

Arroyo Colorado WPP Implementation Update

Lucas Gregory
Associate Director - Texas Water Resources Institute
Texas A&M AgriLife

July 22, 2025











Watershed Coordinator Update

- New Coordinator starting Monday, July 28th
 - Ms. Samantha Colunga
 - Will formally announce in upcoming newsletter

- Primarily tasked with continued WPP Implementation
- Supports water related research across the Valley

Active Arroyo WPP Implementation Projects

Ag Education & Outreach Implementation

- Landowner Education & Outreach to Increase Program Participation
- Support and Facilitation of WPP Implementation

WPP Implementation – OSSF Inventory, NPS Education & Coastal Stormwater BMP/LID Installation

- OSSF Geodatabase and Inventory Update
- Rio Hondo ISD Coastal Stormwater BMPs Enhancement
- Support and Facilitation of WPP Implementation

Education & Outreach Activities

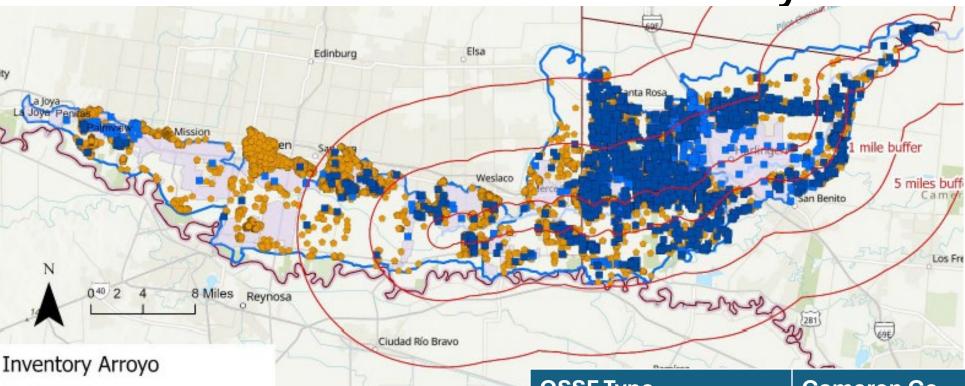
Recent

- Conducted Texas Watershed Stewards event in January
- Hosted Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership meeting in May
- Hosted Texas Stream Team training with Rio Hondo Middle School teachers and students in May

In the Works

- Developing educational signage and resources for Rio Hondo ISD rain garden/native habitat
- Working with Resaca de la Palma State Park to provide Arroyo focused educational resources for student programs

OSSF Database and Inventory



Inv_note06

OSSF w/o permit record

OSSF with permit record, in SA (avail)

OSSF with permit record, outside SA

Arroyo Colorado

Arroyo Colorado Buffer

Sewer Area

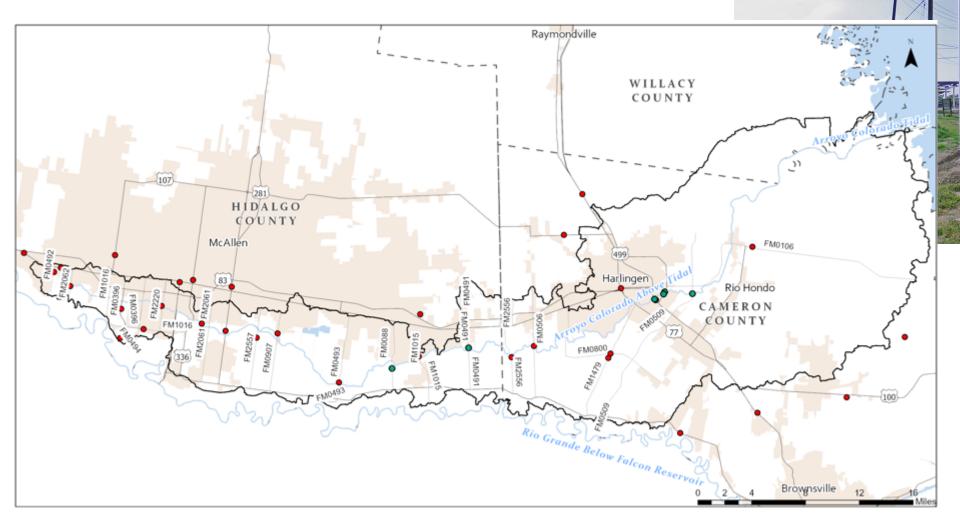
County Boundary

Arroyo Colorado Watershed Boundary

OSSF Type	Cameron Co	Hidalgo Co
Total #	14,683	19,505
No Permit	10,882	19,278
Permit - in SA	3,259	167
Permit – outside SA	542	60

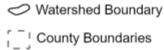
Texas Parks & Wildlife, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USFWS, Esri, CGIAR, USGS

Watershed Signage

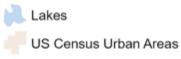




- Determining permit needs
- Installation logistics
- Updated locations



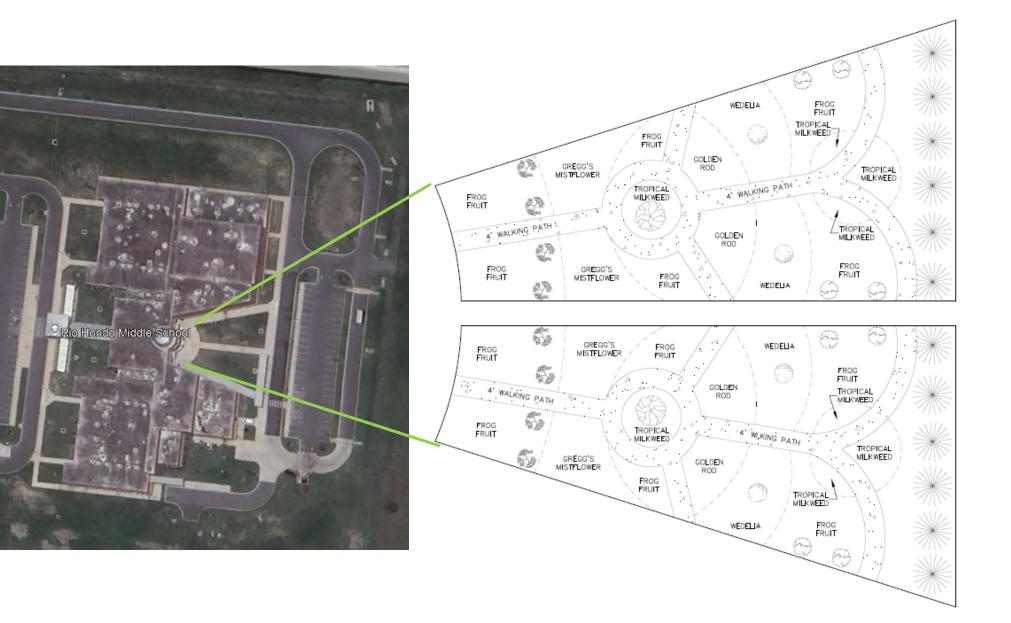




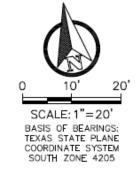
Road signs currently in place : NO

Currently in place : YES

Rio Hondo Middle School Stormwater BMP







Stormwater BMP Establishment







Rio Hondo Stormwater BMP Activities

- Develop and install signage: Plant ID and Stormwater Management
- Create learning content associated with BMP
 - Work with teachers and ESC 1 to ensure content meets grade appropriate TEKS
 - Habitat and organism ecology
 - Succession
 - Biodiversity
 - Natural disasters
 - Human impacts
 - Nonpoint Source Pollution

- Texas Stream Team Training
 - Science Teachers and select group of science students
 - Education on watersheds, water quality, stream systems, ecological implications
 - Instruction on monitoring techniques and methods
 - Empowers students to conduct their own research on local waterbodies and promote environmental stewardship
 - Working to establish an after school science club

Future WPP Implementation Activities

- Additional Clean Water Act Section 319h funding from TCEQ is on the way
- Approximate start time is October 2025
- Will continue implementing items from the 2017 WPP
- Reinvigorating WPP Implementation is a main goal
 - Identifying evolving stakeholder/watershed needs

**Funding level subject to change and availability

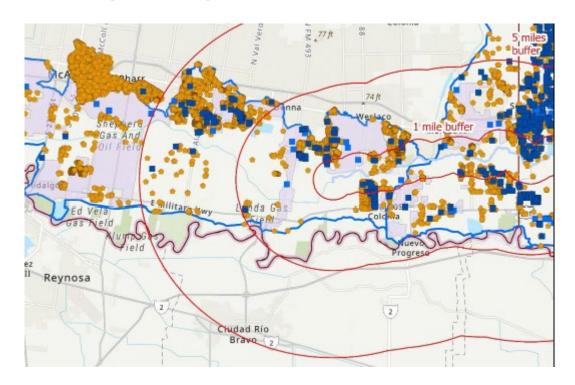
Watershed Boundary Update

- 2017 WPP Update highlighted the need to update the boundary
- Drainage and irrigation networks complicate hydrology
- Better data now exists LIDAR elevation
- Will seek input from cities, drainage, irrigation districts, etc.
- Publish updated watershed boundary maps and GIS layer



Continue OSSF Database Development

- Continue adding OSSFs from Cameron and Hidalgo counties
 - Maintain contact with County DRs for new permits
- Update maps and ID priority areas for OSSF education & outreach



Stakeholder Facilitation & Coordination

- Continue seeking funding to implement WPP
- Maintain watershed website
- Facilitate steering committee and work group meetings
- Keep stakeholder list up to date
- Coordinate with existing groups in watershed
- Develop and deliver annual newsletter
- Information dissemination
- WPP Implementation Progress Report

Contact Info

Lucas Gregory

LFGregory@ag.tamu.edu

979-314-2361

https://arroyocolorado.org/



Sign up for the mailing list!



Update to the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan