

The history of the WLN and guidance for using the WLN website

A WATERSHED LEARNING NETWORK MODULE

This material was generated as part of a collaboration between members of the Atlanta Watershed Learning Network and students and faculty of a service learning course in urban ecology. The views and opinions expressed in these materials are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the University of Georgia.



In this presentation, you will learn about the history and purpose of the WLN. You will also learn a bit about navigating the WLN website.

This material was based on a curriculum developed by members of the Atlanta Watershed Learning Network, led by Dr. Yomi Noibi of Eco-Action.

Unless otherwise noted, all of the diagrams and models used in the modules were created by Diane Kelment, the video material was captured and edited in large part by Allison Krausman, and the images used in the modules were taken by the students or instructor of the urban ecology course at UGA in 2018 or the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance.

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The Watershed Learning Network was developed from ideas and materials that were developed in the **Atlanta Watershed Learning Network**.

For the past few years, ECO-Action has collaborated with American Rivers, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, The Conservation Fund, Park Pride, the Atlanta Community Improvement Association, and the Metro Atlanta Urban Watershed Institute to build capacity and develop leadership for green infrastructure in the Intrenchment and Proctor Creek watershed communities. This work evolved and led to the creation of **Atlanta Watershed Learning Network**.



The Atlanta Watershed Learning Network is bringing together people from two of Atlanta's most impacted watersheds. Proctor and Intrenchment Creeks begin in downtown Atlanta, where concrete sidewalks, roads, buildings, and parking lots prevent water from being absorbed into the ground. During heavy rain events, the water flows into nearby neighborhoods, causing flooding issues throughout the communities. Led by ECO-Action and West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, residents are gaining knowledge about the causes of stormwater flooding, the health and economic impacts of flooding caused their communities, and how they can be empowered to advocate for sustainable solutions to these problems.



[Stories from Intrenchment & Proctor CreekECO-Action](#)

The sense of community and energy generated by the AWLN, inspired the organizers to expand the impact of the educational program and create the Watershed Learning Network.

[Stories from Intrenchment & Proctor CreekECO-Action](#)

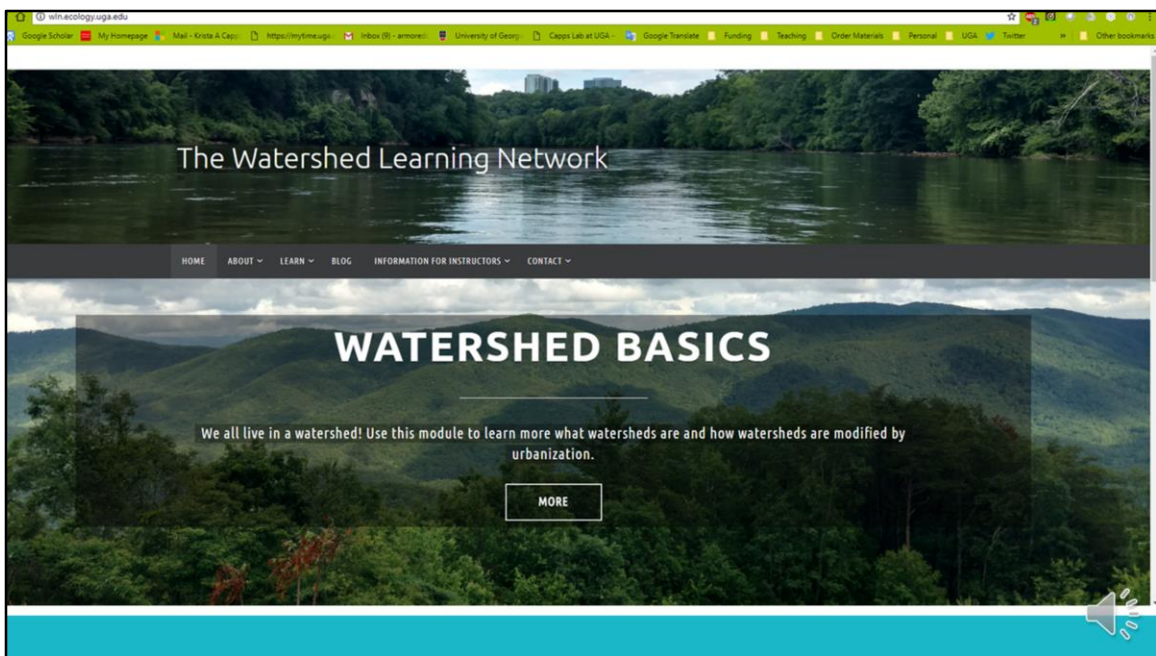
The Purpose of the WLN

EMPOWERING PEOPLE THROUGH EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

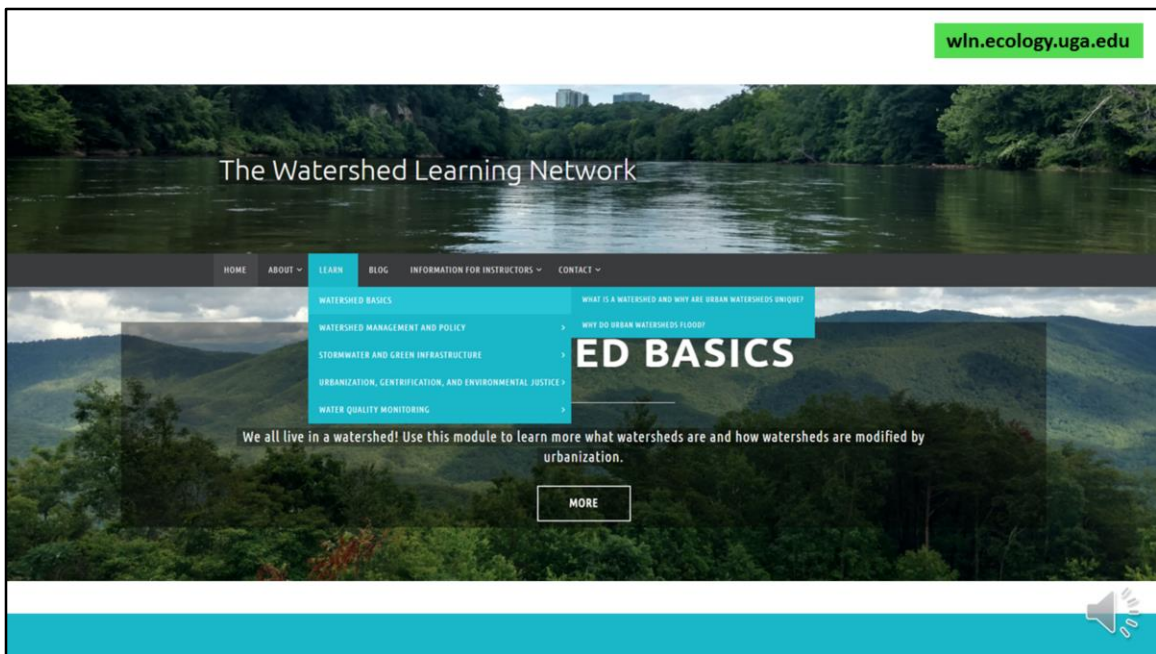


The collective purpose of the WLN is to develop a diverse learning community where participants have the materials needed to learn about:

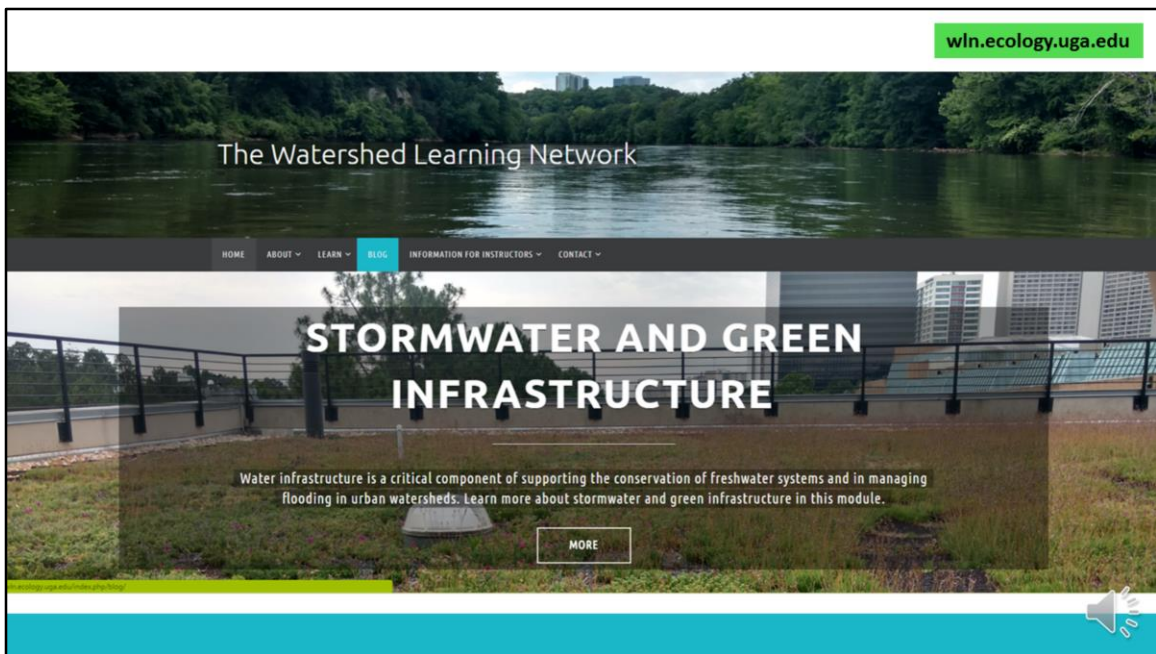
- 1) Problem-solving for water quality and stormwater issues from an holistic, sustainable, and resilient perspectives,
- 2) Restoring and protecting the ecological health of urban watersheds,
- 3) Promoting resilience to climate change in urban watersheds,
- 4) Creating conditions and opportunities to improve the quality of life of residents of urban watersheds,
- 5) Facilitating equitable relationships between community stakeholders (public and private) that nurture cooperation, collaboration, and partnership for projects that integrate blue, green, and grey infrastructure to address flooding, and
- 6) Promoting city watershed programs devoted to sustainable solutions to water quality issues in urban environments.



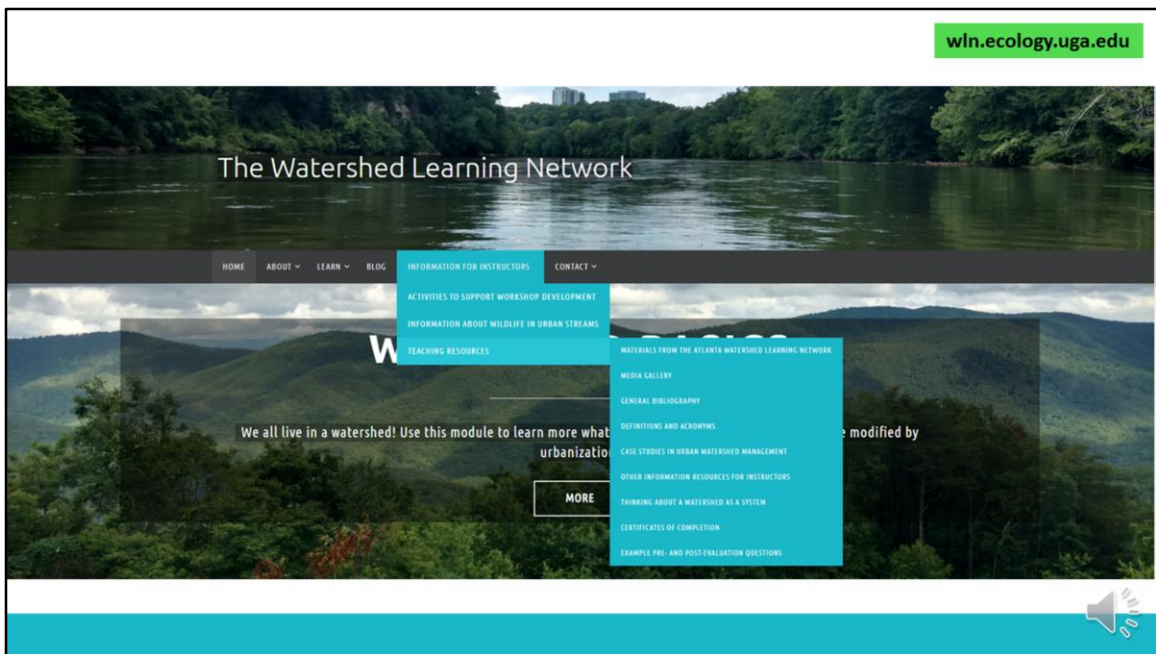
To access the Watershed Learning Network, please visit: wln.ecology.uga.edu.



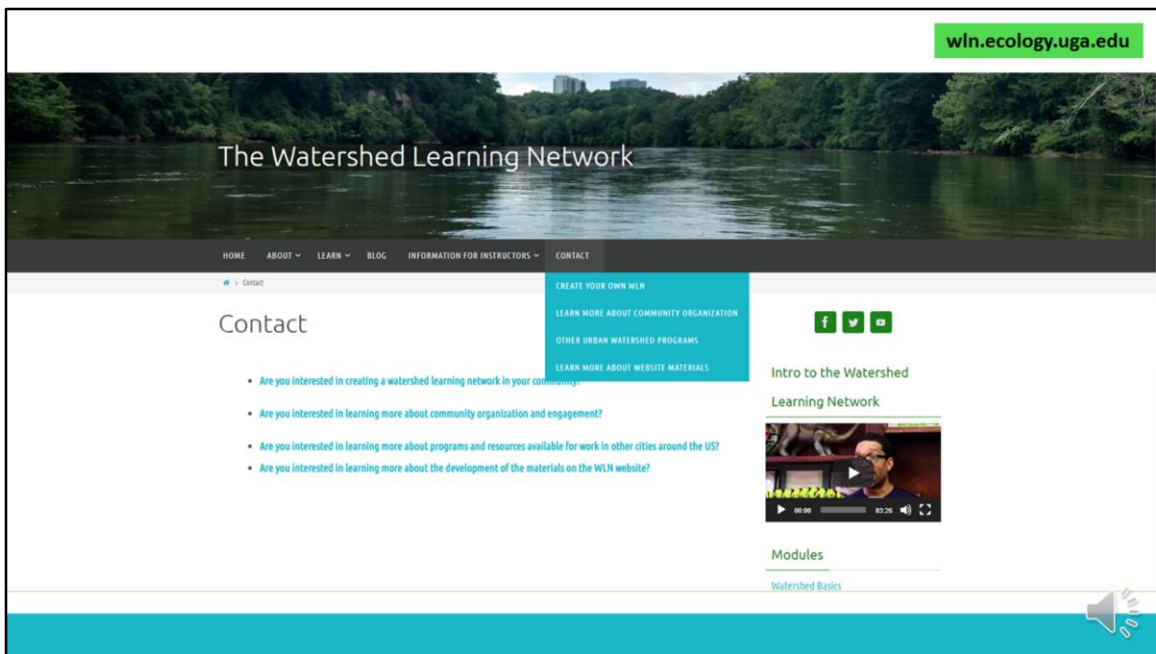
To access the learning modules, navigate to the “Learn” tab and you can access the individual learning modules by scrolling down to the appropriate link. We have attempted to design the WLN program so that you can watch or download a single module or you can complete the WLN program by watching or reviewing all of the modules.



If you would like to learn additional information about urban watershed ecology, water infrastructure, watershed management, and the governance of urban watersheds, we will be posting student-developed articles through the blog approximately every 6-8 weeks.



We have also created a section of the website devoted to people interested in building their own Watershed Learning Network training program. We have included links and documents to support team building and group discussion, materials from the original Atlanta Watershed Learning Network, and other useful documents and teaching resources in this section of the website.



If you are interested in creating a watershed learning network in your own community, interested in learning more about programs and resources available for work in urban watersheds in other cities around the US, or interested in learning more about the educational materials on the WLN website please visit the Contact page. We have provided the contact information for the appropriate groups to address specific questions about the WLN.