

# Initiative for Watershed Excellence



- Upper Altamaha Pilot
- UGA River Basin Center

# UGA River Basin Center

[www.rivercenter.uga.edu](http://www.rivercenter.uga.edu)

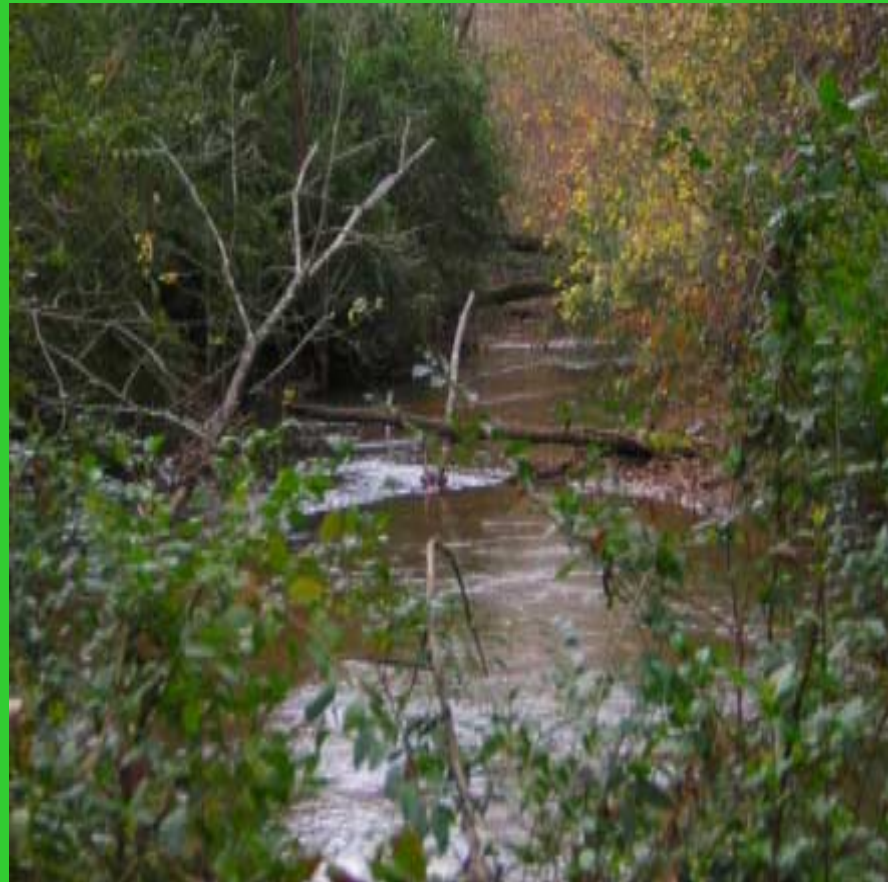
Mission: To integrate science and policymaking  
at an international, national and local level



# Clean Water Act

## 319 funds

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)
- Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA-EPD)



# Consortium coordinated by UGA River Basin Center



- Regional Dev. Centers
- Cooperative Extension
- Agency folks
- Partner schools
  - Gainesville College
  - Mercer University
  - Fort Valley
  - Georgia College and State University

# Mission

“Provide technical, organizational and legal assistance to stakeholder groups in order to increase their capacity to enhance and protect water quality.”



# Public Service and Outreach

- Student service learning
- Community participation
- Sharing of technical expertise



# Oconee and Ocmulgee Rivers



# Physiographic provinces



# Biological heritage



- Fish
  - Altamaha Shiner
  - Robust Redhorse
- Macroinvertebrates
- Birds
- Riparian habitats

# Cultural heritage

- Jobs
- Recreation
- Tourism
- ‘Way of life’



# Land Use



- Oconee and Ocmulgee
  - Urban/sub-urban
  - Farming
  - Forestry

# Diversity

Cultural

Socio-economic

Political

Educational

Biological



# Project Goals

- Provide tools for local stakeholders
- Help communities identify problems and develop local solutions
- Focus on TMDL listed streams
- Strengthen network of students, staff and faculty at UGA and member colleges and universities

# Participants

- Citizen stakeholders
- Local and regional government officials
- Non-governmental organizations
- Business interests



# Project areas

- GIS (Geographic Information Systems)
- Economics
- Greenspace preservation
- Septic management
- Ordinance development
- Fish passage
- Watershed awareness
- Monitoring
- Training
- Funding
- Restoration
- Watershed Plan development

# High Priority areas

- Economics – H
- Watershed Plan development – H
- TMDL implementation (restoration) – H
- Funding – H
- Onsite sewage & sewer – H
- Ordinance R&D – H
- Training – partner with other agencies
- Watershed Awareness & Education – H

