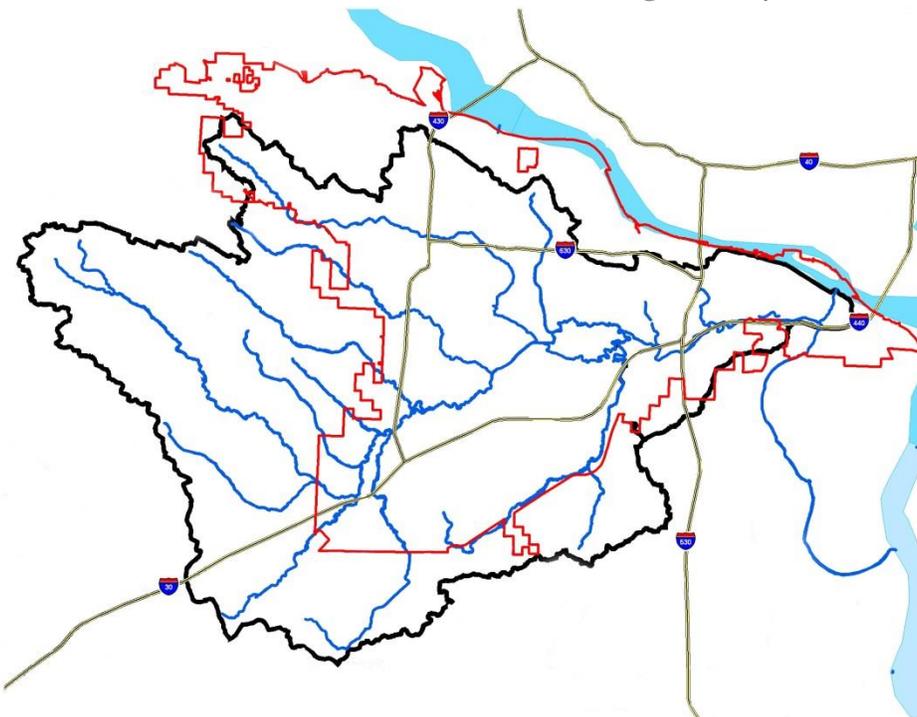


The Fourche Creek Watershed

The Fourche Creek Watershed encompasses 108,800 acres, of which over 57,000 acres (53%) are within the city limits of Little Rock. Fourche Creek and its tributaries drain surface and storm water from 73% of the city. During a typical storm, Fourche Creek's wetlands store up to 1 billion gallons. The creek, watershed, and wetlands provide valuable ecological services for the city: water purification, floodwater storage, urban noise reduction, air and water pollution filtration, and wildlife habitat. Fourche Creek is home to over 50 species of fish (25% of all Arkansas fish species), stands of three-hundred-year-old bald cypress, and a diverse population of birds. Ten city parks touch Fourche Creek and its tributaries.



An intact 1,800-acre tract, Fourche Bottoms, is one of the largest urban wetlands in the country. It could be the largest city park – Fourche Creek Park – for all to enjoy, yet it goes largely unnoticed by residents; access is limited by housing, commercial, and industrial development; there are no foot trails or amenities. A few widely spaced boat ramps exist at city parks. Flooding, floatable trash, dumping, and log jams can interfere with a float. Strong public-private partnerships, outreach, education, and involvement of local community groups are needed to address these issues and foster awareness of this valuable recreational resource. Friends of Fourche Creek is leading the way.



The City of Little Rock (red) is nestled within the Fourche Creek Watershed (black).

Friends of Fourche Creek

Our vision is a flourishing Fourche Creek Preserve and Water Trail where Little Rock residents and visitors can canoe and kayak past ancient cypress trees, fish, hike, watch wildlife, geocache, learn about nature, and escape urban life, all within the heart of the city. Through partnerships we are working to restore and revitalize Fourche Creek for the benefit of the environment and a wide variety of public uses.



Involvement of local community groups and interested individuals in the planning process and ground work is needed. For more information visit FourcheCreek.org or contact Dr. Dan Scheiman, Chair of Friends of Fourche Creek at dscheiman@audubon.org or 501-244-2229. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fourchecreek.

