



Do Your Part; Be SepticSmart!



The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hosts SepticSmart Week [<https://www.epa.gov/septic/septicSMART-week>] in September each year as a way to encourage homeowners, wastewater professionals, and government officials to design and maintain effective septic systems that protect public health,

preserve valuable water resources, and sustain economic vitality in our communities. When not properly maintained, septic systems pose a threat to water quality. ACC Stormwater would like to remind homeowners to care for their systems by following these simple tips from the US EPA:

- **Think at the sink** – What goes down your drain has a big impact on your septic system (or any wastewater pipes, for that matter). Avoid pouring harsh chemicals or grease down your drain and use cleaners/detergents in moderation.
- **Don't strain your drain** – Use water efficiently and stagger the use of water-based appliances like washing machines and dishwashers to avoid back-up of your septic system into your house.
- **Keep it clean** – Failing septic systems can contaminate groundwater, which in turn can affect our drinking water supply. If you are on a well system, test your water regularly.
- **Shield your field** – Drain fields are an important component of septic systems that remove contaminants from the liquid that emerges from the tank. Never park cars or plant trees on top of drain fields, and make sure roof drains, sump pumps, and/or other drainage systems are directed away from it.
- **Protect it and inspect it** – Regular septic system maintenance can save homeowners thousands of dollars and protect public health. The average household septic system should be inspected at least every three years by a professional.
- **Don't overload the commode** – A toilet is not a trashcan. Disposable diapers and wipes, feminine hygiene products, cigarette butts, cat litter, and much more can damage your septic system. Don't flush them!
- **Pump your tank** – Ensure your septic tank is pumped at regular intervals as recommended by a professional and/or a local permitting authority.

SepticSmart Week is September 17-21 this year. Visit the ACC Septic Education Program website [<https://www.accgov.com/5317/Septic-System-Education-Program>] or www.epa.gov/septic [<https://www.epa.gov/septic>] for more information.

Seeking Your Feedback

ACC 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 structure, credit systems, and economic development considerations.

A blue speech bubble graphic containing the text "WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!".

WE WANT
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FROM
YOU!

As a part of the review, we are seeking feedback on the utility fee and stormwater services. If you are a property owner in Athens who pays a stormwater utility fee, we ask that you complete our short online survey [<https://www.accgov.com/FormCenter/Stormwater-Management-24/ACC-Stormwater-Utility-Fee-Survey-499>]. The survey is 10 questions long and should not take more than ten minutes. Anyone who completes the survey will be entered into a drawing to win a prize!

Upcoming Events

Athens Water Festival
Saturday, September 8, 10:30am-2:00pm
Sandy Creek Park (400 Bob Holman Road)

Be a Water Avenger at this year's Athens Water Festival! This is a family friendly event all about water, hosted by the ACC Water Conservation Office with support from ACC Stormwater and ACC Leisure Services. Participate in hands-on activities & games, meet sea-life and other critters, and splash with the water trucks. There is a \$2 entry fee into the park, but all the activities are FREE! Make sure to bring your swimsuit and a water bottle. Visit athenswaterfestival.com for more information.

Green School Kick-Off
Thursday, September 13, 4:00-6:00pm
Hi-Lo Lounge (1354 Prince Avenue)

You are invited to join us as we kick-off the 2018-2019 school year with a Green School celebration! Food, prizes, giveaways and more! All teachers, paraprofessionals, PTA/PTO representatives, and interested community members are invited to attend. Learn about the environmental education resources available in ACC, network with fellow teachers, and meet your Green School Program contacts. For more information, visit www.accgreenschools.org [<http://www.accgreenschools.org/>].

Upper Oconee Science and Policy Summit
Friday, September 21, 9:00am-4:00pm
UGA Special Collections Library (300 S. Hull Street)

This summit brings together scientists, policymakers, activists, students, and community members from across the region to explore the intersection between water resource science, management, and policy in the Upper Oconee Watershed. Oral and poster presentations will educate attendees on the activities occurring in the watershed, highlight the connection between science and policies and management, identify research and policy needs as well as opportunities for collaboration and action in the watershed, and introduce decision makers in the watershed to bright student researchers at UGA. The event is free, but please register to attend [here](http://uown.org/UOWN-Wordpress/) [<http://uown.org/UOWN-Wordpress/>].

KACCB's Daffodil Disco at the Above Athens Balloon Festival
Saturday, September 22, 4:00-8:30pm
Sandy Creek Park (400 Bob Holman Road)

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful (KACCB) will be hosting the Daffodil Disco as part of Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services' inaugural Above Athens Balloon Festival. With dance performances scheduled throughout the evening, there is plenty of time for parents and children to shake it! Face painting with a fee of \$1 per child and a photo booth will also be part of the fun. Little Athens will be on hand with activities for children. Raffle tickets for an Athens gift basket will be available at a cost of \$1 per ticket. A \$5 per vehicle event entrance fee to the festival provides access to the park, the Daffodil Disco, and kids activity area. A portion of admission fees and all Daffodil Disco funds raised go towards KACCB's Loop 10 Daffodil Project, environmental education and community beautification programs! Visit www.keeppathensbeautiful.org [<http://www.keeppathensbeautiful.org>] for more information.

Tabling at the Athens Farmers Market
Saturday, September 29, 8:00am-12:00pm
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.

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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