How Can You Help Protect Your Urban Rivers?

We all rely on safe, clean water. Because of this, we must do our part to be responsible stewards of our rivers and streams.

You can help by:
* Changing the ways you use water

* Adopting conservation practices

* Contacting the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream program (404) 675-1636

*Joining your local watershed organization Contact the Georgia River Network to find the watershed group near you!
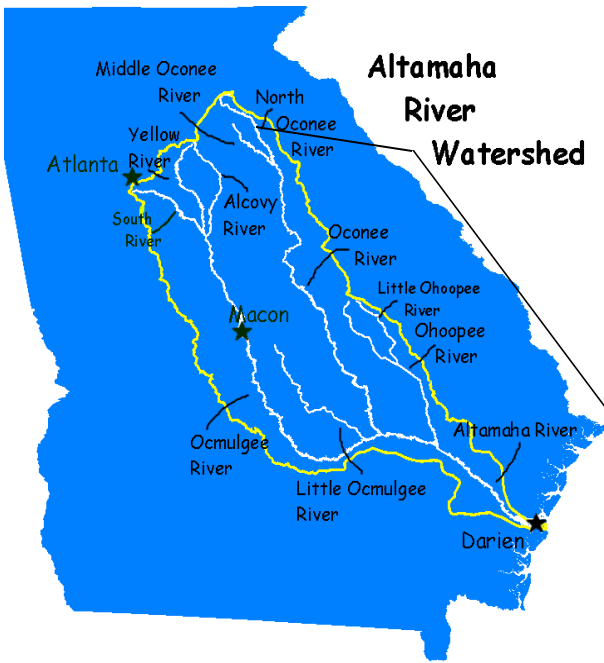http://www.garivers.org/

Our class at the University of Georgia, composed of seven students and two instructors, explored the relationship between water quality and land use, learned how to sample water for general water quality indicators, and discovered connections between the water quality of the North Oconee River and its relationship to the Altamaha estuaries. This video project is the result of our increased awareness about watershed health. It was produced to raise community awareness about watershed health and to encourage active involvement in our environment.

The Legacy of Urban Rivers:

A Case Study of the North Oconee River

Altamaha River Watershed

Middle Oconee River
North Oconee River
Yellow River
Atlanta
Alcovy River
South River
Oconee River
Macon
Little Ohoopee River
Ohoopee River
Ocmulgee River
Little Ocmulgee River
Altamaha River
Darien

Trash from our homes and businesses were once placed in a landfill bordering the North Oconee River. This landfill is an example of **nonpoint source pollution**. Nonpoint source pollution is that which enters bodies of water over large areas rather than being concentrated at a single point of entry

Water treatment plants like this one take water from our rivers, treat it, and then distribute clean water to our homes, offices, and class-rooms. Used water is then termed **waste water**. Waste water is directed to a different treatment facility where it is cleaned and returned back to our rivers.

North Oconee River Athens, Georgia

This kudzu patch was once used as a coal gasification plant and a dump site for incinerated ash. These two land uses badly polluted the land and water. Fortu-nately, clean up efforts are now underway!

Vegetated areas, or **greenspace**, help to protect our waters from pollutants such as street runoff and fertilizers. Vegetated areas also provide a source of food and habitat for aquatic critters.

This bridge provides shelter for homeless individuals. Homeless people who drink and bath in the untreated river water may become ill with nausea and diarrhea. In addition, homeless possessions such as clothing and furniture may fall into the river adding to the river's noticeable pollution