

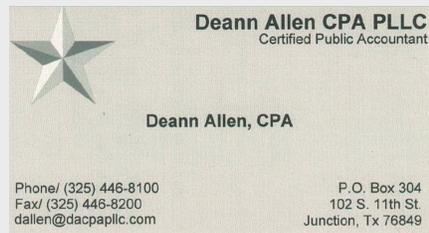
# WATERSHED WEEK IN REVIEW



## Special Thank You to Our Sponsors

Thanks to everyone who supports the Alliance in one form another, especially our Alliance Sponsors:

### *And a Final Thanks to:*



Smokin' the good stuff since '76

## How did this become this?



The riparian areas along the Llano and other Hill Country rivers are very dynamic. The top photo of the Nueces River was taken in 2007, and the bottom (at the same photo point) in 2015 by Sky Jones Lewey with Nueces River Authority. See more to learn what happened...

# Why are Healthy Riparian Areas Important?



This 30-second animation from Nueces River Authority highlights the importance of healthy riparian areas.

## Riparian Recovery



Up until passage of Senate Bill 155 in 2003, it was not illegal for motor vehicles to operate in streambeds belonging to the State. The photo left is from Nueces River Authority.



The Kingsland Slab across the Llano was also a popular rally spot (*photos above and left demon4x4.com*)

***but Motor Vehicles in the rivers aren't the only impediment to recovery.***

# Other Impediments to Riparian Recovery

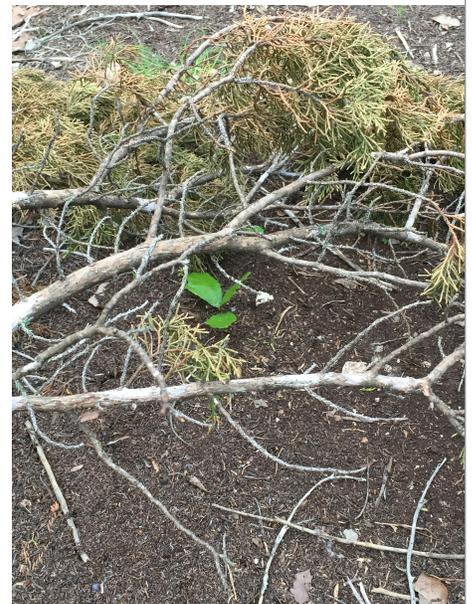
## Over-grazing.

*Not just livestock, but also white-tailed deer and non-natives such as axis deer.*

— Limiting river access to livestock and providing alternative water sources away from the river help riparian recovery. Check out [Texas A&M's Riparian Restoration on Farms and Ranches in Texas](#).

— Wildlife exclosures are helpful for protecting young seedlings from browse. The Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan [provides some additional information about these exclosures](#).

— Locating and fencing deer feeders away from riparian areas helps reduce browsing pressure and deters feral hogs.



*Simple exclosures made from hog-panels and t-post or even covering with brush are also effective for protecting young seedlings from browse.*

***Next Week's Newsletter will feature additional impediments***



*From our friends in Wimberley Valley*



# RIPARIAN RECOVERY NETWORK NEWS

***Editor’s Note: One of our readers shared a great website from the Hays County Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist. Below is a great description of iNaturalist and how to begin utilizing it today..from Issue #19***

## **iNaturalist - A Great Tool For Land Management**

Spring has sprung - a little earlier than usual given warmer temperatures and lots of rainy days. Are you noticing flowers sprouting up that you can’t readily identify? Seeing unusual birds at your feeder? Finding nests with fresh eggs and wondering who the parents are? Finding animal tracks left in the mud and wondering who made them? Trying to figure out what kind of butterfly that caterpillar will turn into? As the saying goes “there’s an app for that.” Why not use iNaturalist to better understand and manage the ecosystems that share your little piece of the Wimberley Valley?

So what is iNaturalist? Actually, it’s lots of different things. iNaturalist describes itself as “an online social network of people sharing biodiversity information to help each other learn about nature.” A primary goal of iNaturalist is simply to connect people with nature in ways that give the non-human world more personal significance, thus engendering a stake in protecting it. But, in the process, lots of data is generated that is scientifically valuable for tracking biodiversity. Most Texas land is privately owned so often those studying our native plants and wildlife don’t know what’s where - a problem particularly when important decisions are being made that potentially affect an area’s ecosystem. Citizen/community science is one way to fill this knowledge gap and that’s what iNaturalist is all about.

### **RIPARIAN RECOVERY NETWORK NEWS – PAST ISSUES**

- Issue #19 – iNaturalist – A Great Tool For Land Management
- Issue #18 – Attracting Wildlife to Your Riparian Zone – Vegetation
- Issue #17 – Stormwater Management and Stream Restoration
- Issue #16 – Exploring Riparian Planting Methods
- Issue #15 – Attracting Butterflies to Your Riparian Zone
- Issue #14 – Reassessing Your Riparian Zone
- Issue #13 – May 2019 Flooding and Its Impact
- Issue #12 – On the Road to Riparian Recovery
- Issue #11 – Riparian Diversity – Cypress Creek Nature Preserve
- Issue #10 – “Normal” Floods = Healthy Waterways

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- Issue #9 – Riparian Buffers – Good for Water Quality
- Issue #8 – Karst: The Role of Water in Shaping the Hill Country
- Issue #7 – Understanding Native Grasses
- Issue #6 – Native Vegetation and Their Water Needs
- Issue #5 – Roots Matter
- Issue #4 – Gravel Bars and Riparian Recovery
- Issue #3 – Vegetation Key to Riparian Recover – Part 2
- Issue #2 – Vegetation Key to Riparian Recover – Part 1
- Issue #1 – Landscaping Ideas for Riparian Areas

# NRCS Provides Opportunities for Gardens and Rainwater Harvesting

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting grant applications until May 29, 2020, to establish gardens, rainwater harvesting systems and high tunnels through Project G.R.E.E.N. (Growing Roots for Education, Environment and Nutrition) and through the Texas NRCS Urban and Rural Conservation Project.

Grant funding will help establish gardens to grow healthy produce in areas of need and to educate urban and rural youth, organizations, and communities about the importance of conservation, agriculture and growing healthy fresh vegetables.

The Texas Urban and Rural Conservation Project will provide technical and financial assistance to eligible entities to establish or improve gardens for food production and pollinator habitat, including habitat for monarch butterflies, to install rainwater harvesting systems, and to establish high tunnels to extend the growing season for fruits and vegetables. These grants are available to entities other than schools.

## **NRCS Texas Urban and Rural Conservation Project**

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The **Texas NRCS Urban and Rural Conservation Project** (TURCP) was created in an effort to challenge community organizations, educational institutions and Indian tribes, to focus on local grassroots conservation efforts for the betterment of people and the environment. This project will allow hunger to be addressed in areas where local, fresh, and nutritious foods are not available addressing these food deserts on multiple levels.

Technical and financial assistance is provided to eligible entities to establish or improve gardens for food production, rainwater harvesting systems, pollinator habitat for attracting and maintaining monarch butterflies and the establishment of high tunnels to extend the growing season of fruits and vegetables.

Deadline is May 29, 2020—for more info [click here](#).