



Pepperell Branch Watershed Partnership

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PEPPERELL BRANCH WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP UPDATE - ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR & PET WASTE STATION INSTALLATION

OPELIKA, ALA. – The City of Opelika has just reached the halfway point of its yearlong journey in developing a Watershed Management Plan for Pepperell Branch, a project made possible through partnerships with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Auburn University, Keep Opelika Beautiful and many other local organizations and institutions. At the heart of this plan is the assessment, protection and preservation of our local water resources.

As part of this plan, many noteworthy goings on have occurred. One such item is the recent Environmental Fair, held in conjunction with Keep Opelika Beautiful's Citywide Cleanup. Hosted at Opelika's Shady Park, this event provided citizens exposure to many environmental activities. Booths showcasing these activities explored: aquatic insect identification, non-point source pollution, watersheds, pet waste, recycling, litter, freshwater fish species and bee-keeping. After having fun at the environmental booths, participants left to help with Citywide Cleanup. In total, more than 30 citizens attended the Environmental Fair.

Additionally, new pet waste stations have been installed at the old railroad depot and Shady Park. These stations will now allow Opelika residents and visitors to explore amenities with their furry friends in an environmentally conscience way. The importance of cleaning up after your pet cannot be overstated. Pet waste left on the ground carries many harmful pathogens that get transported to streams and creeks during rain events. These pet waste stations, and other existing units, all help to reduce the presence of harmful bacteria in our waters, so be sure to use them!

Be on the lookout for more events, meetings and opportunities to be involved. The easiest way to stay updated is by following the City of Opelika and other partner organizations on Facebook. Or you can check out the Pepperell Branch Watershed Partnership homepage at: <https://cses.auburn.edu/eve-brantley/pepperell/>.

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