

Texas Watershed Steward Program: A Water Resource Training Curriculum

Jennifer Peterson
Program Specialist
Texas Cooperative Extension
Texas A&M University



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) – to begin Sept 1.

TWS Program Goals

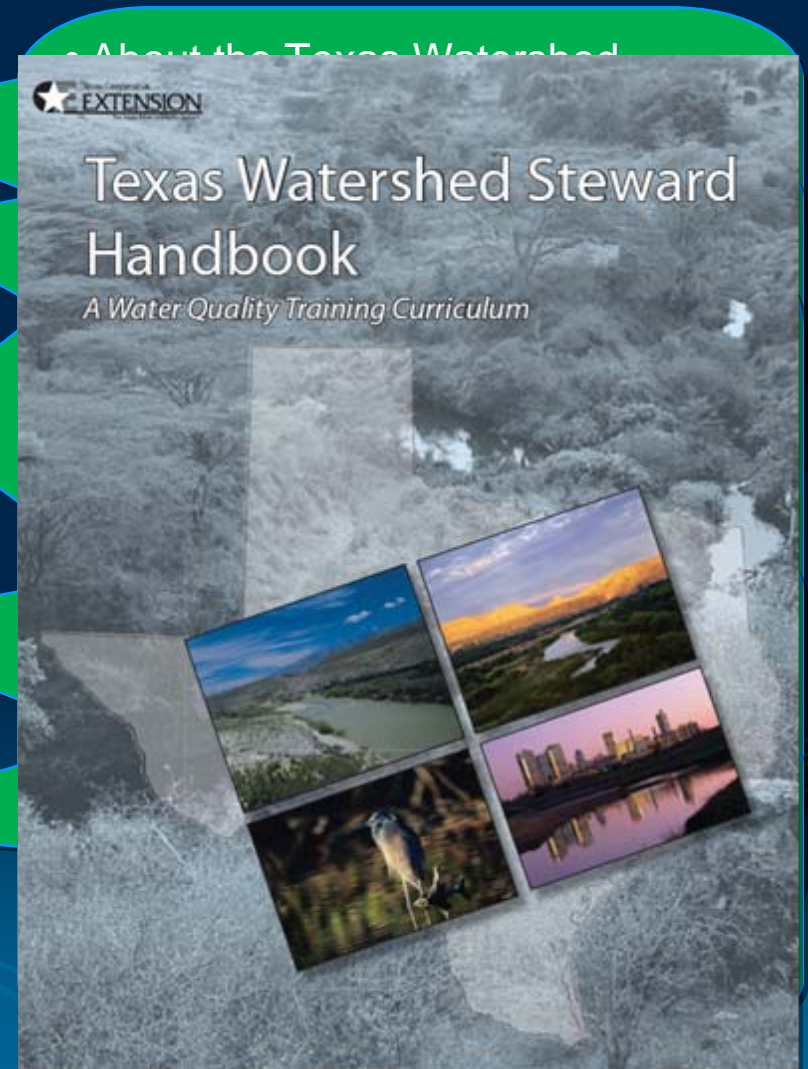
1. Enhance stakeholder involvement in the WPP/TMDL development processes.
2. Increase citizen awareness, understanding, and knowledge of the nature and function of watersheds, potential impairments, and watershed protection strategies.
3. Empower individuals to take leadership roles involving community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

TWS Trainings

- 1-day training
 - Reach a broader audience
 - No “master” requirements
- Trainings in various watersheds throughout Texas
 - Will begin in the Plum Creek Watershed in Oct/Nov.
 - Other watersheds selected with help of WCSC, TSSWCB, and other requests from project partners.
- Participants receive certificate of completion, 7 CCA CEUs (soil & water), 3 TDA CEUs (general), and 7 CPEs (science).

TWS Training Curriculum

1. Program Introduction
2. Overview of Watershed Systems
3. Overview of Watershed Impairments
4. Managing to Improve Watershed Function
5. Community-Driven Watershed Protection and Management



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



Program Marketing

- ◆ Multi-faceted approach:
 - Brochure
 - Fact sheet
 - Post cards (for direct mail)
 - Project Poster
 - Banner
 - Press 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
Post Test – Urban Audiences

Your views on the quality and effectiveness of Extension programs are extremely important. Please take a few minutes to tell us about your experience with this meeting. Your answers to the following questions will help us better meet your needs in the future. Thank you!

Overall, how **satisfied** were you with the program?
 Not at all Slightly Somewhat Mostly Completely

If not "completely satisfied," please tell us what we could have done better in order for you to have been "completely satisfied?"

How **satisfied** were you with the following aspects of the program...

	Not at all	Slightly	Somewhat	Mostly	Completely
Quality of course materials	==	==	==	==	==
Location of the activity	==	==	==	==	==
Information being accurate	==	==	==	==	==
Information being new to you	==	==	==	==	==
Information being easy to understand	==	==	==	==	==
Range of topics covered	==	==	==	==	==
Completeness of information given on each topic	==	==	==	==	==
Timeliness of information (in time to be useful)	==	==	==	==	==
Helpfulness of the information in decisions about your own situation	==	==	==	==	==
Knowledge level of presenters on the subject	==	==	==	==	==
Instructor responses to student questions	==	==	==	==	==

"Based on the information and technical assistance you have received from Texas Cooperative Extension, what is the likelihood that you would recommend Texas Cooperative Extension to your family and friends as a contact for information and assistance on agricultural issues?" Circle only one number below with 1 = not likely and 10 = likely.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Likely
Not Likely 10

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Jennifer Peterson

Extension Program Specialist

Texas Cooperative Extension
Texas A&M University
2474 TAMU
College Station, TX 77840

Tel: 979.862.8072

jlpeterson@ag.tamu.edu

<http://tw.s.tamu.edu/>

