



# TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

## TEXAS NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

### Program Mission

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) is the lead agency in the state responsible for planning, implementing, and managing programs and practices that prevent and abate agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source pollution. TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) coordinate closely to jointly administer the Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program. The Nonpoint Source Management Program is the State's comprehensive strategy to protect and restore waters impacted by nonpoint source pollution. Nonpoint source pollution is managed through assessment, planning, implementation, and education.

The state has established long and short-term goals and objectives for guiding and tracking the progress of its nonpoint source management program. This strategy is implemented by utilizing voluntary, regulatory, financial, and technical assistance approaches, while working with a multitude of partners, to achieve a balanced program. The program publication is updated every five years. The most recent revision was submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the Governor in April 2022 and was approved by EPA on August 29, 2022. The EPA provides grant funding to implement the components and goals set forth in the Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program.

Management of nonpoint source pollution in Texas involves partnerships with many organizations to coordinate, develop, and implement the Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program. With the extent and variety of nonpoint source issues across Texas, cooperation across political boundaries is essential. Many local, regional, and state agencies play an integral part in managing nonpoint source pollution. They provide information about local concerns and infrastructure and build support for the management measures that are necessary to prevent and reduce nonpoint source pollution. By coordinating with these partners to share information and resources, the program continues to effectively manage its water quality protection and restoration efforts.

### Nonpoint Source Pollution

Nonpoint source pollution occurs when rainfall or snowmelt flows over land, roads, buildings, and other features of the landscape, and carries pollutants into drainage ditches, lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters, and even underground sources of water. Some nonpoint source pollutants include:

- fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides from agricultural lands and residential areas
- oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from spills, roads, urban areas, facilities, and energy production
- sediment from construction sites, crop and forest lands, and eroding stream banks
- bacteria and nutrients from livestock, pet waste, wildlife, and leaking septic systems

Under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Texas Water Code, Texas must adopt surface water quality standards for waters in the state, assess the status of water quality, and implement actions necessary to achieve and maintain those standards. The long-term goal of the Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program, developed under CWA Sections 319(a) and 319(b), is to protect and restore the quality of the state's water resources from the adverse effects of nonpoint source pollution.

## Nonpoint Source Grants

The Nonpoint Source Grant Program is administered by the TSSWCB for the purpose of providing funding as grants to cooperating entities for activities that address the goals and objectives stated in the Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program. The Texas Legislature and the U.S. Congress (through the EPA) provide funding to the TSSWCB to administer the agricultural and silvicultural components of the Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program through the TSSWCB Nonpoint Source Grant Program.



## Program Activities and Accomplishments

TSSWCB currently has 43 active grant-funded projects utilizing approximately \$11.5 million in federal and state funding. Specific projects include developing and implementing watershed protection plans (WPP), implementing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), surface water quality monitoring, bacterial source tracking, public outreach and education, and implementing best management practices (BMP) to abate nonpoint source pollution from agricultural and silvicultural operations. Texas has consistently worked with partners across the state to develop and implement watershed protection plans to improve water quality. Together with partners and stakeholders, TSSWCB and TCEQ are actively engaged in implementing voluntary management measures identified in the watershed protection plans.

The TSSWCB continues to make progress in soil and water conservation efforts across the state. Often environmental successes are slow to be realized. We have realized and reported 12 success stories covering 21 assessment units that include reducing the level of Atrazine in the Aquilla Reservoir, improving the dissolved oxygen levels in Oso Bay and a tributary to Toledo Bend Reservoir and reducing the levels of bacteria in the Leon River, Lower San Antonio River, Buck Creek, Attoyac Bayou, Pecan Creek, South Leon River, Catfish Creek, Cedar Creek, Navasota River, Sulphur Creek, Colorado River below La Grange and Colorado River Tidal. Water quality monitoring continues in many of these watersheds to track and measure interim progress and ensure these restoration efforts remain a success.

**For more information and to view resources regarding the Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program, please visit:**

[www.tsswcb.texas.gov/programs/texas-nonpoint-source-management-program](http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/programs/texas-nonpoint-source-management-program)