Pollution/Solution
Austin, Texas is known for its... rolling hills
Austin, Texas is known for its...
Austin, Texas is known for its... Music scene

and...
its plentiful water.
WE ALL LIVE DOWNSTREAM...
There are over 60 watersheds in Austin. All the water that flows over this land eventually drains to the Colorado River.
A watershed is…
land that
“sheds” water
from the highest
ground to the
lowest point

Diagram: LCRA
Or water could flow underground through caves or sinkholes to the Edwards Aquifer
Our water is all connected - the creeks and springs flow to the Colorado River which flows to the Gulf of Mexico.
We are affected by those who live upstream and we affect those who live downstream because...
WE ALL LIVE DOWNSTREAM...
Austin is fortunate to be a city with little industry.
Many of the older, northern cities are dealing with industrial waste because factories in the past could discharge their polluted waste directly into the river, often through pipes.
These are called “point” sources of pollution because the source can be traced to one specific point.
In Austin, our point sources are mostly limited to broken wastewater lines or other accidental leaks of toxic materials.
Like all cities and towns, Austin has to deal with a more difficult type of pollution to control.

Non-point Source Pollution
Non-point Source Pollution

It comes from any toxins that are in our yards and on our streets that runoff during rainstorms.
Non-point Source Pollution

The runoff travels down our streets to storm drains. In Austin, these drains flow directly to our creeks.
Non-point Source Pollution

The pollutants in the water flow to the creek without being treated, degrading the water quality and harming aquatic life.
We can’t trace the source to one spot—it’s an accumulation of all of our pollution
Our drinking water comes from
The Colorado River (Lake Austin and Town Lake)
What do we find in the water?

In Northwest Austin, springs in developed areas have nutrient concentrations that are eight times higher than springs in undeveloped areas.
What do we find in that water?

DDT and Chlordane are still present in sediments in Town Lake even though they were banned in the 1980’s
WHAT ARE THE CAUSES?
We all cause pollution

Our leaking cars...
Washing our cars...

We all cause pollution
Our yard care habits...

We all cause pollution
Our dogs...

We all cause pollution
We all cause pollution

Our litter...
WE ARE THE SOLUTIONS TO POLLUTION
Car Care

Wash your car on the lawn or at a car wash

Fix leaking oil tanks
Yard Care

Use lawn chemicals only when necessary and never before a rain

Avoid over fertilizing

Never fertilize before a rain

Clean up after your pet. Look for Scoop the Poop boxes in your local park
Pollution Spills

Call the Environmental Hotline at

974-2550
Excess Chemicals

Take your leftover chemicals and oil to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center

Call 974-4343 for information.
JOIN IN...BE THE SOLUTION.