



Village Creek is steeped in Birmingham's history, serving as the water source for a booming steel industry that gave birth to a city that rose like magic from a simple crossroads community. Unfortunately, with the rise and subsequent decline of the steel industry, Village Creek and the communities along its banks have struggled with the adverse impacts of their industrial heritage. Pollution, socio-economic decline, and abandoned industrial sites are some of the many problems that this watershed faces today.

However, there is hope. The Freshwater Land Trust has experience in helping beleaguered waterways. Now, we have a plan to help the people, communities, and businesses along Village Creek develop a series of parks and greenways designed to improve not only water quality, but also quality of life.

Champions for Village Creek Greenway is a collaborative partnership among neighborhood associations, businesses, government and others designed to improve the health of Village Creek and its communities. The Land Trust's Village Creek Coordinator works with a fifteen member Community Advisory Committee. Their mission is to engage and educate the community in the development of a series of parks and greenways along Village Creek with the goal of improving water quality and the quality of life for the community.

Together, they will develop a greenway plan, establish greenway goals and create a set of conservation tools for greenway development. Strategies for improving water quality include the development of parks, wetland restoration, acid mine remediation, and community wide clean ups. A critical component will be brownfield inventory, assessment, and cleanup work that can result in new economic development opportunities.

The coordinator will work to obtain funding from programs such as EPA Brownfields Grants, Land & Water Conservation funds, EPA Five-Star Restoration grants, Federal Transportation funding, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation grants, FEMA grants and others.

Village Creek is a major tributary of the Black Warrior River, part of the Mobile River Basin. The Mobile River Basin is considered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as one of the most imperiled drainages in the continental United States, and it is critical for conserving freshwater biodiversity. Improving water quality in Village Creek is crucial to halting the decline of both the Black Warrior River and the larger Mobile River Basin.

Improving conditions along Village Creek will not only result in cleaner water, but it will also help transform the lives of the people who live along its banks. With the Village Creek Greenway Initiative, we believe that the decline of Village Creek can be reversed. Working in partnership, the Freshwater Land Trust believes we can improve the health and communities of Village Creek, and in turn, leave our grandchildren a legacy of hope and renewal.

Champions for Village Creek Greenway Steering Committee

Art Grayson
ACIPCO Neighborhood President

Alice Gordon
Alabama Power

Drucilla P. Royal
Collegetown Neighborhood Vice President

Kelli Clarke
City of Birmingham Mayor's Office

Magnolia Cook
Ensley/Tuxedo Neighborhood President

Wendy Jackson
Freshwater Land Trust

Barbara Newman
Jefferson County Health Department

Robert Gilmore
Norwood Community President

James M. Procter, III
McWane, Inc.

Bob Roden
Shelby Roden LLC

Roald Hazelhoff
Southern Environmental Center

Alonzo Darrow
Thomas Neighborhood President

Tom Howard
U.S. Steel

Dr. Mabel Anderson
Village Creek Society

Robert Walker, Jr.
Wahouma Neighborhood President

Robin Wade, III
Wade Sand and Gravel



Village Creek Canyon

The Freshwater Land Trust

The Freshwater Land Trust's mission is the acquisition and care of lands that enhance water quality and preserve open space. We acquire, conserve, and connect open spaces that are critical for the protection of rivers and streams and that provide recreational opportunities for the community.

The Freshwater Land Trust is based in Birmingham, Alabama and works in the counties of Jefferson, Shelby, Blount, Chilton, Bibb, St. Clair, Tuscaloosa, and Walker in Alabama. We are a conservation group that works to ensure that everyone wins: landowners, businesses and communities alike.



Freshwater Land Trust · 2308 First Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203 · p. 205.417.7777 · f. 877.571.9810

www.freshwaterlandtrust.org

