



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.

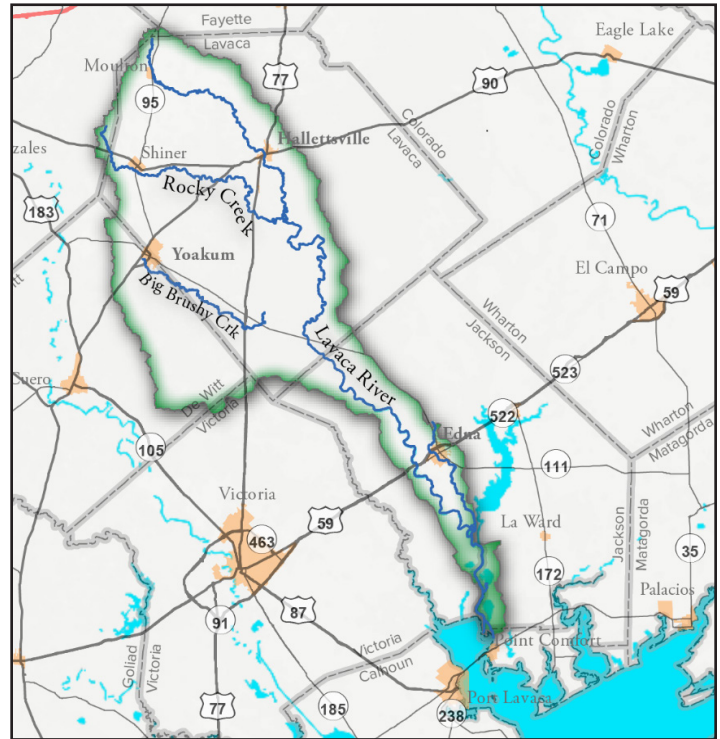
Implementation Kick-Off Meeting

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](#).

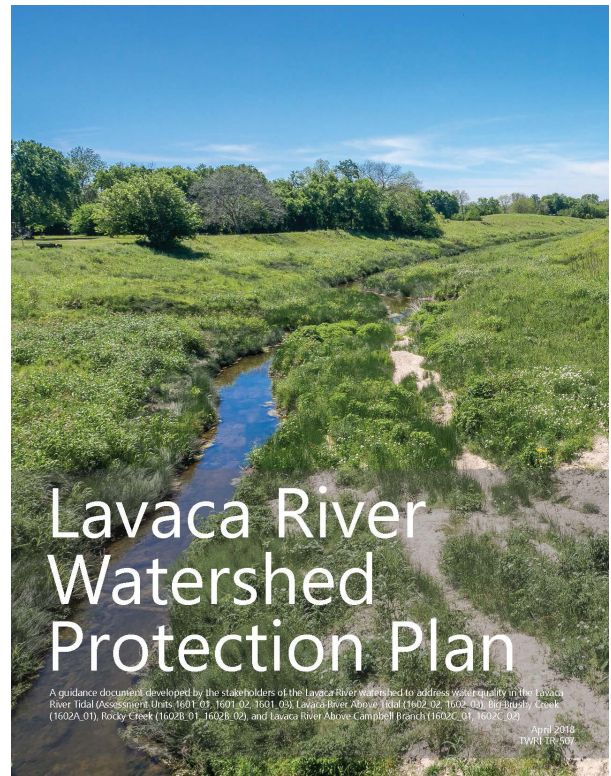
Available Education & Outreach Programs

We will soon be bringing high quality educational programs to the watershed and educational materials that you can distribute to your friends, family and coworkers. There are a variety of available programs/topics, a few of which are listed below. Are there any that sound particularly interesting? Do you have any other ideas for workshops or topics? Let us know!

- Feral Hog workshop
- Texas Watershed Stewards
- On-Site Sewage Facility (Septic System) Homeowner Operation and Maintenance
- Texas Well Owner Network
- Rainwater Harvesting workshop
- Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Education

Read the protection plan:

<http://bit.ly/2RplJln>



Questions about the watershed? Contact:

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

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