

**Contact:** Ivey Kaiser  
Shoal Creek Conservancy  
512-474-2412  
[ivey@shoalcreekconservancy.org](mailto:ivey@shoalcreekconservancy.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

---

## **Shoal Creek Conservancy Introduces Creekside Neighbors Program for Residents in the Shoal Creek Watershed**

**AUSTIN, TEXAS – August 19, 2020** – The Shoal Creek Conservancy launches the new [Creekside Neighbors Program](#) this week to provide residents living along Shoal Creek tools and resources to take an active role in improving Shoal Creek’s water quality.

“Our goal is to empower residents of the Shoal Creek Watershed to learn ways they can help improve Shoal Creek and its natural resources,” said Ivey Kaiser, Executive Director of the Shoal Creek Conservancy. “With the educational materials and physical tools available to residents through this program, we believe our Creekside Neighbors will have more support than ever to join in the effort of improving Shoal Creek’s water quality to make it safe for fishing and swimming. Shoal Creek was once home to popular swimming holes, and we hope in the future we can again think of Shoal Creek as a safe, free place to swim and cool off in the summers.”

The Shoal Creek watershed is home to more than 72,000 residents. With over half of the watershed covered by impervious surface, Shoal Creek suffers from several water issues, such as pollution from stormwater runoff, erosion and flooding. Pollution that washes into the creek can include trash, bacteria from dog waste, and nutrients from fertilizers. While it’s difficult to trace the origins of all the “non-point source pollutants”, positive impacts can be made by a collective effort by all neighbors of the creek.

“Austin’s water quality monitoring has shown that pesticides used only on individual lawns and landscapes can accumulate to the point that they are detected at levels harmful to aquatic life in urban creeks during stormwater runoff events,” said Chris Herrington, Environmental Officer for the City of Austin’s Watershed Protection Department. “This tells us that individual actions can have a cumulative, measurable and negative impact on our shared public natural resources,”

The Creekside Neighbors Program website offers access to a variety of public resources and technical guidance, provided by the City of Austin, that give homeowners options to mitigate these water issues, including educational materials, rebates and an interactive watershed map.

Shoal Creek Conservancy also hopes to bolster its monthly volunteer cleanups and creek restoration workdays through this new program. While the conservancy regularly hosts workdays in the public spaces along Shoal Creek, approximately seven miles of the creek runs through private property and is not accessible without permission from the property owner. However, [creekside residents can now fill out a request form](#) to borrow free supplies from Shoal Creek Conservancy to host their own neighborhood cleanups.

“With the Shoal Creek Conservancy and local residents working together, we can make a greater impact that we would working in silos. We look forward to supporting this community of residents and stewards!” said Kaiser.

-MORE-

The Creekside Neighbors Program implements many of the education and water quality goals outlined in the recently-completed Shoal Creek Watershed Action Plan, a community-guided plan to actively improve water quality and overall health in Shoal Creek.

To learn more about the Creekside Neighbors Program, visit the Shoal Creek Conservancy's website at <https://shoalcreekconservancy.org/get-involved/creekside-neighbors/>.

The Watershed Action Plan is funded in part by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) through a United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant.

**About The Shoal Creek Conservancy**

Shoal Creek Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving Shoal Creek for all Austinites – present and future. To learn and support the work of the Conservancy, visit [www.shoalcreekconservancy.org](http://www.shoalcreekconservancy.org).

###