



The Emerald Ribbon Action Plan

Salt Lake City City Council

The Vision

The
Emerald Ribbon
envisioned a future
Jordan River Corridor
that is a ribbon of **nature**
through Salt Lake City, a
community **crossroads**, and
the **heart** of the Westside.
It is a model of **care** for
people, wildlife and
ecosystems.



Rose Park

Fairpark

Poplar Grove



772
Acres Publicly
Owned Land

10 mile
River Corridor

Phase One

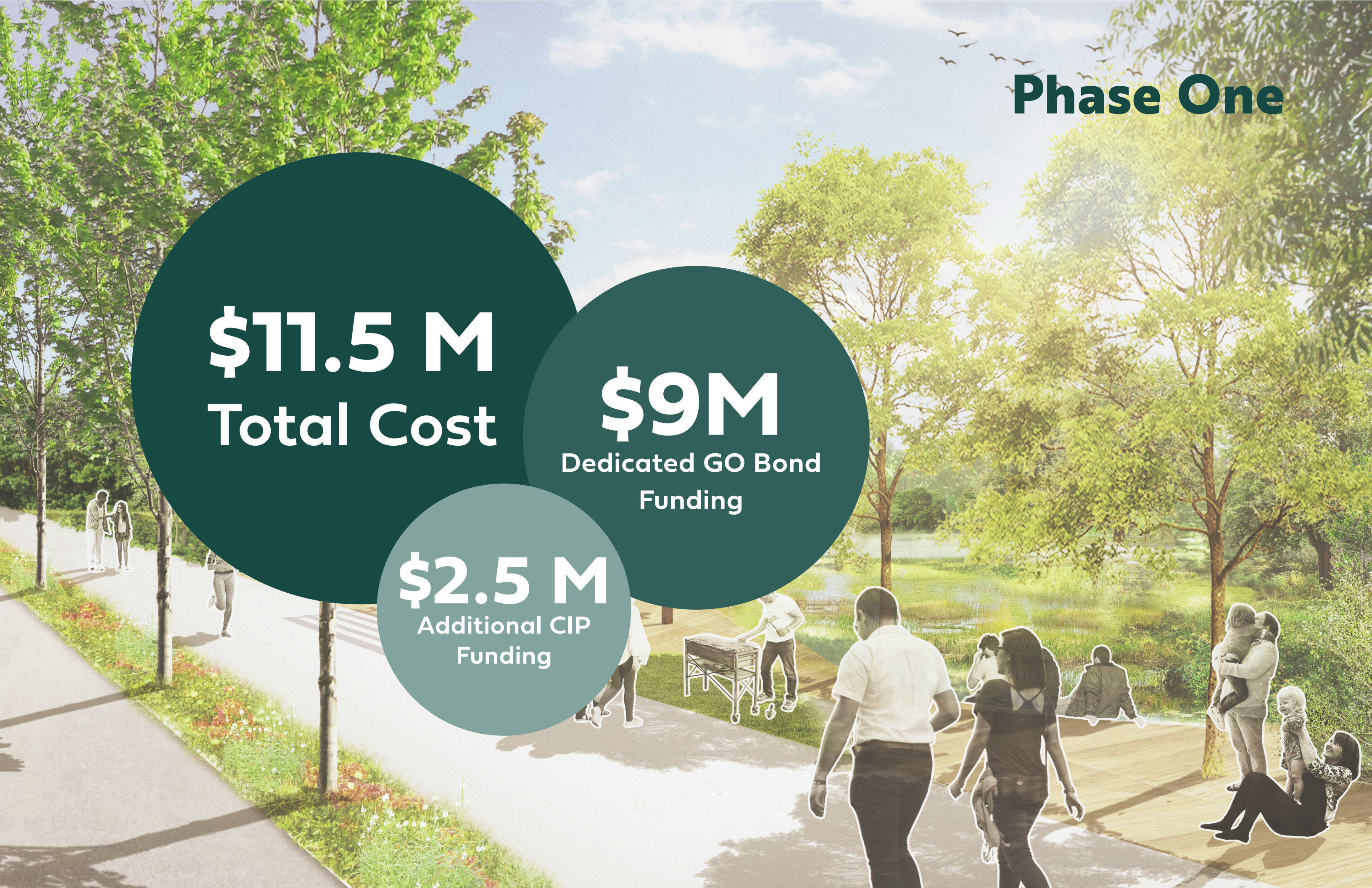
\$11.5 M
Total Cost

\$9M

Dedicated GO Bond
Funding

\$2.5 M

Additional CIP
Funding



\$65 Million
long-term vision for
Transformational Projects

Rose Park Nature Area

**Cottonwood
Park**

Fairpark Urban Core

Modesto Park

Glendale Oxbow

Jordan River

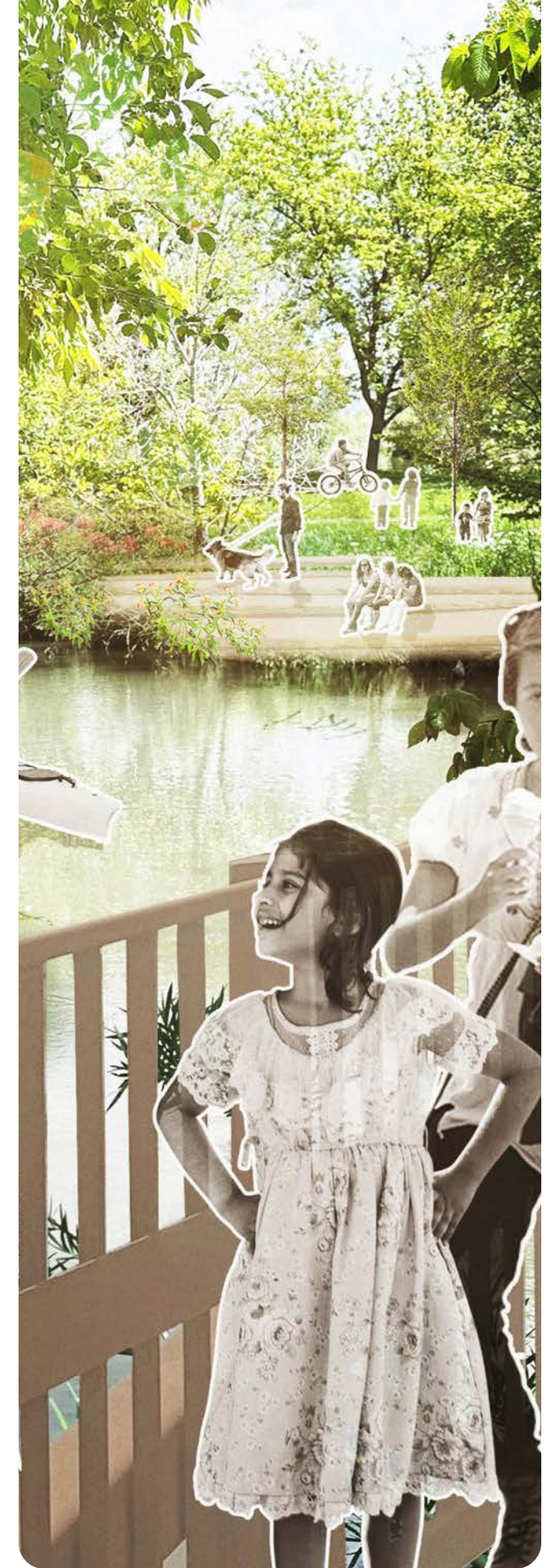
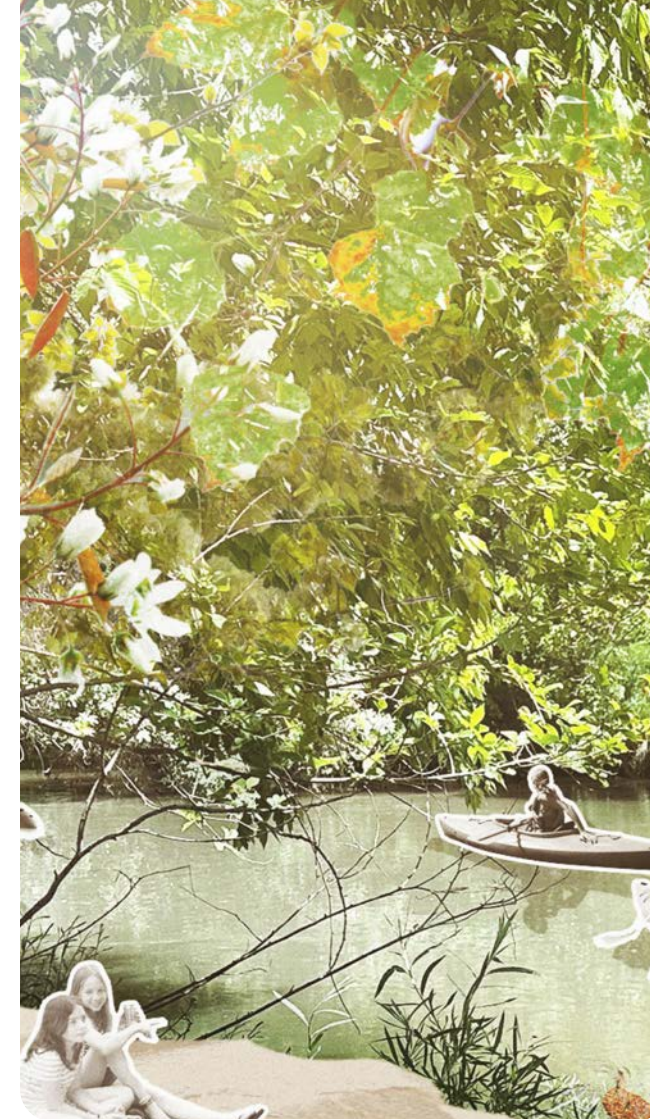
Rose Park

Fairpark

Poplar Grove

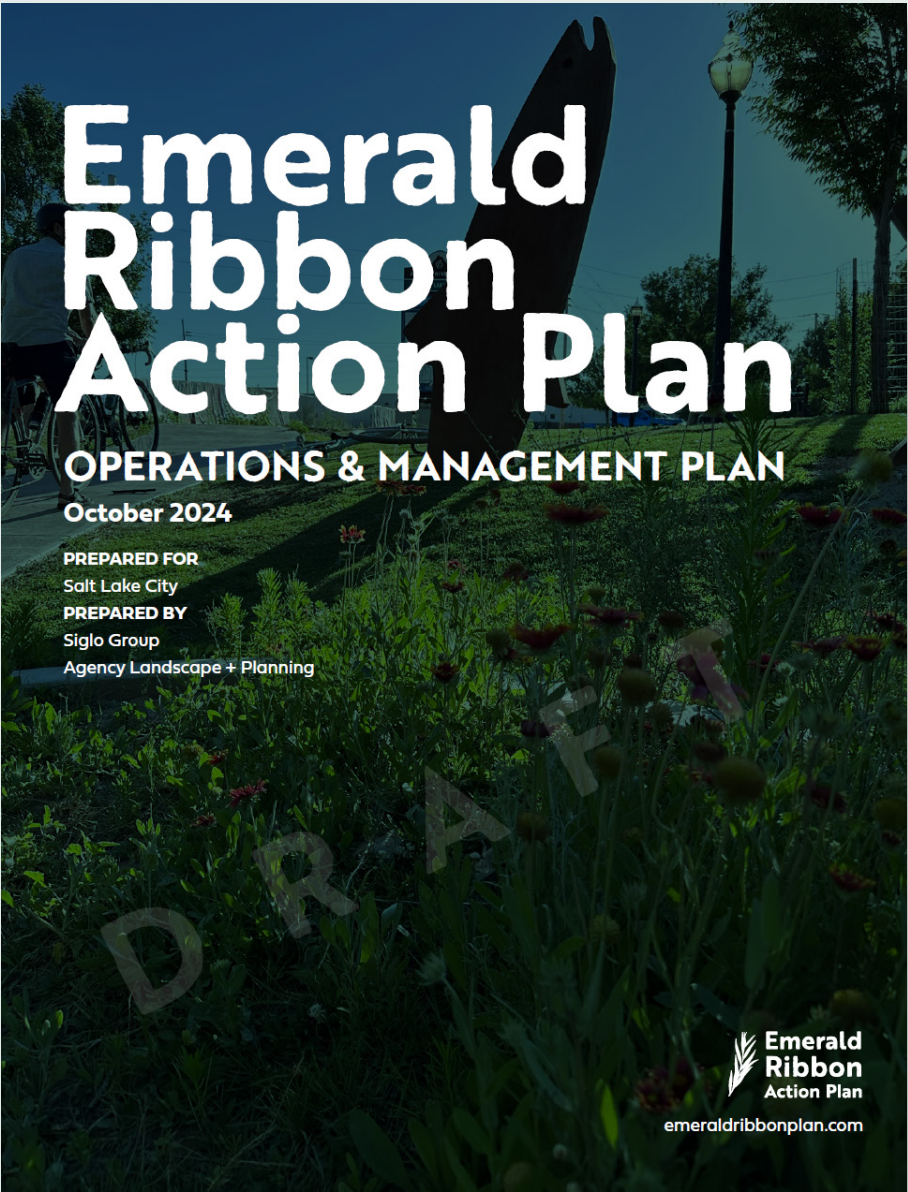
Glendale

Bringing the Vision to Life



Two Plans to Make it Happen

EMERALD
RIBBON
ACTION PLAN



OPERATIONS AND
MANAGEMENT
PLAN

Guiding Principles

1

Celebrate the rich ecological and cultural diversity of the corridor.

2

Connect the corridor into surrounding streets, trails, and waterways.

4

Restore and enhance the river ecosystem as a peaceful refuge.

3

Cultivate collective care of the corridor.

5

Create a safe and vibrant destination.



1

Celebrate the rich ecological and cultural diversity of the corridor.

Goals

- 1 Focus on nature experiences
- 2 Create biodiverse habitat
- 3 Expand art programs on the corridor
- 4 Celebrate and support the culture of the Westside



GOAL

what you shared

I like more wetlands! It make the nature experience more complete.


Fairpark section should have an educational section; it sees a lot at tourists and visitors and needs activation.

Love the nature play for kids + outdoor classrooms!

Goal #1

Focus on nature experiences

For many years, the Jordan River has served as a natural and cultural sanctuary for Salt Lake City, especially for the Westside community. However, it has recently faced increasing challenges related to safety and cleanliness. The community has fond memories of engaging with nature along the river corridor and has expressed a desire to experience that more frequently. It is crucial to restore natural areas and improve access to them. Doing so will increase the visibility of the river corridor, promote public awareness, and foster collective care for the area. This will help maintain it as a healthy habitat where wildlife can thrive and people can enjoy nature.



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Strategy 1:

Create a comprehensive interpretation and signage plan for the corridor.

Actions:

- + Create an Request for Proposal (RFP) for interpretive design of the corridor in conjunction with natural restoration efforts with a focus on human-nature connections (see: Goal #3: Expand Public Art programs for opportunity to engage artists in all or part of this work).

Strategy 2:

Promote citizen science with a focus on youth programming.

Actions:

- + Develop and test multilingual (Spanish-centric) nature education programs led by Park Rangers on the Emerald Ribbon in collaboration with local community partners, including Northwest Recreation Center, Sorenson Unity Center, and K-12 schools along the Emerald Ribbon.
- + Conduct listening sessions with local schools and youth programs to understand how the Park Rangers and Public Lands can increase a sense of safety and reinvigorate youth interest in nature on the corridor.
- + Support the use of i-Naturalist & e-Bird within the corridor.
- + Explore ways for Public Lands to engage youth in leadership and career building opportunities, including through Youth Ranger programs, apprenticeships, Utah Conservation Corp, and the creation of a Youth Community Council.



Kingsbury Commons

This lush green space features well-maintained walking paths that wind through a diverse array of native plants and mature trees. Kingsbury Commons is a cherished retreat and connects visitors to nature without having to leave the city.

Austin, TX

nature

care

STRATEGIES

ACTIONS

PRECEDENT

The Next 10 Years

Our focus today!

2025

Prepare to implement Transformational Projects
Launch pilots, start deeper dives

2026–2027

Implement bond-funded Phase One Priorities
Transform natural lands and increase programming

2028–2035

Complete bond priorities & Transformational Projects
Evolve and expand new framework for care

Components of a Culture of Long-Term Care



Caring for the
Corridor

Operating Costs

+



Investing in the
Corridor

Capital Costs

+

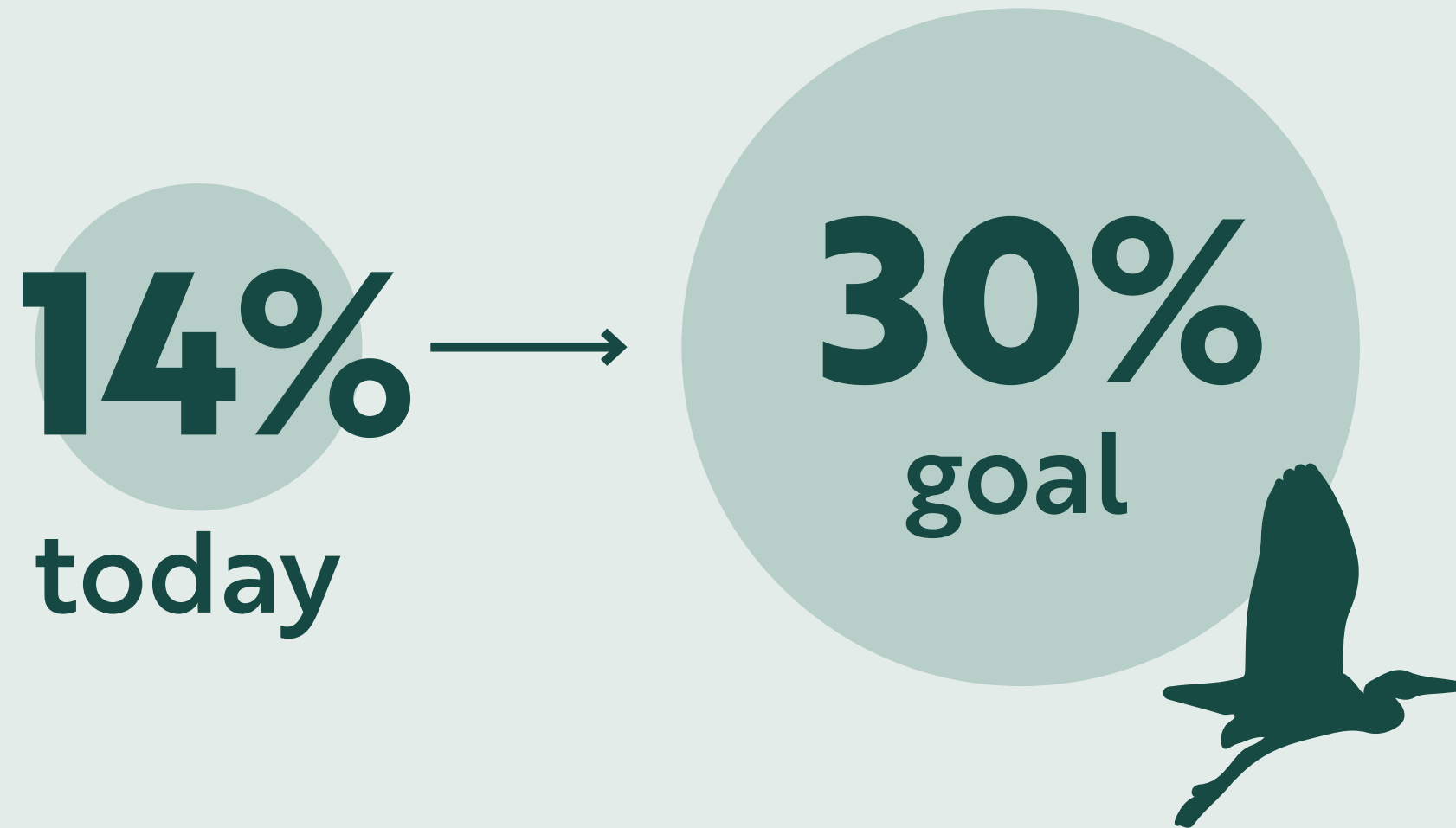


Governing the
Corridor

Governance

Big Idea

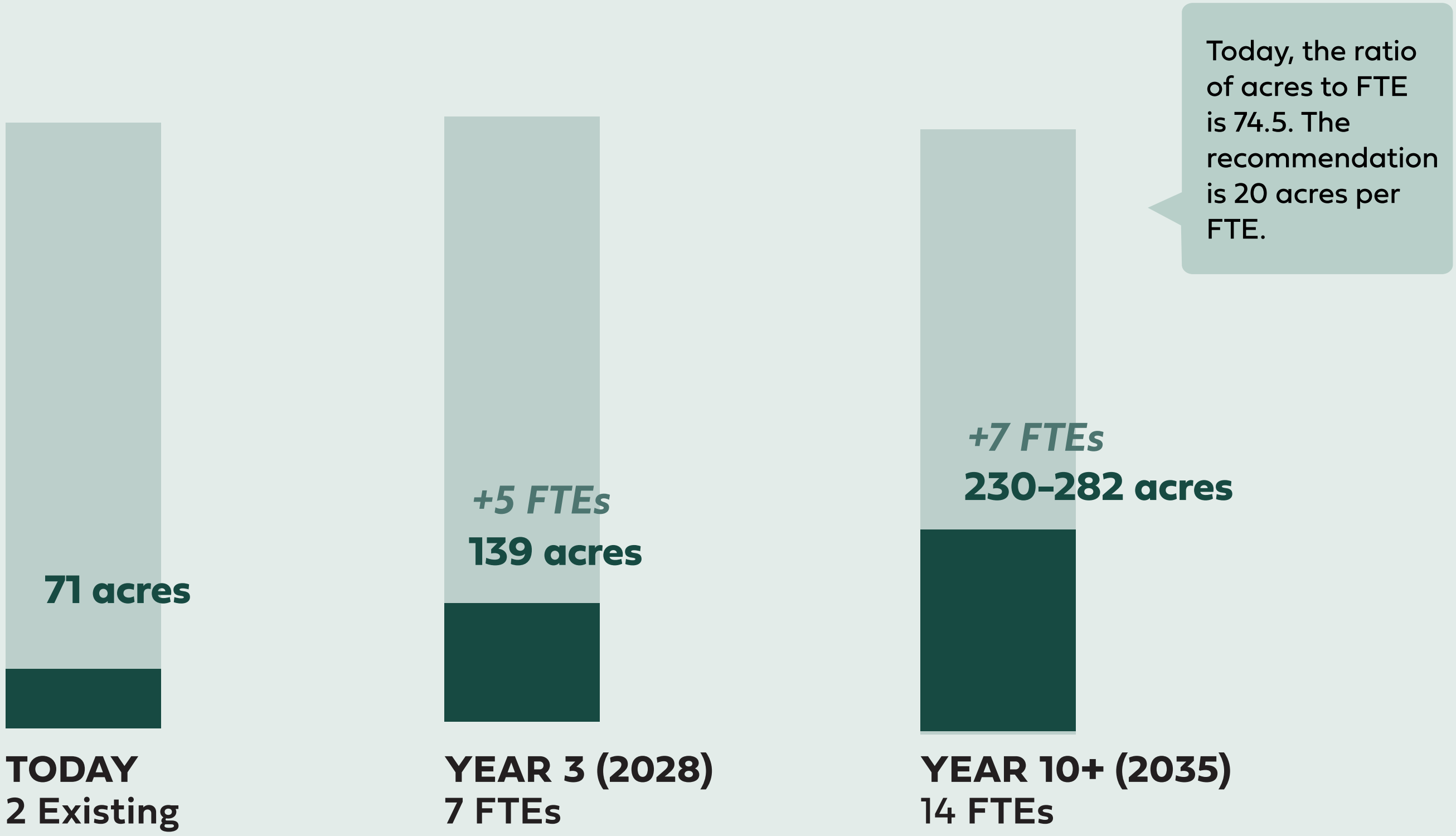
Transition to Natural Lands



Natural lands management target

Big Idea

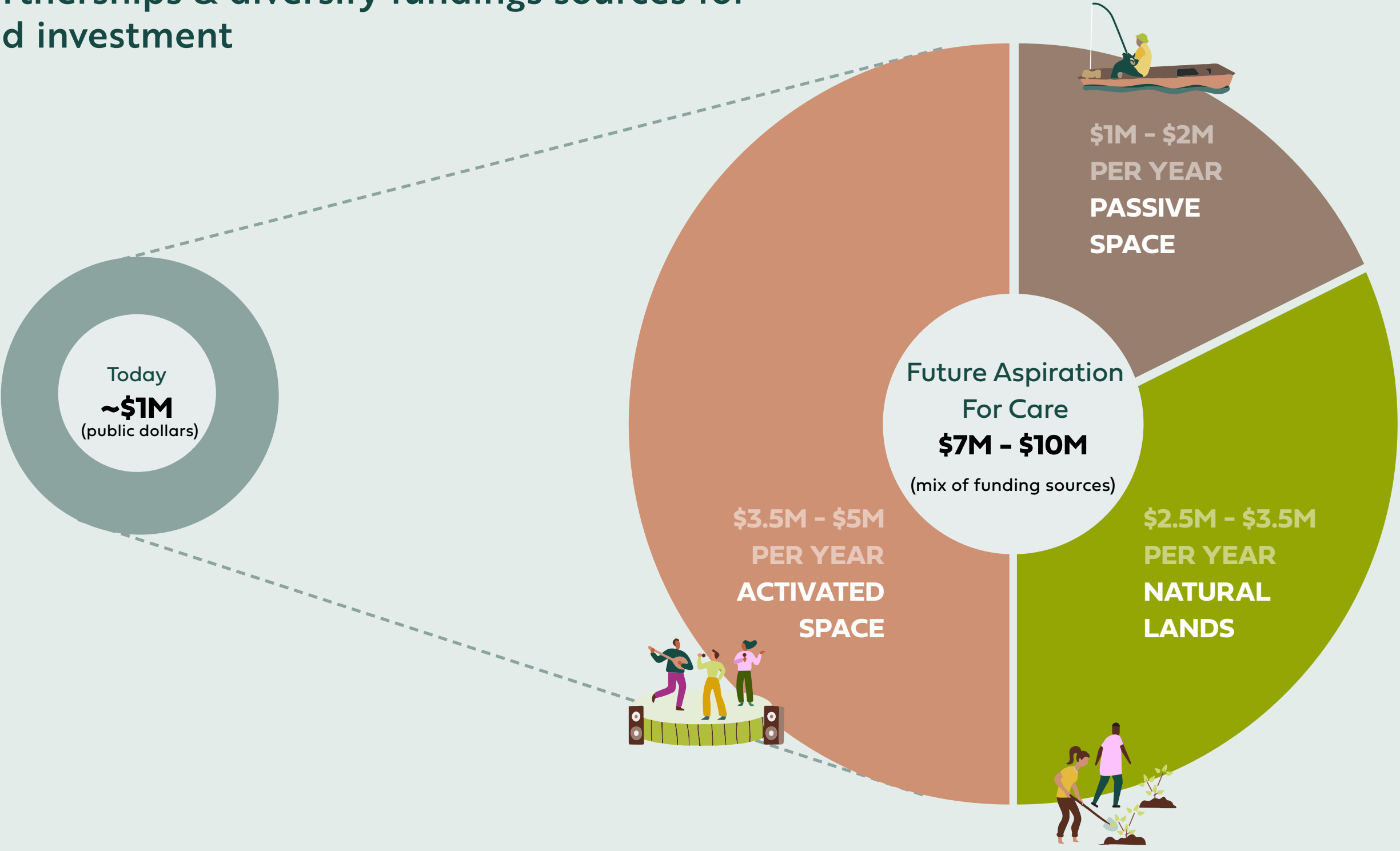
Transition to Natural Lands



Big Idea

Increase Care & Cultural Activation

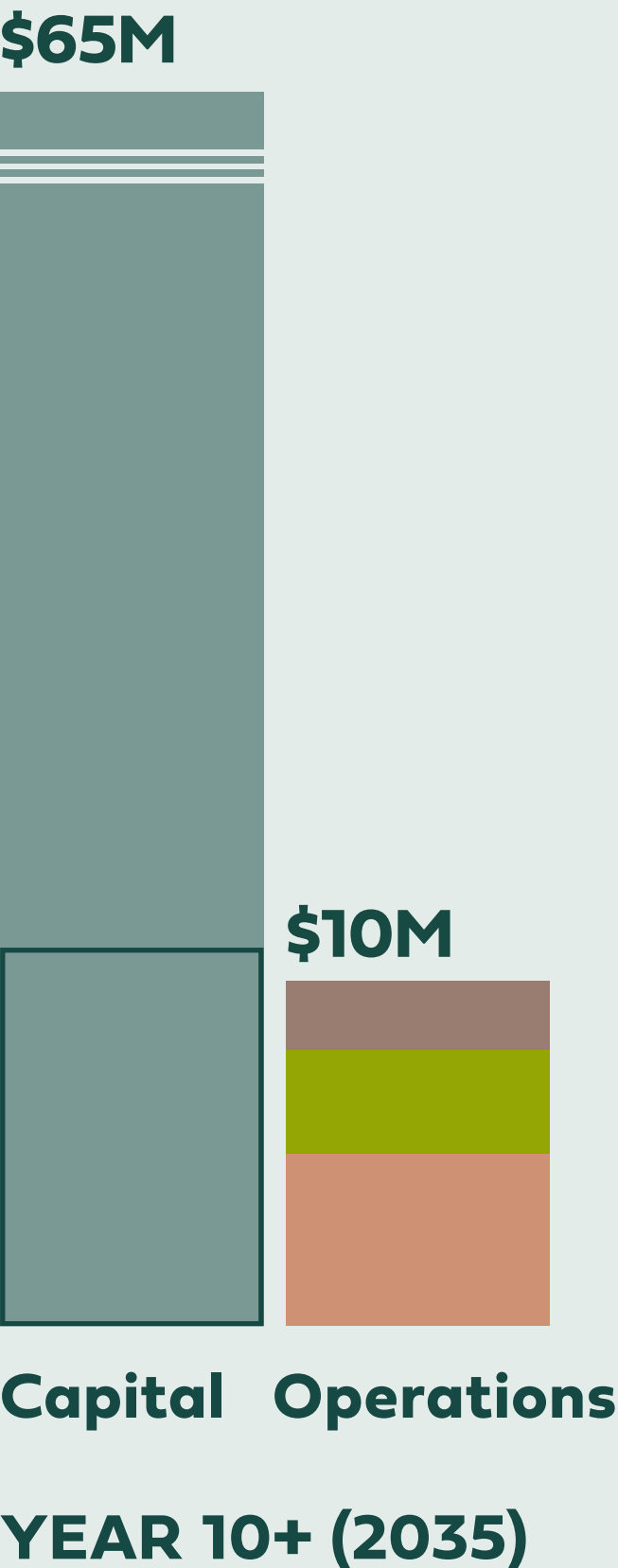
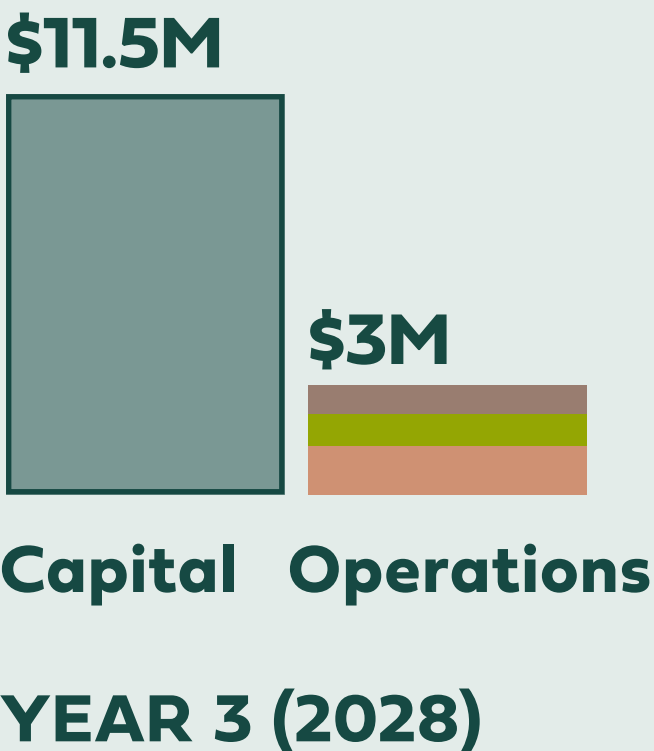
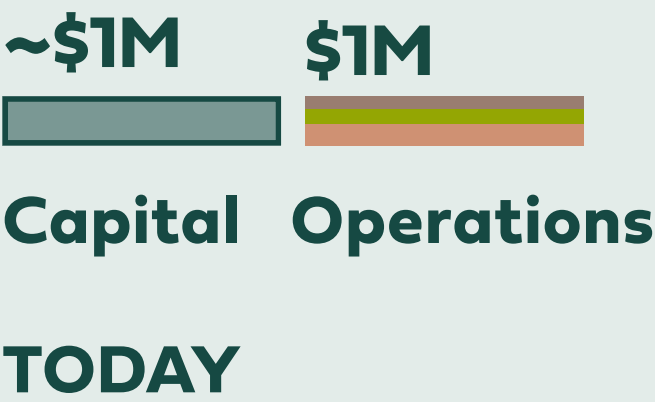
Build partnerships & diversify fundings sources for increased investment

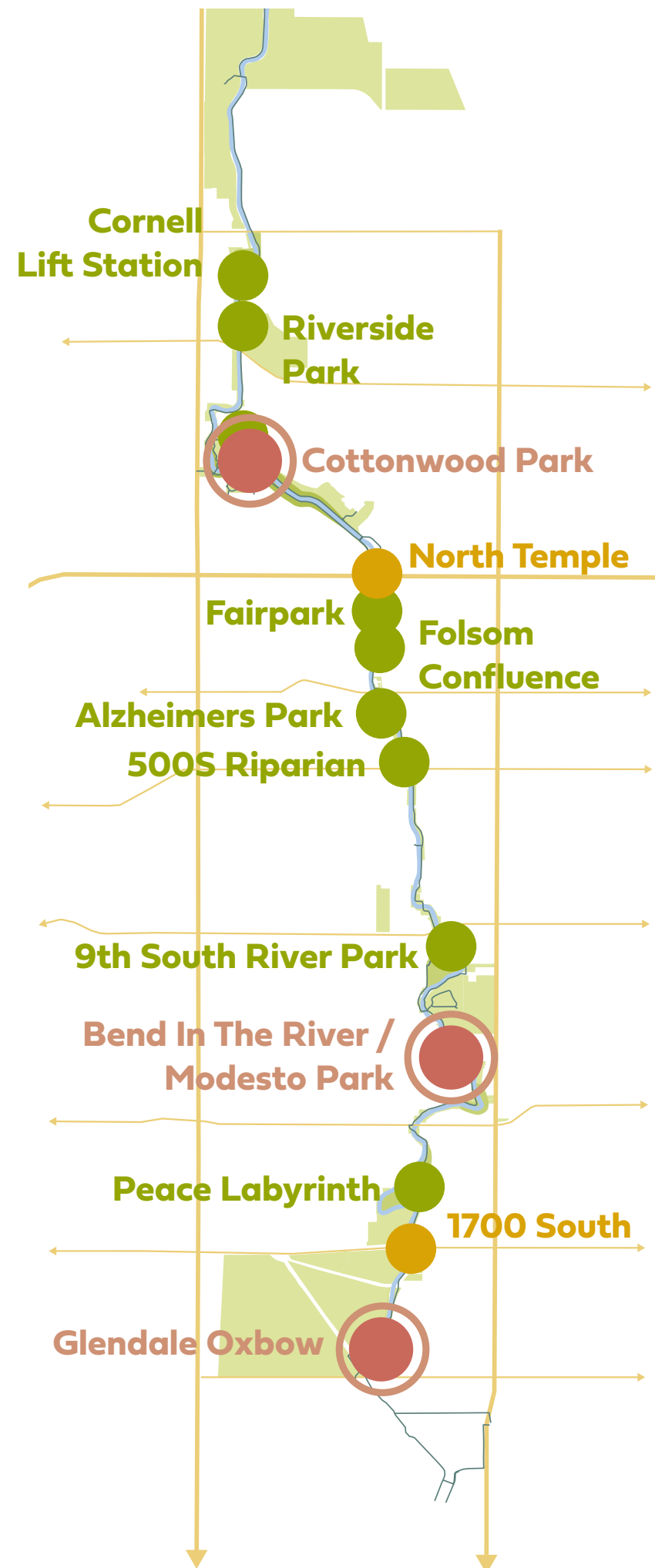


Big Idea

Increase Care & Cultural Activation

- Existing funding
- Activated Space
- Passive Space
- Natural Lands





The next 3 years

Phase One Priorities

\$11.5 M
Total Cost

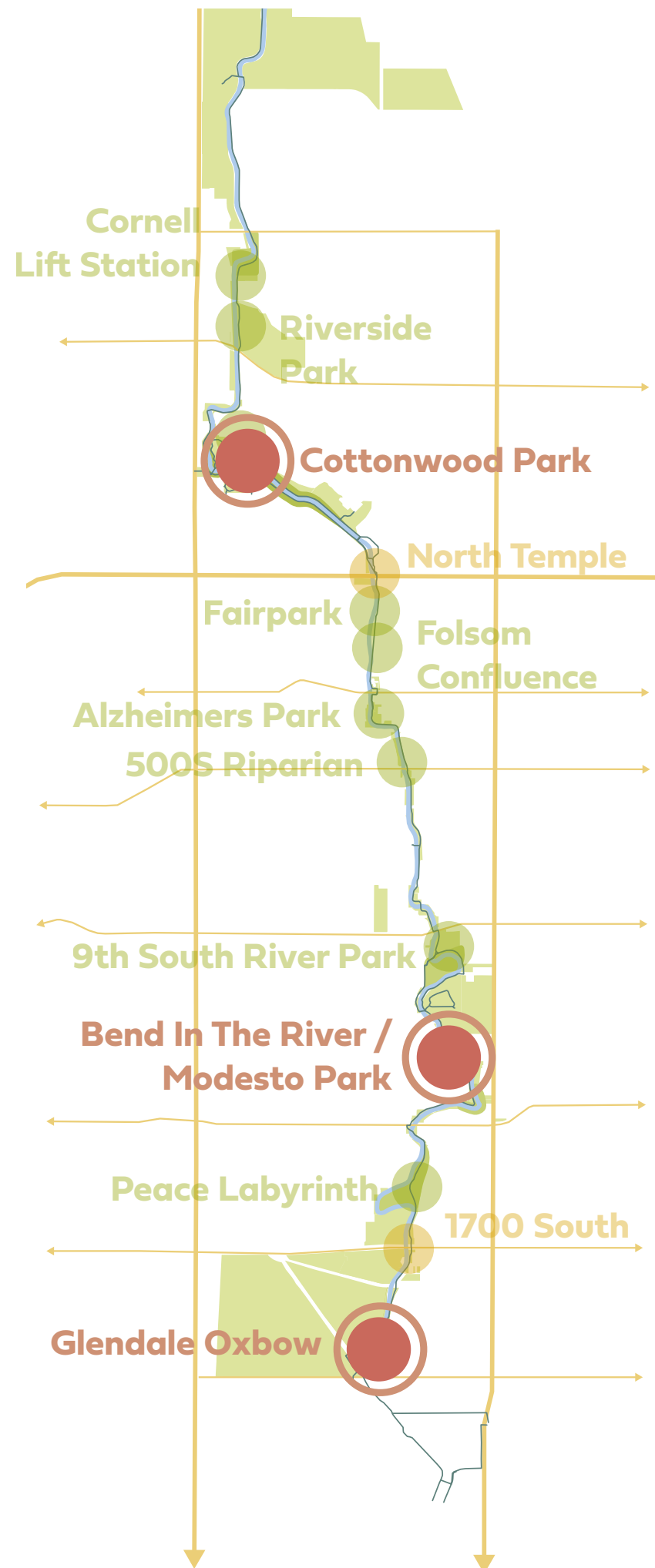
\$9M

Dedicated GO Bond
Funding

\$2.5 M

Additional CIP
Funding

NOTE: Estimates include soft costs such as design fees, permitting costs, contingencies, and escalation.



Phase One Priorities

Transformational Projects

Includes park, restoration, and trail work withing transformational areas

Cottonwood Park - \$4.5M

\$3M (Bond) + \$1.5M (Addl CIP)

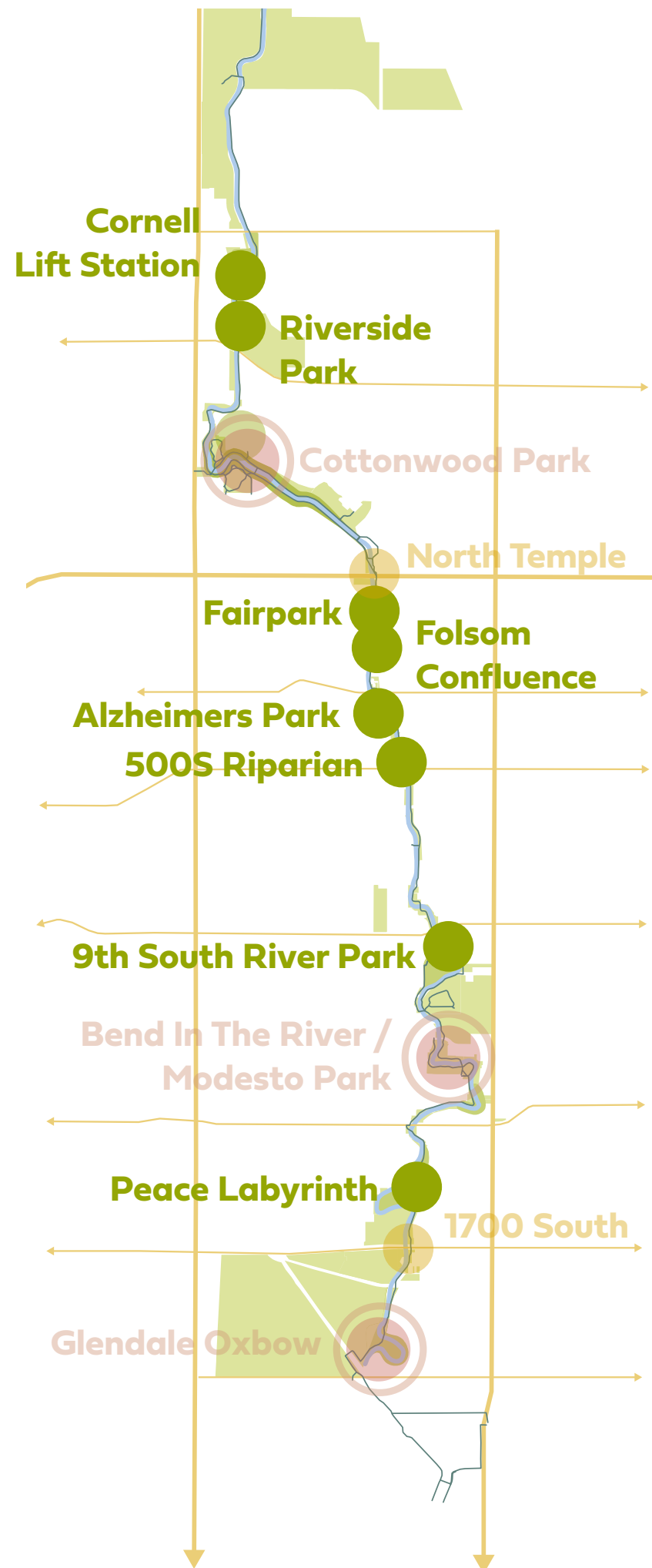
Bend in the River and Modesto Parks - \$4M

\$3M (Bond) + \$1M (Addl CIP) = \$4M Total

Glendale Oxbow - \$500k

\$500K (Bond)

\$9 Million
Total Cost



Phase One Priorities

Restoration Projects

All bond funded; mostly implementable by Public Lands staff

Peace Labyrinth - \$150K

Riverside Park - \$200K

9th S River Park - \$200K

Cornell Life Station - \$125K

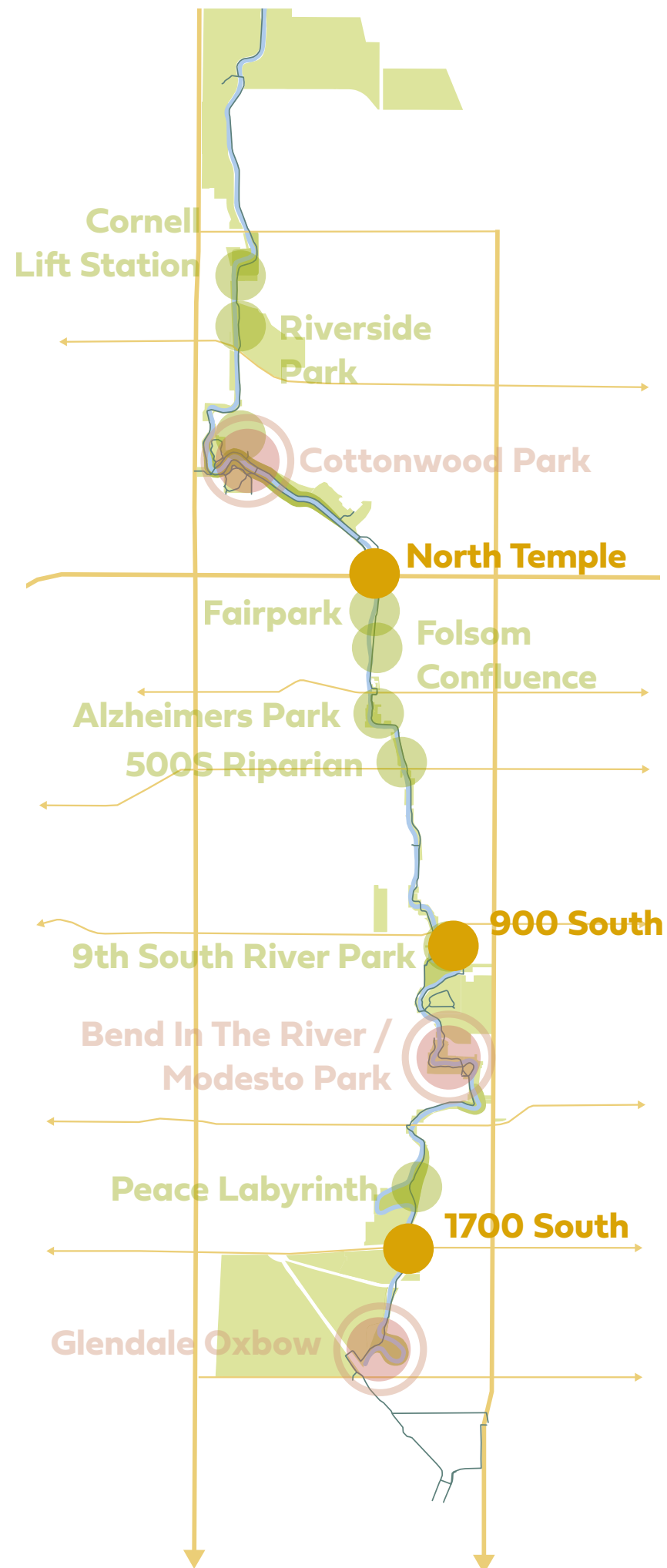
500 South Riparian - \$150K

Fairpark - \$50K

Alzheimers Park - \$100K

Folsom Trail - \$25K

\$1 Million
Total Cost



Phase One Priorities

Safety & Connectivity Projects

All Bond funded

Wayfinding Improvements - \$700K

North Temple Street Intersection and Trail Connection - \$700K

1700 South Trail Intersection - \$50K

900 South Trail Intersection - \$50K

\$1.5 Million
Total Cost



Greetings from

Salt Lake City

EMERALD RIBBON



Thank you!



Appendix



Capital Cost Estimates

Cost Benchmarking



Glendale Park
Salt Lake City

Park Space
\$2.5 Mil / Acre

River’s Edge Park (Council Bluffs, IA)
New Park at 47th & Telluride (Denver, CO)
Glendale Regional Park (Salt Lake City, UT)



Clear Creek Restoration,
Tacoma, Washington

Restoration Areas
\$150K / Acre

Clear Creek (Tacoma, WA),
marsh creation (New Orleans, LA),
riparian restoration projects (Hamilton City, CA)



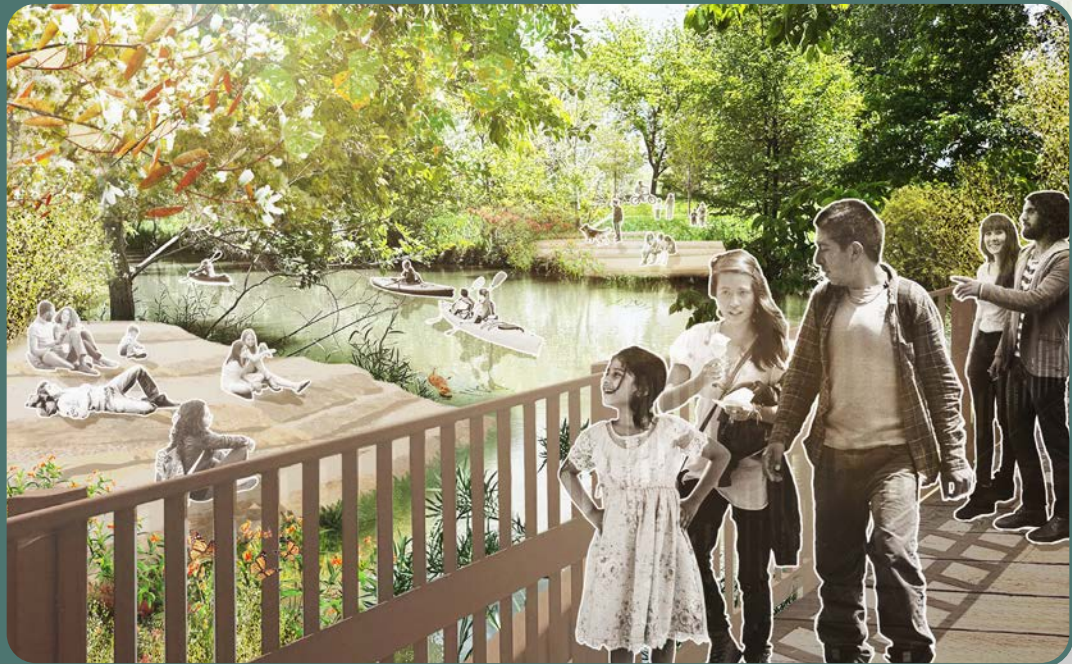
Carolina Thread Trail
Charlotte, North Carolina

Trails & Greenways
\$3.5M / Mile

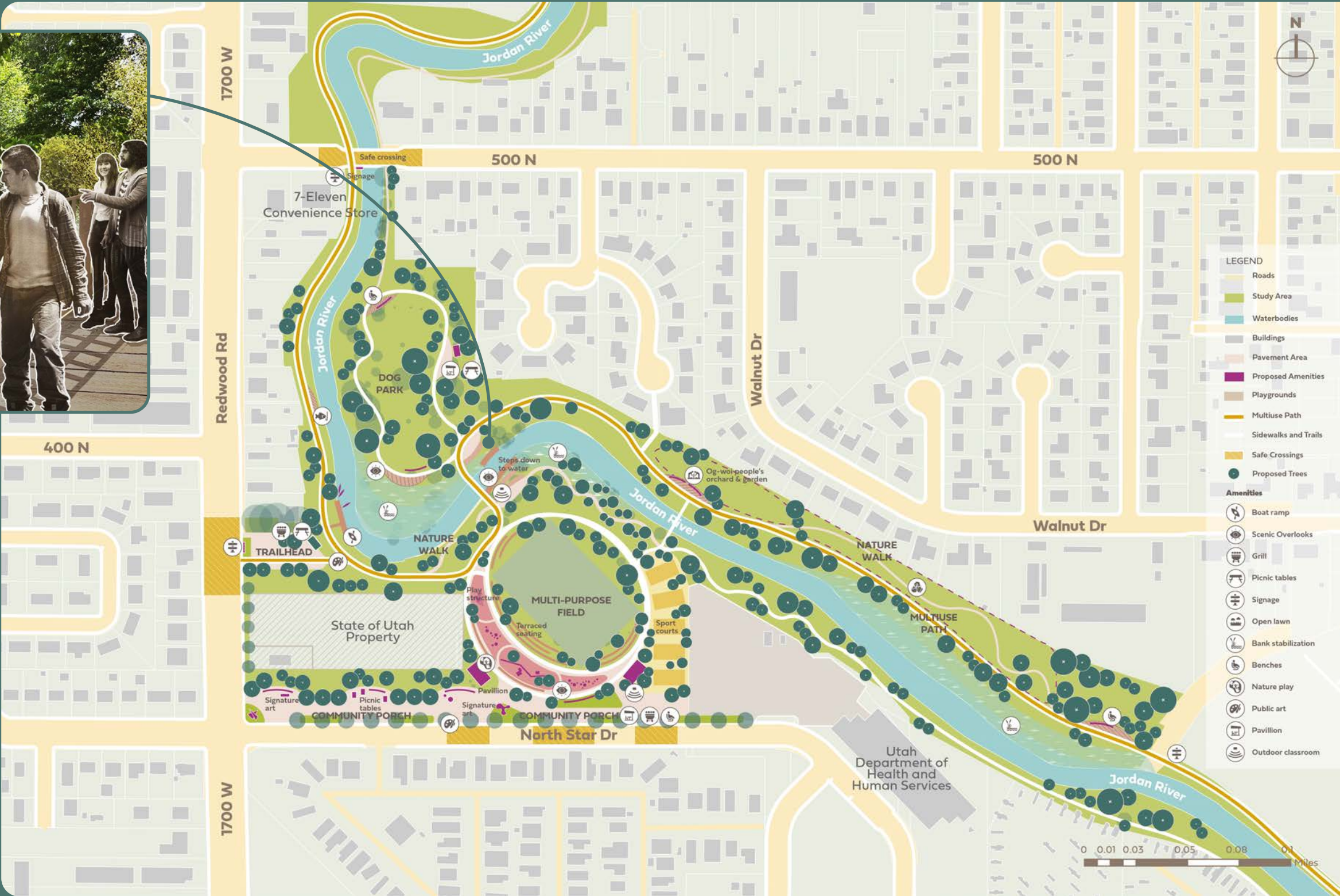
Carolina Thread Trail (Charlotte, NC),
Path400 (Atlanta, GA),
Marquette Greenway (IL)

Cottonwood Park

“Enhanced connections
between the community,
park and the river”

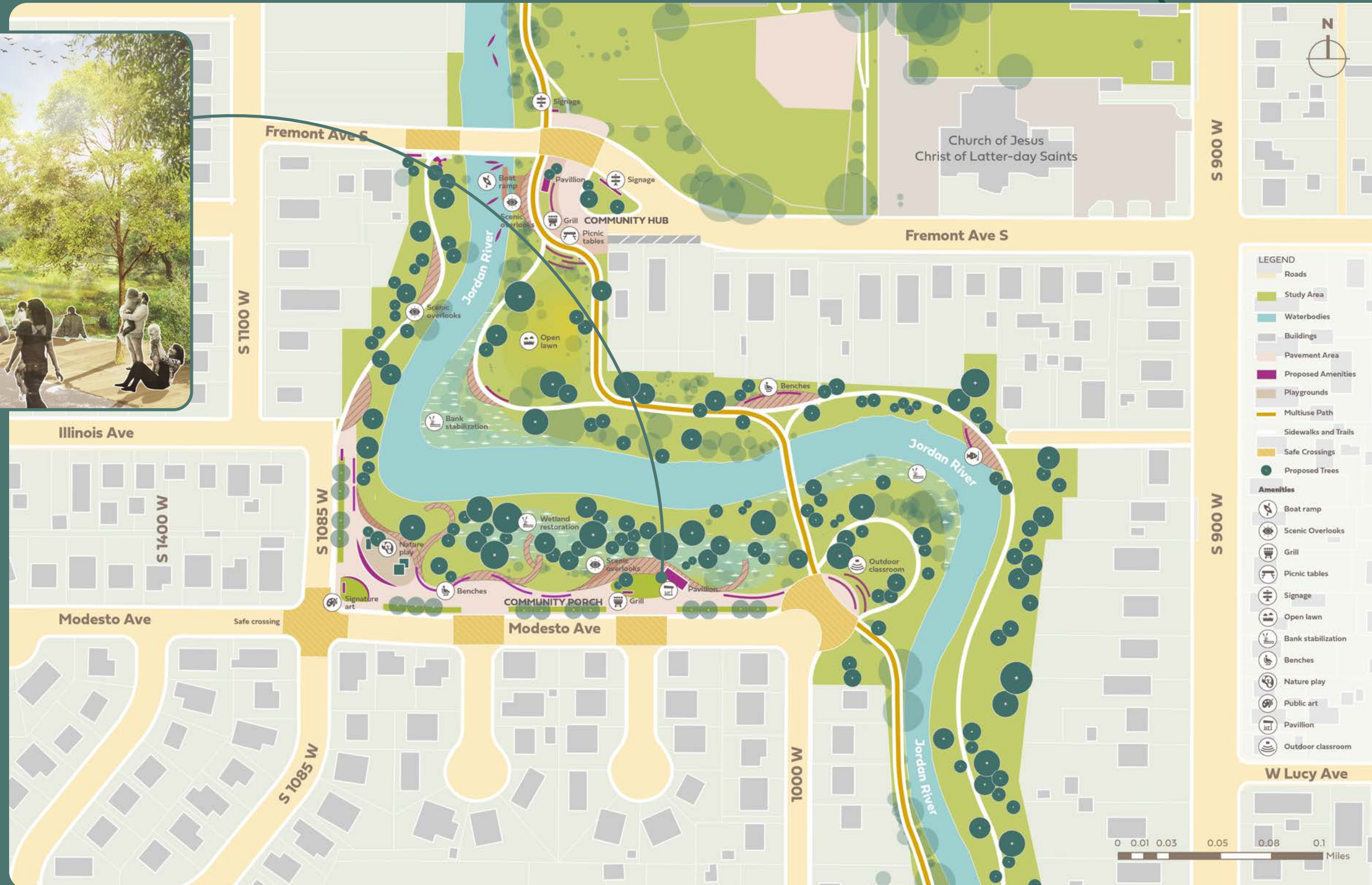


\$4.5M
for Phase
One



Bend in the River & Modesto Park

"A community porch overlooking restored nature"



\$4M
for Phase One

Glendale Oxbow

"A great place to give space back to nature along the river"



\$500K
for Phase
One



Center Nature and Activate Public Space in the New Power District and Fairpark

"Safe and comfortable connections in a changing district"



PHASE ONE PRIORITIES:

Create a trail-facing flex programming space at Fisher Mansion

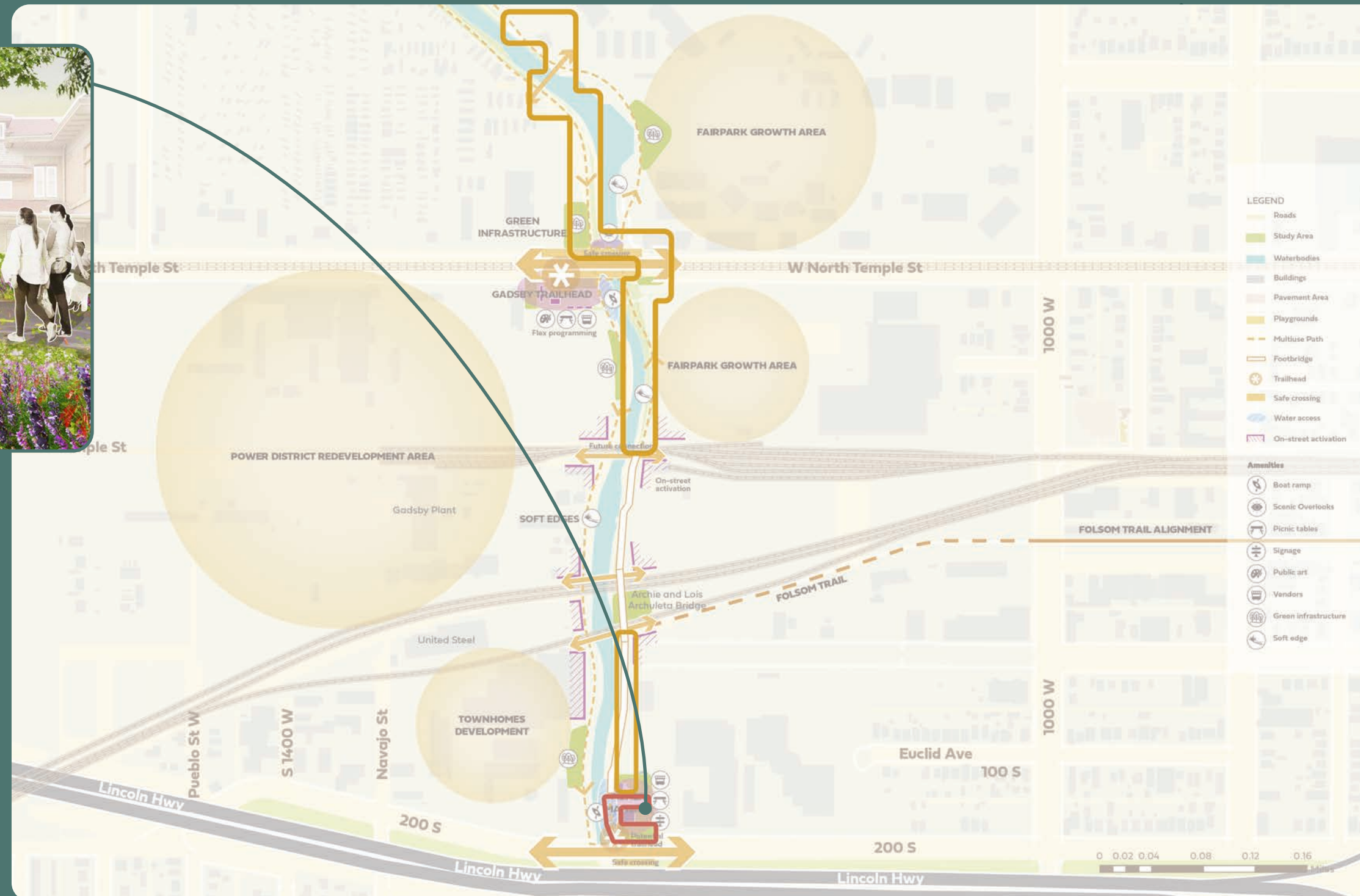
est. \$1.5mil

Consider policy updates to protect the river

est. \$0

Complete missing segment of trail at North Temple St

est. \$1.7mil



Develop a New Nature Park near Rose Park Golf Course

“Transitioning an underutilized place into an ecological asset”

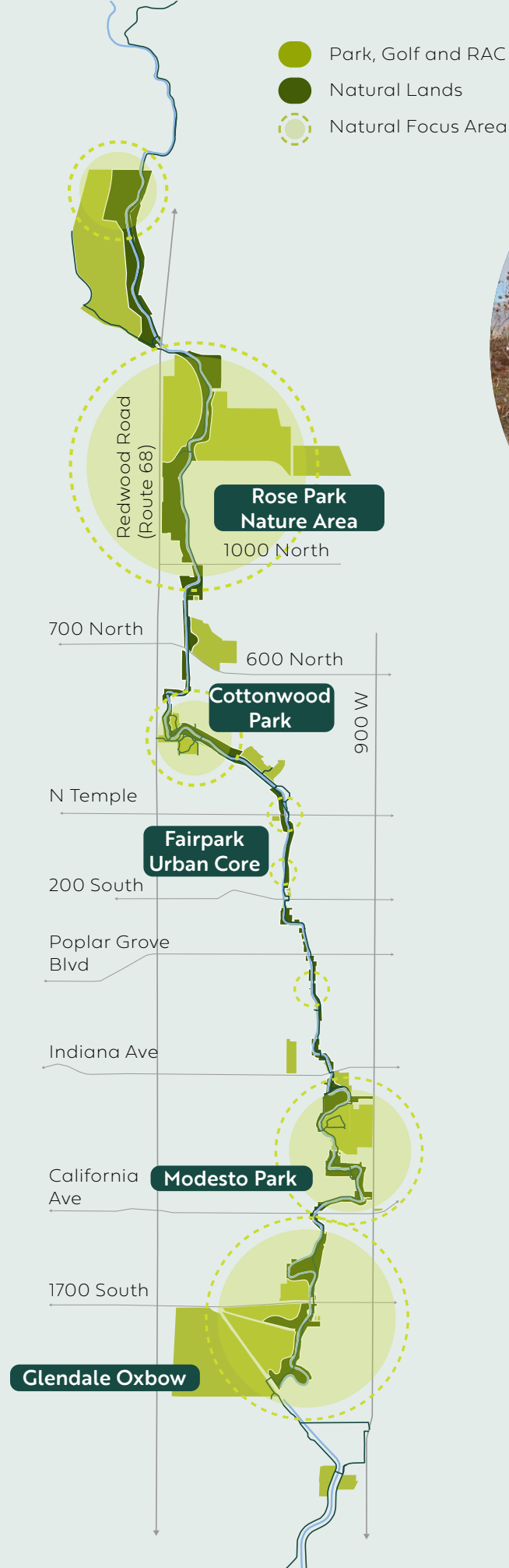


PHASE ONE PRIORITIES:

Feasibility study to assess proposed realignment of the existing levee
est. \$300-500k

Note: the map at right highlights the zones of change in future phases of work dependent on the results of the feasibility study.

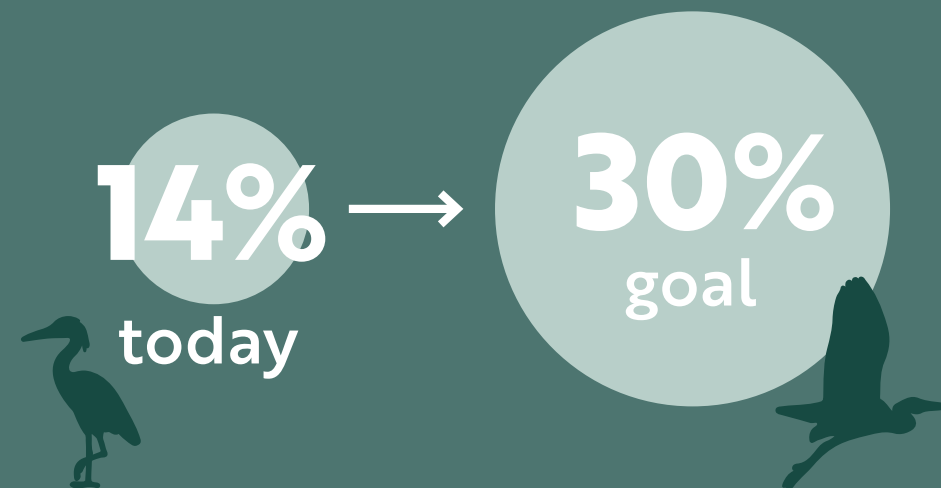




Nature

Focus on the restoration of native species, creation of new wetlands and natural habitats, and the design of nature experiences for people.

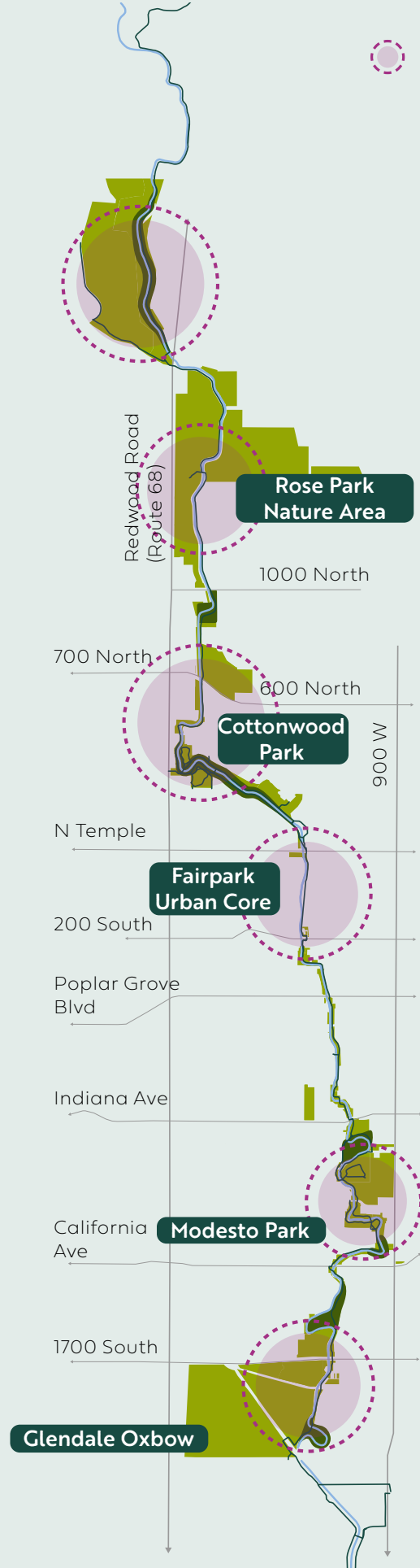
Key Metric



Area managed as natural lands

Sample Nature Goals:

- Enhancing Nature Experiences (1.1)
- Creating Biodiverse Habitat (1.2)
- Making Room for the River (4.1)
- Improving Water Quality (4.2)
- Expanding Natural Lands (4.3)



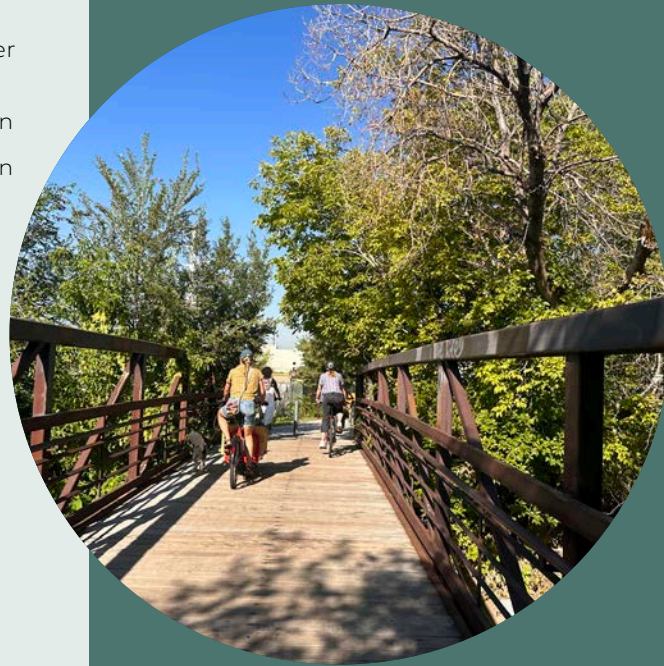
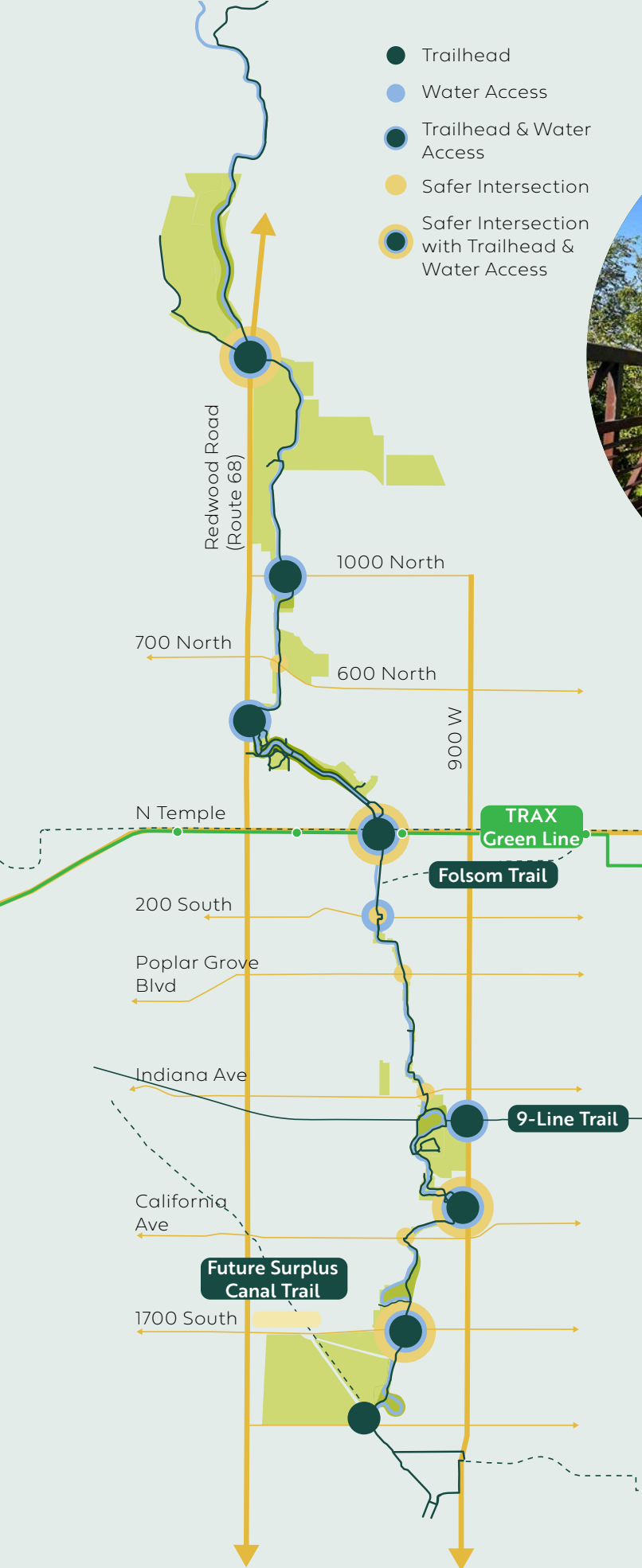
Culture

Increase investment in community resources and invest in new public amenities throughout the corridor.

Sample Culture Goals:

- Expand Public Art Programs (1.3)
- Celebrate & Support the Culture of the West Side (1.4)
- Bring Programming to the River and River's Edge (5.1)
- Support Small Businesses and Commercial Activation (5.2)
- Create Flexible Event and Gathering Spaces (5.5)





Connectivity

Improve the trail network on the corridor, optimizing for all user types and better connecting into both neighborhoods and other trails.

Sample Connectivity Goals:

- Create Safer and More Visible Intersections (2.1)
- Improve Neighborhood Connections (2.2)
- Expand Trail Widths and Separate Paths Where Possible (2.3)
- Improve Wayfinding and Signage (2.4)
- Bring Programming to the Water and Waters Edge (5.1)
- Improve Trail-Side Amenities (5.4)





Care

Improve the trail network on the corridor, optimizing for all user types and better connecting into both neighborhoods and other trails.



Sample Care Goals:

- Develop Clear Public-Facing Guidelines for Care (3.1)
- Partner with the Community to Steward the Corridor (3.2)
- Leverage Policy to Protect and Enhance the River (4.4)
- Develop a Multi-Pronged Approach to Public Safety (5.3)

