



2025 Annual Report

Cawaco RC&D Grant Program

About the RC&D Grant Program

Cawaco RC&D receives funds from the Alabama Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils, in partnership with the Alabama Legislature, to provide grants for locally-led projects.

We support projects that are likely to make a broad community, environmental, or educational impact in **Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby and Walker Counties.**

Types of Grants

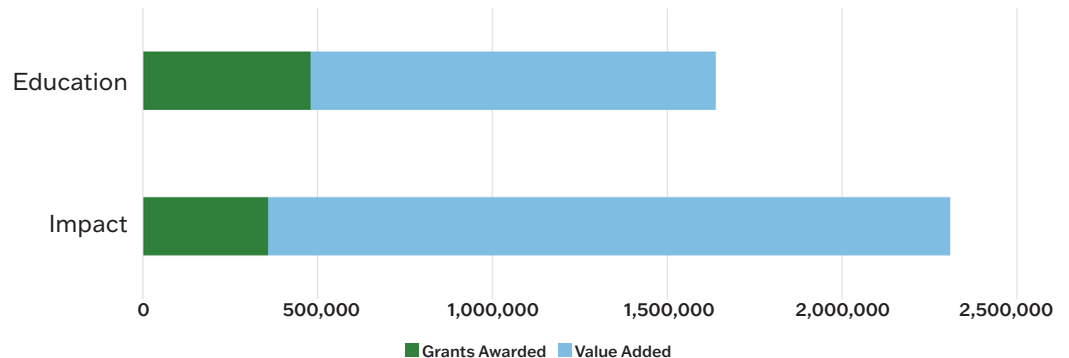
- **Education:** For job/trade skill training, scholarships, field trips, books, or materials
- **Impact:** For materials, infrastructure, community development or educational/safety equipment

Funding Priorities

- Community Improvement Projects
- Education Projects
- First Responder Support
- Parks and Recreation

2025 Grant Program Impact

2025 Total Impact: Grants Awarded + Added Value



	Education	Impact
Grants Awarded	\$480,122	\$363,185
Value Added	\$1,158,164	\$1,950,930
Total Value	\$1,638,286	\$2,314,115

Strategic investments in local organizations drive large returns across the region. An investment of \$843k yielded a \$3.95 million impact. **Every \$1 Cawaco granted generated \$4.69 in total community impact.**

\$843k Grants Awarded
+ **\$3.11 million** Added Value
\$3.95 million Total Value

2025 Impact At-A-Glance



159,415
People Served



950
Volunteers



22
Facilities Improved



8,474
Students Served



10,448
Volunteer Hours



947
Training & Events

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Projects supported by Cawaco RC&D are led by local community leaders. The above numbers are a reflection of their efforts and determination. We are honored to be a small part of their success. **Thank you to Cawaco's Board of Directors and State Legislators** who identify impactful projects and provide direction and support.

Thank you to our partners who make this possible: Alabama Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils, Inc., Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries, and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

Cawaco RC&D Programs

About Cawaco RC&D Programs

Cawaco RC&D has a vision of vibrant communities that achieve balance between economic, human, and natural resource needs.

Cawaco's three strategic areas of focus are:

1. Environmental Initiatives:

Promote opportunities for innovation, conservation, and remediation of natural resources (air, flora, fauna, and water).

2. Community Development:

Assist with the creation of vibrant communities by improving community character, sense of place, and promoting responsible development.

3. Pathways for Economic Mobility:

Provide opportunities for area residents to realize their true potential through educational and community support.

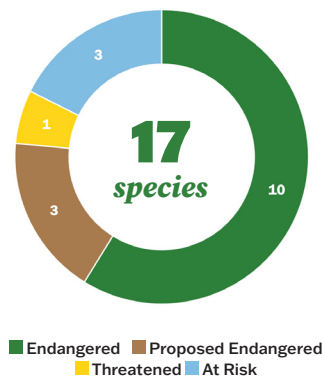
Cawaco also provides administrative and program support to **Your Town Alabama** and the **Holle Family Foundation**.

Learn more at cawaco.org.

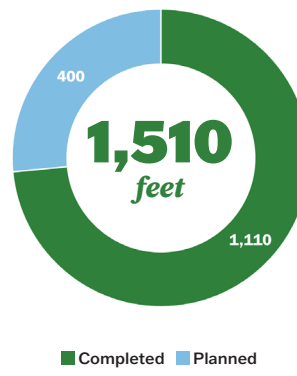
Strategic Habitats

Cawaco provides administrative and program support for the Alabama Rivers & Streams Network, a group that identifies opportunities for the restoration and recovery of imperiled aquatic species through collaboration using science-based methods.

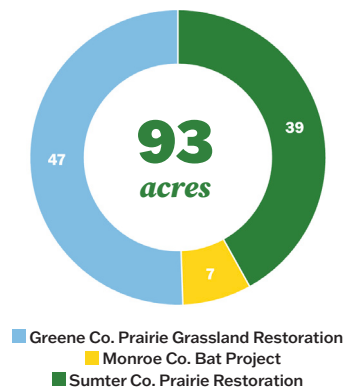
Targeted Species by Listing Type



Stream Restoration in Linear Feet



Land Restoration by Acre



Cool Green Trees

Cool Green Trees plants trees to mitigate the negative effects of urban heat islands, stormwater runoff, and air pollution to uplift the community, economy, and health of Jefferson County.

Site	Trees
Carver Park	40
Bessemer	50
East Lake Park	128
East Thomas	34
Enoch Brown Park	6
Hudson K-8	25
McNeil Park	41
Norwood	37
W.C. Patton Park	88
Wahouma Park	30
Total Trees	479

Urban Agriculture in Alabama

Urban Agriculture, in partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service & the National Association of RC&D Councils, offers technical assistance, education and resources to urban growers.



60
People Served



8
Volunteers



4
Training & Events

e-Bike Voucher Program

The City of Birmingham Sustainable Cities E-bike voucher program, in partnership with Redemptive Cycles, distributed electric bicycles to residents within Housing Authority of the Birmingham District communities. The program helps residents overcome transportation barriers to jobs, training, and community resources.



60
Bicycles Distributed



5
Safety Trainings

Thank you to our partners: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Jefferson County Department of Health, City of Birmingham, Norfolk Southern, Alabama Power Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, the National Association of RC&D Councils, Redemptive Cycles, Housing Authority of the Birmingham District, Geological Survey of Alabama, ADCNR-Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and Dr. Pat O'Neil (Retired).