Urban Floodplain Health - Stressors and Strategies
HEALTHY FLOODPLAINS
STRESSORS - MOWING
STRESSORS – URBAN STREAM SYNDROME
STRESSORS – CLIMATE CHANGE
STRATEGIES - STABILIZATION
Grow Zone
(No Mowing!)

The City of Austin is working to restore the native forests that used to flourish beside creeks by creating “grow zones” in city parks. This area was designated as a “grow zone” in 2012 and it will take several years for seedlings to become large trees. Volunteers, birds and squirrels are taking care of the planting— the City of Austin won’t hamper this natural process by mowing.

Benefits of a creekside forest:

- Improves the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain
- Prevents stream bank erosion
- Filters storm runoff, removing pollutants before they reach the creek
- Provides habitat and food for a diverse group of animals
- Provides shade that cools air and water temperatures
- Creates a greenbelt forest with diverse tree and plant communities for outdoor enthusiasts
- Reduces the City’s carbon footprint
- Reduces maintenance so park staff can focus on other park projects

www.austintexas.gov/watershed/creekside 512-974-2550
STRATEGIES – RE-ENGAGING FLOODPLAINS