

Newsletter

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Citizen Scientist Program Expanding in North Texas



Citizens learning to gather water samples during the advanced training course. Source: Micah Muir

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and the Texas Stream Team (TST) have partnered to expand the TST's Citizen Scientist program in the North Texas region.

What does the TST do? TST coordinates a network of partner organizations and trained volunteers, termed Citizen Scientist, to conduct water quality monitoring at assigned sites on their local lakes, rivers, streams, and estuaries across the state. In 2016 alone, citizen scientists monitored over 270 quality sites.

What is the Citizen Scientist program? The Citizen Scientist program seeks to increase public knowledge of water quality issues and non-point source pollution across the state through water quality monitoring, data collection and analysis, and related educational programs.

For more information about this program, including how to become a volunteer and the training schedule, please visit this website: <http://www.nctcog.org/envir/SEEclean/wq/streamteam.asp>

Post-Construction Roundtable Update!

A Post-Construction Roundtable was held during the Regional Stormwater Management Coordinating Council Meeting on August 16. The roundtable uncovered various issues that municipalities and engineering/consulting firms were having in implementing post-construction standards and inspections.

The Council agreed that the best manner of addressing post-construction issues in the future was through the creation of a separate Task Force.

NCTCOG will be coordinating with RWSMCC to create a list of potential Post-Construction Task members and meeting dates.

For more information, please contact Derica Peters at DPeters@nctcog.org.

Save the Date! TCEQ Autumn Environmental Conference and Expo

**October 10-12, 2017
Austin, Texas**

The Autumn Environmental Conference and Expo combines the Advanced Air Permitting Seminar and Water Quality/Stormwater Seminar.

This event provides engineers, environmental managers, consultants, and the regulated community updates on permitting rules, requirements, issues, and regulations.

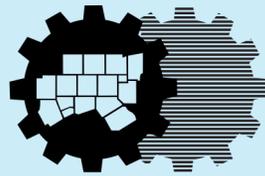


For more information, and to register for this event, please visit the TCEQ page [here](#).

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Field Technician Training Non-Potable Water Sampling



North Central Texas
Council of Governments

NCTCOG, in partnership with WATER, will host a Field Technician Training. This training will take place over two days in October 2017 in Irving, TX. It will include both a classroom and field/site visit component.

Topics to be covered include: sampling techniques appropriate for collecting non-potable water, 40 CFR 136, and chain of custody requirements.

TRAINING DETAILS

INSTRUCTOR: Marlene Moore, Advanced Systems, Inc.
DATE: October 10 and 11, 2017
TIME: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
COST: \$155 (includes coffee, lunch, and beverages on both days)
\$129 (WATER member pricing)
BOOK: \$45, optional
LOCATION: Irving Training Room
ADDRESS: 333 Valley View Lane, Irving, TX

More information, including how to register, can be found here: bit.ly/WATERtraining

Space is limited to the first 50 people.

If you have any questions regarding this training, please contact Cassidy Campbell at ccampbell@nctcog.org.

NCTCOG Hosts Two IDDE Trainings in 2017

The NCTCOG hosted introductory and intermediate/advanced Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination Training courses this year. The curriculum for the introductory course was revised from previous years and was implemented with great success. The intro course will continue to occur annually.

The intermediate/advanced course, presented by the City of Denton and the City of Arlington, also garnered a great deal of interest and filled to capacity. This training will be held every 2 years.



Field inspection conducted during introductory IDDE course
Source: Derica Peters

Feral Hog Management: What's Next?

NCTCOG and the TMDL Technical Stormwater Subcommittee will host a second roundtable discussion in the first half of 2018. The roundtable will define attainable goals and priorities for the future.

For more information, comments, or questions, please contact Cassidy Campbell at ccampbell@nctcog.org.

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'Wipes Block Everything' Campaign is Now Underway!

The 'Wipes Block Everything' campaign, directed by the Wastewater and Treatment Education Round table and the City of Dallas, has officially launched its outreach efforts. The campaign aims to educate citizens on the negative impacts associated with flushing wipes down the toilet.



This campaign is part of a larger effort called Defend Your Drains, to reduce the flushing of products that result in sewer backups and expensive repairs.

Be sure to share the 'Wipes Block Everything' social media posts, available on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

For more information, visit [Defend your Drains North Texas](#) or contact Cassidy Campbell at CCampbell@nctcog.org.



Wipes being removed from a sewage pumping station
Source: Illawarra Mercury

Voting has Ended, Winners to be Announced! 2018 Doo The Right Thing Calendar Photo Contest

The 2018 Doo the Right Thing Calendar Photo Contest has been a big success! Over 750 votes were cast to choose the winners from 126 submissions.

Winners will be announced in Early September via the NCTCOG website.

Thank you for your votes and shares! We continue to encourage communities to take the pledge of keeping people and pets healthy, and our local waters clean!



For more information on this program, contact Derica Peters, DPeters@nctcog.org.

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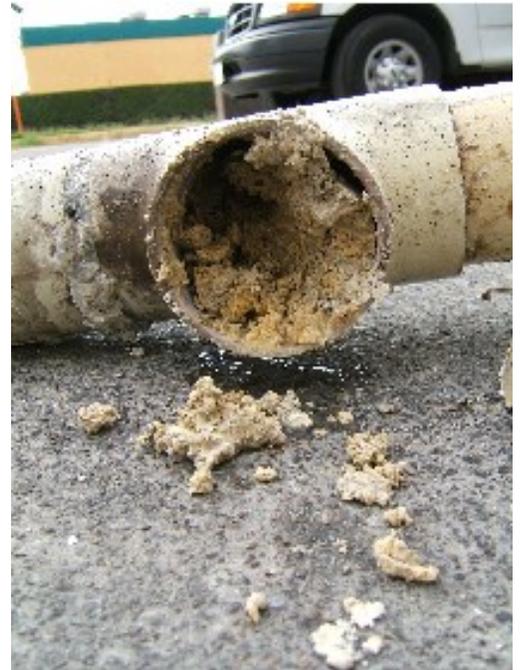
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This Quarter's Featured TMDL Implementation Strategy

Implementation Strategy 4.0: Regional Participation in Fats Oils, and Grease Program (FOG)

Goals of the Strategy:

- Increase public education efforts to raise awareness of FOG impacts and solutions
- Create education programs and conduct trainings for grease trap operators
- Encourage entities to participate in the regional FOG programs
- Gather information of current FOG program participants



Pipe clogged with solidified grease buildup
Source: Cease the Grease



Proper disposal oil spent oil using a funnel and disposable bottle
Source: Cease the Grease

Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) are considered to be the leading cause of blockages in sanitary sewers, and the EPA estimates that blockages account for nearly 50 percent of all Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) (US EPA,

2007). The Wastewater And Treatment Education Roundtable (WATER) and NCTCOG have partnered to provide the cities and other agencies with public education materials related to FOG. Many organizations within the bacteria TMDL watersheds, such as Arlington, Bedford, Dallas, Fort Worth, Grand Prairie, Irving, North Richland Hills, Southlake, and the TRA already use these materials to reduce FOG in the sanitary sewer system (SSS) and with it, SSOs.

It is estimated that FOG program efforts may result in a 20% reduction of bacteria loading from SSOs and SSS failures, making it a potentially significant instrument for improving water quality.

If you would like to receive updates on the WATER partnership, including upcoming meetings and new education materials, please click [here](#).

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.