

MONTGOMERY GENETTA DITCH STREAM RESTORATION AND FAIRVIEW ENVIRONMENTAL PARK

STATE PROGRAM: Alabama Department of Environmental Management

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: City of Montgomery

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT: \$1.9M



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Once a former brownfield site, Genetta Park in Montgomery, Alabama is now Fairview Environmental Park, a four-acre constructed wetland that serves as a neighborhood amenity with greenspace, trails, lighting, and green infrastructure features that address stormwater management issues. Genetta Park also serves as an attractive gateway to the 54-mile Selma to Montgomery National Historic Voting Rights Trail, which commemorates the events, people, and the march route of the Historic Civil Rights March.

Flowing through the park is Genetta Stream, an urban waterway and major tributary of Catoma Creek that was channelized underground in the 1960s to facilitate urban development. This channelization led to an increase in impermeable surfaces, eliminated the stream and riparian habitat in the watershed, and increased pollutant loading.

Phase I of the project was funded with an Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) Section 319 grant, a loan from Alabama's EPA-funded Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), and a HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). During this phase, the concrete pipelines were removed, a new channel alignment and floodplain were created, and the site was remediated due to petroleum hydrocarbon contamination. A \$1.9 million loan from the Alabama CWSRF, as well as HUD CDBG funds, provided the funding for Phase II of the project, which included the installation of green infrastructure features. The construction of the park, daylighting of the stream, and green infrastructure features help to filter stormwater runoff before it discharges to the Catoma Creek.

To read more about this case study, please visit https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-09/documents/cwsrf_brownfields_superfund_case_studies.pdf.