### **Environmental Health and Safety**

Annual Stream Clean



# How can my group get involved in environmental concerns on campus?





#### **Environmental Stewards**

Protection of surface waters is essential to water quality and holds a vital part in sustaining future generations. Texas A&M University is committed to protecting all natural resources including stormwater through various activities on campus.

Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) participates in numerous environmentally driven activities that bring awareness to campus patrons. Inspections, investigations of concerns, spill response, stormwater inspections for construction, training and speaking with groups are just a few of these. EHS participates in annual student involvement activities such as Earth Day, Sustainability Day and Texas Recycles Day.

#### What is Stream Clean?

Stream Clean is an annual event to clean trash and debris from the waterways on campus. In 2009, Stream Clean began with 42 volunteers and has grown to more than 125 participating annually. As a part of Texas A&M's Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) the concept of Stream Clean is a collaborative effort spearheaded by Tassie Hermann each year. The goal is to actively involve students, faculty, staff and the surrounding community in public education and outreach initiatives all the while educating everyone on the importance of clean water and what they can do to help. Since the efforts of Stream Clean began, EHS has logged more than 500 bags of trash, 450 volunteers, and over 1300 community service hours.

Stream Clean is just one of the many initiatives driven by EHS to improve environmental stewardship and quality on campus and beyond our community. EHS actively works with the community to educate the public on our environmental programs.

## How do we determine what areas are included?

As part of EHS's commitment to compliance, our established SWMP requires biannual inspections of outfalls on campus. In March and September of each year, EHS conducts inspections of the storm system and outfalls within our municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4).

EHS documents these inspections and identifies areas that need infrastructure support. All volunteers and public involvement on campus are documented to gauge success of programs and their impacts.

In addition, these activities assist EHS in identifying and prioritizing corrective actions on things such as runoff, illicit discharges into waterways, or areas of excessive erosion which causes sediment, the greatest pollutant of stormwater.

Efforts of students, faculty, staff and volunteers make a tremendous difference in the appearance of campus and the amount of trash affecting wildlife and water quality.

For more information concerning stormwater management on campus, please visit the EHS <u>Environmental Compliance webpage</u>. You may visit the combined community efforts of TxDot, Cities of Bryan and College Station, Brazos County and Texas A&M at <u>Brazos Clean Water</u>.

Please contact Tassie Hermann at <a href="main@tamu.edu">thermann@tamu.edu</a> or like our Facebook page at <a href="main.edu">The Environment Environ



