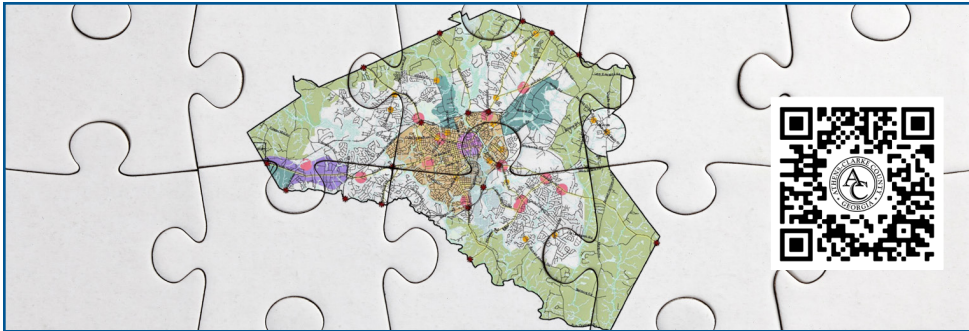




ACCGov Quarterly

The Athens-Clarke County Unified Government's Newsletter
Fall 2023 | accgov.com/quarterly



Planning for Athens-Clarke County's Growth

What will Athens-Clarke County look like in 20 years?

This question is helping guide the ACCGov Planning Department in leading a process over the next several years to help make decisions about how the community will grow.

The first step involves creating a Growth Concept Map in fall 2023. This map uses data such as existing land use, community input, demographic trends, the natural environment, and other factors to provide a broad overview of how areas could grow – or not – over time.

The map highlights areas for general use by types of development, such as residential, commercial, or industrial, as well as natural areas.

In 2024, the process will move from a general overview to look at individual properties and create a

Future Land Use Map. This map is a policy guide that provides general direction for the density, character, and location of land uses based on a shared vision for the future.

Together, these two steps take general patterns to make on-the-ground designations that guide economic development, quality of life, infrastructure, and zoning decisions for the next two decades.

Community input will take place on the Growth Concept Map this fall and on the Future Land Use Plan beginning in 2024.

Once approved by the Mayor and Commission, these maps and other policy decisions will help update the state-required Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) due in 2028 and re-write the zoning code.

accgov.com/compplan | 706-613-3515

Vote for Athens' "I Voted Early" Sticker Design

ACCGov's Elections Department recently opened a call for designs for a new "I Voted Early" sticker that will be distributed during early voting periods in the 2024 elections.

After receiving submissions through August, a panel has selected finalists and are now asking the community to vote on their favorite sticker design by October 1.

The most popular design will



be printed and handed out during early voting for the 2024 Presidential Preference Primary (February / March), General Primary (April / May), General Election (October / November), and any runoff elections.

The design may also be used in other promotional or voting materials from Elections.

accgov.com/votingsticker | 706-613-3150



Second Chance Desk

The ACC Second Chance Desk is a free new program from the Georgia Justice Project, the District Attorney's Office, and the Solicitor General's Office.

This free help desk allows individuals to have their criminal history reviewed by an attorney, get a free consultation, and receive assistance filling out record restriction and sealing forms for eligible offenses from arrests/cases in Athens-Clarke County and Oconee County.

Record restriction and sealing (expungement) means that eligible records on official Georgia criminal history reports and eligible records held by the court are removed from public view and are only accessible to law enforcement for criminal justice purposes and some government agencies.

The ACC Second Chance Desk will be open on the last Thursday of every month starting Thurs., Sept. 28.

Scheduled appointments will take place from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM on the 2nd floor of the Public Utilities' Water Business Office building (124 E Hancock Avenue, Athens, GA 30601)

Pre-registration is required for a 45-minute appointment. Registration for each upcoming desk event will open on the first day of the month.

accgov.com/secondchancedesk | 706-613-3215



Free Car Seat Checks

According to a federal study, an estimated 46% of car seats and booster seats were used incorrectly.

Make sure car seats are installed and working properly at two free car seat checks on Thurs., Sept. 21 at Cornerstone Church (4680 Lexington Road, Athens, GA 30605) from 6:00-8:00 PM and Thurs., Sept. 28 at the YMCA (915 Hawthorne Avenue, Athens, GA 30606) from 5:00-7:00 PM.

Residents can stop by during either event to have seats checked by safety professionals at no cost.

ACCGov's Fire and Emergency Services, Police, and Sheriff's Office will assist with car seat checks with state and community partners.

accgov.com/fire | 706-613-3360



Oct. 4 Nat'l Alert Test

Federal agencies will conduct a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) on Wed., Oct. 4 at approximately 2:20 PM.

The WEA test will be sent to consumer cell phones and the EAS test to radios and televisions. The systems are designed to warn the public about emergencies, particularly on the national level.

The alerts are accompanied by a unique tone and vibration. All wireless phones should receive the message only once.

If the Oct. 4 test is postponed for widespread severe weather or other events, the back-up date is Oct. 11.

ready.gov/alerts



Homelessness Plan

ACCGov is seeking public comment on the final draft of a Strategic Plan to Reduce and Prevent Homelessness through Wed., Sept. 27.

The final draft of the plan, a virtual presentation, and an online survey is available at accgov.com/arpa.

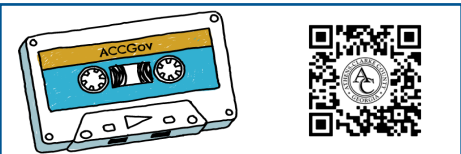
Residents will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the plan through several in-person community forums in September, as well as through the online survey.

The plan was developed with input from community forums, focus groups, businesses, service providers, and those currently, previously, or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

A separate Affordable Housing Investment Strategy was also developed recently in conjunction with this plan. The Mayor and Commission are scheduled to consider both plans this fall.

Funding for both plans was allocated from federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars in May 2022.

accgov.com/arpa | 706-613-3155



Mixtape E-Newsletter

The Public Information Office recently launched the ACCGov Mixtape - a refreshed, remixed and updated e-newsletter for ACCGov.

Formerly known as "ACC-mail," the ACCGov Mixtape is a brief, yet informative, monthly newsletter to keep subscribers up to date on ACCGov-related events, public input opportunities, initiatives, videos, helpful hints, and more.

Once signed in with an email address, residents can subscribe to Mixtape by email or by text message.

accgov.com/mixtape | 706-613-3795



2023 Balloon Festival

Leisure Services will host the third Above Athens Balloon Festival on Sat., Sep. 30 at Sandy Creek Park (400 Bob Holman Road) from 3:00-8:30 PM, ending with an evening balloon glow.

Attendees are encouraged to bring folding chairs and can expect tethered balloon rides (\$25/person, paid by cash only), food trucks, and a variety of children's activities.

There is no admission fee for the event or the park that day, although the park will be closed to visitors until the event begins. No pets are allowed.

accgov.com/balloon | 706-613-3800

Number to Know

514,453

Trail users counted by Leisure Services' Trails & Open Space equipment in 12 months by trail user counters on only some of ACCGov's paved and natural trails.

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Produced by the Athens-Clarke County
Public Information Office
accgov.com/quarterly

Send comments, questions, letters to:
Public Information Office
P.O. Box 1868 - Athens, GA 30603
706-613-3795 | info@accgov.com

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