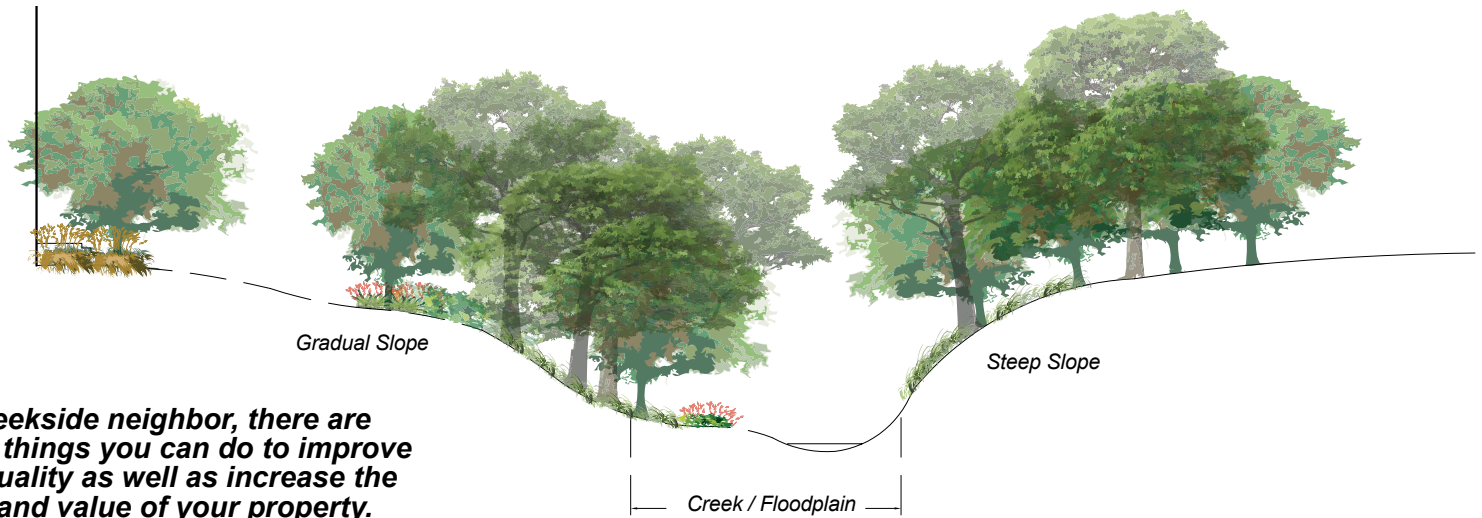


Creekside Homeowners

A Guide for Creekside Residents





As a creekside neighbor, there are several things you can do to improve water quality as well as increase the beauty and value of your property.

Why Should I Do This?

When we build along a waterway, we take away the benefits of the native stream side landscape. Our houses and streets cover the land and prevent rainwater from soaking into the ground. Without this underground flow of water, our creeks are more apt to dry out when there is little rain.

If we also change the natural look of the stream by removing vegetation and planting turf down to the water, we take away the benefits of native plants. These deep-rooted plants can help prevent erosion and filter pollutants that might run off the yard during rainfall. Planting trees also provides shade that keeps the water cooler and prevents evaporation. This makes the creek a healthier place for aquatic life and wildlife as well as a more attractive place for you to view and enjoy.

How Can You Help?

The best answer is the simple answer – return the creek to its natural state.

1. Plant

- Plant trees, both tall and short, near the stream but out of the flood zone
- Plant shrubs and deep-rooted native grasses to help stabilize the creek-bank and prevent erosion

2. Maintain

- Avoid mowing near the water. Giving plants the opportunity to grow a minimum of 12" helps native grasses become established and allows for a more diverse mix of groundcover

- Use pesticides and fertilizers as a last resort (see www.growgreen.org for additional earthwise gardening tips)

3. Keep water on the land to prevent erosion, feed the creek naturally and save money on watering:

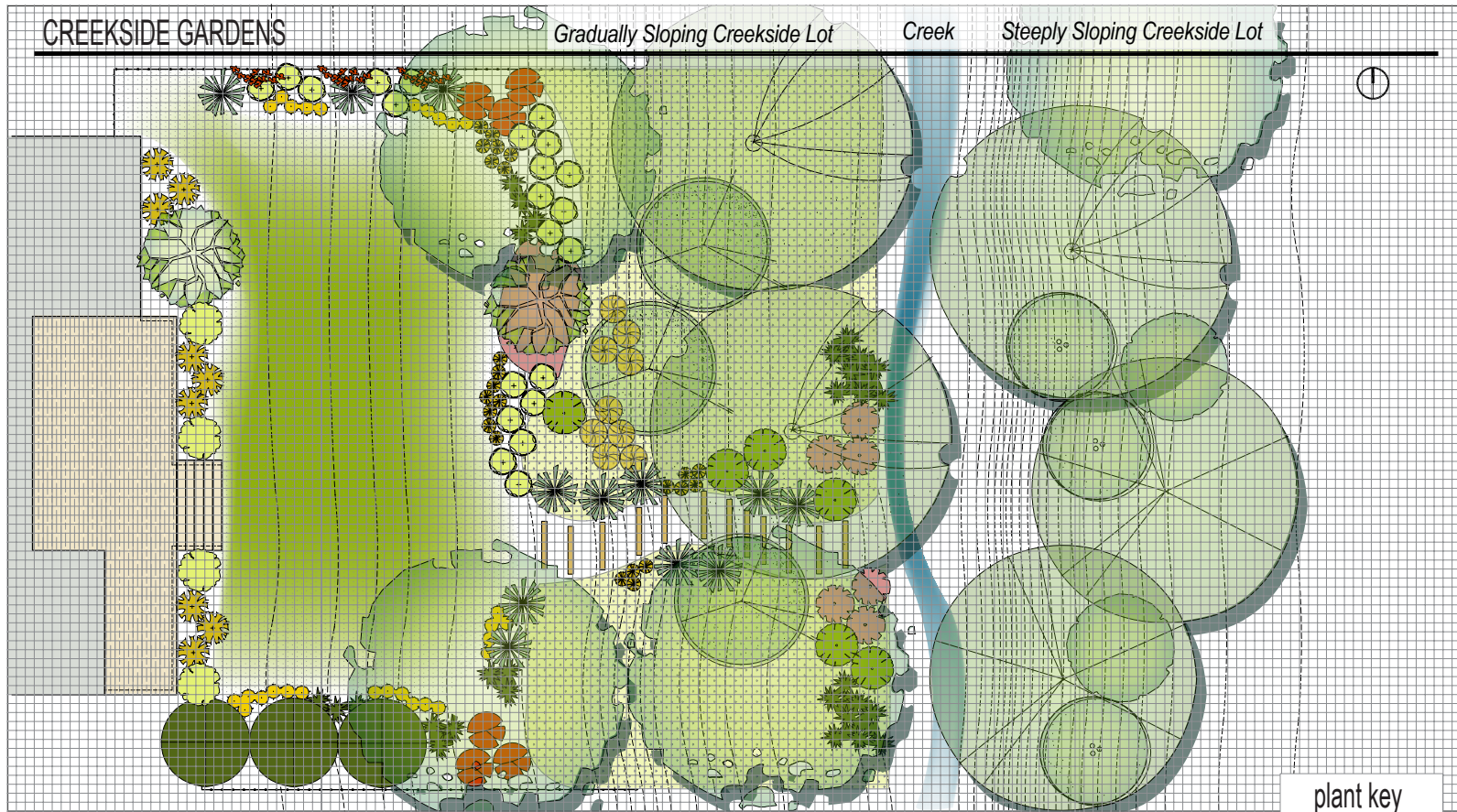
- Use rainbarrels or larger storage tanks to capture rain from your gutters
- Consider planting a rain garden (a plant bed that is sunken and captures rainwater) www.austintexas.gov/raingardens

CREEKSIDE GARDENS

Gradually Sloping Creekside Lot








Creek

Steeply Sloping Creekside Lot





plant key









trees

-  mexican plum
-  redbud
-  bur oak
-  chinquipin oak
-  live oak
-  yaupon holly
-  wax myrtle

shrubs

-  buttonbush
-  dwarf wax myrtle
-  dwarf palmetto
-  cherry laurel

perennials

-  columbine
-  fall obedient plant
-  inland sea oats
-  wood fern
-  maximilian sunflower
-  big muhly
-  turk's cap
-  coreopsis

-  black-eyed susan
-  horseherb
-  pigeonberry & frogfruit

 *riparian seed mix:
(see back cover)

vines

 coral honeysuckle

Light:

Sun/ Part Shade

Soil Needs:

- Amend existing soil with 2-3" of compost
- Be sure that your total soil base is 6-8" deep
- If additional soil is needed, use a good quality soil mix (approximately 25% compost, 65% loam and 10% sand)

Water Needs:

Once established, these plants require little to no water. If plants look wilted, however, water thoroughly every 3-4 weeks if there is no rainfall.

Irrigation:

- Hand-watering is recommended
- If you must use an irrigation system.. Choose one with bubblers and/or drip irrigation

Turf:

Not recommended next to the creek

Gardening Tips:

- Do not plant trees or shrubs in the stream channel
- If planting the garden in phases, start with the trees. They will be the slowest growing vegetation and play an important role in shading the creek from the hot Texas sun
- Allowing the vegetation that is closest to the stream to go fully wild is beneficial and will become more tame as the tree canopy develops

Good Plant Choices:

Large Trees

Bald Cypress
Bur Oak
Chinquapin Oak
Live Oak
Sycamore

Small Trees

Carolina Buckthorn
Mexican Plum
Possumhaw Holly
Roughleaf Dogwood
Redbud
Yaupon Holly

Shrubs

Coralberry
Buttonbush
Eve's Necklace
Chili Pequin
Dwarf Palmetto

Wax Myrtle
Cherry Laurel

Perennials

Blue Mistflower
Columbine
Turk's Cap

Groundcovers

Big Muhly
Frogfruit
Horseherb

Ornamental Grasses

Indiangrass
Inland Seoats
Switchgrass
Meadow Sedge
Canada Wild Rye
Eastern Gamagrass

Aquatic and Semi-Aquatic Plants (for raingardens)

Obedient Plant
Bushy Bluestem
Wood Fern
Spike Sedge

Creekside Seed Mix:

Clasping Coneflower,
Cutleaf Daisy, Scarlet
Sage, Pitcher Sage,
Maximilian Sunflower,
Black-Eyed Susan, Big
Bluestem, Bushy Blue-
stem, Eastern Gama-
grass, Switchgrass

For a driving or biking map to this and other demonstration gardens or for more earth-wise gardening tips, visit www.growgreen.org

For water conserving tips and rebates, visit www.waterwiseaustin.org

www.growgreen.org



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