

COMPLETED 2015 CAWACO PROJECTS

Black Warrior and Cahaba River Clean Water Partnership Facilitation Facilitate meetings with stakeholders to identify collaborative approaches in solving water quality issues within the Black Warrior River Basin. This project is a cooperative initiative with the Alabama Clean Water Partnership.

iPads for Oak Mountain Elementary Provided iPads to introduce technology and build math and reading skills, and preparing students to thrive in an increasing technology-driven society.

Energy Efficient Lighting for Graysville Walking Track Install energy- efficient lighting at Graysville Southeast Park to replace lighting destroyed by a tornado. This enables citizens to utilize the Park at night, promoting health, wellness and a safe community.

Eco Drum Purchase of equipment by the Birmingham Zoo that will allow for the recycling of animal waste, allowing for a “full-circle” Eco-Garden (*from waste to compost; from compost to harvest*). This will reduce landfill costs by \$25,000 per year.

USDA/NRCS Beginning Farmer & Rancher Outreach Host (10) outreach meetings for beginning farmers and ranchers and small farmers in an effort to make them aware of USDA funding programs and introducing sustainable farming concepts, promoting agriculture as a career.

North Jefferson Regional Library Reclaim a 1957 armory as an energy-efficient regional library and arts center serving the citizens of North Jefferson and Blount Counties. The Library will provide educational opportunities for area residents, the majority of which are at the poverty level or at-risk.

Education and Therapeutic Technology Upgrade current equipment that engage children with disorders in therapeutic tasks. ARC of Walker County provides services for persons with intellectual and development disabilities in three counties and currently serves over 200 families.

Appalachian Community Park Build a walking trail around community-built sports park to promote youth sports and healthy activities.

Summer BASIC Program Prevents summer learning loss in reading and mathematics among under-served children in Central Alabama so that, on average, there will be a gain of two months in reading and two months in math. Summer BASIC is a 4-week program for under-served children ages, 7 to 13.

City of Snead Baseball/Softball Field Renovation Renovation of outdated facilities to address safety risks and issues. The park serves nine youth baseball and t-ball teams in Blount County.

Shelby Ironworks Site Preservation Clear 12-acre historical site of the Shelby Iron Company furnaces (1840's) and Shelby Chemical Company (1900's) for public access. Install trails, signage and protective structures to keep the public safe while viewing structures.

Coosa River Science School Provide scholarships to limited income students to participate with their school in the single day and overnight field trip experiences. (800 students)

Expanding Horizons Provide summer programs in Blount County that reduce student summer learning regression. Forty (40) camps were held exposing 1,108 students to music, art, hands-on science and math activities, environmental and safety education, cooking, broadcasting and leadership skills.

Maplesville Students at Work and Play (K-12) Replace unsafe and outdated playground equipment with state of the art new playground equipment.

Blount-Oneonta Agribusiness Lighting Replace inefficient arena lights at the Oneonta Agribusiness Center to save on utilities. This facility provides community events such as Special Needs Rodeo, Farm City Banquet and the annual Blount County Fair.

Well Restoration University of Montevallo reestablished an abandoned well located on campus as a non-potable water source to deliver water that will be used at UM's steam plant. This action will reduce utility costs for UM and be an example of a sustainable option for heating and cooling.

STEM Robotics at LeCroy CTC Equip two classrooms at the Chilton County Technical Center to enable teaching of engineering, computer science, critical thinking skills, teamwork and math. The program serves all six county schools.

Meadowlawn Greenway Assist the City of Vestavia to establish a greenway trail for recreation and restore a wetland to reduce repeated flooding in the Cahaba Heights community.

Shelby County Water Festival Shelby County Soil & Water Conservation District coordinates conservation education on the importance of water quality and quantity to fourth grade students in Shelby County. Over 2,000 students attended.

Alabama Theatre Red Carpet Roll Out Assist with historic renovation of the front staircase, dress circle short staircase, the lobby grand staircase, and the restroom staircase. The Alabama Theatre hosts over 300 events per year with an attendance of over 500,000.

Clanton/Goosepond Park Fitness Signage Chilton County YMCA installed signage along the popular walking trail that outlines various stationary exercises an individual can incorporate into their physical fitness routine.

Cawaco Project Development Cawaco staff assists communities in developing and locating resources for local projects.

Thorsby Walking Trail/Outdoor Classroom The Thorsby Parent Involvement Team purchased signs, benches, plants and other materials needed to develop a bird watching nature trail in Thorsby at the site of the historical Thorsby Institute.

Horse Creek Rails to Trails The City of Dora refurbished amenities along 3.2 mile Horse Creek Rails to Trails. The trail is used daily by community members and visitors.

Chilton Ag Farm Isabella Agriscience Department purchased a plasticulture unit to create a county-wide farm that teaches existing and innovative agriculture practices. Surplus produce on the farm is donated to local community organizations.

Minooka Park Playground Equipment Replace outdated equipment with safe playground equipment and surfaces. This enhances the amenities of Minooka Park which receives over 7,500 visitors per year.

Seeds for Gardens Seeds donated by a local feed and seed store are distributed by Cawaco personnel to community and school gardens in the five-county service area and shared with other RC&D Councils throughout the State.

Lean & Green Energy Machine Thompson High School Engineering Academy purchased a 1974 VW Beetle for students to convert to an electric car. The program teaches critical thinking skills through hands-on experiences and sustainability applications with real world applications.

Tool Trailer for Trails Cawaco RC&D makes trail equipment available to assist volunteers in establishing or maintain area trails. The project supports state-wide initiatives for outdoor recreation and trail development.

Observatory Water Supply The University of Montevallo restored historic infrastructure (1900's) to deliver water from a natural spring to areas around John Wylie Shepherd Observatory. The Observatory, located 3 mile from Campus, did not have a water supply. The reconnected water supply will allow for irrigation and non-potable water uses.

Kayaks for Kids Cawaco makes available kayaks (provided by the Alabama Scenic River Trail) to provide outdoor educational and recreational activities to underserved children in Alabama. Boating safety, paddling and self-sufficiency curriculum is provided by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Higgins Ferry Park Amenities Lake Mitchell HOBO Association built a walking trail, installed park benches and added fire rings to campsites. Higgins Ferry Park is visited by approximately 35,000 citizens per year.

Walker County Career Development Walker County Community Action Agency assists low-income families with career development, crisis assistance and emergency support. Support assisted clients in receiving internet certification for basic computer skills and completing applications for employment.

Cornerstone Wonder Stations Plant trees to help urban children learn and experience nature. This project enhances the year-round curriculum studies of trees, plants, animals and weather.

Providing Low- Cost Greenhouses for Community Benefit Cawaco has available commercial greenhouses to 1) assist with education and outreach to schools, 2) lower the cost of market entry for beginning farmers, 3) encourage the growth of local markets, and 4) assist with the expansion of job opportunities with current growers.

Ruffner Special Needs Nature Camp The Greater Alabama Boy Scouts of America hosted a four-day special needs camp at Ruffner Mountain. Young people with special needs were able to experience and enjoy outdoor activities with their peers.

Invasive Species Identification & Eradication Workshop Cawaco received a grant from the Alabama Invasive Plant Council to host a training on invasive plants. The curriculum was provided by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and attended by 35 participants. Benefits of the workshop included reclaiming area for picnicking at Turkey Creek Nature Preserve.

Chilton County Farmer's Expo ½ day hosted by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System Research Center exposes the public to activities at the Chilton County Research Station. Educational stations included beekeeping, integrative pest management, field dog exhibit, and wildlife and farm animals.

Biodiesel Propels Education Thompson High School purchased equipment to teach hands-on biodiesel production and alternative energy. The class is mentored by the City of Alabaster who is currently producing biodiesel for municipal equipment.

FIRST RESPONDER SUPPORT Provide needed equipment to help increase response times, comply with ISO standards, respond to fires with greater engagement and reduce homeowner's insurance costs.

- North Smithfield Manor/Green Leaf Heights Fire District
- Summit VFD

- Maplesville VFD
- Palmerdale Fire District
- Hay Valley VFD
- West Jefferson Fire & Rescue

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