



THE MEADOWS CENTER
FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESENTATION OF SPRING LAKE NUTRIENT AND WATER QUALITY

Coordinated by the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment and the Upper San Marcos Watershed Coordinating Group

On **December 13, 2012**, the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment and the Upper San Marcos Watershed Coordinating Group will present the results of a recent study that examined the water quality and nutrient inputs into Spring Lake. This meeting will be held from **7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the City Park Recreation Hall** (170 Charles Austin Drive). The public is welcomed and encouraged to attend. There will be ample opportunity for citizens to comment on report findings, learn more about the Spring Lake watershed protection process, and find out how the public can become involved in protecting this important watershed.

This study examined the impacts of pollutants entering Spring Lake from local creeks and the Upper San Marcos River. Spring Lake has periodically experienced decreased water clarity and degraded water quality because of the rapid accumulation of algae resulting from substantial rainfall inflows from nearby creeks, and the non-point source pollutants carried in these storm-generated inflows. Identifying the sources of these nutrient and sediment inputs is a critical factor in managing and preserving Spring Lake for sustainable use.

Spring Lake is an ecologically-sensitive body of water that also is the headwaters of the San Marcos River. The lake is widely known for the 200 artesian springs draining into it from the underlying Edwards Aquifer. It also is of substantial cultural and economic value to the Texas State University campus, the City of San Marcos, and the thousands of people who use the river for tubing, kayaking and swimming, and those who enjoy glass bottom boat rides on the lake itself.

Rapid urban development along the IH-35 Austin-San Antonio corridor, as well as continuing growth in the San Marcos area, have increased urban land uses along the Sink Creek Watershed, which drains into Spring Lake. Thus, proper management of this watershed is a critical component in preserving the water quality of Spring Lake and, ultimately, the Upper San Marcos River.

This project serves as a starting point for the creation of a Watershed Protection Plan for the Upper San Marcos River. The findings and recommendations from this project will be a stepping stone to a larger management program for the entire Upper San Marcos River and its watershed.

The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, formerly known as the River Systems Institute, strives to develop and promote holistic approaches for managing river systems for human uses and ecosystem maintenance, including the springs, streams, groundwater aquifers, and watersheds that feed them, as well as the lakes, bays and estuaries into which they flow. Ensuring the sustainability use of such water systems continues to be the overriding mission of the Meadows Center on the water-sensitive campus of Texas State University.

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