

PROJECT LITTER GITTER

REDUCING LITTER IN CENTRAL ALABAMA'S WATERWAYS



Freshwater Land Trust (FLT) is leading a coordinated effort to reduce litter in Central Alabama by installing trash collection devices known as “litter gitters” in local waterways.

In 2020, FLT received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to fund six litter gitters over three years, in addition to anti-litter programming. Thanks to our key partners, there are twelve litter gitters throughout Central Alabama as of March 2023, removing litter from both the Black Warrior and Cahaba River watersheds.

Since the first litter gitter was installed in December 2019, over **ten tons** of litter has been removed from Valley, Village, Shades, Little Shades, Five Mile, Buck, and Pinchgut creeks, and Griffin Brook.



ALABAMA'S LITTER PROBLEM

- In 2014, Alabama was ranked as the 16th dirtiest state, according to the American State Litter Scorecard.
- In 2019, it was reported that Alabama's Department of Transportation (ALDOT) spends \$1.9 million each year on litter pick-up across the Birmingham region.
- In 2021, ALDOT spent \$7.4 million to clean up trash on roadways.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Trash on the ground is carried by rain into roadside ditches and storm drains where it flows and pollutes lakes, rivers, and streams, and ultimately flows into the Gulf of Mexico. Project Litter Gitter focuses specifically on local waterways in Central Alabama.



The goals of the project are to:

- Remove trash in or about to enter waterways
- Reduce future litter
- Educate the community about the importance of trash abatement and clean water, with a focus on students

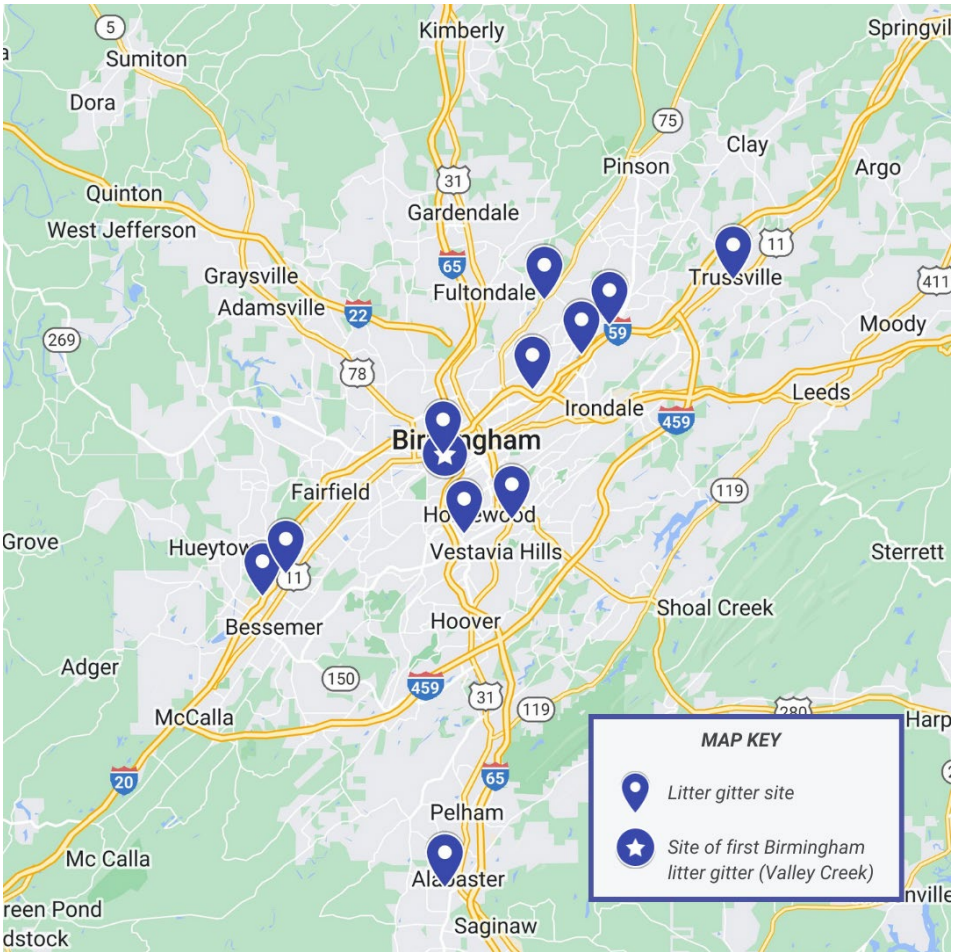
EPA FUNDING

In 2020, FLT and partners were selected to receive a \$500,000 project grant as part of the EPA Trash-Free Waters program. This grant was one of only three awarded in Alabama and essentially catalyzed the project.

INSTALLING LITTER GITTERS

Currently, twelve litter gitter devices are in the water: five in Birmingham, two in Homewood, and one each in Alabaster, Bessemer, Brighton, Tarrant, and Trussville. Alabama-based company Osprey Initiative installs, maintains, removes trash, and shares data from the devices and recycles as much collected litter as possible.

LITTER GITTER SITE MAP



There are twelve active litter gitter devices across Central Alabama.

LITTER EDUCATION

Project Litter Gitter also supports Jefferson County's Litter Quitters education program, led by the Jefferson County Conservation District. Grant funding has helped build on this program's success and reach more schools and students, as well as support new communications materials regarding the hazards of littering.



TRASH FREE WATERS FILMS

Freshwater Land Trust is producing a four-part short film series, "Trash Free Waters in Central Alabama," highlighting the history and successes of Project Litter Gitter, Litter Quitters, and the consequences of trash in our waterways.

Scan the QR code to check out Freshwater Land Trust's "Trash Free Waters in Central Alabama" film series.



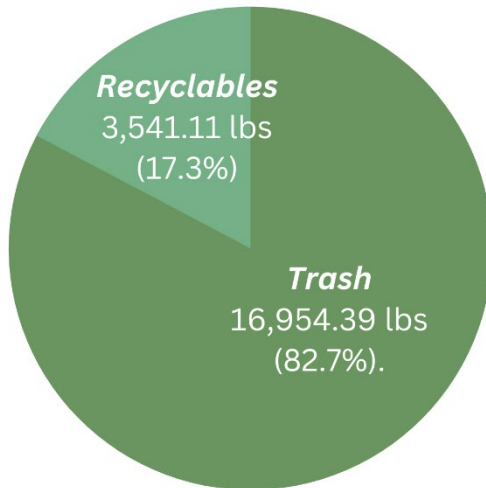
THE IMPACT

As of December 2022, over 20,000 pounds of trash has been removed from Central Alabama waterways as a direct result of Project Litter Gitter. **That's over ten tons!** Most of the trash collected was Styrofoam and plastic bottles.



20,000 pounds of litter is roughly equivalent to the weight of five cars, or 1.5 million Styrofoam coffee cups.

LITTER BREAKDOWN



Total trash (lbs), including recyclables, collected through Project Litter Gitter as of December 2022.

KEY PARTNERS

- Black Warrior Riverkeeper
- Cahaba Riverkeeper
- Osprey Initiative, LLC
- EPA
- The Cities of Alabaster, Bessemer, Birmingham, Brighton, Homewood, Tarrant, Trussville, and Vestavia Hills
- Jefferson County Department of Health
- Jefferson County Conservation District
- Litter Quitters
- Village Creek Society
- River Network
- Birmingham Coca-Cola Bottling Company
- ABC Coke, a division of Drummond Company
- Wells Fargo



JEFFERSON
COUNTY
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT



ABC
COKE
A DIVISION OF
DRUMMOND COMPANY, INC.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can donate to support future litter gitter devices or recommend potential litter gitter sponsors. Additional financial and community support for litter gitters is critical in order to combat litter effectively across our region and sustainably fund litter gitter devices. You can also become a “Litter Gitter Getter” and be listed as a project supporter on FLT’s website and project materials.

freshwaterlandtrust.org/litter-gitters

CONTACT

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**YOU
CAN BE A
LITTER QUITTER!**

