The Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County
invites applications for

Airport Director

Athens-Ben Epps Airport (AHN)

Athens, Georgia

Executive Search Services Provided by ADK Consulting & Executive Search

The Airport

Athens Ben Epps Airport (AHN) is a county owned, public use airport located three miles east of the central business district of Athens, Georgia. The airport is named after Ben T. Epps, the first aviator in the state of Georgia, who opened the airport in 1917. It is mostly used for general aviation, but the airport plans to return to commercial service in the near future.

Recent capital improvement projects included a new commercial terminal facility funded completely with community SPLOST dollars (completed 9/2017) and a runway extension project of 600' bringing the total length of the runway to 6,122' (completed 2017). Future plans include a complete runway rehabilitation with new lighting and signage to begin in summer/fall of 2018.

The Falcon Aviation Academy flight school along with the University of Georgia Aviation club is based at the airport. The University of Georgia Athletics Association, specifically the football and basketball teams, uses the airport as the primary hub for transporting players, coaches, and staff to and from distant away games. *(continued...)*

The Airport *(continued)*

Other significant operators at the airport include:

- **Aero Services** – Maintenance Facility
- **Athens JetProp/C-Ray Avionics** – Maintenance Facility
- **GA Forestry Service** – 2 airplanes based at AHN in a state-funded FBO hangar
- **Hertz**

The Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County

The City of Athens was incorporated in 1806 by an act of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia. The City was the county seat of Clarke County, Georgia, which was established by an act of the General Assembly in 1801. The unification of the City of Athens and Clarke County in 1991 resulted in the creation and establishment of the "Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia" (the "Unified Government"), a single county-wide government with powers and jurisdiction throughout the territorial limits of Clarke County, superseding and replacing the governments of the City and the County. The Unified Government is a strong Manager form of government, governed by the part-time Mayor and 10-member Commission.

About Athens-Clarke County

Nestled amongst the rolling hills of northeast Georgia, Athens is a vibrant community of 125,000 residents. Incorporated in 1806, the city is actually younger than the University of Georgia, which was chartered in 1785. With its origins in education as the location of the first public university in the United States, Athens has served as a mecca for more than two centuries for those seeking higher education.

Over the years, Athens has become a cultural hotspot for music and the arts. It is commonplace to see Athens ranked in any variety of polls, ranging from Best College Towns to Arts Destinations to Cheap Summer Trips as well as Best Places for Retirement.

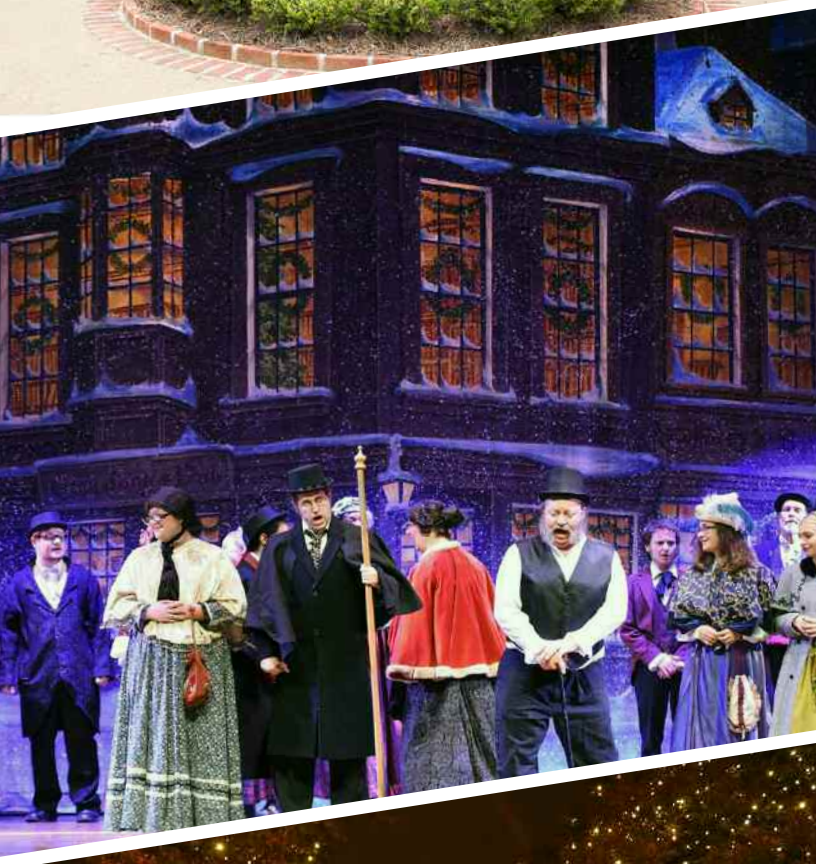
The centerpiece of Athens is its downtown area. Full of life from morning to night, more than 65 specialty shops, 55 restaurants and cafes, and 40 taverns and nightspots fill downtown and maintain a constant buzz of activity. Throughout the year, downtown is full of people enjoying a variety of restaurants, clubs, shopping, and a selection of festivals and races.

Athenians love the arts whether in the performing or visual genre. In the past year, the Leisure Services Department presented 24 exhibitions with 862 pieces of art displayed at the Lyndon House Arts Center. The much-anticipated annual Juried Exhibition brought in 797 works of art, in a wide variety of media, from 313 area artists. Private galleries throughout the community highlight locally created art and promote art as industry. Residents and visitors also enjoy the programs and exhibits at the Georgia Museum of Art.

Athenians do not have to leave town to experience a diverse selection of performances on stage. The Morton Theatre hosted 118 performances with 18,948 attendees. The Classic Center boasts a 2,090-seat theatre which hosts a variety of events, including Broadway, comedy, concerts, and community events.

When Athenians need to escape to the outdoors they have plenty of choices with approximately 2,000 acres of land including 42 miles of trails and 20 acres of dog parks. Last year, almost 20,000 Athenians kept cool by visiting Athens' two splash pads, and thousands more visited the five public pools. The State of Georgia Botanical Garden is another popular Athens destination with 313-acres featuring a number of specialized theme gardens and more than five miles of trails.

The community invests in facilities and transportation through SPLOST dollars. In the past year, Athens-Clarke County spent $2,619,436 in SPLOST funding for parks and recreation facility projects, including the new phase of the North Oconee River Greenway. *(continued...)*



About Athens *(continued)*

Working in Athens provides a variety of opportunities and industries. The largest employers in the area include the University of Georgia, Clarke County School District, Athens-Clarke County Unified Government, St. Mary's Healthcare, and Caterpillar. Athenians will find excellent opportunity for growth and development, as demonstrated by the low 4.8% unemployment rate in the area.

Athens-Clarke County Economic Development Department staff works closely with many entrepreneurs to build awareness of local businesses and attract a talented workforce to Athens–Clarke County and developed Athensmade. Additionally, Acropolis: Athens Innovation Festival was created to draw attention to local start-up and creative industries.

Athenians find their hometown, with its eclectic architecture, creative environment and thriving economy, the ideal place to host guests and raise a family. Simply put, Athens-Clarke County is an easy and fun place to "live, work, and play."

Newspapers and magazines from the New York Times to GQ to Georgia Trend have featured nods to Athens' diverse mix of cultural, educational, and economic opportunities.

What emerges is the picture of a remarkably well-rounded community, where achievement on one end of the spectrum is never met with weakness on the other.

One of America's "Most Vibrant Cities for Young Professionals" ("The Today Show") happens to be one of "Four Great Places to Retire" (Fortune), while the No. 1 College Music Scene (Rolling Stone) is also a "Best Place to Raise Your Kids" (Business Week).

Quality of Life

"10 Most Underrated American Cities"
Conde Nest Traveler (2014)

#4 of the "10 Great College Towns to Retire to" Kiplinger (July 2014)

"25 Best Places to Retire in 2015" by Forbes (2015)

#8 of the "14 Underrated Places You'll Really Want To Move To" BuzzFeed (May 2014)

#3 of "The 10 Best Places To Live In Georgia" MOVOTO Blog (May 2014)

"Best Under-the-Radar Family Destinations in the U.S." VacationIdea.com (2015)

"Hot Editor's Pick - South's Historic College Towns With Hip Group Appeal" ConventionSouth Magazine (September 2013), featuring only one city per state.

"America's Prettiest Towns" Forbes.com (August 2013)

Top 5 cities where "millennials" (ages 18-29) should consider moving Moving.com (June 2012)

#1 "Small-Sized County in Fourth Economy Community Index" Fourth Economy (April 2012).

The Position

We are seeking an innovative and collaborative individual who is adept at communication and has a high regard for customer service and tenant/stakeholder relations. Reporting to the Athens-Clarke County Manager, the Athens-Ben Epps Airport Director manages the day-to-day operations of the Airport, enforces FAA rules and regulations, directs the development of commercial airline services, and assists with the general marketing of the Airport including its new 18,000 s.f., LEED certified, $4.5 million terminal facility.

The Airport Director will serve as the principle policy advisor to the Airport Authority and will interact with other parties to provide direction, negotiate contracts for airport facilities, resolve operations issues, conduct research projects and ensure that safety and services are maintained with a high level of accuracy and compliance.

Position Qualifications

Bachelor's degree in Aviation Management or related discipline and 5 years of related experience including a minimum of 5 years of supervisory experience.

The successful candidate will have:

- Ability to manage capital projects in a timely and efficient manner
- Proven track record of coordinating community efforts to recruit commercial airline services
- Experience in developing long-term strategic operating and capital master plans
- Creative marketing, messaging, and branding experience

For a full job description, **click here**.

ADK Consulting & Executive Search

Salary & Compensation

The salary range for the Airport Director is $90,000 - $105,367 depending on experience and an attractive benefit package.

How to Apply:

A. Please submit both a **cover letter and résumé**. **We require your files to be submitted as PDF documents**. We prefer that you send both your cover letter and résumé as one combined document. *Please do not send your cover letter in the body of an email.* Send your **PDF** files to ADK Executive Search at: **AHNAD@adkexecutivesearch.com**

B. Please complete the ADK employment application form at: **ADK Application Form** *(this is a secure link)*

Filing Deadline: Friday, March 30, 2018

Only complete electronic submissions will be considered.

Email questions to: **AHNAD@adkexecutivesearch.com**