

Austin Area Watersheds: TMDL Implementation Status 2018 & 2019 (Years 3 & 4)

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Responsible Parties Abbreviations

AEB - Austin Environmental Board
 AISD - Austin Independent School District
 ANC - Austin Neighborhoods Council
 APF - Austin Parks Foundation
 COA - City of Austin
 COA-AWU - City of Austin, Austin Water Utility
 COA-CIP - City of Austin, Capital Improvement Program
 COA-UEM - City of Austin, Utilities and Energy Management

 COA-PARD - City of Austin, Parks and Recreation Department

COA-WPD - City of Austin, Watershed Protection Department
 KAB - Keep Austin Beautiful
 PODER - People Organized in Defense of Earth and Her Resources
 Travis County TNR - Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources
 Travis County TNR EQP - Travis County TNR, Environmental Quality Program
 Travis County TNR OSSF - Travis County TNR, On-site Sewage Facilities Program
 UTA-EHS - University of Texas at Austin, Environmental Health and Safety
 UTA-PMCS - University of Texas at Austin, Project Management and Construction Services
 UTA-UEM - University of Texas at Austin, Utilities and Energy Management
 UT System - OFPC - University of Texas at Austin Office of Facilities Planning and Construction

Management Measures

Management Measure 1: Riparian Zone Restoration

Responsible Party	Implementation Measure	Implementation Milestone	Status
COA-PARD & COA-WPD	1.1 Increase riparian zones in COA parks by expanding the Grow Zone initiative	Determine feasibility of expanding passive riparian zone restoration Grow Zone Initiatives to all applicable parks in affected watersheds, and develop plan to implement expansion.	Grow Zones have been expanded in the following area in FY2018 and 2019 (Year 3 and 4): - Walnut Creek: Officially has expanded 3.0 acres.

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APF, KAB	1.2 Prioritize the affected watersheds without current adopters for park and creek adoption recruitment	Reach out to all parks within the affected watersheds who are currently without adopters.	<p>Since January 2018, the following mileage of creeks have been adopted: 830 feet in Taylor Slough, 688 feet in Spicewood Springs, 4.18 miles in Waller Creek, and 5.75 miles in Walnut Creek. Additionally, KAB provides a map of all adopted creek segments to the public on their website.</p> <p>APF reports that as of August 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walnut Creek: 100% of eligible parks have been adopted.* - Spicewood Watershed: No adoptable parks available. - Waller Creek: 90% of the eligible parks are adopted. Many of the downtown parks around Waller are being redeveloped by Waller Creek Conservancy. - Taylor Slough: 100% of eligible parks in this Watershed are adopted. <p>*Currently, metro parks, greenbelts, and preserves are not eligible for adoption.</p>

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APF, KAB	1.3 Supporting the expansion of our Grow Zones to all the applicable parks in the affected watersheds, currently without Grow Zones	Reach 100% of un-adopted parks within the affected watersheds to either or both programs	<p>All parks in the affected watersheds are adopted at this time with the exception of Waller Creek which is at a 90% adoption rate. Through the Adopt-A-Park orientation process, all park adopters are educated about Grow Zones and Restoration Plans, which they can create in coordination with KAB and COA-WPD.</p> <p>Since January 2018, the following mileage of creeks have been adopted: 830 feet in Taylor Slough, 688 feet in Spicewood Springs, 4.18 miles in Waller Creek, and 5.75 miles in Walnut Creek. Additionally, KAB provides a map of all adopted creek segments to the public on their website.</p>
COA-WPD	1.4 Increase protected riparian buffer zone width for new development	Document number of linear miles of protected/restored riparian buffer added per year.	As of 2019, 36 total site plans have been approved for construction in portions of impacted creeks that are protected under the 2013 Watershed Protection Ordinance. Cumulatively, the ordinance has protected approximately 13.2 linear miles of riparian buffer in the impacted watersheds.
Travis County TNR & EQP	1.5 Increase waterway setbacks in Walnut Creek	Implement 2012 Travis County Code setbacks, and propose and adopt revisions in Title 30 TAC to apply to Austin ETJ subdivisions following adoption of COA Watershed Protection Ordinance.	The setback requirements have been fully implemented with each non-subdivision development project. There have been no enforced setbacks in the last three years because no new projects have been proposed that would be affected by the rules as previously described.

Management Measure 2: Wastewater Infrastructure

Responsible Party	Implementation Measure	Implementation Milestone	Status
COA-AWU	2.1 Require failing OSSFs to connect to City sewer lines, and provide incentives for connection when new mains are installed	As full purpose annexation occurs or when an OSSF fails or does not meet COA capacity requirements and COA wastewater collection mains are located within 100 ft. of the property.	There is no current information available on this management measure at this time.
Travis County TNR OSSF	2.2 Provide incentives in Walnut Creek area for OSSF repair and improvements	Recommend Commissioner Court adopt permit fee waiver for proactive repairs to systems, prepare up-to-date mailing list for each property with an OSSF in unincorporated areas of Walnut Creek Watershed, and update Travis County website to describe COA cutover and County fee waiver incentives for proactive repairs.	Travis County approved the OSSF fee waiver proposal to assist owners who choose a proactive remedy to address the problem rather than deferring action on repairs until cited in violation. To promote this program, the County website has been updated with pertinent information that includes among other things an FAQ page to educate operators of the importance behind the program's initiative. Additional outreach efforts included reaching out to area Homeowner Associations and posting on social media.
COA-AWU	2.3 Wastewater infrastructure and inspection and repair	Inspect COA owned wastewater infrastructure in affected watersheds and make repairs when failures are encountered.	There is no current information available on this management measure at this time.

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UTA-UEM & UTA-EHS	2.4 Inspect wastewater infrastructure in the Waller Creek watershed (main campus) and make repairs as problems are encountered	Inspect UTA-owned wastewater infrastructure on Main Campus (Waller Creek Watershed) and make repairs when failures are encountered. Current cycle for inspections and cleaning is once every 5 years.	<p>Sanitary sewer piping: Approximately 1,308 hours were expended for installation, repair, and maintenance. Maintained equipment and materials are used to help respond quickly and effectively to sanitary sewer overflows. These materials include pneumatic test plugs and absorbent rolls and pads. Additionally, in this reporting period, approximately 9,500 linear feet of sanitary and storm sewer laterals were cleaned and/or repaired by UEM staff.</p> <p>This task is completed on a five-year cycle. Inspections and repairs in the next five-year cycle are pending.</p>
COA-AWU	2.5 Sanitary sewer overflow response	AWU to investigate and remediate sanitary sewer overflows (SSO) in affected watersheds as they are discovered. AWU to notify WPD for all known SSO. WPD to assess environmental impacts of SSO and advise AWU on sewage removal if necessary. The COA will remediate if SSO is from privately owned system if private entity cannot or will not remediate. COA through various departments will require repairs of private wastewater infrastructure if failures are clearly documented.	There is no current information available on this management measure at this time.

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UTA-UEM & UTA-EHS	2.6 Sanitary sewer overflow response	UTA to investigate and remediate sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) in the Waller Creek Watershed if they are found to be originating from the UTA sanitary system of as a result of activities on the UTA Main Campus. UTA to notify COA-WPD for all known SSOs entering Waller Creek. UTA will work with COA-WPD to assess the impacts and coordinate contaminant removal if found to be necessary.	There were 12 reportable SSOs that occurred between Years 1 and 3 that were reported to TCEQ and COA. All SSOs were remediated onsite. Year 4's update will be available after the reporting period.
COA-AWU	2.7 Private lateral inspection	The jet cleaning and TV inspection of private laterals will continue. In Year One, the program related to the placement of liens on private property with unresolved private lateral failures will be fully implemented.	There is no current information available on this management measure at this time.
COA-WPD; Waller Creek Conservancy	2.8 Design and construct outdoor public toilets in high-use locations in the Waller Creek watershed as a pilot program	COA and Waller Creek Conservancy to collaboratively develop plan to implement public toilet if feasible.	There is no current information available on this management measure at this time.

Management Measure 3: Domestic Pet Waste

Responsible Party	Implementation Measure	Implementation Milestone	Status
COA-PARD & COA-WPD	3.1 Dog waste education and enforcement in parks	Develop updated and customized "Scoop the Poop" signage and implement in 100% of parks in affected watersheds, perform on-site inspection by park rangers in parks, and conduct citywide "Scoop the Poop" public outreach campaign.	<p>"Scoop the Poop" signage was updated and implemented in all affected watersheds in Year 2. Park rangers regularly patrol parks within the TMDL watersheds and provide information to park-goers about off-leash and pet waste regulations.</p> <p>COA-WPD works with two non-profit organizations and Austin Animal Center to provide outreach to the public year-round at events, at on-site animal adoptions and spay/neuter appointments, and through social media, websites, newsletters, brochures, and giveaways (Scoop the Poop branded clip-on pet waste bag holders, hand sanitizers, and leashes). WPD also conducts our own outreach via social media and a designated 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. Scoop the Poop 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 Scoop the Poop education on-site in parks and have added STP as a component of their current "Leave No Trace" educational campaign.</p>
COA-PARD & COA-WPD	3.2 Pet waste bag dispensers in COA parks	Inventory Mutt Mitt dispensers and associated trash cans in COA parks in affected watersheds.	In 2018 (Year 3) and 2019 (Year 4) there were 54 mounted trash cans purchased and 4,488,000 pet waste bags purchased by COA-WPD for City-maintained parks.

Responsible Party	Implementation Measure	Implementation Milestone	Status
COA-PARD & COA-WPD; Dog off leash area adopter; Friends of Austin Dog Parks	3.3 Walnut Creek off-leash area kiosks	Install and maintain educational kiosks in dog off leash areas of public parks in the affected watersheds with information regarding park rules including proper collection and disposal of dog waste.	COA-WPD checks and maintains kiosks annually as needed (Years 3 and 4).
Sierra Club; Chamber of Commerce; unidentified pet allies	3.4 Waste collection in commercial and non-profit pet facilities	Identify pet organization allies. Identify pet businesses. Contact each business by phone. Set up and complete a meeting to educate and distribute brochures.	There is no current information available on this management measure at this time.

Management Measure 4: Resident Outreach

Responsible Party	Implementation Measure	Implementation Milestone	Status
ANC	4.1 Austin Neighborhoods Council meetings educational outreach	ANC will invite COA-WPD staff to brief each sector (or group of sectors), and one citywide general meeting once per year on COA environmental programs and ways citizens may help to reduce fecal contamination.	There is no current information available on this management measure at this time.
COA-Environmental Board	4.2 City staff presentations to Austin Environmental Board	Environmental Board will request annual briefing on each of the identified topics, and provide supporting letters, resolutions, and public education as appropriate.	Staff presented a briefing on the 303(d) list and TMDLs to the Environmental Commission on 3/2/2016. Due to Commissioner turnover, briefings were not requested during the reporting period for Year 3. Year 4 information for this measure is not available at this time.
COA-WPD	4.3 Homeless Survival Guide Outreach	Develop public education materials.	COA-WPD printed 10,000 copies of educational materials that were mostly provided to the non-profit House for Homeless for distribution.

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COA-WPD	4.4 Earth Camp, Earth School and Clean Creek Campus outreach	Add fecal bacteria curriculum to Earth Camp Program. Find partners willing to financially sponsor expansion of existing Earth Camp education efforts to increase direct outreach to Austin school children.	Scoop the Poop messaging is integrated into Earth Camp, Earth School and Clean Creek Campus presentations (curriculum).
APF, KAB	4.5 Riparian and “Scoop the Poop” education in volunteer workdays and annual meetings	Reach 100% of un-adopted parks within the affected watersheds to either or both programs.	<p>There have been 111 total projects held in the affected watersheds that included “Scoop the Poop” education in the curriculum.</p> <p>All parks in the affected watershed are adopted at this time except for Waller Creek which is at a 90% adoption rate. Through the Adopt-A-Park orientation process, all park adopters are educated about Grow Zones and Restoration Plans, which they can create in coordination with KAB and COA-WPD.</p>
Shoal Creek Conservancy; other unidentified organizations	4.6 Community communication plan	Develop e-mail—and mail-based communications system to distribute COA educational material and program information on water quality and protection issues to community organizations within the affected watersheds for distribution by them to their members.	A newsletter was developed that keeps subscribers educated about the watershed and how get involved. In partnership with COA-WPD, the Conservancy began hosting stakeholder meetings in February 2018 to begin work on the Watershed Action Plan . To date, there have been nine meetings given in cooperation with COA staff.

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PODER	4.7 PODER educational outreach efforts	Request annual briefings by COA WPD staff on COA environmental programs, and ways citizens may help reduce fecal contamination, distribute updates at the HABLA and La Raza Roundtable meetings annually, and provide links on PODER Website regarding the Austin bacteria TMDL Implementation Plan and other available resources.	There is no current information available on this management measure at this time. As of 2019, PODER's website is currently inactive; information and resources haven't been posted (http://www.poder-texas.org/).

Management Measure 5: Stormwater Treatment

Responsible Party	Implementation Measure	Implementation Milestone	Status
COA-PARD & COA-WPD	5.1 Retrofit existing or install new stormwater installation on city lands	Assess opportunity and prioritize water quality structural control installations or retrofits on public lands in affected watersheds.	There is no current information available on this management measure at this time.
COA-WPD	5.2 Inspect existing City-owned and commercial water quality controls in affected watersheds	Inspect existing city-owned and commercial water quality structural controls and repair problems as feasible.	In Year 3, COA Field Operations inspected 761 commercial ponds, 53 residential ponds, and performed pond maintenance at 11 ponds across the affected watersheds. In Year 4, COA staff inspected 585 commercial ponds, 90 residential ponds, and performed no pond maintenance in the affected watersheds.
Travis County-TNR, EQP & Travis County Attorney, COA	5.3 Inspect and ensure proper operation of privately-owned permanent water quality treatment and flood detention structures	Identify owners of record of 22 known pond facilities, coordinate with COA and MUDs to finalize Travis County inspection list, and obtain any specialized maintenance plans and facility records that are available.	Since 2016, the County has conducted a total of 77 inspections on the 28 private sites identified in Year 2. To date, 23 of the 24 sites that were issued notices of violation letters have been brought back into compliance. No specialized treatment facilities were identified during inspections.
COA-WPD	5.4 Dry weather storm drain outfall screening - City of Austin	Screen all 36" stormwater outfalls in affected watersheds at least once during the five-year period during dry weather conditions.	Complete - All 36" stormwater outfalls have been screened as of the end of 2016.

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UTA-EHS, UTA-UEM & UTA-PMCS, UT System-OFPC	5.5 Dry weather storm drain outfall screening - UT	Entire MS4 completely screened by Year Five.	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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2016-2017: 18 Major outfalls (36"+) were screened. - 2017-2018: 18 Major outfalls were screened.
Travis County-TNR & EQP, COA CIP	5.6 New roadway bacteria reduction best management practices (BMPs)	Complete design of Arterial A anticipated to be a 1422 ft. multi-lane roadway with 12 of 37 storm drain inlets using the chosen technology and conduct environmental review of design for adequacy.	While design work for Arterial A has reached the 90% stage, planned construction of Arterial A is on hold for reasons such as right-of-way (ROW) acquisition and general funding.
UTA-EHS & Facilities Services	5.7 Street sweeping	Continue to sweep UTA-owned streets on a semiannual basis and as needed.	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.
UTA-EHS, UTA-PMCS, Housing & Food, UTA-UEM, UT System-OFPC	5.8 Construction site inspection and monitoring	Continue to inspect, monitor, and enforce storm water compliance on all UTA construction site projects to minimize storm water runoff, pollution, and sanitary waste from entering UTA's MS4.	Between 2016 and 2018 (Years 1-3), UTA-EHS conducted 152 BMP inspections of exterior construction projects across the UTA campus. E&S runoff control procedures were enforced on all projects. Deficiencies were noted and escalated until resolved. Information from 2019 (Year 4) will be available at the end of the reporting period
Travis County-TNR & EQP; Travis County Attorney	5.9 Detection of illicit commercial/industrial discharges and construction site sanitary waste management	Develop dataset identifying commercial and industrial facilities, update existing construction site checklists to incorporate inspection of sanitary waste practices, and send letter and information to each commercial/industrial entity identifying the I-Plan bacteria reduction strategy and notify them of inspection strategy.	Travis County has completed a total of 20 inspections on 11 industrial facilities in the Walnut Creek watershed. Sites issued corrective actions were brought back into compliance in timely manner. No violations for offsite discharge were issued. Outreach efforts that include a trifold handout and one on one site meeting with key staff has reduced number of violations noted over time.