

Watershed Management Lake Tuscaloosa, Alabama

The 53,318 square mile study area comprised lands within the police jurisdiction of the City of Tuscaloosa, and the watersheds of Lake Tuscaloosa, Lake Nicol and Harris Lake. Utilizing aerial photographs, 14 land use categories were assigned to approximately 7,000 parcels.



Enlargement of Land Use Map

This study required the coordination, merger and integration of City, state, regional and local databases and input from representatives of City, state and federal agencies.

Digital maps of the study area were developed. Visual codes were used to show the presence and location of registered septic tanks, permitted piers and boat houses and water quality sampling locations for on-going City of Tuscaloosa and Geological Survey of Alabama water quality studies.

Lake Tuscaloosa, Lake Nicol and Harris Lake respectively serve as the primary and supplemental water supply for the residents of the City of Tuscaloosa and surrounding counties. Protection of these valuable natural resources is critical to the public health and welfare of an

expanding community and continued economic growth of the regions. This baseline study will be used as a management tool for the protection of these critical water resources and implementation of

land use policies to govern these watersheds.

The report and recommendations for a second phase of study were accepted which will allow the study area to be expanded and the water quality data to be integrated into the baseline study.



Lake Tuscaloosa