

The Texas Partnership for Forests and Water

Scope: State

Location: Texas

SCOPE:

- To sustain and enhance healthy, productive Texas forested watersheds that provide safe, reliable drinking water and forest products through strong partnerships, collaboration, funding, and action.

COLLABORATIVE FORMATION:

- After recognizing that the forest-water connection and water issues crossed stakeholder and geographic boundaries, the Texas Partnership for Forests and Water was established in 2015 to increase understanding, communication, and collaboration between the drinking water and forestry sectors.
- Bi-Monthly Newsletters
- Work Group Meetings

STRUCTURE/FUNDING:

- Coordinator
- Work Groups: Communications, Planning, Partnership, Project Development, Project Implementation, & Research
- Grant Applications: We have worked with Texan by Nature, Texas Water Action Collaborative, and are seeking a more consistent form of funding.

MEMBERS:

- Texas A&M Forest Service
- Houston-Galveston Area Council
- Lone Star Healthy Streams
- Northeast Texas Municipal Water District
- World Resources Institute
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- And Many More!

WATER CONCERNS:

- Drinking water quality & quantity

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Collaborative Lead: Texas A&M Forest Service

Contact:

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- Urban stormwater management and greenspace
- Forest fragmented and converted to other uses less beneficial to watersheds.

STRATEGIES:

- **Connect:** We connect forest, water, corporate, and conservation sectors with other organizations that have a stake in natural resources. We develop relationships and solutions through our partnership and those we reach with our programs.
- **Convene:** We bring natural resource experts, industry partners, and those we educate together for action. Our Forest and Water Forum, Green Futures projects, and presentations drive dialogue, new partnerships, and opportunities for organizations to connect with other industries.
- **Cultivate:** We utilize our partners strengths to educate different audiences and support conservation projects. We communicate the importance of community leadership in natural resources and the impact different people have on their community, building on the platform our organizations built as individuals to raise awareness of the connection and conservation efforts between industries, all working towards the improvement of water quality and forest management.

RESULTS:

- The Wilson Creek Riparian Restoration Project is one success story from the Green Futures program. The Wilson Creek Riparian Restoration project was a 9.5-acre tree-planting event completed in November of 2021. In an effort to promote flood mitigation and improve water quality, over 1,600 trees were planted in the riparian areas along Wilson Creek, an impaired stream in Collin County, TX and a tributary to Lavon Lake which provides drinking water to approximately 2.2 million people. This planting was done by the City of McKinney, Texas Partnership for Forests and Water partners and other local stakeholders.
 - A \$51,500 investment went into the Wilson Creek Riparian Restoration project and resulted in 150 dedicated volunteers, 1,146 volunteer hours, and 1,600 trees planted which included 11 native species that support surrounding wildlife.
 - It is estimated that in the first five years after project completion, the planted trees will help intercept and filter 462,894 gallons of rainfall, avoid 82,077 gallons of runoff water, and sequester 101,513 pounds of carbon.
 - The community will benefit from this project with better drainage and less erosion impacting the paved trails, and improved safety and aesthetics for the park.



Information current as of November 2023. Please check with the Collaborative contacts (or website if available) for the most up to date information. To find other source water collaboratives across the U.S. or to add yours to the list, visit the Source Water Collaborative's [Collaboratives Near You](#). You may also be interested in the [How To Collaborate Toolkit](#)