



# **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

---

**MICHEAL G. WILSON**

**DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

**TRANSPORTATION & DRAINAGE OPERATIONS**



# PAST PRACTICES

## ■ Prior to 2021:

- Split Teams
  - Street (right-of-way)
  - Stormwater (drainage channels)
- 20 employees on each team (40 total)
- Mowing Areas: Council Districts
- Disproportional Service

## ■ Issues:

- Difficult Coordination of Resources
- Significantly Understaffed
- Deviation of Priorities  
*(areas randomly added, extra cycles for some Districts, etc.)*
- Poor Asset Management



# TODAY'S PRACTICES

## CLEARLY DEFINED FUNCTIONS:

- City's ROW Green Spaces (major thoroughfares)
- Off-Road Channels & Drainage Easements
- Green Stormwater Infrastructure



## INTEGRATED & EXPANDED TEAM:

- 53 Positions – existing staff reassigned
- Centralized Operation at 8002 Airline
- Goats at Detention Ponds & Inaccessible Channels
- FY25 Funds approved for contract support (*in progress*)

# TODAY'S PRACTICES

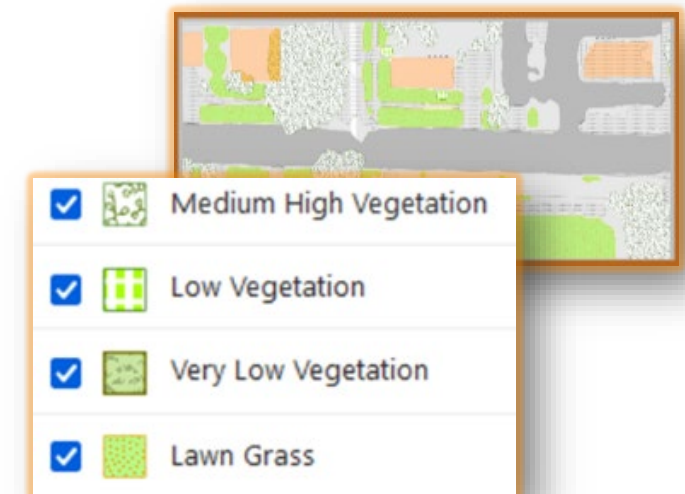
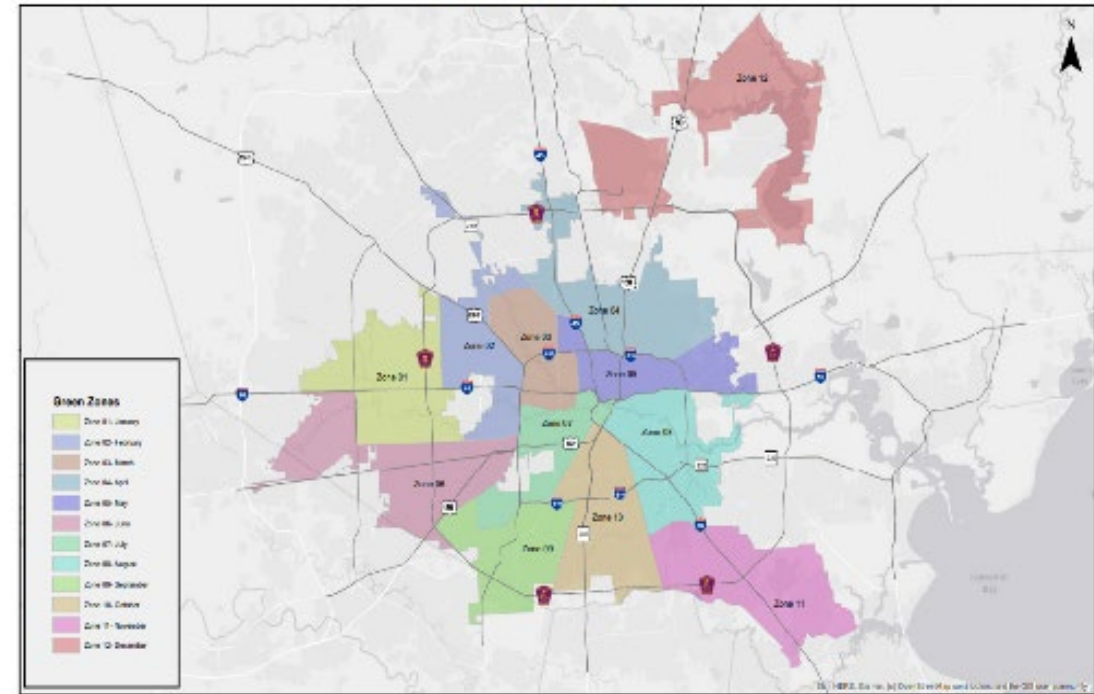
## STRUCTURED & EQUITABLE OPERATION:

- ☛ Mowing Areas: Green Zones  
*(no political boundaries)*
- ☛ Proportional Service Citywide

## ASSET MANAGEMENT ADVANCING:

- ☛ Vegetation Data Collection (AI)
- ☛ Transparent Operation: Green Zones Map
- ☛ Publicly accessible on HPW Website  
Next phase: dynamic map (live status)

Stormwater Operations  
Vegetation Management Schedule





# CONTINUING IMPROVEMENTS

**INCREASE SERVICE FREQUENCY: Goal Min. 2 Cycle/Green Zone/Year**

FY 23 DATA	Green Zone											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Mowing Pass 1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Mowing Pass 2				x	x	x	x	x		x	x	

FY 24 DATA	Green Zone											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Mowing Pass 1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Mowing Pass 2	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x		

# WORK CONTINUES...

## ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL

- Internal Transfers resulting from Staffing Efficiency Assessment

## ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

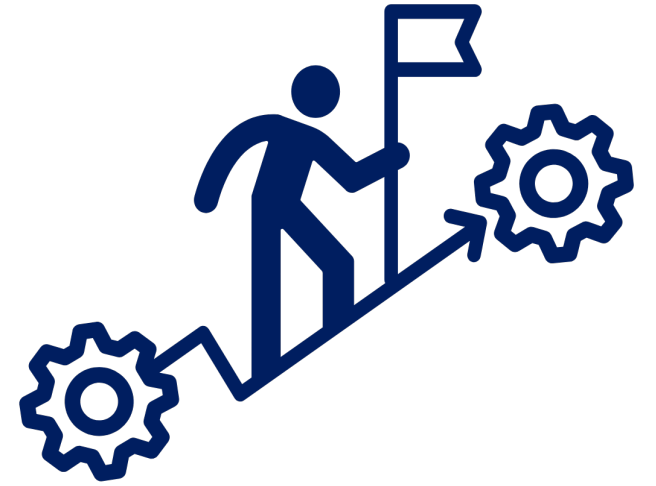
- Remote Control Mowers – Acquisition in Progress

## CONTRACT SUPPORT

- Exploring options and contract models to establish mowing contracting network. FY25 funding approved (\$500K)

## COLLABORATION WITH HPARD

- Joint funding in established contracts (ex. Columbia Tab Trail)
- Green Stormwater Training & Maintenance
- Vegetative Debris Removal Project



# Thank you!



[HoustonPublicWorks.org](https://HoustonPublicWorks.org)



@HouPublicWorks