



Stormwater Professionals Host Community Service Project

The Southeast Stormwater Association, in partnership with the City of Brookhaven, GA come together to clean 1,000lbs of trash and debris from a small creek

Brookhaven, GA – April 21, 2023 – Many large streams and rivers are well known in the Atlanta area and are utilized for recreation, resources, and sometimes protection. However, there are many more small streams flowing under our roads, behind shopping centers, and through our backyards. These small streams combine to form the larger bodies of water we are all familiar with and therefore are the first line of defense for those larger bodies of water. Small streams foster diverse populations of wildlife and provide ecosystem services such as natural filtration and flood control. Unfortunately, small streams can be more easily impacted by pollution and litter.

On April 20th, the Southeast Stormwater Association (SESWA) sent 20 volunteers from throughout the southeast to a tributary of North Fork Peachtree Creek near Buford Hwy and Clairmont Dr. City of Brookhaven Stormwater personnel worked to coordinate access behind an apartment complex and provided disposal of the trash collected. In just two hours, the volunteers cleaned 51 bags of trash, 5 tires, 4 bicycle frames, a TV and two shopping carts, along with other large items and furniture from just 300 feet of stream. The results of the cleanup will be shared with apartment residents to help educate the community about the impact of littering on our water resources and to provide ways to protect water quality in their neighborhood.

This stream has a relatively small drainage area, or watershed, of about 3 square miles, but includes such familiar landmarks as Buford Hwy, Peachtree, Rd, and parts of Dekalb Airport. There are also numerous parking lots that create excess stormwater runoff in rain events, which carries trash from all over the watershed to this portion of the creek. "It is so special to work on this service project with SESWA members from AL, SC, NC, FL, and GA to protect these important water resources and help improve the local community where our seminar is held," says Conference and Education Committee chair and project organizer John Butler.

Executive Director, Danielle Hopkins says "SESWA works continually to provide the information and educational opportunities necessary to keep stormwater in the southeast at the leading edge of the industry and this event gave us the opportunity to put those lessons into action. It is such a pleasure to collaborate with the local community hosting our Annual Regional Stormwater Seminar and we look forward to continuing this tradition each year in different communities across the Southeast."

The Southeast Stormwater Association was formed in 2005 to assist stormwater professionals in the southeast as they seek solutions to surface water quality and stormwater management challenges. SESWA's boundaries mirror those of EPA Region IV and include the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. With a primary focus on services to stormwater professionals in city and county governments, membership is also available to those in state, regional and local governments, the private sector, non-profit organizations, and academia.

SESWA is the only regional stormwater association dedicated to improving surface water quality and advancing the interests of stormwater professionals and programs. For more information about this amazing organization, visit www.seswa.org.

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