

The Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Protection Plan

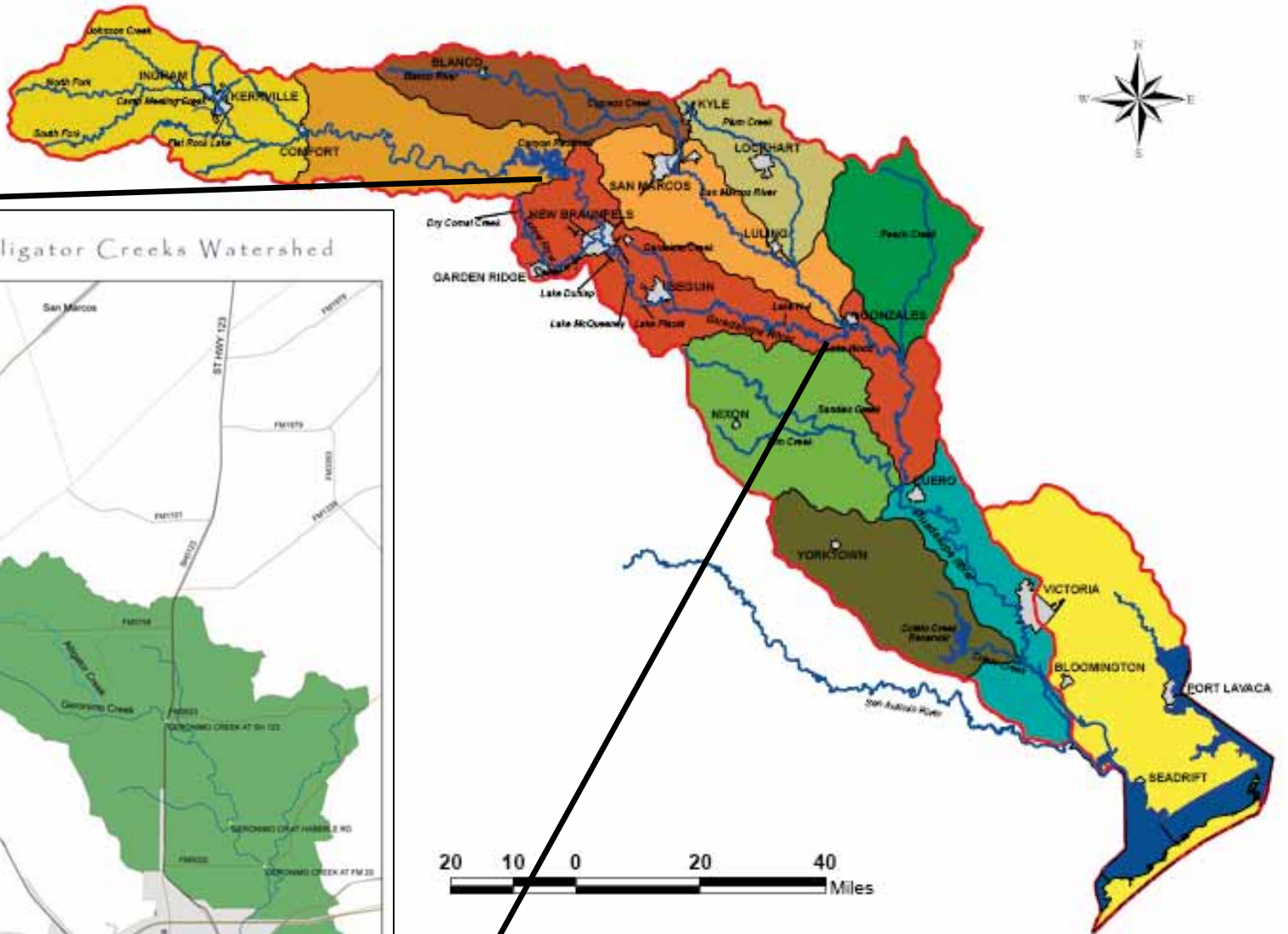


Ward Ling

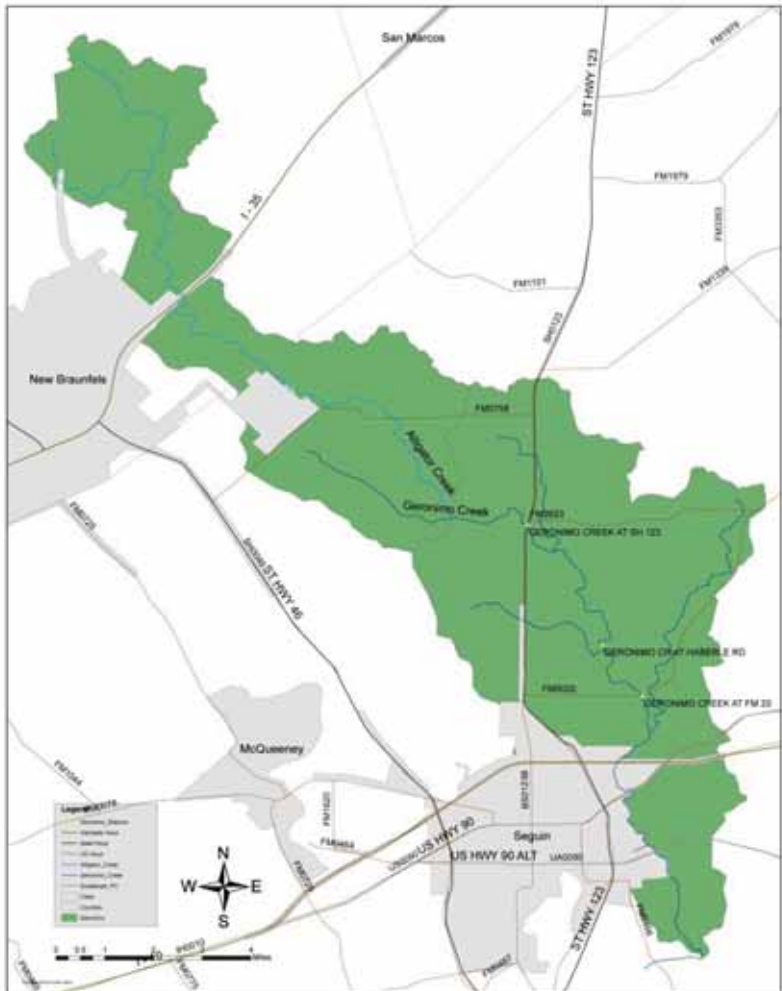
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension



GUADALUPE RIVER BASIN WATERSHEDS



Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed



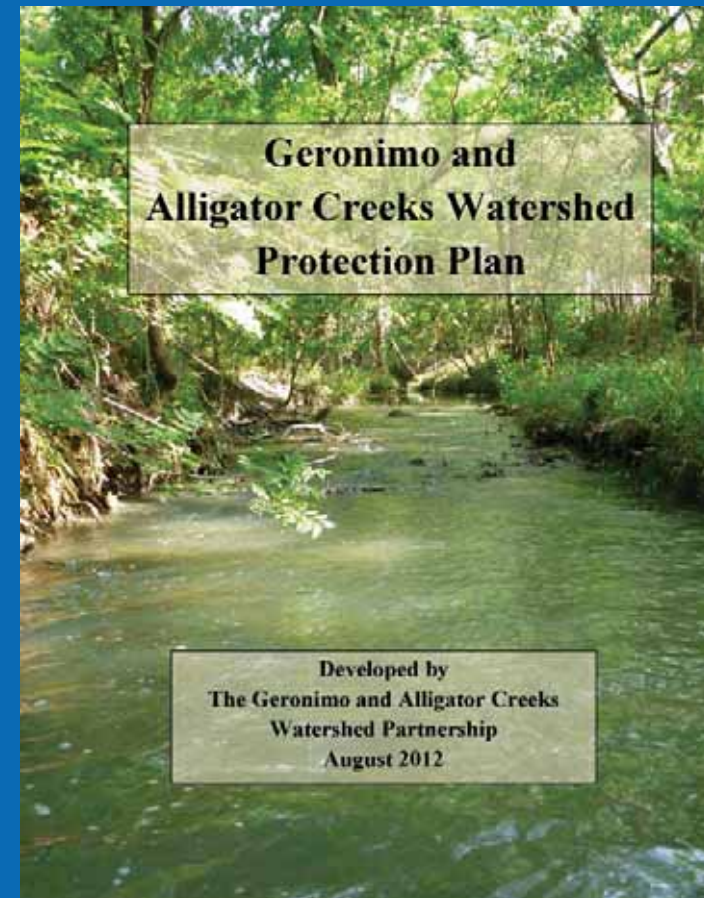
Water Quality

- Geronimo Creek was listed on the 2006 303(d) list for not supporting its contact recreation use
- 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



Recap of Recent Events

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



Why do a Smart Growth Workshop?

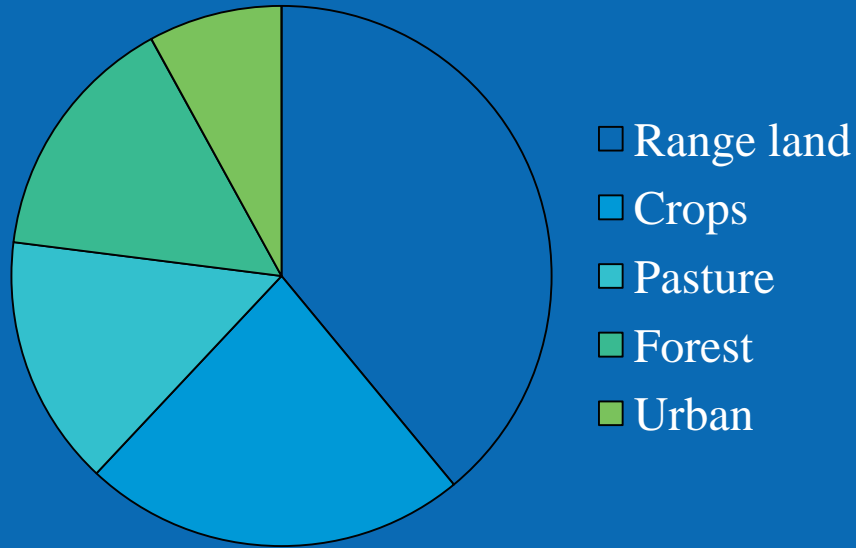
- We thought we wouldn't get many people attend if we called it a "Dumb Growth Workshop" or "Let's Keep Doing it the Same Way We Have Been Doing It Workshop"
- The concentration of contaminants in urban runoff is oftentimes higher than from any other land use
- The population in Texas is set to nearly double in the next 50 years

The problem with quotes on the internet is
you can never trust their validity.

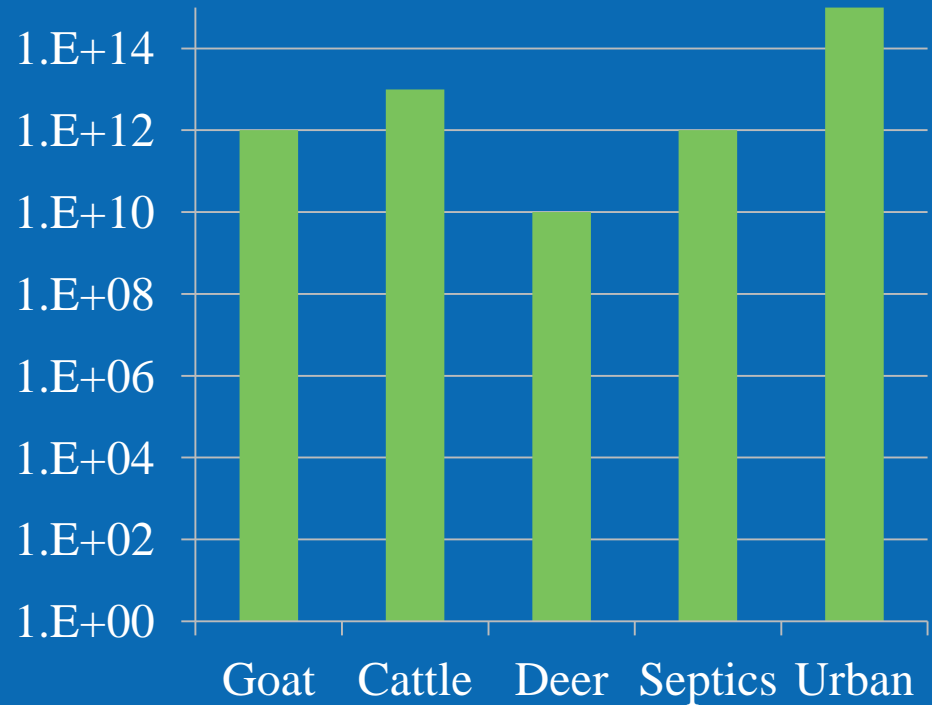
--Abraham Lincoln



Land Use



E. coli Loading



- In terms of loading, urban runoff was higher than all the other sources.

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

- Scheduling classes for the second week of November
- Plan to offer both the 2 hr and 6 hr classes

Potentially those taking the 6 hr class will receive certification to maintain their own aerobic systems (Guadalupe County requirement)



First Creek Clean Up Event

- Established the first event in 2013 on the first weekend in April
- Over 100 volunteers removed almost 3,000 pounds
- This year's event was bigger and better

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



Second Annual 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 County Commissioner 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
- Volunteers could choose to meet 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 Control

- We are focusing on feral hog management (reduction) in the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks watershed
- Extension is working directly with landowners to reduce hog populations in the watershed



Feral Hog Workshop

- Extension conducted the first Feral Hog Workshop in the watershed last month—over 50 attended
- 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

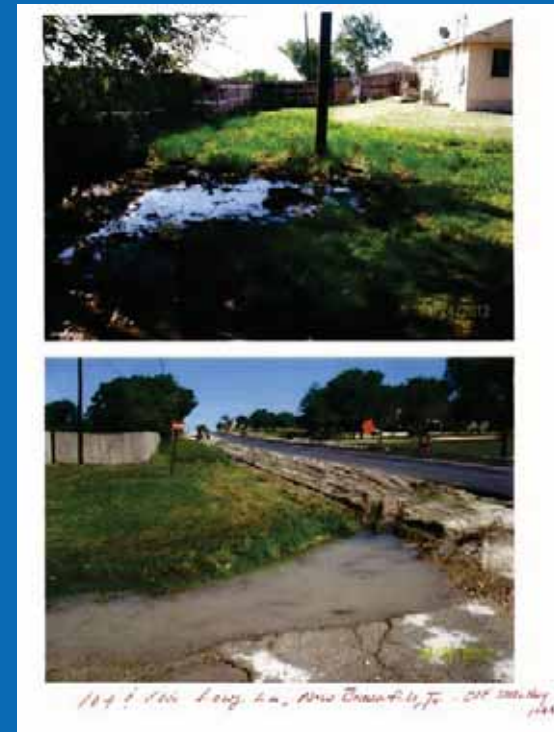


Ongoing Projects

- Septic system decommissioning project
- Irma Lewis Seguin Outdoor Learning Center
- Isotope Study

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:
http://www.seguintexas.gov/public_works/detail/capital_projects/
- City of Seguin produces a newsletter every 2 weeks
- FAQ page and online form for submitting questions and construction maps of the project



**Geronimo Creek Sewer Project
Phase V
Oak Village North Subdivision**

PROJECT UPDATE

**SATURDAY, MAY 21st
WEEK SCHEDULED**

Crews will be grading, lay drainage trench, install the track of curb and installing the concrete sidewalks at the residential yards.

WEEK OF JUNE 2nd - JUNE 6th
Curb and special request. Please be sure to present for soil placement.

Please residents submit to your previous department.

Thank the attorney at Marshall Street and continue clean-up of the ongoing work.

*****IMPORTANT*****

**CONTACT NATE GARZA at
ngarza@seguintexas.gov**

**TO DISCUSS
SPRINKLER SYSTEM
and/or
CURB MAIL BOX
REQUESTS**

Residential will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

IMPORTANT

For more information contact:
Planning/Codes (830) 401-2300

REMEMBERS

For the safety of the neighborhood and workers, please drive with caution and adhere to all signs and barricades.

To ensure properly scheduled garbage and/or recycling pick-up, residents should be placed out the night before or prior to 6:00 a.m. the morning of collection. Programs that adjusted their trash pickup due to the construction and/or other events must be made. If you wish an exception to be made, please call (830) 401-2776 or (830) 401-2444 on more as possible. In addition, a work order to ensure the 3-wheel pickup may take an up to 24 hours to complete.

**To file a claim contact
Capital Projects (830) 401-2776**

If you received this notification by regular mail and would prefer to receive via email, please provide your email to: planning@seguintexas.gov

All emails will remain confidential

Irma Lewis Seguin Outdoor Learning Center Project

- “An aggressive outreach and education program will be vital to successful engagement of watershed stakeholders”
- 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 conduct targeted surface water quality monitoring
- 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



Upcoming Opportunities

- Rainwater Harvesting August 12th
- Homeowner Septic System Maintenance Workshops
- Fall soil and water testing campaign
- Turf grass management workshop this fall
- Quarterly newsletter
- Quarterly Partnership meetings



Thank You!

Questions and comments

Ward Ling
Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Coordinator
Phone: 979-845-6980
wling@ag.tamu.edu

