



Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Nonpoint Source Program

Big Elm Creek: Developing a Watershed Protection Plan

River Basin: Brazos River
Water Body: Big Elm Creek (Segment 1213A)
Location: Bell and Milam Counties

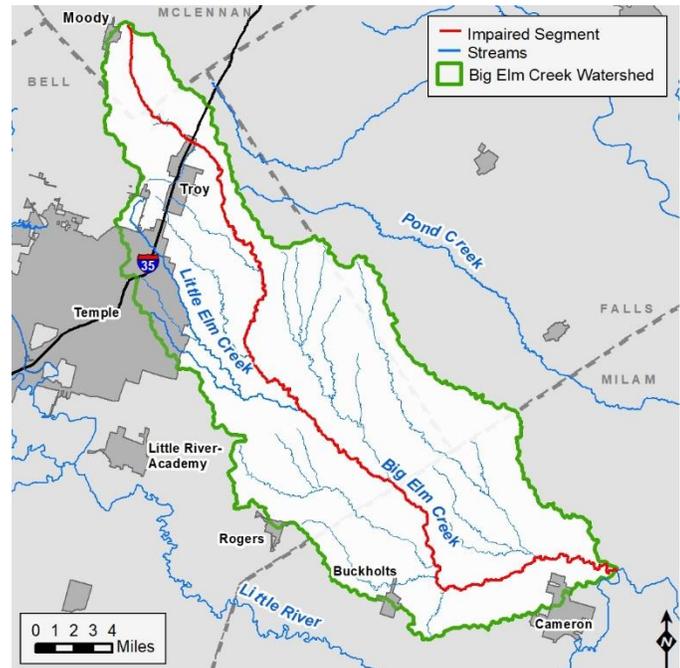
Background

Since 2010 Big Elm Creek has not met state water quality standards for bacteria, and since 2018 has had a concern for excess nitrate listed in the Texas Integrated Report. Little Elm Creek, a tributary to Big Elm Creek, has had listed concerns for depressed dissolved oxygen and elevated nitrate. Further, the unnamed tributary of Little Elm Creek has had concerns for elevated nitrate, and from 2010 to 2014 had concerns for impaired aquatic habitat. Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) completed a watershed characterization for the larger Little River watershed in 2018.

Project Descriptions

This project, led by TWRI, will build on the existing watershed characterization. Data produced under the watershed characterization supported the development of a watershed protection plan (WPP) for Big Elm Creek by providing information on pollution sources and relative contributions of pollution per source. This information helped stakeholders choose appropriate and effective management measures for reducing pollution. TWRI and stakeholders are also determining load reductions needed to meet water quality standards as part of satisfying the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's nine-elements required for WPPs.

TWRI built upon existing stakeholder involvement, surveys, and outreach that was initiated during the watershed characterization process. The stakeholder group represents a diverse cross section of the watershed's interested parties. TWRI also developed a website to encourage and support stakeholder involvement. It includes upcoming meeting information, and updates and resources related to WPP development. The first draft of the Big Elm Creek WPP has been completed and is under review by stakeholders.



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 information concerning this map contact nps@tceq.texas.gov.

For More Information

TCEQ NPS Program
nps@tceq.texas.gov

TWRI Project Manager

Ed Rhodes
979.458.5663; edward.rhodes@agnet.tamu.edu