North Creek Condition Report for 2018

CAUTION

Chl-a N P DO

2 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

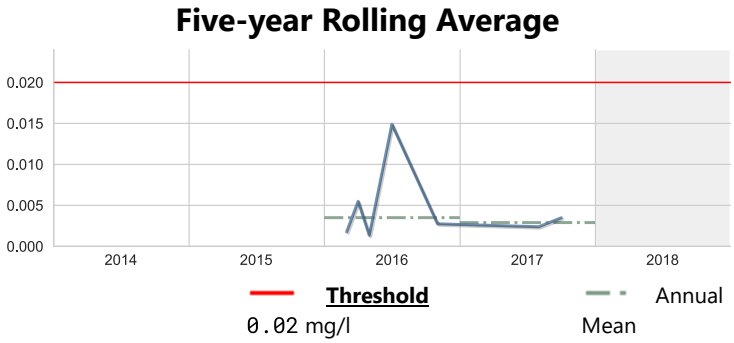


Water Chemistry Ratings | Freshwater Portion of the Creek

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.

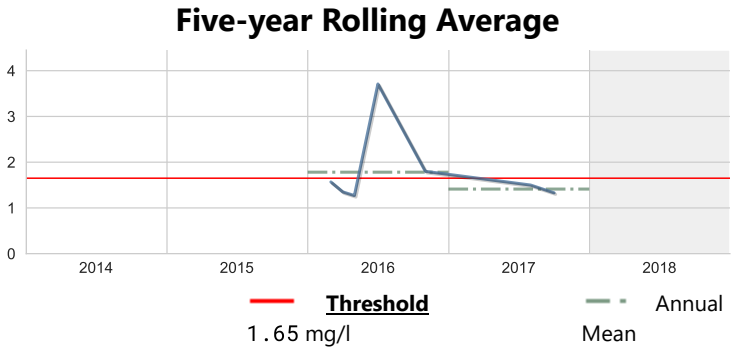
Chlorophyll a

Units: mg/l	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High		0.032
Mean		0.0028
Low		0.0009
No. of Samples	0	23



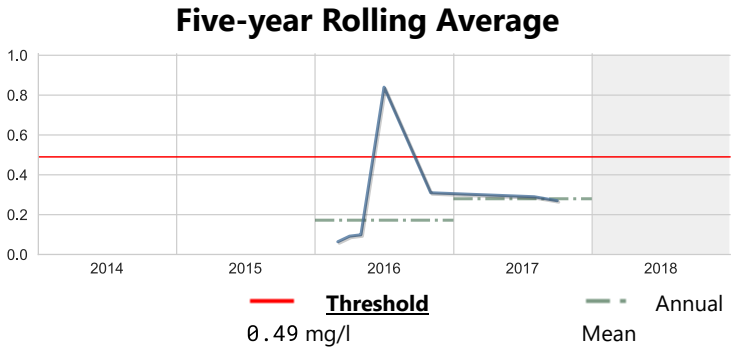
Nitrogen, Total

Units: mg/l	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High		3.71
Mean		1.5137
Low		1.106
No. of Samples	0	16



Phosphorus, Total

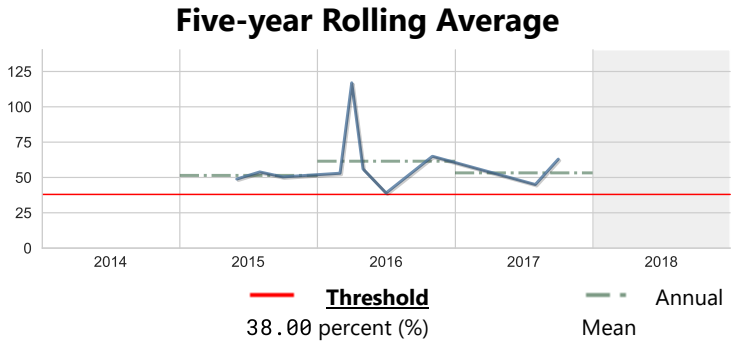
Units: mg/l	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High		2.70
Mean		0.1746
Low		0.041
No. of Samples	0	20



Dissolved Oxygen Saturation

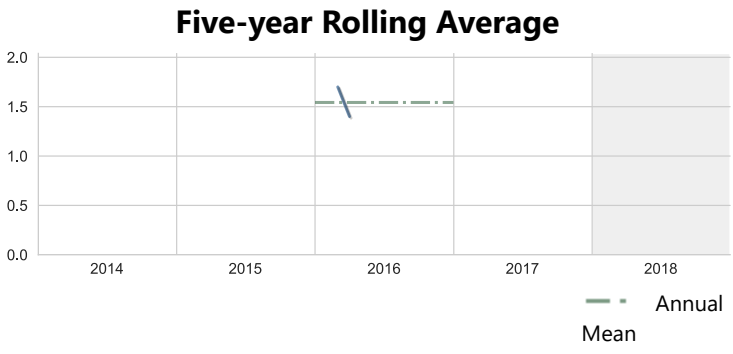
Note: Low DO saturation also may be naturally influenced by inflows from nearby wetlands or groundwater sources.

Units: percent (%)	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High		117.00
Mean		42.37
Low		10.70
No. of Samples	0	40



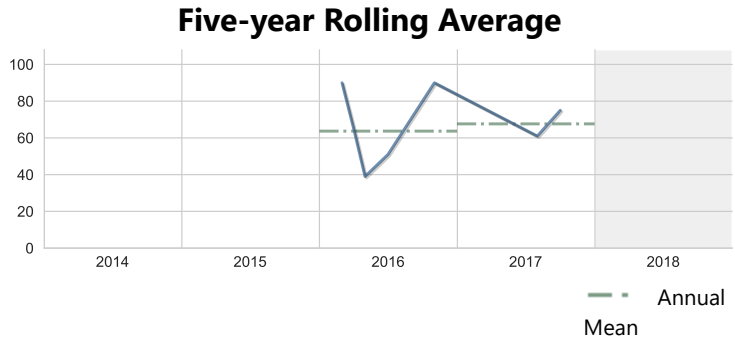
BOD, Biochemical oxygen demand

Units: mg/l	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High		1.70
Mean		1.54
Low		1.40
No. of Samples	0	2



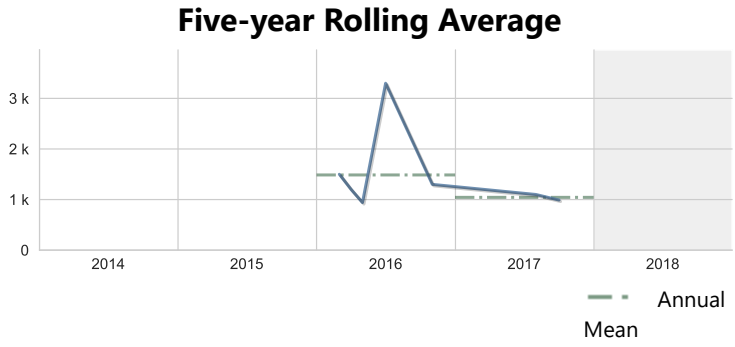
Nitrogen, Ammonia + Ammonium as N

Units: ug/l	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High		460.00
Mean		74.97
Low		18.00
No. of Samples	0	17



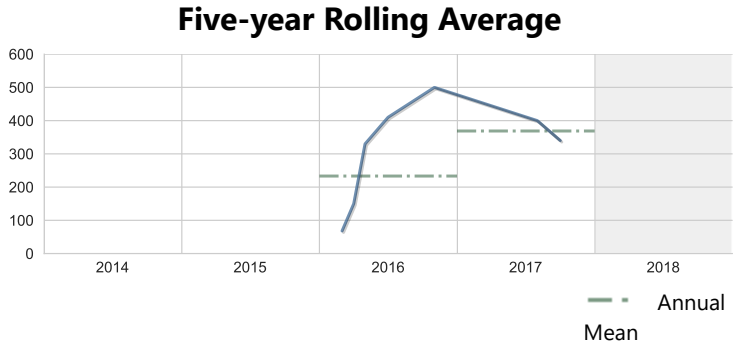
Nitrogen, Kjeldahl

Units: ug/l	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High		27000.00
Mean		1599.11
Low		940.00
No. of Samples	0	17



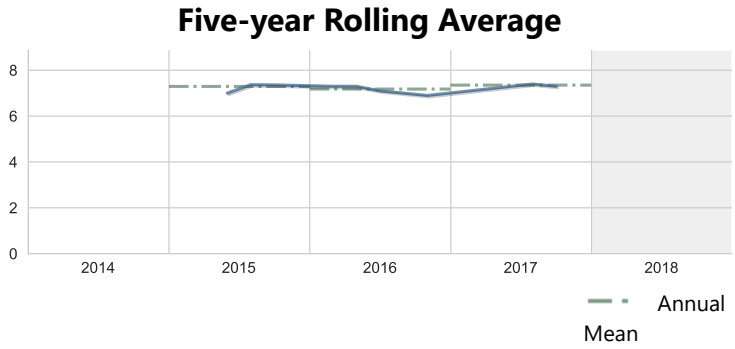
Nitrogen, Nitrite + Nitrate as N

Units: ug/l	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High		500.00
Mean		61.2
Low		4.00
No. of Samples	0	17



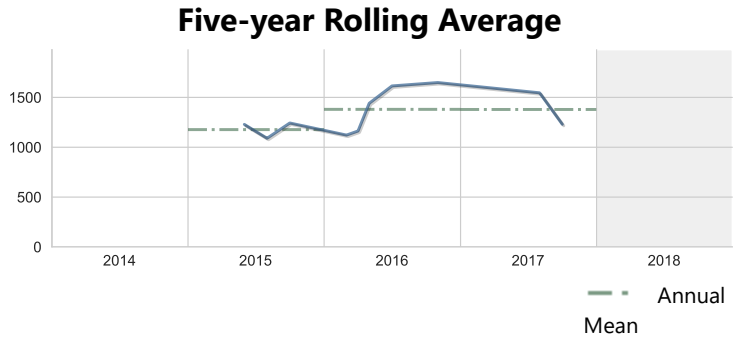
pH

Units: None	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High		7.51
Mean		7.26
Low		6.80
No. of Samples	0	40



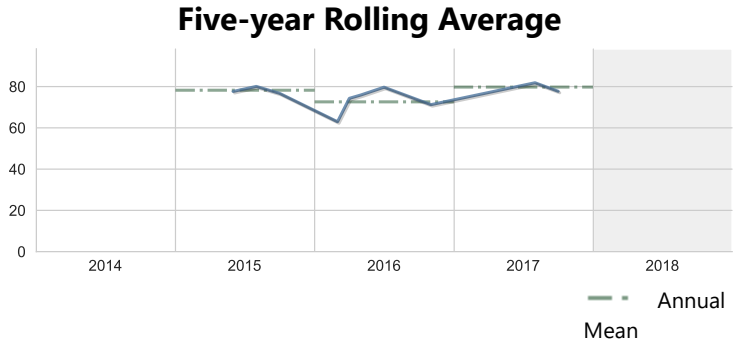
Specific conductance

Units: umho	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High		24590.00
Mean		1277.82
Low		328.00
No. of Samples	0	40



Temperature, water

Units: deg F	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High		85.028
Mean		75.28
Low		55.94
No. of Samples	0	40



Water Chemistry Ratings | Tidal Portion of the Creek

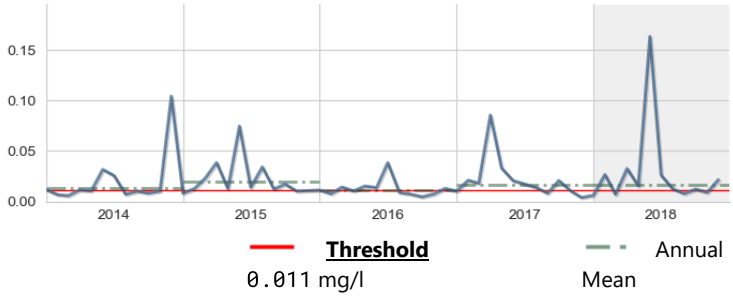
Creek Conditions Ratings are based on comparing nitrogen, phosphorus, chlorophyll and dissolved oxygen to water quality guidelines or regulations. Florida law defines a maximum allowable concentration of chlorophyll *a* and a minimum allowable concentration of dissolved oxygen in these streams. Florida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

Chlorophyll a

Score: Caution

Units: mg/l	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High	0.2	0.2
Mean	0.0169	0.0113
Low	0.0061	0.0009
No. of Samples	12	326

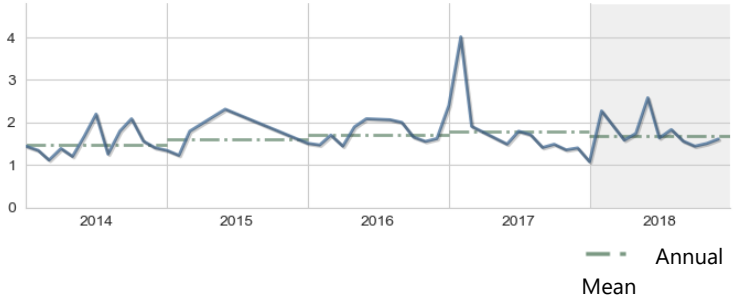
Five-year Rolling Average



Nitrogen, Total

Units: mg/l	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High	2.6	4.0
Mean	1.6675	1.3366
Low	1.072	0.16
No. of Samples	11	208

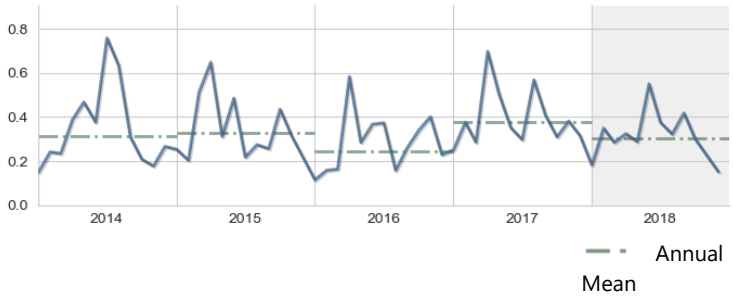
Five-year Rolling Average



Phosphorus, Total

Units: mg/l	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High	0.6	0.9
Mean	0.3047	0.2873
Low	0.151	0.08
No. of Samples	11	369

Five-year Rolling Average



DO

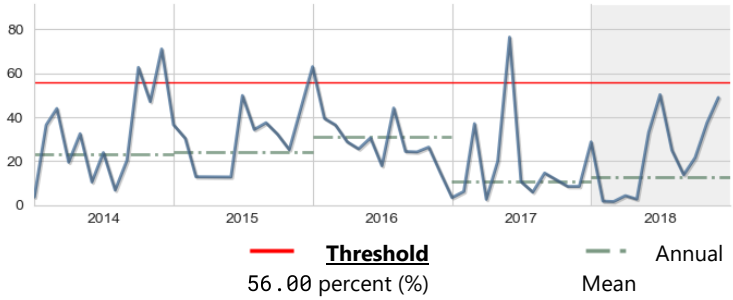
Dissolved Oxygen Saturation

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

Score: Caution

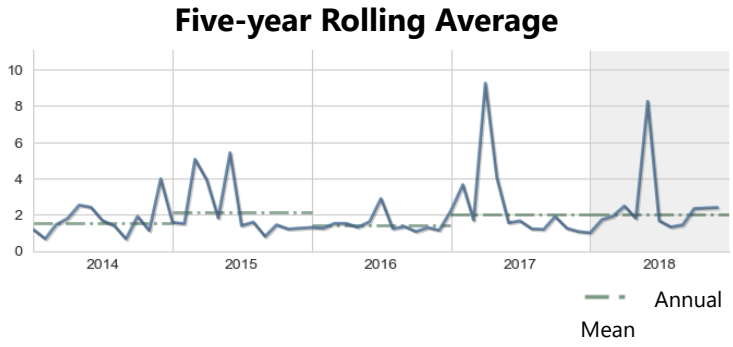
Units: percent (%)	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High	50.2	157.4
Mean	12.71	31.74
Low	1.50	1.00
No. of Samples	12	430

Five-year Rolling Average



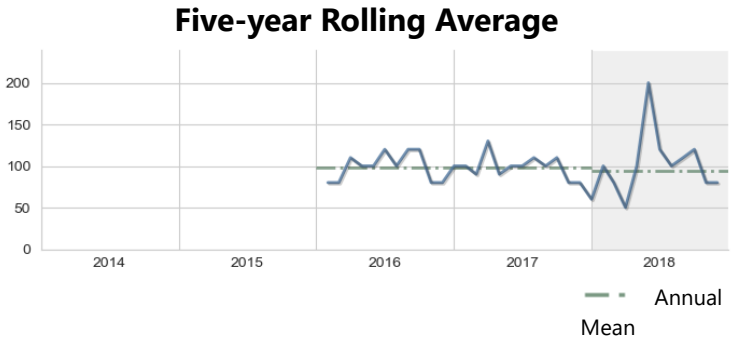
BOD, Biochemical oxygen demand

Units: mg/l	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High	8.3	9.3
Mean	2.01	1.67
Low	1.00	0.50
No. of Samples	11	306



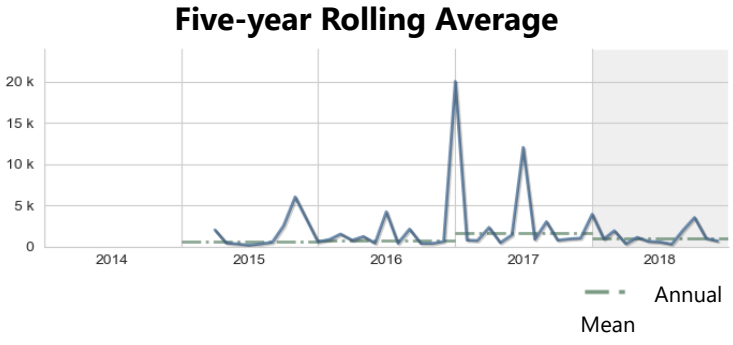
Color

Units: PCU	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High	200.0	300.0
Mean	94.17	69.0
Low	50.00	5.00
No. of Samples	12	168



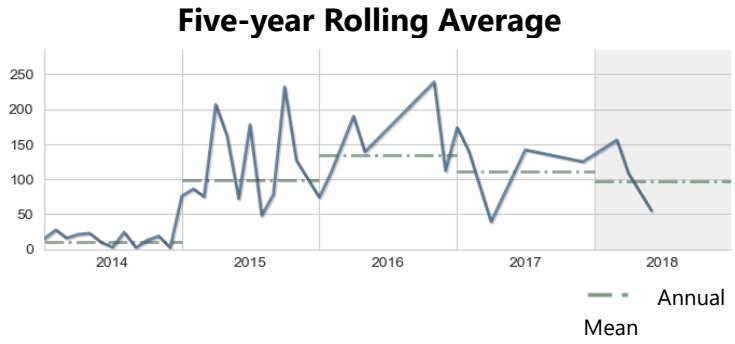
Enterococcus Group Bacteria

Units: cfu/100ml	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High	3,900.0	20,000.0
Mean	990.3	898.0
Low	270.00	130.00
No. of Samples	12	51



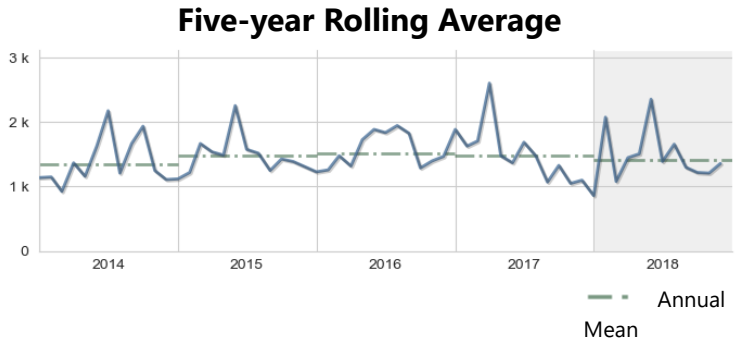
Nitrogen, Ammonia + Ammonium as N

Units: ug/l	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High	156.0	550.0
Mean	97.49	27.15
Low	55.00	0.008
No. of Samples	3	408



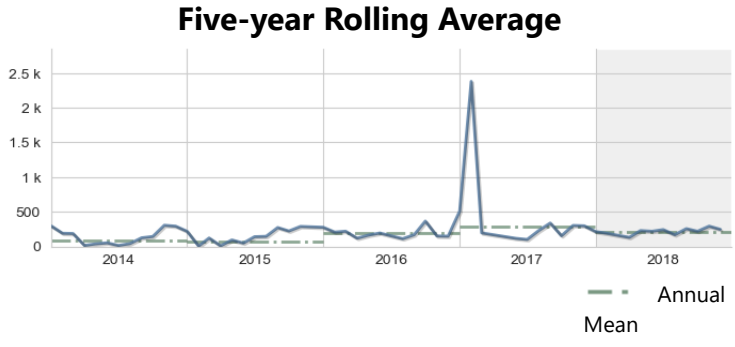
Nitrogen, Kjeldahl

Units: ug/l	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High	2,360.0	2,610.0
Mean	1406.72	1178.68
Low	859.00	50.00
No. of Samples	12	417



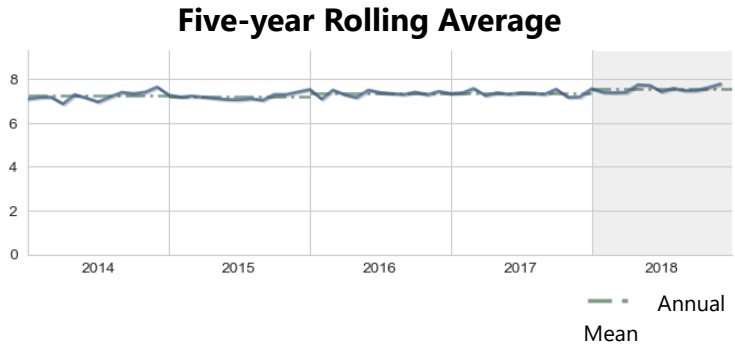
Nitrogen, Nitrite + Nitrate as N

Units: ug/l	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High	292.0	2,380.0
Mean	213.57	97.0
Low	130.00	0.00
No. of Samples	11	371



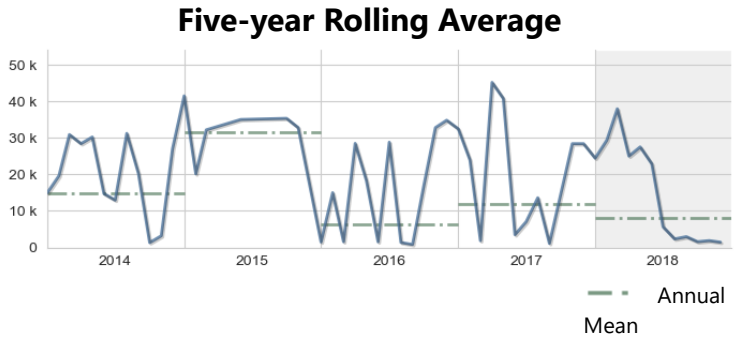
pH

Units: None	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High	8.0	8.8
Mean	7.55	7.42
Low	7.20	5.40
No. of Samples	23	450



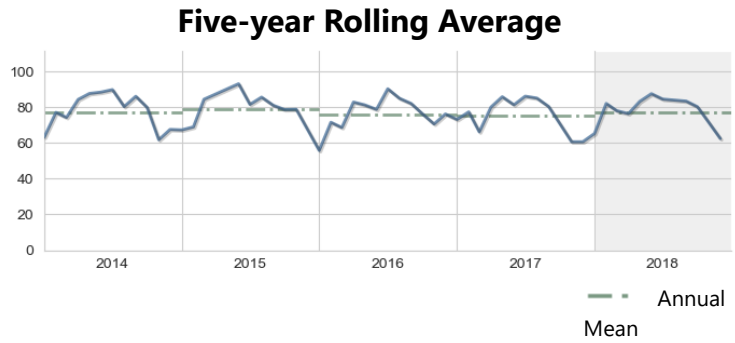
Specific conductance

Units: umho	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High	37,926.0	650,900.0
Mean	7993.81	12570.44
Low	1433.80	25.058
No. of Samples	12	481



Temperature, water

Units: deg F	Year 2018	Historical period of record
High	87.8	96.8
Mean	77.44	77.21
Low	62.564	48.56
No. of Samples	11	352

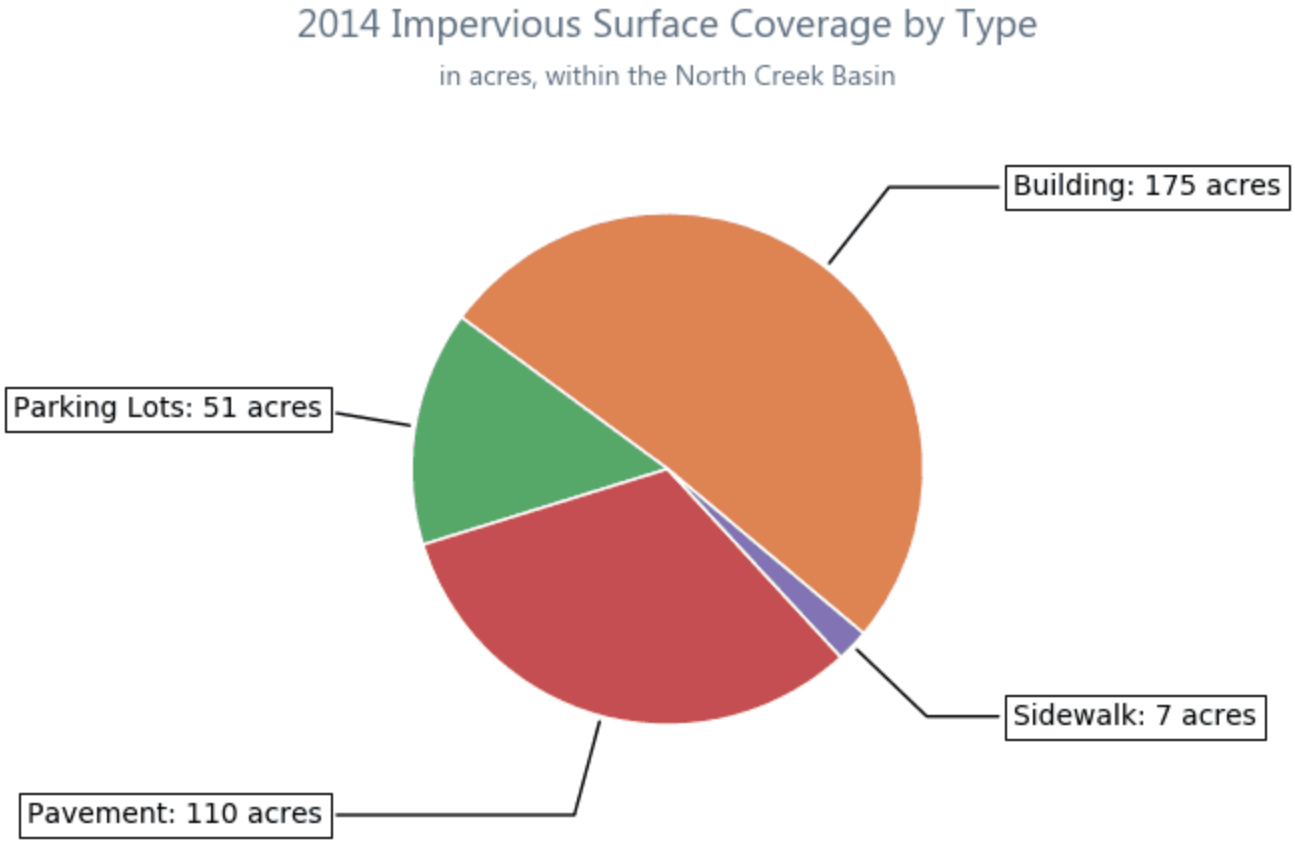


Impervious Features

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

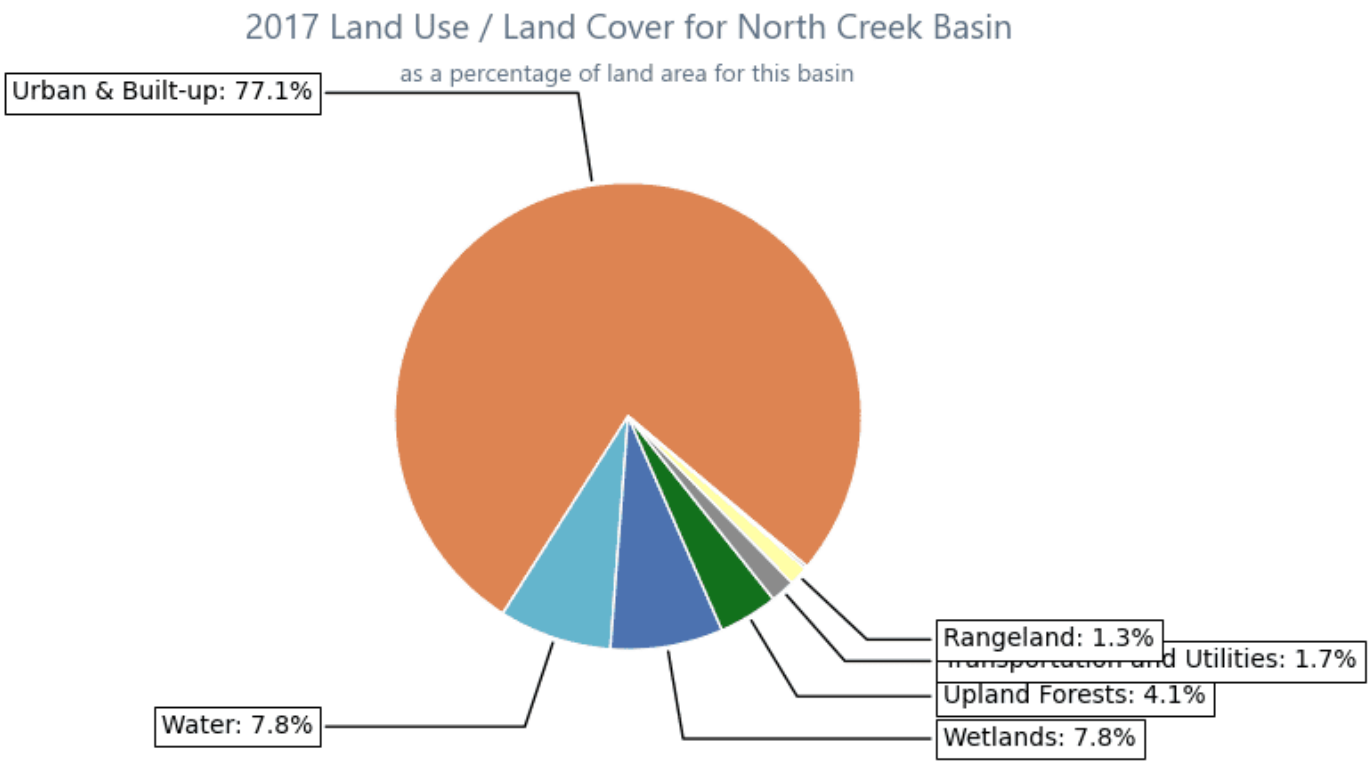


Land Use / Land Cover

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%