



## Tule Creek West: Sediment Trap Pond and Habitat Enhancement

<b>Water Body</b>	Tule Creek
<b>Location</b>	Aransas County
<b>River Basin</b>	San Antonio-Nueces (20)
<b>Contractor</b>	Aransas County
<b>Project Period</b>	May 27, 2010 to August 31, 2013
<b>Project Total</b>	\$382,503 (Federal 60% and 40% Local Match)

### Project Description

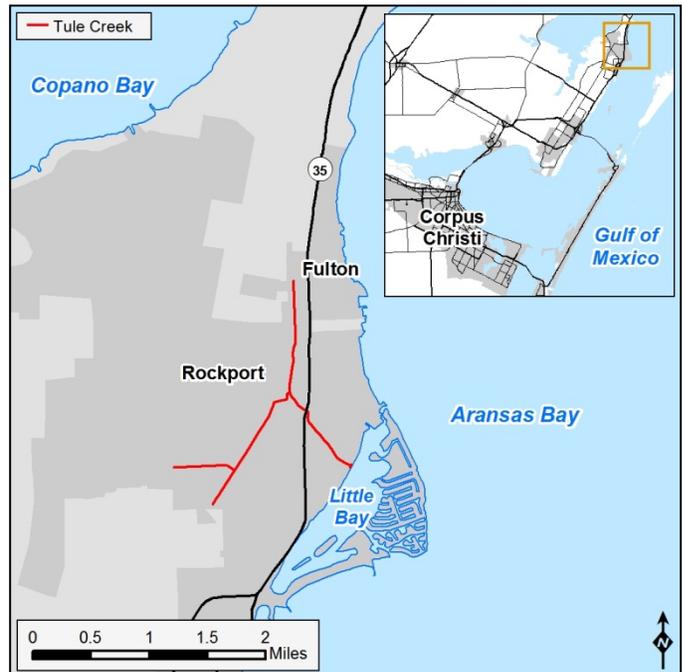
The Tule Creek watershed drains areas of the City of Rockport and the Town of Fulton. The area population and impervious cover are expected to increase in the next two decades, causing an associated increase in storm water runoff. Scientists have identified polluted storm water runoff as a principle 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 is working cooperatively with local communities to develop a storm water management plan. The plan emphasizes proper storm water management practices to protect natural resources and the quality of life for residents. A range of storm water best management practices (BMP) have been identified for use in the area.

This project will implement several storm water BMPs along West Tule Creek. A sediment trap pond will be constructed along West Tule Creek to reduce sediment loads downstream. The pond will be constructed below the confluence where the Upper Tule Creek West connects with the North Tule Creek. Also, 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. The BMPs will help improve the quality of water being discharged into Little Bay.

### Current Status

West Tule Creek was identified as a priority site in the Tule Creek Project Report. An amendment to the original Scope of Work has been executed to move the project site from East Tule Creek to West Tule Creek.



### For More Information

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#### Website

<<http://www.aransascounty.org/stormwatergmt>>

## Project Highlights

- 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.