



## Calling All Pokemon Trainers!

Love to catch Pokemon? Love the thrill of a scavenger hunt? Tired of being bored on the weekends? Geocaching might just be the perfect activity for you.

According to the [Geocaching website \[https://www.geocaching.com/play\]](https://www.geocaching.com/play), “Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location.” Since October 2015, ACC Stormwater has hosted a “Waterlogged” Geotrail to show how rainwater gets from our streets to our streams. The caches along the trail are placed near various methods used to improve water quality and reduce stormwater pollution. All you need to play is a GPS device, a geocaching account, and a sense of adventure. Have fun hunting for caches and learn a few things about stormwater in the process!



You might just find some prizes waiting for you inside our caches!  
[Photo submitted by Geocacher WolfWife336]

## More People = More Pets = More Pet Waste

Fall in Athens means football, cooler temperatures, a denser population, and an increase in the amount of pets. We'd like to remind everyone with animals to be responsible neighbors and 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-llution! Make sure to carry bags on every walk to properly dispose of your dog's waste. Picking up after your dog helps keep you,



## Upcoming Events

ACC Stormwater will be out and about at a variety of community events and activities in August and September. Check out the following list of events and contact our office if you have an event you'd like us to table at or if your business/neighborhood is interested in hosting a workshop.

### **Tabling at the First A.M.E. Church Health Fair**

**Saturday, August 13, 10am-2pm**

**C. D. Wilkerson Educational Center (521 North Hull Street)**

We will host a booth with information about water pollution in Clarke County, how it can affect your health, and what you can do about it. Stop by to see where the polluted waterways run and learn how to dispose of common household chemicals that can harm our waters and your health. The health fair is hosted by the First A.M.E. Church and will provide free health screenings and information about other health issues.

### **Water Smart Lawn Care Workshop**

**Thursday, August 18, 6:00pm-7:30pm**

**Bob Snipes Water Resources Center (780 Barber Street)**

We are partnering with ACC Extension Office and Water Conservation Office to host this free and informative workshop. The workshop will teach participants how to design and maintain a sustainable landscape. Topics will include how to make the best use of rainfall by reviving your soil, how to irrigate efficiently, how to choose the best plants for each place in your yard, and proper use of pesticide and fertilizer. Visit <http://athensclarkecounty.com/7114/Water-Smart-Summer-Workshops> [<http://athensclarkecounty.com/7114/Water-Smart-Summer-Workshops>] to register.

### **Tabling at the Athens Farmers Market**

**Saturday, August 27, 8am-12pm**

**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.

### **KACCB's Keepin' It Clean Dirty Dance Party**

**Saturday, August 27, 5pm-9pm**

**Little Kings Shuffle Club (223 W. Hancock Avenue)**

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful, a local nonprofit organization and partner, is hosting its 6th annual Dirty Dance Benefit on August 27<sup>th</sup>. This event raises funds for KACCB's mission of working toward a cleaner, more beautiful environment. The event starts at 5:00 PM and will feature Hi-Lo dinner for sale, Hip Pops, dance performances, crafts, raffles, and plenty of time for you and your kids to shake it on the dance floor. We hope to see you there!



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### **Sandy Creek Park (400 Bob Holman Road)**

The Athens Water Festival is back to make a splash! Bring the family out to Sandy Creek Park for hands-on water fun. Meet sea critters, watch a magic show by Keith Karnok, and learn how water gets to your house. Complete 4 activities on the Water Log to capture Pokemon and earn a prize. Bring a swimsuit to get sprayed by water trucks or swim in the lake. A new addition this year: workshops for adults. Learn how to make a rain barrel, homemade household cleaners, and put together drip irrigation. Visit [www.athenswaterfestival.com](http://www.athenswaterfestival.com) for more info or call 706-613-3729.

The festival is brought to you by Athens-Clarke County Public Utilities Department, Athens-Clarke County Stormwater, and Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services.

### **Athens' Rivers Alive**

**Saturday, September 24, 8am-12pm**

#### **Dudley Park (Corner of MLK Parkway and E. Broad Street)**

Our rivers and streams provide us with fresh drinking water, important wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities. Help preserve our precious rivers and streams at this year's Rivers Alive volunteer cleanup event! Last year, 128 volunteers came out in the pouring rain to collect over 6.19 tons (12,380 lbs) of trash, 1.1 tons (2,200 lbs) of recycling, and 117 tires during the event! This year, the cleanup event in Athens will be on Saturday, September 24 from 8:00am to noon. Volunteer check-in, along with breakfast and music to kick off the cleanup, is at Dudley Park. For volunteer information and to register, please visit [www.athensclarkecounty.com/riversalive](http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/riversalive) [<http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/riversalive>].

## **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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