Dry Comal Creek & Comal River Watershed Protection Plan

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March 23, 2017
Watershed Protection Planning for the Dry Comal Creek and Comal River

- Project Location
- Water Quality Issues
- Available Data
- WPP
- Proposed Bacteria Mgmt Measures
Clean Rivers Program (CRP) Water Quality Monitoring Locations

- Guadalupe River CRP Monitoring Stations
- Dry Comal Creek CRP Monitoring Stations
- Comal River CRP Monitoring Stations

Locations shown in the map include:
- Landa Lake
- Comal River
- Dry Comal Creek

The map indicates monitoring stations along the Guadalupe River and Comal River.
Dry Comal Creek
- Initially placed on the 303(d) list for bacteria in 2010.

Comal River
- Bacteria levels have been increasing over the past 10 years.
Additional *E. coli* Monitoring Locations - Dry Comal Creek

**Dry Comal Creek E.Coli Monitoring Stations & GeoMeans (Jan 2011-Jan 2017)**

- Knights of Columbus (280 MPN)
- Walnut Ave (157 MPN)
- Lp 337 (440 MPN)
- Altgelt (98 MPN)
- Solms Rd (332 MPN)
- Krueger Cyn Rd (158 MPN)

**Legend**

- Dry Comal Creek Sampling Locations
- CONB City Limits
Additional *E. coli* Monitoring Locations – Comal River

- Pecan Island (69 MPN)
- Landa Lake
- Landa Haus (99 MPN)
- Landa Park 16 (98 MPN)
- Hinman Island (156 MPN)
- Mill Pond (166 MPN)
Bacteria Source Tracking Results (3-Way Split)

Sample Date & Location

- Dry Comal @ Seguin St
- Comal @ Hinman Island
- Dry Comal @ Seguin St
- Comal @ Hinman Island
- Comal @ Landa Park

Percent of E. coli Isolates

- Wildlife
- Domestic animals/livestock
- Human
- Unidentified
Watershed Protection Planning for the Dry Comal Creek and Comal River

- The City and its project partners are developing a Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) to address bacteria levels in the Dry Comal Creek and Comal River watersheds. Effort began in Summer 2015.

- The WPP is funded through grants from EPA/ TCEQ:
  - Phase 1: $200,000 ($120,000 grant/ $80,000 match)
  - Phase 2: $475,000 ($285,000 grant/ $190,000 match)

- A large group of local stakeholders and technical advisors have been assembled to assist with the WPP.
• The WPP includes analysis of WQ data, WQ modeling (SELECT and FDC/ LDC), bacteria source identification, education & development of bacteria management measures.

• Stakeholder Group: approx. 25 members, including technical advisors

• Work Groups
  1) Livestock and Ag
  2) Wildlife Management
  3) Urban Stormwater & Infrastructure
  4) Education & Outreach

• The WPP is expected to be completed in late 2017 and submitted to TCEQ & EPA for review.
Proposed Bacteria BMPs

• **Overabundant Urban Wildlife**
  - Wildlife feeding restrictions & education
  - Urban wildlife surveys – Deer & Ducks
  - Deer & duck removal

• **Urban Stormwater**
  - LID and Stormwater Treatment BMPs
  - Enhance FOG Education Prgm
  - Pet Waste BMPs – education, ordinances, pet waste stations

• **Livestock**
  - Voluntary Water Quality Mgmt Plans (WQMPs) for individual ranches
  - Education and Outreach – ex. Lone Star Healthy Streams

• **Septic Systems/ OSSFs**
  - Septic system operation education
  - Require inspection and maintenance be completed by trained professional

• **Feral Hogs**
  - Mgmt workshops, bounty program, track trapping rates
Education and Outreach

• Focus on students, kids, homeowners, & tourists

• Develop core message that will:
  - Link wildlife feeding with protecting water quality
  - Teach that feeding wildlife is harmful to the wildlife
  - Communicate that the WPP is a proactive solution
  - Be a positive message (focus on the future, not impairment)
  - Focus on benefits of taking action

• Work with TPWD Urban Wildlife Biologists on education and outreach associated with feeding.
Questions?

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