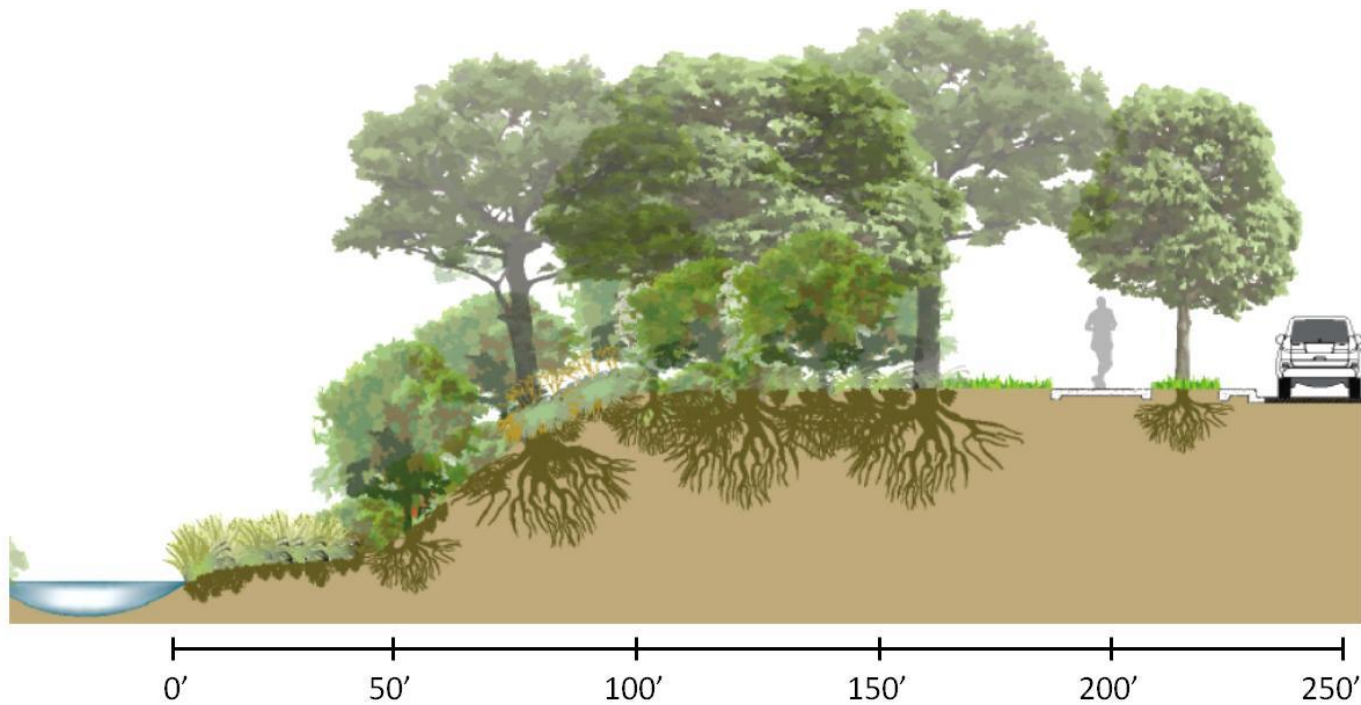


GROW ZONES

A SUCCESSFUL SUCCESSIONAL COMPLETE PARTIAL HISTORY



Riparian Zones

Where the aquatic and terrestrial environments mingle.

season in 2017, two years hence, at which point it can be renegotiated and/or
Watershed Protection and Development Review Department Points of Contact:
Mateo Scoggins, Environmental Scientist Senior, Phone: (512) 974-1917
Angela Gallardo, Conservation Program Coordinator, Phone (512) 974-2702
Ed Peacock, P.E., Section Manager, Phone (512) 974-2224
Roxanne Jackson, Division Manager, Phone (512) 974-1918
Mike Personett, Assistant Director, Phone (512) 974-2652

Parks and Recreation Department Points of Contact are:
Troy Houtman, Division Manager, Phone (512) 974-9481
Charles Vaclavik, Division Manager, Phone (512) 974-9471
David Juarez, P.E., Assistant Director, Phone (512) 974-9451

CONCURRENCE

 5/15/12
Mike Personett, Assistant Director, Watershed Protection Department

 5-15-12
David Juarez, P.E., Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department

 5-16-12
Sara L. Hensley, CPRP, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Victoria J. Li, P.E., Director, Watershed Protection Department

This agreement applies to the stream buffers in the following 19 parks, which may be added to with agreement by PARD and WPD staff:

- Bartholomew Park
- Battlebend Greenbelt
- Big Stacy/Little Stacy Greenbelt
- Boggy Creek Greenbelt
- Bull Creek District Park

2 of 3

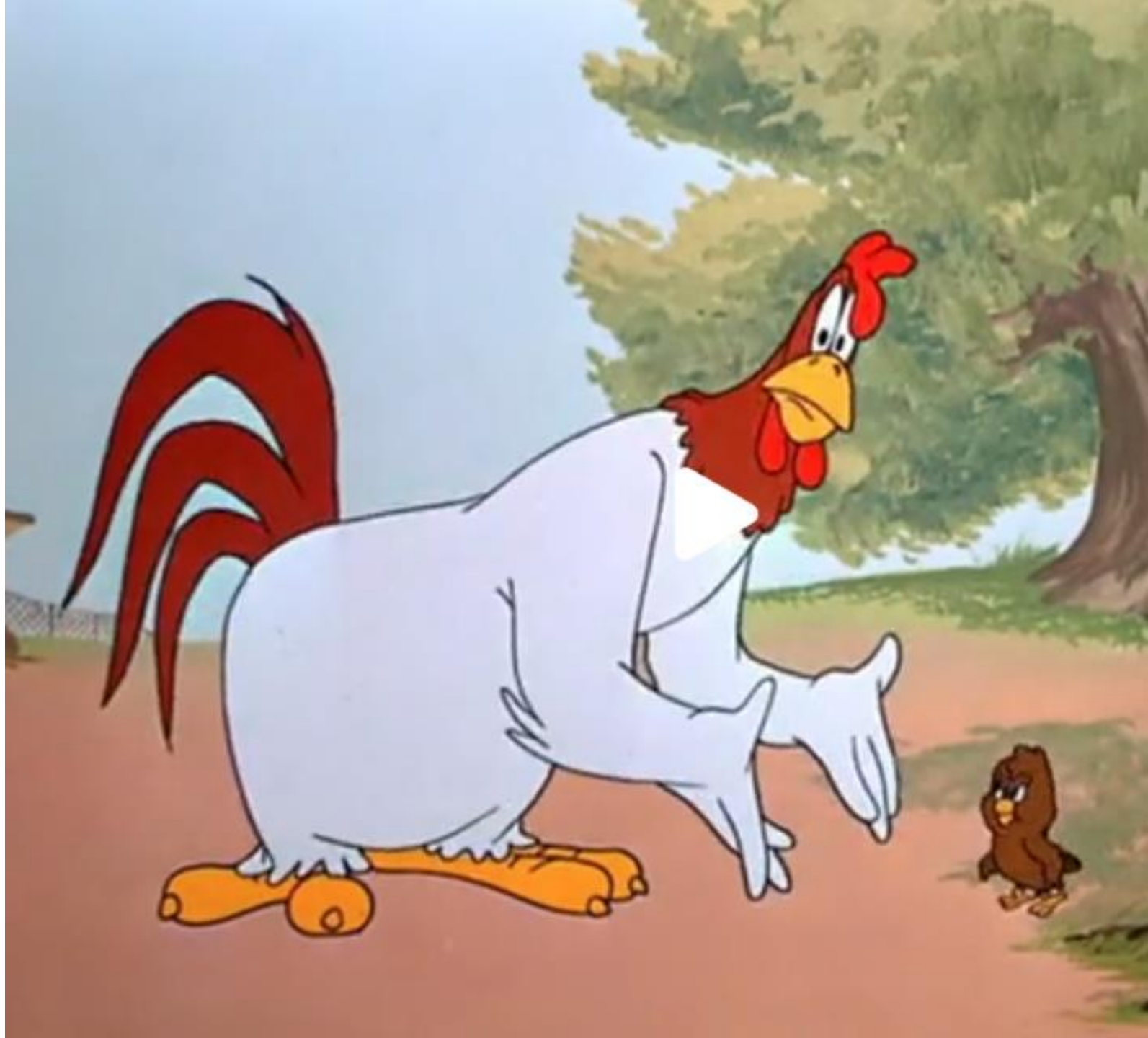
- Buttermilk Greenbelt
- Commons Ford Park
- Dittmar Park
- Dottie Jordan Park
- Gillis Park
- Givens Park
- Lady Bird Lake, downstream/east of I35
- North Star Greenbelt
- Reed Park
- Robert E. Lee (small channel along R.E. Lee Drive)
- Shoal Creek Greenbelt at 2222/Northland.
- Tarrytown Park
- Shoal Creek Peninsula at Labybird Lake
- Shoal Creek Greenbelt, 15th to 28th streets.

2012 GROW ZONE PROGRAM BEGINS

- 19 Grow Zones
- Mostly in Parks
- Requires Memorandum of Understanding between PARD and WPD, now we're in it together
- Expands WPD jurisdiction in parkland to entirety of Grow Zone boundaries
- WPD takes on responsibility to receive complaints

WHAT IN TARNATIONS IS A GROW ZONE?

- Buffer in the riparian zone
- Usually 15'-50' wide
- Mowing completely excluded
- Permitted restoration methods such as planting, seeding and invasive species removal
- Give it space and get out of its way



Riparian Vegetation Benefits

- Prevents streambank erosion
- Filters storm runoff
- Provides habitat and food for wildlife
- Provides shade that cools air and water temperatures
- Creates a diverse forest
- Reduces the City's carbon footprint
- Reduces maintenance costs

Sensitive Creekside Area



Riparian Zones with healthy vegetation:

- Improve water quality and quantity
- Stabilize streambanks from erosion
- Provide wildlife habitat and food
- Shade streams and lower temperatures

**Zona Ribereña delicada
¡No corte las hierbas!**

Las zonas ribereñas con vegetación saludable:

- Mejoran la calidad y cantidad del agua
- Estabilizan las orillas de los arroyos evitando la erosión
- Proporcionan hábitat y alimento para la vida silvestre
- Proveen sombra y reducen la temperatura del agua

WHY THE GROW ZONE METHOD?



WILLOWBROOK REACH RESTORATION

- 2 years of continuous effort
- \$20,000
- 100s of potted plants
- Continuous irrigation headaches
- Countless hours
- Only 1500 linear feet of stream affected



WHAT FOLLOWED

- Complaints of course! And then some more complaints.
- Then Johnson grass (*Sorghum halapense*)
- Then ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*)
- More calls were soon about helping and less were complaining
- Adopt a Creek, Floodplain Reforestation, and Ready Set Plant
- ACCC, Keep Austin Beautiful and TreeFolks came to our rescue
- Extensive volunteer stakeholder involvement and connections were made
- It became a brand that has been copied

An aerial photograph of a watershed area. A dark, winding stream flows through the center of the image. Numerous small, irregular red shapes are scattered throughout the landscape, primarily along the stream and in the surrounding land. The terrain is a mix of dark, forested areas and lighter, more developed or agricultural land. The text 'WHERE WE ARE AT NOW' is overlaid in a large, white, serif font.

WHERE WE ARE AT NOW

MORE THAN 60 GROW ZONES
AROUND 20 STREAM MILES PROTECTED

HOT TOPICS

METHODS



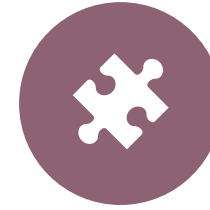
IDENTIFY
TOPICS



DETERMINE
TOPIC
MEMBERS



CLARIFY
OBJECTIVE



DIVERGENT,
CONVERGENT
DISCUSSION



CONCISELY
WRITE
SOLUTION

HOT TOPICS

NEVER STOP IMPROVING

Current
Vision

Management

Point of
Contact

Safety

Programmatic
expansion

Unhoused

Reflection,
Community
Engagement
& Public
Perception:
What is the
current and
future vision
of the
program?

CLEAR RIPARIAN IMPROVEMENT

SET INTENTIONAL RESTORATION TRAJECTORIES

ENGAGE COMMUNITY FOR INPUT, HOW RESTORATION
WILL SERVE THEM

IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING AND AWARENESS OF GROW
ZONES

SOLID COMMUNICATION PLAN IN PLACE

STAFFED, FUNDED, AND SUSTAINABLE

INCLUDE AFFORESTATION, EDUCATION, STEWARDSHIP,
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, ACCESS, AND
CONNECTIVITY



What does maintenance(management)/maintenance scheduling look like and who is responsible for what maintenance?

- Necessary
 - Sign installation (spacing)
 - High risk tree pruning
- Permitted
 - Invasive removal, mechanical and herbicidal
 - Native plantings
 - Vegetation control for assets and infrastructure
 - Public access
 - Trash removal
- Prohibited
 - Mowing
- Concerns and contentions
 - Limbing up for visibility
 - “No Camping” signs

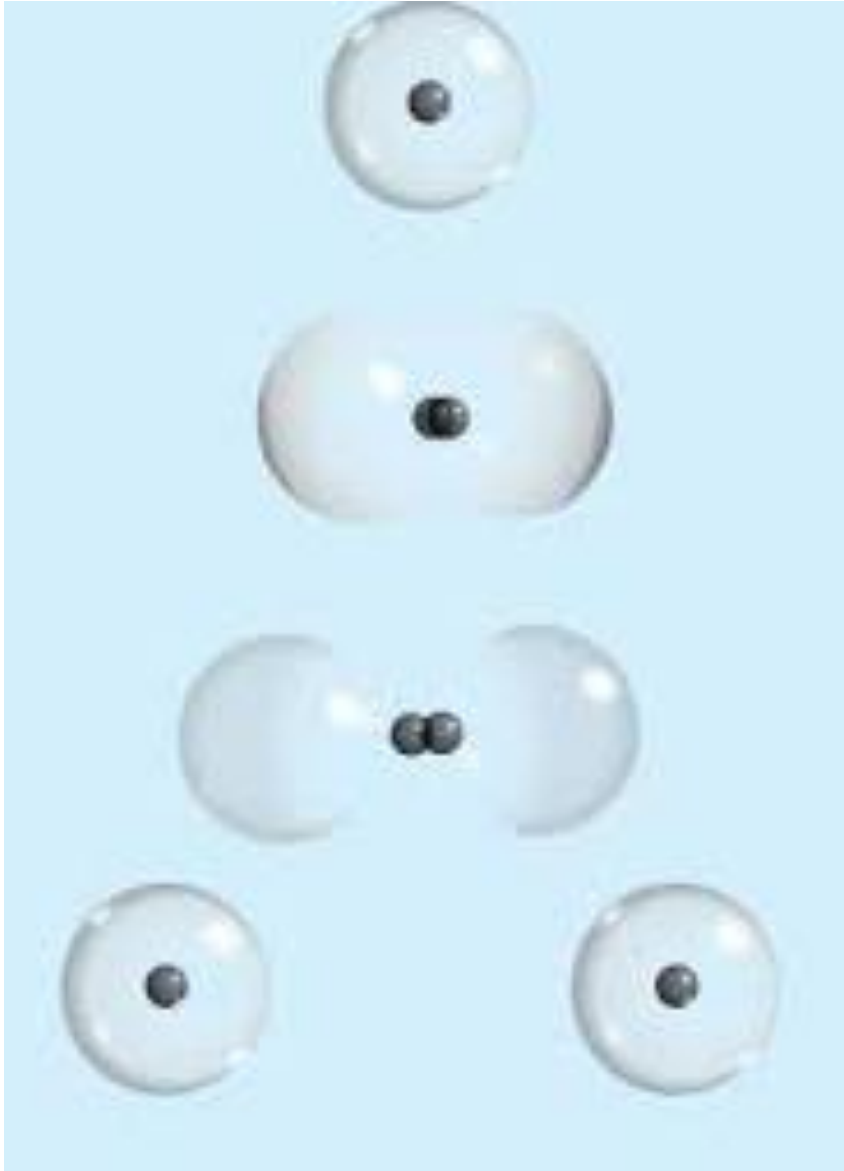
Who are the points of contact in the departments?

- More important than you think but boring to discuss
- Which departments
- Why
- Who has what control
- Not a hot topic with a lot to talk about
- Move on to the next one



Safety and grow zones. What are the protocols and considerations?

- Poison Ivy
- Violence and criminal activity
- Unkept and overgrown vegetation
- Bugs, mosquitos, gnats, and wasps



Programmatic expansion

- What are the goals
- Who are the users
- Method for identification and prioritization
- Limitations of program
- Benefits of expansion
- Needed resources
- How to measure success
- Interdepartmental process

Support for unhoused community members: People living creek side and impacting the creeks

- Process for alleviating homelessness in Grow Zones
- Prevent use of Grow Zones for camping
- Stakeholders for response
 - Land management
 - Social services
 - Law enforcement
- Who enforces camping ban and how
- Is management of communities better
- How does someone recover
 - Addiction
 - Mistrust
 - Criminal record
 - Loss of mental capacity
 - ZERO personal resources