

Restoring & protecting the Cahaba River watershed & its rich diversity of life



YOUR CAHABA RIVER ~ 2017 IMPACTS

Drinking water

- ≈ Cahaba “Peopleshed” includes BWWB drinking water area & Jefferson, Shelby, Bibb, Perry, & Dallas Co.
- ≈ More fish species per mile than any other river of its size or larger in all of North America
- ≈ Essential resource for the health and economy of central Alabama
- ≈ Biggest challenge: degradation of the River’s natural flow and water quality due to urban development

Globally-significant biodiversity

Recreation

Education

Tourism



Mud pollution

Riverbank collapses

Drought

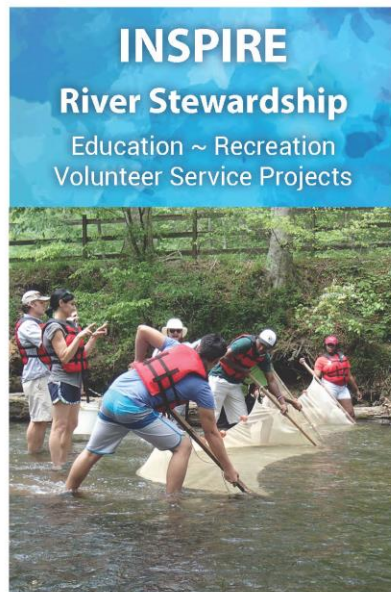
Pathogens

Invasive plants

Forest & habitat loss

ABOUT CAHABA RIVER SOCIETY ~ OUR GOALS

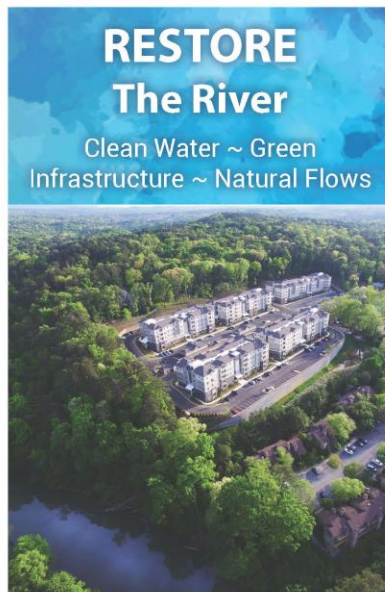
CRS is an educator, expert resource, and collaborative partner for science-based and practical solutions



INSPIRE

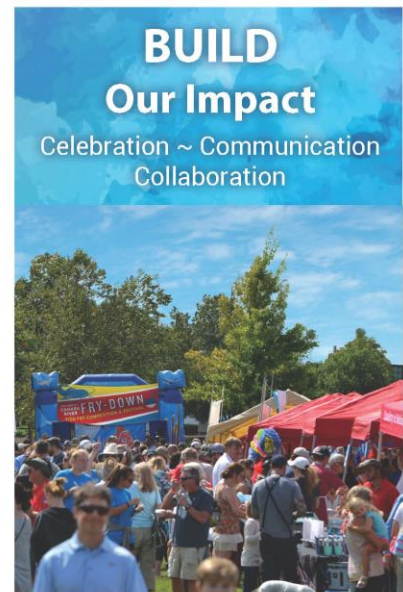
River Stewardship

Education ~ Recreation
Volunteer Service Projects



RESTORE **The River**

Clean Water ~ Green
Infrastructure ~ Natural Flows



BUILD **Our Impact**

Celebration ~ Communication
Collaboration

Cahaba River Society 2017 Achievements

INSPIRING RIVER STEWARDSHIP

Education ~ Recreation ~ Volunteer Service Projects



- ◆ Delivered 79 river and classroom educational programs to 42 institutions through the The Shane Hulsey CLEAN Environmental Education Program, serving 1,845 people, 53% of whom are people of color, with over 36,000 total people served since the program began in 1996
- ◆ Worked with partners toward the 2018 official launch of the Cahaba Blueway water trail, helping to secure partners and funds and with the development of river access in Jefferson, Shelby, and Bibb Counties
- ◆ Completed 10 volunteer service projects with 152 participants, with projects that provided hands-on opportunities for people to connect with their Cahaba River while building knowledge and stewardship commitment, including river clean ups, forest restoration projects, and planning outdoor classrooms on the River
- ◆ Launched "Project Tarobliteration" to root out invasive taro plants from Cahaba river-banks and Cahaba Lily habitat

RESTORING THE RIVER

Clean Water ~ Biodiversity ~ Green Infrastructure ~ Natural Flows



- ◆ Helped lead 2nd Cahaba Connections Conference - 70+ leaders and citizens learned about Cahaba restoration initiatives and model green infrastructure programs in Alabama
- ◆ Served as collaborative resource for river-protective design of 6 development projects and awarded Crowne at Cahaba condominiums for water-smart development
- ◆ Supported the Cahaba Beach Road coalition to defend region's drinking water and the Little Cahaba River from a proposed Highway 280 cut-through road and bridge
- ◆ Documented to ADEM that the Cahaba's natural flows have been degraded by urbanization and that ADEM should officially designate the River as "flow impaired"
- ◆ Advised City of Birmingham stakeholder group and drafting of model codes to require improved stormwater management and promote green infrastructure
- ◆ Defended Clean Water Act protection for headwater streams and wetlands as part of national Clean Water for All coalition

BUILDING OUR IMPACT

Celebration ~ Communication ~ Collaboration



- ◆ Held 8 educational and/or fun(d)raising events reaching over 1,400 people
- ◆ Hosted the 8th annual Cahaba River Fry-Down raising over \$50,000 with support from more than 50 business and educational partners--thank you!
- ◆ Planned 2018 collaboration trainings with the Collaborative Environmental Network of Alabama to widen our circles for collaboration within and beyond our organizations
- ◆ Increased national recognition for the Cahaba through participation in the Clean Water for All Coalition and through workshops on our education programs and stream restoration efforts presented at national conferences
- ◆ Published two reports to members, revitalized *Cahaba Current* e-newsletter, issued over a dozen action alerts, and increased social media followers by 246% to over 7,700 followers in improved communications efforts to our members and constituents
- ◆ Began development of new website to be launched in 2018--watch for it!