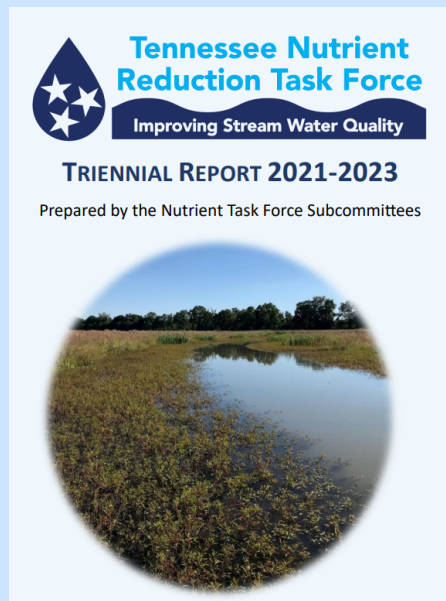




Tennessee Nutrient Reduction Task Force

Improving Stream Water Quality

Quarterly Newsletter - September 2024



Welcome to the Tennessee Nutrient Taskforce's Quarterly Newsletter! The purpose of this newsletter is to share to the entire Taskforce valuable information on nutrient-related topics and provide quality updates on the progress of the workgroups.

Events

Upcoming - Professional

- **October 28 - TN Floodplain Task Force Fall Meeting**
 - 10 am - 2 pm at Fleming Training Center
 - Invitation only; email Tyler Sanderson tyler.sanderson@tnc.org to be placed on invite list
 - **October 29 - In-Person Big Nutrient Task Force Meeting**
 - 9 am - 1 pm at Ed Jones Auditorium (416 Hogan Rd, Nashville, TN 37220)
 - Lunch will be provided
 - Agenda coming soon!
-

Upcoming - Open to Public

- **October 2 - [River Friendly Farm Grazing School](#)**

- 9 am - 3:30 pm at Kelley Farms in Decaturville
- FREE to public
- Join grazing specialist Greg Brann, farmer Ira Jones, and the Cumberland River Compact at Kelley Farms in Decaturville, TN where we will take a deep dive into the many benefits and challenges of a multi-paddock, managed grazing system. Grazing specialist and farmer Greg Brann will lead this day-long workshop, with help from Ira Jones, the 2022 Davidson County Soil & Water Conservation District “Conservationist Farmer of the Year.” The first part of the day will be spent in the “classroom” and the second half in the field. Learn how to increase stocking density, make the most of marginal land, provide water access to remote parts of your farm, and more! Lunch will be provided. This class is free, thanks to funding from the NASDA Foundation and Southern SARE.

Past

- As part of its ongoing TN On Farm Demo Project and with support from partners (NRCS, TDA, TDEC, Univ of TN and Quail Forever), TNC held events in Jackson and Orinda that had speakers (Joel Reddick, Chinmay Soman and Forbes Walker) present on overcoming regenerative ag challenges, emerging technology that may address some of the challenges and developing trends in carbon intensity and sustainable aviation fuel. Attendance for the two events was approximately 50.
- TDEC staff presented on the relationship between Harmful Algal Blooms and Drought and Wildfires to TEMA's Drought and Wildfire Task Force. Contact [Jessica Rader](#) for more information on this presentation material. EPA also has [good information on this topic](#).

Subcommittee Updates

Goals and Metrics: Members are re-evaluating the current goals and metrics to assess which are appropriate for the Task Force at this time. A goal is to standardize data so that it's easy to collect (and display on a dashboard). In addition to collecting data on work the Task Force is doing, another goal is to collect data on factors that are beyond the Task Force's control, such as wetland loss, population growth, etc.

- Next meeting: November 8 at 9:30 am CST

Data and Monitoring: TTU staff are working with TDEC to connect TN Nutrient Database with TDEC servers. USGS collection of nutrients data at their monitoring stations has been successful thus far. TVA recently approved funding for 2 additional monitoring stations (thank you, TVA!). Subcommittee wants to be strategic in where the new monitoring stations are located.

- Next meeting: November 13 at 9 am CST

Communications and Outreach: In addition to getting annual report and quarterly newsletters out, subcommittee plans to focus on revising the Nutrient Task Force website. Subcommittee is also seeking input on what types of outreach materials are needed by the Task Force. If you have any needs, please share!

- Next meeting: October 4 at 10 am CST

Best Management Practices: 2024 has largely been a continuation of projects started in 2023

- Agricultural: No updates
 - Next meeting: November 22 at 9:30 am CST
- Municipal: The TN Wastewater Universe developed by Tennessee Tech that houses all wastewater data into one central location is being cleaned. Data ranges from 2019 - 2023. TN Plant Optimization Program is continuing with another contract with Grant Weaver.
 - Next meeting: November 15 at 9:30 am CST
- Urban: Subcommittee members are gathering performance standards data on Manufactured Treatment Devices. Hope to present this at the October Big Task Force meeting. Out of 95 permitted MS4s, Tennessee Tech staff have data from 15 MS4s related to stormwater control measures. Data has been compiled into a database and hoping to create a meaningful map by end of 2024.
 - Next meeting: November 19 at 12 pm CST
- Nature-Based Solutions: Continuing to work on a Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) Dashboard to track use of NBS that reduce nutrient impacts across the state. Also continuing to evaluate the status of the wetlands bill.
 - Next meeting: November 11 at 10 am CST (will be rescheduled)

Publications and Reports

2024 Nutrient Task Force Triennial Report is available!

The [latest Nutrient Task Force Annual Report](#) covers achievements and progress made by the Task Force from 2021 - 2024. Check out the report located on the [TN Nutrient Task Force website](#). Thanks for everyone who provided input into this report!

Subsequent annual reports will be published on a yearly basis, with the next annual report expected to be published in January 2024.

TDEC's Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Handbook (EPSC) is being revised in sections. A draft of Chapters 1 and 2 of the EPSC Handbook is now [available for review](#). Deadline for comments was September 9.

TDEC's Multi-Sector Stormwater Permit (TMSP) expires and will be renewed in 2025.

TDEC's Construction General Permit for Stormwater Discharges (CGP) expires and will be renewed in 2026.

The EPA released the [National Lakes Assessment: The Fourth Collaborative Survey of the Lakes in the United States](#), or NLA, on August 29. This report presents the results of the 2022 survey of the nation's lakes. The NLA is a statistical survey designed to provide information on chemical, biological and physical indicators of the health of our nation's lakes. Healthy lakes enhance our quality of life and provide many critical services and recreational opportunities. Results from the NLA can help us better understand the condition of lakes in the United States and some of the stressors affecting them, such as these key takeaways:

The 2022 survey indicates that **nutrient pollution** is the most widespread stressor with 50% of lakes in poor condition with elevated phosphorus, and 47% in poor condition with elevated nitrogen. Excess nutrients can affect public health and recreation by contributing to eutrophication, algal and cyanobacterial blooms, and low oxygen levels.

High levels of **algal and cyanobacterial growth** were observed with 30% of lakes in hypereutrophic status. These lakes have very high primary productivity, reduced biological diversity and reduced metabolism. Microcystins, a type of cyanobacterial toxin which can cause negative health effects, exceeded the EPA recreational criterion in 2% of lakes, representing 5,360 lakes across the nation.

The herbicide **atrazine** was detected at low levels in 41% of lakes and exceeded the EPA benchmark, the concentration equivalent level of concern for aquatic plant communities, in 1% of lakes, representing 2,680 lakes.

Observations of physical habitat indicate that **lakeshore disturbance** was widespread (84% in poor or fair condition), however, most lakes were rated good for shallow water habitat (55%), riparian (lakeshore) vegetation cover (52%) and habitat complexity (51%) conditions.

Contaminants were present in all fish tissue, but risk varied by contaminant and by fish consumption level.

More information on the EPA's National Aquatic Resource Surveys can be found on the [NARS website](#). For more information on the NLA, contact [Lareina Guenzel](#). Feel free to share this announcement with your networks.

NTF Resources

[Nutrient Task Force Sharepoint website](#)

[Nutrient Taskforce Newsletter Intake Form](#) - next newsletter will go out in mid-December

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