

PUBLIC EDUCATION TASK FORCE

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

9:30 am, Microsoft Teams



AGENDA

- 2025 March is SmartScape Month
- PETF Activity Reports
- 2025 North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge
- Work Program Update
- Other NCTCOG Programs and Updates
- Conferences & Events
- News & Resources
- Roundtable
- Next Meeting Dates

VIRTUAL MEETING ATTENDANCE

Click the link below or scan the
QR code to record your
attendance:

<https://forms.office.com/r/QrHGjAbc2D?origin=lprLink>



TEXAS SMARTSCAPE

2025 March is Texas SmartScape Campaign

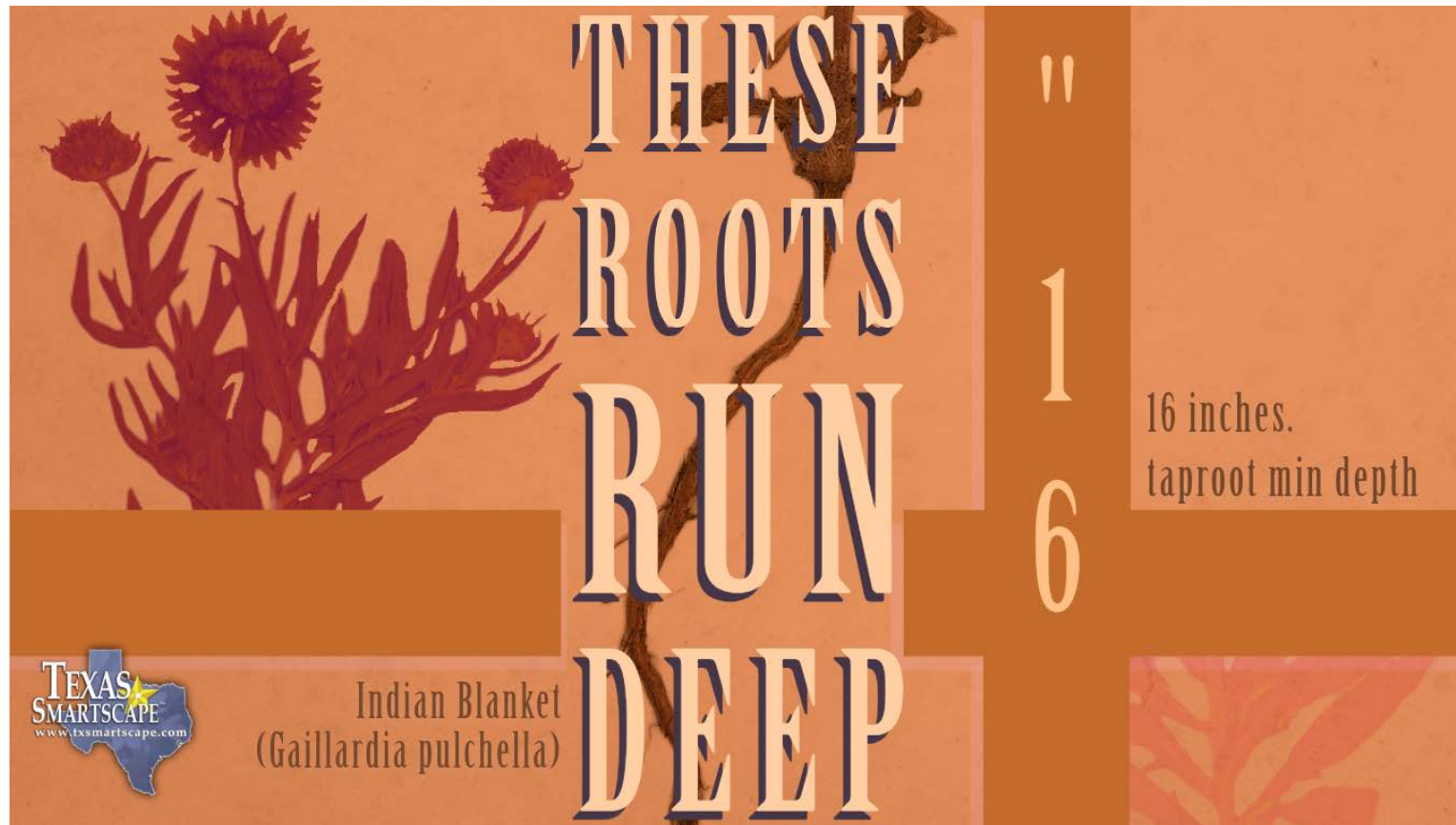
These Roots Run Deep!

- Corresponding graphic and assets shared electronically:
 - [Long Form Newsletter](#)
 - [Short Form Newsletter](#)
 - [Graphic with SmartScape logo](#)
 - [Graphic w/o SmartScape logo](#)



TEXAS SMARTSCAPE

2025 March is Texas SmartScape Campaign



TEXAS SMARTSCAPE

Texas SmartScape Website Update

- Event Calendar is functional on website once again!
- Hosting a spring plant sale or SmartScape related educational events? Let us know! Email a request to have your item(s) added to the event calendar, along with details and any links, to info@txsmartscape.com.



PETF ACTIVITY REPORTS

Activity Reports – Captures the activities and metrics of PETF campaigns, initiatives, and associated websites. Free resource for cost-share members to aid in preparing annual reports.

Reporting periods:

- August 13, 2023 to August 12, 2024 – **COMPLETED**
- October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024 - **COMPLETED**
- December 13, 2023 to December 12, 2024 – **COMPLETED**
- January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 – **IN PROGRESS**
- January 24, 2024 to January 23, 2025

Question for Phase II MS4s: *Will you need any incremental activity reports with the transition to the calendar year for permit reporting?*



NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITY CLEANUP CHALLENGE

2025 North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge

- Challenge timeframe: March 1st - May 31st
- Sign on by: April 15, 2025 (email stormwater@nctcog.org to confirm participation)
- Reporting deadline: June 30, 2025
- Submit trash reports through [Texas Litter Database](#) using External ID "CCC25"

2025 Mayors' Challenge

- Challenge timeframe: March 1st - May 31st
- Sign on by: April 15, 2025
- Confirm participation by emailing a copy of your signed resolution



NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITY CLEANUP CHALLENGE

- Visit the [program page](#) to learn more and find updated resources:
 - Frequently Ask Questions
 - User Guide for Texas Litter Database
 - Sample Proclamation
 - Sample Certificate of Participation
 - Volunteer Cleanup Guidelines and Safety Tips
- For questions about the NTCCC, please contact Stormwater staff at stormwater@nctcog.org.



NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITY CLEANUP CHALLENGE

Tips for competitive campaigns:

- Mayors' Challenge: Use the template [Resolution](#) to streamline joining the Mayors' Challenge. **New Resolution must be submitted each year.**
- Adopt-A-Spot efforts count – leverage these efforts and volunteers!
- Coordinate with KTB affiliate to overlap efforts with [Great American Cleanup](#) (GAC)!
 - GAC activities eligible for [free supplies](#)



TEXAS LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Bill Number	Author	Description (Summary of Bill)	Status
<u>HB 359</u>	Rep. Goodwin	Relates to authority of a property owners' association to assess fines for discolored veg. or turf during period of residential watering restriction. Would restrict/limit fines against property owners when under a watering restriction as mandated by a municipality, water utility, or other wholesale or retail water supplier as part of a water conserve. strategy during drought.	Filed 11/12/24
<u>HB 1370</u>	Rep. Raymond	Relates to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the amount of the appraised value of real property that arises from the use of xeriscape on the property.	Filed 11/18/24
<u>HB 1904</u>	Rep. Canales	Relating to the release of balloons and associated littering; creating a criminal offense.	Filed 1/16/25

*List updated 1/18/25

FY25 WORK PROGRAM

Yard Waste Outreach Materials

- DRAFT Postcard (front)
- Messaging not final – design draft purposes only.



FY25 WORK PROGRAM

Yard Waste Outreach Materials

- DRAFT Postcard (back)
- Messaging not final – design draft purposes only.

Leaving yard waste on your lawn can save you time and money while keeping your yard looking beautiful.

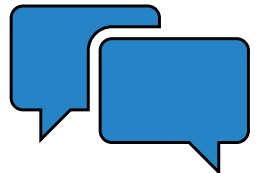
Scan here to learn more:



FY25 WORK PROGRAM

Doorhangers for residential enforcement and education

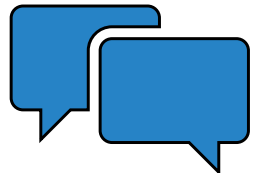
- Staffing changes have put the design effort temporarily on hold.



FY25 WORK PROGRAM

“Show and Tell” event to share public education and outreach presentations and favorite outreach and giveaway items.

- Suggesting to add the sharing of favorite outreach and giveaway items to the in-person July PETF meeting.
- Suggesting to hold a virtual roundtable for the sharing of outreach and education presentations.



OTHER COG PROGRAMS AND UPDATES



REQUESTS FOR REGIONAL RESOURCES

- NCTCOG is working on designing water conservation signage aimed at educating and affecting behavior change with **occupants of municipal buildings**.
- Seeking feedback on the following messages and concepts.
 - Would like to incorporate a usage/savings fact when feasible on signage.



REQUESTS FOR REGIONAL RESOURCES

TURN OFF THE FAUCET

- *Turn off the faucet while washing your hands. This can save about two gallons of water per minute!*

USE CASE: KITCHEN, RESTROOM



Image Credit: TCEQ



REQUESTS FOR REGIONAL RESOURCES

WATER REUSE

- *Don't let your water go to waste! Find another use for excess/leftover water instead of putting it down the drain!*
- *Don't let your water go to waste! Use leftover drinking water or ice to water indoor plants or asking your coworkers if they have a use for it.*

USE CASE: KITCHEN, REC CENTER, LIBRARY

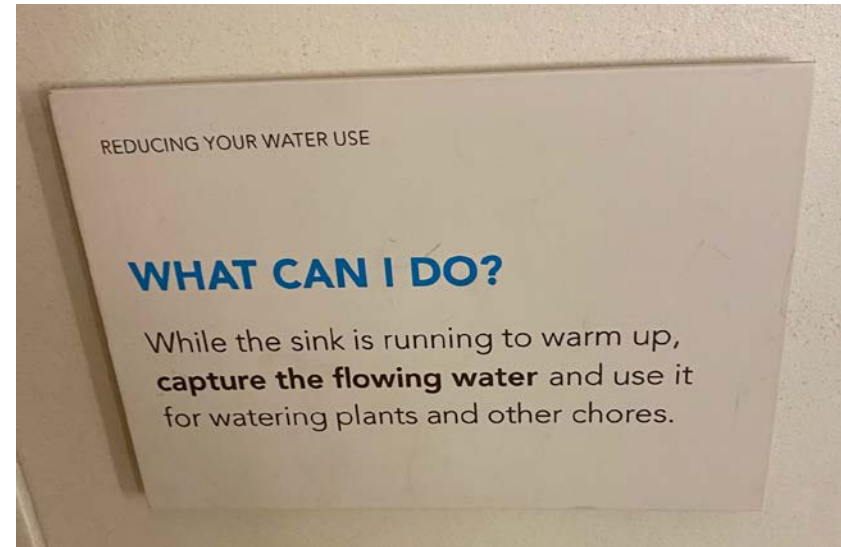


Image Credit: Botanical Research Institute of Texas



REQUESTS FOR REGIONAL RESOURCES

FILL THE (DISH)WASHER

- *Be mindful to run the (dish)washer only when full to conserve water whenever possible.*
- *Using a full dishwasher is more water efficient than washing by hand!*
- *Running full loads in the (dish)washer is both a water and energy wise choice!*

USE CASE: DISHWASHER / WASHING MACHINE

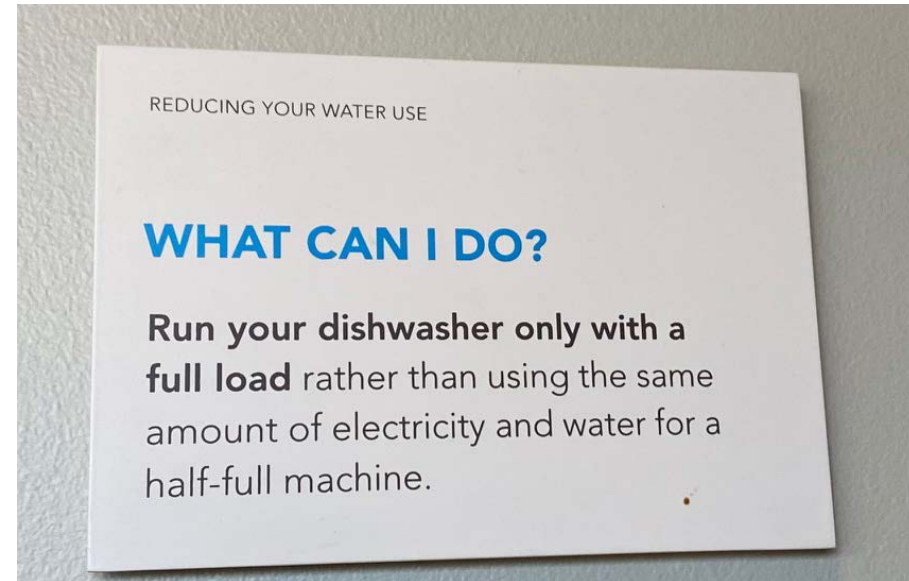


Image Credit: Botanical Research Institute of Texas



REQUESTS FOR REGIONAL RESOURCES

REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES

- *Consider using reusable bottles to reduce waste!*
- *Reusable bottles use fewer water and energy resources.*

USE CASE: KITCHEN



Image Credit: City of Arlington Airport



REQUESTS FOR REGIONAL RESOURCES

WATCH OUT FOR LEAKS!

Watch for signs of water leakage and report any concerns or issues you see! The sooner a leak is noticed and reported, the sooner it can be fixed.

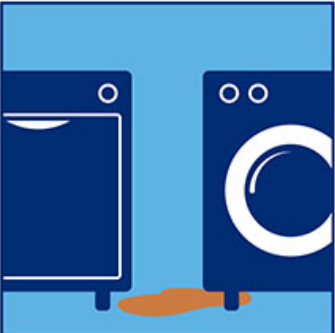
Fixing indoor/outdoor leaks can save # gallons of water per day.

USE CASE: KITCHEN, RESTROOM, OUTDOOR IRRIGATION

Check the water level in your toilet tank. Be sure that the level is 1" below the top of the tank.



Check behind or below your washing machine or dishwasher for stains indicating a leak.



Check for and replace worn gaskets and washers on indoor and outdoor faucets.



Check sprinkler systems and check your yard for wet spots.



Learn more at LouisvilleWater.com/Leaks



REQUESTS FOR REGIONAL RESOURCES

SWEEP!

- *Instead of using water for cleaning tasks, consider using alternative tools as appropriate!*
- *Choose to sweep sidewalks and floors instead of pressure washing them.*
- *Using a broom can save 8-18 gallons of water per minute!*

USE CASE: MAINTENANCE SHOP/YARD



Image Credit: SaveOurWater.com



REQUESTS FOR REGIONAL RESOURCES

USE CASE: MAINTENANCE SHOP/YARD

IRRIGATION

- *What's the weather today? Don't run irrigation in the rain or freezing temperatures.*
- *To limit water loss from evaporation, run irrigation before 10 am or after 8 pm.*
- *Properly maintaining sprinkler heads and irrigation systems conserves both water and energy resources!*

SPRINKLER & IRRIGATION BEST PRACTICES

It's just dirt, right?

Follow these watering and irrigation best practices to help prevent runoff of soil, pesticides, and fertilizers.

- Maintain sprinkler heads and irrigation systems to prevent unnecessary water loss.
- Don't water in the rain or freezing temperatures.
- Water at the right time of day.
- Refer to the label for pesticides and fertilizers to make sure you are applying them correctly and watering at the right time.

Image Credit: NCTCOG - Pollution Prevention Roundtable



REQUESTS FOR REGIONAL RESOURCES

- Update on creation of regional watershed signage:
 - Considering the potential options discussed at last meeting of signage geared towards World Cup events
 - Staffing changes have put this effort temporarily on hold



IDDE & STORMWATER MONITORING UPDATE

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)

- Next Meeting – April 15, 2025, information to be posted online.
- This meeting will be held in person at NCTCOG Offices

Regional Wet Weather Characterization Program (RWWCP)

- NCTCOG staff is coordinating with TCEQ on the continuation of the program into a new monitoring term.
- NCTCOG submitted the new term proposal in January 2024. TCEQ has confirmed receipt of proposal in October 2024. NCTCOG is awaiting TCEQ review before procurement can proceed.



TMDL UPDATE

- **New TMDL I-Plan Task Force Updates**

- Revisions of the TMDL I-Plan will incorporate input from several I-Plan Strategy Task Forces.
- Strategies include Stormwater, Wastewater, Education & Outreach and many more!
- I-Plan Task Force meetings will begin in February. Meeting dates and links are listed here:
 - **Wastewater Meeting:** 10:30 am, February 6, 2025, [Microsoft Teams](#).
 - **Stormwater Meeting:** 1:00 pm, February 18, 2025, [Microsoft Teams](#).
 - For any questions, please contact Joy Douglas: jdouglas@nctcog.org



TMDL UPDATE

- **TMDL Annual Questionnaire – Open Soon**
 - NCTCOG will soon distribute the annual questionnaire to document water quality related efforts in the region for the Greater Trinity River I-Plan.





**Wastewater
And
Treatment
Education
Roundtable**

WATER UPDATE

- 2024 Holiday Grease Roundup closed on January 10, 2025 – save the date for the 2025 Roundup: tentatively November 17, 2025 – January 9, 2026
- Upcoming WATER meeting:
 - January 23, 2025 at 10:00 AM, NCTCOG Offices
- WATER Point of Contact:
 - Hannah Ordonez at hordonez@nctcog.org

WQMP/WRC UPDATE

Water Resources Council (WRC):

- Developing regional education for Homeowner Associations promoting conservative irrigation practices.
 - Encourage more blue/green infrastructure and less water-intensive landscaping requirement/enforcement.
- Current messaging: reduce irrigation once turf is established and encourage suspending of fines for discolored turf when city is under a water restriction order.
- Share feedback on other messaging/engagement strategies with Alyssa Knox aknox@nctcog.org.





CLIDE

Celebrating Leadership In Development Excellence
Awards 2025



Applications accepted Feb. 3 – Feb. 28, 2025

www.developmentexcellence.com



Celebrating Leadership in Development Excellence (CLIDE) Awards honors

development and planning projects that exemplify the region's Principles of Development Excellence which outline a vision for sustainable, livable communities in North Texas.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is looking for projects and programs in North Texas that exemplify these principles.

Applications accepted Feb. 3 – Feb. 28, 2025

www.developmentexcellence.com



CATEGORIES FOR SUBMITTAL

New Development

Projects on previously undeveloped sites exemplifying many Principles of Development Excellence.

Redevelopment

Projects that reuse or rebuild existing structures, exemplifying many Principles of Development Excellence.

Special Development

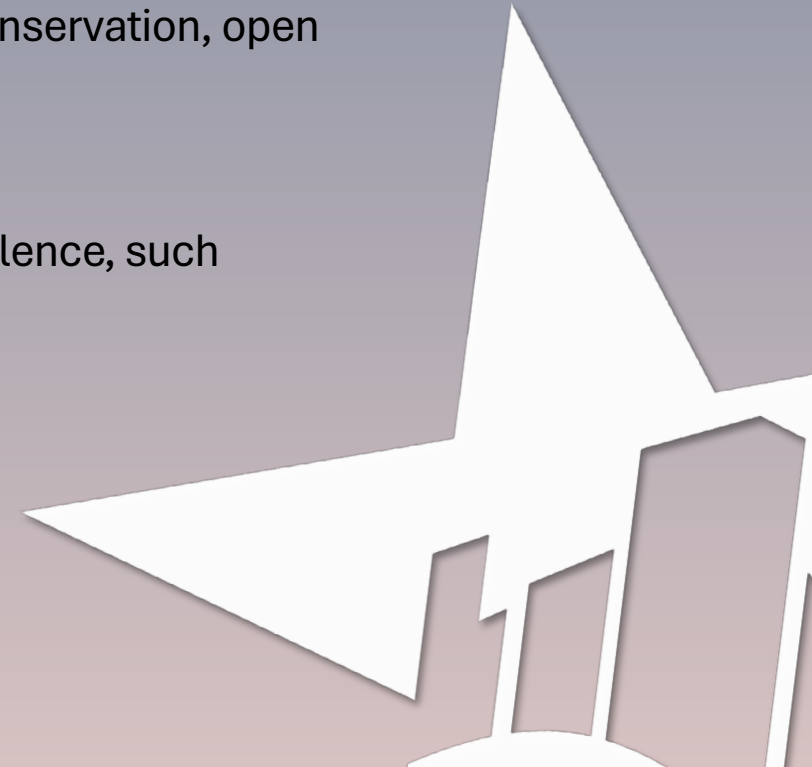
Projects that excel in promoting one or two Principles of Development Excellence, which could include Environmental Stewardship. Examples include sustainable infrastructure, energy conservation, open space or trail projects, and low-impact development.

Raising Public Awareness

Organizations or individuals that have educated the public about development excellence, such as through media stories or public education campaigns.

Public Policy and Planning

Entities that have adopted policies or programs related to Principles of Development Excellence. Examples include mixed-use policies, open space protection, historic preservation, design standards, and comprehensive plans.



CONFERENCES & EVENTS

- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Practices During Construction for Plan Reviewers ([Feb. 4](#), [June 3](#)) and Field Inspectors ([Feb. 5](#), [June 4](#)), NCTCOG Offices
- [2025 Urban Riparian Symposium](#), February 19-21, 2025, Waco
- [ITRC Microplastics Training](#), March 6, 2025, Virtual
- [2025 Texas Water Conference](#), March 18-21, 2025, Houston
- [2025 National Watershed and Stormwater Conference](#), April 8-10, 2025, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- [National Marine Educators Association Conference](#), June 29-July 3, 2025, Lafayette

NEWS & RESOURCES

- Governor's Community Achievement Awards (GCAA) [application](#) is now OPEN!
- Deadline is **February 13, 2025**.
- GCAA [Toolkit Resources](#)



ROUNDTABLE

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR CITY?



VIRTUAL MEETING ATTENDANCE

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<https://forms.office.com/r/QRHGjAbc2D?origin=lprLink>



NEXT MEETING DATES

RSWMCC:

- February 26, 2025, Microsoft Teams

PETF:

- April 9, 2025, Microsoft Teams

P2/IDDE Joint Roundtable:

- April 15, 2025, NCTCOG Offices

iSWM:

- January 29, 2024, Virtual via Microsoft Teams



CONTACT

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