



## Make a Difference in Your Community on MLK Day

Throughout the year, the Athens-Clarke County community has gotten together to make a positive impact, whether through small group events, such as decaling storm drains, or through large community service projects, such as Rivers Alive.

ACC Stormwater is excited to kick-off 2018 with that same community spirit.

Did you resolve to help others or give back to your local community in 2018? If so, consider volunteering for the Athens MLK Day of Service on Monday, January 15. There are many different types of service opportunities, including painting projects, garden workdays, and other beautification initiatives. View a



full list of projects and sign-up to volunteer [here](https://uga.givepulse.com/group/events/118913) [<https://uga.givepulse.com/group/events/118913>].

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The MLK Day of Service Kickoff celebration will be held at Clarke Central High School at 8:30am, with the first 500 registered volunteers getting free t-shirts and breakfast. Volunteers will disperse to work sites around 9:30am and work until 1:00pm.

For more information about #AthensMLKDay, please visit our [website](https://athensclarkecounty.com/5038/MLK-Day-of-Service) [<https://athensclarkecounty.com/5038/MLK-Day-of-Service>] or [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/athensmlkdayofservice/) [<https://www.facebook.com/athensmlkdayofservice/>].

## **Tips for Smart Residential Stormwater Management**

In urban areas like Athens, stormwater rapidly runs off of roofs, driveways, and streets, picking up pollutants like oil and pet waste. The water that flows in our storm drains flows directly into our waterways, without passing through a water treatment plant, so it is important that only rain goes down storm drains. We encourage homeowners to think about their contribution to runoff and consider ways to better manage the water coming off their property. Here are some tips for the new year:

- Reduce the amount of impervious area on your property so that more rain can soak into the ground. Use permeable pavers when possible.
- Plant native trees and plants in your yard which encourage infiltration.
- Install a rain barrel to capture some of the rainwater from your roof.
- Install a rain garden with native vegetation to capture stormwater and encourage infiltration.
- Properly dispose of leaf and limb debris by bagging it for pick-up, taking it to the ACC Landfill, or adding it to a contained compost pile away from water.
- If you live close to a detention facility or pond, avoid making drastic changes to your landscape. This can affect the way water is routed to those stormwater facilities.
- If you have a stream or tributary in your backyard, don't mow right up to the water's edge. Leave a section along the water where grass, shrubs and trees can grow freely. If you must maintain this area for safety purposes, leave the grass and vegetation at least 6 to 12 inches high.
- Don't cut down trees near water. Tree roots hold stream banks in place, prevent erosion, and provide shade to the water to keep it from heating up in the sun.
- Follow directions carefully when applying fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides. They are very likely to end up in our waterways; if not immediately, then with the next rain. Avoid using these in a stream buffer.

Contact the Stormwater Management Program at 706-613-3440 if you have any questions.

## Upcoming Events

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**Clarke County School District Science and Engineering Fair**  
**Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am-2:30pm**  
**Clarke Middle School (1235 Baxter Street)**

ACC Stormwater will be an exhibitor during the CCSD Science and Engineering Fair's annual Science Expo. Test your stormwater knowledge in a fun trivia game and view science projects done by secondary students around Athens-Clarke County.

**Green Life Expo**  
**Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 10am-4pm**  
**Athens-Clarke County Library (2025 Baxter Street)**

The ACC Library and ACC Recycling Division bring you the Green Life Expo 2018! This is an event that brings families and people all over Athens to learn about being green. There will be educational seminars, business and green organization exhibitors, and activities for kids. For more information about the event, visit the [Green Life Expo website](https://www.athensclarkecounty.com/6316/Green-Life-Expo) [<https://www.athensclarkecounty.com/6316/Green-Life-Expo>] or call (706) 613-3512 x316.

## 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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