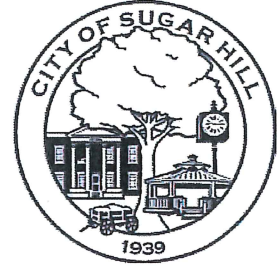


DATE: *January 26, 2021*
TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: *[Signature]* Assistant City Manager
SUBJECT: Recommendation to US Board of Geographic Names
Chattahoochee River Tributary – Crayfish Creek



RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve the attached proposal for the subject tributary of the Chattahoochee River to be designated Crayfish Creek and authorize the Mayor to sign it.

BUDGET IMPACT - None.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The subject tributary is a small to medium-sized stream with a drainage basin of some 400-plus acres (Richland Creek by comparison drains an area 12 times this). Its confluence is 975 downstream of the highway 20 bridge over the Chattahoochee. The elevation change in the basin is some 130 feet of drop from the headwaters near Suwanee Dam Road and has an estimated stream length of 6,300 ft giving it about a 2% average slope. The stream flows through the Gates at Lanier, Kendrix Ridge and Twin Creeks neighborhoods before entering city and park service (NPS) properties and picks up drainage from as far away as the city's golf course. Once it reaches NPS property, the channel varies between approximately 6 and 16 ft along its course in the lower end.

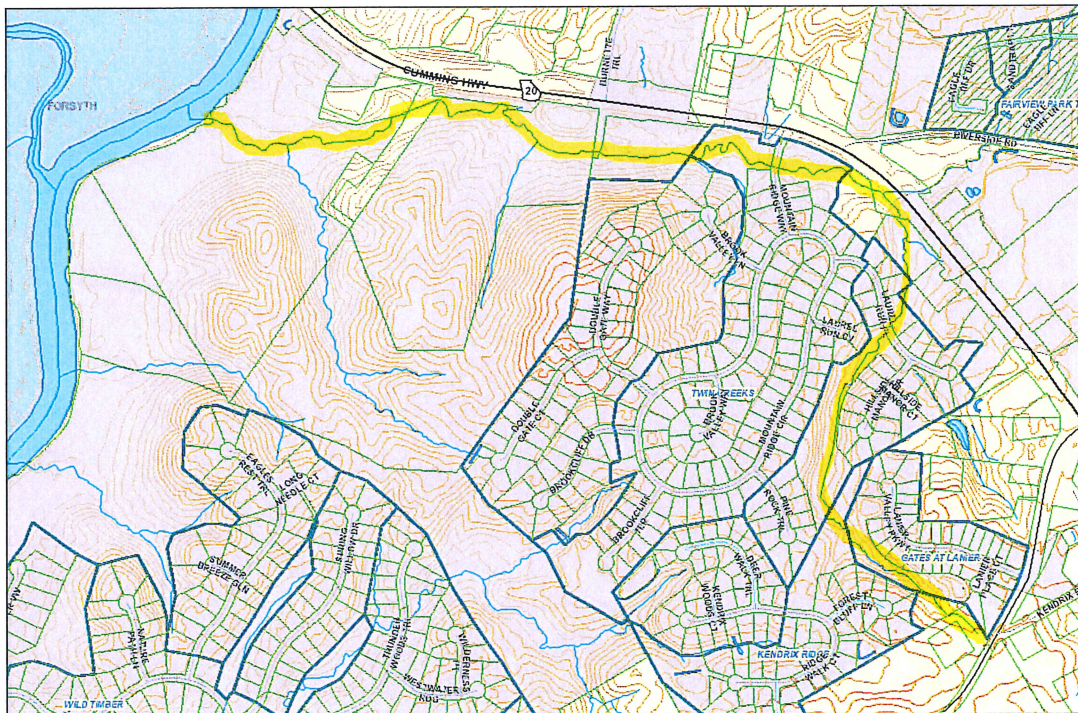
The stream has medium to high slope and has a high amount of development in its watershed with about 56% developed and 39% forested. The watershed has an intermediate entire stream gradient (0.0232 m/m), and an average reach gradient (0.0114 m/m). The coarse bed material along the reach is an indication that the stream potentially has a flashy flow regime and low time of concentration. These characteristics are indicative of relatively good habitat for benthic macroinvertebrates.

The stream came to be referred to as Crayfish Creek during at 2017 survey of wadeable streams within the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park Service (NPS). It was named for the presence of a Chattahoochee Crayfish (*Cambarus howardi*)

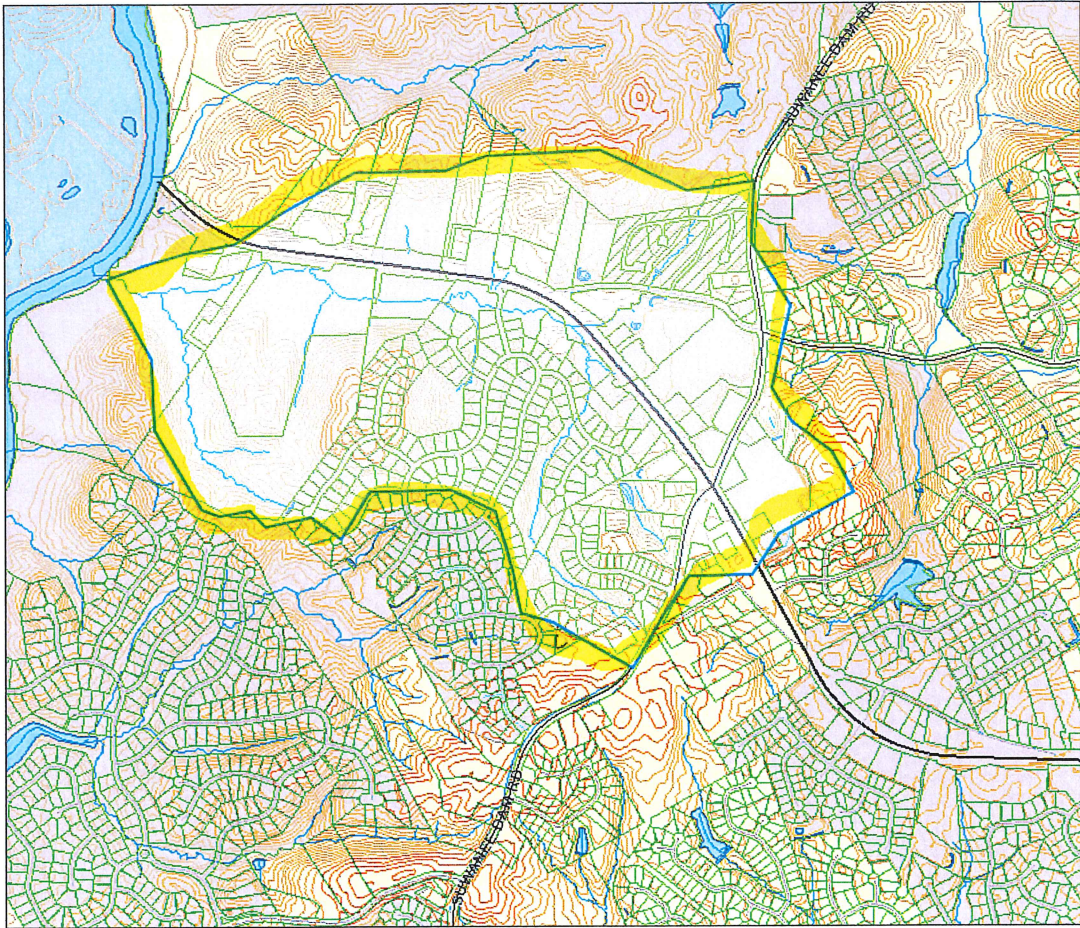
found during the survey (photo below). In spite of the river reference in the name, this species is uncommon in Georgia as it has a restricted range closer-in to the metro area (see map below) and is considered threatened by urbanization and development. “Crayfish Creek” has been regularly used since that time by the NPS and partners for a restoration effort of a reach of the stream within the park.

While there is the potential to tie-in a local, historical element or person to the stream, this request, originated by park staff in conjunction with recent environmental study and research makes for a great contrast to Richland Creek to the north. Richland Creek is an impaired water, a Georgia designation that speaks to the damaging effects of erosion in its basin stemming back to unchecked development prior to implementation of stormwater regulation of the late 20th century. The name has also generated some discussion of other macroinvertebrate references, like “crawdad” and “mud bug”, but the more formal crayfish has stayed with the discussion and, of course, this application. Therefore, staff recommends approval of the recommendation to the U.S. Board of Geographic Names for Crayfish Creek.

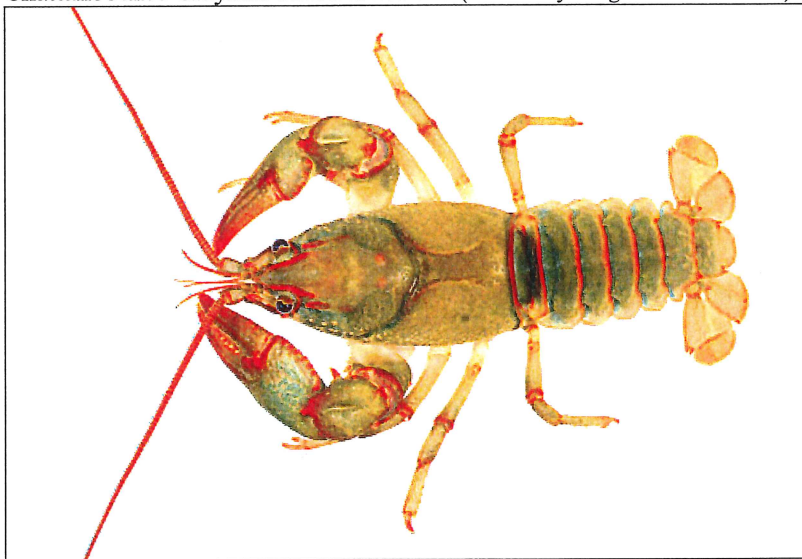
GIS Map:

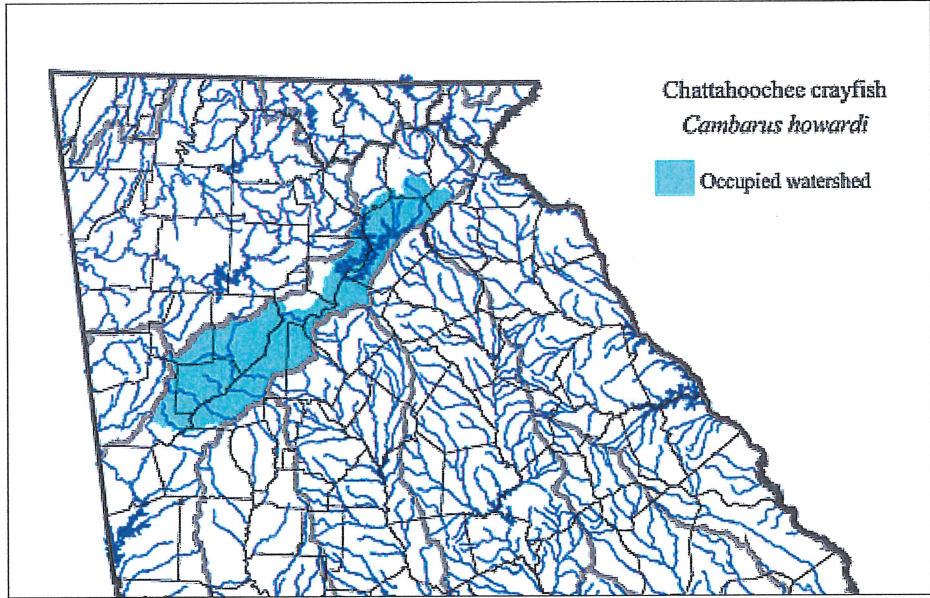


416 Acre Drainage basin:



Chattahoochee Crayfish *Cambarus howardi* (Total Body Length: about 3 inches)





Map Source: Georgia DNR – Wildlife Resources

Attachment – Recommendation to US Board of Geographic Names



U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

GEOGRAPHIC NAME PROPOSAL RECOMMENDATION

Proposed name: Crayfish Creek

Current official Federal name of feature: unnamed

This is to notify the U.S. Board on Geographic Names that the:

Sugar Hill City Council
(Name of government entity, organization, or individual)

recommends that the U. S. Board on Geographic Names:

Approve the Proposed Name

Reject the Proposed Name

Other: _____

Comments (the following factors contributed to this recommendation; attach supporting documentation if appropriate):

(Name)

(Title)

(Address)

(Telephone)

(City, State, ZIP Code)

(E-mail)

(Signature)

(Date)

Return to: U.S. Board on Geographic Names
BGNEEXEC@usgs.gov
Telephone: (703) 648-4552
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Mailstop 523
Reston VA 20192-0523