

Mill Creek Watershed Newsletter



SPRING REVIEW

We are almost through a beautiful Spring, and a bright Summer is on the way! Since our February newsletter, I have had many opportunities to get to know the watershed and the stakeholders who live, work, and play in it. Water quality sampling with the Texas Water Resources Institute has allowed me to get down in the water, and a watershed update with the Brazos River Authority gave me a chance to present water quality data from the past year of sampling. At the end of April, I even got to participate in the Texas Wildlife Association Land, Water, and Wildlife Expedition. Students from Brenham came out to see a wide variety of presentations, including a rainfall simulation demonstration and a discussion about the influence of land cover on water movement. I am looking forward to visiting with you all at the Lone Star Healthy Streams Program in July!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annalee Epps".

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Newsletter Highlights

Spring Review

Bacteria in Water:
Why Does It Matter?

Upcoming Events
2023

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Millcreek.tamu.edu

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.

BACTERIA IN WATER: WHY DOES IT MATTER?

In 2014, Mill Creek was identified as impaired for contact recreation use. This was due to elevated levels of bacteria, specifically *E. coli*, that were detected in routine sampling across several years. But why is the presence of excess *E. coli* cause for concern? Isn't it normal to have bacteria in natural bodies of water?

Bacteria are an almost universal presence in nature. These microscopic organisms drive decomposition and nutrient recycling, and are crucial to aquatic ecosystems. However, *E. coli* has been identified as a fecal indicator. This means that its presence in a body of water can indicate contamination with waste from humans or other mammals. While *E. coli* is often harmless, it is possible that other pathogenic bacteria could be present and pose a risk to people who come into direct contact with untreated water.



The Mill Creek Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) is being implemented to address this problem. Through stakeholder engagement and education, we can make a difference in the quality of our water. For specific ways you can get involved, please visit our website at millcreek.tamu.edu!

MAY 2023

Watershed Calendar

Summer

July 7 - Lone Star Healthy Streams for Small Acreage

Fall

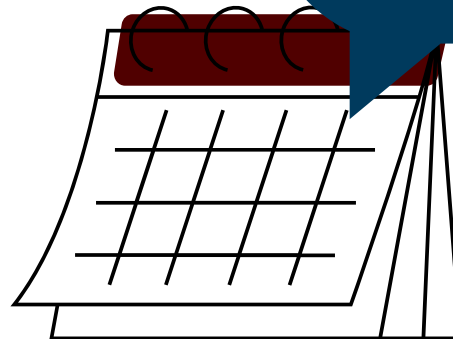
Stream Cleanup Event

Texas Well Owner Network

Winter

Feral Hog Program

Homeowner Septic System Certification Course



Have an event to add to the calendar? Email millcreek@tamu.edu!

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