

Stormwater Recommendations as proposed by the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance Focus Group

Goals:

- Reduce flooding
- Create resiliency
- Improve water quality (remove creek and river segments from TCEQ 303 (d) list of impaired water
- Improve air quality while promoting aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat while increasing recreational opportunities.

Type of Action Needed	Specific Action Needed
UDC changes to prevent flooding on downstream or abutting properties and ensure discharged water quality meets Federal standards while protecting ecological functioning of receiving water bodies.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>New Watershed</i> protection ordinance requires a minimum of on-site detention for 25yr event that includes a water quality component to assist in meeting city's MS4 permit requirements. 2. <i>Revise Stormwater/Drainage code:</i> a. fee-in-lieu-of is the exception and not the codified preference b. expand criteria of negative impact from discharged stormwater to include protection for ecological functioning of receiving bodies c. fund new TCI position for a fluvial geomorphologist/ecologist to review projects including public ones to determine ecological impact to receiving drainage/streams/rivers. 3. <i>Revise</i> the "Allowable Development within the Regulatory Floodplain" provision to eliminate development within the floodplain. 4 <i>Revise</i> to eliminate option for residential projects to meet open space requirements by constructing a swimming pool/clubhouse as these green spaces are crucial for not only quality of life but to improve air and water quality.
Policy changes to ensure intent of codes that impact air and water quality are being met and economic analyses for environmental impact are completed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that existing UDC requirements are met for projects especially for those that are a change of use or for material storage. 2. Requested variances are reviewed for their impact to air and water quality(Office of Sustainability?). 3. Review public projects and maintenance operations for their air and water quality impacts especially where floodplain forest vegetation is to be removed. Ensure that LID is being used on all projects and that there is cross training within all divisions of TCI. 4. Review developer agreements for their impact to air and water quality especially floodplain reclamation. Prioritize stricter environmental requirements when public funds are to be used. 5. Move flood control emphasis to de-centralized practices to improve hydrology. Such practices would include green infrastructure, greater protection for streams and rivers and watershed stream restoration while minimizing additional gray infrastructure.
Modify maintenance operations that impact air and water quality.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review current maintenance practices as to their impact to air and water quality: a. current emissions from mowing operations and savings with modifications. b. increased awareness to prevent soil erosion and organic matter from entering drainage systems/streams. Ensure staff/contractor training is available. 2. Raise mowing heights to reduce stormwater runoff and remove pollution. Restore creek banks within urban parks and golf courses.
Modify fee policies such as Stormwater utility fee and develop incentive programs to support goals.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use discounts of up to 84% given to facilities with greatest amount of impervious surface to fund stormwater retrofits to reduce runoff and improve water quality while minimizing additional gray infrastructure. 2. Create incentive programs to support using green spaces as water sponges and carbon sinks that will reduce stormwater runoff and improve water and air quality.