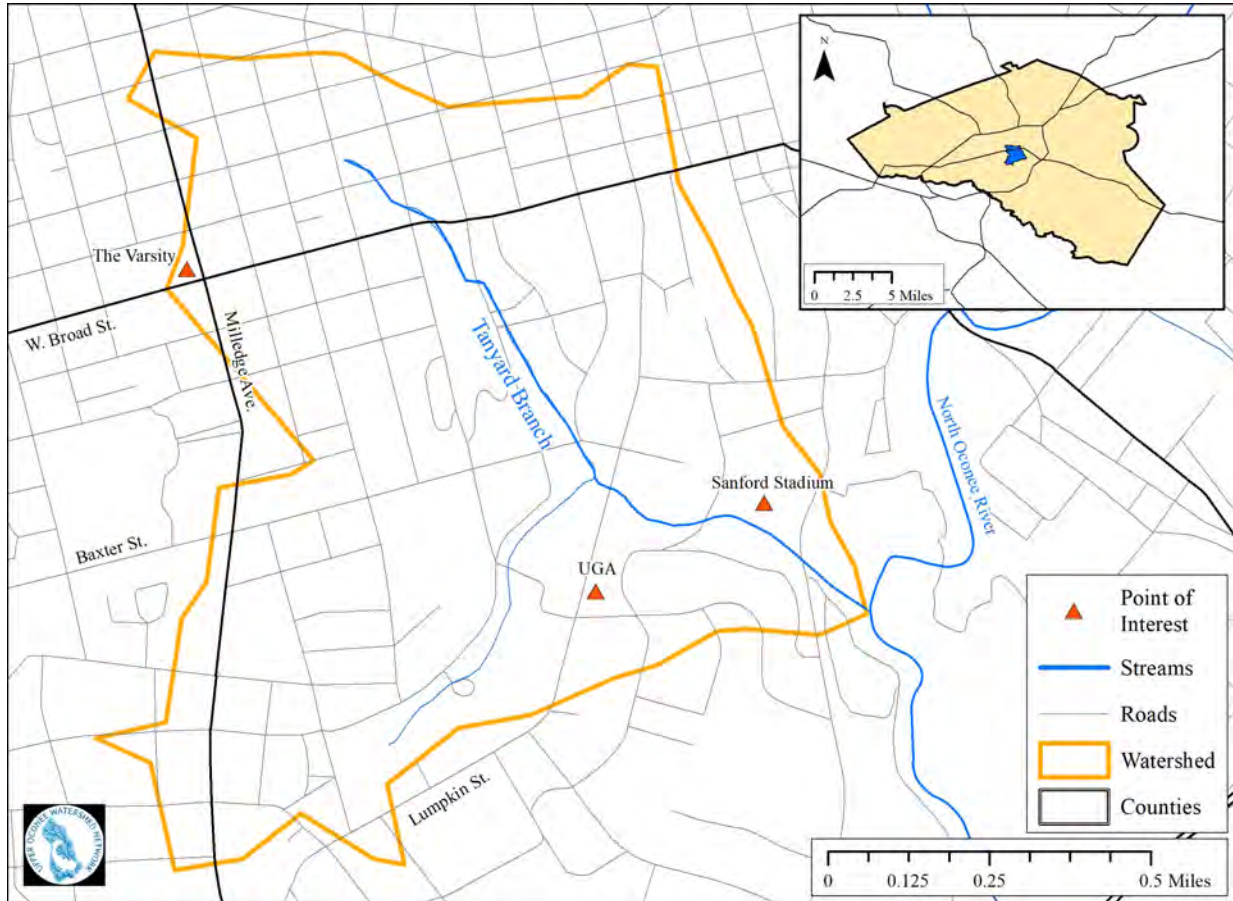


Where's My Creek?



Tanyard Branch



Where is Tanyard Branch?

Tanyard Branch starts underground near Reese-Pope Park and Hancock Avenue. Flowing through a highly developed area, the creek flows underground for most of its length.

Tanyard Branch drains around 1 square mile of land including downtown Athens and a large portion of the University of Georgia campus including the west campus student dorms.

The creek daylights around South Newton and Waddell Streets to Bolton Dining Hall before diving underground at Sanford Stadium. Although the Tanyard drainage is small, it has a regular population of around 50,000. This can surge to over 100,000 during home football games.

The Tanyard Creek's overall stream condition is rated as poor because of impairment of the bed, banks, and stream buffer.

Why Care?

Runoff carries pollutants and litter from parking lots, roads and, other impervious surfaces into Tanyard Branch, which flows into the North Oconee River at River Road. The North Oconee joins the Middle Oconee to form the Oconee River, a primary source of drinking water for many downstream users.

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

Tanyard Branch has elevated levels of nutrients, specifically nitrogen, which can be caused by overuse of fertilizer, storm-water 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 75 feet of a stream in Athens-Clarke County. Riparian buffers stabilize soil, filter runoff, and slow down rushing water before it enters the stream. Buffers in the Tanyard Branch watershed have been impacted by development.



Poo-lution

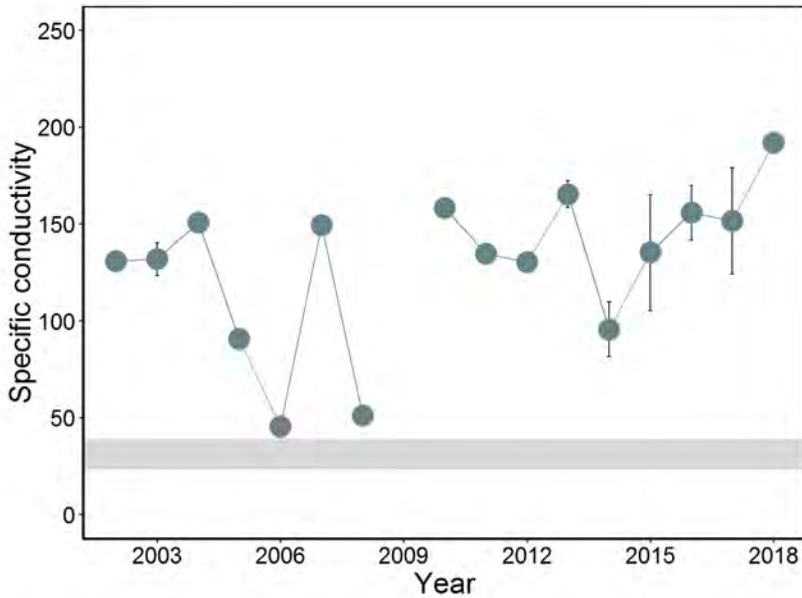
Tanyard Branch has abnormally high levels of fecal coliforms (poop). This is due to leaking sewer pipes, sewer overflows, and animal waste.



Overloaded with Sediments

Most of Tanyard Branch stream bed is filled with sand and sediments which leads to poor stream health and reduced diversity of aquatic life.

Water Quality in Tanyard Branch



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. The grey shading indicates baseline level of a typical minimally impacted stream in our region.

In the graph above, each point represents the average concentration within a year. The vertical bars indicate the variation in that measurement.

UOWN welcomes volunteers willing to regularly sample Tanyard Branch.

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.



Follow Us On
Facebook



Follow Us On Twitter
@UpperOconee



Go To Our Website
www.UOWN.org