



Final Project Report
October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

September 17, 2025

Job No: J24-078
Project Title: Alabaster Litter Devices

Prepared for:



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Map 1: Location of Zones and litter devices in Alabaster

1.0 Project Overview

Osprey Initiative maintains two litter collection devices in the City of Alabaster, which are funded by the city. Both devices are located within Buck Creek – a Litter Gitter at Buck Creek Park, and a Litter Boom just downstream of the Industrial Road bridge. The Litter Gitter was previously installed in Buck Creek, at Warrior Park, near Thompson Road, and was relocated in November of 2024 based on litter collection totals and the City’s priorities. Osprey has also completed annual comprehensive Tactical Cleanups throughout Buck Creek in Alabaster city limits in both 2024 and 2025.

The Osprey Initiative monitoring and management process for the two locations is multifaceted. It includes regular cleaning and maintenance of both litter devices, as well as Tactical Cleanups along the riverbanks adjacent to the traps. Osprey gathers data from the material collected at each site in order to have a better understanding of the litter issues at that specific site. From the collected items, Osprey separates the material which can be recycled and delivers those items to a recycling facility. The remaining material is disposed of appropriately, in accordance with local regulations.

2.0 Goals & Objectives

The aim of this project is to minimize litter flowing through the waterways in the City of Alabaster, protecting the City’s valuable natural resources and preventing litter contamination from impacting the watershed downstream. Both sites are located on Buck Creek, a tributary of the Cahaba River, with the objective of collecting litter before it reaches the river. Ultimately, the goal is to locate the origins of litter in the watershed and stop it close to its source. The data goals are to build a litter profile by using the EPA’s “Escaped Trash Assessment Protocol” (ETAP), and identify potential long-term solutions to litter issues, to build a successful litter abatement plan going forward.

3.0 Outcomes & Measurables

Osprey believes this has been a successful project based on the goals outlined in the section above. The data below will show a significant amount of litter has been captured throughout the City of Alabaster.

3.1 Litter Boom: CHR – Buck Creek at Industrial Road

Site Description: This Litter Boom is located in Buck Creek off Industrial Road. It is anchored on either side of the creek using t-posts.

Site Discussion: This boom is in a busy location, situated just off Industrial Road. It is also downstream of much of the City of Alabaster and collects litter from many

entry points into Buck Creek. This site acts as our last line of defense, preventing litter from escaping Alabaster city limits downstream. The boom is highly visible from the road, which has led to several positive interactions with the public. We believe this is beneficial for public awareness surrounding litter issues and provides an opportunity to highlight the City's litter prevention efforts.

3.2 Litter Gitter: CHR – Buck Creek at Buck Creek Park

Site Description: This Litter Gitter is located in Buck Creek Park, next to the walking trail. It is anchored on either side of the creek using t-posts.

Site Discussion: This Litter Gitter is also highly visible from the walking trail, and it prevents litter from reaching the main area of the park adjacent to the playground. It is upstream of the Litter Boom, and this section of the creek, which runs through the park, is smaller comparatively. Therefore, it does not catch as much litter as the boom, but it is still productive.

3.3 Litter Gitter: CHR – Buck Creek at Thompson Road – Inactive Site

Site Description: This Litter Gitter was located in Buck Creek, in Warrior Park, off Thompson Road. It has since been moved to Buck Creek Park.

Site Discussion: This Litter Gitter was in a very visible location in Warrior Park but did not capture very much litter. It was moved to Buck Creek Park where it is more effective due to it being downstream of more entry points. Pie charts for this Litter Gitter have not been included below in Section 4 due to the brief period of time it was installed in Warrior Park during this contract period.

3.4 Tactical Cleanup Zones

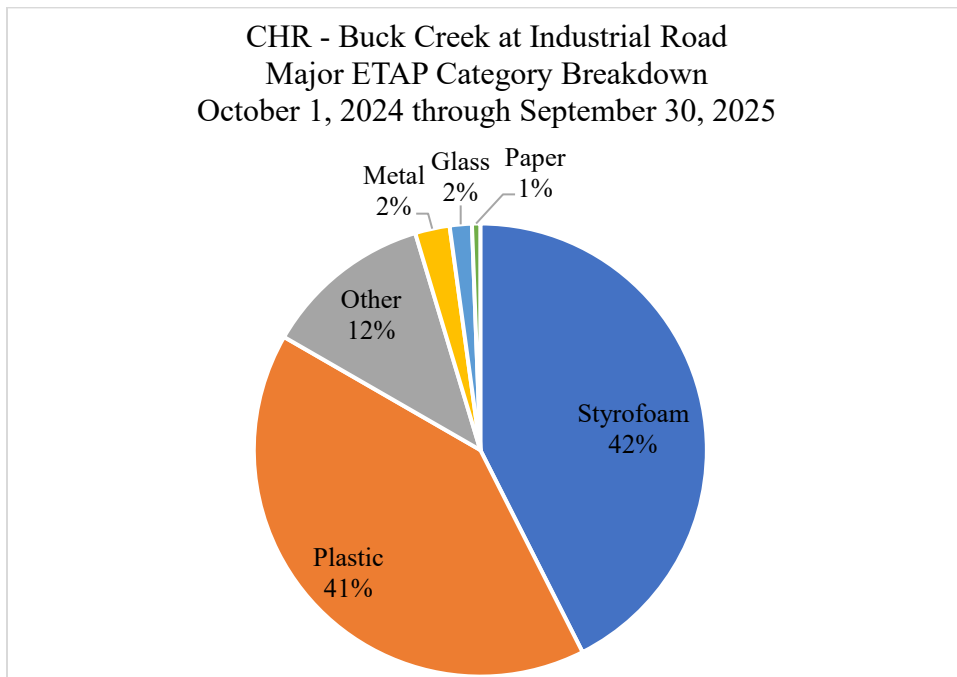
Zone Descriptions: Osprey performed Tactical Cleanups in five zones in Buck Creek throughout Alabaster city limits. These zones are separated by entry points into the creek (typically road crossings) and are indicated in the map above. Zone 1 starts at Industrial Road and goes South to 1st Avenue West. Zone 2 is from 1st Avenue West to 6th Avenue Southwest. Zone 3 is from 6th Avenue Southwest to Thompson Road. Zone 4 is from Thompson Road to Highway 119. Zone 5 is behind the Southbrook Village shopping center, from 1st Street Southwest to the convergence with Buck Creek to the West.

Zone Discussion: Osprey collected over 3,500 pounds of litter and debris (Table 4.3) in these zones in 2025. This is a major increase from the 2,182 pounds of material we collected in 2024. This increased collection for the 2025 contract year is a direct result of budget allocation from the City of Alabaster that allowed us to be more thorough in our cleanup efforts. Specifically, we were able to return to areas of the creek that were heavily impacted by large debris items, such as tractor tires, furniture, appliances, etc.

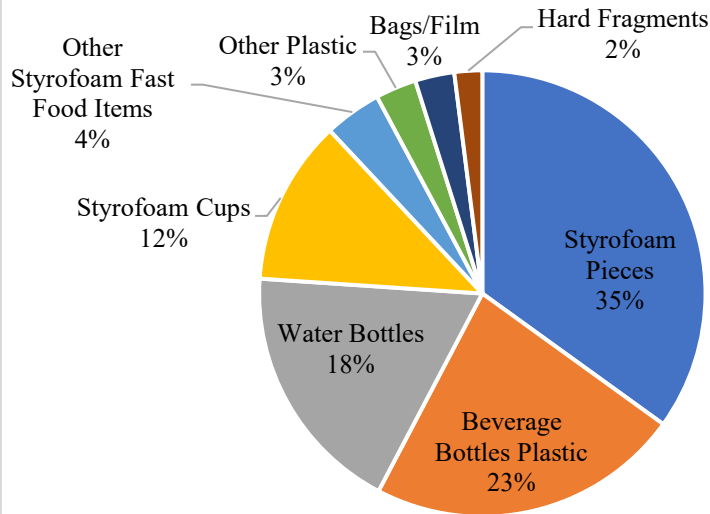
Our 2025 Zone 3 cleanup produced more non-debris litter weight and volume than our cleanups in the previous year, demonstrating a high level of litter recidivism in this area. Osprey classifies “non-debris” litter as those items that fit in a standard trash bag and might be included in household waste. Our non-debris totals for Zones 1, 2, and 4 were lower for the 2025 contract year than our cleanups in the previous contract year. This should be the expected outcome after removing the “legacy” litter in 2024. This year was the first time Zone 5 had been cleaned, and this zone, while being a shorter distance, had a higher concentration of litter per square feet, compared to other zones. Continued cleanups of these zones will allow us to prevent new litter from re-accumulating in these areas, as well as give us an opportunity to potentially identify the sources in areas with continued active littering. These efforts protect Buck Creek and the Cahaba River Watershed downstream, preventing litter pollution from impacting these important local resources.

4.0 Litter Breakdown

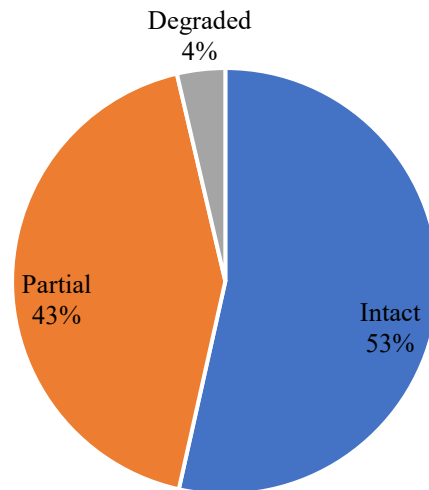
4.1 CHR – Buck Creek at Industrial Road



CHR - Buck Creek at Industrial Road
ETAP Plastic and Styrofoam Breakdown
October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025

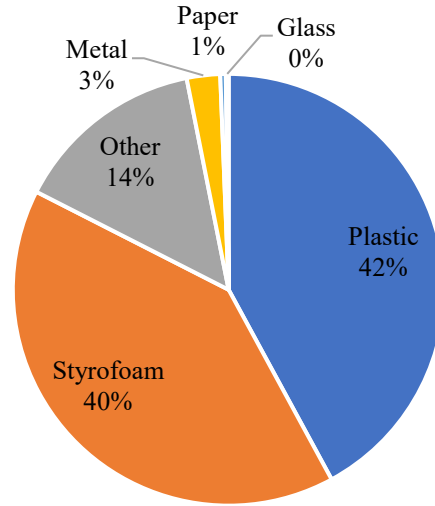


CHR - Buck Creek at Industrial Road
ETAP Condition Breakdown
October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025

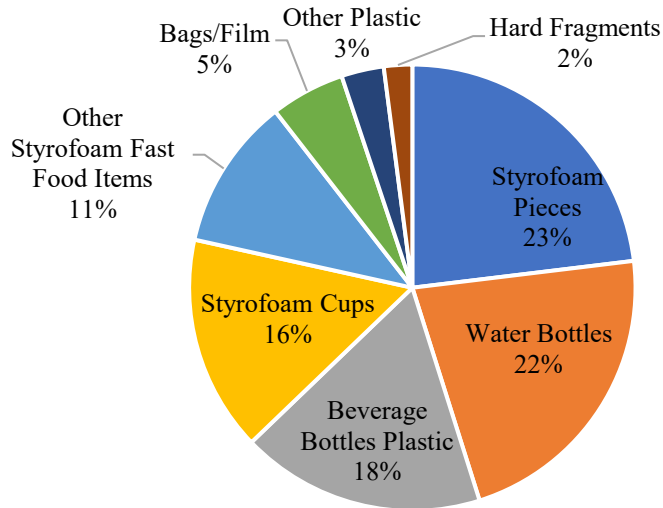


4.2 CHR – Buck Creek at Buck Creek Park

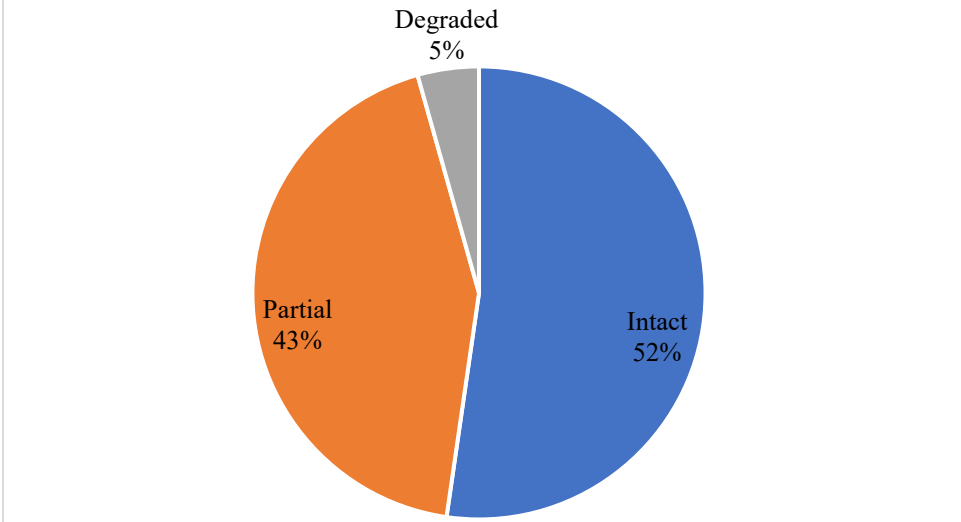
CHR - Buck Creek at Buck Creek Park
Major ETAP Category Breakdown
November 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025



CHR - Buck Creek at Buck Creek Park
ETAP Plastic and Styrofoam Breakdown
November 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025



CHR - Buck Creek at Buck Creek Park
 ETAP Condition Breakdown
 November 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025



4.3 Zone Work Totals Table 2025

Zone ID	Recyclables		Disposables		Totals		Debris
	lbs	cf	lbs	cf	lbs	cf	lbs
Zone 1	8.24	6.50	234.78	58.00	243.02	64.50	216.17
Zone 2	5.68	4.50	125.15	22.50	130.83	27.00	129.77
Zone 3	27.75	20.00	466.45	103.50	494.20	123.50	764.75
Zone 4	6.61	4.50	171.20	42.50	177.81	47.00	849.39
Zone 5	15.26	10.50	354.57	98.50	369.83	109.00	134.14
Overall Project Totals	63.54	46.00	1,352.15	325.00	1,415.69	371.00	2,094.22

Table 4.3: Weight (lbs) and volume (cubic footage) collection totals for each zone as well as overall zone work totals from 2025

4.4 Collection Totals Table

Site ID	Recyclables		Disposables		Totals		Debris
	lbs	cf	lbs	cf	lbs	cf	lbs
Buck Creek at Industrial Road	43.41	23.00	232.53	56.00	275.94	79.00	226.50
Buck Creek at Buck Creek Park	14.96	8.85	81.16	22.85	96.12	31.70	43.26
Buck Creek at Warrior Park	2.44	2.25	129.97	14.75	132.41	17.00	70.42
Zone Work Totals 2025	63.54	46.00	1,352.15	325.00	1,415.69	371.00	2,094.22
Overall Project Totals	124.35	80.10	1,795.81	418.60	1,920.16	498.70	2,434.40

Table 4.4: Weight (lbs) and volume (cubic footage) collection totals for each site and 2025 zone work, as well as overall project totals from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025

5.0 Conclusion

Osprey appreciates the opportunity to work on this project with the City of Alabaster. We believe it has been successful with over 4,300 pounds of material removed through maintenance of the litter collection devices and tactical zone work, between October of 2024, and September of 2025 (shown in Table 4.4). The majority of the material collected has been either new, or has recently entered the watershed (Section 4, ETAP Condition Breakdown charts), showing there is an active litter issue around both sites.

Osprey would like to continue working with the City of Alabaster, as we believe this partnership will have a long-lasting impact on the area waterways. Osprey recommends the continuation of maintenance at the two current sites, as well as ongoing Tactical Cleanups throughout the City of Alabaster’s waterways. We would also like to recommend extending our Buck Creek Tactical Cleanup program upstream of HWY 119 to Interstate 65. Including this section of Buck Creek in our program will allow us to protect more of Alabaster’s waterways, as well as minimize the litter that affects Alabaster’s natural assets, such as Warrior Park and Buck Creek Greenway Trail. We are also interested in expanding this program to Beaver Dam Creek, which is also in the Cahaba River Watershed. A one-pass Tactical Cleanup of this area would eliminate the “legacy” litter in this stretch of creek and give us information about the litter issues impacting that area, which will enable us to make informed decisions regarding the litter abatement going forward. Osprey will send a proposal for the items listed above in conjunction with this report.

Osprey is happy to discuss this report with the City of Alabaster, and we look forward to continuing our work.