

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



The Plum Creek Current Newsletter
A Newsletter of the Plum Creek Watershed
Partnership

Volume 3 Issue 1
September 2011

Dear Nikkoal,

The Plum Creek Watershed Partnership has developed a Watershed Protection Plan as a proactive approach to restoring and protecting water quality in the Plum Creek Watershed located in Caldwell, Travis and Hays Counties in South Central Texas. The watershed planning process is a voluntary process that has led to key recommendations including public outreach and a variety of management practices. Efforts to implement the plan are occurring throughout the watershed, implementation is underway in rural and urban areas to address water quality issues, including *E. coli* bacteria and nutrient levels. A new Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source grant has been submitted to EPA through the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and we are awaiting final approval of the grant. If approved the grant will fund another three years of implementation and education efforts in the watershed. This grant will be made possible through the support of many of our partners who will be providing the \$48,000/year in match required for grant. We would like to thank everyone involved in this process towards the long-term sustainability of the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership's efforts to implement the Watershed Protection Plan and improve water quality.

Please browse the newsletter articles below and [website](#) to find out more and stay involved with water quality improvement in the Plum Creek Watershed!

Water quality-related financial incentives
available to qualifying Plum Creek



Upcoming Meetings

Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Meeting

Thursday,
November 10,
2010 at 6:30 PM

Lockhart State Park

Recreation Hall
4179 State Park
Road/FM 20
(west of US-183)
Lockhart, Texas
78644

**4th Annual Plum
Creek/ Town
Branch/Lockhart
Springs Cleanup**

Watershed Landowners



LOCKHART - With the prolonged drought conditions throughout Texas, residents of the Plum Creek Watershed area who own livestock would be well-advised to plan and implement alternative watering facilities that meet water quality management plan criteria, said area water conservation professionals. An alternative watering facility is a permanent or portable off-stream water supply that can be a trough, pond or similar system providing an adequate quantity and quality of drinking water for livestock and/or wildlife. Some alternative water facilities may require drilling a well and/or the use of an electrical or solar pump or windmill to bring water to the surface.

According to B.J. Westmoreland, district technician for the Caldwell-Travis Soil and Water Conservation District, residents of the Plum Creek Watershed can apply for financial assistance through the district to defray much of the cost for approved water quality protection practices such as alternative watering facilities. "We're hoping to further encourage water conservation in Plum Creek by making residents aware of the availability of financial incentives to implement some water quality management practices, especially alternative livestock watering facilities, which are vital given the prolonged drought," he said.

Westmoreland said the Caldwell-Travis Soil and Water Conservation District, Hays County Soil and Water Conservation District and Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board have partnered to provide technical assistance and financial incentives to ranchers and farmers that will help reduce bacteria and nutrient levels in Plum Creek through the implementation of best management practices on agricultural lands.

"The financial assistance portion of approved water conservation practices typically covers 60 percent of implementation costs and can apply for approved practices costing up to \$15,000," he said. "Plum Creek area landowners

Event

**This Saturday
September 24,
2011**

**Register at
Lockhart City
Park Pavilion
9:00 am**

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Quick Links

[Watershed
Protection Plan](#)

[News](#)

[Feral Hogs](#)

[More On Us](#)



Project Sponsors

This publication was developed with funding support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through a Clean Water Act §319(h) Nonpoint Source grant administered by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

can request, free of charge, a water quality management plan for their property through their local soil and water conservation district. This plan would include water conservation practices eligible for financial assistance, including alternative watering facilities." [Click here to view the entire article!](#)

Extension Pubs provide info on porcine pest



COLLEGE STATION - Though feral hogs are well-known pests to landowners throughout the state, there is still much people are unaware of regarding their behavior and what may be done to manage them, said Texas AgriLife Extension Service experts. To help fill in the blanks on feral hogs, a group of AgriLife Extension experts have developed several fact sheets relating to management of this problematic species, said Dr. Jim Cathey, a specialist in wildlife ecology at Texas A&M University in College Station and contributing author to these publications.

"We tried to address the realistic and practical aspects of feral hog identification and management through these publications," Cathey said. "Their content is based on what we know from our individual experience and professional expertise, as well as from input received from farmers, ranchers and other landowners who have had encounters with feral hogs." The new fact sheets address topics ranging from recognizing evidence of feral hogs to methods of capturing these non-native animals.

Feral hogs cause an estimated \$52 million in damages to the Texas agriculture industry each year. They also cause problems in suburban areas, and in rural areas they compete with wildlife for food, cover, and space. "Feral hogs not only damage crops and other property in the Plum Creek Watershed and other areas of the state, they also have been identified as a possible source of non-point pollution to the water table in many locations," McFarland said. "And their aggressive rooting and wallowing contributes to the problem of soil erosion in many areas of the state."

The new fact sheets can be found on the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership website at <http://pcwp.tamu.edu/feral-hogs/capture-techniques> and may be downloaded free from that site. Color versions of these publications may be obtained for a charge from the Texas AgriLife Extension Bookstore at <https://agrilifebookstore.org>, and also are available in Spanish from that site. [Click here for the full article!](#)

Plum Creek Partners



Caldwell County

Hays County

Buda

Kyle

Lockhart

Luling

Umland

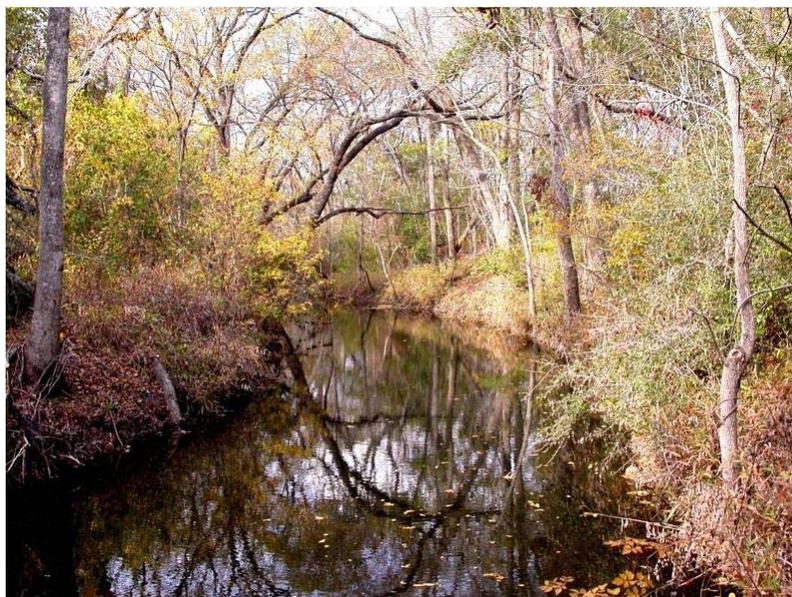
Guadalupe-Blanco
River Authority

Plum Creek
Conservation
District

Polonia Water
Supply Corporation

Caldwell-Travis Soil
and Water
Conservation
District

Hays County Soil
and Water
Conservation
District



San Marco River
Foundation

Texas Parks and
Wildlife
Department

Lockhart State
Park

Luling Foundation

Texas AgriLife
Extension Service

Plum Creek Long-term Sustainability Meetings a Great Success!

CENTRAL TEXAS - Meetings were held recently with members of Plum Creek Watershed Partnership - a collaboration of cities, agencies, organizations and citizens in Central Texas - to help ensure long-term sustainability of the partnership and secure matching funds for a new grant proposal, said partnership officials.

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority led the effort to develop and submit a new three-year grant proposal for \$360,000 of additional funding from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. The purpose of the grant if received, will be to fund a local watershed coordinator position and implement educational activities related to watershed protection and management, according to partnership participants.

The coordinator position would be located in Lockhart, but will work across the entire watershed area, especially Caldwell and Hays counties, said Nikki Dictson, Texas AgriLife Extension Service program specialist in College Station and current project coordinator. The new coordinator will conduct water resource and related environmental outreach and education efforts across the watershed, as identified in the watershed protection plan.

"The partnership is currently in the third year of implementation of the Plum Creek watershed protection plan funded through the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board by a Clean Water Act grant, and there already have been numerous efforts toward improving water quality within the watershed," Dictson said. "This project already has obtained over \$2 million in grant funding to implement a

protection plan for the Plum Creek watershed."

Debbie Magin, director of water quality services at the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, said the new funding will provide the partnership with a dedicated coordinator based in the watershed area, plus an enhanced ability to educate and inform watershed residents of all ages about the need for improved water quality and conservation. "Long-term sustainability of the partnership has been a major discussion for the last three years," Dictson said.

Dictson and Magin coordinated sustainability meetings with area city councils, county commissioners, water boards and other entities within the partnership to provide updates on the watershed protection project and coordinate development and approval of the interlocal agreement.

"These meetings resulted in the development of an interlocal agreement with area partner entities to provide the 40 percent local matching funds required to secure the new implementation grant," Dictson said. The \$120,000 annual budget for the new project will require \$48,000 in matching funds.

The 12 collaborating entities that have signed the interlocal agreement are: Caldwell County, Hays County, the cities of Lockhart, Luling, Kyle, Umland and Buda, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, Plum Creek Conservation District, Polonia Water Supply Corporation, the Hays County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Caldwell-Travis Soil and Water Conservation District.

[Click here for more about the Plum Creek Long-term Sustainability Effort!](#)

New Plum Creek Watershed Kiosk at Kyle City Hall



Want to know more about the Plum Creek Watershed, water treatment or watersheds, in general? Then plan to explore the new Plum Creek kiosk at the Kyle City Hall.

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) and the City of Kyle invite the public to view a new interactive kiosk, and learn more about the serious subject of water.

The kiosk displays educational modules by touch screen, and the user can listen to mini-lessons on a myriad of water subjects, such as watersheds and nonpoint source

pollution, the wastewater treatment process, and the operation and maintenance of aerobic and conventional septic systems.

"The kiosk will also include links to real-time data for Plum Creek, which means that folks will be able to look at the current temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, turbidity, and flow," said Cinde Thomas-Jimenez, GBRA environmental education administrator.

"For historical data, including bacteria, the kiosk also will have links to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Clean Rivers Program, GBRA, the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership, and the city of Kyle's website," said Thomas-Jimenez. Visitors may use the kiosk during the city hall's business hours.

Kiosks are also located at the Luling and Lockhart Public Libraries. [Click here for the rest of this Article!](#)

We look forward to seeing all of you at our next Quarterly Partnership Meeting on Thursday, November 10, 2011 in Lockhart at the Lockhart State Park. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,

Nikki Dictson

Nikki Dictson

Plum Creek Watershed Partnership



[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to ndictson@ag.tamu.edu by ndictson@ag.tamu.edu | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Plum Creek Watershed Partnership | 2474 TAMU | 355A Heep Center | College Station | TX | 77843-2474