

## 2020 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 (ACC) Transportation & Public Works Department is home to the ACC 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. ACC 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). ACC Stormwater considers education a critical piece of stormwater management and actively promotes education/outreach opportunities to the community.*



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

ACC Stormwater 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 2018 to May 2019, 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 ACC 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.



Riker being honored as Public Works Employee of the Year, December 2018





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, experience.)

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

### Education:

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

### Certifications:

- 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 ACC Public Works Employee of the Year Finalist

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

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

### Work Experience:

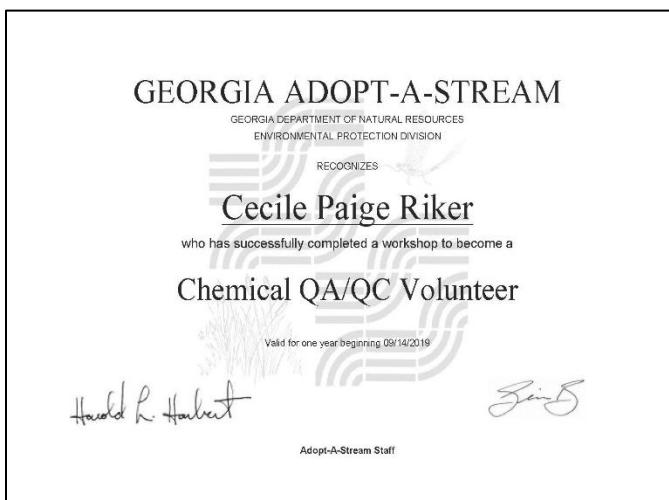
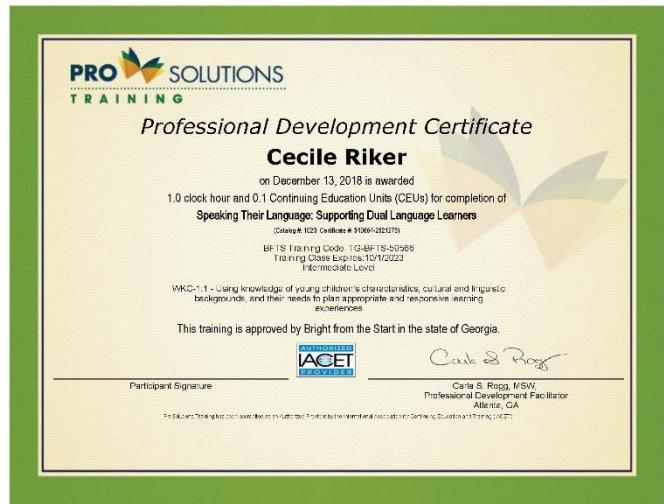
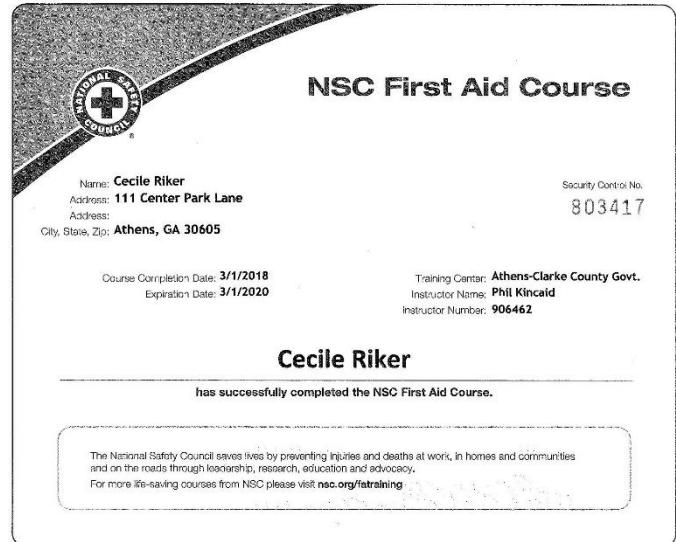
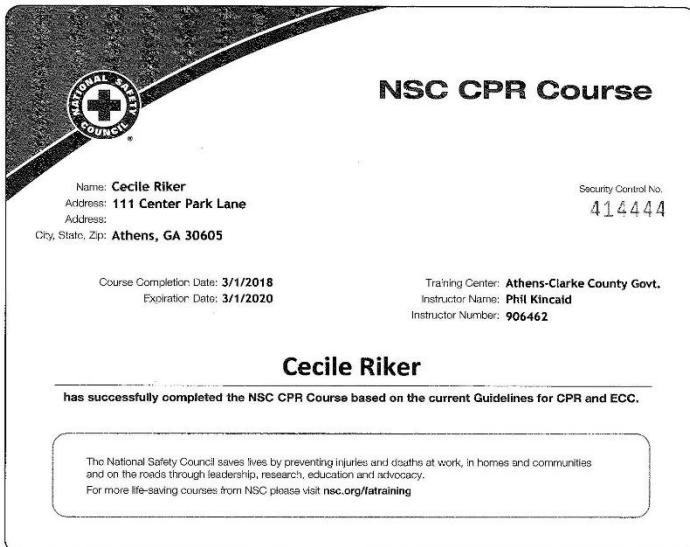
- ACC Transportation and Public Works/Stormwater - Program Education Specialist, 3.5 years
- Carl Vinson Institute of Government - Graduate Research Assistant, 2 years
- Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful - Environmental Education Intern, 4 years
- ACC Public Utilities Department - Water Education Intern, 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). Below is a listing of training events attended during the award period.

- Leadership Conference for Women – Athens, GA, August 2018
- Upper Oconee Science and Policy Summit – Athens, GA, September 2018
- GAWP Fall Conference – Dalton, GA, November 2018
- ACC Website Training 2.0 – Athens, GA, November 2018
- The Coaching Habit Course – Athens, GA, March 2019
- Georgia Water Resources Conference – Athens, GA, April 2019
- GAWP Spring Conference – Columbus, GA, April 2019

In addition to attending industry conferences and trainings, Cecile is certified in CPR/First Aid, and 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 below.

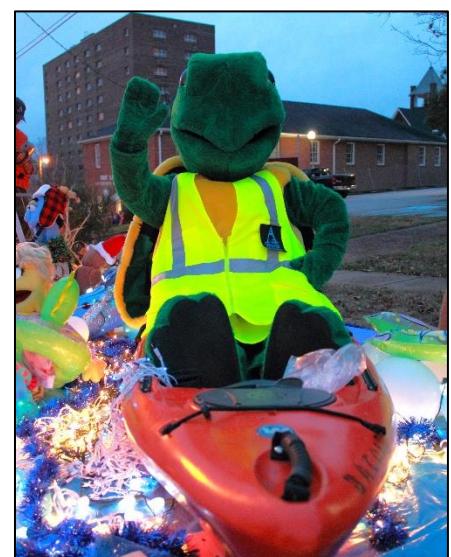
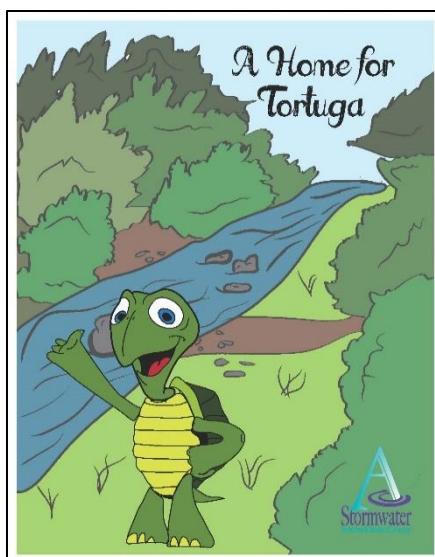


**MESSAGING:** Provide your program logo(s) and/or mascot(s) or means (mascot, symbolic, etc.) for advocating public education program issues and/or activities.

The ACC 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.



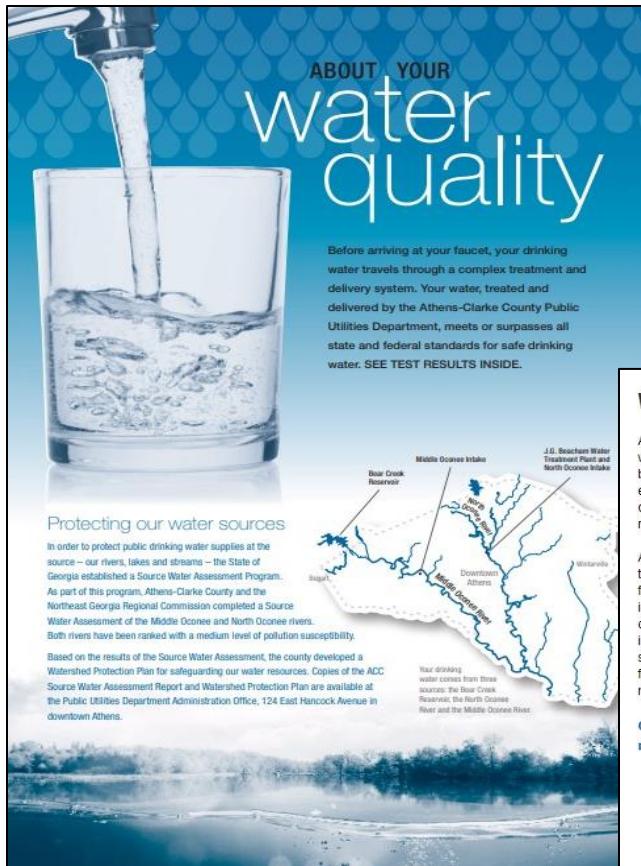
Stormwater mascot Tortuga the Turtle (pictured below) teaches children and adults alike how to prevent water pollution and protect our local streams and rivers. He makes special event appearances at schools, workshops, and larger community events. ACC Stormwater has also published the popular "A Home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



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

The ACC Public Utilities Department (PUD) is responsible for producing ACC's annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), which was included in their Summer 2018 quarterly WaterSource newsletter and mailed to all water utility customers. The full report can be found on the ACC 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

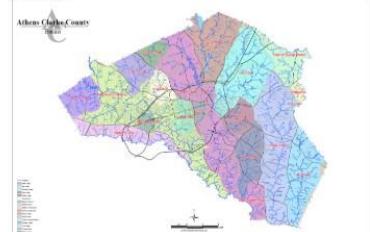
A watershed is the area of land that drains into a specific body of water, such as a creek or river. It can also be called a drainage basin. Rain that falls anywhere within a creek's watershed will eventually drain into that creek. There are 17 watersheds in Athens, draining to each of the 15 creeks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

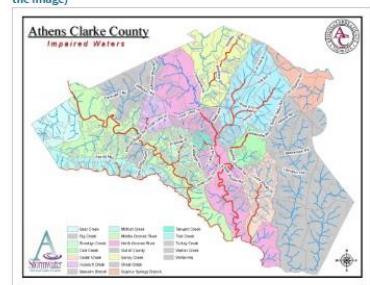
### Other watershed management information and resources:

- [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?

**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
- 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)
- ACC 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)
- ACC 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.

ACC 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.

- August 2018 – Emergency Storm Pipe Repair at Barber Street
- September 2018 – Stormwater Funding Review Phase I, part I
- November 2018 – New Commissioner Orientation Session
- November 2018 – Regional Detention Facility Feasibility Study
- November 2018 – Stormwater Funding Review Phase I, part II
- January 2019 – Stormwater Management Ordinance Revisions
- January 2019 – Stormwater Standards for Linear Projects
- March 2019 – Stormwater Funding Review Phase II

Each month, the ACC 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.

 **Informed & Engaged Citizens**

**ISSUES BEFORE COMMISSION**

- Agenda Items for January 8, 2018 Voting Meeting
  - No agenda items for this meeting.

Full agenda reports can be found at: <https://www.accgov.com/agendas>

- Mayor and Commission Work Session – January 17, 2019
  - CBD Solid Waste Collections Update
  - Review and discussion of staff recommendations to alter solid waste collections in the CBD.
  - Athens in Motion, Concept Development
  - Review Tier 1 bicycle and pedestrian projects from recently accepted Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to determine first projects for concept development.
  - Stormwater Management Ordinance
  - Review proposed revisions to Chapter 5-4 in response to state requirements and redevelopment priorities.
  - Clayton Street Art Concept
  - Athens Cultural Affairs Commission will present the proposal that was selected as the proposed artist and art concept for the Clayton street improvements.
  - Clayton Street Streetscape Description
  - Review the proposed preliminary plans for the streetscape portion of the Clayton Street Improvement project.
  - Oconee River Greenway Project Concepts
  - TSPLOST 2018, Project #05 – Sub-Project #2: Review of revised preliminary plans for the Section of Oconee River Greenway through Oconee Hill Cemetery, including area around the Chapel area.
  - Inclusion and Equity Taskforce Report
  - Discussion of next steps.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**Recent Meetings**

- On October 25, staff from the Sustainability Office presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Georgia Solar Summit hosted by the Georgia Solar Energy Association. This presentation covered the various steps ACCGOV has taken to streamline the solar permitting process and to cut solar permitting costs. ACCGOV is viewed as a model in the state when it comes to efficient and affordable solar permitting.
- After three full weeks of rehearsals at the Morton Theatre, 91 cast, crew and volunteers from Athens Creative Theatre performed Disney's *Newsies*, on November 1-4. There were 5 performances with 1,017 patrons in attendance. During production week the Morton Theatre Box Office continued ticket sales for this performance generating 217 orders totaling 455 tickets sold. Of the total tickets sold for *Newsies* in both October and November, 51% were sold to ACC residents, 26% to patrons in the surrounding counties, and 23% to patrons across the state of Georgia. These patrons in addition to those who attended private events, free events, or those that sold their own tickets staged at the Morton throughout the month of November, increased tourism into downtown.



SNAPSHOT :: PAGE 4 OF 64

- On March 23, the Water Conservation Office, Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful and **Stormwater** Education staff co-hosted the 2019 Ripple Effect Film Project Blue Carpet Premiere. Educational water films were shown at the Morton Theatre followed by a reception for the V. I. P. finalists and their families (75 adults and 150 kids).



In addition to regular contact with our policymaking body, in the fall of 2018, ACC Stormwater initiated a comprehensive review of our Stormwater Utility Fee. Throughout this review, staff hosted a series of public meetings/open houses to educate the public and elected officials about the existing Utility Fee, Stormwater Management Program, and a potential fee increase. Several ACC commissioners attended the meetings. A selection of photos is included below.



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

ACC Stormwater consistently incorporates current and relevant water topics into our educational messaging and outreach materials. General 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.

Between June 2018 and May 2019, ACC Stormwater was involved in several important projects, including the Clayton Street Stormwater/Streetscape Improvements, the Barber Street Culvert Replacement, and our comprehensive Stormwater Utility Fee Review. Public engagement was an important part of these projects, so they were a regular part of our messaging throughout the year.



### Welcome Back, Dawgs



August in Athens means slightly cooler temperatures, more people, and an increase in pets. We'd like to remind everyone with animals to be responsible neighbors and to pick up after your dogs. Not only is pet waste unsightly; *fecal coliform*, the main bacteria in animal waste, is one of the largest pollutants of Athens' streams and rivers. When it rains, stormwater runoff travels along sidewalks and roads, picking up pollutants, such as pet waste, on its way to the storm drains. From there, it flows directly into our waterways. Once in the water, pet waste can:

- Kill aquatic life and disrupt stream habitats as it decays
- Contain bacteria and parasites which can make people sick
- Contain nutrients that plants use, leading to large algae growth (algae uses up oxygen necessary for animals and more beneficial plants to survive)

You can help stop poo-lution! Make sure to carry bags on every walk to properly dispose of your dog's waste. Picking up after your dog helps keep you, your family, and our waterways healthy. Call ACC Stormwater at 706-613-3440 for more information or to request informational materials for your neighborhood, apartment complex, or local animal clinic.



### 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 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 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.

As a part of the review, we are hosting regional open house meetings to gather feedback from customers about the fee structure and credits. All open house meetings will start at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m. We hope to meet you at one of the following locations:

ACC Library - Thursday, January 24  
J. J. Harris Elementary School - Tuesday, January 29  
Barnett Shoals Elementary School - Wednesday, February 6  
Timothy Road Elementary School - Monday, February 11  
Winterville Depot - Thursday, February 21

We will also be hosting an online comment form for those who cannot make it to in-person meetings. A link to the form will be posted on [our website](https://www.acgov.com/8490/2018-2019-Stormwater-Utility-Fee-Review) [<https://www.acgov.com/8490/2018-2019-Stormwater-Utility-Fee-Review>]

Keep an eye out for an informational letter about the Stormwater Management Program and the current fee review in your January water bill. 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 fee, please email [stormwater@acgov.com](mailto:stormwater@acgov.com) [<mailto:stormwater@acgov.com>].

Our Stormwater E-newsletter is sent out monthly to over 600 subscribers.

 Athens-Clarke County Stormwater  
Published by Cecile Riker [?]- May 3 - 

Check out this incredible time lapse video of the Barber Street culvert replacement project, courtesy of ACCGOV's Public Information Office. Thank you to the contractors and crews who worked hard to complete this project, and thank you to everyone who was patient while this new critical infrastructure was installed.

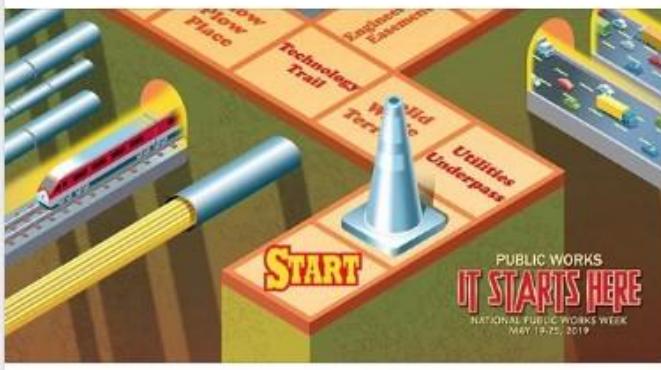


1,315 Views

 Athens-Clarke County Stormwater  
Published by Cecile Riker [?]- May 21 - 

Join us in celebrating 2019 Public Works Week, May 19-25!

Public Works professionals include those who manage water, sewer, public transportation, and refuse removal systems as well as those responsible for public buildings and grounds. They keep the traffic lights running properly, fill potholes, and inspect bridges. They are, in short, the people who maintain and improve the systems and services vital to a community's health, safety and comfort.



 ACC Stormwater  @ACCstormwater · Oct 9, 2018

Imagine you wake up tomorrow, walk to the shower, turn on the water, and...no water comes out. October 10 is Imagine A Day Without Water. If you can, tomorrow think about how water played a role as you do your everyday tasks. Share how you #ValueWater with us tomorrow.



**Imagine a Day Without Water**  
October 10, 2018

   2  

 ACC Stormwater  @ACCstormwater · May 6

Happy #WaterProfessionalsAppreciationDay! Shoutout to the folks who protect our most precious resource every day. Whether its caring for infrastructure, investigating pollution, or educating youth, we are lucky to have passionate people doing this critical work. Thank you!



   1  

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 the 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. Community Protection Officers and the Stormwater Inspector actively monitor for 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 paper, organic waste, grass cuttings, or any other trash or garbage onto another person's property, or on any of the streets, sidewalks, and rights-of-way, or any public or semipublic parking facility within Athens-Clarke County."

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

**ACC Ordinance Sec. 5-4-22(a) Prohibition of Illicit Discharges.** "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](http://www.acgov.com) and search for "ACC Ordinances." If you have any questions, please contact the Stormwater Management Program at 706-613-3440.

Sincerely,



Cecile Riker  
Program Education Specialist  
Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Management Program  
[cecile.riker@acgov.com](mailto:cecile.riker@acgov.com)

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

ACC Stormwater considers partnerships a critical piece of our program's effectiveness. We rely on many other organizations and ACC 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 ACC 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 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:** 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 Chairperson 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 we provided support for Camp DIVE, a partnership between UGA, CCSD, and various local organizations. Stormwater also partners 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 27 different events reaching an estimated 6,790 people. Events are listed below, followed by a selection of photos.

Date	Event	Audience	# Reach	Activity
6/2/2018	Tabling at the Athens Farmers Market	All ages	50	Gave out information about the Stormwater program and did the "map my watershed" activity.
7/28/2018	Tabling at the West Broad Farmers Market	All ages	100	Played trivia and had "Where's My Watershed" activity for attendees.
8/11/2018	First A.M.E. Church Health Fair	All ages	50	Tabled at the Health Fair and gave out information about water quality in Athens.
8/25/2018	Tabling at the Athens Farmers Market	All ages	100	Played water drop trivia and gave out information about the upcoming Athens Water Festival.
9/8/2018	Athens Water Festival	All ages	1,200	Helped organize the Athens Water Festival. Hosted Stormwater Maze and stream buffer bracelet booths.
9/11/2018	West Broad Community Dinner	All ages	40	Attended this community dinner to get feedback on sustainability priorities in West Broad district.
9/13/2018	ACC Green School Kickoff	Adults	45	Gave out resources to teachers about K-12 stormwater education and spoke about the Program.
9/21/2018	Upper Oconee Science and Policy Summit	All ages	50	Attended summit and heard presentations about watersheds. Todd presented about WMPs.
9/29/2018	Tabling at the Athens Farmers Market	All ages	100	Played stormwater trivia and gave out prizes.
10/20/2018	Rivers Alive	All ages	300	Organized 17 cleanups around the community. Helped with site selection/volunteer registration.
10/25/2018	Cleveland Road Elementary Community Helpers Visit	Grades K-5	20	Read a story about loving our rivers and picked up litter on school grounds with KACCB.
11/3/2018	World Toilet Day at Sandy Creek Nature Center	All ages	40	Played a pooper scooper relay game and talked about why pet waste is bad for water quality.
1/21/2019	MLK Day of Service	All ages	1,000	Sat on Steering Committee and chaired Site Selection sub-committee. Helped organize projects and site leaders.

2/23/2019	Green Life Expo & Awards	All ages	500	Made stream buffer bracelets with kids and gave out Stormwater info.
3/2/2019	CCSD Young Scientist Fair	Grades K-5	200	Made stream buffer bracelets with kids and their families and gave out Stormwater info.
3/20/2019	Athens Academy Water Day	Grades 9-12	400	Helped plan and implement a school wide Water Day, including speakers, different water electives, and hands-on activities.
3/21/2019	Hilsman Family Science Night	Grades 6-8	50	Played a Stormwater Trivia game and gave out Stormwater giveaways to middle school students and their families.
3/23/2019	Ripple Effect Film Project Blue Carpet Premiere	Grades K-12	250	Helped plan and put on a Blue Carpet Premiere/reception where filmmakers of all ages showcased environmental films about water.
4/22/2019	Earth Week Tabling at UGA Tate Plaza	Adults	150	Hosted an informational table and gave out resources on pet waste, rain barrels, and rain gardens along with giveaways.
4/26/2019	STEAM Day at JJ Harris Elementary	K-5	100	Led an activity all about frogs, their life cycle, and what types of frogs we find around Athens. Played frog calls and a concentration game.
5/8/2019	Citizen Government Academy	Adults	25	Set up stations to talk with the community about the Stormwater Management Program and other TPW divisions.
5/11/2019	Winterville Marigold Festival	All ages	500	Gave out promotional items and played Water Trivia in conjunction with ACC Public Utilities.
5/13/2019	Rolling Truck Tours at JJ Harris, Oglethorpe Avenue, and Cleveland Road Elementary Schools	K-5	400	Brought 5 different Public Works trucks and their operators out to local elementary schools for National Public Works Week.
5/14/2019	Rolling Truck Tours at Athens Montessori and Whit Davis Elementary Schools	K-5	400	Brought 5 different Public Works trucks and their operators out to local elementary schools for National Public Works Week.
5/15/2019	Rolling Truck Tours at Alps Road, Chase Street, and Saint Joseph Catholic Schools	K-5	400	Brought 5 different Public Works trucks and their operators out to local elementary schools for National Public Works Week.
5/20/2019	Rolling Truck Tour at Kaleidoscope Montessori	K-2	20	Brought 5 different Public Works trucks and their operators out to local elementary schools for National Public Works Week.
5/23/2019	Roll Out the Barrels	All ages	200	Auctioned off 16 hand-painted rain barrels to support the ACC Green School Program.



**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.)

ACC 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 GIS and Graphic Design internship opportunities. 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 to the right.

#### Former Intern Madison O'Malley



Former Intern Madison O'Malley



Current Intern Jordan Horvith



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

##### **Internship Duration**

August 2018 – December 2018 (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 the 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](mailto:stormwater@accgov.com). Applications must be received no later than Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.

##### **Contact**

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

ACC Stormwater searches for every opportunity to make contact with the community. K-12 classroom presentations, events, and 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 41 classrooms/groups, reaching an estimated 1,491 people of all ages.

Date	Event	Audience	# Reach	Activity
6/5/2018	Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Enrichment at Pinewoods	Grades K-12	20	Made Riparian buffer bracelets with kids and talked about the role of stream buffers in stream health.
6/6/2018	Sandy Creek Day Camp - Parachute that Pollution	Grades K-8	75	Led three different parachute activities with Sandy Creek day campers alongside WCO staff.
6/12/2018	Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Enrichment at Sleepy Hollow	Grades K-12	20	Made Riparian buffer bracelets with kids and talked about the role of stream buffers in stream health.
6/18/2018	Water Quality and Invasive Mapping with Youth Conservation Corp	Grades 9 - 12	7	Mapped water quality data and invasive species data on the Beech Haven property with the YCC.
6/19/2018	Water Quality and Invasive Mapping with Youth Conservation Corp	Grades 9 - 12	8	Mapped water quality data and invasive species data on the Beech Haven property with the YCC.
6/20/2018	Rain Barrel activity with the Cub Scout Day Camp	Grades K-5	20	Did the map my watershed activity, built some rain barrels, and introduced campers to Tortuga!
6/22/2018	Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Enrichment at Kathwood Apartments	Grades K-12	14	Made Riparian buffer bracelets and handed out cups.
6/26/2018	Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Enrichment at Sleepy Hollow	Grades K-12	15	Played a Stormwater trivia challenge game and handed out prizes.
6/27/2018	Camp DIVE	Grades 3 - 5	30	Led a watershed activity and litter pick-up with Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful.
7/3/2018	Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Enrichment at Tallassee Club Villas	Grades K-12	40	Riparian buffer bracelet activity and gave out frisbees.
7/10/2018	Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Enrichment at Pinewoods	Grades K-12	15	Played stormwater trivia and handed out promo items to program participants.
7/11/2018	Sandy Creek Day Camp - Water Activity	Grades K-8	90	Led several water relay games with campers, teaching them about the importance of conserving water.
7/26/2018	Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Enrichment at Kathwood Townhomes	Grades K-12	10	Played stormwater trivia and gave out stormwater prizes with participants.

7/31/2018	Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Enrichment at Tallassee Club	Grades K-12	20	Played Stormwater trivia with participants and handed out prizes.
8/16/2018	Sustainable Industries Roundtable Meeting	Adults	15	Toured Project Safe Thrift Store and spoke with committee about ways to divert household waste.
8/16/2018	Utility Fee Review Public Meetings	All ages	30	Hosted two public meetings to get feedback on level of services and the stormwater utility fee.
9/12/2018	Winterville Stormwater Public Meeting/Training	Adults	10	Presented about the stormwater program and the utility fee. Gave information about the fee review.
9/18/2018	Imagine a Day Without Water Postcards at Clarke Middle	Grades 6 and 7	45	Spoke about the value of water, did Drop in the Bucket activity, and made postcards to mail to neighbors.
9/20/2018	Imagine a Day Without Water Postcards at Coile Middle	Grades 6 and 7	111	Spoke about the value of water, did Drop in the Bucket activity, and made postcards to mail to neighbors.
9/25/2018	Imagine a Day Without Water Postcards at St. Joseph Catholic School	Grades K-6	85	Spoke about the value of water, did Drop in the Bucket activity, and made postcards to mail to neighbors.
9/27/2018	Water Quality Sampling with Athens Montessori	Grades 6-8	15	Did water quality lesson and sampled at two different sites on Hunnicutt Creek.
10/17/2018	Burney Harris Lyons Middle School Visit	Grade 8	25	Talked about erosion and sediment control, and stormwater management strategies for the school.
11/6/2018	GAWP Fall Conference Presentation	Water Professionals	70	Presented about how ACC recognizes and appreciates employees, with focus on Public Works Week activities
11/16/2018	Chase Street Elementary 4th Grade Water Lessons	Grade 4	95	Discussed watersheds and did the Sum of the Parts activity with four different 4th grade classes.
1/10/2019	Winter Rain Barrel Workshop	Adults	20	Hosted a rain barrel workshop for citizens in ACC. Led PowerPoint about uses of rain barrels, then built some.
1/24/2019	Stormwater Fee Review Open House at ACC Library	Adults	38	Set up different stations to talk with the community about the Stormwater Fee review and a potential fee increase.
1/29/2019	Stormwater Fee Review Open House at J. J. Harris	Adults	15	Set up different stations to talk with the community about the Stormwater Fee review and a potential fee increase.
2/6/2019	Stormwater Fee Review Open House at Barnett Shoals	Adults	21	Set up different stations to talk with the community about the Stormwater Fee review and a potential fee increase.
2/6/2019	Presentation to the Kiwanis Club of Athens	Adults	20	Todd talked about the Stormwater Fee Review and new re-development regulations coming out soon.
2/11/2019	Stormwater Fee Review Open House at Timothy Road	Adults	27	Set up different stations to talk with the community about the Stormwater Fee review and a potential fee increase.
2/21/2019	Stormwater Fee Review Open House at Winterville Depot	Adults	19	Set up different stations to talk with the community about the Stormwater Fee review and a potential fee increase.
2/26/2018	Stormwater Fee Review Open House at Winterville Depot	Adults	7	Set up different stations to talk with the community about the Stormwater Fee review and a potential fee increase.

4/9/2019	Rain Barrel Workshop for the Athens Community Council on Aging Center for Active Living	Adults	40	Presented to the Center for Active Living about green infrastructure, rain barrels, and the Stormwater Utility Fee.
4/9/2019	Rain Barrel Presentation for the Community Garden Network	Adults	4	Presented to several members of the Community Garden Network about rain barrels and their benefits to gardens.
4/11/2019	Enviroscape Activity at St. Joseph Catholic School	Grade 6	25	Talked about watersheds and demonstrated non-point source pollution on the Enviroscape model.
4/11/2019	Stroud Elementary Green Musical Tabling	Grades K-5	130	Tabled at the elementary school during their Green musical.
4/12/2019	Stroud Day of Service Enviroscape Activity	Grade 4	100	Led an Enviroscape Watershed Activity with four different fourth grade classes during their Stroud Day of Service.
4/18/2019	Presentation to American Society of Civil Engineers	Adults	25	Todd presented about the Stormwater Program and new Stormwater regulations to the Society of Civil Engineers.
4/24/2019	Chase Street Third Grade Enviroscape Activity	Grade 3	50	Led an Enviroscape Non-point source pollution & Watershed Activity with two different third grade classes.
4/25/2019	Chase Street Third Grade Enviroscape Activity	Grade 3	50	Led an Enviroscape Non-point source pollution & Watershed Activity with two different third grade classes.
4/20/2019	Crumple Watershed Activity with Barrow 3rd Grade	Grade 3	110	Talked about watersheds and drainage systems and illustrated a micro-watershed on a piece of paper with cardboard.



**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 ACC Stormwater Education Specialist's work duties, along with other Public Involvement activities that count towards requirements in ACC'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.

ACC Stormwater also takes a leadership role in the organization of the 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, ACC 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
6/21/2018	Storm Drain Decaling with Teens in Action Summer Camp	Grades 6 – 12	15	Decaled 55 storm drains in the Falling Shoals subdivision and talked about causes of water pollution.
7/12/2018	Storm Drain Decaling with Teens in Action Summer Camp	Grades 6 – 12	12	Decaled 55 storm drains along Baxter Street and Alps Road and talked about causes of water pollution.
9/8/2018	Athens Water Festival	All ages	200	Hosted the Athens Water Festival. Managed approx. 200 volunteers and presenters who assisted with activities.
10/20/2018	Rivers Alive	All ages	300	Organized 17 waterway cleanups around the community. Helped with site selection/volunteer registration.
1/21/2019	MLK Day of Service	All ages	1,000	Sat on Steering Committee and chaired Site Selection sub-committee. Helped organize projects/site leaders.
2/23/2019	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.



**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.

ACC Stormwater regularly communicates with the media through press releases, calendar postings, and advertisements, and is also featured on ACTV, our local government access channel. During the reporting period, ACC Stormwater submitted 4 press releases, was featured twice in *Flagpole* and once in the *Athens-Banner Herald* (both local newspapers), five times on ACTV, and once in the November 2018 "Snapshot Six," a monthly video segment produced by the ACC Public Information Office. A sampling of screenshots is included on the following pages, and direct links can be found in the Award Submission Form.

#### NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
Date: December 17, 2018

For more information:  
Cecile Riker, ACC Stormwater  
MLK Day Steering Committee

#### MLK Day of Service in Athens-Clarke County

(ATHENS, GA) Athenians are invited to honor Dr. King's legacy at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Athens-Clarke County Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on Monday, January 21, 2019.

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."

This year's kick-off celebration will take place from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. at the Cedar Shoals High School gymnasium located at 1300 Cedar Shoals Drive. 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.

Over 20 different community organizations will be hosting volunteer service projects for the Day of Service, including Acceptance Recovery Center, Athens Area Homeless Shelter, Athens Land Trust, Books for Keep, Friends of Brooklyn Cemetery, Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful, Project Safe, and more. Volunteers will work from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. their project sites. Volunteer registration is currently underway, and those interested in participating can find the registration link online at [www.acgov.com/mlkday](http://www.acgov.com/mlkday).

For more information, please visit [www.acgov.com/mlkday](http://www.acgov.com/mlkday) or call (706) 613-3440, ext. 384.

# # #

#### NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Date: August 1, 2018

For More Information:  
Cecile Riker, Program Education Specialist  
Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Management Program  
cecile.riker@acgov.com  
706-613-3440

#### ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY CONDUCTING A REVIEW OF STORMWATER FEES

(Athens, GA) The Athens-Clarke County Unified Government (ACCGOV) Stormwater Management Program has hired ~~Stantec~~ Consulting to conduct a comprehensive review of its Stormwater Utility Fee. The first phase of the review will look at services such as street sweeping, ~~stormwater~~ pipe cleaning, and pollution control to help set the budget. The second phase will include discussions about how the utility fee is charged and what credits can be used to reduce fees for customers.

The Stormwater Utility Fee was enacted in July 2005 after substantial study, community feedback, and discussion as the most equitable source of funding for ACCUG's Stormwater Management Program. The Stormwater Management Program was created in 2003 to keep ACCUG in compliance with new federal Clean Water Act requirements. The program currently addresses six key areas including public education and outreach, public involvement and participation, elimination of unlawful or illicit discharges, controls on new construction, post-construction management of ~~stormwater~~, and implementation of good housekeeping measures for municipal operations.

As part of the review, ACC Stormwater is offering several opportunities for utility customers to provide input on the fee. Two public meetings are scheduled for Thursday, August 16 at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. in the Dougherty Street Government Building Auditorium at 120 W. Dougherty Street. Staff from ACC Stormwater and ~~Stantec~~ Consulting will provide general information about ~~stormwater~~ and the existing program, as well as welcome feedback and questions from the public.

In addition to the in-person meetings, a brief 10-question survey is posted online at [www.acgov.com/stormwater](http://www.acgov.com/stormwater) to solicit feedback from customers. All property owners who pay a ~~stormwater~~ fee, particularly those who own property in Athens-Clarke County but live outside of the community, are encouraged to complete the survey. Anyone who completes the survey is eligible for a prize.

For more information on the Stormwater Utility Fee review or the Stormwater Management Program, visit [www.acgov.com/stormwater](http://www.acgov.com/stormwater) or call 706-613-3440.

###



ACTV Slide

**Article about Potential Stormwater Utility Fee Increase (September 2018)**



**ACTV Slide**



**Article about Roll Out the Barrels (May 2019)**



**Snapshot Six Rivers Alive Feature**



Snapshot Six - November 2018  
68 views · Dec 14, 2018

**Rain barrels auction in Athens to benefit environmental education**



**Buy PHOTO** **HIDE CAPTION**  
A rain barrel painted by local Athens artist Maggie Sees on display in the lobby of Hotel Indigo on Tuesday, May 14, 2019. The Roll Out the Barrels fundraiser will be held May 23 at The Graduate Hotel in downtown Athens. The barrels are painted by local artists and proceeds from the auction benefits the ACC Green School Program which aims to facilitate environmental education in local schools. (Photo/ Joshua L. Jones, The Athens Banner-Herald)

**By William Newlin / Correspondent**  
Posted May 22, 2019 at 8:00 AM

**ADD TO BAG MATERIAL** **SHOP NOW**

The Graduate Athens hotel will play host to the annual Roll Out the Barrels silent auction on Thursday.

The family-friendly auction, overseen by the Athens-Clarke County Stormwater and Water Conservation Office, features sixteen 55-gallon rain barrels donated by local businesses and painted by Athens-area artists.

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

ACC 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](http://acgov.com/1971/Downloadable-Resources).

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: 100%;"> <p><b>Stormwater Bill Insert</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>ACC Stormwater Utility Fee Review Underway</b></p> <p>Athens-Clarke County Stormwater has hired Stantec Consulting to conduct a comprehensive review of its' Stormwater Utility Fee. This review will look at level and extent of services along with alternative funding strategies, rate structures, credit systems, and additional economic development considerations.</p> <p>There will be opportunities for the public to provide input later this year as a part of this review, including an online survey and in-person public meetings. Meetings will include providing general information about the program and current level of services, as well as a chance for attendees to ask questions and provide suggestions to staff.</p> <p>Please visit our website at <a href="http://acgov.com/stormwater">acgov.com/stormwater</a> for updates on the survey and dates of meetings. We look forward to hearing from as many customers as we can!</p> <p>ACC Stormwater Management Program 120 W. Dougherty Street Athens, GA 30601 <a href="http://www.acgov.com/stormwater">www.acgov.com/stormwater</a> 706-613-3440 <a href="mailto:stormwater@acgov.com">stormwater@acgov.com</a></p> </div> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: 100%;"> <p><b>Postcard Mailer</b></p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  <h1>You're Invited</h1> </div> <p>ACC Stormwater is hosting open house meetings to provide information about the current Stormwater Utility Fee review. As a Stormwater customer, your feedback is welcome and will play a valuable role as we move forward. We hope to meet you at one of the following locations:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>ACC Library</b> <b>J.J. Harris Elementary</b> <b>Barnett Shoals Elementary</b> <b>Timothy Road Elementary</b> <b>Winterville Depot</b></p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Thursday, January 24 Tuesday, January 29 Wednesday, February 6 Monday, February 11 Thursday, February 26</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">All meetings will be held from <b>6:30 to 8:00 p.m.</b></p> </div>	<p><b>ACC Library</b> <b>J.J. Harris Elementary</b> <b>Barnett Shoals Elementary</b> <b>Timothy Road Elementary</b> <b>Winterville Depot</b></p>	<p>Thursday, January 24 Tuesday, January 29 Wednesday, February 6 Monday, February 11 Thursday, February 26</p>
<p><b>ACC Library</b> <b>J.J. Harris Elementary</b> <b>Barnett Shoals Elementary</b> <b>Timothy Road Elementary</b> <b>Winterville Depot</b></p>	<p>Thursday, January 24 Tuesday, January 29 Wednesday, February 6 Monday, February 11 Thursday, February 26</p>		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: 100%;"> <p><b>Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Utility Fee Updates</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>120 W. Dougherty Street • Athens, GA 30601 706-613-3440 • <a href="http://acgov.com/stormwater">acgov.com/stormwater</a></p> </div> <p>The Stormwater Management Program and Stormwater Utility Fee are a function of the Athens-Clarke County (ACC) Department of Transportation and Public Works. Any questions regarding this letter or the Stormwater Utility Fee should be directed to ACC Stormwater at <b>706-613-3440</b> or <a href="mailto:stormwater@acgov.com">stormwater@acgov.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Why am I getting this letter?</b> This letter is to inform the public about ACC's Stormwater Management Program and provide additional information about the ongoing Stormwater Utility Fee review. The purpose of the fee review is to make the stormwater program more responsive to the desires of ratepayers while increasing the equity of the fee structure. Furthermore, one recurring stormwater challenge is addressing aging infrastructure.</p> <p>Over the past two years, funds generated by the Stormwater Utility Fee have been used for emergency stormwater pipe repairs. Corrugated metal pipe was commonly used to convey stormwater runoff, and many of these pipes have become corroded and are at the end of their life spans. Annual stormwater fee revenue is unfortunately insufficient to address this aging infrastructure. Therefore, a Stormwater Utility Fee increase is being considered.</p> <p>This information is being mailed along with water utility bills but the stormwater fee does not affect water rates. In fact, if you are currently a tenant renting a residence, you probably never see a stormwater bill. Property owners typically pay the stormwater fee associated with their property. It is anticipated that information will be mailed to stormwater fee customers with dates and times of upcoming public information will also be posted on our website at <a href="http://acgov.com/stormwater">acgov.com/stormwater</a>.</p> <p><b>Water Bill Insert</b></p> </div>			

## E-Newsletter



## Stormwater News

## Clayton Street Stormwater &amp; Streetscape Improvements Underway



The Pre-Dig phase for the Clayton Street Improvements started Monday, June 18 when ACC Transportation & Public Works Department's Streets & Drainage crews started digging trenches for the future stormwater system. The goal of the Pre-Dig is to resolve any issues such as conflicts with other underground items earlier in the process so that the actual installation of the system goes quicker. Crews have now finished their first month of work. The actual installation of the stormwater infrastructure will begin in January 2019, and streetscape installation is scheduled to begin in April 2019.

## 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

## Stop Poo-llution.



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.

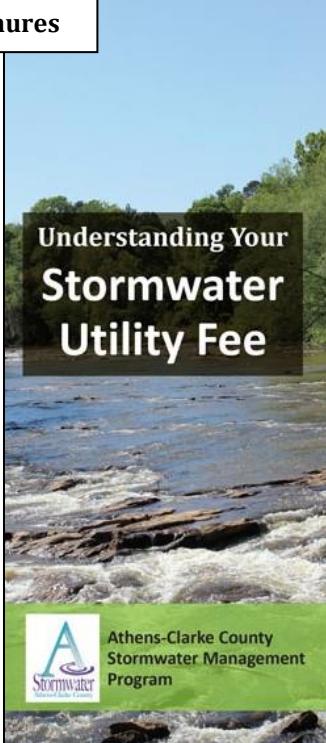


Athens-Clarke County  
Stormwater Management Program

## Brochures



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.



## DIRECT MEDIA: Public Displays/Exhibits/Signage

### Common Booth/Exhibit Set-Ups



### Pet Waste Station Signage



Project Signage  
(rotates around  
work sites)

**YOUR  
STORMWATER UTILITY  
DOLLARS AT WORK**

706-613-3440  
ATHENSCLARKECOUNTY.COM/STORMWATER

### Bio-retention Signage



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

The ACC Stormwater website can be found at [www.accgov.com/stormwater](http://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 ACC Departments, including Public Utilities and Sandy Creek Nature Center, offer Project WET, Wild, and Learning Tree trainings that are sufficient for teachers in our area.

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

ACC Stormwater offers a variety of industry-specific training programs, including rain barrel and rain garden workshops and Stormwater ordinance 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, 2 rain barrel workshops and 2 stormwater ordinance revision trainings were offered. Details are included below.

 Athens-Clarke County Stormwater ...

Published by Cecile Riker [\(?\)](#) · March 22 · 

We are hosting our second workshop to walk through recent changes to Chapter 5-4 (Stormwater Management) of the ACCGOV Code of Ordinances. These changes affect redevelopment projects, and are not related to the Stormwater Utility Fee. Join us today from 2-3 p.m. at the Planning Auditorium to learn more!



**FRI, MAR 22**

**Stormwater Ordinance Revisions Workshops**

Athens-Clarke County Stormwater · Athens

 You like Athens-Clarke County Stormwater 

Date	Event	Audience	# Reach	Activity
3/18/2019	Stormwater Ordinance Revisions Workshop	Adults	15	Hosted a workshop to outline new changes to our Stormwater Management Ordinance, primarily affecting redevelopment.
3/22/2019	Stormwater Ordinance Revisions Workshop	Adults	15	Hosted a workshop to outline new changes to our Stormwater Management Ordinance, primarily affecting redevelopment.
4/9/2019	Rain Barrel Workshop for the Athens Community Council on Aging Center for Active Living	Adults	40	Presented to the Center for Active Living about green infrastructure, rain barrels, and the Stormwater Utility Fee. Raffled off one barrel.
4/9/2019	Rain Barrel Workshop for the ACC Community Garden Network	Adults	4	Presented to several members of the Community Garden Network about rain barrels and their benefits to gardens. Built one barrel.

**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.

- **Watershed Management Plans** – Upper Oconee Science & Policy Summit in Athens, GA (Stormwater Administrator Todd Stevenson), September 2018
- **Splashing Into Public Works: Celebrating National Public Works Week** – GAWP Fall Conference in Dalton, GA (Stormwater Education Specialist Cecile Riker and PUD Education Specialist Jackie Sherry), November 2018
- **Stormwater Fee Review & New Redevelopment Regulations**: American Society of Civil Engineers in Athens, GA (Stormwater Administrator Todd Stevenson), April 2019

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

ACC Stormwater conducts municipal training programs as part of their Phase II NPDES Stormwater Permit. Trainings are typically held once per year, unless additional sessions are requested by other ACC Departments. 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 ACC Streets & Drainage Division on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018. 40 employees attended. Screenshots from the presentation are included below.

## 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



## VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

- Taking care of your vehicle can prevent fuels, oils, grease, dirt, detergent, and other chemicals from getting in our streams
  - Regular maintenance helps prevent leaks
  - Make sure waste water from washing the vehicle is captured or drains to the sewer
  - Bring leaking vehicles inside and drain them or use a drip pan
  - Empty materials into correct containers



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

## Stormwater Utility Fee under review

The Stormwater Management Program recently hired a consultant to conduct a comprehensive review of its Stormwater Utility Fee. The first phase will look at services such as street sweeping, stormwater pipe cleaning, and pollution control to help set the budget. The second phase will focus on how the utility fee is charged and ways to reduce fees for customers.

As part of the review, public meetings are scheduled for Thursday, August 16 at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. in the Dougherty Street Government Building



[accgov.com/stormwater](http://accgov.com/stormwater) to gather feedback.

All property owners who pay a stormwater fee, particularly those who own property in Athens-Clarke County but live outside of the community, are encouraged to complete the survey. Anyone who completes the survey is eligible for a prize.

"This is a great opportunity for people to get up to speed on how the fee is charged and how the funding is invested," says Stormwater Administrator **Todd Stevenson** (Trans. & Public Works).

For more information, visit [accgov.com/stormwater](http://accgov.com/stormwater) or call 706-613-3440.

August 2018 ACCENT

## News & Notes

**National Public Works Week:** The 2019 National Public Works Week is May 19-25. Annually, Public Works Week aims to educate residents on the importance of public works departments, including **Trans. & Public Works, Transit, Solid Waste, Public Utilities, and Landscape Management**. An employee from each of these departments is nominated for Public Works Employee of the Year, which will be awarded at a celebration event on Wednesday, May 22.

**Video awarded:** The Public Information Office (PIO) received a Gold Hermes award from the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals for the City Hall Chamber Renovation video. This video, along with other PIO videos, can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/accgov](http://www.youtube.com/accgov).

**Roll Out The Barrels:** The 9th annual Roll Out The Barrels event and silent auction is Thursday, May 23, 6:00-9:00 p.m. at The Foundry at 295 E. Dougherty Street. All proceeds benefit the **Green School Program**, which is designed to assist schools with environmental education and improvement efforts. Last year, the event raised \$1,400. More information and a list of artists is available at [rolloutthebarrels.org](http://rolloutthebarrels.org).

**2019 Pool/Splash Pad Season:** The **Trail Creek Splash Pad** opens on weekends only beginning Saturday, May 4. Full summer hours for all pools and splash pads, including Trail Creek, Bishop Park, Memorial Park, Lay Park, Rocksprings, and **East Athens Community Center**, begin May 25 and continue through August 3. Pool and splash pad admission is \$1 per person. Detailed pool schedules and

May 2019 ACCENT

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

ACC 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.

t0p r00ster

Member



250

Found it

this was 2 for 2. thanks to the hunt in the park. my phone was almost dead. this was a perfect easy find. my son is starting to get caching fever

9/24/2018

[View Log](#)

DeDeSpang

Premium Member



2712

Found it

We brought a couple geo-grands to the park today to play and feed the ducks. This was our last cache to find in the park, since last time we tried for this one the area was crowded. It was almost empty in the doggy area, so it was the perfect time to make the find. Found it easily and it was in great shape. Had to watch my step on the way to make this find, though! TFTC!

1/12/2019

[View Log](#)

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

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

1. Facebook | @StormwaterACC | 1,069 followers  
**143** posts and **40,869** reached during the award period
2. Twitter | @ACCStormwater | 331 Followers  
**38** posts and **63,458** impressions during the award period
3. Instagram | @ACCStormwater | 391 Followers  
**52** posts and **10,543** reached during the award period
4. NextDoor | ACC Stormwater Management Program  
**3** posts and **9,564** impressions during the award period