Riparian Restoration

getting our riparian forests back!
Why?

- slow down water and reduce runoff
- absorb nutrients
- trap leaves and other debris
- increase the amount of water penetrating the soil

- hold soil with the roots
- shade the creek reducing water temperature
- carbon sequestration

- food and other resources for wildlife
slow down water and reduce runoff
absorb nutrients
trap leaves and other debris
increase the amount of water penetrating the soil
hold soil with the roots
hold soil with the roots

shade the creek reducing water temperature

carbon sequestration
food and other resources for wildlife
Creek Protection

- Critical Water Quality Zone
  - all creeks with drainage area 64 acres or more
  - Development is prohibited with few exceptions

- Floodplain
  - Development restrictions

- Erosion hazard zone
  - Special rules for development
Guiding Principles

Eliminate main disturbance (mowing)
Guiding Principles

Eliminate main disturbance (mowing)
Guiding Principles

Let the wood stay

- bird and insect habitat
- habitat for aquatic life
- slow down water
- debris capture
- nutrient cycling
- microbial soil diversity
bird and insect habitat

habitat for a
habitat for aquatic life
slow down water
debris capture
Guiding Principles
Management based on site conditions

Canopy vs. open?

Dry or wet?

Invasive species dominating?
Open and Dry

green sprangletop
sideoats grama
black grama
sand dropseed
indian blanket
mexican hat
black-eyed Susan
common sunflower
Open and Dry

green sprangletop
sideoats grama
black grama
sand dropseed
indian blanket
mexican hat
black-eyed Susan
common sunflower
Open and Wet

eastern gamagrass
bushy bluestem
switchgrass
Canada wild rye
green sprangletop
American basketflower
obedient plant
Maximilian sunflower
lemon mint
Open and Wet

February 2012

September 2013

eastern gamagrass
Open and Wet

eastern gamagrass
bushy bluestem
switchgrass
Canada wild rye
green sprangletop
American basketflower
obedient plant
Maximilian sunflower
lemon mint
Invasive Species of Concern in Open Areas

Giant Cane

Bamboo

Johnson Grass
Canopy and Dry

inland sea oats
Canada wildrye
sideoats grama
black-eyed Susan
Illinois bundleflower
purple coneflower
scarlet sage
Canopy and Dry

inland sea oaks
Canopy and Dry

inland seaoats
Canada wildrye
sideoats grama
black-eyed Susan
Illinois bundleflower
purple coneflower
scarlet sage
Canopy and Wet

eastern gamagrass
bushy bluestem
inland seaoats
Canada wildrye
switchgrass
sand lovegrass
goldenrod
black-eyed Susan
Canopy and Wet

February 2012

August 2014

eastern gamagrass
Canopy and Wet

eastern gamagrass
bushy bluestem
inland seaoats
Canada wildrye
switchgrass
sand lovegrass
goldenrod
black-eyed Susan
Invasive Species of Concern in Shaded Areas

Broad-leaved privet

Chinese privet

Heavenly bamboo
Resources

- Grow Green Plant guide
- Creekside landscape design template
- 609s seeding and planting Scopes and Standards in City Code
- Wildflower.org (Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center)
- Keep Austin Beautiful - Adopt-a-Creek program
- ana.gonzalez@austintexas.gov

*Putting back is more important than removing*