

Downtown Austin Community Court



Community Service Restitution Program

Contents of slides

- Graffiti Abatement

- City Lots

- Working collaboratively with:

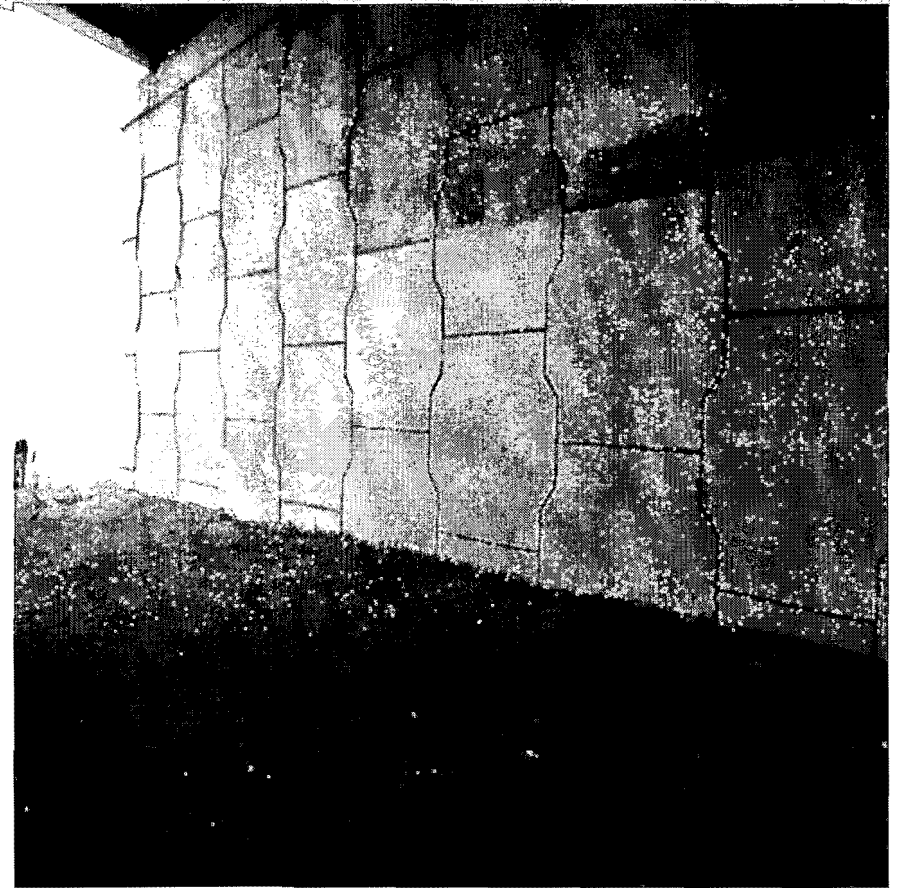
- Austin Police Department
 - Code Compliance
 - Austin Resource Recovery
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Downtown Austin Alliance
 - Right of Way
 - Watershed Department
 - 311

- Downtown Walking Crew

- E.R. Fincher III Program Garden

Graffiti Abatement FY 2015

Total number of sites recorded 1,171
Equals to 268,631 sq. ft. covered.



Before and After Graffiti



City Lots

Maintain over 30 city owned lots throughout the city.

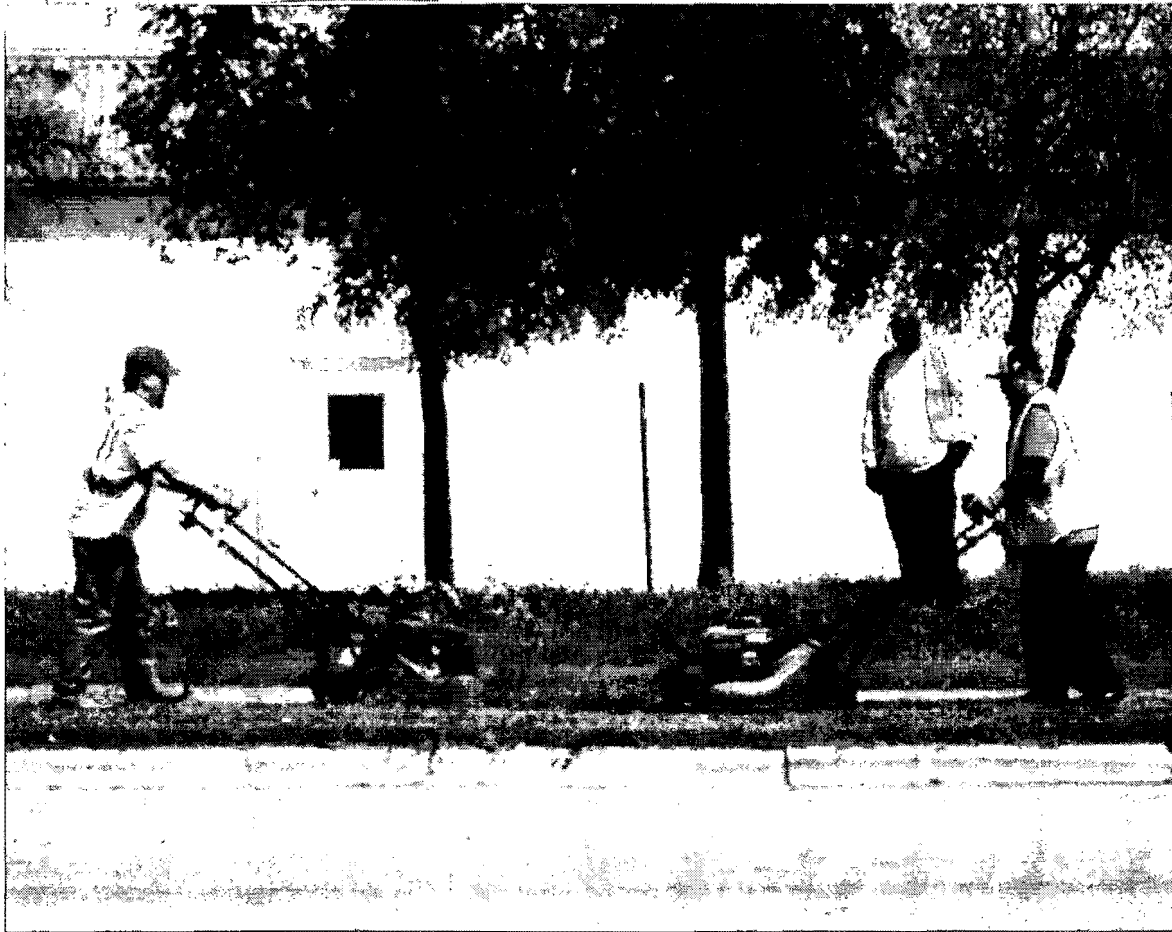
Total of 559,663 sq. ft. combined, =13 acres



Home Depot

Maintain Home Depot and vacant car lot monthly

Total of 826,768 sq. ft. combined, = 19 acres



Code, ARR & APD

Remove illegally dumped trash from ROW's, City lots, and roadways.

Total of 15.2 tons of trash removed FY2015

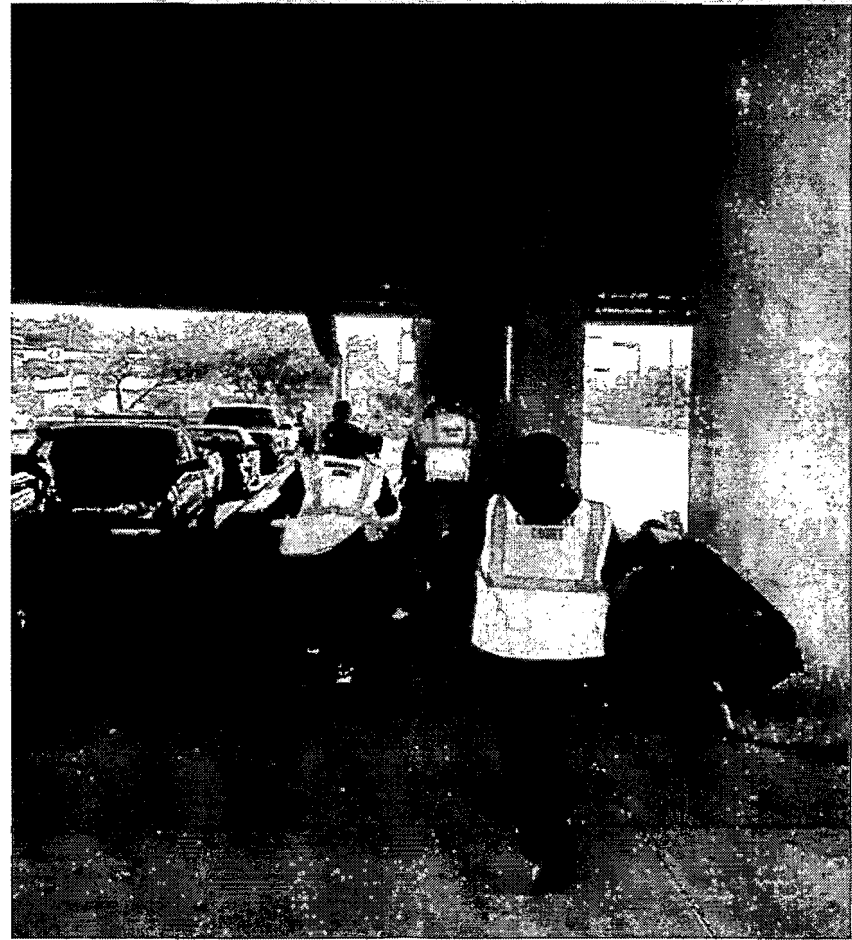


Camp Clean Ups

Request from APD and Code Compliance

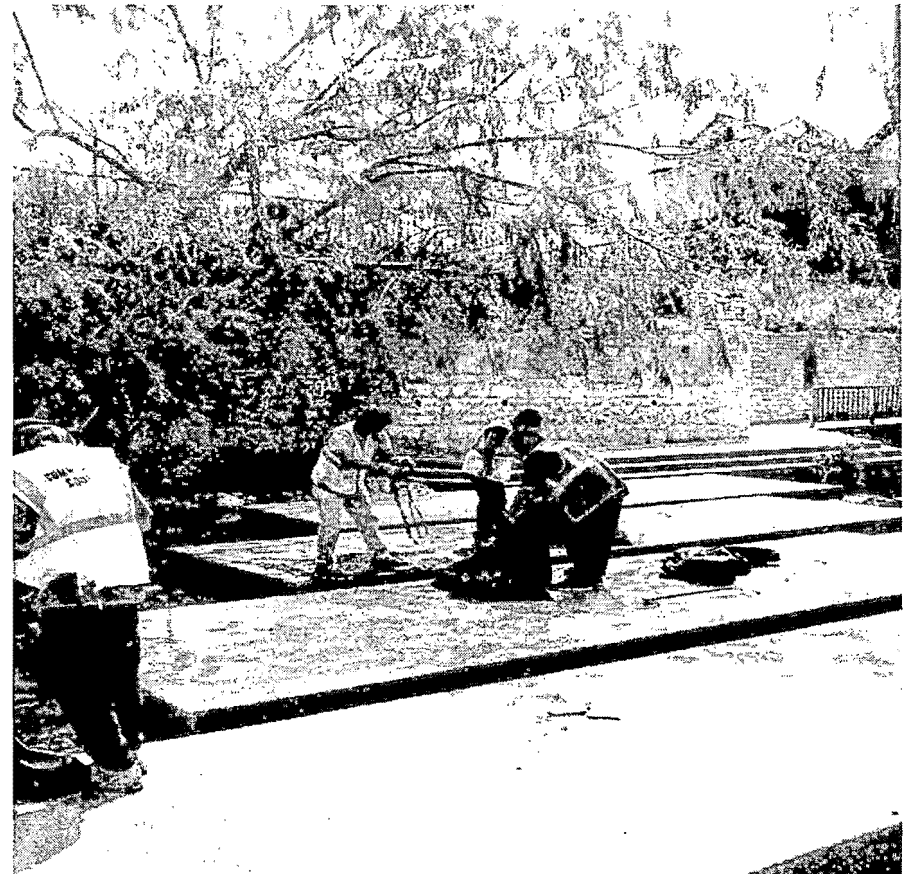


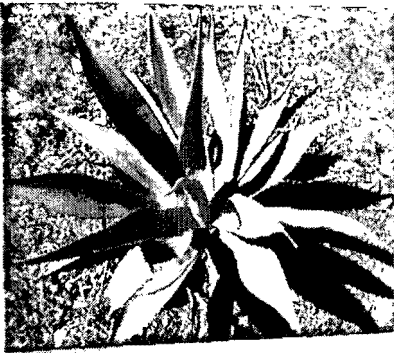
Downtown Walking Crew



Waller Creek

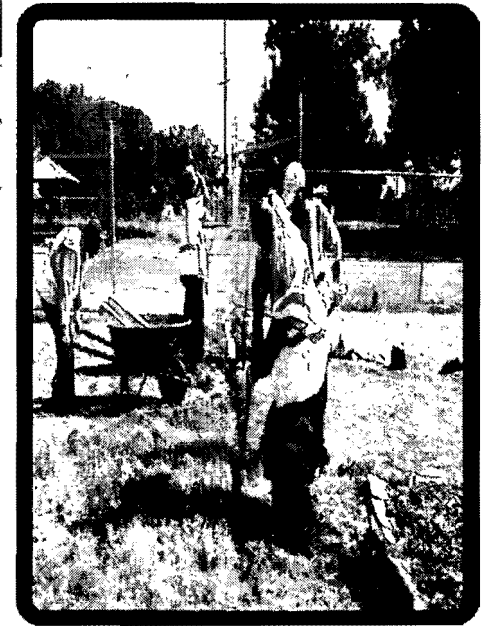
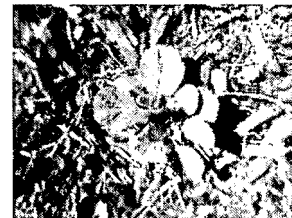
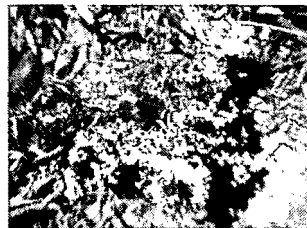
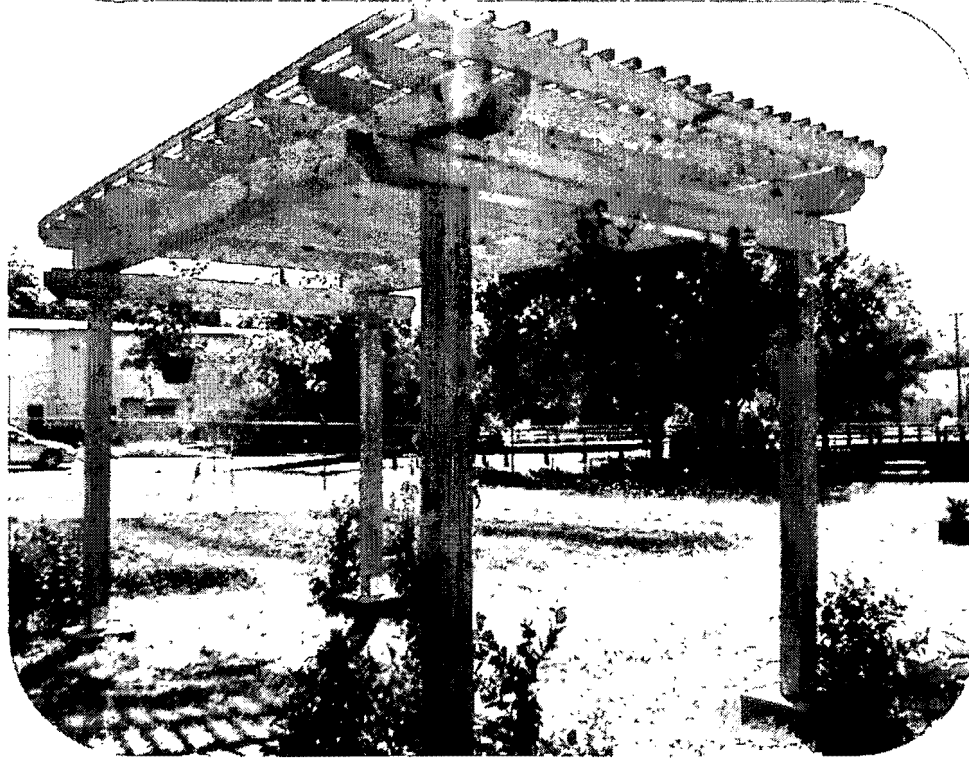
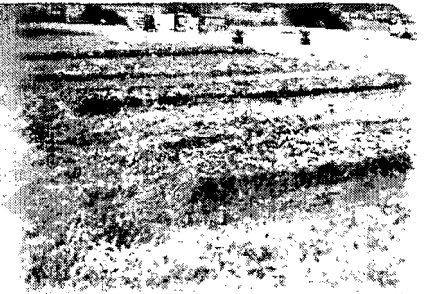
Clean Waller Creek from Cesar Chavez to 15th street



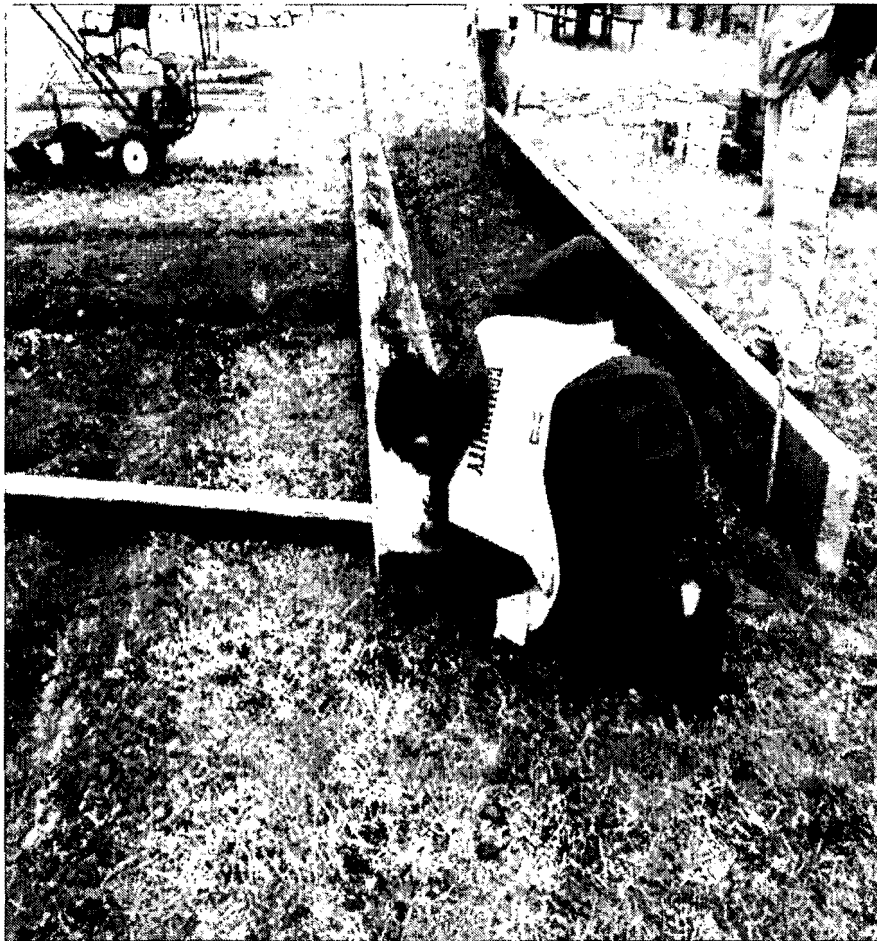


Program Garden

Situated east of I35 on 2 acres
donated by APD, managed and maintained
by Community Court CSR work crews.



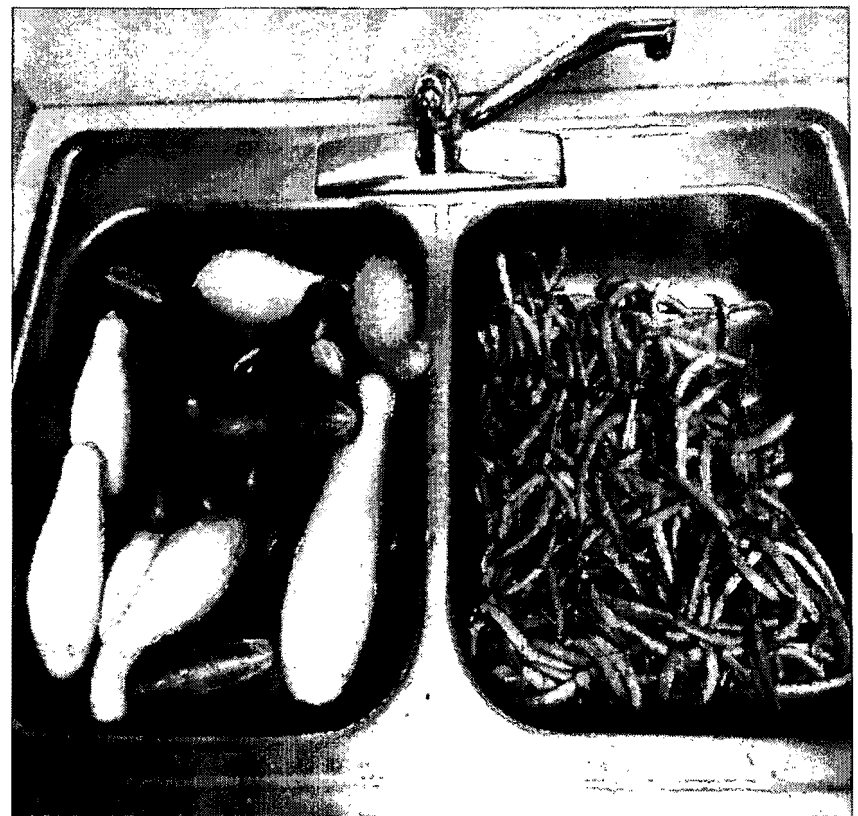
Building the beds & prepping the ground for planting

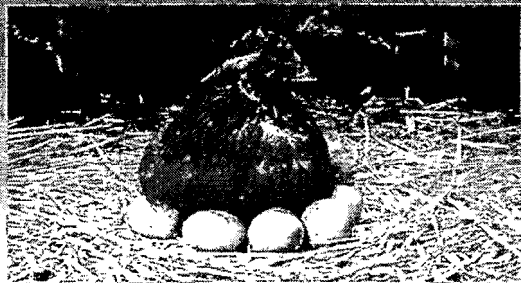


Kale and Cabbage

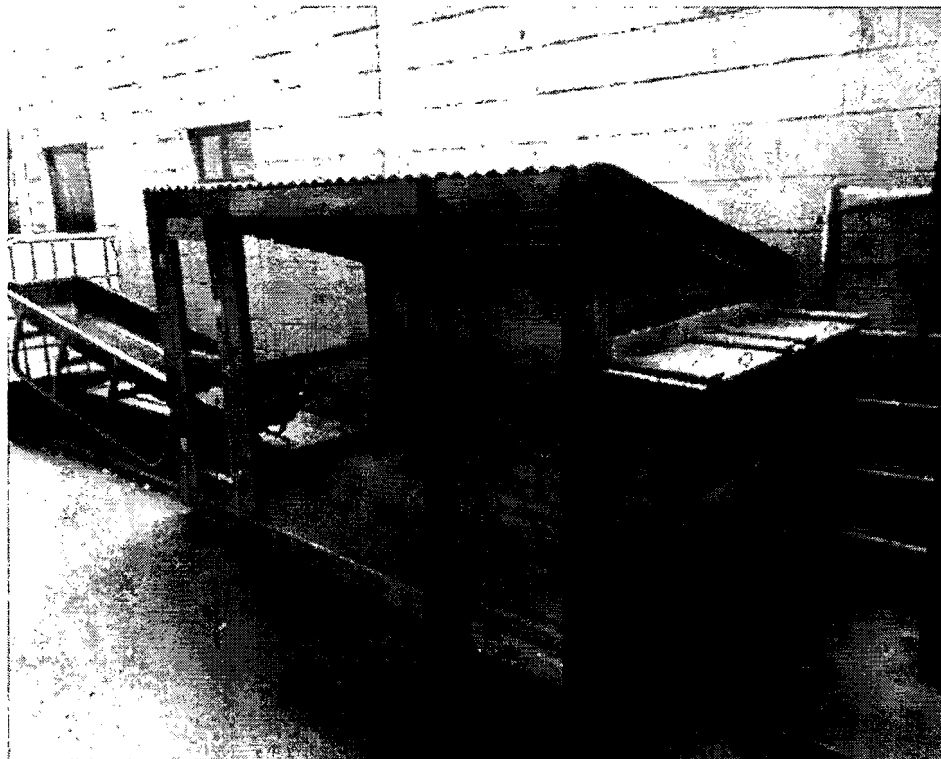
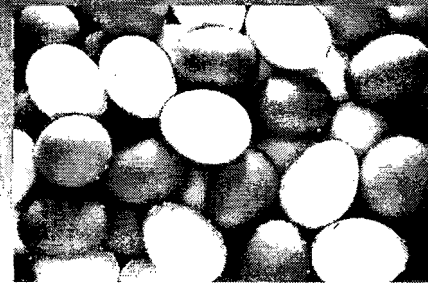


Garden Harvest





Next Project “Chickens”



Community Service Projects have included

- * **SXSW musical festival set up & cleanup efforts**
- * **APD Reclaim Waller Creek Phase I, II, III**
- * **St. Patrick's Day cleanup**
- * **Art City Austin set up & cleanup efforts**
- * **Safe walk to school litter pickup (Code Compliance)**
- * **Earth Day at Waterloo Park**
- * **Keep Austin Beautiful Annual Clean Sweep**
- * **PARD It's My Park Day**
- * **Zilker Park/Botanical Gardens beautification efforts**
- * **Asian American Cultural Festival**
- * **Juneteenth Celebration set up & cleanup efforts**
- * **DACC Project Garden**
- * **3M Half Marathon/Full Marathon**
- * **PARD Annual Christmas Tree Recycling**
- * **Community Tree Program**
- * **Code Compliance neighborhood cleanups**



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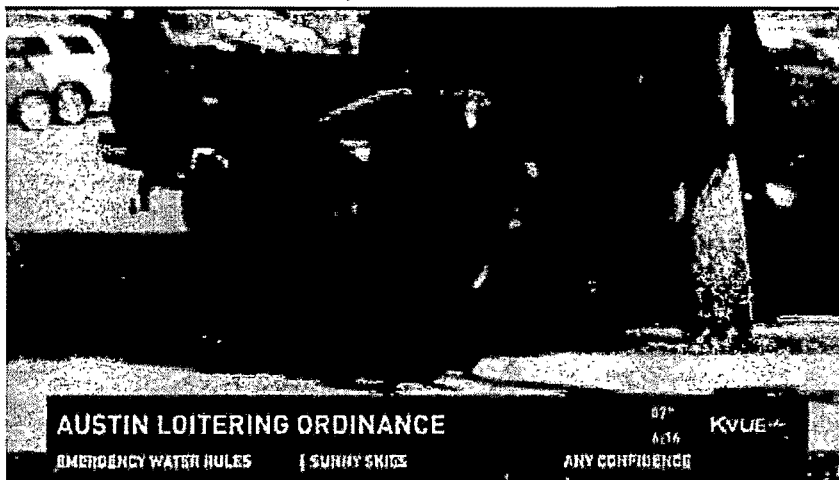
Hundreds of 'No-Sit No-Lie' citations going unpaid

Brandon Jones, KVUE 7:25 a.m. CDT October 7, 2015

AUSTIN – More than four years after a city ordinance banning lying or sitting on a downtown Austin sidewalk went into effect, most of the fines are going unpaid.

Under the ordinance, which went into effect May 2011, officers must give 30-minute warnings to those sitting or lying on a sidewalk before issuing a ticket. Most of the people being issued tickets are homeless and cannot pay.

According to court records from the Downtown Community Court, which regulates the fines, more than half of people issued tickets in 2015 have outstanding warrants. Only 21 of the more than 12,000 cases since the ordinance went into effect have appeared before a judge in community court. Court records also showed that only 39 people paid their fines outright.



City attempts to get 'No sit/No lie' tickets paid

Richard Troxell, an advocate for the homeless, pressed city leaders for the 30-minute rule for the no-sit no-lie ordinance. He feels police are targeting the homeless.

"I see the city has used its last opportunity and we get those tickets. We're not going to play around with this," Troxell said.

A standard ticket costs \$160 plus community service. If a person doesn't appear in court to pay the fine, a warrant is issued for their arrest and the ticket goes up to \$200.

Tickets are given at an officer's discretion and all officers have to follow the law's 30-minute grace period. Police and city officials are discussing ways to get the money owed, but no definite plan is in place.

APD said some people can pay fines through community service and jail credit. KVUE reached out to Austin police, but the department would not comment.

Read or Share this story: <http://kvue.tv/1LgTZaJ>

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

<http://www.austinchronicle.com/news/2015-11-06/a-closer-look-at-no-sit-no-lie/>

A Closer Look at No Sit/No Lie

BY MAKEDA EASTER, NOVEMBER 6, 2015, NEWS

In 2009, House the Homeless, an education and advocacy nonprofit, surveyed 500 people experiencing homelessness in Austin. After analyzing the surveys, Richard Troxell, the founder of House the Homeless, discovered that nearly half had serious health conditions, including congestive heart failure, cancer, traumatic brain injuries, and mental illness, that prevented them from working. These illnesses also required long periods of rest. And it was those periods of rest that often led to fines under the city's No Sit/No Lie ordinance, which applies to certain public spaces.

However, there were no exceptions for the disabled under No Sit/No Lie, which directly violated the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In 2010, Troxell and Council Member Mike Martinez proposed certain exceptions to the ordinance – such as increasing the number of benches in public spaces, and allowing doctor's notes or cards displaying health conditions to provide an exemption from fines. While those ideas were rejected, House the Homeless worked to create changes that brought the ordinance into compliance under ADA and provided exemptions for those in line for goods and services during periods of extreme temperatures.

No Sit/No Lie has a history that dates back 20 years, when business owners, city officials, and the public strove to crack down on homelessness. But the ordinance has dire consequences for a population that struggles to obtain even the most basic resources. In 1995, the city passed an anti-camping ordinance, which targeted the homeless who congregated in "problem areas" including Downtown. While the ordinance was much reviled, it was also mostly unenforceable because of how vaguely "camping" was defined. It also didn't address the true problem, which was that the homeless in Austin had nowhere to sleep.

The ARCH, built in 2004, was one supposed solution, but overcrowding at the shelter left many with nowhere to go. One year later, the city passed No Sit/No Lie, an attempt at limiting the anti-camping ordinance, but also a way of addressing chronic and aggressive panhandling Downtown. West Campus and East Austin are also currently within the geographical limits of the ordinance. The ordinance gives police authority to issue fines of \$160 and community service to people who are sitting or lying in public spaces. Officers must first give a 30-minute warning to those found in violation, and if the person is found in the same location after that time period, the officer can then choose to issue a citation. If fines are not

increases to \$210.

While anyone can be fined for violating No Sit/No Lie, the homeless are disproportionately affected, receiving two-thirds of the tickets issued. Defenders of the ordinance insist that the primary intention is to incentivize the homeless to find housing and receive services. Typically, a ticket sends a person to Municipal Court, where they are directed to service providers. For others, No Sit/No Lie and other ordinances like it embody the criminalization of homelessness in Austin.

Last Tuesday, the Texas Fair Defense Project, the Civil Rights Clinic at the UT School of Law, and the law firm of Susman Godfrey LLP filed a suit against the city of Austin for unconstitutionally jailing citizens. "With something like No Sit/No Lie, which really directly impacts homeless people, the enforcement mechanism is a Class C ticket. That's going to feed them into this process which leads a lot of people to jail," says Rebecca Bernhardt, executive director of the Texas Fair Defense Project. She hopes the lawsuit will force Austin to address how such ordinances impact the city's most impoverished. "We're focused on an injunctive release, which means we want to change the city's practices and policies when it comes to enforcing these laws. There is well-established Supreme Court case law that says you can't treat poor people differently. You can't put someone in jail solely because they don't have the ability to pay a fine or fee."

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