

# Trash Free Waters...

Reducing and Eliminating Aquatic Trash from  
the Trinity River Watershed

Presentation by:  
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North Central Texas Stewardship Forum  
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# Today's Discussion

- Overview of EPA's Trash Free Waters Program
- Introduce the Adopt-A-Spot: Trinity River Project
- Describe Planned Action Items
- Provide Contact Information for Future Updates

# U.S. EPA's Trash Free Waters Program

## What We Are Addressing

*A strategic approach to reduce trash and debris in aquatic ecosystems*



**EPA Goal Statement:** Develop a program with a focused set of actions that support trash prevention and reduction initiatives by many public and private stakeholders, resulting in significantly less trash entering watersheds and the marine environment, approaching zero loadings of trash into coastal watersheds and ecosystems within 10 years.

# US EPA's Trash Free Waters Regional Goals for the Gulf of Mexico

*As Reported in the Gulf Strategy*

1. Develop policies and programs to achieve reductions of aquatic trash within Gulf eco-regions as they relate to specific waste streams of concern.
2. Support local initiatives to collect trash data within specific watersheds and use that data as a basis for analyzing the efficacy of tailored technologies, policies and programs to reduce and prevent aquatic trash.
3. Forge public-private partnerships that support sustainable materials management and activities that promote source reduction and the prevention of aquatic trash from entering our waterways.
4. Collaborate with federal and Gulf state partners, as well as quasi-governmental entities (e.g., Ports), to innovate and extend effective aquatic trash management practices to broader geographic areas.
5. Engage, inform, and educate stakeholders in a manner appropriate for the Gulf region cultures so as to inspire the proliferation of successful practices and the development of new technologies for controlling aquatic trash.

# The Seven Kick-Off Projects and one more...



- **Project #1: We Love Florida's Water: NestleWaters Tampa Project** **COMPLETE**
- **Project #2: Port of New Orleans** **COMPLETE**
- **Project #3: Ordinances Across Louisiana** **COMPLETE**
- **Project #4: Mobile Bay Trash Boat Competition**
- **Project #5: State Agency Policy and Guidance on Employee Use of Plastic Bottles**
- **Project #6: Atlas of Gulf States Litter Control Policy and Programs** **IN DEVELOPMENT**
- **Project #7: Adopt a Spot – Trinity Watershed** **IN PROGRESS**
- **Project #8?: Galveston... Beach “Free-Cycle”** **IN PROGRESS**



# Trinity Watershed Project Purpose

To develop, host, and manage an interactive, web-based mapping tool that allows the **public**:

- to choose among opportunities to “adopt” or “foster” litter removal sites, public access points, and available trash clean-up sites.
- to report litter and dump sites.



# Trinity Watershed Project Purpose

To develop, host, and manage an interactive, web-based mapping tool that allows **partners** :

- to submit and track adoptable sites.
- to receive trend analysis reports and other valuable data.



# **'Adopt-a-Spot' Trinity Watershed Online Interactive Mapping Tool**

## **Five Elements:**

- Task 1: Inventory Adopt-a-Spot Programs
- Task 2: Map current inventory (to include sites already adopted)
- Task 3: Overlay “hot-spots” for aquatic trash
- Task 4: Work with Don't Mess with Texas, Keep Texas Beautiful, TCEQ - Take Care of Texas and local entities/stakeholders to broadcast opportunities to match adopters with the important corridors.
- Task 5: Evaluate programs and standards for care.







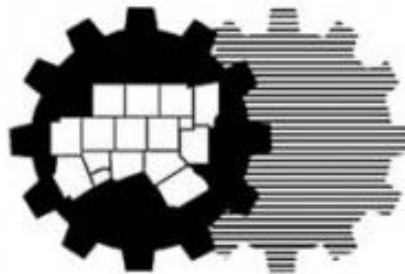
THE MEADOWS CENTER  
FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

## TEXAS STREAM TEAM



Keep Texas  
**Beautiful**  
KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

**TRINITY RIVER  
TRASH-FREE WATERS**  
— *Steering Committee* —



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments

## **Project Contractor**

Texas State University - The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment's  
Texas Stream Team

## **Project Funding**

American Chemistry Council



## **Steering Committee Members include:**

Bayou Preservation Association, Chambers County, TX, City of Arlington, City of Dallas, City of Fort Worth, City of Grand Prairie, CSRA, Galveston Bay Estuary Program, Groundwork Dallas, Houston Galveston Area Council, Keep America Beautiful, Keep Denton Beautiful, Keep Fort Worth Beautiful, Keep Texas Beautiful, North Central Texas Council of Governments, North Texas Municipal Water District, San Jacinto County, Sustainable Opportunities and Solutions, Inc., Tarrant County, Texans for Clean Water, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas General Land Office, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, Trinity River Authority, TX Department of Transportation, U.S. EPA Headquarters, and US EPA Region VI.



# Project Contacts

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