

Austin Streams I-Plan Status

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Total Maximum Daily Load Program

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

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Agenda

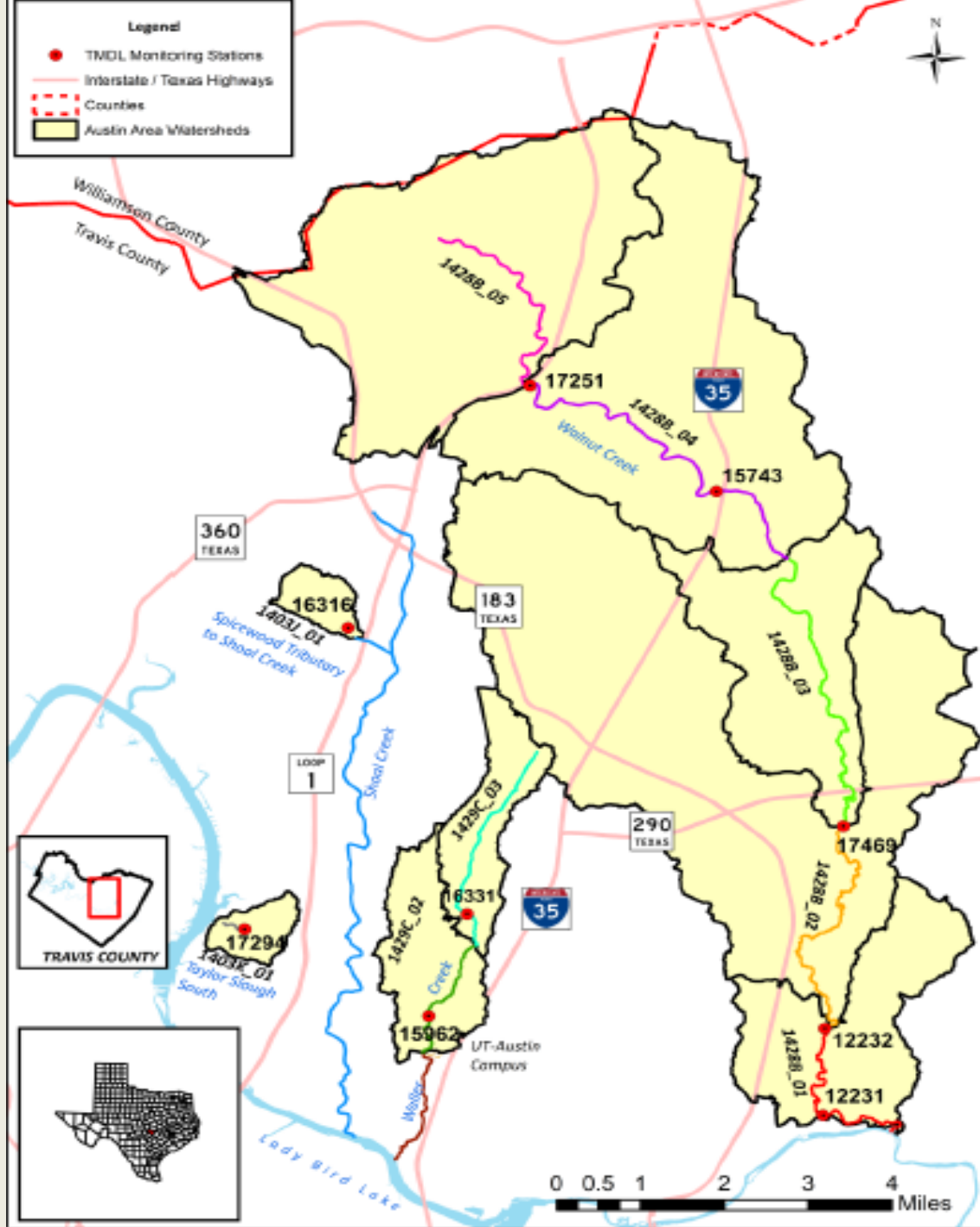
- Welcome and introductions
- History of the TMDLs and I-Plan
- I-Plan Management Measures Update
- Next Steps

Austin Streams TMDLs

- Five TMDLs for Bacteria in the Austin Streams Watersheds developed.
- Covered segments and assessment units (AUs):
 - 1403J – Spicewood Tributary to Shoal Creek (AU 1403J_01)
 - 1403K – Taylor Slough South (AU 1403K_01)
 - 1428B – Walnut Creek (AU 1428B_05)
 - 1429C – Waller Creek (AUs 1429C_02 and 1429C_03)
- TMDLs were adopted by TCEQ in January 2015 and approved by EPA in March 2015.
- In April 2015, a WQMP update added the following AUs to an existing segment in the original TMDL:
 - 1428B – Walnut Creek (AUs 1428B_01, 1428B_02, 1428B_03, and 1428B_04)

Legend

- TMDL Monitoring Stations
- Interstate / Texas Highways
- - - Counties
- Austin Area Watersheds



Austin Streams I-Plan

- I-Plan meetings were initiated in 2012 and multiple public meetings were held to develop the plan over the course of two years.
- I-Plan was approved by TCEQ Commissioners in January 2015.
- Included five management measures that included multiple sub-measures each.

Management Measure 1 Riparian Zone Restoration

Management Measure 1.1

- Increase riparian zones in COA parks by expanding the Grow Zone initiative.
 - COA: In Year 4, COA evaluated obtaining an additional 1.2 acres of Grow Zone in the Musket Valley Neighborhood Park along a tributary of Walnut Creek, however there have been no additional opportunities in Year 5 at this time.

Management Measure 1.2

- Prioritize the affected watersheds without current adopters for park and creek adoption recruitment.
 - APF: As of August 2019, 100% of eligible parks in Walnut Creek, Waller Creek, and Taylor Slough have been adopted. At this time, there is no adoptable parks available in the Spicewood Watershed. Metro parks, greenbelts and preserves are not eligible for adoption, but APF supports volunteer efforts in these areas.

Management Measure 1.3

- Supporting the expansion of our Grow Zones to all the applicable parks in the affected watersheds, currently without Grow Zones.
 - APF: Through the Adopt-A-Park orientation process, all park adopters are educated about Grow Zones and Restoration Plans. In Fall 2019, APF worked with KAB to host a restoration workshop on Shoal Creek to provide information for adopters about creekside restoration work. KAB hosted subsequent monthly hands-on trainings at local creeks, and APF assisted with recruiting adopters to attend. APF, in partnership with the City, developed Land Stewardship Plans for park adopters. APF is in progress with a plan in Walnut Creek that will resume in October.

Management Measure 1.4

- Increase protected riparian buffer zone width for new development.
 - COA: Nine site plans approved for construction in FY20 included portions of impacted creeks that are protected under the 2013 Watershed Protection Ordinance. Cumulatively, the ordinance has protected approximately 6.8 miles of riparian buffer in the impacted watersheds.

Management Measure 1.5

- Increase waterway setbacks in Walnut Creek.
 - Travis County: The setback requirements have been fully implemented with each non-subdivision development project.

Management Measure 2

Wastewater Infrastructure

Management Measure 2.1

- Require failing OSSFs to connect to City sewer lines, and provide incentives for connection when new mains are installed.
 - COA: There were 16 septic systems cut over to the sanitary sewer in the Walnut Creek watershed in Year 5.

Management Measure 2.2

- Provide incentives in Walnut Creek area for OSSF repair and improvements.
 - Travis County: OSSF fee waiver program is continuing to be implemented and website information on incentives is kept up-to-date.

Management Measure 2.3

- Wastewater infrastructure and inspection and repair.
 - COA: As of August 14, 2020, 1,129,235 linear feet of sanitary sewer pipes were televised and inspected. These pipes were scored in accordance with National Association of Sewer Service Companies (NASSCO) Pipeline Assessment & Certification Program (PACP). In addition, during this same time period 17,444 linear feet of sewer lines were rehabilitated or replaced.

Management Measure 2.4

- Inspect wastewater infrastructure in the Waller Creek watershed (main campus) and make repairs as problems are encountered.
 - UT-EHS:
 - Approximately 1,224 hours were expended for the cleaning, repair, and maintenance of sanitary sewer piping; and
 - Approximately 24,955 linear feet of sanitary and storm sewer laterals were cleaned and/or repaired by UT Utilities and Energy Management (UEM) staff.

Management Measure 2.5

- Sanitary sewer overflow response as a result of SSOs that occur in the affected watersheds within the City of Austin sanitary system.
 - COA: Austin Water (AW) continues its active Operation and Maintenance (O&M) program that includes cleaning, TV inspection, and smoke testing to clean and identify public and private defects in the collection system. In addition, AW continues to repair and improve the collection system and has implemented an emergency response plan that includes emergency crews and contractors available 24/7. The root causes of all SSOs are determined along with identification of any improvements needed to prevent a repeat SSO. To date in FY20 (as of August 14, 2020), a total of 53 reportable SSOs occurred.

Management Measure 2.6

- Sanitary sewer overflow response for SSOs that are found to be originating from the University of Texas at Austin sanitary system.
 - UT-EHS: In 2018-2019, one reportable SSO occurred, was reported to TCEQ and COA, and remediated onsite.

Management Measure 2.7

- Continuation of private lateral inspections and OSSF education efforts as needed.
 - No update since August 2019.

Management Measure 2.8

- Design and construct outdoor public toilets in high-use locations in the Waller Creek watershed as a pilot program.
 - COA: The City has completed the pilot study of outdoor public toilets in high-use locations and is now expanding that program to install public toilets in additional locations. In 2020, three public toilets have been installed at the following locations: Brush Square at 4th and Trinity (Jan 2020), 500 Block of Brazos Street (Jan 2020), and 716 ½ E 6th Street (Aug 2020).

Management Measure 3

Domestic Pet Waste

Management Measure 3.1

- Dog waste education and enforcement in parks.
 - COA:
 - Park Rangers regularly patrol parks within the TMDL watersheds and provide education and reminders to dog owners about pet waste;
 - WPD works with two non-profit organizations and the Austin Animal Center to reach the public year-round at events and through social media, websites, newsletters, brochures, and giveaways; and
 - WPD also conducts their own outreach via social media and a designated Scoop The Poop (STP) website, an annual mailing to pet service businesses and dog-friendly apartment buildings to distribute educational brochures, and distribution of free yard signs to residents. STP signage, which includes the City Code, are posted at the pet waste bag dispensers in parks, and large STP signs have been placed at Turkey Creek, Pease Park OLA, Barking Springs, and other parks where pet waste accumulation has been a problem.
 - PARD Rangers provide STP education on-site in parks and have added STP as a component of their current “Leave No Trace” educational campaign.

Management Measure 3.2

- Pet waste bag dispensers in COA parks.
 - COA: The specific amount of supplies is unknown in the TMDL watersheds, but in FY20, WPD purchased 50 mounted trash cans and 2,040,000 pet waste bags for City-maintained parks

Management Measure 3.3

- Walnut Creek off-leash area kiosks.
 - COA: WPD checks kiosks annually. As of the inspection date this year, all kiosks were good.

Management Measure 3.4

- Waste collection in commercial and non-profit pet facilities.
 - No update since August 2019.

Management Measure 4 Resident Outreach

Management Measure 4.1

- Austin Neighborhoods Council meetings educational outreach.
 - No update since August 2019.

Management Measure 4.2

- City staff presentations to Austin Environmental Board.
 - COA: Staff briefings to the Environmental Commission were limited due to the change in public meeting procedures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Management Measure 4.3

- Homeless Survival Guide Outreach.
 - COA: The Homelessness Resource Guide was not printed and distributed in FY20. The City of Austin has developed a more robust focus on homelessness issues since this TMDL was developed. The City's Public Information Office is working with an interdepartmental group on a publication that will include information about encampment life, Leave No Trace principles, City requirements, and resources.

Management Measure 4.4

- Earth Camp, Earth School and Clean Creek Campus outreach.
 - COA: Scoop the Poop messaging is integrated into Earth Camp, Earth School and Clean Creek Campus presentations (curriculum).

Management Measure 4.5

- Riparian and “Scoop the Poop” education in volunteer workdays and annual meetings.
 - APF: “Scoop the Poop” education has been provided as a part of the following events/initiatives:
 - Annual Adopt-A-Park Summit (2015-2020);
 - It’s My Park Day;
 - PIES (Park Improvement Education Series) classes (2015-2017);
 - Riparian restoration training provided to park and creek adopters, non-profit partners, and volunteer stakeholders; and
 - Education also has been provided through social media campaigns and other online materials.

Management Measure 4.6

- Community communication plan
 - No update since August 2019.

Management Measure 4.7

- People Organized in Defense of Earth and Her Resources (PODER) educational outreach efforts.
 - No update since August 2019.

Management Measure 5

Stormwater Treatment

Management Measure 5.1

- Retrofit existing or install new stormwater installation on city lands.
 - COA: City staff have completed two water quality retrofits in the headwaters of the Waller Creek watershed during the 2019 permit period. The Reznicek Field biofiltration pond treats 76 acres of urban development (72% impervious cover) while the Reilly Elementary School Green Stormwater Infrastructure demonstration project treats roof and parking lot runoff for the whole campus using rain gardens and cisterns as part of the Rain Catcher Pilot Program. There were no other city-sponsored stormwater control measures completed in any of the other TMDL watersheds during the permit period.

Management Measure 5.2

- Inspect existing City-owned and commercial water quality controls in affected watersheds.
 - COA: Through August 18, 2020, COA Field Operations inspected a total of 494 ponds across the affected watersheds: 389 commercial ponds, 99 residential ponds and performed pond maintenance at six ponds across the affected watersheds.

Management Measure 5.3

- Inspect and ensure proper operation of privately-owned permanent water quality treatment and flood detention structures.
 - Travis County: Travis County-TNR Environmental Quality Program identified all pond facilities as compliant in Year 5 with the exception of two facilities. The two remaining facilities under NOV enforcement were officially referred to COA on June 18th, 2020 for follow-up during repairs. No illicit discharges observed from these two facilities.

Management Measure 5.4

- Dry weather storm drain outfall screening - City of Austin.
 - COA: All 36" stormwater outfalls have been screened as of the end of 2016.

Management Measure 5.5

- Dry weather storm drain outfall screening – UT
 - UT: All 163 storm drain outfalls were screened during the previous MS4 permit period of September 1, 2011 to September 17, 2018. UTA-EHS plans to screen all existing outfalls by the end of the current MS4 permit period, September 16, 2023.
 - In 2018-2019, 18 major outfalls were screened and of those, 6 were observed with dry weather flows. Field analysis for 3 of the discharges did not indicate sanitary or other characteristics of concern and it was determined that the discharges were most likely the results of allowable non-stormwater discharges. Analysis of the other 3 discharges indicated potential characteristics of concern and are part of an ongoing investigation. EHS, UEM, Athletics, Landscape Services, and COA are working in collaboration to identify the source(s).

Management Measure 5.6

- New roadway bacteria reduction best management practices (BMPs).
 - Travis County: Project is currently on hold. No further information is available at this time.

Management Measure 5.7

- Street sweeping – UT

- UT: The University maintains a program for managing sediment, trash, and organic debris on street and parking areas. The University operates several motorized street sweepers for Main Campus.

- In 2018-2019, 140 cubic yards of debris was collected during the 63 hours of street sweeping were completed.

Management Measure 5.8

- Construction site inspection and monitoring - UT
 - UT: In 2018-2019, UT-EHS conducted 54 BMP inspections of exterior construction projects across campus. E&S runoff control procedures were enforced on all projects. Deficiencies were noted and escalated until resolved.

Management Measure 5.9

- Detection of illicit commercial/industrial discharges and construction site sanitary waste management.
 - Travis County: There are 14 industrial sites on the County's active inventory list for storm water in the Walnut Creek watershed. There are no current discharge violations. All sites were inspected in 2019. As of July 2020, 8 of the 14 have been inspected.

Next Steps

- Compile management and control measure updates and post on TCEQ's Austin Streams webpage
 - Please provide any additional updates no later than Wednesday, September 2nd.
- I-Plan revision process
 - The UT Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution will be spearheading the I-Plan revision and facilitating meetings with stakeholders going into FY21.

Austin Area Watersheds: A TMDL Project to Protect Recreational Uses

A community project to reduce bacteria and protect recreational safety in Waller, Walnut, and Shoal creeks and Taylor Slough in the city of Austin. The Austin community has developed an Implementation Plan (I-Plan), which together with TMDLs developed by the TCEQ with community feedback, provide the the road map for improving water quality. The commission has adopted the TMDLs and approved the I-Plan.

County: Travis

Parameter: Bacteria

River Basin: Colorado

Segments: 1403J, 1403K, 1428B, 1429C

- [Project Overview](#) 

On this page:

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Walnut Creek

Background and Goals

High concentrations of bacteria are often found in four streams in the Austin metropolitan area —Waller and Walnut Creeks, Spicewood Tributary to Shoal Creek, and Taylor Slough South. High concentrations of bacteria may indicate a health risk to people who swim or wade in the creeks—activities called “contact recreation” in the state’s standards for water quality.

The goal of the project is to reduce bacteria levels to protect people who swim or wade in the creeks. The City of Austin provides [summary information about the watersheds](#) on its website.

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Get Involved

In all our projects, we seek opinions and information from people who represent government, permitted facilities, agriculture, business, environmental, and community and private interests in the watershed.

See Also:

- ▶ [TMDL Home](#)
- ▶ [TMDL Projects](#)
- ▶ [TMDL News](#)
- ▶ [TMDL Calendar](#)

Contact Information

TCEQ TMDL Program Website:

<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/>



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