

Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Watershed Protection Plan 2023 Updates

Guadalupe River Basin
Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee Meeting
March 15, 2023

The New Watershed Coordinator: Sean Melvin



A little about Sean

- He joined the Partnership in November 2022
- He is from Tennessee and I graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- His love of the outdoors and recreation, is what has motivated me to protection natural resources as my career

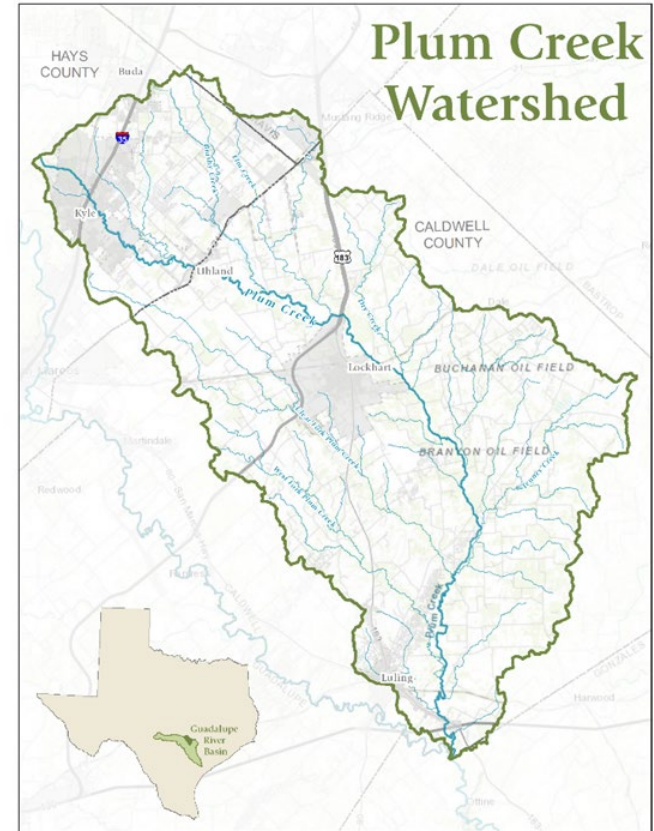
Plum Creek Watershed

The watershed

- Stretches across Hays and Caldwell County and the cities of Kyle, Buda, Umland, Lockhart and Luling
- ~400 square miles with Plum Creek measuring 52 miles
- Is a significant tributary to the San Marcos River

The issues in the watershed

- Impaired for E. coli bacteria (since 2004)
- Concerns for excessive nutrients and instream habitat



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Watershed Protection Plan Updates

A few things have happened in the watershed since last meeting

- A new grant cycle began January 1, 2023
- Our former partner Polonia Water Supply merged with Aqua Water Supply Company becoming our new partner
- A new Watershed Coordinator has joined the Partnership

2022 Texas Integrated Report - Basin 18

Since the implementation of the WPP, Plum Creek (segment 1810) continues to be recognized by the State of Texas as impaired for Primary Contact Recreation.

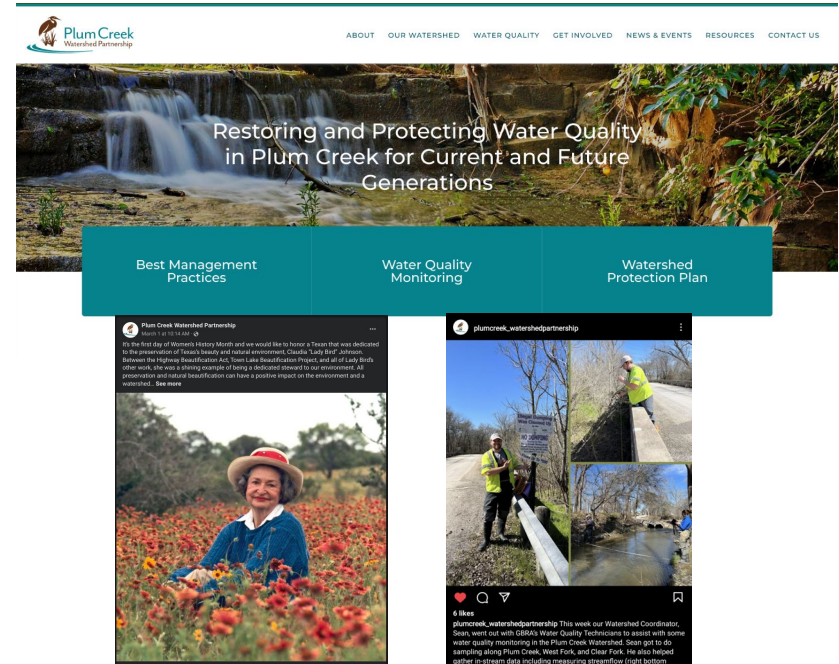
Here listed are the current impairments and concerns in Plum Creek as described in the 2022 Texas Integrated Report by TCEQ.

Highest average concentration of *E. coli* is in AU 1810_03

Assessment Unit	Parameter	Status
1810_1 (near confluence with San Marcos River)	<i>E. coli</i> (Geomean) Nitrate (nutrient) Total Phosphorus Fish Community Aquatic Habitat	Nonsupport (4b) Concern for screening level Concern for screening level Nonsupport Concern for screening level
1810_2 (~2.5 miles upstream of confluence with Clear Fork)	<i>E. coli</i> (Geomean) Nitrate (nutrient) Total Phosphorus Fish Community Aquatic Habitat	Nonsupport (4b) Concern for screening level Concern for screening level Use Concern Concern for screening level
1810_3 (~0.5 miles upstream of State Hwy 21)	<i>E. coli</i> (Geomean) Nitrate (nutrient) Total Phosphorus Ammonia Macroinvertebrate community Fish Kill Report	Nonsupport (4b) Concern for screening level Concern for screening level Concern for screening level Use Concern Use Concern
1810A_01 Town Branch (perennial stream in Lockhart)	<i>E. coli</i> (Geomean) Nitrate (nutrient) Dissolved O2 (grab)	Nonsupport (4b) Concern for screening level Concern for screening level

Outreach and engagement data (social)

- 1321 Subscribers on Constant Contact for the *Plum Creek Current* newsletter (6% increase since last meeting)
- 485 Likes on Facebook (24% increase)
- 177 "Followers" on Instagram (35% increase)



Texas Stream Team: Plum Creek Stewards

Another way stakeholders can get involved!

- Currently, there are 5 monitors in the Plum Creek Stewards group
- 12 sites are still available within the Plum Creek Watershed
- There are two monitoring kits available in the watershed for the group to use



TEXAS STREAM TEAM

CORE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING FORM

General Information ▾

Sample Date*

Sample Time (military)*

HHMM
For example: 1455

Site ID and Description*

Search by ID# or description; select "10001 - Training" if using the form for training purposes

Central Texas Feral Hogs Task Force

- Since 2012, an estimated 24,500 feral hogs have been removed by the efforts of the Task Force.
- Last year the Feral Hog Bounty Program led to the direct removal of 1,122 feral hogs in Hays and Caldwell county.
- An estimated 2,850 additional feral hogs were removed last year by existing traps throughout the watershed (based on available data).



Events: Steering Committee Meeting

Steering Committee Meeting - Kyle Fire Department Station 1

June 3, 2022



- Watershed Coordinator provide updates to the WPP
- Discussed results from the WPP Priority Planning Form
- Worked towards drafting Work Group

Results of Watershed Protection Priority Planning Form

The purpose of this form was to help define new goals for the WPP and Partnership.

- Youth Education was identified as a top priority of the Steering Committee
- Landowner Outreach and Wastewater as whole were second to Youth Education

This will help guide the new Work Groups while still meeting the goals of the WPP.

Watershed Protection Priority Planning

Summary of Results Table

Management Measure	Near-term (1-5 yrs)	Long-term (5-10 yrs)
Urban Stormwater	Urban Riparian Restoration ⁴	Urban Riparian Restoration ²
	Healthy Lawns ⁴	Healthy Lawns ²
	Capturing runoff ⁴	Capturing runoff ³
Wastewater	Monitoring WWTFs ²	Monitoring WWTFs ²
	Managing OSSFs ²	Managing OSSFs ²
Agriculture	Water Quality Management Plans ⁴	Water Quality Management Plans ²
	Landowner Outreach ²	Landowner Outreach ²
Wildlife	Feral Hog Control ⁵	Feral Hog Control ⁵
Outreach & Education	Youth Education ²	Youth Education ¹
	Citizen Science WQ Monitoring ⁴	Citizen Science WQ Monitoring ³
	Cleanup Events ⁴	Cleanup Events ⁴
	Public Stakeholder Meetings ⁴	Public Stakeholder Meetings ⁴

Events: Steering Committee Meeting

Steering Committee Meeting - Lockhart State Park

January 12, 2023



- Introduced new Watershed Coordinator, Sean Melvin
- Restructured Steering Committee Work Groups, going from 5 work groups to 2
- Steering Committee members will update the Steering Committee Ground Rules

Events: Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Training Workshop

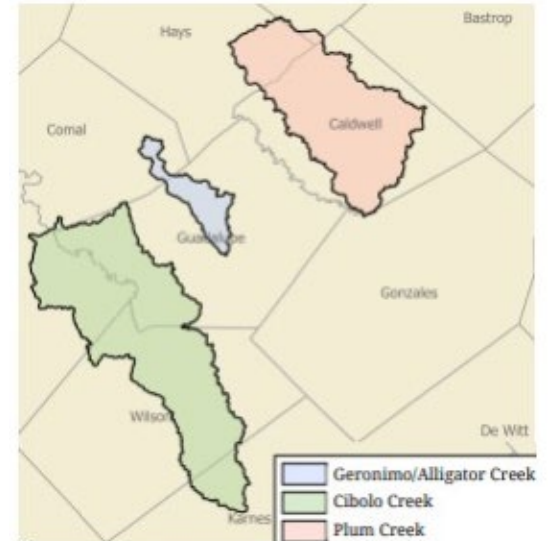
- Workshop hosted with Texas Riparian Association
- Held at Lockhart State Park on May 12th, 2022
- Offered individuals potential CEU credits
- Participants learned about riparian and watershed processes, the benefits that healthy riparian areas provide, and the tools that prevent and/or resolve degradation and improve water quality.



Events: Lone Star Healthy Streams Workshop

This multi-watershed workshop was in collaboration with Geronimo/Alligator Creek and Cibolo Creek Watersheds

- Held at the Texas Agricultural Education & Heritage Center - The Big Red Barn in Seguin on June 1st
- Offered 2 IMP CEU credits
- Participants learned about cattle BMPs, weed management, feral hog management and reducing nonpoint source pollution.



Events: On-Site Septic Facility Workshop

- Virtual workshop to help landowners to understand the basics to conventional septic systems and aerobic septic systems
- Related how proper OSSF maintenance can protect the watershed
- Partnered with AgriLife Extension
- 9 attendees

The Plum Creek Watershed Partnership
& the Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension
Present:

Virtual On-Site Septic Facility Workshop

Join us via Zoom on Monday, December 19th,
2022, Noon to 1:30pm CST



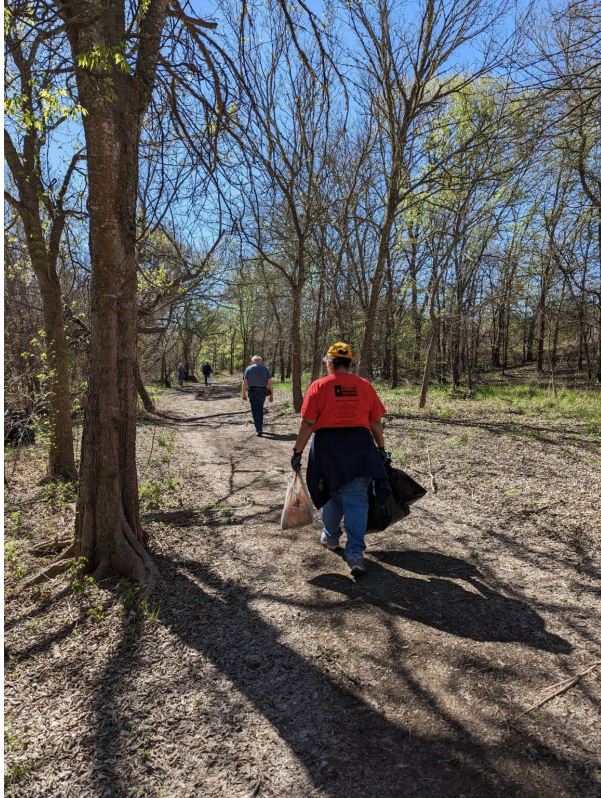
 Plum Creek Watershed Partnership  TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION  TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE RESEARCH

Events: 38th Great Texas River Cleanup, Kyle

- 68 volunteers
- 90 lbs of recycling
- 1 tire







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Upcoming events and plans

- Lockhart Sip & Stroll
 - April 1st in downtown Lockhart
- Keep Lockhart Beautiful Earth Day Cleanup
 - April 22nd across Lockhart city parks and Town Branch
- Texas Watershed Stewards Workshops
 - Summer TBA
- Feral Hog Bounty Claim Collection
 - Collection Dates: March 23rd, April 20th, May 18th, June 15th, July 20th

And more to come soon!

THANK YOU!

Sean Melvin
smelvin@plumcreekwatershed.org
830-557-7358
plumcreekwatershed.org