



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MOTION 061709 2b

Date: June 17, 2009

Subject: Native Plant Communities and Invasive Species Resolution

Motioned By: Rodney Ahart

Seconded By: Mary Ann Neely

Recommendation

The Environmental Board offers support the attached resolution in response to a presentation on Native Plant Communities and Invasive Species by Keith Babberney, Chairman of the Urban Forestry Board. See attachment.

Vote 6-0-0-1

For: Ahart, Bezanson, Dupnik, Maxwell, Moncada and Neely

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Beall

Approved By:

Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair

Resolution

WHEREAS, an "invasive species" is defined as a species that is non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health (Executive Order 13112).

WHEREAS, invasive and/or undesirable aquatic, riparian and terrestrial species influence the productivity, value, and management of a broad range of land and water resources in the City of Austin.

WHEREAS, these undesirable species have significant negative economic, social and ecological impacts which include, but are not limited to:

- a. Reduction of native biodiversity resulting in reduced ecosystem stability, resilience, and carrying capacity;
- b. Loss of native seed bank needed for regeneration;
- c. Interference with ecosystem functions by changing processes like fire, nutrient flow, and flooding;
- d. Degradation of aquatic systems including obstruction of water flow;
- e. Reduction of the value of streams, lakes and reservoirs, for recreation, wildlife habitat and public water supply;
- f. Alteration of the regional distinction of flora and fauna;
- g. Detracting from the aesthetics and recreational value of natural areas, parks, and other areas; and
- h. Adverse affects upon human health;
- i. Decreased real estate property value and increased costs of property development.

WHEREAS, this problem is expected to be exacerbated by global climate change;

WHEREAS, the city of Austin is prohibited by state law from regulating the distribution or sale of invasive species other than those listed on state or federal lists of noxious or invasive species.

WHEREAS, the economic and environmental damage from invasive species will continue to rise in Austin without a well-organized and adequately funded effort to implement prevention programs.

Therefore Be It Resolved:

1. The city will establish a plan for the control and/or eradication of undesirable aquatic and terrestrial species.
2. Such a plan will incorporate assessment and inventory of invasives, prevention, early detection and rapid response, control and management, and restoration techniques.
3. Education and public awareness will be a major component of the plan including Citizen Science programs that will document, map and monitor invasive species and native flora and fauna.
4. The City Council strongly encourage city departments, universities, community groups, and the private sector to collaborate and form partnerships to prevent new unauthorized introductions; for the enhancement, development and implementation of IPM programs; and to work together to develop sustainable funding and find creative new approaches for protecting and restoring the city's natural resources.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN

That it is the will of the City Council of the City of Austin that Austin develop and institute an Invasive Species Management Plan,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Council directs the City Manager to appoint an Interdepartmental Invasive Species Management Working Group to create an Invasive Species Management Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Council directs the City Manager to return to Council, in 120 days after the formation of the Interdepartmental Invasive Species Management Working Group, a draft work plan for the City of Austin and a report on any anticipated expenses related to completing this Invasive Species Management Plan for approval and adoption by Council.

APPENDIX II

PLANTWISE GUIDELINES

1. Know your plants. Find out which plants cause problems in parks or natural areas in your region to know which species to avoid
2. Use non-invasive alternatives. Ask a nursery about non-invasive plant alternatives. Native plants often have similar characteristics to invasives without the damaging ecological side effects.
3. Watch out for invasive plant hitchhikers. Check clothes, belongings and vehicles for seeds and pieces of plants that attach and drop somewhere new.
4. Have a care if you share. Many invasive plants move around because they are attractive garden plants. Do not share cuttings, seedlings or plants that are invasive with neighbors and friends.
5. Use only seed mixes that are invasive plant-free. Check the ingredients of seed mixes to make sure invasive plants are not included. Buy seed mixes from reputable sources that guarantee the purity and content of their seed. Take your regional native plant list with you when you buy the mix.
6. Use weed-free soil and mulch mix. Some invasive plants are introduced because they were contaminants in landfill soil and mulch mixes. Purchase from reputable manufacturers that guarantee the purity or weed-free content of their soil and mulch mixes. Look for a tag that says "Certified weed-free."
7. Be especially careful with aquatic plants. Don't just dump them! Invasive aquatic plants are often introduced as attractive water garden and aquarium decorations.
8. Keep an eye on new sprouts and volunteers. Invasive plants can come from anywhere and spread very quickly. Some make attractive additions to our gardens but can spread very quickly by producing lots of seedlings. Control your invasive garden plants by hand pulling or mowing unwanted seedlings to prevent them from growing to maturity. Be aware of what is coming up in your yard and take care to control these new invasives.
9. Dispose of invasive plants carefully. When disposing of invasive plant material consider whether there are any seeds, fruits or cuttings that could re-sprout. At a minimum, bag these materials to help prevent their spread. If it is permitted in your area and can be safely done, consider burning the plant material.
10. If you can't part with your invasive plant, remember - contain it, control it or cage it. Please be responsible. If you have a plant in your garden that has invasive tendencies, take special steps to keep it in your garden such as inserting root barriers, trimming regularly or harvesting fruits or seeds before they are spread.

APPENDIX III

INVASIVE SPECIES LISTS

Texasinvasives.org maintains an online database devoted to plants known to occur in or around Texas that are suspected of causing invasive problems. With the exception of the Federal Noxious Weed list (FED), Texas Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed List (TDA) and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Prohibited Exotic Species list (TPW), the purpose of this site is informational and educational and it is not intended to be a regulatory tool. Many of the species on this list are economically important horticultural plants but sometimes cause problems when they escape and establish in natural areas. COA - City of Austin Invasive Plants to Avoid.

Symbol	Scientific Name	Common Name	FED	TDA	TPW	COA
ACRE3	<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Russian knapweed				
AIAL	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of heaven				Yes
ALJU	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	Mimosa				Yes
ALMA12	<i>Alhagi maurorum</i>	Camelthorn		Yes		
ALPE4	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic mustard				
ALPH	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	Alligatorweed		Yes	Yes	
ARDO4	<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant reed		Yes		Yes
BOISS	<i>Bothriochloa ischaemum var. songarica</i>	King Ranch bluestem				
BRAR5	<i>Bromus arvensis</i>	Field brome				
BRTE	<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Cheat grass				
BRPA4	<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>	Paper mulberry				Yes
CASE13	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge false bindweed		Yes		
CANU4	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Nodding plumeless thistle				
CAEQ	<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>	Beach sheoak				
CEME2	<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>	Malta star-thistle				
CESO3	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow star-thistle				
CICA	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	Camphor tree				
CIVU	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull thistle				
COES	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	Elephant ears				Yes
COMA2	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Poison hemlock				
COAR4	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field bindweed		Yes		
COVA2	<i>Coronilla varia</i>	Purple crown-vetch				
COSE4	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampas grass				
CUAN4	<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	Carrotwood Tree				
CUJA	<i>Cuscuta japonica</i>	Japanese dodder	Yes	Yes		
CYDA	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermudagrass				
CYEN2	<i>Cyperus entrerianus</i>	Deep-rooted sedge				
CYRO	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	Nutgrass				
CYFA2	<i>Cyrtomium falcatum</i>	Japanese netvein hollyfern				Yes
DIAN	<i>Dichanthium annulatum</i>	Kleberg bluestem				
DIAR5	<i>Dichanthium aristatum</i>	Angleton bluestem				
DIBU	<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>	Air potato				
DIOP	<i>Dioscorea oppositifolia</i>	Chinese yam				
EIAZ2	<i>Eichhornia azurea</i>	Anchored water hyacinth		Yes	Yes	
EICR	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Common water hyacinth		Yes	Yes	
ELAN	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian olive				Yes
ELUM	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	Autumn olive				
ERLE	<i>Eragrostis lehmanniana</i>	Lehman's love grass				
EUES	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Leafy spurge				
FIRE3	<i>Ficus religiosa</i>	Peepul Tree				
FISI2	<i>Firmiana simplex</i>	Chinese parasol tree				Yes
GIGE	<i>Gibasis geniculata</i>	Tahitian bridal-veil				

GLPU3	<i>Glandularia pulchella</i>	South American mock vervain				
HEHE	<i>Hedera helix</i>	English ivy				Yes
HEMA17	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Giant hogweed	Yes			
HYVE3	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	Hydrilla	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IMCY	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	Cogongrass	Yes			
IPAQ	<i>Ipomoea aquatica</i>	Swamp morning-glory	Yes	Yes	Yes	
IRPS	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Paleyellow iris				
KADA	<i>Kalanchoe daigremontiana</i>	Mother of thousands				
KOPA	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Golden rain tree				
LAMA15	<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	Oxygen-weed	Yes	Yes	Yes	
LAPU12	<i>Landoltia punctata</i>	Dotted duckmeat		Yes	Yes	
LAMO2	<i>Lantana montevidensis</i>	Trailing shrubverbena				
LELA2	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Perennial pepperweed				
LEBI2	<i>Lespedeza bicolor</i>	Shrubby lespedeza				
LECU	<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>	Chinese lespedeza				
LELE10	<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	Popinac				
LEVU	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye daisy				
LIJA	<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>	Japanese privet				Yes
LILU2	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	Glossy privet				Yes
LIQU2	<i>Ligustrum quihoui</i>	Waxyleaf privet				
LISI	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	Chinese privet				Yes
LIVU	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	European privet				Yes
LOAR10	<i>Lolium arundinaceum</i>	Tall fescue				
LOFR	<i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i>	January jasmine				
LOJA	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle				Yes
LOMA6	<i>Lonicera maackii</i>	Amur honeysuckle				
LOMO2	<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>	Morrow's honeysuckle				
LOTA	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	Bush honeysuckle				
LYJA	<i>Lygodium japonicum</i>	Japanese climbing fern				
LYSA2	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple loosestrife		Yes		
MAUN3	<i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i>	Catclawvine				Yes
MAVU	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	Horehound				
MEQU	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	Melaleuca	Yes	Yes	Yes	
MEAZ	<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Chinaberry tree				Yes
MEOF	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Yellow sweet clover				
MIVI	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Japanese stiltgrass				
MISI	<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Chinese silvergrass				
MYAQ2	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	Parrot feather watermilfoil				
MYSP2	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Spike watermilfoil		Yes	Yes	
NADO	<i>Nandina domestica</i>	Heavenly bamboo				Yes
NATR3	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	Serrated tussock grass	Yes	Yes		
NIGL	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Tree tobacco				
ONAC	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scotch thistle				
ORRA	<i>Orobanche ramosa</i>	Hemp broomrape	Yes	Yes		
PASP16	<i>Paliurus spina-christi</i>	Jerusalem thorn				
PARE3	<i>Panicum repens</i>	Couch panicum		Yes	Yes	
PADI3	<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	Dallisgrass				
PANO2	<i>Paspalum notatum</i>	Bahiagrass				
PAUR2	<i>Paspalum urvillei</i>	Vasey grass				
PATO2	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	Princess tree				
PEHA	<i>Peganum harmala</i>	African rue				
PECI	<i>Pennisetum ciliare</i>	Buffelgrass				
PHSE17	<i>Photinia serratifolia</i>	Taiwanese photinia				Yes
PHFR9	<i>Photinia x fraseri</i>	Redtip photinia				Yes

PHAU8	<i>Phyllostachys aurea</i>	Golden bamboo				Yes
PICH4	<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese pistache				Yes
PIST2	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	Water lettuce		Yes	Yes	
POAL7	<i>Populus alba</i>	Alamo blanco				
PUMOL	<i>Pueraria montana var. lobata</i>	Kudzu		Yes		Yes
PYCO2	<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	Scarlet firethorn				Yes
RARU	<i>Rapistrum rugosum</i>	Bastard cabbage				
RICO3	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Bean				
ROBR	<i>Rosa bracteata</i>	Macartney rose				
ROLA	<i>Rosa laevigata</i>	Cherokee rose				
ROMU	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Multiflora rose				
ROCO6	<i>Rottboellia cochinchinensis</i>	Itchgrass	Yes	Yes		
RUCA19	<i>Ruellia caerulea</i>	Britton's wild petunia				
SATR12	<i>Salsola tragus</i>	Prickly Russian thistle				
SAMI7	<i>Salvinia minima</i>	Common salvinia		Yes	Yes	
SAMO5	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	Giant salvinia	Yes	Yes	Yes	
SCAT	<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>	Pincushions				
SCTE	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	Brazilian peppertree		Yes		
SEPE4	<i>Senna pendula</i>	Valamuerto				
SEPU7	<i>Sesbania punicea</i>	Rattlebox				
SOVI2	<i>Solanum viarum</i>	Tropical soda apple	Yes	Yes		
SOHA	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Johnson grass				
STME2	<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common chickweed				
TAAF	<i>Tamarix africana</i>	African tamarisk		Yes		Yes
TAAP	<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>	Athel tamarisk		Yes		Yes
TACH2	<i>Tamarix chinensis</i>	Fivestamen tamarisk		Yes		Yes
TAGA	<i>Tamarix gallica</i>	French tamarisk		Yes		Yes
TAPA4	<i>Tamarix parviflora</i>	Smallflower tamarisk		Yes		
TARA	<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	Salt cedar		Yes		
TAOF	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Common dandelion				
TRSE6	<i>Triadica sebifera</i>	Chinese tallow tree		Yes		Yes
TRTE	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Puncturevine				
TRCA5	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Field clover				
TRDU2	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Suckling clover				
ULPU	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Siberian elm				
URMA3	<i>Urochloa maxima</i>	Guineagrass				
VEBR2	<i>Verbena brasiliensis</i>	Brazilian vervain				
VIMA	<i>Vinca major</i>	Bigleaf periwinkle				Yes
VIMI2	<i>Vinca minor</i>	Common periwinkle				Yes
VIAG	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Lilac chastetree				Yes
WIFL	<i>Wisteria floribunda</i>	Japanese wisteria				Yes
WISI	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>	Chinese wisteria				Yes