



P. O. Box 1355, Johnson City, TX 78636

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Newsletter: Issue 27 August 17, 2025

Keeping the Hill Country in Blanco County™

Education instead of regulation

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Current Blanco County Conditions

Flood Decision Support Toolbox

Check current conditions at: [Texas Water Development Board](#)

Stage 1 drought declaration is in effect

See drought conditions map of [Blanco County, TX | U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Blanco County Burn Ban in effect through September 23

Call (830)868-7104 prior to burning

City of Blanco water and drought news

Water Leak Hotlines

City of Blanco (830)554-0716

Johnson City (830)868-7111 Extension 2

BCCI Facebook Page - [Facebook](#)

BCCI Website – bccitx.org

City of Blanco Wastewater Permit

This article is written by Mark Zuzanek who is a member of the BCCI Board of Directors and Chairperson of the BCCI Water Committee.

The City of Blanco has applied to TCEQ for a new pollutant discharge permit that will allow it to, among other things, discharge up to 225,000 gallons of wastewater into the Blanco River daily. This is the same amount as the current permit issued in 2015. The City currently produces about half that amount. The new permit also allows the City to irrigate effluent onto land it owns thus keeping it out of the river. The City is already doing this and has not discharged any wastewater into the river for about 18 months. Great progress!

The City also says it wants to continue keeping all its effluent out of the river but may have to discharge into the river in emergencies. An example would be when the ground is too saturated to accept irrigation, or when the storage ponds are full. This scenario is likely to continue until the City can procure more land for irrigation or find ways to recycle the effluent.

So, it continues to matter what the City will be allowed to discharge into the river. The old permit restrictions were generally lenient which resulted in an explosion of algae growth. We think the new permit should avoid that and respect the river by applying nutrient limits and other parameters known to be protective of sensitive Hill Country streams.

The Permit Process

Part of the process of final approval is a **public comment period**. Everyone has the right to file comments to be considered by TCEQ. The comment period for this permit is open. You can comment about the river, what it means to you and your family, how you enjoy swimming or fishing in it, how it contributes to the Trinity Aquifer, why it should be squeaky clean, issues you have had or anything else.

File your written comments about the City of Blanco Permit No. WQ0010549002 [here](#):

There will also be a **public meeting** about the permit hosted by TCEQ on September 11 at the Gem of the Hills. The City will talk about the permit and answer questions. You may also make or submit your formal or informal comments in person at the meeting as well. The comment period will close after the meeting.

See the TCEQ public meeting announcement [here](#).

Make your voice heard!

Let's talk about quarries

Are you concerned about current and future quarries in your area of Blanco County? Jill Shackelford will talk about **Asphalt Plant Operations** (APO) best practices and how they relate to Blanco County on October 28th.

Jill founded Industrial Asphalt, Inc. in 1995. With her experience from owning and operating an asphalt and mining company, she is passionate about consulting in all realms of the industry to substantiate her belief that the industry and the environment are not mutually exclusive endeavors.

Jill currently consults in all realms of permitting from groundwater, rock crushing, concrete and asphalt plants, stormwater, and site development permits. Jill has been instrumental in working with legal teams on strategy as well as expert witness testimony.

The doors open at 6:30 for refreshments, pizza and conversation.

Blanco County Fair & Rodeo

BCCI showed off its new outdoor booth on August 15-16 at the **94th Annual Blanco County Fair & Rodeo**. It was hot out there! Bill Sisak, Mark Zuzanek and Bob Heinonen talked with a lot of people from Blanco County and yonder on both Friday and Saturday. BCCI was the only booth not selling something. Did I mention it was hot out there?

It was a good learning experience for us in talking with people. We explained BCCI believes in education, not regulation. The universal feedback we got was "Yup. Don't tell us what to do."

Did I mention it was really hot out there?

Become a BCCI Sponsor or Volunteer

BCCI is looking for organizations, businesses and individuals to sponsor several community events. Please contact bob@bccitx.org for any of the following:

Quarterly Educational Gatherings

Venue: We recognize the need to have our quarterly Educational Gatherings in various parts of Blanco County. We are looking for places to hold them in 2026 in January, April, July and October starting at 7:00PM; the exact dates are open. We need locations that can seat up to 100 people for a presentation plus have a display screen for doing PowerPoint presentations.

Refreshments: At each Gathering, we serve hand snacks and refreshments. We need a sponsor to provide the goods and a volunteer to handle serving.

Art Contest

Sponsor: There are several levels of sponsorship for this county wide contest.

Volunteers: As with any contest, there are a number of functions the need to be done. We are looking for volunteers to help with the Art Contest.

\$2,000 to Winner of Art Contest

That's correct. **\$2,000 Grand Prize** for the best artwork with a theme of

Blanco County Land & Wildlife

Read the Rules at www.bccitx.org/art-contest and enter the contest
or tell your friends about it.

What else has BCCI been working on?

Here is some of the other stuff we had going on in the last month:

- BCCI will have a booth at the Twin Sister's Raise The Roof event on September 25-26
- Planning sessions on offering memberships in BCCI are being conducted
- IT Director is going through processes for BCCI to become a Google Non-Profit
- Work continues with landowners who are considering turning their property into a conservation easement
- BCCI continues to have its monthly and special Board meetings at Texas Regional Bank in Blanco. **Thank you, [Texas Regional Bank in Blanco](#) for letting us use your great Community Room!**

~~~~~A GOOD PLACE TO END THIS NEWSLETTER~~~~~

As with any nonprofit organization, we are dependent on donations from supporters. You may donate to BCCI at [DONATE | BCCI](#)

Contact any of your Board members listed below for information and to give support. They want to hear from you!

## **Your Board Of Directors**

|                                                               |                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>April Sansom</b> , President                               | <a href="mailto:april@bccitx.org">april@bccitx.org</a>   |
| <b>Bill Sisak</b> , Vice President                            | <a href="mailto:bill@bccitx.org">bill@bccitx.org</a>     |
| <b>Lisa Atckison</b> , Secretary                              | <a href="mailto:lisa@bccitx.org">lisa@bccitx.org</a>     |
| <b>Mark Zuzanek</b> , Treasurer                               | <a href="mailto:mark@bccitx.org">mark@bccitx.org</a>     |
| <b>Robert Tysdal</b> , Information Technology                 | <a href="mailto:robert@bccitx.org">robert@bccitx.org</a> |
| <b>Bob Heinonen</b> , Administrator                           | <a href="mailto:bob@bccitx.org">bob@bccitx.org</a>       |
| <b>Katy Comal Gentry</b> , Social Media                       | <a href="mailto:info@bccitx.org">info@bccitx.org</a>     |
| <b>Susan Armstrong Fisher</b> , Conservation Easement Advisor | <a href="mailto:info@bccitx.org">info@bccitx.org</a>     |

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