

Gilleland Creek Watershed Stakeholders Making Progress

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Partners of the Gilleland Creek Implementation Plan gathered on March 28, 2012 to mark completion of the first year of actions aimed at reducing bacteria in Gilleland Creek. The partners, representing the combined efforts of government agencies, utilities, and citizen volunteers cited new proposals underway to revise development codes of Travis County and the City of Austin, along with 220 volunteer monitoring events, and an OSSF (on-site sewerage facilities) training workshop.

The stakeholders formed six work groups to develop the plan. The work groups include On-Site Sewage, Natural Resource Management, Storm Water, Education and Outreach, Ordinance and Planning, and Wastewater. The goal of this I-Plan is to reduce bacteria concentrations in Gilleland Creek to levels that meet the state's contact recreation standards. This plan documents six stakeholder-developed management measures and one control action that will be used to reduce bacteria contributions.

Jon White, Environmental Officer for Travis County, noted that, "Success of the I-Plan requires collaboration. For instance, Travis County is working closely with the City of Austin on new development rules that will require future development to be setback a minimum distance from Gilleland Creek. Both jurisdictions are planning to adopt these new rule revisions. The setbacks allow storm water runoff to be detained and filtered to some extent so that bacteria in the runoff is absorbed onto the land or dies off before it reaches the creek."

Implementation plans are flexible tools that governmental and non-governmental agencies use to guide their efforts to restore water bodies to their intended use. At annual meetings hosted by TCEQ, the stakeholders will periodically assess progress using the schedule of implementation, interim measurable milestones, water quality data, and the communication plan.

Gilleland Creek Partners include Travis County, City of Pflugerville, Lower Colorado River Authority, City of Austin, Austin Water Utility, Windermere Utilities, Dessau Fountain Estates, City of Round Rock, Center for Research in Water Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas State Soil and

Water Conservation Board, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Stream Team, and numerous volunteers throughout the watershed.

See more information on the [Gilleland Creek project](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/69-gillelandcreekbacteria.html)
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The next stakeholder meeting is scheduled for March 2013.