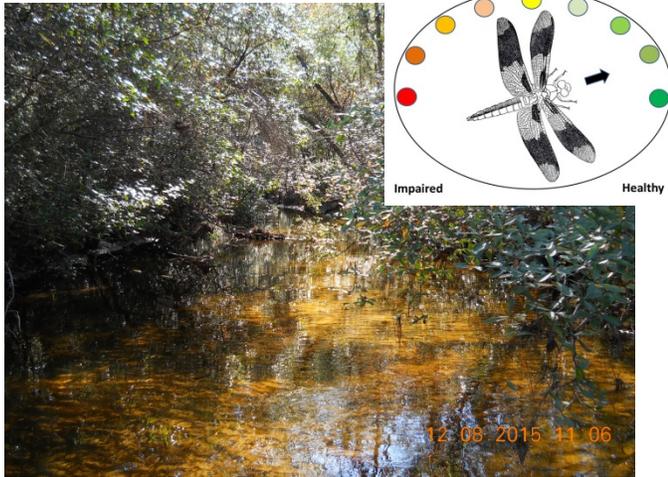


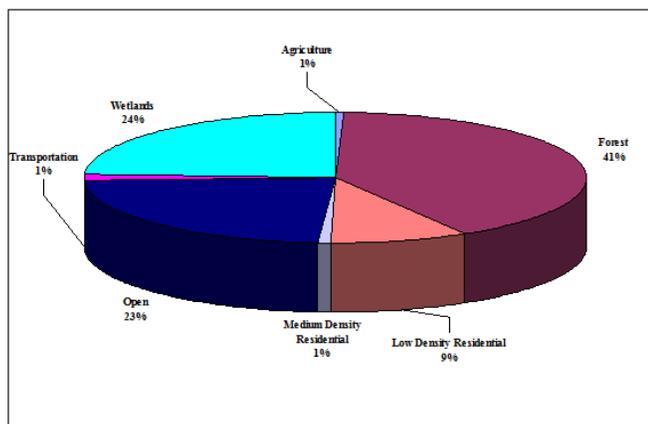
Waterbody: Harvey Creek



Basin: Ochlockonee River

Harvey Creek is a tannic, slightly acidic, phosphorus-limited stream that flows into Lake Talquin and is located in western Leon County.

While the following pie chart shows the majority of the 5,679 acre watershed is relatively undeveloped, residential, agricultural, and transportation land uses make up approximately 12% of the watershed. Increases in stormwater runoff and waterbody nutrient loads can often be attributed to these types of land uses.



Background

Healthy, well-balanced stream communities may be maintained with some level of human activity, but excessive human disturbance may result in waterbody degradation. Human stressors may include

increased inputs of nutrients, sediments, and/or other contaminants from watershed runoff, adverse hydrologic alterations, undesirable removal of habitat or riparian buffer vegetation, and introduction of exotic plants and animals. State water quality standards are designed to protect designated uses of the waters of the state (e.g., recreation, aquatic life, fish consumption), and exceedances of these standards are associated with interference of the designated use.

Methods

Surface water sampling was conducted to determine the health of Harvey Creek and met the collection and analysis requirements of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

Results

Nutrients

The nutrient thresholds and results are found in Table 1. According to FDEP requirements, Numeric Nutrient Criteria (expressed as an annual geometric mean) cannot be exceeded more than once in a three year period. The State criteria were not exceeded for either parameter.

Table 1. FDEP's total nitrogen and phosphorus criteria for streams applied to Harvey Creek.

Harvey Creek	Total Nitrogen Threshold 1.03 mg/L	Total Phosphorus Threshold 0.18 mg/L
2006	0.11	0.00
2007	0.17	0.00
2008	0.15	0.00
2009	0.15	0.00
2010	0.33	0.00

Harvey Creek	Total Nitrogen Threshold 1.03 mg/L	Total Phosphorus Threshold 0.18 mg/L
2011	0.43	0.01
2012	0.39	0.00
2013	0.21	0.00
2014	0.35	0.00
2015	0.22	0.01

[Click here for map of watershed – Sample site 39.](#)

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Fecal Coliforms and Escherichia coli

FDEP recently revised their bacterial standards and have stopped using the fecal coliform standard and started using the indicator organism *Escherichia coli*. As Figure 1 shows, *E. coli* levels exceeded the Class III water quality standard daily limit (126/100 mL in at least 10% of the samples or more during any 30 day period) twice in 2015. Since the watershed is relatively undeveloped, elevated bacteria levels are probably the result of wildlife in the area.

Conclusions

Based on ongoing sampling, Harvey Creek met the nutrient thresholds for the Big Bend Bioregion. Class III water quality standards for *E. coli* were exceeded twice in 2015. Since the watershed is relatively undeveloped, elevated bacteria levels are probably the result of wildlife in the area. Other water quality parameters appear to be normal.

Thank you for your interest in maintaining the quality of Leon County’s water resources. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Contact and resources for more information

www.LeonCountyFL.gov/WaterResources

[Click here to access the results for all water quality stations sampled in 2015.](#)

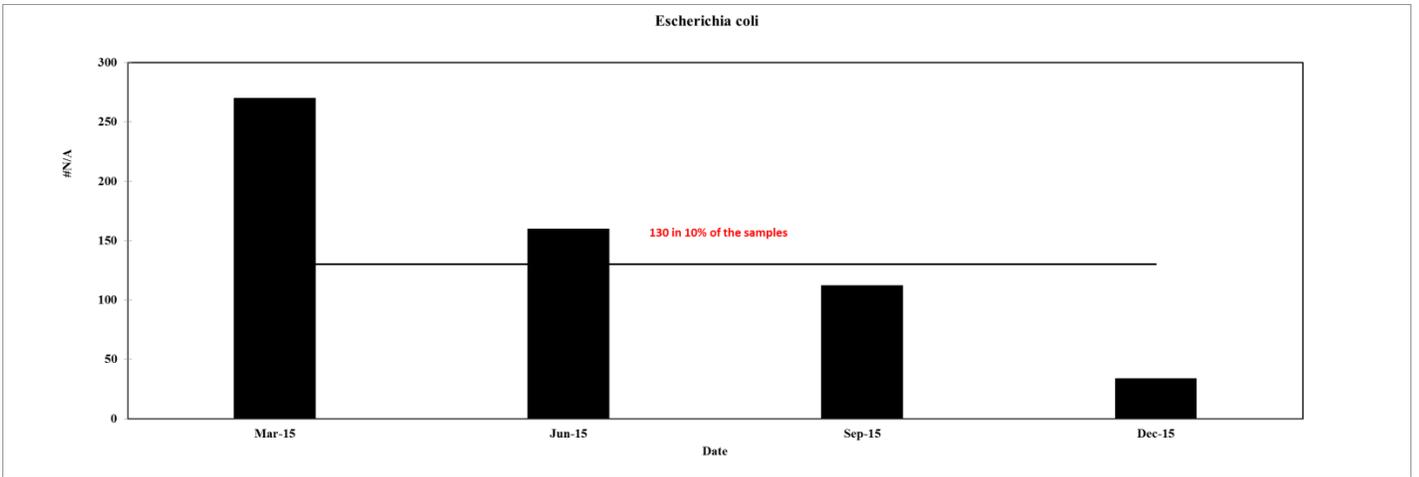


Figure 1. *E. coli* levels (2015).