

RESOLUTION 2025-R-75

Authorizes the execution of a Service Agreement with Cahaba River Society, Inc.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Irondale, Alabama, in regular meeting duly assembled, a quorum being present that Mayor James D. Stewart, Jr., or his designee, is hereby authorized to execute a Community Service Agreement with Cahaba River Society, Inc., an Alabama non-profit corporation, in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) and substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A.

ADOPTED & APPROVED: This the 6th day of May, 2025.



David Spivey, City Council President

APPROVED:



James D. Stewart, Jr., Mayor

ATTESTED:



Leigh Ann Allison, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Leigh Ann Allison, City Clerk of the City of Irondale, Alabama, hereby certify that the above to be a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Irondale at its regular meeting held on May 6th, 2025, as same appears in the minutes of record of said meeting.



Leigh Ann Allison, City Clerk

Exhibit A

AGREEMENT

This Agreement is made and entered into by and between the **City of Irondale, Alabama**, a municipal corporation (hereinafter referred to as the "City"), and the **Cahaba River Society, Inc.**, an Alabama non-profit corporation (hereinafter referred to as the "Cahaba River Society").

WHEREAS, the Cahaba River Society was established to restore and protect the Cahaba River Watershed and its rich diversity of wildlife;

WHEREAS, a portion of the Cahaba River is located within the city of Irondale and provides many recreational opportunities to the citizens of the city; and

WHEREAS, the City is desirous of obtaining Cahaba River Society's services as designated below for the protection of the Cahaba River and the recreational and community benefits that it offers.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION of the premises and the mutual promises of the parties hereinafter set forth, the parties agree as follows:

1. Cahaba River Society hereby agrees to provide protection and restoration services to the Cahaba River within the city of Irondale and to provide recreational opportunities and community benefits to the citizens of the City and to promote the health, safety and welfare of its citizens.
2. The City shall pay to Cahaba River Society a total of \$50,000.00. Payment will be made upon receipt of a copy of the Cahaba River Society's most recently completed financial statements and any other reports and information deemed appropriate and requested by the City.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals or caused this Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized representatives on the 13 day of May, 2025.

CITY OF IRONDALE, ALABAMA

BY: James D. Stewart, Jr.

Printed Name: James D. Stewart, Jr.

Its: Mayor

Date: 5/13/2025

CAHABA RIVER SOCIETY, INC.

BY: Matt Brennan

Printed Name: Matt Brennan

Its: Development Director

Date: 5/13/2025



Cahaba
River
Society

Restoring and protecting the Cahaba River and its rich diversity of life.

Board of Directors

Officers

Rev. John Burruss
President
Kenya Goodson, PhD
Past President
Craig Neely
President-Elect
Paul Freeman
Treasurer
Halley Cotton
Secretary

Board Members

Kerry Brackett, PhD
Henry Campbell
Direcus Cooper
Jared Davis
Haley Colson Lewis
Allison Manley
James McClintock, PhD
Abraham Odrezin
Ward Pate
Courtney Pittman
Julie Price, PhD
Carolyn Ratliff
Nora Samayoa
Clinton Smith
Scott Snyder, PhD
Taylor Stewart
Joi Travis, Esq.
Raquel Vasquez

Emeritus Board

Pam Baugh
Michelle Blackwood
Eleanor DelBene, D. Min.
Beth Maynor Finch
Henry Hughes

April 29, 2025

The Honorable James D. Stewart, Jr.
David Spivey, Council President and City of Irondale Councilors
Irondale City Hall
101 20th Street South
Irondale, AL 35210

Dear Mayor Stewart, Council President Spivey, and City Council Members,

Thank you for your robust and consistent support of Cahaba River Society's mission. We are deeply grateful for your financial contributions and for your partnership, both of which have increased our collective effectiveness in restoring and protecting the Cahaba River in Irondale.

During our 2024-25 Fiscal Year (ending June 30, 2025), your support of \$50,000 in June 2024 allowed us to do the following work in Irondale:

- Conduct two invasive species removals (kudzu and privet) at the Grants Mill canoe launch, totaling 400 pounds with 9 volunteers
- Plant native wildflowers to encourage native vegetation
- Two wildflower hikes on the Grants Mill trails
- Self-Guided River Cleanup Kits placed at Irondale City Hall
- One self-guided cleanup with 11 volunteers and over 300 lbs. of litter removed
- Four days of surveying alligator snapping turtles (in partnership with the Urban Turtle Project and the Birmingham Zoo)
- Three scouting days for potential stream restoration

Ongoing work in Irondale:

- Canoe paddling along the Cahaba from Grants Mill to Old Overton Rd in coordination with Irondale city scheduling
- Invasive species management at: the Grants Mill and Moon River Cahaba Blueway sites; along the four miles of riverbank in Irondale; and throughout the riverside forests
- Observing and reporting of pollution events and landscape level changes

Still to come this fiscal year and onward:

Two staff training days on the water and trails to open new recreational opportunities throughout Irondale's water and land trails

Site visit with Mayor Stewart's office to discuss watershed restoration and potential development impacts (partnering with Freshwater Land Trust)

More recreational opportunities along the Cahaba River and the trails along its banks, including guided hikes and bike rides highlighting Irondale resources

New educational programming to highlight Irondale biodiversity and public resources.

Riverside vegetation management courses

We look forward to continuing our work and our partnership with the City of Irondale and respectfully request the City of Irondale renew its \$50,000 commitment to restoring and protecting the Cahaba River.

We invite any questions you have and invite you to join us on our beloved Cahaba River!

Sincerely,



Matt Brennan

Development Director

205-223-5960

mattb@cahabariversociety.org



Cahaba
River
Society

Protecting and Restoring the Cahaba River
Watershed and it's Rich Diversity of Life.

2024 IMPACT REPORT

Cahaba River Society achieved landmark milestones in 2024 in our
work to protect and restore the Cahaba River.



River
Resilience



Environmental
Education



Volunteer
Mobilization



Recreation

In 2024, thousands of individuals fell in love with the river through environmental education, volunteering, and recreation. We reached an agreement ending a 1996 consent decree requiring the rehabilitation of Jefferson County's sewer system. We assumed responsibility for monitoring thousands of acres of protected Birmingham Water Works Board land around the drinking water source for more than one million Alabamians.



Michelle
Blackwood has
supported
Cahaba River
Society financially
and as a volunteer

for decades. Visit our blog to
read more about Michelle's
efforts to protect and restore
the Cahaba River and why she
supports Cahaba River Society.

Read more [here!](#)



Cahaba
River
Society

2024 in Numbers:

70

Student groups
participated in CLEAN
Environmental
Education programs

329

People connected with
us to learn about the
river through a
recreation trip

475

Volunteers

16,229

Pounds of trash collected

cahabariversociety.org/2024-statistics



River Resilience



Partnerships

Partnerships are essential to protecting and restoring the river. This year, we worked with amazing organizations on projects that make a real and immediate difference on behalf of the river.

- UAB Health Policy Ambassadors
- The Urban Turtle Project
- The Birmingham Zoo
- Living River Retreat
- Local artists
- Birmingham Water Works
- The Nature Conservancy of Alabama
- Cahaba Riverkeeper
- Adventure Scientists
- Mom's Basement
- The City of Hoover

Read more [here](#)!



Working With Communities for a Healthy River

Jefferson County Consent Decree Terminated

Cahaba River Society reached an agreement with the Jefferson County Commission to terminate the 1996 consent decree requiring rehabilitation of the county's sewer system after Jefferson County achieved substantial improvements. Read more [here](#)!

Hoover Implements Best Practices

Cahaba River Society provided expertise and practical knowledge in stakeholder meetings during the development of Hoover's Blueways and Greenways Master Plan. Read more [here](#)!

Inspecting Protected Lands

In 2024, Cahaba River Society began fulfilling our responsibility to monitor 7,000 acres of protected Birmingham Water Works Board land. Read more [here](#)!



Advancing Water and Nature Equity

Cahaba River Society works to expand access to experiences in nature and environmental education so that our diverse watershed has opportunities to benefit from and advocate for the river.

Read more [here](#).



Environmental Education

Students of all ages learn to be brave in nature, developing skills and confidence that equip them for careers in STEM and life in general.

CLEAN (Conservation Leadership through Educational Activities in Nature) Environmental Education programs reached more than 70 student groups and 2,000 participants in 2024. Cahaba River Society also educated dozens of community and corporate groups about the importance and fragility of the Cahaba River.

New Curriculum Launched Through Partnership with UAB

Cahaba River Society launched a new curriculum to help teachers develop concepts in the classroom that students will see firsthand when they visit the Cahaba River.

Read more [here!](#)



Inspiring Love for Nature and Dreams of STEM Careers

What Students Say About CLEAN Environmental Education!

"Thank you all for orchestrating a wonderful school trip! I'm very grateful I got to spend the day both learning and relishing the gorgeous and impressive nature of the Cahaba!"

"I'd like to thank you for the fishing experience and your guidance on the river. I noticed how passionate you are about the river, and I think that made the tour all the better."

"It really opened my eyes to see how beautiful the environment around us is, and I can see how it motivates you guys and many others to help preserve this precious thing that we have."

"It put faces to names that I read about in a bioassessment. It is one thing to read about such things but to explore the river and see the indicators myself was quite interesting"



Developing Future Leaders

Each year, Cahaba River Society hosts numerous interns who work on various projects, including surveys, mapping, assessments, and archiving. Visit our site to read more about past and present interns who are bound to do great things.

Read more [here!](#)



Volunteer
Mobilization

&



Recreation

Recreation and volunteer activities inspire love and support for the Cahaba River and have played a vital role in cultivating relationships with many of the river's strongest supporters.



Volunteers Restore the River

475 volunteers and 27 partner organizations worked with Cahaba River Society in 2024. Many of these individuals and groups contributed to the success of our 2nd Annual Earth Week cleanups.

Read more [here!](#)



Recreation on the Cahaba River

Cahaba River Society led 13 public recreational canoe trips throughout the watershed, from Trussville to Selma. Read more about our visits to wildlife refuges, state parks, county parks, summer camps, and fossil formations.

Read more [here!](#)



2025 Save The Date!

January 30th: Annual Meeting

March - November: Recreation,
Volunteer & Education Opportunities

April 14-18: Earth Week
Volunteer Activities

May 15-June 15: Guided
Cahaba Lily Trips

October 5th: Cahaba River
Frydown at Cahaba Brewing

Learn more about our events [here!](#)



The Young Professionals of the Cahaba River Society Make Waves

Cahaba River Society launched our junior board in 2024 and they are already making waves! Learn more about The Young Professionals of Cahaba River Society.

Learn more about the YPCRS [here!](#)