

What Impacts Water Quality?

Oso Bay and Oso Creek are designated as impaired water bodies due to high levels of bacteria. These bacteria may cause illness if water or contaminated fish/shellfish are ingested.

- The Oso watershed is rapidly being converted to suburban neighborhoods. Impervious surfaces enhance pollutant runoff, causing water quality problems.



Construction near wetlands of western Oso Bay.

- Excessive algal growth in parts of Oso Bay associated with high nutrient inputs, primarily from wastewater effluent.



Dense algal bloom in western Oso Bay.

- Low dissolved oxygen levels in parts of Oso Bay caused by decomposition of algae and organic matter can be harmful to marine life.
- Leaky septic tanks may contribute to nutrient and bacteria inputs to Oso Bay & Creek.

Get Informed & Get Involved!

TMDL and I-Plan Information

Coastal Bend Bays Foundation
baysfoundation.org

Texas Commission for Environmental Quality
<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/67-osocreekbacteria>

<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/67-osobaybacteria.html>

Environmental Protection Agency

<http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/lawsguidance/cwa/tmdl/>

Local Water Issues

City of Corpus Christi Water Planning

<http://www.cctexas.com/government/water/>

Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program

<http://www.cbbep.org/water-sediment-and-air-quality-publications/>

Managing Fertilizer Runoff

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
<http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/>

EPA Nutrient Management and Fertilizer
<http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/tfer.html>

Learn More about Wetlands

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/>

For more information, call the
Coastal Bend Bays Foundation
at 361-882-3439



Oso Bay & Oso Creek

*Where Water Quality
Equals Quality of Life*



Oso Bay & Oso Creek

A Valuable Community Resource

Centuries ago, Oso Bay and Oso Creek were prized by the Karankawa tribe who depended on the watershed for their survival. Now, shoreline properties are highly desirable to homeowners who want to enjoy coastal living.

Oso Bay and adjacent lands provide wonderful options for enjoying the great outdoors, including:

- Birding activities, such as Suter Wildlife Refuge where many shorebird and wading species inhabit.
- Excellent fishing for such desirable species as Speckled Trout and Red Drum.
- Outdoor physical fitness activities such as kayaking, hiking, jogging, and biking.

Oso Creek Watershed



Improving Water Quality

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has implemented Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for bacteria in Oso Bay and Oso Creek to protect its designated use for contact recreation.

Designated Use

Every water body has the potential for uses such as drinking water, aquatic life, swimming, and fish consumption. The state assigns one or more particular uses to each water body, which in turn determines applicable water quality standards.

Water quality testing has found elevated concentrations of bacteria in Oso Bay and Oso Creek, posing a potential health risk to swimmers and waders. Swimming and wading are called "contact recreation" in the state's standards for water quality; the term refers to all recreation in which people come in direct contact with the water.

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

Through the TMDL process, impaired water body segments are identified, along with potential causes or sources of pollution. Pollution reduction goals are set to restore water quality for its designated uses.

Implementation Plan (I-Plan)

An I-Plan details the corrective actions needed to achieve the pollution reduction goals set in the TMDL. The I-Plan is a community driven process, developed by citizens within the affected watershed.

How You Can Help

Citizen involvement is the key to protecting and restoring the health of Oso Bay and Oso Creek. Local residents have the best understanding of local conditions, their goals, and how to get there.

GET INVOLVED in the I-Plan process.

www.baysfoundation.org/projects/oso-tmdl-outreach-project



DON'T litter. Always stow your trash!

DON'T overfertilize lawns. Excess nutrients wash into the bay and creek, contributing to the growth of algae and depletion of oxygen for fish.

DO pick up your pet's waste, which contains bacteria that can wash into the bay and creek during rain events.

GET INVOLVED in city water planning efforts, including discussions about water resource usage and the future of Corpus Christi's water treatment facilities.



MAINTAIN or **REPLACE** leaky septic tanks.