



Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership

The Geronimo Flow

December 2021

A Note from the Watershed Coordinator

As 2021 is quickly wrapping up, I am filled with gratitude for our amazing partners and volunteers! Despite so many challenges, we accomplished so much together this year! We hosted two cleanup events – in the spring and fall - removing over 3,700 pounds of trash from the watershed. On behalf of the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership, I would like to thank our partners, sponsors, and volunteers for the support of the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Cleanup Events this year!

Since resuming face-to-face programs in August, we have delivered the ‘Homeowner Maintenance of Septic Systems’, ‘Healthy Lawns Healthy Waters’, ‘Texas Well Owner Network’, and ‘Low Impact Development’ workshops in the watershed. In 2022, we will continue raising public awareness of local water quality issues and educating residents about nonpoint source pollution through our programs and events.

May the New Year bring new exciting opportunities, prosperity, health, and happiness to all! Warmest wishes for a happy and safe holiday season and a wonderful New Year!

Evgenia

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Funding for this effort is provided through a Clean Water Act §319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant administered by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Fall Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Cleanup Event

Big shout-out to our volunteers, partners, and sponsors for the support of the 2021 Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Fall Cleanup Event! With your help at the second Fall Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Cleanup Event, *we removed 1,870 pounds of trash* from the watershed! Wow!



Alissa Elley



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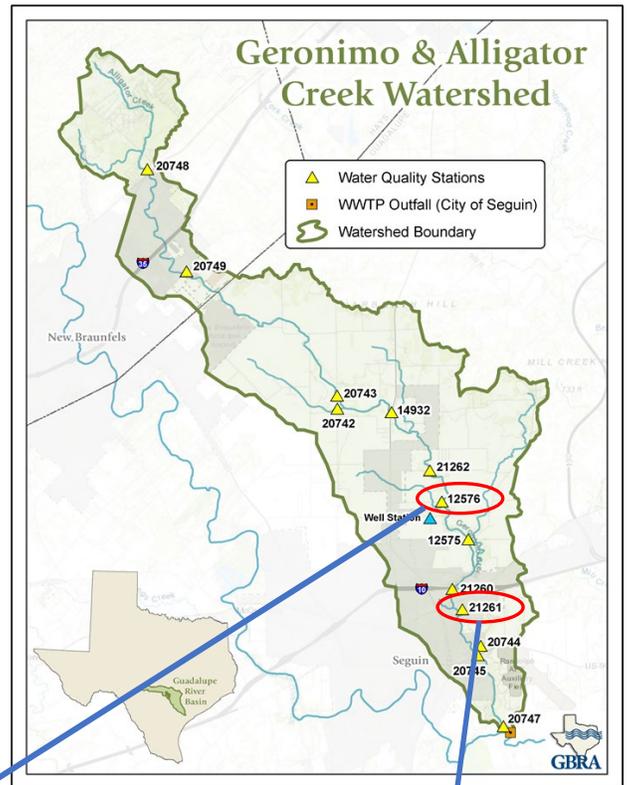
Alligator Creek Trail Project

The Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership is working with the City of New Braunfels on the design of a new linear trail park around Alligator Creek. Multi-use paths, natural features, educational signage, connections to neighborhoods, and other park design elements will be incorporated to provide local residents with an improved quality outdoor recreation experience.

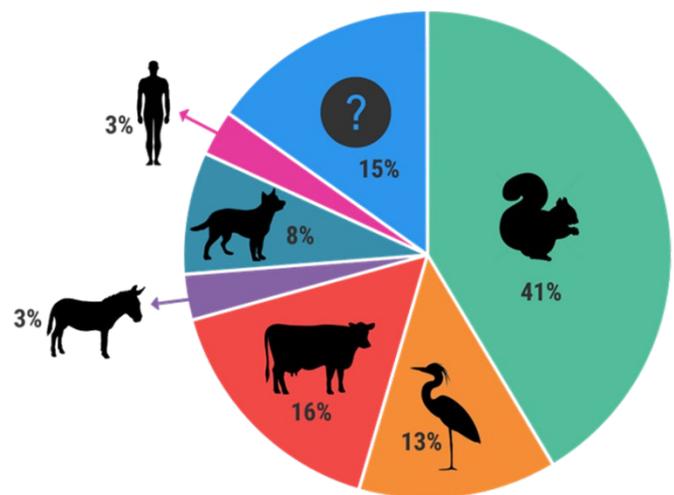
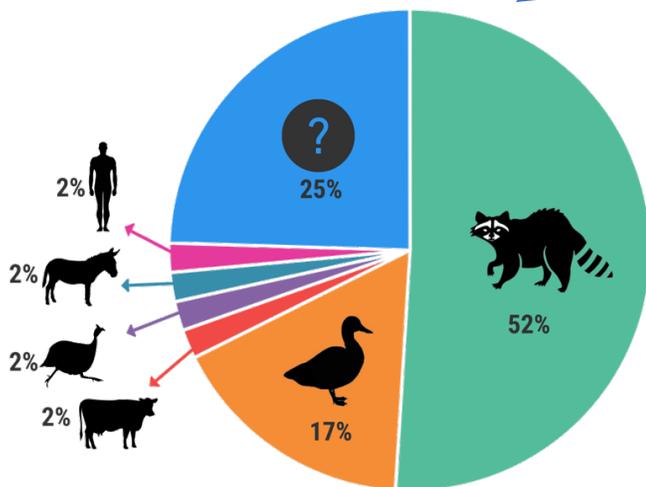
Everyone is welcome to participate in public meetings conducted by the City of New Braunfels as this project is being developed. To learn more about the project and find out the date of the next public meeting, please visit the [Alligator Creek Trail Project website](#).

Bacterial Source Tracking Analysis in Geronimo Creek

Our partners from Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority conducted Bacterial Source Tracking analysis to identify origins of fecal bacteria found in Geronimo Creek. From April 2019 through March 2020, water samples were collected every month at two locations – Haberle Road and Seguin Outdoor Learning Center. The pie charts below illustrate the results of the Bacterial Source Tracking analysis, indicating that wildlife is a major source at both locations.



- Wildlife, Non-Avian
- Other Livestock, Avian
- Human
- Wildlife, Avian
- Cattle
- Other Livestock, Non-Avian
- Unidentified



Water Quality Management Plans

A *Water Quality Management Plan* (WQMP) is a voluntary site-specific plan focusing on agricultural land improvement measures to minimize water pollution from nonpoint sources. The practices include but are not limited to brush management, conservation crop rotation, prescribed grazing, nutrient management, contour farming, and forage and biomass planting.

Five-step WQMP Participation Process

- 💧 An individual requests planning assistance through the local Soil and Water Conservation District
- 💧 The plan is developed with the assistance of the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
- 💧 The WQMP is certified
- 💧 The individual implements the WQMP on their land
- 💧 The status of the WQMP is periodically evaluated



For more information on the local WQMPs, please contact Cris Perez at (830) 379-0930, ext. 3 or Cresencio.Perez@tx.nacdnet.net

Stakeholder Survey

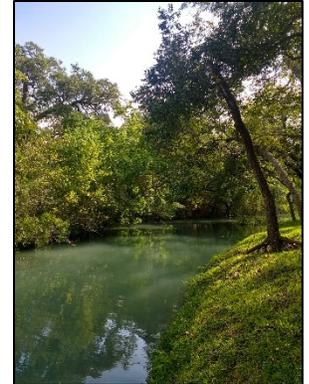
Effective outreach and education is critical for successful implementation of the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Protection Plan, and we are always seeking ways to improve what we do! We would like to invite everyone to take our new Stakeholder Survey. Your responses will help us better understand our stakeholders' perceptions of local surface water quality and tailor our outreach and education efforts to meet your needs. If you would like to complete this short survey, please click [here](#). Your participation is voluntary and anonymous. We greatly value your time and input!

Upcoming Programs

We are working to schedule several exciting events in the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks watershed. The date, time, and location of each program will be announced soon.

Lone Star Healthy Streams (February 2)

Bacteria originating from livestock operations and wildlife pose serious risks to human health. This program focuses on best management practices to reduce bacterial contamination in Texas streams and rivers by educating farmers, ranchers, and landowners about proper grazing, feral hog management, and riparian zone protection. To learn more, please visit <http://lshs.tamu.edu/>.



Texas Riparian & Stream Restoration Training (March 8)



This workshop includes both indoor and outdoor presentations by multiple natural resource agency experts. The program will focus on the function of streams and riparian zones, and cover the topics on basic hydrology, watershed processes, riparian vegetation, and many more!

Spring Cleanup Event (April, date TBD)

In 2022, the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership will host the 9th annual Spring Cleanup Event! Bring your family, friends, and neighbors and come out to help keep the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks watershed beautiful by cleaning up the creeks and areas around them! The event details will be announced as soon as they are finalized.



Virtual Homeowner Maintenance of Septic Systems Course

The Homeowner Maintenance of Septic Systems course is now available online! The course fee is \$150, and once registered, you will have 30 days to finish this class. Please click [here](#) if you are interested in completing the virtual Homeowner Maintenance of Septic Systems course.

The Guadalupe County Environmental Health Office accepts this course for certification. If you reside in a county other than Guadalupe, please contact your TCEQ authorized agent to verify if the online program is sufficient to grant you certification.

Interested in attending our events?

Contact Evgenia Spears at Geronimo.Alligator@ag.tamu.edu or (979) 845-2862.

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Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership
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