# The Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Protection Plan



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### **GUADALUPE RIVER BASIN WATERSHEDS** Day Comet Creek Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed GARDEN RIDGE Late Str Commenty PORT LAWAGE 20 20

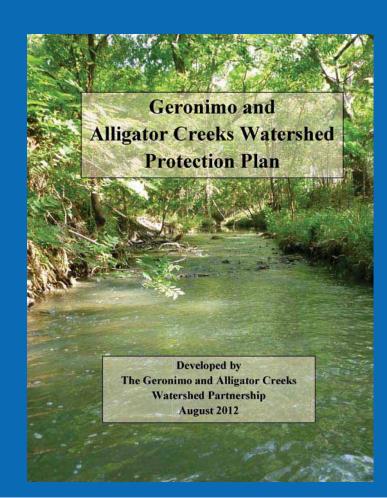
#### Water Quality

- Geronimo Creek was listed on the 2006 303(d) list for not supporting its contact recreation use
- Geronimo Creek was first listed in 2000 for concern for nutrient enrichment



### What is the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Protection Plan?

- A community-driven,
   voluntary management plan
   developed to solve complex
   water quality problems
- The purpose is to restore and protect the creeks
- It relies heavily on stakeholder involvement at the local level



#### Where is it coming from?

- The impairment is the result of loading from nonpoint sources:
  - Urban: dog waste, urban runoff
  - Agricultural: livestock, feral hogs, wildlife
  - Wastewater: septic systems







#### Recent Events

- Smart Growth Workshop
- Homeowner Septic System Maintenance Classes
- Second Annual Creek Clean Up Event
- Feral Hog Workshop
- Lone Star Healthy Streams Workshop



#### Smart Growth Workshop

• Low Impact Development techniques – better than conventional structures and management of stormwater which has an improved impact on surface water, both quality and quantity







# Homeowner Septic System Maintenance Classes

- Classes conducted Nov 2013 and April 2014
- Two types of classes conducted
  2 hr basic overview class (materials on project website)
  6 hr in-depth class on aerobic systems
- Comal and Guadalupe County homeowners with aerobic systems are required to have a maintenance contract for first 2 years

After that time, Guadalupe County homeowners can be certified or must have a maintenance contract

#### Fall Classes

- Monday, November 106:00p to 8:00p, GBRA River Annex
- Tuesday, November 119:30a to 3:30p, NBU Service Center
- Potentially those taking the 6 hr class will receive certification to maintain their own aerobic systems (Guadalupe County requirement)



#### Creek Clean Up Event

- Prior to the event, volunteers used the online sign up form
- Day of the event, all necessary equipment was provided
- Water bottles, breakfast tacos, and T-shirts were distributed
- Guadalupe County Master Naturalists presented educational presentations to many of the clean up crews – took "an educational fair to the crews"



#### Sponsors

- Cities of New Braunfels and Seguin
- Alamo Group
- Continental Corporation
- Geronimo Creek Retreat
- Geronimo Lions Club
- Guadalupe CountyCommissioner Seidenberger
- Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
- HEB

- Liz Sedlacek
- New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung
- Robin and Bill Walker
- Seguin Daily News KWED
- Seguin Gazette
- Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church
- Texas A&M AgriLife
- Extension
- Thrivent Financial for Lutherans





#### Coverage

- 22 locations covering 17 miles of roadways and creek banks
- Over 230 volunteers participated
- Volunteers met at one of three locations











#### Results

- Volunteers collected over 7,000 pounds of trash
- Cities of New Braunfels and Seguin donated disposal and recycling of all materials collected
- Residents have a greater awareness of area creeks
- Great response from area businesses and groups



#### Feral Hog Workshop

- Extension conducted the first Feral Hog Workshop in the watershed with over 50 attending
- Feral hog biology, populations, laws and regulations, safety and disease concerns, control measures, and trap demonstrations
- 4 TDA CEUs for commercial, non-commercial & private applicators
- This will become an annual event



## Lone Star Healthy Streams Workshop

- June 5 at The Texas Agricultural Education and Heritage Center
- Over 30 attendees heard about how to protect Texas' surface water from bacterial contamination from livestock, horses, and feral hogs
- 3 TDA CEUs for pesticide applicators



#### Ongoing Projects

- Septic System Decommissioning Project
- Irma Lewis Seguin Outdoor Learning Center Project
- Isotope Study
- Comal-Guadalupe SWCD District Technician

#### Decommissioning Project

 Fund decommissioning costs that the homeowners would be responsible for

Estimated average cost of \$1,500 to decommission a

septic system

Pump contents of septic tank

Remove the tank cover

Fill tank with sand/gravel

Decommissioning is a state requirement





#### City of Seguin

- Seguin has a website:
   <a href="http://www.seguintexas.gov/public\_works/detail/capital\_projects/">http://www.seguintexas.gov/public\_works/detail/capital\_projects/</a>
- City of Seguin produces a newsletter every 2 weeks
- FAQ page and online form for submitting questions and construction maps of the project



### Irma Lewis Seguin Outdoor Learning Center Project

- Collaboration between GBRA, Texas A&M AgriLife, and the Irma Lewis Seguin Outdoor Learning Center
- Combines technology with on-the-ground demonstrations and outdoor education on LID techniques



#### Isotope Study

- GBRA and USGS will attempt to identify the source of nitrates in the groundwater and surface water in the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed and Plum Creek Watershed
- Possible sources:

**Fertilizers** 

Septic systems

Animal waste

Nitrifying plants

Atmospheric deposition



#### District Technician

• Comal-Guadalupe SWCD District Technician assists agricultural producers with development and implementation of Water Quality Management Plans

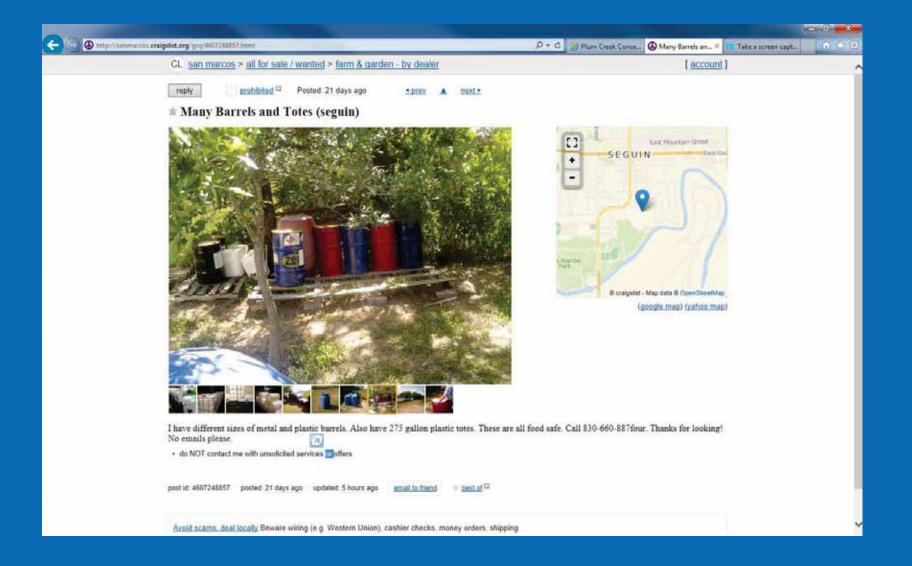


#### Upcoming Opportunities

- Homeowner Septic System Maintenance Workshops
- Spring 2015 soil and water testing campaign
- Turf grass management workshop Spring 2015
- Quarterly newsletter
- Quarterly Partnership meetings
- Annual Clean Up Event



#### Barrels





FREE rainwater from your own roof. Rain barsels are IDEAL for watering your plants, trees, shrubs, etc.

You probably didn't know that if you have a 1400 square-foot house and collected water from just 25% of your total roof, it would take only 1/4" of rain to give you 55 gallons of water! With this in mind, you may want 2, 3 or more rain barrels to take full advantage of each rain opportunity when it comes.

Features of these rain barrels:

- (1) Made from food-grade containers.
- (2) Interior has been rinsed out, exterior has been washed off.
- (3) 4" inlet on top for rain water entry: covered with screen to keep out leaves, mosquitoes, and other insects.

### Thank You! Questions and comments

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