



Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority: Continuous Water Quality Monitoring

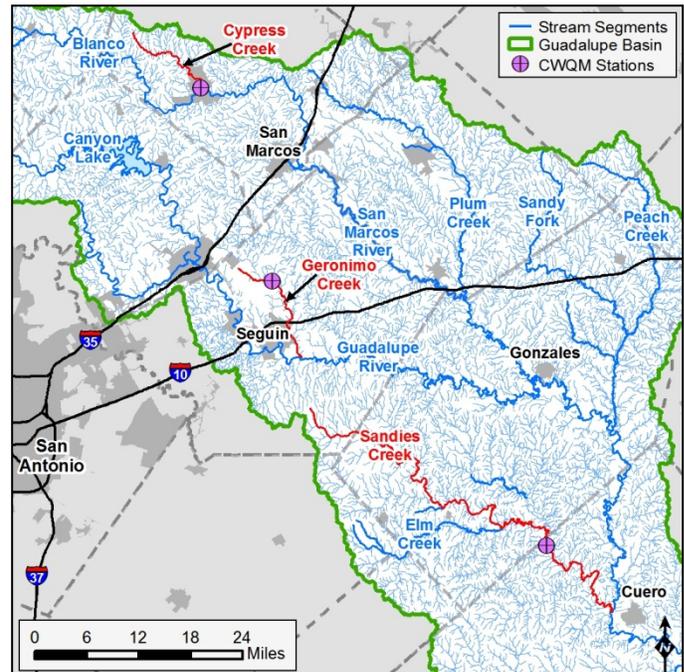
Water Body	Cypress Creek , Geronimo Creek, and Sandies Creek
Location	Hays, Guadalupe, and DeWitt Counties
River Basin	Guadalupe River (18)
Contractor	Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA)
Project Period	May 20, 2010 to August 31, 2012
Project Total	\$208,190 (Federal 60% and Local Match 40%)

Project Description

The Guadalupe River Basin Monitoring Network was formed in response to water quality impairments and concerns within the Guadalupe River Basin. The Network is a collaborative effort between the GBRA, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust, the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The goal of the Network is to create continuous water quality monitoring (CWQM) stations throughout the basin to determine existing baseline water quality conditions and monitor for changes. These stations will allow problems to be addressed early on and minimize the effect on the environment and people.

For this project, new CWQM stations were added to the Network at three locations: on Cypress Creek (near the confluence with the Blanco River); Geronimo Creek (at State Highway 123 in Guadalupe County); and Sandies Creek (near Cuero). These sites were chosen because each water body has been identified as having water quality impairments in need of monitoring. Also, Watershed Protection Plans (WPPs) are currently being developed for the Cypress Creek and Geronimo Creek watersheds. To support the watershed planning efforts, the CWQM data are being used to identify potential pollutant sources and evaluate the effectiveness of recommended best management practices (BMPs) after they are installed.

A process for communicating real-time water quality conditions to the public has been developed. The first step was to create a list of stakeholders for each watershed in order to provide them information regarding the monitoring sites. The public was notified concerning water quality conditions through electronic notifications; educational computer kiosks, placed at strategic locations within each watershed; and updates to the GBRA website.



Current Status

Project ended August 31, 2012.

For More Information

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Websites

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Project Highlights

- **05/20/2010** – The contract was signed.
- **08/26/2010** – Monitoring equipment was purchased for the Geronimo Creek site.
- **09/15/2010** – A list of stakeholders was developed for the Geronimo Creek watershed.
- **11/30/2010** – Monitoring equipment was installed at the Geronimo Creek site.
- **02/08/2011** – Educational kiosks were placed in the Geronimo Creek watershed at the Navarro High School Library.
- **06/03/2011** – The QAPP was approved.
- **05/24/2012** – The QAPP Annual Update was approved.
- **08/31/2012** – The educational kiosks main menu screens had over 1,700 hits combined.
- **08/31/2012**– Contract Final Report approved.