Hogtown Creek Watershed

In-stream biology

Biological survey efforts indicate sections along Hogtown Creek range from healthy to impaired. In-stream erosion and resulting sedimentation is the biggest habitat issue for stream organisms. The most diverse populations of in-stream biota and the best available habitat occur both in the upper reaches of the creek near NW 45th Avenue and on Hogtown Prairie near Haile Sink.

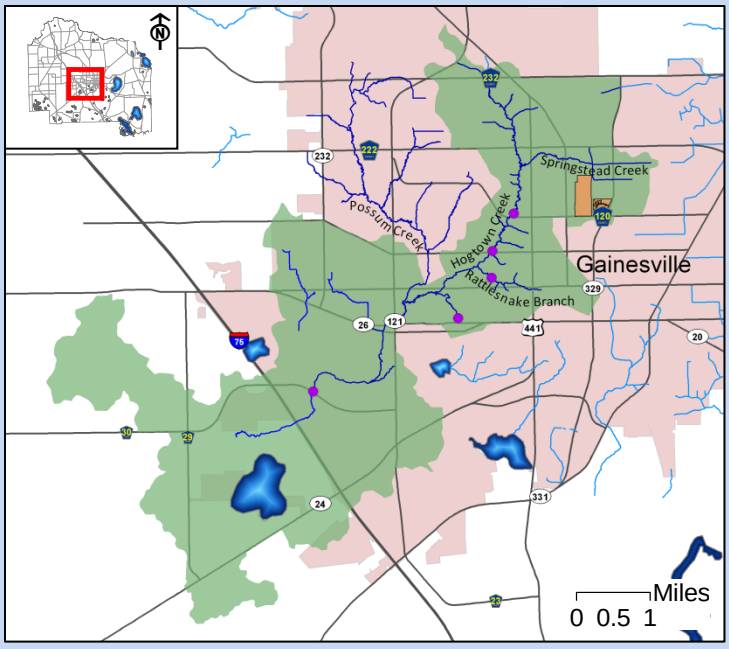


Figure 2. Map of Hogtown Creek watershed (green), Gainesville urban center (pink), former Cabot Carlson/Koppers Superfund site (orange), and sampling locations (purple).

Fun Facts

• Hogtown Creek watershed spans across 21 square miles with headwaters north of NW 53rd Ave., flowing through Hogtown Prairie and into the Floridan aquifer via Haile Sink.

•It has many tributaries including Possum, Rattlesnake , Elizabeth, and Springstead creeks.

•65% of land use along the watershed is classified as low density residential, 15% commercial, 20% mixed hardwood forests and wetlands

The Creek can be viewed and enjoyed at several City of Gainesville parks along the watershed Alfred A. Ring Park, Hogtown Creek Headwaters (New in 2012), Loblolly Woods Nature Park, 29th Road Nature Park, Green Acres Park, Westside Park, John Mahon Nature Park, Coffrin Nature Park and Split Rock Conservation Area.

Ways you can help!

•Dispose of oils and chemicals properly at the Hazardous Waste Collection Center.

•Properly maintain your septic system.

•Scoop, bag, and trash pet waste.

•Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly, or not at all.

•Keep grass clippings out of storm drains, put it back on the lawn or bag it.

•Report illicit discharges or dumping to 246-6800.

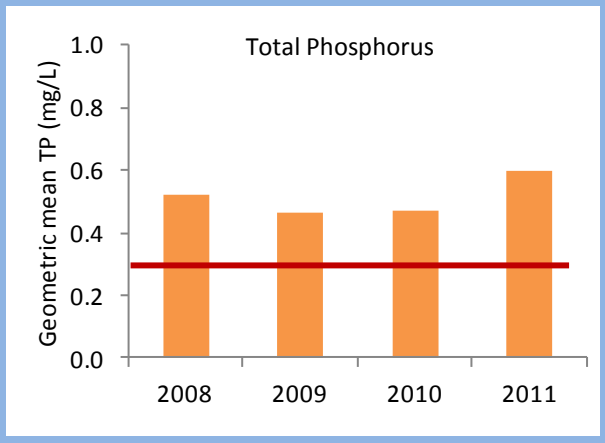
•VOLUNTEER!

Water Quality

Flow: In Hogtown Creek annual average flow (2008-2011) expressed as harmonic mean is 11.4 cubic feet per second (cfs) which recharges the Floridan aquifer at Haile sink measured where it crosses SW 20th Ave monitored by the St. Johns River Water Management District. The average flows in Hogtown Creek are the highest of all the streams in Gainesville.

Nutrients: The proposed FDEP water quality nutrient standards will be effective in 2012. Total nitrogen concentrations are well below the criteria. Hogtown Creek will be considered impaired for total phosphorus (TP) when this rule becomes effective. Major sources of phosphorus in the watershed include fertilizers in stormwater runoff, as well as naturally occurring phosphorus minerals in the Hawthorn Group formations that are eroded and carried away in high velocity stormwater flows.

a)



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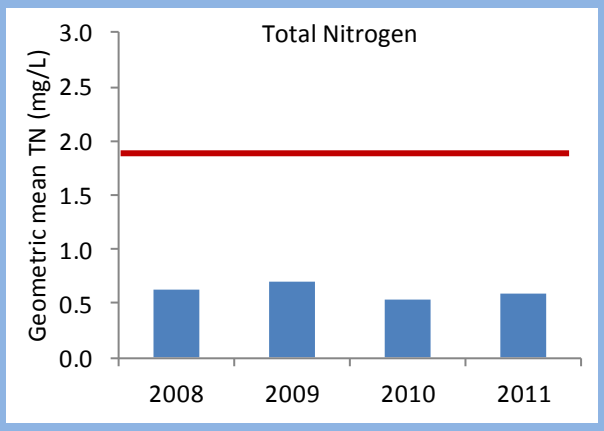

Figure 3. Annual Geometric mean of a) total phosphorus (TP) and b) total Nitrogen (TN) on Hogtown Creek data collected by Alachua County Environmental Protection Department. FDEP nutrient standards for the North Central eco region are represented by the red line a) TP of 0.30mg/L and b) TN of 1.87 mg/L.

Bacteria: Hogtown Creek was listed as impaired by FDEP for fecal coliform, an indicator for the possible presence of pathogens and now has a TMDL for these contaminants. State standards are 800 cfu/100mL for a single sample, which is frequently exceeded in Hogtown Creek.

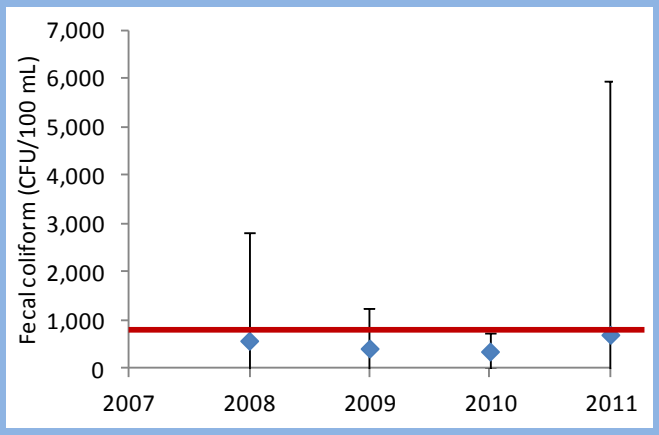

Figure 4. Geometic mean of Fecal coliform abundance in Hogtown Creek data collected by Alachua County Environmental Protection Department. (red line indicates 800 CFU/100mL, error bars indicate standard deviation).

Current Human Impacts

- Urban stormwater has the greatest impact since most development in the watershed occurred before stormwater management was required.
- Most of the pollution entering the creek is runoff from residential areas which contains fertilizers from lawn and garden use which contaminates the creek with nitrogen and phosphorus.
- Roadway runoff contain traces of petroleum products, oil and grease from automobiles, and sediment from roadsides.
- Instream erosion creates sediments which increase total suspended sediments.
- Sanitary sewer overflows, failing wastewater infrastructure and septic systems, pet waste, and wildlife are sources of fecal coliforms, nitrogen, and phosphorus.

Figure 5. Hogtown Creek in Ring Park.

To learn more:

- You can read the Hogtown Creek section of the Creeks and Bioreconnaissance Reports at www.Alachuacountywater.org.
- Visit the St. Johns River Water Management District website at www.SJRWMD.com
- Visit www.gainesvillecreeks.org