



2011-2012 Annual Report

A watershed is a system. It is the land area from which water, sediment, and

outlet. Its boundaries are marked by the highest points of land around the waterbody.



dissolved materials drain to a common point along a stream, wetland, lake, or river. For

each watershed, there is a drainage system that conveys rainfall to its

Summarizing Cobb County Water System's programs to educate the community about the issues impacting local water quality, to foster good habits and responsible behavior, and to promote an ethic of appreciation for and connection to our natural resources.

Cobb County's Watershed Stewardship Program (CCWSP) is a part of Cobb County Government's effort to educate residents of Cobb County with respect to various issues related to improving the quality of life for ourselves and future generations. Specifically, the CCWSP is a portion of the Cobb County Water System's initiative to increase awareness of ecological concerns and provide guidance that will assist customers in behaving in an environmentally conscientious manner.

Vision

We envision all Cobb County residents becoming ecologically literate, understanding their role in water quality and environmental health.

Mission

CCWSP promotes respect for our environment by educating the community about the connection between behavior and water quality.

Message From Program Staff

The Watershed Stewardship Program was fortunate this year to recruit four excellent educators to replace the staff members who moved on during the 2010-2011 school year. Orienting and training our new team became an evaluation and assessment opportunity, allowing us to delve deeply into the programs we offer and discussing the what, why, and how we facilitate ecological education opportunities in Cobb County.

Some of the changes we have implemented include restructuring our elementary school outreach programs, expanding the use of our program animals, and utilizing a watershed approach (versus a jurisdictional approach) in planning and implementing educational opportunities. We hope that by streamlining our elementary school outreach we will be able to reach a more diverse population of students with our stewardship message. We have already noted some benefits with over 4,400 students receiving a wildlife encounter this year. This illustrates how our program animals have been better integrated into routine school outreach. A new section in our annual report explicitly documents the stewardship activities happening in the drainage areas of Cobb County streams. We anticipate being able to serve the community better by delineating our activities within these sub-watersheds and ensuring that our planning takes this perspective into account.

Moving forward, we are excited to continue assessing and implementing the changes we have identified through our evaluation process. As we continue working under fiscal constraints, focused changes can help improve our effectiveness. We will continue to reflect on how we can improve the programs we offer and better utilize our resources.

The Cobb County Watershed Stewardship Program

Report Summary

The activities and events facilitated by the Watershed Stewardship Program are designed to fulfill Cobb County Water System's education requirements as outlined by the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District and Georgia Environmental Protection Division.

This annual report summarizes the efforts made to educate Cobb's community about the issues impacting local water quality, to foster good habits and responsible behavior, and to promote an ethic of appreciation for and connection to our natural resources.

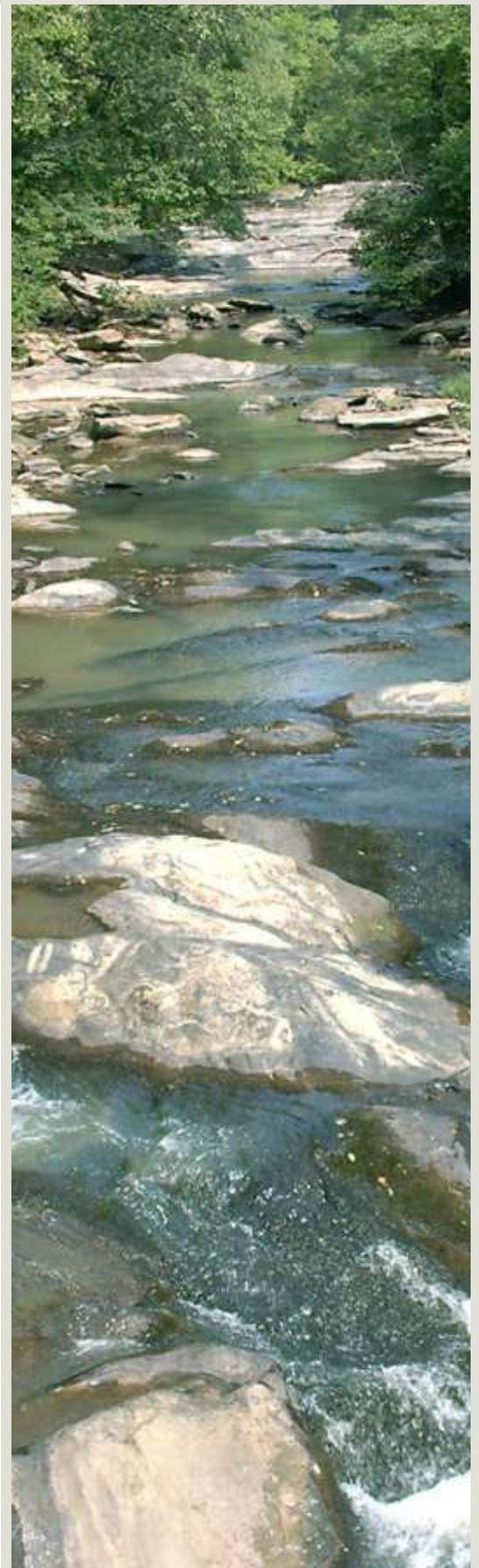
In 2011-2012 we are celebrating our 10th year as a Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Program. During this initial decade of implementation we have trained over 1,500 people, provided in excess of 18,000 volunteer service hours, established greater than 100 monitoring groups, set up over 150 monitoring sites, and recruited more than 10,000 people to participate in stream monitoring activities in Cobb County.

**During the 2011-2012 reporting year,
15,148 community members participated
in the Watershed Stewardship Program.**

**Volunteer Programs:
2197 participants,
834 training hours,
4016 volunteer service hours**

**Community Programs:
2155 participants, 59 hours**

**School Programs:
10,796 students, 298 instruction hours**



Community Program Accomplishments

Cobb County Watershed Stewardship offers free ecology workshops throughout the year including providing the training and tools needed to be a monitoring volunteer.

During the 2011-**2012 reporting year, the value of Cobb's volunteer watershed stewards is estimated at \$81,000.**

Volunteer Opportunities

Adopt-A-Stream Chemical Monitoring

341 volunteers trained, 371 monitoring events, 2,318 service hours

Chemical monitoring consists of taking water samples and testing for pH, levels of dissolved oxygen, temperature, and conductivity. These chemical tests gather information about the aquatic habitat and its ability to sustain life. Participants are required to attend a certification workshop and adopt their site for monthly monitoring.

Adopt-A-Stream Biological Monitoring

33 volunteers trained, 26 monitoring events, 460 service hours

Participants monitor the population and diversity of benthic macroinvertebrates, aquatic insects and mollusks that act as bioindicators of water quality. Studying the diversity of organisms at a site gives a general picture of water quality. Individuals interested in biological monitoring are required to attend a certification workshop, adopt their waterway site, and commit to monitoring once per quarter.

Adopt-A-Stream Bacteria Monitoring

45 volunteers trained, 106 monitoring events, 170 service hours

Volunteers learn how to monitor *E. coli* levels in their streams. *E. coli* is an indicator organism that is often used to assess the water quality. Monitoring levels of *E. coli* can help identify possible sources of pollution. This workshop focuses on proper collection of a water sample, processing samples for incubation, and interpretation of results. Volunteers must attend a certification workshop and adopt their site for monthly monitoring.

Anuran Monitoring

4 active volunteer groups, 72 monitoring events, 59 service hours

Cobb County residents are learning to identify frog and toad vocalizations and recording their observations to collect data on local amphibian populations. After attending training and identifying a monitoring route, participants take an evening walk and complete a frog call survey once a week.

Waterway Clean-ups

259 volunteer participants, 13 events, 689 service hours

Cobb County asks residents to help clean local waters and raise awareness about waterway health. Scout groups, church groups, schools, and homeowners associations across the county are provided with gloves, bags, and planning assistance throughout the year to encourage trash removal efforts.

Storm Drain Marking

53 volunteer participants, 7 events, 98 service hours, 233 drains marked

Rain water runs off the landscape from roads, driveways, lawns, rooftops and parking lots and carries pollution into our water. In addition, any litter on roads will wash into streams through the storm drain system. To emphasize the connection between runoff and water pollution, volunteers are helping mark storm drains around Cobb County. Participants are provided with marking kits including aluminum markers, adhesive glue, gloves, garbage bags, and education materials.

Watershed Stewardship Fair

64 volunteer participants

The Watershed Stewardship Fair is a data sharing event that showcases volunteer stream projects. Volunteer groups are invited to create a display and share their initiatives during the event. Participants are given a chance to tour the Water Quality Laboratory. In February 2012, Watershed Stewardship Awards were presented for the School of the Year, Adopt-A-Stream Volunteer of the Year, Community Organizer of the Year, and Rain & Wildlife Garden Volunteer.

River Rendezvous

19 participants, 95 service hours

The Sierra Club Cobb Centennial Group partners with the Water Quality Laboratory each year to monitor 30 sites along Rottenwood Creek. Parameters include dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, temperature, biological oxygen demand, *E. coli*, nutrients, metals, and turbidity. The results are shared on GA Adopt-A-Stream's online database. This event provides a comprehensive look at the Rottenwood Creek Watershed.

Rain and Wildlife Garden

16 volunteer participants, 43 events, 127 service hours

Community volunteers have been assisting with site maintenance including new plant installations, pruning, seed propagation, weeding, labeling, and leading tours. Participants include local master gardeners, community members seeking service hours, and those interested in gaining practical gardening experience. Weekly project days, currently every Thursday morning from 9-11, provide a consistent opportunity for those interested in helping. Participants also learn about stormwater pollution prevention and stewardship practices.



Watershed Stewardship Projects - Chattahoochee

WATERSHED	GROUP	# SITES	YEAR INITIATED	ACTIVITY TYPE
Mulberry Creek	Friends of Mulberry Creek	1	2003	CH, BIO, BAC
Mud Creek	Burnt Hickory Hills	2	2011	CH, BIO, BAC
Mud Creek	The Brooks Family	1	2012	CH, BAC
Mud Creek	HoneyFern School	1	2012	AN
Nickajack Creek	Three Forks Alliance	1	2010	CH
Nickajack Creek	Keep Smyrna Beautiful	3	2010	CH, CL
Nickajack Creek	Friends of Gable Creek	1	2011	SD
Nickajack Creek	SG5	1	2011	CH
Noses Creek	McEachern High AP Environmental Science	1	2007	CH
Noses Creek	Walker School's 5th Grade	1	2007	CH
Noses Creek	AndersonFarmNoses	1	2011	CH
Noses Creek	Vaugnan Target	1	2011	CH, CL
Olley Creek	HoneyFern School	1	2011	CH, BIO
Popular Creek	Ben and Sarah	1	2011	CH
Powder Springs Creek	Fairfax Consulting Group	1	2010	CH, BAC
Rottenwood Creek	Friends of Victory Heights Subdivision Park	1	2002	CL
Rottenwood Creek	Sierra Club Centennial Group	3	2004	CH, BIO, BAC, CL
Rottenwood Creek	MCAA Rockets	2	2007	CH
Rottenwood Creek	Water Quality Laboratory	1	2009	CL
Rottenwood Creek	Girl Scout Troop 2055	1	2011	SD
Rottenwood Creek	InfoMart	1	2011	CL
Rottenwood Creek	Sabre Holdings	1	2012	CL
Sewell Mill Creek	Dodgen Middle School	9	2002	CH, BIO
Sewell Mill Creek	Boy Scout Troop 955	1	2004	CH
Sewell Mill Creek	Walton HS AP Environmental Science Class	1	2006	CH, CL
Sewell Mill Creek	Isabel Ott	2	2008	CH
Sewell Mill Creek	Brian Duke	2	2008	CH, BAC
Sewell Mill Creek	Emerson Unitarian Universalist	1	2008	CH
Sewell Mill Creek	Mitsy Forest Maniacs	1	2011	CH
Sewell Mill Creek	Murdock Elementary ALP	1	2011	CH, BIO, CL
Sope Creek	Walton High School Environmental Club	1	1995	CH
Sope Creek	Friends of Gable Creek	1	2009	CH, CL
Sope Creek	Water Guardians	1	2010	CH
Sope Creek	Tritt River Kids	1	2012	CL
Sope Creek	Salty	4	2012	CH
Sweetwater Creek	Clarkdale Elementary/Cooper Middle PTA	1	2010	CL
Trib of Chattahoochee	Rotary Club of East Cobb	1	2010	SD
Trib of Chattahoochee	Crooked Branch	1	2011	CH, BAC

Ward Creek	A.L. Burruss Environmental Club	2	2008	CH
Willeo Creek	Willeo Watershed Alliance of Loch Highland	1	2001	CH, BAC
Willeo Creek	Higgins Family	1	2003	CH
Willeo Creek	Tritt River Kids	1	2004	CH, BIO, CL
Willeo Creek	Bishop Lake	7	2008	CH
Willeo Creek	Connie Ghosh	1	2008	AN
Willeo Creek	Clary Lakes	1	2010	CH
Willeo Creek	Girl Scout Troop 2193	2	2012	CH
Willeo Creek	Village North Highlands Subdivision	1	2012	CH

Watershed Stewardship Projects - Etowah

WATERSHED	GROUP	# SITES	YEAR INITIATED	ACTIVITY TYPE
Allatoona Creek	Kahle	1	2010	CH, BAC
Allatoona Creek	Ackermann/Griffin	1	2012	SD
Allatoona Creek	Harrison High School HOPE Club	1	2012	CH
Butler Creek	Butler Creek Kennesaw	1	2009	CH
Butler Creek	EnvEagles	1	2012	CH
Noonday Creek	Barfuss	1	2007	AN
Noonday Creek	Friends of Noonday Creek	2	2011	CH, BAC
Noonday Creek	Girl Scout Troop 2796	1	2011	SD
Picketts Mill Creek	The Jones Family	1	2012	SD
Proctor Creek	North Cobb High School SAVE Club	1	2008	CH, BIO
Rubes Creek	Keheley Elementary 3rd Grade Target Class	2	2004	CH, CL
Rubes Creek	McCleskey Middle School	1	2006	CH, BIO, BAC
Rubes Creek	Nicholson Target Stars	1	2006	CH, BIO, AN
Rubes Creek	David Zandstra	1	2008	CH, BAC
Rubes Creek	Ric & Sharon Donato	1	2009	AN
Rubes Creek	Girl Scout Troop 2910	1	2010	CH, SD
Rubes Creek	Lassiter High School APES classes	1	2010	CH, BAC

Activity Type Key

- CH Adopt-A-Stream Chemical Monitoring
- BIO Adopt-A-Stream Biological Monitoring
- BAC Adopt-A-Stream Bacteria Monitoring
- AN Anuran Monitoring
- SD Storm Drain Marking
- CL Cleanup



Community Ecology Programs

Rain Barrel Make & Takes

92 participants

Urban runoff is one of the hardest sources of stream pollution to control, causing bank erosion, siltation and water quality impairment. In this workshop, participants build their own 55-gallon rain water harvesting barrel (donated by Coca-Cola Bottling) using power tools and provided supplies. The collected water can be used to irrigate ornamental plants, shrubs, and trees while preventing non-point source pollution and saving potable water.

Household Hazardous Waste Reduction and Medication Disposal

*1000+ participants
+ drugs from 520 households*

Several efforts have been developed to educate Cobb residents on hazards in the home. Organized by Keep Cobb Beautiful, we held two pharmaceutical disposal events and our residents were provided the opportunity to recycle batteries and electronics, and offered document shredding. Education focused on the importance of removing expired and unused medications from the home and the problems associated with flushing these products into the sewer system.

Library Programs

81 participants

As in previous years, the WSP partnered with Cobb libraries for the Summer Reading Program. During the summer of 2011, CCWSP staff presented at four libraries. The theme was global cultures. An ecological education program was developed based on the children's picture book *If the World Were a Village, A Book about the World's People* by David J. Smith.

Scout Programs

106 participants

Girl Scout and Boy Scout groups often participate in WSP led activities to earn badges and obtain service hours. In addition to the scout groups that participate in Adopt-A-Stream monitoring, storm drain marking, and waterway cleanups, many participate in our school outreach programs including the butterfly lab, what is a watershed, and tours of the water quality lab and rain garden.



Parks Programs

114 participants

WSP partnered with Cobb County Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Affairs to offer the Outdoor Romping & Creek Stomping Summer Series for kids and families again. The three sessions included a heritage and nature walk, wild about wildlife, and a family scavenger hunt.

Conference/Professional Presentations

262 participants

Staff routinely present at conferences and during professional development seminars. During the 2011-2012 reporting year, we presented at several events including the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia's Annual Conference, Outdoor Learning Symposium, High Performance, Healthy Schools Summit, Environmental Justice, Citizen Science, and Youth Activism Conference, and for various Cobb County School System's teachers development meetings and community organization meetings.

Pick It Up Initiatives

1500+ participants

Bacteria education efforts include the *Pick It Up Pals Pledge* program that increases pet owner awareness of the pollution problems associated with pet waste by providing recognition and a reward mechanism. Participants are tracked by watershed and given free pet waste bags. Images of participating pets are published on our website. When funding allows, a *Pick it Up Pals* bandanna will also be given to each pet when the owners signs the *Pick It Up* pledge. We continue to maintain the *Pick It Up Waste Stations* that were installed along the Silver Comet Trail, include bacteria education with all storm drain marking project materials, and explicitly discuss proper pet owner stewardship during our *What Is A Watershed* school outreach programs. Pet waste and associated water quality issues were profiled in our new video series *Eco-Logical* this year.

National Park Service Tire Disposal Partnership

100+ tires

Cobb WSP offers the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area tire disposal services for all tires removed from the river and contributing tributaries within the Cobb County jurisdiction. NPS staff deliver the tires to our waste transfer station and Cobb County Water System pays the disposal fees for the transaction.



School Outreach Accomplishments

Program staff visited local schools routinely, offering free water-related education programs to K-12 students in Cobb County, Marietta City, and private schools. In the 2011-2012 school year, our programs reached 76 schools, serving 479 classrooms, providing 298 instructional hours. We estimate the value of this service at \$45,281.

Ecoregions of Georgia

987 participants

Georgia is ranked 6th in the nation in overall species diversity, partially due to our five distinctive ecoregions! Learn how these very distinctive regions were formed and natural history facts about this state. This program explores how our geographical topography contributes to our biological diversity.

What is a Watershed?

761 participants

During this lesson on watersheds and sources of pollution, students learn about local water quality issues. Using an interactive watershed model, participants demonstrate pollution impacts on streams and lakes. This activity reveals to students how every day activities can affect our drinking water.

Slithery Snake Study

190 participants

Take a closer look at one of nature's most misunderstood animals. How do they move with no arms or legs? Is it true that the only good snake is a dead snake? Which species in Georgia are venomous and how can you tell? And most importantly, how do they benefit our ecosystem?

River to River - A Water Story

54 participants

Where does our drinking water come from? What happens to our water after we use it? **After you flush, it doesn't just go away. Using a tabletop model, this program takes students through the process of drinking water treatment and wastewater treatment to understand the steps taken to clean our water.** *Offered as a shared resource for check out during 2011-2012 school year.*

Wild in the Watershed

188 participants

Why is a bird a bird, and how are reptiles different from amphibians? Are there mammals that lay eggs? Learn about animal groups and classification by examining animal artifacts, such as skins and bones.

Water Molecules in Motion

0 participants

What makes water... well, water? How do you know if a clear liquid is water? Learn about the physical properties of our most precious resource through a series of activities and demonstrations. *Program discontinued during 2011-2012 school year.*

Macroinvertebrate Lab

178 participants

You can assess water quality and stream habitat by surveying the life in a stream. Macroinvertebrates (stream bugs) are excellent indicators of water quality. Learn to identify and categorize aquatic insects by pollution tolerance levels to determine stream health. Introduce your students to these fascinating water bugs before taking a water monitoring field trip to a local pond or stream. Data collected from monitoring groups will be entered into the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream statewide database.

Erosion & The Hydrologic Cycle

345 participants

Study the causes and effects of erosion through visual models and activities. How have **erosion and deposition helped to construct Earth's various landforms?** How have humans impacted this natural process, and what can we do to mitigate the consequences? This class can be extended into a two part session, with the second session focusing on how water moves through the earth to reach the aquifers under the surface.

Water Chemistry Study

211 participants

Learn to collect water samples and perform water quality experiments including dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, and conductivity. This hands-on chemistry experiment not only demonstrates how we monitor our water, but can also incorporate the scientific method and data collection protocol. This program is highly recommended as a pre-activity to a water monitoring field trip. Data collected from monitoring groups will be entered into the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream statewide database.

Water Cycle

90 participants

Learn about the natural water cycle and how water moves across the globe in different forms including the human components of the water cycle, such as drinking water and recreation.



Life Cycles

120 participants

Some animals and plants have their own unique life cycles. Explore how a butterfly, dragonfly, frog, and tree grow from a tiny egg or seed into an adult through the use of specimens and artifacts.

Wonderful Watery Wetlands

211 participants

What are those muddy, yucky wetlands good for anyway? What kinds of animals and plants live in wetlands? Through an interactive tabletop model, students learn how wetlands play a very important role in water quality, flood prevention, and ecological habitat.

Bacteria Monitoring Lab

25 participants

Across the globe, waterborne diseases have become an increasing threat to community health. This program explores different diseases present in the U.S. and in other countries and their impact on environmental health. Students will also have the opportunity to practice laboratory procedures by monitoring their local waterway for *E. coli*, and determining what levels exceed a healthy baseline.

Investigating Urban Habitats

175 participants

Join us at a local park to conduct a nature study about wildlife habitats. Activities may include environmental sampling, journaling, investigating physical characteristics of the site, and a live animal experience.

Monarch Lab (August - October only)

117 participants

Discover the different stages of Monarch development from egg to adult. Uncover exciting facts about their extraordinary natural history, such as their annual migration to Mexico. The Monarch Lab incorporates several stations for hands-on, individual learning.

Anuran Lab (March - May only)

410 participants

Anurans are a special group of amphibians that include frogs and toads. But how do you tell the difference between frogs and toads? What habitats do they live in, why do they call, and how does a tadpole become an adult? Discover all of this as well as what anurans can tell us about our environment.





Brooke & Branch Puppet Show 5123 participants
 Brooke is a little girl who goes on a big adventure! Join her as she learns about water quality and biodiversity from the friends she meets along the way. This program emphasizes ecological concepts and vocabulary in a fun and engaging way while demonstrating how we can help the environment.

Traveling Treasure Trunk 16 participating schools
 A collection of water and nature resources including books, field guides, games, music, and videos. The trunk is loaned to K-5 classrooms for three week periods.

FOG Program

583 participants

CCWSP developed this lesson to teach students about proper disposal of kitchen scraps and FOG. *Although not offered this year as an outreach program, the lesson was facilitated at the Children's Water Festival.*

Other Shared Resources

34 participating schools

CCWSP loans educational resources to teachers for use in their classroom, including water testing kits, nets, boots, curriculum activities, Macroinvertebrate Lab, preserved insect specimens, the Our Shared Forest Science Night Kit, and Enviroscape tabletop models.

Children's Water Festival

583 participants

On May 3rd, 4th graders from Brumby Elementary participated in this annual event held in partnership with other local utilities and the National Park Service at the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. Students attended several hands-on water education sessions including topics on pollution prevention, water source and distribution, FOG, and human impacts.

Green Schools

32 schools, 449 classrooms

Cobb's Green School Initiative continues to draw interest and provide encouragement for teachers to integrate environmental education activities into their classrooms. Those that participate, complete, and log five EE activities are recognized as *Green Classrooms*. When five teachers in a school participate, the school is recognized as a *Green School*. In 2011-2012, 14 schools achieved Gold Status and eight more schools and 38 more classrooms participated in the program.



Professional Development for Educators

27 participants

- Life Is A River
- Monarchs In The Classroom
- Healthy Water, Healthy People

Summary of Activity by Watershed

	Water Quality Monitoring	Storm Drain Marking	Waterway Cleanups	Community Education	School Outreach	Compliance Education
Chattahoochee		•		•	•	•
Mud	•				•	•
Mulberry	•			•		
Nickajack	•	•	•		•	•
Noses	•		•	•	•	•
Powder Springs	•			•	•	
Olley	•			•	•	•
Rottenwood	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sewell Mill	•		•	•	•	•
Sope	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sweetwater	•		•		•	
Ward	•				•	
Willeo	•		•	•	•	•
Etowah		•	•		•	•
Allatoona	•	•		•	•	•
Butler	•			•	•	•
Noonday	•	•		•	•	•
Proctor	•			•	•	•
Rubes	•		•	•	•	•

Education Resources Developed

Education Bookmark

This year a new stormwater-themed giveaway was produced and distributed, mainly to students during our school outreach programs.

Fact Sheets

There is continued development of new education publications to address specific water quality issues. One new document on dumpsters was published this year. A second resource on equipment washing is in draft form.

Rain Garden Demonstration Site

We continue developing the garden as an education resource, installing new plantings, creating informational displays, designing interpretive programs, and recruiting volunteers to assist with our educational efforts. Ongoing relations with Cobb County Master Gardeners remains strong with volunteers continuing to assist with site maintenance. An education grant was received from RBC for \$5,000. This will assist with the development of the site, including funding for the installation of educational signage.

Eco-Logical...Tips to Reduce Your Footprint

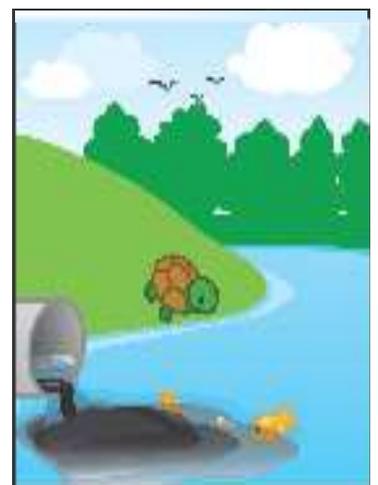
Utilizing the expertise of Cobb's Communication Department, we have started producing a collection of short education videos for both staff and the general public. Two episodes were produced this year: *Tips to Reduce Your Footprint with Your Pets* and *Tips to Reduce Your Footprint In Your Kitchen*.

Green Industry Updates

In partnership with Cobb County Cooperative Extension's landscape industry continuing education program, staff participates in the planning of these ongoing sessions and presents about water quality to professionals working on landscape projects. This includes providing training on detention pond maintenance.

Newsletter and Website

Four issues of the quarterly newsletter, *The Thalweg*, were published this year. Over 2,000 paper and more than 2,800 electronic issues were distributed to our local contacts. The CCWSP website provides education and promotional information to the community and averages nearly 12,500 hits per month.



Community Connections

Under Development

Watershed Profiles

These fact sheets will provide history, statistics, and points of interest for the major watersheds in Cobb County. A template has been developed.



Watershed Signage

Continuing our partnership with Cobb County DOT to install watershed and stream name signage at Adopt-A-Stream locations across the county. Volunteer groups will be identified on separate blades at each location.

Storm Drain Marking Events

Organized in areas identified by Cobb's Stormwater Management Division, we are recruiting volunteers to assist with marking specific residential communities where non-point source pollution prevention education is a priority.

Student Intern Protocol

We are developing internal procedures and guidelines for responding to requests from high school and college students interested in gaining practical outreach experience.

Service Mobs

While trying to recruit new volunteer groups, the concept of organizing weekly service events that are promoted similar to the *Urban Crop Mob Movement* are being explored. Projects could include storm drain marking, litter removal from streams, privet pulls, or garden maintenance. Participants would not be obligated to ongoing projects or have any additional responsibilities. They would simply show up, help, then leave. This type of service has been very successful in other local Atlanta communities and we are interested in trying something similar in Cobb to see if our community members will respond favorably.

Boards, Committees, Leadership Roles

- Cooperative Extension - Cobb County Office: Green Industry Advisory Board
- Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia: President
- Georgia Association of Water Professionals: Public Education Committee
- Georgia No Child Left Inside Coalition: Member
- Metro North Georgia Water Planning District: Education Technical Coordinating Committee
- Monarchs Across Georgia: Steering Committee
- Rivers Alive: Advisory Board, Education Chair
- Council of Outdoor Learning: Steering Committee Member
- Georgia Adopt-A-Stream: Coordinator, Technical Advisor
- Southeast Environmental Education Alliance: Project Manager

Partnerships

- Georgia Adopt-A-Stream
- Rivers Alive
- GA Project WET
- GA Project WILD
- GA Forestry Association - Project Learning Tree
- National Park Service
- Georgia Association of Water Professionals
- Monarchs Across Georgia
- American Rivers
- Council of Outdoor Learning
- Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia
- Metro North Georgia Water Planning District
- Cobb County DOT
- Cobb County School System
- Cobb County Health Department
- Cobb County Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs
- Keep Cobb Beautiful
- City of Kennesaw - Smith-Gilbert Gardens
- City of Smyrna - Keep Smyrna Beautiful
- City of Roswell
- City of Atlanta
- DeKalb County
- Fulton County
- Gwinnett County
- Marietta Water
- Marietta City Schools
- UGA Cooperative Extension
- Cobb County Master Gardeners
- Coca-Cola Bottling Company
- Vickery Hardware
- Emory University
- Sierra Club Cobb Centennial Group
- State Botanical Gardens of Georgia
- RBC (Royal Bank of Canada)



Reflections



Cobb students (from Brumby and Park Street Elementary) learned about water quality at the 2012 **Children's** Water Festival.

Our 2011-2012 puppeteers, Hope and Sarah, reached over 5,000 students this year.



CCWSP continues to purchase Rivers Alive shirts for volunteer groups organizing cleanup projects in Cobb County.





Several field experiences were facilitated this year with youth across Cobb County. Hands-on activities included sampling in local streams and nature journaling.



Staff members worked with participants from local schools and community members.



Program History

- 1975 Cobb County Water System starts collecting stream data
- 1986 Stream Monitoring Program is established
- 1995 Biological Monitoring is added to routine data collection
- 2001 Adopt-A-Stream Program Coordinator is hired
- 2002 Adopt-A-Stream Program is launched
Cobb AAS recognized by GA EPD
Outstanding Outreach & Partnership Award
Cobb County Water System recognized by GW&PCA
Outstanding Public Education Award
- 2003 Cobb County Watershed Protection Plan implemented
In-house Fish Monitoring is added to data collection
- 2004 Demonstration Rain Garden installed
Cobb AAS and Cobb AAS volunteer recognized by GA EPD
Watershed Award
Excellence in Data Collection Award (Greg Linton)
- 2005 Adopt-A-Stream staff is expanded to two full-time employees
Cobb County recognized by GA Department of Community Affairs
Water First Community
Cobb AAS recognized by Rivers Alive
Outstanding Cleanup, large category (over 200 participants)
Cobb AAS Volunteer recognized by GA EPD
Red Flag Award (Lois and Nancy Morrison)
- 2006 Rain Garden Demonstration Site certified
Back Yard Wildlife Habitat
Monarch Waystation
Pollinator Garden
Cobb County Water System recognized by GAWP
Outstanding Public Education Award

- 2007 CCWSP staff is expanded to include a part-time Program Assistant
Cobb AAS and Cobb AAS volunteer recognized by GA EPD
Adopt-A-Stream in Action Award (Color Your Watershed Program)
Outstanding Outreach Award (Judy Cox - Dodgen Middle)
- 2008 Cobb AAS and Cobb AAS volunteer recognized by GA EPD
Watershed Award
Outstanding Outreach & Partnership Award (Didi Johnson)
Cobb WSP staff recognized by Georgia Conservancy
Teaching Conservation Facilitator of the Year
Cobb WSP staff recognized by Rivers Alive
Most Cleanups Attended
- 2009 Cobb WSP staff recognized by Cobb County Board of Commissioners
Excellence in Customer Service
Cobb AAS volunteer recognized by GA EPD
Excellence in Data Collection Award (Tim Phillips & Stacey Haire)
Cobb WSP staff recognized by Monarchs Across Georgia
2008 MAG Service Award
- 2010 Cobb AAS recognized by GA EPD
Adopt-A-Stream in Action Award (Brooke & Branch Puppet Show)
Cobb WSP staff recognized by Georgia Project WET
2009 Facilitator of the Year
- 2011 WSP staff is expanded to include two part-time Puppet Show Assistants
Cobb AAS and school volunteer group recognized by GA EPD
Watershed Award
Red Flag Award (McCleskey Middle)
Cobb WSP staff recognized by Environmental Education Alliance of GA
Volunteer Service Award
- 2012 Cobb AAS volunteer and school volunteer group recognized by GA EPD
Excellence in Data Collection Award (Eric Lee)
Adopt-A-Stream in Action Award (Nicholson Elementary)

Thank You

The Watershed Stewardship Program would like to thank our volunteers and supporters:

The Ackermann Family
Jo Adang
Laura Aikens
Stacey Albright
Ina Allison
Debbie Amodeo
Kristine Anderson
Derek Angel
Chuck Armentrout
Cheryl Ashley-Serafine
Joni Atkinson
Gwen Baldwin
Delon Barfuss
Brett Bass
Rick Bauer
Mary Barkley
Terry Bennekou
Mirla Bigda
Tim Bittner
Becky Blades
Charles Blalock
Robert Bourne
Angie Bolton
Steve Brady
Sally Brooking
The Brooks Family
David Brown
Roger Buerki
Matthew Bush
Edward Cammann
George Camp
Sharon Camp
Jamie Cint
Annette Clark
Ryan Coover
Cody Cox
Candice Crawford
Sally Creel
Todd Crew
Gary Cross
Preston Crutchley
Vicki Culbreth
Janet Dalton
Jesus Danila
Jamal Davidson
Gretchen Davis
Jaap DeRoode
Gloria deVarenes
Suzanne Dlugosz
Dan Domanik
Ric & Sharon Donato
Darcy Douglas
Patricia and Juliette Dufina
Brian Duke
Lindsey and Justin Dunnahoo
Jeremy Eaves
Lawrence Elery
Lisa Ellison
Alyson Epp

Katey Evans
Norm Fagge
Karen Faucett
Erin Feichtner
Michael Fluker
Mike Friedlander
Amy Frost
Jeff Fulton
Denise Gadd
Juan Garcia-Sanchez
Karen Garland
Christy Garvin
Katie Gaudette
Carolyn Gentry
Sylvia Gerbovaz
Connie Ghosh
Alicia Giddens
Frank Gipson
Christy Goss
Johnny Glover
Kristina Ha
Stacey Haire
Phillip Hannaford
Terrilyn Hannah
Melanie Hansel
Harold Harbert
Emily Harper
Lallie Hayes
Don Hicks
Bill Higgins
The Higgins Family
Jerry Hightower
Larry Hill
Rick Hitchcock
Jeff Hite
Zeb Holcomb
Kim Holland
Glenn Holley
Aaron Howard
Allison Hughes
John Huth
Hillary Hutto
John Irungu
Kwabena Jackson
Ken Jacob
Emily Jacobson
Nick Jokay
The Jones Family
Judy Jones
Mike Kahle
Rebecca Kapala
Monica Kilpatrick
Priscilla King
Anne Kirk
Suzzannah Kolbeck
Melissa Kory
Hayden Lankford
Steve Lawton
Jesse LeBoeuf

Eric Lee
Stephanie Lewis
Simon Locke
Carla Loosier
Marc Lozier
Joe Lukas
Pat Madden
Holly Martin
Frank Marmurowicz
Joseph Marshall
Linda May
Tom Mayuga
Jason McCoy
Steve McCullers
Reeve McNamara
Germain Medina
Jennifer Mercure
Susan Meyers
Erin Milton
Diane Minick
Deante Monroe
Lois and Nancy Morrison
Tara Muenz
Sarah and Stephen Murray
Cindy Nablo
Larissa Nachman
Tamera Neal
Rita Neely
Kiera Nelson
Frank Nederhand
Connie Nelson
Steve Nestor
Travis Neumuller
Kathy Nguyen
Robert Norton
Carina O'Bara
Michael O'Shield
Isabel Ott
Ben and Sarah Overstreet
Sharon Parry
Seema Patyi
Angela Payne
Sabrina Pemberton-Piper
Mike Petelle
Hollie Peterson
Tim Phillips
Ed Plansker
Brad Plumley
Johnny Plunkett
Diane Powell
Rita Powers
David Price
Carolyn Pusey-Wade
Denny Rhodes
Eddie Rhodes
Marvin Richards
Charles Roebuck
Debra Roman
Nikeya Savala

Daryl Sawyer
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Charles Scott
Andrea Searles
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Pradip Shah
Karen Shaw
Steve Shelton
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Alonso Simmons
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Rusty Simpson
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Dennis Smith
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Roberta Smith
Sharon Smith
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Fran Sommerville
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Jamie Stones
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Sue Sturges
Pam Subalusky
Adam Sukenick
Cornelius Tarver
Ryan Taylor
Silvia Tenenbaum
Chris Tenore
Mary Terry
Dave Thomas
Susie Throop
Taylor Tolbert
Angie Trujillo
C.J. Turner
David Tyler
Martin Vargas
Timmy Vaughn
Jason Vo
Bryan Waggoner
Wayne Waldrip
Morning Washburn
Michael Watson
Charles Wells
Eric Whitaker
Michael Williams
Jason Witter
Jeanine Whitmire
Kaye Wilson
Robert Woody
David Zandstra
Cynthia Zappitello

... And to anyone
we inadvertently
forgot!

Our Team

The Watershed Stewardship Program is housed in the Water Quality Laboratory
of the Cobb County Water System's Environmental Compliance Division.

Jennifer McCoy, Program Coordinator

Jennifer has worked for Cobb County since 2000 as an environmental educator and as an environmental compliance inspector. She has also worked as a naturalist at a nature center, an instructor at a science museum, and a biologist for an environmental consultant, contributing over 15 years of professional experience to our team.

Education:

Master of Public Administration, Kennesaw State University, 2011

Master of Science (Ecological Teaching and Learning), Lesley University, 2007

GIS Certificate, Kennesaw State University, 2000

Bachelor of Science in Biology, Kennesaw State University, 1997

Facilitator Certifications: Project WET, Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, Monarchs in the Classroom, Leopold Education Project, Native Waters, Native Seasons, Biodiversity Basics, Healthy Water Healthy People, Adopt-A-Stream Chemical/Biological/Bacteria Trainer

Rachel Small, Environmental Programs Specialist

Rachel joined our team in spring 2011. Her training is in wildlife biology and secondary science education. She has worked as a science educator with school children, with USDA Forest Service, and at a nature center.

Education:

Secondary Science Education Certification, University of Georgia, 2010

Master of Science (Forest Resources), University of Georgia, 2009

Certificate (Conservation Ecology/Sustainable Development), University of Georgia, 2009

Bachelor of Science (Wildlife Biology), University of Georgia, 2007

Facilitator Certifications: Project WET, Project Learning Tree, Project WILD,

Adopt-A-Stream Chemical/Biological/Bacteria Trainer

Educator Certifications: Monarchs in the Classroom and Healthy Water Healthy People

Mike Kahle, Environmental Programs Specialist

Mike joined our team in October 2011 as a part-time educator. He has previously worked as Program Coordinator with The Nature Conservancy and as a Naturalist with both the Orange County Department of Education in California and Chattahoochee Nature Center.

Education:

Bachelor of Science (Geography), University of Nevada, 2008

Facilitator Certifications: Adopt-A-Stream Chemical/Bacteria Trainer

Educator Certifications: Project WET, Project Wild, Wonder of Wetlands, Adopt-A-Stream Biological Volunteer

Sarah Overstreet, Program Assistant

Sarah joined our team in fall 2011. Her training is in fisheries, marine biology, and aquaculture. She has gained experience in environmental education and outreach from volunteering with the Georgia Aquarium and a nature center.

Education:

Master of Natural Resources (Fisheries), University of Georgia, 2011

Bachelor of Science (Marine Biology; Aquaculture), Florida Institute of Technology, 2010

Educator Certifications: Project WET, Project WILD, Adopt-A-Stream Chemical Volunteer

Hope Stewart, Program Assistant

Hope joined the WSP team in the fall of 2011, as an educator performing our water quality puppet show. She has worked as an exhibit interpreter at a zoo and a nature center, as a researcher for a nature show, and as a curriculum writer.

Education:

Bachelor of Science (Environmental and Natural Resources), Clemson University, 2010

Educator Certifications: Project Learning Tree



Connecting Community to Local Ecology
www.cobbstreams.org

Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory
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JoAnn Birrell, *District Three*

G. Woody Thompson, *District Four*

David Hankerson, *County Manager*

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