

Proposed Amendment to the City-Wide Trails Plan

Planning and Zoning Commission
June 23, 2015

Comprehensive Plan 2010

Sustainable Community Recommendations

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Goal: Walking and Cycling are Encouraged throughout the Community

- Identify trail connections for neighborhoods, parks, and schools utilizing creeks
- Incorporate pedestrian and cycling facilities in new and upgraded roads
- Encourage developers to incorporate pedestrian facilities in new neighborhoods

Sustainable Places Project – December 2013

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- Key Themes from Community Input:
 - ▣ Need to have ways of moving around town that do not rely on US 290 and RR 12
 - ▣ Slow down traffic along US 290 and make it easier for pedestrians and cyclists to cross
 - ▣ Creeks and drainage areas need to be protected and enhanced as open space with trails
 - ▣ Develop a connected system of off-street hike and bike trails, including along creeks

City-Wide Trails Plan - Resolution No. 2013-05

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- City Council Approval - October 9, 2012
- General concept plan for a multi-modal trail system
- Address options for mobility as described in the 2010 Comprehensive Plan



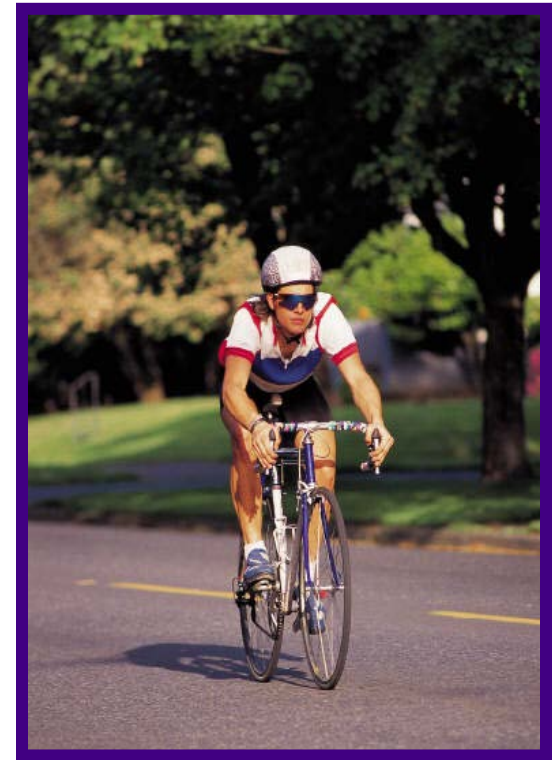
Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2014-2024

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Outdoor Recreational Facility Priorities:

High Priorities

1. Walking / Hiking / Biking Trails
2. Natural Areas and Open Space
3. Playscapes / Playgrounds
4. Water Playscape / Splash Pads



Dripping Springs is a Growing Community

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- ❑ Increasing residential development within the city limits
- ❑ Commercial and retail growth
- ❑ Restaurants – Full service and fast food
- ❑ Current infrastructure accommodates present population, but may have difficulty keeping up with growth
- ❑ Need for multi-modal transportation options other than vehicular traffic

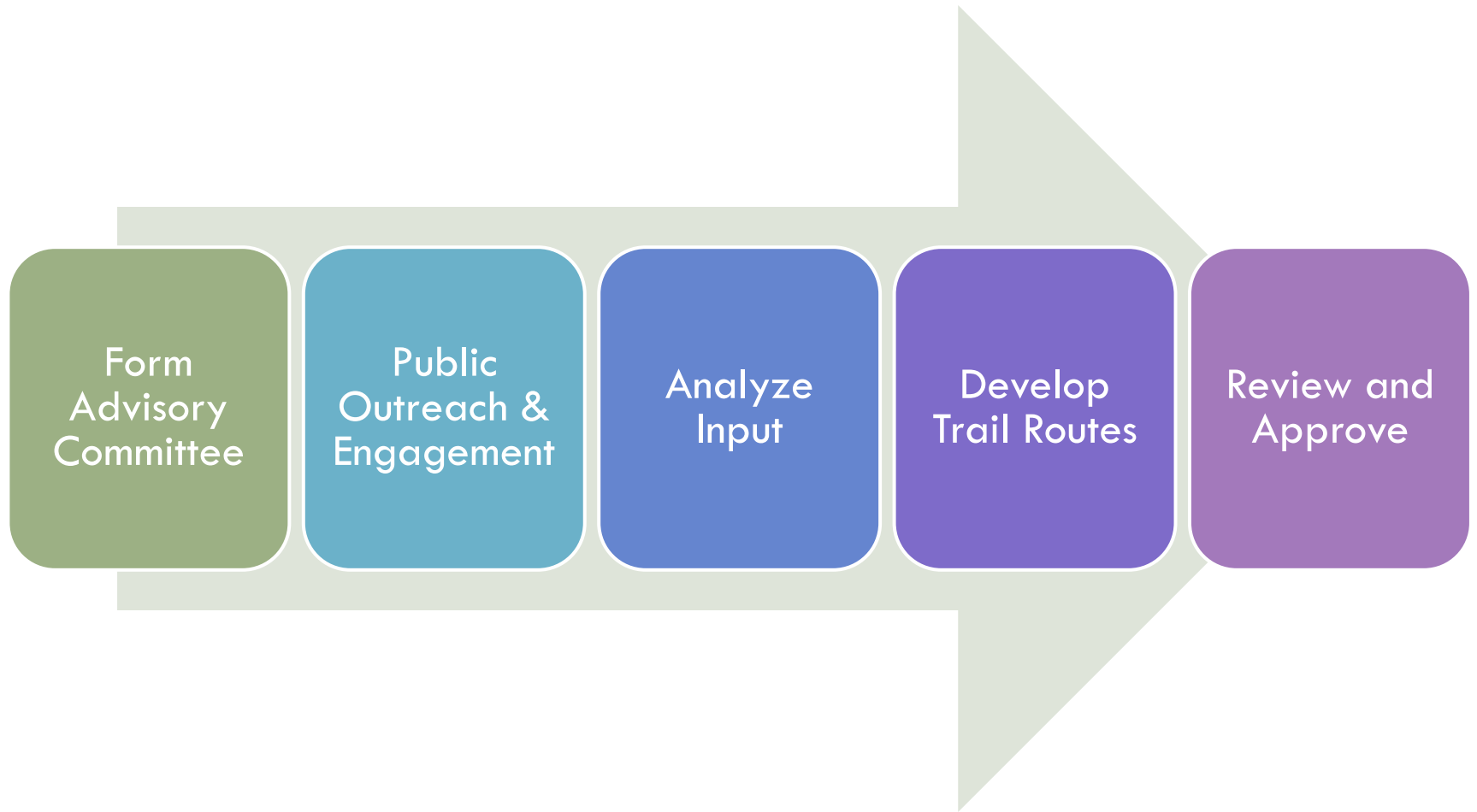
City-Wide Trail Plan Amendment

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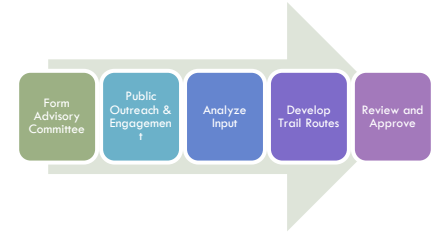
- As a result of ongoing growth and recent changes to the City's Transportation Plan and Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan:
 - An Amended City-Wide Trails Plan is essential to the development of a coherent, coordinated transportation infrastructure that is designed to promote multi-modal options and can provide an enhanced quality of life for Dripping Springs residents

Amendment Process for Plan

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Amendment Process for Plan



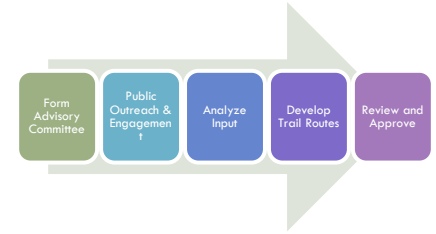
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□ Trails Plan Advisory Committee

- Goal: Develop an Advisory Committee that can speak for a broad cross-section of residents, business owners, trail users, and other stakeholders

- Vision:

We envision a world-class trail system that connects different areas within Dripping Springs' city limits and extra-territorial jurisdiction. This trail system will provide an interconnected network of routes that allow residents and visitors to walk, bike, run, or hike for both recreation and transportation. These routes will provide a variety of trail experiences—from paved multi-use paths to primitive hiking trails. They will connect to destinations beyond Dripping Springs and will take advantage of opportunities to reach the Violet Crown Trail or other regional trails or parks. Most importantly, the Dripping Springs Trails System will be welcoming and safe for all users, and will provide opportunities for all ages, abilities, and levels of mobility. We envision a trail system that will evolve over time to become one of Dripping Springs' greatest assets.

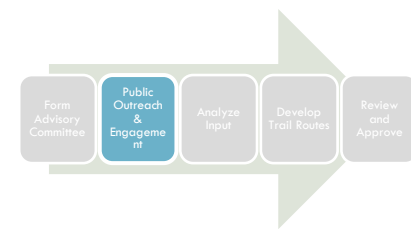


Amendment Process for Plan

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□ Public Engagement

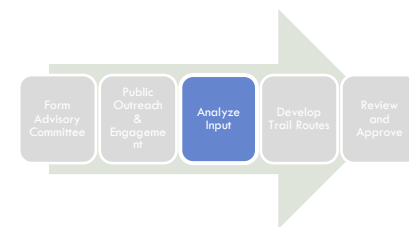
- Desire for a trail system in Dripping Springs was well established (Comprehensive Plan; Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan; etc.)
- Details of that desired trail system were not well established
- Goal of public engagement:
 - Identify where trails should go, what activities residents prefer, what trails should look like, potential concerns



Public Outreach & Engagement

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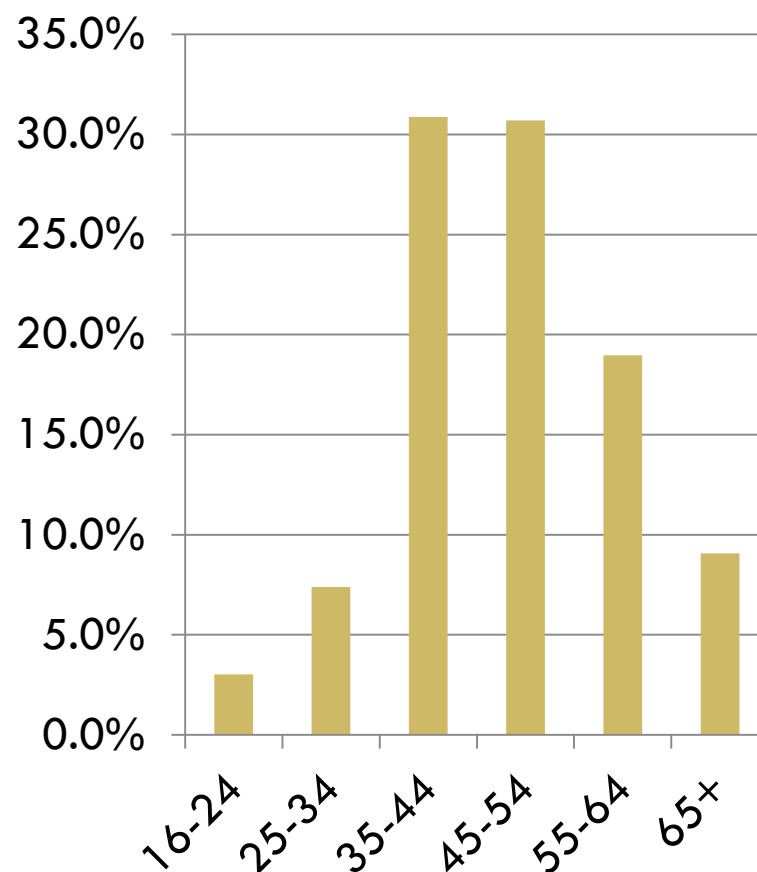
- Community Survey to Identify:
 - ▣ **Who** will be using a trail system
 - ▣ **What** activities they'd like to do
 - ▣ **Where** the trail system should go
 - ▣ **What** the trail system should look like

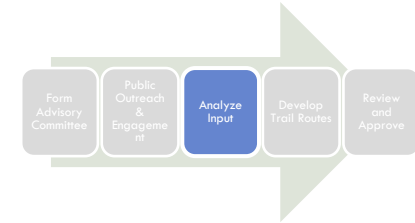


Analyze Input: Survey Results

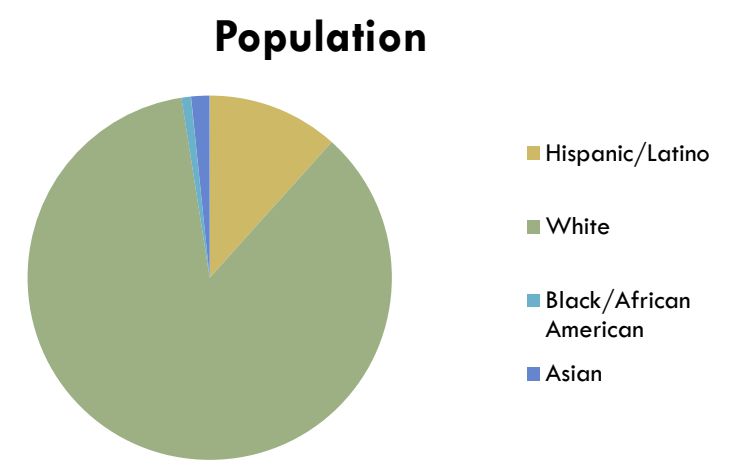
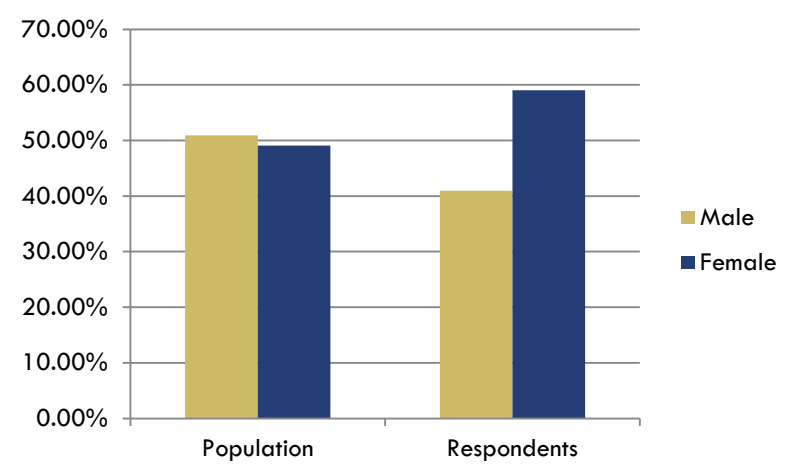
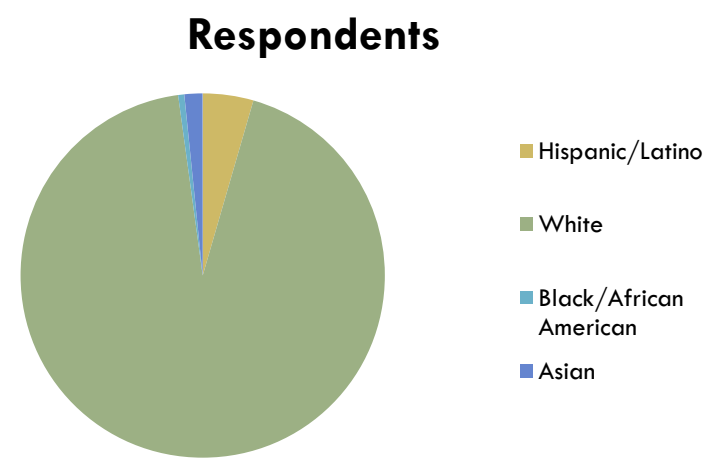
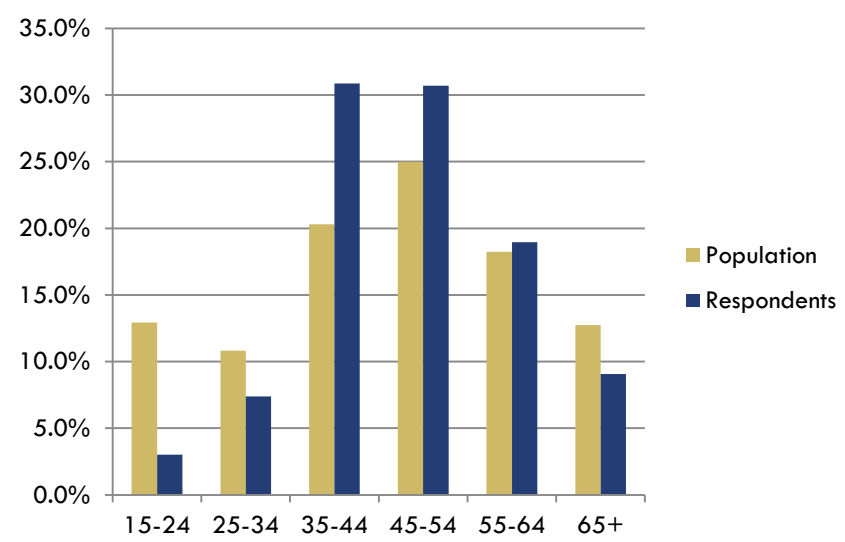
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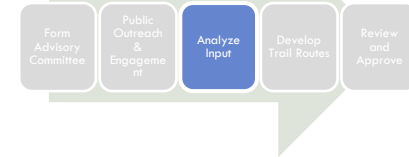
- **631 responses**
- **59% female, 41% male** (n=593)
- **93% White, 4.5% Hispanic/Latino, 1.5% Asian** (n=557)
- **64% ETJ resident, 22% city resident** (n=576)
- **63% have children living in their household** (n=591)
- **42% have lived in DS area for 11+ years** (n=527)





Survey Respondents Reflect Dripping Springs' Population

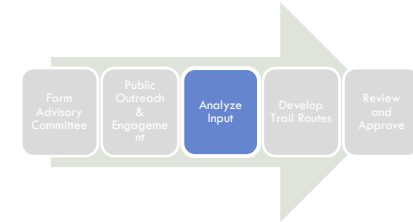




Input from City Residents

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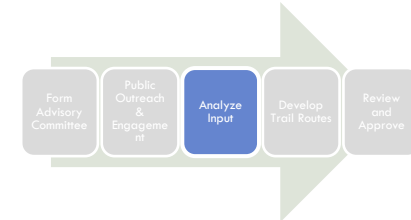
- Looking for a trail system that provides close-to-home recreation, exercise, and transportation options
 - ▣ **Close to home:** 55% would like a trail to be within walking or biking distance of their home
 - ▣ **Frequent users:** 60% would use a trail system a few times a week



Input from City Residents

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- Looking for a trail system that provides close-to-home recreation, exercise, and transportation options
 - ▣ **Recreation and transportation:** Would use the trails to walk, run, and/or bike
 - ▣ **Some amenities:** Looking for trash cans, trail markers, and public restrooms along the trails
 - ▣ **Concerns:** Concerns about high-conflict uses, safety, cost, and maintenance



Preferred Destinations

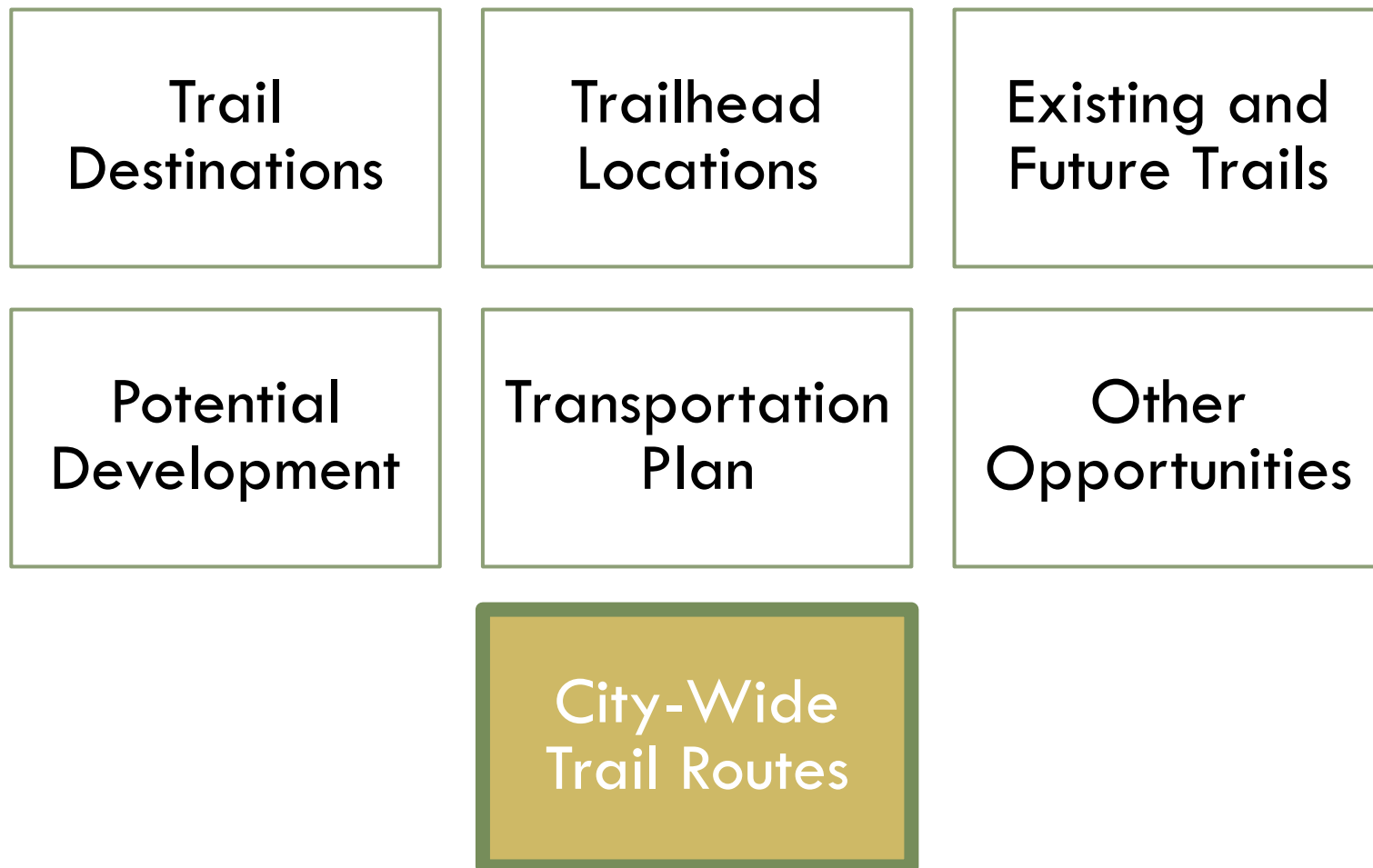
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TRAIL DESTINATIONS	
Name	# of occurrences
Mercer Street	146
Founders Memorial Park	131
Sports and Recreation Park	71
HEB	67
Downtown	48
Charro Ranch Park	41
Belterra Neighborhood	40
Schools	40
High School	38
Dripping Springs Ranch Park	34

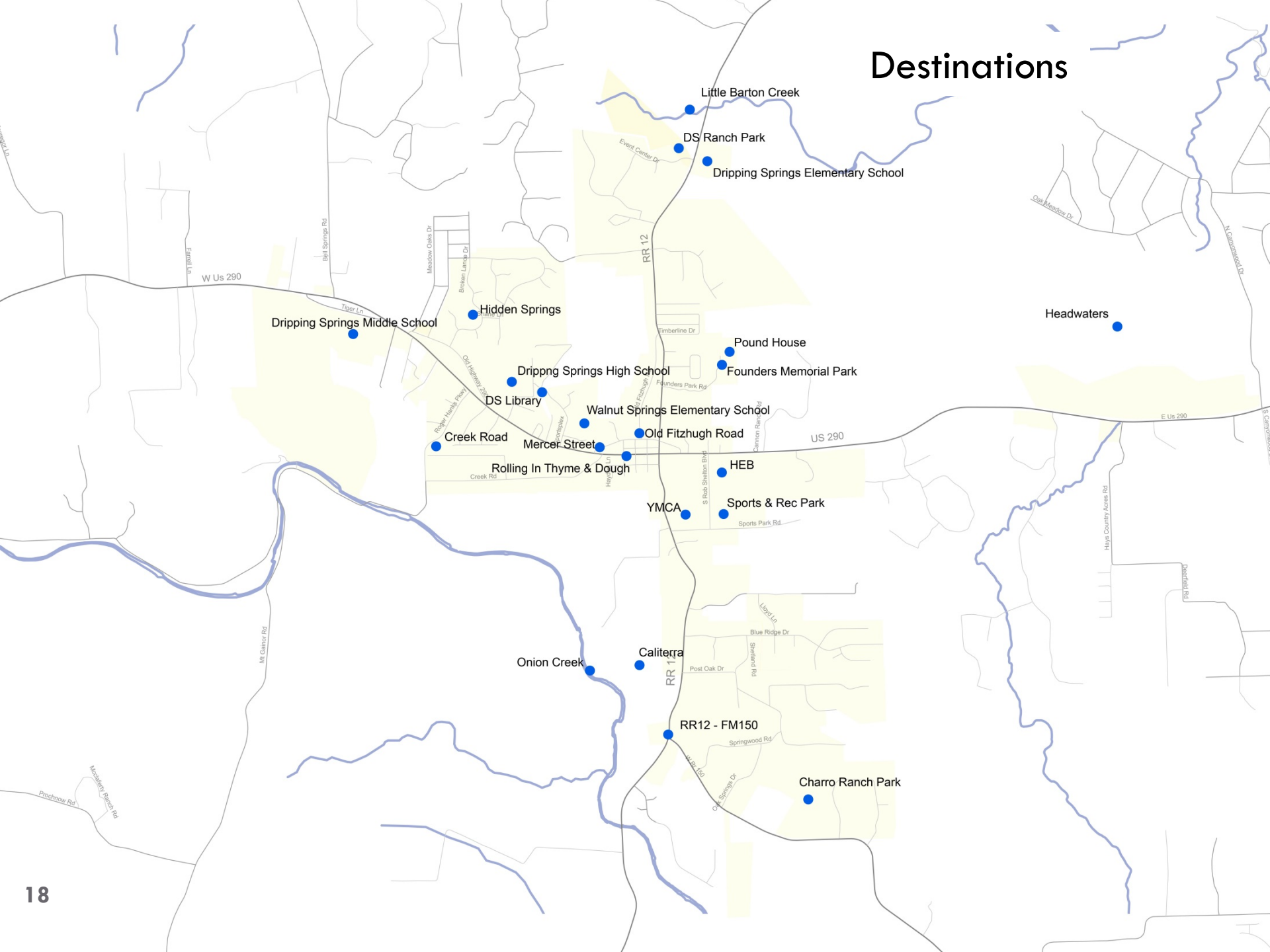
TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS
Name
Founders Memorial Park
Mercer Street
Dripping Springs Ranch Park
Belterra Neighborhood
Sport and Recreation Park
Sunset Canyon Neighborhood
Charro Ranch Park
Downtown
Sawyer Ranch Road
YMCA
Creek Road

Developing Trail Routes: Guidance

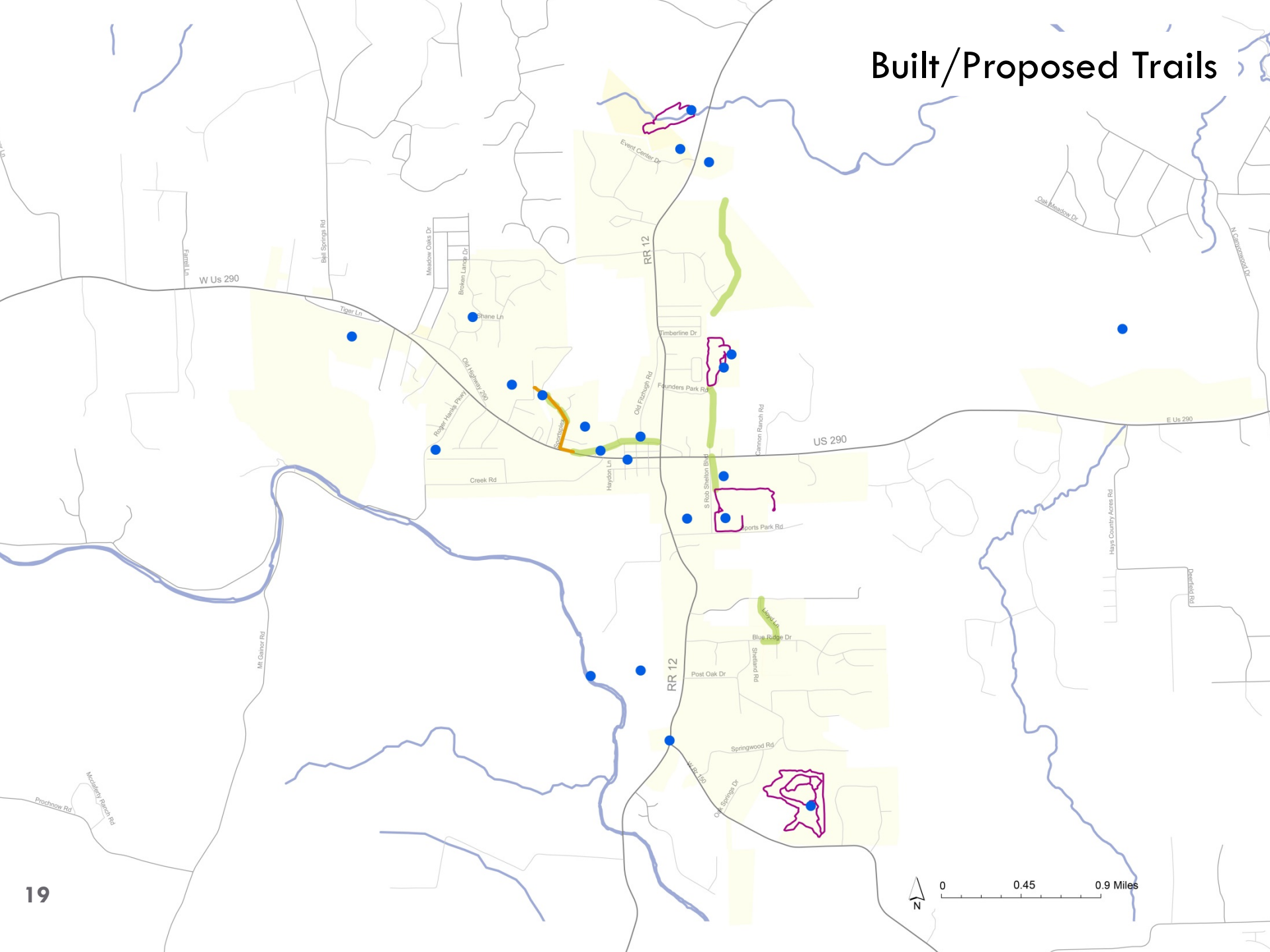
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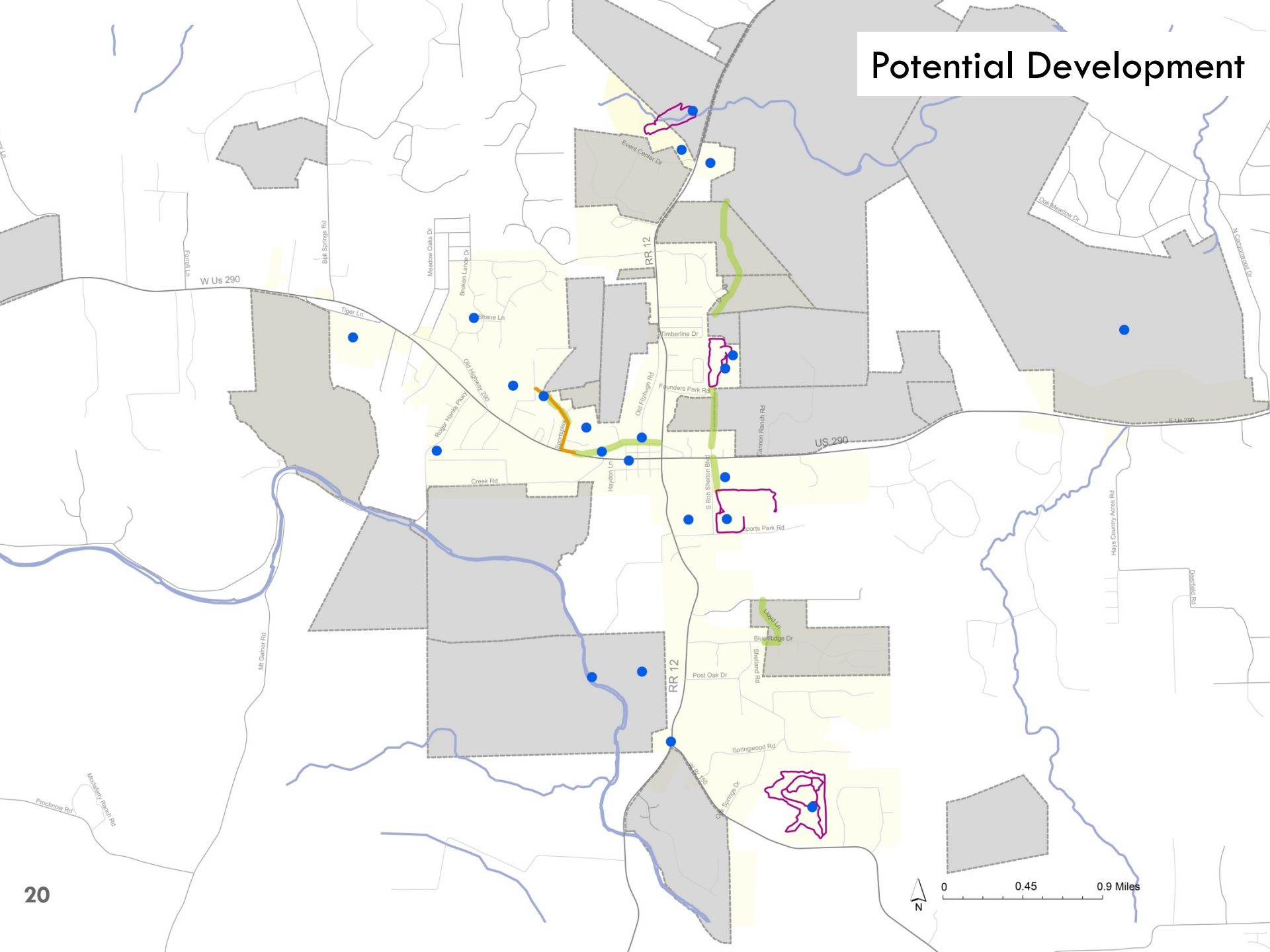
Destinations



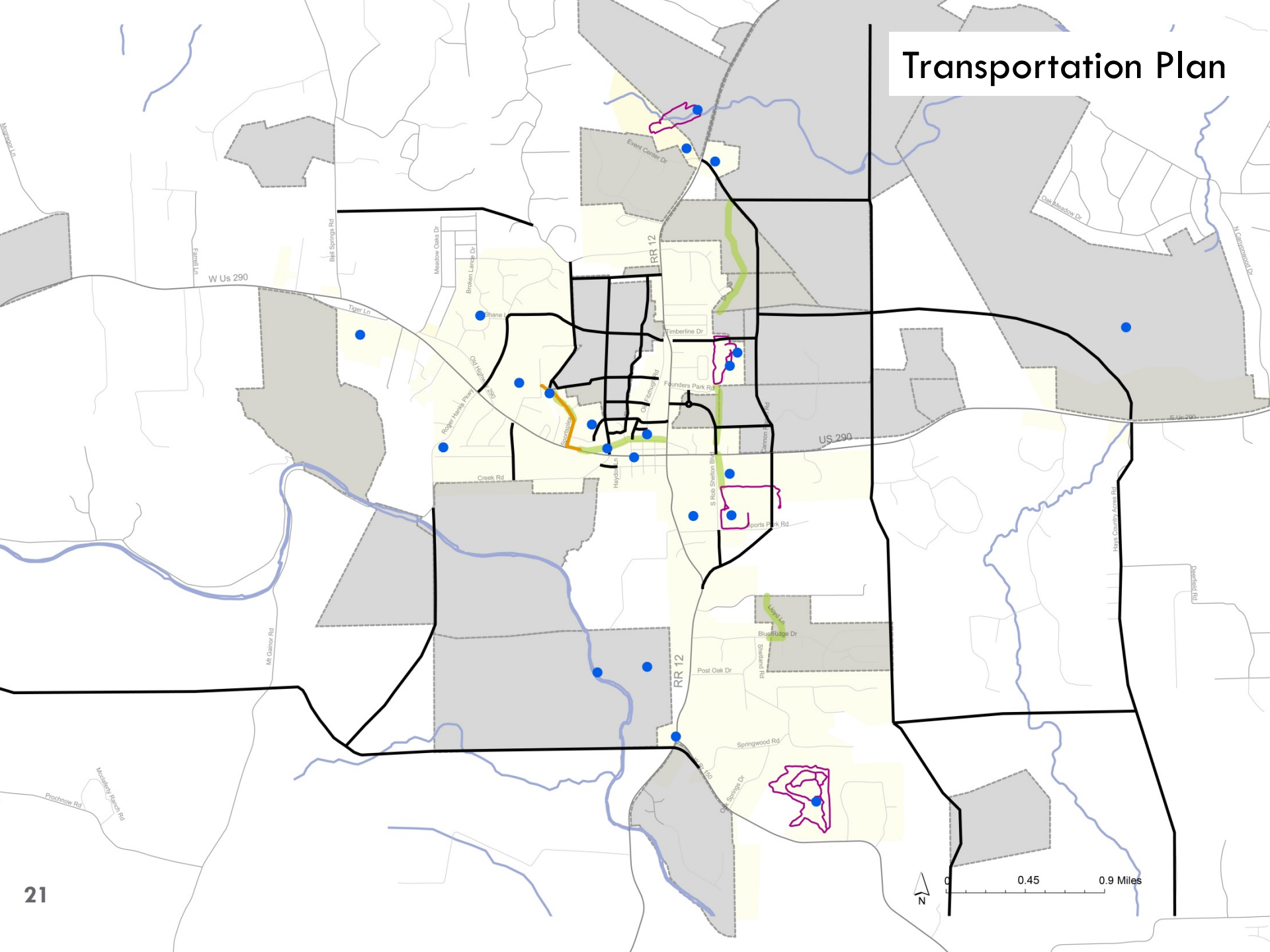
Built/Proposed Trails



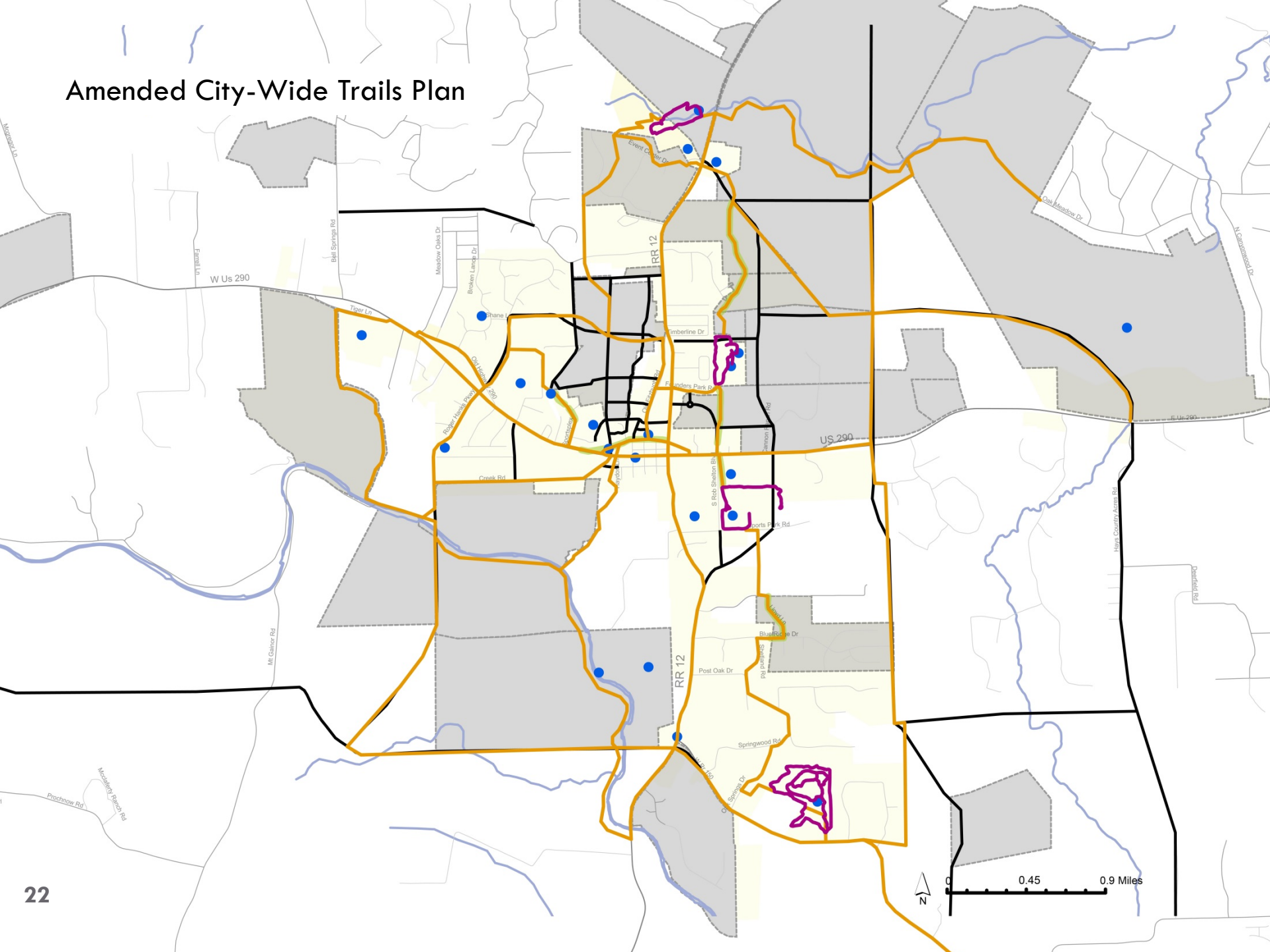
Potential Development



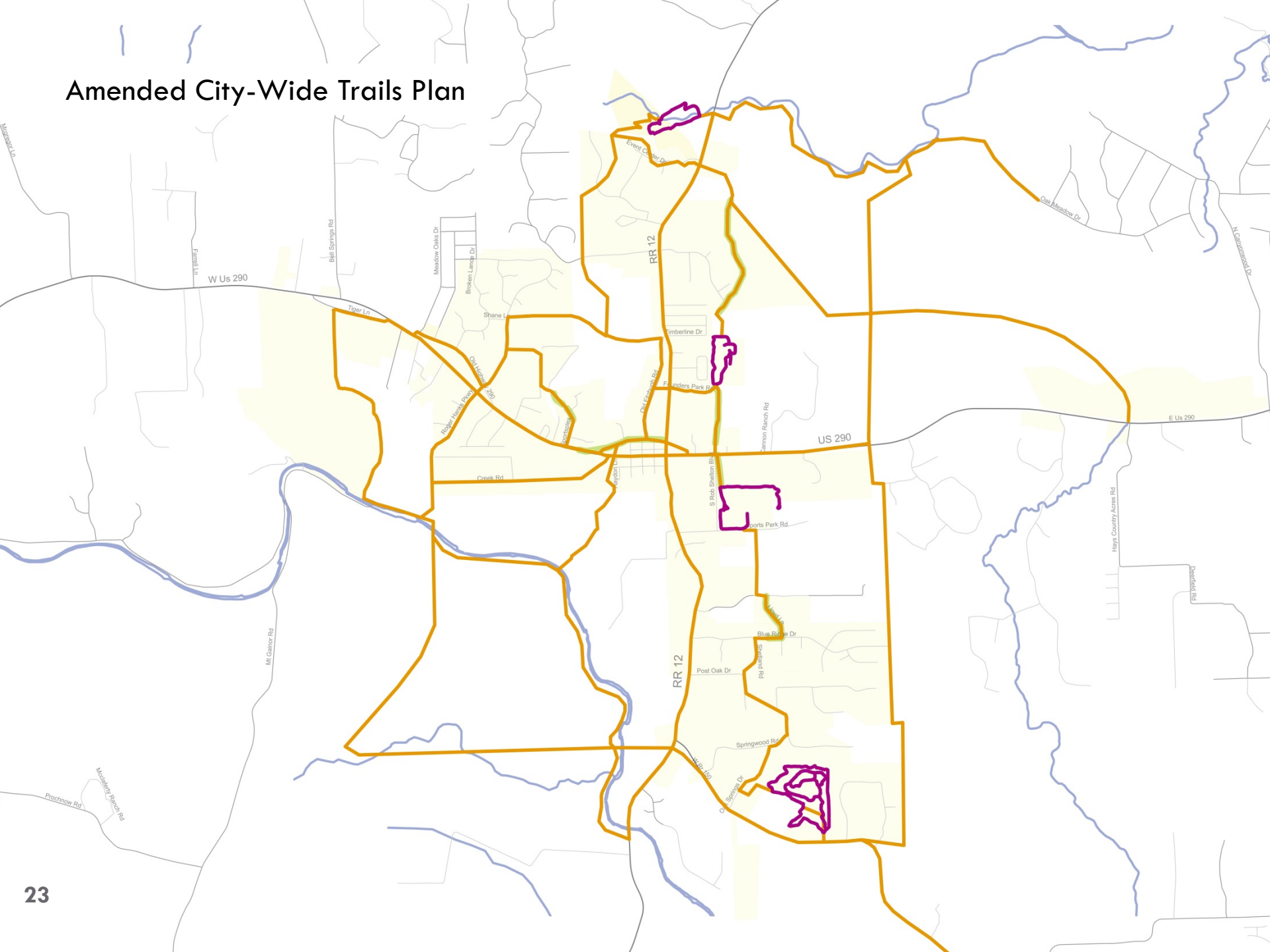
Transportation Plan

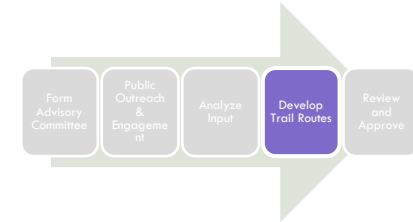


Amended City-Wide Trails Plan



Amended City-Wide Trails Plan



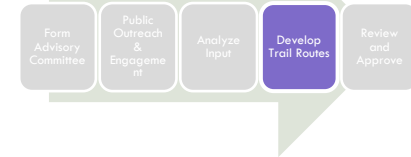


Trail Guidelines

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- To promote trails that meet residents' recreation AND transportation needs, trails shall be*:
 - ▣ 10 feet wide with 10-foot buffers on each side
 - ▣ Concrete

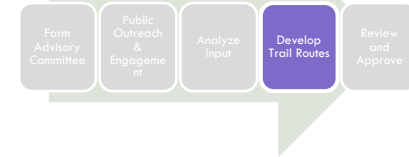
*unless otherwise approved by the City



Concrete surface

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- Longest-lasting surface type (well-maintained can last 25+ years)
- ADA accessible – suitable for users of all ages and abilities
- Transportation infrastructure – best surface for low-speed biking
- Crushed stone trails have higher long-term maintenance costs, more prone to erosion, some accessibility challenges

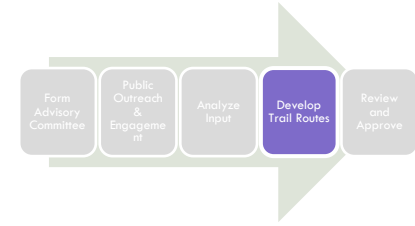


10' wide with 10' buffers

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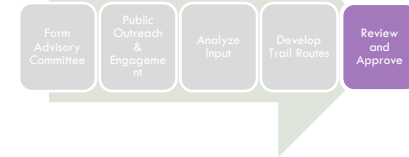
- Allow trail to meander within ROW
 - ▣ Speed reduction (reduces straightaways)
 - ▣ Environmental protection (avoid wet areas, trees, other sensitive habitat)
 - ▣ User experience (straight path vs. winding, scenic route)
- Maintenance
 - ▣ Allow clearing/mowing along trail
- Additional uses
 - ▣ Buffers allow space for adjacent natural surface running trail

Trail Guidelines



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- Provide developers, others with guidelines to achieve desired future conditions
- Allow City flexibility to work with developers to address site-specific challenges



Proposed Amendments to the Plan

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- Amend the *2014 Transportation Plan* to include the *Amended City-Wide Trails Plan* through resolution
- Include all development in the plan implementation in order to create trail routes in conjunction with growth

Trail Development in Progress

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- ❑ Founders Ridge
- ❑ Meritage Homes
- ❑ Randolph Brooks
Federal Credit Union
- ❑ Counts Ranch Estates



Next Steps

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- June 8, 2015 - Public meeting and consideration for approval by the Parks and Recreation Commission
- June 9, 2015 - City Council and Transportation Committee status report
- June 23, 2015 - Public meeting and consideration for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission
- July 14, 2015 - Public meeting and consideration for approval by the City Council.



Questions?