



Lake Granbury: Implementation of Watershed Protection Plan

Water Body	Lake Granbury (Segment 1205)
Location	Hood County
River Basin	Brazos River (12)
Contractor	Brazos River Authority (BRA)
Project Period	September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2014
Project Total	\$531,865 (Federal 60% and 40% Local Match)

Background

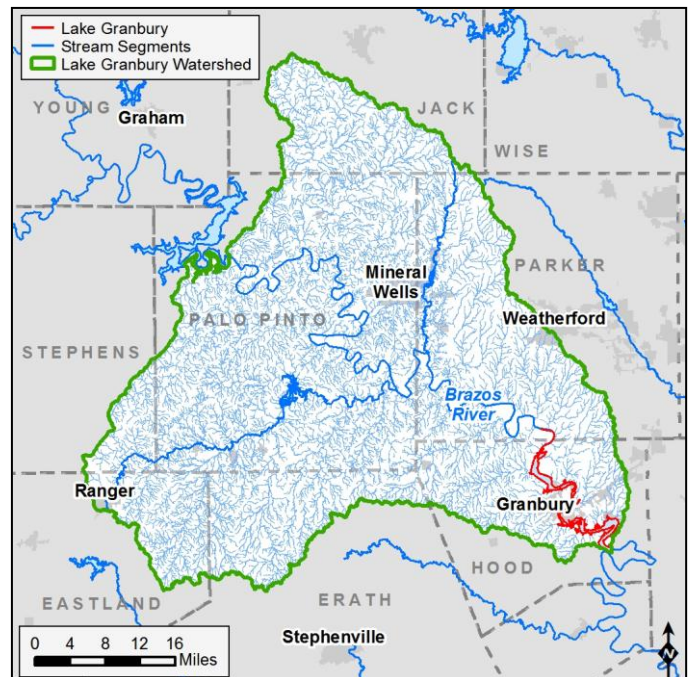
A long-term concern for water quality has existed at Lake Granbury due to man-made cove development around the lake and reliance on on-site sewage facilities for wastewater disposal. There are an estimated 9,000 septic systems located around Lake Granbury. The man-made coves are shallow, dead-end bodies of water with little mixing or interaction with the main body of the reservoir. In response to stakeholder concerns, the BRA began a large-scale monitoring initiative in the canals of Lake Granbury to assess the water quality of the coves. The data generated from this effort indicates that many of the canals on Lake Granbury are impacted by *E. coli* and are a concern for public health and contact recreation. The majority of the county's communities rely on Lake Granbury for drinking water, irrigation, industry, and recreation.

BRA led an effort to develop the Lake Granbury Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) to reduce bacteria levels in the lake and its canals. It was accepted by the EPA in 2011. The WPP is a "community-driven" plan that reflects the local stakeholders' concerns, water quality data, and stakeholder selected management measures. The overall objective of the WPP is to reduce bacterial contamination in the coves in order to ensure safe contact recreation use and to adopt a bacteria concentration goal.

Project Description

This project provided assistance to local stakeholders in implementing the management measures prescribed in the WPP. This was accomplished by hiring a Watershed Coordinator for Lake Granbury. The Watershed Coordinator provided a single-point of contact for activities, facilitated information exchange among participants, and ensured implementation of the WPP. Tasks performed by the Watershed Coordinator include:

- facilitating stakeholder meetings;
- locating funding opportunities
- complete at least two grant proposals per year;



- assisting local governments and Homeowners Associations;
- reporting on implementation of nonpoint source management measures; and
- publicizing and building awareness of the watershed improvement efforts.

An educational program will be implemented in close coordination with stakeholders, BRA, and county Extension agents. Topics to be covered include: septic system operation and maintenance, greywater, wildlife management, and home inspector training.

Public Participation

A Stakeholder Advisory Group was created to establish project communications and support stakeholder participation. Stakeholder meetings are held on a recurring basis. Stakeholders help identify areas of concern, monitoring needs, and management measures.

Current Status

The project is complete. Activities associated with water quality monitoring, stakeholder facilitation, public outreach, and grant writing were conducted in accordance with the project work plan. A final project report was prepared.

For More Information:

TCEQ Project Manager

Arthur Talley
512.239.4546; Arthur.Talley@tceq.texas.gov

BRA Project Manager

Jeff Sammon
254.761.3132; jsammon@brazos.org

Website

<www.lakegranburywatershed.org>
<<http://www.brazos.org/gbWPP.asp>>

Project Highlights

- 09/2011 – The contract was initiated.
- 10/2011 – Public outreach presentation made at the Texas Well Owner Network meeting. During the project, 84 public outreach presentations were made to various school and community groups.
- 02/2012 – A draft guidance document entitled “Guidance for the Inspection of Anaerobic Onsite Sewage Facilities” has been developed.
- 04/2012 – Spring 2012 Newsletter was prepared. Throughout the project, 18 Newsletters were produced. They may be viewed at: <http://lakegranburywatershed.org/>
- 05/2012 – The QAPP was approved by the TCEQ. During the project, water quality was monitored at 16 sites in and around Lake Granbury. The results of this monitoring are available through the BRA Clean Rivers program. None of the sites exceeded the water quality criteria for bacteria during the project period.
- 05/2012 – Stakeholder meeting was held. During the project, 6 stakeholder meetings were conducted on a biennial basis. More information about these meetings can be found at: www.lakegranburywatershed.org.
- 05/2012 – Supplemental Environmental project funds were used to remediate failing on-site sewage facilities in the Lake Granbury watershed.
- 10/2012 – Acton MUD submitted an application for Community development Block Grant to extend sewer service in the Lake Granbury watershed.
- 10/2013 – Application submitted for Section 319 grant funding.
- 06/2014 – Supplemental Environmental project funds were used to remediate failing on-site sewage facilities in the Lake Granbury watershed.
- 07/2014 – Application submitted for Section 319 grant funding.
- 08/2014 – Contract closed.