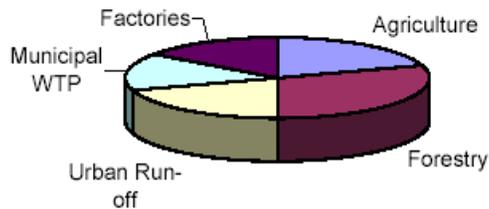


What is an Impaired Water?

Every waterbody in the State of Georgia has one or more designated uses. Examples of designated uses are “fishing”, “recreation” and “drinking water”. The State has adopted water quality criteria to protect these uses. Georgia EPD determines whether a waterbody is supporting its designated uses by collecting water quality data and comparing this data against the water quality criteria.

The areas in red on the map on the adjacent page are all designated as “not supporting” for the pollutant listed in the corresponding key. Rockdale County monitors these waterbodies and continually attempts to decrease pollutant loads.



<http://epd.georgia.gov/final-total-maximum-daily-loadings-tmdl>

The above figure shows likely sources of stormwater pollution which flows into Rockdale County's rivers, lakes and streams. These pollutants contribute to the maximum load a waterbody can safely handle.

What is Fecal Coliform Bacteria and How is it in Our Waters?

Fecal Coliform (FC) are a group of bacteria found in the feces of warm-blooded animals such as people, livestock, pets and wildlife. FC contamination often comes from many small sources, such as, improper management of on-site septic systems, livestock waste and pet waste, as well as our sanitary practices when we are camping and hiking. Wildlife and birds also contribute. Whatever the source, as the amount of FC bacteria in water increases, the risk to public health also rises.

The goal of Georgia and Rockdale County is to keep the bacteria levels within a range considered safe for human health.

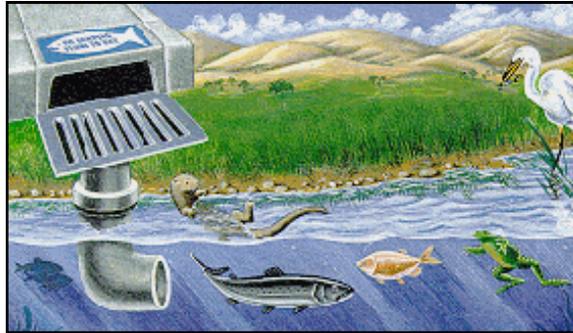
What is Stormwater Runoff?

Every time it rains some of the water seeps into the ground, but some of the water is unable to and becomes “stormwater runoff”.

Developed areas increase the amount of surfaces (i.e., driveways, parking lots, roofs, roads) that prevent water from soaking into the ground.

Drop by drop, water is channeled into soils, groundwater or the storm sewer system making its way to creeks, wetlands, lakes, rivers and eventually the Atlantic Ocean.

Rockdale County has traditionally managed stormwater runoff by collecting and channeling it through its storm sewer system: catch basins on the side of roadways, pipes, junction boxes, ponds, etc.



The above figure illustrates that stormwater runoff travels from a roadside catch basin to an underground pipe. Once inside the pipe, the water travels to the closest waterbody, such as a creek, stream, lake and river.

What Can You Do to Decrease Fecal Coliform Bacteria from Rivers, Lakes and Streams?

- Have on-site septic system tested and pumped regularly
- Don't allow livestock to drink directly from stream
- Bag pet waste and put in garbage
- When camping or hiking, bury waste away from water and at least six inches deep
- When RV camping or boating, empty holding tanks at an approved dump station



Rockdale County Department of Planning and Development

Stormwater Utility



*Help with Water Quality and
Aquatic Habitat Health!*

**Administration & Services Building
958 Milstead Avenue
Conyers, Georgia 30012**

**Office: 770-278-7100
After Hours: 770-278-7145**

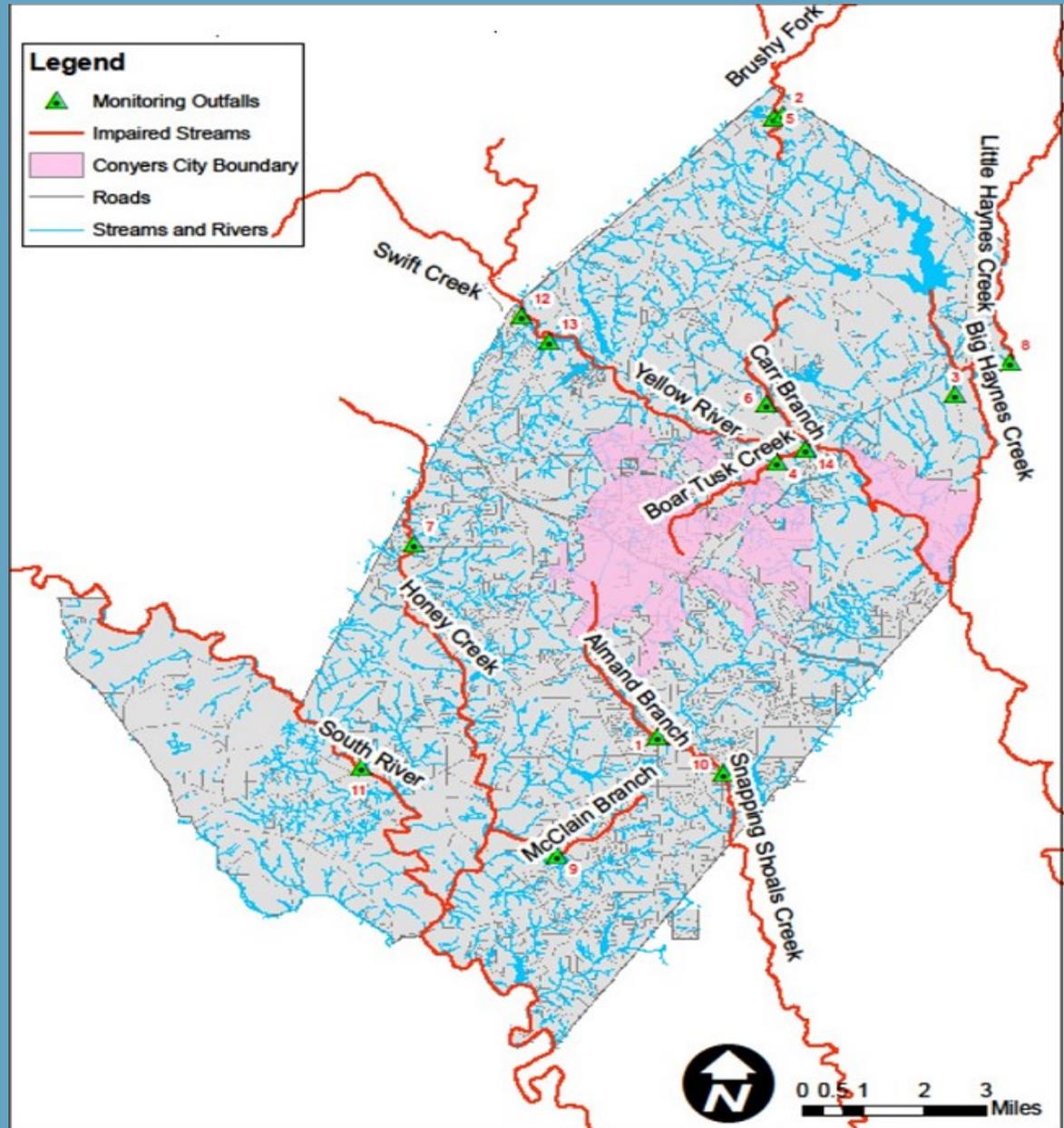
**Email: rcswu@rockdalecountyga.gov
Website: www.rockdalecountyga.gov**

Locations of Impaired Reaches and Pollutant of Concern

The federal Clean Water Act requires each state to maintain a list of waters that do not meet water quality standards. Water quality standards are allowable pollutant levels for rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) determines whether a waterbody is supporting its designated uses by testing the water. For instance, the state has determined that for a water to support its use of fishing, it must have a daily average dissolved oxygen concentration of at least 5.0 mg/l and a minimum of 4.0 mg/l. Some other examples of parameters that have a water quality criteria are pH, fecal coliform bacteria, temperature, metals and sediment.

Reach Name	Location	Pollutant
Almand Branch	Tanyard Branch to Snapping Shoals	FC
Big Haynes Creek	Brushy Fork Creek to Little Panther Creek	FC
Big Haynes Creek	Little Haynes Creek to Yellow River	FC
Boar Tusk Creek	Headwaters to Yellow River	pH
Carr Branch	Headwaters to Yellow River	Bio F
Honey Creek	Headwaters to South River	FC
Little Haynes Creek	Hwy 20 to Big Haynes Creek	FC
McClain Branch	Headwaters to Honey Creek	FC
Snapping Shoals Creek	Almand Branch to South River	FC, Bio F
South River	Pole Bridge Creek to Hwy 20	FC, FCG(PCBs)
Yellow River	Centerville Creek to Hammock Creek	FC/Cu
Yellow River	Hammock Creek to Big Haynes Creek	FC

Where are the Impaired Waters in Rockdale County?



FC= Fecal Coliform Bacteria

FCG(PCBs)= Fish Consumption Guidelines for PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyl)

Biota F= Biota Impacted for Fish Community caused by excessive sediment

Cu= Copper

pH= Acidity or Alkalinity