



GISday Celebrate Geography with ACC Stormwater

[National GIS Day is on November 16, 2016.](#)

November includes both National GIS Day on Wednesday, November 16, and Geography Awareness Week from Sunday, November 13 until Saturday, November 19. ACC Stormwater is excited to celebrate both of these because GIS (geographic information system) is an integral part of stormwater management, from creating maps of stormwater infrastructure and polluted streams, to tracking the placement of cutting edge green infrastructure. Geography is embedded into almost everything we do.

In honor of these events, we encourage you to take part in ACC Stormwater's official Geocache trail, "[Water Logged.](#)"

[<https://www.geocaching.com/profile/?guid=c25f6b41-4359-48bd-a4be-44e27765c8e3&wid=of9274d8-e24e-459d-9e47-f388d604c1c6&ds=2>]

Discover stormwater infrastructure and learn about ways to reduce stormwater pollution, all the while exploring Athens-Clarke County. All you need is a cell phone with GPS and internet access. Geocache instructions, hints, and coordinates can be found at www.geocaching.com [<https://www.geocaching.com/play>]. Just search for the bookmark "Water Logged." Bring buttons from all of our geocache sites to the ACC Stormwater office during Geography Awareness Week to win a prize!

For more information, email stormwater@athensclarkecounty.com or call 706-613-3440.

Soil Test Kits Due Soon

If you attended our Rain Garden Workshop in October, you received a complimentary soil test kit to determine whether or not your soil can maintain a healthy rain garden. These kits are due to the ACC Office of Extension (located at 2152 W. Broad Street) no later than December 1st. Your kit will not be paid for after this date.



If you did not attend the workshop and are interested in testing your own soil, contact the Office of Extension at 706-613-3640. These tests provide information on the nutrients in your soil and help determine the amount and kind of nutrients that need to be added for the best growth of lawns, gardens, and other plants. Fall is the most desirable time to test soil because landscapes are mostly dry and accessible. The samples are processed at UGA's Soil, Plant, and Water Lab and a report is sent back to you within 7 to 10 days. Visit the [Extension's website \[http://ugaextension.org/county-offices/clarke.html\]](http://ugaextension.org/county-offices/clarke.html) for more information.



Accepting Entries

The Ripple Effect Film Project invites filmmakers of all ages and abilities from around the state of Georgia to submit short films and Public Service Announcements that focus on our connection to the ocean. Finalists' films will be showcased at the Blue Carpet Premiere at the historic Morton

Theater in Athens, Georgia on March 25, 2017. Films must be submitted by January 31, 2017.

Film entries should consider the impact of human behavior on the world's oceans. Films should focus on a key issue from the Ocean Connections List (found in the official rules document) and should establish a connection between the issue and the health of the ocean. Judges will score films based on effective demonstration of connection to the ocean, originality, production quality, and conservation/stewardship message.

How can a person, family, school, workplace, church, or community:
Reduce their energy use?
Reduce their water use?
Reduce their consumption of plastics?
Reduce their dependence on the car?
Change their behavior to reduce impacts on our waterways?

The Athens-Clarke County Water Conservation Office founded Ripple Effect in 2013 as a local water conservation film competition. In its fifth year, the 2017 Ripple Effect Film Project reflects a new, Georgia statewide focus and expanded theme for the competition. Ripple Effect is co-presented by the Athens-Clarke County Water Conservation Office, Ecosystem Impacts of Oil and Gas to the Gulf (ECOGIG) Research Consortium, Athens Clarke County Stormwater Management Program, and Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful.

For official rules and more information about Ripple Effect, visit www.rippleeffectfilmproject.org [<http://www.rippleeffectfilmproject.org/>] or email savewater@athensclarkecounty.com [<mailto:savewater@athensclarkecounty.com>].

Upcoming Events

MLK Day Project Applications Due! Friday, November 4

The project application for the 2017 MLK Day of Service is due on Friday, November 4. Any public/private nonprofit, healthcare organization, or public agency in the Athens-Clarke County area is eligible to host a project site for the 2017 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. Email cecile.riker@athensclarkecounty.com for a copy of the application materials. Potential sites will be divided into two categories based on size: central sites (>50 volunteers) and affiliate sites (<50 volunteers).

UOWN Quarterly Water Quality Sampling Sunday, November 6, 9:00am-1:00pm Sandy Creek Nature Center (205 Old Commerce Road)

Curious about the health of our watershed? Support our friends at the Upper Oconee Watershed Network and attend their fall stream monitoring event, starting at Sandy Creek Nature Center. After a brief orientation complete with light breakfast and coffee, volunteers will go to various stream sites in the Athens area and monitor for biological, bacterial, and chemical water quality. No experience is necessary, and you should dress to get wet and dirty.

National GIS Day Wednesday, November 16

GIS Day provides an international forum for users of geographic information systems



you collect the buttons from every cache, bring them into the Stormwater office for a special prize.

Flush It!

Saturday, November 19, 2:00pm-4:00pm
Sandy Creek Nature Center (205 Old Commerce Road)

Celebrate World Toilet Day at Sandy Creek Nature Center with this fun family event. ACC Stormwater will be there to talk about pet waste and what we can do as pet owners to mitigate our impact on water quality.

Winter Rain Barrel Workshop

Tuesday, November 22, 6:00pm-7:00pm
ACC Planning Auditorium (120 W. Dougherty 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 free barrel after attending the workshop. Please email Cecile Riker at cecile.riker@athensclarkecounty.com [mailto:cecile.riker@athensclarkecounty.com] as soon as possible to reserve your spot or be put on the waiting list. We look forward to seeing you there!

Contact Us

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www.athensclarkecounty.com/stormwater
[<http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/stormwater>]

Notice Dumping?

Call the Stormwater Hotline at 706-614-1282 if you see someone dumping into a storm drain or notice flooding due to clogged drains or pipes.

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