

North Central Texas  
Council of Governments

# Championing Water Conscious Community Cleanup Strategies

NCTCOG Webinar  
May 27, 2026

Joy Douglas, NCTCOG  
[jdouglas@nctcog.org](mailto:jdouglas@nctcog.org)



[www.nctcog.org/WaterResources](http://www.nctcog.org/WaterResources)

*This project was funded by  
the U.S. Environmental  
Protection Agency through  
the Texas Commission on  
Environmental Quality.*

# Webinar Procedures



The webinar is being recorded and will be posted to NCTCOG's website under the green banner called "Webinars" here:

<https://www.nctcog.org/environment/natural-resources/water-resources>



If you submitted an RSVP for this webinar, you will receive an email with the presentation slides and a link to the recording. If you did not RSVP and would like these webinar materials, please email [jdouglas@nctcog.org](mailto:jdouglas@nctcog.org).



Please keep your microphone on mute until the Question-and-Answer period at the end of the presentations.

# Welcome and Introduction of Speakers

## Webinar Agenda

- ***Collaborating to Reduce Floatable Litter in City of Fort Worth Waterways***– City of Fort Worth
- ***Litter Captures and Cleanups in Plano*** – City of Plano
- ***Trash Abatement in Joe Pool Lake and Village Creek Lake Arlington Watersheds*** – Trinity River Authority
- Discussion and Q&A

# Speaker Introduction



**Robert Collins**  
Operations Supervisor  
City of Fort Worth

# Speaker Introduction



**Nixalis Benitiz**  
Environmental  
Program Manager  
City of Fort Worth

A graphic of three stylized green leaves, one on the left, one on the right, and one at the bottom, all pointing towards the center. The leaves are semi-transparent and layered over a solid green background.

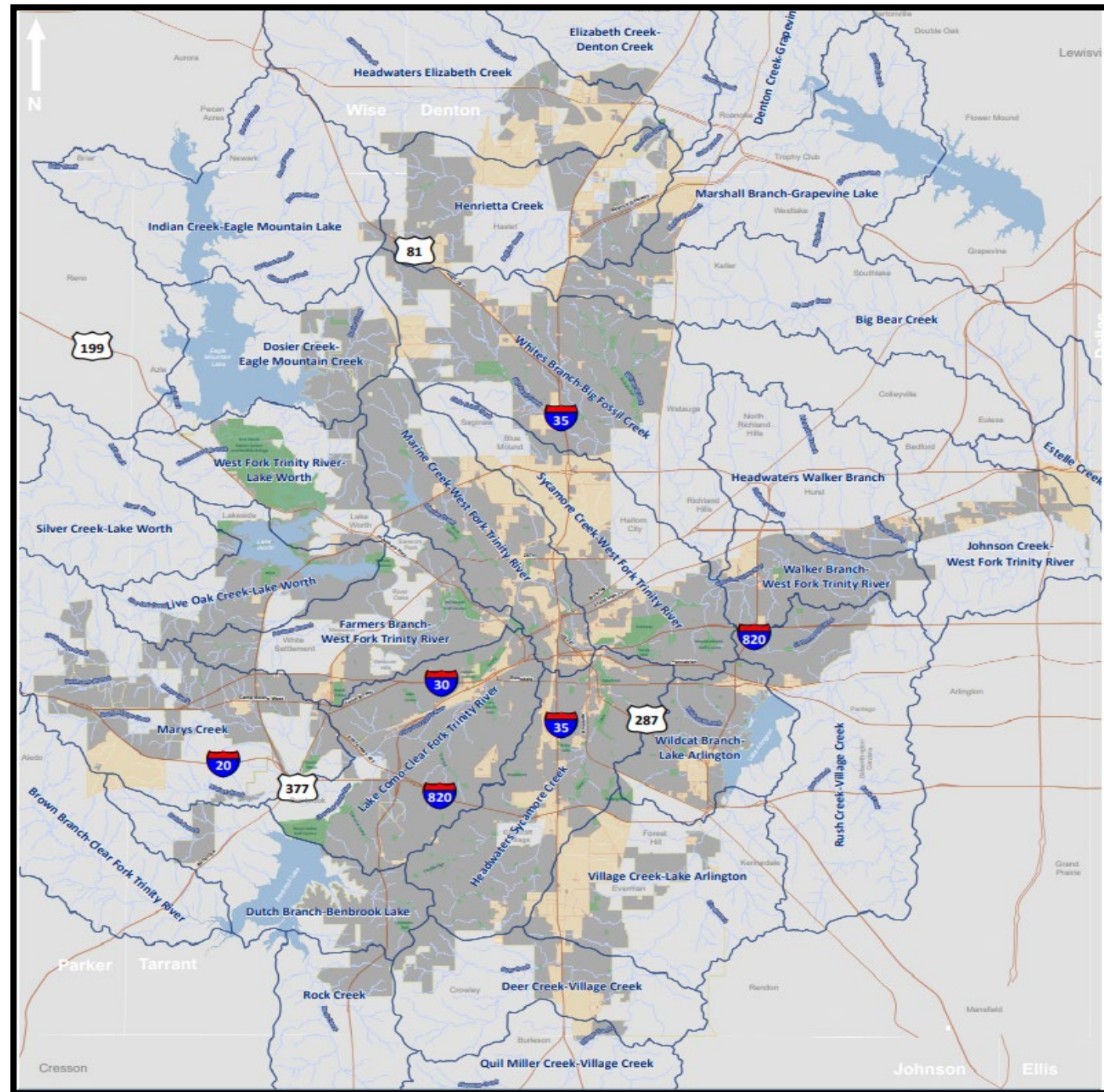
# COLLABORATING TO REDUCE FLOATABLE LITTER IN CITY OF FORT WORTH WATERWAYS

Nixalis Benitez and Robert Collins  
City of Fort Worth

# Fort Worth, Texas



- Fastest growing large city in the US
- Population just exceeded 1 million
- Over 300 square miles
- **31** watersheds

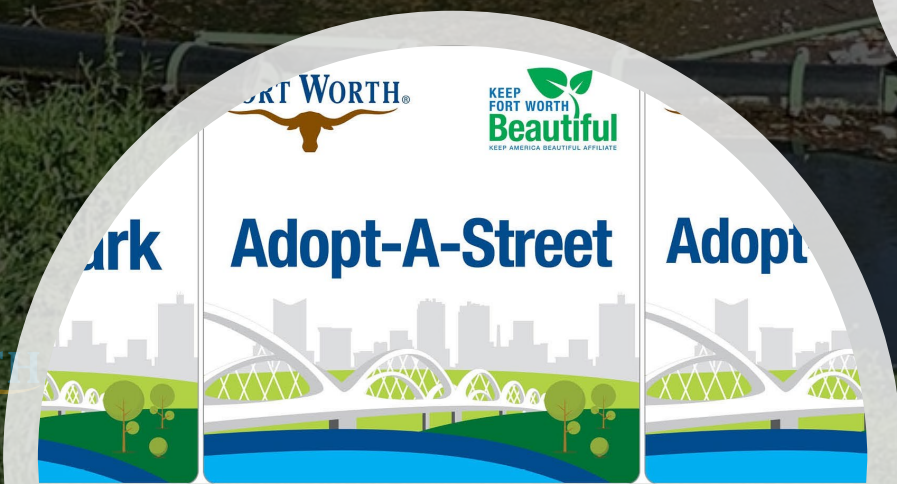


A graphic consisting of three stylized, overlapping green leaves. The leaves are rendered in a lighter shade of green than the background, with simple, curved outlines and a central vein. They are arranged in a fan-like pattern, with one leaf on the left, one on the right, and one at the bottom center.

# Litter Control Initiatives

# Litter Control Initiatives

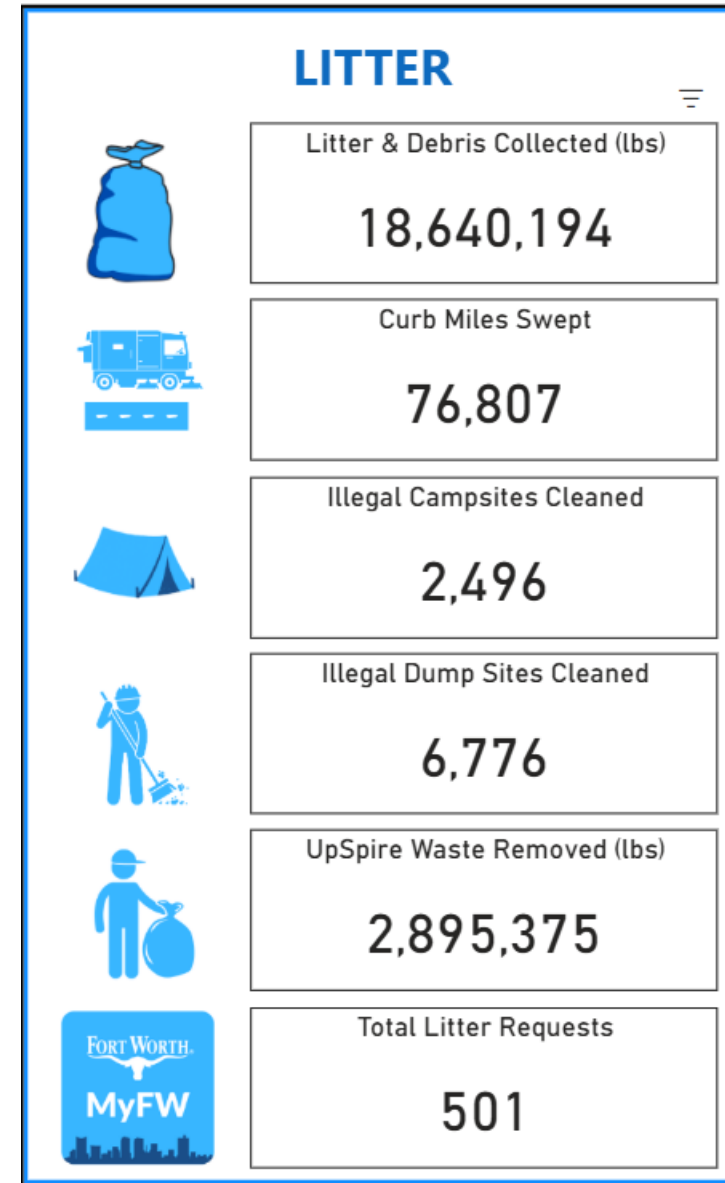
- Keep Fort Worth Beautiful Programs
- Street Sweepers
- Camp Clean ups
- Environmental Investigations Unit Team
- Commercial Litter Source Control Officers
- Construction Site Inspections
- My FW App
- Floatable Litter Control Devices



# Litter Control Initiatives

**LITTER**  
STOP IT!  
REPORT IT!  
PICK IT UP!

FY2025



# Street Sweepers

## FY2024

- **30,723** curb miles cleaned
- **884** tons of debris collected

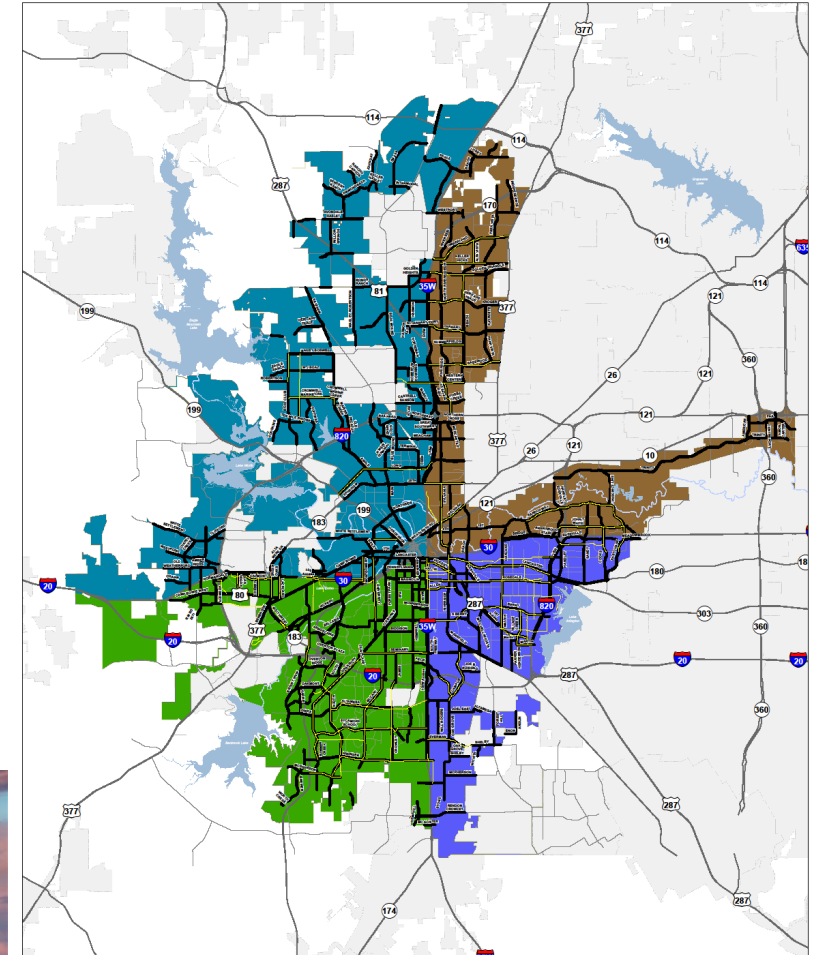
## FY2025

Expanded street sweeping operations with the addition of 12 new sweepers, increasing the fleet from **2** to **14** units.

- **76,807** curb miles cleaned
- **2,062** tons of debris collected

## FY2026 (YTD)

- **44,115** curb miles cleaned
- **1,259** tons of debris collected



Street Sweeping/  
Litter Route  
Quadrants

Legend:  
 - Yellow line: Litter Routes  
 - Black line: Street Sweeping Routes  
 - Brown: NE  
 - Blue: NW  
 - Purple: SE  
 - Green: SW

Quadrant	Area (Sq. Mi.)	Street Sweeping		Litter	
		Cent. Mi.	Curb Mi.	Cent. Mi.	Curb Mi.
NE	75	205	410	37	
NW	139	230	460	16	
SE	56	144	288	57	
SW	89	242	485	63	

# Litter Control Initiatives



## Name the Sweepers Contest winners selected!

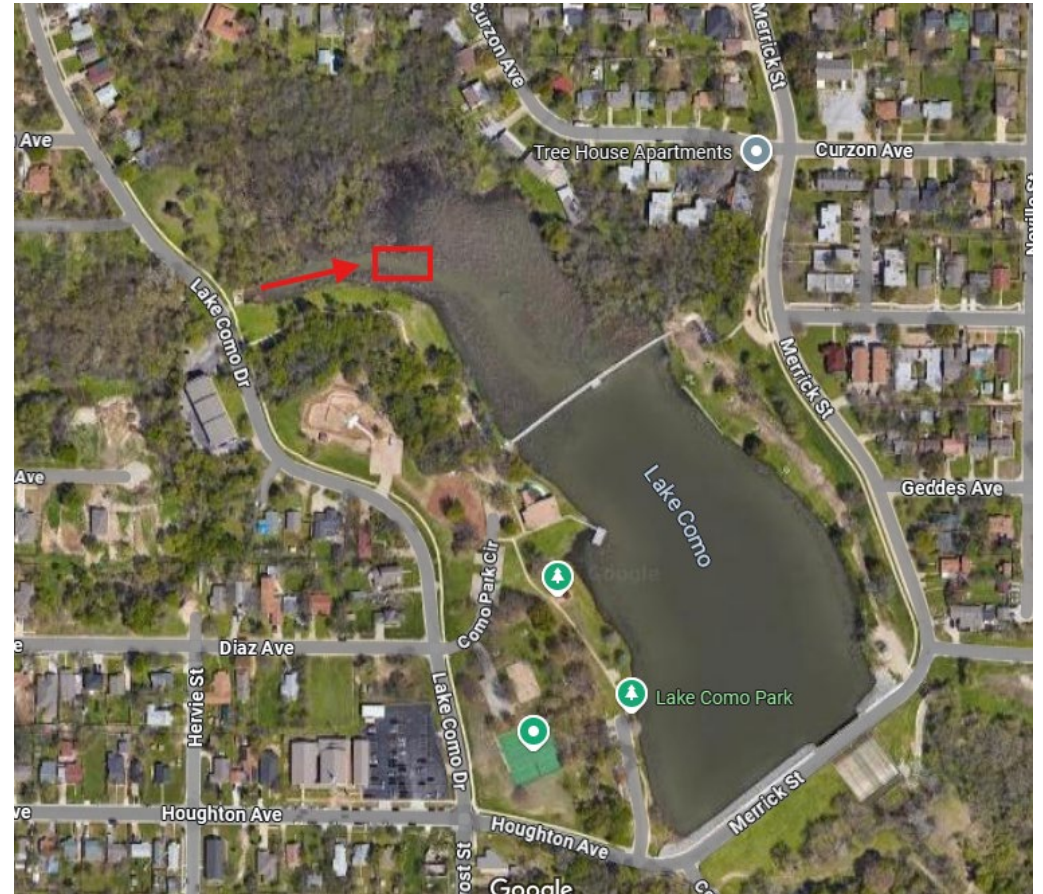
Thank you Fort Worth for your enthusiastic participation in naming our new street sweeper fleet. From over 1,300 name submissions, the 12 winners are:

- Sweep in the Heart of Texas
- Lightning McClean
- Obi Wan Cleanobi
- Sir Sweeps-A-Lot
- Cowtown Clean Machine
- Lone Star Sweeper
- Sweepasaurus Rex
- Baby Got Vac
- Funkytown Fresh
- Big Molly
- Sweep Caroline
- Bob

The background is a solid green color. Overlaid on this are several large, stylized, semi-transparent green leaf shapes. The leaves are arranged in a cluster, with some overlapping others, creating a sense of depth and movement. The text is centered over the middle of these leaves.

Lake Como Litter Containment Device  
Bandalong Litter Trap™

# Lake Como Litter Device



# Lake Como Litter Device

Before



# Lake Como Litter Device



# Lake Como Litter Device



# Lake Como Litter Device



A graphic consisting of three stylized, overlapping green leaves. The leaves are arranged in a fan-like pattern, with one leaf on the left, one on the right, and one at the bottom. The leaves are rendered in a light green color with a subtle gradient and a slight shadow effect, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The background is a solid, medium green color.

WATERGOATS



## What is a WATERGOAT?

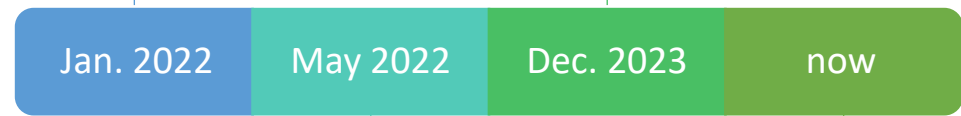
A floating barrier that prevents trash from clogging up bodies of water.

# Watergoat Installation Timeline



CFW Pilot Project installed 6

CFW Parks installed 4



Trinity River Authority & CFW installed 10

CFW maintains all Fort Worth devices and contracts with UpSpire for cleaning

# Watergoats



# Watergoats – Impact so far

January 2022 – Feb 2026

Total Collected

50,250 lbs



A graphic consisting of three stylized, overlapping green leaves. The leaves are rendered in a light green color with a slight gradient, giving them a soft, ethereal appearance. They are arranged in a fan-like pattern, with one leaf on the left, one on the right, and a smaller one at the bottom center. The background is a solid, medium green color.

UpSpire

# How does UpSpire benefit Fort Worth?

Organizations like UpSpire make powerful waves in a local community. REDF, a venture philanthropy supporting social enterprise, has seen the following results:

\$1.31

For every \$1.00 a social enterprise like UpSpire spends, \$2.23 in benefits is returned to society. \$1.31 of that is direct savings to taxpayers.

56%

56% of employees hired by social enterprises had jobs one year later versus 37% who had only received job support services.

268%

Those employed by social enterprises experienced a 268% increase in income and a drop in income from government benefits from 71% to 24%

3x

Housing stability tripled for those employed by social enterprises. 67% were still working six months later.

# Litter Control Initiatives





# Let's Make Fort Worth Waterways the G.O.A.T.

## YOU CAN HELP US EXPAND THE IMPACT OF UPSPIRE'S WATERWAYS CREW

We have an opportunity to expand the impact of UpSpire's Waterways Crew through a WATERGOAT.

What is a WATERGOAT? A floating barrier that prevents trash from clogging up bodies of water, WATERGOATs offer an efficient means of capturing more litter and debris, keeping parks and waterways clean.

### What is needed to make our waterways clean?

**\$1,300-\$3,000** Initial WATERGOAT Investment (dependent upon location and size) + **\$1,250/MONTH** Waterways Crew Monthly Service and Maintenance Cost



UpSpire's Waterways Crew is invested in keeping the parks and waterways around the greater Fort Worth community clear of unsightly litter. Combing through ponds, rivers, trails, and watersheds, members of the crew work tirelessly to keep these areas clean.

Enjoying the outdoors. Quality time in beautiful parks. Respecting our city and keeping it clean. All of these are made possible through the diligent work of UpSpire's Waterways Crew.

How do we keep up this good work and continue offering pristine parks? YOU!

Invest in the future of Fort Worth. Invest in clean waterways. Visit [www.upspire.org](http://www.upspire.org) or call us at 817.632.7454 to learn more.



Waterways Crew removes 3.2 tons of trash from Fort Worth waterways annually!



The average WATERGOAT captures 117lbs of debris each month!



Waterways Crew + WATERGOAT = Greatest Of All Time (G.O.A.T.) waterways for Fort Worth.



**About UpSpire:**  
UpSpire's mission is to break the cycles of homelessness and unemployment by providing steady employment that restores dignity and provides hope for the guests of Presbyterian Night Shelter. Open to all who want to work, the program provides gainful employment, case management support, and job skill development to aid enterprise staff during their tenure. UpSpire is insured (workmen's and liability) and assumes all risks.

**UpSpire's Impact:**

- 195,312 labor hours created in 2020
- \$2.12 million in wages paid to enterprise staff
- UpSpire returned \$4.7 million in benefits to society, \$2.7 million of which is direct savings to taxpayers (per REDF study)





A graphic consisting of three stylized, overlapping green leaves. The leaves are rendered in a light green color with a slight gradient and are arranged in a fan-like pattern. The central leaf is the largest and is positioned horizontally. Two smaller leaves are positioned above and below it, overlapping the central one. The entire graphic is set against a solid, medium-green background.

Questions?

# Speaker Introduction



**Olivia Osbourne**  
Sustainability Supervisor  
City of Plano



# Litter Capture & Cleanups in Plano

Olivia Osborne

Environmental Health & Sustainability

City of Plano



# Overview

- Volunteer-led Cleanups
- Catchment Devices in Park Ponds
- Upcycled Litter Boom
- Future Plans



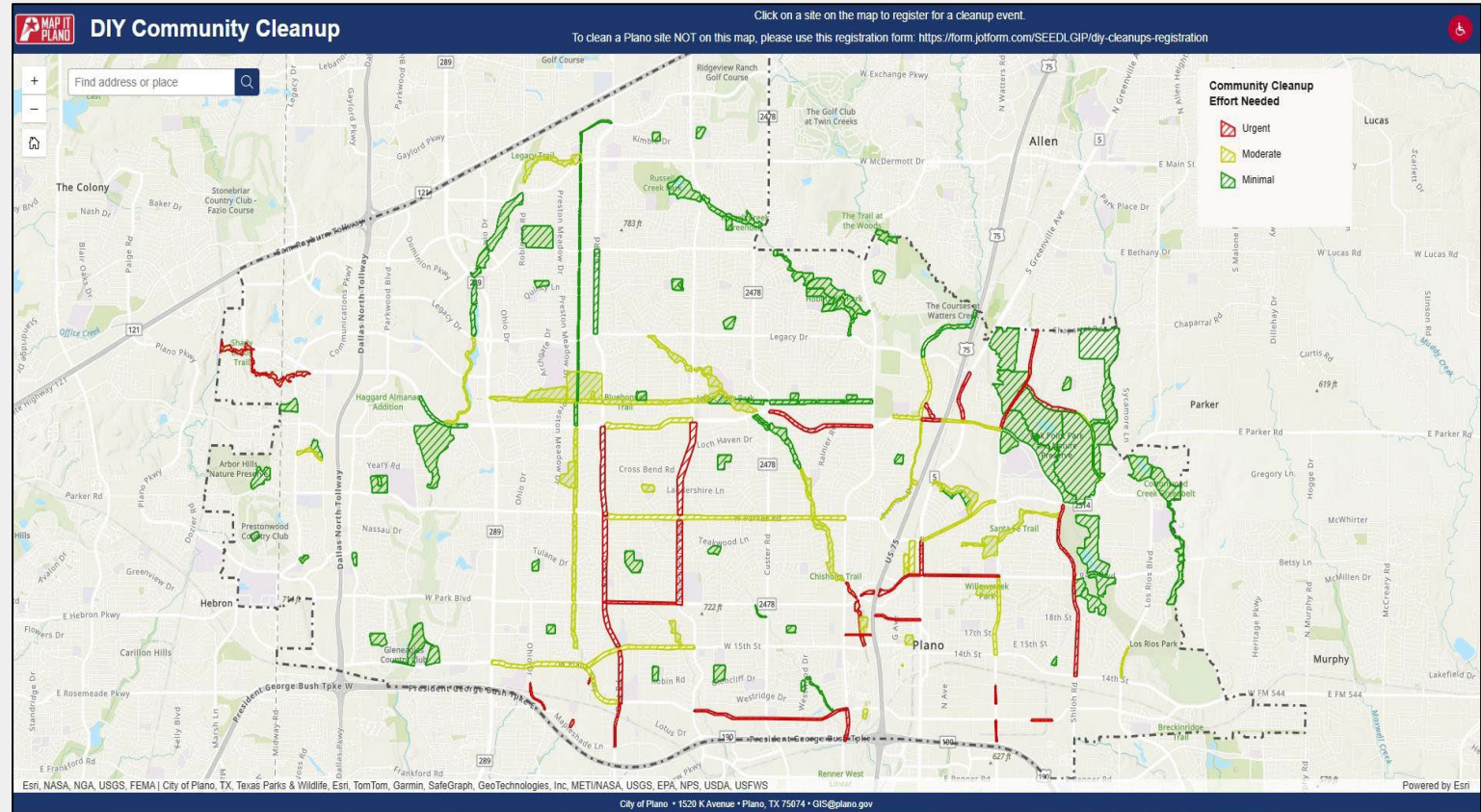
# Volunteer-led Cleanups





# DIY & Staff-led Options

- DIY Cleanups
  - Online registration map to direct to areas in need
  - Supplies available on demand
- Staff-led cleanups
  - September – May
  - Focused on waterways and roadways



# Trash Removed Totals

- Since October 2025:
  - 268 cleanups
  - 2163 volunteers
  - 16,644 pounds of trash
  - 6460 pounds from waterways
  - 3000 pounds from roadways





# Catchment Devices in Park Ponds



# Hoblitzelle Park

- Type: Trash rack at riser
- Year installed: NA
- Cost to install: \$1,000
- Cost to maintain: \$480
- Removal frequency per year: 6
- Approximate amount removed per year: 20 cubic yards



# White Rock Trail Park

- Type: Trash rack at spillway
- Year installed: 2018
- Cost to install: ~\$1,750
- Cost to maintain: \$80
- Removal frequency per year: 1
- Approximate amount removed per year: 1 cubic yard



# Shawnee Park

- Type: Trash rack at riser
- Year installed: 2018
- Cost to install: \$6,500
- Cost to maintain: \$240
- Removal frequency per year: 3
- Approximate amount removed per year: 3 cubic yards



# Bob Woodruff

- Type: Concrete Spillway
- Year installed: 1987
- Cost to install: Unknown
- Cost to maintain: \$1,920
- Removal frequency per year: 12
- Approximate amount removed per year: 12 cubic yards



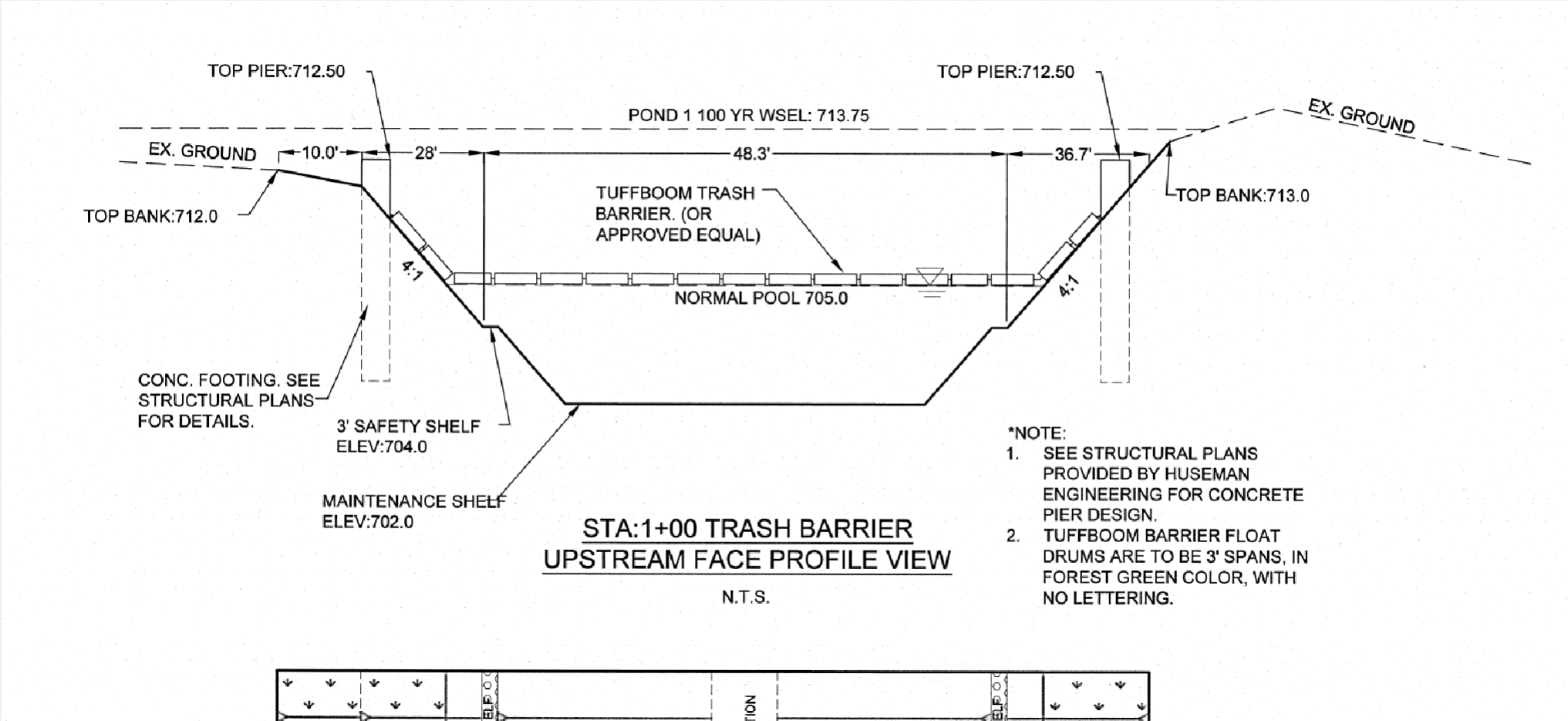
# Carpenter Park

- Type: Floating trash boom
- Year installed: 2017
- Cost to install: \$18,000
- Cost to maintain: \$14,260/year\*
- Removal frequency per year: 10
- Approximate amount removed per year: 2.25 55-gallon bags





# Carpenter Park





# Upcycled Litter Boom



# Upcycled Swim Lane Boom

- First Location: Environmental Education Center
- Type: Boom across creek
- Month/Year installed: July 2023
- Equipment Cost: <\$200
- Removal frequency per year: As needed, checked weekly
- Approximate amount removed per year: Variable



# Supplies and Assembly

- Supplies:
  - Netting, Carabiners, and Zip Ties – Amazon
  - Pool Lane Floats – City of Plano Parks and Rec
  - T-Posts – City of Plano Public Works Department
- Assembly:
  - Creek width measured and appropriate length of pool float cut
  - Wrapped two pool float sections side by side with netting and secured with zip ties
  - Drove t-posts into each bank and attached each side of the boom with Carabiners that will break away in heavy flood rain events



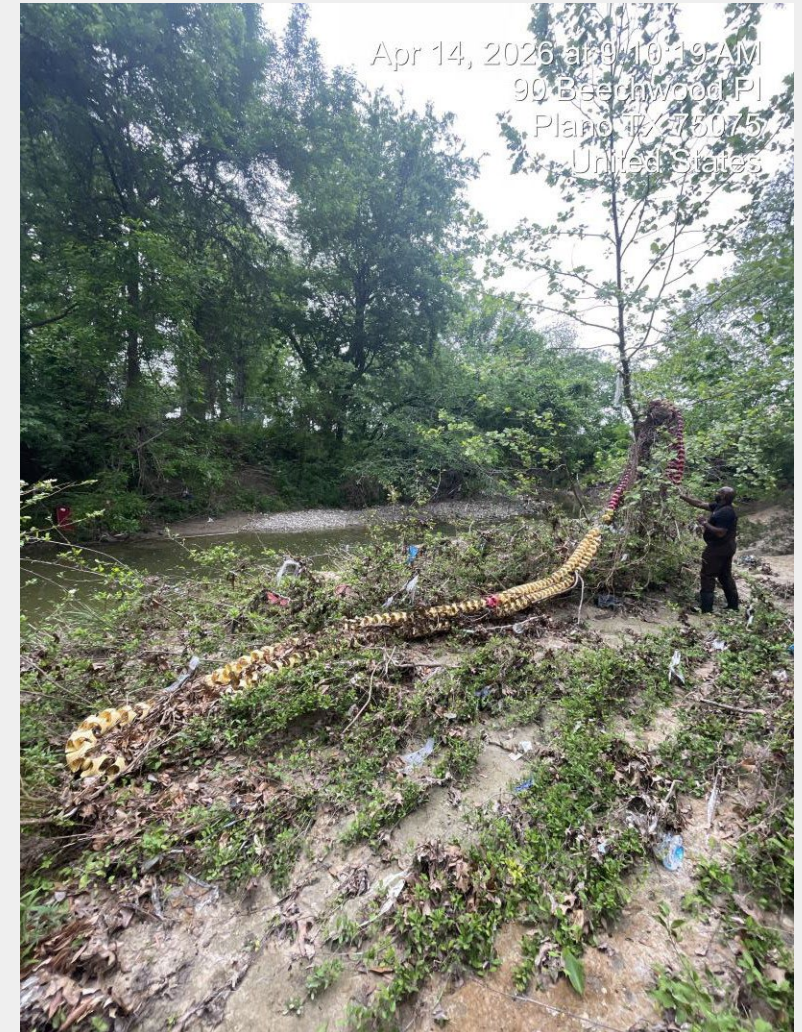


# Items Removed



# Lessons Learned

- Low flow locations only
- Location in creek impacts amount of litter collected
- Install carabiner on one side only
- Netting may improve effectiveness slightly, but creates complications
- Less effective as floats lose buoyancy





# Future Plans





# Upcoming Site Assessment and New Boom Installation

- Site assessment for potential boom installation in White Rock Creek, Spring Creek, and Rowlett Creek
- Plans to purchase and install three booms by December 2026
- Maintenance and data collection will be handled by City of Plano staff
- Data will inform if booms stay at initial sites



# Thank You



Olivia Osborne

[Oosborne@Plano.gov](mailto:Oosborne@Plano.gov)

972-769-4328

[LiveGreeninPlano.com](http://LiveGreeninPlano.com)

# Speaker Introduction



**Heather Finn**  
Watershed Manager  
Trinity River  
Authority



# TRASH ABATEMENT IN JOE POOL LAKE AND VILLAGE CREEK-LAKE ARLINGTON

MAY 2026

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**Trinity River Authority of Texas**  
*Enriching the Trinity basin as a resource for Texans*

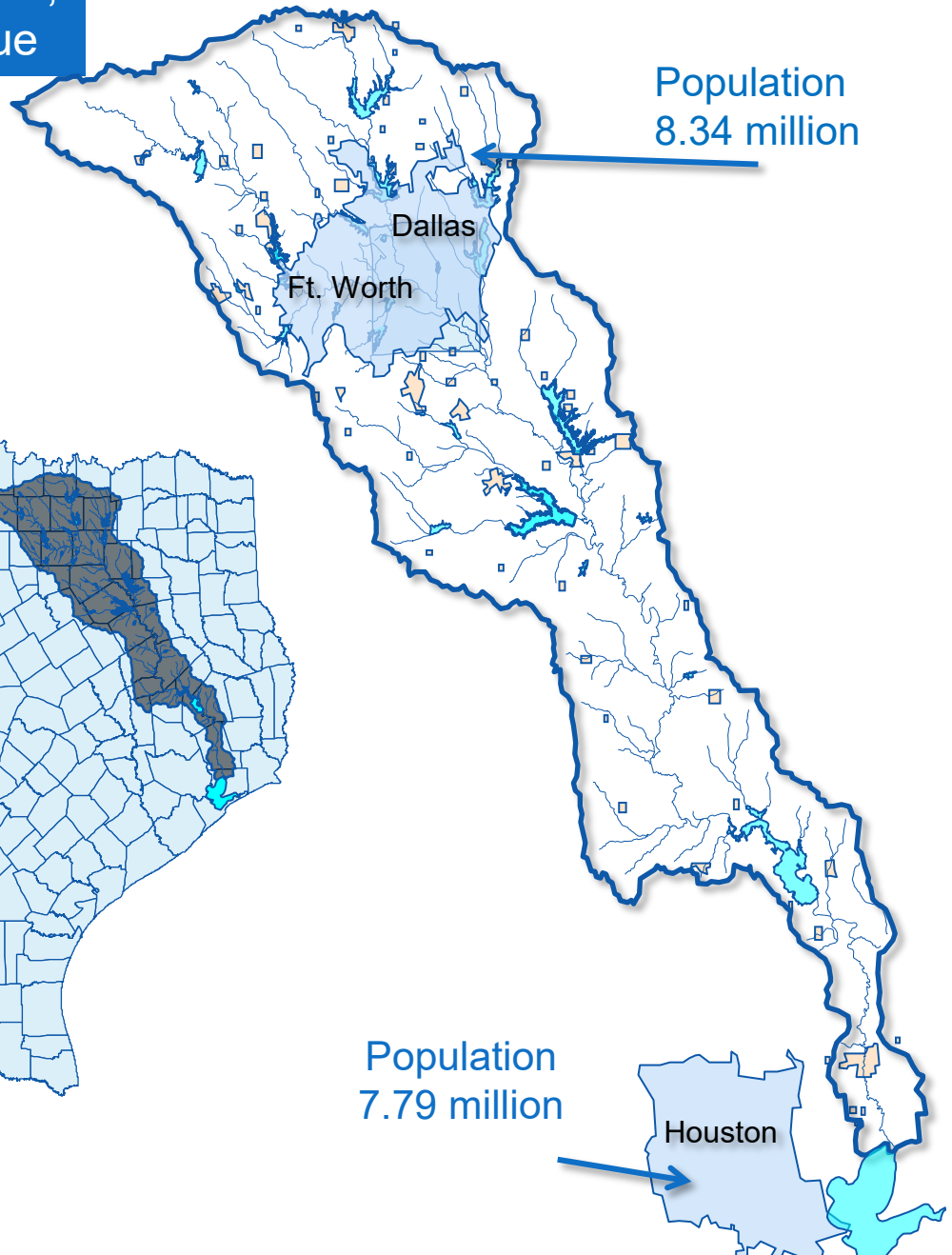
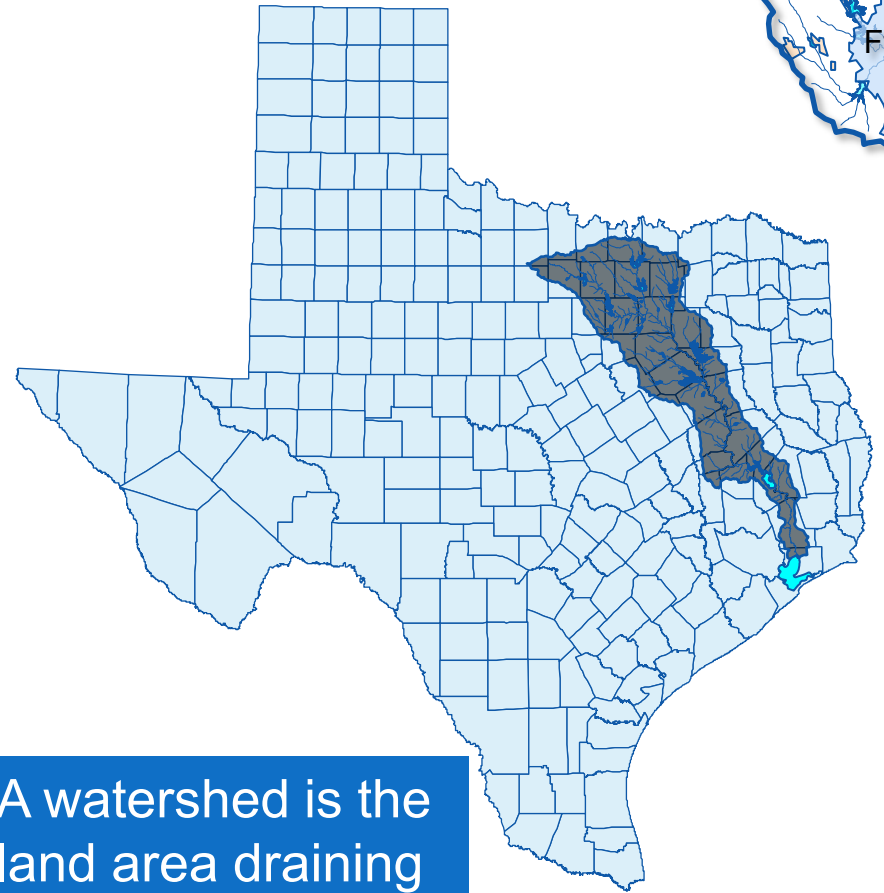
# Funding Source

Funding provided by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality through a Clean Water Act Section 319(h) grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, with local match funding from the TRA and the cities of Cedar Hill, Grand Prairie, Mansfield and Midlothian for Joe Pool Lake WPP and city of Arlington for Village Creek-Lake Arlington WPP.



# About the Basin

Watershed protection is not solely an environmental issue, it is also a water supply issue



- ~18,000 square mile basin
- Most developed large watershed in Texas
- ~ 50% of Texas population depends on basin water

A watershed is the land area draining to a common body of water

*Upstream conditions directly affect downstream water supply reliability*



# Watershed Challenges

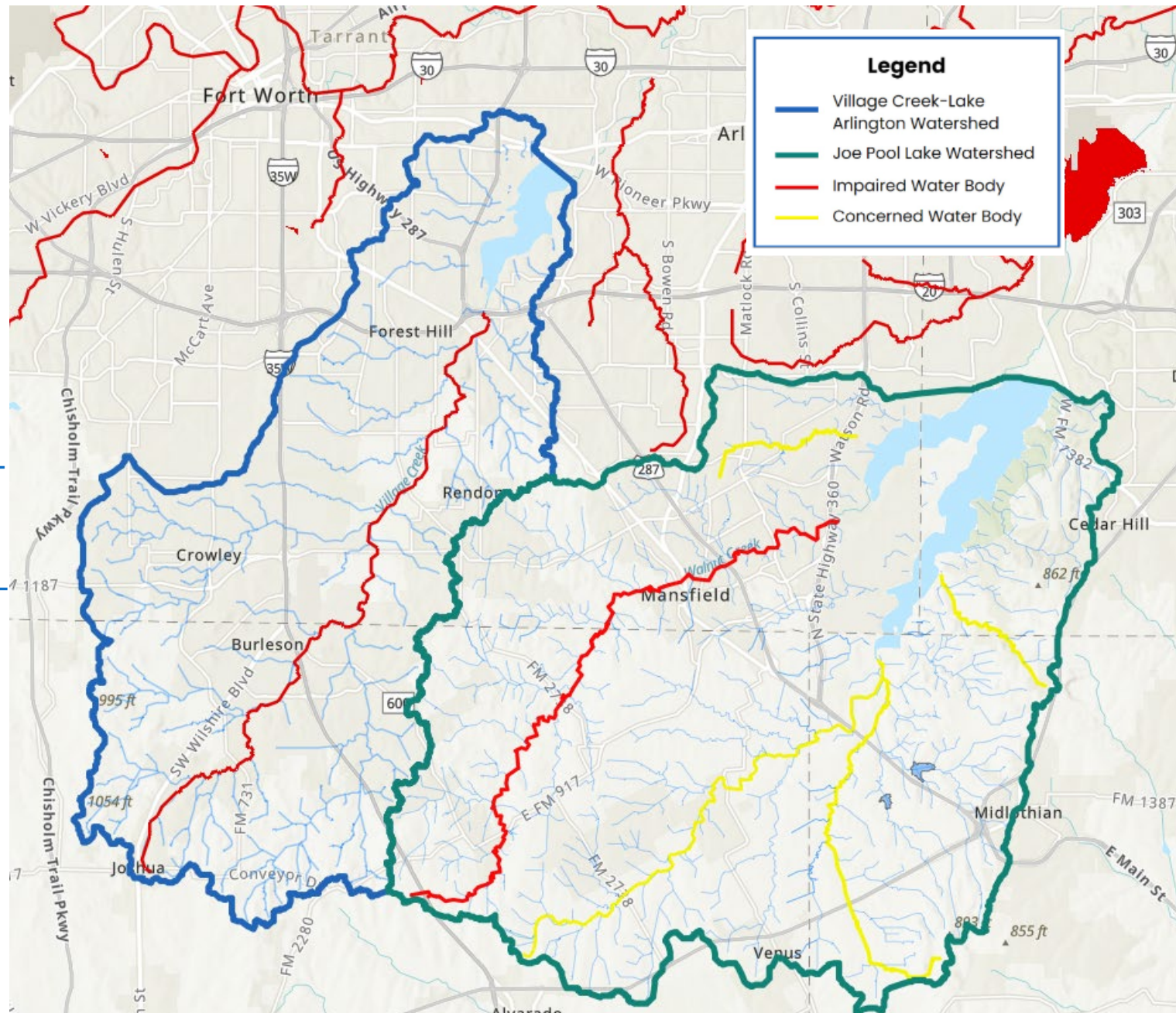
- Nonpoint source pollution stems from urban, rural, wildlife, and agriculture activities.
  - Bacteria (*E.coli*)
  - Nutrients
  - Urban runoff, septic failures, agriculture, litter



Difficult to isolate; Hard to identify

VCLA

- Drinking water
- Recreation
- **Village Creek –**  
*E. coli* impairment
- Lake Arlington –  
bacteria concern (2026 Draft IR)

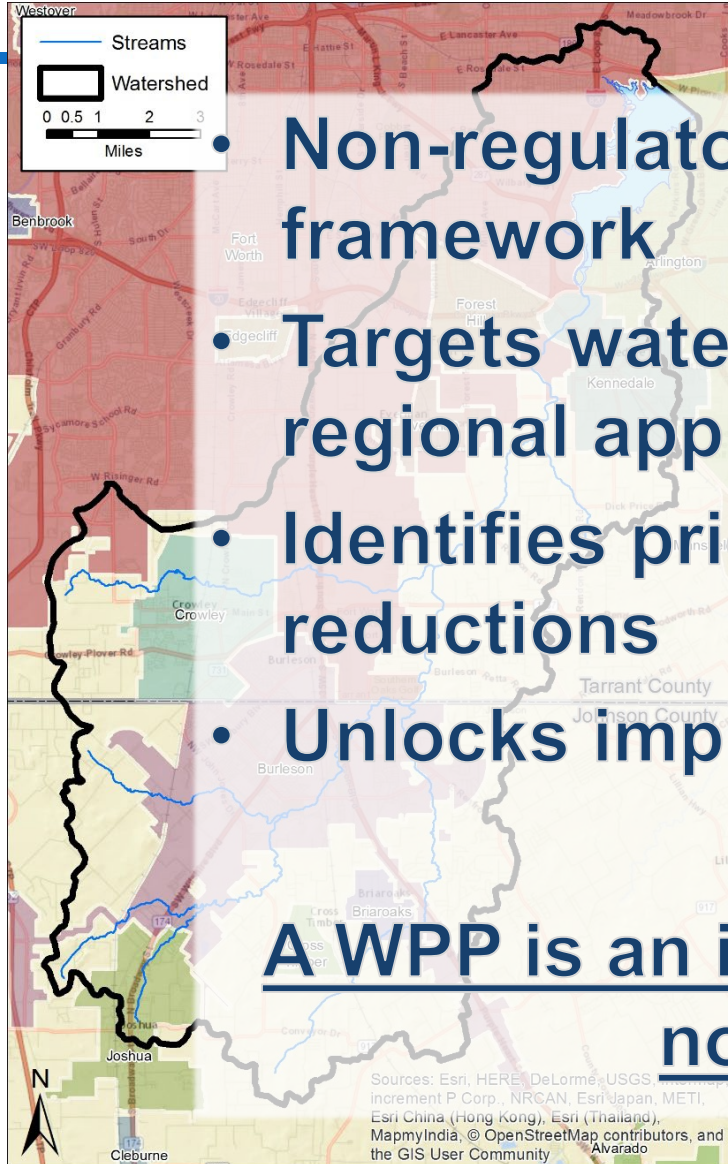


Rapid land use changes increases pressure on watershed conditions

JPL

- Drinking water
- Recreation
- **Walnut Creek –**  
*E. coli* impairment (2026 Draft IR)
- Bacteria concerns
  - Mountain Creek
  - Hollings Branch
  - Soap Creek
  - Bowman Branch

# What's a Watershed Protection Plan?

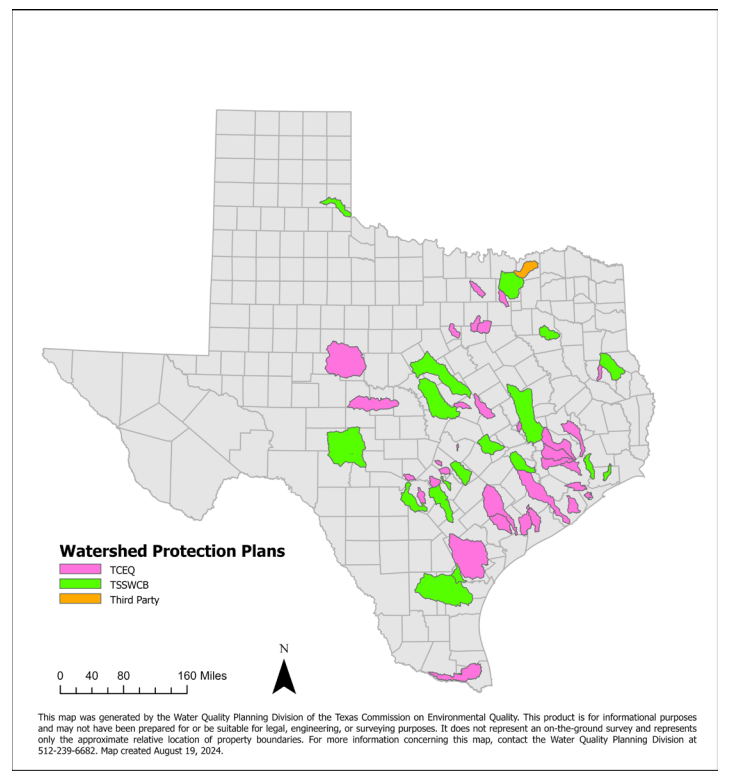
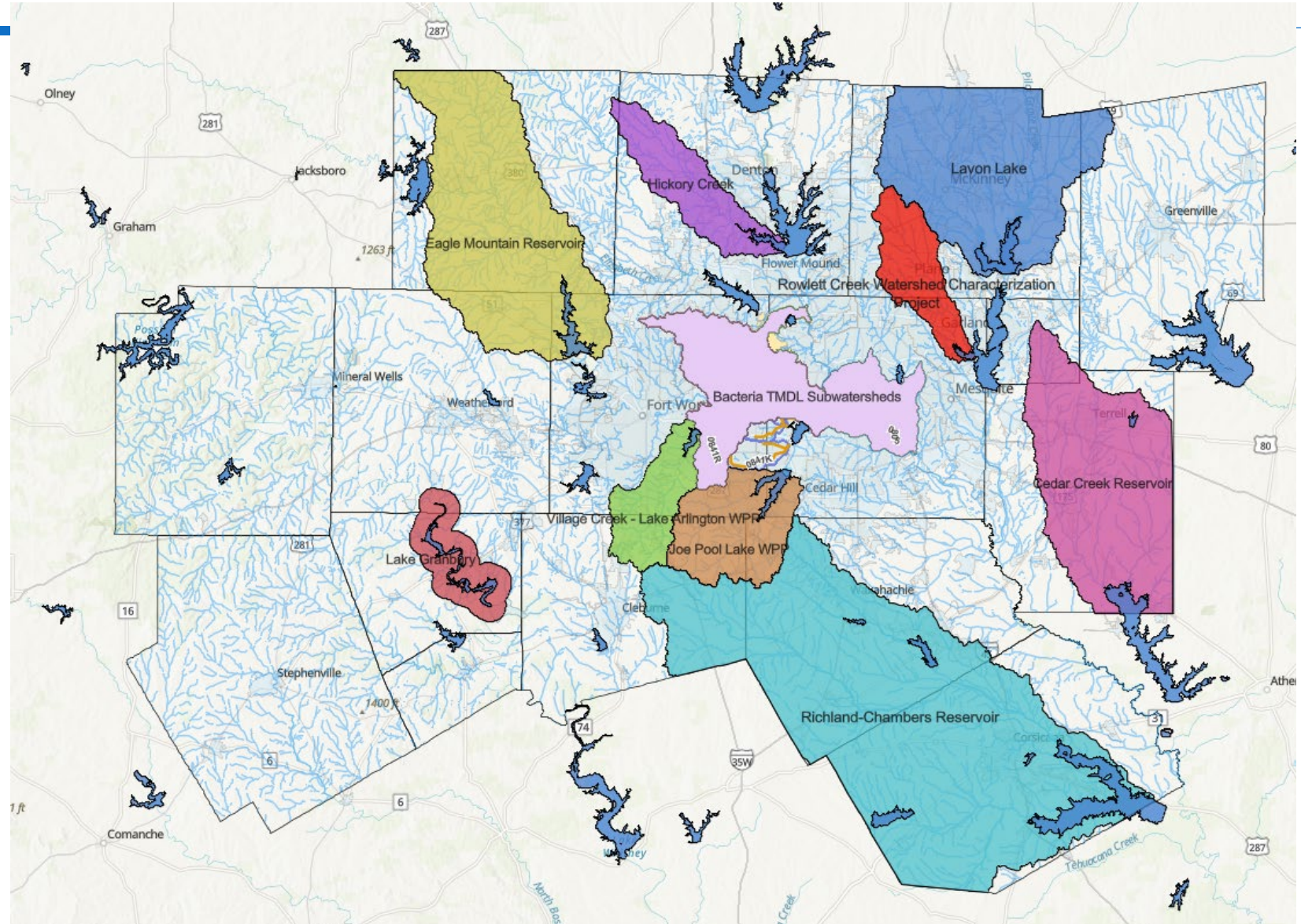


- Non-regulatory, stakeholder-driven framework
- Targets water quality issues from a regional approach
- Identifies priority actions and load reductions
- Unlocks implementation funding

**A WPP is an implementation roadmap, not just a report**



# North Central Texas WPPs



# From Planning to Implementation

- VCLA WPP → EPA accepted 2019
- JPL WPP → EPA accepted 2022



## Result:

- Multiple grant-funded projects underway
- Leveraged funding through partnerships
- Coordinated, watershed-scale projects



# Implementation Portfolio:



Education & Outreach



Agricultural BMPs



Septic (OSSF) Programs



Trash Abatement



Nature Based Solutions

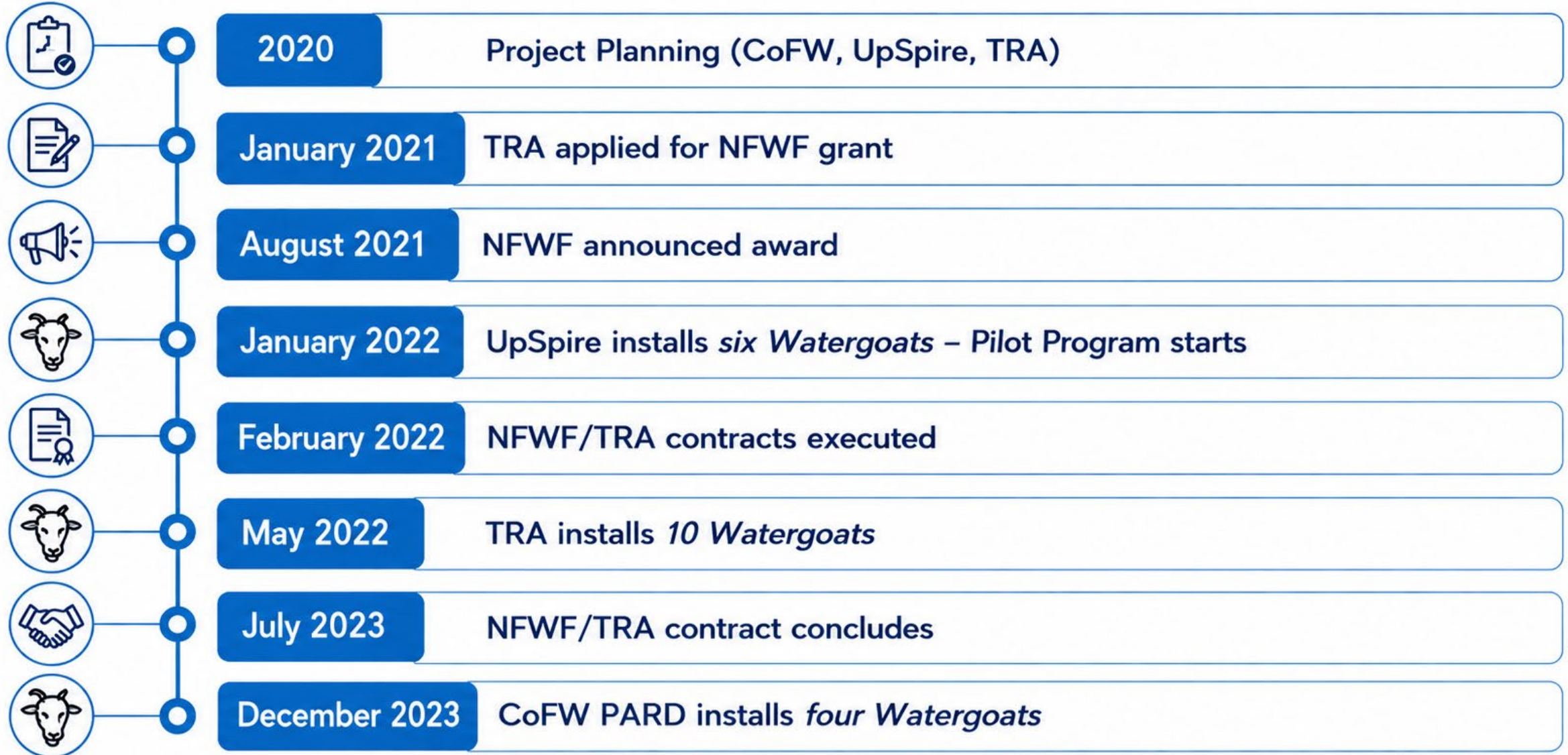


*Target multiple sources of pollution using coordinated strategies*

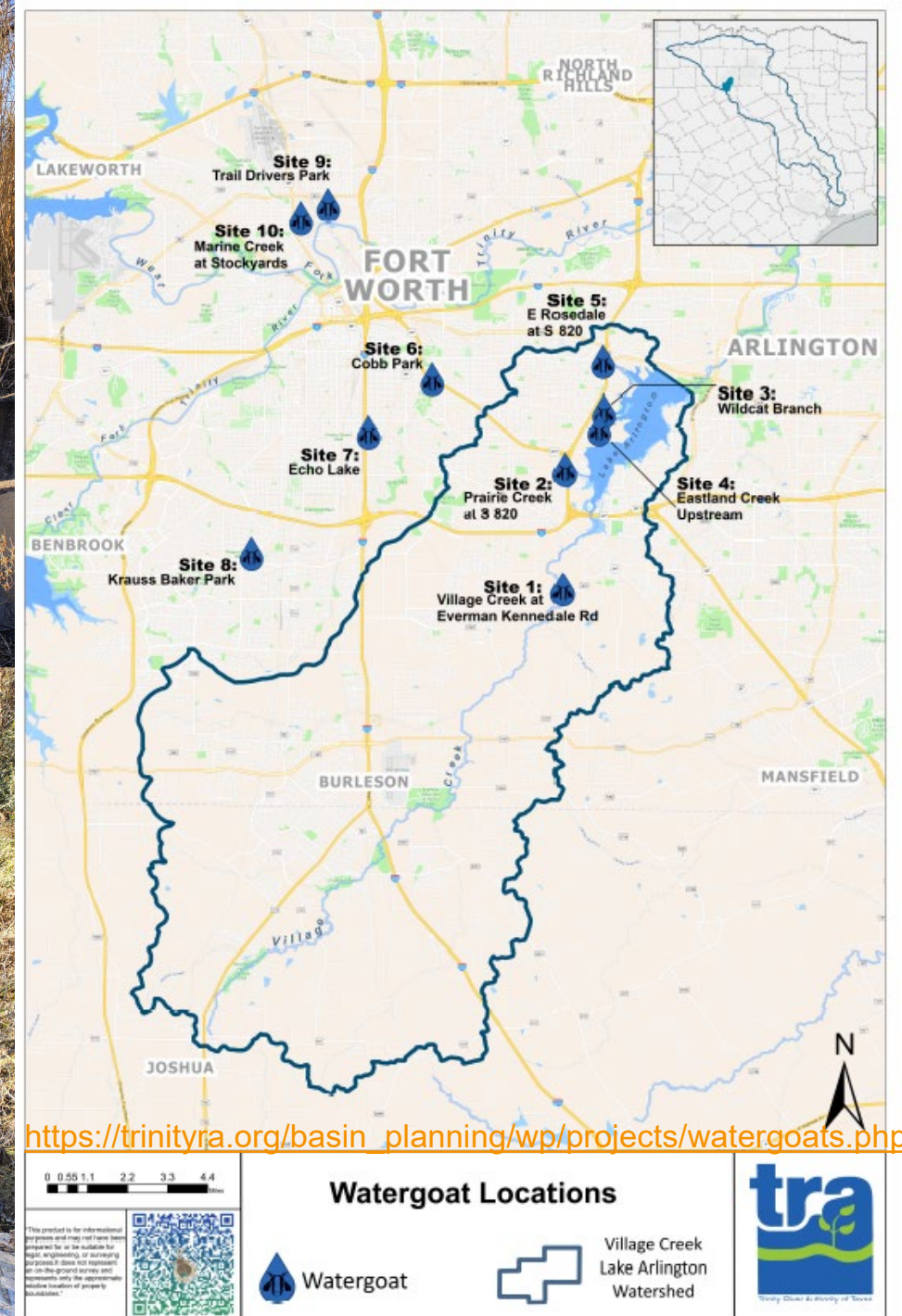
# Don't Feed the Goat – A Public-Private Partnership to Combat Floatable Litter



# PROJECT TIMELINE



# Trash Abatement: WATERGOATS 2022 - present



- Site 1: Village Creek at Everman Kennedale Rd
- Site 2: Prairie Creek at S 820
- Site 3: Wildcat Branch
- Site 4: Eastland Creek Upstream
- Site 5: E Rosedale at S 820
- Site 6: Cobb Park
- Site 7: Echo Lake
- Site 8: Krauss Baker Park
- Site 9: Trail Drivers Park
- Site 10: Marine Creek at Stockyards

## TRA NFWF Litter Survey Assessment

Description content for the survey

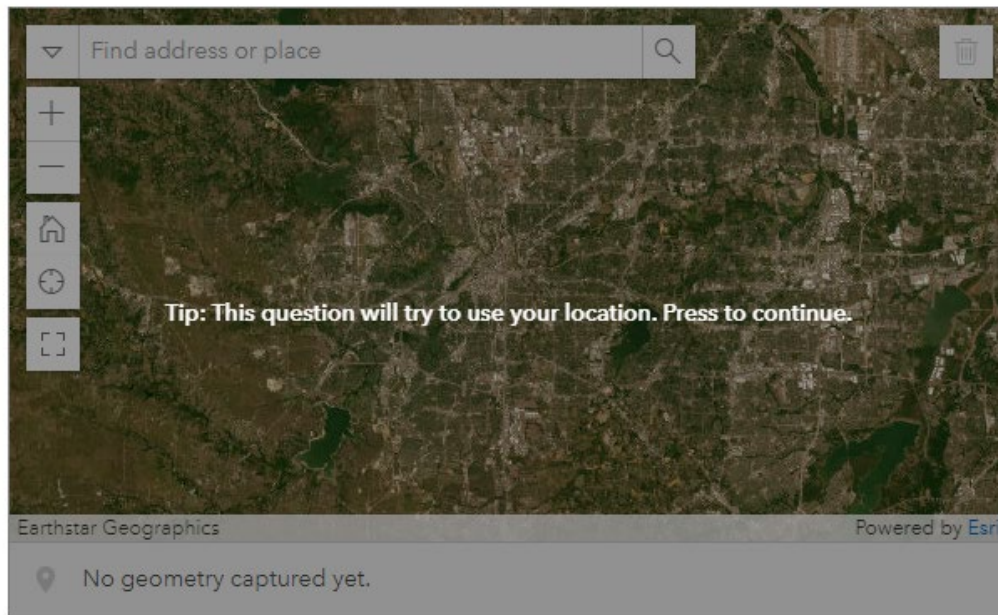
**Site Name\***

Select Site from drop down list

-Please select-

**Location\***

Use device location (GPS), enter an address or click on map to record incident location.



**Date & Time of Survey** ▶

**Litter Type** ▶

**Litter Type** ▶

**Signs of Active Erosion** ▶

**Homeless Occupation** ▶

**Estimated Flow Discharge (EFD)** ▶

**Litter Origin (LO)** ▶

**Litter Quantity (LQ)** ▶

**Habitual Dumping**

Habitual dumping suspected

Yes

No

**Notes**

1000

**Photos**

# Litter Survey

Site 1 Village Creek at Kennedale Everman Road

Site 2 Prairie Creek at 820

Site 3 Wildcat Branch

Site 4 Eastland Creek Upstream

Site 5 East Rosedale @S820

Site 6 Cobb Park

Site 7 Echo Lake

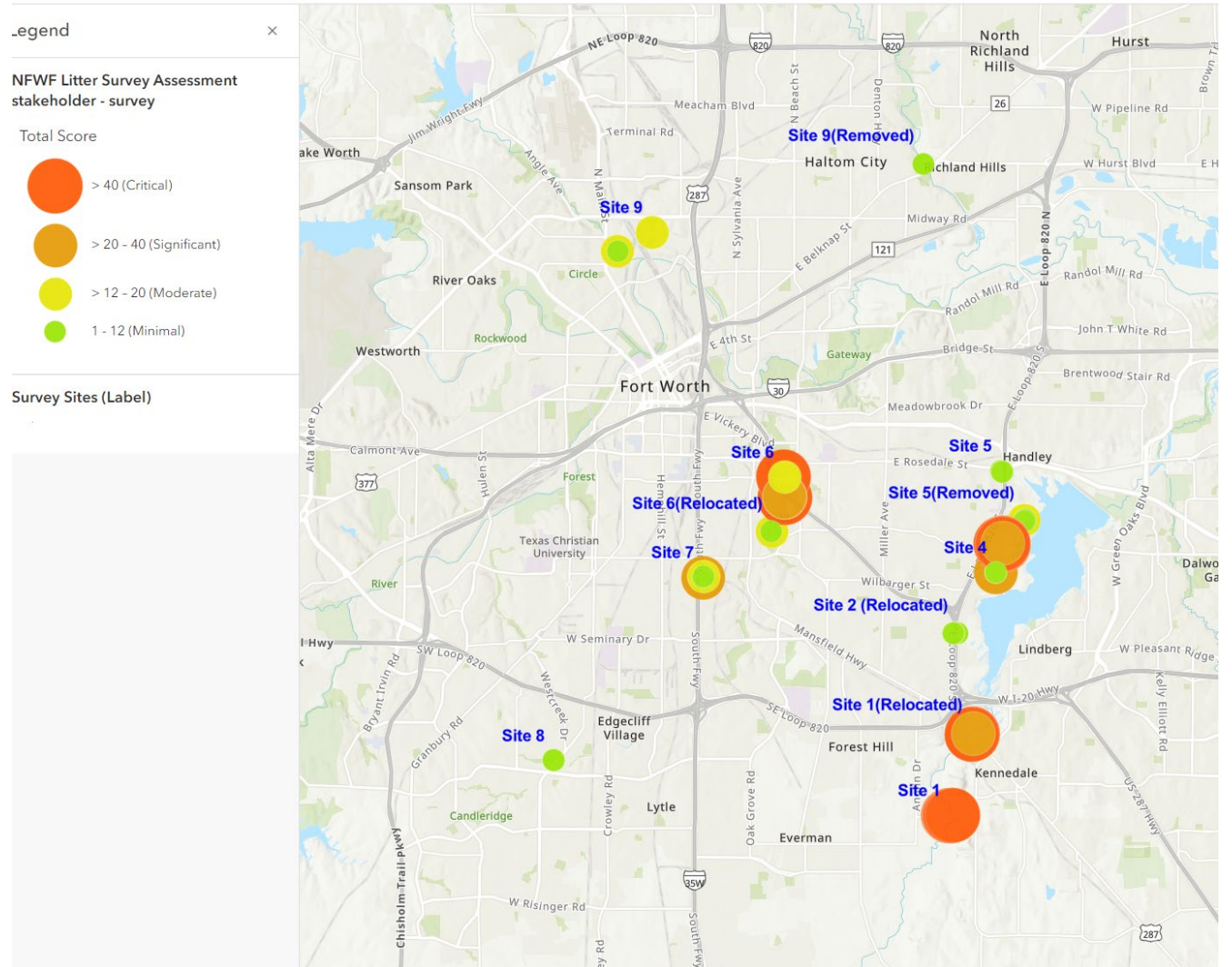
Site 8 Krauss Baker Park

Site 9 Trail Drivers Park

Site 10 Marine Creek at Stockyards

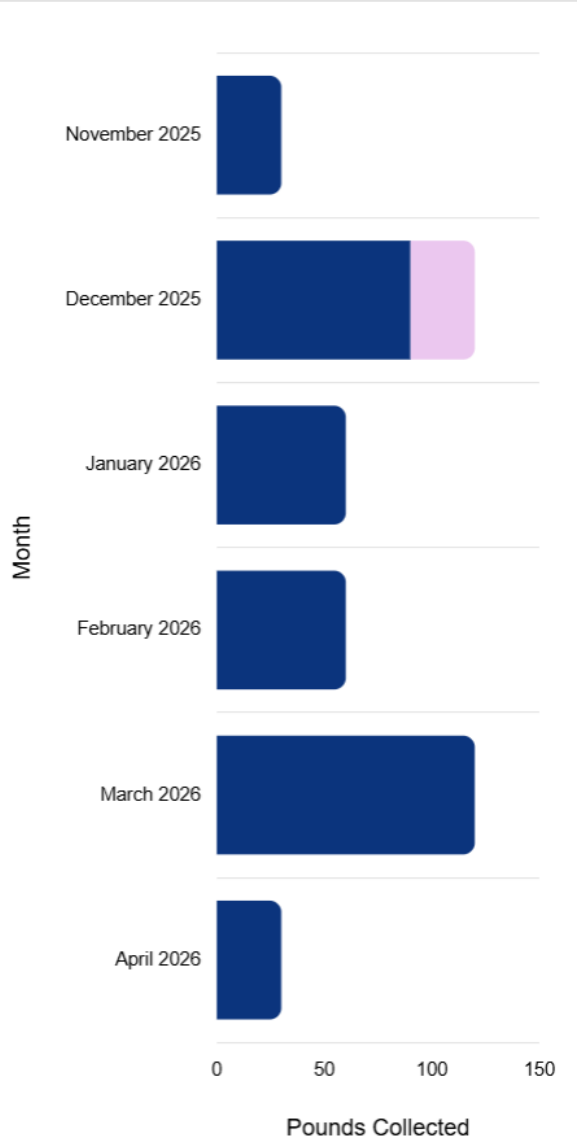
NFWF Litter Survey Assessment Site WebMap

[Open in Map](#)



# Trinity River Authority Watergoats

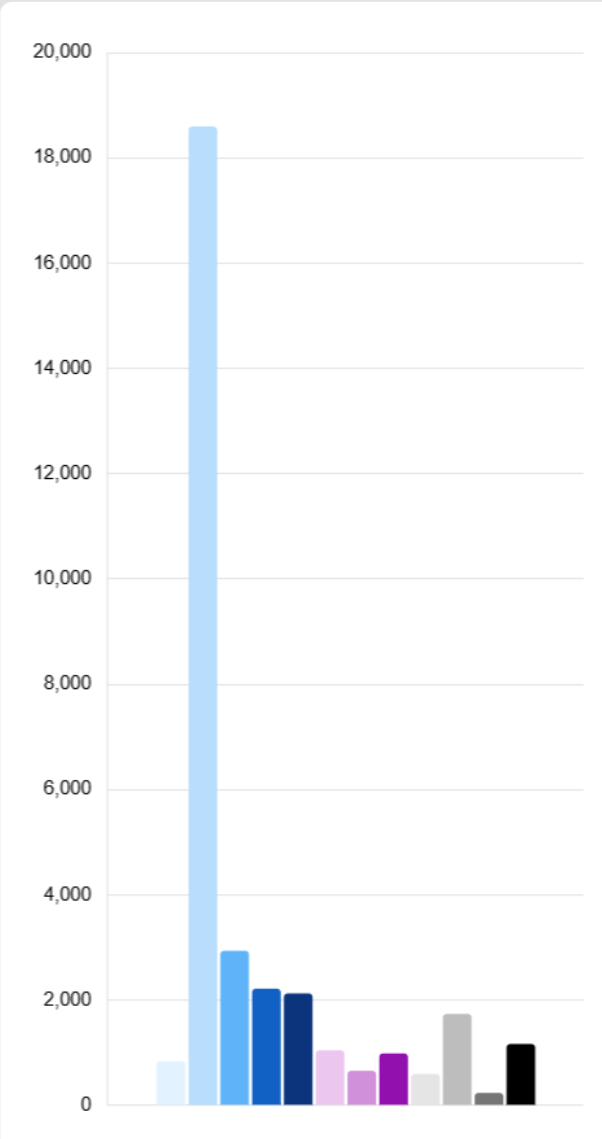
## Weight Collected by Month (lbs)



### Monthly Summary

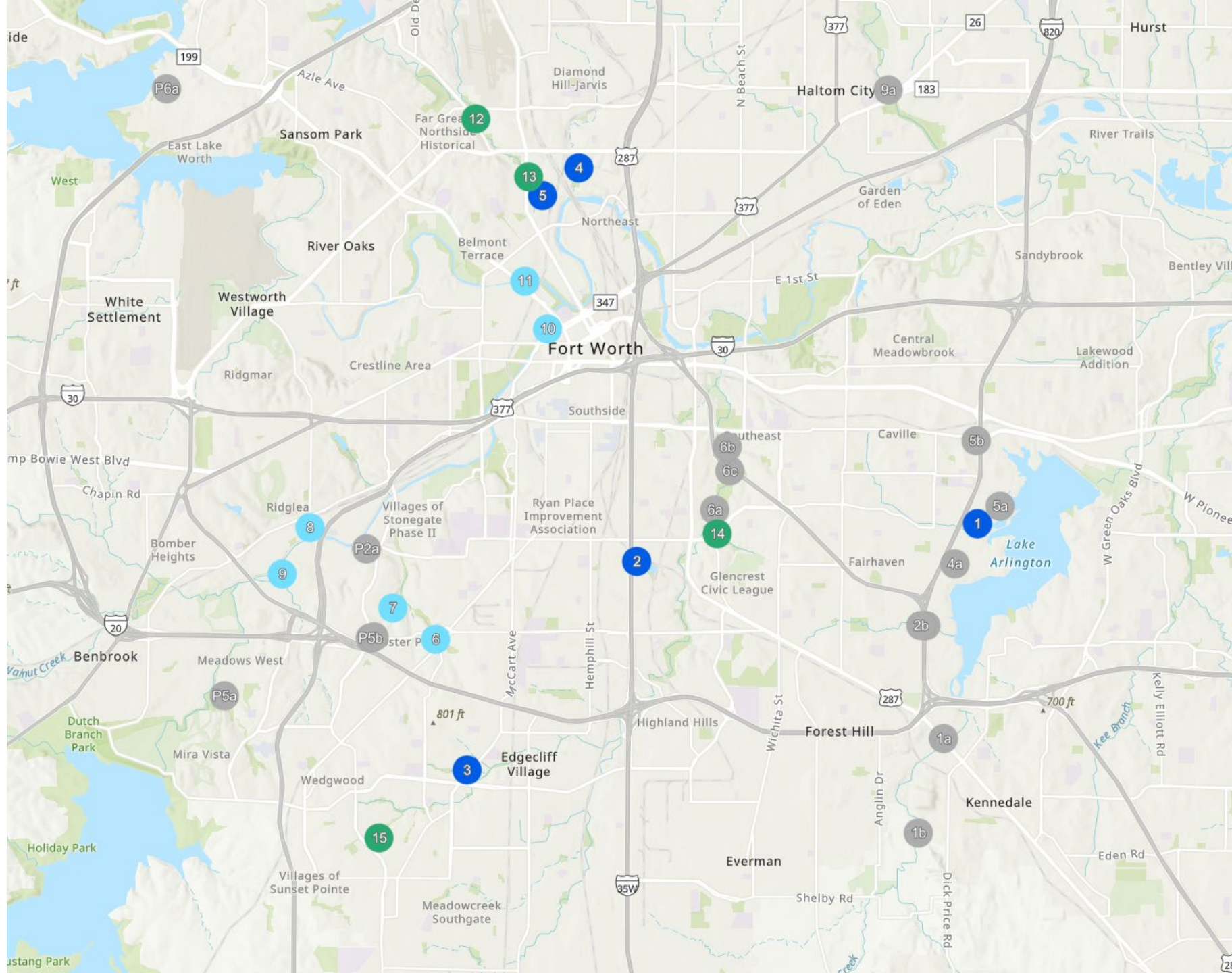
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>
Prairie Creek	0
Wildcat Branch	0
Echo Lake	0
Krauss Baker	0
Marine Creek	30
Trail Drivers Park	0
Village Creek	0
Sycamore Creek	0
Eastland Creek (Former Site)	0
Cobb Park (Former Site)	0

## Weight Collected Life-to-Date (lbs)



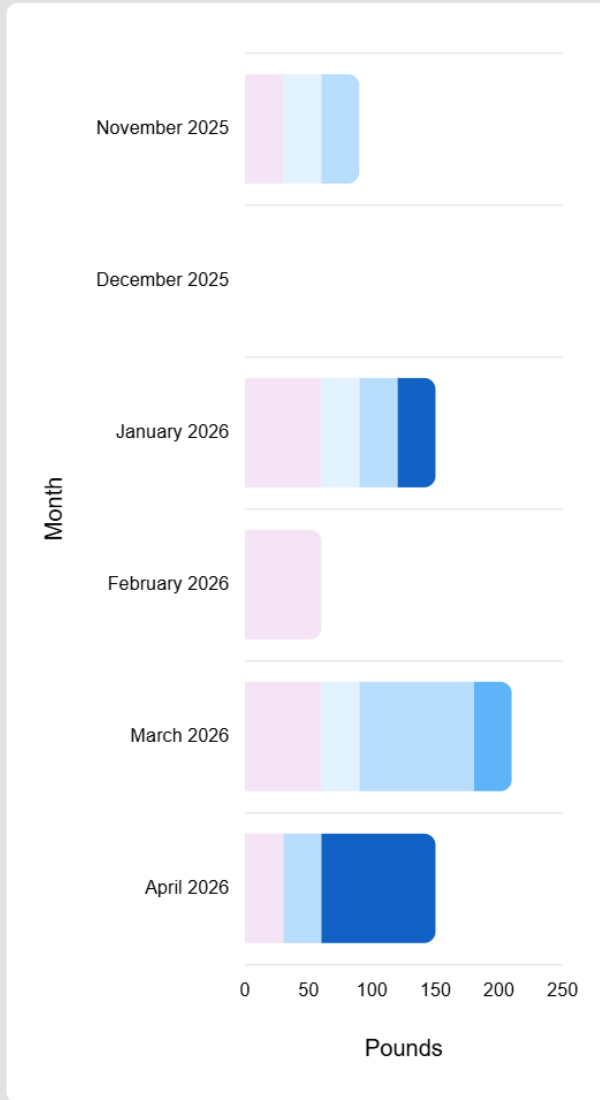
### Totals

<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>33,180</b>
Prairie Creek	840
Wildcat Branch	18,600
Echo Lake	2,940
Krauss Baker	2,220
Marine Creek	2,130
Trail Drivers Park	1,050
Village Creek	660
Sycamore Creek	990
Village Creek (Former Site)	600
Eastland Creek (Former Site)	1,740
Eugene McCray (Former Site)	240
Cobb Park (Former Site)	1,170



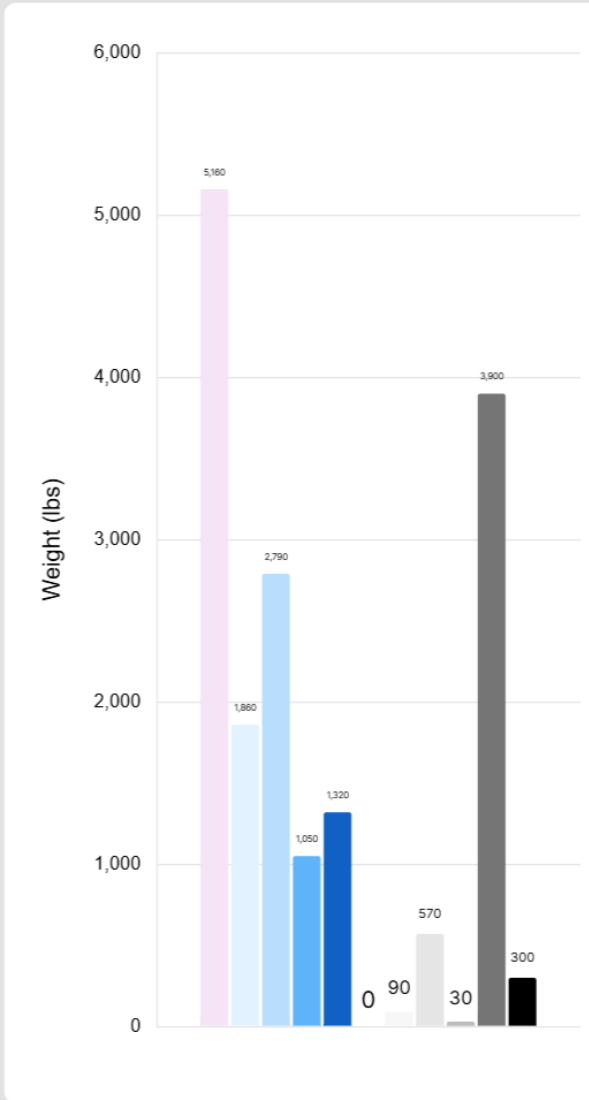
# Pilot Program Watergoats

## Weight Collected by Month (lbs)



Monthly Summary	
<b>Pilot Total</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Watercourse</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Edwards Ranch</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Foster Park</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Sarita Park</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Purcey Street Outfall</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Henderson Street</b>	<b>0</b>

## Weight Collected Life-to-Date (lbs)



Totals	
<b>Pilot Total</b>	<b>17,070</b>
<b>Watercourse</b>	<b>5,160</b>
<b>Edwards Ranch</b>	<b>1,860</b>
<b>Foster Park</b>	<b>2,790</b>
<b>Sarita Park</b>	<b>1,050</b>
<b>Purcey Street Outfall</b>	<b>1,320</b>
<b>Henderson Street</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Oakmont Park (Former Site)</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Foster Creek (Former Site)</b>	<b>570</b>
<b>Malaga Park (Former Site)</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Willow Lake 1 (Former Site)</b>	<b>3,900</b>
<b>Willow Lake 2 (Former Site)</b>	<b>300</b>

Note: Weights estimated at an average 30 lbs per bag

Note: Weights estimated at an average 30 lbs per bag

# Installation



# Installation



# Signage Installation



# Successes – May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022



# Successes – January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023



# Public Education and Outreach



The watergoats program was formed as part of the Village Creek-Lake Arlington Watershed Protection plan to remove unwanted litter and restore the water quality in Lake Arlington and Village Creek. The initiative was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2019.

TRA and UpSpire (Presbyterian Night Shelter subsidiary), in collaboration with the UTA Office of Sustainability, Tarrant Regional Water District, and the Dorris Family Foundation were awarded a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to fund litter removal efforts. In May 2022, the Trinity River Authority purchased and installed 10 watergoats in the Village Creek-Lake Arlington watershed.

## HELP US KEEP OUR WATERWAYS CLEAN!

By participating in litter cleanups, you can play an active role in protecting our environment. Sign up with your UTA Office of Sustainability Mavs Go Green Team.

**HOW DOES TRASH END UP IN WATER?**

Trash ends up in waterways through illegal dumping. Rain and wind can also carry debris into rivers and streams through drains.

**WHAT IS A WATERGOAT?**

A floating boom device that creates a barrier preventing trash from clogging creeks, ponds, stormwater outfalls and other bodies of water.

See where the watergoats are located

**SCAN ME!** 



Watergoats



One watergoat can capture 120 lbs. of trash per month.



Pounds of trash collected from May 2022 to Dec. 2022

### PARTNERS

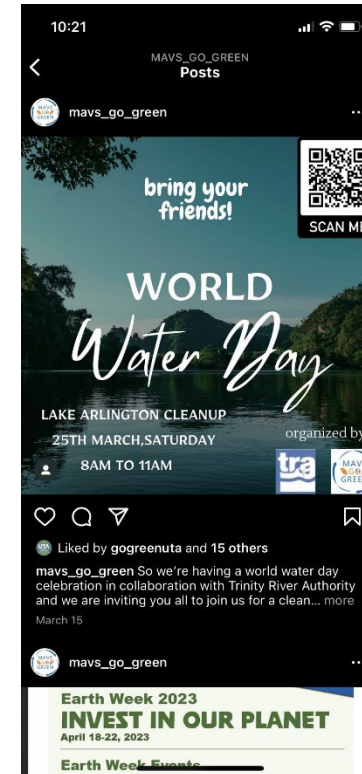


# University of Texas at Arlington– World Water Day Litter Cleanup – March 25, 2023

## UTA volunteers at Watergoat Site 3 Wildcat Branch



## UTA Mavs Go Green Instagram Social Media Post



# City of Fort Worth – Keep Fort Worth Beautiful – Cowtown Litter Cleanup and Earth Party Booth – March 25, 2023

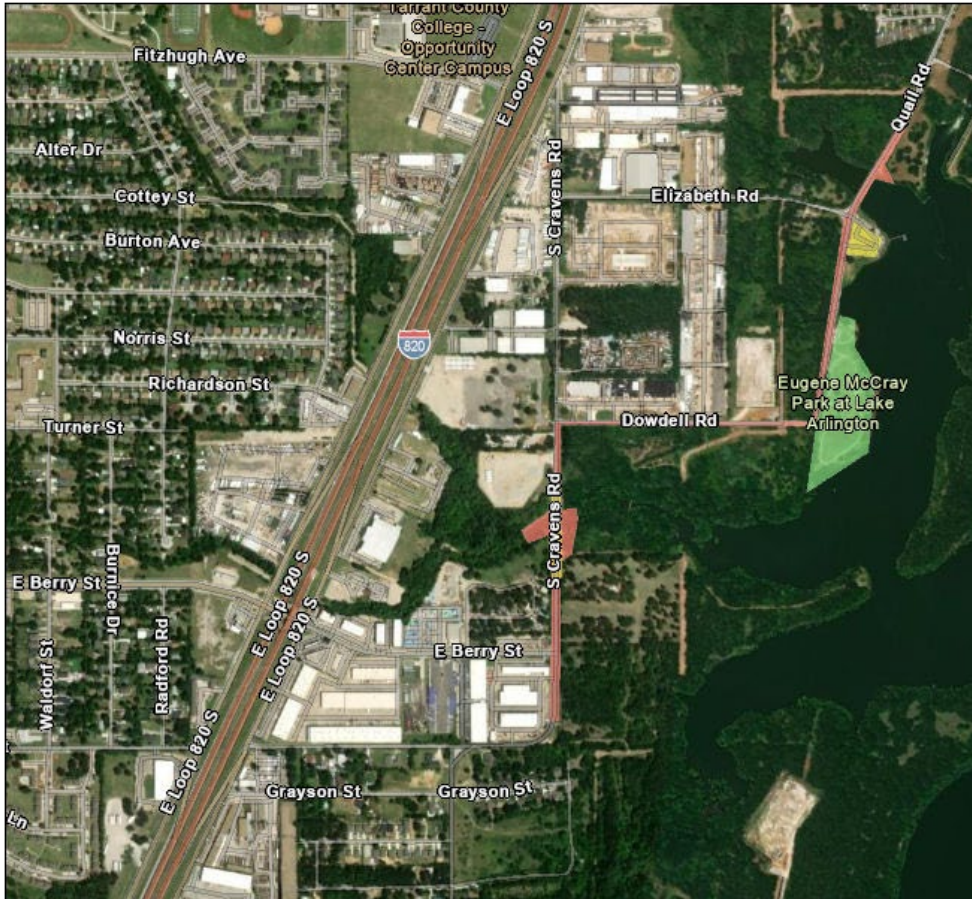
## Litter Cleanup near Watergoat Site 6 Cobb Park



## Earth Party Booth at Trinity Park, Fort Worth, TX



UTA The Big Event - Litter Cleanup Lake



3/2/2023

- Polygon
- Area to be cleaned
- Park area to be cleaned
- Parking
- World Imagery
- Low Resolution 15m Imagery
- High Resolution 60cm Imagery
- High Resolution 30cm Imagery
- Citations

THE BIG EVENT  
WATERWAYS LITTER CLEANUP

DON'T FEED THE  
WATERGOATS

Saturday, April 22nd, 2023  
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Lake Arlington Eugene McCray Park  
3449 Quail Road  
Fort Worth, Texas 76119



WHAT IS THE BIG EVENT?

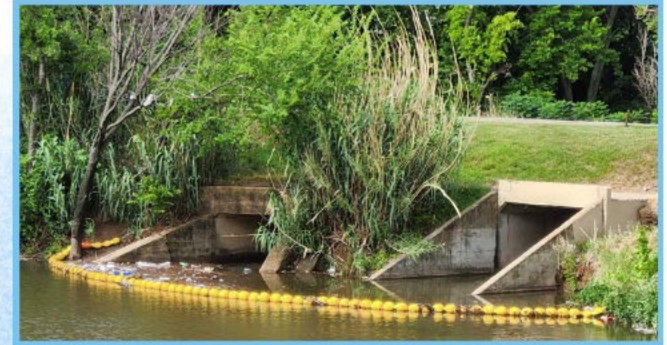
The Big Event is the university's largest day of service and enthusiastic volunteers participate in various service project sites all on one BIG day.

HOW DOES TRASH END UP IN WATER?

Trash ends up in waterways through illegal dumping. Rain and wind can also carry debris into rivers and streams through drains.

WHAT IS A WATERGOAT?

A floating boom device that creates a barrier preventing trash from clogging creeks, ponds, storm water out falls and other bodies of water.



For the Big Event, volunteers will participate in the Waterways Litter Cleanup at 3 different sites around Lake Arlington where there are Water Goats present. These sites are:

- S Cravens Road & Wildcat Branch (parking available on S Cravens Road)
- Dowdell Road & Quail Road (parking available on S Cravens Road, Quail Road, & at the Boat Launch)
- Eugene McCray Park (parking available on Quail Road & at the Boat Launch)



HELP US KEEP OUR  
WATERWAYS CLEAN!



Watergoats



One watergoat can capture 120 lbs. of trash per month



Pounds of trash collected from May 2022 to Dec. 2022

SIGN UP HERE!



PARTNERS



FORT WORTH



Presbyterian Night Shelter



UTA Office of Sustainability



# ••• University of Texas at Arlington – The Big Event – Earth Day Booth and Litter Cleanup – April 22, 2023

## TRA at UTA Earth Day Booth Event



## TRA pushing trash to banks for UTA volunteers to clean up at Site 3 Wildcat Branch



# University of Texas at Arlington – The Big Event – Earth Day Litter Cleanup – April 22, 2023

UTA volunteers near old Watergoat Site  
5 Eugene McCray Park on Lake  
Arlington



UTA volunteers at Watergoat Site 3  
Wildcat Branch



# University of Texas at Arlington – The Big Event – Earth Day Litter Cleanup – April 22, 2023

UTA volunteers at Watergoat Site 3  
Wildcat Branch



UTA volunteers at Watergoat Site 3  
Wildcat Branch





# Fort Worth Independent School District – Vital Link – June 15, 2023

Vital Link students visiting  
Watergoat Site 9 Trail Drivers Park



Vital Link students visiting City of Fort  
Worth Watergoat Site on the Clear Fork  
of the Trinity River



The project commenced in February 2022 and concluded in July 2023. The city of Fort Worth has taken ownership of all Watergoats and actively manages this program.



This project has received a [Texan by Nature Certification](#), a designation that recognizes innovative, conservation-minded initiatives that benefit both people and the environment. It also won the Outstanding Flagship Project award from the Regional Center of Expertise North Texas and was selected as a [finalist of TCEQ's Texas Environmental Excellence Award](#) in the Civic/Community category.

# Challenges



# ... Challenges

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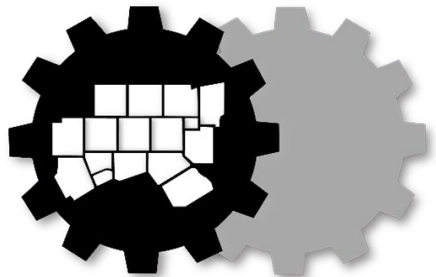
# Challenges & Lessons Learned

---

- Length of watergoat
- High flow and low flow
- Gabion wall installation
- Woody debris is not our friend
- Locations in visible areas have received good responses
- Doesn't impede kayak traffic
- Litter abatement devices preference

# Trash Abatement

NCTCOG Solid waste implementation grant –  
“TRA litter and illegal dumping initiative”

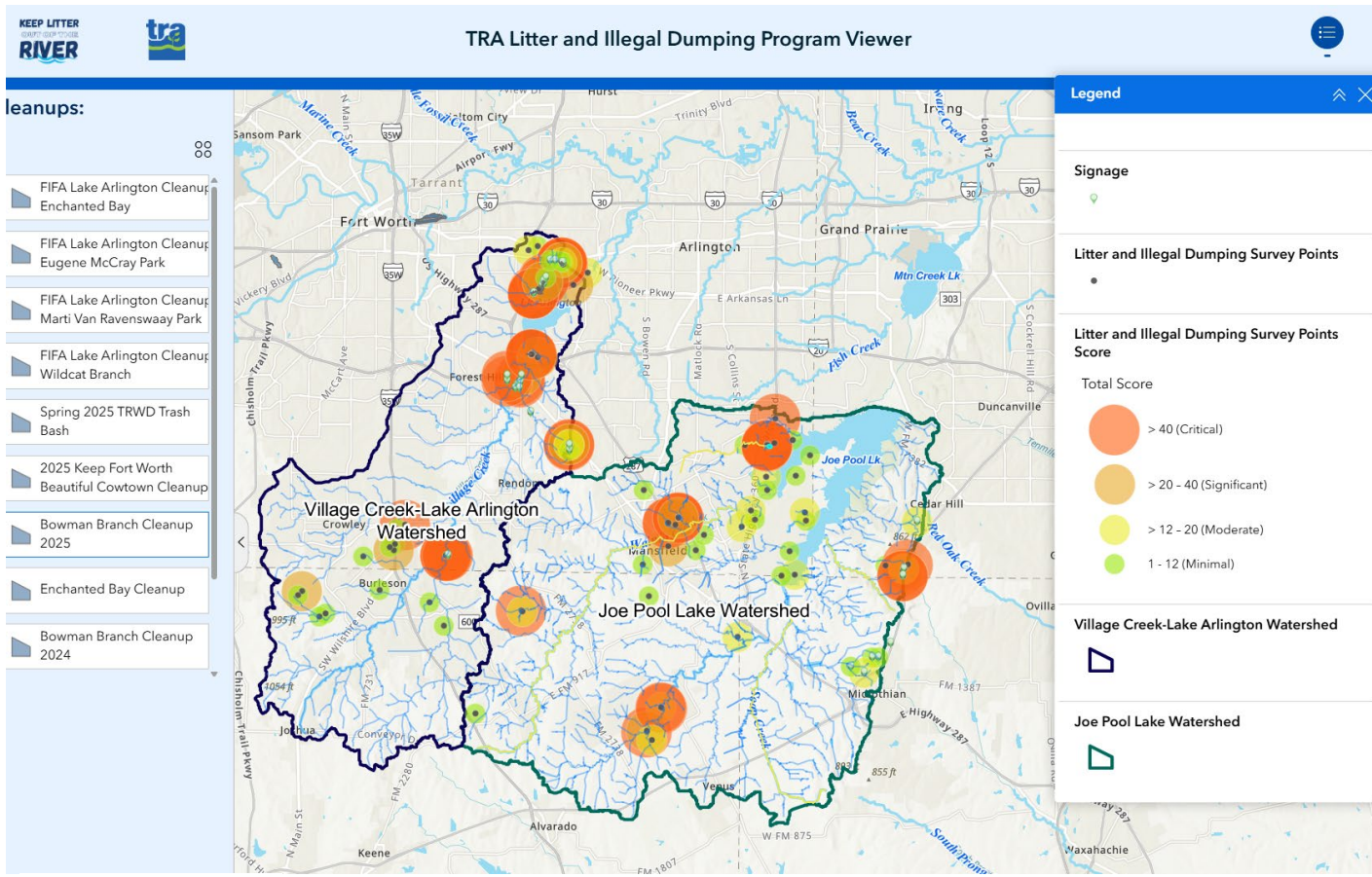


**North Central Texas  
Council of Governments**

**KEEP LITTER  
OUT OF THE  
RIVER**



# The Opportunity



Support the Water Quality Improvement Goals and Implementation Strategies detailed in the Joe Pool Lake and Village Creek-Lake Arlington Watershed Protection Plans such as:

- Reducing illegal dumping
- Sponsoring and supporting litter cleanups
- Expanding TRAs Litter Source Assessment Survey
- Engaging stakeholders



[Litter and Illegal Dumping Program Viewer](#)

[www.trinityra.org/litter](http://www.trinityra.org/litter)



Open tabs: 1

Point x



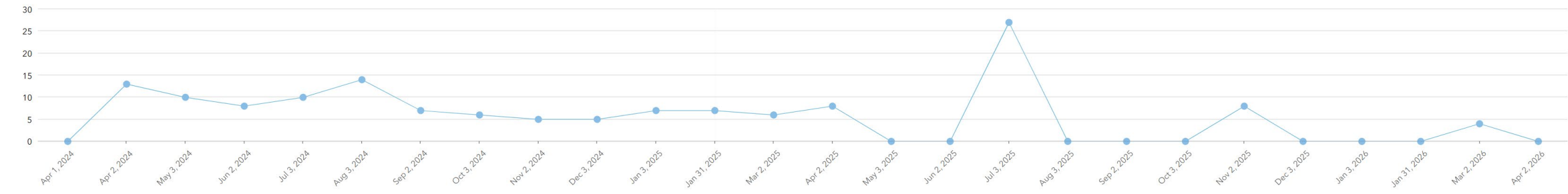
61 records, 0 selected



	Name	Notes	Reviewed	CreationDate	
<input type="checkbox"/>	City of Grand Prairie - Bow...	Frequented by fishers. Lea...	Yes	4/12/2024, 4:56 PM	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Johnson County Precinct 3	CR 615 bridge, lots of tras...	Yes	4/15/2024, 2:40 PM	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Johnson County Precinct 3	Shaded Lane Circle, trash i...	Yes	4/15/2024, 2:41 PM	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Johnson County Precinct 3	Saint Paul Street trash thro...	Yes	4/15/2024, 2:43 PM	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Johnson County Precinct 3	CR 616 trash around brid...	Yes	4/15/2024, 2:49 PM	
<input type="checkbox"/>	City of Mansfield - Broad/...	Litter dropped from vehicl...	Yes	4/15/2024, 3:56 PM	
<input type="checkbox"/>	City of Mansfield - Seeton ...	Seeton bridge over Joe P...	Yes	4/15/2024, 3:59 PM	
<input type="checkbox"/>	City of Mansfield - Tom Th...	Easement behind Tom Th...	Yes	4/15/2024, 4:00 PM	
<input type="checkbox"/>	City of Cedar Hill	History of illegal dumping ...	Yes	4/16/2024, 1:15 PM	
<input type="checkbox"/>	City of Cedar Hill	Lester Lorch Park-History o...	Yes	4/1/	+ Create feature

Surveys count: 145 (total: 277)

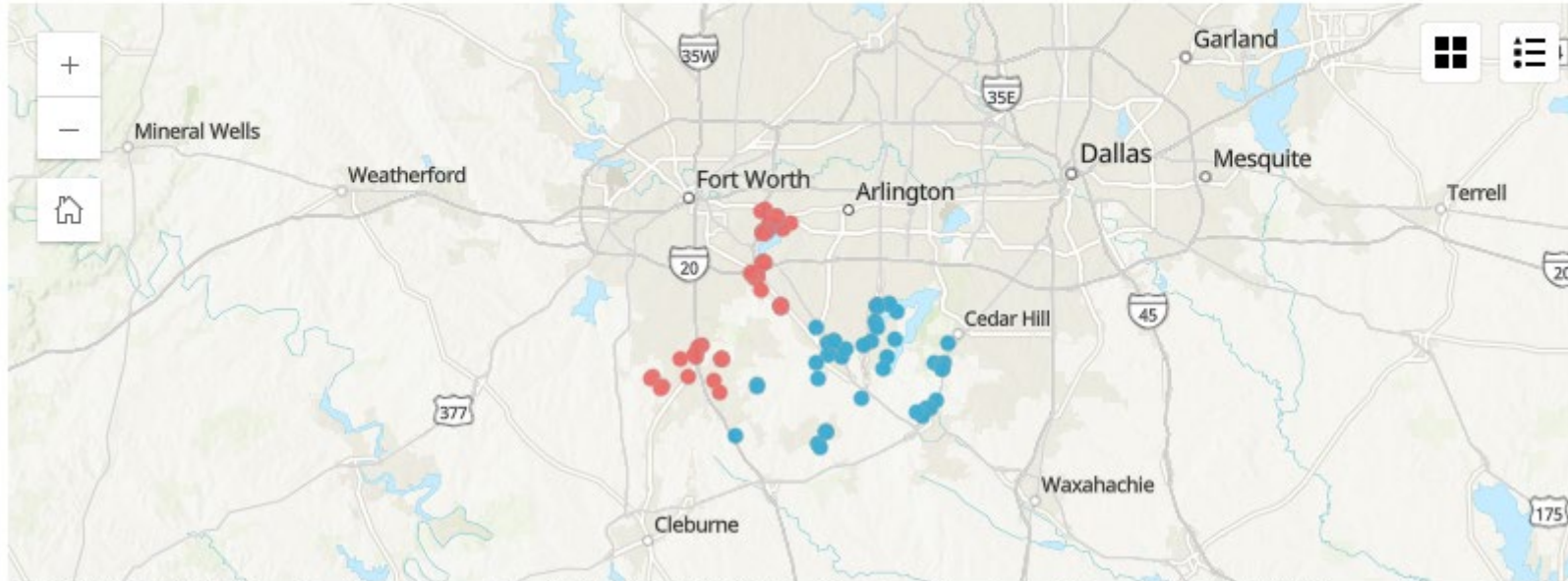
4/1/24 - 5/1/26



Top participants

Watershed \*

Column Bar Pie Map



Esri, CGIAR, USGS | City of Fort Worth, Texas Parks & Wildlife, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, ... Powered by Esri

[Hide table](#)

Answers	Count	Percentage
Village Creek	87	60%
Joe Pool Lake	58	40%
Water Goat	0	0%
Other	0	0%

Answered: 145 Skipped: 0

### Habitual Dumping

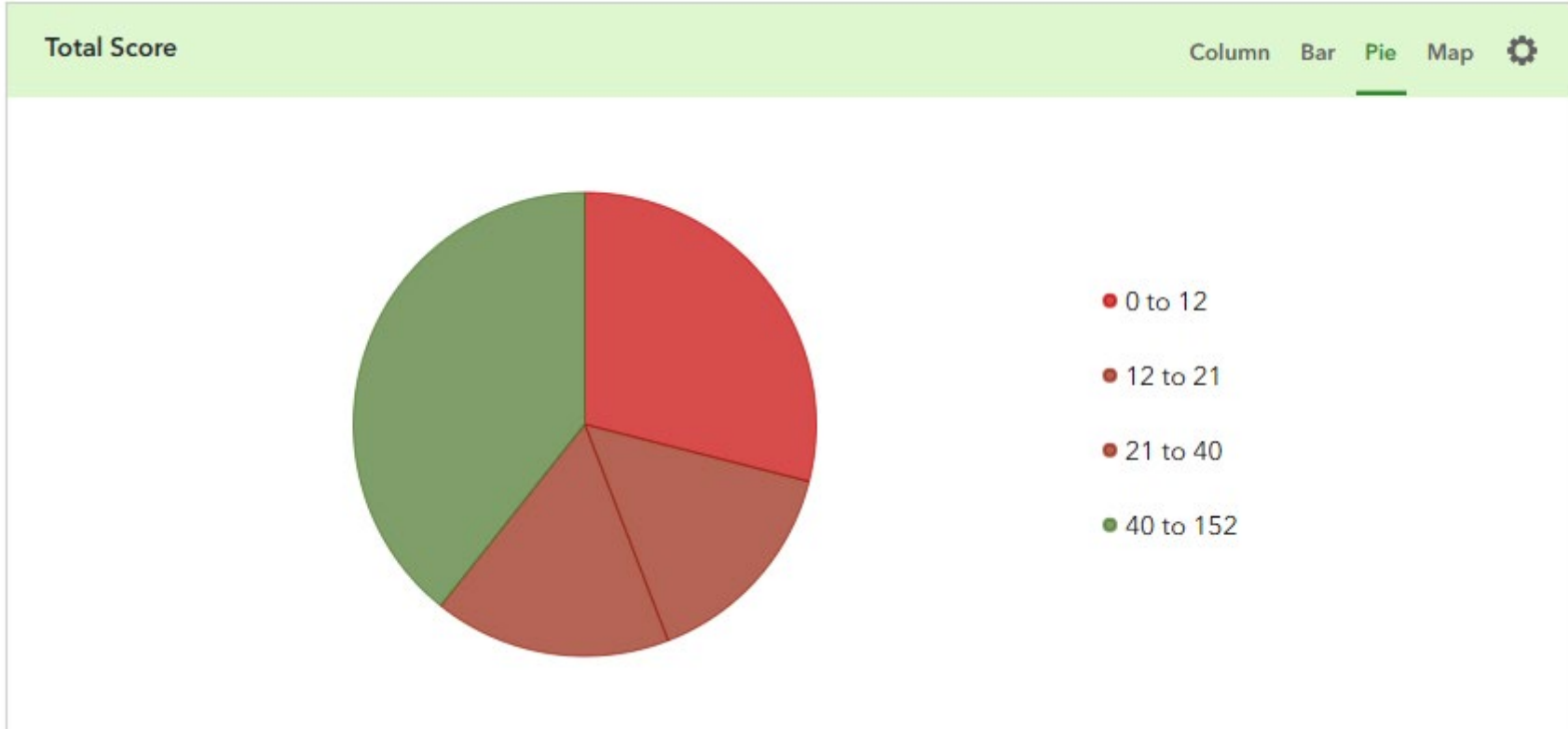
Column Bar Pie Map



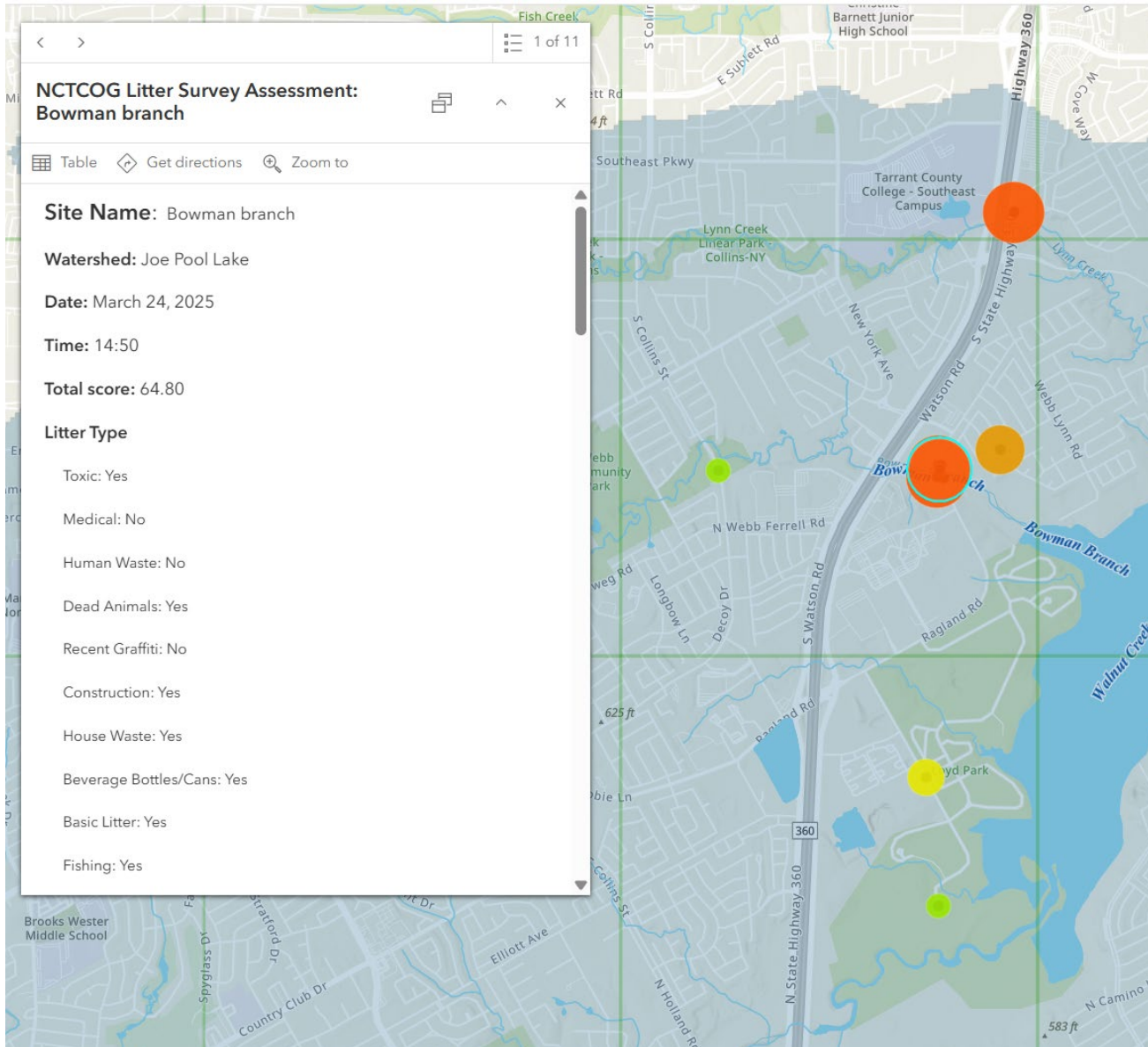
[Hide table](#)

Answers	Count	Percentage
Yes	103	71.03%
No	38	26.21%

Answered: 141 Skipped: 4



# Bowman Branch

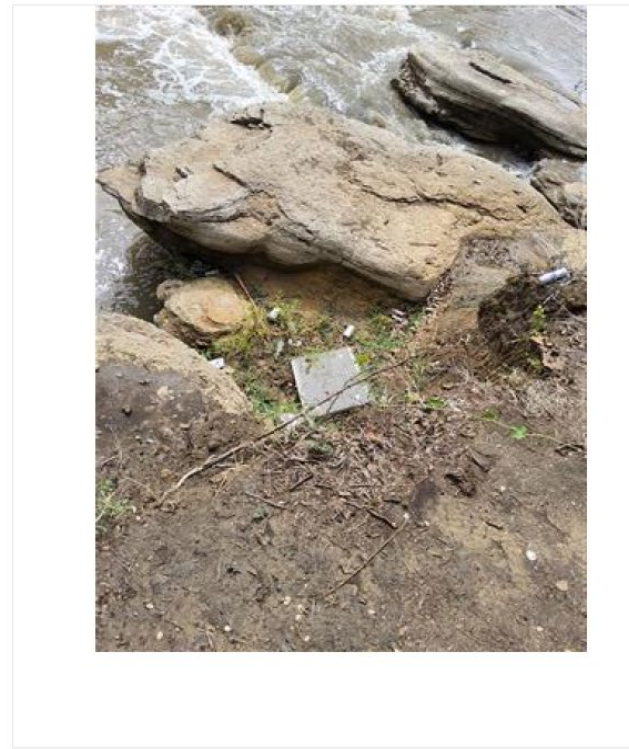


# Bowman Branch – Survey Results – September 2024

Litter Type	No
Construction	0
Estimated Flow Discharge (EFD)	> 10 CFS
House Waste	10
Litter Origin (LO)	Offsite
Beverages Bottles/Cans	1
Basic Litter	Placed or Dumped
Fishing	2
Litter Quantity (LQ)	1 Dumpster
Signs of Active Erosion	1.5
Homeless Occupation	



photos-20240923-193824.jpg



photos-20240923-193908.jpg

Total Score  
66

Notes  
**Lack of parking but plenty of trash. Maybe v**

- Supplemental Questions
- **Illegal Dumping Candidate**
  - **Litter Cleanup Candidate**

# Bowman Branch – Survey Results – Oct/Nov 2024



# Bowman Branch Cleanup Dec 2024



- Location: Bowman Branch at Mirabella Blvd (near JPL)
- Volunteers: 6
- Area Cleaned: 500 feet of waterfront, 1.5 acres cleaned
- Trash Collected: Over 1,600 lbs. of waste removed, including over 40 bags of illegally dumped shingles

# Bowman Branch Jan/Feb 2025



# Bowman Branch Cleanup March 2025

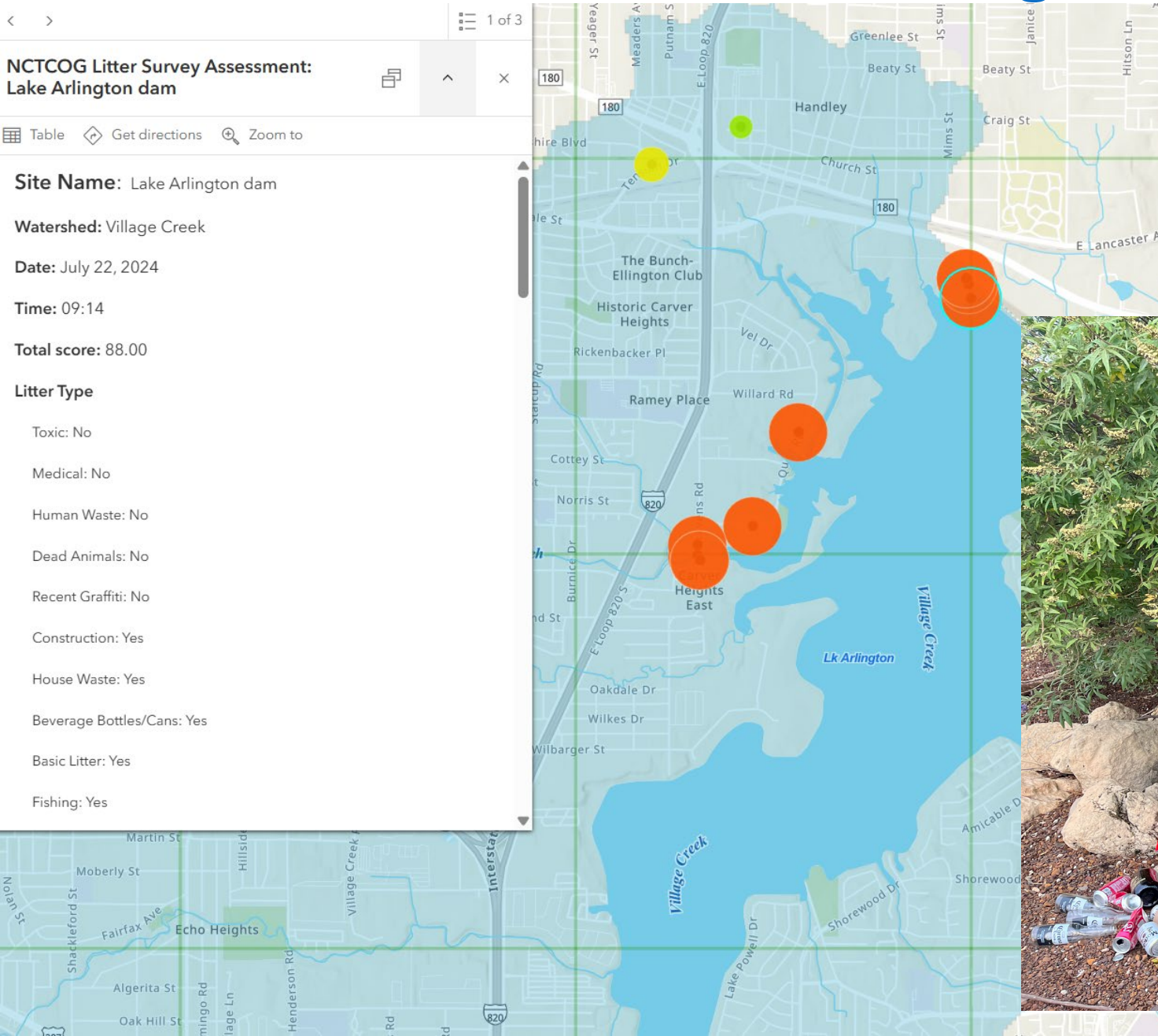


- Location: Bowman Branch at Mirabella Blvd (near JPL)
- Volunteers: 10
- Area Cleaned: 1,705 feet of waterfront, 1.63 acres cleaned
- Trash Collected: 1,050 lbs. of trash collected, including large amounts of fishing litter

# Bowman Branch after March 2025 cleanup



# Lake Arlington Dam



## NCTCOG Litter Survey Assessment: Lake Arlington dam

Table Get directions Zoom to

**Site Name:** Lake Arlington dam

**Watershed:** Village Creek

**Date:** July 22, 2024

**Time:** 09:14

**Total score:** 88.00

### Litter Type

- Toxic: No
- Medical: No
- Human Waste: No
- Dead Animals: No
- Recent Graffiti: No
- Construction: Yes
- House Waste: Yes
- Beverage Bottles/Cans: Yes
- Basic Litter: Yes
- Fishing: Yes



# Lake Arlington Dam Survey Results July 2024

Litter Type	Construction	Yes	2	10
		Estimated Flow Discharge (EFD)		
	House Waste	No Flow	2	0
	Beverages Bottles/Can	Litter Origin (LO)		
		Offsite	1	1
	Basic Litter	Placed or Dumped	1	2
	Fishing	Litter Quantity (LQ)		
		> Dumpster	1	2
Signs of Active Erosion	Habitual Dumping	Yes	5	
	Notes			



Potential cleanup w TRA and arlington; fence is open for direct access to Lake; no illegal dumping signs, cameras only seen on dam; outdoor lighting could be improved. No encampments, but evidence of occupation.

Homeless Occupation

# Lake Arlington Dam – Multiple Months







# Lake Arlington Dam Cleanup October 2024

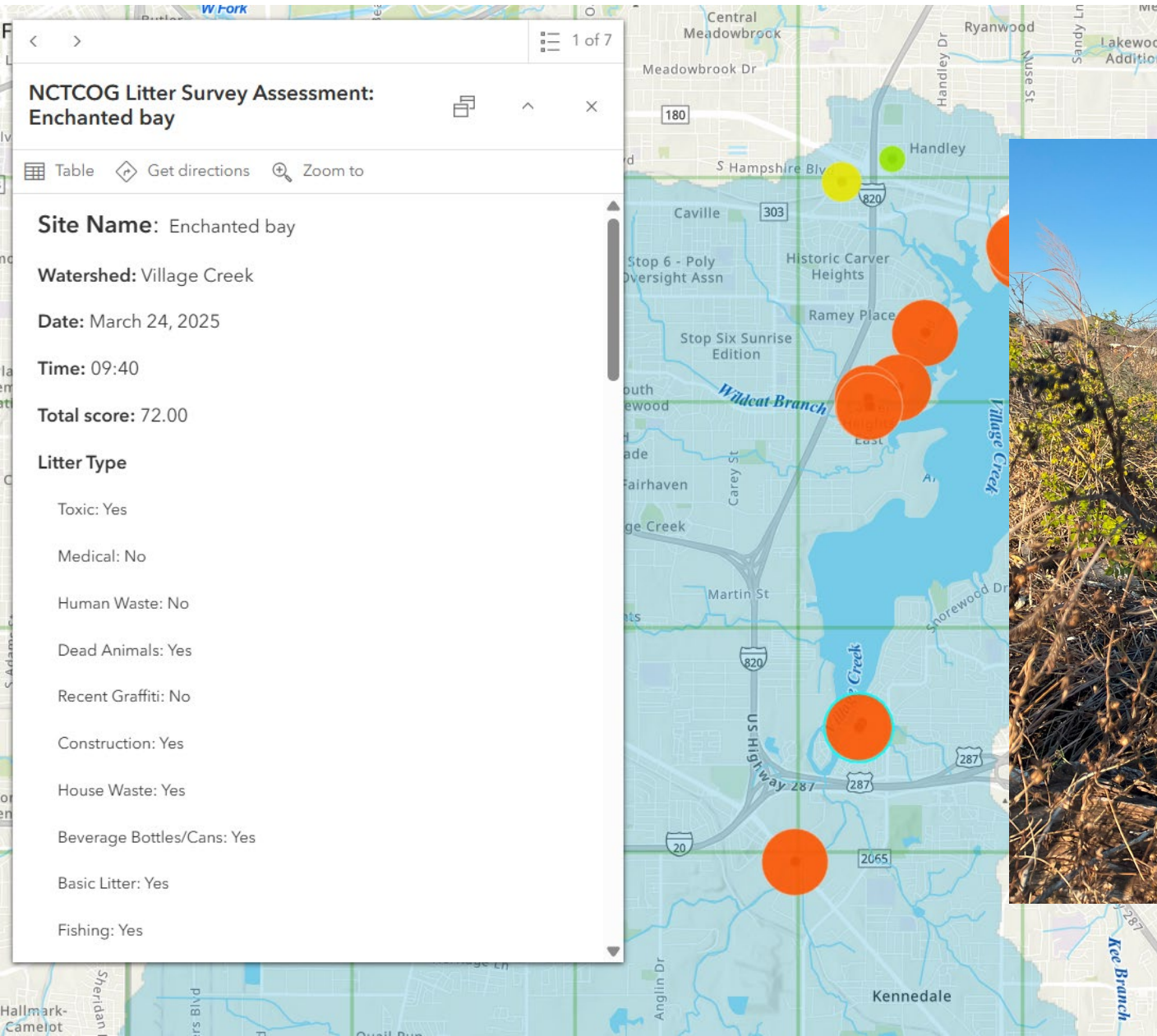


- Location: Lake Arlington Dam
- Volunteers: 12
- Area Cleaned: 800 feet of waterfront, 2 acres cleaned
- Trash Collected: 1,500 lbs. of waste including 5 large tires

# Lake Arlington Dam – March 2025



# Enchanted Bay (Arlington)



**NCTCOG Litter Survey Assessment: Enchanted bay**

Table Get directions Zoom to

**Site Name:** Enchanted bay

**Watershed:** Village Creek

**Date:** March 24, 2025

**Time:** 09:40

**Total score:** 72.00

**Litter Type**

- Toxic: Yes
- Medical: No
- Human Waste: No
- Dead Animals: Yes
- Recent Graffiti: No
- Construction: Yes
- House Waste: Yes
- Beverage Bottles/Cans: Yes
- Basic Litter: Yes
- Fishing: Yes



# Enchanted Bay Cleanup – January 2025



- Location: Enchanted Bay – Lake Arlington
- Volunteers: 42
- Area Cleaned: 1,337 feet of waterfront, 2.3 acres cleaned
- Trash Collected: 105 bags of trash, 4 tires, and several bulk items. Removed over 3,600 lbs. of waste

# Enchanted Bay – March 2025



Check out our past and upcoming litter cleanup events:



[www.trinityra.org/litter](http://www.trinityra.org/litter)



**NO DUMPING**  
 VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED

Law Enforcement Non-emergency:  
 817-473-0211

City Ordinance Section 19-2  
 Texas Health and Safety Code 365





**NO DUMPING**  
 VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED

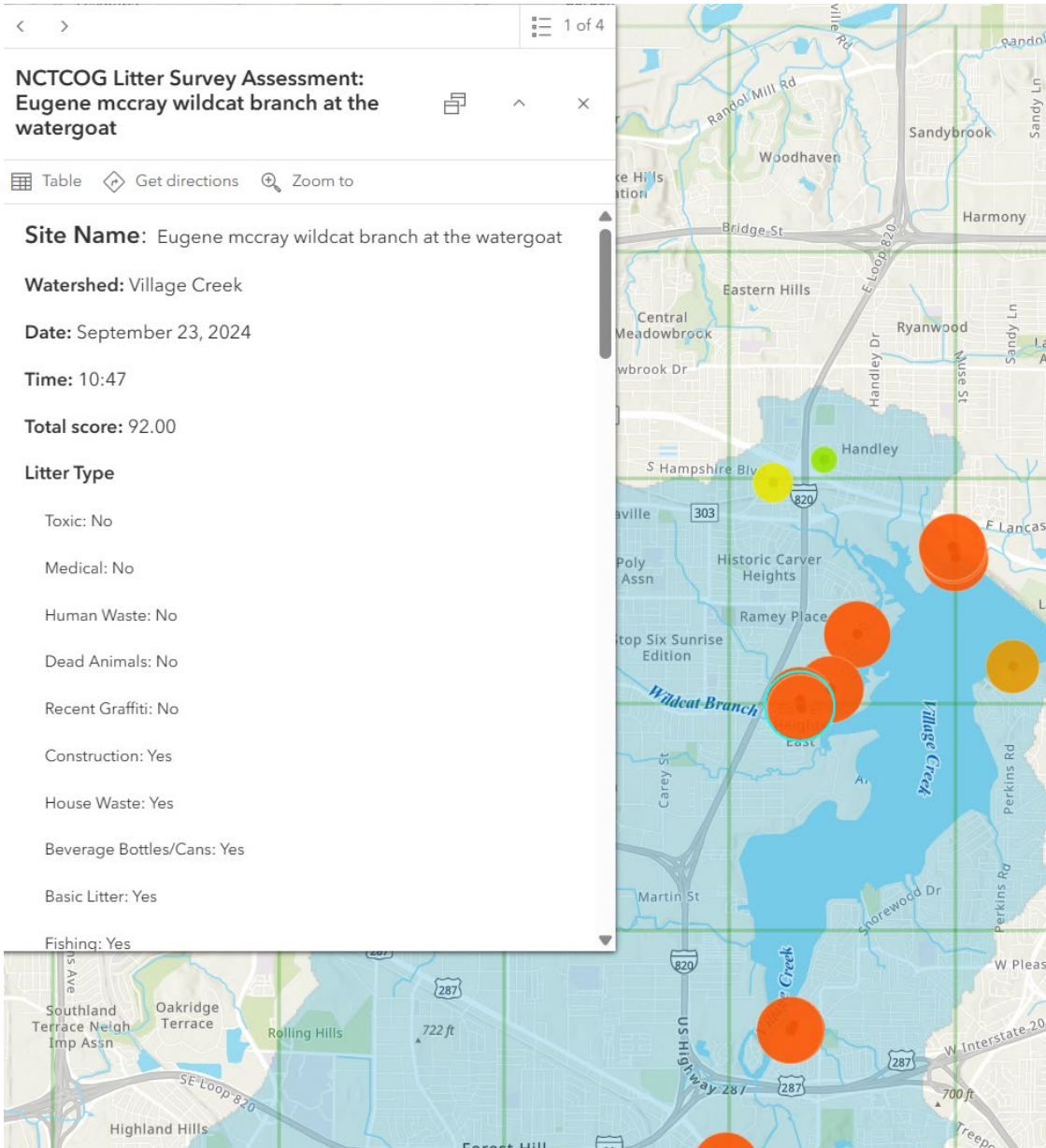
Texas Health and Safety Code 365

City Municipal Code Ordinance #80-571  
 Law Enforcement 972-223-6111





# Wildcat Branch – Eugene McCray Park – Fort Worth







# Fort Worth Sign Placement

**NO DUMPING**

**NO LITTERING**



Non-emergency Fort Worth Police  
817-392-4222

Fort Worth Code Compliance  
817-392-1234

Texas Health and Safety Code 365

Fort Worth Municipal Code  
Chapter 16 Article XII Section 16-294







Photos



photos-2025



photos-20250324-182217.jpg



Total Score

26.4

# Tarrant County Sign Placement

< > 1 of 5

**NCTCOG Litter Survey Assessment: Retta rd**

Table Get directions Zoom to

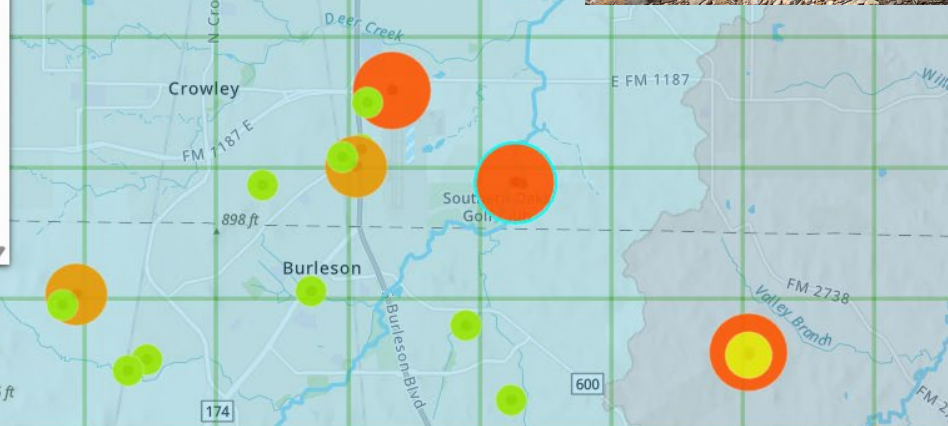
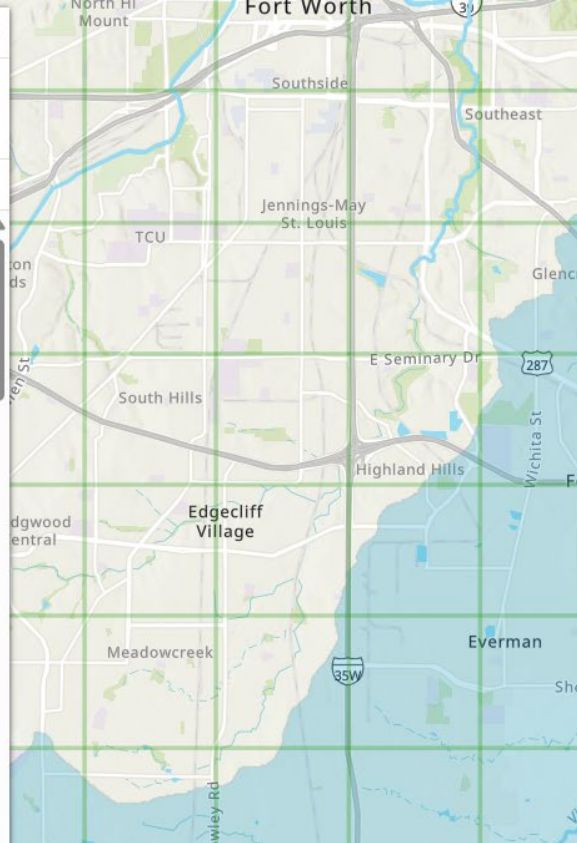
**Site Name:** Retta rd

**Watershed:** Village Creek

**Date:** March 24, 2025

**Time:** 11:41

**Total score:** 55.20

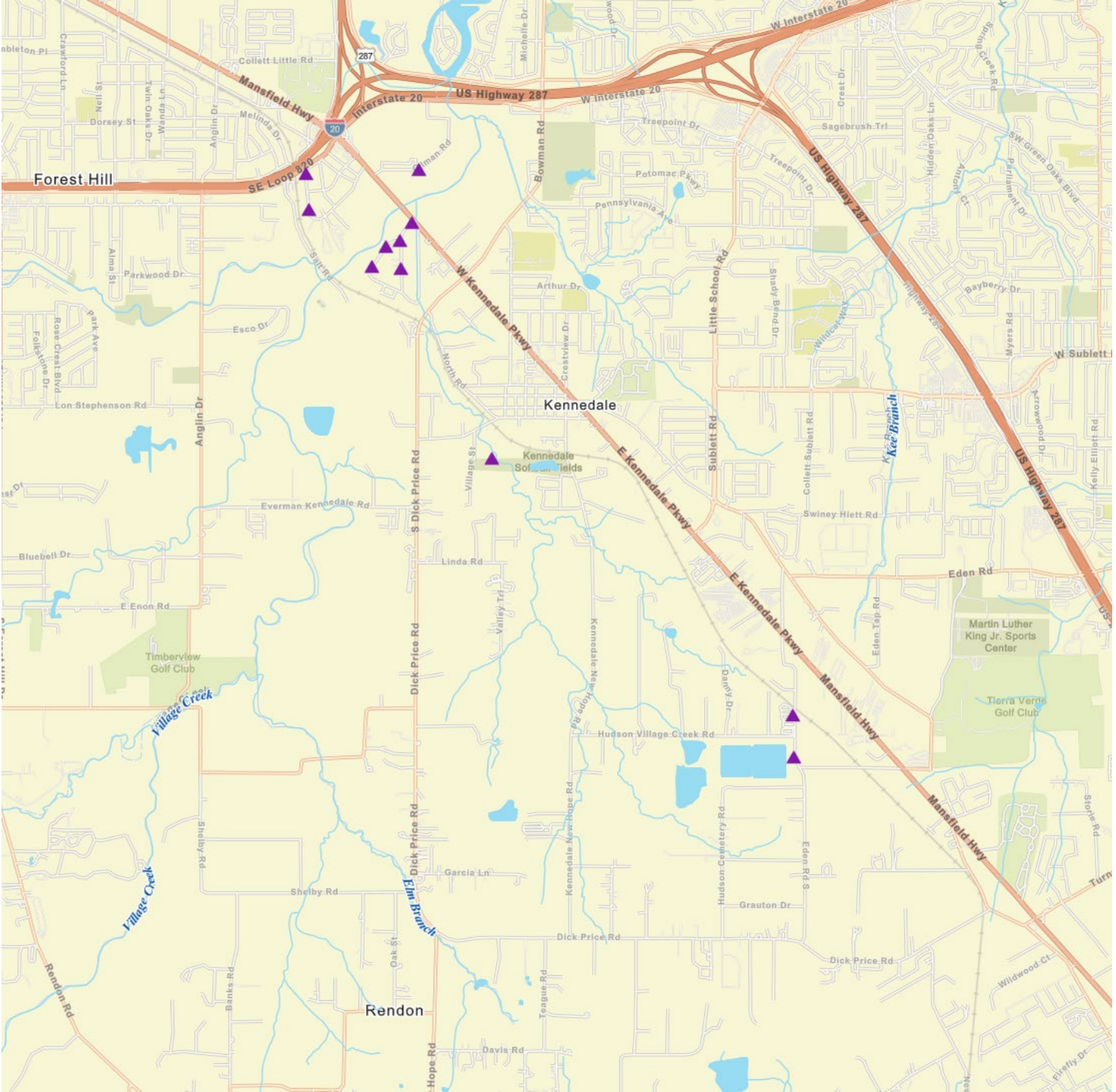


**NO DUMPING**



Texas Health and Safety Code 365  
[www.tarrantcountytexas.gov](http://www.tarrantcountytexas.gov)  
817-884-1213

# Kennedale Signage Locations



Constellation

(on Dam)

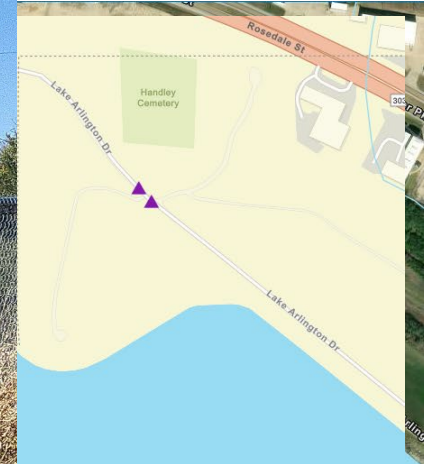
PRIVATE PROPERTY

NO DUMPING  
NO LITTERING

VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED

Contact Control Room for concerns at 817-446-2534

Texas Health and Safety Code 365



Village Creek

# The Opportunity

Create a multi-faceted approach to combat illegal dumping and engage in litter cleanups.

- Host and support litter cleanups
- Participate in outreach and education events highlighting this project, litter awareness, and illegal dumping education.
- Utilize our connections with schools to engage students and educators with materials and volunteering opportunities.



# Supporting Trash Bash and Cowtown Cleanup



# Education, Outreach, and Social Media

KEEP LITTER  
OUT OF THE  
**RIVER**

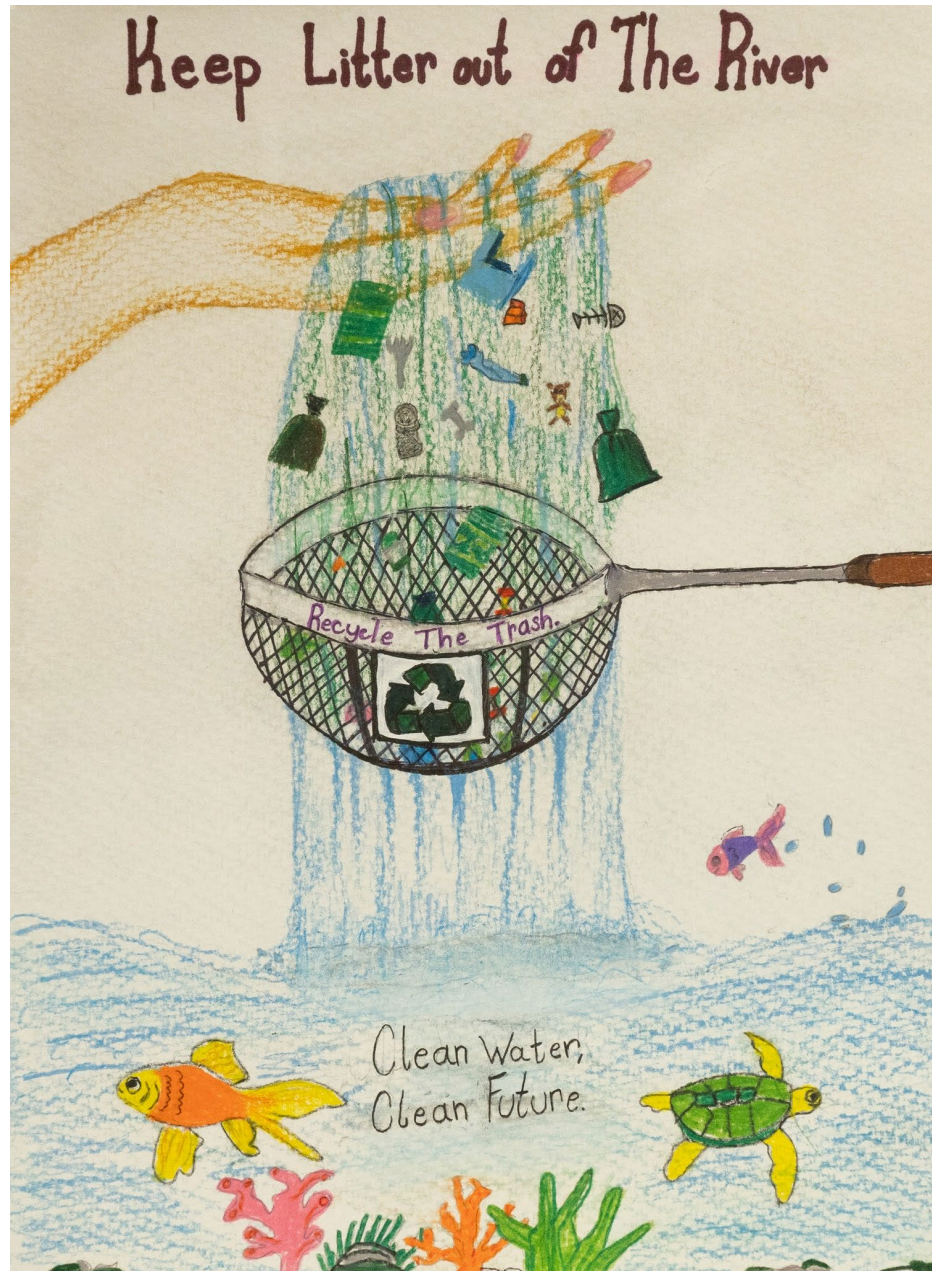
Saturday, December 7 | 9 AM - 11 AM

**Bowman Branch at  
Mirabella Blvd**

Join us in cleaning up litter and illegal dumping!  
All supplies will be provided.



Prepared in cooperation with the North Central Texas Council of Governments through funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



# Education, Outreach, and Social Media



Trash and pollutants enter our waterways through illegal dumping, littering and stormwater drains. Even litter dumped away from streams can make its way into the water over time.

Illegal dumping and littering are crimes! These destructive actions pollute water quality, destroy habitats, and introduce dangerous chemicals to the environment.

Always dispose of your own trash and encourage others to do the same! Organize cleanups in your neighborhoods, and report litter and illegal dumping when you see it

**PUT WASTE IN ITS PLACE!**

[www.trinityra.org/litter](http://www.trinityra.org/litter)

HOME / BASIN PLANNING / WATERSHED PROTECTION / IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS / LITTER AND ILLEGAL DUMPING

## LITTER AND ILLEGAL DUMPING

The TRA Litter and Illegal Dumping Initiative, to “**Keep Litter Out of the River,**” is an ongoing project focused on addressing one of the biggest threats to our local watersheds, litter and illegal dumping. The project supports the water quality improvement goals outlined in the Joe Pool Lake and Village Creek-Lake Arlington Watershed Protection Plans. These plans focus on reducing illegal dumping, sponsoring community litter cleanups, and engaging stakeholders to improve water quality in these vital areas.



### Key Project Goals:

- **Reducing Illegal Dumping:** Implementing strategies to deter illegal dumping and remove waste from our waterways.
- **Sponsoring and Supporting Litter Cleanups:** Organizing regular community cleanups to clear litter in and around waterways.
- **Expanding the TRA Litter Source Assessment Survey:** Working with stakeholders to identify and track hotspots for litter and illegal dumping to measure progress over time.
- **Engaging Stakeholders:** Working closely with cities, counties, and stakeholders to build awareness and mobilize action against littering and illegal dumping.

This project is funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) through landfill tipping fees in the Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Account, and it is administered by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). TRA received \$33,450.00 in funding for this initiative.

The TRA Litter and Illegal Dumping Initiative will initially run from March 2024 to August 2025, focusing on the Joe Pool Lake (JPL) and Village Creek-Lake Arlington (VCLA) watersheds. During this time, the project will concentrate on reducing illegal dumping, supporting community cleanups, and expanding the Litter Source Assessment Survey in these critical areas of Tarrant, Dallas, Johnson, and Ellis counties.

**Join TRA in supporting TRWD's Trash Bash on the Trinity River!**

Saturday, April 26 | 8 AM - 10 AM  
Hope Church, 1750 Beach St, Fort Worth

Join us in cleaning up litter in and around the Trinity River! All supplies will be provided.

Email [naylorcr@trinityra.org](mailto:naylorcr@trinityra.org) for questions



# Challenges and Lessons Learned

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- Litter in highly vegetated areas is best reached in winter months
- Enforcement and deterrence is challenging and resource intensive, especially for counties and more remote areas
- Learning curve and differences in policies for grant purchasing
- Vendor interest and responses
- Public access vs barriers to limit dumping
- Outreach to anglers is needed for fishing litter issue
- Questions regarding who owns properties/ enforcement responsibility



# FIFA Lake Arlington June 2025

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Volunteers: 51

Trash Collected: 2,740 lbs





- Location: Eugene McCray Park
- Volunteers: 60
- Removed 2,740 lbs. of waste



# Enchanted Bay June 2025 (FIFA Kick-Off)



- Location: Enchanted Bay & Marti Van Ravenswaay–Lake Arlington
- Volunteers: 62
- Removed 1,140 lbs. of waste



# Current Program Status as of May 2026

- Trash Collected: 23,925 lbs.
- Cleanup Volunteers: 474
- Cleanups Hosted: 6
- Cleanups Supported: 5
- Signage Installed: 30
- Education & Outreach Events: 22
- Event Audience: 66,927
- Social Media Reach: 84,340

**KEEP LITTER**  
OUT OF THE  
**RIVER**



# ADOPT – A - MEDIAN



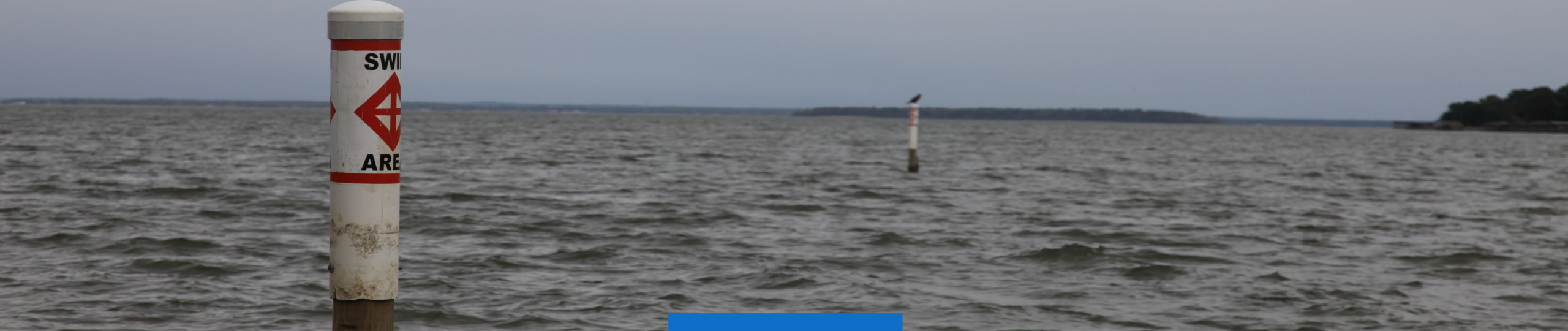
- TRA has partnered with the City of Arlington and Tarrant Regional Water District to join several programs committed to combating litter and stormwater pollution.
- TRA “adopted” a median on South Collins Street outside of our General Office in Arlington, with the city’s “Adopt-A-Median” program.
- This initiative helps sponsor professional litter pick-up services and deter littering in high-traffic areas



# ADOPT – A – RIVER/ STORM DRAIN

- TRA has partnered with TRWD to adopt a section of Trinity Trails along the West Fork of the Trinity River through their Adopt-A-River/Trail program
- TRA also adopted eight storm drains near Eugene McCray Park via their Adopt-A-Storm Drain program.
- These adoption programs come with a commitment to host litter cleanups in the area and help raise awareness of the sources of stormwater pollution.





JOE POOL LAKE  
WATERSHED PROTECTION



[HTTPS://TRINITYRA.ORG/BASIN\\_PLANNING/WP/PROJECTS/INDEX.PHP](https://trinityra.org/basin_planning/wp/projects/index.php)



Village Creek  
Lake Arlington

WATERSHED  
PROTECTION

Heather Firn  
Trinity River Authority  
firnha@trinityra.org  
817-467-4343



# Questions & Discussion



# Webinar Feedback

- Please provide your feedback on today's webinar in this brief survey. Thank you!

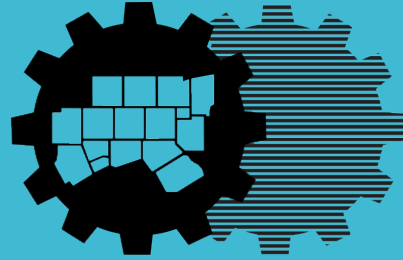
[Provide Webinar Feedback Here](#)

# Water for North Texas Online Library

- Resources related to today's topic and other water-related subjects can be found on the [Water for North Texas Online Library](#)

# Wrap-Up

- If you have submitted an RSVP for this webinar, you will receive an email with the presentation slides and a link to the recording.
- All webinar slides and recordings are posted on NCTCOG's website under the green banner, "Webinars" here:  
<https://www.nctcog.org/envir/natural-resources/water-resources>
- If you did not RSVP and would like these webinar materials, please email [jdouglas@nctcog.org](mailto:jdouglas@nctcog.org).



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments

# Thank you for attending!

NCTCOG Webinar  
May 27, 2026

Joy Douglas, NCTCOG  
[jdouglas@nctcog.org](mailto:jdouglas@nctcog.org)



*This project was funded by  
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the Texas Commission on  
Environmental Quality.*