

JULY 2024

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

GERONIMO & ALLIGATOR  
WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

# The Geronimo Flow

Geronimo & Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership



I want to extend my enthusiastic gratitude to each and every person who attended the 2024 Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Spring Cleanup! We had **140 volunteers**, at two locations, who collected over **2,800 lbs** of litter.



## Newsletter Highlights

A Note from Your Watershed Coordinator

Measurements Matter: Streamflow

Upcoming Events 2024

Connect with Us



[www.facebook.com/  
GeronimoAlligator](https://www.facebook.com/GeronimoAlligator)

TEXAS STATE  
**Soil & Water**  
CONSERVATION BOARD

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.

Thanks to everyone who spread the word, attended the event, and enjoyed the beautiful morning with us!

*Annalee Epps*

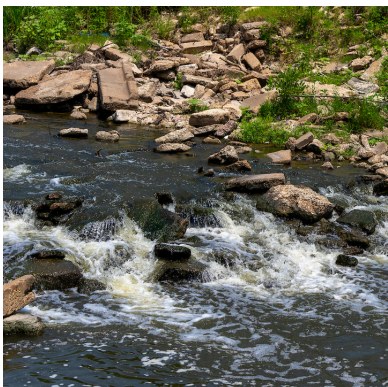
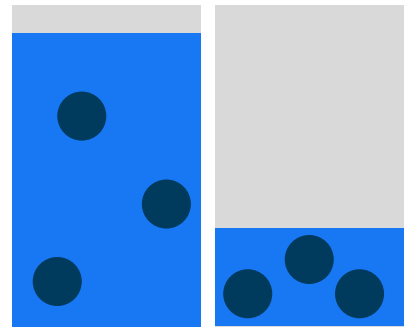
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# MEASUREMENTS MATTER: STREAMFLOW

Just as a doctor takes measurements like blood pressure and temperature to assess a patient's health, we take measurements in Geronimo and Alligator Creeks. But what are these measurements, and why do they matter? This is the first article in series exploring water quality data collected in our watershed.

**Streamflow** is one of the most basic measurements taken in a creek. Put simply, it tells us how much and how fast water is flowing through a section of the creek. It is reported in units of volume over time (e.g. cubic feet per second or cfs). But how does this relate to water quality?

The **volume** of water flowing through a creek can influence the concentration of pollutants. Many impairments, including elevated bacterial levels, are an issue of **concentration**. Bacteria are naturally present in any water body, but an abundance of bacteria in a small volume of water can cause risk to people and wildlife. A greater volume of water can dilute pollution present in the creek to a safe concentration, where a reduced flow can allow pollutants to concentrate and become hazardous.



Water **velocity** is the speed at which water travels through the creek. With fast flows, water can cause erosion and carry excess sediment downstream. These soil particles can carry pollutants as well! Nutrients, bacteria, and other potential contaminants can attach to sediment and travel downstream. As water slows, sediment can settle out of the water column, taking attached particles along.

Volume and velocity must be considered together when assessing water quality. A high volume of water at low speeds can suggest good water quality, but a high volume at high speeds can release more contaminants into the creek. We measure streamflow because it matters!

# Watershed Calendar

## Fall

### **Sept 6 - Low Impact Development Workshop**

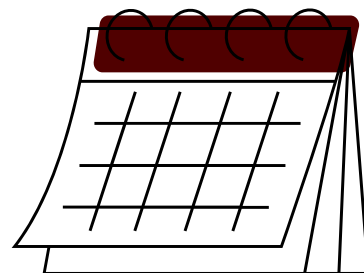
Join us for a workshop on designing and installing low impact development infrastructure. This program is ideal for those involved in city planning and development as well as homeowners looking to improve runoff control and water use on their property. **Details and registration at [geronimocreek.org](https://geronimocreek.org)!**

### **Sept 17 - Stakeholder Meeting (Save the Date)**

Who is a stakeholder? Anyone who is invested in protecting and restoring local water quality! Save the date for a meeting where you will hear an in-depth watershed update AND have a chance to let your voice be heard in future implementation project.

### **Oct 19 - Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Fall Cleanup**

It's never too early to start planning to attend the Fall Cleanup! Free t-shirts, breakfast, coffee, and community will be available for all who attend. Check the Facebook page and upcoming newsletters for updates!



**Have an event to add to the  
calendar? Email  
[geronimoalligator@tamu.edu](mailto:geronimoalligator@tamu.edu) today!**