Clean, healthy lakes are very important to Florida’s ecology and its citizens. In order to promote good lake stewardship, the Orange County Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has implemented a “Clean Lakes Initiative Program” to assist citizen groups and individuals in protecting area lakes.

Water quality problems associated with urbanization include untreated stormwater runoff and the loss of natural lakeshore habitats. Individual lakefront homeowners can take positive steps to minimize both problems on their own lots by:

- Installing environmental swales to catch fertilizers and pesticides from their yards before they enter the lake.
- Planting native plants at the shoreline to reduce erosion and provide habitat
- Remove nuisance and exotic plants in upland areas

The Clean Lakes Initiative Program (CLIP) offers opportunities, through specialized funding, permit fee waivers, volunteer opportunities, and educational programs, for citizens of all ages, from apartment dwellers to lakefront property owners, to participate in preserving local lake ecology.

Below is a list of programs to assist you and your community to become good lake stewards:

**MSBU/MSTU (Municipal Service Benefit/Taxing Unit):** Communities can set up a self-taxing unit for the purpose of collecting funds from benefited property owners to pay for lake management services such as aquatic plant control and stormwater management improvements.

**Financial Incentive Program:** This is a rebate program designed to encourage and aid homeowners through financial incentives to install stormwater swale systems, restore vegetation to lakeshores and littoral zones, and remove upland invasive tree species. Homeowners can receive a one-time reimbursement of up to $1,000 for the installation of a berm and swale system, up to $1,000 for replanting their lakeshore, and up to $1000 for the removal of upland invasive tree species. EPD will waive the lakeshore protection permit fee for those who qualify to participate in the rebate program for lakeshore enhancement. *(Applicants cannot be under regulatory obligation.)*

**Clean Lake Ambassadors Recognition Program:** Communities who carry out preventative and corrective actions to improve the ecological balance and health of their neighboring lake(s) are recognized as a "Clean Lake Ambassador Community." "Clean Lake Ambassadors" practice good lake stewardship by creating and maintaining good water quality, beautification, and wildlife habitat. These communities serve as role models to other lakefront neighborhoods. Contact the Lake Management team at EPD to learn how to qualify.
**Adopt-a-Lake/WAV Water Monitoring Program:** On a monthly basis, trained volunteers bring in lake samples to EPD’s water quality lab to be analyzed at no charge. The parameters analyzed include nitrogen, phosphorus, coliform bacteria, chlorophyll, algae, and water clarity. The Watershed Action Volunteers (WAV) program provides training and equipment. Volunteers provide their time and energy.

**Storm Drain Labeling:** EPD, under the umbrella of the WAV program, will assist communities to organize a volunteer group of residents or other citizens to tag their storm drains with “No Dumping, Drains to Lake” signs. Labeling storm drains promotes good lake stewardship by making residents aware of appropriate practices.

**Programs and Workshops:** A variety of programs and workshops is available on watershed and lake conservation, including education on reducing stormwater runoff and other steps citizens can take to keep lakes clean and healthy. Staff will gladly customize a program to fit a group or community’s needs. Attending a Clean Lakes Initiative Program assists you to qualify for the Incentive Program.

**Florida Yards and Neighborhoods, Florida Friendly Landscaping:** EPD staff will assist communities in setting up a Florida Yards and Neighborhoods workshop for residents who wish to design and maintain environmentally responsible landscapes. This program is offered through the Orange County Cooperative Extension and the University of Florida. For more information visit: [http://cfyn.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://cfyn.ifas.ufl.edu/).

**“Restoring Florida’s Lakeshores with Aquascaping” DVD:** A must-see for any lakefront community and/or homeowner. This 30-minute film gives an overview of lake ecology, lists best practices for maintaining a healthy lake, information on aquatic native plants, and instruction for “Aquascaping” lakeshores. This DVD is available free to individuals, lakefront homeowner associations, and other groups promoting lakeshore restoration.

For more information on any of the Clean Lakes Initiative programs listed above contact:

Rick Baird, Administrator  
Orange County Environmental Protection Division  
800 Mercy Drive, Ste 4, Orlando, Florida, 32808  
Telephone: (407) 836 – 1400, Fax (407) 836 – 1499  
Email: cleanlakes@ocfl.net

"Serving Our Community by Protecting the Environment through Education, Participation, and Conservation."
As part of its **Clean Lakes Initiative** Program, the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has implemented an upland invasive plant and tree removal program. At this time, EPD will reimburse up to **$1,000** per property the cost to remove select exotic invasive plants and trees. Removal of these plants will reduce the potential seed sources, reduce the displacement of native species, and limit the spread of these plants into more environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, lakes, and natural preserves.

**Name of Property Owner:** ___________________________

**Lake Name:** _____________________

**Address of Property:** ____________________________________________

**City:** ____________________________  **Zip Code:**____________

**Home Phone #**______________  **Work Phone #**______________  **Cell Phone #**____________

**Email Address:** ___________________________________________________________________

**Type and amount of Invasive Plant Species to Remove:** _____________________________________

**Anticipated Removal Date:** _____________________

**Program Requirements**

1. Approval of this application by a Clean Lakes Initiative staff member.
2. Exotic species must be present at time of site inspection by Clean Lakes Initiative staff.
3. All removal activities must be completed within 6 months of Clean Lakes Initiative staff approval.
4. Removed biomass must be properly disposed and not stored on property.
5. Only one upland invasive exotic reimbursement per address is allowed.
6. Applicants shall attend or participate in a free “Clean Lakes Educational” program or workshop sponsored by EPD or view CD/VHS copies of “Restoring Florida’s Lakeshore”
7. Submission of Reimbursement Certificate with copy of company receipts.

I have read and understand the program requirements, acknowledge that this program does not release me from any other Federal, State or Local regulations and certify that the shoreline planting proposed is not part of a mitigation plan or any enforcement action.

____________________________________  Date: _________________

**Signature of Property Owner**

____________________________________  

**Print Name of Property Owner**

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**Official Use Only**

**Date Received:** ______________________  **Tracking #:**: ______________________

**Application approved by:** ______________________
Orange County Clean Lakes Initiative
Financial Incentive Program

Upland Invasive Plant Removal Application
Reimbursement Certificate
(Maximum Reimbursement per property $1000.00)

Property Owners Name: ________________________________________ Lake: __________

Property Address: __________________________ Telephone No. __________________

Mailing Address (if different from above): __________________________________________

Application Tracking No. __________

Total Receipt(s) Submitted $ __________________

Reimbursement Conditions

1. Property Owner is the owner of record for the property referenced herein.

2. Property owner has attended a “Clean Lakes Educational” Program or viewed the “Restoring Florida Lakeshore” video.

3. All receipts for contracted work must include company name and phone.

4. Approval of removal activities by EPD Staff following a post project inspection.

I have met the requirements of the Program and agree with the conditions stated on this form, and I hereby granted permission for Orange County, Florida including its officers, employees and designees to enter upon my property for the purpose of inspecting to ensure that the work has been completed in compliance with established rules.

Signature of the Property Owner: ______________________________________ Date: ________________

Note: EDP will reimburse the property owner within 45 days of receipt submittal and final inspection.

Official Use Only

I certify that I have inspected the property at the address above and have verified that all the program requirements have been fulfilled.

____________________________________                     Date: ________________

Signature of Clean Lakes Inspector

____________________________________                     Reimbursement Amount: $ __________

Print Name of Clean Lakes Inspector

____________________________________ Date: ________________

Signature of Clean Lakes Program Manager
Orange County Clean Lakes Initiative
Financial Incentive Program

Berm/Swale Application

As part of its Clean Lakes Initiative Program, the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has implemented an environmental swale program. At this time, EPD will reimburse up to $1,000 per property the cost to install, grade, and, sod an environmental berm/swale system. In cooperation with the homeowners, a Clean Lakes Initiative representative will help establish the best location for these swales to ensure that the lakes/canals will receive the maximum benefit. This enhancement program provides a way for you to help your lake become healthier by preventing nutrient-rich stormwater runoff from individual lawns from entering the lake or canal system.

Name of Property Owner:___________________________Lake Name: _______________________
Address of Property:________________________________________________________________
City: ___________________________________    Zip Code:__________________
Home Phone #_______________Work Phone #_________________ Cell Phone #_______________
Email: ___________________________________________________________________________

Program Requirements

1. Approval of this application by EPD.
2. The installation of a berm and swale must not be a requirement of a stormwater ordinance for new developments or any regulatory agency.
3. Berm/swale shall be installed above the Normal High Water Elevation and landward of any wetland or required upland buffer areas.
4. Silt fences and turbidity barriers shall be required along the shoreline during the construction of berm/swale to prevent the flow of sediments into surface waters and wetlands.
5. All activities must be completed within 6 months of EPD approval.
6. Only one berm/swale reimbursement per address is allowed.
7. Applicants shall attend or participate in a free “Clean Lakes Educational” program or workshop sponsored by EPD or view CD/VHS copy of “Restoring Florida’s Lakeshores.”
8. Submission of Reimbursement Certificate accompanied by copies of company receipts.

I have read and understand the program requirements, acknowledge that this program does not release me from any other Federal, State or Local regulations and certify that the shoreline planting proposed is not part of a mitigation plan or any enforcement action.

____________________________________  Date:_________________  
Signature of Property Owner

Print Name of Property Owner

Official Use Only
Date Received:__________________________  Tracking #: __________________________
Application approved by:__________________________
Orange County Clean Lakes Initiative
Financial Incentive Program

Berm/Swale Application
Reimbursement Certificate
(Maximum Reimbursement per property $1000.00)

Property Owners Name: ___________________________________________ Lake: ______________________
Property Address: ________________________________________________ Telephone No. ______________________
Mailing Address (if different from above): __________________________________________________________
Application Tracking No. __________

Total Receipt(s) Submitted $ __________________

Reimbursement Conditions

1. Property owner is the owner of record for the property referenced herein.

2. Property owner has attended a Clean Lakes Educational Program or viewed the “Restoring Florida Lakeshore” video.

3. All receipts for purchase of materials or contracted work must include company name and phone.

4. Approval of proper construction by Division staff following a post project inspection.

I have met the requirements of the Program and agree with the conditions stated on this form, and Permission is hereby granted for Orange County, Florida including its officers, employees and designees to enter upon my property for the purpose of inspecting to ensure that the work has been completed in compliance with established rules.

Signature of the Property Owner_________________________________________ Date: ______________________

Note: The Division will reimburse the property owner within 45 days of receipt submittal and final inspection.

Official Use Only
I certify that I have inspected the property at the address above and have verified that all the program requirements have been fulfilled.
____________________________ Date: ____________________
Signature of Clean Lakes Inspector

____________________________ Reimbursement Amount: $____________________
Print Name of Clean Lakes Inspector

Signature of Clean Lakes Program Manager____________________________________ Date: ____________________
The Orange County Environmental Protection Division (EPD) encourages all lakefront homeowners to participate in its shoreline enhancement program. At this time, EPD will reimburse up to $1000 per property. In addition, EPD will waive the $118 permit application fee for qualified homeowners (a total savings of up to $1118). This enhancement program provides a way for you to help your lake become healthier while at the same time beautifying your shoreline with native aquatic plants. Remember, shoreline plants are the natural way of preventing erosion and a means for taking out excess nutrients from a lakes system. Aquatic plants provide food and habitat for many beautiful birds and spawning sites for fish!

Please call EPD at 407-836-1400 or email (cleanlakes@ocfl.net), if you have any questions or if you would like a list of native aquatic plant nurseries or aquascaping contractors.

Name of Property Owner: _______________________________ Lake Name: ___________________
Address of Property:__________________________________________________________________
City: ____________________________ Zip Code:____________
Home Phone #: __________ Work Phone #: __________ Cell Phone #: __________
Email Address: _____________________________________________________________________
Shoreline Status: Un-vegetated____ Vegetated____

**Program Requirements**

1. Issuance of an Orange County Lakeshore Protection Permit prior to removal/planting activities.
2. Approval of this application by EPD.
3. Shoreline plantings must not be part of a mitigation plan or enforcement action.
4. All planting activities must be completed within 6 months of application approval.
5. Only one Shoreline Enhancement reimbursement per address is allowed.
6. Applicants shall attend or participate in a free “Clean Lakes Educational” program or workshop sponsored by EPD or view CD/VHS copy of "Restoring Florida’s Lakeshores."
7. Submission of Reimbursement Certificate accompanied by company receipts.

I have read and understand the program requirements, acknowledge that this program does not release me from any other Federal, State or Local regulations and certify that the shoreline planting proposed is not part of a mitigation plan or any enforcement action.

______________________________  Date: ___________________
Signature of Property Owner

______________________________
Print Name of Property Owner

**Official Use Only**

Date Received: ________________  Tracking #: ________________
LSP Application #: ________________  Application approved by: ________________
Shoreline Enhancement
Reimbursement Certificate
(Maximum Reimbursement per property $ 1000.00)

Property Owners Name:_______________________________________Lake:_____________________
Property Address: _____________________________________Telephone No. ____________________
Mailing Address (if different from above):__________________________________________________
LSP Permit No.____________ FDEP Permit No. __________ (if applicable)
Application Tracking No.__________

Total Receipt(s) Submitted $ __________________

Reimbursement Conditions

1. Property owner is the owner of record for the property referenced herein.
2. Property owner has attended a Clean Lakes Educational” Program or viewed the “Restoring Florida Lakeshore” video.
3. All receipts for purchase of aquatic plants and/or contracted work must include company name and phone.
4. A final site inspection and project approval by a Clean Lake inspector.

I have met the requirements of the Program and agree with the conditions stated on this form, and I hereby granted permission for Orange County, Florida including its officers, employees and designees to enter upon my property for the purpose of inspecting to ensure that the work has been completed in compliance with established rules.

Signature of the Property Owner______________________________________ Date: _______________

Note: EPD will reimburse the property owner within 45 days of receipt submittal and final inspection.

[Official Use Only]
I certify that I have inspected the property at the address above and have verified that all the program requirements have been fulfilled.

____________________________________                     Date:__________________
Signature of Clean Lakes Inspector

Reimbursement Amount: $ __________________

____________________________________                     Date:__________________
Print Name of Clean Lakes Inspector

____________________________________                     Date:__________________
Signature of Clean Lakes Program Manager
Orange County
CLEAN LAKES PROGRAM

Upland Invasive Plant Removal Incentive

Overview
Upland invasive plants such as Melaleuca, Chinese tallow, Brazilian pepper and Australian pine are well-documented pest plants that often cause significant environmental harm in the State of Florida. This program is designed to educate and financially assist Orange County residents wanting to remove these invasive plants from their properties. Removal of these plants will reduce potential seed sources and limit the spread of these plants into more environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, lakes and natural preserves.

The County will reimburse qualified residents up to $1000.00 for the removal and proper disposal of upland invasive plants on our “Dirty Dozen + 3” list of the top fifteen most prevalent upland invasive species in Central Florida. More information about these plants can be obtained from the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council website at: www.fleppc.org.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to secure all applicable permits that might be needed to remove these plants. This program is only for the removal of plants in upland areas, not in lakes or wetlands where other incentive programs might be applicable.

DIRTY DOZEN + 3 LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brazilian pepper</th>
<th>Chinese Tallow</th>
<th>Ardesia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Melaleuca</td>
<td>Skunk vine</td>
<td>Guava</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cogon grass</td>
<td>Caesar weed</td>
<td>Camphor tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air potato</td>
<td>Lygodium</td>
<td>Chinaberry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian pine</td>
<td>Mimosa</td>
<td>Tropical soda apple</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are interested in participating in any of the incentive programs, please contact the Clean Lakes Initiative Staff at 407-836-1400 or by email at cleanlakes@ocfl.net. Staff is available to meet with interested applicants to provide information and answer questions.

Please keep all receipts for costs incurred in the removal of the exotic plants to submit to Orange County for reimbursement.