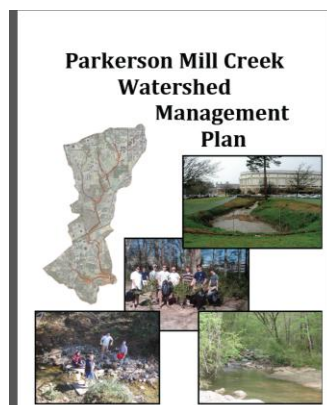
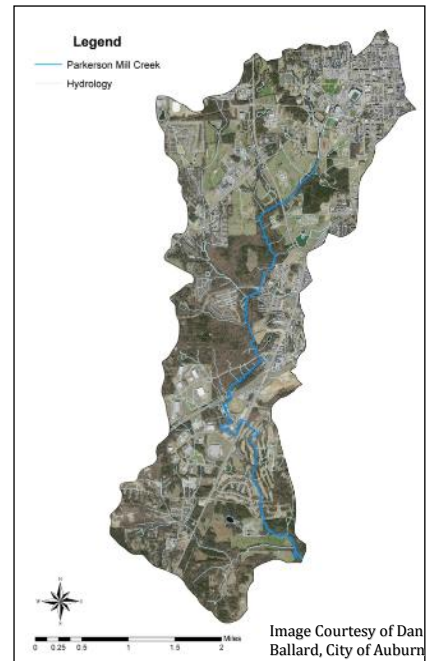


Parkerson Mill Creek Watershed Project

Parkerson Mill Creek, which flows through a large portion of the Auburn University campus, was first listed on the State's impaired list in 2008 for not meeting minimum water quality standards for its designated Fish and Wildlife use classification. The cause of impairment was identified as pathogens from urban stormwater runoff and storm sewer sources. A pathogen Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) was developed by ADEM and approved by EPA in 2011.

The Parkerson Mill Creek Watershed Project is a cooperative effort between ADEM, Auburn University, the City of Auburn, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System at Auburn University, the Auburn University Water Resources Center, and other local stakeholders. The project will provide \$179,810 in federal funding, to be matched by \$120,558 in local and in-kind funding. The funding will support the implementation of best management practices targeting pathogens and improving water quality and habitat for aquatic organisms in the Parkerson Mill Creek Watershed. The project will also provide education/outreach opportunities for local citizens and Auburn University students with opportunities to learn about the importance of protecting water quality.

As a designated a Center of Excellence for Watershed Management by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Auburn University's role in the Parkerson Mill Creek Project will also serve to support a Memorandum of Understanding between the Center, U.S. EPA Region-4, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. The EPA program works with colleges and universities to provide communities with hands-on, practical products and services to solve watershed problems, such as pollution control and water availability.



Parkerson Mill Creek Watershed Management Plan

In 2010, the Parkerson Mill Creek watershed management plan was developed through funding provided by a Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source grant through the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). The plan identifies sources of water quality concerns as well as practices that will serve to reduce pollutant loadings to the stream. It also provides focus and direction for stakeholders to effectively and efficiently mitigate pollution from stormwater runoff and protect water quality using a dynamic watershed management approach. Implementation of the plan will coincide with the Parkerson Mill Creek Watershed Project and serve as a source of information. The Watershed Project is a cooperative effort between ADEM, Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), Auburn University, the City of Auburn, and Lee County, along with other local stakeholders. This project will install best management practices (BMP) to protect water quality, provide education to watershed community members that will focus on water quality protection, and provide outreach to local citizens, students, municipal officials, and city employees throughout the watershed. Site selection for BMP implementation will primarily target public properties, such as local government and school properties in the Mill Creek drainage area of Lee and Russell counties.

Project Funding

The project is being funded in part by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management through a Clean Water Act Section 319(h) nonpoint source grant provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region IV. Auburn University will be administering the grant, which will provide 60% of the overall project cost. The remaining 40% of project cost will be supplied by "in-kind" matching services from local government, volunteers, and Auburn University. The Section 319(h) Program is a non-regulatory program that relies on local project partners to address impaired streams, with the ultimate goal of improving water quality.

Parkerson Mill Creek Website

The Parkerson Mill Creek website provides links to the Watershed Management Plan, as well as a Request for Proposals to submit ideas for projects to be installed in the watershed. You can find photos of on-going work on the creek along with opportunities for you to get involved and be a proactive part of the solution. Workshops will be posted as they are announced with details and sign-up information. The website also contains links to other organizations and activities going on in the state and the nation. Please visit the Parkerson Mill Creek website and be sure to check frequently for news and updates!

<http://www.aces.edu/natural-resources/water-resources/watershed-planning/watershed-projects/parkersonmillcreek/index.php>

Current and Upcoming Work at Parkerson Mill Creek

- IMPACT, a student volunteer organization, meets weekly for stream cleanups
- Engineers Without Borders conducts monthly monitoring and sampling through Alabama Water Watch
- Alabama Water Watch also conducts quarterly monitoring and sampling
- Many volunteer groups have contacted us about working on the creek
- University classes research the creek, spend time working at the creek and present findings to other classmates
- Biosystems Engineering students will design and install Low Impact Development practices as part of a senior design project and renovation of the Corley Hall and Corley Hall Annex Buildings



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