

Central Texas Stream Team

Background

Central Texas is experiencing rapid urbanization, resulting in dramatic changes in stream hydrology. The Central Texas area encompasses about 5,660 square miles and has a combined population of 396,300 (2000 census) and is projected to grow an estimated 53% by 2040. The population increase and associated urban growth and development will impact the surrounding landscape and streams. As a result, many Central Texas streams will experience increases in stormwater runoff due to impervious surface expansion and stream channelization.

Purpose

The Central Texas Stream Team (CTST) provides technical advice to prevent and restore eroding and/or channelized streambeds through consultations and recommendations made to local officials, city engineers and consultants. CTST is lead by the BREC water quality group and is comprised of an interdisciplinary team of volunteers from local, state and federal agencies that will develop and promote strategies and solutions for the complex problems facing Central Texas streams. The Stream Team offers site evaluations and consultations as requested, and recommends bioengineering options for non-structural, less damaging options for stream modification projects.

CTST is also working to improve public awareness of the benefits of healthy streams and riparian areas through a fluvial geomorphology training workshop directed towards city/county engineers, developers and consultants. The Stream Team has participated in classroom education programs for local elementary schools, emphasizing the importance of streams and has several future activities planned for Earth Day and other community groups. The Stream Team is available to recommend innovative methods for streambank erosion control, flood control and assist in pilot/demonstration and restoration projects.

Funding and Support

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Contact

Dennis Hoffman
Blackland Research and Extension Center
Temple
(254) 774-6000
streamteam@brc.tamus.edu