



## Tule Creek West: Sediment Trap Pond, Bank Stabilization, and Habitat Enhancement

<b>Water Body</b>	Tule Creek
<b>Location</b>	Aransas County
<b>River Basin</b>	San Antonio-Nueces (20)
<b>Contractor</b>	Aransas County
<b>Project Period</b>	May 20, 2010 to August 31, 2015
<b>Project Total</b>	(60% Federal funds and 40% Local Match)

### Project Description

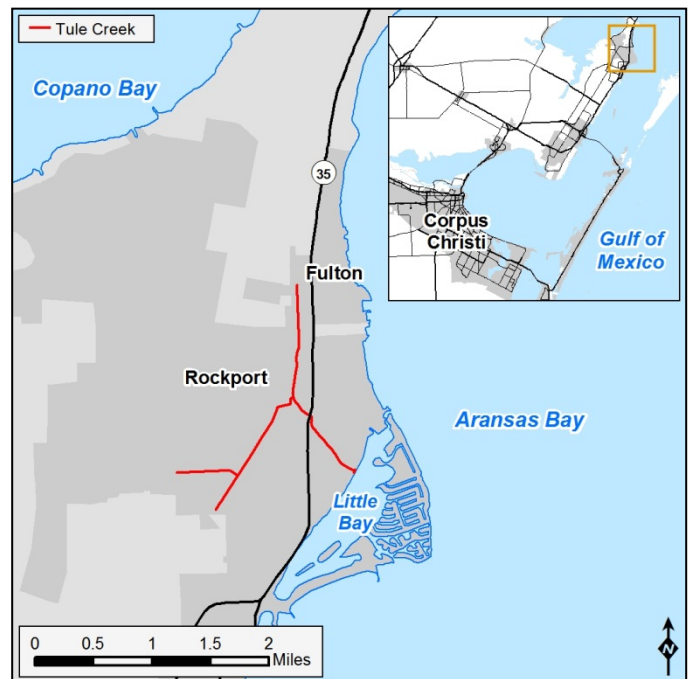
The Tule Creek watershed drains areas of the City of Rockport and the Town of Fulton. The area population and impervious cover are expected to increase in the next two decades, causing an associated increase in stormwater runoff. Scientists have identified polluted stormwater runoff as a principal cause of declining water quality and loss of wildlife habitat within Little Bay, which Tule Creek flows into. Little Bay provides water-based recreational activities for local residents along with important habitat for local wildlife.

Aransas County, working with local communities, developed a stormwater management plan. The plan emphasizes proper stormwater management. A range of stormwater best management practices (BMPs) have been identified for use in the area.

This project implemented several stormwater BMPs along West Tule Creek. The first project built a sediment trap pond below the confluence of the Upper Tule Creek West with North Tule Creek. Invasive vegetation was selectively removed from riparian areas to allow natural colonization of deep-rooted species for shoreline stabilization, improved wetland functions, reduced erosion, and improved water quality. Two additional projects widened a section of creek bank, stabilized it with riparian vegetation, and monitored water quality after the sediment trap was installed, and before and after the bank stabilization. Using this monitoring data to conduct continuous simulation modeling, they documented the effectiveness of the sediment trap and bank stabilization in reducing sediment loading to Little Bay.

### Current Status

All BMP installation, sign installation, invasive species removal work has been completed. This project is closed.



### For More Information

#### TCEQ Project Managers

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#### Aransas County

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#### Website

<<http://www.aransascounty.org/stormwatermgmt>>

## Project Highlights

- 05/2010 – First contract initiated
- 03/2011 – Aransas County officials presented the “Aransas County Storm Water Management Plan” findings.
- 03/2011 – The TCEQ Project Manager visited project sites.
- 08/2011 – Second contract initiated
- 01/2012 – Invasive tree removal contractor selected.
- 05/2012 – Sediment trap pond 90% excavated; invasive trees cut and stumps treated with an approved herbicide.
- 07/2012 – Third contract initiated
- 08/2012 – Modeling QAPP was executed.
- 08/2012 – Monitoring QAPP was executed (covered monitoring under first project as well as second).
- 09/2012 – Water quality sampling event – after construction of the sediment trap pond
- 04/2013 – Water quality sampling event
- 05/2013 – Water quality sampling event
- 05/2013 – Sediment trap pond and invasive trees removal for the first contract completed.
- 07/2013 – Water quality sampling event
- 08/2013 – First contract closed.
- 09/2013 – Subcontractor bid selection process under third contract opened.
- 09/2013 thru 05/2014 – Wet weather monitoring events data collection conducted.
- 09/2013 - 11/2013 – Upland vegetation cleared.
- 10/2013 – Aransas County Commissioners Court approved engineers’ recommendation for subcontractor.
- 11/2013 – Water quality sampling event (final sampling prior to second phase of construction)
- 02/2014 – Required channel shaping and stabilization completed; work on additional 300 feet of creek initiated.
- 04/2014 – Water quality sampling event
- 05/2014 – Supplemental channel stabilization completed.
- 06/2014 – Final water quality sampling event
- 07/2014 – Draft and final report submitted for second contract.
- 08/2014 – Second contract closed
- 09/2014 – Construction Report submitted.
- 09/2014 – 8/2015 – new bank vegetation maintained and irrigated.
- 12/2014 – Signage installed.
- 07/2015 – Three signs posted.
- 08/2015 – Final report approved for third contract. Project closed.

