



Alice H. Richards Children's Garden Named 2019 Stormwater Steward Award Winner

ACC Stormwater is proud to announce that the winner of our 2019 Stormwater Steward Award is the Alice H. Richards Children's Garden at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, designed by Koons Environmental Design and the University of Georgia Office of University Architects for Facilities Planning. Although the Children's Garden is not yet open to the public - the [Grand Opening](#) is on Saturday, March 23 - we know that this new facility will be an incredible amenity to our community.

The Children's Garden is a designed learning environment that combines a variety of garden features such as themed gardens, edible landscapes, hands on garden plots, and interpretive elements specific to the state that will be interwoven with programming from the Botanical Garden's Education Department. The overarching goal is to inspire children with a love of nature. The design of the Garden creates a 'sense of place' in Georgia by incorporating native plants and Georgia habitat gardens while highlighting natural processes such as pollination, soil composition, water, plants, insects, and animals. The Georgia Discovery Plaza educates children about Georgia's rivers. At the Bog Garden, children are introduced to a pitcher plant bog, which are an endangered species that thrives in fresh water bog locations but are threatened due to loss of habitat. The pond area introduces children to native plants and animals that are critical to this native habitat. Additionally, at the Sand Play area, children experience water as art where they can 'water paint' a granite canvas from a water reservoir.

Outside of these learning opportunities, this project reduced impervious surface on the Garden's property by 3,300 square feet. In addition to reducing impervious area, stormwater inlets are positioned within the landscaping, providing an opportunity for runoff to infiltrate before it enters the pipe system. The restroom building rooftop sends stormwater to a large cistern in the 'Dig & Grow' area where children use water drawn from the cistern to water plants.

This project is an outstanding example of innovative and intentional site design. ACC Stormwater is proud to partner with these organizations, as they help further our mission of protecting water from street to stream!

*Site photos provided by UGA Office of the Vice President for Public Service & Outreach
Site plan provided by UGA Office of University Architects for Facilities Planning*





Stormwater Education Specialist Cecile Riker (right) poses with Education Director Cora Keber (middle) and Director Jennifer Cruse-Sanders (left) from the State Botanical Garden of Georgia at the Green Life Expo & Awards on Saturday, February 23.

Stormwater Utility Fee Review Phase II Underway

Athens-Clarke County Stormwater is currently working with Stantec Consulting to conduct a comprehensive review of the Stormwater Utility Fee. The first phase, which wrapped up in December, looked at level and extent of stormwater services, as well as a funding strategy for fixing failing stormwater pipes. Over the past two years, the Stormwater Utility Fee has been used to for emergency stormwater pipe repairs. Annual fee revenue is insufficient to continue to address failing pipes, and therefore, a fee increase is being considered.

The second phase (happening now) will examine the rate structure and credit system. Credits allow stormwater customers to reduce their fees through practices that reduce stormwater runoff and/or reduce the cost burden to ACCGOV for implementation of the Stormwater Management Program.

We are hosting an online comment form related to fee credits and the rate structure. You can access the form [here](#)

[<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/51528420d9444cd0a63e3a640034fcb5>]. If you would like a member of the Stormwater Team to come speak with your neighborhood, business, or civic group about stormwater issues or the Utility Fee, please email stormwater@accgov.com [<mailto:stormwater@accgov.com>].

Help Reduce Litter in Athens

The Athens-Clarke County Litter Abatement Steering Committee is conducting a survey to help decide their litter abatement initiatives. The survey takes 20 minutes or less and participants will be entered to win one of four \$25 Walmart gift cards. Your participation will help the Litter Abatement Steering Committee work towards the sustained reduction of roadside litter, illegal dumping, and the costs incurred by the presence of litter in Athens. Take the survey at [www.\[http://www.accgov.com/littersurvey\]accgov.com/littersurvey](http://www.accgov.com/littersurvey) [<https://www.accgov.com/littersurvey>]. For more information, contact Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful at 706-613-3401 x309.

Upcoming Events

Ripple Effect Film Project's Blue Carpet Premiere
Saturday, March 23, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Morton Theatre (195 W. Washington Street)

Join us for the Blue Carpet Premiere of the Ripple Effect Film Project. Dress for the Oscars as we watch the debut of film shorts created by local filmmakers to celebrate the EPA's WaterSense Fix a Leak Week and more. Vote for the Audience Choice award, pick up toilet dye tablets, and win prizes! Visit www.rippleeffectfilmproject.org [<http://www.rippleeffectfilmproject.org>] for more information.

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful's Keepin' It Clean Dirty Dance Party
Saturday, March 30, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Little Kings Shuffle Club (223 W. Hancock Avenue)

Bring your family and friends down to Little Kings Shuffle Club in downtown Athens to give litter the hustle! This event will raise funds for KACCB's mission of working toward a cleaner, more beautiful environment. The event will start at 5:00 PM and will feature dinner for sale and Little Jimmy's Italian Ice. Dance performances are scheduled throughout the night, but there will be plenty of time for you and your kids to shake it yourselves! A \$5.00 suggested donation (and \$3.00 for kids) will grant you access into this fun, family event. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Find more information at keepathensbeautiful.org.

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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