

Date: Thurs Time: 1:30-3:30pm

Session: Restoration and BMPs

Moderator: Jacquelyn Duke

Note-taker: Melissa Parker

Notes From Discussion:

1. Solutions for bedrock bottom streams?
 - i. Vegetation can begin re-establishing stream bed land habitat
2. How do you know if you mgmt. is wrong/right?
 - a. Consider whether the starting period is actually too long (e.g. 2 yr period establishment on grasses). It may be that we just need to be patient in the beginning, with the understanding that eventually it will become self sustainable.
 - b. Often the code is incorrect.
 - i. Solution- adapt a better code. They were often written without scientific input
 - ii. Oversight of contractors with restoration/ecology specialist
 - c. Often we don't learn because no one wants to take the risk and be responsible.
 - d. Contracting also limits success. Having multiple entities to manage a project helps. Especially when it's put into the hands of specialists to maintain a project once the initial work has been done.
 - e. We are constantly learning, though. Our weakest area is re-establishment – every single project is unique. What works on one doesn't work on another.
 - f. Ecology is messy! There is no one answer! (Even if it drives the engineers crazy!!)
3. Follow up – how do we maintain passive mgmt. in light of code?
 - a. We need a cultural shift in our approach.
4. How do we minimize the start up?
 - a. Choose some species that establish early, and phase out over two years, as each species comes along.
5. Can watersheds be “green” fixed Before other mechanical issues are fixed?
 - a. Depends on the spatial scale and level of degradation. Very individualistic.
 - b. Use LID to help with some restoration, so that construction and further development can be started earlier.
6. What if the watershed is already fully developed? How do you restore in those situations?
 - a. Volunteer buyout is one solution. Fix what you can to allow it adjust on its own.
7. Now that we've got a few decades of data, they suggest some streams might be reaching stabilizing. Are there other resources for further projects?
 - a. Aerial photos – migration/meander only. Bridge construction records. Root exposure.
8. Getting homeowners involved in erosion control? Has anyone attempted this? Thoughts?
 - a. The only thing more unpredictable than the weather is a homeowner.
 - b. City of Austin Go Green program. Getting the word out is key. They place it in lots of public places.
 - c. Sometimes we have the opposite problem. And it's related to a lack of communication.
9. Mycelium/microorganisms for erosion control?
 - a. Compost is a great solution.
 - b. Several contractors are using this method.