

SPROW Meeting

Crysta Guzman &
Madisson Dunn
March 25, 2026



North Central Texas
Council of Governments



AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions

Presentation

01 Tree Selection for ROW

Discussion Items

02 Subcommittee Background

03 Future Direction

04 SPROW Marketing

Information Items

05 FY26 Public Works Program Update

06 Other Program Updates

Other Business & Roundtable Discussion

07 Roundtable

08 Next Meeting

09 Adjournment

Welcome & Introductions



Welcome and Introductions

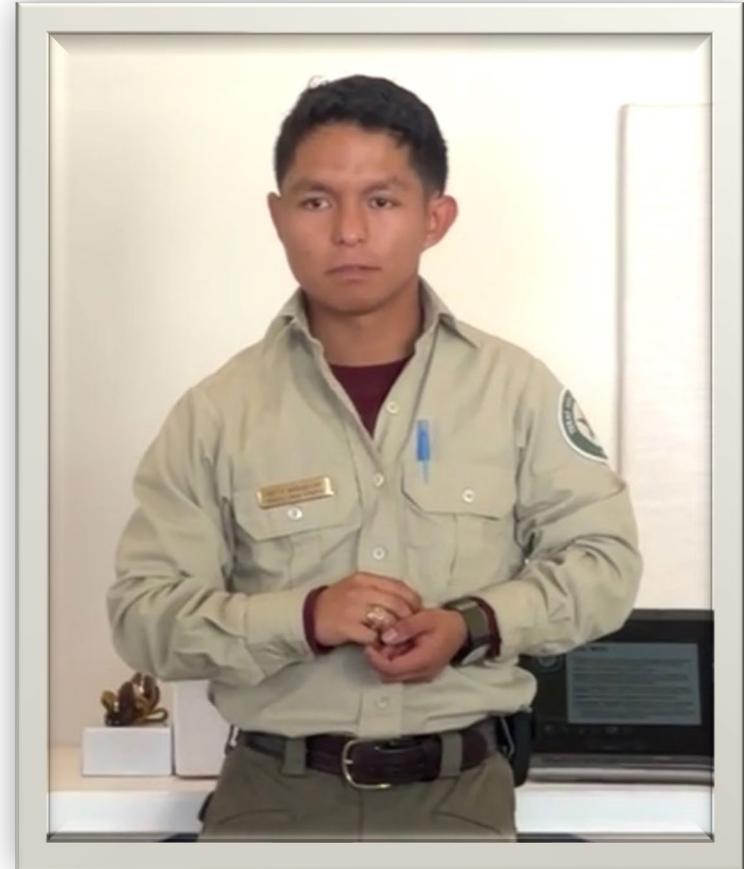
- The meeting agenda, presentation, and handouts are located on the [SPROW Subcommittee webpage](#).



1. Trees in ROWs Presentation

Hector Marines-Chio

Regional Urban Forester
Texas A&M Forest Service



CONSERVE. PROTECT. LEAD.



Trees in ROWs

Hector Marines-Chio | Regional Urban Forester

CONSERVE. PROTECT. LEAD.



- Piedras Negras, Coahuila, **MX**
 - **1999**
- Languages: **ENG, ESP, ASL**
- Texas A&M University Class of **2022**
 - **B.S. Forestry**
 - Corps of Cadets: **Company K-1**
- **TAMFS**: June 2022
 - **FIA: June 2022-January 2023**
 - **Urban & Community Forestry: February 2023-Present**
 - **ISA Certified, Oak Wilt Qualified, Red Card Certified**



“Helping communities develop sustainable programs that provide Texans with healthy trees and forests.”

College Station

Vacant

Program Leader

College Station



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Longview

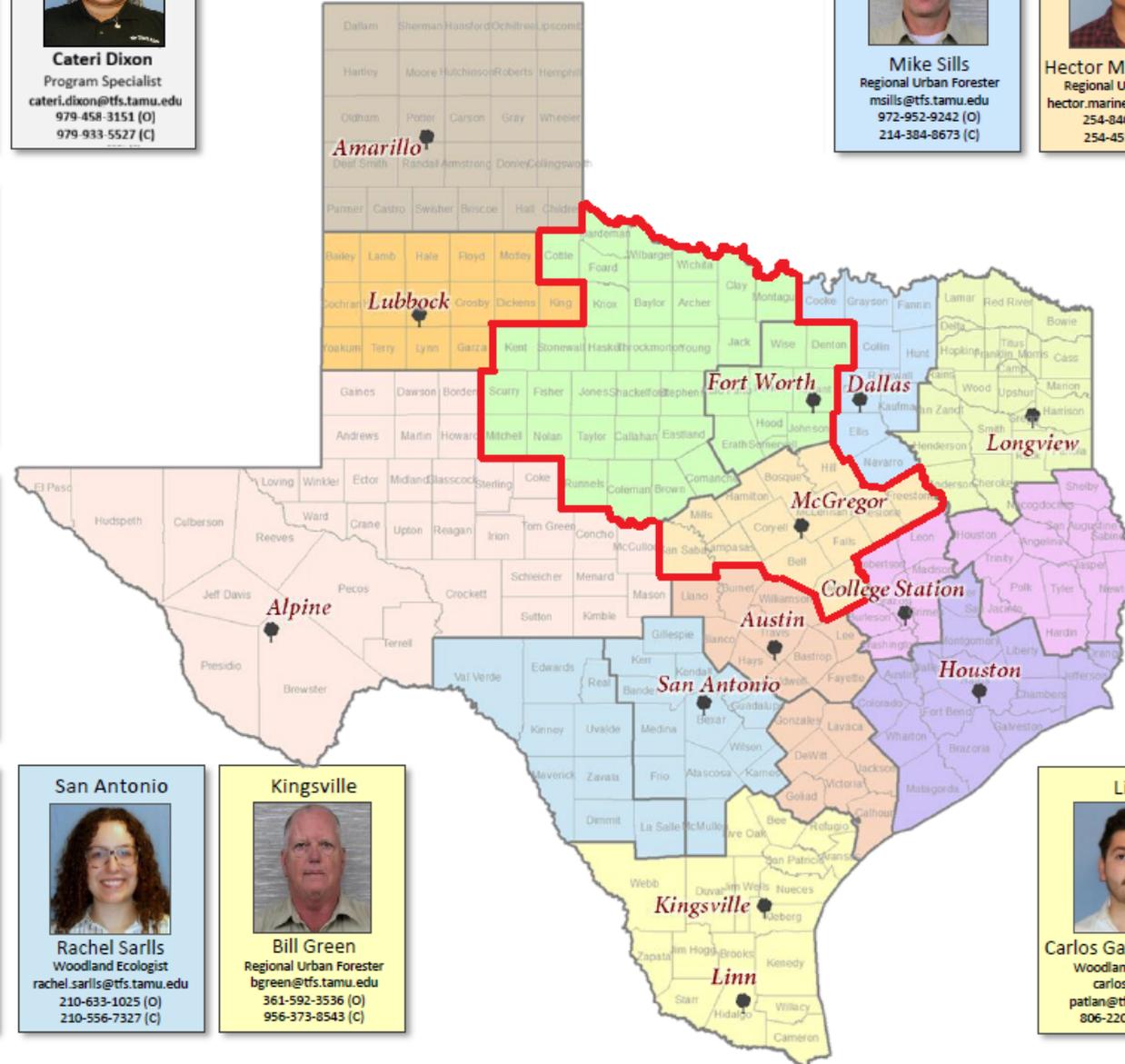


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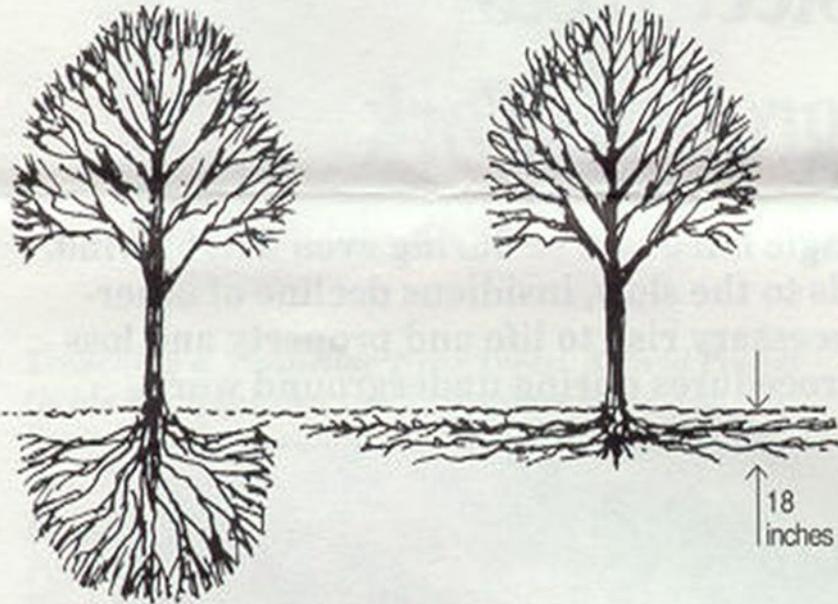


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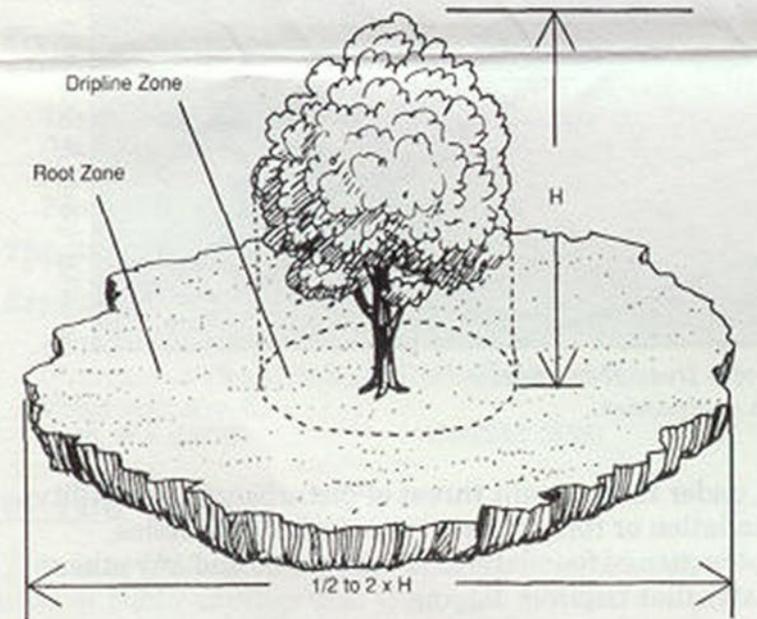
CONSERVE. PROTECT. LEAD.



1. Tree roots are *not* an underground reflection of the crown.



2. Roots spread far and wide!

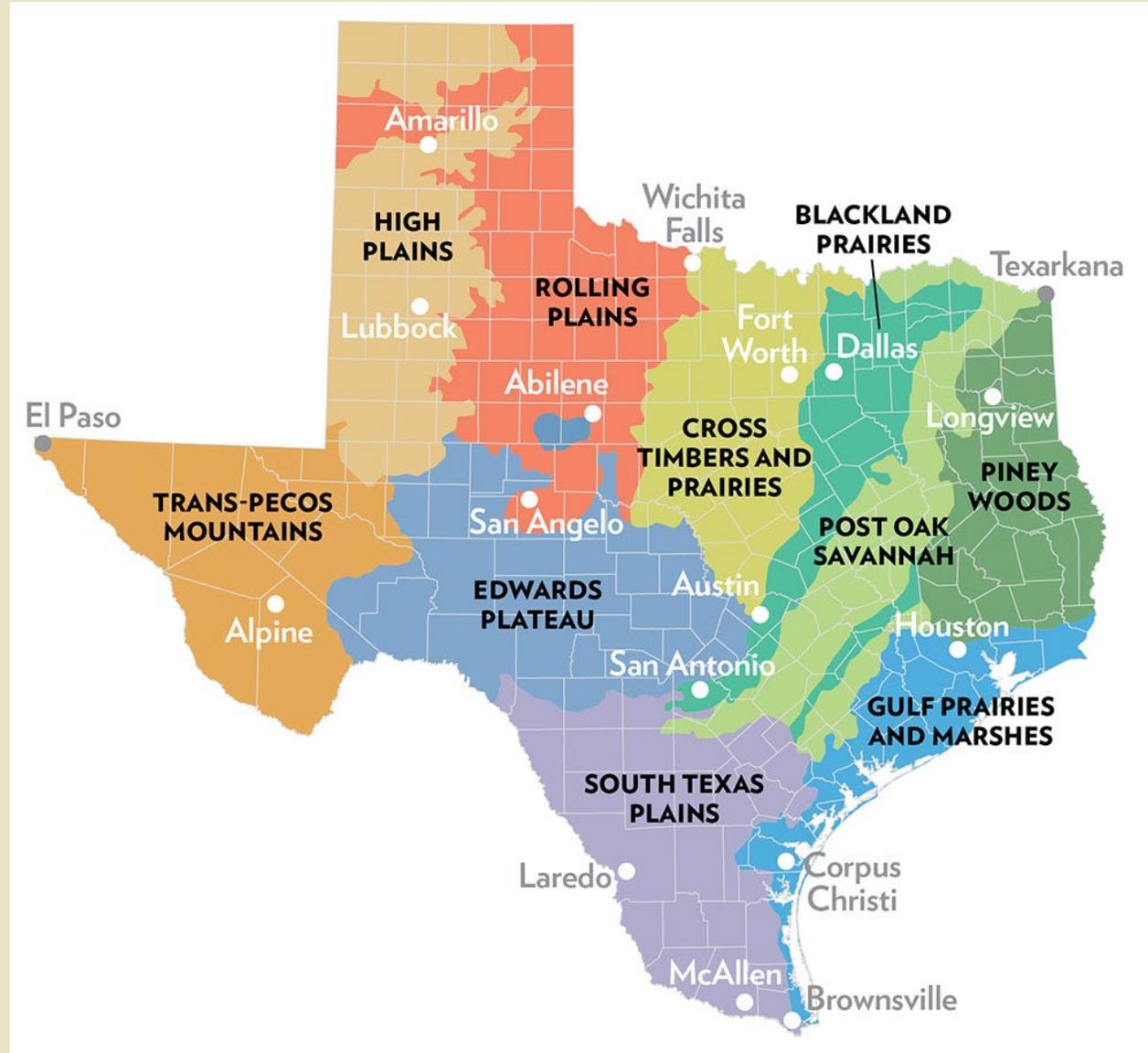




Tree Selection



Right Tree, Right Place





Small Deciduous Trees

Tree Name

Growth Rate

Texas Redbud

Rapid

Desert Willow

Rapid

Texas Persimmon

Slow

Possumhaw

Slow

Leadtree

Moderate

Crapemyrtle

Moderate

Flameleaf Sumac

Moderate

American Smoketree

Slow

Mexican Buckeye

Moderate

***pruning dependent**



Medium-Sized Deciduous Trees

Tree Name

Growth Rate

Bigtooth Maple

Moderate

Eve's Necklace

Moderate

Golden raintree

Moderate

Mesquite

Moderate

Elm (Cedar/Winged)

Rapid

Ash (Green/TX/White/etc.)

Rapid

Red Oak

Moderate

Walnut

Moderate

Soapberry

Moderate

***pruning dependent**



Tall Deciduous Trees

Tree Name

Growth Rate

American Elm

Rapid

Burr Oak

Slow

Chinkapin

Moderate

Ash

Rapid

Live oak

Slow

Pecan

Moderate

River Birch

Rapid

Shumard

Rapid

Catalpa

Rapid

Sycamore

Rapid

Honeylocust

Rapid

Cottonwood

Rapid

***pruning dependent**



Small Evergreen Trees

Tree Name

Growth Rate

Texas Mountain Laurel

Slow

Arborvitae

Moderate



Medium-Sized Evergreen Trees

Tree Name

Growth Rate

American Holly

Slow

Laurelcherry

Moderate

Eastern Redcedar

Rapid



Tall Evergreen Trees

Tree Name

Cypress

Stone Pine

Magnolia

Growth Rate

Rapid

Moderate

Moderate



Spacing



Spacing by Height

There should be **no trees** planted **within dripline distance** of a utility line. Shrubs and other native wildflowers are the only thing worth placing **under** a utility line

Small to Medium trees should be **1x mature-height** away from a utility line

Medium to Tall trees should be at least **1.5x mature-height** away from utility lines

On a **slope**, near utility lines, **all trees** should be **1.5x mature-height** away and analyzed for rolling threats



Utility Pruning Practices

Mature height of tree

Distance away

15-20 ft

**urban trees*

10-25ft

Small Trees

21-35ft

35-45ft

Medium Trees

35-45ft+

45-60ft

Tall Trees



Spacing by Structure

Tree Branching patterns

Species dependent

Live Oak vs Bald Cypress vs Eastern Red Cedar

All require different pruning approaches

Planting standards

15-20ft apart

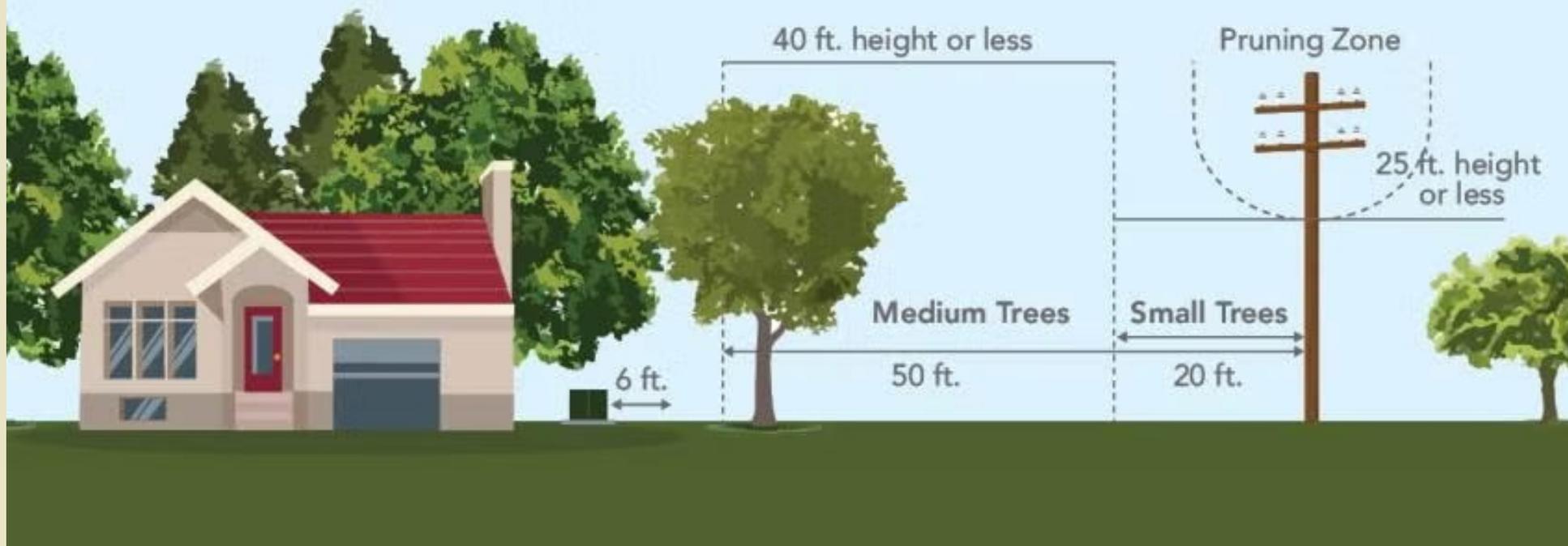
Utility standards

mature height = distance away

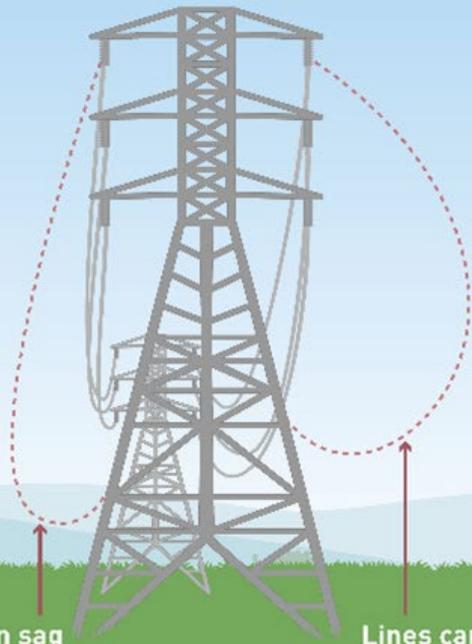
**slope dependent*

PLAN BEFORE YOU PLANT

Tips for safely planting trees near power lines



Wire Zone
No trees



Lines can sag
from high loads
and hot weather.

Lines can
sway in
high winds.

Border Zone
Only small
trees or shrubs



Outer Zone
Trees no taller
than the distance to
the wire at maturity





Maintenance



Expected Maintenance

- **Routines (Annual/Semi, Follow up)**
 - Ask power company and contractor how often the trees will be pruned
- **Pruning Demands (Time)**
 - Does this job need to be done now?
 - How long will a job like this take?
- **Pruning Demands (Emergency)**
 - Is there a tree part(s) at risk of falling onto a powerline?
- **Pruning Demands (Weather)**
 - Topping- controversial but can help a tree with a terminated crown (still viable) to return photosynthetic processes to live
 - **Is NOT to be confused with POLLARDING**



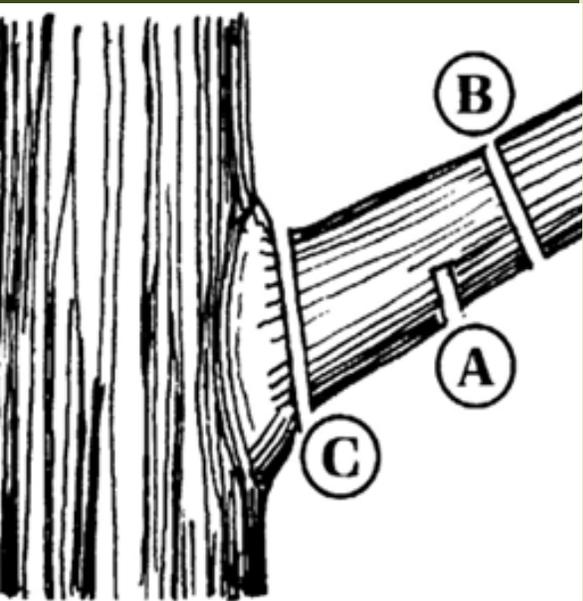
Utility Pruning Practices

TXDOT- ANSI Z133.1 A300

Reasons to prune: 1. safety, 2. utility, 3. vegetation health, 4. aesthetic, 5. tree-specific reasons

Reasonable and adequate clearance, not excessive

Preserve natural character and balanced crowns



ONCOR- 7 ft from lines

3-5ft from neutrals and wrapped secondaries

V/Y crowns most common, Side pruning or L shaped masting not advised

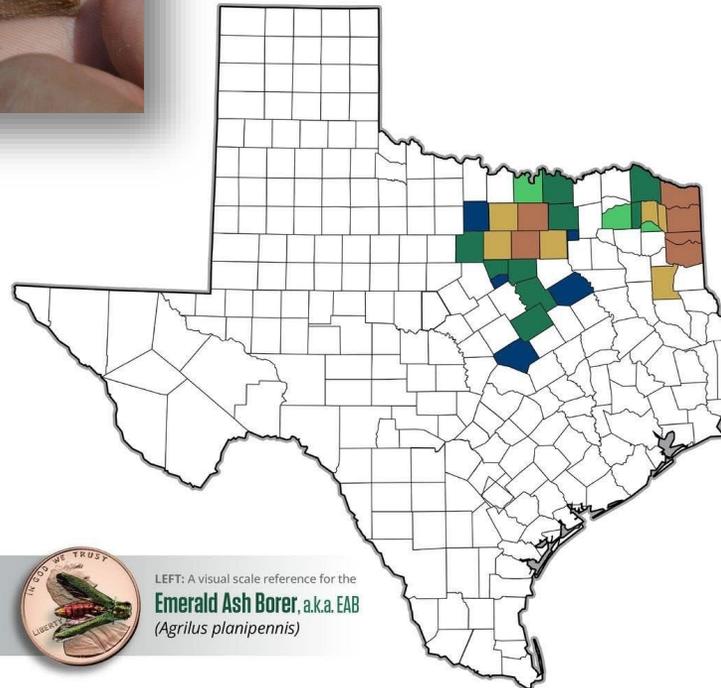
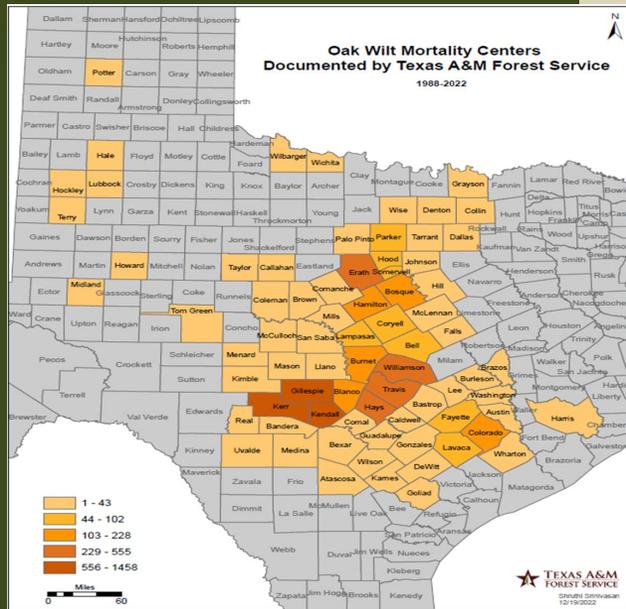
Texas Public Utility Commission- company determines distance between wires based on voltage and tree type

Recommends trees smaller than 25 feet



Insect and Disease Management

Debris removed and disposed of properly



TRACKING THE SPREAD

EMERALD ASH BORER IN TEXAS

Confirmed cases documented by Texas A&M Forest Service as of Tuesday, July 15, 2025.



LEFT: A visual scale reference for the Emerald Ash Borer, a.k.a. EAB (*Agrilus planipennis*)



Discussion Items



2. Sustainable Public Rights of Way (SPROW) Subcommittee Background



- **Purpose:** Provide support and technical advice to the Public Works Council on sustainability issues associated with public works infrastructure.
- **Background:**
 - Established in response to region's population growth and national infrastructure "D" rating in 2008.
 - Subcommittee began meeting in 2008.
 - Members included: PW Directors, City Engineers, Capital Projects Managers, Planners.
 - From 2013 until 2018, the subcommittee hosted annual SPROW Education Forums (some years the forum combined with the Roundup).

2. Sustainable Public Rights of Way (SPROW) Subcommittee Background

- Past Deliverables:
 - [The Roadmap to a Sustainable Public Right of Way](#)
 - Technical resources list including the [Green Infrastructure Guidebook](#), [Sustainability in the Built Environment map](#), and [LEED Building map](#)
 - [Case Studies map](#)
 - [SPROW Educational Forums](#)
- Previously Planned Deliverables:
 - ROW Best Management Practices Guidebook
 - SPROW Track at Public Works Roundup

3. Subcommittee Future Direction

- NCTCOG gathered feedback from a few previous subcommittee members. Insights included:
 - **Target audience:** Planners, PW Directors, Engineers, Franchise Utilities
 - **Future goals:** Establish standard ROW management guidelines and BMPs, regionalization
 - **Challenges:** Limited attendance, perception of low educational value
 - **Improvement opportunities:** Work with consultant, publish agenda/presentation ahead of meeting, add educational presentations

3. Subcommittee Future Direction

- **Target Audience:** Which job titles or positions should we focus on to ensure topics are most relevant?
- **Goals & Priorities:** What should the subcommittee's primary objectives be moving forward?
- **Successes & Strengths:** What aspects have been most impactful, and what resources or strengths should be preserved?

3. Subcommittee Future Direction

- **Challenges & Solutions:** What barriers/challenges have led to low engagement; what suggestions do you have to overcome them?
- **Future Improvements:** What unmet needs or gaps should be addressed, and what changes (e.g., meeting format, deliverables, webinars) would make participation more valuable?
- **Meeting Frequency:** Are regularly scheduled quarterly meetings the best way to increase engagement and participation for this group? Should we have ad hoc meetings and focus on deliverables and webinars/trainings for added value?

3. Subcommittee Future Direction

- To share topics of interest for future SPROW presentations, please complete [this form](#) by April 15, 2026.



4. SPROW Marketing

- Previously utilized emails and flyers to market subcommittee and forums.
- With the target audience in mind, what marketing strategies would be effective to increase SPROW engagement?
 - Continue emails and flyers?
 - Share information with professional associations or networking group?
 - Share resources via Center for Development Excellence (CDE) quarterly newsletter?

FY2026 Public Works Work Program Update



5. FY26 Public Works Program Update

- Overall Regional Public Works Program Budget Goal: \$360,000
 - 76% of budget received
 - Invoices distributed in mid-January
 - Please let us know if your entity did not receive an invoice.

Please contact Madisson Dunn at mdunn@nctcog.org or 817-704-5611 for more information.

FY2026 Cost Share Participants

Addison
Allen
Azle
Benbrook
Carrollton
Cedar Hill
Cleburne
Coppell
Crandall
Dallas
Decatur
Duncanville
Fate
Flower Mound
Fort Worth
Grand Prairie
Grapevine

Haltom City
Highland Park
Hutchins
Irving
Joshua
Keller
Kennedale
Lakeside
Little Elm
Mansfield
Mesquite
North Richland Hills
Pantego
Plano
Ponder
Rhome
Richardson

Rockwall
Southlake
Sunnyvale
University Park
Venus
Watauga
White Settlement
Collin County
Dallas County
Denton County
Ellis County
Johnson County
Tarrant County

5. FY26 Public Works Program Update

27th Annual Public Works Roundup

- August 20, 2026, at Hurst Conference Center
- What SPROW topics or presentations would you like to see?
- Next step: Gather abstracts from presenters



Please contact Madisson Dunn at mdunn@nctcog.org or 817-704-5611 for more information.

Other Program Activities



Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) Subcommittee

Last Meeting: January 14, 2026

- Guest speakers: Dr. Fouad Jaber & Dr. Yufan Zhang (Texas A&M AgriLife) presented green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) components of the TSI Study, including modeling work and long-term GSI maintenance findings.
- Discussed FY26 roster and upcoming amendments following PWC subcommittee voting.
- Reviewed website survey results (2 responses); feedback emphasized improving accessibility (mobile-friendly, smaller files) and making the website more user friendly and searchable.

Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) Subcommittee

- **FY26 Work Program Updates**



- Inlet protection case study research progressing.
 - Stormwater quality monitoring program development underway.
 - Website modernization and content reorganization in development.
-
- **Next Meeting:** April 14, 2026, at 1:30 PM (In-person)

Please contact Katie Hunter at khunter@nctcog.org or 817-695-9102 for more information.

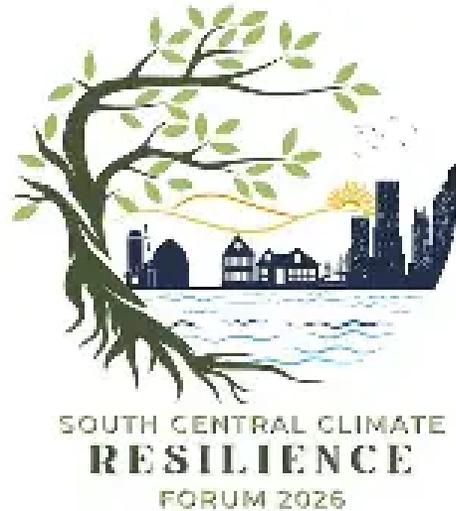
6. Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts (RISE) Coalition

- The RISE Coalition brings together local governments, universities, and non-profits in peer-exchange opportunities to support sustainability and environmental initiatives
- Current and past areas of focus:
 - Regional Climate Action Planning
 - Energy Efficiency
 - Sustainable Procurement
 - Incorporating Regional Greenspaces
 - Engaging Communities on Sustainability
- Next Meeting: April 29, 2026, at 9:30 A.M. at NCTCOG Offices



Please contact Corinne Buckley at cbuckley@nctcog.org or 817-704-2510 for more information.

Upcoming Events, Conferences, and Opportunities



South Central Climate Resilience Forum

April 15 - 17, 2026

**La Quinta Inn & Suites San Antonio
Riverwalk, San Antonio, TX**

The Southern Climate Impacts Planning
Program at University of Oklahoma &
Others



Lone Star Sustainability Forum

August 5-7, 2026

**Embassy Suites Landmark, San
Antonio, TX**

Institute for Leadership in Capital
Projects

Additional Resource

- Tree Planting Guide
 - Resource provided by Texas A&M Forest Service, showing several optimal species for specific counties and sizes.

Texas Tree Planting Guide

HOME | FAQ

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

Custom Tree Selector

I will plant my tree in this county:

Option 1: The space available for my tree is...

A small area, less than 120 sq.ft. or with growing space restrictions (overhead wires, on the sides)

Somewhat restricted, less than 180 sq.ft.

A large space, more than 180 sq.ft.

Not sure


Click to view Available Space graphic

Option 2: I want a tree that is...

Small, 20 ft. tall or less at maturity

Medium, 20-40 ft. tall at maturity

Large, more than 40 ft. tall at maturity

No preference


Click to view Tree Heights graphic

Option 3 : I want a tree with leaves that are...

Deciduous, leaves drop in fall

Evergreen, leaves stay green all year

No preference

Option 4 : I want a tree that... (check all that apply)

Is a Texas native

Has reliable fall color

Has showy or fragrant flowers

Has attractive fruits or seeds

Has fruits or seeds eaten by wildlife

Is Firewise

Option 5 : The place I will plant my tree... (check all that apply)

Is extremely dry or droughty

Is poorly drained or stays wet

Is shady all or most of the day

Has salty soil or sea-spray

Has highly alkaline soil (> 7.5 pH)

[Read more about soil conditions](#)

NEW OUTREACH REQUEST PAGE

Are you interested in having Environment and Development staff speak, table, or provide a demonstration at your next event?

Visit the NEW Environment and Development [Outreach Requests webpage](#) on NCTCOG's Environment and Development page to submit your inquiry!



Roundtable Discussion



“Now, it is your turn.”



Upcoming SPROW Meeting

- The next Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled based on subcommittee frequency preferences.
- More information on the subcommittee is available on the [SPROW webpage](#).

Contact & Connect

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