Mill Creek Watershed Partnership

Newsletter
September 2022

Contact Us

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http://millcreek.tamu.edu

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
MILL CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

TEXAS STATE Soil & Water CONSERVATION BOARD

A Note from the Watershed Coordinator

A big shout-out to our Cleanup Day participants and sponsors! With your help and hard work, we removed 2,840 pounds of trash from the beautiful Mill Creek Watershed! THANK YOU! Scroll down for more information and photos.

On a completely different note, this month I am transitioning to a new role at Texas A&M University. While I am excited about the prospect, I also feel sad to be saying goodbye to the amazing people I have worked with over the past two years. I truly believe that the Mill Creek Partnership has a great potential, and I am sure that the new watershed coordinator will continue to successfully move the watershed protection plan forward. It has been my pleasure working with you all! If you would like to keep in touch, feel free to connect with me on LinkedIn.

Evgenia

Funding for this effort is provided through a Clean Water Act §319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant administered by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Want to Be a Solution to Nonpoint Pollution? Here's What You Need to Know

It is not an overstatement to say that water is key to human survival. Aside from our health and well-being, clean water is critical to agriculture, recreation, and biodiversity. Unfortunately, our water resources are increasingly threatened by nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. The good news is that there is a solution to NPS pollution, and it starts with you! If everyone of us practices responsible water stewardship, collectively we can improve water quality and reduce NPS pollution. Before we discuss how we can make a difference, let us take a look at what NPS pollution is and where it originates from.

What Is NPS Pollution?

NPS pollution occurs when runoff water moves through the ground gathering pollutants and carrying them to waterbodies. Unlike point source pollution, when pollutants enter a waterbody from a defined source such as a plant discharge pipe, NPS pollution does not have a specific point of origin. For example, a downpour can generate runoff as soil becomes saturated and can no longer absorb water. A heavy rain in urbanized areas can also produce runoff when water falls on impervious surfaces such as roads, sidewalks, and rooftops, unable to be absorbed. As runoff water flows across the land, it picks up and transports pollutants to streams, lakes, and rivers. On its way, it gathers a variety of pollutants, including nitrogen and phosphorus typically found in manufactured fertilizers. Bacteria, pesticides, oils, and sediment are among other pollutants carried by runoff. As they make their way to waterbodies, the combined effects of these pollutants put water quality at risk.

What Can You Do to Help?

Water quality reflects everything we do on the land. Whether we realize it or not, such activities as walking dogs, fertilizing and irrigating the lawn, car washing, and many other things we do every day affect water quality. We all share the responsibility for NPS pollution, and every individual can make a difference and reduce NPS pollution by practicing these easy conservation behaviors:

- When using fertilizers and pesticides, be sure to follow application recommendations on the package.
- Check the weather forecast before applying fertilizers to your lawn; do not use fertilizers if it is going to rain.
- Do not overwater your lawn; irrigate between 6 and 10 o'clock in the morning.
- Maintain your septic system properly; it should be inspected every year and pumped out every 3-5 years.
- Pick up after your pet; pet waste is not a fertilizer and poses a hazard to water quality.
- Dispose of household chemicals properly; do not dump them in the toilet or drain.
- Use a commercial car wash to clean your vehicle.
- Maintain your vehicle properly to prevent leaking of oils.
- To prevent erosion, plant trees, shrubs and grasses around your home.
- If your property faces a waterbody, avoid mowing all the way to the water. Keep the banks vegetated to filter pollutants from incoming runoff.
- Participate in community cleanup days.
- Do not litter.
- Recycle.
- Report illegal dumping activities to the appropriate regulatory authority.

By incorporating these activities in everyday life, everyone can protect water quality in our lakes, rivers, streams, and oceans.

Be the solution to NPS pollution!

2022 Mill Creek Cleanup Day

The 2022 Mill Creek Cleanup Event was a success! With your help, we removed **2,840 pounds** of trash and debris from the watershed! THANK YOU to all who participated!

Vacha Services Bellville, TX

TRR- TEXAS RANCH ROLLOFFS, LLC BELLVILLE, TX

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Bleiblerville VFD

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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Austin and Washington Counties

USDA

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Lonestar Prestress

Upcoming Events

Mill Creek Partnership Meeting
Bacterial Source Tracking Analysis in Mill Creek

December 8, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.
Location: TBD

Join us for the Partnership meeting and a discussion with Dr. Terry Gentry from AgriLife Research. With Mill Creek being impaired due to the high levels of bacteria, it is important to understand where these bacteria come from. A bacterial source tracking analysis – or BST – is an effective tool to determine the sources of bacteria in water bodies. Dr. Gentry's talk will focus on the benefits of conducting a BST analysis in Mill Creek.

The RSVP information and other details will be announced soon.

Virtual Homeowner Maintenance of Septic Systems Course

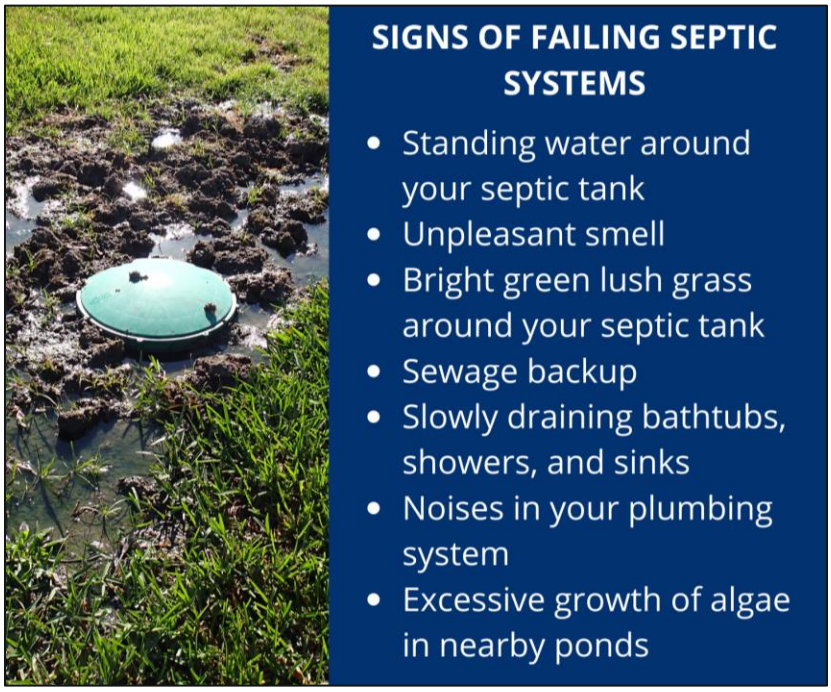
Need to become certified to maintain your septic system? Great news! You can complete the Homeowner Maintenance of Septic Systems course online! Upon completion, contact your TCEQ authorized agents to finalize the certification process.

For Austin County residents

Erica Resendez at 979-865-5911 or planning3@austincounty.com

For Washington County residents

Mark Marzahn at 979-277-6290 or mmarzahn@wacounty.com



FREE SCRAP TIRE COLLECTION EVENT

October 8th thru 22nd 2022

Open to ALL Residents of Washington County including the cities of Brenham and Burton

BVR Collection Station
2009 Old Chappell Hill Rd.
979-922-5958
Monday – Friday 8 am – 5 pm
Saturdays 8 am – 1 pm

NO MORE THAN 8 PASSENGER TIRES 22" & SMALLER ACCEPTED FREE PER HOUSEHOLD
Quantities greater than 8 tires please schedule with Collection Station Attendant to bring in these tires at the end of the event if space is available

PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED
Such as a utility bill or driver license

WE CANNOT ACCEPT TIRES ON RIMS, OFF-ROAD TIRES OR PIECES OF TIRES
Our tire disposal vendor will not accept rims, off-road equipment/agricultural tires or pieces of tires

THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS
Commercial accounts will be charged normal fees

Sponsored by
Washington County and the City of Brenham
in partnership with BVR and Keep Washington County Beautiful

Funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality thru the Brazos Valley Council of Governments

Want to get involved?

Reach out to us at millcreek@ag.tamu.edu

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