Update on the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Protection Plan

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Water Quality

• Geronimo Creek was listed on the 2006 303(d) list for not supporting its contact recreation use
  • 2008 assessment, *E. coli* geomean 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
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 6\textsuperscript{th}
• 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
Before
After
Alamo Crew
Seguin Outdoor Learning Center
Texas Lutheran University 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

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

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