

Residents in Plum Creek Watershed to discuss progress towards improving water quality

Contact: Pamela Casebolt

TEMPLE, TEXAS – Residents living in the Plum Creek Watershed are continuing their efforts toward water quality protection and will soon be discussing a number of topics concerning watershed health at an upcoming meeting.

The Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Steering Committee, a diverse group of stakeholders who live and work in the watershed, will meet at 6:30 p.m. on December 9, 2010 at the Lockhart State Park in Lockhart.

A highlight of the meeting will be a discussion by Jared Timmons Texas Agrilife Extension Service assistant and Dr. Jim Cathey, Texas Agrilife Extension Service wildlife specialist. They will update the committee on feral hog activity and education efforts to control this invasive species in the area.

Information for agricultural producers will be presented by BJ Westmoreland, Caldwell-Travis Soil and Water Conservation District technician. He will discuss the implementation of beneficial land management practices and cost-share funding available to eligible landowners.

“We will also discuss the long-term sustainability of the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership, the recent wastewater spill and fish kill on Plum Creek, as well as other implementation activities around the watershed,” said Pamela Casebolt, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) Project Manager. “This is a great opportunity to learn about the successes and struggles watershed landowners are facing as they work to improve water quality.”

Plum Creek is a 52-mile stream that begins in Hays County north of Kyle and flows southeast through Caldwell County, passing Lockhart and Luling to its confluence with the San Marcos River near the Caldwell-Gonzales County line. With additional flow from Clear Fork, West Fork, Bunton Branch, Town Branch, Salt Branch, and other small streams, Plum Creek and its tributaries drain an area of 397 square miles. Other municipalities with all or part of their city limits within the watershed include Buda, Niederwald, Uhland, Mustang Ridge, and Mountain City.

Funding and support for the development and implementation of the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan is provided through federal Clean Water Act §319(h) Nonpoint Source grant from the TSSWCB and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information about the Plum Creek Watershed, including an agenda for this meeting, visit <http://plumcreek.tamu.edu/> or contact Casebolt at pcasebolt@tsswcb.state.tx.us or 254-773-2250.

The TSSWCB is the lead agency for planning, implementing, and managing programs and practices for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint sources of water pollution. The agency also coordinates the programs and activities of the state's 216 soil and water conservation districts, administers a water supply enhancement program for the selective control of water-depleting brush, and facilitates the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee.