



**For Immediate Release**

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### **Tree Planting and Care Workshop in Clayton**

The health and quality of streams can be improved by an act as simple as planting a seedling on a residential property, at a business, in a neighborhood park or at a local government building. Clayton County in partnership with the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service in Clayton and the Clean Water Campaign will be conducting a tree planting and care workshop on November 8 (6:30 PM) at the Clayton County Water Authority Community Room, 1600 Battle Creek Rd, Morrow, GA 30260.

The workshop will be presented by Winston Eason of the Clayton County Cooperative Extension Service. He will cover the many added benefits of planting trees. Including the fact that trees contribute to increased property values and electricity costs are typically lower when shade is provided by a natural tree canopy and shade, provided by trees next to waterways, lowers the water temperature, which improves the conditions for fish. The workshop will also include appropriate plant selection and care of trees as well as harvesting trees to be replanted in other areas.

The intrinsic value of trees on properties, near streams and through an area can influence the quality and health of our water supply. Trees do so by intercepting rainfall and absorb rain into the root system, therefore reducing the amount of water that could potentially pond during a heavy rainstorm. By having trees planted on land, it reduces the amount of stormwater that flows from a yard into a street or storm drain.

Stormwater picks up sediment, debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants that then flow into storm drains or directly into a river, lake or stream. Everything that enters a storm drain is discharged untreated into waterways that are used for swimming, fishing and providing drinking water. Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals and people. It affects drinking water sources, which can in turn harm human health and increase drinking water treatment costs. Trees and other vegetation reduce stormwater runoff by slowing its movement and by providing more time for water to be absorbed by soil.

*The Clean Water Campaign works to educate the public about activities that help prevent water pollution and conserve water. The Campaign is a cooperative, multi-agency public education initiative spearheaded by local governments in metro Atlanta and managed by the Metropolitan North Water Planning District and the Atlanta Regional Commission. For more information about the Clean Water Campaign, contact Kelley O'Brien at 404.463.3259.*

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