

Strategies seek to mitigate *E. coli* in Trinity River watershed

Tarrant County's stormwater team will be implementing strategies to help mitigate *Escherichia coli* (*E.coli*) bacteria in the Trinity River watershed. Activities include education and outreach to citizens and county employees, maintain websites with valuable information on pollution control, monitor areas of potential impact, and regulate and prosecute violators under Texas Health and Safety Codes, if necessary.

The Clean Water Act requires "states to identify uses for the state's surface waters such as aquatic life, recreation and sources of public water supply." Various segments of the Trinity River and its tributaries were identified as having levels of *E. coli* bacteria.

In September 2013, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality approved a regional North Texas watershed Implementation Plan for Total Maximum Daily Loads for Bacteria in the Greater Trinity River Region.

Some potential sources of *E.coli* in the watershed range from malfunctioning onsite sewage facilities, industrial/ commercial illicit discharges, discharge from construction sites, pet waste, livestock and wildlife waste, illegal dumping of all kinds and stormwater runoff from parking lots or contaminated properties.

Tarrant County is one of many stakeholders sharing responsibility for portions of the Lower West Fork Trinity River. This segment consists of approximately 259 square miles and encompasses parts or all cities of Arlington, Bedford, Colleyville, Dallas, Dalworthington Gardens, Euless, Fort Worth, Grand Prairie, Haslet, Hurst, Irving, Keller, Kennedale, North Richland Hills, Richland Hills, Southlake, and the town of Pantego. Tarrant County's responsible areas lie in the urbanized unincorporated sections.

To find out more, or to learn what you can do help reduce *E. coli* contamination and any forms of pollution in Tarrant County, please go to our website at www.tarrantcounty.com/ehealth or call 817-321-4988. To view the Implementation Plan go www.nctcog.org/envir/seeeclean/wg/tmdl/TMDLI-Plan.asp