

# Mill Creek Watershed Newsletter



Spring has arrived, early though it may be, with wildflowers and warm weather! This is a great time to be thinking about new beginnings and vibrant revivals. As you are settling into the routines of 2024, could you consider your connection to this watershed project? Perhaps you are a long-time partner, all-in for every event. Maybe you have land in the watershed, and want to consider future generations in stewarding your property. You might even be someone who doesn't have a direct connection with the watershed, but wants to support the valuable work we do. Whatever your role, I want to invite you to the **Mill Creek Stakeholder Meeting on April 25, 2024**. At this event, we will discuss the current project, upcoming events, and community priorities for future programs. This is your chance for your voice to be heard! You can find details about this meeting, along with other upcoming events, in the calendar at the end of the newsletter. If you have any questions, please reach out!



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## Newsletter Highlights

A Note from Your Watershed Coordinator

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What Are Best Management Practices?

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Upcoming Events 2024

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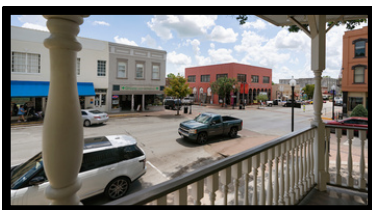
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## WHAT ARE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES? STEWARDING OUR WATERSHED

Have you ever heard of “Best Management Practices”? This is a broad term that refers to a group of methods that are the most effective means of preventing or reducing the amount of water pollution by nonpoint sources. But how does this relate to our watershed project, and what are those practices? Best Management Practices, or BMPs, are our primary tool in fighting nonpoint source pollution at the watershed scale. These BMPs often focus on reducing runoff and erosion, and can be structural or behavioral. Through outreach, education, and financial assistance, we work to help community members implement these BMPs. To effectively reduce pollution, we need urban and rural stakeholders to do their part. Let’s look at some examples of BMPs and how they reduce nonpoint source pollution.

A great example of a behavioral BMP in agriculture is cover cropping. Bare soil easily erodes and can release excess nutrients. When crop fields are left unplanted for any length of time, there is a nonpoint source pollution risk. However, planting cover crops can significantly reduce that risk. The plants slow water down as it runs across the surface and can increase the amount of water that enters the soil. This decreased erosion and nutrient loss by keeping soil in place.



In urban settings, structural BMPs can be highly effective. One example is using permeable pavement in a store parking lot. While normal concrete seals off the surface, permeable pavement allows water to flow through the parking lot and into the soil, which reduces the volume and energy of runoff.

These are just two BMPs, but there are so many more to explore. If you want to implement a new BMP at your home, business, or property, reach out today! The Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership would love to get you connected with technical resources and even financial assistance to make it happen.

# Watershed Calendar

## Spring

### **April 6 - Bellville Farmer's Market Table**

Come by and visit us at the Bellville Farmer's Market - Ask questions and engage with the community!

### **April 25 - Stakeholder Meeting**

If you live, work, or play in the Mill Creek Watershed, you are invited to join us for a stakeholder meeting! An update on the project will be provided over dinner, then a guided discussion will be held where attendees can share their thoughts on different topics. Details at <https://millcreek.tamu.edu/meetingevents/>

### **May 4 - Bellville Farmer's Market Table**

Come by and visit us at the Bellville Farmer's Market - Ask questions and engage with the community!

## Summer

**Lone Star Healthy Streams**

## Fall

**Fall Cleanup**

