



*Growing Sustainably
in Athens-Clarke County V*

*PROGRESS REPORT for 2007
RECOMMENDATIONS for 2008*

**GROWING SUSTAINABLY IN ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY V:
PROGRESS REPORT AND FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

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GROWING SUSTAINABLY IN ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY V: PROGRESS REPORT AND FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The events of 2007 have made it clear that protection of our natural resources is of critical importance for this community's health, environment, and economy. The drought crisis in particular, along with the near-capacity situation of our landfill, increasing traffic congestion on our roadways, continuing loss of tree canopy, and a growing understanding of the effects of climate change on our community, all inform us clearly that our water, open space, and air quality are under very serious threat. We must take concrete action to protect our natural resources if we are to maintain Athens-Clarke County as a healthy community.

Growing Sustainably V was compiled by representatives of 18 local environmentally-concerned citizens' organizations. The purpose of this report is to assist the Mayor & Commission in making decisions about growth and development that are fair and equitable, that protect our environment, and that reflect the community's vision.

The report describes major accomplishments as a result of Mayor and Commission or ACC staff actions during the past year, and outlines high priority issues and recommendations for M&C and staff actions for the coming year. The report includes detailed tables of previously identified and new issues, and accompanying recommendations for action. A separate table provides a list of accomplishments since 2003 (the first of five years of the *Growing Sustainably* report). A final section provides mission statements and contact information for each of the 18 participating organizations.

REQUESTED ACTIONS

Five years of *Growing Sustainably* reports have provided the Mayor & Commission with a useful look back, and a critical look ahead at local environmental issues. There is a broad consensus on the part of the 18 participating organizations that ACC should now formalize a process with regard to this annual document, including a review by ACC and a written response that would be shared with the Mayor & Commission, and with the participating organizations. This review is of particular importance, as we note with much appreciation the increasing number of accomplishments that have been initiated by ACC staff.

In addition, it is essential that we take the very immediate opportunity to address critical environmental issues by including key elements for the protection of our natural resources in the ongoing update to our Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We appreciate the input we have received from Athens-Clarke County staff, particularly regarding the list of accomplishments to date. We have also incorporated the work of the Climate Action Forum and the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Citizen Subcommittee on the Environment, as well as the work of the OneAthens Housing and Public Transportation committees.

1. MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2007

Athens-Clarke County's major environmental accomplishment in 2007 was our response to the drought emergency. Elected officials and staff provided early and effective leadership to the community, making ACC an example that other drought-stricken localities across the state would do well to emulate. Progress in other areas was, however, sparser than in previous years.

1. Climate Change

Progress has been made on making ACC government operations more energy efficient. Notably:

- *ACC adopted and is beginning to implement an Energy Conservation Policy.*
- *LEED certification: 2 buildings certified; 1 filed for certification; 2 recently completed buildings will be filed for certification; 3 planned projects registered as new LEED Projects.*
- *Program underway to replace incandescent lights and upgrade older fluorescent light fixtures with energy-efficient fluorescents. 4,000 fixtures have been replaced or upgraded since 1997.*
- *ACC replaced 2 gasoline powered pickup trucks with electric vehicles for litter collection downtown.*
- *Athens Transit has completed the replacement of ten 1999 Detroit Diesel engines with 2006 Cummins 8.3 engines, which conform to the 2006 pollution reduction requirements.*

3. Water Quality

- *Reduced waterborne wastes by 53.5 tons through recycling efforts (see Accomplishments Section 8.2).*

4. Water Supply

- *ACC elected officials and staff provided early and effective leadership in response to the drought emergency.*
- *ACC adopted a resolution in favor of fully funding the statewide water management plan and basing planning districts on watershed boundaries.*
- *ACC aggressively pursued water line leak detection and repair, reducing water lost to leaks to less than an estimated 5% (the industry standard is 10%).*

5. Natural Areas and Rural Areas

- *The Community Tree Council has initiated the Trees for Tomorrow Program providing a mechanism for people to donate funds for significant tree planting on public areas such as school grounds and rights of ways.*

6. Urban Environments

- *Gained the State Legislative Delegation's assistance in creating special tax allocation districts to enhance the funding for brownfield redevelopment.*

7. Solid Waste

- *Purchased fluorescent bulb crusher to capture and recycle glass and mercury that would otherwise end up in landfill.*
- *Recycled over 13,000 tons of paper, glass and aluminum cans.*

9. Public Participation

- *Initiated Climate Action Forum.*
- *Appointed citizen steering committee to oversee revision of Comprehensive Land Use Plan.*

2. HIGH PRIORITY ISSUES FOR 2008

A number of new issues have come to prominence over the past year, and others, previously identified, still need attention. Issues new to this list are underlined.

1. Climate Change

- Conduct an audit on energy use and greenhouse gas emissions for the entire community, including but not limited to the ACC government.
- To reduce automobile emissions and improve air quality, encourage bicycle, pedestrian and transit use by improving the safety of those who walk, cycle and use transit, through a variety of means. (PPA)
- Increase operating funds for Athens Transit. (PPA)
- Enforce traffic laws, including speed limits and pedestrian right-of-way in crosswalks, to improve safety and enable the public to use modes of transportation other than the automobile.

3. Water Quality

- Strengthen our erosion & sedimentation ordinance.
- Expand the mass grading provisions of the Zoning and Development Standards to cover more zoning categories.
- Develop an onsite wastewater (septic) system installation, maintenance and education program, and possibly an ordinance, to ensure that these systems do not contribute to water quality problems.

4. Water Supply

- Conduct county-wide water use audit; use this information to inform decisions about how much growth our water supply can accommodate.
- Enact a graywater ordinance for indoor graywater use.
- Encourage conservation with a mix of incentives (see section 4B).

5. Natural Areas and Rural Areas

- Improve riparian buffer protection. Clarify the language of the environmental areas ordinance; extend riparian buffer protection to lakes and wetlands; strengthen protections for trees within environmental areas; examine variance procedures.
- Develop, adopt, and implement a Transferable Development Rights program and other incentives for protecting greenspace.
- Develop an overlay zone for all corridors identified on the Greenway Network Plan that would establish design standards for any adjacent developments so that the viewshed and natural resources of the corridor are preserved.

7. Solid Waste

- Develop a plan to extend the life of the landfill. See Section 7 for specific suggestions.

8. Affordable Housing

- Implement the recommendations of OneAthens housing committee. (PPA)

9. Public Vision

- Use consistency with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and its Guiding Principles to guide all re-zoning and variance decisions and infrastructure planning.

3. DETAILED ISSUES AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

New entries are underlined.

1.	CLIMATE CHANGE threatens the earth’s environment, and our community is not immune from its impacts. Emissions from motor vehicles and energy production are major contributors. (See also recommendations in <i>Urban Environments, Solid Waste and Affordable Housing, below.</i>)	Type of Action
1. A	<i>Commit to policies, initiatives, and actions that address problems of climate change</i>	
1.A.1	<p><u>Commit to making ACC a “carbon neutral” community. Steps toward this goal should include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Conduct an audit on energy use and greenhouse gas emissions for the entire community, including, but not limited to, the ACC government;</u> • <u>Use this audit to set emissions reduction targets to make ACC a “carbon neutral” community;</u> • <u>Set policies to meet the targets, including incentives, disincentives and enforceable regulations;</u> • Conduct monitoring to ensure that the targets are being met. 	<p>Policy Ordinance Budget</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
1.A.2	<u>Include climate change issues and opportunities in the new Comprehensive Land Use Plan.</u>	Policy
1.A.3	<u>Review infrastructure plans and ensure that the location of new infrastructure does not exacerbate sprawl and its attendant greenhouse gas emissions; change infrastructure plans if necessary.</u>	Policy Ordinance
1.A.4	<u>Fully implement county energy conservation policy adopted in 2007.</u>	Policy Ordinance Budget
1.A.5	Implement policies of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.	Policy Ordinance Budget
1.A.6	Participate in other national efforts to educate the public and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as the <i>Cities for Climate Protection</i> program.	Policy Ordinance Budget
1.B	<i>Energy efficiency</i>	
1.B.1	<p>Promote and encourage energy-efficient lighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enact a lighting ordinance that emphasizes energy use reduction; • Encourage the use of energy-efficient lighting and appliances by individuals, businesses, and partner agencies (such as the Athens Housing Authority, etc.). 	Policy Ordinance
1.B.2	<p>Promote and encourage “green” building:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Encourage green building by private developers through requirements and incentives. Require developments over a certain size to meet LEED for Neighborhood Development standards;</u> • Compare energy use in ACC’s new LEED buildings with that in older buildings to quantify savings. 	Policy Ordinance Budget

1.C Emissions reduction		
1.C.1	Create a new Bicycle/Pedestrian/Transit Coordinator position in Transportation & Public Works to ensure that the needs of these modes of transportation are incorporated into all transportation decisions, and to seek outside funding.	Policy Budget
1.C.2	To reduce automobile emissions and improve air quality, encourage bicycle, pedestrian and transit use by <i>improving the safety of those who walk, cycle and use transit</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Design and implement safety improvements on Prince Avenue and other major corridors;</u> • <u>Support Safe Routes to School programs and initiatives;</u> • <u>Make pedestrian and cyclist safety a goal of all transportation infrastructure design;</u> • Enforce traffic laws, including speed limits and pedestrian right-of-way in crosswalks; • Reduce speed limits on main corridors and neighborhood thoroughfares, where appropriate; • Add red light cameras to major intersections where appropriate. 	Policy Ordinance Budget Ongoing (PPA)
1.C.3	To reduce automobile emissions and improve air quality, encourage transit use by <i>improving transit infrastructure</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase operating funds in ACC budget for Athens Transit; • Encourage state level legislation to provide state operating funds for Athens Transit; • Support ongoing efforts in the state legislature to implement a local option transit tax or equivalent bill; • Work on agreements with large local employers to encourage ridership; • Support the development of the “Brain Train” passenger rail service to Atlanta. 	Policy Ordinance Budget Ongoing (PPA)
1.C.4	To reduce automobile emissions and improve air quality, encourage bicycle transportation by <i>improving cycling infrastructure</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase funds in ACC budget for bicycle facilities; • Update the ACC Bicycle Master Plan; • Re-direct some funds for locally funded projects in the MACORTS Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) toward bicycle and/or pedestrian uses; • Pursue federal Transportation Enhancement funding; • Take all opportunities to implement the ACC Bicycle Master Plan and planned bicycle facilities in other Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS) plans; • Adhere to all established plans for alternative transportation infrastructure; • Encourage the addition of bike parking facilities in commercial establishments; • Attend to safety details such as repainting stripes that separate bike lanes, regularly sweeping bike lanes free of debris, positioning sewer grates perpendicular to traffic flow. 	Policy Ordinance Budget Ongoing (PPA)
1.C.5	To reduce automobile emissions and improve air quality, encourage pedestrian transportation use by <i>improving pedestrian infrastructure</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install and maintain more sidewalks; • Install and maintain more crosswalks. 	Policy Budget Ongoing (PPA)
1.C.6	Improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from county vehicles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue and expand the bio-diesel pilot program; • Replace aging county vehicles with hybrids or other clean alternative fuel vehicles when possible. 	Policy Budget Ongoing

2.	AIR QUALITY is degraded by increased auto emissions due to more cars traveling longer distances and idling in more traffic jams, by minimal standards for commercial and industrial emissions, by open burning, and by diminishment of our community’s tree canopy. Decreased air quality has public health implications, particularly for especially vulnerable groups such as children. (See also recommendations in Climate Change, above.)	Type of Action
2.A	<i>Set targets and monitor for air quality to avoid non-attainment</i>	
2.A.1	Set air quality targets to ensure that we do not move into non-attainment status under the Clean Air Act.	Policy
2.A.2	Explore establishing an air quality & health monitoring partnership with UGA and other state agencies.	Policy Budget
2.B	<i>Tree canopy protection</i>	
2.B.1	Monitor new Tree Management Ordinance and implement changes in the ordinance when necessary to achieve goals of canopy study.	Policy Ordinance Ongoing
2.B.2	Fund community forest tree cover canopy study every 5 years to provide information specific to ACC for land use planning.	Budget
2.B.3	Fund ACC Community Tree Council to educate the public regarding the need to conserve tree canopy.	Budget
2.B.4	Continue to encourage tree and/or shrub plantings along all possible driving corridors for pollution mitigation, by promoting the ACC Community Tree Council’s Trees for Tomorrow Program.	Policy Ordinance Budget Ongoing
2.C	<i>Stationary sources of air pollution</i>	
2.C.1	Consider financial incentives to encourage local industry to invest in pollution abatement technology.	Policy Budget
2.C.2	Seek opportunities to encourage alternative energy sources (e.g., solar panels).	Policy Budget
2.D	<i>Mobile sources of air pollution</i>	
2.D.1	See Climate Change recommendations, above.	Policy Ordinance Budget
2.D.2	Establish regulations to limit the use of leaf blowers, a significant source of particulate matter.	Policy Ordinance

3.	WATER QUALITY is degraded by erosion and sedimentation from land-disturbing activities, urban stormwater, run-off, stream erosion, illegal commercial, industrial and residential dumping, and leaks/failures in private septic and public wastewater treatment and distribution systems. <i>See also recommendations in Natural Areas, below.</i>	Type of Action
3.A	<i>Erosion and sedimentation control</i>	
3.A.1	Strengthen erosion & sedimentation control ordinance.	Ordinance
3.A.2	Continue to improve enforcement of erosion and sedimentation ordinance by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction of staff; • Hiring of more inspection personnel; • Training and education of all personnel involved with E&S control; • Increasing inspections and monitoring; • Education of the judiciary; • Increasing use of stop work orders when obvious and avoidable water quality violations have occurred; • Improving inter-departmental coordination to avoid issuance of certificates of occupancy until sites are stabilized; • Maintaining clear lines of responsibility between Transportation & Public Works, Building Inspections, Community Protection Division, County Attorney’s Office and Municipal Court. 	Policy Budget Ongoing
3.A.3	Collaborate with local environmental groups to effectively use trained volunteers to help monitor for E&S violations.	Policy Ongoing
3.B	<i>Mass grading</i>	
3.B.1	Develop, adopt and implement a comprehensive mass grading ordinance, applicable to all zoning categories, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimize allowable cut-and-fill by requiring that the natural contours of the site be maintained and by establishing a maximum slope that can be developed; • Require minimization of site disturbance; • Require phasing of developments; • Require stabilization of each phase before next phase can begin; • Require compliance with such provisions as turbidity limits and soils stabilization. <u>In the meantime, expand the mass grading provisions of the Zoning and Development Standards to cover more zoning categories.</u>	Ordinance
3.C	<i>Stormwater management</i>	
3.C.1	Make the following changes to the Stormwater Ordinance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require the notification of neighbors if a developer applies for a variance; • Regulate the volume, not just the flow rate, of stormwater that may leave a site post-development. 	Ordinance
3.C.2	Make changes to Zoning & Development Standards based upon the Center for Watershed Protection’s “Better Site Design” standards to improve stormwater management. <u>Encourage distributed stormwater management systems for developments.</u>	Policy Ordinance Ongoing
3.C.3	Encourage the use of permeable surfaces in site development through incentives.	Policy Ordinance Ongoing

3.C.4	Educate the public on the importance of vegetative cover on their home sites, and the effect that trees and shrubs can have in diminishing damage from rainfall and irrigation systems. Provide educational material funds to volunteer organizations who will take on this work for the County.	Policy Budget Ongoing
3.C.5	Educate the public on the importance of keeping waste out of stormwater drains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue storm drain decal program; • Develop and implement other educational activities. 	Policy Budget Ongoing
3.C.6	Implement a grease trap ordinance to protect against illegal dumping of grease into storm drains and sewers.	Ordinance
3.C.7	Curb improper use of storm drains by using new surveillance technology to detect violations.	Policy Ordinance Budget Ongoing
3.D	<i>Onsite (i.e. septic) systems</i>	
3.D.1	Develop an onsite wastewater (septic) system installation, maintenance and education program, and possibly an ordinance, to ensure that these systems do not contribute to water quality problems.	Policy Ordinance Budget
3.E	<i>Other</i>	
3.E.1.	Encourage full implementation of the Watershed Management Plan by all departments.	Policy Budget Ongoing
4.	<u>WATER SUPPLY is threatened by poor water quality, waste, and the lack of an effective and fair system for allocating limited water resources.</u>	Type of Action
4.A	<i>Comprehensive water management planning</i>	
4.A.1	<u>Conduct a county-wide water use audit and use this information to inform decisions about how much growth our water supply can accommodate; recognize that we may have to set limits on growth.</u>	Policy Budget
4.A.2	<u>Create and implement a long-term comprehensive water management plan, informed by the county-wide water use audit, that includes regional water supply planning, including policy on development of new reservoirs and interbasin transfers.</u>	Policy Ordinance Budget Ongoing
4.B	<i>Improve water efficiency</i>	
4.B.1	<u>Continue the aggressive pursuit of water line leak detection and repair and the assisting of homeowners with leak detection, with a goal of reducing water lost to leaks to 4% (ACC is already less than 5%; the industry standard is 10%).</u>	Policy Budget Ongoing
4.B.2	<u>Retrofit old inefficient plumbing fixtures to new efficient ones, starting in high-use ACC facilities – e.g. low flow toilets and waterless urinals.</u>	Policy Budget Ongoing
4.B.3	<u>Request that our legislative delegation support “Retrofit on resale” legislation, and include ACC in the bill’s target area; alternatively, adopt a similar local ordinance.</u>	Policy Ordinance

4.B.4	<u>Offer incentives for homes and businesses to retrofit with low-flow appliances (e.g. Cobb and other metro counties are offering rebates for low flow toilets).</u>	Policy Budget
4.B.5	<u>Encourage water efficient landscapes by maintaining watering restrictions after drought.</u>	Policy
4.B.6	<u>Adopt a graywater ordinance and guidelines for indoor graywater use.</u>	Policy Ordinance
4.B.7	<u>Promote rainwater harvesting by offering guidelines and incentives (stormwater utility fee reduction, rebates for installation of systems, etc.).</u>	Policy Budget
4.C	<i>Improve water conservation rates</i>	
4.C.1	<u>Continue and expand public education about water conservation.</u>	Policy Budget
4.C.2	<u>Adopt a conservation rate billing structure that encourages water conservation year-round.</u>	Policy Ordinance Budget
4.C.3	<u>Improve enforcement of water use restrictions.</u>	Policy
4.C.4	<u>Promote xeriscaping and the use of drought-tolerant native plants and encourage nurseries, landscapers, and landscape designers to do so as well.</u>	Policy
4.C.5	<u>Require water conservation plans for new development.</u>	Policy Ordinance
4.D	<i>Other</i>	
4.D.1	Improve drinking water treatment to remove metals.	Policy Budget
5.	NATURAL AREAS and RURAL AREAS are degraded or eliminated by development, with a resulting reduction of tree canopy, diminishment of wildlife habitat, loss of natural beauty, and endangerment of environmental resources such as riparian areas and rare or endangered plants. Increased noise and light pollution contribute to natural area degradation and create a more stressful environment. (See also recommendations in <i>Urban Environments</i>, below.)	Type of Action
5.A.	<i>Riparian buffers</i>	
5.A.1	Expand the environmental areas ordinance to include buffers on lakes and wetlands.	Ordinance
5.A.2	Strengthen protections for trees within stream buffers in the environmental areas ordinance.	Ordinance
5.A.3	Amend riparian buffer ordinance to include clear and strict criteria for approving buffer variance requests.	Ordinance
5.A.4	Continue to improve enforcement of dumping prohibition in riparian areas.	Policy Ordinance Budget Ongoing
5.B	<i>Protect environmental areas through regulation</i>	
5.B.1	Extend Site Design Standards that require identification <i>and</i> protection of all sensitive environmental areas (riparian buffers, springs, steep slopes, wetlands, etc.) to multi-family zones; include incentives for developers to protect to higher standards.	Ordinance
5.B.2	Amend Zoning and Development Standards to better protect floodplains and other sensitive environmental areas.	Ordinance

5.B.3	Develop an overlay zone for all corridors identified on the Greenway Network Plan that would establish design standards for any adjacent developments so that the viewshed and natural resources of the corridor are preserved.	Ordinance
5.B.4	Deny rezonings and variances when significant environmental degradation would occur.	Policy Ongoing
5.B.5	Amend noise ordinance to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include ambient industrial noise (which negatively affects wildlife environments;) • Include noise as factor in decisions about siting of industry. 	Ordinance
5.B.6	Amend and enforce lighting ordinance.	Ordinance Policy
5.B.7	<u>Complete a comprehensive survey of rural historic resources and develop strategies to protect them.</u>	Policy Ordinance
5.C.	<i>Permanently protect environmental areas through acquisition</i>	
5.C.1	<u>Permanently protect sensitive environmental areas as natural habitat by:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fee simple purchase; • Purchase of permanent conservation easements; • Participation in the new Georgia Land Conservation Program; • Using SPLOST 2005 Greenspace Acquisition fund; • Seeking additional state, federal, and private funding sources; • Leveraging funding whenever possible. 	Policy Budget Ongoing
5.C.2	Develop, adopt, and implement a Transferable Development Rights program as a part of ACC Zoning and Development Standards. Such a program should be formulated to minimize potential negative effects on historic intown neighborhoods and affordable housing.	Policy Ordinance
5.C.3	Encourage donation of permanent conservation easements to private land trusts as a way to help attain ACC's goal of 20% protected open space by encouraging tax assessor's office to reduce property values of land under conservation easement.	Policy Ongoing
5.D	<i>Landscape management</i>	
5.D.1	Encourage staff in their exploration of more environmentally-friendly landscape management techniques such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of ACC's integrated pest management strategy to include use of botanical pesticides in both indoor and outdoor environments; • Use of leased grazing animals as an alternative to chemical and mechanical means of controlling vegetative growth; • Naturalizing landscaped areas with use of native trees and shrubs (which can require less maintenance than non-native species) where suitable. 	Policy Budget
5.D.2	Limit herbicide and flail mower use on the sides of roads by ACC, GDOT and utility companies.	Policy
5.D.3	Create another position in Leisure Services to serve under the Greenway Coordinator.	Budget

<p>URBAN ENVIRONMENTS in Athens-Clarke County are deteriorating, reducing the health and safety of residents and creating a desire to move to undeveloped rural areas. Infrastructure improvement plans encourage sprawl rather than urban redevelopment. The appealing character of the old urban area is threatened by poor design of new development and the loss of historic structures, loss of tree canopy, tree damage by poor pruning practices within utility corridors, and abandoned commercial and industrial buildings. URBAN PARKS and OPEN SPACES are insufficient. (See also recommendations in Climate Change, Air Quality and Natural Areas, above.)</p>		Type of Action
6.		
6.A	Historic preservation	
6.A.1	Require that permit requests involving alterations to buildings older than 50 years include an historic preservation consultation with qualified planning staff.	Policy Ordinance
6.A.2	Require approval of a post-demolition plan for historic properties before actual demolition can occur, perhaps giving time to locate buyers for significant properties.	Policy Ordinance
6.A.3	<u>Create a Special District Overlay for the area encompassed by the Milledge Avenue National Register District and designate a Milledge Avenue Local Historic District encompassing the historic properties within the current National Register district.</u>	Policy Ordinance
6.A.4	<u>Develop a plan for the protection of historic urban neighborhoods that are not currently designated as local historic districts, including but not limited to Buena Vista, Reese Street, W. Hancock, Oglethorpe Avenue, Milledge Circle, and other areas of Five Points.</u>	Policy Ordinance
6.B	Redevelopment	
6.B.1	Promote re-use of abandoned commercial areas and offer incentives for their development by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removing unnecessary barriers to redevelopment of such properties from ACC regulations • Developing incentives to encourage such redevelopment over greenfield development. 	Policy Ordinance Budget
6.B.2	Develop a policy to promote the remediation and redevelopment of brownfield sites (sites where hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants are, or may be, present) by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removing unnecessary barriers to redevelopment of such properties from ACC regulations, while maintaining public health and safety as top priorities; • Exploring local incentives, such as tax credits, tax freezes, fee waivers or other financial incentives; • Continuing to seek state Legislative delegation’s assistance in creating special tax allocation districts to enhance the funding for brownfield redevelopment. 	Policy Ordinance Budget
6.C	Neighborhood protection	
6.C.1	Continue to strengthen enforcement of “quality of life” ordinances (e.g. noise, single family, lighting, etc.)	Policy Budget Ongoing
6.C.2	Continue to develop and improve mechanisms to give residents a more formal role in government decisions that affect their neighborhoods.	Policy Budget Ongoing

6.C.3	<p>Develop standards to help ensure that infill development is appropriate and environmentally friendly by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requiring evaluation of proposed projects for hydrological and tree canopy impacts on neighboring properties; • Requiring that any potential hydrological and tree canopy impacts are mitigated; • Ensuring that lots subdivided after the passage of the Environmental Areas Ordinance in November 2004 aren't exempted from the provisions of that ordinance. 	Policy
6.C.4	<u>Encourage green building by private developers through requirements and incentives. Require developments over a certain size to meet "LEED for Neighborhood Development" standards.</u>	Policy Ordinance
6.D Downtown Athens		
6.D.1	<p>Protect the unique character of downtown Athens by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a Master Plan for downtown Athens, based upon its 2006 designation as a local historic district, to balance development with historic preservation; • Reviewing existing zoning regulations for the downtown area, particularly height restrictions and parking requirements, to ensure their compatibility with historic preservation goals. 	Policy Ordinance
6.D.2	<u>Establish Special District Overlays on the four principal corridors leading into Downtown Athens – Broad Street, Prince Avenue, North Avenue, and Oconee Street/Lexington Highway. Attention should be given to establishing a desired vision for the future development of these corridors, including but not limited to issues such as streetscape, architectural design of new construction, compatibility of current zoning with adjacent neighborhoods (height, density, use, setbacks, etc.), identity as gateways to downtown, preservation of historic properties, and protection of significant views to and from downtown.</u>	Policy Ordinance
6.E Urban parks and greenspace		
6.E.1	Preserve greenspace throughout the county by working with the Clarke County Board of Education and re-committing resources for using middle and elementary school grounds as neighborhood parks.	Policy Budget
6.E.2	Create more pocket parks and other inner city greenspace so that more residents have access to natural areas.	Policy Budget
6.E.3	Encourage interdepartmental coordination to complete Greenway network.	Policy Budget
6.E.4	Require all new rights-of-way acquisitions to consider negotiating for public access to trails (unless exempted by Leisure Services.)	Policy
6.E.5	Ensure adequate funding to maintain existing urban parks, greenways, and open space through SPLOST, capital funds, and seeking state, federal and private sources of funds.	Policy Budget
6.F Corridor management		
6.F.1	Adopt Corridor Management Strategy with flexibility to allow for creative responses to the unique conditions of different corridors and types of corridors.	Policy Budget
6.F.2	Take the opportunity to bury utility lines along roadways, where and whenever possible, while protecting mature trees.	Policy

7.	SOLID WASTE is a growing problem as our landfill approaches its capacity.	Type of Action
7.A Extend the life of landfill		
	<p>Develop a plan to extend the life of the landfill. This will save money and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, since 2/3 of our landfill’s buried waste consists of organic matter that releases methane as it decomposes. Specific suggestions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise tipping fees to discourage use of the landfill for materials that could be reused or recycled or disposed of at a Construction & Demolition landfill, and to encourage waste haulers to bring recyclable materials to the Materials Recycling Facility; • Enact landfill disposal bans and/or surcharges on recyclable materials. Phase in starting with cardboard, <u>fluorescent bulbs, and electronics</u>; • Put conditions requiring better recycling service on permits of private haulers who serve ACC; • Increase rate differential between 30- and 60-gallon garbage cans to encourage recycling; • <u>Increase public education about waste reduction and reuse</u>; • <u>Establish swap-shops at landfill</u>. 	<p>Policy Budget</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
7.A.2	<u>Enact a mandatory recycling ordinance for multifamily developments. Require cement pads large enough to accommodate recycling bins at all dumpsters in such developments.</u>	Policy Ordinance
7.A.3	<u>Fully implement ACC recycling policy for all ACC buildings and facilities. Report on the success of the program.</u>	Policy Budget
7.A.4	<u>Implement a community composting system for downtown Athens, and possibly other areas.</u>	Policy Budget
7.A.5	<u>Adopt a sustainable procurement policy for all ACC government departments.</u>	Policy Budget
7.A.6	Begin to enact policies requiring producers – rather than the ACC Solid Waste Department – to be responsible for product waste. “Extended Producer Responsibility” is a policy approach to shifting responsibility for product waste management from local government to the people who control product design and marketing.	Policy
7.A.7	<u>Restrict availability of plastic bags at points of sale.</u>	Policy Ordinance
7.B Hazardous waste		
7.B.1	<u>Establish a year-round household hazardous waste recycling center, perhaps on a regional scale.</u>	Policy Budget
7.B.2	Ban products containing mercury, such as switches and fluorescent lights, from the landfill. Such products release elemental mercury into the air, which becomes highly toxic organic methyl mercury in water.	Policy

8.	AFFORDABLE HOUSING near employment areas is in decline and contributes to environmentally unsound sprawl development. (See also recommendation 5.12 in Natural Areas, above.)	Type of Action
8.A	<i>Commit to a goal of safe, decent affordable housing for all residents of ACC</i>	
8.A.1	Implement affordable housing recommendations from OneAthens / Partners for a Prosperous Athens.	Policy Ordinance Budget (PPA)
8.A.2	Include affordable housing goals in Comprehensive Land Use Plan.	Policy
8.B	<i>Preserve existing affordable housing</i>	
8.B.1	<u>Rehab/reuse existing multifamily housing as affordable housing.</u>	Policy (PPA)
8.B.2	<u>Preserve existing manufactured housing parks.</u>	Policy (PPA)
8.C	<i>Regulatory methods</i>	
8.C.1	Create inclusionary zoning regulations that require a percentage of new residential construction to include homes permanently affordable to those having low to moderate incomes.	Ordinance (PPA)
8.C.2	Require that all affordable housing financed with public funds be energy-efficient and use non-VOC paints and sealers.	Policy (PPA)
8.C.3	Require that all newly constructed affordable housing (and, where feasible, rehabilitated housing) financed with public funds be visitable (i.e. accessible to people with disabilities.)	Policy (PPA)
8.C.4	Consider effect on existing affordable housing when making decisions on rezonings by directing Planning and the Dept. of Human and Economic Development (HED) to work more closely.	Policy (PPA)
8.C.5	<u>Expedite permitting for affordable housing.</u>	Policy (PPA)
8.C.6	<u>Simplify codes and guidelines for infill.</u>	Policy (PPA)
8.C.7	<u>Allow manufactured housing as infill.</u>	Policy (PPA)
8.C.8	<u>Adjust tax policies to lower property taxes for low-income residents.</u>	Policy Budget (PPA)
8.D	<i>Incentives</i>	
8.D.1	<u>Create incentives for “green” affordable housing, both new and renovated, for nonprofit developers. This results in lower costs for the residents.</u>	Policy Budget (PPA)
8.D.2	<u>Offer rebates on utility connection fees when a project is certified to be affordable.</u>	Policy Budget (PPA)
8.D.3	<u>Offer density bonuses for affordable units.</u>	Policy Budget (PPA)
8.D.4	<u>Offer infrastructure improvements.</u>	Policy Budget (PPA)
8.D.5	<u>Temporarily waive property taxes for non-profit affordable housing developers.</u>	Policy Budget (PPA)

8.E Funding		
8.E.1	Devote more federal Community Development Block Grant funding to innovative housing projects.	Policy Budget (PPA)
8.E.2	<u>Create a local affordable housing fund.</u>	Policy Budget (PPA)
8.E.3	<u>Use innovative financing mechanisms such as TADs, tax credits, and tax-exempt bonds for creation of affordable housing.</u>	Policy Budget (PPA)
8.E.4	<u>Use “shared equity” strategies (e.g. the community land trust housing model) to create affordable housing.</u>	Policy Budget (PPA)
8.F Coordination between agencies, NGOs, government, and private sector		
8.F.1	<u>Develop a Comprehensive Housing Center to provide housing, financial, and credit counseling; marketing and referrals to existing services; and information about rental and homeownership opportunities.</u>	Policy Budget (PPA)
8.F.2	<u>Reuse abandoned, vacant & tax-delinquent properties for affordable housing.</u>	Policy Budget (PPA)
8.F.3	<u>Assess affordable housing demand in conjunction with local employers.</u>	Policy Budget (PPA)
8.F.4	<u>Encourage employer-assisted housing.</u>	Policy (PPA)
8.F.5	Extend transit to existing affordable housing, including mobile home parks.	Policy Budget (PPA)
8.F.7	Apply successful models for promoting affordable housing in communities similar to Athens (e.g. Raleigh-Durham, Chapel Hill).	Policy Budget (PPA)
9. The PUBLIC’S VISION is not being articulated and enforced by public policy. Type of Action		
9.A. Follow the Guiding Principles of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan in decision-making.		
9.A.1	Follow Guiding Principles of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan in all land use decisions.	Policy Ongoing
9.A.2	Make all planning decisions regarding infrastructure (utilities, roadways, solid waste facilities, etc.) consistent with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. <u>Update the Public Utilities Service Delivery Plan to this end.</u>	Policy Ongoing
9.A.3	Keep environmental principles in mind when making decisions about the Navy School’s re-use, and protect valuable tree resources on this site. It could become an example of implementing the smart growth ideals of the current Comprehensive Land Use Plan.	Policy
9.B Keep environmental services and natural resources a high priority.		
9.B.1	Maintain high priority for existing ACC environmental services and natural resources, and protect these from budget cuts.	Policy Budget Ongoing

9.B.2	Conduct a buildout analysis of our current zoning to determine its effects on ACC's landscape and carrying capacity of infrastructure.	Policy Budget
9.B.3	Conduct environmental audit of all ACC departments.	Policy Budget
9.B.4	Require environmental Best Management Practices of all departments.	Policy Budget Ongoing
9.B.5	Re-design enforcement processes to be less bureaucratic, more effective.	Policy Ongoing
9.B.6	Coordinate ACC, UGA, and the ACC community in all areas and at all levels to improve efficiency and reduce negative impact on the environment, making better use of resources at UGA. Explore incentives for businesses that have a good environmental record, positive impact on the environment, don't pollute and/or don't consume excessive resources.	Policy Ongoing
9.B.7	Ensure that organizations that promote environmental protection are not under-represented, compared with industry organizations, on citizen committees studying environmental policy issues.	Policy Ongoing
9.B.8	Assist appropriate citizen advocacy groups (i.e. Athens Grow Green Coalition, BikeAthens, Clean Air Athens) in gaining a seat on the MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee.	Policy
9.B.9	Appoint a stakeholder roundtable with government, business, nonprofit, and citizen representatives to research and consider the adoption of the Precautionary Principle as an alternative to risk management decision-making.	Policy
9.C	<i>Green economy</i>	
9.C.1	Work with Economic Development Foundation, Industrial Development Authority, and environmental groups to develop incentives to attract and retain businesses that provide quality jobs, have a low impact on natural resources, have a good environmental record, and have a positive impact on the environment.	Policy Budget Ongoing
9.C.2	Create guidelines that ensure that the IDA's actions do not preclude future business by allowing dirty ones today; provide more jobs for ACC residents; and a "clawback" provision that calls for beneficiaries to forfeit tax waivers if they do not deliver promised jobs.	Policy
9.C.3	Increase Mayor & Commission oversight of Industrial Development Authority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit IDA books; • Ask for full vote of Commission to approve IDA bonds; • Request public disclosure of environmental criteria used in decision-making by the IDA. 	Policy
9.C.4	Aggressively court "green" technology companies.	Policy Budget
9.C.5	<u>Start a "greencollar" jobs program and fund to help low-income and elderly homeowners and renters install water efficient appliances, fix leaks, improve energy efficiency, etc.</u>	Policy Budget
10.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION in the government process is hampered by a need for public education and a lack of ready access to public information.	Type of Action
10.A	<i>Formalize input</i>	
10.A.1	Devise a method to formalize the use of public comment, possibly by adding a "Public Comment" section to all commission agenda items, containing an objective breakdown of comments received.	Policy

10.B Public education on environmental issues		
10.B.2	Educate the public on important environmental issues and the benefits of conserving valuable natural resources.	Policy Budget Ongoing
10.B.3	<u>Create a Citizen's Academy on how the local government works.</u>	Policy Budget
10.C Improve public notification and involvement		
10.C.1	Improve notification of all ACC citizens about pending county-wide environmental issues.	Policy Budget
10.C.2	Increase efforts to inform and involve traditionally under-represented groups, <i>i.e.</i> African-American and Hispanic communities.	Policy Budget
10.C.3	Expand Neighborhood Notification Initiative to include infrastructure as well as zoning issues.	Policy Budget
10.C.4	Provide better access to public meetings and documents with the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Videotape Planning Commission meetings, Commission work sessions and public input sessions, and archive the tapes at ACC Library; • Publish documents in PDF format (detailed agenda items, proposed plans, roadway designs, etc.) on the ACC website, with accessible archives; • Require public input forms for all departments to be published on the ACC Web site, and enable submission of input forms electronically; • Publish upcoming work session agendas on the ACC website; • Publish work session documents as provided to Mayor & Commission on the ACC website in PDF format for public download prior to the meeting. 	Policy Budget Ongoing
11. COORDINATED REGIONAL PLANNING is lacking and allows the actions of neighboring jurisdictions to undesirably impact Athens-Clarke County.		
11.A Support OneAthens regional initiatives		
11.A.1	Support OneAthens regional transit initiative.	Policy Budget (PPA)
11.A.2	Support OneAthens regional economic development initiative.	Policy Budget (PPA)
11.B Support other regional cooperation efforts		
11.B.1	Form a citizen/government group to work with regional planning counterparts in neighboring counties.	Policy
11.B.2	Participate more actively with Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center.	Policy
12. SUSTAINABLE LOCAL AGRICULTURE is an important component of a healthy community, but it requires active support.		
12.A Land use policies.		
12.A.1	Retain the goal of keeping agriculture viable as an issue in the new Comprehensive Land Use Plan.	Policy

12.A.2	<u>Maintain true agricultural zoning to relieve development pressure on farmers.</u>	Policy
12.A.3	Pursue USDA Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program funding in partnership with local farmers and land trusts.	Policy Budget Ongoing
12.A.4	<u>Allow farming as a use in zones other than AR, with appropriate restrictions on animal growing operations, so that small scale farms that use fewer acres can be more flexible in where they locate.</u>	Policy Ordinance
12.B	<i>Active promotion of local agriculture</i>	
12.B.1	<u>Support creation of a Farmer's Market on public land (i.e., a downtown parking lot). The Farmer's Market should be accessible by public transportation and should accept WIC vouchers and food stamps.</u>	Policy Budget
12.B.2	<u>Support the activities of the Athens Food Policy Council.</u>	Policy Budget
12.B.3	<u>Evaluate public land to see what's suitable for community gardens or sustainable growing.</u>	Policy

4. ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE 2003

1. CLIMATE CHANGE	DATE
1.1 ACC adopted energy conservation policy; implementation plan is being developed.	2007
<p>Progress has been made on making ACC government buildings more energy efficient:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 buildings certified; 1 filed for certification; 2 recently completed buildings will be filed for certification; 3 planned projects registered as new LEED Projects. 2007 • Upgraded HVAC system in the Courthouse with 2 energy-efficient chillers and new DDC Control System that efficiently monitors and controls cooling and heating (began in 2006). 2007 • Program underway to replace incandescent lights and upgrade older T12 fluorescent light fixtures with T8 fluorescents. 4,000 fixtures have been replaced or upgraded since 1997. 2007 • Reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 18,761 MTCE (Metric Tons of Carbon Equivalent) through recycling efforts (see Section 7). 2007 • Saved 440,306 BTUs of energy through recycling efforts (see Section 7). 2007 • Conducted lighting assessment at Courthouse Parking Deck to implement a more efficient lighting system. 2006 <p>1.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgraded and rearranged lighting in Veteran’s Memorial Plaza, resulting in an estimated annual savings of \$298 for an expenditure of \$550. 2006 • First four LEED-certifiable county buildings completed (not yet certified.) 2006 • Installed 30 “Vending Misers” to power down vending machines when surrounding areas are vacant, for a cost of \$5,600; expected to save \$3,700 per year and reduce energy use 46%. 2005 • Installed insulated blankets on 52 water heaters, saving \$93 per year. 2005 • Six projects were registered as LEED projects (East Athens Dance Center, two police sub-stations, the Family Protection Center, the new fire station, and the Public Utilities environmental Services building.) 2004 – 2005 • Commission adopted requirement that all ACC capital and SPLOST-funded construction projects meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards for sustainable design. Staff has implemented policy and procedure to apply it to more than just large building projects. 2004 	
<p>1.3 ACC’s vehicle fleet is becoming more fuel-efficient and using cleaner fuels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaced 2 gasoline powered pickup trucks with electric vehicles for litter collection downtown; 2007 • Athens Transit replaced ten 1999 Detroit Diesel engines with 2006 Cummins 8.3 engines, which conform to the 2006 pollution reduction requirements; 2006-2007 • Began using B-5 biodiesel fuel on all Athens Transit buses and most Fleet vehicles; pilot project vehicles and buses have moved to B10. 2007 • Purchased a hybrid vehicle and several total electric vehicles; 2006 • Began pilot project to use B5 fuel on certain diesel vehicles. 2006 	

1.4	<p>Transit infrastructure has been improved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MACORTS approved \$40,000 for a regional transit study for MACORTS area; • GPS systems have been put on all buses which will enable the use of the real-time tracking of buses and access to web-based trip planning; • Buses have been outfitted with automated stop announcements for visually impaired riders; • 22 new bus shelters built, with over 100 more planned for the future; • Four public art bus shelters installed in collaboration with the Athens Area Arts Council; • Athens Transit is working with OneAthens to develop recommendations for improving transit service; • Commission established park & ride site at eastern terminus of rail-trail near the loop; • Commission increased operating funds for Athens Transit to allow it to add evening service hours on some routes; • The Multi-Modal Transportation Center opened, increasing efficiency and convenience of Athens Transit; • Approved Bus Stop Improvements and Transit Vehicle Replacement programs for SPLOST 2005 list. 	<p>2007</p> <p>2007</p> <p>2007</p> <p>2007</p> <p>2007</p> <p>2007</p> <p>2007</p> <p>2006</p> <p>2006</p> <p>2005</p>
1.5	<p>Greenway's usefulness as a transportation corridor for cyclists and pedestrians has been improved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved for Easley Mill section of North Oconee River greenway (Oconee Street to College Station Road) that includes connector from the newly-approved park and ride lot to the UGA campus; • Greenway connector from Dudley Park to East Athens Park, including rail-trail section, approved. 	<p>2007</p> <p>2007</p>
1.6	<p>Commission and Transportation & Public Works have improved cycling infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike lanes installed on Research Road, East Broad Street, Hickory Street, the north end of Lumpkin Street, and Hancock Avenue. • Planning staff participated on state advisory council for Safe Routes to Schools; • Mayor granted discretionary funds to Safe Routes to Schools for bike safety programs for adults and their children; • Second portion of Lumpkin Street reconfigured to include bicycle lanes; • Additional funding provided for bicycle projects in the FY2007 budget; • Re-integrated Prince Avenue into Bicycle Master Plan; • Attended to safety details such as positioning sewer grates perpendicular to traffic flow upon request; • Sought and received Congressional allocation for Rail-Trail and Greenway projects; • First portion of Lumpkin Street reconfigured to include bicycle lanes; • Sought and received Transportation Enhancement funds for Rail-Trail (re-allocated to Research Road bike lanes;) 	<p>2007</p> <p>2007</p> <p>2007</p> <p>2006</p> <p>2006</p> <p>2004</p> <p>2003 – 2005</p> <p>2005</p> <p>2005</p> <p>2004</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included several dedicated, but unfunded, bicycle projects in the MACORTS TIP; • Rail-Trail Project preliminary engineering and feasibility study funded & complete; • Completed several high connectivity re-stripings and minor construction projects. 	2004 2003 2003, 2004
1.7	<p>Progress was made on the east side Rail-Trail project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering firm selected for design & construction of rail-trail. • Funds for acquiring more rails-to-trails project easements were released; • Mayor & Commission prevented complete destruction of rail bed by private developers. 	2007 2006 2006
1.8	<p>Commission has improved pedestrian infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sidewalks built with SPLOST funds at five locations; • Criteria for sidewalk prioritization was revamped; • Conveyed new School Zone status along Lumpkin Street near Barrow School including signs, flashing lights, reduction of posted speed limits; • Some new sidewalks installed; • Approved Sidewalk Improvement Project for list of projects funded by SPLOST 2005; • Adopted crosswalk standards. 	2007 2006 2006 2006 2005 2004
1.9	Commission funded the position of Community Forester to a full-time level.	2006
1.10	<p>Commission has improved enforcement of traffic laws:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added red light cameras; • Added motorcycle patrolmen to the police force staff. 	2006 2005
1.11	Mayor Davison signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.	2005
1.12	Staff committed to the Energy Star Courthouse Campaign.	2004

2.	AIR QUALITY (see also Climate Change, above.)	DATE
2.1	Reduced air emissions by 14,376.1 tons through recycling efforts (see 8.3). Emissions decreasing included aldehydes, ammonia, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, chlorine, hydrogen fluoride, lead, hydrogen chloride, metals, hydrocarbons, methane, nitrogen oxides, other organics, particulates, and sulfur oxides.	2007
2.2	Commission adopted controls on demolition practices to protect the public from airborne particulate toxic materials as well as “fugitive” dust.	2005
2.3	Commission passed 24-hour smoking ban to protect indoor air quality.	2005
2.4	Commission adopted transportation corridor map and code section that protects future transportation corridors, including some greenways and rail-trail projects, from being compromised by private development.	2005
2.5	Commission adopted a year-round ban on open burning.	2003

3. WATER QUALITY	DATE
3.1 ACC Stormwater and Upper Oconee Watershed Network instituted a program to deal with nonpoint source pollution at the neighborhood level.	2007
3.2 ACC Auditor completed an audit of the erosion and sedimentation control program.	2007
3.3 Stormwater infrastructure improvements completed at the intersection of Baxter and Hull Streets.	2007
3.4 Reduced waterborne wastes by 53.5 tons through recycling efforts (see 8.3). Decreased wastes included acid, ammonia, BOD, COD, cyanide, dissolved solids, fluorides, iron, metal ions, oil, phenol, sulfuric acid, and suspended solids.	2007
3.5 Commission adopted an illicit discharge and illegal connection ordinance.	2006
3.6 Commission adopted interim mass grading text amendments.	2005
3.7 Commission adopted new erosion & sedimentation control ordinance.	2004
<p>3.8 Transportation & Public Works has improved enforcement of erosion and sedimentation control regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More enforcement personnel hired; • Increased use of stop work orders when obvious and avoidable water quality violations have occurred; • Improved inter-departmental coordination to avoid issuance of certificates of occupancy until sites are stabilized. 	2004 – present
3.9 Commission adopted new stormwater management ordinance that includes provisions for improved water quality, channel protection, post-development stormwater management performance criteria and long-term maintenance and inspection provisions.	2004
<p>3.10 Transportation & Public Works has begun implementing the new stormwater ordinance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Stormwater Advisory Committee convened; • Additional staff hired; • Public education & outreach programs on stormwater and importance of keeping waste out of storm drains underway. 	2004
<p>3.11 Commission approved and Transportation & Public Works created a Stormwater Utility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated funding source for ACC Stormwater Management Program • Fee structure serves as incentive for reducing impervious surfaces to protect water quality. 	2004
3.12 ACC Staff have encouraged UGA to respect countywide 75-foot riparian buffer and to seek review of designs which impinge upon the buffer.	2004 – present
<p>3.13 Commission adopted new Environmental Areas ordinance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes provisions for limiting development in natural floodplain areas; • 75-foot riparian buffer protection for all perennial and intermittent streams in ACC; • 150-foot buffers in industrial zones; and • Requires forestry and agricultural BMPs. 	2004

3.14	Public Utilities increased surveillance, maintenance, repair, upgrades and extensions of sewer lines consistent with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.	2005
3.15	Public Utilities has initiated watershed assessment to identify and resolve water quality problems.	2005
3.16	Transportation & Public Works has installed regional stormwater facilities in the Brooklyn Creek watershed.	2003
3.17	Athens Transit has added porous pavement and oil separators to its facilities.	2004

4.	WATER SUPPLY	DATE
4.1	ACC adopted a resolution in favor of fully funding the statewide water management plan and basing planning districts on watershed boundaries.	2007
4.2	ACC is making improvements to the Water Treatment Plant, including an Ultraviolet Disinfection Equipment System, reduces the amount of sodium hypochlorite necessary for disinfection.	2007
4.3	ACC elected officials and staff provided early and effective leadership in response to the drought emergency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented ACC's drought management plan promptly. • Greatly increased awareness of water issues, especially drought; • Landscape management division took the initiative to harvest rainwater for watering public trees. 	2007
4.4	ACC aggressively pursued water line leak detection and repair, reducing water lost to leaks to less than an estimated 5% (the industry standard is 10%).	2007
4.5	Water Conservation Committee has initiated policy changes for water wasting and drought management.	2004

5.	NATURAL AREAS and RURAL AREAS	DATE
5.1	Commission adopted changes to the Tree Management Ordinance regarding clearing timber: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed minimum exemption for timber clearing from 5 acres to 1 acre; • Lengthened waiting period for development after clearing for timber from 3 years to 5 years. 	2007
5.3	Through the efforts of the Community Tree Council, saved tree canopy on the site of the new Rutland Academy School and the adjacent Oglethorpe Elementary grounds. CTC worked with NE GA RESA to retain trees and improve landscape plans for this 13-county shared facility. This 2-story school may serve as a model for others.	2007
5.4	The Community Tree Council began a discourse with the community and the School District about the value of preserving trees on school campuses, resulting in the CTC being asked to review future school development plans.	2007
5.5	Working with ACC, the Community Tree Council implemented the Trees for Tomorrow program, which uses donations from groups or individuals to fund the planting of trees on public land. The inaugural project is at the Ben Epps airport.	2007

5.6	Sandy Creek Nature Center installed a bird blind, funded by a grant from the National Audubon Society.	2007
5.7	Greenway network enhanced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPLOST 2005 greenspace acquisition funds used to expand ACC’s green infrastructure. • Concept approved for Easley Mill section of North Oconee River greenway (Oconee St. to College Station Rd.) that includes connector from the newly-approved park and ride lot to the UGA campus; • Greenway connector from Dudley Park to East Athens Park, including rail-trail section, approved 	2007
5.8	Through the efforts of the Community Tree Council, ACC received a growth award for its tree canopy protection efforts, Tree City USA program.	2006
5.9	Through the efforts of the Community Tree Council, ACC received a Schoolyard Shade grant through the Georgia Forestry Commission, one of two pilot studies in the state.	2006
5.10	Leisure Services upgraded the greenway coordinator position to facility supervisor.	2006
5.11	Commission amended Site Design Standards to require identification <i>and</i> protection of all sensitive environmental areas (riparian buffers, springs, steep slopes, wetlands, etc.) in all single-family residential zones. New stormwater ordinance also requires natural resources inventory.	2004
5.12	Commission rezoned AR district from 1 unit/acre to 1 unit/10 acres, as called for in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.	2003
5.14	Commission amended conservation subdivision regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require <i>permanent</i> protection of open space; • Require site visit by staff and commission members before approval of subdivision; • Require environmental assessment plan to determine areas to be permanently protected as open space <i>before</i> the buildable area of site is determined; • Remove unbuildable areas (wetlands, steep slopes, etc.) from calculation of allowable density of the parcel; • Require that most protected areas are kept intact in a contiguous parcel (establish edge/area ratio); • Require that protected open space connect to protected open space of adjacent parcels; • Limit uses of protected areas to those that are not environmentally harmful (no swimming pools, ball fields, etc.); • Allow flexibility to encourage: pervious surfaces, no road curbs, narrower road widths, no streetlights; • Require undisturbed buffers between existing neighborhoods and the subdivision; • Determine where conservation subdivisions should be permitted. 	2003
	Commission protected environmentally sensitive lands for the purpose of maintaining them as natural habitat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchased 57 acres with Georgia Greenspace Program funds, including 22 acres adjacent to Rock and Shoals Natural Area, Five-Acre Woods in East Athens, and tracts adjacent to the Greenway and Sandy Creek Nature Center; • Used SPLOST Greenspace Acquisition funds to contribute 25% of the cost to purchase development rights on the Langdale Farm, leveraging USDA Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program funds. 	2004 – present

5.15	<p>Commission adopted a stand-alone Tree Management Ordinance to protect and enhance ACC's urban and rural community forest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established tree canopy cover percentages for each zoning classification with a 45% overall canopy cover goal. • Required some amount of tree conservation on large-scale residential and commercial sites, or significant reforestation if conservation is economically infeasible. • Increased the amount of open soil surface in parking lots tree islands to increase survival rate of trees. • Required minimum distances between tree planting areas in parking lots to facilitate future canopy closure over pavements. • Required stronger tree protection during building construction. • The Champion Tree Program was formally adopted by the Community Tree Council to record the largest trees in the County. • The Community Tree Council was formally approved as part of the new Community Tree Management Ordinance, albeit unfunded, to continue their volunteer work in educating the public and advising the Mayor and Commission regarding the health of our urban and rural community forest. 	2005
5.16	Commission approved funding and the Planning Dept. hired a full-time arborist/inspector to monitor and enforce development regulations related to trees.	2005
5.17	Commission gave high priority in SPLOST 2005 funding schedule to environment-friendly projects, including improvements to Sandy Creek Nature Center, greenspace acquisition, rail-trail construction, transit, sidewalk improvement, Pulaski Creek greenway, and relocation of Solid Waste facility.	2005
5.18	Commission adopted Greenway Network Plan.	2003

6.	URBAN ENVIRONMENTS and PARKS	DATE
6.1	Urban planner hired.	2007
6.2	Temporary moratorium on removal of historic structures on Milledge Ave. imposed.	2007
6.3	Ordinance to deal with demolition in historic areas and for historic structures is in development.	2007
6.4	<p>Greenway network enhanced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPLOST 2005 greenspace acquisition funds used to expand ACC's green infrastructure. • Concept approved for Easley Mill section of North Oconee River greenway (Oconee Street to College Station Road) that includes connector from the newly-approved park and ride lot to the UGA campus; • Greenway connector from Dudley Park to East Athens Park, including rail-trail section, approved • Engineering firm selected for design and construction of the rail-trail. 	2007
6.5	User group meetings held to plan for Reese-Pope park	2007

6.6	Gained the State Legislative Delegation's assistance in creating special tax allocation districts to enhance the funding for brownfield redevelopment.	2007
6.7	Protected the unique character of downtown Athens by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designating downtown Athens as a Local Historic District; • Developing design guidelines for new construction, historic rehabilitations, demolition, and possible other areas; 	2006
6.8	Hired a Neighborhood Planner to facilitate proactive neighborhood and corridor planning.	2006
6.9	The Trees for Tomorrow Program through the Community Tree Council has been re-established to promote and increase tree planting on public sites (i.e. on road rights of way, around public buildings, within parks, and at our schools).	2006
6.10	KACCB undertook Athens Perimeter on- and off-ramp beautification projects.	2006
6.11	Commission increased parking lots standards which included more trees per total number of cars, and trees distributed throughout the lots.	2005
6.12	Commission strengthened enforcement of "quality of life" ordinances (e.g. noise, single family, lighting, etc.) by creating the Community Protection Division.	2004
6.13	Commission and Transportation & Public Works have applied alternative solutions to sidewalk construction in order to save trees along right of way on Old West Broad Street.	2004
6.14	Commission voted to use Community Development Block Grant funds to rehabilitate an urban park (Rocksprings).	2004

7.	SOLID WASTE	DATE
7.1	ACC adopted policy requiring all ACC departments, as well as events on ACC government property, to recycle and reduce input to the landfill.	2007
7.2	Electronics recycling is now year-long instead of just on certain days.	2007
7.3	Purchased fluorescent bulb crusher to capture and recycle glass and mercury that would otherwise end up in landfill. Will recycle approx. 10,000 bulbs per year. Will be extended for county-wide disposal once an adequate facility can be built to handle anticipated volume.	2007
7.4	Recycled over 13,000 tons of paper, glass and aluminum cans returning over \$149,000 to the ACC operating budget. This resulted in numerous environmental benefits by saving energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, air emissions, and waterborne wastes (see 1.1, 2.1, 3.1). Other environmental benefits include saving 43,237 trees by recycling 3,603 tons of paper and 495 tons of natural resources in the form of iron ore, coal, and limestone by recycling 246 tons of ferrous steel.	2007
7.5	ACC Recycling Division initiated recycling program at UGA football games.	2006

8.	AFFORDABLE HOUSING	DATE
8.1	With Partners for a Prosperous Athens, the Mayor & Commission helped create a partnership with large employers, housing providers, county agencies, the Board of Education, the University of Georgia, and non-governmental organizations to bring all sectors to work on affordable housing and other issues related to poverty.	2006

9.	PUBLIC'S VISION	DATE
9.1	ACC initiated Environmental Management System by sequentially adopting it in selected departments and divisions with the goal of system-wide implementation in a few years.	2006
9.2	ACC switched from conventional to botanical pesticides for indoor use in county buildings.	2005
9.3	ACC initiated pilot projects in green cleaning processes and products, beginning with the fire stations and the court house, with the goal of system-wide implementation in a few years.	2004
9.4	Commission established position of ACC Environmental Coordinator.	2003

10.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	DATE
10.1	Initiated Climate Action Forum.	2007
10.2	Appointed citizen steering committee to oversee revision of Comprehensive Land Use Plan.	2007
10.3	KACCB created and aired several creative Public Service Announcements (water conservation, anti-littering, and mosquito control.)	2006
10.4	Commission established Neighborhood Notification Initiative to better inform citizens of upcoming planning and zoning matters in their areas, increasing the level of citizen participation.	2005
10.5	Public Affairs provided better access to public meetings and documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish commission meeting minutes on the ACC Web site; • Publish detailed agenda items in PDF format on ACC website; • Planning and Transportation & Public Works allow public input by email and through Web site. 	2003 – present
10.6	Commission and Staff supported a growing number of programs to educate the public on important environmental issues and the benefits of conserving valuable natural resources, particularly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater Management Program Web site and programs; • Participation in numerous Greenfest events; • Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful activities, • Solid Waste Department Recycling Division activities. • Participation in Trees Are Great-Just Like Us (environmental education program targeted to Hispanic families.) 	2003 – present

11.	REGIONAL PLANNING	DATE
11.1	MACORTS approved \$40,000 for a regional transit study.	2007

12. SUSTAINABLE LOCAL AGRICULTURE	DATE
12.1 Steering committee formed to plan a farmer's market for downtown Athens, including representatives from UGA, NGOs, and ACC.	2007

5. PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: MISSION & CONTACT INFORMATION

Athens Grow Green Coalition

The mission of the Athens Grow Green Coalition is to promote responsible community development and growth management policies and practices that protect natural resources, prevent sprawl, maintain a healthy economy, and preserve a high quality of life for all in the Athens region. Specific objectives are to:

1. Protect environmental quality for all by maintaining clean air, clean water, and protected green space and green infrastructure.
2. Reduce sprawl and automobile dependence by encouraging: communities that are multi-use, walkable, bikeable and connected; and improved public transportation.
3. Promote a diverse and affordable housing supply for all income levels.
4. Promote efficient development patterns that keep taxes low.
5. Attract responsible businesses and industries by maintaining a beautiful, functional, diverse community with a high quality of life.
6. Ensure that policies balance the rights and needs of the community with the rights and needs of individual property owners.

More information: www.AthensGrowGreen.com

Contacts:

Elizabeth Little, President, 542-4774 (w), elittle@uga.edu

Beth Gavrilles, Secretary, 542-7247 (w), 227-0422 (h), beth@wuplet.com

Seth Wenger, 207-0440, seth@trout.ecology.uga.edu

Areas of Expertise: ACC Zoning and Development Standards, land use policy, open space protection techniques (conservation easements, conservation subdivisions, purchase of development rights, transferable development rights, land use law.)

Athens Land Trust

The Athens Land Trust's mission is to promote quality of life through integration of community and the natural environment by preserving land, creating energy-efficient and affordable housing, and revitalizing neighborhoods.

ALT is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation established in 1994 with the dual goals of land preservation and affordable, energy efficient housing. ALT believes in a holistic approach to sustainable development which combines environmental, economic and community needs.

More information: www.AthensLandTrust.org

Contacts:

Nancy Stangle, Development, 613-0122, nancy@athenslandtrust.org

Laura Hall, Conservation, 613-0122, laura@athenslandtrust.org

Heather Benham, Housing, 613-0122, heather@athenslandtrust.org

Areas of Expertise: Open space protection, conservation easements, affordable housing.

Athens-Clarke County Community Tree Council

The Community Tree Council was established by ordinance on October 3, 2000. Its purpose is to “provide a vehicle for broad base community representation to interact with local Government, the private sector, and citizen groups; providing information, outreach, and education that promotes the responsible stewardship of trees and sustainability of community forest resources...” It consists of 15 members, composed of 14 appointed citizens who volunteer their time and the ACC Community Forester with support from the Manager of the Landscape Division of ACC Central Services.

More information: <http://athenstrees.com/>

Contacts:

David Kidd, 543-5195, davidakidd@aol.com

Maureen O’Brien, 543-0594, obnwrt@yahoo.com

Areas of Expertise: Tree canopy protection.

Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation, Inc.

The Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation is the leading advocate for the importance of historic preservation to the future of the Athens community. ACHF is a 700+ member organization served by a staff of two full-time employees, several part-time employees, and a twenty-five member Board of Trustees. The Foundation administers the Athens Welcome Center/Church-Waddel Brumby House Museum; acts as caretaker for the decorative arts collection of the Ware-Lyndon House Museum and shares programming responsibilities with the Lyndon House Arts Center staff; serves as the umbrella organization for Hands On Athens, in its 9th year; oversees the Athens Historic House Museum Association; operates the ACHF Revolving Fund and a historic façade easement program.

The Foundation is currently working with the newly-formed W. Hancock-Reese Street Community Association on local historic district designations for the Reese Street National Register District and the W. Hancock National Register District. The Foundation is also assisting the community with developing revitalization strategies for the two neighborhoods. Other current efforts include working closely with Athens-Clarke County and the University to protect the Milledge Avenue National Register District by establishing a special district overlay and a local historic district. In addition, ACHF continues to serve on the Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources Subcommittee of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update. Finally, in December 2007 the Foundation released an adaptive use and feasibility study for the historic Oconee Street School/ACTION Building and continues to work toward a solution that ensures the building’s preservation.

The Mission of the Foundation is to be a proactive force in developing community-wide understanding of the value of historic buildings, neighborhoods and heritage. The following four goals were adopted in July 2001 by the Foundation as part of its five-year plan.

- Goal I. Serve as the Athens area clearinghouse for historic preservation issues.
- Goal II. Effectively communicate the historic preservation message.
- Goal III. Maintain & involve existing members while actively recruiting new members in order to develop & maintain a diverse membership-based organization.
- Goal IV. Act as responsible stewards for private preservation resources.

More Information: <http://www.achfonline.org/>

Contact:

Amy Kissane, 353-1801, achf@bellsouth.net.

Areas of Expertise: Historic preservation education and advocacy, neighborhood revitalization, historic revolving funds, historic façade easements, historic resources surveys and designations.

BikeAthens / Safe Routes Athens

BikeAthens is a local non-profit advocacy group promoting transportation and land use policies that improve accessibility to alternative modes of transport, including pedestrian, cycling and public transit options. The primary mission of the organization is to make alternative transportation a practical, convenient, and safe option for all citizens of Athens-Clarke County, including those unable to drive for reasons of age, affordability, or disability.

Safe Routes Athens is a program of BikeAthens. SRA works with local schools, government officials, local and regional planners, public health professionals, law enforcement personnel and parents and other community members, and coordinates with federal and state Safe Routes to School programs, to promote safe transportation to and from school through educational programs and through infrastructure improvements.

More Information: www.bikeathens.com

Contacts:

Mark Dodson, Co-Chair, cyclehawk@mindspring.com

Paul Quick, Co-Chair, pauquick@uga.edu

John Kissane, Safe Routes Athens Coordinator, jandakissane@bellsouth.net

Areas of Expertise: Transportation policy, transit policy, bike and pedestrian facilities design, bicycle safety education, federal and state Safe Routes to School initiatives.

Clean Air Athens

Clean Air Athens is a group of concerned citizens, organizations, businesses and other members of the community committed to protecting human health and natural resources in Athens and in the surrounding areas from the harmful effects of air pollution. Clean Air Athens believes that all citizens have the right to breathe healthy air and that clean air is essential to a thriving economy.

More information: <http://www.cleanairathens.org>

Contacts:

Kristen Smith, 706-742-2392 kmsmith@uga.edu

Bill Sheehan, 613-0710, bill@productpolicy.org

Sarah Petit Frierson, 208-0972

Areas of Expertise: Precautionary Principle, air quality.

Emerging Green Builders, Athens Chapter (formerly SEEDS)

The Athens Chapter of Emerging Green Builders. EGB is the student and young professional group of the US Green Building Council. The mission of EGB is very similar to that of SEEDS, but it connects the group with a national network of other EGB groups as well as the whole USGBC.

More Information: <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=116>

Contact:

Alfie Vick, 706-542-6550, ravick@uga.edu

Areas of Expertise: Ecological landscape design and management.

Georgia River Network

Georgia River Network works to ensure a clean water legacy by engaging and empowering Georgians to protect and restore our rivers from the mountains to the coast. Our goals are:

- Increase the number of people involved in the protection and management of Georgia's waters.
- Improve awareness of the issues that threaten the health of our waters.
- Establish infrastructure for the exchange of resources among parties working to improve the protection of Georgia's waters.
- Provide necessary means to advocate for the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of our waters.

More information: <http://www.garivers.org>

Contacts:

April Ingle, 706-549-4508, ingle@garivers.org

Dana Skelton, 706-549-4508, dana@garivers.org

Jesslyn Shields, 706-549-4508, jesslyn@garivers.org

Areas of expertise: Water quality, water supply, public involvement.

Joseph LeConte Group of the Sierra Club

The purposes of the Sierra Club are to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives. The Joseph LeConte Group works to further these goals in Athens and Northeast Georgia.

More information: <http://georgia.sierraclub.org/leconte/>

Contact:

Andrew Hunt: 543-4329, blahblah@riseup.net

Areas of expertise: Statewide issues, environmental justice, clean air and energy, wildlands.

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful

The Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful Commission works toward a cleaner, more beautiful community by improving attitudes and behaviors regarding the environment.

Our Goals are:

- To promote beautification efforts in the community
- To promote the proper handling of solid waste
- To maintain sustained litter reduction
- To enhance environmental awareness through education

Our Objectives are:

1. Identify and improve areas of general community concern for beautification projects.
2. Educate citizens about the proper handling of solid waste.
3. Increase community awareness of each individual's role in sustaining litter reduction by
4. Focus on the seven sources of litter.
5. Promote adequate maintenance of public and private property.
6. Expand citizen involvement in Keep Athens Beautiful sub-committees.

More Information: <http://www.keepthenbeautiful.org/>

Contact: Stacey Farrell, 613-3501 x. 312, staceefarrell@co.clarke.ga.us

Areas of expertise: Solid waste, recycling, environmental education, beautification.

MICAH's Mission

Ministry to Improve Child & Adolescent Health

More Information: <http://babuice.myweb.uga.edu/MICAH/index.htm>

Contact: Jill McElheney, P.O. Box 275, Winterville, GA 30683, 706-742-7826, micahtmission@aol.com

Areas of expertise: Children's environmental public health.

Northeast Georgia Children's Environmental Health Coalition

The NEGACEHC is a network organized to address the growing concern about toxins in the lives of children. Its focus is to educate the community on links between environmental hazards and children's health, and at the same time promote prevention and precautionary action. NEGACEHC provides environmental education (and free lunch!) to the community on the first Tuesday of every month at 12 Noon in the DFCS conference room (North Avenue, Athens).

Contact: Anthony Nash, nashant@yahoo.com

Areas of expertise: Children's environmental public health issues.

Oconee River Land Trust

The mission of the Oconee River Land Trust is to preserve open space in the Oconee River Watershed. We are committed to preserving many different types of land, including woods, stream corridors, wetlands, wildlife habitat, productive farms and forests, historic sites and scenic vistas. ORLT is a private, nonprofit organization, incorporated in 1993. We work in many different ways to preserve land; our most important method is protection through conservation easements.

More Information: www.orlt.com

Contact:

Steffney Thompson, Executive Director: 552-3138, steffney@orlt.com

Dan Hope, Chair, 546-9889, dhopeiii@uga.edu

Areas of Expertise: Conservation easements, open space protection

Oconee Rivers Audubon Society

Founded in 1991, the mission of the Oconee Rivers Audubon Society (ORAS) is to promote the preservation and restoration of wildlife habitat through environmental activism and community education. ORAS publishes a newsletter nine times per year and holds monthly meetings that are open to the public. Educational efforts include outdoor activities such as bird walks and field trips.

More Information: www.OconeeRiversAudubon.org

Contacts:

Edwige Damron, President: edamron@uga.edu

Gary Crider, Program Chair: gcrider@charter.net

Areas of Expertise: Wildlife habitat protection

The Oconee Rivers Greenway Commission

The Oconee Rivers Greenway Commission is a secondary agency of the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government (ACC), established by county ordinance in 1992. The Commission is advisory in nature. Since its inception it has guided the development of the Heritage Trail and North Oconee River Greenway as pilot projects in the creation of a countywide greenway plan. It successfully procured funding (mostly outside the ACC budget) for these projects and convinced ACC to establish the staff and programs to manage and maintain them. It continues to provide oversight for project construction, program management and the development of the countywide greenway network plan. It regularly makes recommendations and comments on proposed actions that affect the rivers and other environmental resources of the community. For example, it successfully lobbied for the 100-foot river and 75-foot perennial stream buffers in the county's environmental ordinance and the county adoption of a community greenspace program.

Contact: Mark Ebell, Chair: ebell@uga.edu

Areas of Expertise: Greenway planning and maintenance, trail design, riparian and water quality issues.

Promoting Local Agriculture and Cultural Experience (P.L.A.C.E.)

PLACE provides dynamic and innovative educational messages and programs to convey the social, environmental, economic and nutritional benefits of a strong local food culture and pursues creative solutions to increase the availability of locally produced food to all Athens area residents.

More Information: <http://localplace.org>

Contact:

Craig Page, Executive Director: 706-461-8288, craigwpage@gmail.com

Areas of Expertise: Sustainable agriculture.

Sandy Creek Nature Center, Inc.

The Sandy Creek Nature Center is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that works in partnership with the Athens-Clarke County Department of Leisure Services to protect, promote and improve Sandy Creek Nature Center. Our goal is to help Sandy Creek Nature Center continue to be an exceptional facility for learning about the natural ecosystems of Piedmont Georgia and beyond, as well as our responsibility to be good stewards of our earth.

More Information: www.sandycreeknaturecenter.com/scnc/index.shtml

Contact:

Larry Dendy: 542-8078, ldendy@uga.edu

Areas of Expertise: Community education, wildlife habitat protection, local ecosystems.

Upper Oconee Watershed Network

The Upper Oconee Watershed Network (UOWN) is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and improving water quality in our watershed through scientific monitoring, community-based advocacy, and education. UOWN provides a means of bringing together a diverse citizenry with a common interest in the protection of streams and rivers in the Upper Oconee Watershed, which drains all or part of eighteen counties in northeast Georgia. UOWN strives to achieve a greater level of public awareness about local water issues and to formulate interactive community solutions for long-term watershed protection.

More Information: www.uown.org

Contacts:

Jessica Sterling, President: sterling@uga.edu

Brenda Rashleigh, brenda_vt@hotmail.com

Areas of Expertise: water quality monitoring, water quality and conservation education.



Growing Sustainably V:

Athens Grow Green Coalition

Athens Land Trust

Athens-Clarke Community Tree Council

Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation, Inc.

BikeAthens / Safe Routes Athens

Clean Air Athens

Emerging Green Builders (SEEDS)

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Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful

Micah's Mission

*Northeast Georgia Children's
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Oconee Rivers Greenway Commission

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Sandy Creek Nature Center, Inc.

Upper Oconee Watershed Network

January 2008