

**Date: Thurs Time: 3:35-5:00pm Session: Restoration BMPs**  
**Moderator: Jacquelyn Duke Note-taker: Melissa Parker**

**Notes From Discussion:**

1. What about the lifespan of rain gardens?
  - a. Yes, they do have a lifespan, but often volunteers can help maintain.
2. Why not use better retention devices? Than say, rain gardens...
  - a. Lower cost. Every little low-cost effort adds up, hopefully with a domino effect.
3. Have trees been tried in rain gards.
  - a. The problem is they require irrigation for some time. That's time and money. Often trying seedlings and saplings.
4. Is proximity to a creek a criteria for rain gardens? Or is it more impact?
  - a. Proximity isn't usually a priority. We are trying to move them higher up in the watershed. The goal is to move away from the streams.
5. What about work outside of parks?
  - a. Transportation is another avenue. E.g. street construction can include design of rain gardens. Bike lanes as well.
  - b. TXDOT – mass green plantings. Planting in groups of plants in highway gaps.
6. What about cranky landowners? Those afraid of snakes, rats, mosquitos, etc.?
  - a. You have to be the expert and convince them of the science. Science-based is huge.
  - b. Include good-looking renderings
7. What about education of how it looks/changes over time?
  - a. Must prepare stakeholders that the ecosystem will evolve over time.
  - b. Using perennials is a bonus, as they will grow back each year. Less maintenance. Also seasonal bloomers (some spring, some fall).
  - c. One complaint is ragweed. The answer to homeowners is to assure them it's short term and that it paves the way for a better ecosystem.
8. Can you have park stewards do maintenance?
  - a. Adopt-a... programs are how City of Austin addresses it. Gets volunteers involved. Spreads the word so others want to be included.
9. What is too much for trees? Bald cypress?
  - a. They do need to be watered, so they should be placed in connection with the groundwater/riparian areas
10. Chapter 26 issues? Preventing of parkland for other issues...

Not actually taking parkland, just using it for other things.
11. Cost – integrative approach. How do you keep track of who's in charge of what and ensure costs are covered?
  - a. It takes communication and integration of all agencies.
12. Often different agencies have different motivations. Must get everyone talking. Ct down on animosity. What about the lifespan of rain gardens?
  - a. Yes, they do have a lifespan, but often volunteers
  - b. Pooling resources.
13. What about using the Office of Sustainability?

- a. Cities are big entities. Mission integration in departments is a way of collaborating. Also helps when Parks and Rec involved.