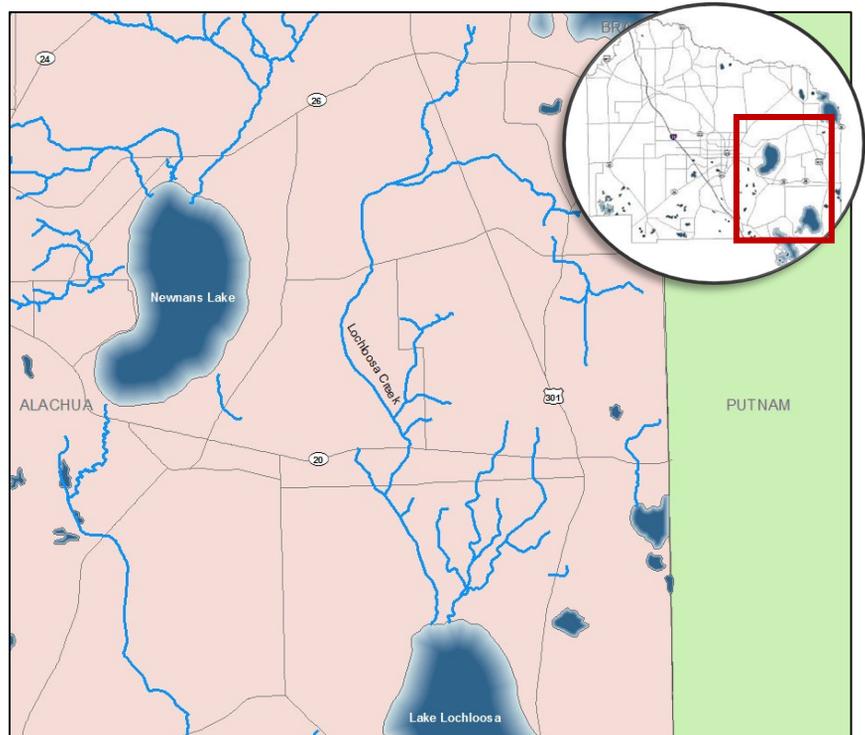




Lochloosa Creek Fact Sheet

The Watershed

- Lochloosa Creek watershed spans 42.7 square miles.
- Lochloosa Creek is Lochloosa Lake's largest tributary.
- The Lochloosa Creek watershed is composed mainly of natural and silvicultural land uses with some low density residential land use.



Map of Lochloosa Creek watershed.

Potential Pollution

- Agricultural operations may contribute fertilizers and/or animal waste.
- Naturally occurring phosphorus from the Hawthorne Group formations may contribute to elevated phosphorus levels due to cutting and scour.
- Failing septic systems, failing wastewater infrastructure, wildlife and pets, all introduce fecal material which is a source of nitrogen, phosphorus, and fecal coliform bacteria.



Bridge over Lochloosa Creek.

In-Stream Biology

Biological surveys of Lochloosa Creek were conducted in 2014, with both sites (Little Lochloosa Creek and Lochloosa Creek near Fishcamp Road) scoring Healthy for macroinvertebrate assessments. This was similar to the 2009 and 2013 assessments, though in 2013 less Ephemeroptera (mayfly) taxa were identified. There was a low observed number of mayflies, caddisflies (Trichoptera), long-lived taxa, and clinger taxa. This and a low dissolved oxygen content may be attributed to the creek's intermittent flow.

Water Quality

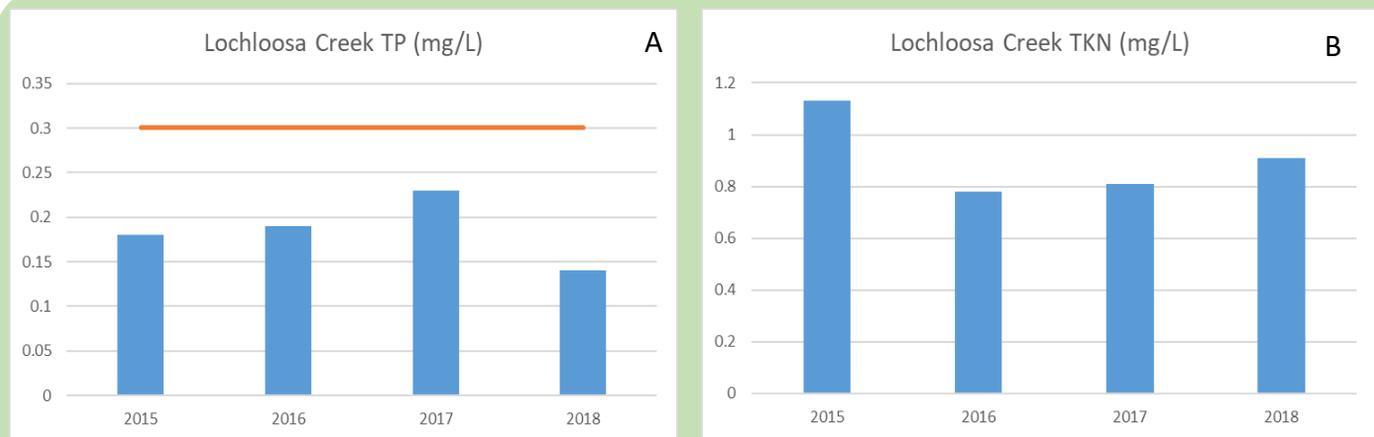


Figure 1. Annual geometric mean of A) total phosphorus (TP) and B) total nitrogen (TN). Data compiled from SJRWMD.

Nutrients: The FDEP water quality rule on nutrient standards went into effect February 2016. The Numeric Nutrient Criteria (NNC) for TP is denoted by orange line. Potential phosphorus sources are the erosion of phosphorus rich soils that compose the Hawthorn clays which underlay the stream bed and residential inputs of phosphorus fertilizer.

Current Human Impacts

- Agricultural fertilization and animal waste could contribute to elevated nutrient concentrations.
- Roadway runoff contaminates creeks because it contains traces of petroleum products, oil and grease from automobiles, and sediment.
- Sediments from in-stream erosion increases total suspended solids concentration of the creek and causes habitat smothering.



Lochloosa Creek.