

JANUARY 2025

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

MILL CREEK
WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

Mill Creek Watershed Newsletter



Welcome to 2025 and a new year!

Planning is in full swing for educational and outreach events in the Mill Creek Watershed this year. We are excited to connect with youth and students as we visit schools and partner with the Texas Wildlife Association and Brenham ISD on their Expeditions outdoor education program in March. In April, we will host the Texas Water Resource Institute Riparian Management Workshop, which will be valuable to anyone who owns creek side property. Later in the year, we look forward to sharing about the project with shoppers at the Bellville Farmer's Market or with long-term partners during our Stakeholder Meeting. If it's been a while since you connected with the Mill Creek Watershed Partnership, consider attending an educational program or dropping by our booth at the Farmer's Market - I would love to update you on all the great things going on!

Handwritten signature of Annalee Epps in black ink.

annalee.epps@ag.tamu.edu
(979)-321-5921

Newsletter Highlights

A Note from Your
Watershed Coordinator

Measurements Matter:
Turbidity

Upcoming Events 2025

Connect with Us



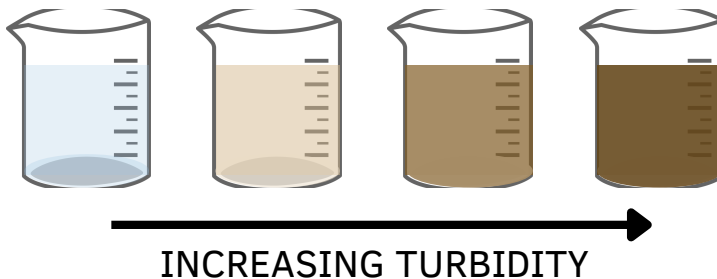
[Millcreek.tamu.edu](https://millcreek.tamu.edu)

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.

MEASUREMENTS MATTER: TURBIDITY

When you imagine a creek, do you picture clear water flowing through a pristine streambed? For many streams, natural processes cause the water to be a shade of brown, blue, or green. But what do these colors mean for water quality in Mill Creek? This is the third article in our series exploring the water quality data collected in our watershed.



Turbidity is a measure of **water clarity**, and can be increased by soil, organic material, and microscopic organisms. The cloudier the water, the higher the turbidity.

Turbidity is caused by material floating in the water. Soil particles are suspended in the water column by the erosion of streambanks, often caused by rain events. Organic materials, like leaf fragments, are deposited in the water by plants and animals living in or around the creek. Excess nutrients can cause algal blooms, increasing turbidity.

While most natural waterways have some cloudiness, **increased turbidity** caused by nonpoint source pollution can negatively influence local water quality. Turbid water absorbs more light than a clear stream, which means it gets hotter when exposed to sunlight. An increase in turbidity also means that less light reaches aquatic plants, decreasing photosynthesis. These



effects lead to decreased dissolved oxygen in the water. Solids suspended in the water can also carry contaminants or provide a place for pathogenic microbes to hide. As we monitor water quality, measuring turbidity is important in understanding pollution. We measure turbidity because it matters!

Watershed Calendar

Spring

March - Texas Wildlife Association Expeditions Program

The watershed coordinator will be partnering with the Texas Wildlife Association to offer water quality education to junior high students from Brenham.

April - Riparian Management Workshop

A half day workshop covering everything you need to know about managing your property near the creek! Healthy riparian zones can reduce erosion, increase biodiversity, and intercept nonpoint source pollution.

Summer

Farmer's Market Visits

Stakeholder Meeting

Fall

Fall Cleanup

