



2021 Application for GAWP Excellence in Education Award (General Section)

Submitted by the Athens-Clarke County Transportation & Public Works Department/Stormwater Management Program

The Athens-Clarke County (ACCGov) Transportation & Public Works Department is home to the ACCGov Stormwater Management Program, which was established in 2003. This program leads watershed education and outreach efforts throughout the county, along with the development and implementation of Watershed Management Plans, an extensive water quality monitoring program, inspections and maintenance of MS4 infrastructure, illicit discharge detection and elimination, and GIS stormwater mapping efforts. ACCGov Stormwater is dedicated to protecting water from the moment it runs off our streets to the moment it reaches our streams. The program operates under the NPDES General Permit for Phase II Municipal Stormwater Discharges (No. GAG610000). ACCGov Stormwater considers education a critical piece of stormwater management and actively promotes education/outreach opportunities to the community.

Table of Contents

Organization	3 – 8
Messaging.....	9 – 14
Partnerships.....	15 – 16
Community Engagement.....	16 – 24
Media.....	25 – 31
Professional Development.....	32 – 34
Special Resources	35

ORGANIZATION: Provide a list of staff who provide public education (PE) for your utility

The ACCGov Stormwater Management Program is staffed with 6 full-time employees, with 1 of those employees being dedicated to education and outreach. Interns are hired from local colleges each semester to assist with education and outreach, and they typically work 10 to 15 hours a week.

Cecile Riker is the Program Education Specialist responsible for implementing the Stormwater education program. She dedicated 100% of her time to education efforts during the award period.

Kyle Dalton is the GIS Analyst and assists with Stormwater education events as needed. From June 2019 to May 2020, he dedicated 10% of his time to education efforts. Abel Hernandez is the Stormwater Inspector and also assists with Stormwater events as needed, particularly rain barrel workshops. He dedicated 10% of his time to education efforts. Todd Stevenson is the Stormwater Division Administrator. He oversees the Stormwater Management Program and dedicates 5% of his time to education initiatives. Nancy Cerrato and Dana Pittman are responsible for overseeing administration of the Stormwater Utility Fee in Athens, and they dedicate 5% of their time to education. Their roles primarily involve explaining the importance of our Stormwater Program and the reasoning behind our Stormwater Utility Fee to hundreds of customers each year.

ORGANIZATION: Provide a job description for primary member(s) of education staff

Cecile Riker is the Program Education Specialist for the ACCGov Transportation and Public Works Department. She is the primary watershed education staff member. A link to her job description is included in the award submission form, and the content of the posting is included on the following pages.





Program Education Specialist/Transportation & Public Works

Class Code: 1831

UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

Revision Date: Apr 14, 2015

SALARY RANGE

\$20.64 Hourly

\$42,933.00 Annually

PURPOSE & JOB RELATED REQUIREMENTS:

REPORTS TO: Stormwater Management Engineering Coordinator**FLSA STATUS:** Exempt - Administrative**CLASSIFICATION:** Personnel System**PAY GRADE:** 18**SAFETY SENSITIVE:** No**Purpose of Job**

The purpose of this job is to provide education to students, citizens, and businesses on all Stormwater Management. Duties and responsibilities which include, but are not limited to: directing all promotional/educational efforts related to the Athens-Clarke County Government Stormwater Management Program, and performing additional tasks as assigned.

Job Related Requirements

May be required to work on religious holidays.

Regular and predictable attendance is required.

Must work cooperatively with others.

When requirements include vehicle operation, responsible for the safety, readiness and operation of the vehicle and must abide by ACC's safe driving policy.

MINIMUM TRAINING & EXPERIENCE REQUIRED TO PERFORM ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:

Bachelor's degree in an environmental field, public relations, journalism, marketing, telecommunications, or related discipline with two years of journalism, public relations, marketing, education experience or related experience required; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this position.

Must possess a valid driver's license.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES, KNOWLEDGE SKILLS & ABILITIES:

The following duties are normal for this job. These are not to be construed as exclusive or all-inclusive. Other duties may be required and assigned.

DIRECTS public education and outreach efforts related to the Stormwater Management program.

Develops and coordinates distribution of instructional and promotional material for all stormwater education programs. Coordinates with other departments for joint-education programs.

Prepares and distributes news releases; coordinates photo opportunities/feature stories.

Conducts workshops and presentations for community groups and other focused audiences.

Serves as media relations liaison for stormwater activities.

Supervises/creates logos, images, and signage for the program.

Works with other departments and local non-profit organizations such as Clean and Beautiful to coordinate special events.

Assists with preparing budget proposals for educational component.

Implements special promotional campaigns.

Creates advertising for print media and PSA spots for radio TV, internet, and other media outlets.

Coordinates school education programs.

Develops a traveling display to promote stormwater education.

Attends conferences, seminars, and classes to remain abreast of current developments in non-point source pollution and other related environmental topics.

Assists with research (focus groups, polls, etc.) and data collection, including field work as necessary

Develops clippings file to monitor media coverage of department.

Assists with preparing grant proposals.

Provides information and other customer services to students, citizens, and businesses.

Performs other related duties as required.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Knowledge of the policies, procedures, and activities of the Stormwater Management Program and Transportation & Public Works Department as they pertain to the performance of duties relating to the position of Program Education Specialist.

Knowledge of maps, graphs, charts, grant proposals, route sheets, time sheets, fact sheets, etc., and procedures and methods as required in the performance of duties.

Knowledge of computer software packages as necessary in the performance of job duties including graphic art software packages.

Knowledge of the use of office equipment, such as computers, copy machines, fax machines, etc.

Knowledge of the use of artist's instruments.

Ability to compile, organize, prepare and maintain an assortment of records, reports and information in an effective manner and according to departmental and/or governmental regulations.

Ability to communicate effectively with supervisors, and other staff members.

Ability to use independent judgment in routine and non-routine situations.

Ability to handle required mathematical calculations.

Ability to utilize and understand computer applications and techniques as necessary in the completion of daily assignments.

Ability to plan, organize and/or prioritize daily assignments and work activities.

Ability to comprehend and apply regulations and procedures of the department.

ADA INFORMATION:

**(ADA) MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS OR STANDARDS REQUIRED
TO PERFORM ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS**

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS: Must be physically able to operate a variety of machinery and equipment including computers, typewriters, copy machines, other office equipment, and artist?s instruments. Must be able to use body members to work, move or carry objects or materials. This position requires: walking, standing, bending, stooping, pushing, pulling, lifting, fingering, grasping, feeling, seeing, talking, hearing, and repetitive motions. Must be able to exert up to 20 pounds of force occasionally, and/or up to 10 pounds of force frequently. Physical demand requirements are at levels of those of light work.

DATA CONCEPTION: Requires the ability to compare and/or judge the readily observable functional, structural, or compositional characteristics (whether similar to or divergent from obvious standards) of data, people, or things.

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION: Requires the ability to hear, speak and/or signal people to convey or exchange information. Includes receiving assignments and/or directions from supervisors, and giving assignments and/or directions to co-workers or assistants.

LANGUAGE ABILITY: Requires the ability to read a variety of reports, maps, grant proposals, time sheets, route sheets, and informational documentation, directions, instructions, and methods and procedures. Requires the ability to prepare news releases, press releases, public service announcements, brochures, flyers, and work orders using prescribed formats and conforming to all rules of punctuation, grammar, diction, and style. Requires the ability to speak to groups of people with poise, voice control, and confidence.

INTELLIGENCE: Requires the ability to learn and understand complex principles and techniques; to acquire and be able to expound on knowledge of topics related to primary occupation; and to make independent judgment in the absence of management.

VERBAL APTITUDE: Requires the ability to record and deliver information, to explain procedures, and to follow oral and written instructions. Must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in a variety of administrative, technical or professional languages including stormwater industry jargon, public relations, graphic design and desktop publishing terminology.

NUMERICAL APTITUDE: Requires the ability to utilize mathematical formulas; add and subtract totals; multiply and divide; utilize and determine percentages, and interpret graphs.

FORM/SPATIAL APTITUDE: Requires the ability to inspect items for proper length, width, and shape, visually with artist?s instruments and office equipment.

MOTOR COORDINATION: Requires the ability to coordinate hands, fingers, and eyes accurately in using office equipment. Requires the ability to use the keyboard, lift, bend, push, and pull objects or materials using body parts as the position necessitates.

MANUAL DEXTERITY: Requires the ability to handle a variety of items such as computers, fax machines, typewriters, and other office equipment, and artist?s instruments. Must have the ability to use one hand for twisting or turning motion while coordinating other hand with different activities. Must have minimal levels of eye/hand/foot coordination.

COLOR DISCRIMINATION: Requires the ability to differentiate between colors and shades of color.

INTERPERSONAL TEMPERAMENT: Requires the ability to deal with people beyond giving and receiving instructions. Must be adaptable to performing under moderate stress when confronted with an emergency.

PHYSICAL COMMUNICATION: Requires the ability to talk and/or hear: (Talking - expressing or exchanging ideas by means of spoken words). (Hearing - perceiving nature of sounds by ear). Must be able to communicate via telephone.

ORGANIZATION: Provide a list of education staff credentials (for example: degrees, certifications, training, and experience.)

Cecile Riker, MPA, Program Education Specialist/Transportation & Public Works

Education:

- Master of Public Administration, Specialization in Nonprofit Management - University of Georgia, 2016
- Certificate in Nonprofit Management, University of Georgia, 2016
- Bachelor of Political Science - University of Georgia, 2013

Certifications and Awards:

- Certificate in Non-Profit Management - University of Georgia School of Social Work, 2016
- Project WET 2.0 Educator
- GA Adopt-A-Stream Chemical + Biological/Macroinvertebrate QAQC Volunteer
- 2018 Keep Georgia Beautiful Public Works Employee of the Year
- 2018 ACCGov Public Works Employee of the Year Finalist

Training (information on conferences is listed in the next section):

- Intermediate Excel Course - Completed in 2017
- CPR Training Course – Completed in 2017
- Stepping Up To Supervision Course - Completed in 2018
- The Coaching Habit Course - Completed in 2019

Work Experience:

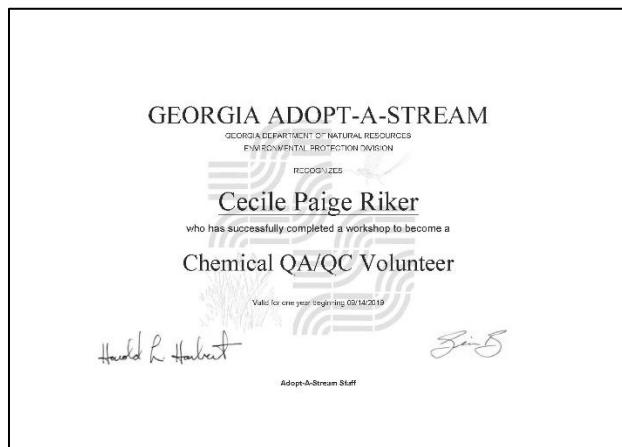
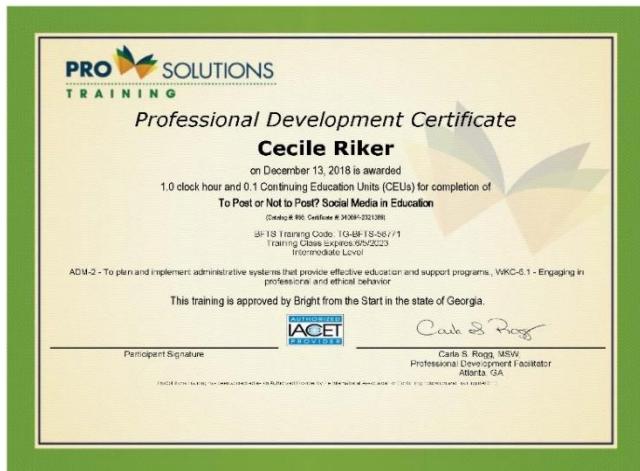
- ACCGov Transportation and Public Works - Program Education Specialist, 4.5 years
- Carl Vinson Institute of Government - Graduate Research Assistant, 2 years
- Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful - Environmental Education Intern, 4 years
- ACCGov Public Utilities Department - Water Education Intern, 8 months

ORGANIZATION: Provide records of PE staff training with dates of training, name of training, description of training

Cecile regularly attends conferences, webinars, and various trainings throughout the southeast. She is an active member of the Georgia Association of Water Professional's (GAWP) Public Education and Stormwater Committees, as well as a member of the Southeast Stormwater Association (SESWA) and Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia (EEA). Below is a listing of training events attended during the award period.

- SESWA Fall Conference – Chattanooga, GA, October 2019
- GAWP Fall Conference – Athens, GA, November 2019
- EEA Annual Conference – Jekyll Island, GA, March 2020
- WebEx Virtual Meeting Training (virtual) – Athens, GA, May 2020

In addition to attending industry conferences and trainings, Cecile has completed several online courses with ProSolutions Training, including Mandated Reporting, Social Media, and Supporting Dual Language Learners. She is a certified Georgia Adopt-A-Stream QA/QC Volunteer for Physical/Chemical and Macroinvertebrate Monitoring.



ORGANIZATION: PE Staff
who work with youth have completed mandated reporter training.

Cecile Riker is a certified mandated reporter. A copy of her current training certificate is included here.

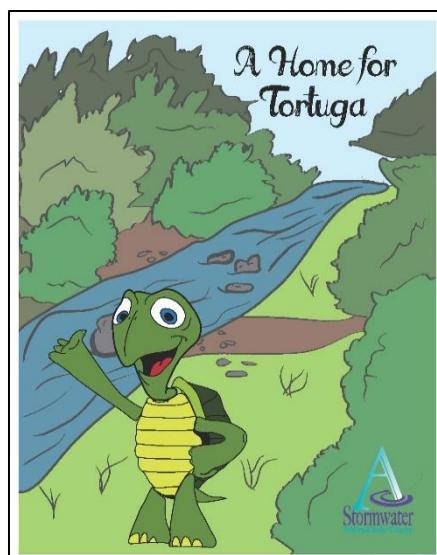


MESSAGING: Provide your program logo(s) and/or mascot(s) or means (mascot, symbolic, etc.) for advocating public education program issues and/or activities.



The ACCGov Stormwater logo (pictured right) is used to brand all educational material and billing information that is published by our office, including digital media. Slight variations of the logo are used depending on the medium.

Stormwater mascot Tortuga the Turtle (pictured below) teaches children and adults alike how to prevent water pollution and protect our local streams and rivers. He makes special event appearances at schools, workshops, and larger community events. ACCGov Stormwater has also published the popular "A Home for Tortuga" coloring book, which takes children along with Tortuga on his journey to find a healthy and safe home.



MESSAGING: Provide your utility's Consumer Confidence Report, which advocates for The Value of Water and assures that your utility provides safe drinking water for customers

The ACCGov Public Utilities Department (PUD) is responsible for producing ACCGov's annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), which was included in their Summer 2019 quarterly WaterSource newsletter and mailed to all water utility customers. The full report can be found on the ACCGov PUD website along with their Quarterly Tap Water Analyses (linked in the award submission form and on the screenshot below).

Although Stormwater Management Programs do not publish CCRs, we do collect extensive water quality data that is summarized in reports and published on our website under "Watershed Management."



Watershed Management

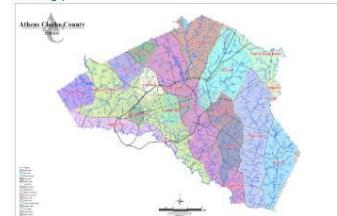
A watershed is the area of land that drains into a specific body of water, such as a creek or river. It can also be called a drainage basin. Rain that falls anywhere within a creek's watershed will eventually drain into that creek. There are 17 watersheds in Athens, draining to each of the 15 creeks in Athens and 2 draining to the rivers.

Athens-Clarke County (ACCGOV) has 69 miles of polluted streams throughout 18 different stream reaches. The most common pollutant found in our streams is fecal coliform bacteria. Other common impairments include pH and total suspended solids. ACCGOV continually implements best management practices, including initiatives in pet waste management, sewer evaluations, septic system management, and bacteria source tracking, to help reduce fecal coliform and sediment loads to receiving waters as well as to maintain acceptable levels of pH.

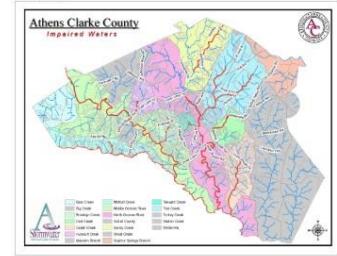
Other watershed management information and resources:

- [Watershed Management Plans](#)
 - [2018 Impaired Waters Monitoring & Implementation Plan Annual Report](#)
 - [Achievements](#)
 - [Stream Buffers](#)

[Athens-Clarke County Drainage Basins](#) (click on the map to enlarge the image)



Athens-Clarke County Impaired Streams (click on the map to enlarge the image)



Was this page helpful for you? Yes No

MESSAGING: Provide a comprehensive list of target audiences and message(s) for each audience

The Stormwater Management Program plans and adapts messages as needed based on specific audience requests. The list below includes general messages presented throughout the year.

Grades Pre-K – 12 Audiences

- Water pollution/common pollutants (pet waste, litter, washwater, paint, oil, fertilizers, pesticides, sediment, etc.)
- Water cycle + urban water cycle
- Sources of local drinking water
- Water quality testing (physical, chemical, and biological)
- Watersheds
- Careers in the water industry
- Volunteerism and service-learning around water (litter pick-ups, storm drain decaling, stream buffer restoration projects)

Adult Audiences

- Illicit discharge prevention (pressure washing, car washing)
- Household hazardous waste disposal
- Stormwater runoff reduction
- Green infrastructure (rain barrels and rain gardens)
- Solutions to common drainage issues
- Septic system maintenance
- Pollution prevention
- Watersheds
- Environmental regulations (Clean Water Act, GA Water Quality Control Act)
- ACCGov Stormwater Utility Fee

Commercial/Industrial Audiences

- Illicit discharge prevention (pressure washing, industrial spills)
- Erosion and sedimentation
- Stormwater runoff reduction
- Stormwater pond maintenance
- Green infrastructure (bioretention, cisterns, green roofs)
- Pollution prevention
- Watersheds
- Environmental regulations (Clean Water Act, GA Water Quality Control Act)
- ACCGov Stormwater Utility Fee

MESSAGING: Provide evidence about how the utility educates elected officials and policy makers on the local and state level, through presentations, workshops, training, public meetings.

ACCGov Stormwater regularly interacts with our Mayor & Commission through educational work sessions and agenda items. A list of Stormwater-related work sessions and agenda items submitted during the award period is included below.

- February 4, 2020 (regular session) – Stormwater System Mapping Contract
- April 7, 2020 (regular session) – Revision to Stormwater Management Ordinance
- April 14, 2020 (work session) – The Stormwater Utility Fee Structure and Live Stream Pipe Replacements

Staff also presented at several regional conferences/meetings during the reporting period. A selection of photos are provided under the Professional Development section.

- August 20, 2019 – Presentation about local MS4 regulations to the regional chapter of American Public Works Association (APWA)
- October 10, 2019 – Presentation about Athens-Clarke County's Stormwater Utility Fee and our funding review at the Southeast Stormwater Association (SESWA) Annual Conference
- October 30, 2019 – Presentation about stormwater regulations at the USDA Russell Research Center
- November 19, 2019 – Presentation about the Athens Water Festival at the GAWP Fall Conference
- November 20, 2019 – Presentation about Stormwater Billing/Improving Collection Rates at the GAWP Fall Conference

Each month, the ACCGov Manager's Office puts out the Manager's Snapshot, which is a brief summary of the activities undertaken by the government that particular month. This newsletter is meant to inform elected officials and citizens about the everyday workings of the government. Stormwater submits information about completed inspections, presentations, and educational activities each month for inclusion into the "Informed and Engaged Citizens" section of the newsletter. Sample screenshots are included here.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Recent Meetings

- On December 3, the Water Conservation Office and Stormwater Management Division joined the Gaines Elementary Afterschool Program. Thirty-five pre-K-5th grade students learned about how much water on earth is available for drinking and created edible clouds with sugar cookies and icing.
- On December 10, Stormwater Education staff hosted a Rain Barrel Workshop for 20 attendees. Participants learned about the uses and benefits of rain barrels and then built their own to take home and install.

MESSAGING: Provide evidence for education or advocacy for current water industry issues (examples – lead in water, drought response, infrastructure, etc.)

Stormwater consistently incorporates current and relevant water topics into our educational messaging and outreach materials. Themes like infrastructure improvements, illicit discharges, proper disposal of leaf and limb debris, and pet waste are frequently mentioned on social media and in e-newsletter articles. Special events like Imagine A Day without Water, Public Works Week, and Water Professionals Appreciation Day are also featured annually.

Our Stormwater E-newsletter is sent out monthly to over 600 subscribers, and our social media pages have a combined 2,500 followers.

Fall Landscaping Reminders

With the arrival of Fall, ACCGOV Stormwater would like to remind everyone about properly disposing of leaves, grass clippings, brush, tree limbs, and other landscape materials to prevent debris from clogging storm drains, flooding roads, or polluting our waterways. We want all homeowners and landscape businesses serving the Athens and Winterville areas to be informed of relevant county ordinances so you can avoid costly fines which may otherwise result from a simple lack of awareness. Code Enforcement Officers and the Stormwater Inspector actively monitor for these types of illicit discharges.



Athens-Clarke County ordinances concerning the disposal of debris include:

ACC Ordinance Sec. 5-2-7(d) *"Limbs cut and placed near collection by any person other than the owner of the property collected or hauled by Athens-Clarke County. Individuals or contract to collect leaves and limbs shall haul and dispose of*

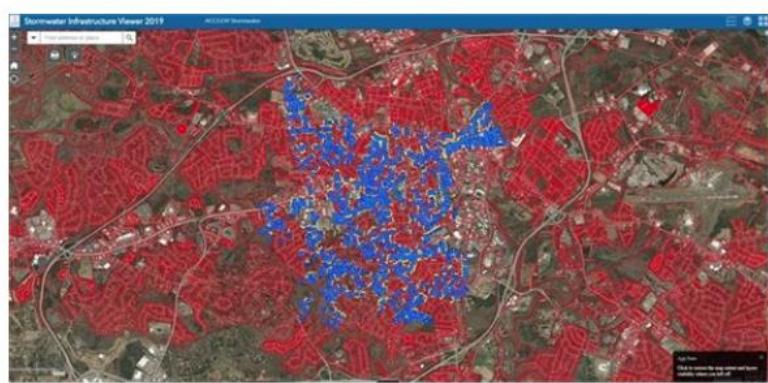
ACC Ordinance Sec. 7-3-1 *"It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, dump, or otherwise cause to be placed any paper, organic waste, grass cuttings, or any other trash or debris on any person's property, or on any of the streets, sidewalks, or any public or semipublic way, or any public or semipublic parking facility within Athens-Clarke County."*

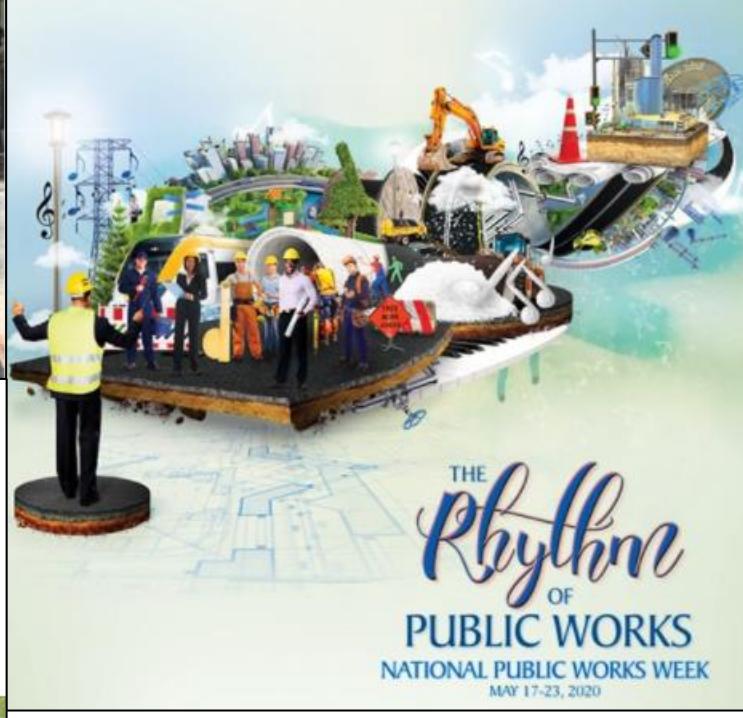
ACC Ordinance Sec. 7-3-2 *"It shall be unlawful to throw, dump, or otherwise cause to be placed any tree limbs or leaves in or on any street inside the curbline or on the sidewalks in Athens-Clarke County."*

ACC Ordinance Sec. 5-4-22(a) *"It shall be a violation of any person to throw, drain, or otherwise discharge, cause, or permit to be thrown, drained, or otherwise discharged into any water body or any person to throw, drain, or otherwise discharge, cause, or permit to be thrown, drained, or otherwise discharged into any water body any*

Stormwater Infrastructure Viewer

Ever wonder where all that stormwater goes once it hits the street and runs down the gutter into a storm drain? ACCGOV Stormwater contracted with Arcadis in January of 2019 to complete stormwater infrastructure mapping for certain portions of the County. Mapping efforts are still underway with a new contract to continue the effort. Members of the public can now view the mapped infrastructure [here](#) [<https://athensclarke.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ca950483d3674e529edd2a4c2fdf8f2a>]. This data will allow ACCGOV staff to better track work requests, infrastructure upgrades and replacements, and investigate illicit discharges.



<p>Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Published by Cecile Riker · May 8, 2020 · Comment</p> <p>Good News! Athens-Clarke County Transportation & Public Works Department crews finished the stormwater installation work on E. Clayton Street 6 weeks ahead of schedule. Due to the lack of traffic downtown in recent weeks, they were able to close the streets to allow for more efficient work.</p> <p>A BIG thanks to Streets & Drainage staff for working through the heat, the rain, and the cold to complete this phase of the Clayton Street Improvements Project.</p> <p>For more information and ... See More</p> 	<p>Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Published by Cecile Riker · May 18, 2020 · Comment</p> <p>We are so excited to be celebrating #NationalPublicWorksWeek this week, along with many other communities across the country! Sponsored by the American Public Works Association, Public Works Week is meant to energize and educate the public on the importance of public works to their daily lives: planning, building, managing and operating at the heart of their local communities to improve everyday quality of life.</p> <p>In honor of this celebration, we will be sharing information about each of the employees of Athens-Clarke County Stormwater. Look out for a different employee spotlight each day, and help us thank them for the important work that they do for Athens-Clarke County, GA Unified Government!</p> <p>Our first employee spotlight will be posted later this afternoon.</p> 
<p>Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Published by Cecile Riker · May 4, 2020 · Comment</p> <p>Happy Monday, and happy #WaterProfessionalsAppreciationDay!</p> <p>We are so grateful for the hardworking men and women who have dedicated their careers to the water industry. Whether that's working in a laboratory to monitor water quality, inspecting green infrastructure practices, educating the public about the importance of clean water, or operating equipment to clean out stormwater drains, pipes, or ditches - we thank YOU!</p> 	

PARTNERSHIPS: Provide a list of affiliations or partnerships within the water industry (e.g. WaterSense, WaterFirst)

ACCGov Stormwater considers partnerships a critical piece of our program's effectiveness. We rely on many other organizations and ACCGov Departments to help implement components of our MS4 NPDES Stormwater permit. We also value the role of professional organizations in professional development, networking, and staying abreast of new developments in the Stormwater field. We are proud to have worked with the following partners during the award period:

Athens-Clarke County Public Utilities Department (PUD): Our Departments regularly work together on education/outreach events, and also collaborate on capital and right-of-way acquisition projects.

Environmental Education Alliance in Georgia (EEA): The Stormwater Education Specialist is a member of this organization and routinely attends conferences.

Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP): All Stormwater staff are members of GAWP and sit on of several different committees (Public Education and Stormwater).

Southeast Stormwater Association (SESWA): All Stormwater staff are members of SESWA and routinely attend conferences, webinars, and trainings.

PARTNERSHIPS: Provide a list of partnerships or relationships with organizations outside of the water industry

Additional partnerships outside of the water industry are included below.

Athens-Clarke County Green Schools Program: This is a partnership of ACCGov government groups to promote environmental education within the Clarke County School District.

Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services Department: This Department partners with us on stream restoration projects and stream cleanups, summer camps, and larger community events like Rivers Alive and the Athens MLK Day of Service.

Action Ministries, Inc.: This is a non-profit organization who runs the local Smart Lunch, Smart Kid summer lunch program. Meals are delivered to low-income neighborhoods, and organizations come out and provide enrichment to the kids at their sites. Stormwater provided educational enrichment activities throughout the summer.

Clarke County School District: Stormwater provides the School District with classroom presentations, summer camp activities, and promotes events directly to the schools (the Athens Water Festival & Roll Out the Barrels).

City of Winterville, GA: Athens-Clarke County coordinates the City of Winterville's MS4 Permit, which includes education and outreach best management practices.

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful (KACCB): This non-profit organization assists with planning and implementation of Rivers Alive and the Ripple Effect Film Project, as well as provides tools to Stormwater for volunteer stream cleanups. The Stormwater Education Specialist currently sits on the Board of Directors for KACCB, and served as Treasurer during the reporting period.

Oconee River Land Trust: We cross promote events, and they also help plan Rivers Alive.

University of Georgia (UGA): We promoted internship opportunities to several UGA Departments, and partner with the River Basin Center (under the Odum School of Ecology) on grant proposals and water quality monitoring projects.

UGA Extension Office: Coordinated adult workshops related to outdoor water efficiency and rain gardens.

UGA Office of Sustainability: Cross promote events and internship opportunities.

UGA Office of Service Learning: Provides volunteer management support for Stormwater events.

Upper Oconee Watershed Network: Cross promote events and provide support.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Provide evidence that the utility participates in community events (for example: career days, touch-a-truck events, science fair judging, STEM nights).

Stormwater education staff participate in many different community activities throughout the year, including tabling at local farmers markets, attending science fairs, and presenting at different community events. During the reporting period, Stormwater participated in 11 public events reaching an estimated 3,874 people. Events are listed below, followed by a selection of photos.

Date	Event	Audience	# Reach	Activity
7/20/2019	Tabling at the Athens Farmers Market	All ages	100	Set up a booth and gave out information about the Stormwater Management Program.
7/25/2019	Public Day Program at the Winterville Arts Center	All ages	4	Played a frog concentration game, talked about the life cycle of frogs, and listened to different frog calls.
8/29/2019	ACC Green School Kickoff	Adults	55	Gave out resources to teachers about K-12 stormwater education and spoke about the Program.

9/7/2019	Athens Water Festival	All ages	1,100	Helped organize the Athens Water Festival. Hosted Stormwater Maze and stream buffer bracelet booths.
9/28/2019	Insectival	All ages	1,000	Had a macroinvertebrate booth. Talked about biodiversity and pollution tolerance.
10/5/2019	Rivers Alive	All ages	325	Hosted the 21st annual Rivers Alive in Athens with 15 different sites and over 300 volunteers.
10/29/2019	Green Cup Challenge Celebration at UGA	All ages	100	Tabled/played stormwater trivia and talked about the Stormwater Management Program.
11/16/2019	Riverside Ride on the North Oconee River Greenway	All ages	30	Collaborated with ACC Leisure Services to have a water station at their fun ride on the Greenway.
1/16/2020	STEM Night at Stroud Elementary School	K-5	60	Tabled at Stroud Elementary's STEM Night. Did a Riparian Buffer Bracelet activity.
1/20/2020	Athens MLK Day of Service	All ages	1,000	Chaired Site Selection, helped organize projects, communicated with site leaders, and organized volunteer registration.
2/29/2020	Green Life Expo & Awards	All ages	100	Hosted a table at the Expo. Organized the K-12 Art Contest + awards, and gave out our Stormwater Steward Award at the Adult Awards Ceremony.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Provide evidence that the utility's personnel provide student mentoring and/or internships for public outreach and recruitment (for example: ongoing/long term projects – scouts, teams, clubs, science fair projects, etc.)

ACCGov Stormwater values internships and aims to provide a productive, well-rounded experience for students, regardless of their specific internship position. We offer Education & Outreach internships, along with occasional GIS internship opportunities as well. We recruit student interns from the University of Georgia, Athens Technical College, and the University of North Georgia Oconee Campus. Interns assist with outreach activities, classroom visits, tabling opportunities, as well as inspections, GIS data entry, and tasks related to our Stormwater Utility billing. These internships offer a behind the scenes look at local government and allow students to learn about the intricacies of protecting water resources. Interns gain experience working with children, producing outreach materials, and organizing large community events.

The Education & Outreach Internship Description is included on the following page.



Former Intern Jordan Horvieth



Former Intern Madison O'Malley



**Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Management Program
Education & Outreach Internship Position**

Internship Duration

August 2019 – December 2019 (start and end dates are flexible, with the option to extend into the spring semester).

Location

Athens-Clarke County Transportation and Public Works Department, Stormwater Management Program, 120 West Dougherty Street, Athens, GA 30601.

Position Description

This position will assist the Stormwater Education Specialist with implementing the education and outreach program in the Athens community, which includes K-12, business, and public outreach initiatives. The education and outreach intern is expected to work 10-15 hours per week, with some weekend/evening work required.

Position Responsibilities

- Assists staff with development of educational materials and curriculum for K-12, public, and business audiences.
- Assists staff with conducting K-12 education programs to various ages and backgrounds.
- Assists staff with planning and coordinating public events such as the Athens Water Festival, rain barrel workshops, and rain garden workshops.
- Assists staff with volunteer events such as Rivers Alive, the MLK Day of Service, stream clean-ups, and storm drain decaling projects.
- Assists staff with the development of public outreach campaigns and marketing materials.

Qualifications

- Must have a strong work ethic and be able to work independently.
- Must be open to completing a variety of tasks related to stormwater initiatives.
- Must be willing to learn.
- Must have excellent communication skills, including computer fluency (word processing, spreadsheet, database, and presentation applications).
- Must be comfortable working with children.
- Background in school and/or public education is desired but not required.
- Background in biology, ecology, environmental education, or environmental science is desired but not required.

Salary & Benefits

This is a paid internship at \$10/hour. Training and educational opportunities are an integral part of the internship.

To Apply

Please submit a cover letter, resume, and list of three references to stormwater@accgov.com. Applications must be received no later than **Friday, August 9th at 5:00pm**.

Contact

For more information, contact Cecile Riker at cecile.riker@accgov.com or 706-613-3440 x6717. For more information about the Stormwater Management Program, visit accgov.com/stormwater.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Provide evidence that the utility's personnel provide presentations and/or demonstrations upon request or via scheduled outreach within the community

ACCGov Stormwater searches for every opportunity to make contact with the community. K-12 classroom presentations, events, and summer camp visits are typically scheduled through direct requests from teachers, but we often receive requests for presentations from various community groups and businesses. During the reporting period, Stormwater Staff presented to 36 different classrooms/groups, reaching an estimated 1,279 people of all ages.

DATE	EVENT	AUDIENCE	# REACH	ACTIVITY
6/5/2019	Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Summer Feeding Program Enrichment	Grades K-8	30	Did a stream buffer bracelet activity and coloring sheet with the kids.
6/11/2019	Memorial Park Summer Camp Visit	Grades K-2	40	Led H2Olympics about the different properties of water in conjunction with the Water Conservation Office.
6/12/2019	Memorial Park Summer Camp Visit	Grades 2-5	55	Led H2Olympics about the different properties of water in conjunction with the Water Conservation Office.
6/18/2019	ACC Police Department Summer Camp Visit	Grades 3-8	25	Led H2Olympics about the different properties of water in conjunction with the Water Conservation Office.
6/19/2019	Cub Scout Summer Camp Visit	Grades 2-5	25	Led H2Olympics about the different properties of water in conjunction with the Water Conservation Office.
6/20/2019	CCSD Summer School Visit Part 1	Grade 2	20	Led activity about frogs, their life cycle, and local species. Played frog calls and a concentration game.
6/20/2019	CCSD Summer School Visit Part 2	Grade 3	12	Led activity about frogs, their life cycle, and local species. Played frog calls and a concentration game.
6/21/2019	Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Summer Feeding Program Enrichment	Grades K-8	30	Did a stream buffer bracelet activity and coloring sheet with the kids.
6/28/2019	Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Summer Feeding Program Enrichment	Grades K-8	30	Led a Project WET H2Olympics activity with students about the amazing properties of water.
7/10/2019	Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Summer Feeding Program Enrichment	Grades K-8	12	Led a Project WET H2Olympics activity with students about the amazing properties of water.
7/16/2019	Sandy Creek Day Camp Matinee	Grades 3-8	90	Led a series of water relays for Sandy Creek day campers.
7/17/2019	Water Quality Sampling with Youth Conservation Stewards	Grades 9-12	8	Sampled at several different streams on the Beech Haven property and talked about careers in the stormwater field.

7/19/2019	Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Summer Feeding Program Enrichment	Grades K-8	30	Led a Project WET H2Olympics activity with students about the amazing properties of water.
7/24/2019	Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Summer Feeding Program Enrichment	Grades K-8	20	Led a Project WET H2Olympics activity with students about the amazing properties of water.
7/31/2019	Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Summer Feeding Program Enrichment	Grades K-8	20	Played a Stormwater Trivia game and gave out Stormwater giveaways to students.
7/31/2019	Summer Rain Barrel Workshop Part 1	Adults	15	Hosted a rain barrel workshop. Led a brief PowerPoint about uses/benefits of rain barrels, then built some.
7/31/2019	Summer Rain Barrel Workshop Part 2	Adults	15	Hosted a rain barrel workshop. Led a brief PowerPoint about uses/benefits of rain barrels, then built some.
8/14/2019	IGEL Water Forum	Adults	50	Networked and discussed water challenges/opportunities with water professionals around Athens/the state.
8/15/2019	Sustainable Industries Roundtable Meeting	Adults	25	Toured Ethicon facility and spoke with committee about ways to divert household waste.
8/20/2019	Presentation to APWA Regional Meeting	Adults	40	Presented on ACC's Stormwater Program and why Public Works professionals should care.
9/16/2019	H2Olympics Activity with Cedar Shoals High School Physics Students	Grades 9-12	75	Led H2Olympics activity about properties of water in conjunction with the Water Conservation Office.
10/10/2019	SESWA Annual Conference Stormwater Fee Review Presentation	Adults	100	Presented at the SESWA Annual Conference about our recent Stormwater Funding Review.
10/17/2019	Macroinvertebrate Sampling with Athens Montessori	Grades 6-8	20	Talked about water quality and sampled Hunnicutt Creek for macroinvertebrates.
10/21/2019	Imagine A Day Without Water Lesson at St. Joes	Grades 6-8	70	Talked about the Imagine a Day Without Water, water trivia, and created informational postcards.
10/22/2019	Imagine A Day Without Water Lesson at Gaines Elementary	Grades K-5	50	Played a frog concentration game, talked about the life cycle of frogs, and talked about Imagine a Day Without Water.
10/30/2019	USDA Russell Research Center Brown Bag Talk	Adults	75	Gave a talk about the Stormwater Management Program & local/state/fed stormwater regulations.
11/5/2019	Community Partners Panel for UGA Office of Service Learning	Adults	15	Spoke on a panel about service-learning opportunities and ways to better engage UGA students.
11/19/2019	GAWP Fall Conference Water Festival Presentation	Adults	30	Presented about the Athens Water Festival with Jackie Sherry from Public Utilities.
11/20/2019	GAWP Fall Conference Stormwater Billing Presentation	Adults	25	Billing Coordinator Nancy Cerrato talked about ways to improve stormwater fee collection rates.
12/3/2019	Water Lesson at Gaines Elementary Afterschool	Grades K-5	40	Led several water activities with Gaines After School Program, including Blue Planet and cloud painting.

12/10/2019	Winter Rain Barrel Workshop	Adults	16	Led a rain barrel workshop including a PowerPoint presentation along with a hands-on build sessions.
12/17/2019	Stormwater BMP Inspection and Maintenance Training	Adults	12	Led a presentation for ACC employees about Stormwater BMP design, inspection, and maintenance.
2/11/2020	Rain Barrel Activity with Clarke Central High School Agri-science Students	Grades 11-12	20	Led a presentation about green infrastructure with focus on rain barrels, then built 2 barrels.
3/3/2020	Sum of the Parts Lesson at Chase Street Elementary School	Grade 4	75	Led Project WET's "Sum of the Parts" watershed lesson with several different 4th grade classes.
3/7/2020	Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia Annual Conference Presentation	Adults	15	Led a presentation about the ACC Green School Program with KACCB and the ACCGOV Water Conservation Office.
3/11/2020	Rain Barrel Art Lesson with Rutland Academy	Grades 9-12	40	Did a rain barrel painting activity with Rutland middle and high school students. Gave out hand sanitizers.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Provide evidence that the utility provides volunteer opportunities for the community throughout the year (for example, cleanups, storm drain marking, outreach events)

Volunteer Management is an essential part of the ACCGov Stormwater Education Specialist's work duties, along with other Public Involvement activities that count towards requirements in ACCGov's NPDES Phase II Stormwater Permit.

The Stormwater Education Specialist sits on the Steering Committee for Athens' Rivers Alive, our city's largest volunteer waterway cleanup event that attracts nearly 400 volunteers each year. She is the chair of the site selection and volunteer management sub-committees.

ACCGov Stormwater also takes a leadership role in the organization of the Athens MLK Day of Service, a nationwide volunteer event. Dozens of locations across Athens coordinate with the planning committee to receive volunteers to help with various projects, including garden clean-ups, stormwater stenciling, litter pick-ups, and other beautification initiatives.

In addition to larger community service events, Stormwater offers several ongoing opportunities for volunteer groups, including stream and roadside litter clean-ups and storm drain decaling. Find more details about these volunteer opportunities in the "Volunteer Management" paragraph under the "Watershed Education" section of the application.

Date	Event	Audience	# Volunteers	Activity
7/11/2019	Storm Drain Decaling with Teens in Action Summer Camp	Grades 6 –8	10	Decaled 70 storm drains in the Creekside Manor subdivision and talked about causes of water pollution.
9/7/2019	Athens Water Festival	All ages	200	Hosted the Athens Water Festival. Managed approx. 200 volunteers and presenters who assisted with activities.
10/5/2019	Rivers Alive	All ages	325	Organized 15 waterway cleanups around the community. Helped with site selection/volunteer registration.
1/20/2020	MLK Day of Service	All ages	1,000	Sat on Steering Committee and chaired Site Selection sub-committee. Helped organize projects/site leaders.
2/29/2020	Green Life Expo & Awards	All ages	20	Helped organize the Green Life Expo & Awards. Had approx. 20 volunteers assist with set-up/breakdown along with various tasks at the expo.



Volunteer leading an activity at the Athens Water Festival



Storm Drain Decaling with Teens in Action Summer Camp



MLK Day of Service Volunteers



MASS MEDIA: Provide copies of press releases/media advisories distributed by the utility or evidence of coverage by local media (newspaper or TV) or government access media.

ACCGov Stormwater regularly communicates with the media through press releases, calendar postings, and advertisements, and is also featured on ACTV, our local government access channel. A sampling of screenshots is included on the following pages.

NEWS RELEASE	Athens MLK Day of Service News Release (January 2020)	GIS Day News Release (November 2019)
<p>For Immediate Release Date: December 17, 2019</p> <p>For more information: Cecile Riker, ACCGov Stormwater Management Program Cecile.riker@accgov.com</p> <p> </p> <p>MLK Day of Service in Athens-Clarke County</p> <p>(ATHENS, GA) Athenians are invited to honor Dr. King's legacy at the 18th Annual Athens-Clarke County Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on Monday, January 20, 2020.</p> <p>In 1994, Congress made the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday an official day of service. Athens-Clarke County is one of the thousands of cities across the United States that decides to make the holiday "A Day On and Not a Day Off."</p> <p>This year's kick-off celebration will take place from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. at the Clarke Central High School gymnasium located at 350 S. Milledge Avenue. The first 300 registered volunteers will receive free t-shirts, and a light breakfast will be served. Participants will hear from several speakers before heading out to their work sites for the afternoon.</p> <p>20 different community organizations and schools will host volunteer service projects for the Day of Service, including Acceptance Recovery Center, Athens Community Council on Aging, Athens Land Trust, Historic Athens, Friends of Brooklyn Cemetery, and more. Volunteers will work from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at their selected project sites. Volunteer registration is currently underway, and those interested in participating can find the registration link online at www.accgov.com/mlkday.</p> <p>For more information, please visit www.accgov.com/mlkday or email athensqamlkday@gmail.com.</p> <p># # #</p>	<p>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</p> <p>November 1, 2019 Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Management Program 706-613-3440 stormwater@accgov.com</p> <hr/> <p>Celebrate GIS and Geography Awareness Week with Athens-Clarke County Stormwater!</p> <p>The Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Management Program is taking part in both National GIS Day on Wednesday, November 13, and Geography Awareness Week from Sunday, November 10 until Saturday, November 16, by encouraging everyone to participate in our official Geocache GeoTrail, "Water Logged."</p> <p>The geocache trail, which will bring participants up close and personal with several good examples of stormwater management and green infrastructure, launched on November 14 of 2015. Interested participants should visit www.geocaching.com and search for "Water Logged." Anyone who completes the trail and collects all five buttons is eligible to receive a prize! All you need is a cell phone with GPS and internet access.</p> <p>For more information on the Stormwater Management Program, visit www.accgov.com/stormwater or email stormwater@accgov.com. To find other GIS Day events, visit www.gisday.com.</p> <p># # #</p>	

Many made Monday a day of service in Athens

lendingtree Refinance Calculator 

Today's Rate 1.99% APR

Loan amount 

Loan term 

Credit score 

Calculate Payment ▶

Terms & Conditions apply. NMLS#1156

MOST POPULAR

- 1** 2020 UGA football schedule, kickoff times and TV channels
Nov 27 at 12:01 AM
- 2** Left on the side of the road in Georgia, Amazon packages delivered to rightful owners by good...
Dec 1 at 4:18 PM
- 3** Five takeaways from UGA football's runaway win over South Carolina
Nov 28 at 10:42 PM



 **BUY PHOTO**  **HIDE CAPTION**

Volunteers work to clean up historic Brooklyn Cemetery at Mae Willie Community Garden during the MLK Day of Service in Athens, Ga., on Monday, Jan. 20, 2020. [Photo/Joshua L. Jones, Athens Banner-Herald]



MULTIMEDIA
FEATURED **EDITOR'S PICK**

PHOTOS: Athens locals, students cleans Athens watersheds at Rivers Alive

Sid Wakade | Contributing Photographer Updated Jan 18, 2020

Georgia's annual water cleanup, Rivers Alive, kicked off in Athens, Georgia, on Saturday, Oct. 20, at Sandy Creek Nature Center. Athens locals...

ACTV Slide

CLOGGED STORMWATER DRAINS?

Call 706-613-3465

ACC Transportation & Public Works
Streets & Drainage Division

ACTV Slide

Did you know?

Your drinking water comes from three sources:
the Bear Creek Reservoir,
the North Oconee River,
and the Middle Oconee River.

DIRECT MEDIA: Bill Stuffers, Newsletters, Brochures/Fact Sheets/Mailers/Postcards, Door Hangers

ACCGov Stormwater frequently utilizes direct media in outreach, including sending out monthly e-newsletters, distributing brochures at almost every public outreach event, publishing bill inserts, and doing direct mailings for special topics such as proper leaf and limb disposal in the fall. Many of our brochures and fact sheets can be found on our website at acgov.com/1971/Downloadable-Resources.

In addition to handing out materials at events, we publish a Stormwater Calendar each year that includes photos submitted by local residents and informational blurbs about a variety of nature themes. In 2020, themes included freshwater ecosystems, controlled burning, sunsets, flowers, stormwater as a resource, water loving birds, pocket wetlands, and the water cycle.

Stormwater Annual Bill Insert (August-November 2019)

**Turtles can't report water pollution...
IT'S UP TO US.**

ACC Stormwater needs your help in reporting water pollution and illegal dumping in Athens-Clarke County. Most storm drains flow directly to rivers and streams without any treatment. Pollutants like paints, oils, and soapy water can have harmful effects on water quality. Please contact us if you:

- See someone dumping oil, grease, paint or other pollutants down a storm drain or into the street
- See someone blowing leaves or grass clippings into a storm drain
- Notice flooding due to clogged storm drains and pipes
- Notice strange colors, suds, or smells in a stream

**Stormwater
HOTLINE**
706.614.1282

ATTENTION STORMWATER CUSTOMERS:

We are now accepting online payments for the Stormwater Utility Fee!

Please visit www.acgov.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 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.

Email stormwater@acgov.com or call 706-613-3440 if you need assistance.



ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

Stormwater News

E-Newsletters



ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

Stormwater News

2020 Stormwater Calendars

Our 2020 Stormwater Calendars are printed and ready to hang in your home or office! Email stormwater@acgov.com or call 706-613-3440 if you would like to request a copy or two. You can also swing by our office at 120 W. Dougherty Street to pick one up. These are great for office breakrooms or coffee tables!



McLane Company and Armentrout Matheny Thurmond, P.C. Named 2020 Stormwater Stewards

The Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Management Program recognizes McLane Company and Armentrout Matheny Thurmond, P.C. (or AMT for short) for their pocket wetland that was designed by AMT and installed over at McLane.



Fall Landscaping Reminders

With the arrival of Fall, ACCGOV Stormwater would like to remind everyone about properly disposing of leaves, grass clippings, brush, tree limbs, and other landscape materials to prevent debris from clogging storm drains, flooding roads, or polluting our waterways. We want all homeowners and landscape businesses serving the Athens and Winterville areas to be informed of relevant county ordinances so you can avoid costly fines which may otherwise result from a simple lack of awareness. Code Enforcement Officers and the Stormwater Inspector actively monitor for these types of illicit discharges.



Pocket wetlands are constructed marsh lands meant to control stormwater volume while treating water quality. Back in 2017, McLane was required to install stormwater practices when they decided to expand a parking lot. Due to very large volumes of runoff coming from the property, as well as offsite runoff from Old Hull Road and Athena Drive, traditional treatment methods were not feasible at this location. A pocket wetland was chosen as the best solution, and once it was designed by AMT and installed later on, it was the first of its kind here in Athens.

The award was presented at the Green Life Expo & Awards on February 29.

How to Build a Rain Barrel

Supplies

- 45-55 gallon drum, rinsed and fully sealed
- Spray adhesive
- Plumber's tape
- Silicone sealant
- Spigot
- Rubber O-ring
- 1/2" metal nut
- 1/2" PVC elbow
- 6" long 1/2" diameter PVC pipe
- 2 4" circular drain covers
- 2 4" circles of insect netting

Tools

- Drill
- 4" circular drill bit
- 3/4" drill bit
- 5/8" drill bit



Rain barrels are an easy, low maintenance way to conserve water and reduce water pollution. These barrels reduce stormwater runoff and store rain captured from roofs for use in gardens or lawns.

This guide will walk you through the steps necessary to build, install and maintain a rain barrel at your own home or business.





Please be careful when using power tools. Large plastic drums can be thick and difficult to drill. You may need a second person to help steady the barrel during the drilling process.

Rain Barrel Build Guide

Landscaping Letter



November 22, 2019

Dear Athens Lawn Care Business,

With the arrival of fall, the Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Management Program would like to remind you about properly disposing of leaves, grass clippings, brush, tree limbs, and other landscape materials to prevent debris from clogging storm drains, flooding roads, or polluting our waterways. We want all landscape and lawn care businesses serving the Athens area to be informed of relevant county ordinances so you can avoid costly fines which may otherwise result from a simple lack of awareness. Code Enforcement Officers and the Stormwater Inspector actively monitor for these types of illicit discharges. Athens-Clarke County ordinances concerning the disposal of leaf and limb debris include:

ACC Ordinance Sec. 5-2-7(d) "Limbs cut and placed near the street for collection by any person other than the owner of the property shall not be collected or hauled by Athens-Clarke County. Individuals or companies under contract to collect leaves and limbs shall haul and dispose of all such refuse."

ACC Ordinance Sec. 7-3-1 "It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, place or otherwise cause to be placed any tree limbs or leaves in or on any public street inside the curbside or on the sidewalks in Athens-Clarke County."

ACC Ordinance Sec. 5-4-22(a) "It shall be a violation of this Article for any person to throw, drain, or otherwise discharge, cause, or allow others under its control to throw, drain, or otherwise discharge into the county separate storm sewer system any pollutants or waters containing any pollutants, other than stormwater."

Remember that clippings, pine straw, small brush, and leaves should be mulched or composted on site, or hauled to a composting site or landfill. If lawn material needs to be removed from the site, it should be bagged in paper lawn refuse bags and loaded into a covered vehicle. For more information on county ordinances, go to www.acgov.com and search for "ACC Ordinances". If you have any questions, please contact the Stormwater Management Program at 706-613-3440 or stormwater@acgov.com.

Sincerely,

Cecile Riker

Cecile Riker
Program Education Specialist
Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Management Program
cecile.riker@acgov.com

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS
STORMWATER DIVISION
WWW.AC GOV.COM/STORMWATER

P.O. BOX 1868 • ATHENS, GEORGIA 30603 • (706) 613-3440

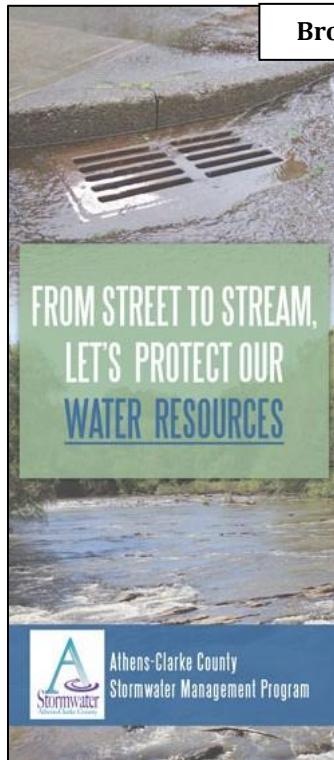
Stop Poo-lution.



Pet waste is a threat to our streams and rivers. Help keep Athens-Clarke County waters clean by being a responsible pet owner and picking up after your pet.

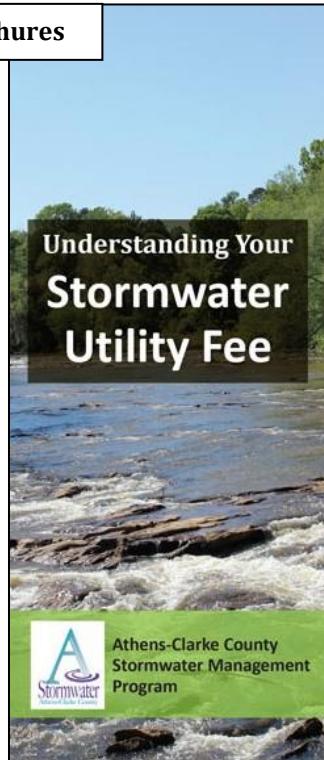
 Athens-Clarke County
Stormwater Management Program

Brochures



**FROM STREET TO STREAM,
LET'S PROTECT OUR
WATER RESOURCES**

 Athens-Clarke County
Stormwater Management Program



**Understanding Your
Stormwater
Utility Fee**

 Athens-Clarke County
Stormwater Management Program

Stormwater Solutions

Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are beautiful and unique gardens designed to collect and temporarily hold rain water, providing habitat for plants with a wide range of water needs. The garden's plants, soils, and mulch remove pollutants from the water, provide habitat for wildlife, and beautify yards.



2020 Stormwater Calendar

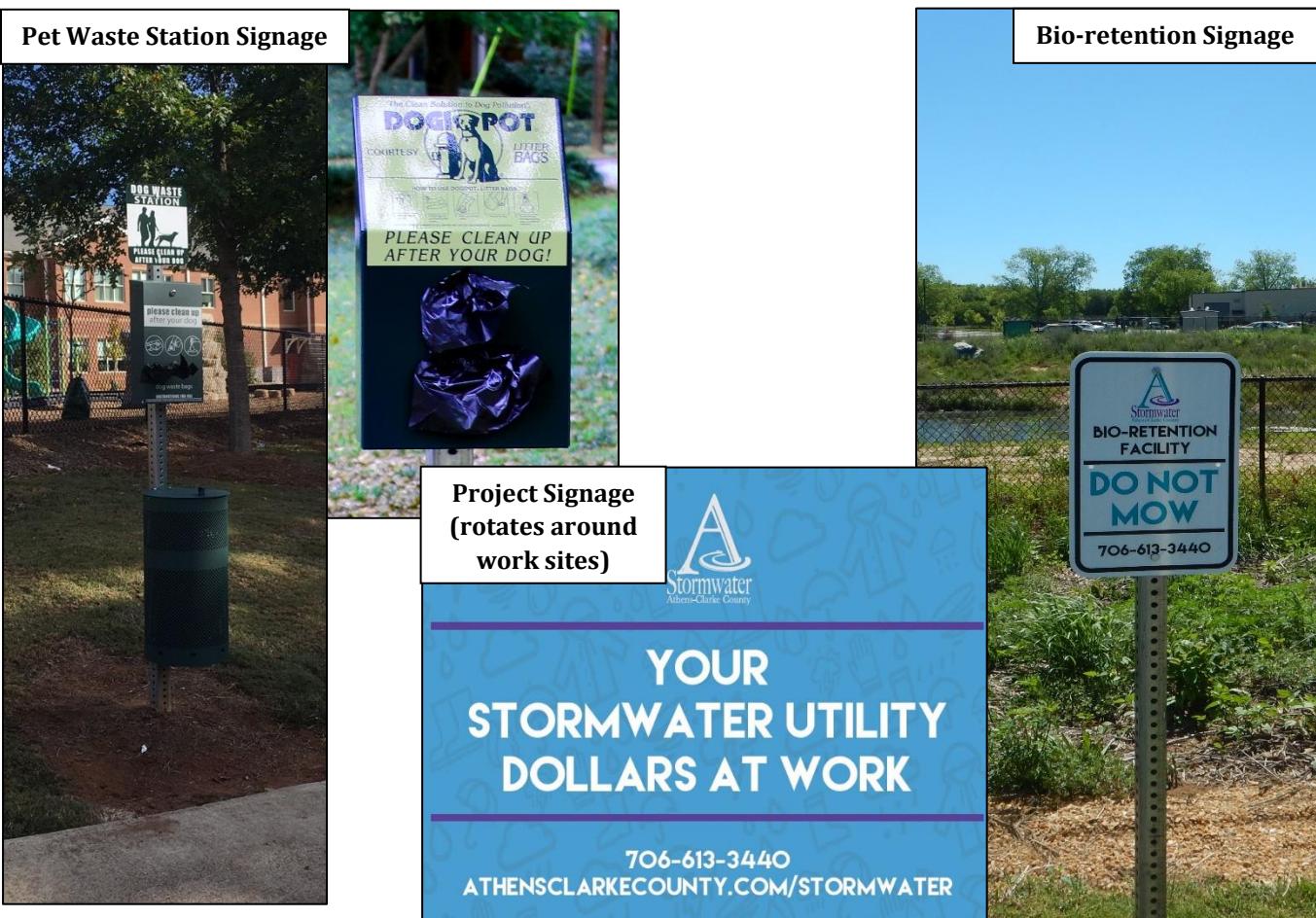


**2020
STORMWATER
CALENDAR**

 ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY
Stormwater Management

Photo by Aimee Cheek

DIRECT MEDIA: Public Displays/Exhibits/Signage



DIGITAL MEDIA: Does the utility have a website with up-to-date content in public education or advocacy for water issues?

The ACCGov Stormwater website can be found at www.accgov.com/stormwater. A screenshot of the homepage is below, along with our online General Feedback Form, which is how we are often contacted by citizens and customers.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Provide evidence that the utility offers teacher trainings (e.g. Project WET)

The Stormwater Management Program currently does not offer water education trainings for teachers. Several other ACCGov Departments, including Public Utilities and Sandy Creek Nature Center, offer Project WET, Wild, and Learning Tree trainings that are sufficient for area teachers.

Although we do not host our own trainings, during the award period, Stormwater Staff assisted Public Utilities Staff with 1 Project WET Training for the UGA College of Education.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Provide evidence that the utility offers industry specific training (E.G. green plumbers, landscapers, real estate)

ACCGov Stormwater offers a variety of industry-specific training programs, including rain barrel and rain garden workshops, Stormwater ordinance trainings, and Stormwater Best Management Program (BMP) Inspections/Maintenance trainings. Workshops are offered based on perceived demand from citizens, as well as the availability of supplies (55 gallon drums are donated for rain barrel workshops). During the award year, 3 rain barrel workshops and 1 Stormwater BMP Inspection + Maintenance Training were offered. Details are included below.

Date	Event	Audience	# Reach	Activity
7/31/2019	Rain Barrel Workshop Part 1	Adults	15	Led a rain barrel workshop including a PowerPoint presentation along with a hands-on build sessions.
7/31/2019	Rain Barrel Workshop Part 2	Adults	15	Led a rain barrel workshop including a PowerPoint presentation along with a hands-on build sessions.
12/10/2019	Rain Barrel Workshop	Adults	25	Led a rain barrel workshop including a PowerPoint presentation along with a hands-on build sessions.
12/17/2019	Stormwater BMP Inspection and Maintenance Training	ACCGov Staff/Stormwater Inspectors	12	Led a presentation about Stormwater BMP design, inspection, and maintenance, including green infrastructure practices.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Provide evidence that the utility staff presents at local, regional, state, or national conference(s) or meetings (e.g. GAWP, EEA of Georgia, Water Planning Districts)?

Stormwater staff considers conferences a critical piece of professional development and consistently seeks out opportunities to present on projects and initiatives. Below is a list of presentations led by Stormwater Staff during the reporting period.

- August 20, 2019 – Presentation about local MS4 regulations to the regional chapter of American Public Works Association (APWA)
- October 10, 2019 – Presentation about Athens-Clarke County's Stormwater Utility Fee and our funding review at the Southeast Stormwater Association (SESWA) Annual Conference
- October 30, 2019 – Presentation about stormwater regulations and water quality at the USDA Russell Research Center
- November 19, 2019 – Presentation about the Athens Water Festival at the GAWP Fall Conference
- November 20, 2019 – Presentation about Stormwater Billing/Improving Collection Rates at the GAWP Fall Conference



**Dive On In:
Water Festivals, Demystified**

**GAWP Fall Conference
Presentation**

Cecile Riker, Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Management Program
Jackie Sherry, Athens-Clarke County Water Conservation Office



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Provide evidence that the utility educates employees on the utility's key messages (for example: treatment process, conservation, water sources/resources, etc.)

ACCGov Stormwater conducts municipal trainings as part of our Phase II NPDES Stormwater Permit. Trainings are typically held once per year, unless additional sessions are requested. These trainings cover topics such as illicit discharges, erosion and sedimentation control measures, stormwater regulations, and maintenance of stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs). During the reporting year, one training session was held at the ACCGov Streets & Drainage Division on December 17, 2019 in conjunction with the Stormwater BMP Training. 20 employees attended. Screenshots from the presentation are included.

STORMWATER POLLUTION & UNSAFE STREAMS

- Harm aquatic plants and animals
- Reduces opportunities for recreation (fishing, swimming, boating)
- Affects tourism
- Makes drinking water more costly and harder to treat



WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

- Flood control and property protection
- Water quality
 - Stormwater runoff is #1 cause of water pollution
 - Clean water is crucial for local business growth, public health, and overall quality of life
- Clean Water Act and State of Georgia legislation



Stormwater topics and events are also regularly featured in the ACCent, a newsletter that is printed and sent out to all ACC employees, in addition to the Manager's Snapshot. This is another way we reach our utility's employees.



Green Life Expo & Awards at the State Botanical Garden of GA

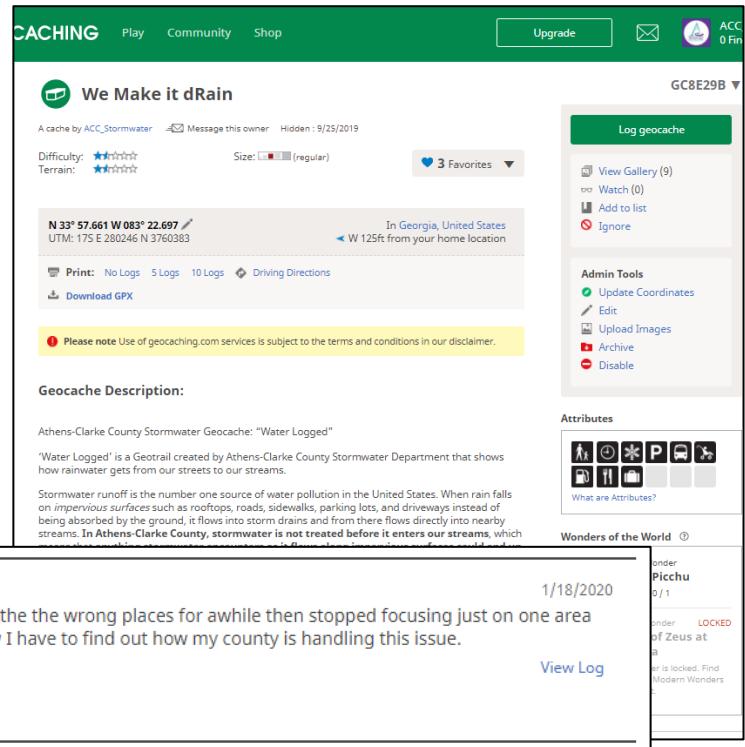


The Green Life Expo and Awards event, organized by **Solid Waste**, was held Saturday, February 29 at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia. A number of departments and offices – including **Public Utilities' Water Conservation Office, Trans. & Public Works' Stormwater Management, the Sustainability Office, Transit, Leisure Services, and Solid Waste's Recycling Division** and **Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful** – along with local environmentally-focused organizations set up booths during the Expo and educated visitors about their environmental efforts. During the awards, organizations, businesses, and individuals were recognized for their green initiatives by ACCGov offices and community

March 2020 ACCent Feature

SPECIAL RESOURCES: Provide evidence of opportunities or have partnerships to offer outdoor recreation/leisure, such as fishing, hunting, hiking, running, biking, gardening, etc.

ACCGov Stormwater hosts a Geocaching “Geotrail” with water-themed caches around Athens. The geocache trail, which brings participants up close and personal with good examples of stormwater management and green infrastructure, launched in 2015. Caches include We Make it dRain, Caching the Rain, and Paws Poo-llution.



The screenshot shows a geocache listing for "We Make it dRain" on Geocaching.com. The listing includes the cache name, a green icon, and a brief description: "A cache by ACC_Stormwater. Message this owner. Hidden: 9/25/2019. Difficulty: 1/5. Terrain: 1/5. Size: Small (regular). 3 Favorites." It provides coordinates (N 33° 57.661 W 083° 22.697), a link to "In Georgia, United States", and a note that it is 125ft from the user's home location. Below the main listing are links for "Print", "No Logs", "5 Logs", "10 Logs", "Driving Directions", and "Download GPX". A yellow box at the bottom states: "Please note Use of geocaching.com services is subject to the terms and conditions in our disclaimer." To the right of the main listing is a sidebar with "Log geocache" and "View Gallery (9)" buttons, as well as "Admin Tools" and "Attributes" sections. At the bottom right is a "Wonders of the World" section.

oscar_and_count
Premium Member

6597

Found it
Interesting idea for a series of caches. Looked the the wrong places for awhile then stopped focusing just on one area and soon had the cache in hand. TNLNSL. Now I have to find out how my county is handling this issue.
1/18/2020
[View Log](#)

SPECIAL RESOURCES: Provide evidence that the utility has social media on diverse platforms with quality engagement.

Stormwater is active on a variety of social media accounts to provide general education on stormwater, water quality, preventing water pollution, and the promotion of events. We accomplish this through direct posts/links, sharing of infographics, creation of event pages, and images. Some engagement statistics are shared here, and direct links are included in the submission form.

1. Facebook | @StormwaterACC | 1,152 followers
133 posts/shares and **23,371** reached during the award period
2. Twitter | @ACCStormwater | 359 Followers
65 tweets/retweets and **36,425** impressions during the award period
3. Instagram | @ACCStormwater | 510 Followers
50 posts and **7,160** reached during the award period
4. NextDoor | ACC Stormwater Management Program
1 post and **3,837** impressions during the award period