

# Texas Nonpoint Source Pollution

## *Grant Funding Opportunities*

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)**

Roberto Vega

NPS Project Manager

2025 Environmental Trade Fair and Conference



# Overview

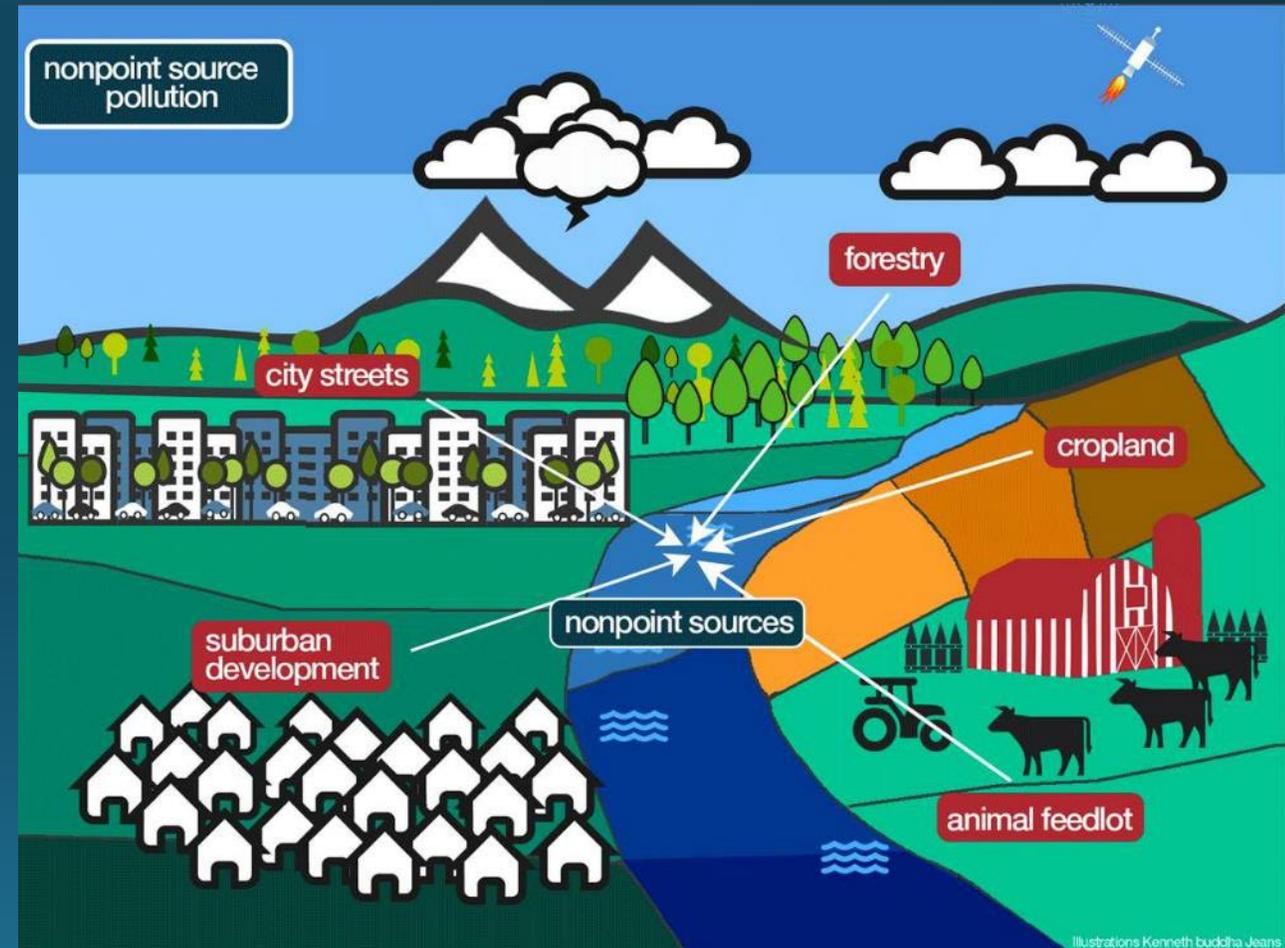
Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grant Program in Texas

Grant solicitation process, eligibility, funding, type of projects

Examples of implementation projects

# What Is Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution?

- ▶ Pollutants from diffuse sources
- ▶ Fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides
- ▶ Oil, grease, toxic chemicals, and salts
- ▶ Sediment
- ▶ Bacteria and nutrients



# What is the NPS Grant Program?

- ▶ Clean Water Act, Section 319(h)
- ▶ Voluntary and stakeholder-driven
- ▶ Program priorities:
  - Restore impaired water bodies
  - Reduce pollutants to water bodies (bacteria, nutrients, sediment)
  - Fund holistic watershed projects; it's an ecosystem!



# 319(h) Program Jointly Administered via a Memorandum of Understanding

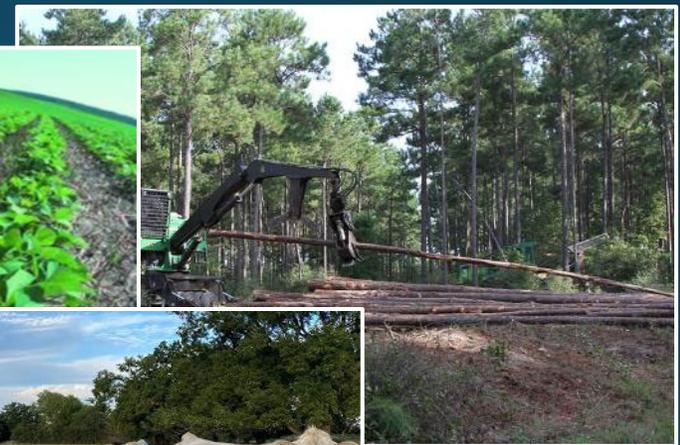
Texas Commission on  
Environmental Quality

- ▶ Urban stormwater
- ▶ Riparian restoration



Texas State Soil and Water  
Conservation Board

- ▶ Agriculture land management
- ▶ Silviculture run-off



# 319(h) Grant Solicitation Process

Annual RFGA in June – open for 45 days

Proposals evaluated and ranked

EPA & TCEQ approval of selected projects

Federal grant awarded

Develop and execute contract with TCEQ  
~15 months following RFGA



NPS Grant Info Website

# Who is Eligible for Funding?

- ▶ State Agencies
- ▶ Cities & Counties
- ▶ River Authorities
- ▶ Public Universities
- ▶ Council of Governments
- ▶ Nonprofits – 501(c)(3)

No private  
citizens or  
entities

# Show Me The Money

- ▶ TCEQ awards ~\$2 million in CWA 319(h) funds annually
- ▶ Project budgets must be split
  - ▶ 60% Federal
  - ▶ 40% Non-federal Match
- ▶ Projects range from \$100,000-\$600,000 (federal)
- ▶ Projects span ~2-4 years



# Matching Funds for Projects

Sources can include:

- ▶ Salaries that are not reimbursed
- ▶ Value of in-kind contributions
- ▶ Volunteer hours
- ▶ Project work that is not reimbursed



Other federal funds cannot be used.

# Collaboration and Partnerships

A successful application will have a variety of project partners:

- ▶ Public universities
- ▶ Non-governmental organizations
- ▶ Local city & county officials
- ▶ Volunteer organizations
- ▶ State Agencies
- ▶ Watershed residents



# Types of Activities Funded

## Planning

- ▶ Watershed Protection Plans
- ▶ Engage stakeholders
- ▶ Assess community needs

## Monitoring & Assessment

- ▶ Water quality monitoring
- ▶ Modeling
- ▶ Effectiveness monitoring

## Implementation

- ▶ Education and outreach
- ▶ Structural pollutant controls
- ▶ Green infrastructure

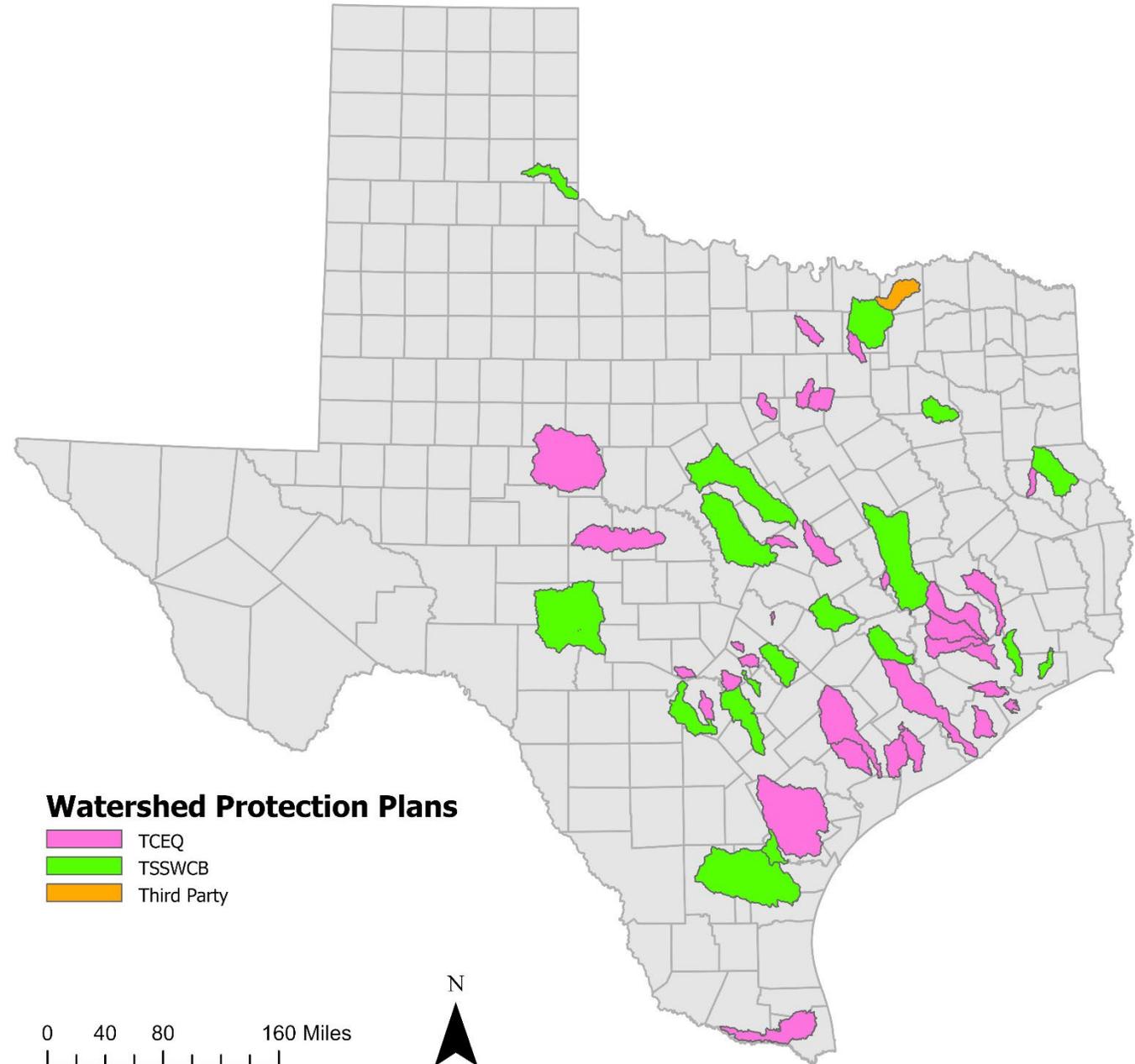
# What is a Watershed Protection Plan?

**Voluntary, locally-led approach** to address water quality issues and protect water bodies

- 1 Characterize the watershed, collect data, get local input
- 2 Identify pollutant sources and possible solutions
- 3 Write the plan, seek stakeholder review/approval
- 4 Obtain TCEQ and EPA acceptance
- 5 Implement the plan and solutions; seek funding
- 6 Measure progress, make adjustments, confer with stakeholders
- 7 Update the plan with stakeholders

# Watershed Protection Plans in Texas

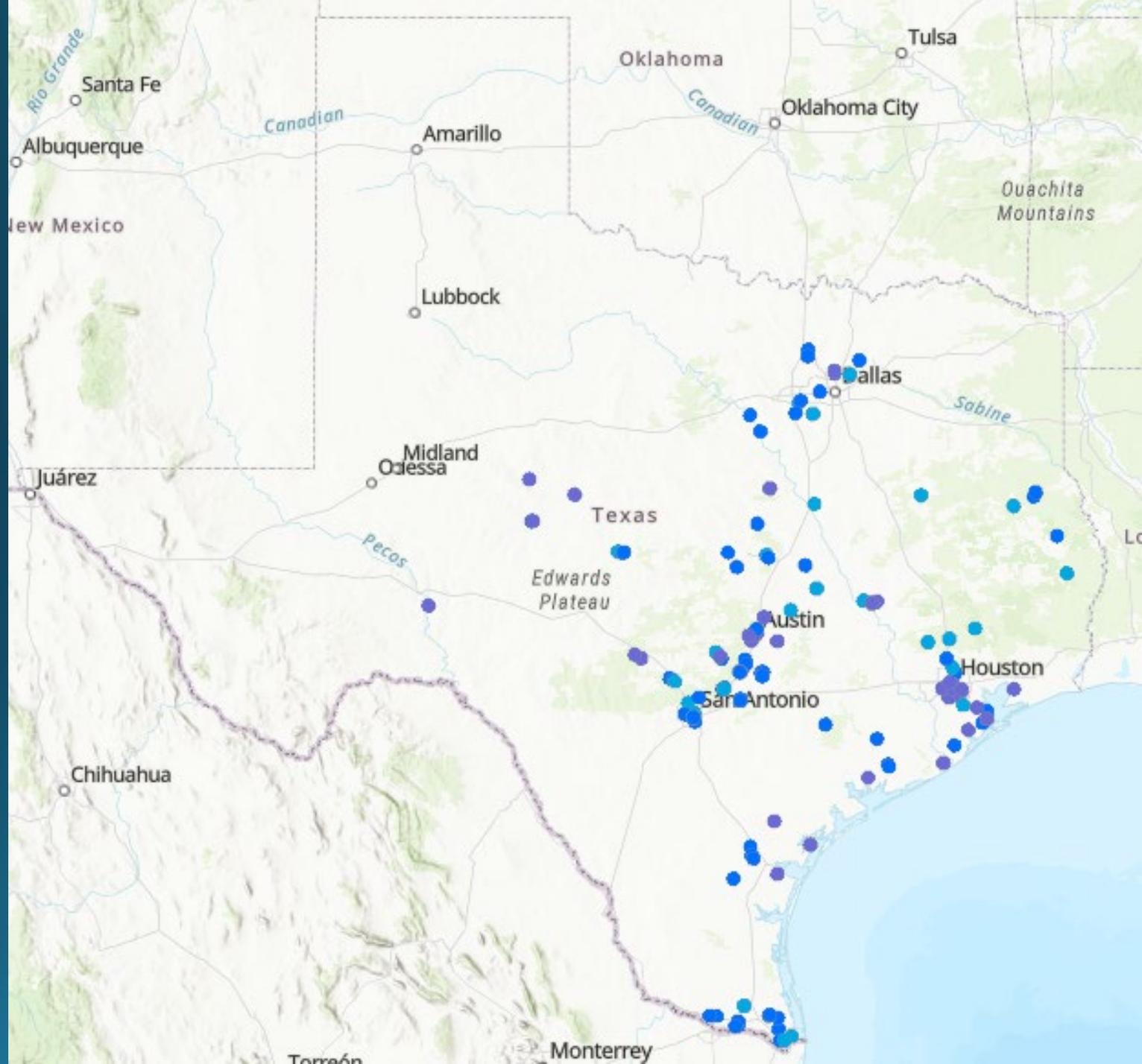
- ▶ TCEQ and TSSWCB have facilitated the development and implementation of 55 WPPs.



# TCEQ Funded Projects

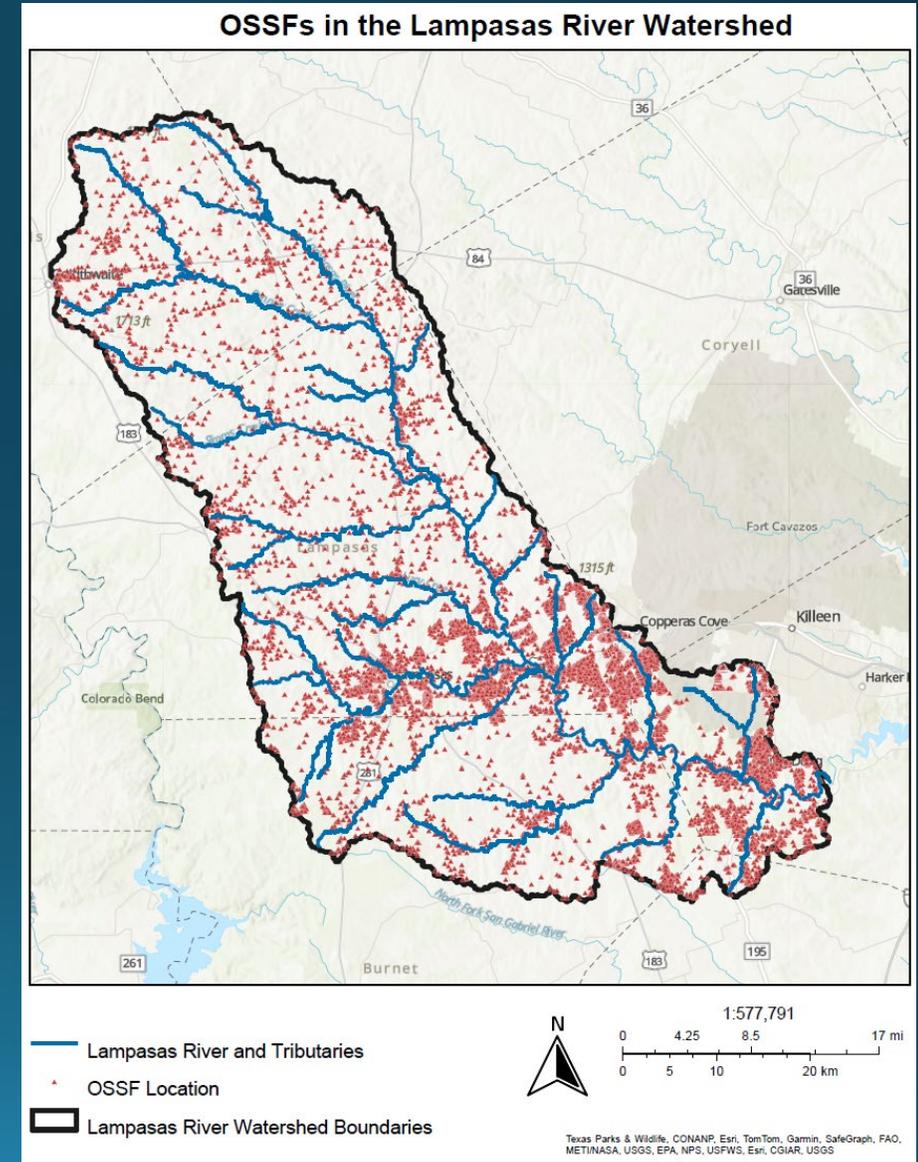
- ▶ WPP Development
- ▶ WPP Implementation
- ▶ Stand-alone Projects

At any one point we manage 50-60 active projects.



# Examples of Implementation Projects

# Septic System Repair/Replacement and Inventory



# Animal Waste Reduction



**Did you know, feeding wildlife will lead to:**

**Decreased water quality**

- Bacteria from wildlife feces pollutes water
- Polluted water may cause human and animal sickness

**Wildlife sickness and disease**

- Overpopulation spreads disease
- Stale or moldy foods make wildlife sick

**Malnutrition**

- Human foods are not nutritious for wildlife
- Wildlife may starve without their natural food

**Overpopulation**

- Wildlife cannot be sustained by the area's natural food sources
- Overly abundant wildlife may damage the habitat

**Loss of natural fear of humans**

- Contact may hurt both humans and wildlife
- Wildlife may be more likely to be hit by cars

**Disruption of migratory patterns**

- Feeding discourages natural migration
- Health of wildlife and ecosystem depend on migration

**Questions?**

For more information, visit [www.nbtexas.org/wpp](http://www.nbtexas.org/wpp)

Materials funded in part by the EPA through the TCEU



# Riparian Restoration



2017



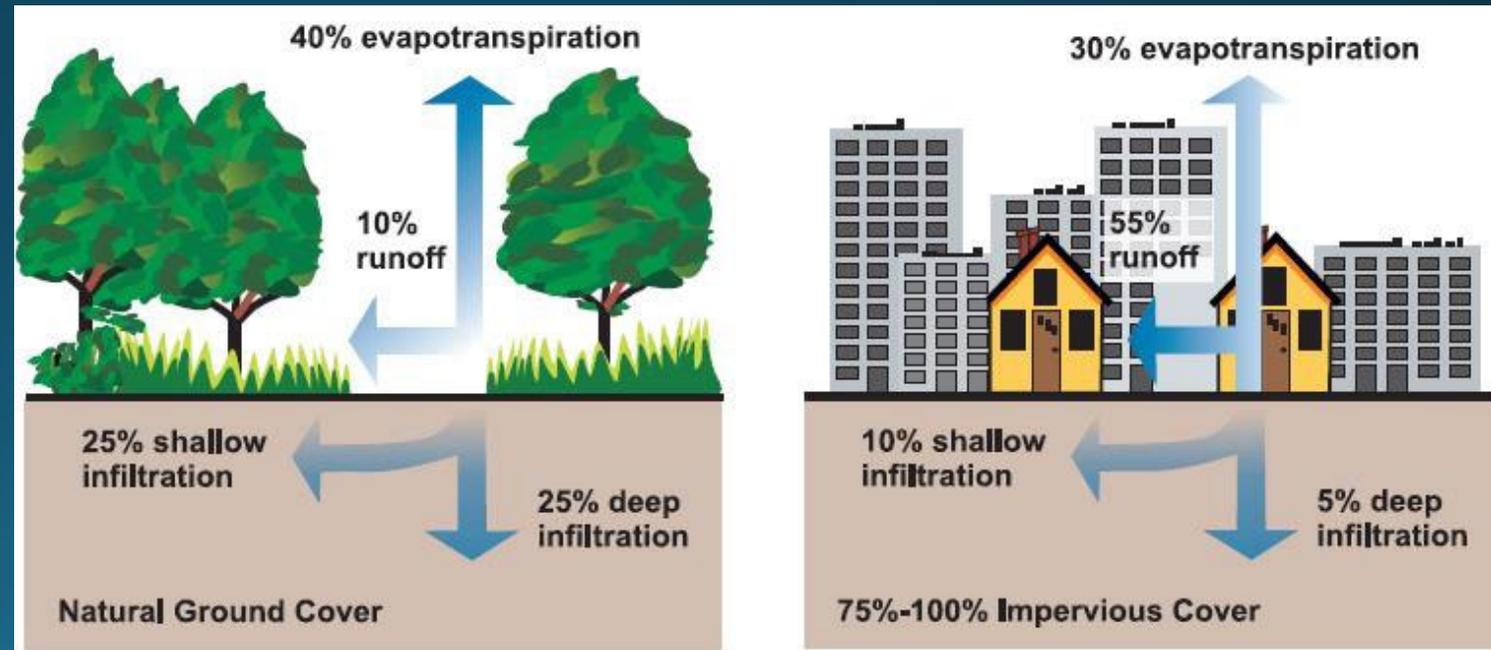
2020



# Low Impact Development (LID) and Green Infrastructure (GI)

- ▶ Reduces stormwater runoff
- ▶ Increases groundwater recharge
- ▶ Beautification of urban settings

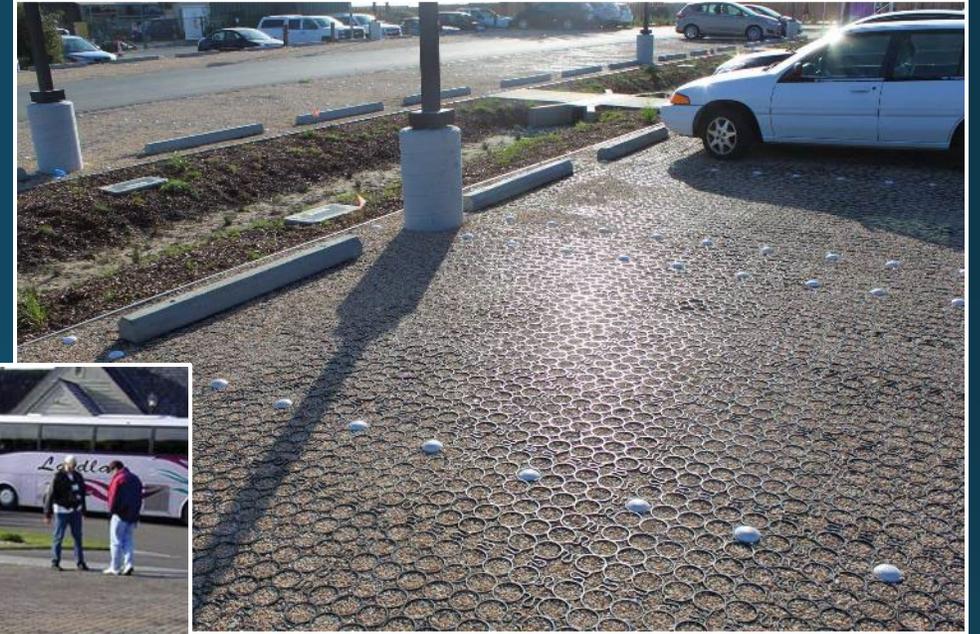
Go beyond NPS pollution reduction!



# LID – Bio-Retention Structures



# LID – Pervious Pavers



# LID – Rainwater Harvesting & Green Roofs



# Education and Outreach

- ▶ Statewide educational classes
  - Healthy Lawns & Healthy Waters Citizen Training
  - Urban Riparian Restoration Training
- ▶ Local education & outreach programs
  - Watershed models
  - Educational videos
  - Educational mailers



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

# Nonpoint Source Pollution Management IN TEXAS



Texas Commission on  
Environmental Quality

Funding provided by the Environmental Protection Agency  
through Clean Water Act Section 319(h) grant funds



Texas State Soil & Water  
Conservation Board

*Cypress trees line the bank of the Frio River at  
Garner State Park near Concan (Source iStock)*

SFR-066/24 January 2025

# Texas NPS Annual Report



NPS Annual Report Website

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/nonpoint-source/mgmt-plan/annual-reports.html>

# For More Information

[www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/nonpoint-source](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/nonpoint-source)

[Roberto.Vega@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Roberto.Vega@tceq.texas.gov)  
[nps@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:nps@tceq.texas.gov)

## Questions?

