

The Resource

A Publication of the City of North Augusta
Stormwater Management Department

Lynnhurst Subdivision Drainage Improvements

The City of North Augusta requested assistance in replacing a storm sewer system along Bunting Drive to relieve frequent flooding in the Lynnhurst Subdivision. We are excited to announce that we have received a Rural Infrastructure Authority grant with a total award of \$300,000. The grant funds will be used to complete a previously designed project that aims to reduce flooding in the area during heavy rains by increasing the flow capacity of the storm water system in the area. The project will also pipe flow coming from the City's stormwater detention facility on Bunting Drive that should reduce erosion and sedimentation in the area. The new system, once installed, will be maintained in perpetuity by the city Stormwater Department maintenance staff.

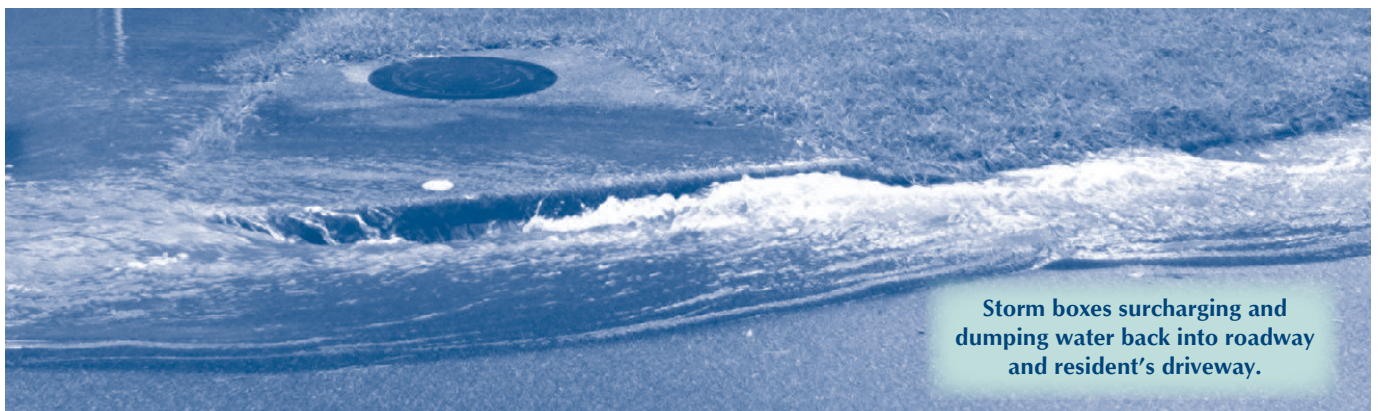
The cause of the flooding on Bunting Avenue is clear, the

infrastructure is too old and pipes are too small to handle the volume of stormwater that flows into it due to the amount of development that has occurred since it was built. This project solves that problem by rerouting the stormwater water through an appropriately sized stormwater system that is capable of handling the flows.

There are hundreds of residential units in Lynnhurst Subdivision that are directly impacted by the flooding on their main thoroughfare into and out of the neighborhood. Additionally, the road is used by citizens as a cut-through and traffic counts show that 2,100 vehicles traverse Bunting Drive daily. Some of those may be indirect beneficiaries of the project. The project is anticipated to be put out for bids once the paperwork for the grant is completed. Work will begin in 2020.

Working Toward a Cleaner Tomorrow:

Stormwater Management and Streets and Drains Report Jan. 2018 to Oct. 2019		
Task Completed:	2018	2019
Traffic Sign Repairs	68	61
Banners Installed	23	7
Signal Light Repair	80	22
Asphalt Repairs (tons)	132	123
Concrete Repairs (cy)	294	286
Storm Drains Cleaned	664	446
Storm Pipe Placed (LF)	308	352
Detention Ponds Inspected	N/A	113
Detention Ponds Cleaned	39	62
Construction Site Inspections	517	304
Education and Outreach (Total Reached)	18,011	17,585
Public Participation (Total Participants)	1,511	2,135
Household Hazardous Waste Collected (tons)	8.5	13.7



Storm boxes surcharging and dumping water back into roadway and resident's driveway.

EcoMeet 2019

The CSRA-Environmental Science Education Cooperative has done it again! The 19th Annual Eco-Meet took place in our very own backyard on November 1. The City of North Augusta Stormwater Management Department had the privilege of hosting Eco-Meet at North Augusta's Brick Pond Park and Municipal Center. Fifteen different schools, making up twenty-five teams of competitive middle school students, came from around the CSRA to participate in the event. Similar to the well-known Envirothon, Eco-Meet is an opportunity for students to step out of the classroom and show off their skills in an educational competition against other teams in the area.

We got off to a chilly start Friday morning, but that didn't seem to upset the competition or the fun. As the clocks counted down, the students ran from station to station

with topics ranging from Wetlands, Carolina Bays, and Hydropower, to Bird Biology, Pollinators, and Soils. Special guests Charlotte, an Eastern Screech Owl, and Raleigh, a Barred Owl, joined us from the USC-Aiken's Ruth Patrick Science Center and made their appearance at the Bird Biology Station. More live animals, hands-on soil testing, and a variety of wetland plants were just a few of the other activities present that students do not usually see in a normal classroom setting.

After all the testing was complete, the students, coaches, and volunteers reconvened for an awards ceremony. Coming out on top overall were both teams from Episcopal Day School. The White-collared Lemurs won 1st Place (pictured left to right) Fripp McDougal, Sara Beth Trotter, Coach Ingrid McNeil, Carolina Rivers, and Trav Wright and the Purple Marsh Crabs won 2nd Place, Molly Glenn,

Matthew Lyon, Charlie Hargrove, and Thomas Kirstein (not pictured). The 3rd Place spot was claimed by AR Johnson, the Purple Marsh Crabs, Imani Thompson, Scarlett Glover, Rafael Geraldo and Lillian Witherington (not pictured). We are extremely proud of these hard-working students!

EcoMeet would not have been such a success without our volunteers and community support. Columbia County GIS came and presented a drone demonstration taking photos from the sky for a unique educational experience. Lunch was provided in part by Chick-fil-A of Aiken, Sam's Club of Aiken, and Augusta's Coca-Cola Bottling Company. We would like to thank these participants for their donations and all the CSRA-ESEC member organizations for helping to make EcoMeet possible!

See more information at [http://www.csraesec.org/eco-meet.!](http://www.csraesec.org/eco-meet.)



City Receives Grant for Additional Solar Aeration at Brick Pond Park

Brick Pond Park is a public park, but it is also a stormwater treatment system including approximately 40 acres of shallow wetland habitat of constructed, restored, and natural wetlands. Water is overwhelmingly supplied to the system mostly through stormwater events and some inputs from natural groundwater seeps. The ponds are shallow and mixed with our extended hot seasons this leads to a need for additional

dissolved oxygen (DO) in the water to maintain a healthy ecosystem. Thankfully, the City has recently been awarded a mini grant from the SC Office of Regulatory Staff - Energy Office. The grant is for \$5,000 to assist in the purchase of an additional solar aeration system in Brick Pond Park. The new system will replace our current electric aeration system that is costing over \$1,600 per year to run. It will provide a better solution

to increasing DO in the ponds with the sun as its power source. As always, our goal is to keep the system healthy for park visitors to enjoy and to provide a healthy ecosystem for the wildlife and plants that call it home. We are so pleased to acquire this grant and we are excited to see the difference it makes to Brick Pond Park in 2020.

Adopting Healthy Household Habits: Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Stormwater is often overlooked as an avenue of pollution, but contaminated stormwater runoff is actually the leading pollutant to our waterways today. Every time it rains, the water that falls onto impervious surfaces (like roadways and roof tops) flows into a waterway with no treatment for pollutants. Unlike water from a wastewater treatment facility, stormwater is not filtered or processed before it flows into a pond, creek, stream, or river. The rain itself is not polluted; it takes the sediment, garbage, oils, pesticides or other pollutants on the ground with the flow of stormwater into a nearby water body.

The Stormwater Department's role is to help decrease the amount of contamination that makes it to the Savannah River and [YOU CAN HELP](#). There are simple lifestyle changes that can be implemented to reduce stormwater pollution. Homeowners can adopt healthy household habits like washing your car on the lawn instead of in the road or driveway. This simple change can stop harmful chemicals from flowing into the storm drains on the street. Pesticides, pet

waste, automotive fluids, and even grass clippings and yard debris can negatively impact our waterways. To help eliminate these concerns, follow the manufacturer's guidelines when applying pesticides or fertilizers, pick up after your pet wherever you take them, check your vehicles for leaks regularly, and bag yard waste before putting it on the street for pickup. These small changes can make a world of difference.

Other household stormwater impacts can include paints, plastics, and watering the lawn. Paint brushes can be cleaned indoors in the sink. Instead of the paint flowing into the ground water or storm drains if washed outside, the diluted paint and chemicals are processed and filtered through the water treatment plant on the other end of your household water pipes. Non-recyclable plastics and single use items such as Ziploc bags and Solo cups can be replaced with reusable or recyclable options. This will save space in landfills and prevent these plastics from being picked up by wind or stormwater and ending up in our waterways.

These are only a few of the healthy household habits that we can adopt in North Augusta to reduce and prevent stormwater pollution. If you already do these things, that's AWESOME! THANK YOU! Let your neighbors know they can help, too. With everyone working to protect our waterways, we can be the solution to stormwater pollution, together!

- Wash your car on the lawn.
- Follow manufacturer instructions when using pesticides or fertilizers.
- Do not spread pesticides or fertilizers on impervious surfaces
- Pick up after your pets wherever they go.
- Check vehicles for fluid leaks regularly.
- Bag yard waste if you want to sit it on the street for pickup.
- Clean paint brushes inside over a sink.
- Choose reusable plastics instead of single use ones.
- Throw trash in the assigned receptacle.
- Make sure sprinklers are spraying on the yard, not a driveway or road.

Blue Bag Program Ending

A message from City of North Augusta Public Services: As you may know, there is an ongoing recycling crisis that is substantially impacting recycling programs across the nation. The crisis has caused the resale price for recycled materials to decline to an all-time low that is affecting the City's annual recyclable sales revenue that helps fund our recycling services. Our annual labor expenses have also increased due to the loss of inmate labor.

Because of the loss of revenue and increased operating expenses, we

regret to inform you that effective January 1, 2020, the distribution of blue bags to sanitation customers will be discontinued to help lower operating expenses and offset an increase to the current monthly recycling fee. This was an extremely difficult decision to make and in efforts to continue recycling, all solid waste will continue to be delivered to the City's Materials Recovery Facility for processing and recovery of recyclables.

Please continue to use the blue bags you may have as they will still be

processed. All other recyclables such as large cardboard, white goods, metal, etc. should continue to be placed curbside for collection. If you wish to continue recycling you may do so by bringing recyclables to the City's drop-off center located at the Materials Recovery Facility 61 Claypit Road, North Augusta. We appreciate your participation in the recycling program and look forward to continuing to offer you the highest levels of solid waste and recycling service.

Invasive Species Profile:

Water Hyacinth (*Pontederia crassipes*)

Native to Brazil, water hyacinth is one of the fastest growing plants and has been recorded to grow up to 5 meters per day in some populations in SE Asia. In South Carolina, it is illegal to purchase, propagate, distribute, or sell this plant because of its invasive nature. This ornate purple flower is attractive to aquatic gardeners, but it can be a detriment to fish populations, the fishing industry,

and recreational water activities. Once water hyacinth is established, it can reproduce by seed and those seeds can remain viable at the basin bottom for up to 30 years or it can propagate from fragmentation. The mats they form on the surface are so dense that sunlight cannot penetrate the water, and native species are crowded out. The vast number of plants depletes the oxygen and cause travel issues



for fisheries and local boaters. Do South Carolina a favor and help return native species to the state by getting rid of invasive plants like water hyacinth.

Stormwater Knowledge Survey Answers:

Do stormwater drains on street and parking lots send water to a wastewater treatment plant?	NO.
If you sweep trash, leaves, and debris into the road, can it negatively affect the Savannah River?	YES.
Do all storm drains in North Augusta eventually discharge to the Savannah River?	YES.
What is the most significant source of pollution in our waterways today?	Runoff from yards, farms, roads, and construction sites

Congratulations to our survey contest winners: Mr. Robert Miller and Mr. Alex Baker!

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 30th	Christmas in the Backcountry at Living History Park, 10a.m. to 4p.m.
December 3rd	North Augusta Christmas Tree Lighting at Calhoun Park and Lookaway Inn, 5:30 to 7p.m.
December 7th	Christmas for the Birds at Living History Park, 10a.m. to 2p.m.
December 8th	Lions Club Christmas Parade on Georgia Avenue, Starting at 3p.m. (FREE)
December 21st	Augusta Christmas Bird Count - Learn more at URL below.
December 24th	Aiken Christmas Bird Count - Learn more at: https://www.audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count
March 11th	ATC Sustainability Expo at Aiken Technical College, 8:30a.m. to 2p.m.
April 25th	Earth Day in Brick Pond Park, 10a.m. to 2p.m. (FREE)
May 16th	Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Kroger/Arby's Parking Lot, 10a.m. to 1p.m.



For additional information contact:

Michaela Day, Environmental Technician
 City of North Augusta
 Stormwater Management Department
 P.O. Box 6400 • North Augusta SC 29861-6400
 803-442-5711 • stormwater@northaugusta.net

