The Texas Watershed Steward Program

A WATER RESOURCE TRAINING CURRICULUM

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Texas Watershed Steward Program

• Introductory training in the fundamentals of watersheds and watershed management.
• Target audience: individuals representing all stakeholder groups...
  – Agriculture
  – Urban
  – Business/industry
  – City/county officials and personnel
  – Landowners, homeowners
PROGRAM FUNDING

• CWA 319(h) grant from EPA through the TSSWCB:
  • Development grant: 3.5 years (Sept. 2007-March. 2011)
  • Implementation grant: 3 years (September 2011-August 2014)
    - Supports statewide program delivery (10-12 events/yr)
TWS Program Goals

1. Increase citizen awareness, understanding, and knowledge of the nature and function of watersheds, potential impairments, and watershed protection strategies.

2. Empower and inspire individuals to take leadership roles in addressing community water issues.

3. Enhance stakeholder involvement in local watershed protection planning initiatives (WPP/TMDL).
TWS Program Curriculum

1. Program Introduction
2. An Overview of Watershed Functions
3. An Overview of Watershed Impairments
4. Managing To Improve Watershed Function
5. Community-Driven Watershed Protection and Management
Texas Watershed Steward Handbook
A Water Resource Training Curriculum
TWS Events

• 1-day training (7 hours)
  – Appeal to a broader audience
    (No volunteer commitment)
  – Provide basic understanding and stimulate desire to become involved

• Interactive ‘stations’
  – NPS containers
  – Rainfall simulator
  – WQ monitoring equipment
  – Macroinvertebrate ID
  – Google Earth...
Workshops are Tailored for Each Watershed

- Maps and materials
- Local issues
- Local impairment(s)
- Local RAs, organizations
- Google Earth tour
- Facilitated discussion
PROGRAM MARKETING

• Media campaign
  • Newspapers
  • Local/regional magazines
  • CEA, MG, MN, HOA newsletters
  • TV/radio
  • Fact sheets, brochure
  • Word of mouth

• Local events
  • Field days
  • Project poster and banner
INCENTIVES FOR PARTICIPATION

• Educational credits:
  – 7 AICP CM hours (planners)
  – 7 TBPE CPEs (engineers)
  – 7 CCA CEUs (soil & water management)
  – 7 SBEC CPEs (teachers)
  – 3 TFMA (floodplain mgr)
  – 3 TDA CEUs (general)

• Free marketing materials
37 completed workshops
6 planned through mid 2012
UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

• Highland Bayou – La Marque, TX
  • February 22, 2012
• Concho River – San Angelo, TX
  • March 23, 2012
• San Antonio Bay – Victoria, TX
  • April, 2012
• Paso del Norte – El Paso, TX
  • May, 2012

http://tws.tamu.edu
ADDITIONAL TOOLS AND MATERIALS

• Online version of TWS
  – Available on our website: http://tws.tamu.edu
THE TEXAS WATERSHED STEWARD PROGRAM

http://tws.tamu.edu

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