During the 2020-2021 reporting year, 24,131 community members participated in CCWS Communications & Education programs.

Volunteer Programs:
522 participants,
879 training hours,
2,520 volunteer service hours

Community Programs:
10,321 participants, 131 hours

School Programs:
13,288 students, 248 instruction hours

This report summarizes Cobb County Water System’s efforts to educate the community about issues impacting local water quality & conservation, to foster good habits and responsible behaviors, and to promote an ethic of respect for and a connection to our natural resources.
Cobb County Water System's Communications & Education Division works to support and protect the community by educating residents on practices to improve the quality of life for themselves and future generations. The activities and events facilitated by staff members are designed to fulfill Cobb County Water System's education requirements as outlined by the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.

Vision

We envision a community in which all residents and businesses value our water resources, upholding with integrity their responsibility for water quality, conservation, and environmental health.

Mission

Our mission is to engage and educate the Cobb community, providing them with the knowledge, opportunities, and resources to implement responsible water practices that protect and conserve our water resources.

Message From Communications & Education Division (CED) Staff

Fluctuation and flexibility were the threads that linked every aspect of our programming these past twelve months. In adapting to social distancing requirements, our staff has had the opportunity to create a virtual studio and develop expertise in delivering virtual programs as a new way to connect with our community.

This past year was a time for our staff to turn the corner into a new way of delivering water conservation and pollution prevention education to the Cobb County community. We mastered new ways to create and deliver our messages, meet our goals, and fulfill our mission. Reflecting on how our program participants have responded and continued to engage with us via live webinars and trainings, recorded videos, and hybrid in-person/virtual workshops has confirmed the pertinence of the outreach and education programs we provide. We look forward to utilizing these virtual aspects to augment, rather than replace, our in-person engagement as we return to more traditional means of outreach.

Among the many things reinforced during this year of challenge is that ensuring quality service takes a village of hard workers and supportive leadership. While we know water services are an essential function, COVID-19 shined light on the critical role of every job within the Water System. As a result, the messaging and content of our programs shifted focus beyond the core stewardship, pollution prevention, and resource conservation efforts directed at customer behavior. Adapting our outreach to encompass broader messaging and utilizing an approach that represents all aspects of utility operations served to highlight staff efforts to provide safe drinking water and critical sanitation services during the pandemic. As we start to return to "normal" community activities, we intend to continue providing insight into our utility operations and water infrastructure maintenance role. Communicating ongoing efforts CCWS employees make every day to contribute to a healthy community, including protecting the many miles of waterways and pipes that connect our neighborhoods, is now imbedded in our routine. This inclusive perspective provides our customers with a better understanding of the services and resources involved in delivering water, wastewater, and stormwater services to the community as well as the collective responsibility we all have in protecting water sources and natural areas both upstream and downstream of ourselves.

- The Communications & Education Division
## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY BY WATERSHED

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<th>Watershed</th>
<th>Water Quality Monitoring</th>
<th>Waterway Clean-ups</th>
<th>Storm Drain Marking</th>
<th>Privet Pulls &amp; Other Invasives Removal</th>
<th>Community Education</th>
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*2020-2021 Annual Report*
VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Cobb County Water System facilitates ongoing volunteer opportunities throughout the year including providing the training and tools needed to be a monitoring volunteer. During the 2020-2021 reporting year, 522 volunteer participants gave 2,520 hours of volunteer service.

We estimate the value of Cobb's volunteer watershed stewards to be $67,460*

*Based on the current estimated value of volunteer time in Georgia ($26.77 published by Independent Sector).

Adopt-A-Stream Bacterial Monitoring
45 volunteers trained, 319 monitoring events, 259 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 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.

Adopt-A-Stream Chemical Monitoring
124 volunteers trained, 697 monitoring events, 862 service hours
Chemical monitoring consists of collecting 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 Macroinvertebrate Monitoring
12 volunteers trained, 16 monitoring events, 98 service hours
Participants monitor the population and diversity of benthic macroinvertebrates 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 macroinvertebrate monitoring are required to attend a certification workshop, adopt their waterway site, and commit to monitoring once per quarter.

Adopt-A-Stream Visual & Getting Started Monitoring
36 volunteers trained, 19 monitoring events, 136 service hours
Volunteers learn how to use maps to delineate and assess their watershed. Land use and impervious surface are discussed as it pertains to the watershed survey data forms. The second half of the workshop is spent at a stream conducting the visual stream survey and learning how to do a stream cross-section and calculate flow.

Amphibian Monitoring
17 volunteers trained, 46 monitoring events, 65 service hours
The Amphibian Monitoring Program resumed this season with training workshops and hikes. The program includes frogs, salamanders, and utilizes 5 monitoring stations. Participants can either be casual observers and submit to the "Cobb County Group" on the iNaturalist App or be certified monitoring volunteers, checking on monitoring stations at various Cobb County Parks.

Cleans
127 volunteer participants, 112 events*, 279 service hours
Cobb County asks residents to help clean local waterways and raise awareness about water health. Scout groups, church groups, schools, and homeowner associations across the county are provided with gloves, bags, and planning assistance throughout the year to encourage trash removal efforts. *Calculation includes GA AAS's volunteer reporting of cleanup activities during monitoring events. 97 small collection events were recorded via this mechanism.

Amphibian Monitoring
17 volunteers trained, 46 monitoring events, 65 service hours
The Amphibian Monitoring Program resumed this season with training workshops and hikes. The program includes frogs, salamanders, and utilizes 5 monitoring stations. Participants can either be casual observers and submit to the "Cobb County Group" on the iNaturalist App or be certified monitoring volunteers, checking on monitoring stations at various Cobb County Parks.
Internships and Mentorships

2 volunteer participants, 212 service hours
CED hosted two student mentorships during the fall of 2020. One from Wheeler High School, the second student from Kennesaw Mountain High School. Duties included monitoring multiple sites along the same stream (Allatoona and Sope) assisting with community outreach events such as Rain Barrel Make & Takes, and working in the Wildlife & Rain Garden. The student from Kennesaw Mountain presented her project at Adopt-A-Stream's Annual Conference poster session.

Outreach Volunteers

32 participants, 6 events, 299 service hours
This year we trained and congratulated the inaugural cohort of volunteers. Each participant completed a total of 9 hours of required training, providing a foundation of understanding on conservation, stewardship, pollution prevention, and the services that Cobb Water provides. With this knowledge, Outreach Volunteers will engage and educate fellow residents, extending the reach of our community engagement.

Privet Pulls & Other Invasives Removal

28 participants, 5 events, 54 service hours
The removal of invasive privet has become a popular stewardship project, especially with older students seeking community service hours. Volunteers seeking to organize a project are asked to complete a project proposal, identifying the site location and vegetative waste disposal plan. CED assists by providing tools and logistical support. In addition, we are working with GA Native Plant Society and Cobb County Parks to help recruit volunteers for ongoing privet removal efforts at Heritage Park along Nickajack Creek.

Stewardship Demonstration Sites

Wildlife & Rain Garden
47 volunteer participants, 29 events, 94 service hours
Community volunteers continue to assist 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 experience. In the garden, weekly project days, currently every Thursday morning, provide a consistent opportunity for those interested in helping.

At the stream project, work days are conducted as needed to control kudzu. Participants also learn about stormwater pollution prevention and stewardship practices.

Storm Drain Marking

45 volunteer participants, 13 events, 466 drains marked, 89 service hours
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, gloves, garbage bags, and education materials.

Volunteer Challenge

This program was on hold due to Covid-19
Our partnership with the National Park Service in intended to incentivize service project participation. We plan to continue offering the Chattahoochee Challenge in the 2021-2022 school year.

2021 Volunteer Appreciation & Stewardship Fair
Postponed due to COVID-19
The Volunteer Appreciation & Stewardship Fair is a data-sharing event that showcases volunteer projects. Volunteer groups are invited to create a display and share their initiatives during the event. Participants are encouraged to tour the Water Quality Laboratory, Stewardship Awards are presented, and certificates recognizing volunteers for 5, 10, and 15 years of service are awarded. We will resume this event next reporting year.
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<th>WATERSHED</th>
<th>GROUP</th>
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WATERSHED | GROUP | # SITES | District | YEAR INITIATED | ACTIVITY TYPE |
---|---|---|---|---|---|
Allatoona Creek | Kahle | 6 | U | 2010 | CH, BAC, CL, PP, AM |
Allatoona Creek | Richard's Creek | 1 | I | 2014 | CH, CL |
Allatoona Creek | Michael Marshall | 1 | I | 2020 | CH, BAC |
Allatoona Creek | Lauren's Thalweg | 1 | I | 2020 | CH |
Allatoona Creek | John Keiler | 1 | I | 2020 | CH |
Allatoona Creek | A Stultz | 4 | 1 | 2020 | CH, BAC, VS, CL |
Allatoona Creek | Stewardship Program | 2 | 1 | 2016 | CL, SD, PP |
Allatoona Creek | Keaton's Water Quality Team | 2 | 1 | 2021 | CH |
Allatoona Creek | Dominion Christian School | 1 | 1 | 2017 | CH, BAC, MAC |
Allatoona Lake | Beving on Allatoona | 1 | 1 | 2018 | CH, BAC |
Allatoona Lake | KSU | 1 | 1 | 2020 | SD |
Butler Creek | Butler Creek Kennesaw | 2 | 1 | 2009 | CH, BAC, CL |
Butler Creek | Kahle | 1 | 1 | 2020 | CH, BAC |
Butler Creek | Target Streamers | 1 | 1 | 2019 | CH |
Lake Acworth | George Aycock | 2 | 1 | 2014 | CH |
Lake Acworth | Cobb Progressives Earth First | 1 | 1 | 2017 | CH, BAC, CL |
Noonday Creek | Anita Wender | 1 | 3 | 2020 | SD |
Noonday Creek | Angie's NE Cobb Streams | 1 | 3 | 2018 | CH, CL |
Noonday Creek | DAR | 2 | 3 | 2016 | SD |
Noonday Creek | Stewardship Program | 3 | 3 | 2017 | CL, TB, SD, PP, AM |
Noonday Creek | Garden School of Marietta | 1 | 3 | 2018 | CH |
Noonday Creek | Cobb Progressives Earth First | 1 | 3 | 2017 | CH, BAC, CL |
Proctor Creek | Stewardship Program | 1 | 1 | 2015 | CL |
Proctor Creek | Cobb Progressives Earth First | 1 | 1 | 2017 | CH, BAC, CL |
Proctor Creek | Butler Creek Kennesaw | 1 | 1 | 2020 | CH, BAC |
Proctor Creek | Good Guy Greg | 1 | 1 | 2020 | CH |
Rubes Creek | McCleskey Middle School | 1 | 3 | 2006 | CL |
Rubes Creek | Connie Ghosh | 1 | 3 | 2006 | CH, BAC, CL |
Rubes Creek | David Zandstra Group | 1 | 3 | 2008 | CH, BAC |
Rubes Creek | Stewardship Program | 1 | 3 | 2012 | PP |
Activity Type Key
- AM: Amphibian Monitoring
- BAC: Adopt-A-Stream Bacteria Monitoring
- CH: Adopt-A-Stream Chemical Monitoring
- CL: Cleanup
- MAC: Adopt-A-Stream Macroinvertebrate Monitoring
- PP: Privet Pull & Other Invasives Removal
- SD: Storm Drain Marking
- TB: Tabling Event
- VS: Adopt-A-Stream Visual Monitoring
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CCWS develops and teaches free ecological education programs for community members throughout the year, offering lifelong learning opportunities to our residents. During the 2020-2021 reporting year, CED staff reached 10,321 individuals via 122 events, providing 131 contact hours. Displays were paused for the reporting year.

### Summary of Community Engagement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District 1</th>
<th>District 2</th>
<th>District 3</th>
<th>District 4</th>
<th>Water Lab</th>
<th>K vo</th>
<th>d’oë</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of events</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of people</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>1,018</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>8,341</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chatthoochee River National Recreation Area Partnership

125 tires = $625

329 participants*

As in previous years, we offer the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area (CRNRA) tire disposal services for all tires removed from the river and contributing tributaries within the Cobb County jurisdiction. National Park Service delivers the tires to our waste transfer station and Cobb County Water System pays the disposal fees for the transaction. In partnership with CRNRA, a virtual field trip program series was developed and offered to schools in Cobb County and throughout the state of Georgia. *Cobb County student numbers are recorded in School Programs & Accomplishments. Participant numbers reported above include non-Cobb County students.

Community Partners for Healthy Streams

338 listeners

In person assessments were paused in March of 2020 due to Covid-19. CED created a widely accessible and engaging podcast series aimed to provide business owners, supervisors, and property managers ideas on cost effective best management practices. Once a month, the CPHS Podcast publishes a new episode on a new topic, which listeners can tune in to 7 popular platforms like YouTube, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and more.

### Community Programs and Tabling Events

In addition to facilitating public programs, CED staff accept invitations to speak to community clubs, partner for community program presentations, and table at community events. This year we fulfilled requests for talks on water conservation, amphibians, snakes, and Adopt-A-Stream from local clubs and civic organizations. Two new workshop series were held this year. The Water World Series partnered with Cobb County Extension for four workshops on water conservation, Water 101, water laws and legislation, and pollution prevention. A second series partnered with an AAS volunteer to present Our Stream Stories: Using Photography for Storytelling.

CED set up a display and spoke to community members during the Cobb County Master Gardner Annual Plant Sale. All other displays and tabling events that we traditionally attend were cancelled for this reporting year.

### Family and Library Programs

Staff continued to offer, at reduced capacity, events for youth and families. Six Fairy Habitat events and four Amphibian Hikes were conducted throughout the reporting year. Summer camps were halted for summer of 2020. During June, July, and August of 2020, the CED partnered with Cobb County’s Library System for their virtual summer reading program. The theme was Myths and Legends. Staff presented a Magical Dragons & Mystical Stones program, focusing on the importance of water conservation and pollution prevention to 3 area libraries. One additional library program was presented in May of 2021, focusing on pet waste for the summer 2021 Tails & Tales theme.

### Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) Education

1,800+ households*

CED continues to promote FOG education as a content area during our Water 101 program and distribute our FOG fact sheet through the storm drain marking program. FOG education factsheets were also distributed in three targeted neighborhood distributions where sewage overflows caused by FOG occurred. In addition, we implemented our annual holiday FOG campaign in November, reaching community members via Cobb County’s CobbLine newsletter and on social media. *Data reported as events only.

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COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Reduction, Community Recycling, and Medication Disposal

Recycling from 700 households*
Medication from 248 households*

Several efforts are implemented to educate Cobb County residents on hazards in the home including disposal events. Organized in partnership with Keep Cobb Beautiful (KCB), over one thousand households participated in Cobb County's HHW Amnesty Day on October 31, 2020. KCB facilitated two pharmaceutical disposal locations, held on April 24, 2021. 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. KCB also hosted multiple Community Recycling Events where residents were provided an opportunity to recycle textiles, scrap metal, and electronics (for a fee). Collection totals include approximately 17.3 tons of metal and 5.01 tons of electronics.

*LData not included in our participant totals.

Lunch & Learns

103 participants

In response to common questions and concerns about various topics related to water quality, pollution prevention, water conservation, and other relevant topics, CED presents monthly Lunch & Learns. During this reporting year, all Lunch & Learns were presented virtually, usually on the last Friday of the month from 12-12:45. Several sessions were successfully recorded and are available on YouTube.

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Partnership

Due to Covid-19, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield (KenMo) transitioned their summer camp program to a virtual format. CED produced pre-recorded educational videos were shared as part of KenMo's summer camp activities. CED is currently partnering with KenMo on development of a middle and high school age virtual tour of sites throughout KeMo that will include historical and ecological locations and topics.

Pet Waste Education Initiatives

48 participants

This reporting year, CED staff promoted the Pick It Up Pals Pledge Program through social media campaigns, increasing pet owner awareness of the pollution problems associated with pet waste. We also continue to support volunteer E. coli testing, distribute pet waste education materials (approx. 2,000 brochures) during storm drain marking projects, and explicitly discuss proper pet owner stewardship during our What Is A Watershed? school outreach programs.

Professional Presentations and Partnerships

456 participants

CED staff routinely provide expertise and support at conferences, professional development meetings, and seminars. In the 2020-2021 reporting year, we presented at several events including the Alliance for Water Efficiency Webinar Series, SEEA Annual Conference, NAAEE Annual Conference, NPDES Institute, WaterFirst, Cobb County School System's In Service Workshop, The Metro North Georgia Water Planning District Education TCC, Cobb County Parks & Recreation staff development, and Georgia Association of Water Professionals Spring Conference. Classroom teacher-focused event numbers noted on page 14, under professional development for educators, are included in community engagement numbers.

Rain Barrel Make & Takes

82 participants

In this free workshop, participants build their own rain water harvesting barrel (donated by Coca-Cola Bottling) using power tools and provided supplies. This year, due to Covid-19, we reduced participant capacity for each rain barrel workshop, but added a second session each day to lessen that impact. We also required each participant to bring an adult helper with them to the workshop. This resulted in an increased number of workshops and participants, with 18 events facilitated, but only 55 barrels produced and distributed.

Senior Programs

21 participants

Despite Senior Centers being closed for the majority of the reporting year, we were able to present two programs, one virtual and one in-person, both focused on amphibians.

Septic Tank Education

*13 participants

In conjunction with MNGWPD's septic-focused campaign during Pollution Prevention/Septic Smart Week, the third week of September, we included EPA's septic system education materials in our social media postings. We also presented septic maintenance content as a community Lunch & Learn topic that month. *Data included in Lunch & Learn numbers.
Toilet Rebate Program                1,589 Residential Toilets Replaced
$158,900 Residential Rebates Awarded

One of the biggest water users in the home is the toilet. Up to 30% of the water used indoors may be flushed
down the drain every day. CCWS manages a toilet rebate program for single-family and commercial properties
in Cobb County built in 1992 or earlier. Single-family residential customers receive a $100.00 rebate applied as a
credit on the water bill. The rebate is available for up to 3 toilets per property. The rebate is applied as a credit
on the property's water bill.

T-shirt Design Contest (Suspended due to COVID)
0  participants

Since 2002, CCWS has partnered with local graphic design professors
to incorporate a real-world project for students into their course
curriculum. This year, a previously submitted non-winning entry was
selected. The design, featured on the 2021-2022 volunteer t-shirt,
was inspired by the quote
"Look deep into nature, and then you
will understand everything better" by Albert Einstein. The artist,
Kennesaw State University Fine Arts and Graphic Communications
graduate Emily Seed, received a $200 gift card for her artwork.

Video Productions
544 views

The CED team continues to produce educational videos including
publishing a new Imagine A Day Without Water video on 10/20/20
and a new episode of Eco-Logical: Tips to Reduce Your Footprint
focused on illicit discharge. In addition, we published three short
instructional videos on checking your toilet for leaks, finding sneaky
leaks, and navigating CCWS's new website and online payment
system. All are available to view on YouTube.

Water Reclamation Facility Tours (Suspended due to COVID)
0  participants

In-person Water Reclamation Facility tours were suspended during this reporting year. CED is currently working
on producing a Water Reclamation Facility Tour video. This video will allow those unable to visit the WRF and
groups too large for an in-person tour to receive a first-hand experience learning about the wastewater treatment
process at one of our Water Reclamation Facilities. The video will explain the wastewater treatment process
from the moment raw wastewater enters the facility to when it eventually exits to a nearby water source.

waterSmart Event Receptions      70  participants

Each waterSense Art contest culminated in a celebratory virtual reception honoring the winners and revealing
the winning artwork. For our Middle School calendar contest, all entries were displayed online in a virtual gallery.
Middle School calendar contest winners and Elementary School coloring book winners were celebrated during a
virtual reception, attended with their family, friends, and teachers. During the event winning submissions were
unveiled and previously recorded videos of the winners were shown. For our High School photography contest,
all submissions were displayed in an online gallery and they were celebrated by their individual schools.

Wildlife & Rain Garden Demo Site/Water Quality Lab Programming/Tours          15  participants*

While the demonstration gardens at Cobb's Water Quality Lab are always open for visitors, we do organize and
facilitate guided tours and programs with age appropriate content developed for PreK-Senior adult audiences.
The garden is also utilized by the Cobb County Extension Services for their community and professional training
workshops throughout the year. *Only participant numbers for CCWS-facilitated events are reflected in our totals.
Watershed Profiles and Signage

The watershed profile project, creating narratives that provide history, statistics, and points of interest for the major watersheds in Cobb County, was suspended this year. We plan to utilize student interns in 2021-2022 to develop these resources. Our signage program, in cooperation with Cobb County DOT, installs watershed and stream name signage at Adopt-A-Stream locations across the county, is backlogged. Only 6 new signs were installed this year because the metal blanks used to make the signs have been on backorder. The vendor reports that this is an industry-wide issue. Once received, we will be working with DOT to produce and install the signs requested in 2020-2021. This shortage also impacted our Green Schools Program.

2020-2021 Annual Report

Internal Communication & Education Efforts

New this year, CCWS launched our Leadership Development Program. Nine participants attended the 12-week (6 sessions) course, providing 24 hours of professional development. We continued to facilitate (21 sessions) of new hire orientation, providing 60 new employees with a simplified version of our Water 101 training. We also published our monthly Operations Update with info from each division. CCWS's administrative specialist network was suspended due to COVID-19 but plans are underway to restart this effort during the summer of 2021. We continue to publish the quarterly staff newsletter, The Pipeline, and post weekly Water Professional Wednesdays recognizing the efforts of employees. Our Employee Relations Committee continues to support morale efforts for staff including recognition for promotions, milestone anniversaries, awards, and certifications. Suspended during 2020-2021, CCWS will also be re-starting monthly WRF plant tours for staff, ensuring all have an opportunity to visit a facility and learn about wastewater treatment.

Community Newsletter:

Four issues of the quarterly newsletter, Water Matters, were published this year. Approximately 1,600 paper and more than 13,000 electronic issues were distributed to our local contacts.

Social Media

The CED manages all social media efforts for CCWS, actively engaging across several platforms including: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Pinterest, YouTube, Eventbrite, and WordPress. We have started using Nextdoor Neighbor to more effectively update customers during unplanned water outages. We are in the process of developing FOG and rags messaging to be sent to communities where blockages and overflows attributed to FOG and rags are occurring. We also launched CobbAgua on Facebook last year, routinely posting Spanish content.

Websites:

www.cobbstreams.org & www.cobbwater.org

The cobbstreams.org website serves as the clearinghouse for all CED activities, providing education and promotional information to the community. Cobbstreams.org averages approximately 3,200 hits per month. The CED is also responsible for managing the main Water System website, cobbwater.org, with information about the utility, local ordinances, bill pay, and other customer services. Cobbwater.org averages 157,000 hits per month. Major updates are currently underway on www.cobbwater.org for the compliance and stormwater sections. We are also planning to update www.cobbstreams.org, adding a jobs section. Education about water industry careers has become a major focus as recruitment and retention concerns are impacting utilities across the industry.

Monthly Education Campaign

While our lobby re-opened in June 2020, our table-top display with giveaways was suspended due to safety concerns. However, we continued to create monthly theme-based resources communicating messaging to our customers and Cobb County residents. Lobby posters, social media banners, website highlights, and CobbLine e-newsletter features were implemented. We plan to re-start tabling efforts in June 2021 with 500 giveaway items budgeted each month for distribution via the CCWS lobby.

2020-2021 themes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Theme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Dog Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Smart Irrigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>You're the Solution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Be Septic Smart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Imagine A Day Without Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Stop the FOG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Don't Be Naughty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Commit to Good Habitats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Luv Your Pipes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Fix A Leak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Your Better Yard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

www.cobbstreams.org & www.cobbwater.org

2020-2021 Annual Report

Page 11
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 2020-2021 school year, our programs directly reached 13,288 students at 94 schools, serving 626 classrooms, and providing 203 instructional hours. We estimate the cost of this service at $20,564.

Adopt-A-Stream Bacteria Monitoring Lab (Suspended due to COVID)                  0 participants
This program explores diseases present in the U.S. and in other countries and their impact on environmental health. Students have the opportunity to practice laboratory procedures by monitoring their local environment for \textit{E. coli} and determining what levels exceed a healthy baseline.

Adopt-A-Stream Macroinvertebrate Lab (Suspended due to COVID) 0 participants
Macroinvertebrates (stream bugs) are excellent indicators of water quality. Students learn to identify and categorize aquatic insects by pollution tolerance levels to determine stream health. Data collected from monitoring is entered into the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream statewide database.

Adopt-A-Stream Overview (Suspended due to COVID) 0 participants
Students learn about stream monitoring including the basics of a visual stream survey, water testing (temperature, conductivity, pH, dissolved oxygen), bacteria monitoring, and look at common macroinvertebrates found in local streams. The program includes equipment demonstrations and can be extended to include Georgia's AAS certification process.

Adopt-A-Stream Water Chemistry Study 42 participants
Students learn how to collect water samples and perform water quality experiments including dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, and conductivity. This hands-on chemistry activity incorporates the scientific method. Data collected from monitoring is entered into the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream statewide database.

Brooke & Branch Puppet Show 3,336 participants
Brooke is a little girl who goes on a big adventure! Students 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 to help the environment.

Career Days & Science Fairs 1,504 participants
Students learn about the water industry and how Cobb County Water System works with the community. Students observe wildlife specimens, ask questions, and have the opportunity to share their personal experiences about local waterways, providing an opportunity to link positive behavior to water quality.

Children's Water Festival (Transitioned to virtual due to COVID)                        79,400 views*
Broadcasted on May 6th, the Georgia Water Live Exploration produced by Georgia Public Broadcast (GPB) provided a virtual experience for students in place of our annual in-person event. Cobb staff, in partnership with Metro N. GA Water Planning District (MNGWPD), contributed content to the production by organizing and facilitating stream monitoring techniques with students at a local stream site. *Number not included in our tally for student outreach as views included students beyond Cobb County Schools.

Summary of Public School Engagement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Elementary Schools</th>
<th>Middle Schools</th>
<th>High Schools</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td># served total</td>
<td>% served</td>
<td># served</td>
<td>% served total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobb County School District</td>
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<td>68</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Marietta School District</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Schools</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>15</td>
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</table>

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|                      |                       |               |             |       |
SCHOOL PROGRAMS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ecoregions of Georgia (Suspended due to COVID)

Georgia ranks sixth in the nation for overall species diversity, particularly due to our five distinctive ecoregions!

Students learn the characteristics and natural history facts about each ecoregion by exploring how geographical topography contributes to biological diversity.

Ecosystems & Adaptations 948 participants

Ecosystems are explored by looking at living and nonliving factors affecting interdependency, determining plant and animal adaptations and limitations, following energy as it moves through food chains and food webs, and concludes with how human impacts on the watershed can make a difference. Students examine skulls to determine the -vore type of animals, consider various ecosystems and adaptations, investigate the decomposer box, and apply knowledge with a live corn snake!

Erosion & The Hydrologic Cycle 471 participants

Erosion and Weathering - what's the difference? Students visit lab stations to study the causes and effects of erosion, weathering, and sediment deposition while discovering how these forces change the landscape and aquatic habitats. Using a wetland model, students decide how to mitigate the consequences of human impacts and how natural systems are beneficial to the hydrologic cycle.

Every Kid Outdoors (EKO) at Sibley Pond

Cobb County students 549 participants, 6 schools

Participants from outside Cobb County 329 participants, 11 schools*

Due to the suspension of in-person learning at Cobb Schools during the Fall of 2020, the EKO program transitioned to a virtual fieldtrip. CCWS took the lead on creating a toolkit of 17 videos that led participants thru the stations that are typically presented in person. Each station can be completed in one day by viewing a series of three videos that provide an introduction, an exploration, and a hands-on activity (Nature Journaling, Pond Study, Food Webs, Decomposers, and Wildlife). A welcome and closing video were also produced. After completing implementation with the 6 schools that were booked for the fieldtrip in Fall 2020, the toolkit was shared as a resource with the MNGWPD Education TCC and promoted for use with students outside of Cobb County. We hope to resume in-person field trips in 2021-2022. *Participants from outside Cobb County are included in our Community Program numbers.

Filtration Station / Clean Water lab 724 participants

Students explore water treatment by using the engineering design process to experiment with different materials and create their own water filters. Students gain a better understanding of the resources that go into treating water and the importance of conserving.

Green Schools 32 schools, 531 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, by documenting five EE activities, are recognized as Green Classrooms. When five teachers in a school participate, the school is recognized as a Green School. In 2020-2021, 19 schools achieved Gold Status (15 or more Green Classrooms) and the teachers logged over 3,124 EE hours.
Investigating Urban Streams and Ponds                  15 participants

Students visit a stream, pond, or wetland to conduct a study about water quality and habitat. Activities may include water quality testing, sampling for aquatic insects, and investigating the physical characteristics of the waterway. The group is responsible for its own transportation to the site.

Model Water Tower Competition (MWTC)                                                                         615 participants

This annual middle school competition is an interdisciplinary undertaking requiring students to design and build functioning towers. The competition is designed to provide information to youth about water resource engineering, infrastructure, water treatment, and water conservation. 35 student finalists presented 18 towers from 4 schools on April 23, 2021, facilitated virtually from the Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory.

Non-point Source Pollution & Stewardship                                         112 participants

Offered in preparation for a stewardship activity, students participate in a discussion about non-point source pollution typical of local neighborhoods. They are provided training on the purpose of and how to safely engage in stewardship practices such as picking up and educating about pet waste, storm drain marking, rain water harvesting, and waterway cleanups.

Professional Development for Educators                         85 participants*

Staff continue to facilitate educational opportunities for teachers including helping organize and present at the Annual Outdoor Learning Symposium (virtual) on October 17, 2020, Life Is A River Teacher Training, and Cobb County School System's In Service Workshop. *This data is reflected in Professional Presentations and Partnerships on page 9, not school outreach calculations.

Resource Library, Tappy Backpack & Support Services                              3 participating schools

CED loans educational resources to teachers for use in their classroom, including water testing kits, nets, curriculum activities, preserved insect specimens, and Enviroscape tabletop models. In addition, staff assist with special events including judging science fairs and sitting on certification panels.

River to River (Suspended due to COVID)                                           0 participants

Where does our drinking water come from? What happens to our water after we use it? Students explore how drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities function.

Snakes of Georgia & Their Adaptations Herps                  655 participants

Some people fear them, some are attracted to them, but almost nobody is indifferent toward snakes. How have snakes adapted to survive in their environment? Which species in Georgia are venomous and how can you tell? Most importantly, how do they benefit our ecosystem? This lab includes the use of live specimens.

Tappy Turtle's Water Cycle Puppets                                         810 participants

Students learn the basic steps of the water cycle, sing the Water Cycle Song, meet Walter the Water Drop, create stick puppets for each step of the water cycle, and discuss why water is important.

Traveling Treasure Trunk (Suspended due to COVID)                                           0 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.
Tri-State Water Wars                                     754 participants

Water is a precious resource that everyone needs. This program discusses the various human requirements of our local waters, and why it can be a contentious topic.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Tours
(Suspended due to COVID)

0 participants

What happens after the flush? Find out where our water goes by visiting one of Cobb’s four wastewater plants. Students experience visually how a wastewater treatment plant works and how cleansed wastewater is recycled back into our rivers and streams. Staff is developing a virtual tour for future use.

Water Around The World                           1,120 participants

Students explore local and global water issues such as scarcity, distribution, and water quality, learning how climate, environmental features, and society interact to compound water crises. Students are challenged to develop innovative ways to tackle these growing water issues, explore how Cobb County’s Water System operates, and learn about the roles of citizens, businesses, and government in maintaining water quality.

waterSmart Photography Contest

61 participants

High school students were invited this year to participate in the second annual waterSmart photography contest. 123 images were received. This photography contest was designed for Cobb County high school students, who not only have a passion for photography, but also a passion for our environment. Students entered photographs in six categories, with the twelve winning entries created into note cards.

waterSmart Tappy Turtle Artist Challenge

195 participants

Fourth and fifth grade students were invited to draw Tappy Turtle, Cobb Water System’s water conservation mascot, demonstrating water conservation tips. Winning designs were compiled into a coloring book that is distributed throughout the county.

waterSmart waterArt Calendar Contest

33 participants

Cobb County middle school students merge their artistic talents with their passion for water conservation in this visual 2-D art contest. Students’ creativity is encouraged while answering the question “What Water Means to Me.” 12 winning entries are created into a calendar each year.

Water/Wastewater 101: What You Need To Know About Your Water System      402 participants

Allatoona Lake and the Chattahoochee River are the sources of drinking water for Cobb residents. Students learn about the distribution and collection processes, our in-home water systems, water careers, and ways we can protect water quality before and after we use it.

What is a Watershed?                             942 participants

We all live in a watershed – upstream and downstream. During this interactive session, students use a watershed model to demonstrate the impacts of pollution on streams and lakes while learning about local water quality issues. This hands-on program reveals how everyday activities affect our drinking water and wildlife while encouraging discussion about watershed protection and pollution prevention.
As active practitioners in Georgia's environmental education community, CCWS CED partners with many organizations and our staff members serve on numerous boards and committees. These activities enrich local program offerings and ensure Cobb County remains engaged with other water and environmental professionals.

- Alliance for Water Efficiency
- Amphibian Foundation
- City of Smyrna
- Cobb County Community Development
- Cobb County DOT
- Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority
- Cobb County PARKS
- Cobb County Public Library System
- Cobb County Public Safety
- Cobb County School District
- Cobb County Senior Services
- Cobb EMC
- Coca-Cola Bottling Company
- Emory University
- Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia
- Georgia Association of Water Professionals
- Georgia EPD Outreach Unit
- Georgia Green Industry Association
- Alliance for Water Efficiency: Education & Outreach Committee
- American Water Works Association: Member
- Chattahoochee National Park Conservancy: Board of Directors - Education Committee Chair
- Council of Outdoor Learning: Steering Committee
- Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia: Executive Committee, Advisory Council Chair
- Georgia Adopt-A-Stream: Community Coordinator, Technical Advisor, Conference Planning Committee
- Georgia Assoc. of Water Professionals: Public Education Committee, H2Opportunity Chair, Diversity Committee
- Georgia No Child Left Inside Coalition: Member
- Georgia Water Wise Council: Member
- Master Gardener Volunteers of Cobb County: Project Chair, Grants Committee Member
- Monarchs Across Georgia: Steering Committee Member
- North American Association for Environmental Education: Member
- Residential Energy Services Network (RESNet) Standards Development Committee (SDC): 1100 Tech Sub Com
- Rivers Alive: Advisory Board, Chair
- Southeast Environmental Education Alliance: Leadership Team

Partnerships

- Georgia Southern University
- Keep Cobb Beautiful
- Keep Marietta Beautiful
- Keep Smyrna Beautiful
- Kennesaw State University
- Life University, Human & Ecology Program
- Marietta City Schools
- Marietta Water
- Master Gardener Volunteers of Cobb County
- Metro North Georgia Water Planning District
- National Park Service
- Vickery Hardware
- Sierra Club Cobb Centennial Group
- State Botanical Gardens of Georgia
- The Irrigation Association
- UGA Cooperative Extension
- USEPA WaterSense
... And to anyone we inadvertently forgot!
2021
- Cobb County lifts limited operations with COVID-19 safety protocols in place.
- CCWS awarded Comprehensive Education Program of Excellence from GAWP.
- WS staff receives New Trainer of the Year Award from EPD.
- WS Volunteers (Tritt Elementary) receives Excellence in Education Award.
- WS Volunteers (Lakewood Colony) receives Excellence in Data Collection Award.

2020
- Cobb County enters limited operations due to COVID-19.
- CCWS awarded Comprehensive Education Program of Excellence from GAWP.
- WS receives Watershed Award from EPD.
- CED recognizes: Janice Overbeck as Partner of the Year, Tiffany Davidson as Steward of the Year, George Aycock as AAS Volunteer of the Year.
- WE receives 2020 WaterSense® Excellence in Outreach & Promoting Labeled Products Award from EPA.

2019
- WE, WS, and Communications join to form Communication & Education Division
- WE receives 2019 WaterSense® Sustained Excellence Award from EPA.
- CCWS awarded Comprehensive Education Program of Excellence from GAWP.
- WS Volunteers (Tritt Elementary) receives Rivers Alive School of the Year Award from EPD.
- WS Volunteer group (Pope High School) receives AAS School of the Year Award from EPD.
- WS recognizes: Cobb Progressives Earth First as Watershed Group of the Year, Osborne High School as School of the Year.
- WS staff receives Trainer of the Year Award from EPD.

2018
- WE receives 2018 WaterSense® Sustained Excellence Award from EPA.
- CCWS awarded Comprehensive Education Program of Excellence from GAWP.
- WS Volunteers (Tritt Elementary) receive Rivers Alive Clean-up Award.
- WS recognizes: Eddie Richards as Garden Volunteer of the Year, Rosco Peters as New Volunteer of the Year, Richard and Nancy Cole for Excellence in Data Collection.

2017
- WE receives 2017 WaterSense® Sustained Excellence Award from EPA.
- WE receives Outstanding Drought Response STREAM Award from MNGWPD.
- WE receives Cobb EMC Partner of the Year Award.
- CCWS awarded Comprehensive Education Program of Excellence from GAWP.
- WS receives Watershed Award from EPD.
- WS Volunteer (Anne Ledbetter) receives Red Flag Award.
- WS Volunteers (ERM Atlanta) receives Nymph Award.
- WS Volunteers (Ford Elementary) receive Rivers Alive Clean-up Award.
- WS recognizes: Keep Smyrna Beautiful as Group of the Year, Keheley Elementary as School of the Year, Anne Ledbetter with a Stewardship In Action Award.

2016
- WE receives WaterSense Promotional Partner of the Year from EPA.
- WE receives Water Supply & Water Conservation Program of Excellence STREAM Award from MNGWPD.
- WS staff recognized by Cobb County Board of Commissioners for Excellence in Customer Service.
- WS Volunteer (Norm Fagge) receives Excellence in Data Collection Award.
- WS Volunteers (Pope High School) receive Rivers Alive Clean-up Award.
- WS recognizes: Norm Fagge as Volunteer of the Year, GA AAS as Partner of the Year, Sedalia Park as School of the Year, Simon Locke with a Stewardship In Action Award.

2015
- WE receives WaterSense Promotional Partner of the Year from EPA.
- WS staff receives New Trainer of the Year Award from EPD.
- WS Volunteers (Fairfax Consulting Services) receives Excellence in Data Collection Award.
- WS recognizes: Fairfax Consulting Services as Monitoring Group of the Year, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area as Partner of the Year, Daughters of the American Revolution Fielding Lewis Chapter as the Stewards of the Year.

2014
- WE receives WaterSense Promotional Partner of the Year from EPA.
- CCWS receives 2014 Best Direct Media Award for "The Thalweg" from GAWP.
- WS receives Watershed Award from EPD.
- WS staff receives New Trainer of the Year Award from EPD.
- WS receives Rivers Alive Club Award from EPD.
- WS Volunteer (Ina Allison) receives Excellence in Data Collection Award.
- WS recognizes: Ina Allison as Volunteer of the Year, Kennesaw State University School of Art and Design as Partner of the Year, Pope High as School of the Year.
2013

**2013**
- WS in partnership with KCB receives a $2000 grant for our Cigarette Litter Prevention.
- WS Volunteer (Morning Washburn) receives AAS in Action Award.
- WSP Volunteer Group (Sierra Club Centennial Group) receives Extraordinary Volunteer Watershed Effort Award.
- WSP recognizes: Simon Locke as Volunteer of the Year, David Zanstra and Ric & Sharon Donato as Monitoring Group of the Year, Lassiter High as School of the Year.

**2012**
- CCWS receives 2012 Innovative Initiative Program Award for *Eco-Logical...Tips to Reduce Your Footprint* from GAWP.
- WS Volunteer (Eric Lee) receives Excellence in Data Collection Award.
- WS recognizes: Carla Loosier as Community Organizer of the Year, Eric Lee as AAS Volunteer of the Year, Nicholson Elementary as School of the Year, Diane Powell as Rain and Wildlife Garden Volunteer of the Year.
- WS staff serves as President of EEA and receives Volunteer Service Award from EEA.

**2011**
- WE receives WaterSense Promotional Partner of the Year from EPA.
- WS staff is expanded to include additional part-time Program Assistants to perform the Brooke and Branch Puppet Show.
- WS receives Watershed Award from GA Environmental Protection Division (EPD).
- WS Volunteer (Connie Ghosh - McCleskey Middle School) receives Red Flag Award.
- WS recognizes: Amy Boggs as Community Organizer of the Year, Pam Subalusky AAS Volunteer of the Year, Tritt Elementary as School of the Year.
- WS staff serves as President of EEA.
- WS receives $5000 grant from Royal Bank of Canada for the Demonstration Rain Garden.

**2010**
- WS receives Adopt-A-Stream in Action Award from EPD for the Brooke & Branch Puppet Show.
- WS staff receives Georgia Project WET 2009 Facilitator of the Year.
- WS recognizes: The Donnelly Family as Storm Drain Markers of the Year, Ric and Sharon Donato as Anuran Monitors of the Year, Terri Tornroos as AAS Volunteer of the Year, Walton High as School of the Year.

**2009**
- Historical flooding in Cobb County.
- WE receives WaterSense Promotional Partner of the Year from EPA.
- WS staff recognized by Cobb County Board of Commissioners for Excellence in Customer Service.
- WS Volunteers (Tim Phillips and Stacey Haire) receives Excellence in Data Collection Award.
- WS staff receives 2008 Monarch Across GA Service Award.
- WS recognizes: Girl Scout Troop 21 as Storm Drain Markers of the Year, Connie Ghosh as Anuran Monitor of the Year, Tim Phillips and Stacey Haire as AAS Volunteers of the Year.

**2008**
- WS receives Watershed Award from EPD.
- WS Volunteer (Didi Johnson) receives Outstanding Outreach and Partnership Award.
- WS staff receives Teaching Conservation Facilitator of the Year from GA Conservancy.
- WS staff recognized by Rivers Alive for Most Cleanups Attended.
- WS recognizes Didi Johnson as AAS Volunteer of the Year.

**2007**
- Georgia declares Level 5 Drought.
- WS & WE staffs are expanded to include part-time Program Assistants.
- WE receives Fox McCarthy Award from GAWP.
- AAS changes name to Watershed Stewardship (WS).
- AAS receives Adopt-A-Stream in Action Award, for Our Color Your Watershed Mural Grant Program from EPD.
- AAS Volunteer (Judy Cox - Dodgen Middle School) receives Outstanding Outreach Award.
- WS recognizes Judy Cox as AAS Volunteer of the Year.

**2006-2001**
- CCWS receives Public Education Award from GAWP (2006).
- CCWS Demonstration Rain Garden is certified as a Back Yard Wildlife Habitat, a Monarch Waystation, and a Pollinator Garden (2006).
- CCWS is designated as a WaterFirst Community (2005).
- Cobb Water Efficiency (WE) Program Coordinator is hired and program is launched (2005).
- AAS staff is expanded to two full-time employees (2005).
- AAS receives Rivers Alive: Outstanding Large Cleanup Award (2005).
- Demonstration Rain Garden is installed (2004).
- AAS receives Watershed Award from EPD (2004).
- AAS Volunteer (Greg Linton) receives Excellence in Data Collection Award (2004).
- Georgia experiences historic drought (2002).
- AAS receives Outstanding Outreach and Partnership Award from EPD (2002).
- CCWS receives Public Education Award from GAWP (2002).
- AAS Program Coordinator is hired and program is launched (2001).
REFLECTIONS

We encourage participation in experiential learning and community service.

We continue to facilitate community workshops, tabling events, and teacher trainings.

What Do We Have to Offer?

**Environmental Science**
- Watersheds 101
- Stream Monitoring Training
- Chemical & Bacterial
- Amphibians & Reptiles of GA

**Water & Society**
- Water 101
- Water/Wastewater 101
- Water Careers from GED to PhD

**Human-Environmental Interactions**
- Tri-State Water Wars
- Water Around the World
Programs with our local school systems teaching about local wildlife, water conservation, and ecology.

We continue to organize community service projects and pet waste pollution prevention programs.
Jennifer McCoy, Communications & Education Division Manager

Jennifer has worked for Cobb County since 2000 as an environmental educator and as an environmental compliance inspector. Her work as a naturalist at a nature center, an instructor at a science museum, and a biologist for an environmental consultant contributes over 20 years of professional experience to our program.

Education:
- Master of Public Administration, Kennesaw State University, 2011
- Master of Science (Ecological Teaching & Learning), Lesley University, 2007
- Certificate (Geographic Information Systems), Kennesaw State University, 2000
- Bachelor of Science (Biology), Kennesaw State University, 1997


Mike Kahle, Watershed Stewardship Supervisor

Mike joined our team in October 2011, initially as a part-time educator. He previously worked as program coordinator with The Nature Conservancy and as a naturalist with the Orange County Department of Education in California and Chattahoochee Nature Center.

Education:
- Bachelor of Science (Geographical Sciences), University of Nevada, 2008

Certifications: Project WET, Wild & Project Learning Tree Facilitator, Monarchs In the Classroom Trainer, Adopt-A-Stream Chemical/Macroinvertebrate/Bacteria Trainer, Master Gardener, Trail Crew Leader, Certified Interpretive Guide, MS4 Compliance & Enforcement Certified Inspector

Aminta Liu, Water Efficiency Program Specialist (Part Time)

Aminta joined our team in April, 2019. After completing her undergraduate degree at Cornell University, she spent three years working as an environmental health inspector specializing in lead poisoning prevention and integrated pest management for New York City's Department of Health & Mental Hygiene.

Education:
- Bachelor of Arts (Biology & Society), Cornell University, 2015

Certifications: EPA Licensed Lead Risk Assessor, Adopt-A-Stream Chemical Volunteer

Angie Marcus, Water Efficiency Supervisor

Angie joined our team in July 2015. Her background includes work in youth counseling as well as environmental education with Virginia 4-H and Learning Tree Farms.

Education:
- Master of Social Work (Family & Children), Kennesaw State University, 2014
- Master of Education (Outdoor Education Administration), Georgia College & State University, 2000
- Bachelor of Arts (Sociology), Lenoir-Rhyne University, 1997


Kristina Ha, Communications Specialist

Kristina has worked for the Water System since 2008, serving primarily as Cobb Water's Webmaster. In addition to website management, she oversees graphic design for marketing and education materials.

Education:
- Bachelor of Fine Arts (Interior Design), Georgia State University, 1999
- Associate of Fine Arts (Multimedia Web and Graphic Design), the Art Institute of Atlanta, 2001 (56 hours completed)

The Communications & Education Division includes staff from three units: Communications, Water Efficiency, and Watershed Stewardship.

OUR TEAM
Laurelle Panchoo, Water Efficiency Program Leader (Part Time)
Laurelle joined our team in July of 2019 and is coordinating the Brooke and Branch puppet show. Her background is in illustration and brand development. She has experience teaching art and social skills to children and individuals with special needs. She has also spent time teaching STEAM lessons to elementary students.

Education:
Bachelor of Fine Arts (Illustration and Design), Art Institute of Atlanta, 2011

Brandi Wright, Water Efficiency Program Assistant (Seasonal Part Time)
Brandi joined our team in fall of 2019 helping facilitate the Brooke and Branch puppet show. Her background includes teaching, tutoring, and customer service.

Education:
Bachelor of Arts (History), Georgia State University, 2004

Chrissy Rubel, Watershed Stewardship Program Specialist
Chrissy has worked for Cobb County since 2017 as a water conservation specialist and environmental educator. She specializes in sustainability consulting and education, previously working with Kennesaw State and Georgia Tech to improve their sustainability curriculum and outreach.

Education:
Bachelor of Arts (Theatre & Performance Studies/Minor Enviro Sciences/Sustainability), Kennesaw State University (2016)

Virma Vélez, Communications & Education Division Administrative Specialist
Virma has worked at Cobb Water since 2018 and joined our team in 2020. She has years of experience working with children and youth in outdoor and classroom settings. Virma translates valuable information that goes out to our community and provides assistance to our environmental educators at events and classes, including the Model Water Tower competition.

Education:
Master of Arts (Communications - Writing), Universidad del Sagrado Corazón, 2015
Bachelor of Arts (Communications - Public Relations & Advertising), Universidad de Puerto Rico, 2011

Shaundon Moore, Watershed Stewardship Program Specialist
Shaundon joined the Watershed Stewardship program in June 2019, soon after receiving his graduate degree in Conservation Biology. His specialties lie in environmental conservation and outreach, previously serving in positions with Georgia Aquarium, Zoo Atlanta, and Hancock Biological Station in Kentucky.

Education:
Master of Science (Conservation Biology), Central Michigan University, 2018
Bachelor of Science (Biology), Valdosta State University, 2016
Certifications: Master Herpetologist, Adopt-A-Stream Chemical/Macroinvertebrate/Bacteria Trainer