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 gardens?
   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. Plating 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.