

What is a Watershed?

An area of land from which all the water, sediment, and dissolved material drains (runs downhill) to the same location such as a stream, pond, lake, river, wetland, estuary, or ocean.

Dog River Watershed

This watershed is located in a highly developed urban-suburban area. It covers 95 square miles with 56% located in the City of Mobile and the remaining 44% in Mobile County. The Dog River has problems often found with urban watersheds and it needs your help.

Problems in the Dog River Watershed

✓ TRASH and DEBRIS

Any trash, debris, and contaminants on streets, parking lots, or yards will wash down storm drains or drainage ditches and ultimately end up in the Dog River. This is unsightly, unsanitary, and a threat to wildlife.

✓ EROSION

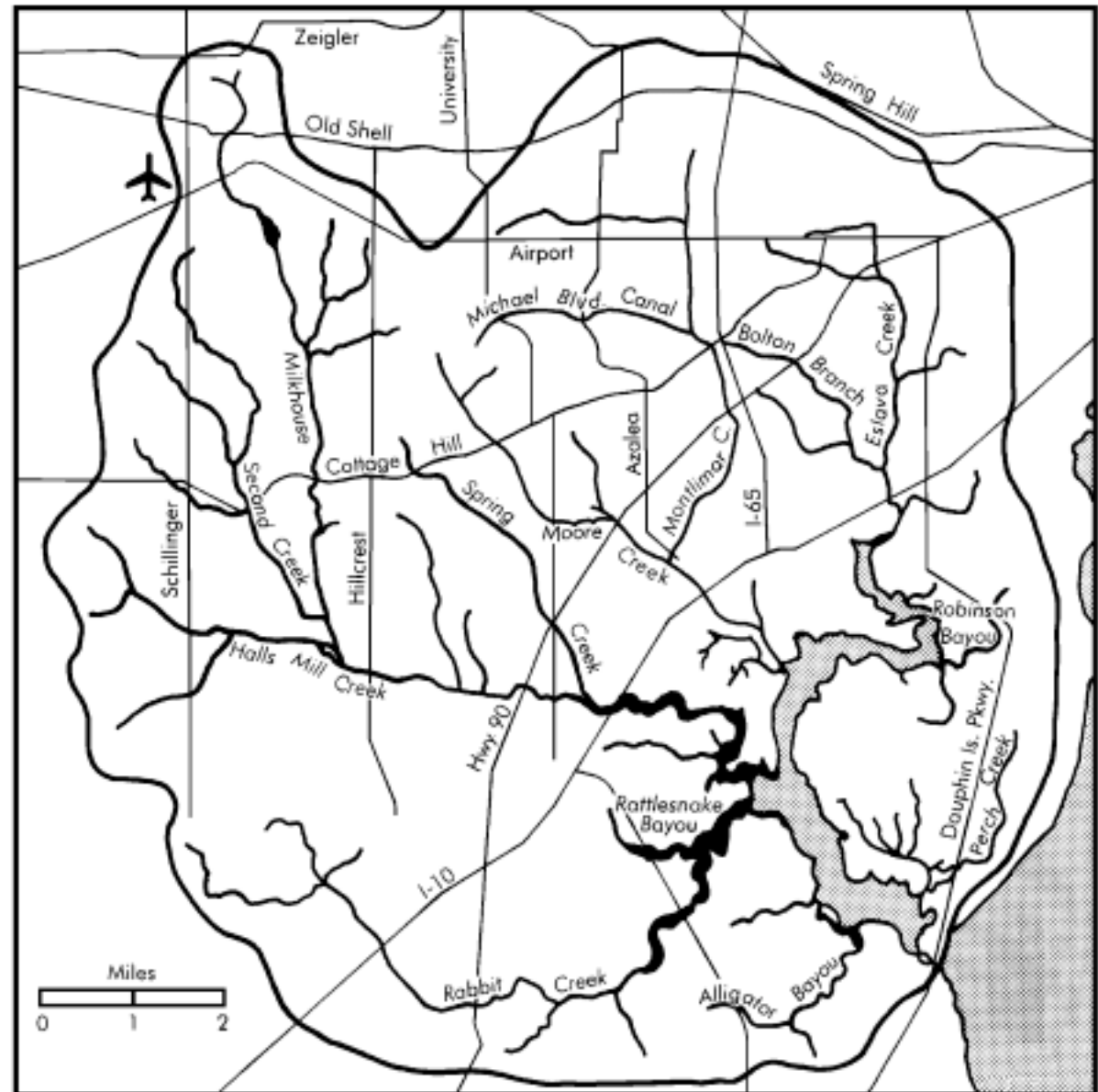
Erosion is caused by channelization, shoreline alteration, and increased rain water runoff due to increased impervious surface (land covered by paved areas that can't soak up rain). Erosion can cause loss of property, damage to streets and buildings, and increase siltation.

✓ SILTATION/TURBIDITY

A major cause is erosion, particularly at construction sites which lack erosion control practices or have improperly installed and/or maintained erosion control devices such as hay bales, silt fences, etc. Siltation and turbidity pose a threat to aquatic vegetation and bottom dwelling (benthic) organisms.

✓ OTHER PROBLEMS

Other problems include fecal coliform bacteria from broken sewer lines and failing septic tanks, elevated nutrient concentration because of runoff from lawns and golf courses, shoreline alteration, loss of wetlands, and waterfront development



Map courtesy of Heather Boone, Department of Geology and Geography, University of South Alabama. For more information on Dog River's Watershed visit the website at www.usouthal.edu/geography/fearn/480page/dogriver.html

Things YOU can do on a Long Term Basis. Adopt-A-Stream

You can adopt a stream through the PALS (People Against A Littered State) program. To find out how, call the number below.

Water Quality Monitoring

Through Alabama Water Watch, you can become a certified volunteer water quality monitor and can start testing water at a site of your choosing. You can also become certified to do bacteriological monitoring to analyze water for *E. coli*.

Things You Can Do At Home

- Don't put **anything** down storm drains including leaves and grass clippings.
- Don't put too much fertilizer or pesticide on your lawn. Don't use any if it is going to rain.
- Wash your car on the lawn, NOT the paved driveway.
- Pick up trash in front of your house or on your street.
- Take care of your septic tank. It needs to be pumped out every three to five years.

For more information, please contact:

Auburn Marine Center
4170 Commanders Dr.
Mobile, Al 36615
(334) 438-5690

SARPC
651 Church St.
Mobile, Al 36602
(334) 433-6541

ADECA, Coastal Programs Office
1208 Main Street
Daphne, AL 36526
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