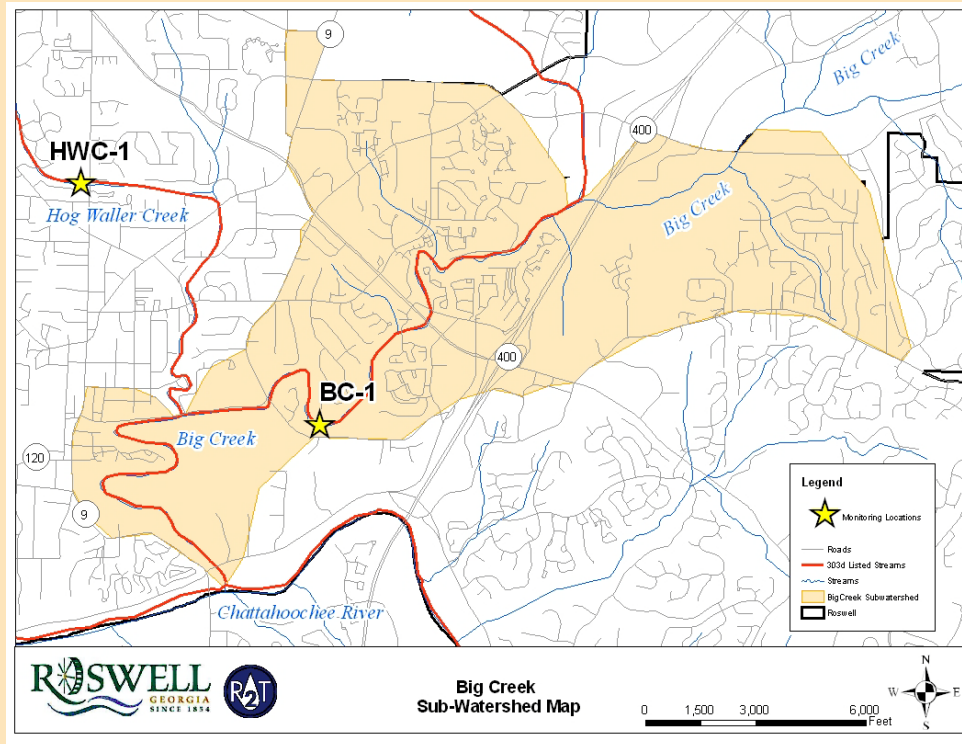


Roswell Stream Highlight - Big Creek



Big Creek

Big Creek is a tributary to the Chattahoochee River Basin and is also the drinking water source for a portion of the City of Roswell, located in the City of Roswell. Big Creek currently has elevated levels of bacteria specifically *fecal coliform* which are likely caused by the influence of urban runoff. Urban runoff can also cause stream bank failure as seen in the photo below. As residents of the City of Roswell, we can help to improve stream conditions and keep Big Creek clean.



During storm events, the stormwater flows from roof tops, lawns, roadways and collects pollutants and debris. The storm water then drains to the nearest creeks, rivers and lakes without any treatment or removal of the pollutants. The pollutants in Big Creek can be harmful to the ecosystem, and impact the fish and other aquatic life.

This is a picture of bank erosion along Big Creek. There are many small changes we can do to improve the water quality in Big Creek.

Top Ten tips we can do to improve Big Creek:

1. Minimize disturbance to the creek bank. Roots of indigenous plants will help stabilize the banks.
2. Dispose household grease (meat fats, cooking oil, butter and margarine, etc.), into the trash can. Avoid putting these products down the drain. These materials can clog pipes and could cause raw sewage to overflow from sewer manholes near Big Creek.
3. Check and maintain your septic system regularly. Failing septic systems can cause untreated sewage to leak into the groundwater which provides the base flow of Big Creek. Visit USEPA's website for additional guidance on septic system maintenance and care. <http://cfpub.epa.gov/owm/septic/index.cfm>
4. Leave a natural vegetative buffer along stream banks to prevent erosion and protect the stream. Consult the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Guidance for Streambank Restoration for replanting bare areas near the stream.
5. Remove old tires, litter and garbage from your property. Storm events can carry these materials to the creek or to the storm drain.
6. Clean up after fido! Pet waste contains harmful bacteria that can enter the stream water if not disposed of properly.
7. Avoid using fertilizer or pesticide during rainy season or when you are watering the property. If you do use them, never exceed the recommended amount. Do not use on windy days.
8. Never dump anything into a storm drain or drainage ditch. Avoid draining pool or spa water into the storm drain or creek. Always use the sanitary sewer system drain for such purposes.
9. Use cat litter to remove automotive spills from paved surfaces. After the litter absorbs the spill, sweep it up and discard in trash.
10. Use permeable surfaces such as grassy lawns or gravel lots to wash your car at home, if needed. Encourage the use of commercial car washes as the wastewater at these facilities is recycled.

We can do more to help Big Creek by reporting pollution to the WRD, Nick Pezzello at swmp@roswellgov.com or (770) 641-3707, such as illegal dumping, clogged and failed catch basins and outlets, potential contaminants, illicit discharges and connections, and sewer overflows, etc. For more information on preventing water pollution visit the Clean Water Campaign website. <http://www.cleanwatercampaign.com/>