

# Alabama's Low Impact Development Handbook

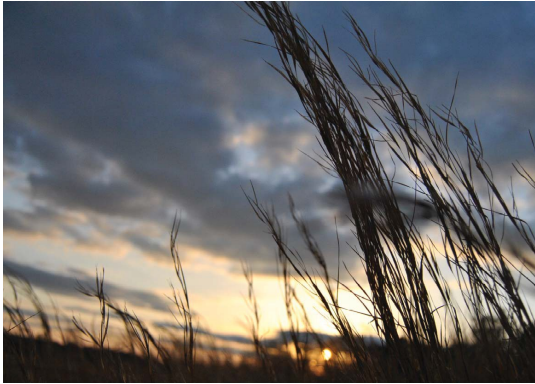
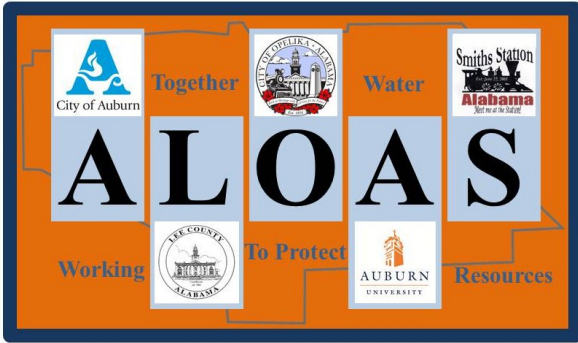


Photo: Cover Photo for the LID Handbook

## A Joint Publication of:



The City of Auburn

Lee County

The City of Opelika

Auburn University

The City of Smiths Station

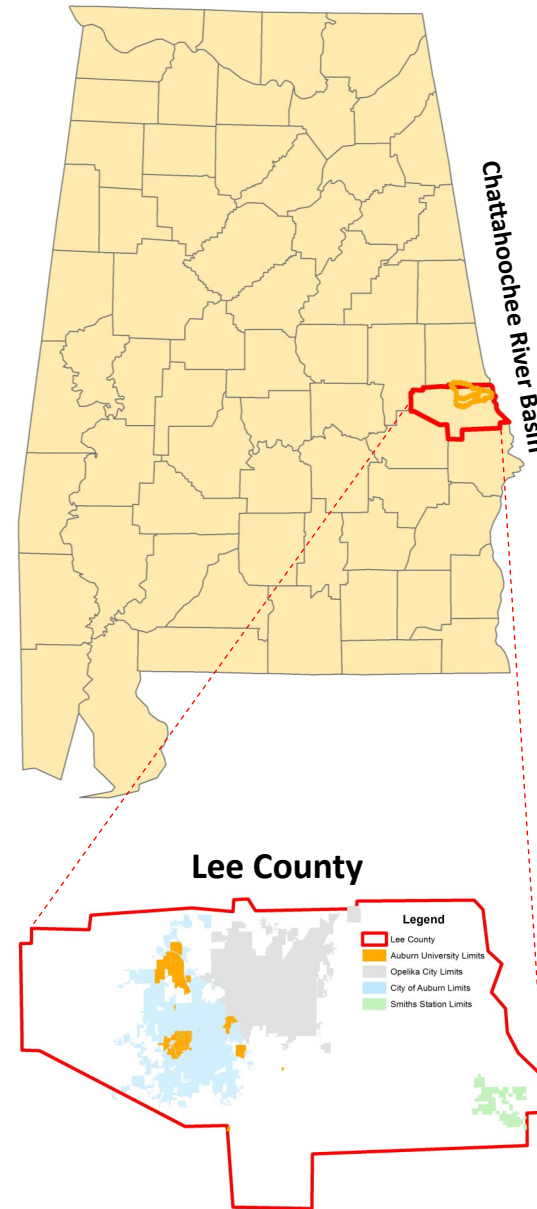
*ALOAS is a voluntary partnership formed between the City of Auburn, Lee County, the City of Opelika, Auburn University, and the City of Smiths Station to facilitate the sharing of information between its respective watershed and stormwater management programs and the citizens they serve.*

*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 is Low Impact Development?

“Low impact development or LID is an interdisciplinary systematic approach to stormwater management that, when planned, designed, constructed, and maintained appropriately, can result in improved stormwater quality, improved health of local water bodies, reduced flooding, increased groundwater recharge, more attractive landscapes, wildlife habitat benefits, and improved quality of life. Low impact development minimizes runoff and employs natural processes such as infiltration, evapotranspiration (evaporation and transpiration from plants), and storage of stormwater at multiple fine scale locations to be as near to the source of stormwater as possible. Successful implementation of LID recreates a more natural hydrologic cycle in a developed watershed. The LID handbook presents current research and design recommendations to assist all interested groups in setting goals for their development and re-development projects.” - *Alabama LID Manual*

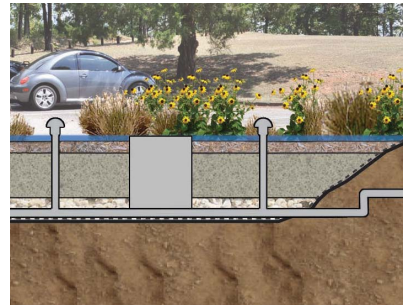
## So, how is LID different?

The evolutionary history of stormwater management in the United States includes three distinct philosophical approaches. Until the later half of the 20th century, stormwater was treated as a nuisance; something to be diverted, directed, and channelized off individual properties as quickly and efficiently as possible and without regard to downstream impacts. Subsequent increases in flooding, and research demonstrating the connection of increased flood intensity and frequency to such practices, resulted in regulations requiring stormwater controls to mitigate flood hazards from developed lands. Since then, biologists, engineers, and ecologists alike have learned that stormwater from developed lands poses more risks to the environment and to society than just flooding. Increases in pollutants, erosion, property loss, loss of habitat, reduced stream flows, and groundwater depletion are just a few of the concerns that LID attempts to mitigate by mimicking a more natural hydrologic process on a micro-scale.

## Best Management Practices Promoted in the Alabama Low Impact Development Handbook



**Community Involvement**



**Bioretention**



**Permeable Pavers**



**Rainwater Harvesting**



**Rain Gardens**



**Stream Restoration**

Go to

<http://www.aces.edu/natural-resources/water-resources/watershed-planning/stormwater-management/LID.php>

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)