



City of Chattanooga
Water Quality Program



Welcome to the Citico Creek Watershed

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What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that water flows across on its way to a particular body of water such as a pond, stream, river or ocean. In Chattanooga, all of the watersheds drain to the Tennessee River.

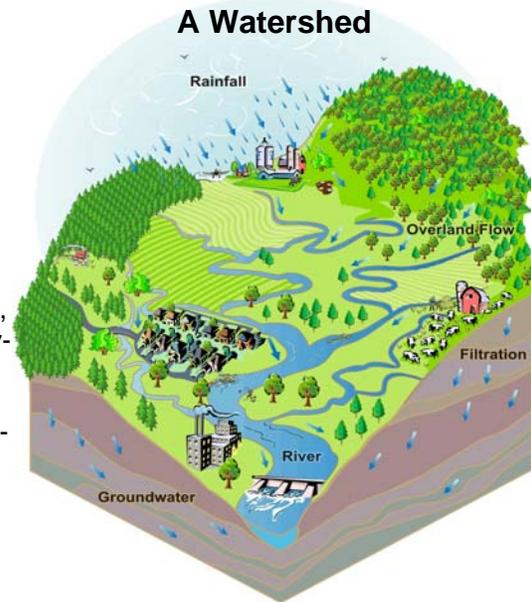
Watersheds:

- Collect and move rain water from a higher elevation to a lower one.
- Can potentially transport pollutants such as oil, grease, trash and dirt by way of stormwater runoff to the receiving water body.

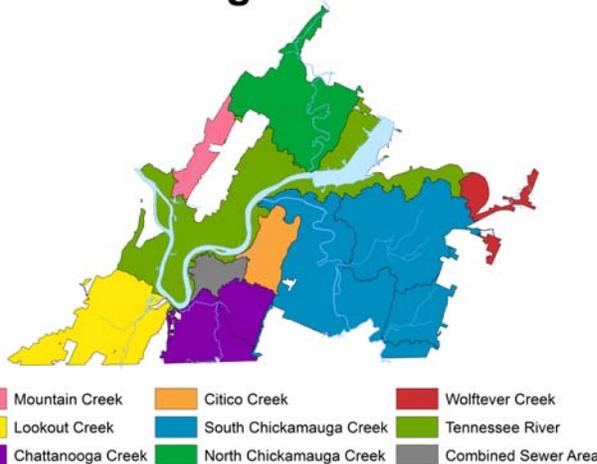
We all live in a watershed. The City of Chattanooga consists of 9 unique watersheds: Chattanooga Creek, Citico Creek, Combined Sewer Area, Lookout Creek, Mountain Creek, North Chickamauga Creek, South Chickamauga Creek, Tennessee River, and Wolftever Creek.

Where am I?

The Citico Creek Watershed is the only watershed that begins and ends inside the Chattanooga City limits. Citico Creek begins along the top of Missionary Ridge and meanders through neighborhoods (Bushtown, Churchville, Avondale and parts of East Chattanooga), commercial facilities, industrial facilities and a major railway classification station prior to discharging into the Tennessee River near the rowing station on Riverside Drive.



Chattanooga's Watersheds



Citico Creek Watershed Facts:

- Citico Creek is 14.6 miles long
- The watershed drains approximately 3,600 acres
- With a 1 inch rain, approximately 97,755,429 gallons of water discharge into the Tennessee River—equaling 1,955,109 baths.





Water Quality Issues in the Citico Creek Watershed

- Habitat Loss
- Pathogens
- Urban influences (i.e. trash, pet waste, grass clipping, motor oil, and gasoline)



What is the City doing to manage the water quality issues in the Citico Creek Watershed?

Stream Restoration —

The City in cooperation with the Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport and Parkridge Hospital, restored over 3,000 ft of Citico Creek from a rock-and-mortar system to a more natural stream channel. Restoring the channel improves the water quality, habitat condition, and ecological function.

Monitoring —

- A continuous field screening program is being used to detect illicit discharges and improper disposals into the storm-water system. Field screening involves testing chemical characteristics such as temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, phosphates, chlorine, detergents, phenol, copper, ammonia, and hydrogen sulfide. There are 26 field screening sites within the Citico Creek Watershed.
- The City also designed the Stream Corridor Evaluation (SCORE) program to provide a comprehensive and consistent approach to identify and evaluate stream channel stability, sediment loading, and in-stream habitat. In doing so, the Water Quality staff surveys all of the waterways within the City including the 14.6 miles of stream in the Citico Creek Watershed.

Pathogen Reduction —

The Water Quality Program has partnered with Moccasin Bend Waste Water Treatment Authority and implemented a Sanitary Lateral Assessment Program (SLAP) to identify breaks in the sanitary sewer lines in an effort to eliminate potential sources of pathogens from contaminating our waterways. A sewer lateral is the pipe that carries the wastewater from the house to the sanitary sewer main line in the street. The sewer laterals are inspected by putting smoke in a public sewer main and observing if the smoke is escaping from the ground; indicating a compromised sewer



What can I do to improve water quality in the Citico Creek Watershed?

- Maintain vehicles to reduce the discharge of oil and other motor fluids to the watershed.
- Wash cars in grassy areas to prevent runoff of washing chemicals into the storm drains.
- Do not discard your used motor oil, leaves, paint, or anything else into storm drains.
- To avoid blockages in your sanitary service line, pour grease and/or cooking oil in closed containers to be disposed of in your trash cans instead of in the sink.
- Pick-up after your pet to reduce pathogens in the watershed.
- Dispose of your grass clippings/wood debris through composting or the brush pick-up service offered by the City.
- Use mulch to control weeds instead of pesticides.

To report an illicit discharge: Call 311 or email: swm@chattanooga.gov

Additional Resources:

TN Department of Environment & Conservation (TDEC): www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/

Center for Watershed Protection: <http://www.cwp.org/>

