

Water Monitoring by DRCR

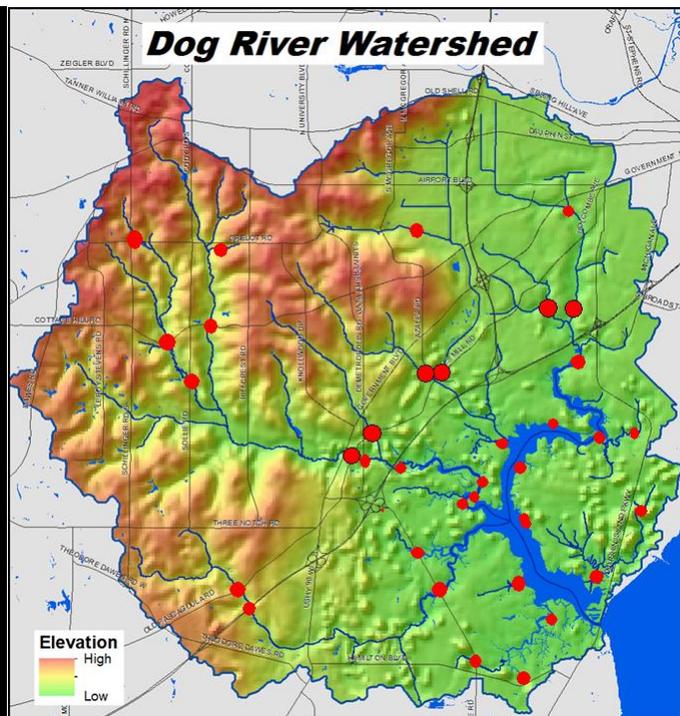


**DRCR started in 1994.
AWW water monitoring started in 1998 with 5 sites.
DRCR /AUMERC partnership.**

Dog River's watershed

**95 sq. miles
70% in city
30% in county**

**Have had 40
different AWW
sites, 6 have
over 100
records.**



Mobile's impact on the Dog River Watershed

Urban sprawl →

Spread of impermeable surfaces

increased surface runoff

decreased groundwater recharge

Stream channelization

Loss of streamside vegetation

Loss of wetlands

Increased runoff volume and speed

Impermeable surfaces upstream lead to flooding downstream: Halls Mill Creek at Halls Mill Road,



April 2015

Rapid runoff carries sediment and litter from watershed into river, leads to major trash problem



Photo by Rob Nykvist





**Advantages to DRCR of
volunteer monitoring**

Connects people to river

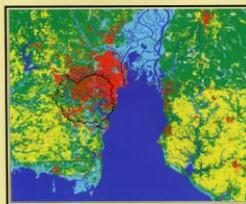
**Educates volunteers
about basic water quality**

**Establishes long term
trend data**

**AWW Watershed
publication, 2004**



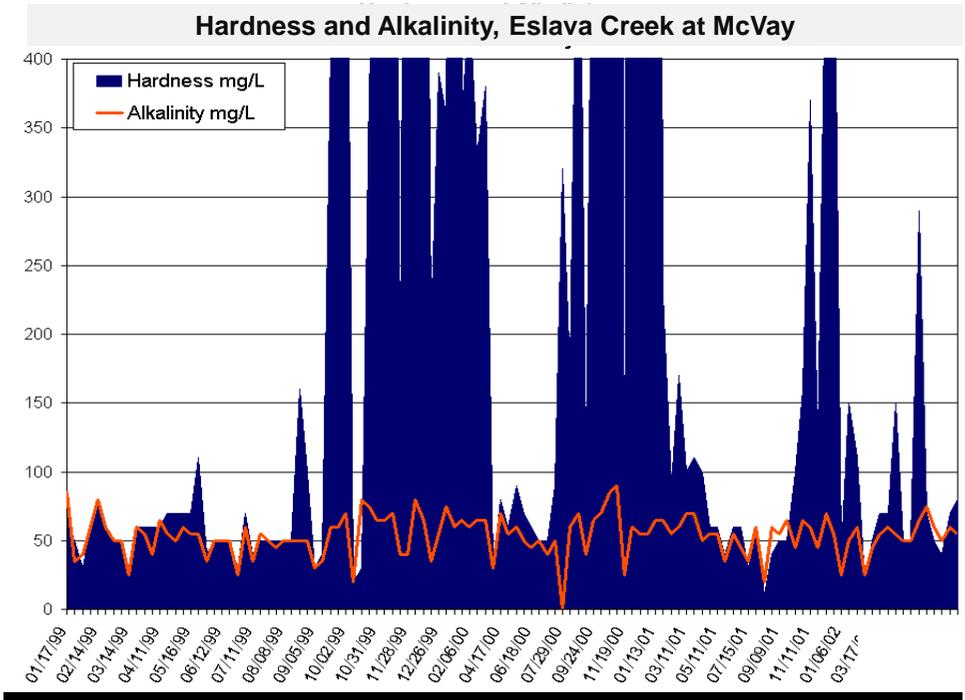
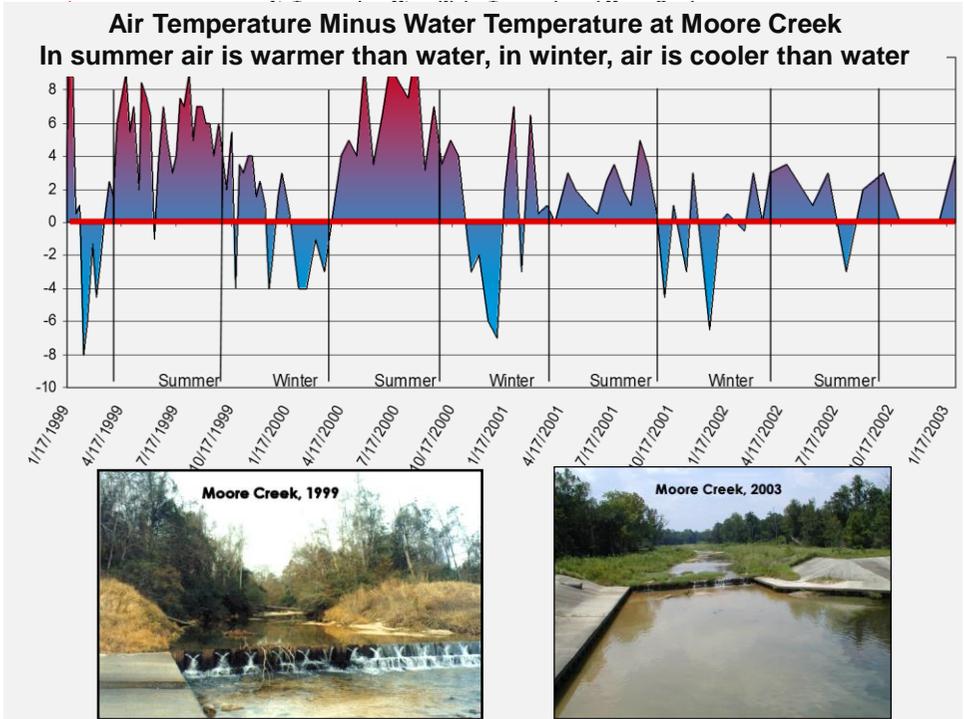
**Citizen Volunteer
Water Quality Monitoring
on Alabama's Coast**



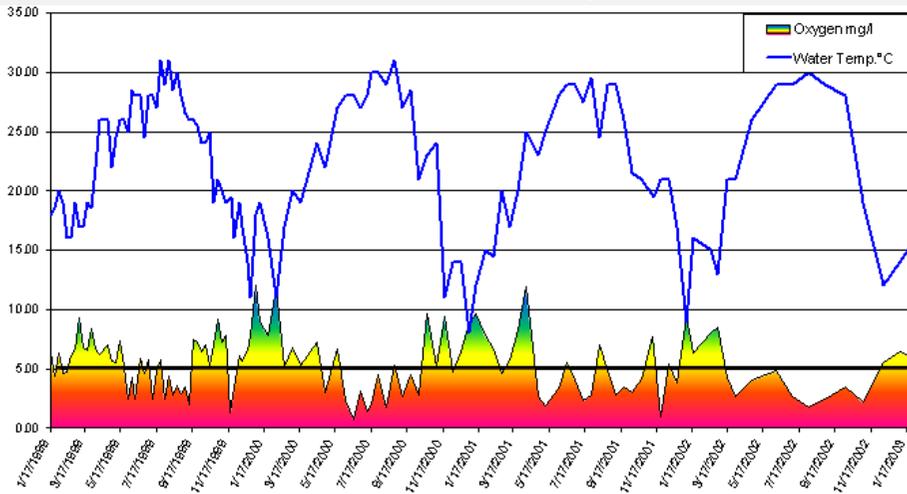
...protecting unique
estuaries and streams



Dog River
Alabama Water Watch
September 2004



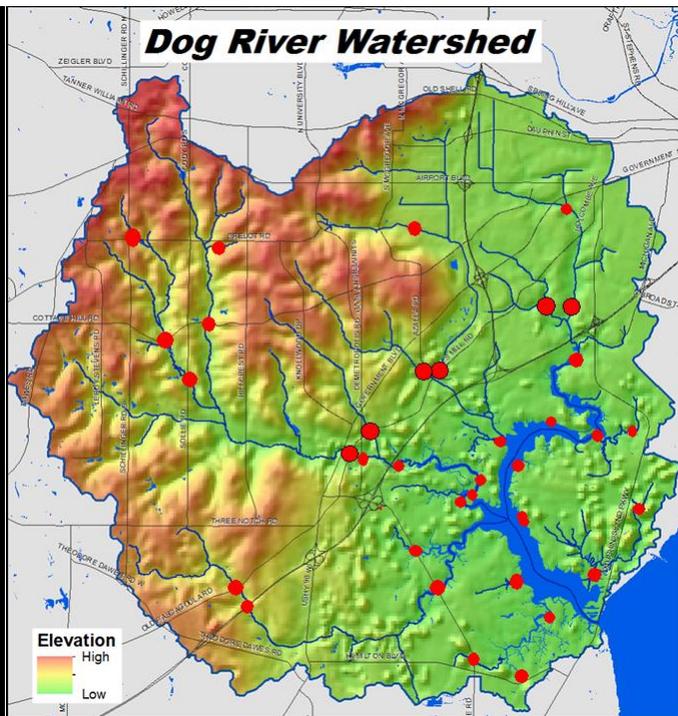
Dissolved Oxygen and Water Temperature Eslava Creek at McVay



Have had 40 different AWW sites, 6 have over 100 records.

Almost all are no longer actively monitored.

WHY?



Most monitors don't last long. Volunteer monitors do not feel like the data they collect is used for anything truly significant. They need more appreciation /recognition for the time they give, and they need to SEE their data used in a meaningful way.



Revamping DRCR's monitoring program

Provide both timely/quality data and connection/education

Address these issues

- **The AWW kits do not detect things like nitrates, biocides, or pathogens that people are concerned about.**
- **Time lag is too great and too widely spaced in time for this data to be truly meaningful for "Swim Guide".**
- **Volunteers want to monitor off their own docks, but that is often not where we need monitors. Recruit fewer but more skillful monitors or equipment for critical sites.**
- **Develop programs to promote connection/education through local schools and youth programs.**

