BLANCO-CYPRESS WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

2025 UPDATES







INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT EFFECTIVE MAY 16th 2024

X

PARTNERS:

HAYS COUNTY

WIMBERLEY

WOODCREEK

THE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

THE MEADOWS CENTER FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

ARTICLE I PILOT PROGRAM

The Financing Parties agree to establish a three (3) year pilot program to fund the continued Clean Rivers Program (CRP) water quality monitoring of Cypress Creek and the Blanco River upstream and downstream of the Wimberley Valley by Texas State, funding of a Blanco Cypress Watershed Coordinator position for continued implementation of the BCWPP, and special studies and planning initiatives to be identified by the Executive Committee and Management Team. Such programs will be the responsibility of the BCWPP.

A Management Team will manage a Watershed Coordinator. The coordinator will be an employee of the Hays County Parks and Natural Resources Department

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

-LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

-MONITORING, TESTING, DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS

-EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

-PARTNERSHIP AND STAKEHOLDER DEVELOPMENT

-FUNDRAISING AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

-ADVANCEMENT OF BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

-REPORTING

-LEADERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY OF AN INTERLOCAL WPP

TRAININGS AND PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- 8.30.2024: Texas Hill Country Conservation Network
- 9.7.2024: Texas Tribune Fest: Springs Eternal
- 9.14.2024: Hays County Emergency Preparedness Fair
- 9.16.2024: KUT Field Guide to Austin: Urban Bats
- 9.17.2024: GMA 9 Joint Planning Committee Meeting
- 9.20.2024: Tour of Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center Stormwater BMPs
- 9.26.2024: Hill Country Alliance Leadership Summit
- 9.27.2024: Hays County Environmental Task Force Meeting
- **10.9.2024: TCEQ Groundwater Protection Committee Meeting**
- 10.15.2024: Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Steering Committee
- 10.17.2024: Soak Up the Rain Webinar
- 10.30.2024: EAPP Public Comments Meeting
- 10.30.2024: Understanding Dam Permitting Webinar
- 11.7.2024: Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable
- 11.14.2024: Tour of Human Credit Building One Water Infrastructure
- 12.2.2024: CAPCOG Regional Environmental Task Force Meeting
- 12.9.2024: AARO Central Texas Catalyst Summit
- 1.16.2025: Texas Regional Stormwater Conference





TRAININGS AND PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- 1.27.2025: Watershed Planning Short Course
- 2.1.2025: San Marcos River Foundation Annual Meeting
- 2.5.2025: CAPCOG RETF Meeting
- 2.7.2025: JWNA Project Wild Educator Training
- 2.13.2025: Water and Energy Infrastructure Summit
- 2.16.2025: San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance Annual Members Meeting
- 2.26.2025: Regional Developer Workshop
- **3.3.2025:** Texas Water Foundation's Texas Water Day
- 3.11.2025: Region 11 Guadalupe Flood Planning Group Meeting
- 3.12.2025: Basic Environmental Law Training
- 3.20.2025: Hill Country Conservation Network Land Team Meeting
- 3.26.2025: Hill Country Alliance Water Wonks Webinar: Opportunities in Local Policy



WATER QUALITY TESTING AND TRAININGS

9.4.2024: CRP Surface Water Quality QAPP Training Began
9.25.2024: Wimberley Water Advisory Group Water Monitoring
10.13.2024: Texas Stream Team Core Sampling Training
12.11.2024: Texas Stream Team Optical Brightener Training
1.12.2025: Texas Stream Team Riparian Evaluation Training
3.9.2025: Texas Stream Team Advanced W.Q. Training
4.13.2025: Texas Stream Team E. coli Training







PUBLIC TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

9.24.2024: Texas Watershed Steward Workshop

Over 80 Attendees

Texas WATERSHED **STEWARD**

Wimberley, TX

grant funding from the TSSWCB and U.S. EPA.



The Texas Watershed Steward program is a free, educational workshop designed to help watershed residents improve and protect their water resources by getting involved in local watershed protection and management activities.

September 24, 2024: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Wimberley Community Center 14068 Ranch Rd 12 Wimberley, TX 78676

The workshop will provide an overview of water quality and watershed management in Texas, including a discussion on the Cypress Creek and Blanco River watersheds. Local efforts and best management practices local stakeholders may use to help improve and protect their water quality will be highlighted. Free continuing education credits/CEUs are offered for a wide variety of professional disciplines. For a complete list of continuing education offered, or to register, visit our website or call the number below.

Pre-register for the workshop by going to: https://tws.tamu.edu/workshops/registration or call 979.321.5935

ATEXAS A&M Workshop provided through Clean Water Act §319(h) nonpoint source GRILIFE EXTENSION TEXAS STATE Soil & Water CONSERVATION BOARD



PUBLIC TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

3.8.2025: Texas Well Owner Network Workshop

110 Private Well Samples Screened



The "Well Informed" Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) program is an educational program that gives well owners the opportunity to have their well water samples screened for common contaminants including fecal coliform, E. coli bacteria, nitrates and high salinity. The screening of the water samples is followed by a 1-hour explanation of the results, water well protection practices and focuses on wellhead protection and recommendations for remediating well contamination.

Well Informed Screening - April 7 & 8

- Hays County AgriLife Extension office: 200 Stillwater Road, Wimberley
- Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer CD: 1124 Regal Row, Austin
- Hays Trinity GCD: 14101 Hwy 290 W, Bldg. 100, Suite 212, Austin
- Pick up sample containers prior to April 7th at the above locations
 Sample drop-off 8:30—10:30 a.m. April 7th at the above locations

Results & Interpretation meeting:



Summary of Screening Results

Number of samples screened: 110 Positives for total coliform: 39 (35%) *E. coli*: 3 (3%) Nitrate concentration average: 0.74 ppm Range: 0 – 5 ppm Average salinity: 475 ppm TDS Range: 10 – 1,836 ppm TDS Average pH: 7.8

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Austin International School Jacob's Well Field Trip 4.1.2025





OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Hays County Parks Department Education and Outreach Program Report February & March 2025

Prepared by: Katherine Sturdivant | Parks Education Coordinator

Date	Time	Location	Program Title/Description	Comments	Count
2/1	10am-11am	JWNA	Guided Morning Tour		17
2/1	11am-3pm	JWNA	Nature Center Exhibits		123
2/2	10am-3pm	JWNA	Nature Center Exhibits		76
2/7	8am-4pm	JWNA	Project WILD Workshop	Training for park staff as well as the general public and other local agencies	20
2/8	10am-11am	JWNA	Guided Morning Tour		0
2/8	11am-3pm	JWNA	Nature Center Exhibits		86
2/9	10am-3pm	JWNA	Nature Center Exhibits		35

Total number of group visits February & March 2025: <u>33 Groups</u> Total number of students/teachers February & March 2025: <u>1775 individuals</u>

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Installed/Replaced 30+ CAPCOG "No Dumping" Signs PROHIBIDO NO DUMPING Hele by Fines or PROHIBIDO YOU ARE BEING MONITORE LE ESTÁN VIGILANDO NO DUMPING Punishable by Fines or Jail Para reportantes NO DUMPING PROHIBIDO TIRAR BASURA Se Castiga por Multas o Cárce PROHIBIDO To report violations, call Para reportar violaciones, llame -877-NO-DUMP 1-877-NO-DUMPS NO PROHIBIDO

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Creation of Hays County Environmental Task Force



Hays County Parks and Open Spaces Bond approved by voters in 2020 for \$75 million + 25.3 million in matching funds

PRECINCT 3

- 27. <u>Blue Hole Nature Center</u>*
 22. <u>Gregg-Clarke Park Improvements</u>
 ✓ 21. <u>John Knox Ranch*</u>
 ✓ 13. <u>Karst Canyon Preserve*</u> (formerly known as Coleman's Canyon & Dry Cypress Creek)
 ✓ 24. Presa Grande (Sink Creek)*
- 16. <u>Purgatory Creek Nature Preserve*</u>
 19. <u>Roy Creek Canyon Preserve</u>
- 15. <u>SMRF Recharge Lands</u>*
- 14. Sentinel Peak Park & Preserve*
- ✓ 20. <u>Starnes Ranch</u>
- 26. WYSA Expansion
- ✓28. <u>Woodcreek Parks Project</u>





Water Availability





Demand Reduction Tools for Maintaining Sustainable Base Flow at Jacob's Well Spring

<u>Strategy</u> Drought curtailments

Education

Conservation

<u>Description</u>

Implementation of a simple, representative drought declaration methodology using Jacob's Well as one of the triggers.

Effective communication to the public related to water resources, drought, and conservation efforts the public can take.

Measures and actions taken to reduce the use of water. These could include watering schedules.

Permit reductions and Restrictions

Infrastructure and Efficiency Right-sizing and placing ceilings on permitted pumping during non-drought periods.

Reduce line loss and fix other water infrastructure problems that may waste groundwater.

Alternative Water Supply Tools for Maintaining Sustainable Base Flow at Jacob's Well Spring

Strategy Description Use of surface water and groundwater sources Conjunctive use Aquifer storage and Injection of surface or other water supplies into the Lower Trinity Aquifer for withdrawal during drought periods. recovery (ASR) Lower Trinity Development of the Lower Trinity Aquifer to (1) temporarily or permanently replace pumping from the Middle Trinity and (2) use as a sole-source for future permitted pumping. Rainwater Promotion of the use of rainwater for commercial and domestic uses. Alternative Water Importing water from more distant sources. **Supplies** These could alleviate pumping in certain areas Temporary Interconnections & **Pipelines**

WATERSHED COORDINATOR GOALS FOR 2025-2026

PUBLIC TRAININGS/OUTREACH/EDUCATION/RESOURCES:

TWRI workshops:

-Riparian and Stream Ecosystems -Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters -Lone Star Healthy Streams

<u>Meadows Center</u>: -Texas Stream Team

EAA: -Education Outreach Center

<u>GBRA</u>: Classroom Instruction Tools and Curricula

Hays County/Wimberley/Woodcreek: -OSSF Maintenance -Rainwater Collection Systems -Greywater Re-use

-Improve access to educational and guidance materials on our websites



HILLSIDE STEWARDSHIP

Methods for Reducing Erosion, Establishing Vegetation, & Enhancing Water Catchment







WATERSHED COORDINATOR GOALS FOR 2025-2026

FIELD WORK:

-Inspect, Map, Evaluate stormwater and wastewater conveyances, WQ ponds
-Identify locations for installation of additional Watershed Signage
-Continue to work with CAPCOG and H.C. to add additional "No Dumping" signage
-Identify sensitive and disturbed areas for installation of stormwater BMPs
-Utilize comptroller data and GIS to identify businesses required to have SWPPPs
-Respond to citizen complaints regarding water quality and unpermitted developments
-Provide no-cost evaluations of resident OSSFs

OTHER PROJECTS:

-Continue membership in Regional Environmental Task Force and H.C.E.T.F

-Work with H.C. Transportation and Development Services in updating water quality, stormwater, and development codes.

-Collaborate with Plum Creek Watershed Partnership

-Work with City of Kyle on joint WQ projects

-Facilitate city/county resource recovery events such as brush collection and free mulching

-Work with Master Naturalists on creating demonstration gardens of native/water tolerant plants