



Improving Water Quality in the Lower West Fork Trinity River A TMDL Project for Bacteria

Bacteria concentrations are occasionally elevated in portions of the Lower West Fork Trinity River (Segment 0841) and its tributaries that flow through Arlington and Grand Prairie. High concentrations of bacteria may pose a risk to people who swim or wade in them—activities called “contact recreation” in the state’s standards for water quality.

Bacteria are commonly found in the intestines of warm-blooded organisms such as humans, livestock, poultry, cats, and dogs. These bacteria in water sometimes indicate the presence of disease-causing microorganisms.

The TCEQ is conducting a total maximum daily load project to determine the measures necessary to restore water quality in the stream and its tributaries. The goal of a TMDL is to determine the amount (or load) of a pollutant that a body of water can receive and still support its designated uses. The allowable load is then allocated among categories of sources within the watershed, and stakeholders work with the state to develop an implementation plan (I-Plan) with measures that reduce pollutant loads.

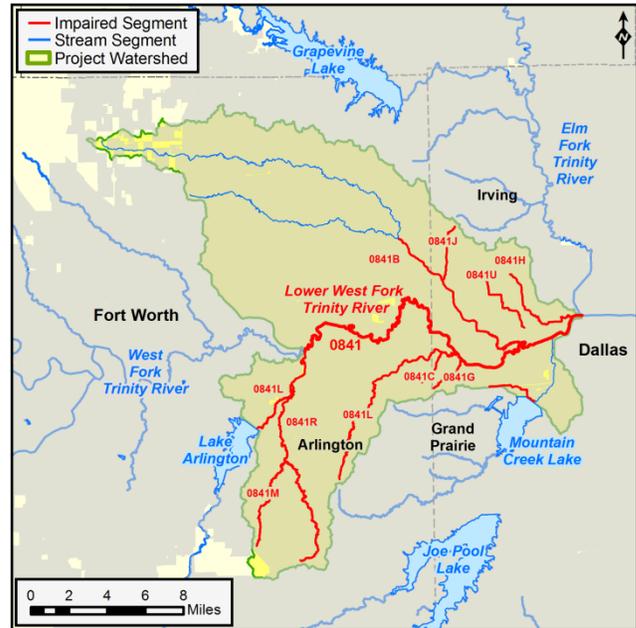
Learn more about water quality standards and monitoring, and TMDLs by reading *Preserving and Improving Water Quality*, available on our website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/tmdl/.

Project Watershed

The Lower West Fork, Segment 0841, flows from a point immediately upstream of its confluence with Village Creek in Tarrant County to immediately upstream of its confluence with the Elm Fork Trinity River in Dallas County.

This project addresses bacteria impairments in Segment 0841 and several of its tributaries (see table). The project watershed covers approximately 261 square miles in densely populated Dallas and Tarrant counties. To varying degrees, stormwater runoff from agricultural, industrial, and urban areas affects water quality in the segments.

Segment	Location
0841B, Bear Creek	From confluence with West Fork Trinity River, to the confluence of Big Bear and Little Bear Creek just upstream of HWY 183 in Euless, Tarrant County, TX



Segment	Location
0841C, Arbor Creek	From confluence with Johnson Creek upstream to Duncan Perry Road in Grand Prairie
0841E, Copart Branch Mountain Creek	From confluence with unnamed oxbow (NHD RC 12030102044758) to approximately 0.3 miles upstream of Camden Road on the former Dallas Naval Air Station property, Dallas County
0841G, Dalworth Creek	From confluence with Lower West Fork Trinity to headwaters area just west of 22nd Street NW in Grand Prairie, Dallas County
0841H, Delaware Creek	From confluence with Lower W. Fork Trinity to Finley Road in Irving
0841J, Estelle Creek	From confluence with Bear Creek upstream to Valley View Lane in Irving, Dallas County
0841L, Johnson Creek	From confluence with the Lower West Fork Trinity River upstream to just south of Mayfield Road in Arlington, Tarrant County
0841M, Kee Branch	From confluence with Rush Creek to upper end of the creek (NHD RC 12030102000165)
0841R, Rush Creek	From confluence with Village Creek to headwater area just east of Calender Road in Arlington, Tarrant County
0841T, Village Creek	From confluence with West Fork Trinity River to SH 303 approx. 0.75 mi. downstream of Lake Arlington

Segment	Location
0841U, West Irving Branch	From approx. 0.4 mi. downstream of Oakdale Rd. to headwater area in Wyche Park (NHD RC 12030102044201) in Irving, Dallas County

TMDL Development

The TCEQ initiated this project in January 2011. Historical data review and TMDL allocation tasks were completed by the Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research (TIAER) 2012.

The TCEQ is coordinating two closely related bacteria projects with this one—the Upper Trinity River and the Cottonwood Branch and Grapevine Creek projects.

I-Plan Development

The North Central Texas Council of Governments has already begun working with stakeholders on a plan to implement bacteria TMDLs and improve surface water quality throughout their region.

Public Participation

In all its projects, the TCEQ seeks to gather opinion and information from people who represent government, permitted facilities, agriculture, business, environmental, and community and private interests in the watershed. The TCEQ solicits advice and comment from the public at meetings and through print and electronic media notices. Meetings about TMDL projects are open to everyone.

For More Information

Visit the project website at:

<www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/66trinitybact/66-lwforktrinity-bacteria.html>

or

<www.nctcog.org/envir/SEEclean/wq/tmdl/index.asp>

Or contact:

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TMDL Development Status

Start Date: September 2011

Projected End Date: November 2013

TCEQ Adoption:

EPA Region 6 Approval:

TMDL: Percent Complete

	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
TMDL Development										
Review										
TCEQ Adoption										

I-Plan Development Status

Projected End Date: January 2014

TCEQ Approval:

I-Plan: Percent Complete

	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
Plan Development										
TCEQ Approval										

TMDL Highlights

- Two closely related projects in the upper Trinity River watershed are being coordinated with this one—the Upper Trinity River and the Cottonwood Branch and Grapevine Creek projects. TMDLs for these other two projects have been completed and adopted by the commission and approved by EPA.
- The Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research (TIAER) completed the historical data review and draft TMDL allocations in 2012.
- The TCEQ expects to release the draft TMDLs for public comment in June 2013.

I-Plan Highlights

- Stakeholders in north central Texas have developed a draft I-Plan for these and other bacteria-impaired streams in the upper Trinity River basin.

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