

Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership

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Water Quality Issues

Based on routine water quality sampling of Geronimo Creek, the stream is impaired because of elevated bacteria concentrations and has elevated concentrations of nitrate-nitrogen. High bacteria concentrations do not support contact recreation, which is defined as recreational activities involving a significant risk of swallowing water such as wading by children or swimming. Also, high levels of nitrogen can cause algal blooms and excessive growth of aquatic vegetation.

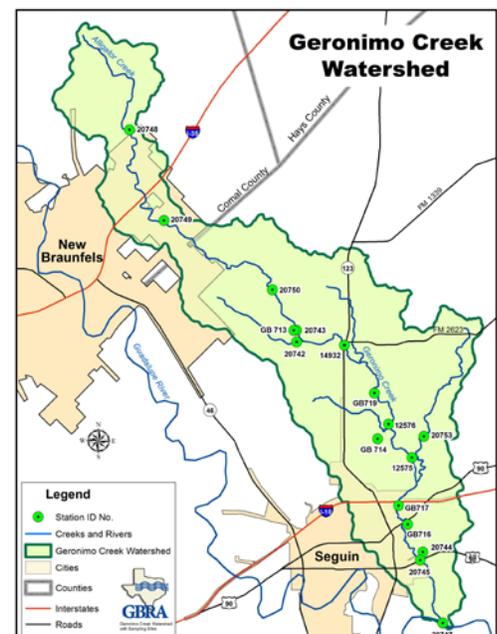
Geronimo and Alligator Creeks

Geronimo Creek and its tributary Alligator Creek are located in Comal and Guadalupe Counties. The almost 70-square-mile Geronimo Creek watershed lies within the larger Guadalupe River Basin. A portion of the lower end of the Geronimo Creek watershed is in the city limits of Seguin, while a portion of the upper end of the Alligator Creek watershed is in the city limits of New Braunfels. Alligator Creek begins on the west side of IH-35 and flows southeast, travelling through a rapidly developing area of the I-35 Corridor. As development and population growth continues, the portion of urbanized land will grow and play an increasingly important role in the hydrology and water quality of Geronimo Creek and its tributaries.

The Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership

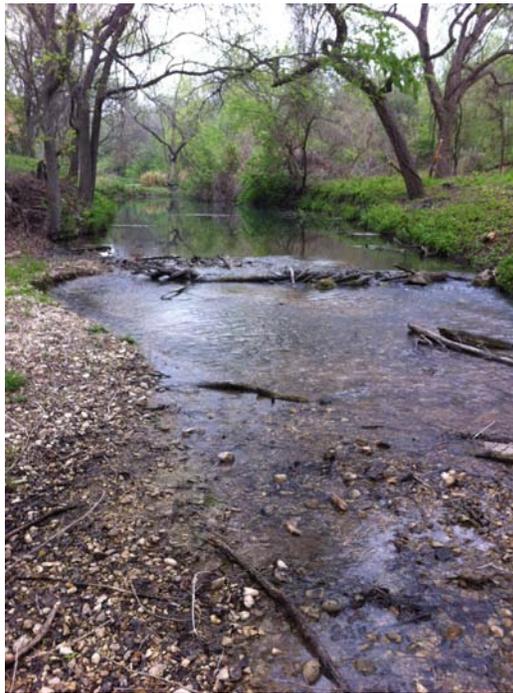
The Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership, a collaboration of local citizens, cities, counties, and state and federal agencies, was formed to restore and protect water quality in Geronimo and Alligator Creeks. The Partnership completed a Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) in 2012 and is now working toward full implementation. The WPP identifies potential sources of pollution and provides a basic strategy to restore and protect water quality in Geronimo and Alligator Creeks. The plan received EPA approval in September 2012.

The Steering Committee was formed as the decision making body for the Partnership. Work groups were created by the Steering



Committee to address specific issues, identify and make recommendations on implementation strategies, and support development of the WPP. A Technical Advisory Group composed of personnel from key state and federal water quality agencies provided support and guidance.

Through a federal Clean Water Act §319(h) grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are facilitating the stakeholder process for implementation of the Watershed Protection Plan.



Geronimo Creek at Laubach Road near Seguin.

What Has Happened So Far

Since fall of 2012, implementation of the WPP has been actively underway. All implementation activities are voluntary, so individuals and businesses can identify actions that fit them best. In many cases, simple changes in habits or actions, when adopted by everyone involved, can make a big difference.

One great example of community action was the first Annual Geronimo Stream Cleanup on April 6, 2013. Over 100 local groups and citizens participated. Volunteers collected 2,960 pounds of refuse including 110 bags of trash, 26 tires, and large items such as stoves, air conditioners, and car batteries.

Join Us

Public involvement is essential to improve and protect water quality in Geronimo and Alligator Creeks. Anyone can be a stakeholder and participate. One of the best ways for you to get involved is by becoming an active member of the watershed Partnership and participating in quarterly Partnership meetings. These meetings provide important updates on current activities and offer great opportunities to share ideas for improving water quality in the watershed. Please participate in this important effort to improve and protect your water resources and encourage others to do so as well. You can go to our webpage to get signed up for email updates and project events or contact Ward Ling at 979-845-6980 or wling@ag.tamu.edu



Students in the Seguin HS Project Based Learning Class cleaning up along Geronimo Creek at the Seguin Outdoor Learning Center.