



From **Polluted Flood Plain** to **Thriving Greenway**

Five Mile Creek,
Jefferson County, Alabama

Five Mile Creek is a 45-mile waterway flowing through 7 cities in Jefferson County, Alabama, that was all but destroyed by industrial contaminants and floods.

Local leaders formed a partnership and purchased the site. They held stakeholder meetings to coordinate cross-sector efforts and were supported by the mayors of 6 cities, state representatives, and

senators. Their goal was to transform the area into a 28-mile network of greenways (or corridors of undeveloped conservation land) for community health and recreation.



The new-and-improved Five Mile Creek:

- ✓ **Provided** opportunities for recreation and physical activity on trails, greenways, and blueways
- ✓ **Created** safe walking routes to schools
- ✓ **Began** ecosystem restoration to reduce water pollution and prevent flooding
- ✓ **Brought** new economic activity to the area



Funding:

- EPA Brownfields Program
- More than \$4.2 million in county, state, and federal resources



Photo: Five Mile Creek Greenway Partnership, 2009

For the full story, visit:

http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/brownfields/docs/ATSDR_LandReuse.pdf



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry



KEYWORDS: brownfield, cross sector partnership, rural community, green space, economic development