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Group 7 – Hemphill Park Channel

Flowing through the Triangle and North Campus neighborhoods, Hemphill Branch is the largest tributary to Waller Creek. It drains the western portions of the watershed, converging on the UT campus near the intersection of Dean Keeton Blvd. and San Jacinto Blvd. According to the City of Austin, 32nd Street where it crosses over Hemphill Branch is prone to flooding, posing a significant safety hazard to drivers and risk of property damage to homeowners along Hemphill Park Blvd. Waller Creek also has a significant water quality problem, particularly in regard to bacteria. Our proposal seeks to address these issues with the addition or possible modification of hydraulic structures.

Figure 1: Location of Hemphill Branch

In the area of concern, Hemphill Branch flows in an impervious limestone channel through a park, and just upstream, it flows largely underground through the stormwater system. This channel serves to prevent erosion, but in flood events, it conveys water at dangerous speeds. This channel also prevents biofiltration of pollutants, so they flow unimpeded into Waller Creek and into the recreational areas of Town Lake. Our proposal will research, analyze, and ultimately propose how to modify the area in order to mitigate flooding and pollution.

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Hemphill Branch

at 32nd Street