

Litter in the City of Valdosta

Sources and Solutions

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Motivation

WWALS is happy to sit down with the City of Valdosta as partners to work through a process to reduce and clean up the litter in Sugar Creek. Litter is a public health problem, and a problem for recreation and ecotourism. Valdosta Public Works identified the public health problem back in 2010 in the Stormwater Master Plan (SWMP): ***“Streams are a natural attractor for children and play structures occur along the stream edge. The pollution in this stream poses a serious risk of disease and injury and children should be strongly discouraged from playing in the stream until the trash and sewage are eliminated.”***



Sugar Creek itself could be [a recreational asset for the City](#), at least from Baytree Road to the Withlacoochee River, with sand beaches, willow and sycamore trees, and a long stretch of right bank owned by Valdosta above Gornton Road, plus Bland Park backs up from Park Lane to the creek. Many other cities make parks of their creeks and rivers, with hiking and biking trails, picnic tables, and boating facilities.



But “If you see it, it’ll break your heart. In a deadfall it all gathers,” as Valdosta Mayor Scott James said on his radio show to Suwannee Riverkeeper John S. Quarterman, about trash in Sugar Creek, which washes into the Withlacoochee River, downstream into Florida and the Suwannee River, onwards to the Gulf. <https://wwals.net/?p=56479>

The City of Valdosta and Lowndes County are working up funding for a Troupville River Camp at the Little River Confluence, and One Valdosta-Lowndes has listed that project as number one among twenty things it wants to do for community economic development. Trash from those Sugar Creek logjams washes right down the Withlacoochee River to that River Camp site in heavy rains: not good for ecotourism or recreation.

