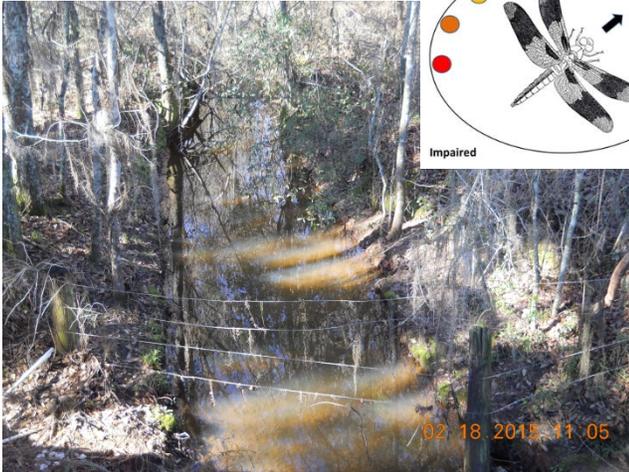


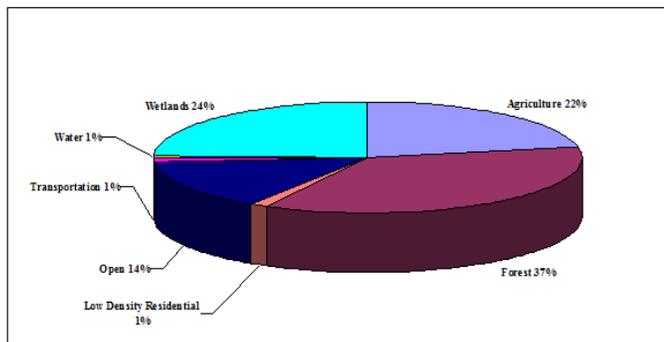
Waterbody: Dry Creek



Basin: Lake Miccosukee

Dry Creek is located in northeastern Leon County and flows into Lake Miccosukee.

As shown in the following pie chart, agricultural, residential, and transportation land uses account for approximately 24% of the 2,580 acre 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 Dry Creek and met the collection and analysis requirements of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

Results

Nutrients

According to FDEP requirements, Numeric Nutrient Criteria (NNC) (expressed as an annual geometric mean) cannot be exceeded more than once in a three year period. Due to low water conditions, four temporally independent samples per year have never been collected from this station. Even though staff was not able to collect the required amount of samples per calendar year, some conclusions can be made. Based on 15 samples (collected 2007-2015) the geometric mean of total phosphorus (0.06 mg/L), and total nitrogen (0.28 mg/L) would meet NNC criteria. Based on the one sample collected in 2015, total nitrogen (0.23 mg/L) and total phosphorus (0.04 mg/L) met the NNC.

Turbidity

The orange clay sediment that is often on the bottom of Dry Creek is the result of excessive sediment runoff from Old Magnolia Road. Sediment can coat the bottom of a streambed, filling pools, and covering natural habitat of species that live in and utilize the creek for resources. Suspended sediment can also reduce visibility, as shown by the elevated turbidity levels in July 2013 (15.1 NTU). While these levels do not exceed Class III water quality standards (average is 8.8 NTU), it is probable that the sediment is causing clarity issues in Dry Creek. Sediment runoff is not evident further upstream.

Other Parameters

Other water quality parameters appear to be normal for the area and no other impairments were noted.

Conclusions

Based on the samples that staff were able to collect, it appears that Dry Creek would meet the NNC criteria. Elevated turbidity levels in July 2013 did not exceed Class III water quality standards, but excessive sediment is causing clarity issues in Dry Creek. Other water quality parameters appear to be normal for the area and no other impairments were noted.

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.](#)

[Click here for map of watershed – Sample Site 11.](#)

Johnny Richardson, Water Resource Scientist
(850) 606-1500

Richardsonjo@leoncountyfl.gov