

Nueces River Watershed Partnership

October 2015

To improve and protect the water quality of the Nueces River Watershed so that the river is restored and preserved for current and future generations

Watershed Protection Plan Approved by Steering Committee

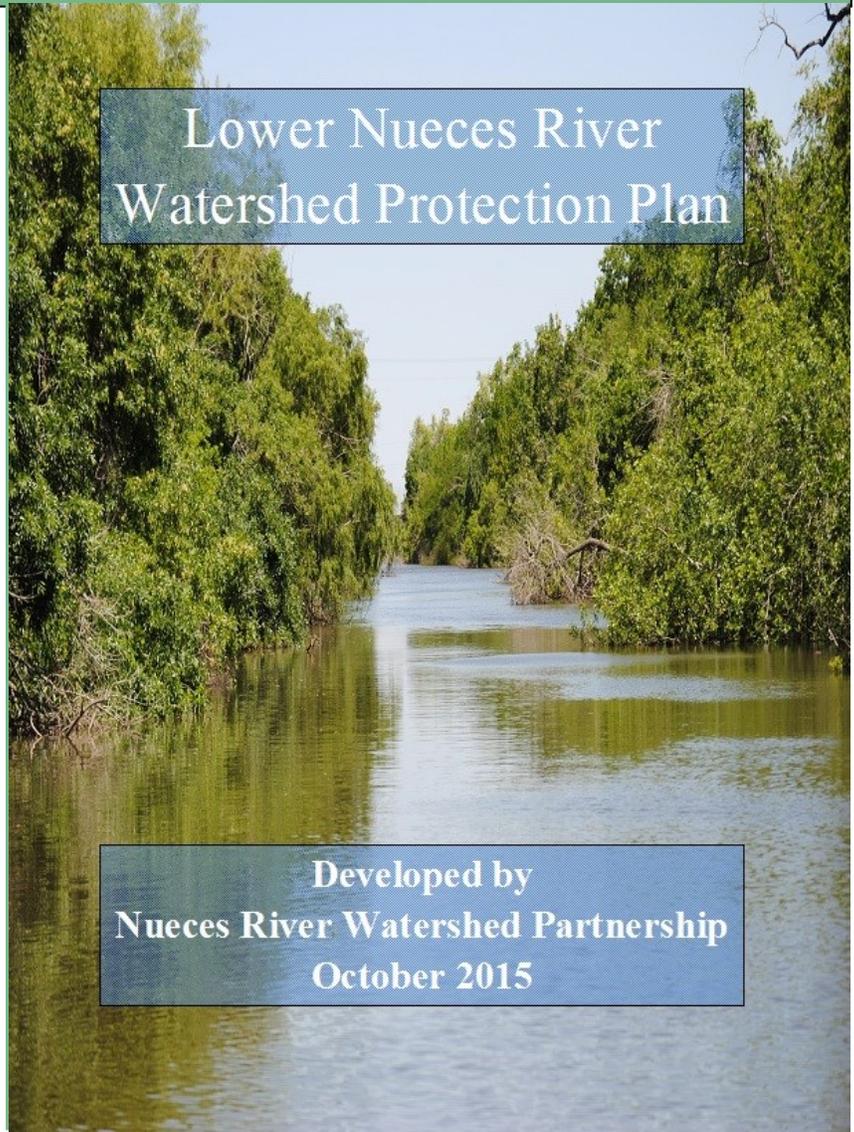
The Steering Committee for the Development of the *Lower Nueces River Watershed Protection Plan* approved the Plan at the October 20, 2015 Stakeholder meeting. A 30—day public comment period extends from October 26 through November 25, 2015.

The document is available for viewing and/or download at www.nuecesriverpartnership.org/

Rocky Freund will be accepting comments:

- by email to rfreund@nueces-ra.org;
- by mail to 400 Mann Street, Suite 1002, Corpus Christi, TX, 78401
- in person on November 17, 2015 from 10am to 2pm at Nueces County Commissioner Mike Pusley's Calallen office next to the Hilltop Community Center, 11425 Leopard St., Corpus Christi, Texas 78410 ; and
- in person on November 18, 2015 from 12pm to 6pm at the Mathis Public Library, 103 Lamar St., Mathis, TX 78368

The Nueces River Authority and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board appreciate the time and effort the steering committee and stakeholders dedicated to the development of the Plan over the past three years.



History Lesson

Nueces County Hazel Bazemore Park, located along the Nueces River near Corpus Christi, is known for being one of the best locations to witness the fall migration of hawks. An estimated 95% of the North American population of broadwinged hawks fly over the Corpus Christi Hawk Watch Site at Hazel Bazemore Park every fall. Large flocks, called kettles, of 10,000 hawks are common. Single kettles of 100,000 hawks have also been recorded. The official hawk watch period is from August 14—November 15.

The park was named for Ms. Hazel Bazemore in 1956. She was an assistant home demonstration agent for Nueces County who was killed in an auto accident in 1955. In September 1977, the park was made in a nature park and environmental study area.

Source: <http://ccbirding.com/thw/hb.html>



www.nuecesriverpartnership.org



Nueces River Authority

Lower Nueces River Watershed Protection Plan Management Measures

Based on an evaluation of existing water quality data and watershed characteristics, the work groups and stakeholders recommended voluntary management measures needed to reduce TDS, chlorophyll-*a*, and bacteria levels and to address illegal dumping activities in the Lower Nueces River. Key recommendations adopted by the Steering Committee include the following:

- Agricultural Nonpoint Source Management Measures to develop additional Water Quality Management Plans (WQMP) and conduct status review of existing WQMPs. Successful implementation should result in the reduction of TDS, chlorophyll-*a*, and bacteria numbers.
- Riparian Habitat Conservation Management Measures to develop conservation easements within the riparian zone. Successful implementation should result in preserving the existing riparian areas and prevent additional TDS, chlorophyll-*a*, and bacteria loadings.
- Wastewater and Urban Management Measures to replace, repair, and remove septic systems; to create conveniently located solid waste transfer stations, and to encourage the creation of storm water retention ponds when and where feasible. Successful implementation should result in the reduction of TDS and bacteria numbers.
- Wildlife Management Measures to provide opportunities to deliver education programs for wildlife management to landowners. Successful implementation could result in the reduction of bacteria numbers.
- Feral Hog Management Measures to provide opportunities to deliver education programs for feral hog control to landowners. Successful implementation could result in the reduction of bacteria numbers.
- Cleanup Management Measures to address hyacinth management; the removal of submerged, large man-made debris that is potentially hazardous to water quality and/or recreation safety; and the investigation of oil and gas wells and pipelines. Successful implementation should result in the reduction of TDS and chlorophyll-*a* numbers.

The Nueces River Watershed Partnership will continue to meet on a quarterly, or as needed, basis to receive updates on the progress of implementation efforts and guide the program through adaptive management actions. Ultimately, it is the goal of the Partnership and this plan to improve and protect water quality in the Lower Nueces River so that it is restored and preserved for present and future generations.

Nine Elements of a Successful Watershed Protection Plan

The Lower Nueces River Watershed Protection Plan was developed according to the US Environmental Protection Agency's *Nine Elements of Successful Watershed Plans*. The elements, and the chapters in which each is addressed, are:

- A. Identification of Causes of Sources of Impairment—Chapter 5
 - B. Expected Load Reductions—Chapter 9
 - C. Proposed Management Measures—Chapters 6 and 9
 - D. Technical and Financial Assistance Needs—Chapter 9
 - E. Information, Education, and Public Participation Component—Chapters 3 and 7
 - F. Schedule—Chapter 9
 - G. Milestones—Chapters 8 and 9
 - H. Load Reduction Evaluation Criteria—Chapter 8
 - I. Monitoring Component—Chapter 8
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