



FIVE MILE CURRENTS

The Quarterly
Newsletter for
the restoration
and preservation
of
Five Mile Creek

Volume 5, Issue 3
Editor Francesca Gross

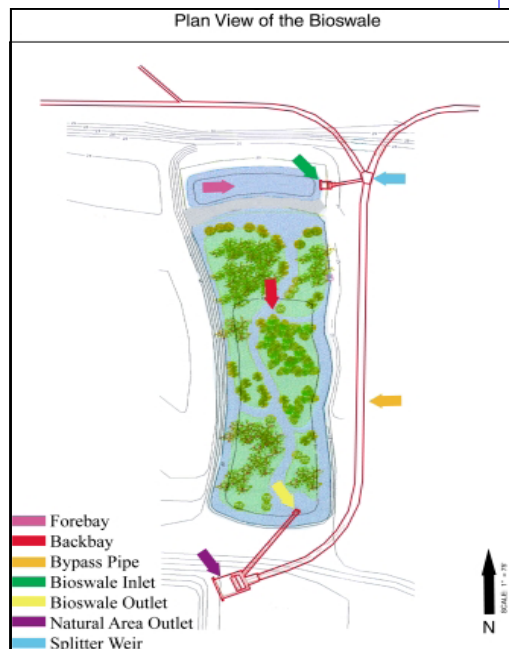
Five Mile Creek Greenway Partnership

New Stream Restoration Grant for Center Point Greenway

One of the Five Mile Creek Partnership supporters, Southern Company, along with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Association of Counties, and The Wildlife Habitat Council announced 8 new wetland, riparian and coastal conservation grants have been awarded in the Southeast through the Five Star Restoration Program. Cawaco RC&D Council received one of two grants awarded in Alabama. This grant is a follow-up project to the in-stream channel restoration in Reed Harvey Park, Center Point in 2007 on the Five Mile Creek Greenway.

The new project will design and construct approximately one acre of a bio-retention basin and wetland park in Center Point, Alabama. The project fits into the larger Five Mile Creek Greenway system and will serve as a demonstration site with interpretive signage. Project partners include: University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Engineering, Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District; U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service; City of Center Point; and Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham.

Cawaco has an additional partnership with UAB Department of Engineering working with Dr. Andy Strickland and Dr. Robert Peters along with their senior engineering students. Center Point stormwater modeling will be a hands-on real world lab in Spring 2010 for the students and their professors. Expected results are innovative ideas from young minds and education of the local officials and community on alternative approaches to stormwater management.



Example of Bioswale by Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, Santa Barbara, CA

Inside this issue:

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from Jefferson
County

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*Special Kids
Section—Be a
History Detective!*



Water Quality News—Keep Our Water Clean!

Here's news from our partners at Jefferson County Environmental Services

Cooking Oil Recycling Program:

September 2009

Jefferson County Environmental Services Department and Grease Control Program are excited to announce the implementation of a county-wide household cooking oil and grease recycling program. This will be a free service to all of the citizens of Jefferson County. Collection bins will be located at several sites around the county with plastic containers for residents to take home.

Once a container is filled, it can be returned to the collection bin and exchanged for a clean container. The containers will be collected weekly by our Grease Control Program inspectors and the oil will be picked up at the Shades Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant by local rendering companies. Grease and oil accumulate in the sewer system and require diligent maintenance to prevent sanitary sewer overflows.

Jefferson County Environmental Services Department developed this program in the ongoing effort to prevent overflows and protect the water resources and the people and animals that depend on them. This program provides an excellent avenue for the residents of Jefferson County to properly dispose of used cooking oil and grease and to keep our sewers flowing freely!



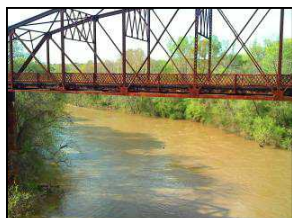
Drop off locations for used cooking oil:

- Trussville City Hall
- Trussville Fire Stations #2 and #3
- Homewood City Works building on Citation Court
- Jefferson County's refueling site on 7th Avenue North in Birmingham.

Jefferson County will have five additional collection sites in the near future.

Can your town support a collection site? The bins were constructed by the County's General Services shop and are 4' wide by 4' tall and 2' deep and sit on legs 6" off the ground. The bins will sit in a hard, durable plastic tray which will provide a liquid retention barrier should a container develop a leak or spill.

Please call Dana Gray 205.238.3877 if you want a bin placed in your town and with any additional questions.



Five Mile Creek Project Updates

Alabama Humanities Foundation Grant

In support of the mission of the Five Mile Creek Greenway to embrace the history of the Five Mile Creek families that settled and worked in local industry, Cawaco RC&D Council received a grant from Alabama Humanities Foundation to bring three public programs to the Brookside Community Center. The final program was presented during the Russian Food Festival Event, November 7, 2009.

Local history scholars contributing to the public program series were Pam Jones, Staci Glover, Pam Sterne King, and Dr. Jack Bergstresser. Industrial archeologist Dr. Bergstresser explained

the unique mining techniques used to remove coal, and the skills Slovak miners brought to extract the coal. Staci Glover spoke of the immigrant culture and religion. Pam Jones brought her own family stories of Brookside including the day Hollywood filmed a movie in Brookside. Pam King is working to put Brookside on the National Historic Register which would bring more grant opportunities to build tourism in this unique town

Staci Glover coordinated the meetings and created eight poster-collages from family photos brought to the public meetings. Posters are available free at the Brookside Town Hall.



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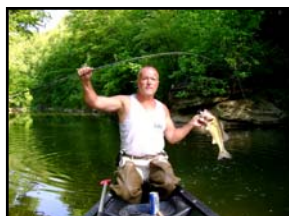
www.fivemilecreekpartnership.org

Francesca Gross presents at Southeastern Water Trails Conference

Five Mile Creek Partnership coordinator presented - "A Beginning: Five Mile Creek Blueways" - at the first regional water trails conference in Chattanooga in October as continued support for the Five Mile Creek Canoe Company and Greenway.

Francesca Gross Contracted for Strategic Plan for Local Greenways

When the Hugh Kaul Foundation's generous grant expired, continued support of the coordinators position was funded through a contract with the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham. The contract will allow the coordinator to complete a Strategic Plan for the Five Mile Creek Greenway. This plan includes: researching other regional greenways; learning how they fund their projects; manage their trails; and keep their trail users safe. Thanks to RPCGB, City of Fultondale and City of Center Point for their support.



Five Mile Creek Greenway Partnership

Cawaco RC&D Council
1731 1st Avenue North, Suite 200
Birmingham, AL 35203

Coordinator: Francesca E. Gross
Phone: 205-264-8464
Fax: 205-264-8489
Email: fgross@rpcgb.org

We're on the web!

www.fivemilecreekpartnership.org



What is the Five Mile Creek Greenway Partnership?

Five Mile Creek has suffered from decades of industrial, mining, and urban pollution and impact. After the devastating floods of 2001-2003, the communities along Five Mile Creek began to seek a solution to the problems of "Creosote Creek". The Five Mile Creek Greenway Partnership was formed to protect and preserve the water quality and quality of life for residents along Five Mile Creek by protecting streamside buffers and planning for "smart-growth" within the watershed.

The Partnership endures between the cities of Birmingham, Center Point, Gardendale, Cardiff, Tarrant, Fultondale, Brookside, and Graysville. Other partners include the Jefferson County Commission, the Freshwater Land Trust, Cawaco Resource Conservation and Development Council, the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham and many other community agencies and stakeholders.



Families share photos at the Alabama Humanities Foundation public programming series at the Brookside Community Center.