



Tule Creek West: Sediment Trap Pond and Habitat Enhancement

Water Body	Tule Creek
Location	Aransas County
River Basin	San Antonio-Nueces (20)
Contractor	Aransas County
Project Period	May 27, 2010 to August 31, 2015
Project Total	(60% Federal funds and 40% Local Match)

Project Description

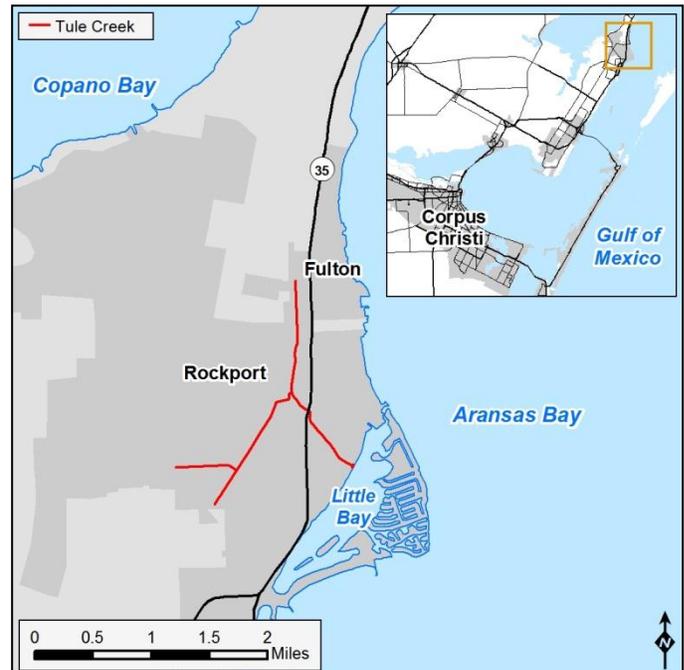
The Tule Creek watershed drains areas of the City of Rockport and the Town of Fulton. The area population and impervious cover are expected to increase in the next two decades, causing an associated increase in stormwater runoff. Scientists have identified polluted stormwater runoff as a principal cause of declining water quality and loss of wildlife habitat within Little Bay, which Tule Creek flows into. The ecological health of Little Bay is imperative to stakeholders because it is an important resource for the community. It provides water-based recreational activities for local residents along with important habitat for local wildlife.

To address water quality concerns in the area, Aransas County, working cooperatively with local communities, has developed a stormwater management plan. The plan emphasizes proper stormwater management practices to protect natural resources and the quality of life for residents. A range of stormwater best management practices (BMPs) have been identified for use in the area.

This project will implement several stormwater BMPs along West Tule Creek. In Phase I, a sediment trap pond will be constructed below the confluence where the Upper Tule Creek West connects with the North Tule Creek. Invasive vegetation, with shallow root systems, will be selectively removed from riparian areas to allow for natural colonization of deep-rooted native trees, shrubs, and forbs. This will provide shoreline stabilization, improved wetland functions, reduced erosion, and improved water quality. In Phase II, a portion of the creek bank will be widened and stabilized with vegetation added to reduce bank erosion. Water quality monitoring will be conducted after BMPs are in place.

Current Status

All BMP installation and invasive species removal work has been completed. Irrigation of vegetation and putting up of signage remains to be done.



For More Information

TCEQ Project Managers

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Aransas County

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Project Highlights

Phase I

- 05/07/2010 – Contract initiated
- 03/21/2011 – Aransas County officials presented the findings of their 18-month “Aransas County Storm Water Management Plan” project. It included a briefing on the project findings and recommendations, as well as, interactive discussions, displays, and presentations by The Naismith Engineering, Inc. project team and Aransas County representatives. The meeting was well represented with elected officials.
- 03/22/2011 – The TCEQ Project Manager visited project sites.
- 01/10/2012 – Invasive tree removal contractor has been selected and removal is expected to begin soon.
- 05/22/2012 – Sediment trap/pond is approximately 90% excavated and invasive trees in Enhancement Area A and B have been cut and the stumps have been treated with an approved herbicide.
- 05/17/2013 – Sediment pond and invasive trees removal has been completed. Signage is in production.

Phase II

- 09/2013 – Contractor bid selection process opened.
- 09/2013 - 11/2013 – Upland vegetation was cleared.
- 10/2013 – Aransas County Commissioners Court approved engineers’ recommendation for contractor.
- 09/2013 thru 05/2014 – Wet weather monitoring events data collection completed.
- 09/2014 – Construction Report submitted.
- 12/2014 – Signage installed.
- 7/1/2014 - Draft and final report submitted.
- 8/31/2014 - Contract closed.

Phase II continued under new contract

- 9/2014 – 8/2015- signage to be posted, and sub-contractor will be maintaining and irrigating new vegetation on banks until final contract expires. Final report will be received by TCEQ.
- 7/30/15 – 3 signs to be posted.
- 8/15/15 – Final report due.
- 8/31/15 – Contract closed.