

Texas Watershed Steward Program: A Water Resource Training Curriculum

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Texas Watershed Steward Program

- ◆ A community-based water resource educational training to enhance stakeholder involvement in watershed protection plan initiatives.
- ◆ Partnership between Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE) and Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB).
- ◆ Funding to implement program statewide received through a CWA 319(h) grant through TSSWCB from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – began Sept 1.



TWS Program Goals

1. Enhance stakeholder involvement in the WPP/TMDL development processes.
2. Increase citizen awareness, understanding, and knowledge of the nature and function of watersheds, potential impairments, and watershed protection strategies.
3. Empower individuals to take leadership roles involving community water issues.



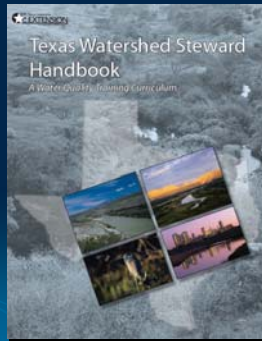
TWS Program Curriculum

- 5 chapters
- Covers the basics
- Written in non-technical language
- Reviewed by:
 - WCSC
 - Extension faculty/staff
 - Professional editor with Agricultural Communications at Texas A&M
 - CSREES program partners



TWS Curriculum Handbook

- ◆ 140 pages
- ◆ Provided to each participant to supplement training program
- ◆ Will be available through TCE bookstore and TWS website



Chapter 1: Program Introduction

- ◆ About the Texas Watershed Steward Program
- ◆ Who are Texas Watershed Stewards?
- ◆ The Importance of Watershed Stewardship
- ◆ Texas Water Facts



Chapter 2: Overview of Watershed Systems

- ◆ What is a Watershed?
- ◆ Watersheds in Texas
- ◆ How do Texans Use Watersheds?
- ◆ Principles of Watershed Hydrology
- ◆ Natural Watershed Functions
- ◆ Natural Watershed Features



Chapter 3: Overview of Watershed Impairments

- ◆ Water Quantity and Quality
- ◆ Point and Nonpoint Sources of Pollution
- ◆ Consequences of Impaired Water Quality
- ◆ How Land Use Affects Water Quantity and Quality
- ◆ Water Quality Law and Policy in Texas
- ◆ Water Quality Testing, Monitoring and Regulation



Chapter 4: Managing to Improve Watershed Function

- Using a Watershed Approach
- Water Quality Improvement Projects (WPPs, TMDLs)
- Best Management Practices
- Water Quality Stewardship on Small Acreages
- Protecting Water Quality Around the Home



Chapter 5: Community-Driven Watershed Protection and Management

- Importance of Local Watershed Involvement
- Forming and Sustaining Community Watershed Organizations and Partnerships



Appendices

- Water on the Web
 - Lists important web sites by topic (BMPs, funding, watersheds, water quality, etc.)
- Community Activities
 - Lists potential activities that TX Watershed Stewards can do in their watershed (stream cleanup, stakeholder survey, storm drain stenciling, etc.)
- Water Agencies and Organizations
 - Lists important federal, state, University, and other entities responsible for water management in TX

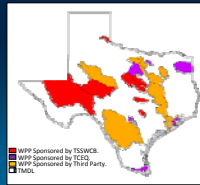
TWS Trainings

- 1-day training
 - Trying to reach a broader audience
 - No "master" requirements
- PowerPoint and other interactive activities/displays:
 - Google Earth
 - Rainfall simulator
 - Stations: WQ impairments, WQ monitoring equipment, watershed management scenarios, etc.
- FREE (for now)
 - Will eventually look into fee-based options



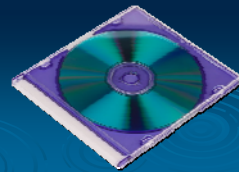
TWS Training Locations

- ◆ Trainings located in various watersheds throughout Texas
- ◆ Will begin in the Plum Creek Watershed in Oct/Nov.
- ◆ Other watersheds selected with help of WCSC, TSSWCB, TCEQ, and other requests from project partners.
 - Priority given to those in early stages of WPP/TMDL development and those planning future efforts



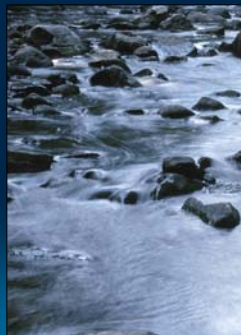
Computer-Based TWS Training

- ◆ Web and CD-ROM training tools
- ◆ For interested citizens unable to commit to full-day TWS training
- ◆ Will parallel watershed-based trainings



Educational Credits

- ◆ Approved to provide participants:
 - 7 CCA CEUs (soil & water)
 - 3 TDA CEUs (general)
 - 7 CPEs (for certified teachers in science)
 - Available for watershed-based and computer-based training.



Promotional Items

- ◆ Participants will receive:
 - Curriculum handbook
 - Certificate of completion
 - T-shirt
 - Water bottle
 - Magnet
 - Bumper sticker
 - Pen
 - Pencil



Program Marketing

- ◆ Multi-faceted approach:
 - Brochure
 - Fact sheet
 - Post cards (for direct mail)
 - Project poster
 - Promotional items
 - Banner
 - News releases:
 - MG/MN newsletters, email listservs
 - CEA newspaper columns/newsletters
 - Texas Coop Magazine
 - HOA newsletters, websites
 - Texas Education Agency course catalog



Program Evaluation

- ◆ 2-phase evaluation approach:
 1. Pre-test/Post-test
 2. Delayed post-test
- ◆ Will evaluate:
 - Knowledge gained
 - Satisfaction with program
 - “Intentions to change”



TEXAS WATERSHED STEWARD PROGRAM

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