



Leon River On-site Sewage Facility Financial Incentive Program

Water Body	Leon River (Segment #1221)
Location	Coryell County
River Basin	Brazos River Basin
Contractor	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Project Period	September 2, 2014 – November 30, 2016
Project Total	\$99,992 (Federal 60% and Local Match 40%)

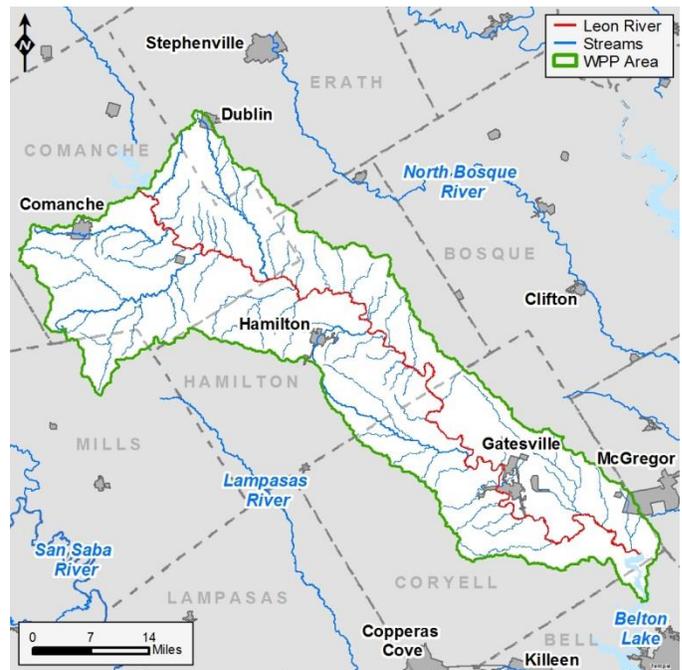
Background

The Leon River below Proctor Lake was initially placed on the 1996 303(d) list for having bacteria levels that “sometimes exceed water quality standards”. Water quality in the Leon River Watershed does not support the Texas water quality standard for contact recreation use due to elevated levels of *E.coli*, indicating there are potential health risks with contact recreation. A watershed protection plan (WPP) was the direct outcome of a public participation process that was used to ensure meaningful contribution by stakeholders in identifying sources of bacteria, suggesting pollution reduction strategies, and discussing the challenges of implementation associated with both bacteria and nutrients. One of the pollutant sources identified, among others, was failing on-site sewage facilities (OSSFs). Failing or improperly functioning OSSFs can contribute bacteria and nutrients to receiving waters.

Project Description

Many residences and some businesses in the watershed have an OSSF. The 2000 U.S. census estimated 5,800 OSSFs in the watershed and no less than 10% of these systems would be considered failing, many located in riparian zones. This project will establish an OSSF Technical Assistance and Financial Incentive Program for Coryell County. An Environmental Officer will conduct inspections of OSSFs and provide technical assistance to homeowners and businesses. After failing systems are identified, they are prioritized based on distance to the Leon River and its tributaries. Homeowners and businesses will be offered financial incentives to repair or replace the existing failing system. OSSF workshops will be held throughout the project period.

Visit <http://leonriver.tamu.edu/> for details on the financial incentive program and upcoming OSSF workshops.



Current Status

Repairs and replacements are ongoing. OSSF workshops have been scheduled for the spring and fall of 2016.

Public Participation

Visit <http://leonriver.tamu.edu/> for events, meetings, and information on the Leon River Watershed.

For More Information

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Project Highlights

- 09/2014 – Post Award Meeting held.
- 10/2014 – Geospatial QAPP approved by TCEQ.
- 03/2015 – List of possible candidates submitted.
- 09/2015 – Three systems were inspected by the Coryell County Environmental Officer.
- 09/2015 – One system was replaced under the project.
- 12/2015 –500 mail-outs sent to potential candidates
- 03/2016 – Texas Well Owners Network Workshop held in Coryell County.