

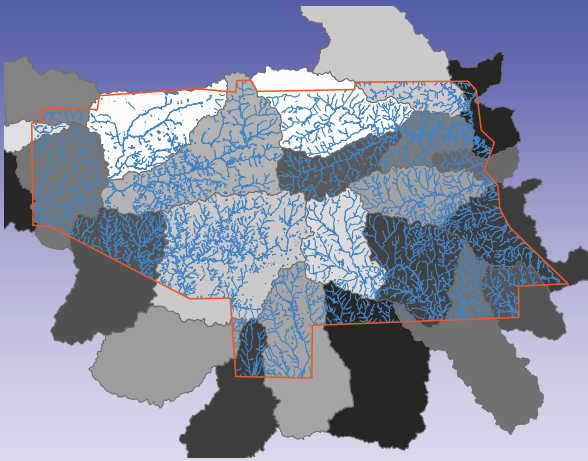


Storm Water Management Program

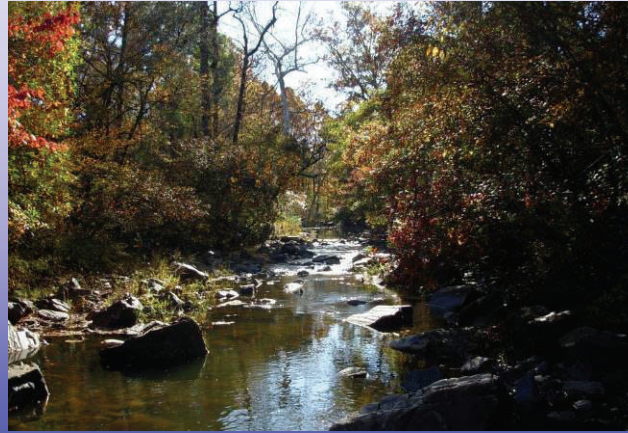
In May of 2001 the governmental agencies that make up ALOA joined together to address EPA's upcoming Phase II requirements.

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

The series is produced by the ALOA 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 Water Resources



A sunny fall afternoon on our beloved Chewacla Creek

Contact Information

For more information regarding your community's storm water program please contact the following agencies:

City of Auburn – Department of Water Resource Management
334-501-3077
www.auburnalabama.org/wrm

Lee County – County Engineer
334-745-9792
www.leeco.us

City of Opelika – Department of Public Works
334-705-5400
www.opelika.org

Auburn University – Risk Management and Safety
334-844-4805
www.auburn.edu/administration/rms/

A Publication Presented by



Local Water Resources



ALOA

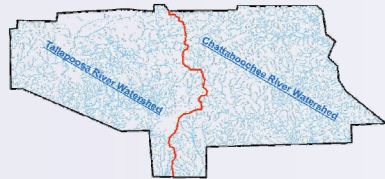
“Local Citizen Groups and Governments Working Together for Clean Water”

THE "WHO" OF OUR WATER RESOURCES:

If you have ever looked closely at the State Seal of Alabama, you would have noticed that it is a representation of the rivers that traverse the State of Alabama. This seal was adopted by William Wyatt Bibb, the first governor of Alabama. Governor Bibb recognized the unique richness of these water resources within the State and of the strategic importance they would play in the future of its citizens. There are fourteen major river systems within the State of Alabama, of which the ALOA area straddles the geographic divide between two of these: the Tallapoosa River Basin (east) and the Chattahoochee River Basin (west). This unique location, complimented also by the areas location within the transitional zone between the piedmont and coastal plains ecoregions, provides for a diversity of morphological and physical hydrographic characteristics that truly make it a one-of-kind place. Numerous streams, varying from smaller headwater tributaries to larger 4th and 5th order creeks, flow through the ALOA area. Again, its unique geological setting provides for the varying characteristics seen in these stream systems, ranging from rolling step-pool systems of cobble and bedrock to smooth gliding flows over sand and silt dominated substrates. Without a basic understanding of "who" these water resources are, we cannot begin to manage and protect the values and benefits that many take for granted every day.



Alabama Great Seal



Lee County River Basins

THE "WHAT" OF OUR WATER RESOURCES:

What makes a stream a stream, a river a river, a wetland a wetland, or a lake a lake? Although this seems like an easy question to answer, it is one of the most misunderstood, yet basic concepts of hydrology. In general, streams are classified into three basic flow regimes; ephemeral, intermittent, and perennial. By definition an ephemeral stream only flows during storm events and carries only surface water, an intermittent stream is fed by groundwater during a limited portion of the year, and a perennial stream is fed by groundwater year round. Each type of stream embodies specific physical characteristics that allow for specific classification. Likewise, each stream type provides unique environmental qualities and requires different management and protection strategies to compliment their differences. In general, there is no standard procedure for differentiating between



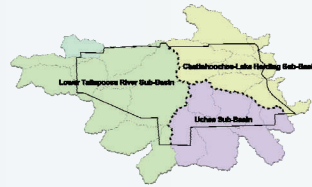
Typical Ephemeral Stream

a stream, creek, and/or river. A creek is generally larger than a stream and a river is generally larger than a creek, but not always. Wetlands and lakes are more easily categorized. A wetland by definition is an area that is inundated or saturated at a frequency that is sufficient to support, and does support, hydrophytic vegetation. Lakes are considered deep water habitats that are generally greater than 6 feet deep. In Lee County alone we have over 1,800 miles of streams, creeks, and rivers, over 4,000 acres of lakes and ponds, and over 5,000 acres of wetland.



Typical Scrub-Shrub Wetland

THE "WHERE" OF OUR WATER RESOURCES:



Lee County is divided into three large sub-basins (with exception to extreme northwest Lee County) which are the Lower Tallapoosa River Sub-Basin (LTRB), the Chattahoochee River-Lake Harding Sub-Basin (CRB), and the Uchee River Sub-Basin (URB). The LTRB drains the majority of the western half of Lee County, while the CRB and URB drain the northern and southern half of the east side of Lee County, respectively. In general, streams within the LTRB flow west and southwest to the Tallapoosa River, which merges with the Coosa River to become the Alabama River before discharging to Mobile Bay. Streams within the CRB and URB flow east and southeast to the Chattahoochee River which merges with the Flint River before becoming the Apalachicola River and discharging to the Gulf of Mexico. Some of the major tributaries of these sub-basins are Saugahatchee Creek, Halawakee Creek, Chewacla Creek, Uphapee Creek, Loblockee Creek, Wind Creek, Watula Creek, Soap Creek, Wacoochee Creek, and Opintlocco Creek. Major surface water reservoirs within the ALOA area are Lake Ogletree (Auburn), Saugahatchee Lake (Opelika), and Lake



Saugahatchee Creek



Lake Ogletree

THE "WHY" OF OUR WATER RESOURCE

MANAGEMENT:

Over the previous decade the ALOA area has experienced a population growth that has been ranked as high as 6th in the nation. Additionally, historically misunderstood poor agricultural management practices, flood management, and stream channel manipulation have all lead to unique challenges in understanding how to better manage these resources for public use while sustaining the functional and aesthetic values that we cherish so much. Understanding the potential for negative impacts from increased impervious surface, construction site runoff, industrial pollution, and urban sprawl was the primary reason for the formation of ALOA. This organization facilitates interjurisdictional cooperation which allows management and protection strategies to be achieved at a watershed scale. This is a critically important component of any water resource management program, as there are often numerous overlaps of jurisdictional authority within a single watershed. Interjurisdictional cooperation also allows for a more effective recovery and restoration effort of our more sensitive waters, such as those listed on the State's 303(d) list of impaired water bodies. Currently, there are three waters bodies within the ALOA area that are on this list of impaired waters. These are Pepperell Branch, Saugahatchee Creek Embayment of Yates Reservoir, and Moore's Mill Creek. Through a commitment to continue in a collaborative effort, ALOA hopes to facilitate the delisting of these impaired waters, effectively manage our water resources for future generations, and provide for educational opportunities unique to this area.



Excessive Sediment in Stream



Impacted Urban Stream

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- WWW.AUBURNALABAMA.ORG/WRM
- WWW.ACES.EDU/WATERQUALITY
- WWW.ADECA.ALABAMA.GOV
- WWW.CLEANWATERPARTNERSHIP.ORG/OLD
- WWW.AWEA-AL.COM
- WWW.ALABAMAWATERAGENDA.COM
- WWW.AWRRI.AUBURN.EDU