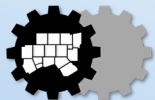


SPROW Meeting

Madisson Dunn &
Corinne Buckley
June 23, 2026



North Central Texas
Council of Governments



AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions

Presentation

01 Beyond Mowing

Discussion Item

02 Future Direction

Information Items

03 Meeting Summary

04 FY26 Public Works Program Update

05 Other Program Updates

Other Business & Roundtable Discussion

06 Roundtable

07 Next Meeting

08 Adjournment

Welcome & Introductions



Welcome and Introductions

- The meeting agenda, presentation, and handouts are located on the [SPROW Subcommittee webpage](#).
- Please use the Microsoft Form linked in the chat to add your name and organization for attendance.
- Please mute your line.



1. Beyond Mowing Presentation

Marcie Delgado

President

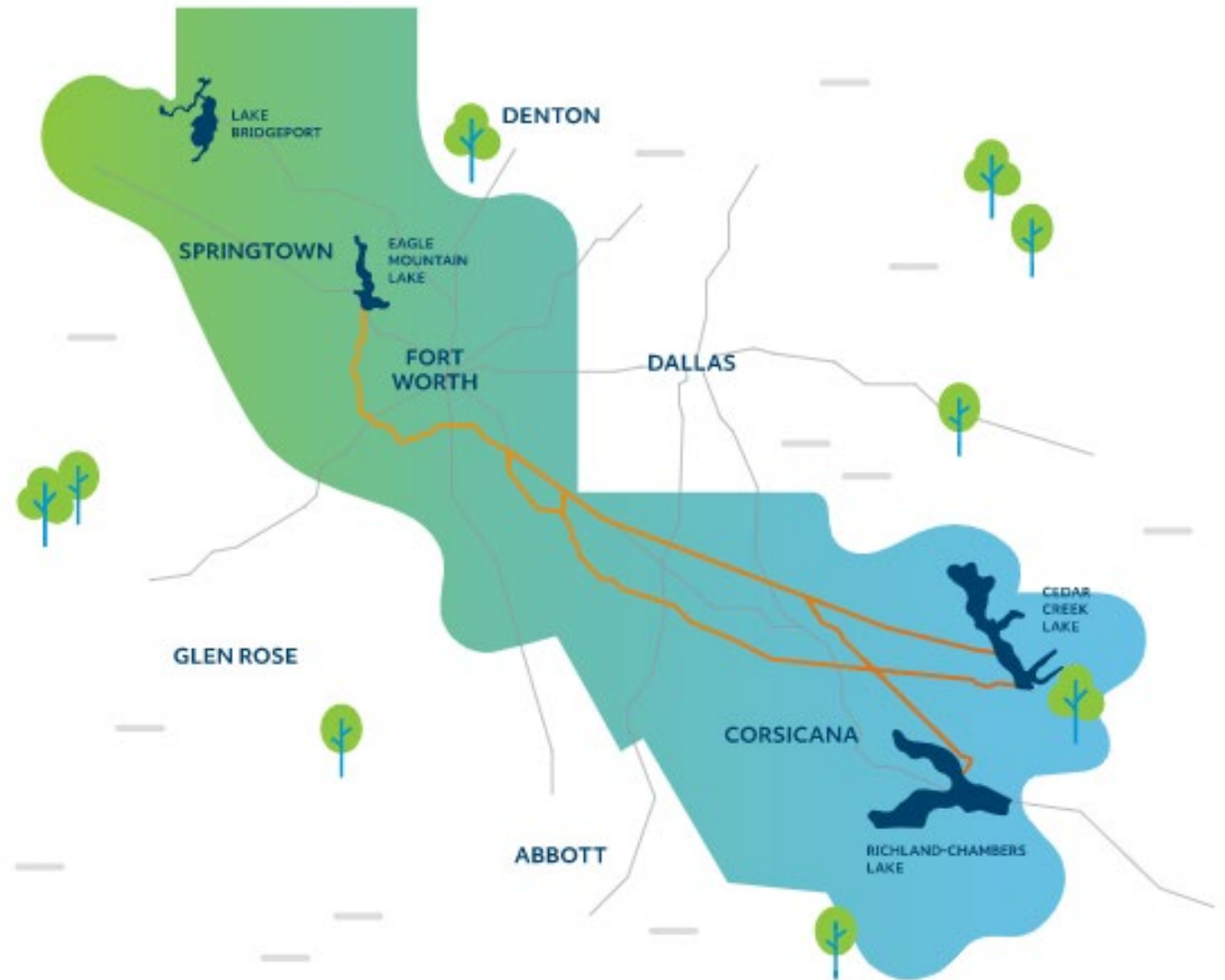
Native Plant Society of Texas
North Central Chapter





Mission:

- Water supply
- Flood control
- Recreation



TRWD Service Area

Conservation is an Important Water Supply Strategy

- Sign up for a [free sprinkler check](#) for Tarrant County residents
- Sign up for [free weekly watering advice](#) custom to your location
- Calendar of events, classes, etc.
- Water-saving tips and videos



TARRANT REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT



Native
Plant
Society
of Texas

Beyond Mowing

The Future of Public Rights-of-Way



NatureLinks

Marcie Delgado

marcie.delgado@naturelinkstx.com

June 2026

Outline

- The ROW Opportunity for Public Works
- Reframing ROW: From Maintenance Burden to Municipal Asset
- Defining Sustainably Managed Rights-of-Way
- Benefits of Sustainable ROW Management
- Sustainable Strategies: Systems, Not Siloes
- Leading Examples & Resources

The Original Right of Way

The I-35 Migration Corridor

Long before Interstate 35 was built, the corridor along the Balcones Escarpment was already a superhighway for nature.

Monarchs, Mexican free-tailed bats, and over 200 migratory bird species follow this Central Flyway path each year.

Today, the rights-of-way along I-35 represent a critical opportunity to restore and protect this natural migration infrastructure through more sustainable land management practices.

Source: USFWS, Monarch Watch, Stewards of Texas, Texas A&M AgriLife



The Scale of the Opportunity

America's rights-of-way represent one of the largest untapped conservation and cost-saving opportunities in the country.



17M

Acres of Roadside
Rights-of-Way Nationally



100K+

Miles of Abandoned
Rail Corridors



60M

Acres of Total
Utility Corridors

That's more land than the entire National Park Service manages in the lower 48 states.

Texas: The Biggest ROW Footprint in America

Scale that rivals entire federal land agencies.

800,000+

Acres of Roadside Rights-of-Way

Roughly 5% of the entire U.S. roadside ROW footprint in a single state

565,000+

Miles Managed for Electricity Easements

Statewide estimates are up to 1M in utility acres

10,000+

Miles of Railroad Track Rights-of-Way

With an additional 5-6,000 miles of abandoned track; 100,000 – 300,000 acres total.

Sources: TxDOT Progress Report 2025, TxDOT 2024 Roadway Inventory, TxDOT Maintenance Division, ERCOT, Oncor, Centerpoint Energy, AEP Texas, TNMP, Texas Electric Coop, Texas Association of American Railroads, Texas Almanac, FRA abandonment filings

Texas Managed Landscapes: Parks vs. Rights-of-Way

A comparison of conserved lands and linear infrastructure systems at comparable landscape scales.

Protected Park Systems

640,000 Acres

TPWD State Parks, Historic Sites & Natural Areas (89 sites)

1,230,000 Acres

National Park Service Lands in Texas (14 units)

TOTAL PROTECTED PARK LANDS
~1,870,000 Acres

Public Rights-of-Way

800,000+ Acres • TxDOT Roadside ROW

630,000+ Acres • Electricity Transmission (ERCOT)

200,000+ Acres • Railroad ROW (14,771 track miles)

TOTAL PUBLIC ROW (EXCL. MUNICIPAL & WATER)
~1,900,000+ Acres

Texas rights-of-way collectively rival or exceed the total acreage of protected park systems yet are primarily managed for infrastructure maintenance rather than ecological function.

Municipal Public Works Landscapes

A decentralized urban network with the greatest flexibility for sustainable management.

Hidden Scale

A **massive** amount of municipal-managed ROW exists outside TxDOT highways, transmission utilities, and rail corridors, yet it remains largely unmeasured and uncoordinated.

Greatest Flexibility

Municipal ROW offers the most actionable opportunity for sustainable management. Municipalities control local policy, maintenance schedules, and vegetation standards with fewer regulatory constraints.

Distributed Network

Medians, drainage channels, easements, trails, and utility landscapes form a highly distributed network of vegetated public spaces embedded directly within communities.

Unmeasured Impact

Cities rarely identify a unified “ROW acreage” number. These landscapes are split across parks, public works, water, and utility departments, making the true scale of cost savings & community benefits difficult to estimate.

“The ecological opportunity within cities may not lie in highway-scale corridors, but in the cumulative network of medians, drainage channels, easements, trails, and utility landscapes already maintained by municipal public works systems.”

Regional Coordination: A Systems Opportunity

Aligning fragmented municipal management into a connected regional strategy.



Cross-Cutting Infrastructure

ROW spans transportation, environmental, and utility domains across multiple jurisdictions — a cross-cutting system opportunity no single entity controls.

NCTCOG Alignment

Multiple NCTCOG entities individually control portions of the region's ROW. Coordinated alignment can amplify environmental impact and reduce duplicated effort.

From Siloes to Systems

Shift from isolated municipal maintenance to integrated regional ecological planning. Parks, public works, water, and utilities managing toward shared goals.

Enhanced Regional Outcomes

Coordinated ROW management delivers biodiversity, stormwater resilience, pollinator habitat, and long-term cost savings at a regional scale.

Sustainable Public Works Infrastructure Management

A multifunctional systems approach — not a single practice.

Conventional Approach

Reactive Maintenance

Fix problems as they arise; short-term cost focus

Siloed Departments

Each department manages independently with no coordination

Appearance-Only Standards

Mow for aesthetics; judge success by how “neat” it looks

Ecology as Decoration

Plantings chosen for looks, not ecological value



Sustainable Systems Approach

Lifecycle Thinking

Plan for long-term cost and ecological performance

Integrated Systems

Vegetation, hydrology, maintenance, and planning aligned

Performance Outcomes

Measure ecological function, cost savings, and resilience

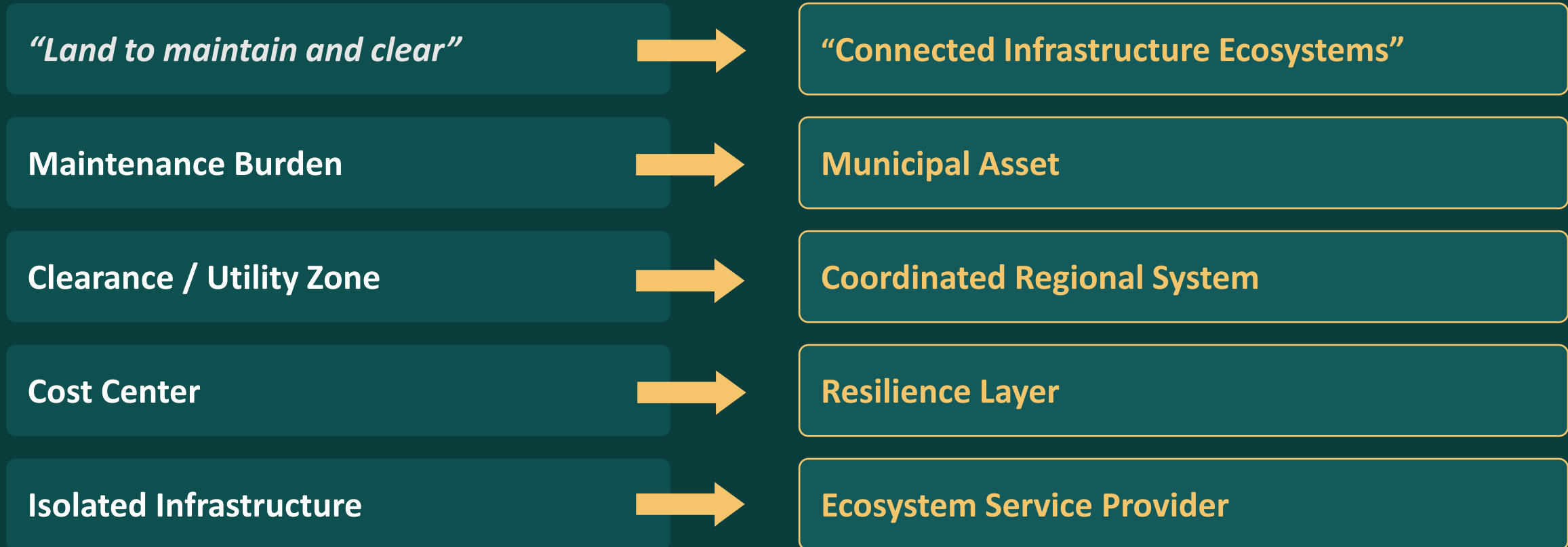
Ecological Function as Infrastructure

Native systems that support stormwater, habitat, and soil health

Sustainable ROW management is not a single practice like planting natives or mowing less — it is a systems approach that integrates vegetation design, hydrology, maintenance strategy, and infrastructure planning to optimize ecological performance and lifecycle cost.

Reframing Rights-of-Way

From maintenance burden to municipal asset.



Rights-of-Way as Infrastructure Ecosystems

“Management determines the function” the same landscapes that create challenges can deliver ecosystem services.

Current Challenges

Water & Stormwater

High water consumption • Stormwater runoff & flooding • Water quality degradation from chemical inputs • Erosion

Climate & Air Quality

Urban heat island intensification • Rising urbanization pressures • Increased impervious surface coverage

Ecology & Habitat

Habitat fragmentation & biodiversity loss • Chemical dependence • Invasive species pressure

Cost & Resilience

Reincurring maintenance cost cycles • Infrastructure vulnerability • Community aesthetic expectations

Ecosystem Benefits

Water & Stormwater

Runoff prevention & water infiltration • Improved water quality • Reduced irrigation demand

Climate & Air Quality

Carbon sequestration • Urban cooling & heat reduction • Air quality improvement

Ecology & Habitat

Pollinator habitat & insect services • Invasive species resistance • Habitat connectivity

Cost & Resilience

Operational efficiency • Soil stability • Long-term cost savings • Community aesthetics & identity

ROW landscapes that generate costs and environmental challenges can, through sustainable practices, become providers of community resilience.

Development Impact on North Texas

Rapid urbanization is turning land into impervious surfaces - straining the infrastructure North Texas depends on.



Flooding from stormwater runoff in a North Texas development corridor

19%+
DFW Population
Growth (2012–2022)

1.36M
New Residents Added
to DFW Region

50+
Acres of Land Lost Per
Day in FTW

Groundwater Recharge Disruption

Native root systems reach 10 feet deep, enabling natural aquifer recharge. Impervious surfaces from new development block rainwater infiltration, compounding drought vulnerability and compounding flooding across the region.

Flood Plain Degradation

Replacing absorptive soils with concrete intensifies stormwater runoff and urban flooding.

Cascading Infrastructure Costs

Aging stormwater systems cannot keep pace with runoff from new development..

Projections indicate the DFW could approach 17 million residents by 2050





The Problem with the Status Quo

Most ROW vegetation management protocols were designed in the mid-20th century with only two goals:
...**Sight-line safety and aesthetic uniformity.**



Costly Mowing Schedules

Mowing 2-5 times per year at ~\$975/mile per cycle, regardless of growth conditions or ecological impact



Ecological Devastation

Scalped turf has negative impacts on wildlife habitat, water quality, stormwater control, and erosion



Rising Costs

Fuel prices, labor shortages, and equipment maintenance make traditional mowing increasingly unsustainable



Carbon Emissions

Gas-powered mowing equipment, loss of deeply rooted prairie grasses leads to Carbon release.

The Cost of Maintaining Texas ROW

Traditional mowing-first approaches consume enormous resources while yielding diminishing returns.

Mowing Operations

- There is no single statewide figure for the cost of maintaining municipal ROW in Texas because cities split these costs across multiple departments and budget categories.
- Vegetation management in public rights-of-way can range from approximately \$150 per acre for low-intensity mowing regimes to \$1,000+ per acre annually in high-frequency, high-complexity urban corridors.
- ROW maintenance costs are highly variable, but DOT and commercial contracting data show that vegetation management intensity can change lifecycle costs by several multiples per acre depending on mowing frequency, corridor complexity, and operational constraints

Sustainable ROW Strategies

Three integrated approaches to transform rights-of-way into high-performing ecological infrastructure.

1. Operational Strategies

Maintenance reforms

Reduced Mowing

Lower frequency schedules that allow natural growth cycles and reduce fuel, labor, and equipment costs.

Zoned Maintenance

Tiered management intensity based on visibility, safety requirements, and ecological function of each zone.

Integrated Vegetation Management

Holistic approach combining mechanical, biological, and targeted chemical methods to manage vegetation sustainably.

2. Vegetation-based Strategies

Native plants and beyond

Native Plant Systems

Region-appropriate species that reduce water demand, support pollinators, resist invasive pressure, and build long-term soil health.

Pollinator Habitat Corridors

Connected strips of flowering native species that sustain bee, butterfly, and beneficial insect populations across the ROW network.

Adaptive Species Selection

Choosing plant palettes matched to local soil, climate, and microsite conditions for resilience and minimal intervention.

3. Stormwater Strategies

Hydrology-based strategies

Bioswales

Vegetated channels that slow, filter, and infiltrate runoff — reducing peak flows while recharging groundwater.

Vegetated Drainage Channels

Planted conveyance corridors that manage water flow while providing habitat and reducing erosion along ROW edges.

Floodplain Reactivation

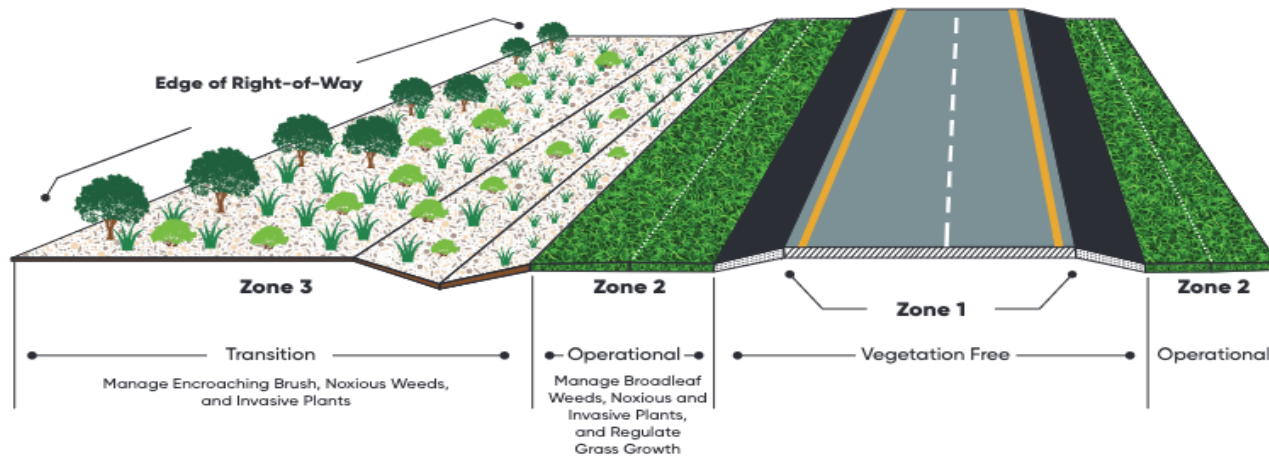
Restoring natural floodplain function within ROW corridors to absorb extreme rainfall and build long-term resilience.

These strategies work best in combination — reformed maintenance practices create the conditions for ecological plantings, which in turn enable natural stormwater management across the ROW network.

1. Operational Strategy: The TxDOT 3-Zone Approach

A smarter vegetation management strategy combining selective and nonselective herbicides across three zones.

Roadside Vegetation Management



Zone 1

Vegetation Free Zone

(Width as Necessary to Meet Operational Needs)

- Provide for Surface Drainage
- Prevent Pavement Breakup by Plants
- Provide for Visibility and Maintenance of Roadside Hardware

Zone 2

Operational Zone

(From Zone 1 to Meet Operational Needs)

- Maintain a Hazard Free Vehicle Recovery Area
- Provide Sight Distance for Passing and Stopping
- Provide Sight Distance at Intersections
- Maintain Hydraulic Capacity of Ditches

Zone 3

Transition Zone

(From Zone 2 to R/W Line)

- Blend and/or Screen Adjacent Surroundings
- Control Incompatible Vegetation
- Remove Danger Trees
- Manage trees to Reduce Shading in Areas Prone to Roadway Icing
- Establish or Maintain Pollinator Habitat

If you are working on a specific roadway or right-of-way project, your exact plant selection is dictated by the approved landscape architect plans or specific District criteria. You can review TxDOT's full TxDOT Landscape and Aesthetics Design Manual to understand zone distinctions and clear zone constraints.

TxDOT uses a 3-zone vegetation management strategy combining selective and nonselective herbicides to reduce reliance on mowing, support native plant communities, and manage costs more effectively.

1. Operational: Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)

A systems approach that balances safety, cost, environmental quality, and community values.



Site Assessment

Evaluate vegetation types, soil, climate, and ecosystem context before choosing treatments



Biological Controls

Promote native plants that naturally compete with incompatible species



Mechanical Methods

Targeted mowing and cutting timed to growth cycles and pollinator activity



Cost Optimization

Long-term plans reduce costs over time as stable native communities establish

"IVM is not a single tool but a combination of management approaches — site assessment, control, evaluation, and maintenance."

— U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Economic Case for Integrated Vegetation Management

IVM strategies cost more upfront but deliver significant lifecycle savings as native plant communities establish and self-sustain.

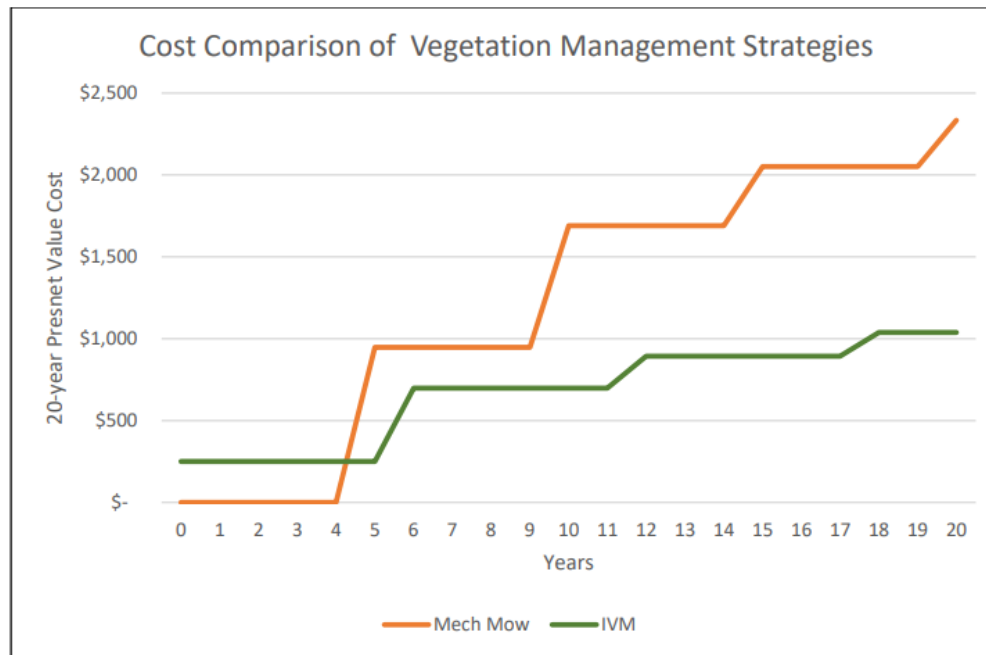


Figure 3. 20-year costs (Present Value) comparing maintenance using mechanical mowing-only treatments v. IVM treatments.

Source: University of Florida/IFAS — FDOT Project BDK75-977-74, 2014

IVM Payback Period

4 Years

IVM overtakes mowing costs at the first maintenance cycle — Goodfellow, 2020

10-Year Lifecycle Savings

Up to 80%

Native/IVM approach vs. traditional mowing over a 10-year period — Watson et al., 2019

Ecosystem Service Value with IVM

Nearly 3x

Wildflower areas nearly triple ecosystem benefit value vs. turf — UF/IFAS, 2014

Cost Comparison: Traditional vs. Alternative

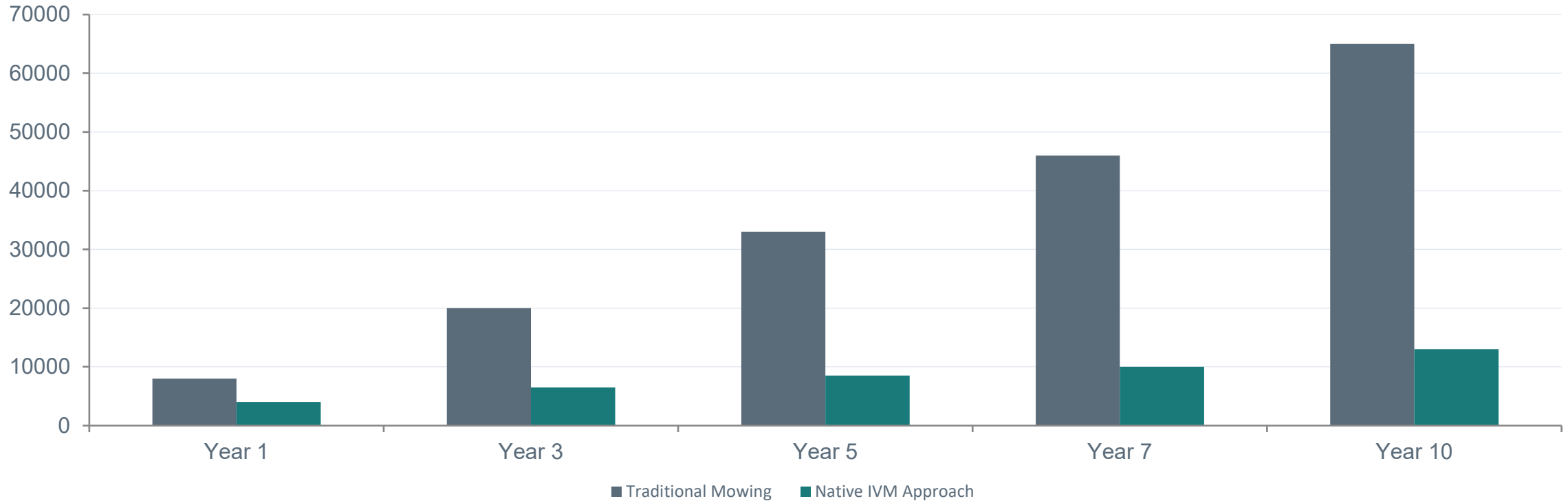
Cost Category	Traditional Mowing	Native/IVM Approach
Installation	\$4,000 - \$8,000/acre	\$2,000 - \$4,000/acre
Annual Maintenance	\$975/mile per cycle × 3-5 cycles	1 mow/year or prescribed burn
10-Year Total	5× higher lifecycle cost	Up to 80% savings
Water Requirements	Regular irrigation needed	No irrigation once established
Environmental Return	Negative — emissions, runoff	Positive — habitat, carbon, water

A 36% cost savings is achievable with even a modest reduction in mowing frequency alone.

— Watson et al., Journal of Applied Ecology, 2019

Long-Term Return on Investment

Cumulative Cost Per Acre Over 10 Years



Native vegetation reduces lifecycle costs by up to 80% while generating positive environmental returns.

2. Vegetation based strategies: Native Plant Systems

Native Plantings & Managed Meadows



Native grasses and wildflowers support wildlife more than non-native turf grasses.



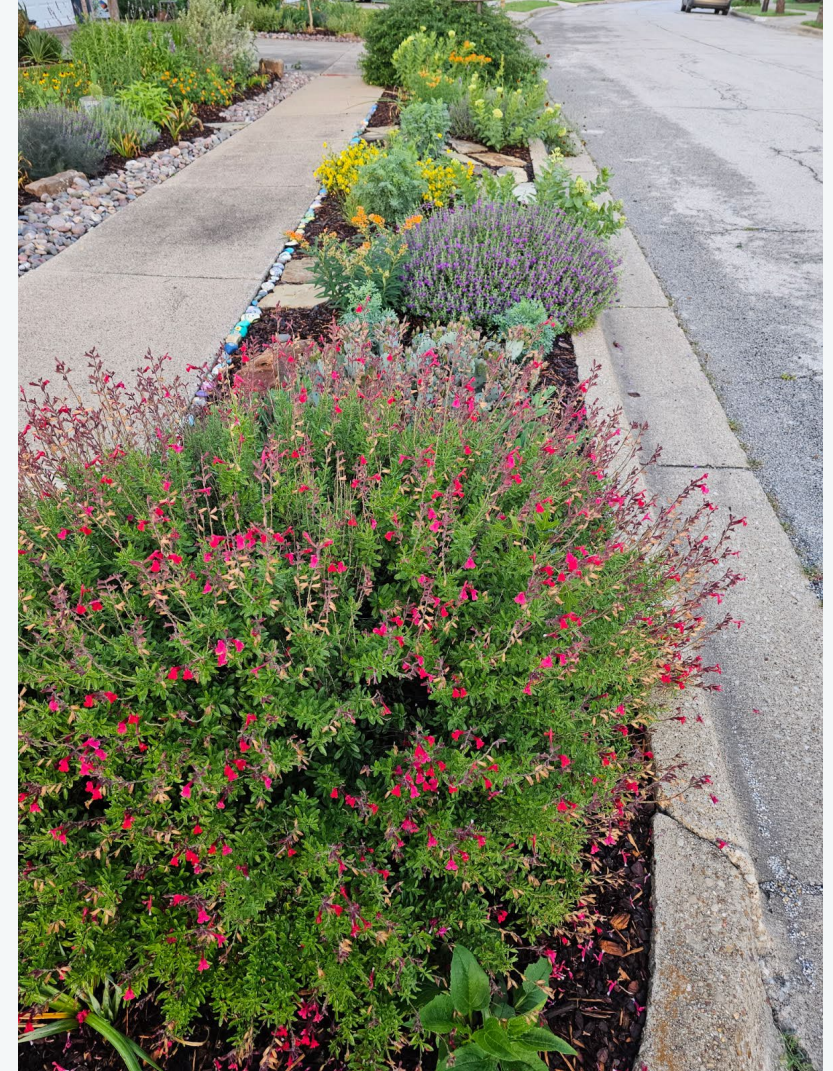
Deep root systems improve soil stabilization, runoff reduction, and provide water filtration services



Installation costs: \$2,000-\$4,000/acre vs. \$4,000-\$8,000 for turf grass



Annual mowing or burning replaces repetitive maintenance cycles



2. Vegetation Based Strategies: Native Prairie Systems

Unlike forests, native prairie vegetation is fully compatible with sightline and safety concerns ...

... delivering ecosystem services without conflicting with infrastructure.



Photo: Joel Sartore

Carbon Storage

Grasslands store **81% of carbon below ground** in roots and soils — far more resilient to wildfire, drought, and storm damage than forests.

Stormwater

Root systems extending **10–15 feet deep** create natural infiltration channels, reducing runoff and recharging groundwater.

Pollinator Habitat

Connected strips of flowering native species sustain bee, butterfly, and beneficial insect populations — turning ROW into **ecological corridors**.

Erosion Control

Dense root networks stabilize soil and **prevent pavement breakup**, reducing long-term infrastructure maintenance costs along roadway edges.

3. Hydrology Based Strategies: Stormwater Management

Used alongside native plantings, these strategies manage stormwater naturally



Photo: Save Tarrant Water

Bioswales

Planted shallow channels that slow, filter, and absorb runoff along roadway edges.

Vegetated Channels

Native plant drainage ways that convey and filter runoff, replacing concrete-lined ditches.

Floodplain Reactivation

Reconnecting corridors to natural floodplains for peak flow attenuation and sediment capture.

Detention & Retention

Designed basins that temporarily hold or permanently store runoff, reducing downstream flooding risk.

Berms

Raised mounds of soil planted with native vegetation along fence lines and property edges to redirect stormwater flow, prevent yard flooding, and control erosion.

These methods work best when paired with native vegetation for maximum infiltration and habitat value.

Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Planted systems that slow runoff, filter pollutants, and recharge groundwater — replacing traditional concrete channels.



Bioswale • UTA Campus



Dry Creek Bed • TRWD
Campus



Vegetated Channel

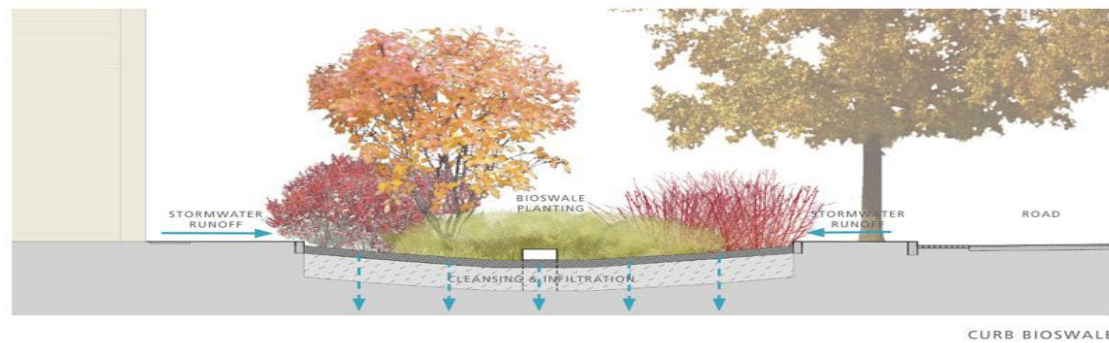
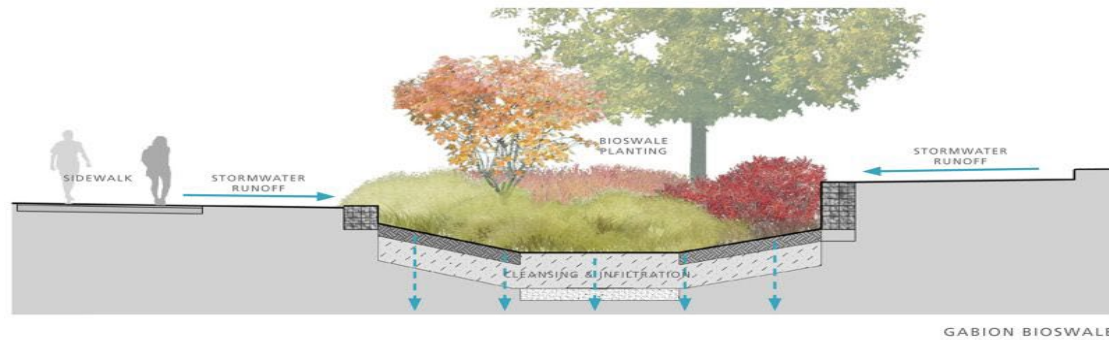
Local examples of green infrastructure integrated into rights-of-way and campus landscapes.

Bioswale Design

Cross-section diagrams showing gabion and curb bioswale configurations for stormwater infiltration.

BIOSWALE

The site bioswales are a key component of the site stormwater management systems. These rectangular basins mimic the planted character of the Fairfield Way grass swathes, but in a more controlled and functional manner. A series of gabion walls or curbs delineate these swales and assert their significance to the site user. Stormwater collected from the building rooftops and surrounding site discharges into the swales and can then passively infiltrate into the watertable. The soils in these swales have been engineered and layered in a specific manner so as to promote peak infiltration while the native plantings add to the diversity of the site.



Bioswale • UTA Campus, Arlington



Hydrology in Practice: TRWD Campus

Tarrant Regional Water District demonstrates hydrology-based stormwater strategies on their own campus.



Reactivating Flood Plain • TRWD Campus



Detention Pond • TRWD Campus

TRWD integrates flood plain reactivation and detention systems into their campus landscape.

What is a Berm?

A berm is a raised mound of soil, often planted with native vegetation, built to redirect stormwater flow and prevent flooding and erosion.



Berm built along a fence line to manage stormwater runoff

Stormwater Diversion

The raised soil profile redirects water flow away from the yard and fence, channeling runoff toward proper drainage areas instead of pooling near structures.

Erosion Control

Native plantings on the berm stabilize the soil with deep root systems, preventing erosion along the fence line and protecting the property edge from washout.

Flood Prevention

By creating a physical barrier along the fence, the berm intercepts stormwater before it reaches the yard, reducing flooding risk during heavy rain events.

Municipalities Leading the Way

Local projects proving sustainable ROW management works in North Texas.

White Settlement, TX

White Settlement Monarch Waystation

Community rewilding project establishing a certified monarch waystation and Wildscape to support pollinator habitat, engage residents, and protect the corridor from flash flooding through the act native landscape stewardship.

Burleson, TX

9 Naturalized Sites

Nine naturalized area sites with projected savings of \$12,500+ in contract costs and 12+ hours per week in staff time through reduced mowing.

Arlington - Molly Hollar Wildscape

Native Plant Demonstration Garden

A native plant demonstration garden in Veterans Park showcasing over 200 native Texas species for habitat, education, and community engagement.

Fort Worth - Tandy Hills

Remnant Prairie Park

A 160-acre remnant prairie park preserving one of the last intact fragments of Fort Worth Prairie, managed with prescribed burns and invasive species removal.

LLELA, Lewisville

Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area

Restoring Blackland Prairie on 2,000+ acres using local ecotype seeds and prescribed burns at the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area.

City of Fort Worth

Fort Worth Nature Center – Activated Floodplain

A 3,621-acre activated floodplain refuge along the West Fork of the Trinity River, combining flood management with native habitat conservation.

Regional Examples in Action

North Texas municipalities already demonstrating sustainable landscape and stormwater practices.

Westworth Village

Airfield Falls development integrates sustainable landscape design into community infrastructure.

City of Fort Worth

Fort Worth Botanic Garden/BRIT features a LEED-designed parking lot with native plants and bioswales. The entire lot drains into these gardens.

City of Plano

Parks & Recreation conducts invasive species removal and habitat restoration at Arbor Hills Nature Preserve, Oak Point Park, and Hoblitzelle Park.

City of the Colony

Established naturalized and wildflower areas to reduce erosion, support pollinators, and lower maintenance costs.

Many cities outside the NCTCOG region have already adopted native plant-friendly ordinances.

It's time for NCTCOG entities to consider the same — building on the local momentum these communities have already established.

Regional Partners & Technical Assistance

Native Plant Society of Texas

- Native plant lists by ecoregion
- Plant selection guidance
- Local chapter expertise
- Native Landscape Certification Program
- Native Landscape Certification Directory
- Directory of native plant nurseries

Xerces Society

- Pollinator conservation science and advocacy
- Habitat assessment guidelines
- Invertebrate best management practices

Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPWD)

- Texas Conservation Action Plan
- Pollinator and wildlife habitat guidance
- Technical assistance and grants
- Land stewardship resources

US Fish & Wildlife Service

- Working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats
- Technical assistance and grants

Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD)

- Stormwater and watershed initiatives
- Green infrastructure examples
- Regional conservation partnerships
- Technical assistance and grants

TxDOT

- Vegetation management guidelines
- 3-zone ROW management approach
- Landscape and aesthetics design standards

Getting Started: A Framework

01

Assess & Map

Inventory current ROW acreage, management costs, and ecological assets. Identify sensitive resources and high-visibility sites.

02

Pilot Program

Select 3-5 high-impact sites for native plantings and reduced mowing. Install signage to build public awareness and support.

03

Engage Community

Partner with conservation groups, universities, and volunteers. Launch education campaigns and demonstration gardens.

04

Measure & Expand

Track cost savings, biodiversity gains, and community response. Use data to build the case for program-wide adoption.

What Municipalities Can Do

Practical steps local governments can take to transition toward sustainable rights-of-way management.



Activate Native Plants

Request landscape architects to specify native species; include plant consultation in project bids.

Increase Permeable Surfaces

Use crushed granite, gravel, porous asphalt, and permeable concrete to reduce stormwater runoff.

Install Green Infrastructure

Add pollination gardens, wildscapes, berms, bioswales, dry creek channels, and rain gardens.

Manage Creeks Sustainably

Keep channels vegetated and retain natural wood debris in creek systems for habitat and flow control.

Revise Maintenance Contracts

Update mowing schedules and maintenance contracts to support reduced-frequency, ecologically informed practices.

Update Local Ordinances

Adopt no-mow months and revise landscape codes to allow and encourage native vegetation.

The Future Starts Now

Every acre of right-of-way managed differently is an acre of habitat restored, a community investment, and a step toward a more sustainable future.

Thank You

Questions & Discussion



NatureLinks

Marcie Delgado

marcie.delgado@naturelinkstx.com

June 2026

Discussion Item



2. Subcommittee Future Direction

- NCTCOG gathered feedback regarding the future direction of the subcommittee:
 - **Target audience:** Planners, PW Directors, Engineers, Franchise Utilities, Parks and Recreation employees, Arborists
 - **Future goals:** Establish standard ROW management guidelines and BMPs (including a guidebook), ordinance examples and recommendations, regionalization
 - **Improvement opportunities:** Work with consultant, publish agenda/presentation ahead of meeting, add educational presentations/webinars, on-demand training library, 1 in-person meeting and 3 virtual meetings annually

Information Items



3. Meeting Summary

- The March 25, 2026, meeting summary is available online for your review.

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

FY2026 Public Works Work Program Update



4. FY26 Public Works Program Update

- Overall Regional Public Works Program Budget Goal: \$360,000
 - 91% of budget received

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

FY2026 Cost Share Participants

Addison	Fate	Lakeside	Sunnyvale
Allen	Flower Mound	Little Elm	University Park
Arlington	Fort Worth	Mansfield	Venus
Azle	Garland	Mesquite	Watauga
Bedford	Grand Prairie	Northlake	Weatherford
Benbrook	Grapevine	North Richland Hills	White Settlement
Carrollton	Haltom City	Pantego	Wylie
Cedar Hill	Highland Park	Plano	Collin County
Cleburne	Highland Village	Ponder	Dallas County
Coppell	Hurst	Rhome	Denton County
Crandall	Hutchins	Richardson	Ellis County
Dallas	Irving	Rockwall	Johnson County
Decatur	Joshua	Royse City	Tarrant County
Denton	Keller	Southlake	
Duncanville	Kennedale		

4. FY26 Public Works Program Update

27th Annual Public Works Roundup

- August 20, 2026, at Hurst Conference Center
- Call for Abstracts closed; Call for Sponsors open!
- Registration open!
- Next step: Create agenda
 - Dedicated SPROW afternoon track
 - More information on the [event webpage](#)



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

Other Program Activities



Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) Subcommittee

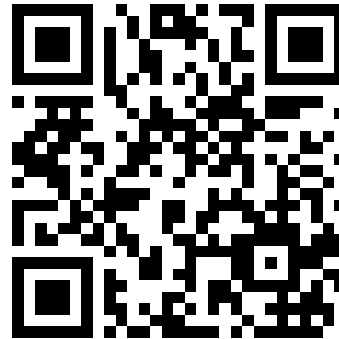
Last Meeting: April 14, 2026

- Overview of Sustainable Development & Blue-Green-Gray funding programs, highlighting GSI implementation and replication opportunities.
- FY26 Work Program updates:
 - Inlet protection device research underway.
 - Denton stormwater quality monitoring case study in development.
 - Completed cumulative impacts of small-footprint development.
 - iSWM website modernization discussion focused on usability, searchability, case study organization, and MS4 alignment.
- Began discussion of potential FY27 work program priorities, including manual usability and modernization concepts.

Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) Subcommittee

- **Next Meeting:** July 15, 2026, @ 1:30 PM (Virtual via Teams)
Topics: Vote on FY27 iSWM Work Program tasks

FY27 iSWM Work Program Task Selection Survey



iSWM Subcommittee Website: <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/committees/public-works-council/iswm-implementation-subcommittee>

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

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
- Next Meeting: July 29, 2026, at 9:30 A.M. on Microsoft Teams
 - Featuring presentation on resilience hubs
- Upcoming Events:
 - Energy Codes Webinar – July 23rd
 - Sustainable Procurement Webinar – August 18th
 - LEED Green Associate Exam Prep Course



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

Upcoming Events, Conferences, and Opportunities



Lone Star Sustainability Forum

August 5-7, 2026

Embassy Suites Landmark, San Antonio, TX

Institute for Leadership in Capital Projects



Texas Tree Conference

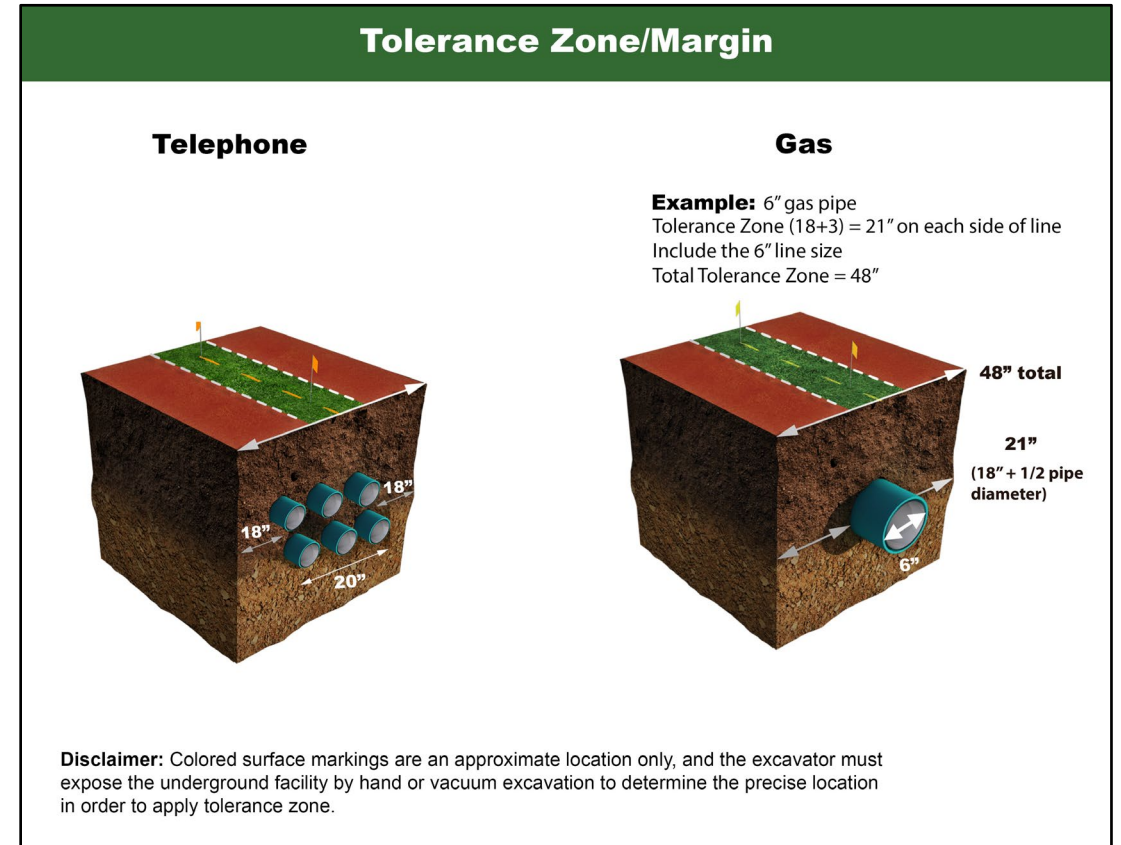
September 23-25, 2026

**Waco Hilton and Convention Center,
Waco, TX**

Texas Chapter International Society of
Arboriculture

Additional Resources

- ROW Construction Resources
 - Construction Standards Blueprint – Standardized construction practices for excavation
 - Tolerance Zone/Margin Graphic
 - 811 Excavation Checklist
 - Pre-Construction Meeting Template – Questions to address with contractors
 - Damage Investigation Photography Process



Additional Resources

- ROW Construction Resources
 - [Utility Damage Report](#)
 - [City of Lubbock Infrastructure Construction – Ordinance including ROW permit requirements](#)
 - [Excavation Contractor SOP](#)
 - [City of Forth Worth Utility Locate Requirements for Excavators](#)

UTILITY DAMAGE REPORT					
Part A – Date and Location					
*Date of Damage _____	*Street Address _____				
*City _____	*State _____				
*Nearest Intersection _____					
Part B – Affected Utility					
<input type="checkbox"/> Electric	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Gas	<input type="checkbox"/> Sewer	<input type="checkbox"/> Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/> Cable TV
*What type of Service?					
<input type="checkbox"/> Service/Drop	<input type="checkbox"/> Main	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiber Optic	*Depth of damaged facility _____		
Part C - Locating and Marking					
*Was the One-Call Center notified? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, provide the locate ticket number _____					
*Were facility marks visible in the area of excavation? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
*Were facility marks accurate? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
*What were facilities marked with? <input type="checkbox"/> Paint <input type="checkbox"/> Flags <input type="checkbox"/> Paint & Flags					
*What type of painted locate marks were present?					
<input type="checkbox"/> Duct Bank (Diamond Pattern)	<input type="checkbox"/> Single Line (With Buffer)	<input type="checkbox"/> Single Line (Without Buffer)			
*Have you taken Photos (Required) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No * What is the distance between the locate marks? _____					
Part D - Excavation Information					
*Type of Excavation Equipment?					
<input type="checkbox"/> Backhoe/Track hoe	<input type="checkbox"/> Boring	<input type="checkbox"/> Auger	<input type="checkbox"/> Trencher	<input type="checkbox"/> Directional Drill	<input type="checkbox"/> Drilling
<input type="checkbox"/> Hand tools	<input type="checkbox"/> Probing Device				
*Type of work Performed?					
<input type="checkbox"/> Installing Gas Pipeline	<input type="checkbox"/> Installing Electric Cable	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Trench	<input type="checkbox"/> Installing Telephone		
<input type="checkbox"/> Installing Cable TV	<input type="checkbox"/> Installing Poles	<input type="checkbox"/> Installing Anchors	<input type="checkbox"/> Other, Please specify _____		
*Location of dig site <input type="checkbox"/> Private property <input type="checkbox"/> Utility Easement <input type="checkbox"/> Road right-of-way					
Part E – Describe how the incident occurred					
_____ _____ _____ _____					
Part F - Diagram					
_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____					
General Foreman Name _____			General Foreman Phone # _____		
Crew Foreman Name _____			Crew Foreman Phone # _____		
Job # _____			Crew # _____		

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!



NEW URBAN FORESTRY WEBPAGE

Visit NCTCOG's new [Urban Forestry](#) webpage to connect to urban forestry councils, try tools and calculators to help assess potential planting sites, explore funding opportunities, and more to support local and regional green space goals!



Roundtable Discussion



“Now, it is your turn.”



Upcoming SPROW Meeting

- The next Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2026, at 10 AM (Virtual).
- More information on the subcommittee is available on the SPROW webpage.

Contact & Connect

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