



Lavaca River

Watershed Protection Plan

Project updates

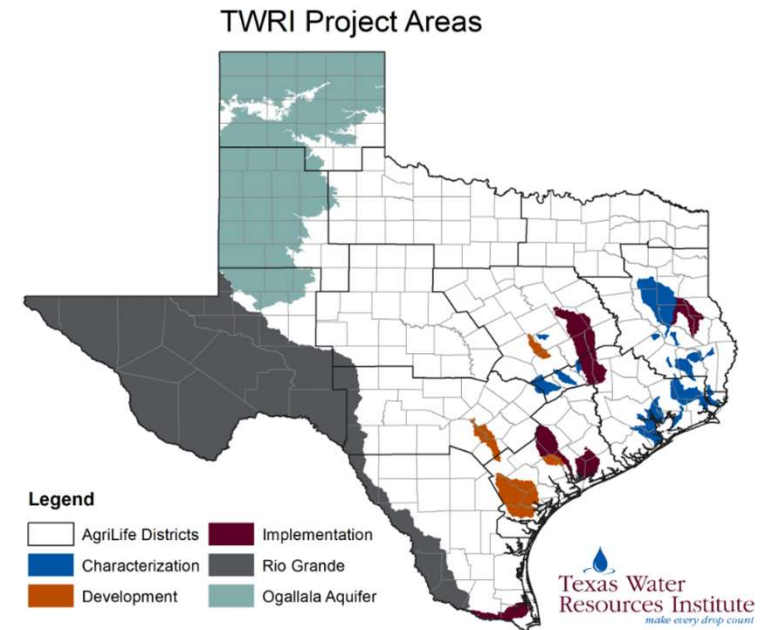
Emily Monroe
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Texas Water Resources Institute

February 27, 2020

Riparian & Stream Ecosystem Training



- Established by Water Resources Research Act (1964) to address existing and emerging water issues
- Focus Areas
 - Restoring and Protecting
 - Sustaining and Enhancing
 - Engaging and Educating
- Funding Offered
 - USGS/Mills Student Scholarships
 - Water Seed Grant





TEXAS + WATER

A CO-PUBLICATION OF

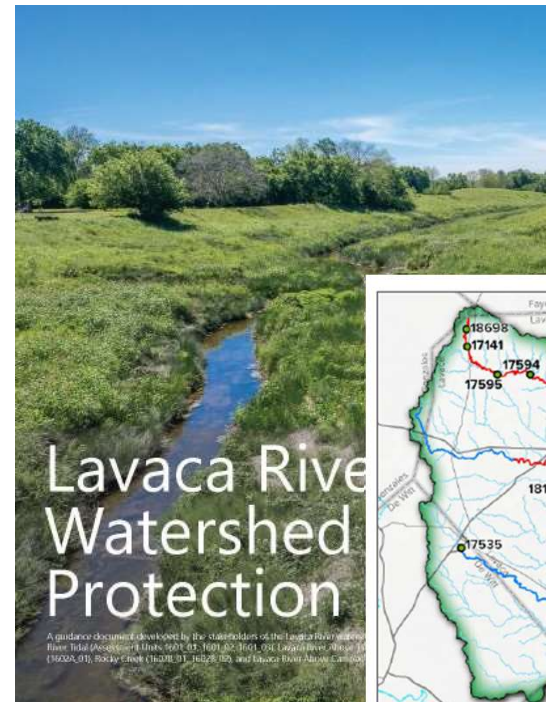






LAVACA RIVER WPP

- Lavaca River and Rocky Creek
 - impaired due to elevated levels of bacteria, especially *E. coli*.
 - Low dissolved oxygen
- Plan developed by TWRI and local residents, and was accepted in April 2018 by the EPA
- Our goal is to educate residents on how they can protect their water resources through **voluntary** management measures.
- WPP covers:
 - General watershed management
 - Characterizes the Lavaca River watershed
 - Water quality standards
 - Pollutant sources in the watershed
 - Education and outreach efforts
 - Identifies potential resources/funding



FUTURE EVENTS

- May 12, 2020, Edna:
 - **Healthy Lawns, Healthy Waters (hlhw.tamu.edu)**
 - Rainwater harvesting
 - Regionally appropriate turf selection and landscaping
 - Efficient irrigation strategies
- Late Summer/Fall 2020, Hallettsville:
 - **Texas Watershed Stewards (tw.s.tamu.edu)**
 - Interactive education opportunity
 - Learn about improving your watershed

NEWSLETTER

- First newsletter released June 2019
- Are you on our e-mail list?

Lavaca River

Watershed Protection Plan
Summer 2019 Newsletter

Thank you for your interest in the Lavaca River Watershed Protection Plan annual newsletter! This newsletter will serve as an avenue for keeping Lavaca River Watershed residents informed of water quality updates and activities in the area.

The waters of the Lavaca River and Rocky Creek are impaired due to elevated levels of bacteria, primarily *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*). Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI), a part of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, worked with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and more than 100 local stakeholders to develop a watershed protection plan (WPP) that outlines the voluntary strategies needed to achieve water quality goals. The WPP was accepted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in April 2018. The overall goal of the WPP is to restore water quality in the Lavaca River and Rocky Creek as well as to reduce the amount of runoff pollutants entering the tidal portions of the river.

Implementation Kick-Off Meeting

TCEQ held a kick-off meeting for the Lavaca River Watershed Protection Plan Implementation Project on October 1, 2018 at its office in Austin, TX. The WPP implementation project in its current iteration will run until August 31, 2021.

Our main focus for the project is to implement the 10-year strategy to improve the water quality of the Lavaca River and Rocky Creek through the voluntary management measures outlined in the WPP. For the initial three years of the project, water quality will be tracked through monthly monitoring by the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority (LNRA) at four different locations. Upcoming outreach and educational programs will help local residents learn about water conservation practices they can adopt in their homes and throughout their property.

Quality Assurance

How do we know that the water quality has changed? We want to be sure that the time and effort put into

A map of the Lavaca River Watershed.

these conservation efforts are impacting the water quality. TCEQ implements Lavaca River Watershed Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP) for all projects that include water sampling for the purpose of delisting water bodies from the TCEQ Texas Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality, commonly called the "303(d) list," which references the sections of the federal Clean Water Act.

The implementation project includes monthly water sampling to monitor ongoing water quality changes. LNRA will collect water samples that will tell us the concentration of *E. coli* in the sample and the pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen level, specific conductance, nitrogen level, total suspended solids and streamflow in the rivers. The water monitoring team will follow the QAPP's strict guidelines so the samples are of the highest quality and truly representative of the water bodies. The team will perform annual audits to ensure compliance with the QAPP requirements. A copy of the QAPP is available on the WPP [website](#).

The Lavaca River Watershed Protection Plan Implementation Project is funded through a Clean Water Act, Section 319(b) Nonpoint Source Management grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Keep up to date with ongoing activities in the watershed by visiting our website and following TWRI on social media:

@txwri

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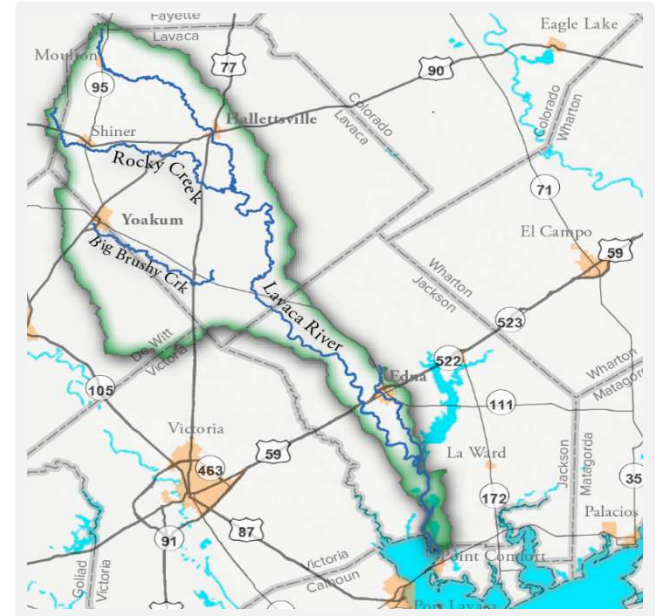
Questions?

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Texas Water
Resources Institute
make every drop count

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