



City of Chattanooga
Water Quality Program



Welcome to the Lookout Creek Watershed

- To report illicit discharges (water pollution) call (423) 643-6311
- Visit our website www.chattanooga.gov/waterquality

Public Works Administrator
Justin Holland

Assistant City Engineer
Jim Luebbering

Water Quality Manager
Mounir Minkara

Water Quality Supervisors
Don Green
Rebecca Robinson
Public Information Specialist
Kimberly Strong

1250 Market Street
Suite 2100

Chattanooga, TN 37402
ChattanoogaWQ@chattanooga.gov

Phone: 423-643-5877

Fax: 423-643-5862

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 the watersheds drain to the Tennessee River.

Watersheds:

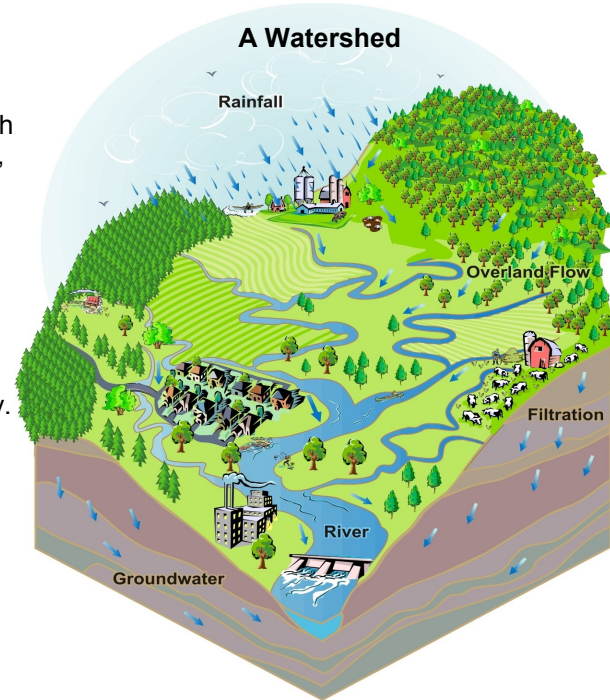
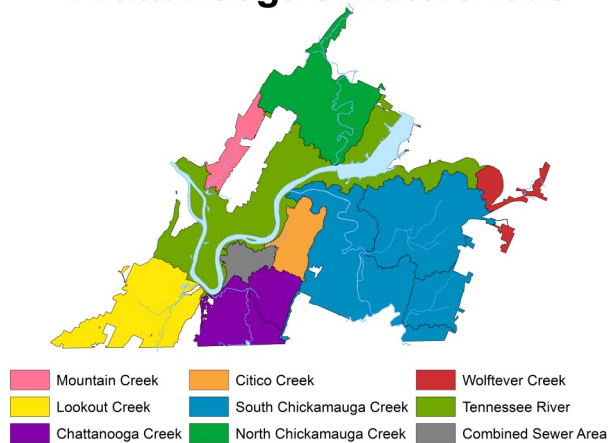
- Collect and move rain water from a higher elevation to a lower one.
- Can potentially transport pollutants such as oil, grease, trash and dirt by way of stormwater runoff to the receiving water body.

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?

There have been 28 different species of fish identified in the Lookout Creek Watershed. This watershed is home to the Incline Railway and Ruby Falls. The Civil War Battle of Lookout Mountain was fought in 1863.

Chattanooga's Watersheds



Lookout Creek Watershed Facts:

- The watershed drains almost 9,956 acres of south Chattanooga.
- Mountain Creek meanders approximately 13 miles through the City of Chattanooga
- With a 1 inch rain, nearly 270,348,069 gallons of water discharge into the Tennessee River equaling 5,406,961 baths.

Wow- that's a lot of water!



Water Quality Issues in the Lookout 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 Lookout Creek Watershed?

Monitoring —

- A continuous field screening program is being used to detect illicit discharges and improper disposals into the stormwater 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 54 field screening sites within the Lookout 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 12.8 miles of stream in the Lookout Creek Watershed.
- In addition to the other monitoring activities, there is an automatic sampler located in the Black Creek Section of the Lookout Creek Watershed which is used for ambient sampling.

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 Lookout 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.

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/>

