

McNally Park

Where Are You In The Watershed?

Can You Say Estuary?

An estuary (*es-choo-er-ee*) is where freshwater from the land mixes with saltwater from the sea. "Brackish" estuaries are home to some of the most sensitive and ecologically-productive habitats on earth, providing sanctuary for many different birds and breeding grounds for many marine species. The waters of McNally Park, on the western shore of Mobile Bay, are part of the Mobile Bay Estuary.

Did You Know...

That Mobile Bay is Where Five Major Rivers Meet the Gulf of Mexico

Rivers, creeks, and streams from over 65 percent of the state of Alabama and portions of Mississippi, Georgia, and Tennessee drain into Mobile Bay to mix with saltwater from the Gulf of Mexico. This makes Mobile Bay Watershed the sixth largest in the U.S. by area and the fourth largest by freshwater flow volume. Wind and tides deliver salty water from the Gulf into the Bay. Due to the shallow nature of Mobile Bay, the salinity or saltiness of the water constantly changes.

Mobile Bay By the Numbers

- Drains:** 43,662 square miles
- Receives:** 62,000 cubic feet of freshwater per second (on average)
- Average Depth:** 10 feet
- Length, North to South:** 32 miles
- Widest Point:** 23 miles
- Width at McNally Park:** 9 miles



Dog River or Garrow's Bend Watershed

Most of the City of Mobile drains into Dog River, including the western portion of McNally park via the Perch Creek tributary. But eastern portions of the Park drain into Mobile Bay from southern, less-developed portions of the narrow Garrow's Bend Watershed through the boat launch channel.

Dog River Watershed

Area: 95 square miles
Location: 56% City of Mobile
 44% Mobile County
Land Use: Developed 60.4%
 Upland Forest 17.7%
 Wetlands 16.7%
Major Tributaries: Perch Creek, Halls Mill Creek, Eslava Creek, Moore Creek

Garrow's Bend Watershed

Area: 6.38 square miles
Location: 100% City of Mobile
Land Use: Developed 81.6%
 Upland Forest 3.3%
 Wetlands 9.7%
Major Tributaries: None, Man-made and natural, un-named channels

Issue: Trash, Pathogens, & Silt

Silt from construction sites and pathogens (bacteria) from sanitary sewer overflow are problems of concern on the Peninsula. A particular issue of concern is trash, carried by stormwater off hardened surfaces into the receiving waters of Mobile Bay and Dog River.

You Are Here – McNally Park

McNally Park provides one of the few access points along the western shore of Mobile Bay. An almost indiscernible ridge running through the Park is the boundary between the Garrow's Bend and Lower Dog River watersheds. The Park is a celebrated asset to the people who live on and visit the Peninsula, with a put in and a yacht club offering boating opportunities. Perch Creek is a popular fishing hole, offering opportunities to catch both fresh and saltwater fish.

