



Upper San Marcos River Watershed Protection Plan

Water Body	Upper San Marcos River (Seg 1814)
Location:	Hays County
River Basin	Guadalupe River Basin
Contractor	Texas State University - Meadows Center
Project Period	October 12, 2012 to May 31, 2017
Project Total	\$605,585 (Federal 60% and Local 40%)

Project Description

The goal of this project is to create a Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) for the Upper San Marcos River Watershed. The Upper San Marcos River, Segment 1814, is on the TCEQ 2010 303(d) List as impaired for elevated Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). There are many pressures on the Upper San Marcos River and its source waters, the Edwards Aquifer. This project presents the opportunity to explore ways to manage impacts to surface and groundwater resources through a WPP. The WPP will address the listed impairment for TDS, and will serve as a proactive WPP in that it will also address bacteria (*E.coli*), nutrients, sediment, items identified by stakeholders, and future growth scenarios.

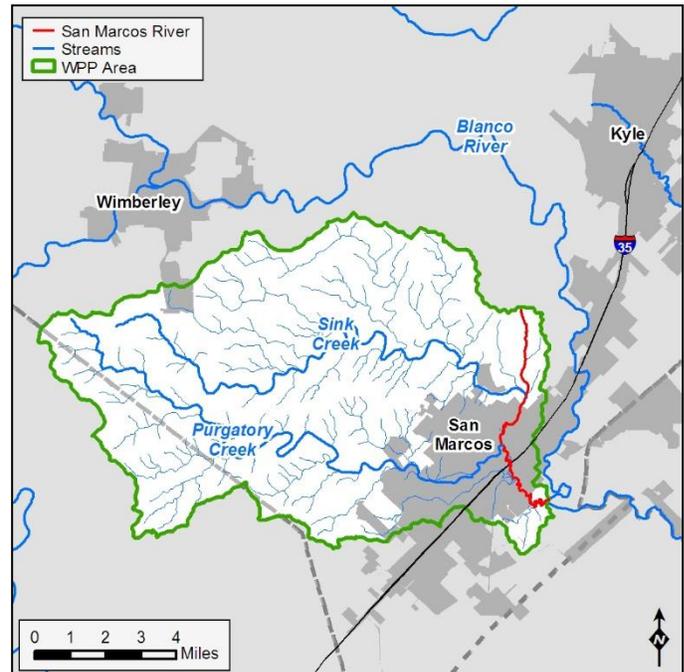
The project will calculate a nutrient budget for Spring Lake and determine whether nutrients from nonpoint sources (NPS) arrive via Sink Creek, runoff from the Texas State University golf course, from groundwater sources (spring discharge), or a combination of these. These data, along with results from a Continuous Monitoring Program, a Storm Flow Monitoring Program, and a Routine Monitoring Program, will be presented to stakeholders to inform them of potential linkages between present and future land use practices and water quality of the lake. Management measures will then be developed by the stakeholders.

Current Status

Stakeholder meetings, public outreach, water quality monitoring, and watershed modeling activities are ongoing. A draft Watershed Characterization Report (WCR) has been submitted and reviewed. Revised WCR is pending. WPP development will occur upon completion of the WCR and modeling.

Public Participation

Initiated in 2009, the Upper San Marcos Coordination Group assists stakeholders with communication, networking, and collaboration. This group consists of members from: the City of San Marcos, Hays County,



Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Meadows Center, San Marcos River Foundation, San Marcos River Rangers, San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance, Texas State University, Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center, Edwards Aquifer Authority, Guadalupe Blanco River Authority, United States Geological Survey, Aquarena Center, and others. These individuals form the base for the stakeholder and partnership efforts of the WPP. Meetings are open to the public.

For More Information

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Project Highlights

- 10/2012 – Contract Executed.
- 07/2013 – Public Participation Plan approved.
- 10/2013 – Monitoring QAPP approved.
- 11/2013 – Modeling QAPP approved.
- 04/2014 – Draft Watershed Characterization report submitted, modeling results pending.
- 08/2014 – TCEQ site visit.
- 02/2015 – Water quality monitoring complete, data submitted to TCEQ.
- 02/2015 – Draft BMP and Load Reduction Report complete.
- 7/2015 – Draft Watershed Characterization Report submitted.
- 12/2015 – TCEQ comments on draft Watershed Characterization Report transmitted.
- 4/2016 – New schedule of WPP chapters in place.
- 6/2016 – Chapters 1-7 sent out for stakeholder review. TS revised in response to comments.
- 9/2016 – Chapters 1-4 submitted for TCEQ review.
- 10/2016 – All chapters and appendices submitted for TCEQ review.