NCTCOG Transportation Department

- NCTCOG Transportation Department and the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) form the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Dallas-Fort Worth area.
- Federally designated as MPO in 1974.
- Conduct long-range transportation planning.

North Central Texas Council of Governments
NCTCOG PEL Efforts

Transportation Resource Agency Consultation and Environmental Streamlining (TRACES) Stakeholder Group

Regional Ecosystem Framework (REF) Developed

REF Documented in Mobility 2035

REF Project-Level Application

REF Used for Scoring Mobility 2040

REF Interactive Viewer Launched

Assessing feasibility of wetland mitigation projects
REF Development

NCTCOG REF Comprises 10 Ecological Layers

**Green Infrastructure**
- Wildlife habitat
- Natural areas
- Agricultural land

**Water Considerations**
- Impaired water segments
- Flood zones
- Surface water quantity
- Wetlands

**Ecosystem Value**
- Rarity
- Diversity
- Ecosystem sustainability

**Water Considerations Data Sources**
2012 Integrated Report (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality)
Flood Zones (FEMA)
National Hydrography Dataset (USGS)
National Land Cover Database (USGS/DOI)
REF Water Considerations Layers

**Regional Ecosystem Framework: Flood Zones**

Legend:
- Flood Zone Score:
  - 1: No Residues of Flood Zones
  - 2: Low Presence of Flood Zones
  - 3: High Presence of Flood Zones

**Regional Ecosystem Framework: Impaired Water Segments**

Legend:
- Impaired Water Segment Score:
  - 1: No Impaired Water Segments
  - 2: Some Impaired Water Segments
  - 3: Many Impaired Water Segments

**Regional Ecosystem Framework: Surface Water Quantity**

Legend:
- Surface Water Quantity Score:
  - 1: Lower Surface Water Quantity
  - 2: Medium Surface Water Quantity
  - 3: Higher Surface Water Quantity

**Regional Ecosystem Framework: Wetlands**

Legend:
- Wetland Score:
  - 1: Lower Wetland Quality
  - 2: Medium Wetland Quality
  - 3: Higher Wetland Quality

These maps illustrate the various water considerations and layers within the Regional Ecosystem Framework for the area.
REF Interactive Viewer
Users can access information by clicking on the map and by opening the attribute table.

Users can print PDFs of maps, draw on maps, and open website layers in their own ArcGIS account.
NCTCOG is assessing the need for the agency to become involved in wetland mitigation:

- Supply and demand of mitigation credits
- Definition of existing wetlands
- Impact of projects from long-range transportation plan
- Potential wetlands mitigation sites
- Critical conservation areas
- Common goals between transportation planners, resource and regulatory agencies, and conservation groups.

Technical and conservation stakeholders welcome!
Contact Information

Project Information and Interactive Viewer: www.nctcog.org/ref

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