



Teens Tackle Pollution in Downtown Athens

On Wednesday, June 15, ten Athens area teenagers placed decals on storm drains in downtown Athens to raise awareness of water pollution. These teens were part of Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services' Teens in Action summer camp, a camp that promotes community involvement and provides fun volunteer activities for campers. Almost 40 storm drains were decaled throughout downtown. Be on the lookout for these decals and remember, **only rain down the storm drain!**

For more information about stormwater management or to request a guided activity for your own group, please call the Stormwater Management Program at 706-613-3440 or visit our website at athensclarkecounty.com/stormwater.



One group of Teens in Action campers stop for a photo during their storm drain decaling session.



Summer is here, temperatures are rising, and you are probably thinking more about lawn care and home improvement projects. We urge you to keep in mind some best practices when managing your water and stormwater this summer.

- Car washing – Consider washing your car in your yard instead of in your driveway. This lets the soapy, dirty water absorb into the ground instead of going down the storm drain.
- Garden care – Install a rain barrel to save water and keep your plants looking good.
- Lawn maintenance – Make sure to properly bag your lawn clippings for leaf and limb pickup. Pull weeds by hand instead of using herbicides.
- Composting – Start using compost in your garden as a supplement to store-bought soils or fertilizer. Compost is nutritious for plants, reduces food waste, and reduces stormwater runoff by absorbing more water than most clay-heavy soils.
- No dumping anything down the storm drain – Properly dispose of household hazardous wastes, including paint and oil. Both can be recycled at the [Athens-Clarke County Center for Hard to Recycle Materials \(CHaRM\)](#) - located at 1005 College Avenue.

Summer Camp Outreach

ACC Stormwater will be providing enrichment activities for several different youth camps in the month of July, including Sandy Creek Day Camp and ACC Leisure Services' Teens in Action. We look forward to cleaning up Trail Creek with the teens and teaching younger campers about polluted stormwater runoff.

Upcoming Events

Tabling at the Athens Farmers Market

[\[http://athensfarmersmarket.net/\]](http://athensfarmersmarket.net/)

July 16, 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 on Saturday, July 16th. We will have information about water pollution in Athens and volunteer opportunities, as well as a trivia game and prizes.

Free Summer Rain Barrel Workshop

July 23, 10am-11am

West Broad Farmers Market (1573 W. Broad Street)

Learn about the role of rain barrels in reducing water pollution and conserving water, and how you can use rain barrels in your own home at this free workshop. Anyone can attend; however, we have a limited number of barrels, so only registered participants will receive a voucher for a free barrel after attending the workshop. Please email Cecile Riker at cecile.riker@athensclarkecounty.com [<mailto:cecile.riker@athensclarkecounty.com>] to reserve your spot or be put on the waiting list. We look forward to seeing you there!

This workshop is part of the 2016 Water Smart Workshop Series organized by ACC Central Services, ACC Stormwater, ACC Water Conservation, and the Cooperative Extension.



A previous workshop participant proudly shows off her new rain barrel.

Contact Us!

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