

# Austin Area Watersheds: TMDL Implementation Status 2020 (Year 5)

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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.	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.

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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.	As of August 2019, 100% of eligible parks in Walnut Creek, Waller Creek, and Taylor Slough have been adopted. At this time, there are 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.
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 and continue efforts to encourage expansion.	Through the Adopt-A-Park orientation progress, all park adopters are educated about Grow Zones and Restoration Plans. In Fall 2019, APF worked with KAB to host a restoration workshop in 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 2020.
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 and provide a final report on the success/progress of legislation.	Nine site plans that were 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.

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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.

**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	Implement 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.	In Year 4, there were 29 septic systems cut over to the sanitary sewer. Additionally, In Year 5, there were 16 septic systems cut over to the sanitary sewer in the Walnut Creek watershed.
Travis County TNR OSSF	2.2 Provide incentives in Walnut Creek area for OSSF repair and improvements	Continue to implement the OSSF fee waiver program and keep website information on COA and County incentives up-to-date.	The OSSF fee waiver program is continuing to be implemented and website information on incentives is kept up-to-date.
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.	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.
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.	Approximately 1,224 hours were expended for the cleaning, repair, and maintenance of sanitary sewer piping. Approximately 24,955 linear feet of sanitary and storm sewer laterals were cleaned and/or repaired by UT-UEM staff.

Responsible Party	Implementation Measure	Implementation Milestone	Status
COA-AWU	2.5 Sanitary sewer overflow response	COA-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.	COA-AWU 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, COA-AWU 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.
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.	In 2019, there was one reportable SSO that occurred, which was reported to TCEQ and COA and remediated onsite.
COA-AWU	2.7 Private lateral inspection	The jet cleaning and TV inspection of private laterals will continue. Continue private lateral and OSSF educations efforts as needed.	There is no current information available on this management measure at this time.

Responsible Party	Implementation Measure	Implementation Milestone	Status
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.	COA 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**

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>COA-PARD Rangers regularly patrol parks within the TMDL watersheds and provide education and reminders to dog owners about pet waste. Also, COA-PARD Rangers provide Scoop the Poop (STP) education on-site in parks and have added STP as a component of their current "Leave No Trace" educational campaign.</p> <p>COA-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. COA-WPD also conducts their 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. 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.</p>

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Implementation Measure</b>	<b>Implementation Milestone</b>	<b>Status</b>
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 100% of affected watersheds.	The specific amount of supplies is unknown in the TMDL watersheds, but in FY19 and FY20, COA-WPD purchased a total of 55 mounted trash cans and 4,998,000 pet waste bags for City-maintained parks.
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 kiosks annually. As of the inspection date for FY20, all kiosks were in good condition.
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**

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Implementation Measure</b>	<b>Implementation Milestone</b>	<b>Status</b>
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 briefings to the Environmental Commission were limited due to the change in public meeting procedures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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COA-WPD	4.3 Homeless Survival Guide Outreach	Distribute educational materials through area homeless advocate organizations.	The Homelessness Resource Guide was not printed and distributed in FY20. COA 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.
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 and continue efforts to encourage expansion.	<p>"Scoop the Poop" education has been provided as a part of the following events/initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Adopt-A-Park Summit (2015-2020);</li> <li>• It's My Park Day;</li> <li>• PIES (Park Improvement Education Series) classes (2015-2017);</li> <li>• Riparian restoration training provided to park and creek adopters, non-profit partners, and volunteer stakeholders; and</li> <li>• Education also has been provided through social media campaigns and other online materials.</li> </ul>
Shoal Creek Conservancy; other unidentified organizations	4.6 Community communication plan	Distribute COA education material and notifications to identified organizations using the created communication tools.	There is no current information available on this management measure at this time.

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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.

**Management Measure 5: Stormwater Treatment**

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Implementation Measure</b>	<b>Implementation Milestone</b>	<b>Status</b>
COA-PARD & COA-WPD	5.1 Retrofit existing or install new stormwater installation on city lands	Complete construction of selected water quality structural control installations or retrofits on public lands in affected watersheds.	COA 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.
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.	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.
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 pond facilities that are compliant, conduct verification inspections to assess compliance with NOVs, refer non-compliant pond facilities to COA (if applicable), and escalate non-compliance to civil enforcement if illicit discharges are not eliminated using informal/NOV tools (if necessary).	Travis County-TNR EQP 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 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 for follow-up during repairs. No illicit discharges were observed from these two facilities.



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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.
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.	<p>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.</p> <p>In 2018-2019, 18 major outfalls were screened and of those, six were observed with dry weather flows. Field analysis for three 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 three 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).</p>
Travis County-TNR & EQP, COA CIP	5.6 New roadway bacteria reduction best management practices (BMPs)	Complete right-of-way acquisition and initiate construction contract process. Establish a construction timeline and begin construction of Arterial A in Year 6 including the permanent water quality controls.	Project is currently on hold. No further information is available at this time.
UTA-EHS & Facilities Services	5.7 Street sweeping	Continue to sweep UTA-owned streets on a semiannual basis and as needed.	<p>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.</p> <p>In 2018-2019, 140 cubic yards of debris was collected during the 63 hours of street sweeping were completed.</p>

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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.	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.
Travis County-TNR & EQP; Travis County Attorney	5.9 Detection of illicit commercial/industrial discharges and construction site sanitary waste management	Re-inspect commercial and industrial facilities identified in Year 2 as non-compliant, re-inspect a subset of commercial and industrial facilities determined in Year 2 as compliant, and continue to inspect construction sites pursuant to Travis County SWMP and address identified non-compliances (if applicable).	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, eight of the 14 sites have been inspected.