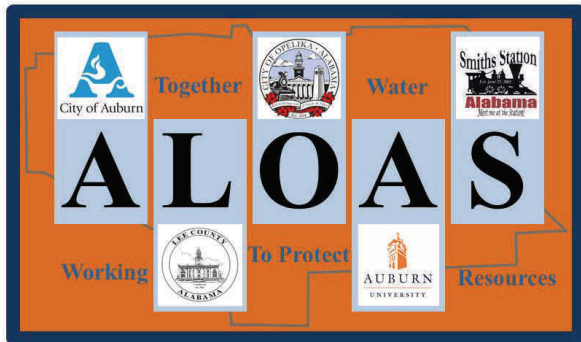


## Lawn Care and Smart Yards



Photo: Grass Clippings Dumped Around Storm Sewer

### A Joint Publication of:



The City of Auburn

Lee County

The City of Opelika

Auburn University

The City of Smiths Station

*ALOAS is a voluntary partnership formed between the City of Auburn, Lee County, the City of Opelika, Auburn University, and the City of Smiths Station to facilitate the sharing of information between its respective watershed and stormwater management programs and the citizens they serve.*

*This brochure is one of a series of publications regarding storm water issues in Lee County.*

*The series is produced by the ALOAS Storm Water Advisory Panel and is intended to protect, maintain, and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of local waters in order to enhance the quality of life for our citizens.*

***“Local Citizen Groups and Governments Working Together for Clean Water”***

## ALOAS Jurisdictional Areas



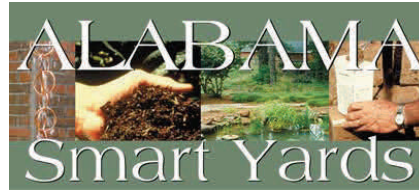
## What's the Big Deal? It's Only Grass, Right?

In the great State of Alabama there are over 3,000 miles of impaired streams, over 100,000 acres of impaired lakes and reservoirs, over 280,000 acres of impaired bays and estuaries, and over 120,000 acres of impaired ocean (EPA, 2010). Over 50 miles of those impaired streams are within Lee County alone. One of the leading causes of these impairments, at a Statewide and national level, is excess nutrients entering our local creeks and streams through stormwater runoff. The amount of nutrients and other pollutants present in stormwater runoff is directly impacted by surrounding land use practices. Exposed soil, loose fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, and other chemicals can easily be transported by stormwater runoff. The wonderful side of this story is that the amount of these pollutants is easily reduced through simple changes in the way you manage your yard and yard refuse (clippings etc.). This brochure outlines some of these steps.

## What is a Smart Yard and How do I Create One?

The Alabama Smart Yards initiative is a collaborative effort by the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, the Alabama Master Gardeners, and Auburn University aimed at encouraging conservation, efficiency, and responsibility in our landscaping practices. The Alabama Smart Yards manual outlines numerous “scientifically based, environmentally sustainable landscape practices”. Each of the practices has been reviewed by experts in their respective fields and has been demonstrated as applicable at a residential scale. Homeowners will find everything from native plant selection and placement, to calibration of irrigation systems, to responsible pest management practices. Whether you live in an apartment or a house on 50 acres, you will certainly find an endless supply of ways that you can contribute to making Alabama’s waters clean and healthy for generations to come. So, do your part today and keep Alabama The Beautiful.

## Aerial Photography and Land Cover Mapping



**Clippings Dumped in Storm Sewer!**



**Clippings Dumped Along Local Stream!**



**No Stream Buffer!**



**Mulch It, Don't Dump It!**



**Install A Rain Garden!**



**Replant Riparian Zones!**

Go to

[www.smartyards.org](http://www.smartyards.org)

to Find Out More!

## How Do I Help and Get Involved?

**City of Auburn - Water Resource Management Department**

**334-501-3060**

[www.auburnalabama.org/wrm](http://www.auburnalabama.org/wrm)

**Lee County - County Engineer**

**334-737-7011**

[www.leeco.us](http://www.leeco.us)

**City of Opelika - Department of Public Works**

**334-705-5400**

[www.opelika.org](http://www.opelika.org)

**Auburn University - Risk Management and Safety**

**334-844-4805**

[www.auburn.edu/administration/rms/](http://www.auburn.edu/administration/rms/)

**City of Smiths Station**

**334-297-8771**

[www.smithsstation.us](http://www.smithsstation.us)