Travis County Environmental Programs

In Travis County we value our rich natural resources and environmental quality. The County government provides a wide range of environmental services and programs for residents.

WATER RESOURCES PROGRAMS

Stormwater Management Project – This long-range effort protects creeks, rivers, and lakes by reducing pollution carried by rainwater runoff. Work includes public education, detecting and stopping illegal discharges, inspecting construction sites, and managing stormwater from County facilities. Many development projects require a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan before approval. Find more information at: **traviscountytx.gov/tnr/environmental-quality/stormwater**

Surface Water Quality Monitoring Project – We monitor local creeks and rivers four times a year to assess conditions affecting public health, aquatic life, and sources of pollution. Public outreach and education are also key to raising awareness of how everyday actions affect our waterways. Find more information at: **traviscountytx.gov/tnr/environmental-quality/water-quality.**

Groundwater Availability Project – We protect groundwater resources in both quality and quantity. This includes reviewing development applications for compliance with groundwater rules, overseeing water availability testing, supporting research, and coordinating with local groundwater conservation districts and hydrogeology experts. Find more information at: **traviscountytx.gov/tnr/permits/water-availability-regulation.**

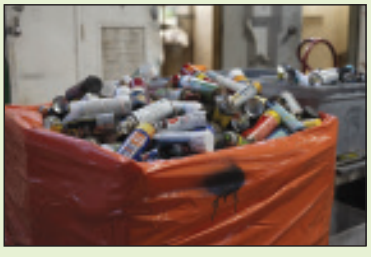
Report Illegal Dumping –Whether you see leftover tires thrown down a creek or find furniture, plastics, and chemicals in a field, report illegal dumping anonymously anytime. Call 1-877-NO-DUMPS (1-877-663-8677) or complete the online form at: **capcog.org/divisions/regional-planning-services/solid-waste/** (form is towards the bottom of the webpage).

Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) – The BCP is one of the nation's largest urban preserves, covering more than 33,000 acres in western Travis County. It was created to protect habitat for endangered and rare species like the golden-cheeked warbler while also providing a streamlined process for development in western Travis County. About 3,500 acres of the BCP is regularly open to the public. Other areas of the 33,000+ acre preserve can be accessed by joining a guided hike or volunteering.

Visit **traviscountytx.gov/bcp/hiking-vol** or email **outreachbcp@traviscountytx.gov** to learn about guided hikes, volunteer opportunities, and other nature-focused events throughout the year. Also, check out the interactive preserve map (**traviscountytx.gov/bcpmap**) to find out what areas of the BCP are open regularly, including popular destinations like Hamilton Pool Preserve and Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve.

Reducing Wildfire Risk – Wildfire risk is highest in the Wildland-Urban Interface, where development meets natural areas. Travis County actively works to reduce the risk of wildfires by creating and maintaining "shaded fuel breaks" and conducting prescribed burns in County preserves and parks. More than 95% of wildfires are caused by people or human-made infrastructure, so practicing fire-safe behavior and "home-hardening," which includes creating a buffer zone around the home and covering vents and gutters with mesh screens to prevent the infiltration of embers, is the best way to reduce the risk to your home from a wildfire. Learn more about how to reduce wildfire risk and how to create defensible space around your home from the Ready, Set, Go booklet at **traviscountytx.gov/fire-marshal/wildland-fire**.

RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL

Recycling and Waste Drop-Off Tool – Looking for a place to drop off recyclables or get rid of things that can't go in your curbside trash? Use the Recycling and Waste Drop-Off Tool to find the nearest location for proper recycling or disposal. Be sure to call ahead to confirm details such as hours, fees, and drop-off requirements. Find the tool at **recycle.traviscountytx.gov**.

Household Hazardous Waste – All Travis County residents can safely dispose of household hazardous waste at the City of Austin Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center by appointment only. Businesses are not eligible but can use the Recycling and Waste Drop-Off Tool to find recycling/disposal locations. Schedule an appointment online and find more information, including a full list of accepted items, at **austintexas.gov/dropoff** or call the facility at 512-974-4343.