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) – 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

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