Geronimo and Alligator Creeks
WPP Update

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What is the Watershed Protection Plan?

- The purpose is to restore and protect the creeks.
- It was developed and managed through partnerships among federal, state, county, and local groups and organizations.
- It is a summary of voluntary activities that can be done to reduce bacteria and nitrogen from entering the creeks.
- Rapidly urbanizing
- Creeks are spring fed and from rainfall runoff
- There are no permitted discharges until near the Guadalupe River
Where is it coming from?

- The bacteria is coming from nonpoint sources
- Potential sources identified in the WPP
  - Urban sources such as dogs and urban runoff
  - Agricultural sources such as livestock, feral hogs, and wildlife
  - Failing septic systems
In terms of loading, urban runoff was higher than all the other sources, but occupies the lowest land cover %.

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**Land Use % Cover**

- Range land
- Crops
- Pasture
- Forest
- Urban

**Potential *E. coli* Loading**

- Goat
- Cattle
- Deer
- Septics
- Urban
What is being done?

- TCEQ Investigation
- SWCD Field Technician
- Septic System Workshops
- Lone Star Healthy Streams
- Annual Creek Clean Up
- LID at ILSOLC
- Revegetating Geronimo Creek
- Feral Hog Control
Issues along the creek

- TxDOT contractor working under Alt. Hwy 90, working without stormwater controls in place
Investigation

- Contacted the TCEQ San Antonio Field Office
- A Field Investigator came out and did an inspection
- Contractor was cited for improper storm water controls
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
Homeowner Septic System Maintenance Class

- Class is conducted in the Spring and Fall past 5 years
- 6 hr in-depth class on aerobic systems
- Guadalupe County homeowners with aerobic systems are required to have a maintenance contract for first 2 years of a new system
  - After that time, Guadalupe County homeowners can be certified or must have a maintenance contract
Lone Star Healthy Streams Workshop

- Goal is protection of Texas waterways from bacterial contamination from livestock and feral hogs
- Half day workshops for area agricultural producers
- Coming May 24, 2018
Annual Creek Clean Up Event

- Established the first event in 2013 on the first weekend in April
- In 5 years, over 980 volunteers have removed 14,950 pounds of trash and debris
- The 2017 event removed trash from 27 locations covering 17 miles of roadway and creek bank
LID Workshops

- Introduce Low Impact Development structures and practices to decision makers, students, and public
- Combination of classroom presentations and outdoor demonstrations
Why LID?

- Reduce stormwater runoff
- Reduce pollution in runoff
- Reduce impact to existing water supply
- Improved aesthetics over traditional construction techniques
- Restore and protect aquatic habitat through reduced erosion
Revegetating Geronimo Creek

- Grant from TCEQ
- Planting creek banks with native vegetation
Questions and comments?

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Feral Hog Grant

- Met with Guadalupe County Commissioner’s Court
- Moving forward with application to Wildlife Services
- Bounty Program and trapping supplies
Feral Hog Control

- 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