

Georgia's 2017

# CLEAN WATER HEROES

United Parcel Service

## ROARING BRANCH

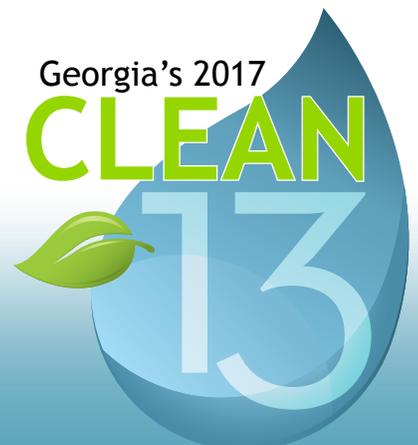
Global Shipping Giant Makes Giant Strides in Protecting Local Streams at Distribution Centers

### INTRODUCTION:

When afternoon thundershowers rain down on Columbus, polluted stormwater runoff flows across the region's industrial sites and into streams like Roaring Branch and Lindsey and Bull Creeks, degrading their health and harming fishes and other aquatic wildlife. It's a phenomenon that happens all across the state. To limit this pollution, Georgia's Environmental Protection Division (EPD) regulates more than 2,000 industrial facilities to ensure that this polluted runoff is not harming our water. Unfortunately, many facilities fail to invest in measures to stem the pollution. Chattahoochee Riverkeeper estimates that a large percentage of Georgia's regulated industrial facilities are not doing what's required by state law. But, there are those who are doing the right thing. Among them is the Atlanta-based global shipping giant, United Parcel Service (UPS). When rain hits the UPS distribution center that backs up to Roaring Branch on Belfast Road in Columbus, the stormwater gets treated before it ever reaches the stream. The same is true at UPS's other distribution centers in Gainesville, Kennesaw and LaGrange. UPS's stormwater measures at these facilities now treat 13 million gallons of stormwater annually before it reaches local streams.

### THE WATER BODY:

The cumulative health of Georgia's smallest streams ultimately determines the health of the large rivers from which Georgia communities draw their drinking water and recreate by fishing, swimming and boating. The creeks protected by UPS's stormwater measures include Flat Creek in Gainesville that feeds Lake Lanier, Gainesville's water supply and a watersports mecca visited by 10 million people annually; Noonday Creek in Acworth that empties into Lake Allatoona, Cobb County's drinking water source visited by six million each year; Long Cane Creek in LaGrange which flows to the City of West Point where civic leaders are now promoting a recreational boating trail on the Middle Chattahoochee; and Roaring Branch which feeds Lake Oliver and the Chattahoochee's wildly popular whitewater run through downtown Columbus. Users of these water sources and recreational amenities directly benefit from UPS's clean water initiatives.





## THE CLEAN:

When UPS environmental coordinator Larry Bryant and his co-workers noticed drink containers and other litter accumulating in the parking area of one of the company's distribution centers, they played a fun—and educational—prank on the perpetrators. Collecting several days of refuse from the site, they then deposited that trash in the delivery trucks of the offending fellow employees. The message was received; and the litter ceased, as did the threat of the litter washing off the site during a storm and into nearby streams.

UPS takes its stormwater seriously. Since the first Georgia industrial stormwater permit was issued in 2003, UPS has inspected its stormwater outfalls, submitted reports to state regulators, implemented spill prevention plans and initiated education programs to prevent the release of fuel, oil and other hazardous materials at their distribution centers.

Additionally, they have gone above and beyond state requirements by installing oil and water separators at sensitive stormwater outfalls as a fail-safe to protect local waterways.

When it comes to washing their fleet of delivery vehicles—a huge potential source of polluted water as the carrier will clean its trucks as often as twice a week—UPS limits water use by dry dusting or using environmentally-friendly enzyme cleaners.

Couple these measures with efforts to increase use of alternative fuel vehicles and to streamline delivery routes to minimize mileage, and you have a global delivery giant greatly reducing its overall carbon footprint.

UPS's fleet now includes more than 8,300 alternative fuel vehicles and since 2013, the company has used technology to reduce the distance driven by its couriers by 210 million miles. That's the equivalent of eliminating 210,000 metric tons of carbon emissions.

"In an atmosphere where so many industrial facilities are skirting state laws, it is refreshing to see UPS going above and beyond what's required," said Jessica Sterling, technical programs director with Chattahoochee Riverkeeper. "UPS's commitment to the environment sets an important example for other transportation companies."



*Top: UPS's fleet of delivery vehicles includes more than 8,300 alternative fuel vehicles. Left: UPS reduces water use and stormwater runoff by limiting the amount of water used to clean their fleet. Above: Streams in Columbus, LaGrange, Gainesville and Kennesaw have all benefitted from UPS's stormwater controls at its distributions centers in these communities.*



### For More Information Contact:

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