

## Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance Programs and Projects - 2026

The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA) has originated a comprehensive program of science, advocacy, and public engagement aimed at protecting the quality and quantity of spring flows from the Edwards and Trinity aquifers. We are in need of support to fund science, advocacy, and public participation projects by GEAA and our member groups in key policy-making processes that are currently underway. You can learn more at [www.AquiferAlliance.org](http://www.AquiferAlliance.org).

**San Antonio Soil Carbon Project** – GEAA was awarded a grant from the City of San Antonio to assist the city and federal authorities in a study of the impact of green infrastructure on soil carbon sequestration and water quality in thirteen San Antonio parks. The project will serve as a proof-of-concept in order to demonstrate that enhanced carbon sequestration and groundwater infiltration can be achieved in urban areas by employing best management practices. This is the first project of this type to research how significant gains in carbon sequestration might be achieved by enhancing soil organic matter and appropriate plant management in urban open spaces. If successful, this project will help San Antonio to meet its Climate Action goals and will serve as a model that can be adopted by other cities worldwide.

**Green Infrastructure Model Projects** – Last year GEAA completed our model Low Impact Development retrofit project at Lorence Creek. Funded by the City of San Antonio's Edwards Aquifer Protection Program, the results of stormwater monitoring have determined that green infrastructure techniques employed at this site were successful in mitigating non-point source pollution on the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone.

This year, GEAA is collaborating with the City of Castroville and Friends of Castroville Regional Park to design and build a treatment train of LID features and artificial wetlands to improve the quality of effluent released from Castroville's wastewater treatment plant before it is discharged into the Medina River. GEAA staff is securing funds for the project from State and private sources and will conduct pre and post project water quality monitoring to determine effectiveness.

**Technical Assistance Program** — This program provides our member groups, governmental agencies and policymakers, and the public at large with technical expertise and access to information that addresses issues of regional and local concern as related to the preservation of the quality and quantity of water Edwards Aquifer, its contributing watersheds, and its indigenous plant and animal species. Citizens, news media, and, increasingly, elected officials and public agencies rely on GEAA staff to provide or direct them to technical expertise regarding the management and protection of the Edwards and Trinity karst aquifer formations.

**Public Comment and Ad Hoc Issues** — GEAA receives requests for technical assistance on a regular basis on a wide variety of issues from individual landowners, regional municipalities, and state and federal governmental agencies soliciting public comment on programs and policies relating to our ground and surface water systems. The expertise of our technical staff is critical to expanding our capacity to promote adequate protection of our water resources and is essential to accomplishing our goals. We rely upon the largesse of several experts who have volunteered their time and the benefit of their expertise as needed on specific projects. Because of the recognized excellence of our work, GEAA is regularly called upon to research specific issues and projects, to comment on proposed projects, rules and programs, and to generate policy and regulatory recommendations and remedies.

GEAA provides practical guidance to the development and construction industries, enhancing our ability to further our goal of aquifer protection by furnishing expertise on proven methods and practices to developers referred to GEAA by government agencies to advise on specific projects. Additionally, GEAA will continue to work with municipalities within the Edwards Region to promote the adoption of sustainable development techniques into municipal building codes and State-recommended best management practices.

**Regional Flood Planning and Green Infrastructure** — GEAA staff members Debbie Reid and Annalisa Peace are serving (respectively) on the Texas Water Development Board's regional flood planning groups for the San Antonio and Guadalupe river basins. Through this three-year flood planning process, we are promoting land conservation and the use of green infrastructure to mitigate flooding while advising local communities to incorporate green infrastructure techniques into their ordinances and policies and engaging GEAA members in the process.

**GEAA Collaborations**

GEAA contributes expertise and staff time to the Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape Project, Joint Base San Antonio Comprehensive Use Plan, Texas Hill Country Conservation Network, Wastewater Conservation Coalition, San Antonio River Authority's Environmental Advisory Committee, the Texas Water Conservation Action Network, Texan By Nature, the Alliance for Clean Texas, EPA's Urban Water Federal Partnership, our fifty-nine member organizations and, a state-wide Green Infrastructure Advisory Team to coordinate efforts for sustainable land use.

**Under Your Feet Campaign** — Much of the recent growth in our region has taken place over the Recharge and Contributing zones of the Edwards Aquifer, resulting in increased contamination of our water supplies and spring flows. A suite of presentations, online resources, social media, and print materials will teach folks who live in the recharge zone about the geology of the Edwards Aquifer, how to live in this extremely environmentally sensitive area, and about actions they can take to protect our Aquifer, including how to handle and store hazardous materials, what common household practices pose a threat to the integrity of sewage systems, and how to plant and maintain landscaping in this unique region.

**Research on the Impacts of Surface and Subsurface Pollution on the Edwards Aquifer** — The agencies tasked with oversight of the water quality of the Edwards Aquifer, most notably the TCEQ and the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) rely on the use of stormwater management as the chief strategy for protecting the water quality of the Edwards Aquifer. Measures to address the quality of stormwater infiltrating the Edwards, however, provide no protection from the introduction of subsurface pollution of the aquifer from human sewage, which becomes particularly problematic with increased high-density residential development of the Edwards Aquifer Recharge and Contributing zones.

**Water Wonks Lecture Series** – This monthly lecture series features experts sharing innovative ideas and details about their work in the world of water. The series is a free community education opportunity offered virtually. All past lectures are available on the GEAA website. The lectures are very well attended and have sparked excitement and synergy among our fellow wonks.

**Legislative Program** — We provide expert testimony and research issues as needed by the members of the House and Senate Natural Resource committees and our regional delegation to inform decisions made in the State Legislature pertinent to the management of our water resources. We visit with legislators and research the impacts of proposed legislation. We also assemble and secure consensus on an agenda for each Legislative Session and provide testimony accordingly. E-mail alerts that educate the public about actions to support or oppose bills of particular importance engage hundreds of individuals in GEAA's advocacy efforts.

**GEAA Texas Stream Team** – We are coordinating volunteer monthly water quality monitoring for streams and rivers in Bexar and Medina counties through the Texas Stream Team program in collaboration with River Aid San Antonio and the San Antonio River Authority.