

2026 STORMWATER CALENDAR



JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA MAJOR CREEKS, RIVERS, AND SIGNIFICANT WATERSHEDS

Basins and watersheds are often used interchangeably, but "basin" usually refers to larger areas. Both terms refer to land areas where the elevation causes water to flow towards a central location, ranging from a small puddle to a large river.

The black arrows are to show the direction that the water is flowing in the creek or river.

TOMBIGBEE BASIN

BLACK WARRIOR BASIN

JEFFERSON COUNTY, AL

CAHABA RIVER BASIN

ALABAMA RIVER BASIN

MOBILE RIVER BASIN

MOBILE BAY BASIN & WATERSHEDS

BLACK WARRIOR RIVER WATERSHED

VALLEY CREEK WATERSHED

LOCUST FORK WATERSHED

GURLEY CREEK WATERSHED

TURKEY CREEK WATERSHED

FIVE MILE CREEK WATERSHED

VILLAGE CREEK WATERSHED

CAHABA RIVER WATERSHED

LITTLE CAHABA RIVER WATERSHED

Old TUSCALOOSA HIGHWAY

Mountain Ridge - Basin Divide Line

SHADES CREEK WATERSHED



There are smaller subbasins or minor watersheds within each significant basin or watershed. These geographic features are not defined by state or municipal boundaries but rather by mountain ridges and valleys.

You Can Help Protect Your Local Water Resources

Many people are not aware of how their actions affect the environment, especially regarding water pollution. The stormwater drainage system, designed to move rainwater off roadways to protect public safety, directly channels water to nearby rivers and creeks without any treatment.

To raise awareness, the 2026 stormwater calendar highlights how small actions can impact our waterways, which are vital for drinking water, food, and recreational activities. It provides tips for capturing and holding rainwater at home and offers guidance on safely disposing of hazardous household items.

Additionally, the calendar includes resources for managing garden pests and emphasizes the importance of soil conservation for protecting fish habitats, along with updates on local water quality.

2026 Waste Diversion Event Dates

Free events are available for Jefferson County residents to safely dispose of household quantities of hazardous waste, electronics, and TVs. Contact 205.325.8741 or visit www.jccal.org for event hours and locations and to learn about the items accepted.

- Jan. 31 - Electronic Drop-Off / Paper Shredding
- Mar. 14 - Electronic Drop-Off / Paper Shredding
- Apr. 25 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- May 9 - Electronic Drop-Off / Paper Shredding
- June 13 - Electronic Drop-Off / Paper Shredding
- Sept. 12 - Electronic Drop-Off / Paper Shredding
- Oct. 17 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Water Resources and Contacts

City of Bessemer Stormwater Program
www.bessemeral.org/stormwater; 205-424-4060

City of Birmingham Stormwater Program
www.birminghamal.gov/stormwatermanagement; 205-254-7771

City of Leeds Stormwater Program
www.leedsalabama.org/storm-water; 205-699-2585

City of Hoover Stormwater Program
www.hooveral.org/631/Stormwater-Management; 205-739-6888

Jefferson County Department of Health Watershed Protection Program / SWMA 205-930-1999
www.jcdh.org (search watershed protection program)

Jefferson County Stormwater Program
www.jccal.org; 205-325-8741

ADEM adem.state.al.us; 334-271-7823
Statewide agency that administers the Municipal NPDES Stormwater Permit to local jurisdictions.

Alabama Water Watch
www.alabamawaterwatch.org
Statewide citizen-based water monitoring program.

Alabama Rivers Alliance
www.alabamarivers.org
Statewide network of groups working to protect and restore all of Alabama's water resources.

Auburn University Water Resources Center <https://aaes.auburn.edu/wrc>
Providing research-based information for improved management and protection of Alabama's water resources.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper
www.blackwarriorriver.org
Promoting clean water throughout the Black Warrior River watershed.

Cahaba River Society
www.cahabariversociety.org
Working to protect and restore the Cahaba River watershed and its rich diversity of life.

Cahaba Riverkeeper
www.cahabariverkeeper.org
Working for the protection and ecological integrity of the Cahaba watershed.

Freshwater Land Trust
www.freshwaterlandtrust.org
Conserving, connecting, and caring for land and water in Central Alabama.

Friends of Shades Creek
www.shadescreek.org
Working for the protection of, and responsible development, along Shades Creek.

Jefferson County Conservation District
www.jeffersonco.wixsite.com/jeffersonswcd
Providing service, leadership, and assistance for the wise use, conservation, and development of natural resources.

Village Creek Society, Inc.
www.villagecreeksociety.org
Seeking to improve Village Creek.

WHY CLEAN WATER IS IMPORTANT

Clean water is essential to our daily lives and our environment. We interact with the natural waters around us every day. Sometimes this interaction is direct, such as when we go fishing in local rivers or take our children to play in nearby creeks.

Other times, our connection to water may not be as obvious. For many of us, our drinking water is sourced from nearby rivers and reservoirs. Additionally, we rely on water to grow our food, produce our clothing, maintain hygiene, and generate energy for our homes. Industry relies heavily on water as water is used for several processes.

Given that water is a non-renewable resource that we rely on for so much, it's crucial that we safeguard the water we have. The good news is that our everyday actions can play a significant role in keeping our water resources clean, benefiting both our health and the health of future generations.



Creeks and rivers are home to our favorite swimming and fishing spots, as well as our drinking water!

To report a sanitary sewer overflow, call 205-942-0681.
 To report suspected water pollution within unincorporated
 Jefferson County, call 205-325-5792
 Within the City of Birmingham, call 311.
 For all other municipalities, contact the local city hall.

JANUARY 2026

THIS MONTH, EMBRACE YOUR ROLE IN IMPROVING WATER QUALITY BY MAKING ONE CHANGE THIS YEAR!

January is a perfect time for ensuring your vehicle and gas-powered lawn equipment are in good working order. Spills and leaks of oil and other petroleum products from equipment can be washed by rain into waterways, posing a serious threat to the delicate balance of our ecosystems. These products are toxic to fish and other animals that live in our creeks, rivers, and lakes.

If you notice a spill or leak, rest assured that you can quickly and efficiently manage it. Sprinkling absorbent material, such as cat litter, on the spill will soak it up. Once the spill is absorbed, sweep it up and properly dispose of the material according to the product label.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 New Year's Day Kwanza Ends	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 FREE Electronic Drop-Off & Paper Shredding Event 9 am - 11:30 am Salamander Festival

SPECIAL EVENTS:

January 31, bring your unwanted electronics and paper to be shredded at the Birmingham Zoo between 9:00 am - 11:30 am.

January 31, plan to attend the annual Salamander Festival sponsored by Friends of Shades Creek. Visit shadescreek.org for details.

Participate in a MLK Day of Service Litter Clean-up; visit jccal.org for details.



PREVENT POLLUTED WATERWAYS

Litter is one of the most prominent sources of pollution in our waterways. It finds its way into our waterways when rain washes it off the ground, into the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), and ultimately into our creeks, rivers, and streams.

Beyond being an eyesore, litter leads to numerous serious issues. It drains taxpayer money for clean-up efforts and clogs the MS4 which can contribute to flooding. It can be harmful, even fatal to animals when they mistake it for food.

Litter is preventable, and you can play a vital role in creating a litter-free world by:

- Disposing of your trash in a bin or recycling container whenever you fuel your vehicle. Keeping a small trash bag in your car provides a convenient spot for any waste you accumulate while on the go.
- Securing loose trash to prevent it from blowing out of truck beds or trailers while driving.
- Picking up items that accidentally fall to the ground or get swept away on windy days.



Litter harms wildlife, degrades water quality, and burdens taxpayers with cleanup costs!

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FEBRUARY 2026

SHOW YOUR WATERSHED SOME LOVE BY PLANTING A TREE IN HONOR OF ALABAMA'S ARBOR WEEK!

Trees and their canopies are useful in reducing stormwater runoff. Trees provide valuable benefits to both commercial and private properties. They help clean the air, reduce energy needs, mitigate heat island effects, and absorb and divert rainfall. Their roots and fallen leaves improve soil and promote rainwater infiltration, while providing a wonderful display of color in the fall.

The last full week of February is designated as Arbor Week in Alabama. This year, Arbor Week falls from February 22 to 28. It started in 1887 with Alabama Governor Thomas Seay signing the state's first Arbor Day Proclamation. Visit [Visit forestry.alabama.gov](http://Visit.forestry.alabama.gov) for more information.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Black History Month Begins	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 President's Day	17 Ramadan (begins at sundown) Chinese New Year	18 Ash Wednesday	19	20	21
22 Alabama's Arbor Week Begins	23	24	25	26	27	28 Black History Month Ends

SPECIAL EVENTS:

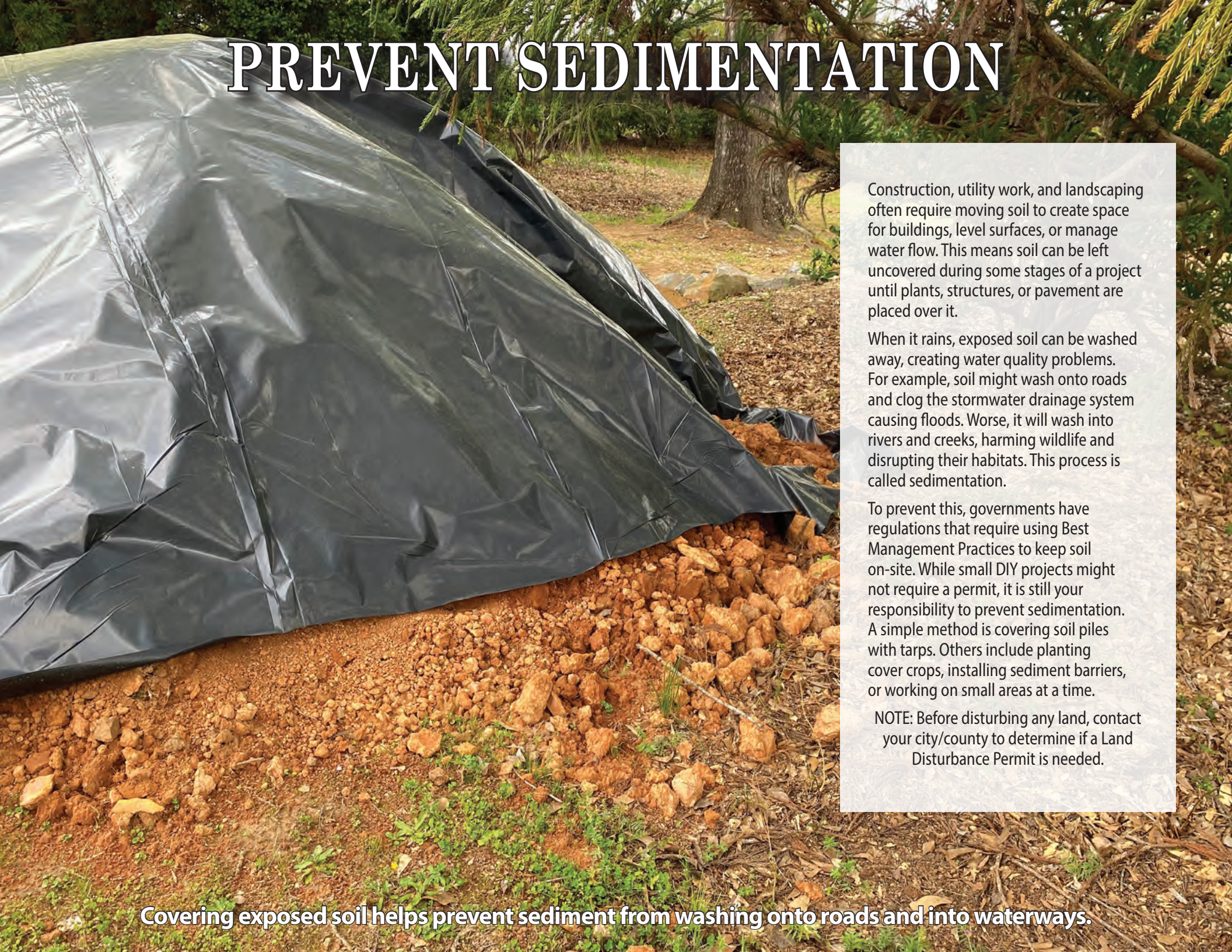
Alabama Arbor Week begins February 22, 2026, and ends on February 28, 2026. Celebrate by planting a tree and helping it grow because trees are beneficial in reducing Stormwater Runoff.

Register your community to participate in the volunteer roadside litter spring clean-up through the Alabama People Against a Littered State; call 205-325-8741 for more information.

Start gathering your unwanted electronics and paper to shred to bring to Jefferson County's Drop-Off Event on March 14, 2026.



PREVENT SEDIMENTATION



Construction, utility work, and landscaping often require moving soil to create space for buildings, level surfaces, or manage water flow. This means soil can be left uncovered during some stages of a project until plants, structures, or pavement are placed over it.

When it rains, exposed soil can be washed away, creating water quality problems. For example, soil might wash onto roads and clog the stormwater drainage system causing floods. Worse, it will wash into rivers and creeks, harming wildlife and disrupting their habitats. This process is called sedimentation.

To prevent this, governments have regulations that require using Best Management Practices to keep soil on-site. While small DIY projects might not require a permit, it is still your responsibility to prevent sedimentation. A simple method is covering soil piles with tarps. Others include planting cover crops, installing sediment barriers, or working on small areas at a time.

NOTE: Before disturbing any land, contact your city/county to determine if a Land Disturbance Permit is needed.

Covering exposed soil helps prevent sediment from washing onto roads and into waterways.

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MARCH 2026

MARCH IS AN EXCELLENT MONTH TO GET INVOLVED IN A LITTER CLEAN-UP!

Alabama Power kicks off their annual Renew Our Rivers program, sponsoring the spring clean-ups for Valley Creek and Mulga Loop Road. Volunteers will receive free clean-up materials, including trash bags, gloves, t-shirts, and trash grabbers, along with 8 hours of community service credit! Keep an eye out for flyers or call 205-325-8741 for more information.

Alabama People Against A Littered State (AL PALS) will be kicking off their annual *Don't Drop It On Alabama Spring Cleanup!* Schedule an AL PALS volunteer litter cleanup in your community. Call 205-325-8741 to schedule your event today!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Feast of Esther Purim (begins at sundown)	3 Small Holi (first day)	4 Big Holi (second day)	5	6	7 Valley Creek Clean-up
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins	9	10	11	12	13	14 FREE Electronic Drop-off & Paper Shredding Event 9:00 am - 11:30 am
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Ramadan (ends at sundown)	19	20	21 Mulga Loop Road Clean-up
22 World Water Day	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday	30	31				

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Participate in the Renew Our Rivers Valley Creek Spring Clean- up or the Mulga Loop Road Clean-up; visit jccal.org for details.

March 14, bring your unwanted electronics and paper to be shredded at the Village Creek Water Reclamation Facility between 9:00 am - 11:30 am. Call 205-325-8741 or visit www.jccal.org for more information.



CAPTURE AND HOLD RAINWATER



Rainwater is essential for both our lives and the environment. However, when rainwater running off roofs and streets gains speed, it can pick up harmful things like trash, sediment, overapplied yard chemicals, and pet waste. This polluted water then flows to local streams, causing damage to these critical habitats.

To help reduce water pollution and the risk of floods in your community, consider slowing down rainwater before it leaves your property. Here are a few simple steps:

- **Reduce the amount of paved area.** Minimize the use of concrete and asphalt on your property by incorporating more natural surfaces, such as grass or mulch, which allow water to seep into the ground.
- **Slow down the rain flow from your roof.** Instead of downspouts, consider using chains to let rainwater flow gradually and/or installing a rain barrel to capture the rainwater.
- **Create a rain garden, like the one shown in the picture.** Adding plants in a designated area can help absorb water, reduce runoff and help filter out pollutants!

Cleaner runoff leads to healthier waterways for everyone to enjoy, especially for aquatic life.

Reducing the speed and quantity of rain leaving your property can help reduce the risk of floods.

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APRIL 2026

April is an ideal month to consider reducing stormwater runoff at your home by installing a rain garden. Rain gardens are designed to capture rainwater, allowing it to either be absorbed by plants or to infiltrate into the ground, instead of draining into the stormwater drainage system.

In addition to managing runoff, rain gardens provide an excellent opportunity to plant native vegetation, which supports pollinators and other wildlife.

Locations to purchase native plants locally include:

- **Botanical Gardens Biannual Plant Sales**
(Apr & Sept)
- **Jefferson County Greenways' Native Plant Sales** (Apr & Oct)
- **Petals From the Past**
(All year)
- **Recreative Natives**
(By appt)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Passover (begins at sunset)	2	3 Good Friday	4 JCG Native Plant Sale 10-2
5 Easter Sunday	6	7	8	9 Passover (ends at sunset)	10 Voting Begins For LitterQuitters.org!	11 JCG Native Plant Sale 10-2
12	13	14	15 Tax Day	16	17 National Arbor Day	18 Rain Barrel Workshop JCG Native Plant Sale 10-2
19	20	21	22 Earth Day Voting Ends For LitterQuitters.org!	23	24	25 Household Hazardous Waste Day 8:00 am - 11:30 am
26	27	28	29	30		

hb-2

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Cast your vote for your favorite anti-litter video at www.litterquitters.org between April 10 and April 22!

Register to attend the Rain Barrel Workshop at Jones Valley Teaching Farm.

Buy native plants at Jefferson County Greenways' Plant Sale (JCG PS)—every Saturday in April at Ruffner Mountain from 10:00 am -2:00 pm.

Attend the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event (3 locations) on Saturday, April 25, 2026. Visit www.jccal.org for more details.



MANAGE GARDEN PESTS WITH IPM

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a practical approach to pest control that emphasizes prevention and the use of targeted, strategic solutions. The key steps of IPM include identifying the pest, monitoring its population, determining when to act, exploring different management methods, and evaluating the effectiveness of the chosen solution.

IPM is crucial because traditional pesticides can harm beneficial creatures, such as pollinators and honeybees. It prioritizes safer alternatives, including improving gardening practices, utilizing beneficial insects, and employing traps, while reserving chemical pesticides for last resort situations.

Accurate pest identification is essential for effective management. If pesticide use is necessary, always follow the instructions to avoid harming other plants and wildlife. If you are in doubt, contact the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Satellite Plant Diagnostic Lab in Birmingham at 205-879-6964 for assistance or visit their website www.aces.edu/blog/topics/farming/plant-diagnostic-lab-services.

Controlling pests in your garden involves more than spraying pesticides.

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MAY 2026

BE MINDFUL OF THE CHEMICALS YOU USE IN YOUR YARD TO AVOID HARMING ALL THE BUGS IN YOUR LANDSCAPE.

Caterpillars transform into beautiful butterflies, and baby birds rely on various insects for nutrition.

Not all garden bugs are detrimental. Some are beneficial as they consume harmful bugs. In addition, others play a crucial role as pollinators and a food source for baby birds.

If bugs are taking over your yard, don't hesitate to contact the Alabama Extension's local Plant Diagnostic Lab at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Their experts can help identify the issue and can offer practical solutions. For further assistance, please call 205-879-6964.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9 FREE Electronic Drop-off & Paper Shredding Event 9:00 am - 11:30 am
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Pentacost	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31	SPECIAL EVENTS: Attend this month's FREE Electronic Drop-off and Paper Shredding Event held at the <u>Jefferson County Satellite Courthouse in Center Point from 9:00 am - 11:30 am.</u> Call 205-325-8741 for more information or visit jccal.org . Do not worry if you miss this month! There are three more drop-off events this year.					



KNOW BEFORE YOU SWIM

Swimming in creeks, rivers, and lakes is an excellent way to cool off on a hot summer afternoon. To help ensure your safety while swimming in the Cahaba River, refer to the Cahaba Riverkeeper's Swim Guide (cahabariverkeeper.org/swim-guide). This guide offers recent information on water quality conditions from numerous sites along the Cahaba River and surrounding creeks. Water quality measurements are taken weekly, every Thursday, from May to September. The Swim Guide uses color coding to indicate site safety based on the levels of E. coli (a bacterium that can cause illness) found in the most recent samples.

Swimming safety tips to consider:

- Avoid swimming after heavy rain, or if the water appears cloudy, discolored, or has an unusual smell.
- Be cautious: swim carefully and never dive into the water. Know your limitations and bring a buddy.
- Stay away from deep or fast-moving water. Keep in mind that even calm water can have strong undercurrents.
- Wear sunscreen and suitable footwear, like sandals, to protect against scrapes and cuts.
- Do not swallow the water.

Check Cahaba Riverkeeper's Swim Guide (cahabariverkeeper.org/swim-guide) for water quality conditions.

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JUNE 2026

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN WATER MONITORING?

If so, Alabama Water Watch (AWW) is a great resource for you. AWW offers free water monitoring workshops across the state for anyone who wants to get involved. Certified AWW citizen monitors can enter their results into a publicly accessible dataset that includes water quality information from other certified monitors throughout Alabama.

To view the data, get certified to monitor your local creek, or access other AWW resources, visit their website at aaes.auburn.edu/alabamawaterwatch).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 World Environment Day	6 Fishing Rodeo
7	8 World Oceans Day	9	10	11	12	13 FREE Electronic Drop-off & Paper Shredding Event 9:00 am - 11:30 am
14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth Independence Day	20
21 Father's Day	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
The following center page, as well as the first two pages, can be used as posters when you are done with the calendar. Just carefully take out the staples.		SPECIAL EVENTS: FREE Electronic Drop-off & Paper Shredding Event, <u>Jefferson County Valley Creek Water Reclamation Facility in Bessemer from 9:00 am - 11:30 am.</u> Call 205-325-8741 for more information or visit www.jccal.org . Grab your fishing pole and attend the City of Birmingham's Fishing Rodeo at Eastlake Park.				



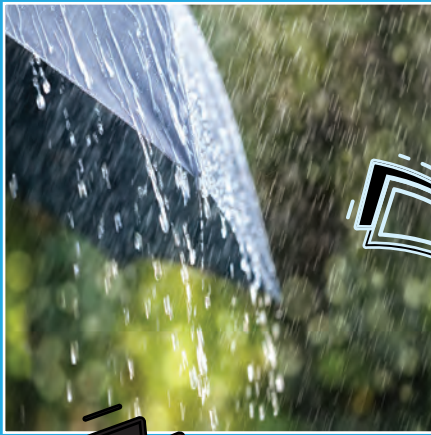
Stormwater: Where It Flows, Everything Goes

When it rains, snows, or sleet, water hits hard surfaces and takes anything on that surface with it, through drains, pipes, and ditches to local rivers, lakes, and streams.



Where Stormwater Flows, Everything Goes

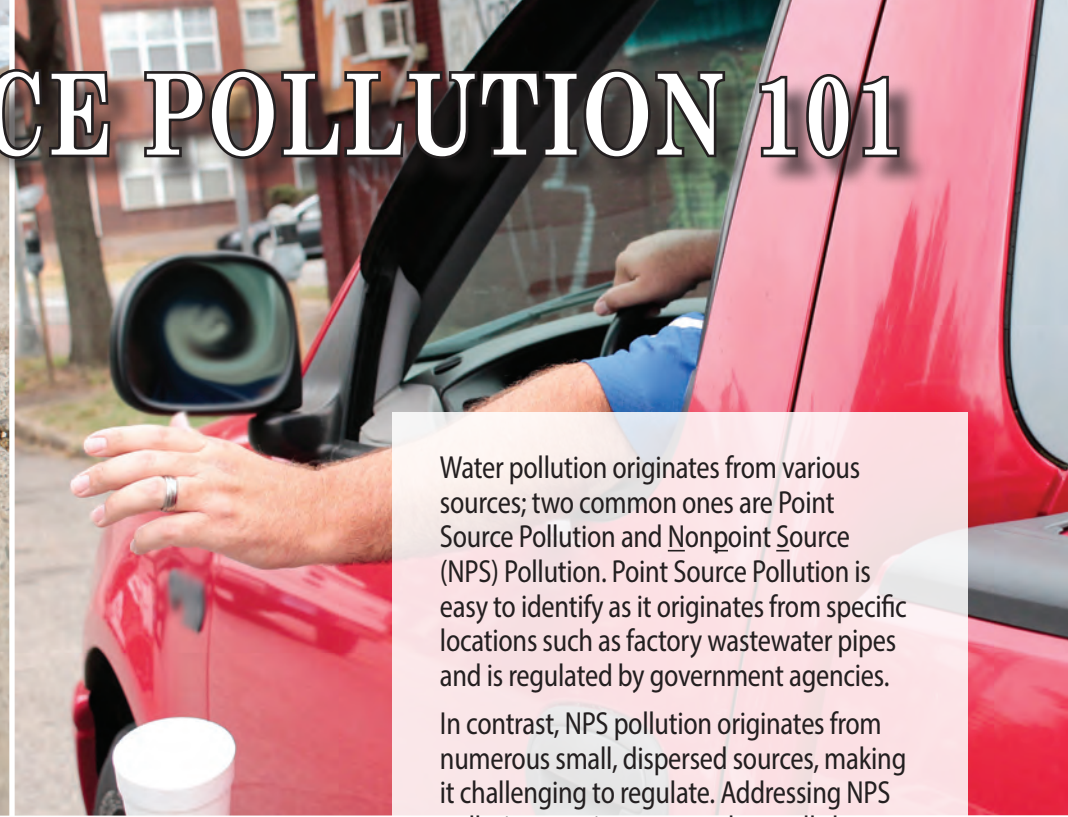
The stormwater drainage system is interconnected. Everything that rain comes in contact with flows downstream to another location until it reaches the ocean.



The runoff from yards, sidewalks, and parking lots in Jefferson County affects the health of Mobile Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. Let's work together to protect the purity of Alabama's waterways and ensure that only rain enters the storm drainage system.



NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION 101



Water pollution originates from various sources; two common ones are Point Source Pollution and Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution. Point Source Pollution is easy to identify as it originates from specific locations such as factory wastewater pipes and is regulated by government agencies.

In contrast, NPS pollution originates from numerous small, dispersed sources, making it challenging to regulate. Addressing NPS pollution requires us to make small changes in our daily lives, such as disposing of trash properly, maintaining vehicles, and using garden products wisely. Covering bare soil can also help prevent erosion.

Reduced water pollution relies not only on regulations but also on individual awareness and responsible choices. Every action matters, so let's all work together to *Keep it Clean, JeffCo!*



Small changes in our everyday lives can help reduce water pollution.

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JULY 2026

THIS INDEPENDENCE DAY, CELEBRATE YOUR RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER!

The Clean Water Act and its amendments were put in place to safeguard the health and safety of all Americans. Their main goal is to ensure the purity of the nation's waters by governing the types and quantities of pollutants that can be discharged into water bodies to meet specific water quality standards.

You can play a crucial part in preserving clean water by supporting, and joining forces with, your local watershed group. The first and the last two pages of the calendar provide a list of groups in and around Jefferson County.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Get ready to attend the FREE Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event. This event offers Jefferson County residents a convenient opportunity to safely dispose of unwanted HHW on Saturday, October 17, 2026. You can choose from two locations: [Camp Bessemer at 3295 King Street](#) or [Camp Ketona at 131 County Shop Road](#). For more information, call 205-325-8741 or visit www.jccal.org.

The previous center page, as well as the first two and last two pages, can be used as a poster when you are finished with the calendar. Just carefully take out the staples.



HELP POLLINATOR CONSERVATION



Pollinators are essential animals, primarily insects, that help flowers and plants create seeds by moving pollen from one to another. They play a crucial role in maintaining the health of our gardens and the environment. In fact, about one out of every three bites of food we eat depends on these pollinators!

Sadly, many pollinators are declining in number due to factors such as the overuse of pesticides, habitat loss, and competition from invasive species. To help protect pollinators, researchers are collecting information about the locations where these insects can be found in the southeastern United States.

One simple way you can help is by joining the Great Southeast Pollinator Census on August 21-22, 2026. All you need to do is watch a plant in your garden or a nearby park for 15 minutes and count the different insects that visit it. If you're observing a big plant, focus on a small 2-foot by 2-foot section. Your counts will be combined with others from several southeastern states to help scientists understand how pollinator populations are changing over time.

For specific instructions, pollinator count sheets, and an identification guide, visit gsepc.org.

Visit gsepc.org to participate in the Great Southeast Pollinator Census on August 21-22.

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AUGUST 2026

REMIND YOUR CHILDREN NOT TO LITTER AS THEY HEAD BACK TO SCHOOL!

Littering poses a significant challenge in Jefferson County, impacting the environment and quality of life. Rain washes litter into our creeks and rivers, which are vital for recreational activities and serve as our drinking water supply.

It's crucial to avoid littering. Reinforce this message with your family members, especially with teenage children. There are ample opportunities to dispose of trash, including at gas stations.

Visit www.LitterQuitters.org to find out how students are working to combat the littering issue. Thank you for your support!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Great SE Pollinator Census Day 1	22 Great SE Pollinator Census Day 2
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	Plan to attend the Fall Valley Creek Renew Our Rivers Clean-up taking place this month. Get ready to attend the FREE Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event on Saturday, October 17. You can choose from two locations: <u>Camp Bessemer at 3295 King Street, 35023</u> and <u>Camp Ketona at 121 County Shop Road, 35217</u> . For more information, call 205-325-8741 or visit www.jccal.org .				



INCREASE RAIN INFILTRATION



Impervious surfaces like roofs, streets, and sidewalks are essential infrastructure but create environmental challenges, particularly with stormwater runoff and water quality. Unlike natural areas where rainwater is absorbed by vegetation, developed regions see rapid runoff from these surfaces, carrying pollutants and warming water that can harm aquatic ecosystems.

Creating more pervious spaces in residential landscapes is a fantastic way to improve water quality, reduce runoff, and let water naturally seep into the ground—benefiting both our environment and our communities! One effective approach is to incorporate green spaces into your yard. Consider using porous pavers, pervious asphalt, pebble walkways, mulched areas, and vegetation between stepping stones instead of traditional concrete for your walkways and driveways. These practices can help support better water management and environmental health.

Create areas in your landscape that allow rain to soak into the ground, reducing runoff.

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SEPTEMBER 2026

THIS FALL, WORK TOGETHER TO STOP LOCALIZED FLOODING BY KEEPING YARD DEBRIS OUT OF THE STORMWATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

Our community plays a crucial role in preventing flooding by ensuring that the stormwater drainage system, designed solely for rainwater, doesn't get clogged with leaves and grass clippings.

It's crucial to convey to your yard professional the importance of not blowing yard debris into the street, stormwater inlet, or drainage ditch because those structures play a significant role in preventing localized flooding.

Contact the local city hall to explore yard debris services and resources they offer because not all cities provide loose-leaf curbside pickup.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11 Rosh Hashana (begins at sundown)	12 FREE Electronic Drop-off & Paper Shredding Event 9:00 am - 11:30 am
13 Rosh Hashana (ends at sundown)	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Yom Kippur (begins at sundown)	21 Yom Kippur (ends at sundown)	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Fall Shades Creek Volunteer Litter Clean-up is usually held the last Saturday in September. Visit www.shadescreek.org for more information.

Fall Village Creek Volunteer Litter Clean-up; call 205-325-8741 for details.

September 12, bring your unwanted electronics and paper to be shredded at the Birmingham City Hall/Linn Park between 9:00 am - 11:30 am. Call 205-325-8741 or visit www.jccal.org for more information.



WASTE DISPOSAL 101



When you throw something 'away,' where it ends up depends on the item and how it is handled.

Many items can be recycled, including #1 and #2 plastics, aluminum cans, paper, and cardboard. Food scraps and yard waste can be added to a compost pile, breaking down naturally to enrich soil anywhere.

On the other hand, some items, such as electronics, automotive products, household chemicals, and paint, need special care during disposal and should not be mixed with regular trash. Residents of Jefferson County can take advantage of 2 free Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Events each year, taking place in April and October.

For items that can't be recycled or composted and don't have special disposal requirements, you can take them to a landfill or have them collected by a trash service. Landfills play a crucial role in managing waste while helping to reduce environmental impact.



Attend this month's Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event on October 17, 2026!

To report a sanitary sewer overflow, call 205-942-0681.
 To report suspected water pollution within unincorporated
 Jefferson County, call 205-325-5792
 Within the City of Birmingham, call 311.
 For all other municipalities, contact the local city hall.

OCTOBER 2026

THIS OCTOBER, GET OUTSIDE AND EXPLORE— INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN YOU!

The Freshwater Land Trust's Red Rock Trail system features 160 miles of trails where you can walk, run, hike, or bike. For more trail information, visit their website at freshwaterlandtrust.org.

Explore 3,000+ acres of natural beauty and 37 miles of trails across Red Mountain Park, Ruffner Mountain, and Turkey Creek Nature Preserve, all part of Jefferson County Greenways (JCG). Learn more at www.jeffcogreenways.org.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 JC Greenways' Native Plant Sale 10-2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 JC Greenways' Native Plant Sale 10-2
11	12 Columbus Day (observed)	13	14	15	16	17 Household Hazardous Waste Day 8:00 am - 11:30 am
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 JC Greenways' Native Plant Sale 10-2
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween JC Greenways' Native Plant Sale 10-2

SPECIAL EVENTS:

FREE Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event which is open to residents of Jefferson County, Saturday, October 17, 2026, from 8:00 am -11:30 am. Two locations to choose from: Camp Bessemer, 3295 King Street, 35023 OR Camp Ketona, 131 County Shop Road, 35217. Visit www.jccal.org or call 205.325.8741 for more information.



PREVENT SEWER OVERFLOWS



Maintaining properly functioning plumbing is essential, whether your home is connected to a septic system or a sanitary sewer. Clogs can lead to unpleasant odors and expensive repairs. Issues arise when sanitary wipes, which often flow past household plumbing, are flushed down the toilet. Unlike toilet paper, wipes are made from plastic fibers that do not decompose. They can combine with Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) from cooking products and other sewer debris and cause blockages. These blockages can cause Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) that can harm the environment. Flushing wipes or other hygiene products and pouring FOG down the drain are frequent causes of clogs. To prevent clogged pipes and SSOs, consider following these simple steps:

- Dispose of sanitary wipes in the trash after use.
- Wipe excess grease and food from pans before washing them.
- Only flush the "3 Ps": pee, poop, and toilet paper.

By adhering to these practices, you can help ensure the health of your plumbing system and protect the environment from sanitary sewer overflows.

It is a shared responsibility: only flush the 3 Ps (pee, poop, and toilet paper) down the toilet.

To report a sanitary sewer overflow, call 205-942-0681.
 To report suspected water pollution within unincorporated
 Jefferson County, call 205-325-5792
 Within the City of Birmingham, call 311.
 For all other municipalities, contact the local city hall.

NOVEMBER 2026

HELP PREVENT SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

The holiday season often involves cooking deep-fried turkeys and other fried foods, which produces a significant amount of used cooking oil and grease. Unfortunately, pouring these items down the any drain can lead to problems at home and in the sanitary sewer system, causing backups and overflows that are costly to repair and unpleasant to smell.

Instead of pouring grease down the drain, let the grease cool, pour it into a sealed container, and bring it to one of the recycling stations around Jefferson County for free. Visit www.jeffcoes.org to find a location near you (Departments > Enironmental Services > Residential > Household Recycling.)

Let's work together to keep our sewer system clean and functioning!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends	2 Day of the Dead	3 Election Day	4	5	6	7
8 Diwali (first day)	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14
15 America Recycles Day	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29	30					

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Get ready to gather your unwanted electronics for the FREE Electronic Recycling and Paper Shredding Event!

This event is open to Jefferson County residents and typically takes place the last weekend in January at the [Birmingham Zoo](#) from 9:00 am - 11:30 am. Call 205-325-8741 or visit www.jccal.org to verify the date and identify what you can bring.



EVERYONE CAN PROTECT JEFFCO'S MS4



An MS4, or Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, is a manmade network of ditches, pipes and drains that carries rainwater from neighborhoods to rivers and lakes.

In the U.S., laws help communities maintain these systems, which is vital because rainwater drains directly into waterways without treatment. This means that litter, dirt, car fluids, and pet waste can be carried to our beloved rivers and lakes.



You can help protect Jefferson County's water by following these easy steps: Always throw trash in a bin, wipe off grease before washing dishes, and recycle oils at local sites. Never flush sanitary wipes—throw them in the trash instead! Read labels on cleaning products, and properly dispose of unused items at Jefferson County's waste events.

Let's keep Jefferson County clean!
Remember: Only Rain in the Storm Drain!

Rainwater from Jefferson County's streets drains directly into local waterways WITHOUT TREATMENT.

To report a sanitary sewer overflow, call 205-942-0681.
 To report suspected water pollution within unincorporated
 Jefferson County, call 205-325-5792
 Within the City of Birmingham, call 311.
 For all other municipalities, contact the local city hall.

DECEMBER 2026

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES TO CLOSE OUT 2026?

Many organizations in Jefferson County offer ways to positively impact the environment through community service. Volunteer activities include litter pick-up, invasive plant removal, native plant gardening and propagation, and stream sample collection and monitoring.

Here are some ways you can get involved:

- Adopt a segment of the Red Rock Trail System through the Freshwater Land Trust.
- Join the Cahaba Riverkeeper for their annual Tire Rodeo, where volunteers collect tires from the Cahaba River and its banks.
- Volunteer with Jefferson County Greenways at one of their green spaces.
- Monitor a local waterway with Alabama Water Watch.

Get involved and make a difference in your community!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 Hanukkah (begins at sundown)	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Hanukkah (ends at sundown)
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanza Begins
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	This calendar converts into posters that you can hang on the wall. When this month is over, safely remove the staples. The first 2 pages and the center page are now posters!	

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Attend the upcoming Electronic FREE Drop-off and Paper Shredding Event, typically takes place the last weekend in January at the Birmingham Zoo from 9:00 am - 11:30 am. Call 205-325-8741 or visit www.jccal.org to verify the date and identify what you can bring.

Recycle your Christmas trees at the Birmingham Zoo; more information is available at birminghamzoo.com.



JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA MAJOR CREEKS, RIVERS, AND SIGNIFICANT WATERSHEDS

Basins and watersheds are often used interchangeably, but "basin" usually refers to larger areas. Both terms refer to land areas where the elevation causes water to flow towards a central location, ranging from a small puddle to a large river.

The black arrows are to show the direction that the water is flowing in the creek or river.

TOMBIGBEE BASIN

BLACK WARRIOR BASIN

JEFFERSON COUNTY, AL

CAHABA RIVER BASIN

ALABAMA RIVER BASIN

MOBILE RIVER BASIN

MOBILE BAY BASIN & WATERSHEDS

BLACK WARRIOR RIVER WATERSHED

VALLEY CREEK WATERSHED

LOCUST FORK WATERSHED

GURLEY CREEK WATERSHED

TURKEY CREEK WATERSHED

FIVE MILE CREEK WATERSHED

VILLAGE CREEK WATERSHED

CAHABA RIVER WATERSHED

LITTLE CAHABA RIVER WATERSHED

Mountain Ridge - Basin Divide Line

Old TUSCALOOSA HIGHWAY

SHADES CREEK WATERSHED

There are smaller subbasins or minor watersheds within each significant basin or watershed. These geographic features are not defined by state or municipal boundaries but rather by mountain ridges and valleys.

You Can Help Protect Your Local Water Resources

Many people are not aware of how their actions affect the environment, especially regarding water pollution. The stormwater drainage system, designed to move rainwater off roadways to protect public safety, directly channels water to nearby rivers and creeks without treatment.

To raise awareness, the 2026 stormwater calendar highlights how small actions can impact our waterways, which are vital for drinking water, food, and recreational activities. It provides tips for capturing and holding rainwater at home and offers guidance on safely disposing of hazardous household items.

Additionally, the calendar includes resources for managing garden pests and emphasizes the importance of soil conservation for protecting fish habitats, along with updates on local water quality.

2026 Waste Diversion Event Dates

Free events are available for Jefferson County residents to safely dispose of household quantities of hazardous waste, electronics, and TVs. Contact 205.325.8741 or visit www.jccal.org for event hours and locations and to learn about the items accepted.

- Jan. 31 - Electronic Drop-Off / Paper Shredding
- Mar. 14 - Electronic Drop-Off / Paper Shredding
- Apr. 25 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- May 9 - Electronic Drop-Off / Paper Shredding
- June 13 - Electronic Drop-Off / Paper Shredding
- Sept. 12 - Electronic Drop-Off / Paper Shredding
- Oct. 17 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Water Resources and Contacts

City of Bessemer Stormwater Program
www.bessemeral.org/stormwater; 205-424-4060

City of Birmingham Stormwater Program
www.birminghamal.gov/stormwatermanagement; 205-254-7771

City of Leeds Stormwater Program
www.leedsalabama.org/storm-water; 205-699-2585

City of Hoover Stormwater Program
www.hooveral.org/631/Stormwater-Management; 205-739-6888

Jefferson County Department of Health Watershed Protection Program / SWMA 205-930-1999
www.jcdh.org (search watershed protection program)

Jefferson County Stormwater Program
www.jccal.org; 205-325-8741

ADEM adem.state.al.us; 334-2717823
Statewide agency that administers the Municipal NPDES Stormwater Permit to local jurisdictions.

Alabama Water Watch
www.alabamawaterwatch.org
Statewide citizen-based water monitoring program.

Alabama Rivers Alliance
www.alabamarivers.org
Statewide network of groups working to protect and restore all of Alabama's water resources.

Auburn University Water Resources Center <https://aaes.auburn.edu/wrc>
Providing research-based information for improved management and protection of Alabama's water resources.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper
www.blackwarriorriver.org
Promoting clean water throughout the Black Warrior River watershed.

Cahaba River Society
www.cahabariversociety.org
Working to protect and restore the Cahaba River watershed and its rich diversity of life.

Cahaba Riverkeeper
www.cahabariverkeeper.org
Working for the protection and ecological integrity of the Cahaba watershed.

Freshwater Land Trust
www.freshwaterlandtrust.org
Conserving, connecting, and caring for land and water in Central Alabama.

Friends of Shades Creek
www.shadescreek.org
Working for the protection of, and responsible development, along Shades Creek.

Jefferson County Conservation District
www.jeffersonco.wixsite.com/jeffersonswcd
Providing service, leadership, and assistance for the wise use, conservation, and development of natural resources.

Village Creek Society, Inc.
www.villagecreeksociety.org
Seeking to improve Village Creek.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM



JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION

