

UGA River Basin Center Initiative for Watershed Excellence: Upper Altamaha Pilot

This is a Public Service and Outreach project of the University of Georgia River Basin Center. Students at UGA and the partner institutions will have the unique opportunity to work directly with communities to protect water quality.

Overall Goals of the Initiative:

- Provide hands-on, practical products and services to promote the growth of, and increase the capacity of, local stakeholders committed to improving or maintaining the natural and economic resources of their watersheds.
- Help communities identify watershed-based problems, and develop and implement locally sustainable solutions.
- Focus efforts on the restoration of TMDL listed streams and particularly those listed for biota, habitat and sediment.
- Provide outstanding customer service and be seen as a central watershed resource for watershed planning and management assistance.
- Draw upon expertise of faculty as well as graduate and undergraduate students of its member colleges and universities, building the capacity of these academic institutions to teach environmental management to traditional and non-traditional students.

Project Objectives:

- To promote the development and growth of local stakeholder involvement in improving or maintaining the natural and economic resources of their watershed.
- To provide residents with information on the quality of the natural resources of their community and possible stresses that may lead to their degradation through workshops, newspaper articles and other mass-interest publications.
- To aid communities in developing and implementing local solutions once they have determined the problems that threaten their economic and/or environmental sustainability. This includes developing cost-effective tools and products associated with watershed management approaches.
- To provide training and technical assistance to local and regional government officials and staff, nongovernmental organizations, business interests and other stakeholders on topics of watershed concern.
- To draw upon other local, state, and federal resources and expertise to avoid duplication of efforts and maximum effective investment in the watershed.

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