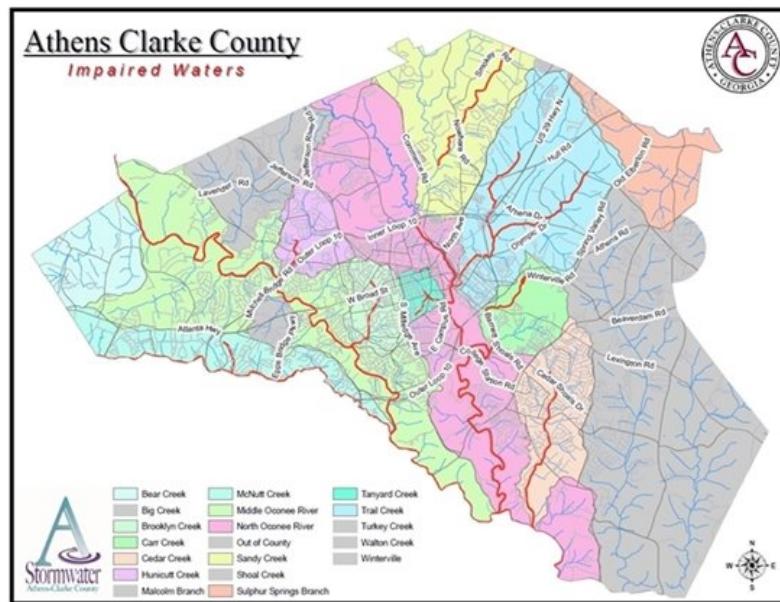




Celebrating National Water Quality Month

Water is one of the most valuable resources for people who live, work, attend school, and visit our wonderful city of Athens, GA. Did you know that August is National Water Quality Month? It might surprise you that the water quality here in Athens could use some improvement. The following map of our watersheds highlights polluted streams in red. Most of these streams have elevated levels of fecal coliform bacteria, which comes from human and animal waste. Other impairments include low fish/insect diversity and abnormal pH levels.



What better time to refresh ourselves on ways to protect and preserve our water resources? Here are some small things you can do to help prevent water pollution:

1. Pick up after your pets! Animal waste contains bacteria that is harmful to water quality.
2. Plant native trees and plants in your yard which encourage infiltration and provide valuable habitat for animals and insects.
3. Install a rain barrel to capture rainwater from your roof.
4. Use a mulching blade when cutting your grass. This allows your lawn to act more like a sponge and can also help sequester carbon from the atmosphere.

5. Properly dispose of any 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. Do not dump this debris into the street, as it can clog storm drains.
6. Don't litter! Roadside trash often washes directly into storm drains which lead to streams without any treatment.
7. Avoid cutting 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.
8. 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 completely within a stream buffer.

Visit www.accgov.com/stormwater [<http://www.accgov.com/stormwater>] to learn about more ways to protect our water quality. Remember, we all play a part in preserving the health and integrity of our environment.



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@acgov.com [<mailto:stormwater@acgov.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 Bill Online

We are excited to announce that we are now accepting online payments for the Stormwater Utility Fee! Please visit www.acgov.com/stormwater [<http://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 [<https://athecgov.asp.gov/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@acgov.com [<mailto:stormwater@acgov.com>] or call 706-613-3440 if you need assistance.

Upcoming Events

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful's Dirty Dance Party Saturday, August 24th, 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 on August 24, 2019 to give litter the hustle! KACCB is hosting its 10th annual DIRTY DANCE BENEFIT. This event will raise funds for KACCB's mission of working toward a cleaner, more beautiful environment. 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 www.keepathensbeautiful.org. [<http://www.keepathensbeautiful.org>].

ACC Green School Kickoff Thursday, August 29th, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. State Botanical Garden of Georgia (2450 S. Milledge Avenue)

Join ACC Green School Partners for the Green School Kick Off at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia. Learn about the Green School program, get updates, and meet an expanded group of Environmental Education providers! We are also combining the School Garden Festival with this event, so we will have plant and seed pick up and garden resources as well.

Tabling at the Athens Farmers Market Saturday, August 31st, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Bishop Park (705 Sunset Drive)

Are you familiar with the pollutants that harm Athens-Clarke County waterways? Do you want to help keep Athens-Clarke County's waterways clean? Then visit the ACC Stormwater booth at the Athens Farmers Market. We will have information about water pollution in Athens and volunteer opportunities, as well as a trivia game and prizes.

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

Join your fellow Athenians to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Athens Water Festival! With open-ended activities, participants of all ages enjoy the activities at the festival. Kayak on the water, meet animals, splash around with the water trucks, and more! Festival activities are free, but park admission is \$2 per person (ages 4-64). Visit www.athenswaterfestival.com [http://www.athenswaterfestival.com] for more information, and we hope to see you Saturday, September 7th for music, magic, and watery fun!

Contact Us

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Athens-Clarke County Unified Government
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706-613-3440
stormwater@accgov.com
www.accgov.com/stormwater [http://www.accgov.com/stormwater]



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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