

# STREAM GAGES

## A Planning Tool for Outdoor Recreation



Photo: Aaron Kunz, NWPR

Photo: USGS Stream Gage

### A Joint Publication of:



The City of Auburn

Lee County

The City of Opelika

Auburn University

The City of Smiths Station

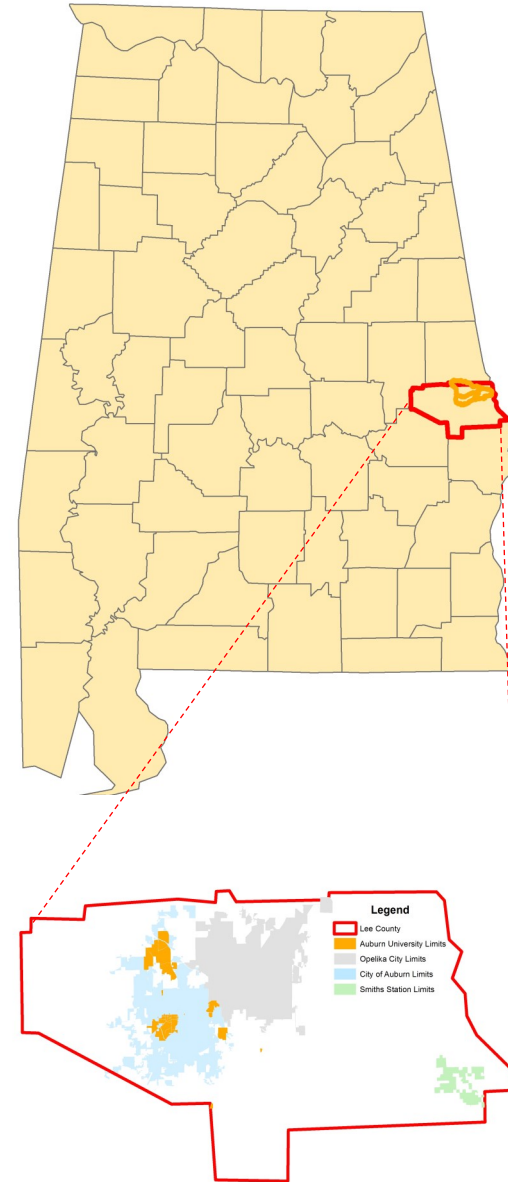
*ALOAS is a voluntary partnership formed between the City of Auburn, Lee County, the City of Opelika, Auburn University, and the City of Smiths Station to facilitate the sharing of information between its respective watershed and stormwater management programs and the citizens they serve.*

*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.*

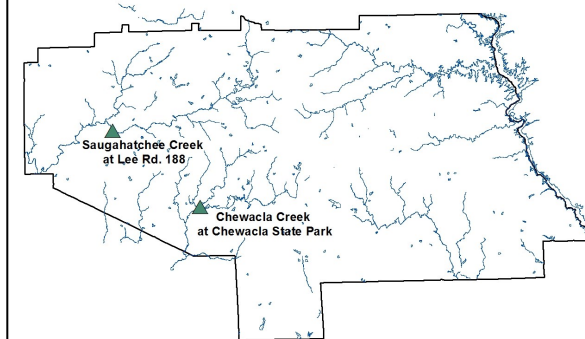
**“Local Citizen  
Groups and  
Governments  
Working Together  
for Clean Water”**

## ALOAS Jurisdictional Areas



## USGS Stream Gages

Measuring the quantity of water in a stream, river, or lake is an integral part of water conservation and management. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has been measuring water since 1889, when the first stream gage was built on the Rio Grande River in New Mexico. Today the USGS operates around 8,000 stream gages in the U.S., with 183 in the State of Alabama. There are 2 USGS stream gages in Lee County - Saugahatchee Creek at Lee Rd. 188, and Chewacla Creek at Chewacla State Park.



## What can I do with Stream Gage Information?

Information about water levels and stream flow is a valuable tool for outdoor recreation. The gages on our local streams provide a great way to plan a canoe or kayaking float or even a fun fishing adventure. Knowledge of the water level can determine if the trip will be a success or a failure. Not enough water in the stream will usually lead to not much fun and a lot of frustration, while too much water can be extremely dangerous! It is wise to be aware of the safe levels to paddle a stream.



Photo: Moore's Mill Creek at a dangerous water level

## Outdoor Recreation in Lee County and Surrounding Areas



Photo: Google Street View

**Uphapee Creek near  
Tuskegee**



Photo: Rivers Langley, Wikimedia Commons

**Saughatchee Creek near  
Lee Rd. 65**



Photo: Alabama Scenic River Trail

**Tallapoosa River below  
Horseshoe Bend**

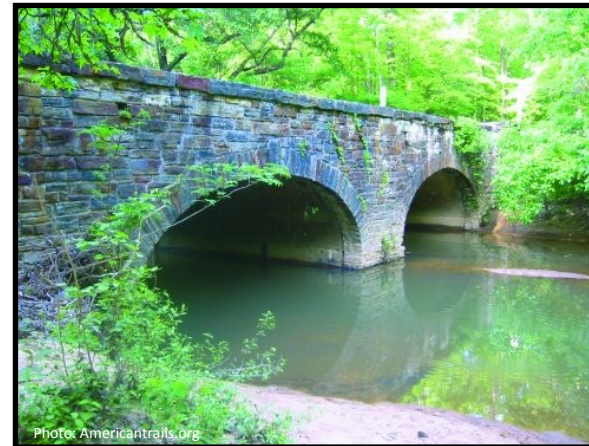


Photo: Americantrails.org

**Chewacla Creek at  
Chewacla State Park**

To find out the water level and stream flow in your local stream, visit

## USGS WaterWatch

<http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/?m=real&r=al>

## How Do I Learn More?

Check out these websites to learn more about outdoor recreation on your local streams and rivers:

### Alabama Whitewater

<http://www.alabamawhitewater.com/>

### Alabama Scenic River Trail

<http://www.alabamascenicrivertrail.com/>

### Chewacla State Park

<http://www.alapark.com/chewacla/>

## ALOAS Contacts

City of Auburn - Water Resource Management  
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)