



## Phase 1 Implementation: Shoal Creek Watershed Action Plan

Phase 1 Implementation of the Shoal Creek Watershed Action Plan (SCWAP) represents the beginning of a decades-long effort to restore our ability to fish, swim and play safely in Shoal Creek.

The SCWAP is a model urban watershed management program that implements measures to:

- achieve contact recreation standards
- promote baseflow enhancement
- reduce nutrients, herbicides, and pesticides
- promote riparian and aquatic health
- support the City of Austin in flood mitigation and planning

### SCWAP Implementation Overview

#### Phase 1: Years 1-5

Phase 1 focuses on immediately reducing E. coli bacteria in Shoal Creek. Phase 1 measures have been selected for their ability to make the most dramatic reductions with relatively fewer resources. Moreover, several measures fulfill multiple goals beyond water quality, including erosion prevention and enhancement of riparian and aquatic health.

#### Phase 2: Years 6-10

Phase 2 will target holistic management measures to address bacteria, water quality, erosion, flooding, baseflow, and aquatic and riparian health.

#### Phase 3: Years 11-20

Phase 3 focuses on continued implementation of holistic measures identified by the Stakeholder Committee.



## Year 1 Activities Detail: Oct 2020-Sept 2021

### **Structural BMPs**

- Pet Waste Stations:
  - 3 new pet waste stations installed in watershed
- Rain Garden/Rainwater Harvesting:
  - Pilot approach to assisting 1 watershed household with installing rain garden or rainwater harvesting system on their property.
- Grow Zones:
  - 2 acres of new Grow Zones established on public land and/or commercial property
  - Pilot approach to assisting 1 watershed household with establishing a Grow Zone on their property.
  - Initial conversations with COAWPD to design pilot partnership program to facilitate expansion of Grow Zones on residential-scale private property throughout the watershed.

### **Creekside Neighbors Program**

- General Education/Outreach
  - General SCWAP interpretive campaign to share information about the SCWAP, long-range goals, and promote individual impact on water quality (SCC newsletter articles, social media posts, website content)
- Promote awareness of program & resources
  - Maintain Creekside Neighbors resource page on SCC website
  - Present at neighborhood association meetings
  - Publish articles in neighborhood newsletters
  - Press release with focus on outlets who promote local engagement opportunities (Community Impact, Austin Chronicle)
- Private Land Stewardship
  - Facilitate at least 2 creek cleanup events on private property
- Evaluate effectiveness of education/outreach activities
  - Explore tools to evaluate effectiveness of E/O activities, such as SIPES (Social Indicator Planning & Evaluation System)
  - Collect pre-project survey data to establish baseline number of watershed households participating in Rain Catcher, Grow Green, and Scoop the Poop programs.

### **Lay groundwork & build capacity for future implementation activities**

- Continue to build relationships with key public entities in the watershed to lay the groundwork for implementation of Phase 1, 2 & 3 BMPs. Identify contact and build relationships with AISD, TxDOT, CTRMA, ACC, UT, LCRA, USGS.
- Identify, qualify, and cultivate major private property owners in the Shoal Creek watershed to lay the groundwork for implementation of Phase 1, 2 & 3 BMPs - 10 qualified/5 cultivated in Year 1
- Secure funding for Watershed Coordinator contract position to begin Year 2



**Continued stakeholder involvement in WPP implementation**

- Regular Steering Committee meetings that are open to all stakeholders
- Regular email communications to watershed Stakeholder Committee including meeting announcements, agendas, and notes.



## Phase 1 Implementation Activities (Years 1-5)

*This schedule of activities is inclusive of the Year 1 activities detailed above.*

Activity	Measures of Success
Implement highly visible structural BMPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 3 new pet waste stations per year installed in the watershed (15 total during Phase 1)</li> <li>● Establish ~2 acres of new Grow Zones per year on public land and/or commercial private property (10 acres total during Phase 1)</li> <li>● ~5 rain garden or rain water harvesting installations per year on public or commercial property (25 total during Phase 1). Track gallons of infiltration per year and calculate estimated load reductions.</li> </ul>
Implement Creekside Neighbors outreach program to promote awareness of individual and household impacts on watershed health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Maintain Creekside Neighbors resource page on SCC website</li> <li>● Facilitate at least 2 creek cleanup events per year on private property (10 total during Phase 1)</li> <li>● ~5 rain garden or rain water harvesting installations per year on residential properties (25 total during Phase 1). Track gallons of water filtered per year; calculate estimated load reductions.</li> <li>● Grow Zones established at ~10 creekside residences per year (50 total during Phase 1)</li> <li>● Increase the percent of watershed households participating in the City of Austin's Grow Green program</li> <li>● Increase the percentage of watershed households participating in Scoop the Poop program</li> </ul>



<p>Empower members of the public to reduce NPS pollution in the watershed through education and stewardship opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 4 Watershed Workshops on Green Stormwater Infrastructure, with a focus on empowering watershed residents to apply GSI approaches, such as Grow Zones and rainwater harvesting, to their own property. Workshop will be open to the public, serve up to 60 attendees, and include both a classroom and in-field component.</li> <li>• Monthly creek cleanup events open to the public (40 total during Phase 1). Events include education components addressing individual impacts on water quality.</li> <li>• Public events that educate community members about individual impacts on water quality and NPS pollution (16 total during Phase 1)</li> <li>• Continue general SCWAP interpretive campaign to share information about the SCWAP, long-range goals, and promote individual impact on water quality (SCC newsletter articles, social media posts, website content)</li> </ul>
<p>Lay the groundwork &amp; build capacity for future implementation activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify, qualify, and cultivate major private property owners in the Shoal Creek watershed to lay the groundwork for implementation of Phase 1, 2 &amp; 3 BMPs             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Year 1: 10 qualified/5 cultivated</li> <li>○ Year 2: 20 qualified/10 cultivated</li> <li>○ Year 3: 20 qualified/10 cultivated</li> <li>○ Year 4: 20 qualified/10 cultivated</li> <li>○ Year 5: 20 qualified/10 cultivated</li> <li>○ Phase 1 totals = 90 qualified/45 cultivated</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Continue to build relationships with key public entities in the watershed to lay the groundwork for implementation of Phase 1, 2 &amp; 3 BMPs (reference list in <i>Table 8a</i>)</li> <li>• Hire Watershed Coordinator beginning FY22 to oversee overall implementation goals; facilitate stakeholder engagement; secure additional funding and technical resources.</li> </ul>



Overall improvement of water quality and ability to track improvements in water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality targets serve as benchmarks of SCWAP progress and inform selection and pacing of future implementation strategies</li> <li>• Routine water quality data acquired from COAWPD</li> </ul>
Continued stakeholder involvement in WPP implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular Steering Committee meetings that are open to all stakeholders</li> <li>• Regular email communications to watershed Stakeholder Committee including meeting announcements, agendas, and notes.</li> </ul>

### Phase 1 Estimated Budget

	Year 1 FY21	Year 2 FY22	Year 3 FY23	Year 4 FY24	Year 5 FY25	TOTAL
Cash	\$106,886	\$183,020	\$183,020	\$183,020	\$183,020	\$838,966
In Kind	\$10,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$250,000