Forked Creek Condition Report for 2025

CAUTION

CHL N P DO

0 out of 4 primary indicators were rated as **PASS**.

"Primary" are nutrient related (Chl, N, P) and bacteria (B) parameters.

All four indicators must pass for the creek to be rated as **PASS**.

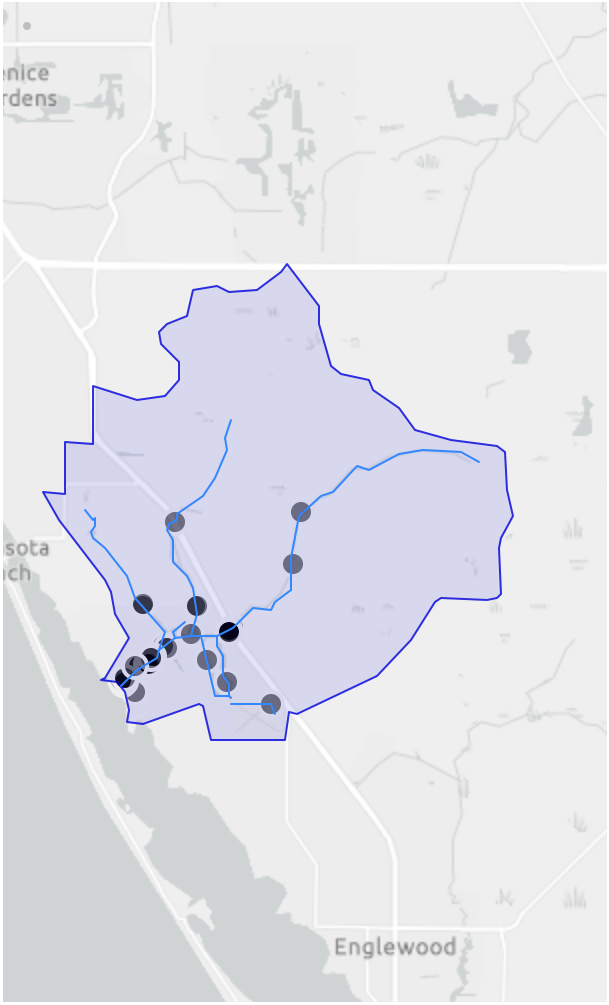
Greyed out values indicate no data for the report year.

Size: 5,863 acres
Location: South Sarasota County
Discharges into: Lemon Bay

For more information, please see: **Forked Creek Drainage Improvements, Preliminary Report Phase I (2000)**

View county-wide water quality trends »

Forked Creek

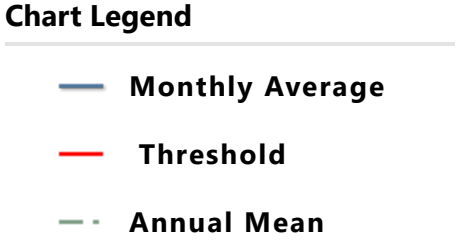


Water Chemistry Ratings

Monitoring data is analyzed to determine stream health based on State water quality standards. Official determination of impairment or attainment of the water quality standards is performed by FDEP and is based on at least three years and up to seven and a half years of data. Information on approximately 17 different parameters are collected at stream sites, but only total nitrogen, total phosphorus, chlorophyll *a*, dissolved oxygen (percent saturation), and bacteria are assessed according to established water quality criteria mandated by the Clean Water Act. Additionally, the floral and faunal communities (SCI) are assessed at some sites to determine whether waters support a healthy aquatic community.

The "pass/fail" conditions presented here do not indicate impairment as determined by the official **Florida Department of Environmental Protection** Impaired Waters Rule assessment but, rather, give an indication of stream condition in a particular year in relation to the set regulatory numeric limits. Streams receive an annual "PASS" rating for each parameter if the mean value is below the regulatory value and a "FAIL" rating if the mean value exceeds the regulatory value. Not all water quality parameters have an established numeric criterion, so only some of the graphs below show the regulatory limit, represented by a horizontal red line.

The graphs here illustrate results over the past five years. Data from sites monitored within a single waterbody identification basin (WBID) are combined to determine water quality status for each WBID, and the annual geometric mean of sample results is indicated on the graph for the most recent year. The table to the left of the graph gives the annual and historic range of values for the indicator.



Click the graph to view a larger image and to download the full dataset.

Freshwater Portion of the Creek

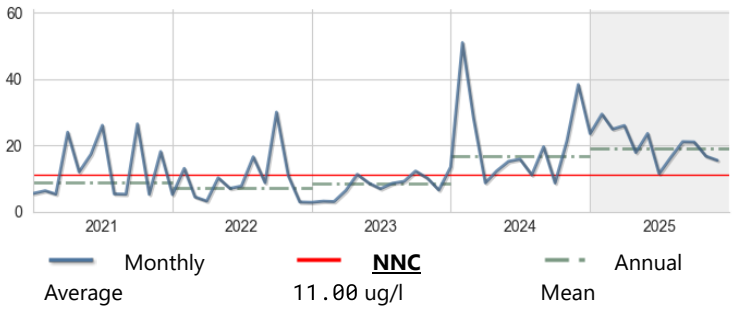
There is no freshwater portion of this stream, or water quality data is not currently collected in the freshwater area.

Tidal Portion of the Creek

Chlorophyll a

Score: Caution

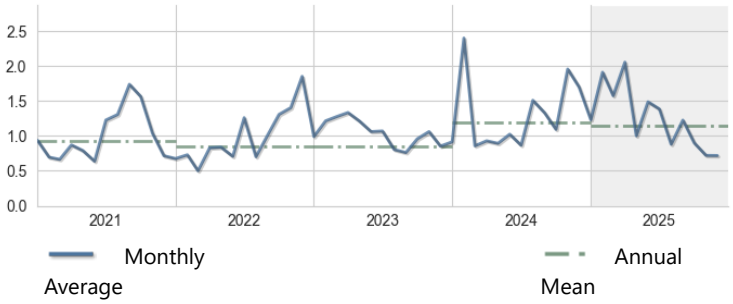
Units: µg/l	Year 2025	Historical period of record
High	56.3	618.0
Mean	18.8865	12.1749
Low	7.33	0.25
No. of Samples	38	615



Nitrogen, Total

Score: Pass

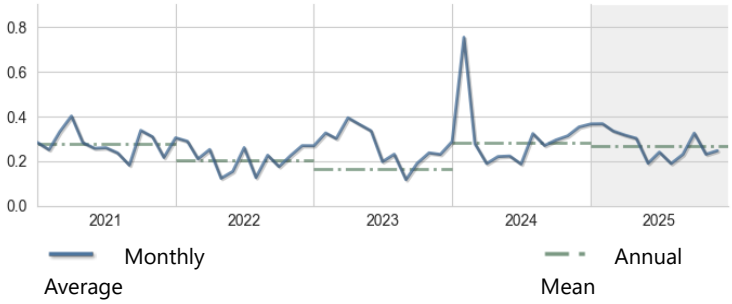
Units: mg/L	Year 2025	Historical period of record
High	2.3	6.0
Mean	1.149	1.0427
Low	0.499	0.084
No. of Samples	31	664



Phosphorus, Total

Score: Pass

Units: mg/L	Year 2025	Historical period of record
High	0.5	3.8
Mean	0.265	0.3536
Low	0.165	0.004
No. of Samples	31	614

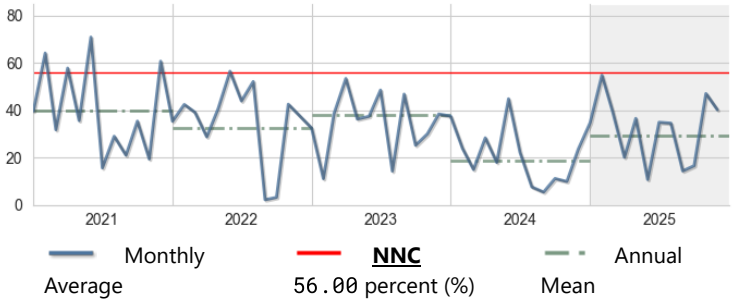


Dissolved Oxygen Saturation

Note: Dissolved oxygen saturation percentages above the regulatory threshold meet established water quality targets.

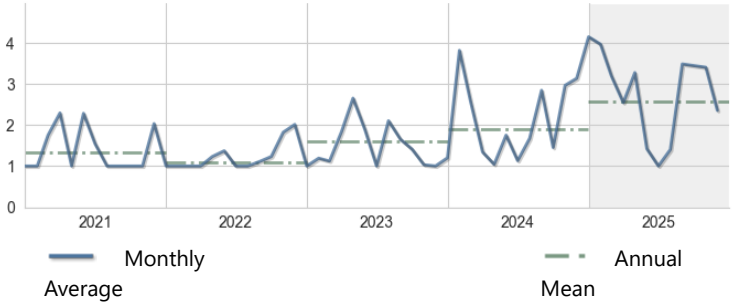
Score: Caution

Units: percent (%)	Year 2025	Historical period of record
High	93.1	169.7
Mean	29.39	56.11
Low	3.42	0.0861
No. of Samples	30	968



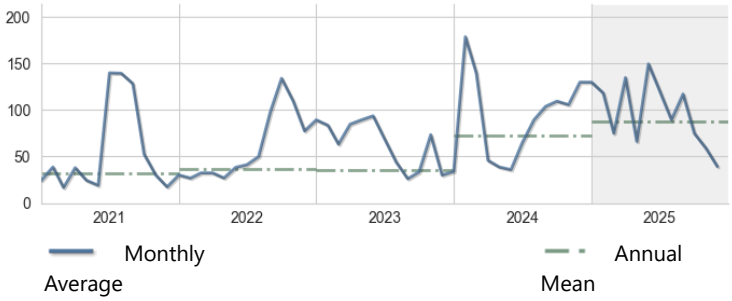
BOD, Biochemical oxygen demand

Units: mg/l	Year 2025	Historical period of record
High	4.6	16.7
Mean	2.57	2.12
Low	1.00	0.50
No. of Samples	24	496



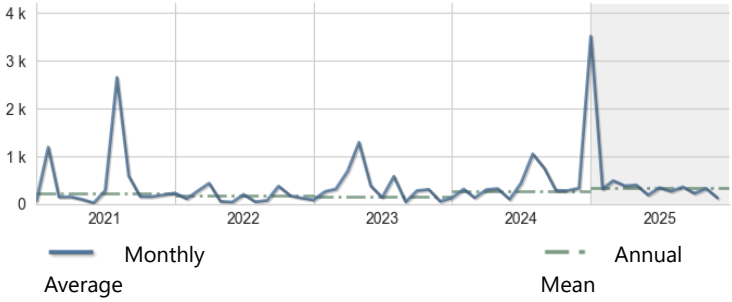
Color

Units: PCU	Year 2025	Historical period of record
High	160.0	400.0
Mean	87.58	53.77
Low	8.40	2.50
No. of Samples	31	695



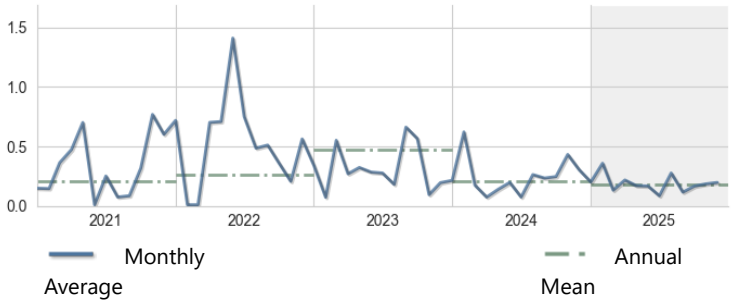
Enterococcus Group Bacteria

Units: MPN/100ml	Year 2025	Historical period of record
High	24,196.0	24,196.0
Mean	342.56	173.1
Low	31.00	10.00
No. of Samples	31	245



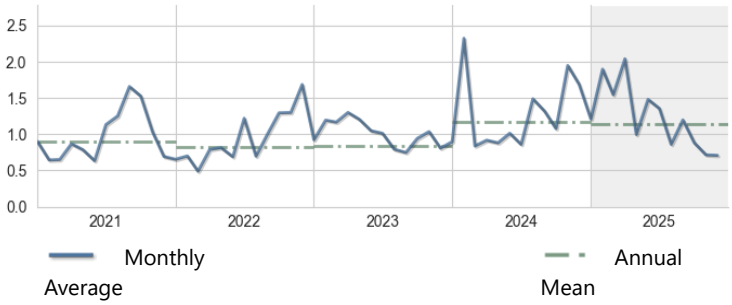
Nitrogen, Ammonia + Ammonium as N

Units: mg/L	Year 2025	Historical period of record
High	0.8	1.5
Mean	0.18	0.03
Low	0.035	0.00
No. of Samples	24	656



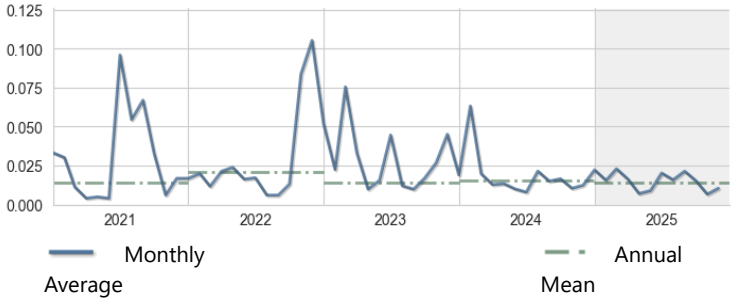
Nitrogen, Kjeldahl

Units: mg/L	Year 2025	Historical period of record
High	2.3	5.9
Mean	1.13	0.98
Low	0.49	0.05
No. of Samples	31	688



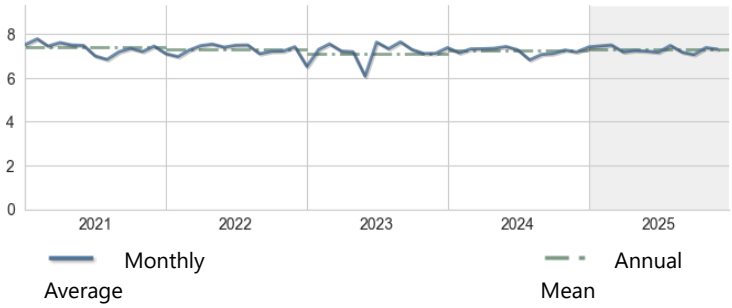
Nitrogen, Nitrite + Nitrate as N

Units: mg/L	Year 2025	Historical period of record
High	0.1	0.9
Mean	0.01	0.02
Low	0.004	0.00
No. of Samples	31	600



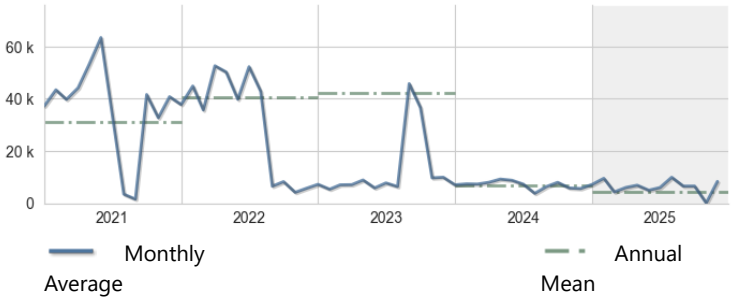
pH

Units: None	Year 2025	Historical period of record
High	7.9	9.3
Mean	7.3	7.75
Low	6.74	4.90
No. of Samples	31	1,103



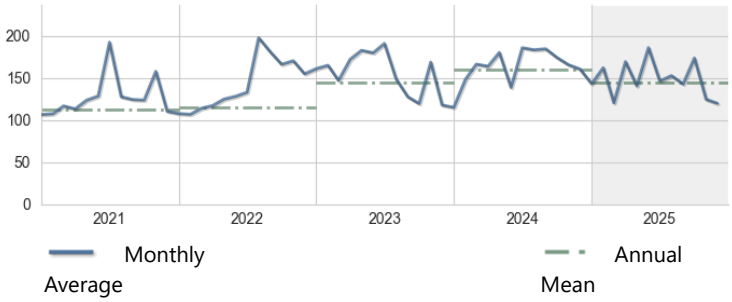
Specific conductance

Units: µmho	Year 2025	Historical period of record
High	60,993.6	63,471.0
Mean	4481.75	18589.92
Low	0.06	0.06
No. of Samples	24	836



Temperature, water

Units: °F	Year 2025	Historical period of record
High	201.8	201.8
Mean	143.91	81.64
Low	69.80	50.00
No. of Samples	31	1,389



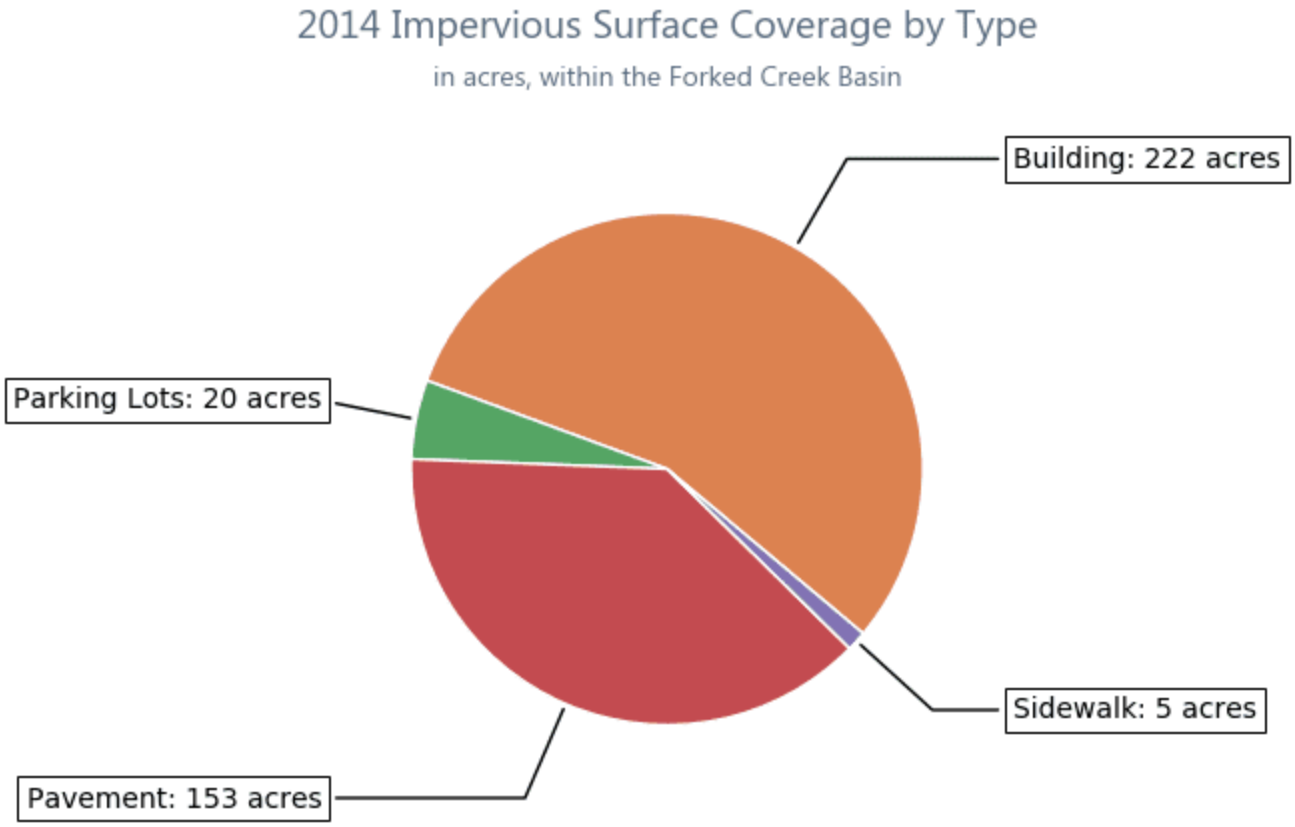
Impervious Features

Rain that falls on land that is in a natural state is absorbed and filtered by soils and vegetation as it makes it way into underground aquifers. However, in developed areas, "impervious surfaces" impede this process and contribute to polluted urban runoff entering surface waters. These surfaces include human infrastructure like roads, sidewalks, driveways and parking lots that are covered by impenetrable materials such as asphalt, concrete, brick and stone, as well as buildings and other permanent structures. Soils that have been disturbed and compacted by urban development are often impervious as well.

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7% of the land area within the **Forked Creek Basin** is covered by impervious surfaces

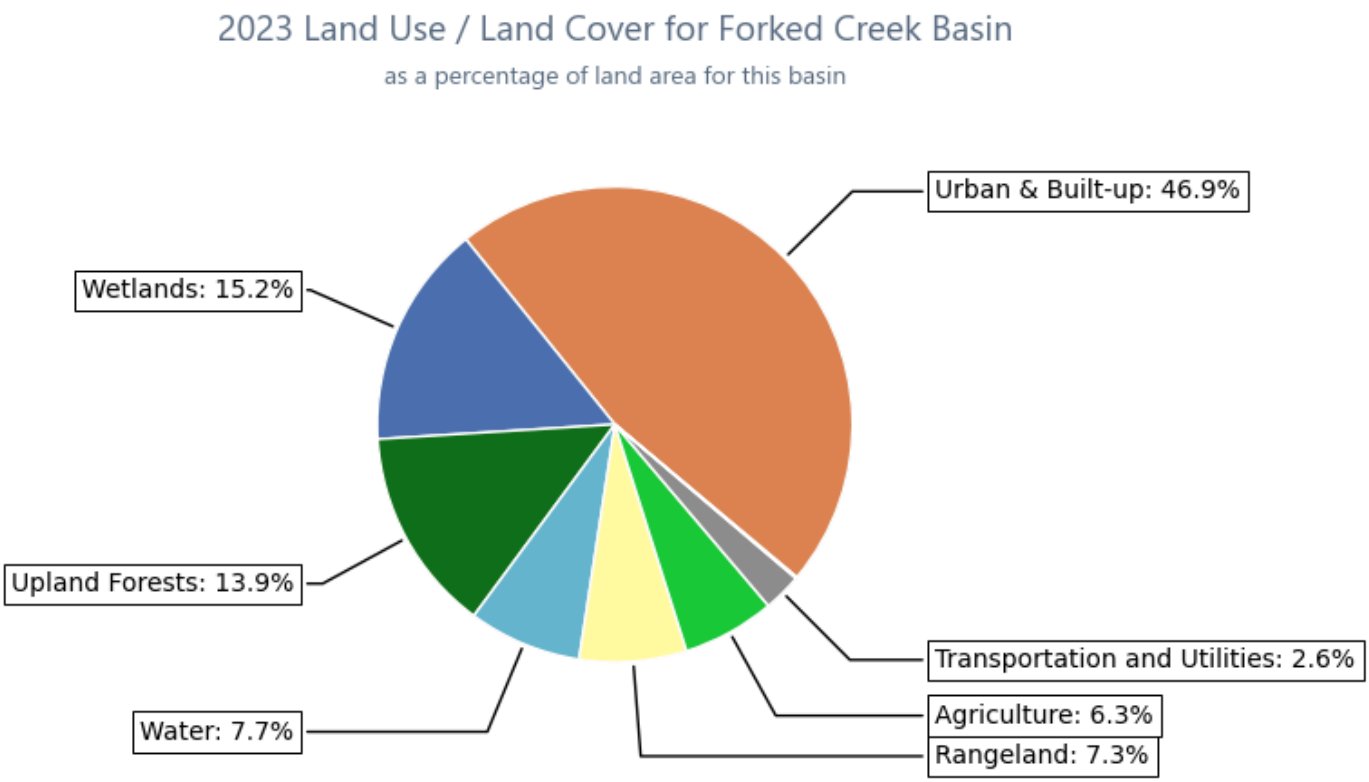


Land Use / Land Cover

Land use within a creek's watershed has a major effect on its water quality. In general, less development means better water quality. Land Cover/Land Use classifications categorize land in terms of its observed physical surface characteristics (e.g. upland or wetland), and also reflect the types of activity that are taking place on it (agriculture, urban/built-up, utilities, etc.). Florida uses as its standard a set of statewide classifications which were developed by the Florida Department of Transportation.

Acreage and Percentage within each Land Use / Land Cover Category for Forked Creek Basin

Land Use Classification	1990	1995	1999	2005	2011	2014	2017	2020	2023	Trend
Urban & Built-up	1,394 23.8%	1,570 26.8%	1,888 32.2%	1,859 31.7%	2,154 36.7%	2,154 36.7%	2,393 40.8%	2,418 41.3%	2,749 46.9%	
Agriculture	1,055 18%	1,081 18.4%	1,064 18.2%	988 16.8%	619 10.6%	619 10.6%	533 9.1%	513 8.7%	369 6.3%	
Rangeland	232 4%	688 11.7%	395 6.7%	552 9.4%	726 12.4%	726 12.4%	587 10%	515 8.8%	429 7.3%	
Upland Forests	2,059 35.1%	1,322 22.5%	1,313 22.4%	1,187 20.3%	1,031 17.6%	1,031 17.6%	982 16.7%	935 15.9%	816 13.9%	
Water	139 2.4%	390 6.7%	237 4%	229 3.9%	276 4.7%	276 4.7%	318 5.4%	375 6.4%	453 7.7%	
Wetlands	905 15.4%	743 12.7%	904 15.4%	944 16.1%	948 16.2%	948 16.2%	943 16.1%	939 16%	890 15.2%	
Barren Land	1 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	6 0.1%	6 0.1%	
Transportation and Utilities	78 1.3%	68 1.2%	61 1%	103 1.8%	107 1.8%	107 1.8%	108 1.8%	161 2.8%	151 2.6%	


2023 Land Use / Land Cover for Forked Creek Basin
as a percentage of land area for this basin
Urban & Built-up: 46.9%
Wetlands: 15.2%
Upland Forests: 13.9%
Transportation and Utilities: 2.6%
Agriculture: 6.3%
Water: 7.7%
Rangeland: 7.3%