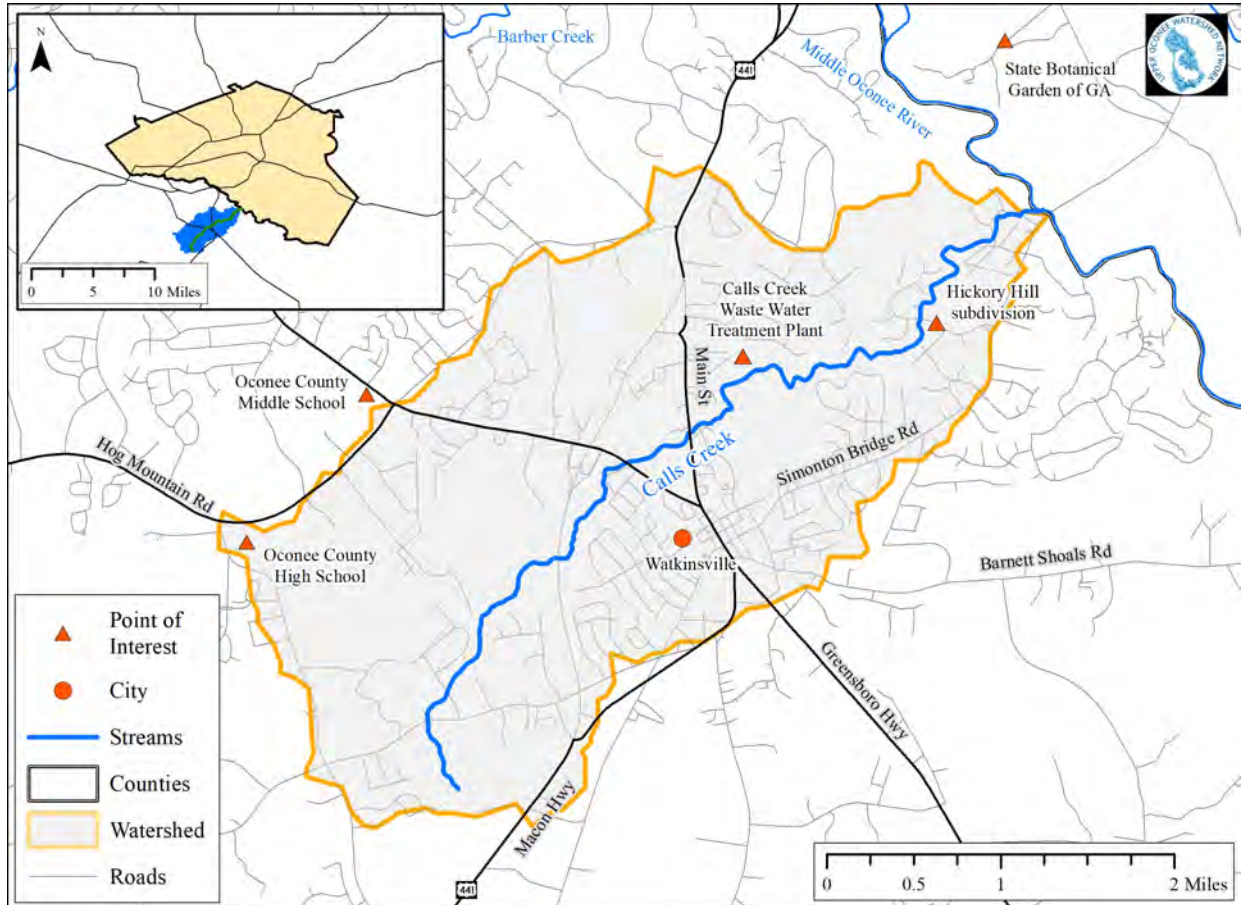


Where's My Creek?



Calls Creek



Where is Calls Creek?

Calls Creek flows northeast from Bishop, through the town of Watkinsville and finally to the Middle Oconee River just downstream of the confluence of McNutt Creek and the Middle Oconee River. The Calls Creek watershed drains approximately 5,515 acres.

The Calls Creek watershed is roughly bordered by Union Church Rd. to the west, Macon Highway and Simonton Bridge Rd on the south, Highway 53/Hog Mountain Rd to the north, and the Middle Oconee River to the east.

Key Landmarks include the City of Watkinsville, Harris Shoals Park, Christian Lake subdivision, Call's Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Hickory Hill subdivision off Simonton Bridge Rd.

Why Care?

Calls Creek currently carries processed effluent from the one of Oconee County's wastewater treatment plants into the Middle Oconee.

Additionally, nonpoint source pollution from storm runoff washes pollutants from parking lots, roads, and other impervious surfaces into the creek.

Watershed Issues!



Impervious Surfaces

Due to development, there are large areas of impervious surface where water cannot soak into the ground. This can cause increased runoff which leads to erosion and sediment buildup in the creek.



Nutrient Pollution

Calls Creek has elevated levels of nutrients, specifically nitrogen, which can be caused by overuse of fertilizer, stormwater runoff, and sewage discharges. This can cause algal blooms and deplete oxygen in the water.



Buffer Zone Reduction

It is unlawful to remove vegetation within 25 feet of a stream in Oconee County. Riparian buffers stabilize soil, filter runoff, and slow down rushing water before it enters the stream. Buffers in the Calls Creek Watershed have been impacted by development.



Poo-lution

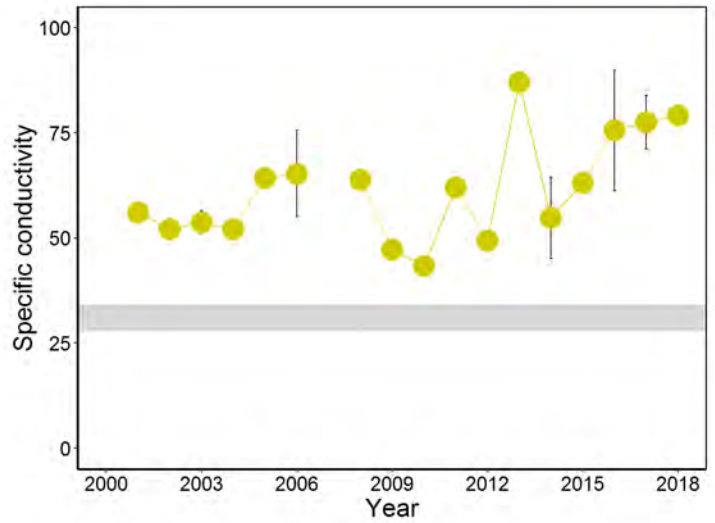
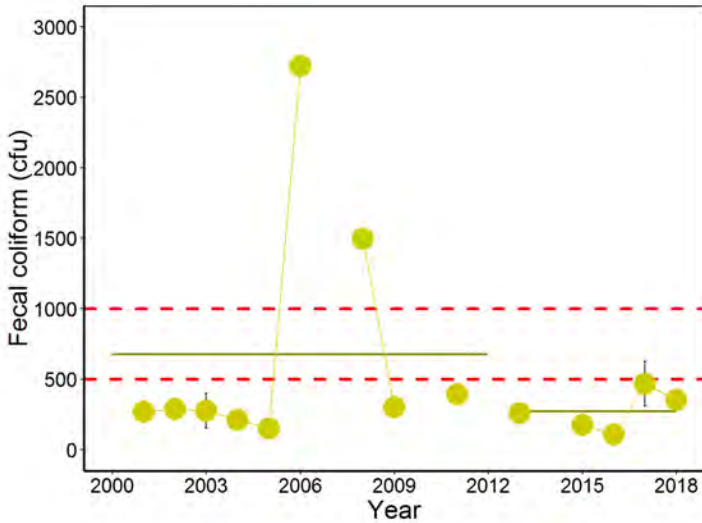
Calls Creek has abnormally high levels of fecal coliforms (poop). This is due to leaking sewer pipes, sewer overflows, and animal waste.



Overloaded with Sediments

Most of Calls Creek's stream bed is filled with sand and sediments which leads to poor stream health.

Water Quality in Calls Creek



Fecal coliform bacteria are an indicator of pollution from human and animal waste. *E. coli* is a species of coliform bacteria. The horizontal lines show the average concentration during the previous 5 years. The dashed lines represent limits at which it is unsafe to recreate in the water (>500) or a significant pollution problem (>1000).

Specific conductivity is a measurement of dissolved solids in water. Regular monitoring helps determine baseline levels. Fluctuations in these levels are an indicator of pollution.

In the graphs above, each point represents the average concentration within a year. The vertical bars indicate the variation in that measurement. The horizontal lines show the average concentration during the previous 5 years and the historical average



How You Can Help



Reduce fertilizer application. Contact the UGA Cooperative Extension Office for a soil test kit to determine soil fertility in your lawn or garden.

Pick up your pet's waste to prevent fecal coliforms from ending up in your creek.



Plant native vegetation in riparian buffers along stream banks to help remove pollutants and reduce erosion.

Use permeable pavement to allow infiltration of water when it rains.



Disconnect roof downspouts from drainage systems to reduce the amount of concentrated stormwater runoff leaving your property.

Harvest rainwater to reduce runoff and use it to water your plants and garden.



Create rain gardens with plants and sandy soils to drain stormwater and filter nutrients and other pollutants.

Pick up trash from your neighborhood and the stream.



Become a UOWN member today!

The Upper Oconee Watershed Network is dedicated to protecting water resources and improving stream health in your watershed through community-based advocacy, monitoring, education, and recreation.



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