

Practices Eligible for Cost-Share Assistance

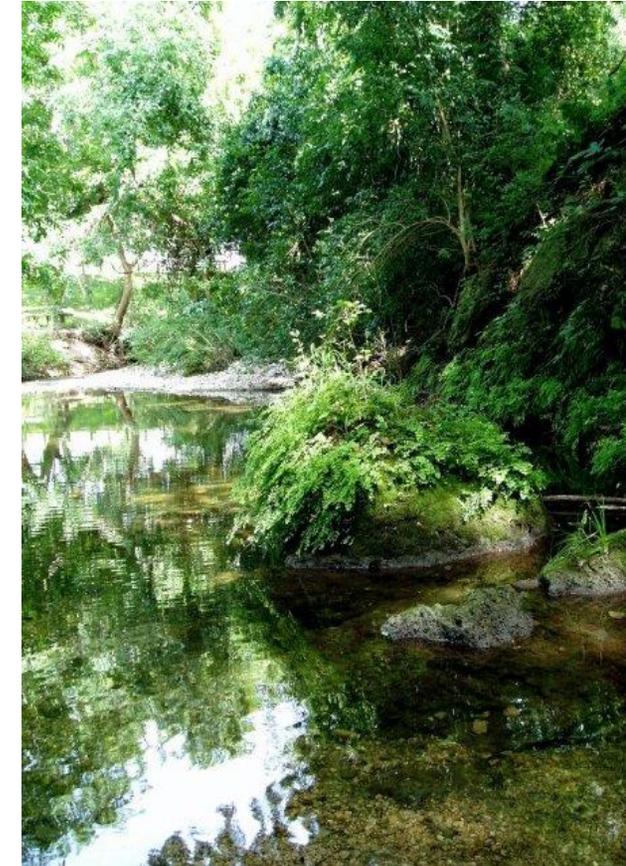
1. Watering Facility
2. Water Well
3. Pumping Plant
4. Pipeline
5. Cross Fencing
6. Riparian Herbaceous Buffer
7. Riparian Forest Buffer
8. Rangeland Planting
9. Pasture and Hayland Planting
10. Grassed Waterways
11. Field Borders
12. Filter Strips
13. Critical Area Planting



Caldwell-Travis Soil and Water
Conservation District
and
Hays County Soil and Water
Conservation District



TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR RANCHERS AND FARMERS IN THE PLUM CREEK WATERSHED



B.J. Westmoreland

District Technician

Caldwell-Travis Soil and Water Conservation District

1403-D Blackjack Street

Lockhart, TX 78644

512-398-2121 ext. 3

bradford.westmoreland@tx.nacdnet.net

<http://plumcreek.tamu.edu/>

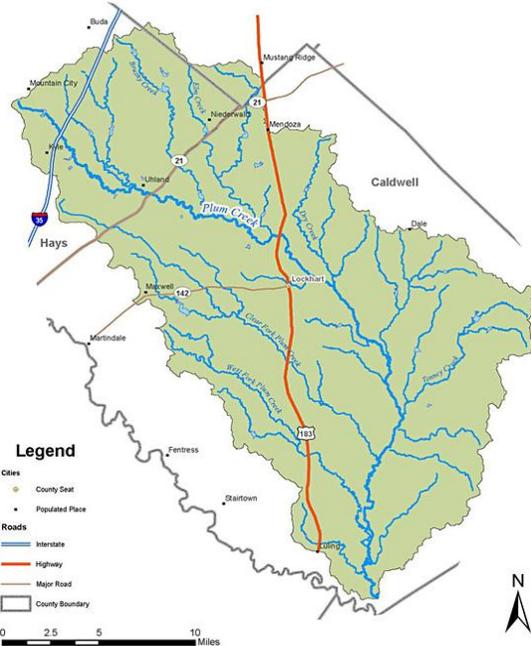


Caldwell-Travis Soil and Water
Conservation District
and
Hays County Soil and Water
Conservation District

Plum Creek Watershed

In 1998 and 2002, water quality data in Plum Creek indicated high levels of nutrients and bacteria. By 2004, some stretches of Plum Creek in both urban and rural areas were identified as not meeting the State Water Quality Standard for bacteria and not supporting contact recreation (swimming and wading). High levels of bacteria suggest fecal contamination and the possible presence of pathogens which pose a health risk to humans. Elevated levels of nutrients can affect dissolved oxygen levels impacting aquatic life (fish).

Through analysis of water quality data from across the watershed, human (wastewater treatment facilities and septic systems) and animal (livestock, pets, wildlife) waste was identified as a significant potential contributor of pollutants to Plum Creek. Additionally, runoff from cropland and urban land was identified as a potential contributor of nutrients to the creek.



The Caldwell-Travis Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the Hays County SWCD, and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) have partnered to provide technical and financial assistance to ranchers and farmers in order to reduce bacteria and nutrients in Plum Creek through the implementation of best management practices on agricultural lands. Through a grant from the TSSWCB, the Caldwell-Travis SWCD will aid producers in the development, certification, and implementation of water quality management plans (WQMPs) on pastureland, rangeland, and cropland.

What is a Water Quality Management Plan?



with SWCDs, to be consistent with State Water Quality Standards.

A WQMP is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by SWCDs for agricultural and silvicultural lands. The plan includes appropriate land treatment practices, production practices, management measures, technologies or combinations thereof. The purpose of a WQMP is to achieve a level of pollution prevention or abatement determined by the TSSWCB, in consultation

Process for Obtaining a WQMP

1. An owner or operator of agricultural land in the Plum Creek watershed requests planning assistance through the Caldwell-Travis or Hays County SWCDs.
2. The Caldwell-Travis SWCD Technician will provide technical assistance to individuals throughout the watershed in the development of a WQMP. There is no charge to the producer for the development of the WQMP.
3. The WQMP is agreed to by the landowner and then reviewed and certified by the TSSWCB.
4. The individual implements the WQMP on their land. Cost-share is available from the SWCDs and TSSWCB for certain practices in the WQMP.
5. The Caldwell-Travis SWCD Technician will conduct annual status reviews on all WQMPs implemented throughout the watershed to ensure that the landowners implement BMPs as specified and agreed to in the WQMP implementation schedule.



Benefits of Participating

By partnering with the Caldwell-Travis and Hays County SWCDs to implement a WQMP on your agricultural land, you will:

- ❖ Demonstrate that voluntary conservation programs promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals.
- ❖ Implement the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan to restore water quality in our local streams and creeks.
- ❖ Demonstrate to the State of Texas that you are voluntarily using the best available technology to prevent nonpoint source water pollution and comply with State Water Quality Standards.
- ❖ Have a strategic plan developed for your agricultural operation to help you make decisions on how to best manage your natural resources.
- ❖ Demonstrate to other sectors in the watershed (industry, municipalities, urban residents) that agriculture is doing our part to protect our local water resources.
- ❖ Enhance the value of your operation and achieve watershed-wide environmental goals at the same time.
- ❖ Be eligible for certain forms of cost-share to help defray costs of implementing management practices on your land.

