



Naturalized No-Mow Areas: Update

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD, JUNE 18, 2026

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Overview

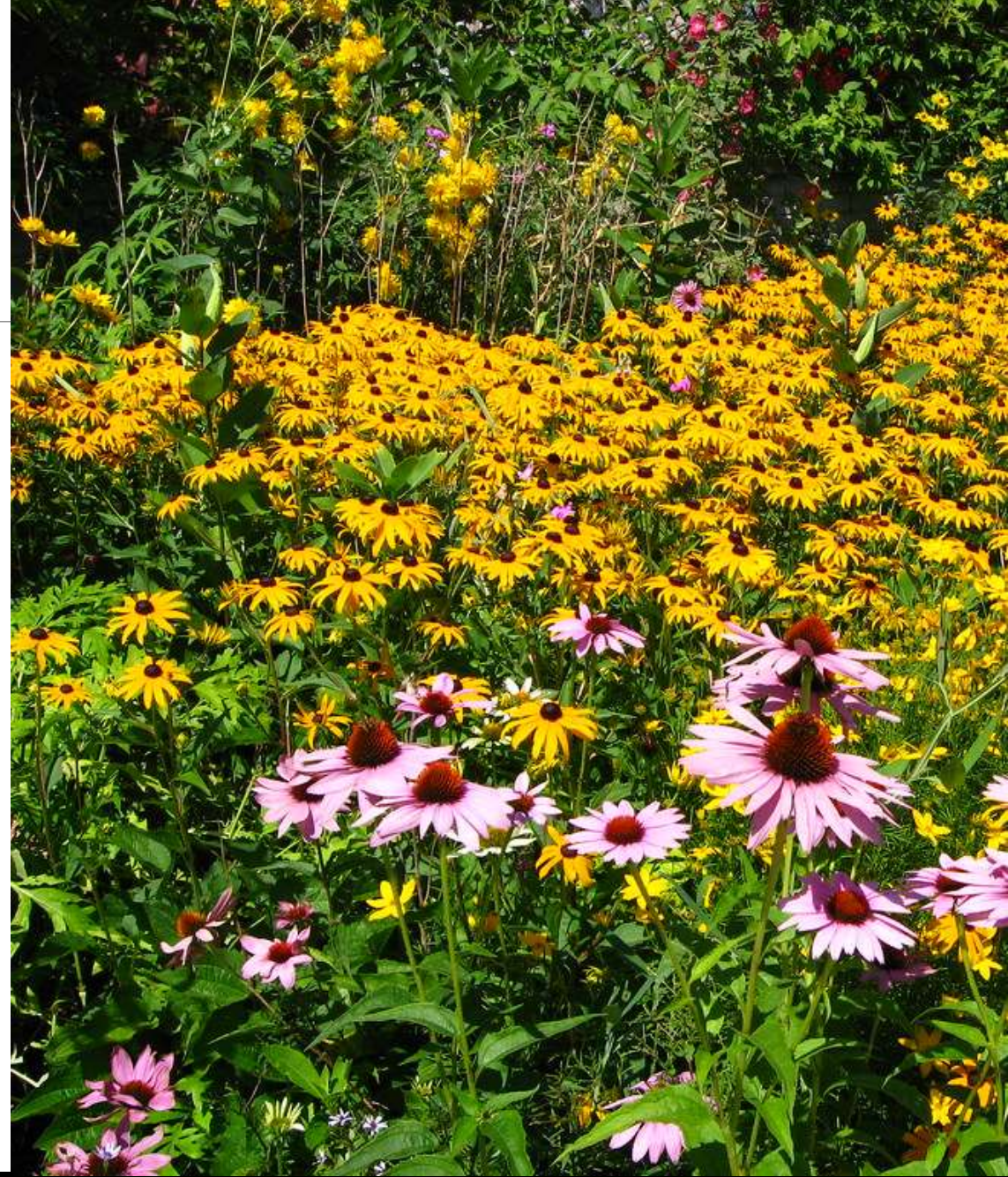
The purpose of exploring naturalized areas is to reduce long-term maintenance costs, enhance biodiversity, and improve environmental sustainability by transitioning select high-maintenance turf areas into low-maintenance, ecologically beneficial landscapes.

- Key Benefits
- Site Selection Updates
- Naturalized Areas Program: Savings & Impact Summary
- Next Steps – Phase 2



Key Benefits

- Cost Savings: Reduces mowing and long-term maintenance costs
 - System Context – Acres Currently Maintained by Parks (in-house and external)
 - Parks: 572 acres
 - Drainage: 80 acres
 - Right-of-Way (ROW): 221 acres
 - Total: 873 acres
- Soil Health & Erosion Control: Deeply rooted plants stabilize soils
- Water Quality: Filters grass clippings, litter, and toxins before they enter waterways
- Pollinator Support: Provides habitat for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators
- Native Resource Protection: Conserves and enhances native plant communities
- Wildlife Habitat: Supplies food and cover for native species
- Air Quality: Reduces mower emissions and fuel usage
- Community Aesthetics: Adds visual variety and seasonal beauty
- Educational Opportunities: Promotes sustainability awareness for residents, schools, and volunteers



Site Selections

- Nine sites were originally selected for consideration in two phases, chosen for their high maintenance demand, potential environmental benefits, and visibility for public education.
- These locations provide opportunities to reduce mowing frequency, lower operational costs, and enhance ecological health while maintaining an attractive and functional landscape.
- Seed mix will vary per site. Each mix contains a blend of native grasses and/or wildflowers that support pollinators and add seasonal color.





Park – No Mow Zones (Completed - Phase 1)

Site 1: Heberle Trail

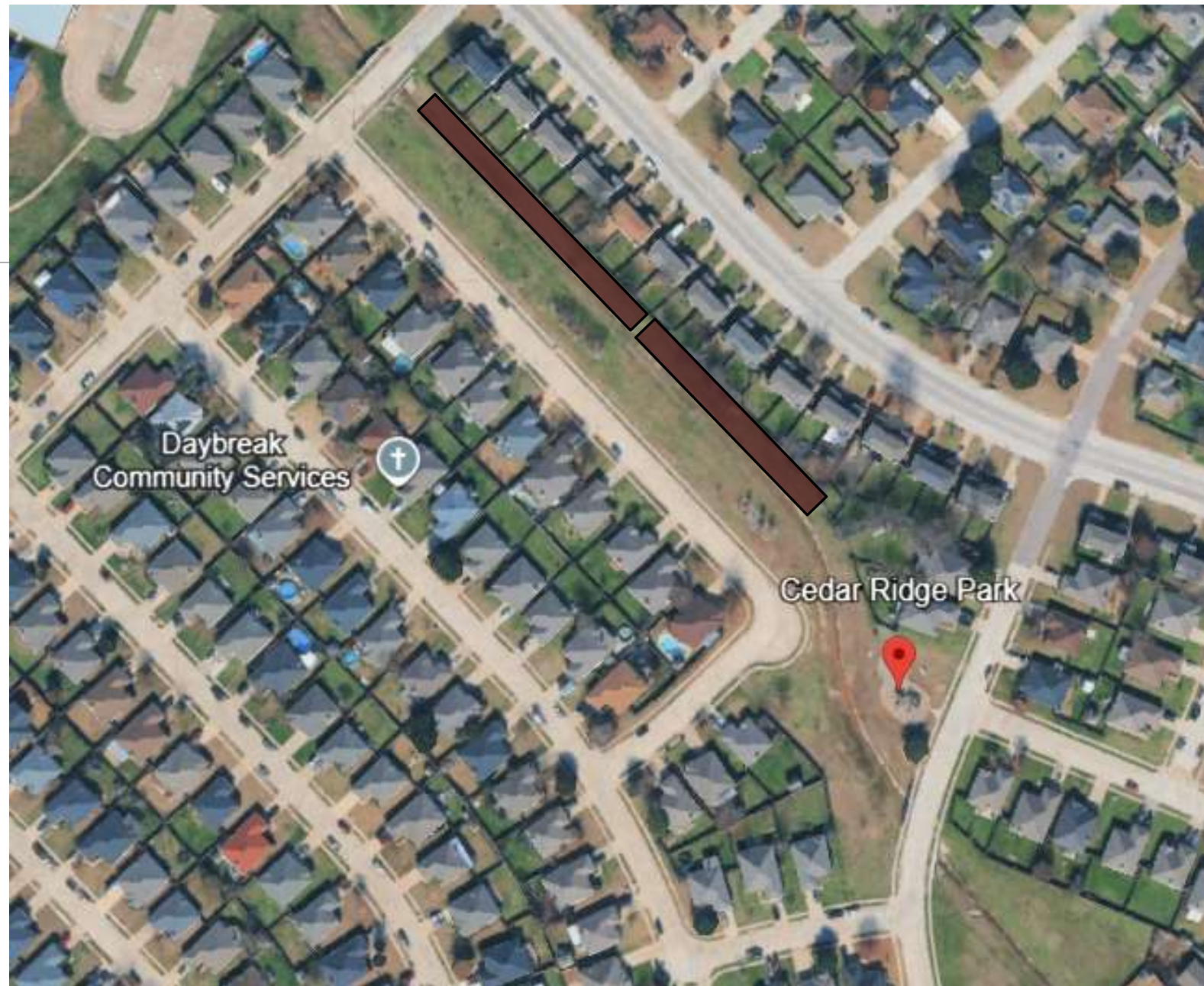
- Coverage Area Estimate:
1.5 Acres
- Contract Savings: \$3,280
- Seed Cost:
\$1,239



Selected areas will run along Heberle Trail. Staff will maintain mow strips adjacent to trails and buffer zones between trails and nearby homes to ensure safety, visibility, and resident comfort.

Site 2: Cedar Ridge Park

- Coverage Area Estimate:
.5 acres
- Staff Time Savings:
1 hour/week
- Seed Cost:
\$413



Onsite Park Visuals: After Photos

Heberle Trail:



Plants discovered:
Lemon Beebalm, Firewheel,
Standing Cypress, American
Basket Flower, Black-Eyed
Susan, Plains Coreopsis,
Greenthread



Cedar Ridge:





Median – No Mow Zones (Completed – Phase 1)

Site 3: Lakewood Drive (Median near CR 1021)

- Coverage Area Estimate:
2.2 acres
- Contract Savings:
\$5,350
- Seed Cost:
\$1,652



Site 4: NW Renfro Medians (Near Crowley)

- Coverage Area Estimate:
.39 acres
- Staff Time Savings:
4 hours/week
- Seed Cost:
\$826 (Groundcover selection)



Site 5: Wilshire: Slopes on I-35 Bridge

- Coverage Area Estimate:
.5 acre
- Staff Time Savings:
1 hour/week
- Seed Cost:
\$413



Site 6: Hidden Creek Parkway Slope

- Coverage Area Estimate:
.5 acre
- Staff Time Savings:
30 minutes/week
- Seed Cost:
\$413



Onsite Median/ROW Visuals: After Photos

Hidden Creek Bridge



Lakewood Median



Renfro Median



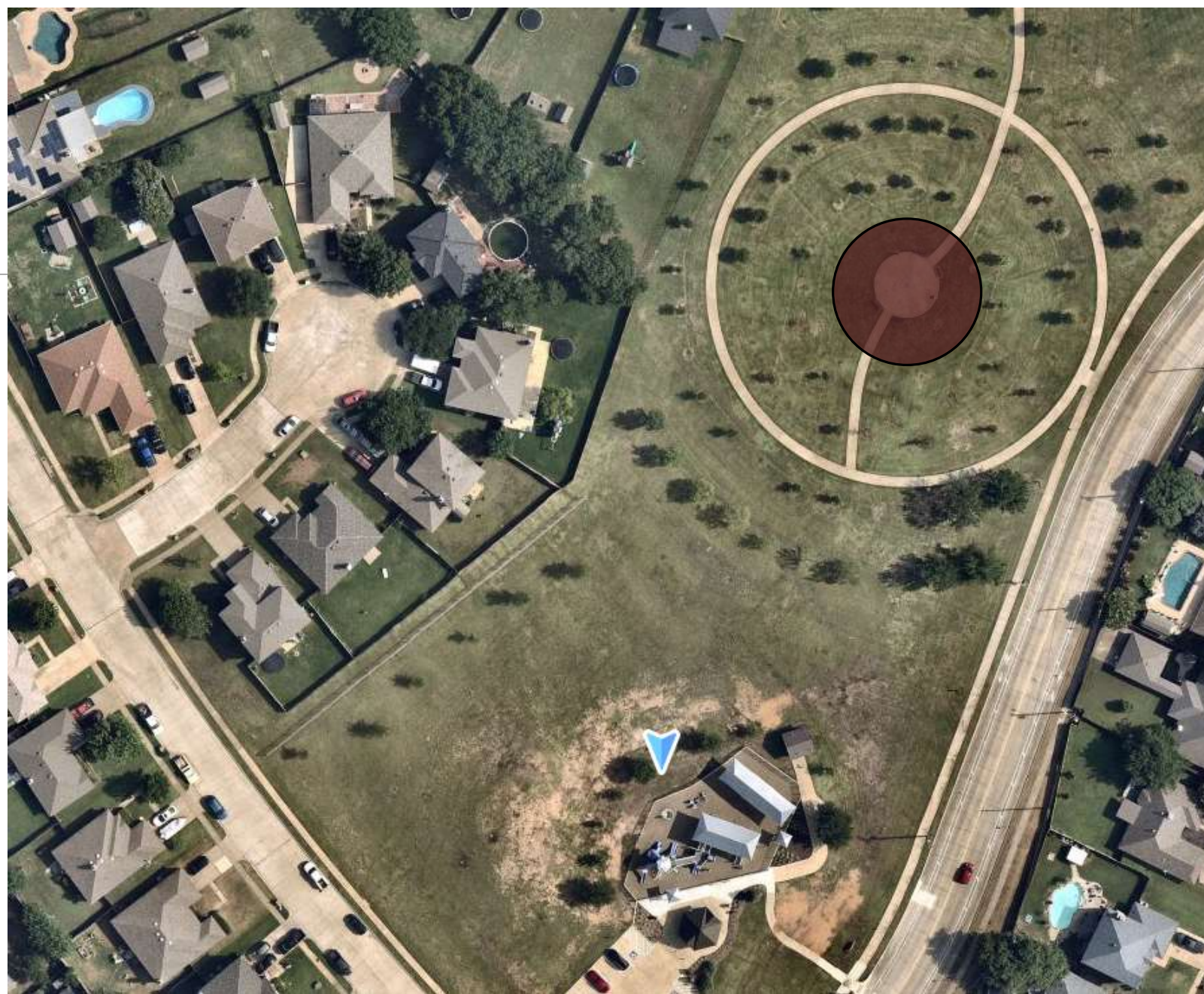
Plants discovered:
Lemon Beebalm, Firewheel,
Standing Cypress, Huisache
Daisy, Green Milkweed, Verbena,
Texas Vervain




Park – No Mow Zones (Upcoming - Phase 2)

Site 7: Centennial Park

- Coverage Area Estimate:
1 acre
- Staff Time Savings:
30 minutes
- Anticipated Seed Cost:
\$826





Median – No Mow Zones (Upcoming – Phase 2)

Site 8: Wilshire Median

- Coverage Area Estimate:
.12 acres (5,014 sq. Ft.)
- Staff Time Savings:
1.5 hours/week
- Anticipated Seed Cost:
\$207



Portion of selected median along Wilshire in front of BPD at the Elk Dr. intersection.

Community Outreach – Executed Communication Plan

- Phase (Launch)
 - Update City website and publish new Naturalized Areas page/tab
 - Weekly progress report (internal/external as needed)
 - E-newsletter article introducing the program
 - Social media post #1 – Launch announcement
 - Initial signage placed at naturalized sites citywide
- Second Phase (Follow-up & Engagement)
 - Social media post highlighting seasonal progress after seeding
 - E-newsletter article showing growth, benefits, and community impact

COMMUNICATION PLAN

FIRST PHASE

- Update language on website and publish new page/tab
- Weekly report
- Enewsletter article
- Social media post #1 (Launch post)
- Install signage throughout city



Social Media Caption:

🌿 Coming soon to BTX parks and medians: naturalized areas!

These spaces were once high-maintenance turf but are being thoughtfully transformed into low-maintenance, sustainable landscapes. Benefits include:

- ✓ Lower mowing and maintenance costs
- ✓ Water conservation
- ✓ More pollinator and wildlife habitat
- ✓ Healthier soil and cleaner water

Naturalized areas are the newest addition to Burlleson's No Mow Areas, and the first phase will convert turf into low-maintenance landscapes at 9 sites chosen for their high maintenance needs and potential environmental benefits.

The sites are:

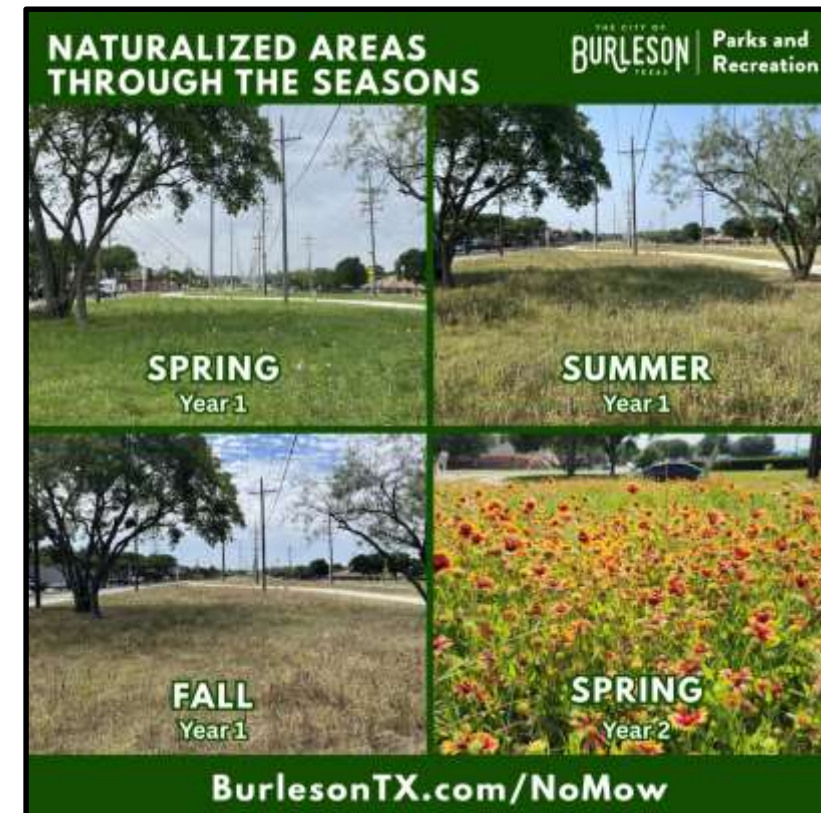
- Parks: Centennial Park, Cedar Ridge Park Heberle Park, and Bailey Lake Park

Community Outreach – Visual Examples

PSA Communication Example

Onsite In-Progress Signage

PSA Communication Example



Renfro Median Highlight: Ecosystem Service Values

- **Project Area:** 16,969 sq. ft. (0.39 acres)
- **Rainfall Capture:**
 - Approximately 386,300 gallons of rainfall received annually
- **Stormwater Benefits:**
 - Estimated 38,600–154,500 gallons of stormwater runoff reduced, slowed, or infiltrated annually
- **Water Conservation:**
 - Estimated 148,000–274,900 gallons of irrigation water saved annually
- **Cost Savings:**
 - Estimated \$4,000–\$13,000 in annual operational savings
 - Reduced irrigation, mowing, fertilizer, and maintenance requirements
- **Urban Heat Mitigation**
 - Located within an Urban Heat Index 6 area
 - Helps reduce localized heat impacts through increased vegetation cover and evapotranspiration
- **Pollinator & Habitat Benefits**
 - Supports native bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects
 - Creates nearly 0.4 acres of connected pollinator habitat



Naturalized Areas Program: Savings & Impact Summary

- **Phase 1 (6 Sites Completed)**
 - 5.29 acres transitioned from high-maintenance turf to low-maintenance naturalized areas
 - **Additional Savings:**
 - Contract Savings: Lakewood Properties: \$5,350
 - Contract Savings: Heberle Trail: \$3,280
 - Total Savings Estimate from Staff Reallocation: \$11,370
 - **Estimated Total Additional Savings: \$20,000**
 - **Estimated Total Seed Cost (One-Time): \$4,502**
- **Phase 2 – 2 Sites**
 - 1.5 acres to be transitioned from high-maintenance turf to low-maintenance naturalized areas
 - **Estimated Total Seed Cost (One-Time): \$2,655**
 - Funding Source – Operational Absorption
- **Phase 3 Planned**
 - John Jones Median



Next Steps

Summer 2026: Finalize Phase 2 locations and confirm seed quantities

Late Summer 2026: Develop communication materials and notify community at large of upcoming naturalized area conversions.

August–September 2026: Complete site preparation and vegetation suppression.

October–November 2026: Install native seed mix (1.5 acres).

Winter 2026–Spring 2027: Monitor establishment and evaluate site performance.

Ongoing: Pursue grant funding for educational signage to enhance public awareness and understanding of naturalized areas at select locations.



Questions / Comments

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