



THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

4/5 COUNTIES IN THE WATERSHED REPRESENTED

14 HIGH SCHOOLS PARTICIPANTS

50+ HOURS OF PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

10 WEEKS OF PROGRAMMING

8 HIGH SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

188 HOURS OF COLLABORATIVE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

800+ STUDENTS ENGAGED IN OUR WORK

30 TIRES REMOVED FROM THE RIVER AT OUR TIRE RODEO THIS YEAR

35 TOTAL SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES, & YOUTH PROGRAMS ENGAGED



Monitoring the Ebenezer Swamp

We were invited to develop and execute a sampling plan to protect the Ebenezer Swamp in Montevallo from development impacts happening upstream. This area is ecologically significant to many species and to residents of Montevallo. Early access to project development allowed us to monitor area water quality and compliance of this development with full support from the development team. Phase one continues as storm water reservoirs are established to reduce runoff from the site.

SWIM GUIDE

"If you want the opportunity to grow academically, professionally, and personally, I could not recommend a better internship experience. I dedicated all my college summers to this program, and could not have made a better decision for myself. This is a really great program for exposing young minds to different opportunities available to them, and the team does their best to lift them up in their pursuit of success."

-Gabe R., 3rd Year Swim Guide Intern.



1046 SAMPLES
550 E. COLI
496 TURBIDITY



5,104 MILES
Traveled to sample water in 4 counties of the Cahaba River watershed.

Sample results that were viewed on social media:
71,277 FACEBOOK
23,744 INSTAGRAM
10,867 SWIM GUIDE APP
105,888 TOTAL SWIM GUIDE VIEWS

Swim Guide Results

Over the 16 weeks that Cahaba Riverkeeper analyzed samples for E. coli, sites along the Cahaba River tested:

2025	48.8% SAFE	14.8% MODERATE	36.4% UNSAFE
2024	55.0% SAFE	17.0% MODERATE	28.0% UNSAFE

A special thanks to **The Daniel Foundation** for supporting intern-led litter cleanup opportunities this year!

Swim Guide interns from Cahaba and Coosa Riverkeeper spent time on each river learning about watershed-specific challenges and building on their network of peers.



Honoring our founder, Dr. Myra Crawford

Our founder and former Executive Director, Dr. Myra Crawford, began Cahaba Riverkeeper in 2009 with a modest contribution and ambitious goals. Under her leadership and through consistent collection of credible scientific data, a baseline for the health of our river was defined and has become a trusted public resource. Her vision of service to the Cahaba River and to all that rely on it remains a cornerstone of our mission.

"The Cahaba River is a world-renowned biological treasure and invaluable to our state,

the communities it supports, and visitors from around the world. We are excited to combine our expertise to inspire future generations to honor the river we all love with collaborative solutions in the face of inevitable change."

David Butler

Co-Executive Director & Riverkeeper

Cahaba River Coalition

Two longstanding local nonprofits – Cahaba River Society and Cahaba Riverkeeper – have merged to form Cahaba River Coalition, a unified organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the Cahaba River and its watershed. CRC leverages science, conservation and community engagement to monitor river health, share trusted information with the public and encourage sustainable development in partnership with local leaders.



STEWARDSHIP & RECREATION

335

CLEANUP
VOLUNTEERS
ENGAGED

24

CORPORATE
PARTNERS
ENGAGED

524

HOURS INVESTED
ON RIVER
STEWARDSHIP

7

BLUEWAY SERIES
WORKDAYS WITH
PARTNERS

25 Recreation
Trips

21 Volunteer
Cleanups

**5,821 POUNDS OF TRASH AND
RECYCLABLES REMOVED**

**1,347.9 POUNDS OF INVASIVE
PLANT SPECIES REMOVED**



During Earth Week, **over 100 volunteers** removed litter and invasive species across multiple counties along the Cahaba's banks and tributaries.

3,343 lbs

of total litter removed
from the watershed
this week alone!

18 lbs

of glass removed

796 lbs

of scrap tire removed

27 lbs

of plastic removed

17 lbs

of aluminum

CLEAN PROGRAM

"This summer, I was honored to present at Miles College's STEM Experience Summer Camp. That morning, I went down to the river to collect a few aquatic critters and fresh water samples so the students could conduct real-world tests on phosphates, nitrates, and dissolved oxygen levels right there in the lab. Seeing Dr. Charles C. Woods and Dr. Nikaela Flournoy, two mentors who helped shape my path, filled me with gratitude. Their students were sharp, curious, and deeply engaged. Some even asked how they could get involved with the CLEAN Program themselves!"

-La'Tanya Scott, CLEAN Manager

1,450

STUDENTS SERVED

3/5

COUNTIES SERVED

27

SCHOOLS AND
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ENGAGED

**281 SPECIES
IDENTIFIED**

**636 OBSERVATIONS
LOGGED IN
INATURALIST**

**27 WRITTEN
OBSERVATIONS**

**52 COMMUNITY
PARTICIPANTS**

BioBlitz

BioBlitz 2025 brought community members, scientists, and nature lovers together to explore and document the incredible biodiversity of the Cahaba River watershed at Oak Mountain State Park. Although Saturday's activities were canceled due to weather, Sunday offered a vibrant, hands-on day of discovery and connection.

"By bringing together the incredible work of both organizations, we will expand our reach to protect the rich biodiversity of the Cahaba.

Merging our strengths in data, relationship-building, and education opens new opportunities to deepen our impact across the entire watershed. Cahaba River Coalition will broaden both the protection we provide and further inspire people to be stronger stewards of this extraordinary river."

Deborah Barker

Co-Executive Director
Cahaba River Coalition

As one organization, we will strengthen water quality monitoring, expand education and community engagement, and work hand-in-hand with partners to safeguard the watershed. This merger isn't just a new name. It's a renewed commitment to protecting the Cahaba for the communities, wildlife, and future generations that depend on it.