



Make a Splash at the 10th Annual Athens Water Festival

Join your fellow Athenians to celebrate the 10 year Anniversary of the Athens Water Festival! This family-friendly event is on Saturday, September 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Sandy Creek Park. With open-ended educational activities, participants of all ages will enjoy activities at the festival. Kayak on Lake Chapman, meet animals, splash around with water trucks, and much more! Festival activities are free, but park admission is \$2 per person (ages 4-64). We hope to see you this weekend for music, magic, and watery fun!



Celebrate SepticSmart Week! September 16-20

SepticSmart Week – sponsored by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) each September – focuses on educating homeowners and communities on the proper care and maintenance of their septic systems. When not properly maintained, septic systems pose a serious threat to water quality. ACCGOV Stormwater would like to remind homeowners to care for their systems by following these simple tips:



- Think at the sink – What goes down your drain has a big impact on your septic system. Avoid pouring harsh chemicals or grease down your drain and use cleaners/detergents in moderation.
- Don't strain your drain – Use water efficiently and stagger the use of water-based appliances such as washing machines, dishwashers, or showers to avoid back-up of your septic system.
- Keep it clean – Failing septic systems can contaminate groundwater, which in turn can affect our drinking water supply. If you are on a well system, test your water regularly.
- Shield your field – Drain fields are an important component of septic systems that remove contaminants from the liquid that emerges from the tank. Never park cars or plant trees on top of drain fields, and make sure roof drains and/or other drainage systems are directed away from it.
- Protect it and inspect it – Regular septic system maintenance can save homeowners thousands of dollars and protect public health. The average household septic system should be inspected and/or pumped every three to five years by a professional.

- Don't overload the commode – A toilet is not a trashcan. Disposable diapers and wipes, feminine hygiene products, cigarette butts, cat litter, and much more can damage your septic system.

Visit the ACCGOV's Septic Education [website](https://www.accgov.com/5317/Septic-System-Education-Program) [https://www.accgov.com/5317/Septic-System-Education-Program] or EPA's SepticSmart [website](https://www.epa.gov/septic/septic-smart-week) [https://www.epa.gov/septic/septic-smart-week] for more information.



Call for Photo Submissions

Any photographers out there? We are in the process of putting together our 2020 Stormwater Calendar with water and nature scenes from all around Athens. This calendar will be used for outreach purposes. If you'd like to submit a photo to be considered for the calendar, please email it to stormwater@accgov.com [mailto:stormwater@accgov.com] with the name of the person who took it along with a brief description of where, when, and why it was taken. It might get published in our calendar!

NEW! Pay Your Stormwater Utility Bill Online

We are excited to announce that we are now accepting online payments for the Stormwater Utility Fee! Please visit www.accgov.com/stormwater [http://www.accgov.com/stormwater] and click on the "NEW! Pay Your Stormwater Utility Bill Online" button near the top of the homepage. You will immediately be redirected to an ACCGOV [Click2Gov](https://athens-egov.aspgov.com/Click2GovCX/index.html) [https://athens-egov.aspgov.com/Click2GovCX/index.html] online payment platform.

You will need your Stormwater Utility account number to create a user account or make a one-time payment. Once logged into your account, you can update mailing addresses, view past bills, and set-up recurring payments or bank drafts.

Please email stormwater@accgov.com [mailto:stormwater@accgov.com] or call 706-613-3440 if you need assistance.

Upcoming Events

Athens Water Festival

Saturday, September 7, 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Sandy Creek Park (400 Bob Holman Road)

Water organizations come together to make water sparkle! Touch sea life, become a water drop, or create a water delivery system. With open-ended activities, participants of all ages enjoy the activities at the festival. Festival activities are free but park admission is \$2/person.

Adopt-A-Stream Training

Saturday, August 14, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sandy Creek Nature Center (205 Old Commerce Road)

What does it mean to have a healthy stream? Find out by attending the next Adopt-A-Stream workshop hosted by Sandy Creek Nature Center Education Staff. Participants will learn how to make observations, conduct chemical monitoring tests, and collect samples of macroinvertebrates to grade local streams. If interested, please [register](https://secure.rec1.com/GA/athens-clarke-county-leisure-services/catalog?filter=c2VhemNoPTg4MTIxMA==) [https://secure.rec1.com/GA/athens-clarke-county-leisure-services/catalog?filter=c2VhemNoPTg4MTIxMA==. This workshop is for ages 13 to adult.] by September 11.

Insectival

Saturday, August 28, 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
State Botanical Garden of Georgia (2450 S. Milledge Avenue)

Join us for this creepy, crawly, and definitely fun family festival. Discovery stations, roach and beetle races, an insect café, puppet shows, performances and, of course, lots of live insects will be at this event. ACCGOV Stormwater will be on hand with live macroinvertebrates. Insect-ival is sponsored by the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, UGA Lund Club, UGA Department of

Entomology and Georgia Museum of Natural History.

Rivers Alive

Saturday, October 5, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Kickoff at Sandy Creek Nature Center (205 Old Commerce Road)

Volunteer to help preserve our precious rivers and streams at this year's Rivers Alive volunteer cleanup event! Volunteer Check-in starts at 8:00 a.m. at Sandy Creek Nature Center, and there will be free breakfast and live entertainment as we gather for the cleanup. Volunteers should bring a reusable water bottle and gloves, and wear long pants and closed toed shoes. Please visit [www.accgov.com/riversalive](http://accgov.com/riversalive) [<http://accgov.com/riversalive>] for more information and the link to register!

Contact Us

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Notice Dumping?

Call the Stormwater Hotline at 706-614-1282 if you see someone dumping into a storm drain or notice flooding due to clogged drains or pipes.



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