

**Focus Group on Green Infrastructure Development Standards  
April 27, 2022, TEAMS meeting via City of Oklahoma City**

Staff Present:

Marilyn Lamensdorf, City of OKC Planning, Code Update  
Lisa Chronister, City of OKC Assistant Planning Director  
Jared Martin, City of OKC Subdivision and Zoning and certified arborist  
Banery Mujica-ortiz, City of OKC Planning, Comprehensive Planning  
Sarah Welch, City of OKC Planning, Current Planning  
Cameron Conyers, City of OKC Planning, Current Planning  
Ryan Baker, City of OKC Federal Grants  
Derek Johnson – City of OKC Public Works, Stormwater Management  
Brandon Boydston – City of OKC, Parks Planning  
Mark White – Code Update Consultant, White & Smith LLC

Participants:

Jonathan Heusel, Halff and Associates, civil engineer  
Jessica Lerner, LAUD Studio, landscape architects  
Kelly Driscoll, Johnson and Associates, engineering and planning  
Connie Scothorn, prior work on City's landscape ordinance  
Nate Clair, Halff and Associates, landscape architect  
James Hazzard, Halff and Associates, landscape architect  
Brian Dougherty, Community Foundation  
Lanc Gross, Community Foundation  
Dana Karcher, Davey Resources  
Mark Bays, Oklahoma Department of Forestry  
Lisa Synar, OKC Beautiful

*Meeting Began: 9:03am*

Introductions (Marilyn)

Presentation (Marilyn / Derek / Mark White)

- explained the proposed Code Update approach revolving around planokc land use plan of Land Use Typology Areas (LUTAs)
- Chapter 59 can't implement planokc because regulations are the same throughout the City, setbacks, landscaping, parking all of the same whether you are near the Core or out in the rural areas, no context for the regulations
- Proposed revision in the code update of "open space" requirements
  - currently there are requirements for landscaping, drainage, parkland dedication for residential projects, and buffering/screening of commercial areas from residential areas. But none of these requirements work together.
  - Proposal to better coordinate these open space areas on a site by grouping them as "Amenity Space"
  - Site development would include a menu of amenity space choices that include landscaping, drainage, plazas, buffers, etc.
  - Lowering parking requirements (paved areas) is one way to help with green infrastructure

- Marilyn has the list of prior suggestions by Community Foundation and others on the landscape ordinance

Questions for the group:

- How can drainage, zoning, subdivision and stormwater quality work together?
- Do you have examples of how other cities have done green infrastructure?
- Ideas for maintaining natural drainage/run off water quality infrastructure over time

Discussion:

Examples discussed of ordinances:

San Antonio Low Impact Development Standards, LID standards, Mark White, the consultant helped with those, has been adopted but rarely used because engineers haven't gotten accustomed to that kind of design yet, public sector must lead on examples

Permeable paving standards in Oleta, Kansas, Mark also assisted with drafting those

Green Infrastructure scoring: Austin, Texas, not adopted yet, but Marilyn has copy, was written by landscape architects

Edmond, tree preservation ordinance, must preserve 20% of trees on a site; OKC needs a percent preservation tool too. A requirement is needed for ways to assess trees on a property as being valuable or not (tree health and tree species, don't want to protect invasive species) and if cannot save, must mitigate, Tree Preservation program requires arborists on staff

Cluster development in rural areas: reduces street lengths and increases open space, incentive for more density in less space, more green areas preserved

Examples discussed of built and functioning green infrastructure: (photos below added by Planning staff after the meeting)

- Wiley Post Park, OKC: Parks department recently completed installation of porous pavers, this is a heavy traffic area so will be good test of how it holds up and maintenance costs (completed end of 2021); these were also installed at Scissortail.
- Memorial Park and Military Park, OKC: bioswales and pervious pavers in parking lot; wasn't a lot of run-off from there after the April 23, 2022 heavy rain event, so it is functioning well in the form of infiltrating storm water instead of it running off into the street, according to Public Works; need to educate on new equipment and maintenance processes for these,



Memorial Park, pervious paving for parking (top)

Military Park, rain garden (bottom)

- OKCCC detention pond: built as an amenity for the students, more trees, and areas to picnic, sidewalks and trails in an area that was park deficient



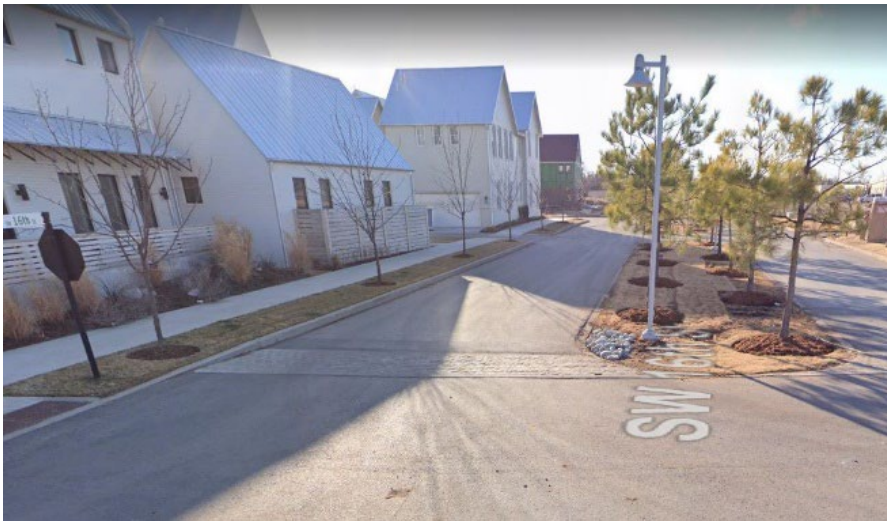
- Tinker Air Force Base riparian areas in the base buffer Green Infrastructure John Krupovage designed/maintains



Tinker Crutcho Creek Before/After



- City Public Works Department is keeping a GIS file of city projects (OU students have asked for the list so that they can study the sites, Dr. Vogel at OU and Director, Oklahoma Water Survey / Civil Engineering)/Also public works developing standard operating procedures, including a Perc test for GI performance
- Will Rogers Park/Gardens, tree restoration beginning in the 2000s
- Edmond Mitch Park bioswale (small example), 800 feet in length
- Wheeler District, streets have rain gardens and pervious paving parking areas



Wheeler median swales (top)

Wheeler pervious paver on-street parking (bottom)

Other data and points to consider:

- Community Foundation tree canopy study, City has this mapping layer and is hoping to use it for calibration and location of policies
- Chapter 16 drainage ordinance has to be on the same page or no incentives to do GI
- ICPI-pervious paving standards (Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute) has standards for thickness of gravel for filtration etc.
- Human health benefits to green infrastructure; 3-30-300 Rule for urban forests: If you look out your window you should see at least 3 trees; 30% is a good neighborhood target for canopy cover (Community Foundation study found that OKC area, including other cities within the metro) has 23% overall canopy cover as a baseline to watch; healthy = being within 300 meters of a park or natural area that you can reach by walking (Nature-Based Solutions Institute)
- Studies have valued the “service of trees”; \$150 million annually in stormwater quality and health benefits
- Need to educate developers, public, etc. on benefits for stormwater quality and health

Next Steps in the Code Update:

Drafts of Base Zones and Development Standards to be released late 2022/early 2023, one of the development standards will include green infrastructure, will need help from landscape architects on commenting on the drafts.

*Meeting Ended: 10:22am*