



Privet Removal SOP

Marshall McGee

Parks Manager

Parks & Recreation

Michael Gange

Director

**Environmental Services
& Sustainability**

December 5, 2022



Background

- Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) is a non-native, invasive, thicket-forming shrub that has become prolific and problematic in many locations throughout the City of Denton.
- In order to increase the use and enjoyment of public land, PARD and Environmental Services & Sustainability departments are working in collaboration and have developed a standard operating procedure to remove privet from open spaces.



Background

- Additionally, the dense thickets have allowed those experiencing homelessness to find shelter and build encampments close to open areas used by residents and visitors.
- It's possible that a privet removal plan might take two to three years, possibly longer depending on the severity of growth.



Background

- Part of the standard operating procedure addresses a restoration plan to reintroduce native and adapted plants so that they may assist in regaining control of the area.
- Volunteers may be used for those undertakings, at the direction of PARD and/or ESS.



Background

- The two locations to be targeted first for privet removal are Bowling Green Park (on the east side of the drainage channel), and across from Denton Municipal Electric on Spencer Road, (between the road and the Katy Trail).
- Privet, especially with the size of the population at Bowling Green Park, can be highly detrimental to the natural biodiversity closer to the woodland floor.



Background

- The thick growth of privet left unchecked can block sunlight, water, minerals, and nutrients from reaching any of the surrounding plant material and ground.
- Meaning, the normal flora is destined to suffer as it can't compete with the more aggressive privet.



Background

- Privet typically has an extensive root system which, in the case of Bowling Green, aids in absorbing more of the available water and nutrient supply to the detriment of other plant material. This winds up handicapping the native trees and flora which can ultimately die. Mature privet plants result in a dense monoculture with reduced diversity of pollinators and wildlife.
- The Spencer Road cleanup effort began as a way to combat the frequent camps of those experiencing homelessness along with the associated trash and debris.



Background

- The City had numerous complaints related to trash and potentially unsafe conditions along the DCTA Trail in that particular section. (Spencer Rd.)



IPM (Integrated Pest Management)

- The City's Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM) helps define, among other things, which chemicals have been approved to be used on City property. Herbicide choices for application to the privet will be chosen from that list.



Current Locations



Bowling Green Park



Bowling Green Park



12/5/22

PRB22-086

Bowling Green Park



Spencer Road – Across from DME



Current Bids

- PARD & ESS met with two (2) contractors at Bowling Green Park and Spencer Rd. properties
 - Bowling Green-\$19,059
 - Spencer Road- \$8,746



Funding

- ESS' Sustainability Framework Advisory Committee (SFAC) included privet and Bowling Green in the Work Plan recommendation for us to take to Council
- ESS has funding available in the Sustainability Framework Fund – however, the Annual Work Plan for FY22-23 has not yet gone to Council for approval.
- Denton Municipal Electric has agreed to fund the privet removal at Spencer Rd.



Questions?

Marshall McGee
Parks Manager
Parks and Recreation

Michael Gange
Director of Environmental Services and Sustainability

