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**Bull Creek District Park - Watershed Protection Department  
FACT SHEET**

**Description:** The Watershed Protection Department (WPD) will be presenting the water quality test results for Bull Creek District Park. There will be a public meeting on January 24, 2011 for citizens to give comments to the Parks and Recreation Department on the future of Bull Creek District Park as an off-leash park.

**Project Dates:**

Aug 2007: After a sewage spill occurred in Bull Creek District Park, health officials received a reported illness after park patrons had been swimming in the creek at the park.

Sep 2007-Jan 2008: An intensive investigation found high levels of bacteria near the off-leash area, and concluded that park use and not the sewage spill was the most likely source of the on-going fecal contamination.

Mar 2008-Nov 2010: A public education campaign and volunteer initiatives were not able to bring bacteria levels below the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) standards for contact recreation in water.

Dec 2009-May 2010: Bull Creek District Park was closed for a restoration project to improve the soil conditions and vegetation near the creek and at the off-leash area. In addition, water testing continued.

Jun-Dec 2010: Bull Creek District Park was re-opened. However, dog activities were restricted to on-leash.

Sep 2010: Tropical Storm Hermine caused extensive flooding and changed the path of the creek near the former off-leash area.

**Objective:** To present the test results to the public and receive public input on the future management of Bull Creek District Park.

**History:** In the summer of 2007 a sewage spill occurred in the upper Bull Creek area. The Health Human Services Department (HHS) received complaints of illness after members of the public were swimming in the creek. This triggered an investigation that resulted in continued testing of the creek at Bull Creek District Park, located at the intersection of Loop 360 and Lakewood Drive.

WPD and HHS became concern about any correlation between dog use in the water and the water quality. In December of 2009, PARD closed the park for six-month to do a bank and turf restoration

project funded by the WPD, as well as continuing the water quality testing by WPD. In June 2010, Bull Creek District Park was opened as an on-leash park, while water testing continued to occur. Once the water quality results are presented to the public and community input is received, PARD will make a decision on the long term management strategy for the park.

On January 24, 2011, WPD, PARD and HHS will host a community meeting to present the results of the testing of the water quality in the creek which represents over 1,000 bacteria measurements at multiple locations since 2007 as part of an investigation at Bull Creek District Park. Monitoring was conducted under several different park management scenarios, described below, in an attempt to identify and remediate the source of on-going fecal contamination within Bull Creek District Park.

#### **Stakeholders Meetings:**

January 12, 2011: Brief the Off Leash Area Advisory Committee;  
January 13, 2011: Release the report via Web and press Release;  
January 24, 2011: Public Meeting at the MACC, 6 p.m.  
January 25, 2011: Brief the Parks & Recreation Board, City Hall, 6 p.m.  
February 2, 2011: Brief the Environmental Board, City Hall, 6 p.m.

#### **Project lead:**

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