

SPROW

Sustainable Public Rights Of Way Subcommittee

August 18, 2020



Welcome & Introductions



Approve Summary from July 21, 2020 Meeting

- ▶ The Subcommittee reviewed the Draft Concept of the Form Based Tree List that NCTCOG staff put together. This is a matrix that lists trees and their attributes. The group approved the matrix and started a subgroup to start filling it in.
- ▶ The Subcommittee reviewed BMPs that were brought up in discussion at the last meeting. The group made edits and approved BMPs they wanted to be included in the BMP Guidebook.

BMP Guidebook: Landscape Planning and Vegetation Maintenance



BMP Guidebook: Landscape Planning and Vegetation Maintenance

- North Central Texas Form-Based Tree Matrix
- Guidance on spacing and planting near utilities



The North Texas Form Based Tree Matrix

DRAFT

Common Name	Scientific Name	Native/ Adaptive	Average Tree Height (ft)	Recommended Soil Volume (sq ft)	Tolerates Poor Drainage
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Drought Resistant	Shade Tolerant	Crown Spread (ft)	Max Tree Height (ft)	Average Life Span (yrs)	Evergreen or Deciduous
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When Drops Fruit/Leaves/ Cones	Susceptibility to Windfall	Commercial Availability	Maintenance Needs	Listed on a Utility Tree List
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BMPs Approved at the July Meeting

Median Planting

- If a median is under 12 feet wide, trees should be planted in a straight line down the middle of the median. If a median is greater than 12 feet wide, trees should be planted offset down the median.
- Plant trees in median if median is a minimum of 8' wide
- Consider drainage goals when building medians at a higher or lower grade

Irrigation Considerations

- Cities should reference existing city water conservation plans to ensure compliance before planning irrigation along the ROW

BMPs Approved at the July Meeting

Tree Spacing

- Trees should be planted a minimum of 4' away from the curb
- Root barriers can be used as long as the soil volume is adequately maintained for species
- Recommended that cities establish who maintains parkway or landscape easement
- Trees planted near intersections and major driveways should be out of the visibility triangle



BMPs Approved at the July Meeting

Utility Coordination

- ▶ Trees should be planted at a 5'-10' minimum away from underground utility lines
- ▶ Cities should check with the utility provider for tree recommendations. If they don't have recommendations, use the following:
 - ▶ If a tree's mature height is 20' or below then it can be planted within 20' of an overhead utility line.
 - ▶ If a tree's mature height is greater than 20' it should be planted at least 20' away.

Oncor Tree Guidance



BMPs to Develop

- Accessing a maintenance site where there is no place to park without blocking traffic
- Clearance above roads so vehicles don't hit trees
- Location of irrigation controller so it doesn't get hit and is out of the visibility triangle
- Drip or subsurface irrigation for landscape and drip or bubbler for trees to prevent spray into traffic and water waste



Vegetation BMPs

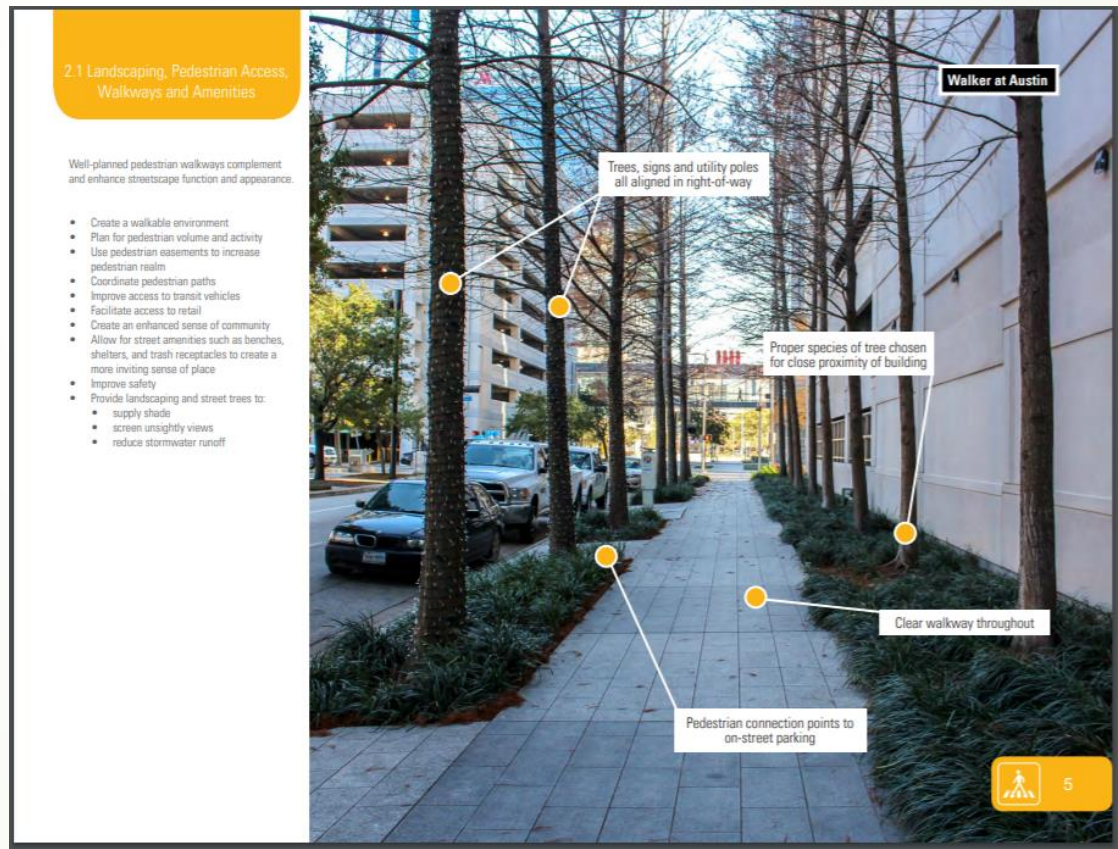
Vegetation refers to all vegetation not including trees (shrubs, grass, flowers, etc.)

- ▶ How close to the curb can vegetation be planted?
- ▶ Can vegetation be planted over underground utilities?
- ▶ Are there any restrictions to vegetation in medians?
- ▶ Are there special irrigation or maintenance considerations for vegetation?

Creating the BMP Guidebook

- Pictures and examples of the approved BMPs
- Tree Lists
- Street cross-section showing vegetation in relation to utilities

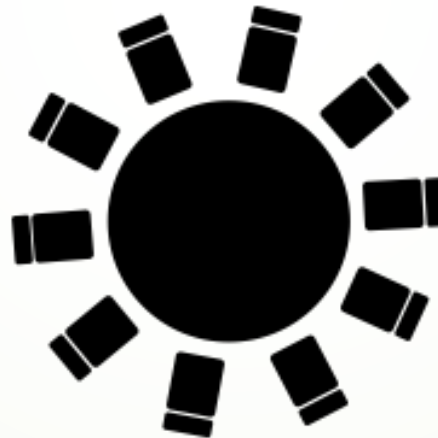
Scenic Houston Streetscape Resource Guide



Next Steps

- Determine action items for Subcommittee members and NCTCOG staff.

Member Roundtable



21st Annual Public Works Roundup

Thursday **September 17th** 9am-4pm

- Public Works Roundup will be held virtually through Hopin
- Registration opened Monday Aug 17th at <https://hopin.to/events/public-works-roundup>
- Registration is free
- SPROW Track in the afternoon



Next Meeting

- ▶ September 29, 2020 1:30-3:30pm
 - ▶ Microsoft Teams

- ▶ October 20, 2020 1:30-3:30pm
 - ▶ Microsoft Teams

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