

Update on the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Protection Plan

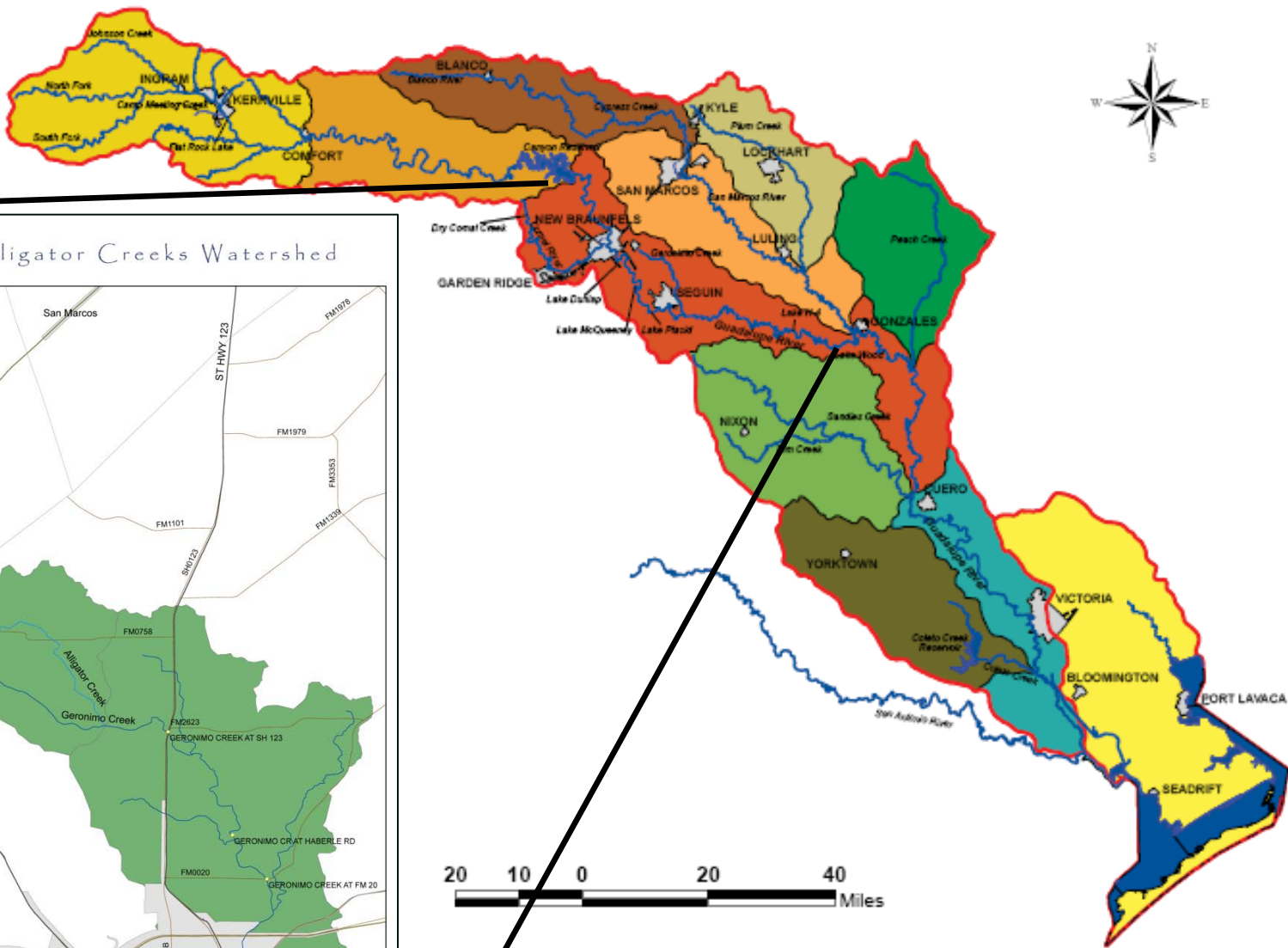


Ward Ling

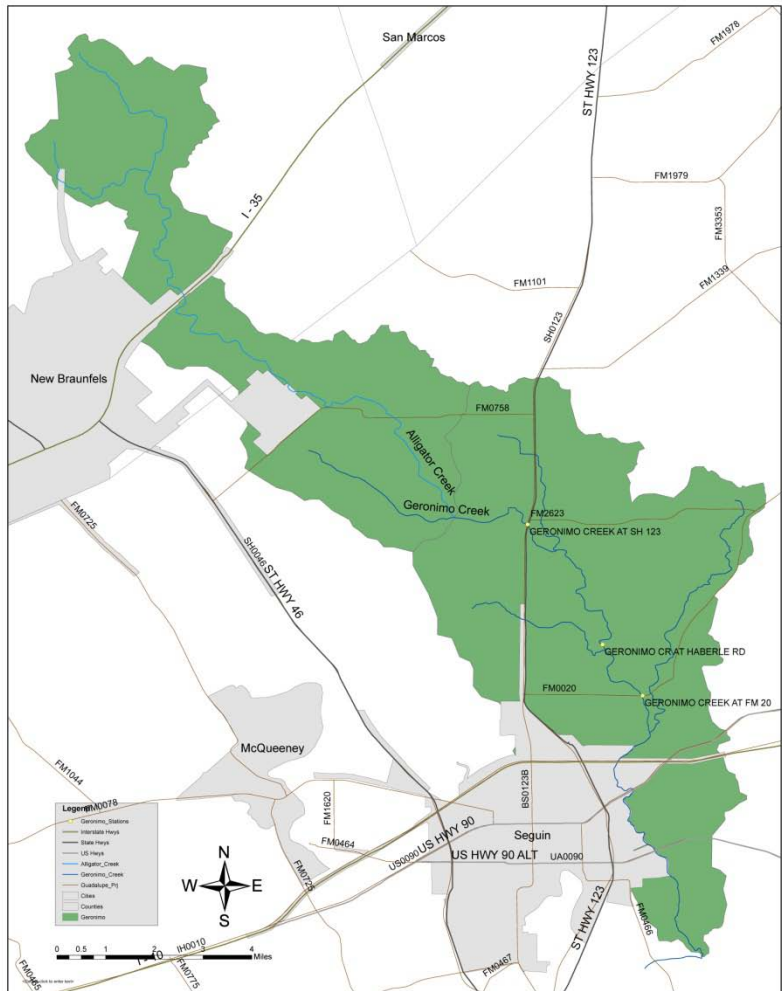
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension



GUADALUPE RIVER BASIN WATERSHEDS



Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed



Water Quality

- Geronimo Creek was listed on the 2006 303(d) list for not supporting its contact recreation use
 - 2008 assessment, *E. coli* geometric mean of 162 cfu/100mL
- Geronimo Creek was first listed in 2000 for concern for nutrient enrichment
 - 2008 assessment, all 60 samples exceeded 1.95 mg/L nitrate-nitrogen

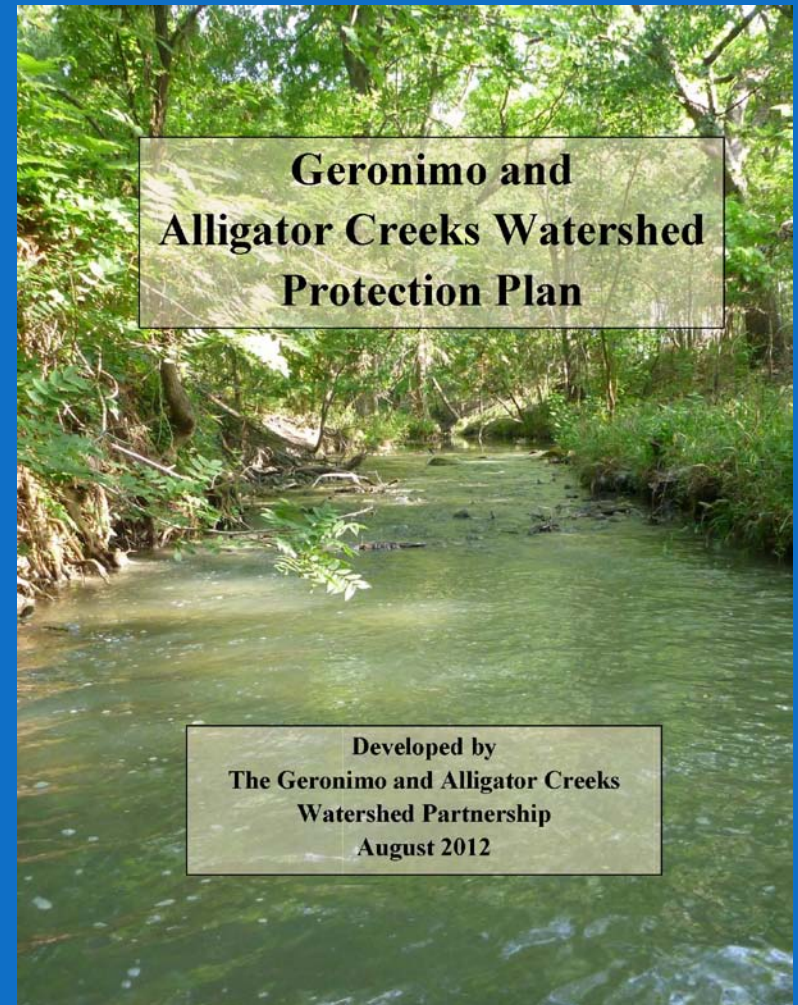


Watershed Protection Plan

- A voluntary, community driven plan to restore and protect water quality of a local body of water
- Identifies sources of pollution and recommends corrective actions
- Has a 10 year schedule of activities and projects to improve and restore water quality

Watershed Protection Plan

- EPA accepted the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks WPP on September 13, 2012
- WPP development began in late 2009
- 27 meetings and workshops
- 27,646 website hits



**Geronimo and
Alligator Creeks Watershed
Protection Plan**

**Developed by
The Geronimo and Alligator Creeks
Watershed Partnership
August 2012**

Funding

- GBRA received grant funding from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
- GBRA subcontracted to:
 - AgriLife Extension to assist with WPP implementation



Steering Committee

- Formation of a Steering Committee that represents the various interests in the watershed
- Steering Committee members assisted with the development of the Watershed Protection Plan and the resulting implementation through formation of work groups



Management Measures

- Urban nonpoint sources
 - Stormwater runoff, dog waste
- Wastewater nonpoint sources
 - Septic systems
- Agricultural nonpoint sources
 - Cattle, horses, goats, feral hogs



First Annual Stream Cleanup Event

- Cleanup Event occurred on April 6th
- Volunteers met at Navarro HS in Geronimo and at the NB Airport
 - Crews received instructions, safety talk, supplies, breakfast tacos
 - Crews were sent out to collect trash
 - Left trash and reusable supplies at cleanup sites
 - Trailer crews collected trash and hauled it to the NB Airport where large dumpsters were located, courtesy of NB Solid Waste Services

Cleanup Locations

- Geronimo Creek along the Seguin Outdoor Learning Center
- Geronimo Creek at Walnut Street
- Geronimo Creek along the Oak Springs Subdivision
- Geronimo Creek at FM 20
- Unnamed tributary at Laubach Road
- Geronimo Creek at Laubach
- Stormwater detention pond behind Creekside
- Alligator Creek at FM 1102/Hunter Rd/Conrads Rd

Volunteers

- Alamo Group
- Continental Corporation
- TLU students
- Navarro HS students
- Seguin HS students
- City of New Braunfels
- City of Seguin
- Seguin Outdoor Learning Center
- Watershed Citizens

Sponsorships

- Carolyn Bading
- City of New Braunfels (donation and disposal services)
- City of Seguin
- Debbie Magin
- Geronimo Creek Retreat
- Guadalupe County Commissioner Greg Seidenberger
- Thrivent Financial for Lutherans



**GERONIMO AND ALLIGATOR CREEKS
CLEAN UP APRIL 6**

Continental Crew





Before



After



Alamo Crew





Seguin Outdoor Learning Center



Texas Lutheran University Crew



Navarro High School Crew



Unloading Trailers



Trash Totals

- 2,960 pounds of trash (110 bags)
- 26 tires
- Large items like a stove, air conditioner, brush, and lumber
- Car battery
- Toilet
- Disposal/recycling of collected materials was provided free of charge by the City of New Braunfels

Upcoming Events

- Next Partnership Meeting in September—notice will be sent out!
- Riparian Workshop September 17th at the GBRA River Annex—details coming soon!
- Homeowner Septic System Workshops this fall!
- Nonpoint Source Education for Municipal Officials Workshop this fall—details coming soon!

Riparian Workshop

- September 17th at the GBRA River Annex
- Promote healthy watersheds and improve water quality through riparian and stream ecosystem education
- Increase citizen awareness and understanding of the nature and function of riparian zones, their benefits and management practices to protect them and minimize NPS pollution
- Connect landowners with local technical and financial resources to improve management and promote healthy watersheds and riparian areas

Draft Agenda

Texas Riparian & Stream Ecosystem Education



Draft Agenda

- 8:00 Meeting Registration
- 8:30 Workshop Introductions
- 8:35 Program Overview, Watershed Management and Water Quality
 - Nikki Dictson, Texas Water Resources Institute
- 9:00 Riparian and Watershed Management Principles
 - Steve Nelle, Retired USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- 9:45 Stream Processes and Cowboy Hydrology
 - NRCS or TPWD staff depending on location
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Riparian Vegetation and Hindrances to Healthy Riparian Areas
 - Steve Nelle or NRCS
- 11:30 Management Practices and Local Resources
 - Nikki Dictson, Texas Water Resources Institute
- 12:00 Lunch Sponsored by **Guadalupe Blanco River Land Trust**
- 12:15 Lunch time Presentation - Riparian Forestry BMPs:
 - Hughes Simpson, Texas A&M Forest Service
- 1:15 Questions and Complete Post Survey
- 1:30 Trip to the River for Stream Walk (If large group split into 2 or more groups)
 - Lane's Balance Demonstration Activity
 - Soil & Water Conservation District Financial Incentive Program
 - Feral Hog Education Program: Texas A&M Agrilife Extension
 - Photo Monitoring of stream locations: Dictson, TWRI
- 4:00 Wrap up and Head for Home!

<http://texasriparian.org/> and

<https://www.facebook.com/TexasRiparianAssociation>



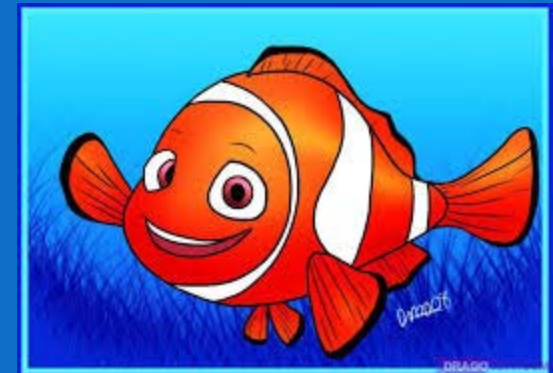
Septic System Workshops

- Workshops designed to educate and inform homeowners
- Provides a basic understanding of the operational and maintenance activities of a conventional septic system, and explains how activities within the home impact septic systems.
- Will be offered in the evenings, from 6 to 8pm, one in Seguin and one in New Braunfels



Municipal Officials Workshops

- Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials Workshops (NEMO)
- Goal is to provide decision makers with the skills and resources they need to adopt effective pollution controls, as they manage the environmental impacts of changing land use
- Details coming out soon!



Newsletter Name?

- Ripples in the Geronimo and Alligator Creek Watershed
- Runoff Rundown
- The Geronimo Flow
- Tales from Geronimo and Alligator Creeks
- Water Tales
- Water Tales from Geronimo Creek
- Streaming News

Thank You!

Questions, comments, and discussion



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