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**MISSISSIPPI  
WATERSHED  
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## Greening Program Summary

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### Program Purpose

Protect and improve surface water, groundwater, and natural resources in the MWMO watershed by using vegetation to reduce water volume, sediment, and other stormwater pollutants. This program provides opportunities and incentives to increase green infrastructure in the public right-of-way. This may include retrofitting linear right-of-ways and parking lots to integrate vegetation to improve water quality, integrating better building and landscape design into land-use decisions, and piloting new approaches to solve natural resource problems. Examples of green infrastructure practices for streets that could provide this function include bioretention (raingardens) and tree trenches. Eligible projects will be reviewed and approved by MWMO staff and the MWMO Board of Commissioners.

### Objectives

- Reduce the volume, slow the rate, and treat runoff by using plants to:
  - Reduce the amount and continuity of impervious surfaces (e.g. a “road diet” project reducing the width of the road to allow for linear bioretention or other stormwater practices)
  - Prevent erosion
  - Conserve and reuse water
  - Increase capacity of the watershed to intercept precipitation and infiltrate and store water
  - Lower temperatures and reduce water loss and heat stress associated with drought
- Pilot innovative ideas and techniques for local conditions
  - Improve techniques, refine standards, and identify limitations
  - Create highly visible demonstration sites to inform and educate the watershed community
- Advance the development of water quality standards for landscape and building design
  - Learn from and work with other groups and efforts
  - Modify ordinances and variances
  - Identify research questions

- Restore and protect habitat and native plant and animal communities
  - Protect, enhance, and restore natural areas by planting native species
  - Actively seek opportunities to vegetate urban landscape and link green spaces