

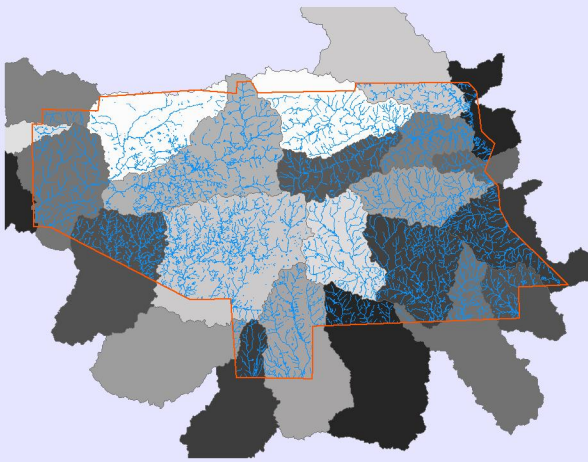


Storm Water Management Program

In May of 2001 the governmental agencies that make up ALOA joined together to address EPA's upcoming Phase II requirements.

This brochure is one of a series of publications regarding stormwater issues in Lee County.

The series is produced by the ALOA Storm Water Advisory Panel and is intended to protect, maintain, and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of local waters in order to enhance the quality of life for our citizens.



Mill Creek Watershed



Mill Creek at Crawford's Crossing

Contact Information

For more information regarding your community's storm water program please contact the following agencies:

City of Auburn – Department of Water Resource Management
334-501-3077
www.auburnalabama.org/wrm

Lee County – County Engineer
334-737-7011
www.leeco.us

City of Opelika – Department of Public Works
334-705-5400
www.opelika.org

Auburn University – Risk Management and Safety
334-844-4805
www.auburn.edu/administration/rms/



A Publication Presented by



Mill Creek Watershed

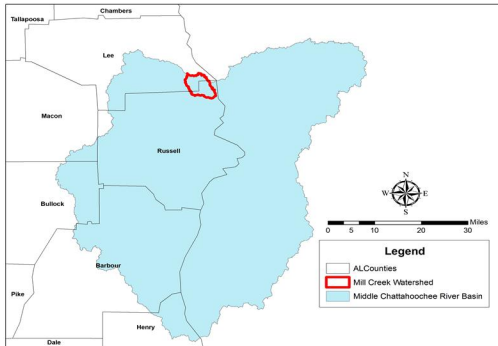


*Materials for this publication were obtained from the Mill Creek Watershed Management Plan

“Local Citizen Groups and Governments Working Together for Clean Water”

MILL CREEK AT A GLANCE:

Mill Creek is an impaired stream that is a major tributary to the Chattahoochee River. The headwaters for Mill Creek are located in Smiths Station and the stream continues southeast into Phenix City. The Mill Creek Watershed [12-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 03130003-0101] drains an area of approximately 24.8 square miles and includes both Lee and Russell Counties. Mill and Holland Creeks are the two major streams that compose this watershed. Beyond the confluence of these streams, the stream maintains the name Holland Creek through downtown Phenix City until joining the Chattahoochee River. Although Holland Creek above the confluence is part of the Mill Creek Watershed, it is not listed as impaired at this time. Mill Creek in its entirety (9.93 miles) is listed on the 2006, 2008, and 2010 303(d) lists as impaired. Mill Creek is considered impaired because it is not meeting water quality criteria to support its designated use of fish and wildlife. Prior to the 2010 303(d) List, Mill Creek was listed for unknown causes and sources of impairment. Mill Creek is currently listed as impaired by organic enrichment or excess nutrients. In the last decade, the entire watershed area has undergone a significant increase in urbanization resulting in considerable land use changes, increased impervious surfaces, and construction activities, which continue to impact this stream. Stream channelization and relocation, floodplain disconnection and filling, increased stormwater runoff and discharges, sediment and silt deposits, and an overall loss of riparian buffer zones have all contributed to the present degraded state of Mill Creek. Riparian buffer loss combined with increased impervious surfaces in the watershed have resulted in decreased water quality and increased stormwater quantity entering Mill Creek.



Mill Creek Watershed and Middle Chattahoochee River Basin

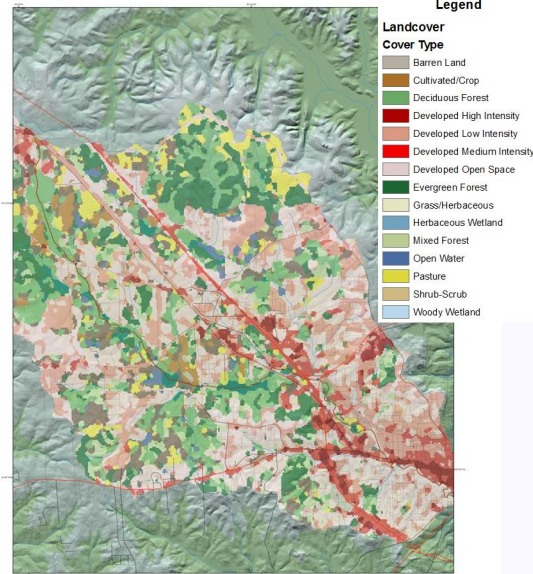
Landuse/Landcover	Sq. Miles	% Coverage
Water & Wetland	0.28	+/-2.9
Coniferous Forest	2.48	+/-10
Deciduous Forest	3.12	+/-12.6
Mixed	3.98	+/-16.3
Agricultural	1.87	+/-7.5
Open	5.92	+/-24
Urban	6.64	+/-26.7
Sum	11.5	100

2000 Landuse for Mill Creek Watershed

*Materials for this publication were obtained from the Mill Creek Watershed Management Plan

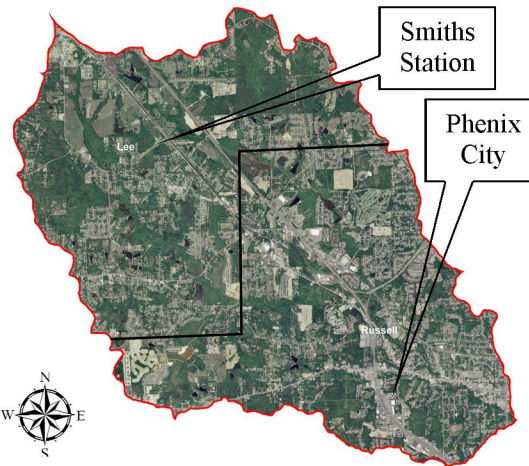
LANDUSE AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF MILL CREEK WATERSHED

Mill Creek Watershed



Land Use National Land Cover Data, USGS 2000 data.

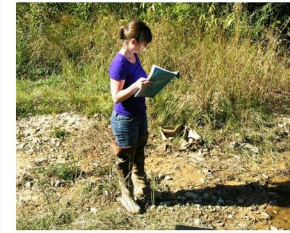
Mill Creek Watershed Landcover Map for 2000



Mill Creek Watershed Aerial Photograph 2006

WHAT'S BEING DONE AND HOW CAN I HELP?

The Mill Creek Watershed Management Plan is a comprehensive approach designed to address pollution concerns for Mill Creek. The development of this plan was funded in part by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management through the Clean Water Act Section 319(h) funds, which are granted to state and tribal agencies to develop and implement watershed plans to reduce nonpoint source pollution. Waters listed on the Section 303(d) are prioritized for development of watershed management plans that focus on creating an action plan to restore and protect degraded streams. This plan aims to suggest best management practices (BMPs) that can be adopted by watershed community members to improve the overall health of the stream. This plan focuses on implementing stormwater BMPs designed to treat stormwater before it enters Mill Creek. These low impact development practices encourage infiltration and nutrient cycling through the use of soil and plants to reduce nutrient and sediment loadings. Reducing nutrients and sediment in-stream can improve habitats for fish and wildlife. Volunteer monitoring through Alabama Water Watch began in 2010 and continues to help establish background water quality data for Mill Creek. The success of this watershed plan relies on strong partnerships that cross both city and county lines in an effort to improve and protect water quality of Mill Creek. Good streams make good neighbors!



Mill Creek Stream Assessment and Student Education



Mill Creek Watershed Management Plan

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO GET INVOLVED, VISIT:

WWW.ACES.EDU/WATERQUALITY/INDEX.PHP
WWW.ACES.EDU/WATERQUALITY/MCWMP/INDEX.PHP
WWW.ACES.EDU/DEPT/FISHERIES/AWW/AWW
WWW.CLEANWATERPARTNERSHIP.ORG