

# Newsletter

## Total Maximum Daily Load

### A Brief Timeline of the Greater Trinity River Bacteria TMDL Program

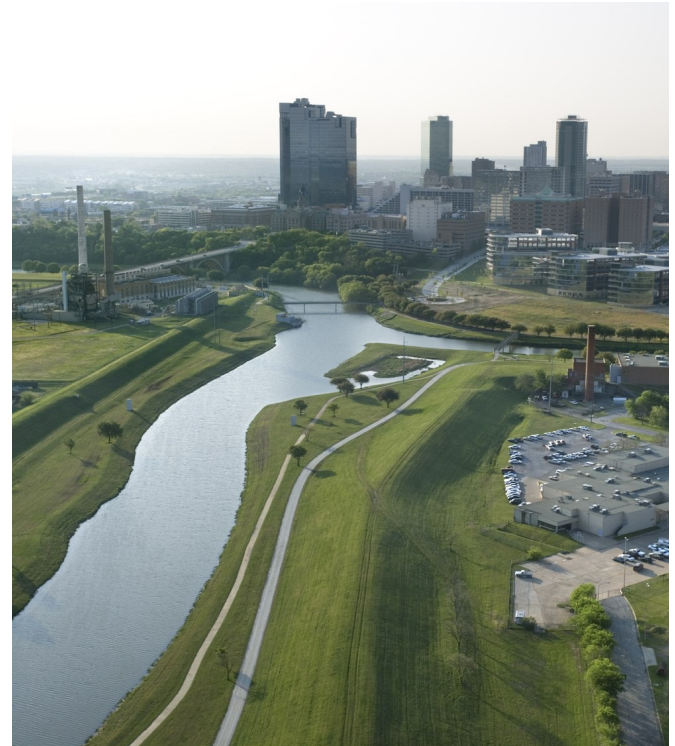
Segments of the Trinity River are impaired due to high concentrations of bacteria, which may pose a risk to people who swim or wade in the natural waters. The Greater Trinity River Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and Implementation Plan (I-Plan) were developed to reduce bacteria levels and to protect the recreational safety in waterways of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

**September 2011** | NCTCOG was tasked by the TCEQ to support the development of the TMDL I-Plan in the Dallas-Fort Worth area of North Central Texas.

**August 2012** | Stakeholders in the region met to develop a draft I-Plan, which defined strategies to reduce bacteria loading in the impacted river segments. The draft document was submitted to the TCEQ for final approval.

**December 2013** | The Greater Trinity River Bacteria I-Plan was approved by TCEQ in December 2013. TMDL area entities began the implementation phase to achieve the goals of each strategy.

**November 2016** | NCTCOG aims to engage stakeholders to gather information to highlight the progress that has been made during the implementation phase over the last 3 years.



Source: Fotolia

### Check out the Best Management Practices (BMP) Library!

With over 150 resources, the [TMDL BMP Library](#) offers a clearinghouse of best management practices for the strategies in the I-Plan. NCTCOG is always accepting more BMPs to add to the library. BMPs include:



Model ordinances, education and outreach templates, standard operating procedures, guidance documents, toolboxes, workshop presentations, case studies, funding opportunities, etc.

Please email BMP suggestions to Rachel Evans, [REvans@nctcog.org](mailto:REvans@nctcog.org).

### 2017 Five Star & Urban Water Restoration Grant Program is Now Accepting Proposals

This grant opportunity seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations with projects focused on improving water quality, watersheds and their species and habitats they support.

**Projects may include:** wetlands, riparian, water quality monitoring, stormwater management, as well as community education and outreach.

**Proposal Due:** January 31, 2017

Visit [Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program 2017 Request for Proposals](#) for more information.

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### What's Happening This Quarter with TMDL Implementation?

The North Central Texas Council of Governments is developing a questionnaire aimed at the TMDL stakeholders. This questionnaire will work to gather baseline data for the first annual TMDL Implementation Status Report. The report will provide TCEQ with an overview of activities pursued during the first 3 years of the

Greater Trinity River Implementation Project. NCTCOG hopes to compile valuable data to 'give credit' to the stakeholders who are carrying out important water quality and bacteria-related initiatives across many departments, agencies and communities. The questionnaire will be distributed in early 2017!

### Fort Worth Wastewater Capital Improvement Projects

The Fort Worth Water Department is a regional provider of water and sewer services to more than 1.2 million people in Fort Worth and surrounding communities. The utility's collection system has a total treatment capacity of 166 million gallons per day (MGD) for wastewater and over 3,000 miles of pipe in the collection system. To achieve the utility's goal of providing reliable water and wastewater services with environmental integrity, the utility is continually investing in infrastructure projects which also serve to protect the health and safety of the communities.

Several strategies within the I-plan identify repairing/replacing aging infrastructure as a progress indicator for reducing bacteria loading in the impaired stream segments. The I-plan predicts that a 5% reduction in calculated bacteria loading over 25 years can be achieved by reducing the portion of waste load contributed by leaking or broken sewer lines.

The Fort Worth Water Department recently developed their 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan for Water and Wastewater to address FY2016 - 2020. The largest percent of the budget is dedicated to rehabilitation and replacement, which encompasses the efforts pursued under the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Initiative. The utility currently has 18 wastewater infrastructure projects underway throughout the city and surrounding areas.

Visit the Fort Worth Water Department's [Water and Sanitary Sewer Improvements](#) to learn more about the wastewater projects in and around Fort Worth.

Is your entity pursuing wastewater infrastructure repairs/replacements? Let NCTCOG know how many are underway in your community!

### Upcoming: 2016 Holiday Grease Roundup!

The 2016 Holiday Grease Roundup, a regional fats, oils, and grease (FOG) collection event, is coordinated by the North Central Texas Wastewater And Treatment Education Roundtable. This event aims to help protect sewer systems and the environment from improperly disposed FOG during the holiday seasons.

Several communities within the TMDL area are participating and will have available drop off locations for FOG collection during the roundup.

Help us get the word out about this upcoming event! Contact Rachel Evans at [REvans@nctcog.org](mailto:REvans@nctcog.org) for a general flyer (above) to put on social media! All drop off locations are identified at [ceasethegreasentx.com](http://ceasethegreasentx.com).



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Source: Fotolia

### The TCEQ Officially Adopts the New TMDLs to be Implemented by the Greater Trinity River Bacteria TMDL Program

On November 2, 2016, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) officially adopted the [Four Total Maximum Daily Loads for Indicator Bacteria in the Cottonwood Creek, Fish Creek, Kirby Creek, and Crocket Branch Watersheds Upstream of Mountain Creek Lake](#). These TMDLs will be implemented under the existing I-Plan developed in 2013 by regional stakeholders in the Dallas–Fort Worth Metroplex. The TMDLs are still awaiting EPA approval.

NCTCOG will begin working on a framework to develop an amendment to the original I-Plan reflecting the inclusion of the new stream segments to be reviewed by the technical subcommittees and the TMDL Coordination Committee in the summer of 2017.

### Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM): New Tier Structure

The *integrated* Stormwater Management (iSWM™) Program for Construction and Development is a cooperative initiative that assists cities and counties to achieve their goals of water quality protection, streambank protection, and flood mitigation, while also helping communities meet their construction and post-construction obligations under state stormwater permits.

Development and redevelopment by their nature increase the amount of imperviousness in our surrounding environment. This increased imperviousness translates into loss of natural areas, more sources for pollution in runoff, and heightened flooding risks. To help mitigate these impacts, more than 60 local governments are cooperating to proactively create sound stormwater management guidance for the region through the iSWM Program.

The most recent update to the process has transformed the program into a tiered, certification-based approach. Much like Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Recognition, the program has tiered-levels of classification, based on various required criteria. As local communities are implementing iSWM standards, they are working to achieve specific benefits and outcomes that positively impact the stormwater system. Applicants can be awarded Bronze, Silver, or Gold classification. In doing this, they are proclaiming themselves responsible stewards of watershed management. For more information please visit [www.iswm.nctcog.org](http://www.iswm.nctcog.org).

The current status of local participation for founding and certified members:

- Azle
- Benbrook
- Dallas
- Denton – Certified (Silver)
- Duncanville
- Frisco – Certified (Silver)
- Fort Worth – Applied (Silver)
- Glenn Heights
- Grand Prairie – Applied (Silver)
- Hurst
- Kennedale - Applied (Bronze)
- Lakeside
- Mansfield
- Northlake
- Roanoke
- Southlake
- University Park





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### This Quarter's Featured TMDL Implementation Strategy

**Implementation Strategy 3.0:** Adoption of Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development (GI/LID) Standards by Municipalities

#### Goals of the Strategy:

- Internal study of the effectiveness of GI/LID implementation using stream monitoring data — Has implementing GI/LID shown an improvement in water quality?
- Evaluate ordinances for impediments that discourage homeowners and businesses from actions or practices that may improve water quality — Actions or practices such as building a rain garden, rainwater harvesting, or using permeable pavement.
- Evaluate city's internal operations to better integrate policies and practices to improve communication between related departments — Are there pathways of communication among stormwater-related divisions and departments with related goals (such as parks and recreation, public works, planning and development and environmental management)?



Source: Dr. Fouad Jaber, Texas A&M AgriLife



Source: Ranjan S. Muttiah, City of Fort Worth

To assist TMDL stakeholders in achieving the goals of this strategy, the TMDL program hosted a workshop on the impacts of GI/LID on bacteria loading in July 2016. The workshop had over 60 attendees who learned about models, tools, case studies and research promoting the benefits of implementing GI/LID. Presentations from the workshop are available at [www.nctcog.org/waterresources](http://www.nctcog.org/waterresources) under the workshops tab.

There are 32 resources available on green infrastructure and low impact development in the TMDL Program BMP Library. Please utilize the resources as you evaluate municipal internal operations, review city ordinances and study the effectiveness of GI/LID BMPs.

Has your municipality been pursuing these goals already? Contact Rachel Evans, [REvans@nctcog.org](mailto:REvans@nctcog.org), to provide more information!

The North Central Texas Council of Governments is working with stakeholders to implement bacteria TMDLs throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. To view the full I-Plan for Seventeen Total Maximum Daily Loads for Bacteria in the Greater Trinity River Region or utilize available resources, visit [www.nctcog.org/TMDL](http://www.nctcog.org/TMDL).