

Texas Stream Team

Houston-Galveston Area Council Chapter

Working to Protect Our Waterways

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Riley Fuzzel Bridge at Spring Creek
(Photo Credit: Kris Linberk)

MONITOR SPOTLIGHT: Kris Linberk

When asked why she decided to become an H-GAC Texas Stream Team volunteer monitor, Kris Linberk said, "I remember looking at a drop of pond water through a microscope as a young student. We were learning about van Leeuwenhoek's self-described 'animalcules' and I was hooked. Looking at what really lived in pond water completely amazed me. Macroinvertebrate sampling was, and still is, one of my favorite educational programs."

She added, "When I lived abroad, water quality shot to the front of my consciousness when I became sick with Giardia infection. I met a few analysts who worked for the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment in Quito, and I offered to volunteer, hoping to learn more about water issues. While volunteering, I reviewed their field guide for water sampling and testing."

Linberk works for Harris County Precinct 4 in the Trails as Parks Division. Part of her job is teaching constituents about the vast variety of amenities that the Parks Department offers, including encouraging people to care about their surrounding environment through different recreational activities and providing educational programs. By offering diverse programs focused on Spring Creek and Cypress Creek, her goal is to inspire constituents to learn more about the important role they play in their watersheds.

To better serve her constituents, she decided to become an H-GAC Texas Stream Team volunteer monitor. She is assigned to two monitoring stations: the Riley Fuzzel bridge over Spring Creek in Spring and Cypress Creek at Mercer Botanic Arboretum in Humble.

Linberk has made several observations in the few months she has been monitoring. "Since my monitoring stations are located on creeks that rise quickly after heavy rain events, I've only experienced heavily sanded areas that typically aren't sanded. Rain and flood events deposit a lot of sand downstream (especially since my stations are located just south of bridges) and can make getting to the bank a slight adventure," she said. "And, on a positive note, I've found that the public is curious about TST once they see the turbidity tube and will want to stick around and ask questions."

She encourages others to join H-GAC's Texas Stream Team program. "TST is a very well put together citizen science program. It requires a little bit of training, and the instructors are extremely thorough. All it takes on your end is a commitment of an hour or so once a month for monitoring. This is an opportunity to get involved locally. Knowing that you have the potential to contribute to data sets that will actually be used to monitor the overall health of our waterways is big," she said.



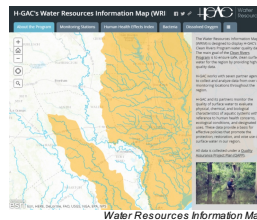
Photo Credit: Kris Linberk

WRIM UPDATES COMPLETED

H-GAC staff has completed updates to the [Water Resources Information Map \(WRIM\)](#) with Texas Stream Team (TST) monitoring stations. The WRIM is a mapping tool to display and download H-GAC's Clean Rivers Program water quality data from 450+ professional and volunteer water monitoring stations.

Monitoring data received by the last Friday of the month is uploaded to the WRIM by the 15th of the following month.

If you get a chance, please check out your monitoring site and see if all information is correct. Email us at stream.team@h-gac.com if you see any errors.



Water Resources Information Map

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

What's Going on in the Galveston Bay Watershed?



Buffalo Bayou Regatta (Photo Credit: Katya Horner, courtesy of Buffalo Bayou Partnership)

- March 3 [H-GAC Texas Stream Team Training](#) (Sugar Land, TX) Phase I and Phase II training will be offered at this full-day workshop.
- March 11 [45th Buffalo Bayou Regatta](#)
Buffalo Bayou Partnership hosts Texas's largest canoe and kayak race - a 15-mile paddling experience from San Felipe and Voss to Houston's downtown Sesquicentennial Park.
- March 25 [River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash®](#) The 24th annual Trash Bash® will take place at 14 locations in the Galveston Bay watershed.
- April 8 The 30th [Keep Houston Beautiful Day](#) is a city-wide service day spanning various locations throughout the community. The event kicks off the national Great American Cleanup and celebrates the Dorr'tmess with Texas Trash-Off in Houston.

REAGENT REPLACEMENT PROCESS

If you monitor on a monthly schedule, you should usually run out of chemicals before they expire. When you run out or have expired chemicals, either note it on your monthly monitoring form or email us at Stream_Team@h-gac.com to arrange for replacements.

U. S. Department of Transportation regulations prohibit us from shipping some of the reagents, so you may have to make a trip to H-GAC to get them.

Empty bottles can be disposed of safely in the trash. If you do have leftover chemicals that have expired, **please do not return them to H-GAC for disposal.** Read the bottle label for proper disposal instructions. Find the nearest available Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility at [Earth911](#). Search for "Chemicals" or click "Hazardous" in the Quick Search List.



TST chemical reagents sub

TECHNICAL TERRITORY

by Paniz Miesen, H-GAC Senior Environmental Planner

Get the Real Scoop on Dog Poop

I Pledge...

To Throw Pup's Poop Away,
Not Leave It For Another Day.

I Will Not Leave It in the Rain,
And Will Not Flush It Down the Drain.

Each and Every Time My Pup Poops,
I Hereby Pledge to Stoop and Scoop.

Then Straight to the Can I Will Dash,
And Put My Pup's Poop in the Trash.

www.petwastepollutes.org



There's a lot of misinformation about using pet waste as fertilizer for yards and gardens. Many people believe that if cow manure is such a great fertilizer, pet waste must be too. Nope, in fact, the exact opposite is true.

Because most dogs' diets are protein based, they tend to have much more acidic waste than cattle or other animals that graze primarily on vegetation. Dog waste also has almost three times as much nitrogen and phosphorus than cow manure. The same characteristics are true for cats and other meat-eating animals. This combination of acidic waste and excessive nutrient concentrations makes it toxic to your yard.

In addition to yellow spots and dead plants resulting from not picking up after your pets, dog waste also carries billions of fecal coliform bacteria and other toxic pathogens that are harmful to human and pet health. If left in the yard, those toxic elements can make their way to nearby waterways through stormwater runoff, and can make people sick if they come into contact with contaminated waters. Pet waste can also spread diseases including parvo virus, trichinosis, whipworms, hookworms, roundworms, giardiasis, and vocoidiosis.

So do your part to keep your family, your yard, and local waterways healthy by picking up after your furry friends and depositing the waste in the trash.

SEE POLLUTION? REPORT POLLUTION!

Be the eyes on the Bay! Report pollution events that threaten the health and safety of Galveston Bay and surrounding waterways.

Reports are automatically sent to the appropriate

government agencies for investigation. Report online at www.galvbay.org/GBAN. A mobile app is in development. Stay tuned for its launch.



Photo Credit: GBF

TEXAS STREAM TEAM PHASE I & II TRAINING SET

H-GAC, the City of Sugar Land and Keep Sugar Land Beautiful will host a Texas Stream Team Training from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday, March 3, at [Eldridge Park](#), 2511 Eldridge Road, Sugar Land, Texas 77478.

The training is open to potential volunteer monitors from across the Houston-Galveston region. Candidates interested in monitoring for at least two years in the Sugar Land area will be given preference for this training if registration reaches capacity.

For registration information, please contact [Vicki Gist](#) at 281-313-5752. Learn more about [Texas Stream Team Training](#).

Current volunteer monitors - please help spread the word about this training by forwarding this newsletter to interested persons!



Photo Credit: Trash Bash

DATE SET FOR TRASH BASH®

Texas's largest single-day waterway trash and litter cleanup, the River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash®, is set for **Saturday, March 25, 2017**. Find a location near where you live, work or play [online](#). Volunteers get a t-shirt and lunch, and can win prizes. After a morning of cleaning waterways, you can also visit water quality education exhibits.



H-GAC Clean Waters Initiative Workshop

GET MORE INVOLVED

Partner Organizations

[Adopt-a-Beach](#)
[Artist Boat](#)
[Bayou Preservation Association](#)
[Buffalo Bayou Partnership](#)
[Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition](#)
[Friends of the River San Bernard](#)
[Galveston Bay Estuary Program](#)
[Galveston Bay Foundation](#)
[H-GAC Clean Waters Initiative](#)

[Japhet Creek](#)
[Keep Texas Beautiful](#)
[Take Care of Texas](#)

KEEP HOUSTON BEAUTIFUL "ONE PIECE OF LITTER" CHALLENGE

Keep Houston Beautiful (KHB) challenges Houstonians to pick up one piece of litter per day for a year. Imagine how many pieces of trash we can collectively pick up in 365 days.

Pick up a piece of litter, take a picture, share it with KHB and challenge a friend to do the same!

Email your picture to contact@houstonbeautiful.org or share it on KHB's [Facebook](#) page.



Photo Credit: Audrey Laroche, KHB Program Manager, challenge Alyce Colley from the Solid Waste Management Department, City of Houston

Trinity River Basin Partnership "Adopt-a-Spot Project Launched

The Trinity River Basin Partnership "Adopt-a-Spot" Project launched an innovative "Adopt-a-Spot" tool on January 31 at www.tashfreetrinity.com.

The tool enables Trinity River Basin stakeholders to promote a litter-free environment using an interactive mapping tool:

- (1) allowing local governments and Keep America Beautiful affiliates to submit and track adoptable sites with litter or dumping issues.
- (2) helping volunteers find and adopt sites to clean.

The tool is only available for the Trinity River Basin. For more information, contact [Cody Whitenburg](#) at the City of Fort Worth or [Doug Jacobson](#) at US EPA Region 6.

TEXAS STREAM TEAM ID CARDS AVAILABLE

Texas Stream Team identification cards are available for volunteer monitors. If you would like an ID card, please request it [online](#). Once the request is logged, your monitor ID number will be checked against the state TST database, address verified, and ID card sent directly through the mail. Contact TxStreamTeam@txstate.edu if you have questions.

Email Becki.Begley@h-gac.com or call 713-993-2410 with questions, comments, calendar items, or suggestions for future H-GAC Texas Stream Team newsletters.

Join the H-GAC Texas Stream Team Newsletter [mailing list](#).

H-GAC is the regional organization through which local governments consider issues and cooperate in solving area wide problems. We invite you to subscribe to the [Community and Environmental Update](#), a monthly e-newsletter to keep you informed about the many community planning, economic development, and environmental

planning programs going on at H-GAC.

[Texas Stream Team at The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment](#) at Texas State University is dedicated to understanding and protecting the 191,000 miles of Texas waterways. For more information, contact TxStreamTeam@txstate.edu.

Houston-Galveston Area Council | Stream.Team@h-gac.com | www.H-GAC.com