

Update and Status of Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan

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Plum Creek Watershed Partnership

- December 15, 2005 - Plum Creek was selected by the Wharton Regional WCSC as the pilot watershed
- January 6, 2006 - Meeting with Local County Agents, GBRA, and PCCD
- Watershed Tour with County Agents, GBRA, PCCD, Texas Parks and Wildlife and Tom Bonn, County Commissioner.
- January thru March – Meetings and Media Promoting Project including the website: <http://pcwp.tamu.edu>



Meetings Promoting Plum Creek Watershed Partnership

- Caldwell-Travis County SWCD and Hays SWCD Board Meetings on January 11, 2006 and February 1, 2006
- Plum Creek Conservation District Board Meeting on Jan. 17
- Guadalupe Blanco River Authority Board Meeting on Feb. 15
- Guadalupe Blanco River Authority Clean Rivers Steering Committee Meeting March 23, 2006
- Hays County Wildlife Management Training on April 29, 2006
- Luling Kiwanis Club Meeting on May 10, 2006
- Luling Foundation Farm Field Day on May 8, 2006
- Kyle's Citizens Water Advisory Group Meeting on May 25, 2006
- TXDOT SH-130 Project Team



Media Promotion

- TCE News Releases since January
 - Jan. 27, 2006, Texas Cooperative Extension Partnering in Plum Creek Watershed Pilot Program
 - March 30, 2006, Public Invited to Join Plum Creek Watershed Project
 - April 13, 2006, Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Under Way; Meetings Set for Kyle and Luling
 - April 19, 2006, Media Advisory: Watershed Meetings Set for Kyle, Luling
 - June 5, 2006, Public Invited to Plum Creek Watershed Project Meeting
 - June 8, 2006, Preventive Measures Can Help Protect Plum Creek Watershed
- TSSWCB News Release in January 6, 2006 – Plum Creek Selected for Watershed Protection Plan



Websites and Brochures

- Created the Texas Watershed Steward Website <http://twsw.tamu.edu> and informational brochure (fact sheet).
- Created the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Website <http://pcwp.tamu.edu> and informational brochure (fact sheet).
- Mailed out 700 brochures and invitations to the three Public Meetings and resent them after the first meeting.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Texas Watershed Steward website. The header includes the Texas Cooperative EXTENSION logo and navigation links: BECOME A STEWARD, MAPS, LINKS, OPPORTUNITIES, NEWSLETTERS, GIS DATA & TSSWCB. The main content area features a navigation menu on the left with links to HOME, ABOUT US, CONTACT US, CURRICULUM, WORKSHOPS, WATERSHED PROTECTION PLANNING, PROJECTS, PUBLICATIONS, PARTNERS, and MWIS IN OTHER STATES. The main text area is titled "TEXAS WATERSHED STEWARD" and contains introductory text about the program's goals and a list of states where it is implemented: ARIZONA, OREGON, IOWA, and WASHINGTON. There are two photographs: one of a river and one of a group of people. A footer section discusses public participation in watershed management.

Texas Watershed Steward Program Support of Local Watershed Awareness and Implementation

The program will support local watershed implementation by:

- Enhancing local awareness
- Increasing involvement in watershed and water quality management and protection activities
- Identifying, coordinating and delivering watershed education workshops
- Promoting local activities such as stream walks and clean ups, soil testing campaigns, well testing and abandoned well closure programs, etc.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership website. The header includes the Texas Cooperative EXTENSION logo and the pcwp logo. The main content area features a navigation menu on the left with links to HOME, PROJECT OVERVIEW, MEETINGS, WATER QUALITY, NEWSLETTER, LINKS, and PARTNERS. The main text area is titled "plum creek watershed partnership" and contains introductory text about the partnership's goals and a list of states where it is implemented: ARIZONA, OREGON, IOWA, and WASHINGTON. There is a photograph of a river. A footer section discusses public participation in watershed management.

Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Meetings

- April 2006 – Three Public Meetings in Watershed (116)
- May 9, 2006 – First Steering Committee Meeting (49)
- June 20, 2006 – Steering Committee Meeting/Work Groups (42)
- July 2006 – Five Work Group Meetings
- July 27, 2006 – Watershed Tour (62)
- August 10, 2006 - Second Steering Committee Meeting (45)
- September 2006 – Five Work Group Meetings
- October 26, 2006 – Steering Committee Meeting

Steering Committee

- Steering Committee has 27 members
 - Members are composed of local landowners, city representatives, county commissioners, GBRA, PCCD, local businesses, etc.
 - Members developed, approved, and signed a “Ground Rules” document defining their roles.
 - Facilitated Steering Committee to identify key areas of concern for formation of Workgroups.



Workgroups

- 5 Workgroups established
 - Outreach and Education
 - Urban Stormwater and NPS
 - Agriculture NPS
 - Wastewater Infrastructure/Industry
 - Water Quality and Habitat
- Composition: Steering Committee members, other interested stakeholders and agencies.



Work Group Tasks

- Identify pollutant sources
- Gather data and information and identify gaps
- Estimate pollutant loads
- Set Goals and Objectives
- Identify BMPs that could be implemented to reduce pollution
- Identify Outreach and Education that is needed
- Develop an Implementation Schedule



Texas Watershed Steward Modules:

- Working Through a Watershed Action Group and Conflict Resolution
- Principles of Watershed Hydrology
- Primary Nonpoint Source Pollution Types
- Regulatory structure, laws and policy impacting water
- Water Quality Testing and Monitoring
- Agricultural BMPs for Protecting Water Quality and Quantity
- Residential BMPs for Protecting Water Quality and Quantity
- Stream and Wetland Evaluation, Clean-Up and Restoration
- Well-head Identification and Protection
- Riparian Area Management for Protecting and Improving Water Quality
- Small Acreage Water Quality Stewardship

Watershed Tour

- Requested by Steering Committee
- On July 27 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.
- Tour Stops included:
 - Plum Creek Subdivision in Kyle at headwaters
 - GBRA's Plum Creek Sampling Site near Uhland
 - Bar-B-Que Lunch at Smitty's provided by GBRA
 - Local Historian presentation by Donaly Brice
 - Lockhart Springs in Lockhart
 - Don Meador's Agricultural Livestock Operation at his Lease Property along a major tributary of Plum Creek
 - Drive on south eastern side of Watershed / Oil Wells
- Lockhart WWTP Tour by GBRA



Texas Department of State Health Services Fish Consumption Advisories

- <http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/bfds/ssd/fiscount.html>
- There are no fish consumption advisories for Plum Creek on the website
- There have not been any studies or assessments in the Plum Creek Watershed
- TCEQ is working on putting Plum Creek on the list for a phase 1 assessment, so it will be assessed in the future.



USGS Gage 08172400 on Plum Creek

- Through TCEQ, we became aware USGS had listed this gage, which has a 46-year record, for discontinuation in October 2006.
- This led to discussions with USGS and USGS indicated they were aware of this Plum Creek WPP project and would forego discontinuation this next fiscal year.
- However, this would not exclude USGS, and the funding partner TWDB, from potentially including this gage on next year's list.
- TSSWCB, TXDOT, GBRA and others will continue discussions to keep the USGS Gage.



Modeling

- Spatially-explicit Geographic Information System (GIS) methodology - SELECT
- Load Duration Curves
- SPAtially Referenced Regressions On Watershed attributes - SPARROW
- Soil and Water Assessment Tool - SWAT



Marketing Campaign

- Outreach and Education Work Group created a branding survey.
- The survey was given to the rest of the work groups to fill out with responses and sent to the partnership by email.
- Are working on a logo and marketing brochure on the project.



Thanks!

Questions?

