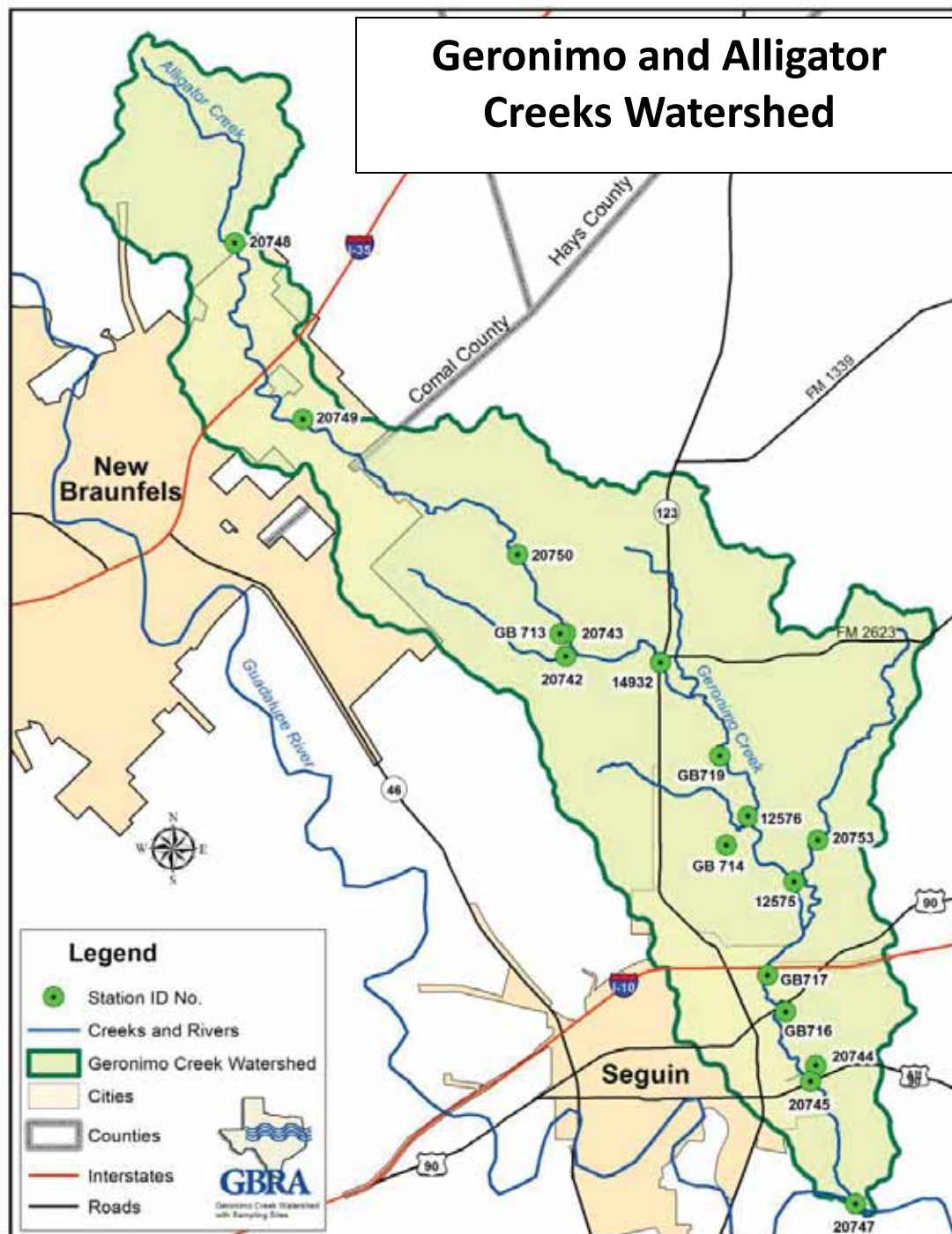


The Geronimo and Alligator Creeks WPP Update



Ward Ling
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed



Watershed Overview

- 90% in agricultural production and shrinking
 - Majority in livestock production, rest in row crop
- 8% in urban areas and growing
 - Cities of Seguin and New Braunfels

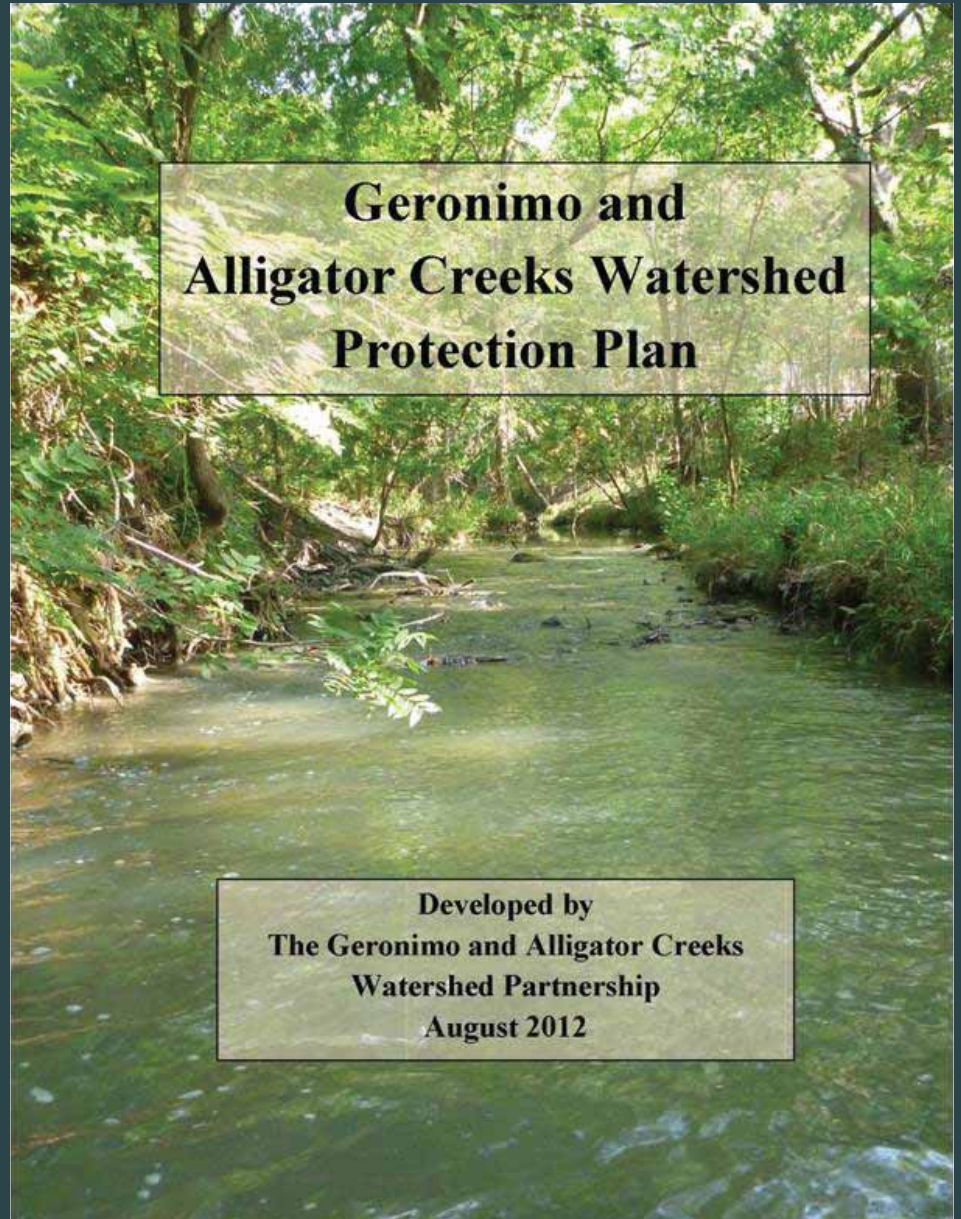


Water Quality Issue

- Geronimo Creek was listed in 2006 for not supporting its contact recreation use
- Geronimo Creek was listed in 2000 for concerns for nutrient enrichment due to elevated nitrates

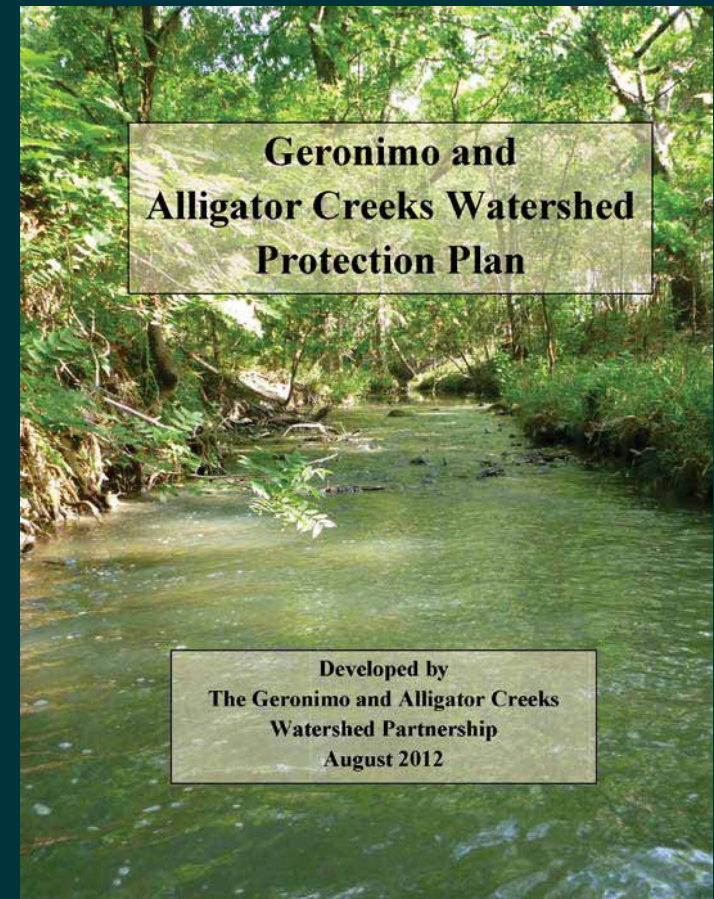


- Began development in 2010
- Accepted by EPA in September of 2012



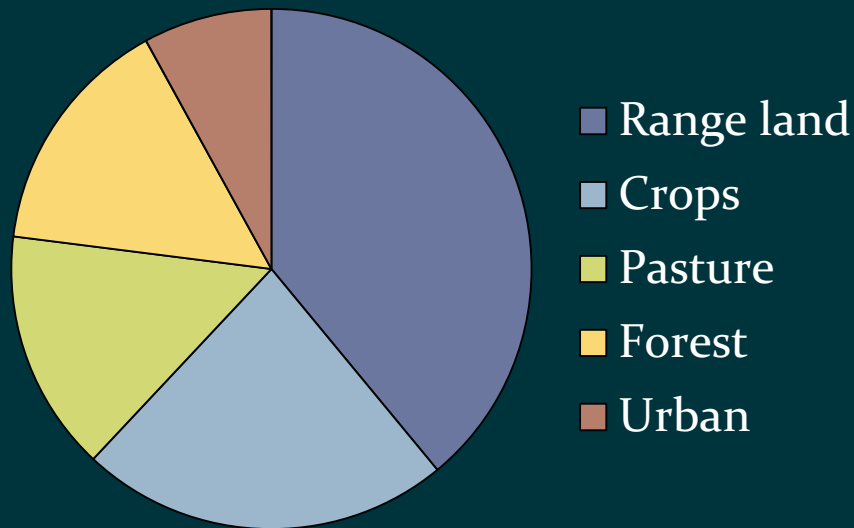
What is the Plan all about?

- A community-driven, voluntary management plan
- Began development in 2010, and accepted by EPA in 2012
- Relies heavily on stakeholders being good stewards at the local level

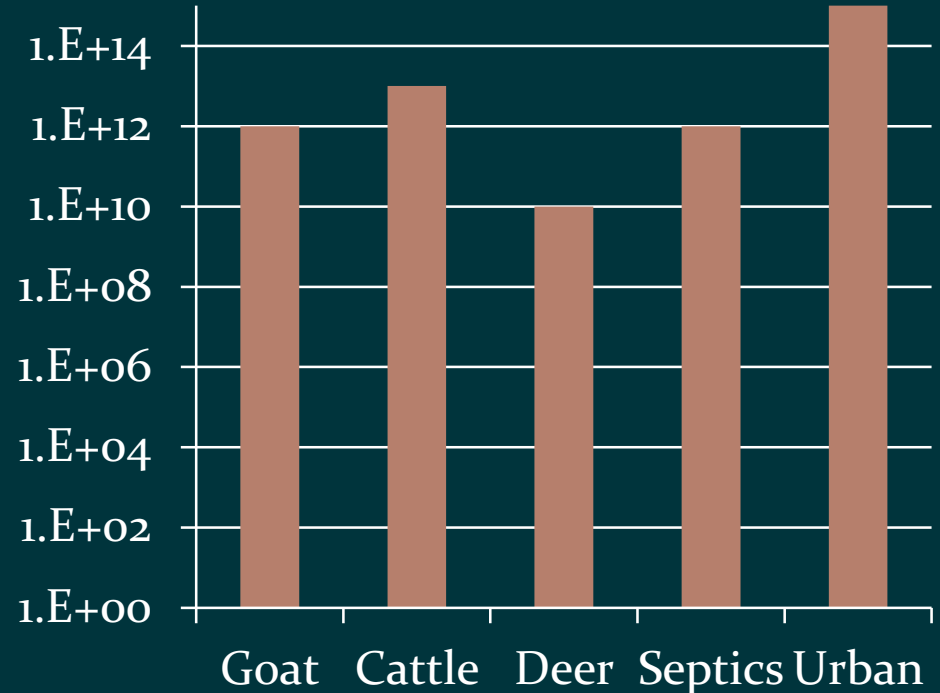


Where is it coming from?

Land Use



E. coli Loading



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

Nonpoint Source Pollution Issues

- There are not any wastewater treatment plants discharging to the creeks except near the Guadalupe River
- There are not any industrial discharges
- The sources of bacteria can be:
 - Humans
 - Pets
 - Livestock
 - Wildlife
 - Invasive species, such as feral hogs

Projects

- Issues identified by stakeholders during development of the WPP, and along the way as the WPP has been implemented...



Septic Systems

- Grant from TCEQ to the City of Seguin
- Assisting homeowners with a septic system decommissioning project in Oak Village North



Field Technician

- Cris Perez, is an employee of the Comal-Guadalupe SWCD
- He is a field technician who works with agricultural producers to better manage runoff from their operations



Irma Lewis Seguin Outdoor Learning Center Project

- Collaboration between GBRA, Texas A&M AgriLife, and the Irma Lewis Seguin Outdoor Learning Center
- Rainwater harvesting, vegetated swales, rain garden, detention pond, and pervious pavement, modules, and educational creek walk



Phase 1



Phase 2

- Pervious pavement
- Rain Garden
- Vegetated Swale
- Native Grasses
- Riparian Walk



Isotope Study

- GBRA and USGS are conducting targeted surface water quality monitoring
- Identify the source of nitrates in the groundwater and surface water
- Possible sources:
 - Fertilizers
 - Septic systems
 - Animal waste
 - Nitrifying plants
 - Atmospheric deposition



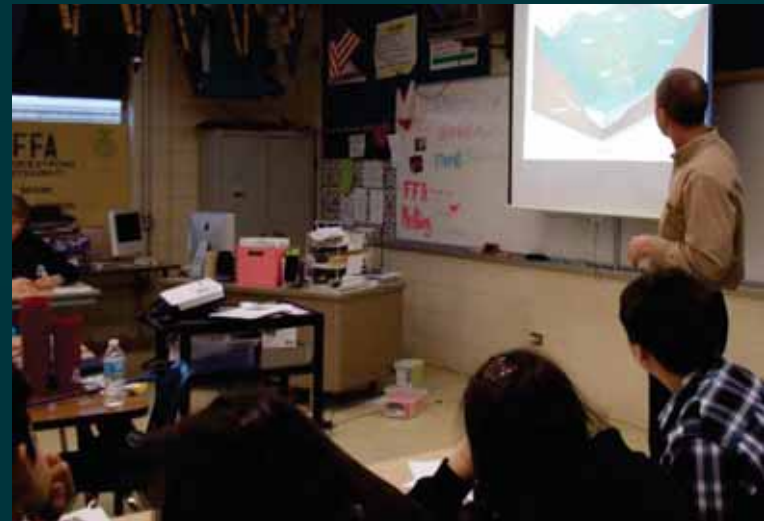
Seguin High School

- Never before seen collaboration
- Impacting high school students and beyond



Purpose

- Students tour a Seguin Fabricators' facility
- Extension provides feral hog and water quality information
- Students combine this knowledge to construct feral hog traps
- Traps will be auctioned off and some will be donated to be used in a trap loan program to assist area



Educational Opportunities

- Texas Watershed Steward Workshop
- Texas Well Owner Network Workshop
- Lone Star Healthy Streams Program
- Septic system workshops
- Master Gardener and Naturalist training
- Bacteria, nutrient, and pesticide management programs
- Soil and water testing campaigns



Septic System Maintenance Classes

- Classes conducted in the spring and/or fall past 2 years
- Two types of classes conducted
 - 2 hr educational overview of systems
 - 6hr certification class for homeowners with aerobic systems



Feral Hog Control

- Josh Helcel, the Feral Hog Education Program Assistant, focuses on feral hog management in the watershed
- The position works directly with landowners to reduce hog populations in the watershed
- Contact info at <http://www.geronimocreek.org/>



Smart Growth Workshop

- Explore Low Impact Development techniques – have an improved impact on surface water, both quality and quantity
- Target audience is the county and city decision makers



Watershed Coordinator

- To ensure that implementation of the WPP is complete and successful
- Funding from TSSWCB to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension



Last Year's Creek Clean Up Event

- Took place on Saturday, April 11, 2015
- Volunteers used an online registration form
- Day of the event, all necessary equipment was provided-- water bottles, breakfast tacos, and T-shirts—oh, and gloves, tools, and bags
- Guadalupe County Master Naturalists presented educational presentations to many of the clean up crews



Coverage

- 22 locations covering 17 miles of roadways and creek banks
- Over 195 volunteers participated









Results

- Volunteers collected over 2,000 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



2015 Sponsors

- 
- Cities of New Braunfels and Seguin
 - Alamo Group
 - Continental Corporation
 - Ehlers' Tree Farm
 - Geronimo Creek Retreat
 - Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
 - HEB
 - Progressive Waste
 - Corona Visions Inc.
 - Liz Sedlacek
 - Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church
 - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
 - Guadalupe County Groundwater Conservation District
 - Guadalupe Valley Young Marines
 - Other anonymous donors

Upcoming Opportunities

- 4th Annual Stream Clean Up Event April 2
- ILSOLC Low Impact Development Structures Install
- Homeowner Septic System Maintenance Workshops
- Newsletter- sign up for online
- Fall soil testing campaign



How can you get involved and be a good steward?



Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership

[Home](#)[How can I get involved?](#)[Contact Us](#)[Project Overview](#)[Watershed Protection Plan](#)[Meetings and Events](#)[Water Quality](#)[Publications](#)[Newsletter and Newspaper](#)[Photo Gallery](#)[Maps](#)[Partners](#)[Farmers and Ranchers](#)[Feral Hogs](#)[Septic Systems](#)

How can I get involved?

Public awareness and participation are key components of improving and restoring your water quality. If you are interested in learning more, you can join our mailing list by filling out the form below, which will provide you with updates and notices of local meetings and activities or by sending an [email](#).

Subscribe to our mailing list

* indicates required

Email Address

First Name

Last Name

Subscribe

Thank You!

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