



## YOU ARE THE SOLUTION TO WATER POLLUTION

Thank you for caring about Gainesville's beautiful creeks by:

- **Keeping pollutants off the streets;** change your oil and dispose of it sensibly and keep up the maintenance on your vehicle/s to prevent leaks. Never pour gasoline, oil, or other hazardous materials onto the ground or down storm drains. Instead, take these hazardous materials to the Alachua County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center, 334 - 0440.
- **Keeping grass clippings, leaves and branches away from ditches and storm drains.** Call 334 - 2161 to report clogged or damaged drains.
- **Having a Florida Friendly Yard;** use pesticides and fertilizers minimally if at all and put trash where it belongs. If you are lucky enough to live on a creek, you can maintain a healthy riparian buffer with native landscaping to effectively filter pollutants from the roadways. For help, participate in the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program.
- **Picking up after your pets** and disposing of wastes hygienically. Flush pet waste down the toilet, bury it at least 5 inches below the surface of the ground, (away from vegetable gardens), or dispose of it in the trash.
- **Signing up for a creek cleanup,** adopting a section of your local creek, or participating in the Restore-a-Shore program with Adopt-A-River.
- **Joining the Watershed Action Volunteers;** they will train you to educate our community on watershed protection, conduct water quality testing, and/or conduct storm drain marking events.
- **Reporting Creek Crime!** The Alachua County Water Quality Ordinance makes it illegal to dispose of anything but rainwater down a stormdrain. If you observe any activities that you consider to be "creek crime" such as the disposal of non-stormwater substances in a stormdrain or creek, you can call the **Creek Crime Hotline at 264 - 6800**. An inspector will investigate in response to your call.

For more information about local waterways, the above programs and clean water tips, visit [gainesvillecreeks.org](http://gainesvillecreeks.org).