

SPROW

Sustainable Public Rights Of Way Subcommittee

January 19, 2020



Welcome & Introductions



Approve Summary from Nov. 17, 2020 Meeting

- ▶ The Subcommittee reviewed the Draft BMP Guidebook and made edits to some of the wording of the recommendations.
- ▶ Franchise utility representatives asked for time outside of the meeting to give feedback.
- ▶ The Subcommittee and utility representatives started discussing the Utility chapter. Both parties agreed that communication is key for utility projects along the ROW.

BMP Guidebook: Landscape Planning and Vegetation Maintenance

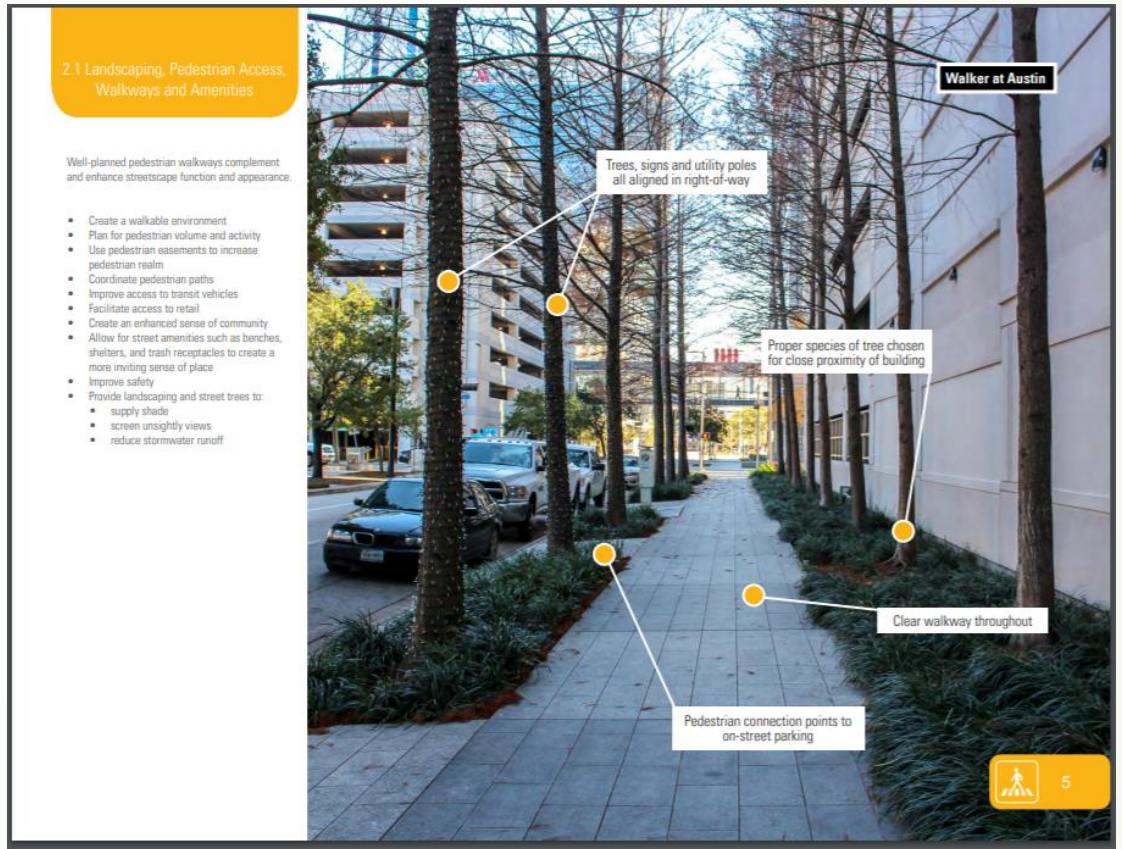
- Guidance on spacing and planting near utilities and curbs
- North Central Texas Form-Based Tree Matrix
- North Central Texas Form-Based Shrub Matrix
- Planting Near Street Fixtures Table

BMP Guidebook Review and Finalization Process

- Present Guidebook to SPROW Subcommittee
- Provide Guidebook to the Region for comments
- SPROW Subcommittee reviews comments for incorporation

Creating the BMP Guidebook

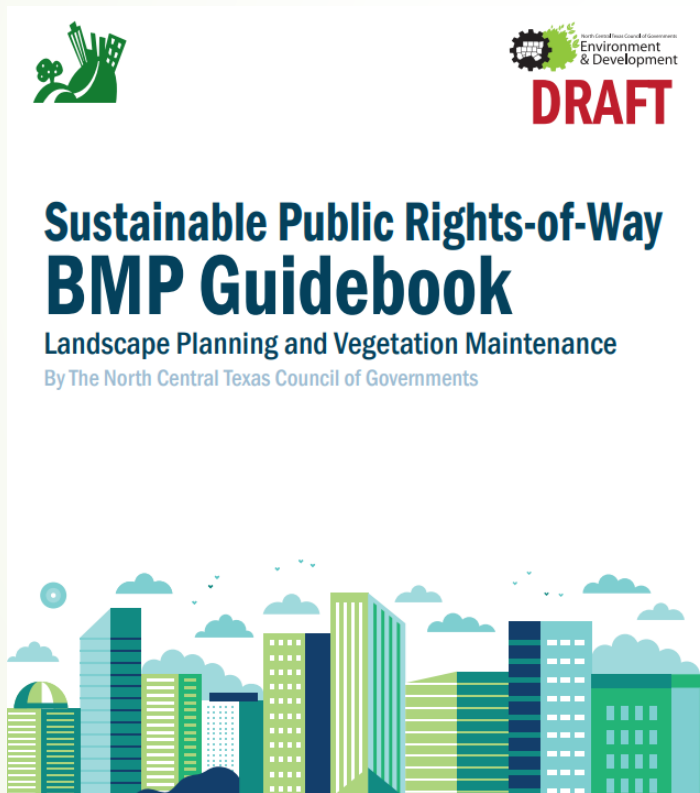
Scenic Houston Streetscape Resource Guide



Draft BMP Guidebook


➤ Posted on the SPROW website

➤ https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Environment-and-Development/Committee%20Documents/SPROW/FY2021/SPROW-Draft-Guidebook-Edits-11_17-20.pdf?ext=.pdf

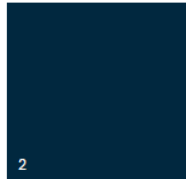


DRAFT


Tree Spacing



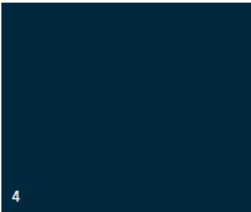
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2



3



4

1. Trees should be planted a minimum of 5' away from the curb.
2. Tree spacing should be based on crown spread; see the Tree Matrix.
3. Root barriers can be used as long as the soil volume is adequately maintained for the species.
4. Trees planted near intersections and major driveways should be out of the visibility triangle. The city's code should be referenced for more details on the visibility triangle. If guidance from the city is not available refer to the Federal Highway Association 3.3.1 Sight Distance: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/local_rural/training/fhwasa1108/ch3.cfm#:~:text=Figure%203.%20Sight%20Distance%20Triangles%20for%204-Leg%20Stop-controlled%20Intersections9

Utilities

- ▶ The next chapter of the BMP Guidebook is Utilities (Coexisting Types, Franchises, Documentation, Coordinated Needs, etc.)
 - ▶ Each franchise has a different process and set of BMPs. As we develop BMPs the group should think about how to break down the chapter into different sections.
 - ▶ The BMP Guidebook should be beneficial and communicate the right information without getting too detailed.
 - ▶ The Guidebook needs to provide guidance that pertains to every jurisdiction in the NCT Region.

Franchise Utility Feedback on Utility Chapter

- ▶ Any type of coordination in and around existing underground infrastructure should start with the 811 call-in and ticket system
 - ▶ If a conflict is found, then a locate vendor would utilize installed tracer wire and appropriate detection equipment to clamp on and ground the other end to send a detectable tone through the wire. This is the preferred method for underground locates.
- ▶ The [Common Ground Alliance \(CGA\)](#) is a good reference for industry best practices for underground infrastructure.
- ▶ In some cases, jurisdictions implement overly burdensome restoration or aesthetic requirements. For example, intersection to intersection full lane restoration. Sometimes these requirements are seen by the industry as unreasonable and cost-prohibitive to the project.
- ▶ Jurisdictions with easy to navigate and accurate online GIS systems that show ROW and other applicable utility infrastructure is extremely helpful.
- ▶ Online permitting requests and application tracking are very efficient and effective. Many larger jurisdictions seem to have implemented this, some smaller jurisdictions have not. In light of Covid, the usefulness of online permitting has become ever more apparent.



City Feedback on Utility Chapter

- ▶ One concern is that franchise utilities do not want to locate in ROWs. They require their own easements so that they can be reimbursed if they have to move any lines or equipment. Some companies require a 7.5' utility easement in a new subdivision. This is often outside the ROW, in front or rear yard if on an alley.

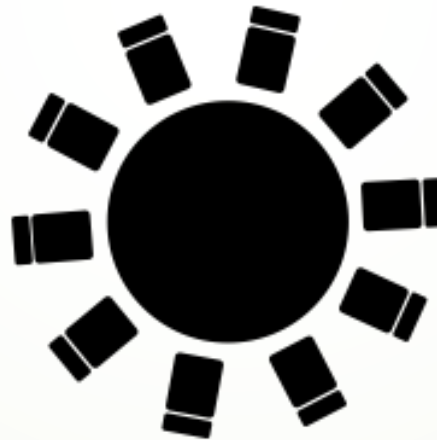
Questions for BMP Ideas

- ▶ What are the necessary items, points, criteria, advice, etc. that should be included in a Franchise Utility BMP chapter?
- ▶ Are there common 'rules of thumb' that designers/cities need to know about franchise with regards to the following:
 - ▶ Design criteria for city facilities next to franchise facilities which are in an easement? Not in an easement? Right of way?
 - ▶ Describe the process that franchises prefer cities/designers to go through to do the following (each franchise will probably have different process...do we include this specific detail in the BMP)
 - ▶ Locate existing franchise utilities
 - ▶ Place city infrastructure across or within franchise utility easements
- ▶ What are the expectations of each party for ROW access, maintenance, space used, etc.?

Next Steps

- ▶ Determine action items for Subcommittee members and NCTCOG staff.

Member Roundtable



Next Meeting

- ▶ Tuesday, February 23rd, 2021 1:30pm
 - ▶ Microsoft Teams

Contact

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