

UA Sustainability Council || Minutes

November 9th, 2021

3:00-4:30PM

MS Teams

Tuesday



1. Co-chair updates

- a. Executive Director, University Arkansas Resiliency Center, vacant
- b. Director of Sustainability Academic Programs, Ken McCown
- c. Associate Vice Chancellor, Facilities Management, Scott Turley
 - i. Scott gave an overview of an upcoming dashboard app called Energy Cap (available in your “my apps” dashboard), a campus energy dashboard. All the meters from buildings on campus will be connected to the dashboard. It will show real time data and will be a huge step for the UA once it is live. This can already be accessed by UA employees through the app dashboard. There’s still quite a bit of refinement to be done.
 - ii. The 4 megawatt Entegriy Solar Services Agreement is expected to go before the board of trustees in January.
 - iii. The UA intends to put out a RFP for a 9 megawatt solar farm. Once that is evaluated it will go in front of the board as well. This would put the UA at 13 MW and because of the current tariff we cannot exceed 20 MW. The CHP creates a challenge to going all the way up to 20MW.
- d. ASG Sustainability Director, Olivia Ervin
 - i. Meeting with the ASG President to discuss more transparency about the investments the UA has in fossil fuels and are going to try and plan to create a resolution for more transparency about investments.
 - ii. Working a tabling event with SAFE (Students Advocating for the Environment) to promote Ecosia, a sustainable search engine that plants trees and does other environmentally friendly gestures.

- iii. Wrapping up the Maple Hill Garden for the year, winterizing it today at the workday. Next Spring there are plans for continued workdays and educational events.
- iv. ASG is going draft a resolution of support for the Solar Services Agreement going in front of the Board in January.

2. Monarch Waystations

- a. The OFS has continued to identify flower beds on campus that are in rough condition or overgrown and clean them up and plant native perennials that are good for monarchs and other pollinators.
- b. These have created beautiful and low maintenance beds all over campus, so far we have five, and are asking for more bed suggestions. If you have one you'd like to see transformed email sustain@uark.edu with a picture and location.

3. Campus speed limits

- a. As part as a safety push, speed limits around campus are going to be reduced to 20 mph. This went into effect Nov 6 as a city-wide ordinance passed by the Fayetteville City Council.
- b. Until the physical speed limit signs around campus are changed, there will be no enforcement. Speed limit signs should come before spring semester.
- c. The main reason the speed limit change is for safety reasons, ASG passed a resolution in February 2021 supporting a speed limit reduction to 20mph or less after a fatal incident with a pedestrian and motor vehicle.

4. E-scooter update

- a. During the fall semester the two e-scooter companies are averaging 2500 trips per day, each operating with 500 scooters each, so it is a lot of trips people are taking.
- b. The trips people are taking are averaging 10 minutes and 2 miles with an average cost of about \$3 per ride.
- c. The UA is actively working with the scooter companies to better report crashed and injuries due to e-scooters. The scooter companies are being proactive about safety and etiquette and have sent out 1600 warnings since

the semester started and 67 of those users were fined \$10. The scooter companies also operate on a three-strike policy, so if you get three strikes you are banned from the system.

- d. A major challenge for e-scooter safety is getting them off the sidewalk and into the streets, but many streets lack the infrastructure to make a scooter rider feel safe. Ammen Jordan is actively working to improve routes and experiences of all commuters coming to campus.
- e. Forced parking is coming and the OFS has been working closely with the two scooter companies to identify and implement scooter corrals across campus that will become the only available hubs to park e-scooters. This will hopefully ease the “scooter clutter” seen on campus.

5. Fayetteville Traverse

- a. The Fayetteville Traverse is a soft surface trail designed for hiking, biking, and trail running. Most of the trail is design to accommodate all users, and all skill levels, including hand crank bikes.
- b. This is mostly a recreational trail, but many will utilize it for transportation purposes as well.
- c. The FT also has opened opportunities for ecological restorations on UA property that the trail is being built on. The 10-acre Oak Savanna has been a big part of the Fayetteville Traverse and now will operate as an outdoor learning laboratory for the UA. There has already been a Ph.D. student doing research on bluebirds and has installed 50+ bluebird boxes, as well as a seed collection of remnant prairie species led by Native Plant expert, Jennifer Ogle.
- d. The UA has also broken ground on the UREC Tennis courts behind Chick-Fil-A which will also house a bicycle skills park, dual-slalom course, and a “cross-country” style loop that will be part of the Fayetteville Traverse.

6. EV charging on campus

- a. There are currently two EV charging station on campus, one in Harmon Parking Garage and one in the Garland Parking Garage. The one in Harmon is most recent and was nearly all funded by a grant from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality.

- b. The OFS has been pushing to have more EV charging stations installed around campus but there has been pushback that the stations are not being well utilized. But the current data shows significant increase in use of the two stations.
 - c. The OFS has drafted an EV Charging Station plan that has identified short-, mid-, and long-term goals for EV charging on campus. We are going to refine the plan and circulate it to the council for vetting, and then move the plan up the food chain to upper administration.
 - d. Peter Nierengarten, CoF Sustainability Director, said the city is looking into is a EV charging station lease model from a company called Blink, so they would install and maintain the stations and with a revenue share lease.
7. 2021 Campus Commuter Survey
- a. 2021 survey has been delayed because of inconsistent data from Covid, so we are about to send it out so we can capture some more “normal” data from this fall semester and will follow up with another commuter survey in the spring.
8. Working group to evaluate how to use savings from Solar Services Agreement
- a. Meet Friday the 19th at 3PM
9. Last Campus Community Garden workday of the season is Wednesday at 4PM
- a. Also known as Maple Hill Community Garden
10. UA Bicycle Advocacy Council Tuesday the 16th at 3PM



UNIVERSITY OF
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Office for Sustainability

UA Sustainability Council || Agenda



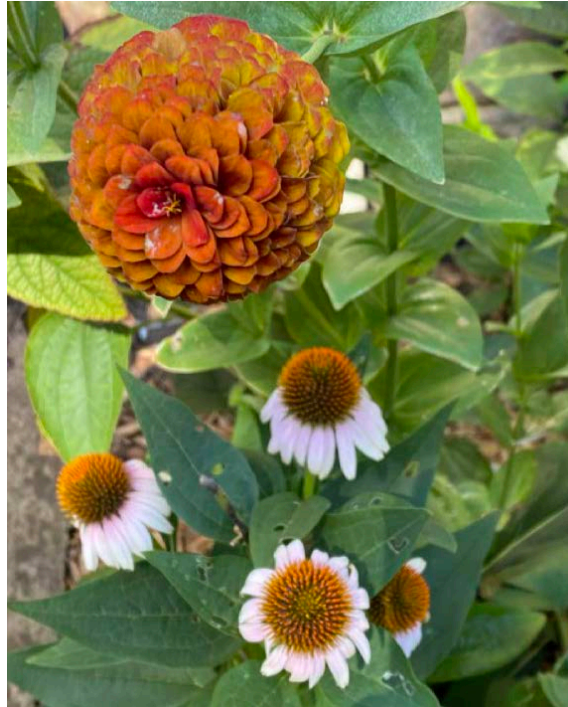
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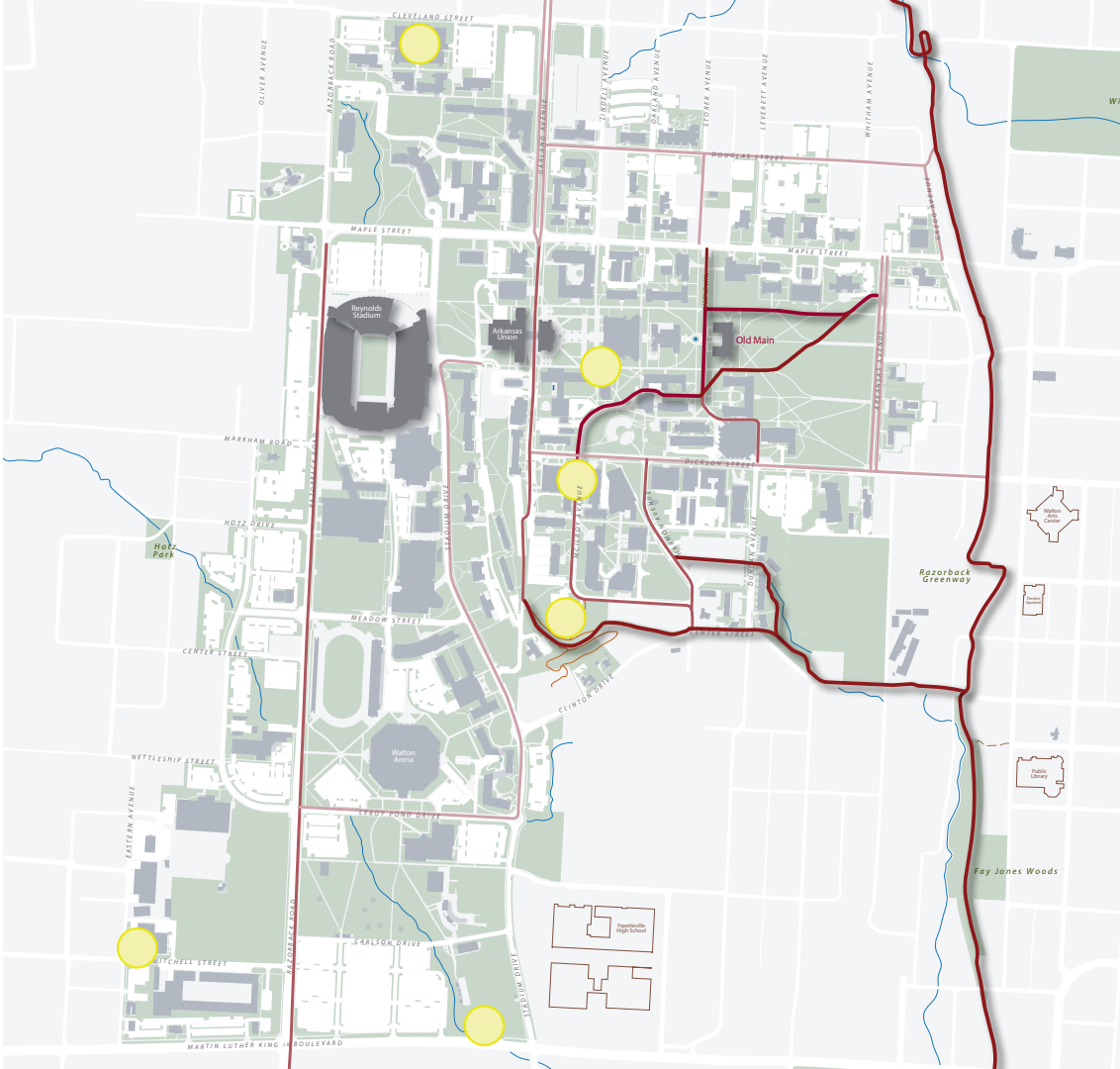
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Monarch Waystation



“It’s amazing to me how, walking from my office to get a cup of coffee, I could see a small piece of one of the world’s natural wonders, a trip being taken by millions and millions of butterflies to central Mexico every year from the University of Arkansas campus.”





MONARCH WAYSTATIONS AND NATIVE PLANT BEDS

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HIT BY A VEHICLE
TRAVELING AT:

20
MPH



9 out of 10 pedestrians survive

HIT BY A VEHICLE
TRAVELING AT:

30
MPH



5 out of 10 pedestrians survive

HIT BY A VEHICLE
TRAVELING AT:

40
MPH



Only 1 out of 10 pedestrians survives



POST @ 20 mph



All items



POST @ 25 mph



25 mph: Razorback (Maple to MLK)



LEAVE AS POSTED



25 mph: Maple (Garland to Razorback)



20 mph: Stadium (Maple to Clinton)



15 mph : Garland S (Maple to Stadium)



Campus Vicinity



Campus Viscinity



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E-SCOOTER DATA



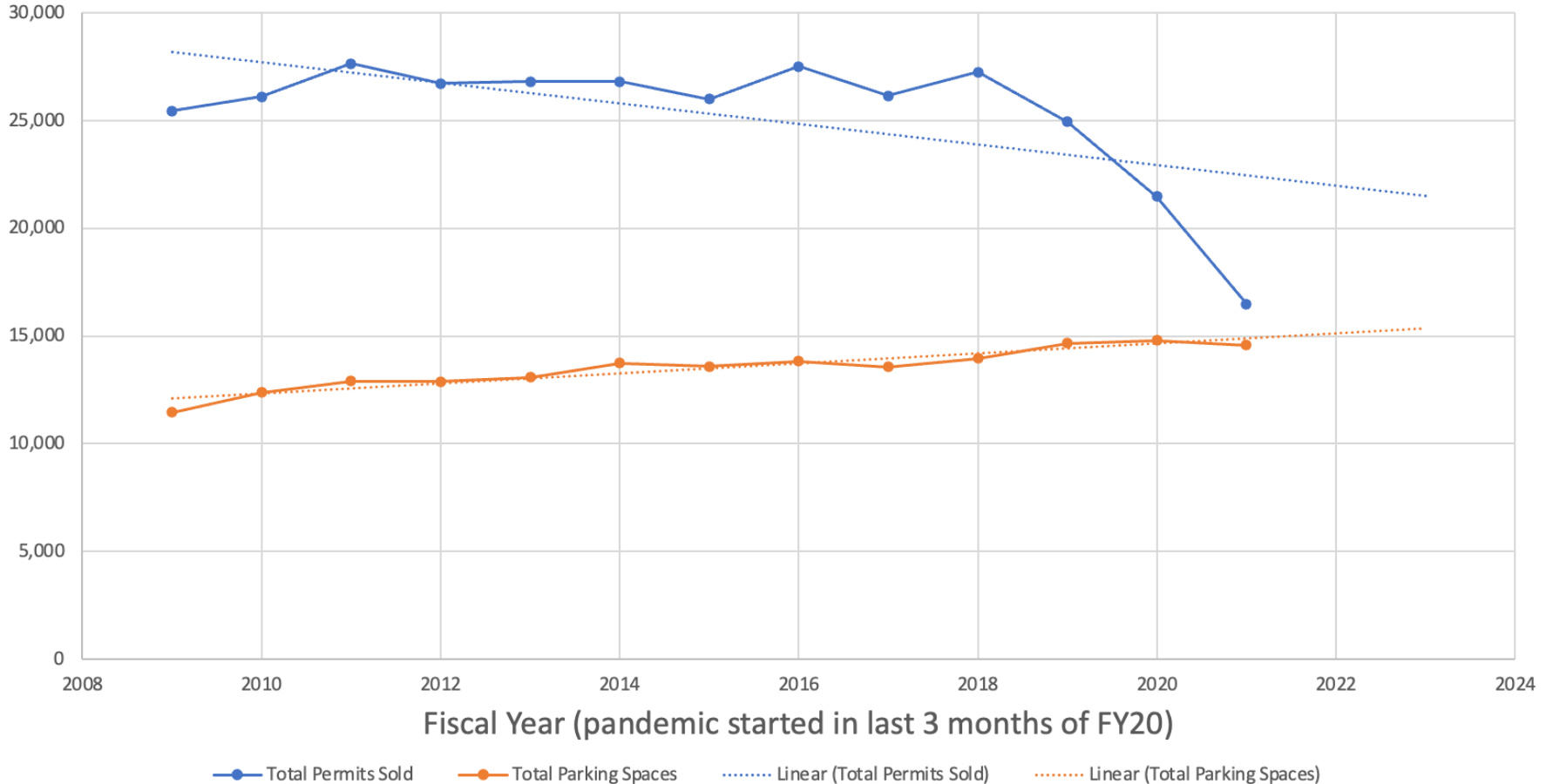
- During the fall 2021 semester, users average 2,500 trips per day
- Average trip time is about 10 minutes, with an average cost of about \$3 per trip, and 2 miles distance traveled
- Injuries reported to Spin, Veo and UAPD remain low and include 4 in August, 6 in September, and 4 in October.
- UA football gameday ridership has ranged from 5,000-8,000 trips per day
- From Aug. 23 to Oct. 24, Spin issued 1,594 etiquette warnings.
 - Out of those, 67 users have received an escalated "Strike 1" warning, which includes a \$10 fine and requires users to take an in-app rules review quiz.

USER QUOTES



- "I have 15 minutes to get from the Walton Business building to the stadium! It's a 15 minute walk if I speed walk, but with traffic and cross walks I'm always late. **Thanks to e-scooters I make it to class 10 minutes early and get a seat front row.**" — Hannah
- "I have epilepsy and am not able to drive to get to my destination. **E-scooters have made it possible** for me to get to class and home easier and safely!" — Gabe
- "The scooters are the only form of transportation I have to get home when my classes end late in the evening. **I feel safe commuting home at night.** It really brings true joy to scooter home after a long day's work." — Lauren
- "E-scooters allow me to move around campus, between friends' apartments and mine and close entertainment **without the burden of high fees like Uber; it is quick and efficient,** as well as environmentally friendly. Thank you." — Nicolas

UA Parking Permits Sold vs. Total UA Parking Spaces



SAFETY



CHALLENGE:

- We have had some serious injuries of people riding e-scooters
- Most users are not wearing helmets
- Some of our infrastructure needs improvement

SOLUTION:

- Improve reporting
- Improve infrastructure
- Make streets safer
- Helmet giveaways
- Rider Education Campaign
- Regular meetings with Campus Safety, UAPD, and e-scooter companies

PARKING



CHALLENGE:

- Shared-mobility systems remove some forms of clutter but also create clutter
- Our hilly terrain and natural surfaces lead to kickstand failure

SOLUTION:

- Move to a forced-parking model on campus in spring semester
- 60+ designated parking spaces throughout campus
- Clear physical markings & in-app maps to accurately reflect parking zones

ETIQUETTE



CHALLENGE:

- Micro-mobility can overburden sidewalks that are designed to move pedestrians
- Many of our users are new to alternative transportation

SOLUTION:

- This challenge isn't unique to e-scooters. We need to encourage the next generation of leaders to respect one another.
- Slow zone in the core of campus
- Let's make our streets safe enough for active transportation users

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Fayetteville Traverse



- The Fayetteville Traverse will be a soft-surface trail loop (~18 miles) that starts and finishes on the UA campus while incorporating:
 - Oak Ridge hillside
 - Tsa La Gi MTB Park
 - ARTP
 - Mt Kessler
 - Centennial Park
 - Markham Hill
- The NWA Trailblazers with support from City and UA are leading this initiative

Fayetteville Traverse



- The Office for Sustainability is coordinating closely with this project and using it as an opportunity to:
 - Enhance connectivity for transportation
 - Restore habitat
 - Trash and fence removal
 - Invasive plant removal
 - Native plant propagation
 - Habitat creation
 - Create opportunities for UA affiliates to have positive experiences in nature

Cato Springs Trail





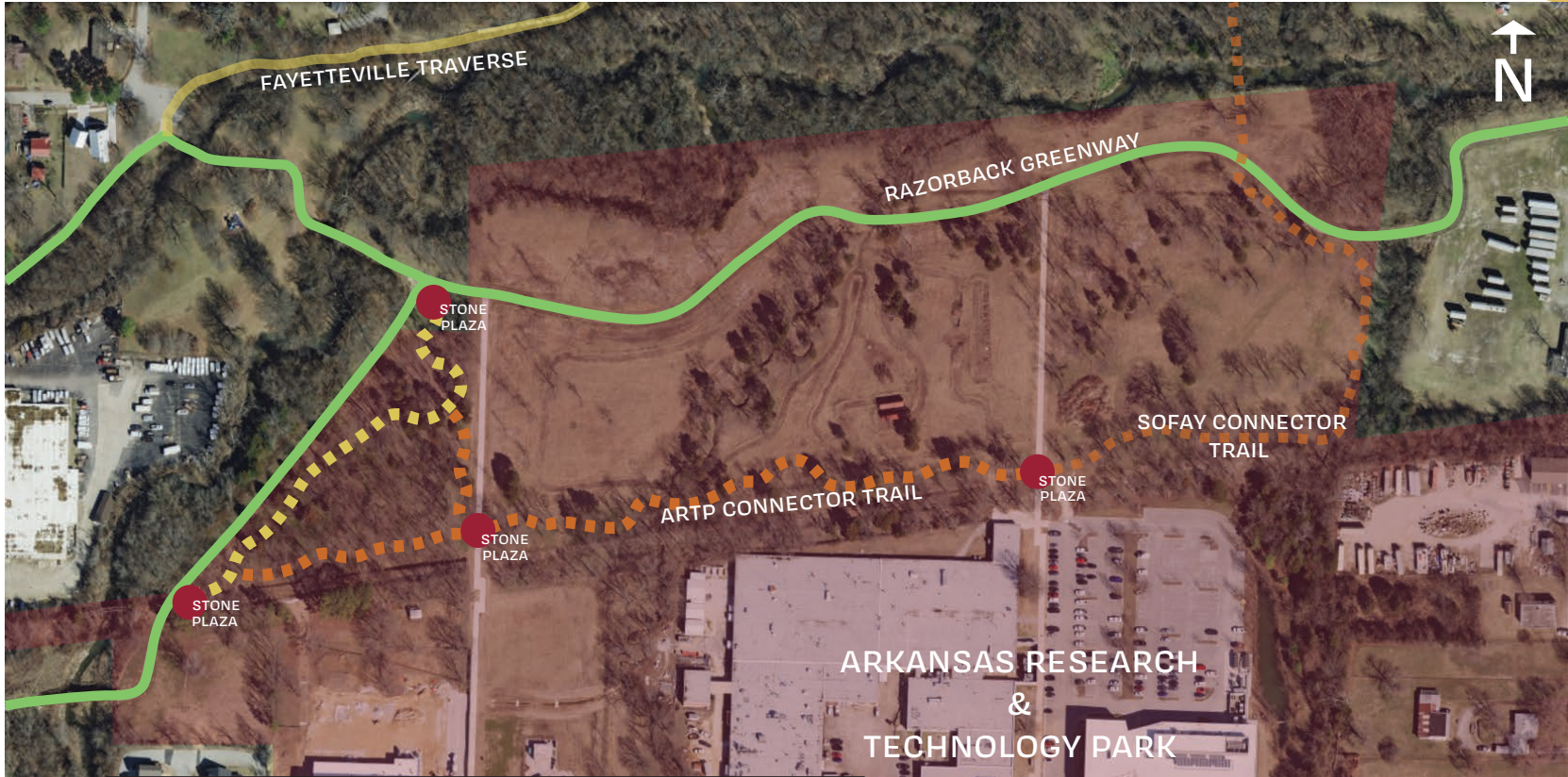


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ARTP Trail



Tsa La Gi Bike Park



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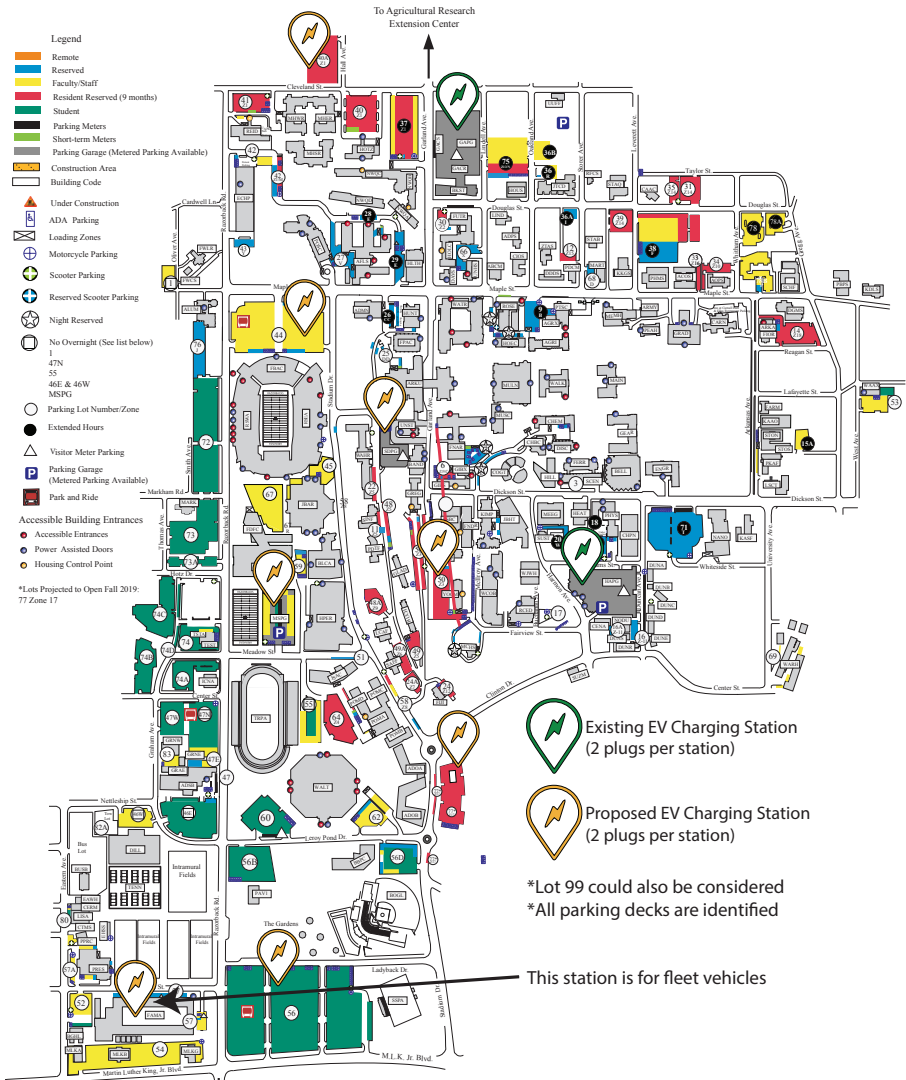
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PROPOSED ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING PLAN



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JULY 2021



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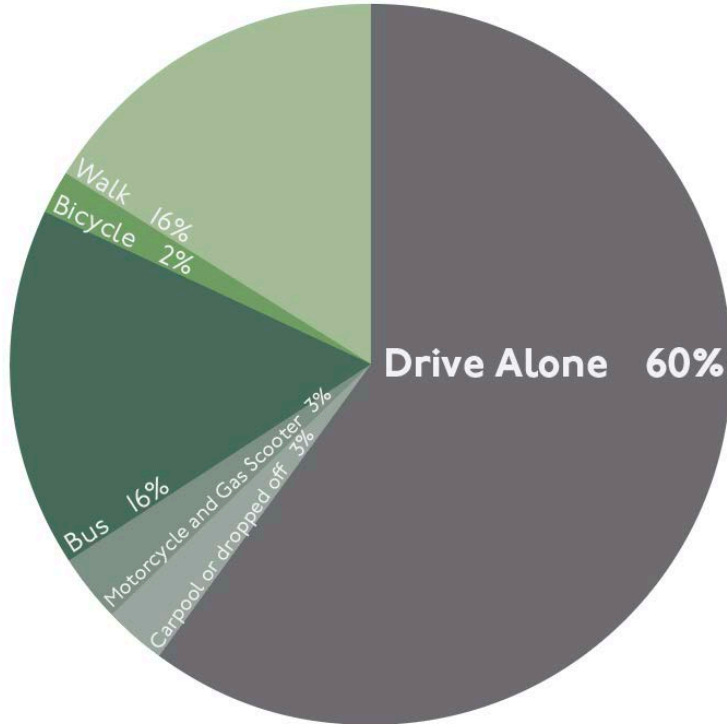
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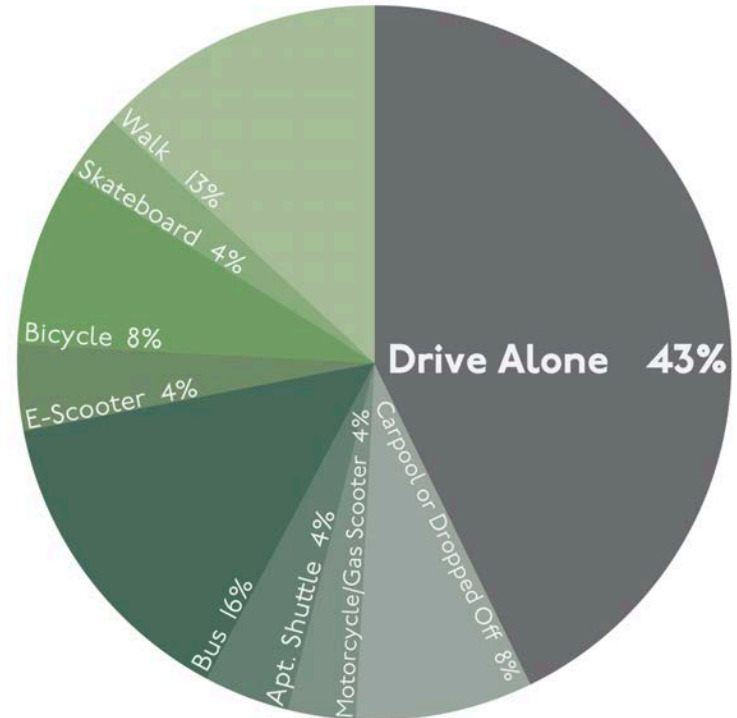
Mode Share Trends



2015



2020



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RENEWABLE ENERGY



- The Solar Services Agreement (SSA) tabled by the UA Board of Trustees in the fall of 2019 will be on a 2022 BoT agenda
- This SSA will cut utility costs by millions of dollars over the next decades with no upfront cost
- The UA Sustainability Council should make a recommendation to UA leadership regarding what sustainability initiatives (RECs or otherwise) could be accomplished with the generated savings

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A photograph of two young women with long blonde hair, wearing light-colored sleeveless tops and shorts, crouching in a community garden. They are smiling and looking at a large bush of green basil plants. The garden is situated in a courtyard between multi-story brick and beige residential buildings. In the background, there are trees, a black street lamp, and a person in a red shirt walking through an archway. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

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A group of ten cyclists of various ages and genders are riding their bicycles on a paved path through a lush green campus. The cyclists are wearing helmets and casual riding attire. The path is lined with tall, mature trees and several black lampposts with informational signs. One sign on the left reads "GEARHART HALL". The overall atmosphere is bright and active.

BIKE ADVOCACY



INSPIRATION
INTEGRATION
TRANSFORMATION