



Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Nonpoint Source Program

Lower Laguna Madre/Brownsville Ship Channel Watershed
Protection Plan Development

River Basin: Nueces-Rio Grande
Water Body: Lower Laguna Madre Watershed
Location: Cameron County

Background

The Lower Laguna Madre Watershed is between the watersheds of the Arroyo Colorado and Rio Grande River. The watershed includes the City of Brownsville and numerous townships in the surrounding area. Most of the watershed drains to the Brownsville Ship Channel and then to the Lower Laguna Madre. In 2016 a watershed partnership and associated steering committee formed to address water quality issues and pursue a Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) starting with a watershed characterization that was completed in August 2018. Water quality was monitored bi-monthly at three sites in the eastern part of the watershed to address data gaps. Two concurrent projects are working to complete the watershed characterization.

Project Descriptions

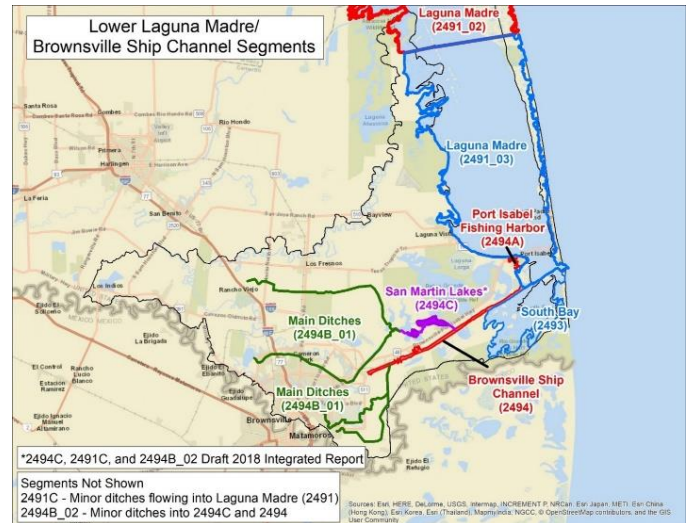
September 2017 - February 2022
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) is identifying data gaps in the initial watershed characterization and collecting data required to complete the characterization, including water quality samples and flow measurements from the main tributaries draining to Brownsville Ship Channel at four sites. Two new sites in the western portion of the Ship Channel will be sampled from 2019-2020. UTRGV will also delineate drainage patterns in the watershed and sub watersheds.

With these data, they will develop a model to simulate existing and future pollutant contributions to the Ship Channel and Lower Laguna Madre by sub watershed. The model will identify the sources of pollutants, quantify reductions needed to meet water quality standards and prioritize watershed management measure needed to do so.

UTRGV assigned a Watershed Coordinator to facilitate stakeholder input and involvement in WPP development. This will include a public

education component on WPPs and watersheds to cultivate involvement.

November 2019 - August 2022
UTRGV will continue data collection at the four selected tributary sites needed to complete the watershed characterization. They are holding ongoing stakeholder meetings to gain local support and involvement in the WPP development.



This map was developed by the Nonpoint Source program of TCEQ. No claims are made to the accuracy or completeness of the data or to its suitability for a particular use. For more

For More Information

TCEQ NPS Program
nps@tceq.texas.gov

UTRGV Project Managers
Ahment Mahmoud
ahmed.mahmoud@utrgv.edu

Augusto Sanchez Gonzalez
956.882.6692
augusto.sanchezgonzalez@utrgv.edu