

# SOUTH CENTRAL WATERFRONT VISION FRAMEWORK PLAN

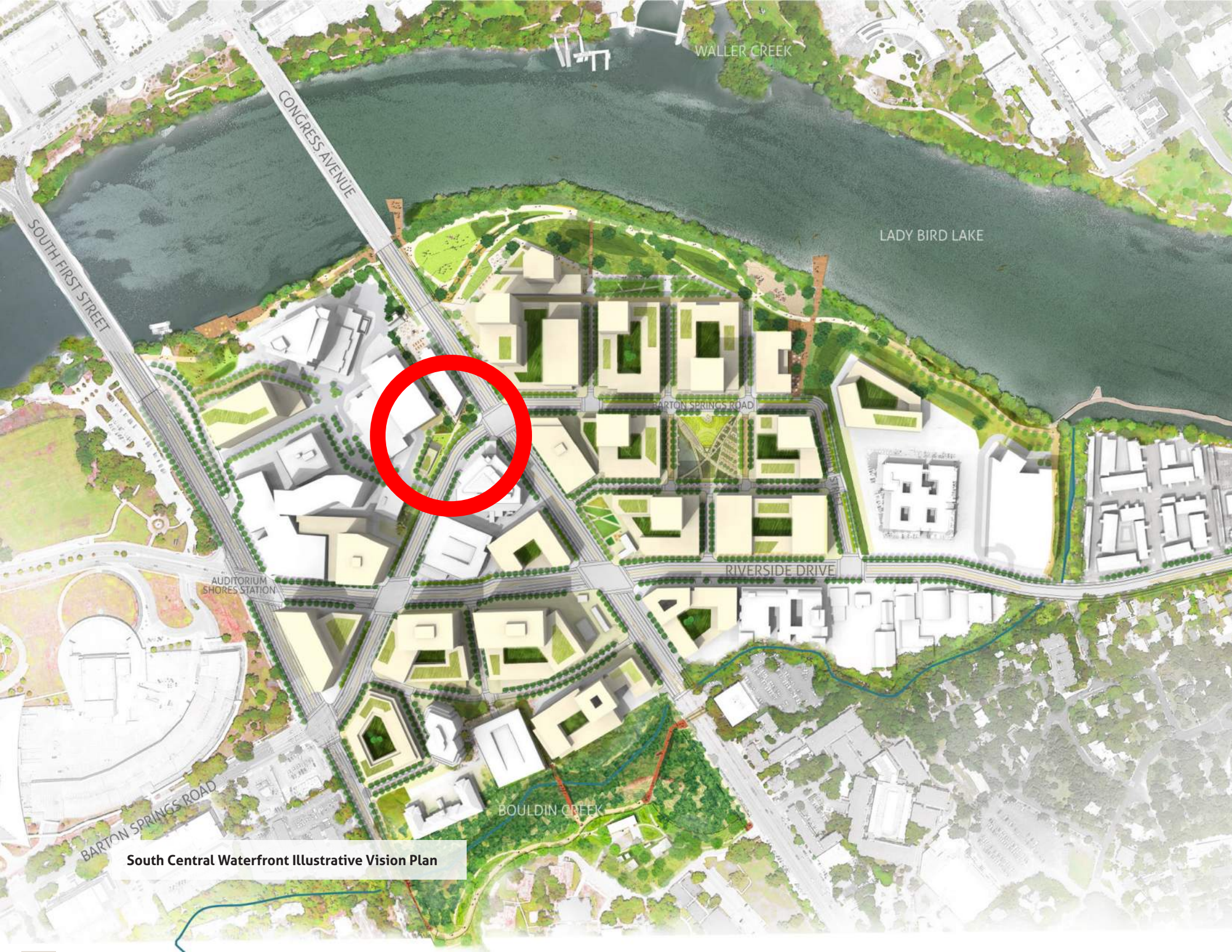


# OPEN SPACE

The SCW Framework Plan will add approximately 20 acres of open space to the South Central Waterfront. These new parks, plazas and trails serve as destinations for recreation as well as amenities for people who will live and work in the neighborhood. In addition, each park incorporates innovative strategies coordinated across the district to ensure that stormwater is managed and treated before flowing into Bouldin Creek and Lady Bird Lake.



Austin won a competitive award from the U.S. EPA's "Greening of America's Capitals" program. Through this program, the US EPA, in partnership with the City of Austin, commissioned designs for key components of the open space and green infrastructure within the South Central Waterfront. A substantial amount of the open space vision presented in this section was generated as a result of 'Greening the South Central Waterfront.' The full report, which provides more detailed designs for the Waterfront Park, Barton Springs Rain Gardens, and Bouldin Creek TSD Trails, is available online at [www.austintexas.gov/waterfront](http://www.austintexas.gov/waterfront).



WALLER CREEK

LADY BIRD LAKE

CONGRESS AVENUE

SOUTH FIRST STREET

BARTON SPRINGS ROAD

RIVERSIDE DRIVE

AUDITORIUM SHORES STATION

BARTON SPRINGS ROAD

BOULDIN CREEK

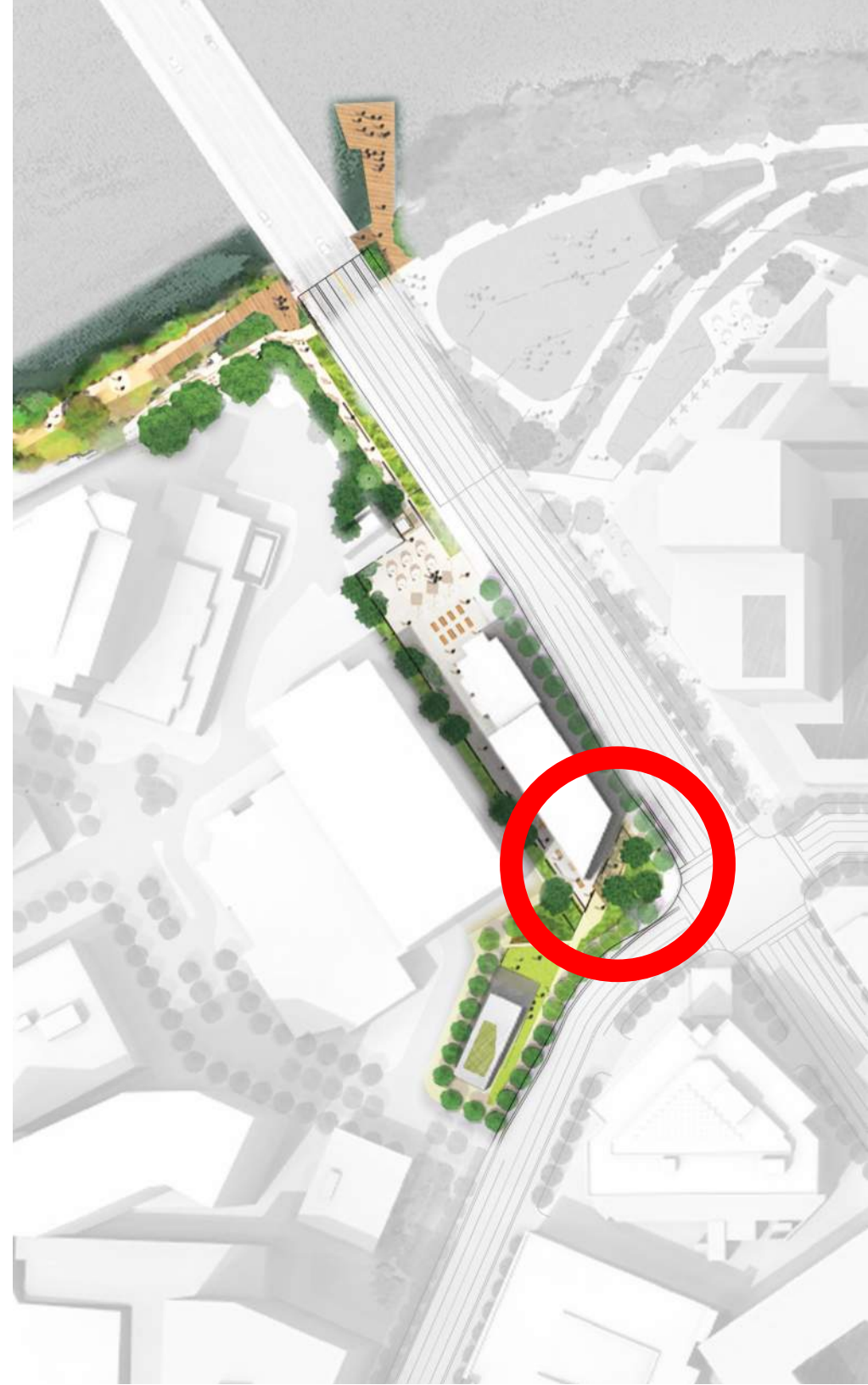
South Central Waterfront Illustrative Vision Plan

# Barton Springs Plaza Rain Gardens

A combination of streets trees and raingardens define walking and bicycling paths that will connect South Congress to the lake edge and trail system. Using green infrastructure as a signifier for connections between the street and lake is key to addressing the major grade change challenge between the elevated Congress Avenue and water's edge.

This system of green passage is highlighted by the removal of the "free right" turn lane from southbound Congress Avenue to Barton Springs Road. The existing lane encourages higher vehicle speeds and impairs safe pedestrian movement. Its removal also transforms this portion of the right-of-way into a highly-visible small public space. A natural landing place for pedestrians along Congress Avenue, this new plaza serves as a threshold between the streetscape and the lake trails and boardwalks.

The potential of this area for additional mixed-use and small infill development presents additional opportunity for rich, pedestrian-focused uses, including outdoor seating and dog-walk areas. Moreover, the raingardens and street trees provide invaluable environmental benefits, including stormwater treatment and detention, pedestrian shade, and heat island reduction.





**Barton Springs Plaza**

The existing free-right turn at Congress Avenue and Barton Springs Road creates an unsafe crossing for people walking or biking. This right turn could be removed and reassigned to be public space that adds a unique gateway into the district from downtown. Rain gardens would be incorporated into the new plaza.



Existing view turning right from Congress Avenue



Proposed Rain Garden and Streetscape

# Next Steps

City Action	Timeframe		Key Partners	
	0-1 yr	2+ yr	City	Other
<b>Identify lead entity in City to coordinate efforts moving forward and assign lead person</b>	X		CMO	
<b>Create cross-departmental City team with assigned departmental points of contact</b>	X		Multiple Departments	
<b>Create a South Central Waterfront Advisory Group</b>	X		Council	
<p><b>Coordinate with ongoing city initiatives</b></p> <p>The adoption of the SCW Vision Framework Plan includes recommendations that should be coordinated with the following initiatives (not a complete list):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Congress Avenue Urban Design Study</li> <li>CPO Strategic Capital Planning</li> <li>ATD Transportation Criteria Manual</li> <li>Bicycle and Sidewalk Master Plans</li> <li>CodeNEXT</li> <li>Revision of Watershed Ordinance and update of Watershed Master Plan</li> <li>Downtown Austin Parking Strategy</li> <li>Movability Austin</li> <li>Project Connect</li> </ul>	X	X	ATD, CPO, Planning, PWD, Watershed, NHCD, Others	Downtown Austin Alliance, Downtown Austin Transportation Management Assoc., CapMetro
<p><b>Closure of free-right turn lane and creation of Barton Springs Rain Gardens</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue coordination with key properties and multiple departments to implement SCW Vision.</li> <li>Develop Policy and program for Council consideration to facilitate conversion of ROW from transportation to public space.</li> <li>Develop and implement tactical, interim, and long-term implementation to realize Barton Springs Rain Gardens.</li> </ul>	X		Planning, Transportation, Public Works, Water Energy, Real Estate, Legal	Affected Property Owners
<b>Develop a SCW Public Art Master Plan</b>	X		Art in Public Places, Economic Development	Artists and arts groups
<p><b>Coordinate with Texas School for the Deaf / Texas Facilities Commission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with the Texas Facilities Commission and the TSD to incorporate the SCW schematic designs into the TSD Master Plan.</li> <li>Explore public/private partnerships, State and Federal funding, and other grants and philanthropic donors to realize the trail along Bouldin Creek.</li> </ul>	X		Parks, Planning, Public Works, Watershed	Texas School for the Deaf, Texas Facilities Commission



