North Creek Condition Report for 2013

CAUTION

Chl-a N P DO

3 out of 4 indicators were rated as **PASS**.

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

Size: 2,327 acres
Location: Central Sarasota County
Discharges into: Little Sarasota Bay

The surface water system in the North Creek Basin has undergone significant alteration over the past century. The 1847 General Land Office Survey shows North Creek extending from Little Sarasota Bay, east across the approximately 2½-mile-wide basin to what appears to be a pond. The 1959 USDA NRCS Soil Survey shows two north-south ditches leading to North Creek. The ditch to the south leads to an area in the west that appears to be a development. With the exception of the western boundary, U.S. 41, and some ditches, the basin was still fairly undeveloped by the 1970s. By 2000, roughly half of the basin was developed and about 1,930 people resided in the developed areas (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). Today, about 75% of the basin is developed and laden with ditches and stormwater infrastructure, with half of the development residential. *For basin details see:* ***Little Sarasota Bay Water Quality Management Plan (2012)***

North Creek



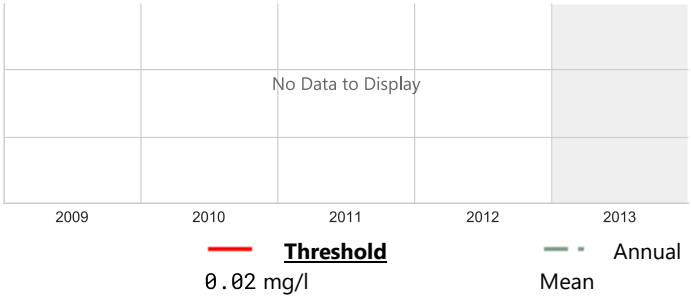
Water Chemistry Ratings | Freshwater Portion of the Creek

Creek Conditions Ratings are based on comparing nitrogen, phosphorus, chlorophyll and dissolved oxygen to water quality guidelines or regulations. Florida law defines a maximum allowable concentration of nitrogen, phosphorus, and chlorophyll *a*, and a minimum allowable concentration of dissolved oxygen in these streams.

Chlorophyll a

Units: mg/l	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High		0.032
Mean		0.0021
Low		0.0009
No. of Samples	0	9

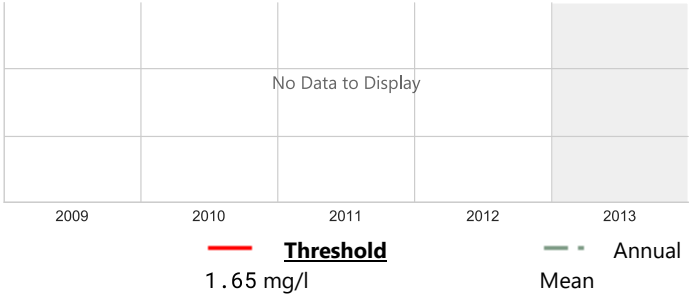
Five-year Rolling Average



Nitrogen, Total

Units: mg/l	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High		3.031
Mean		1.4041
Low		1.106
No. of Samples	0	9

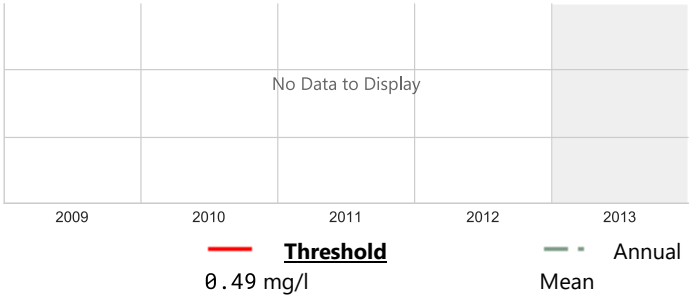
Five-year Rolling Average



Phosphorus, Total

Units: mg/l	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High		2.70
Mean		0.1632
Low		0.041
No. of Samples	0	13

Five-year Rolling Average

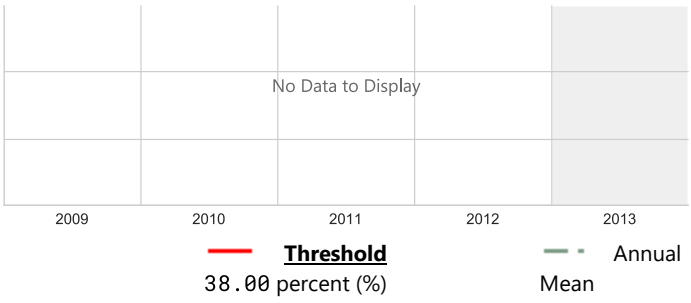


Dissolved Oxygen Saturation

Note: Low DO saturation also may be naturally influenced by inflows from nearby wetlands or groundwater sources.

Units: percent (%)	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High		54.10
Mean		26.28
Low		10.70
No. of Samples	0	13

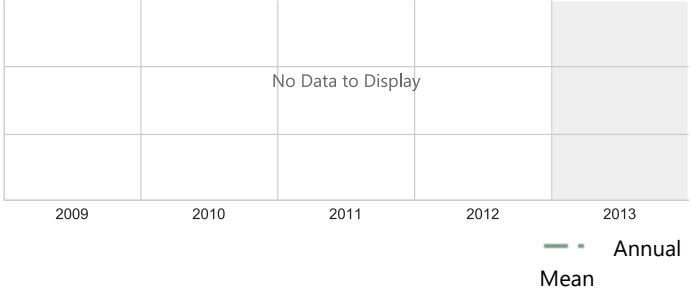
Five-year Rolling Average



Nitrogen, Ammonia + Ammonium as N

Units: ug/l	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High		460.00
Mean		83.04
Low		18.00
No. of Samples	0	10

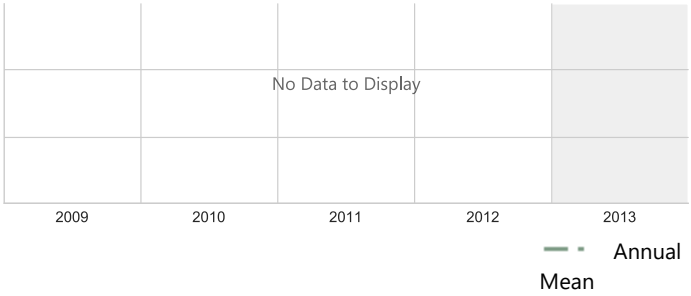
Five-year Rolling Average



Nitrogen, Kjeldahl

Units: ug/l	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High		27000.00
Mean		1806.37
Low		1100.00
No. of Samples	0	10

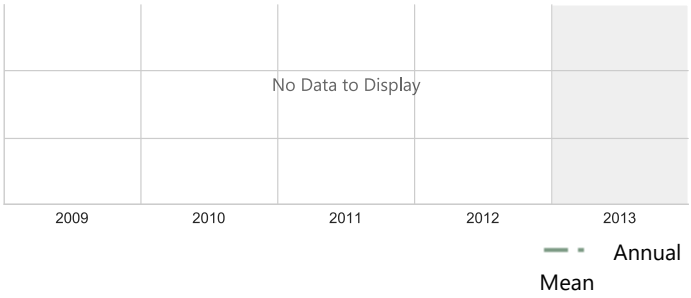
Five-year Rolling Average



Nitrogen, Nitrite + Nitrate as N

Units: ug/l	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High		230.00
Mean		21.89
Low		4.00
No. of Samples	0	10

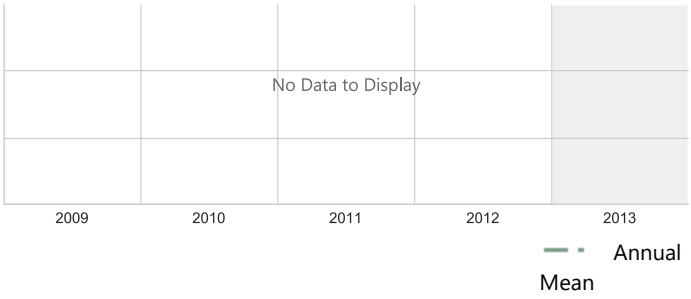
Five-year Rolling Average



pH

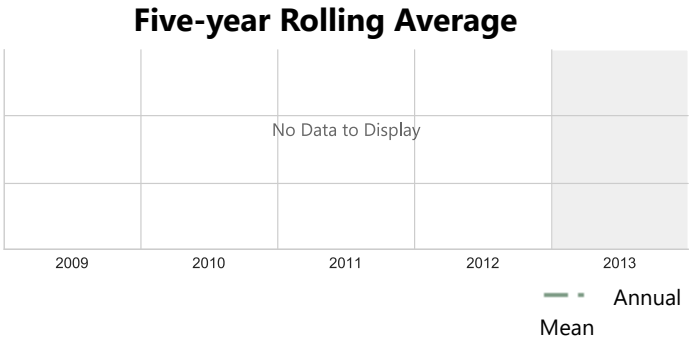
Units: None	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High		7.51
Mean		7.21
Low		6.80
No. of Samples	0	13

Five-year Rolling Average



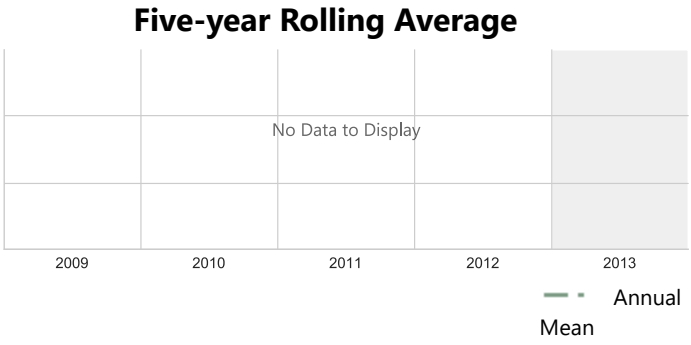
Specific conductance

Units: umho	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High		24590.00
Mean		1391.32
Low		328.00
No. of Samples	0	13



Temperature, water

Units: deg F	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High		85.028
Mean		71.32
Low		55.94
No. of Samples	0	13



Water Chemistry Ratings | Tidal Portion of the Creek

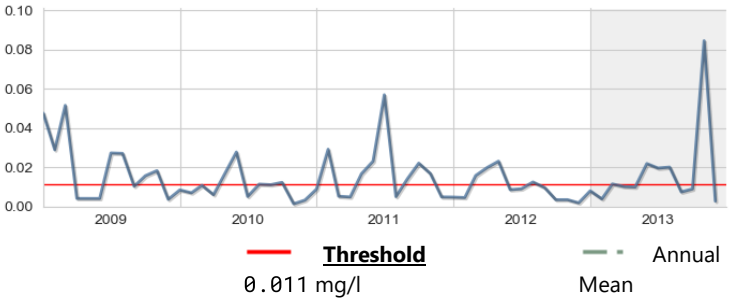
Creek Conditions Ratings are based on comparing nitrogen, phosphorus, chlorophyll and dissolved oxygen to water quality guidelines or regulations. Florida law defines a maximum allowable concentration of chlorophyll *a* and a minimum allowable concentration of dissolved oxygen in these streams. Florida has no regulatory thresholds for nitrogen or phosphorus in tidal creeks so trends are used to rate the creeks.

Chlorophyll a

Score: Pass

Units: mg/l	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High	0.1	0.1
Mean	0.0106	0.0099
Low	0.0026	0.0009
No. of Samples	35	217

Five-year Rolling Average

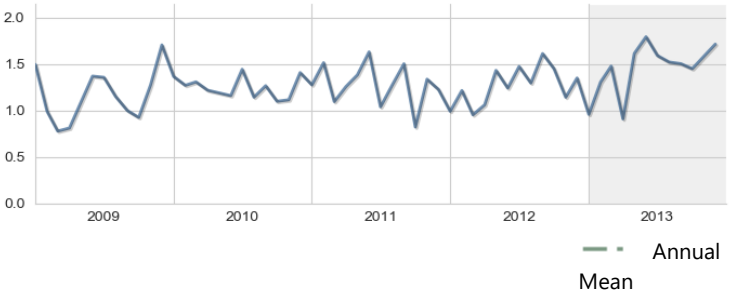


Nitrogen, Total

Score: Pass

Units: mg/l	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High	1.8	2.3
Mean	1.4089	1.2462
Low	0.907	0.16
No. of Samples	11	152

Five-year Rolling Average



Phosphorus, Total

Score: Pass

Units: mg/l	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High	0.5	0.9
Mean	0.2756	0.2777
Low	0.147	0.08
No. of Samples	35	261

Five-year Rolling Average



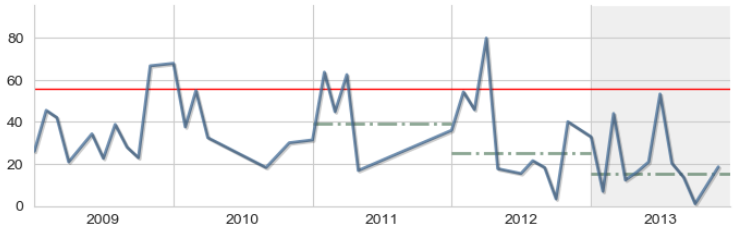
Dissolved Oxygen Saturation

Note: Low DO saturation also may be naturally influenced by inflows from nearby wetlands or groundwater sources

Score: Caution

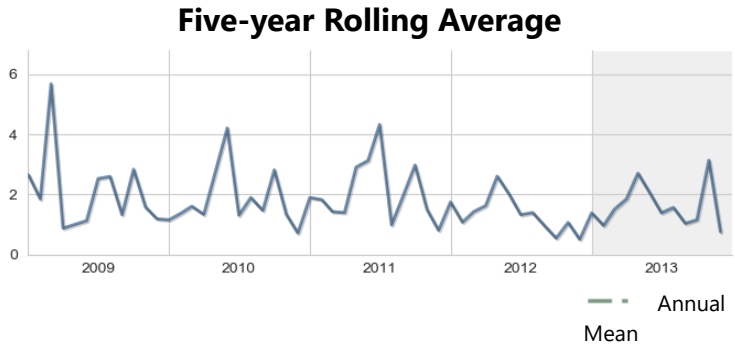
Units: percent (%)	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High	53.3	157.4
Mean	15.37	36.05
Low	1.00	1.00
No. of Samples	33	332

Five-year Rolling Average



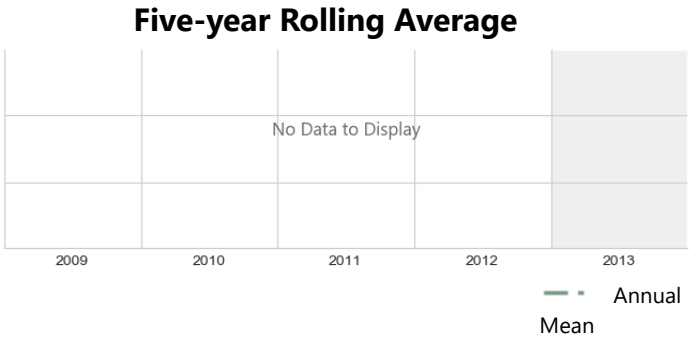
BOD, Biochemical oxygen demand

Units: mg/l	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High	3.1	8.9
Mean	1.46	1.64
Low	0.749	0.50
No. of Samples	35	198



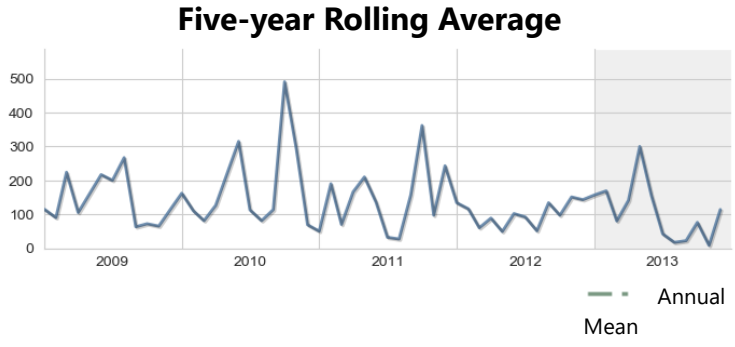
Color

Units: PCU	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High		300.0
Mean		63.13
Low		5.00
No. of Samples	0	133



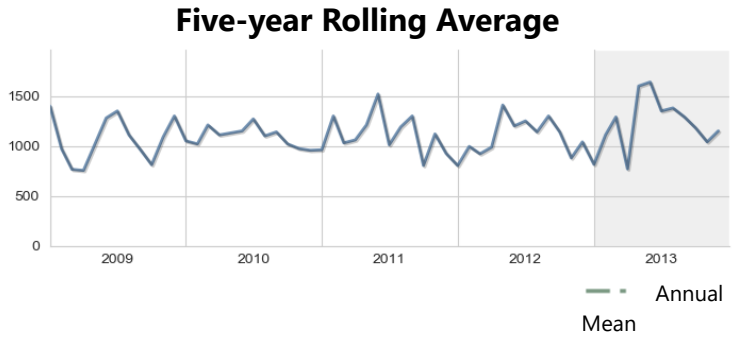
Nitrogen, Ammonia + Ammonium as N

Units: ug/l	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High	300.0	550.0
Mean	75.06	27.58
Low	8.00	0.1455
No. of Samples	35	312



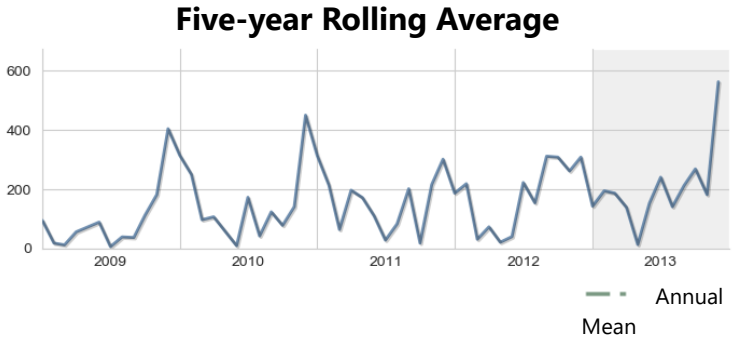
Nitrogen, Kjeldahl

Units: ug/l	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High	1,640.0	2,220.0
Mean	1193.48	1103.81
Low	769.00	50.00
No. of Samples	35	308



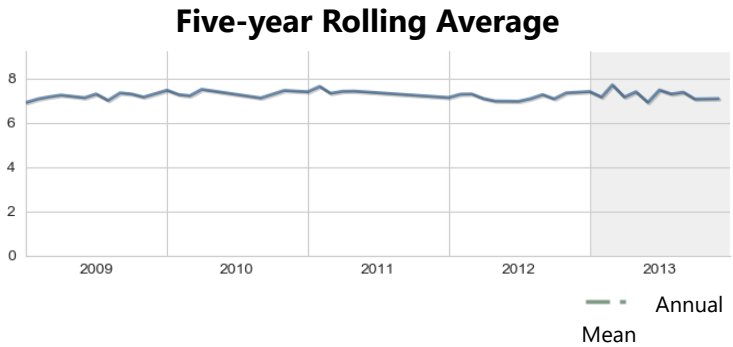
Nitrogen, Nitrite + Nitrate as N

Units: ug/l	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High	563.0	563.0
Mean	157.87	91.04
Low	12.00	0.00
No. of Samples	35	267



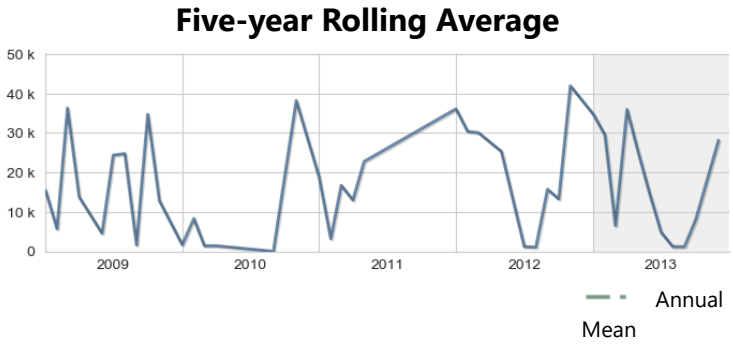
pH

Units: None	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High	7.7	8.8
Mean	7.27	7.46
Low	6.91	5.40
No. of Samples	33	318



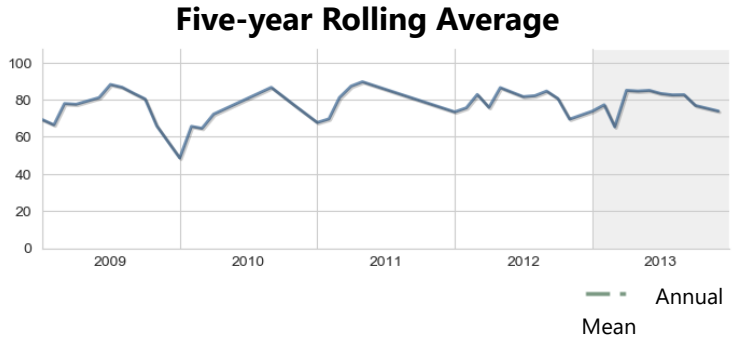
Specific conductance

Units: umho	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High	35,982.0	650,900.0
Mean	10291.38	12395.38
Low	1190.00	25.058
No. of Samples	33	386



Temperature, water

Units: deg F	Year 2013	Historical period of record
High	85.1	96.8
Mean	78.93	77.2
Low	65.354	48.56
No. of Samples	22	271

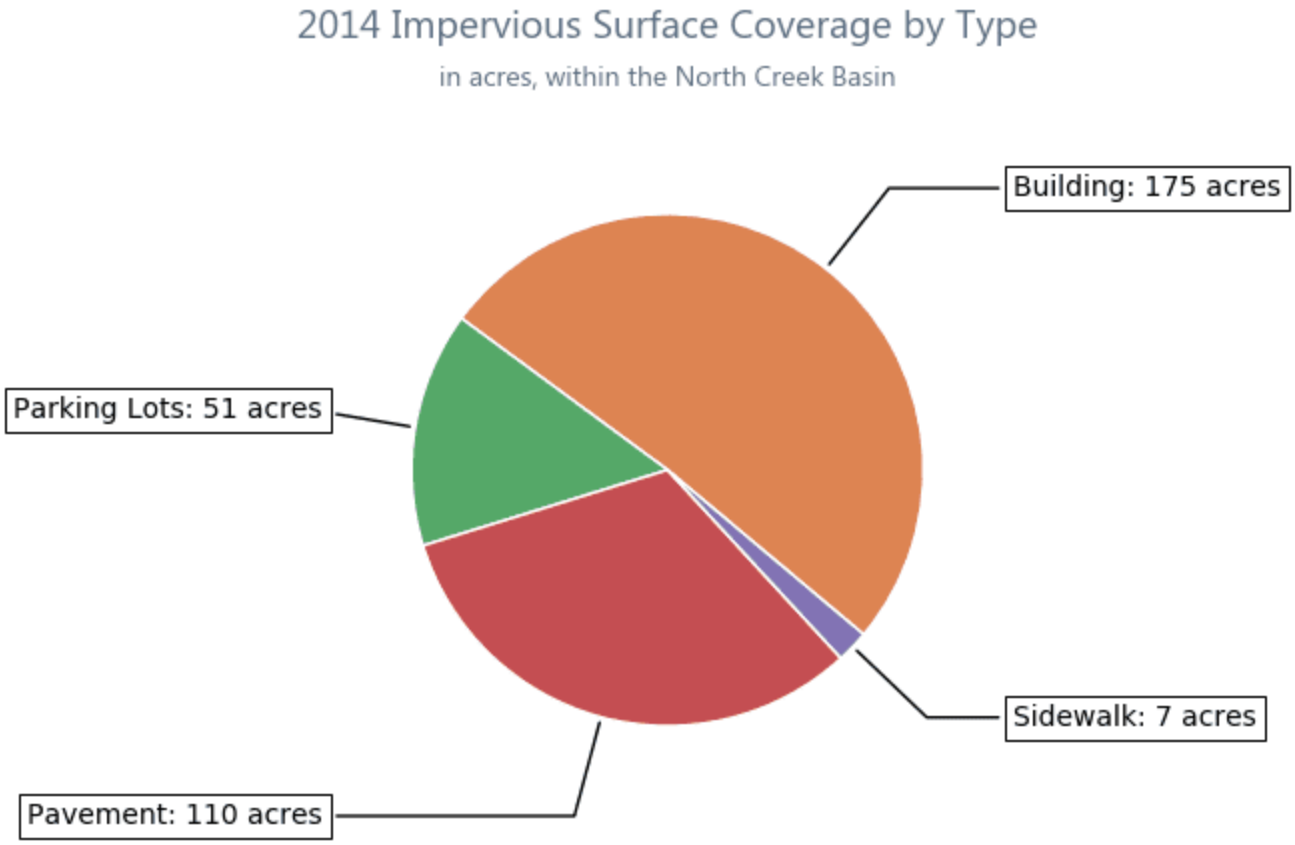


Impervious Features

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.



15% of the land area within the **North Creek Basin** is covered by impervious surfaces

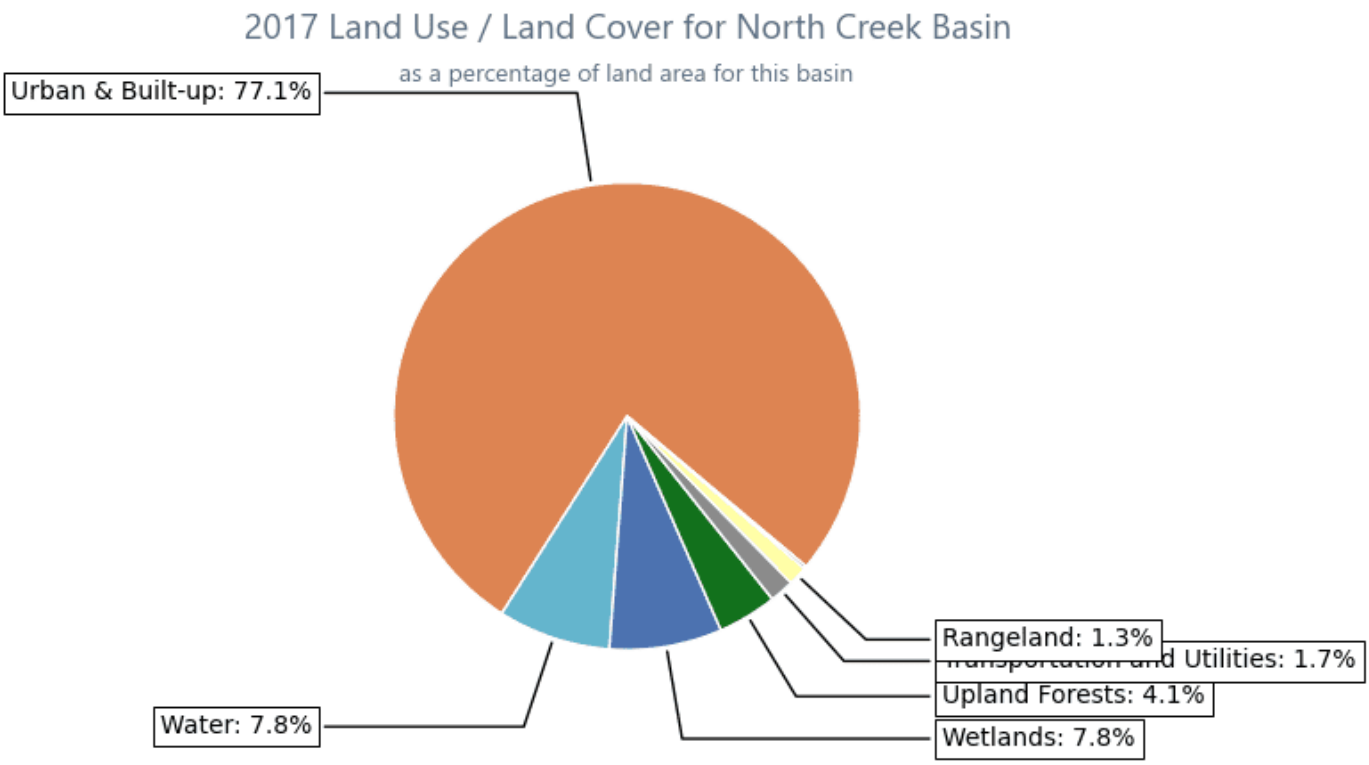


Land Use / Land Cover

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 North Creek Basin

Land Use Classification	1990	1995	1999	2005	2011	2014	2017	Trend
Urban & Built-up	1,074 46.2%	1,584 68.1%	1,652 71%	1,702 73.2%	1,699 73%	1,679 72.2%	1,795 77.1%	
Agriculture	79 3.4%	86 3.7%	18 0.8%	9 0.4%	4 0.2%	122 5.2%	4 0.2%	
Rangeland	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	75 3.2%	74 3.2%	20 0.9%	30 1.3%	
Upland Forests	845 36.3%	275 11.8%	277 11.9%	142 6.1%	141 6.1%	97 4.2%	94 4.1%	
Water	77 3.3%	161 6.9%	180 7.8%	180 7.7%	177 7.6%	177 7.6%	182 7.8%	
Wetlands	216 9.3%	201 8.6%	179 7.7%	178 7.7%	191 8.2%	191 8.2%	182 7.8%	
Barren Land	17 0.7%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 0%	0 0%	0 0%	
Transportation and Utilities	18 0.8%	20 0.8%	20 0.8%	40 1.7%	40 1.7%	40 1.7%	40 1.7%	


2017 Land Use / Land Cover for North Creek Basin
as a percentage of land area for this basin
Urban & Built-up: 77.1%
Rangeland: 1.3%
Utilities: 1.7%
Upland Forests: 4.1%
Wetlands: 7.8%
Water: 7.8%