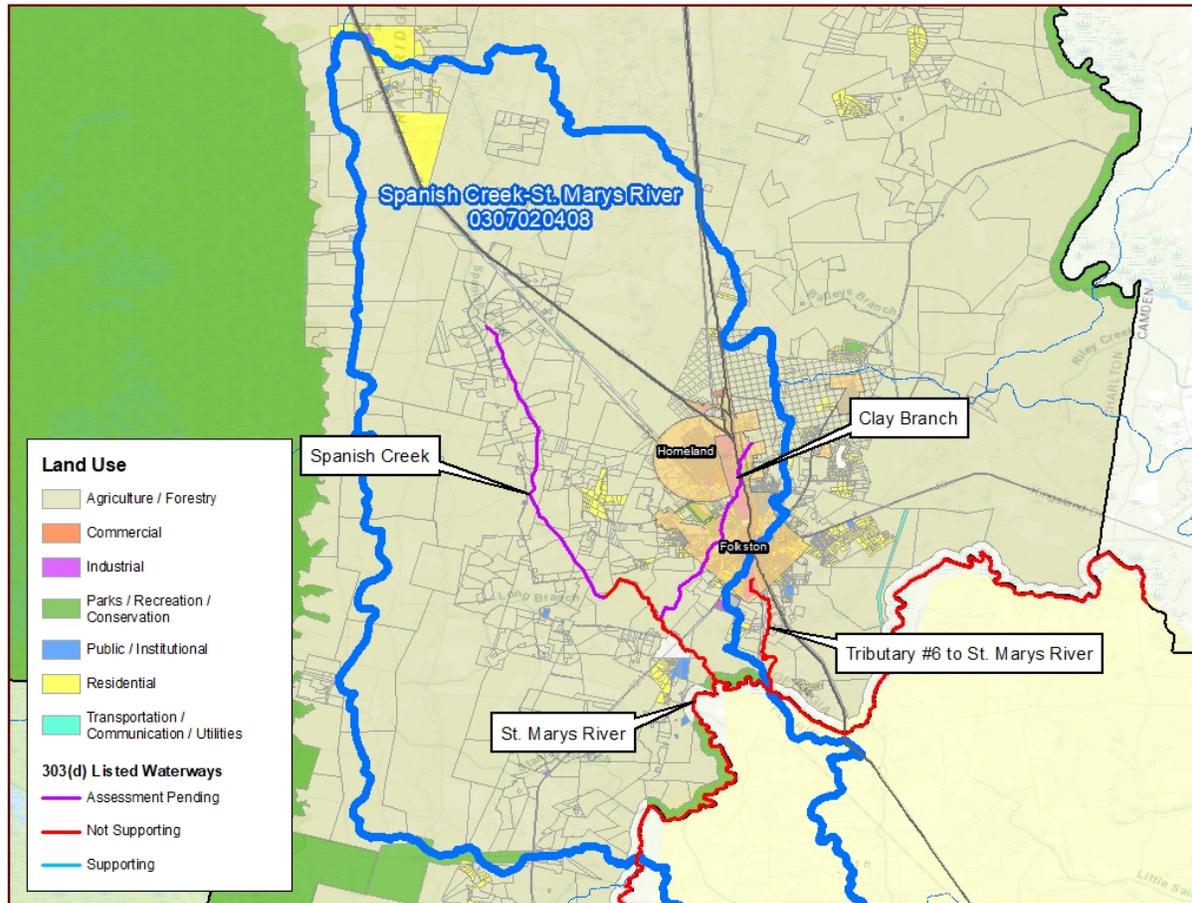


## Project Overview

In October 2019, Charlton County and its partners received a one-year Coastal Incentive Grant from Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Coastal Resources Division to evaluate and update the 2002 TMDL Implementation Plan for Spanish Creek to a Nine-Element EPA Watershed Management Plan (WMP). The Spanish Creek Watershed is in the St. Marys River Basin in Charlton County. The creek, which drains the populated central part of the County, was determined to be impaired for fecal coliform (FC) and low dissolved oxygen (DO) in 1998. It is currently classified as not supporting its designated use of fishing.



### Land Use Map of Spanish Creek Watershed

The 2002 TMDL Implementation Plan identified both point and nonpoint sources as potential causes for impairment in Spanish Creek. Potential point sources included the Folkston Water Pollution Control Plant and Folkston Pond. Possible non-point sources were the Folkston Pond spray field, leaking septic tanks, pet waste, illegal discharge, runoff through stormwater sewers, infiltration/inflow problems with the city sewer system, runoff from livestock operations and background wildlife fecal matter.

Historically, Section 319(h) grant funding through Georgia DNR Environmental Protection Division has been a funding resource for local governments to implement TMDL plans, but

recent changes require that an applicant have an updated WMP to be eligible for funding. Updating the WMP will allow Charlton County and the participating municipalities to identify and target potential sources of impairment, prioritize implementation actions, engage local citizens and become eligible for Section 319(h) grant funding to implement watershed improvement actions identified through this process.

The current grant also includes a water quality monitoring component to involve County students. Monitoring will be performed by Adopt-A-Stream (AAS) trained volunteers from the local high school. A Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC), with representatives from the County and from the Cities of Folkston and Homeland, will meet on a bi-monthly basis to review the existing data, analyze and fill information gaps, and work with consultants from Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood to design community-based actions and policies aimed at removing the impairments. Entities partnering with the County and City governments on this project include the Charlton County High School FFA chapter, the St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC), and St. Marys Riverkeeper (SMRK).

The long-term success of the work to improve the water quality of Spanish Creek requires the full commitment of, not only the local governments, SMRMC and SMRK, but also you, our local citizens. This project includes multiple avenues for citizen involvement, including the formation of a CAC, volunteer monitoring, and a River Clean-Up.