

# SMART YARDS INCENTIVE PROGRAM

## *– CARING FOR OUR LANDSCAPES AND OUR WATERS –*

### **Introduction:**

The Smart Yards Incentive Program is a collaborative effort by the Saugahatchee Watershed Management Plan (SWaMP) and Opelika, Auburn and Lee County to enhance lawns and landscapes in the Saugahatchee Watershed (areas of Opelika, Auburn and Lee County) with features that reduce the amount and intensity of stormwater runoff as well as the amount of nonpoint source pollutants flushing into local streams.

#### **1) What does this program offer?**

- Financial assistance for approved lawn and landscape improvements
- The program will cover up to 60% of a qualified project's cost

#### **2) What types of projects are covered?**

- Projects covered by this program include installation of features and landscape improvements that aid in the on-site infiltration of stormwater and prevent soil erosion
- Features and landscape improvements include rain gardens, bioswales, riparian (stream bank) restoration and improved runoff management (curb-cuts)

#### **3) Who can apply?**

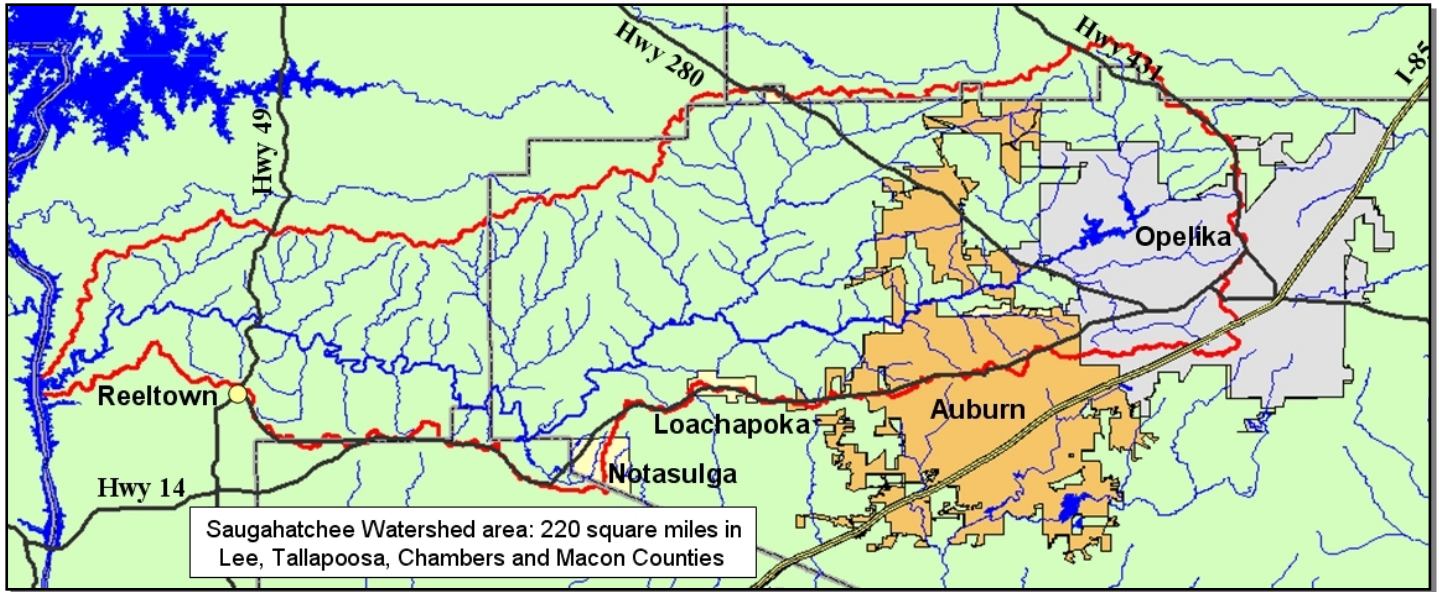
- Homeowners of single-home residential properties
- Municipal properties (parks, municipal office complexes, etc.)
- Commercial properties
- Churches, civic organization properties

#### **4) How do I qualify?**

- Property must be in the Saugahatchee Watershed (see map on next page)
- An application must be completed and submitted to the address below (see #7, application forms are available online at [www.swamp.auburn.edu](http://www.swamp.auburn.edu))
- Applicant must provide a minimum of 40% of the project cost (as funding or in-kind services)
- Project must fit the goals of the Smart Yards Incentive Program

#### **5) What areas are most likely to be funded?**

- Lawns/landscapes that adjoin streams
- Lawns/landscapes that have degraded riparian zones
- Lawns/landscapes that receive significant stormwater runoff from surrounding impervious surfaces (streets, parking lots, rooftops)
- Lawns/landscapes that are experiencing soil erosion



6) **How does the program work?**

- Interested persons fill out the Smart Yards Incentive Program application form
- Once submitted, an application will be evaluated based on location, landscape characteristics and proximity to a stream – promising candidate sites will be visited for evaluation
- The applicant will receive a response either approving/rejecting the proposal
- If approved, the applicant will complete the project, retain project invoices, and submit a final invoice for up to 60% reimbursement of project cost, along with documentation of his/her cost share (at least 40% of project cost).

7) **Contact (for more information and application submission):**

Eric Reutebuch, SWaMP Coordinator  
 251 Upchurch Hall  
 Auburn University, AL 36849-5415  
 Email: [reuteem@auburn.edu](mailto:reuteem@auburn.edu)  
 Phone: (334) 844-4785

\*\*To learn more about simple steps homeowners can take to reduce maintenance, save money, improve their landscapes, and protect local streams, check out the ACES-sponsored Alabama Smart Yards program online at [www.smartyards.org](http://www.smartyards.org).

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