

# The Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Protection Plan



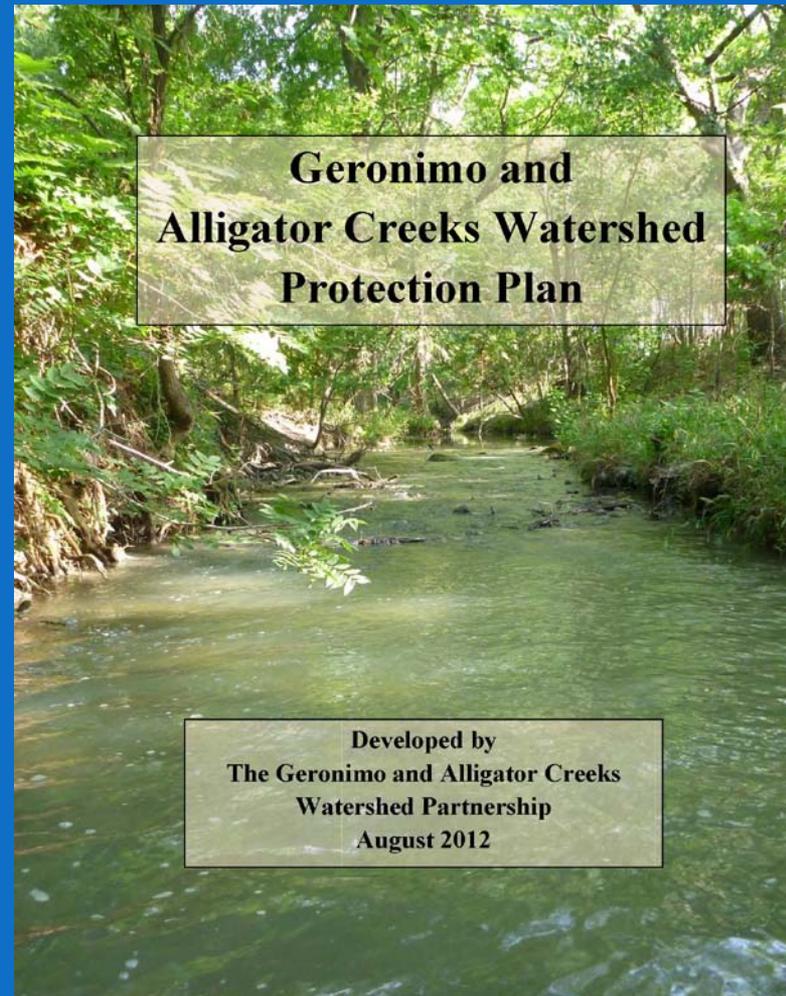
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# Good News!

- EPA accepted the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks WPP on September 13, 2012
- WPP development began in late 2009
- 27 meetings and workshops
- 27,646 website hits



**Geronimo and  
Alligator Creeks Watershed  
Protection Plan**

**Developed by  
The Geronimo and Alligator Creeks  
Watershed Partnership  
August 2012**

# Perspective

- There are 438 water body segments including 718 assessment units on the latest EPA approved 303(d) List
- In the Guadalupe River Basin, there are 19 waterbodies listed on the 303(d) List for impairments/concerns

# WPPs in Texas

- TCEQ and TSSWCB are the two agencies developing WPPs
- TCEQ has 14 active projects and completed 6 WPPs
- TSSWCB has 13 active projects and completed 4 WPPs
- Of the 10 total plans completed, only 3 have been accepted by EPA
  - Plum Creek WPP, Lake Granbury WPP, and the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks WPP

# EPA Acceptance

- Adequately addresses the 9 key elements of a watershed based plan
- Satisfies EPA that a stakeholder group is addressing the local watershed issues, and that implementation should result in standards attainment in a reasonable length of time
- Allows for federal funding to flow into the watershed to support management measures identified in the plan

# 303(d) List Impact

- Geronimo Creek is currently listed in Category 5c on the 303(d) List
- Geronimo Creek will most likely be moved to Category 4 during the development of the next 303(d) list

# Participation

- Steering Committee members and stakeholders who assisted with the development of the Watershed Protection Plan will now have the opportunity to assist and participate in the implementation of the plan



# Implementation Partners

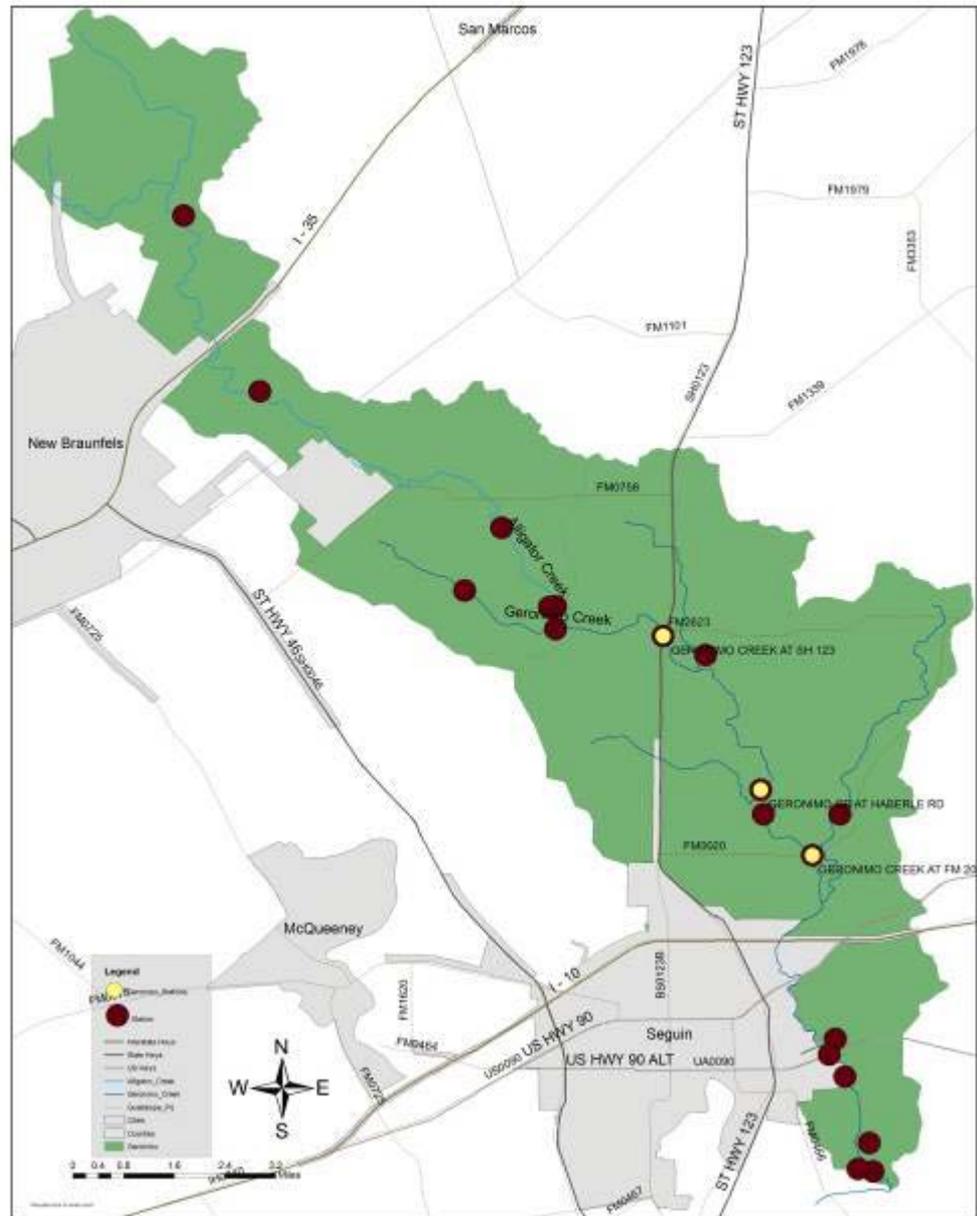


# Implementation

- 10 year period of implementation, broken into approximately 3yr periods
- Will begin quarterly meetings in 2013 to provide updates on implementation activities and water quality conditions
- Targeted water quality monitoring program by GBRA to track progress

Water quality monitoring will continue on Geronimo and Alligator Creeks

## Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed



# Tracking Management Measures

- Urban nonpoint source management measures
- Wastewater management measures
- Agricultural nonpoint source management measures



Goals

- The Work Group chose to:
  - Locate 150 in Subwatershed 4
  - Locate 300 in Subwatershed 10
  - 100 spread across Subwatersheds 1, 2, and 3
  - 200 evenly distributed around entire watershed
- Land use
  - Rangeland
  - Forest
  - Managed pasture
- Estimated Water
- Modifications P

nderway

# Urban Nonpoint Source Management Measures

- Pet waste stations
- Pet spay/neuter programs
- Urban stormwater assessments
- Phase II Permit activities
- Street sweeping
- Enhance stormwater management practices
- Modify stormwater conveyance systems

# Wastewater Management Measures

- NBU's and Seguin's Sanitary Sewer Overflow Initiatives
- Modifications to the Geronimo Creek Lift Station
- Septic System Homeowner workshops
- Septic system replacement/repair
- Septic system decommissioning
- Household hazardous waste programs

# Agricultural Nonpoint Source Management Measures

- New SWCD Field Technician to assist agricultural producers with Water Quality Management Plan development and implementation
- Educational programs and workshops for agricultural producers
- Feral hog education and management

# Decisions

- Critical decision making at years 3, 7, and 10
  - Time to evaluate and refine efforts
  - Potential to perform additional modeling or to utilize bacteria source tracking
- Decisions will be based on a combination of water quality analysis, funding availability, and impact of management measures

# Measures of Success

- We will utilize Adaptive Implementation throughout implementation
  - ongoing, cyclic implementation and evaluation process to focus efforts and optimize impacts
  - Track and report on implementation through quarterly Partnership meetings
  - Critically evaluate implementation about every 3 years

# Initiated Implementation Activities

So, lets take a look at what has already started...

# City of Seguin

- Applied for funding in July 2012 to assist homeowners in OVN with septic system decommissioning
- Recently notified that the application scored well and is in the running for further consideration by TCEQ and EPA
- Seguin has been in talks with TCEQ to make necessary modifications to the application
- If selected for award, contract would begin in Sept 2013



# Decommissioning Project

- If funded, project would fund decommissioning costs that the homeowners in OVN would be responsible for
- Estimated average cost of \$1,500 to decommission a septic system
  - Pump contents of septic tank
  - Remove the tank cover
  - Fill tank with sand/gravel
- Decommissioning is a state requirement

# AgriLife Extension

- Applied for funding to continue our role of watershed coordinator
  - Quarterly Partnership Meetings
  - Newsletter
  - Email/web updates
  - Assist entities with funding opportunities
  - Assist with coordination of implementation
- Provide educational opportunities for watershed stakeholders

# Educational Opportunities

- Texas Watershed Steward Workshop
- Texas Well Owner Network Workshop
- Lone Star Healthy Streams Program
- Sports and Athletic Field Education workshops
- Septic system workshops
- Bacteria, nutrient, and pesticide management programs
- Soil and water testing campaigns
- Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials trainings
- Master Gardener and Naturalist training

# Comal-Guadalupe SWCD

- A grant application was submitted last month to create a new position in the watershed for the Comal-Guadalupe SWCD to assist agricultural producers with development and implementation of WQMPs (78)
- WQMPs are voluntary, site-specific management plans for individual agricultural operations

County	Subwatershed	Animal Units	Number of Farms	Recommended # of WQMPs
Comal	1	54	2	1
Guadalupe	2	126	4	1
	3	128	4	1
	4	249	8	2
	5	149	5	1

# Field Technician

- The field technician position would be an employee of the Comal-Guadalupe SWCD
  - Responsible for hiring and managing the employee
  - Funding would be provided by TSSWCB
  - The technician would be tasked with working with watershed agricultural producers to better manage runoff from their operations

# Feral Hog Control

- The new Feral Hog Education Program Assistant, Jared Timmons, will focus on feral hog management in the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks watershed
- The position will work directly with landowners to manage hog populations in the watershed



# Events for 2013

- Quarterly Partnership meetings
- Semi-annual newsletter
- Brief city councils and county commissioner courts
- Grant opportunities
- Stream Cleanup



Thank You!  
Questions, comments and discussion



# Contact Information

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