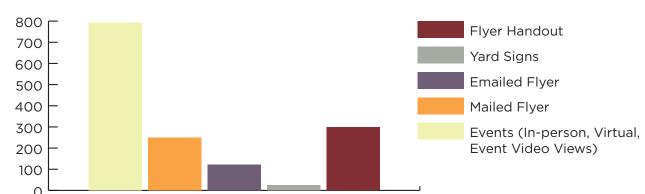
"We love to be able to participate in outdoor activities here in our city that we love so much."

- John and Becky

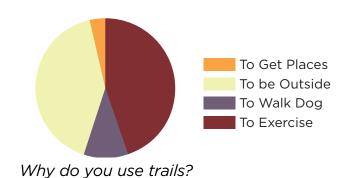


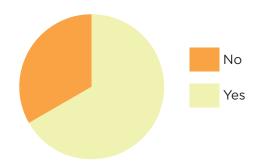




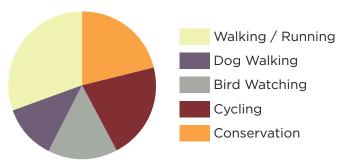


Community engagement methods (number of people reached)





Do you regularly use trails or parks?



What type of trail activities are you interested in?



O3 VINCE BAYOU GREENWAY PROPOSED TRAIL ALIGNMENT

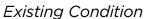
PROPOSED ALIGNMENT

As part of the programming study, an in-depth site analysis in conjunction with extensive data gathering defined the existing conditions and suitability of the site for a future trail. Existing site constraints, including slope failures, above-grade pipelines, high traffic volume streets, and existing utilities, impacted the trail alignment. The existing conditions of both sides of the bayou were evaluated as part of the programming process. The final proposed greenway extends along the west side of the bayou south from Memorial Park to Southmore Avenue where it switches to the east side of the bayou until

it connects to Strawberry Park. Along the greenway, proposed trailheads are strategically located to serve as gateways into the communities. Other amenities include benches, fitness stations, and trash receptacles. Due to low bridge clearances, the trail crosses several neighborhood streets at-grade, but these crossings are not signalized because of the lower speeds and light traffic volume. At busy streets, like Shaver Street and Southmore Avenue, the trail routes have signalized intersections to facilitate safe passage for trail users. The alignment improves pedestrian access to existing

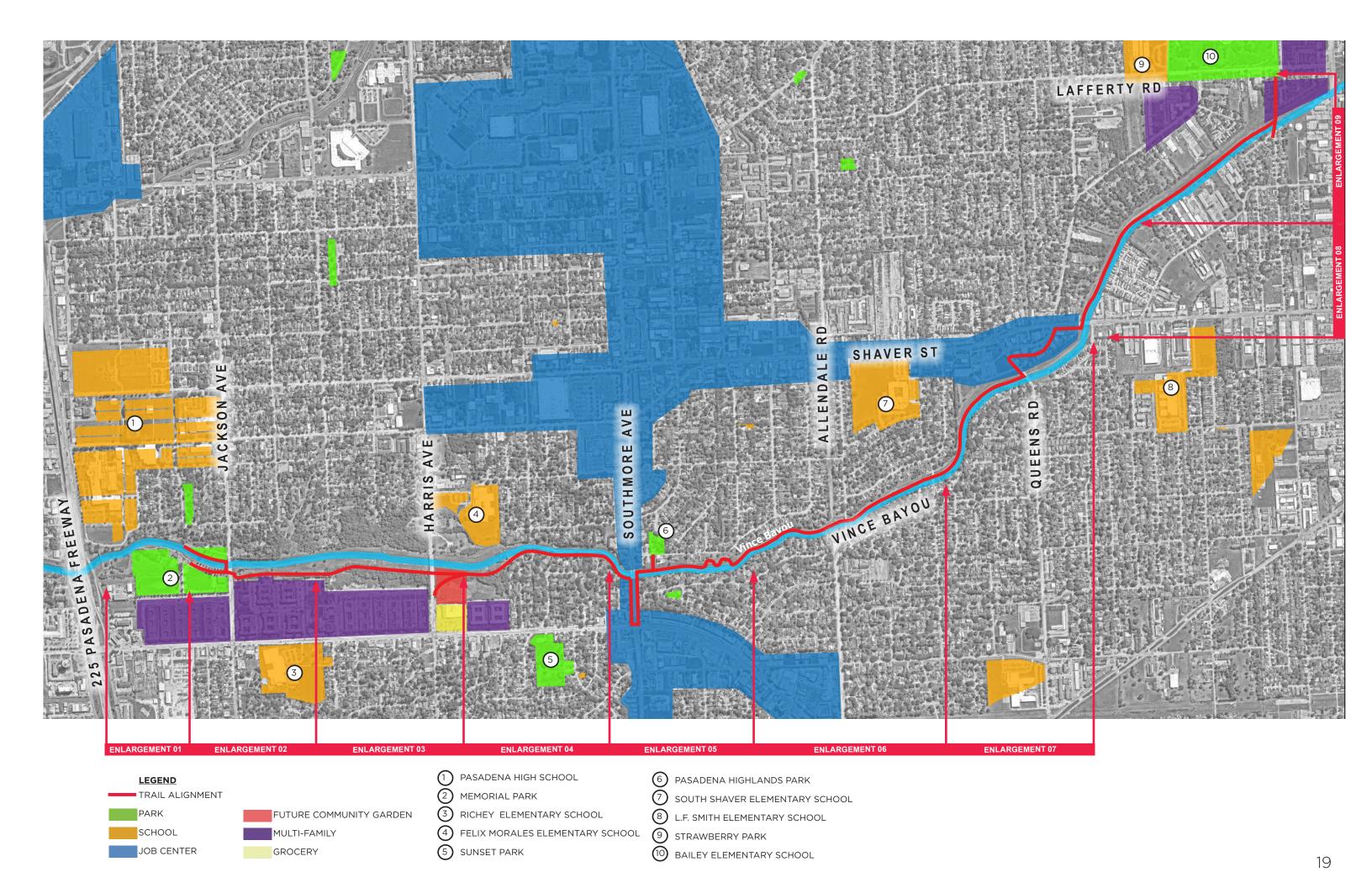
amenities, including Pasadena Highlands Park, the future City of Pasadena Community Gardens, and seven nearby schools. Mile markers and wayfinding signage will facilitate safety and inform trail users of their location along the greenway. The trail alignment seeks to provide a safe and accessible greenway for users of all ages and abilities.







Proposed Condition



ENLARGEMENT 01 MEMORIAL PARK / 225 PASADENA FREEWAY

- **1.1** Existing banks at Memorial Park show signs of erosion and slope failure along the east side of the bayou.
- **1.2** Existing pedestrian bridge to be utilized in proposed loop-trail through Memorial Park. Bridge design will set an aesthetic precedent for proposed bridges.
- **1.3** Existing banks at Memorial Park show signs of erosion and there is a drainage conflict on the east side of the bayou impacting trail alignment.









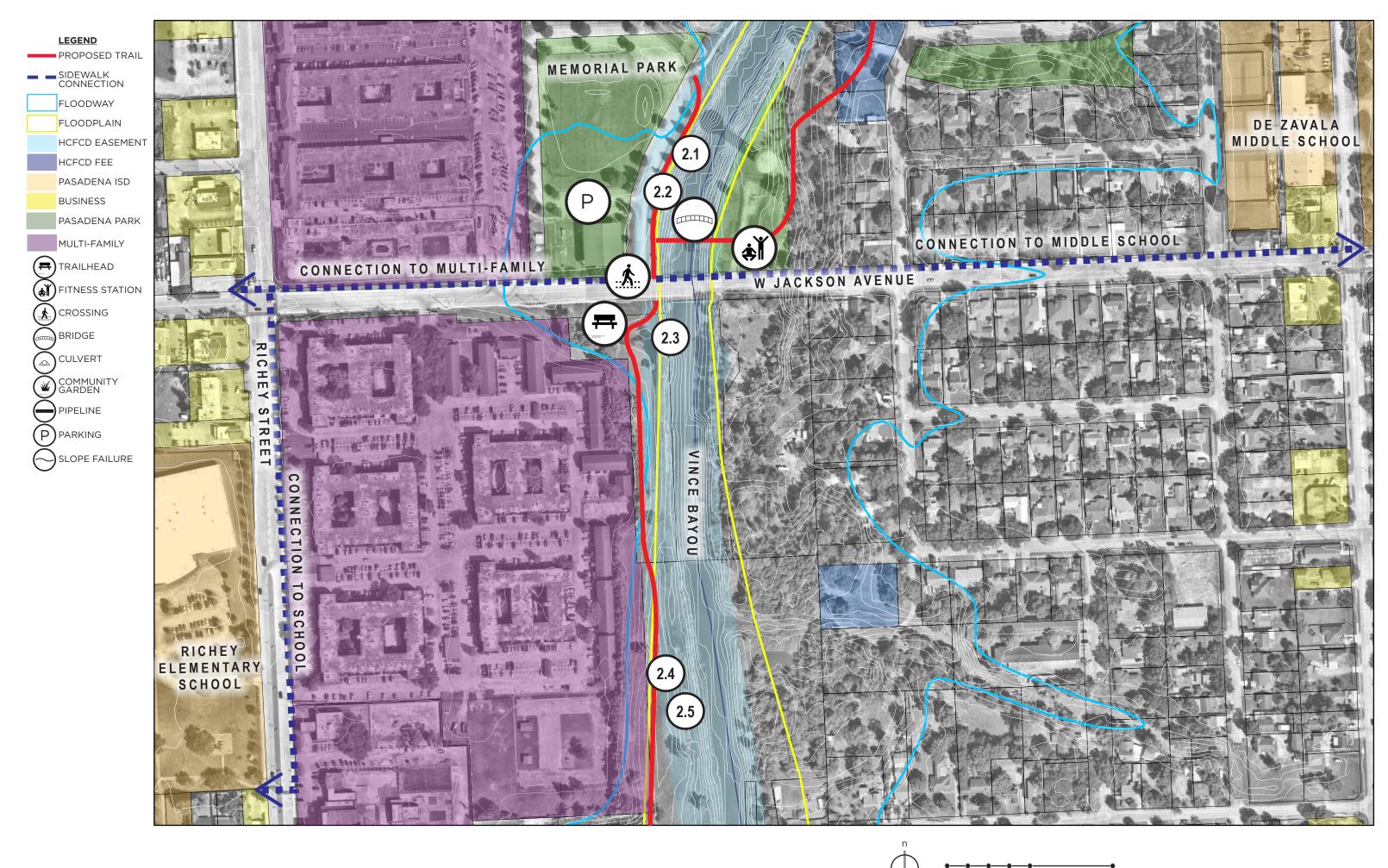
ENLARGEMENT 02 MEMORIAL PARK / JACKSON AVENUE

- 2.1 Proposed bridge will be adjacent to Jackson Avenue bridge.
 New bridge to be located in the shadow of existing bridge to minimize impact to water flow during flood events.
- **2.2** Existing swale and trees provide limited space for proposed trail. Modifications to existing swale are required to provide adequate space for the trail.
- 2.3 Proposed trailhead to be located at Jackson Avenue. Existing conditions are wet and retain water; therefore, trail alignment will take into consideration all existing drainage patterns.
- **2.4** Open floodway area provides ample space to locate trail, and can be benched into side of slope.
- **2.5** Bottom of floodway area is soggy, so the proposed trail will be benched into side of slope to avoid wet conditions.









ENLARGEMENT 03 HARRIS AVENUE

- **3.1** Existing swale cuts through berm and will require a new outfall to address drainage and provide accessible space for the trail.
- **3.2** Existing berm is unsuitable for a trail. The design proposes acquisition of the property within the floodway.
- **3.3** The trail will route beneath Harris Avenue, and a spur will provide access to the community gardens and street.









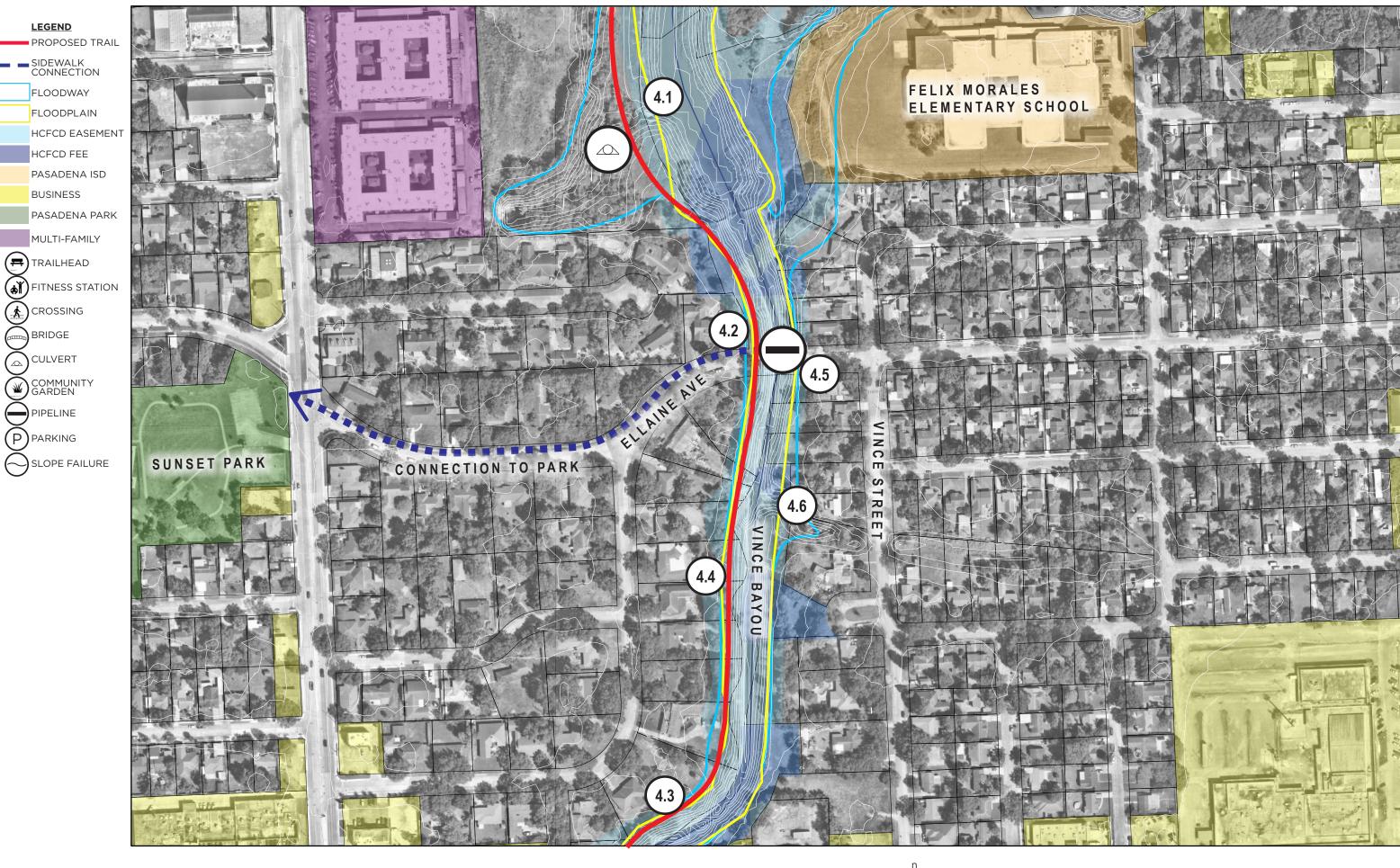
ENLARGEMENT 04 ELLAINE AVENUE

- **4.1** Deep tributary will require large culvert crossing in this area.
- **4.2** Existing pipeline limits trail alignment in this area; therefore, the trail was located on the west side of bayou where there is more room to navigate around pipeline.
- **4.3** Narrow conditions along bayou in this area do not provide adequate clearance for a 10' wide trail and grading. Trail in this area will need to be 8' wide.
- **4.4** Existing HCFCD access to bayou further hinders grading possibilities and limits trail width to 8'.
- **4.5** Existing flood monitoring station obstructs access, so the trail will be located on west side of bayou in this area.
- **4.6** Existing tributary outfall structure would require a large bridge crossing. Due to this, trail will be located on west side of bayou in this area.









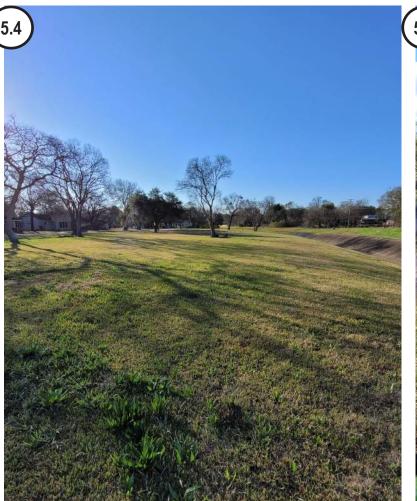
ENLARGEMENT 05 PASADENA HIGHLAND PARK SOUTHMORE AVENUE

- **5.1** This section of Southmore Avenue is accident-prone. The proposed alignment routes the trail to Richey Street where there is an existing signalized crosswalk for a safe crossing.
- **5.2** Southmore Avenue bridge is too low to provide adequate clearance under bridge; therefore, the trail will need to utilize street crossing in this area.
- **5.3** Consistent slope without back slope swale is the typical existing condition in this area. Due to these conditions, the trail will need to be benched into side of slope.
- **5.4** The proposed trail alignment routes through HCFCD lots maximizing use of the existing open space. Fitness stations and a trailhead are proposed in this area.
- 5.5 Homes along this stretch of Vince Bayou are close to the bayou. Acquisition of property within the HCFCD easement will be needed to provide adequate room for the trail, shoulders, and back slope swale.

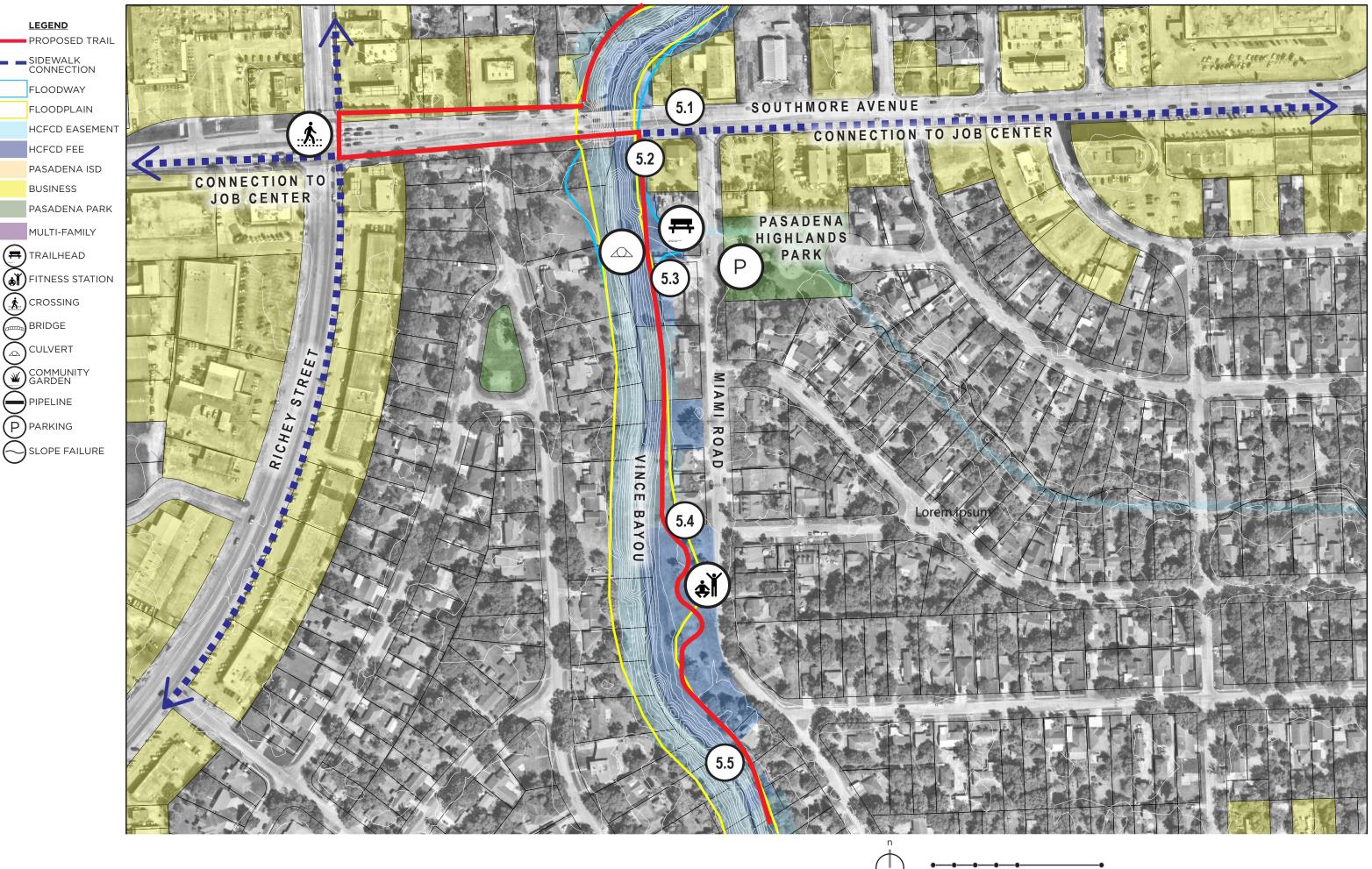












ENLARGEMENT 06 ALLENDALE ROAD

- **6.1** Existing drainage structures and pipelines will inform final trail location.
- 6.2 Inadequate clearance beneath Allendale Road bridge prevents an undercrossing. Vehicular traffic along neighborhood streets in this area are slow enough to provide safe mid-block crossings.
- **6.3** Narrow conditions between private property and bayou limits location of trail to top of existing berm. Regrading of existing back slope swale will be required to provide space for trail







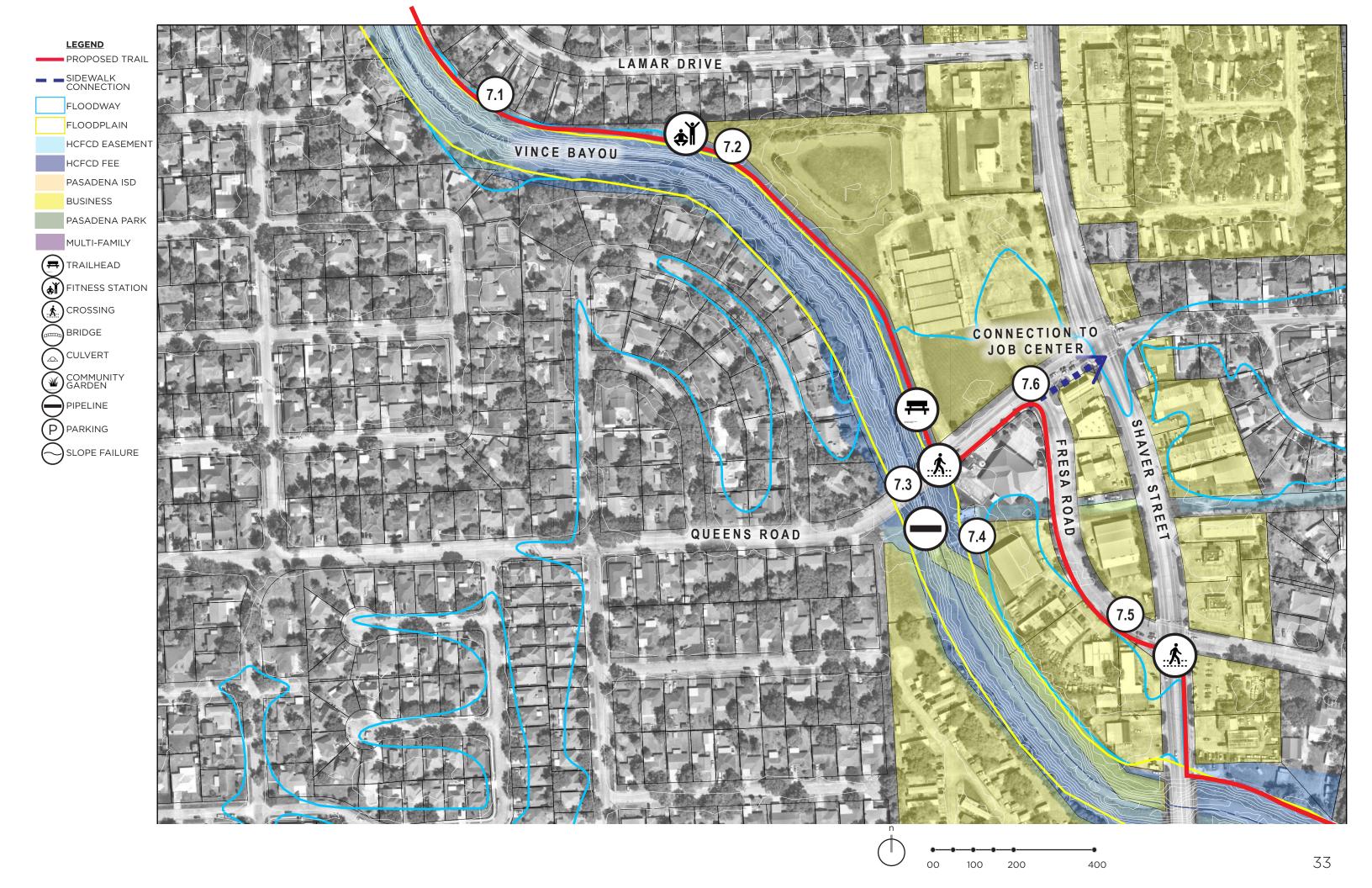
ENLARGEMENT 07 FRESA ROAD

- **7.1** Existing back slope swale and drainage structure limit location of trail to top of existing berm.
- **7.2** Open space within HCFCD easement provides opportunity for fitness station location.
- **7.3** Existing utilities behind fire station obstruct trail access in this area.
- **7.4** Existing pipeline infrastructure obstruct trail access along the bayou.
- **7.5** A widened sidewalk is proposed along Fresa in lieu of a trail route along the bayou.
- **7.6** Existing sidewalk along Queens Road and Fresa Street to be utilized as part of trail alignment. Trail to take advantage of existing signalized crossing at Fresa Street and Shaver Street.



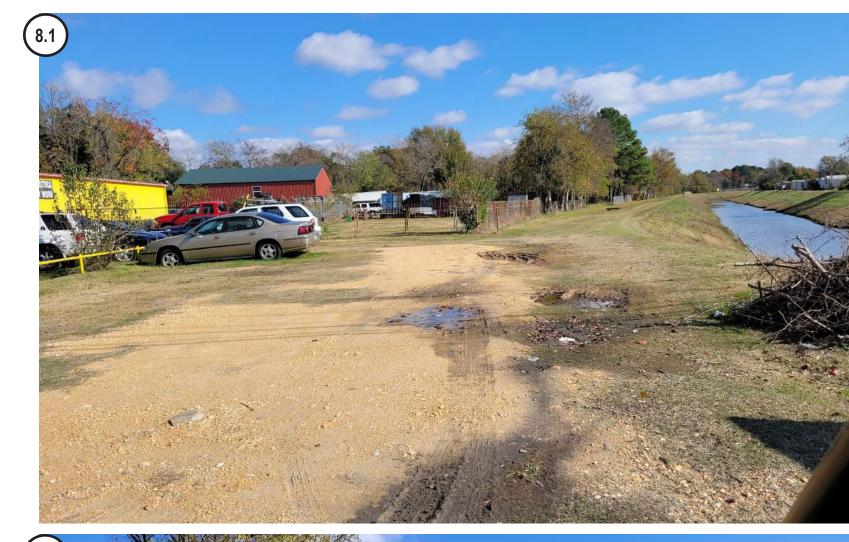






ENLARGEMENT 08 SHAVER STREET

- **8.1** A trailhead is proposed in this area within the existing HCFCD easement. At all street connections, bollards will block access of unauthorized vehicles on trail.
- **8.2** From Shaver Street to Strawberry Park, there is a wide existing berm.







ENLARGEMENT 09 STRAWBERRY PARK

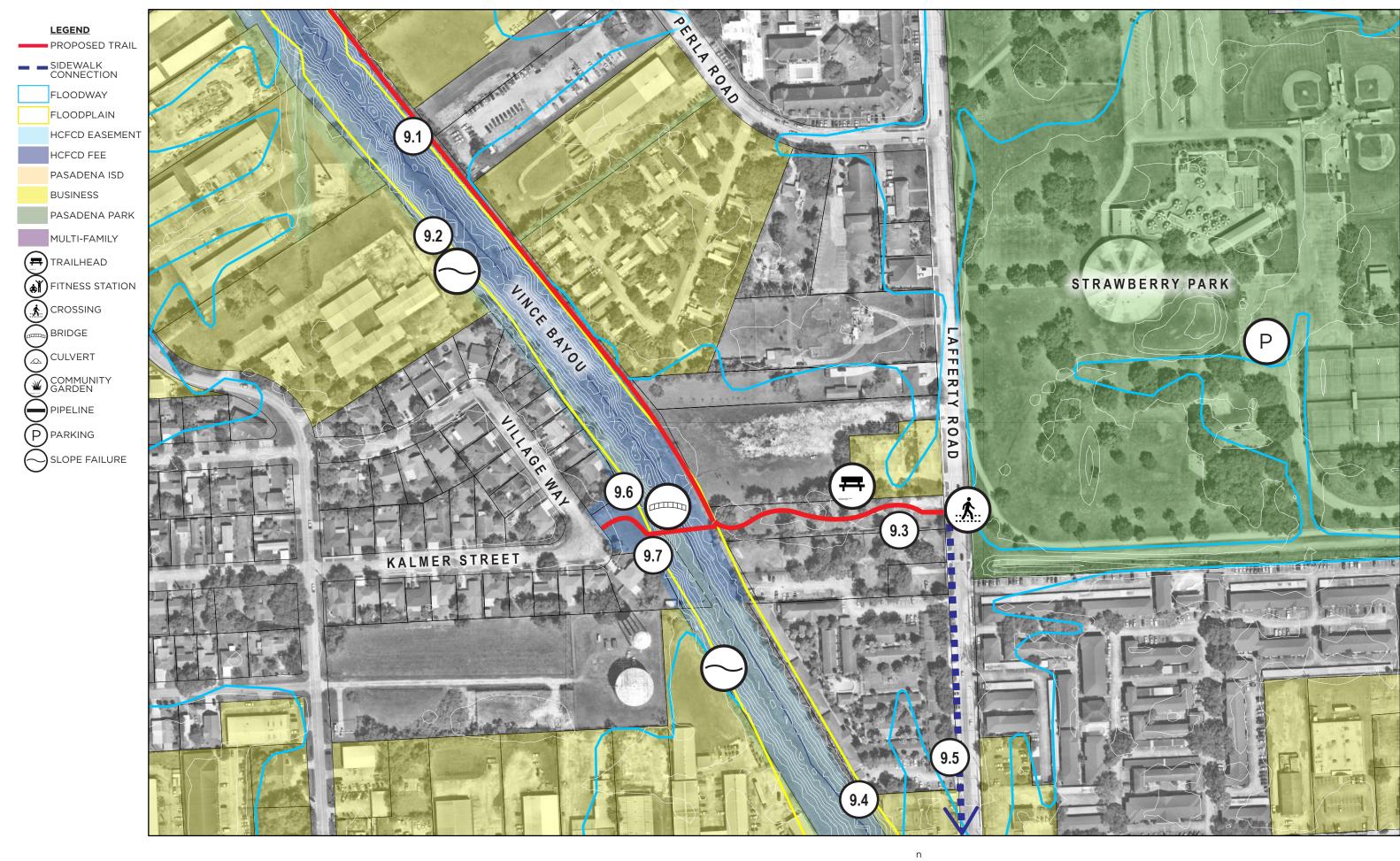
- **9.1** Several areas along the bayou have shallow, poorly draining back slope swales. Minor grading will be required to promote positive drainage.
- **9.2** Major slope failures on west side of bayou were taken into consideration in the trail alignment.
- 9.3 Existing vacant lot is recommended for acquisition. This lot provides access to Strawberry Park and existing trail along Lafferty Road.
- **9.4** A trail is not feasible in this area due to steep existing side slopes.
- **9.5** Existing sidewalk improvements and street crossings along Lafferty Road provide connection to existing greenway trail.
- **9.6** A proposed pedestrian bridge provides connectivity to the neighborhood west of the bayou.
- **9.7** Existing slope conditions limit HCFCD maintenance access in this area. Further coordination with HCFCD required during design to confirm maintenance access for this area.









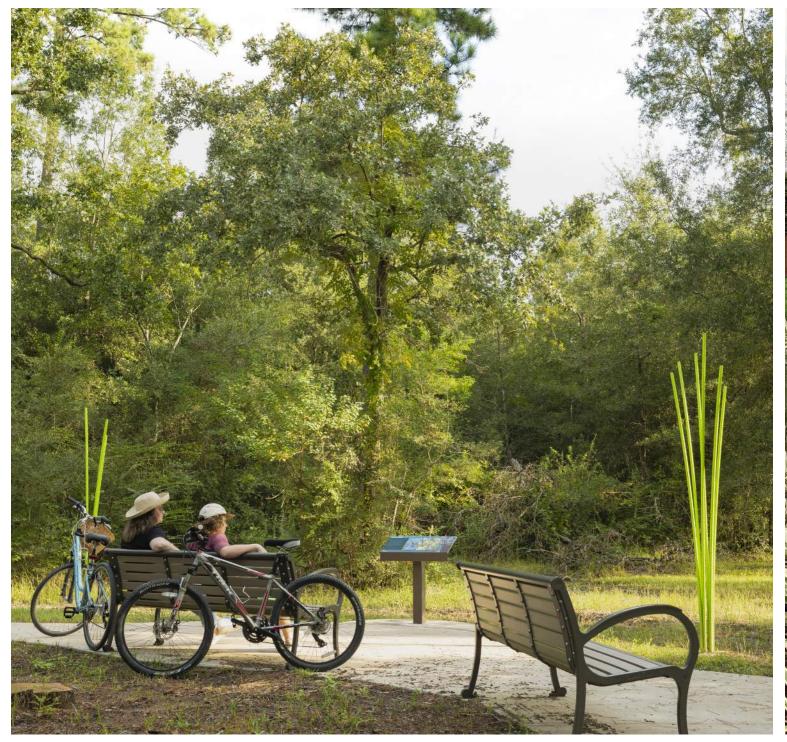




04 VINCE BAYOU GREENWAY PROPOSED AMENITIES

PRECEDENT IMAGERY

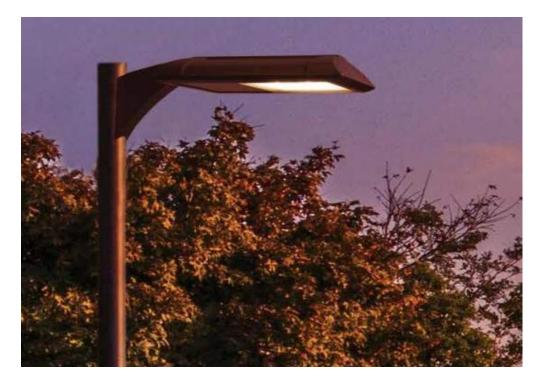
The following images present a precedent for the proposed trailhead and site amenities along Vince Bayou Greenway.





Typical trailhead condition

TRAILHEADS - Seven trailheads are proposed. These are areas with upgraded landscaping and amenities where the community can access the trail. They typically have parking nearby.











Typical trailhead amenities

TRAILHEAD AMENITIES - Typical trail amenities proposed include trash receptacles, dog waste stations, exercise stations, lighting, signage, and benches.



Typical bridge crossing

PEDESTRIAN-BICYCLE BRIDGES - Two pedestrian bridges are proposed, one on the north end at Memorial Park, and one at the south end near Strawberry Park. These bridges are not essential to the trail connectivity and could be implemented at a later date. Their design would be similar to the existing pedestrian-bicycle bridge in Memorial Park



Typical street crossing

ROAD CROSSINGS - Five neighborhood road crossings at West Jackson Avenue, Allendale Road, West Avenue, Queens Road, and Lafferty Road with signage and striping are proposed. The trail would go under Harris Avenue. At the busier roads where there is not enough room to do under the road - Southmore Avenue and Shaver Street - the trail would cross at an existing traffic light.











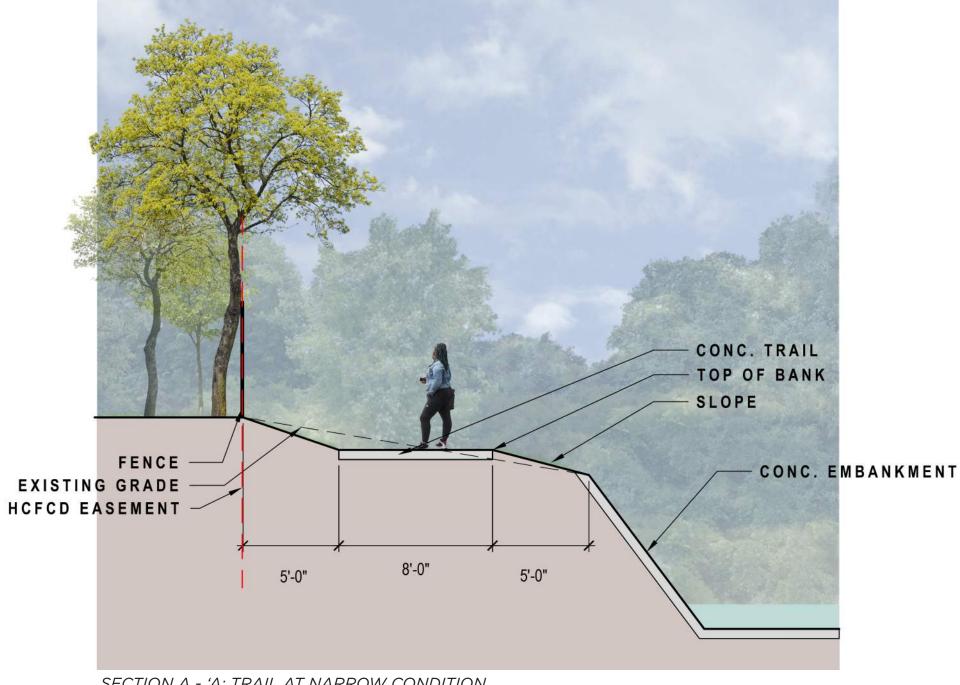
Typical signage

TYPICAL TRAIL AMENITIES - Safety, directional, and educational signage would be provided along the trail length. 911 / mile markers would be located every 0.25 miles. These would be coordinated with the local 911 system so that someone who calls with an emergency can give the mile marker letters and numbers and the 911 agency can relay the best intersection and access points to get to the person.

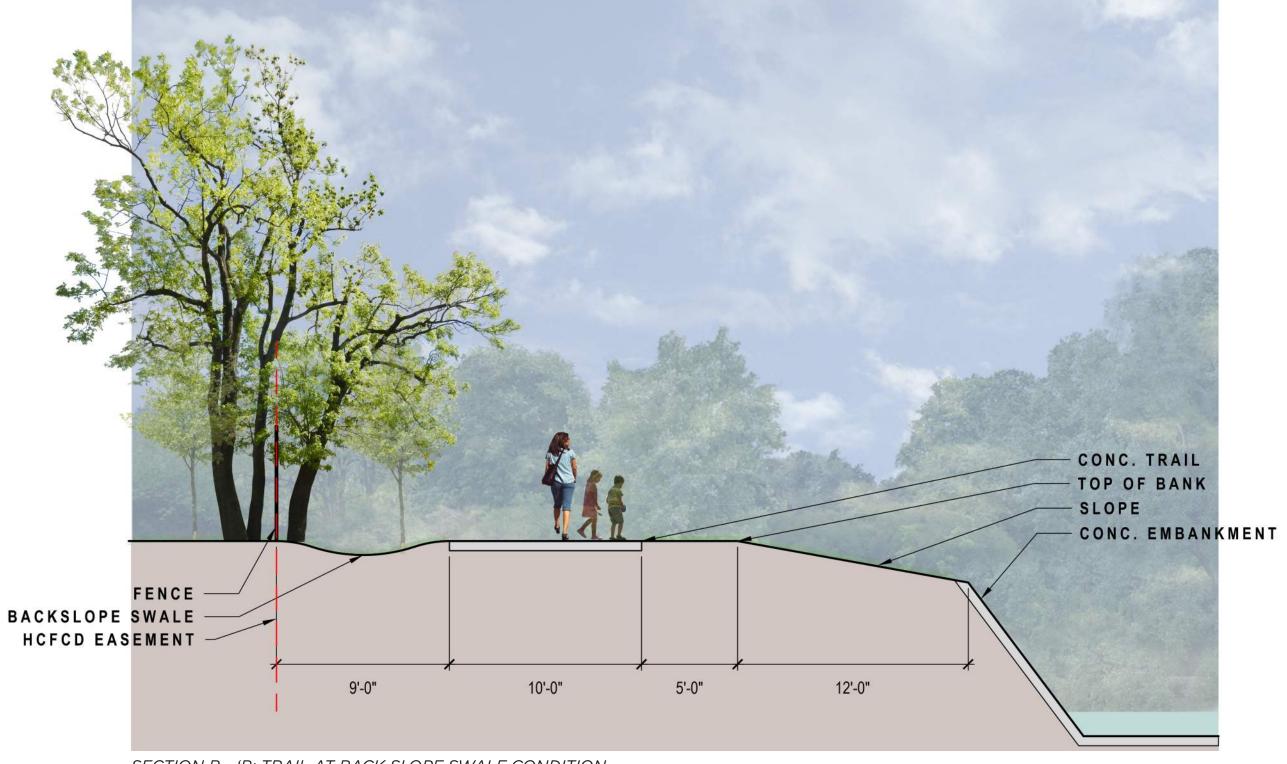
TYPICAL CONDITIONS

Along Vince Bayou, two predominant conditions exist, including narrow slope without back slope swale, and berm with back slope swale. Due to the nature of the narrow condition, portions of the trail that fall within this area will be 8'-0" wide to accommodate necessary grading along the trail. In areas with

berms and back slope swales, the conditions allow for the trail to be 10'-0" wide. Minor grading adjustments to the swales will need to be made in applicable areas.



SECTION A - 'A: TRAIL AT NARROW CONDITION



SECTION B - 'B: TRAIL AT BACK SLOPE SWALE CONDITION



Proposed Trail



Proposed Trailhead

O5 VINCE BAYOU GREENWAY PROPOSED PHASING AND IMPLEMENTATION



PROJECT PHASING AND IMPLEMENTATION

An estimated cost of construction, design and acquisition was developed for budget and planning purposes. The estimate is based on current construction dollars and does not account for inflation. Considering acquisition, connectivity and complexity of construction, the project was divided into three phases.

Additionally, the two bridges were priced as separate items.

The construction of a bridge at Jackson St. would provide a pedestrian loop within the park, however, the existing sidewalk along the vehicular Jackson St. bridge provides an interim path.

The bridge at Kalmer St. would improve pedestrian connectivity between the east and west side of the bayou. However, the structure is costly due to the required flood mitigation. This structure could be added in the future as a separate project when funds are available. The estimated cost of the two bridges is \$1,840,000 and \$1,620,000 respectively.

The overall project budget including the construction of both trail and bridges, design and acquisition is \$11,080,000.

Design and construction of the project will require a multi-year approach. Grant programs exist at the federal, state, and local level to fund greenway projects. Through the use of grants like the EPA Environmental Justice Small Grants Program, alternative funding sources could contribute to meeting the funding goals. Through both intercity partnerships and by leveraging regional partnerships, this project can be brought to fruition.





Typical trail construction

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