Watershed Work Wins Regional Awards

Two different efforts in the Plum Creek Watershed recently were awarded 2010 Community Stewardship Awards by Envision Central Texas, a nonprofit organization working to manage regional growth in a sensible manner. Recipients were selected based on innovative efforts to address challenges related to this growth while preserving natural resources, economic vitality, social equity, and overall quality of living.

Taking Charge of Water Quality in the Plum Creek Watershed, a cooperative project coordinated by GBRA and AgriLife Extension, was funded by a TCEQ Clean Water Act grant. This initiative, which conducted numerous outreach events and created materials for use in presenting information to diverse audiences on a number of wastewater and stormwater management issues, was recognized in the Raising Public Awareness category.

With funding from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s Outdoor Recreation Local Park Grant Program, the City of Kyle purchased property to develop a new park and expand outdoor recreation opportunities. The resulting Plum Creek Preserve and Nature Trail, which will total more than 300 acres and offer nature trails, fishing lakes, picnic areas, and a wildflower meadow, was recognized in the Public Planning and Policy category.

State Continues Rapid Population Growth

According to the latest population estimates released by the United States Census Bureau in June, many more people continue to call Texas home. Between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2009, the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex added 1.3 million people, a growth rate of approximately 25%. Four of the ten fastest-growing cities in the nation over this period are located in the Lone Star State, including No. 1 Frisco, a rapidly expanding community in the Dallas area. This growth was not limited to north central Texas. A number of areas across the state were among the fastest-growing in the nation, including Austin and surrounding cities. Austin grew to become the 15th largest city in the country, and neighboring communities have followed suit. A diversified economy was identified as a key factor in the population growth. As higher populations bring additional development to Central Texas and the Plum Creek Watershed, there will be many challenges in addressing the changing needs of the area. More growth will mean greater pressure on both the quality and quantity of local water resources. However, these challenges should be viewed as opportunities to develop innovative approaches that can lead the way in environmental stewardship. We have no other choice.
PCWP on Facebook

Find the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership on Facebook, the online social networking website, to follow along with watershed news and events.

Next Partnership Meeting

6-9 PM on August 12, 2010
Lockhart State Park Recreation Hall
Snacks will be provided before the meeting.

Lockhart State Park is located at 4179 State Park Road/FM 20 west of U.S. Highway 183 in Lockhart.

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Blue markers like the one shown soon will be installed at stormwater drains throughout the City of Kyle