

CITY COUNCIL

- Lark Jones, Mayor
- Jimmy Adams
- Carolyn Baggott
- Pat Carpenter
- Phil Mottel
- Ken McDowell
- Arthur Shealy

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

are held every first & third Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers on the second floor of the Municipal Building, 400 East Buena Vista Avenue. Citizens are encouraged to attend these meetings.



North Augusta
South Carolina's
Riverfront

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North Augusta

FORWARD

A Publication for the Citizens of North Augusta, South Carolina

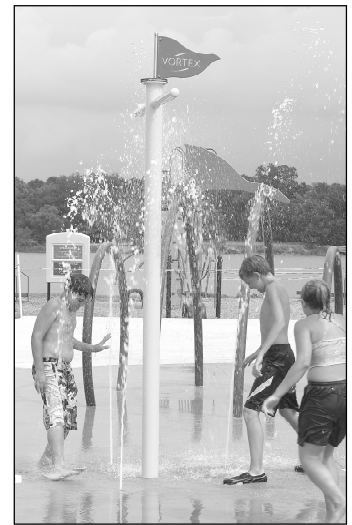
RIVERVIEW PARK UPGRADES

Planned

A plan for the continued upgrade and enhancement of Riverview Park is a major component of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan. The Riverview Park improvement plan proposes \$6 million in upgrades and enhancements to Riverview Park and the Activities Center. Proposed improvements are divided into four phases. The first phase, estimated at \$2.8 million, consists of improvements to the playground area, baseball and softball complexes and circulation (vehicular and pedestrian) in the park. The first phase of improvements will be budgeted over several years.

Playground Enhancements

The first project to be funded will be upgrades to the playground. Located between the baseball and softball fields, the improved playground will include new play equipment appropriate for children 10 and under, two picnic shelters, restrooms, a shade canopy and a "Splashpad," a relatively new concept in playground equipment. A SplashPad is a state-of-the-art aquatics play area that features brightly colored elements that gush, bubble, squirt, splatter, mist and spray water at the delighted participants. Water action is activated in automated and random patterns or directly by the push of a button, spin of a wheel or turn of a valve. The result is hours of entertainment for the whole family. Construction on the new playground is expected to begin in early 2004 and should be ready for action by late spring or early summer.




The Aiken County Capital Projects Sales Tax, approximately \$760,000, provides a portion of the funds for the new playground facilities. The balance of the funding will be appropriated from the city's Capital Projects fund.

Baseball and Softball Facility Upgrades

Additional phase one improvements will be budgeted over the next several years. Upgrades to the Riverview Park softball and baseball facilities include new scoring towers, restroom facilities, dugouts and concession areas. Enhanced lighting, new sprinkler systems, new fencing, new walkways and new landscaping are also among the improvements specified.

Design Improvements

Phase one also includes significant improvements to circulation within and through the park. The Buena Vista Avenue entrance will be realigned, the main parking areas will be redesigned to eliminate through traffic, entrance and directional signage will be installed, and new paved paths will be installed throughout the park to improve pedestrian connections. 

PARKS AND RECREATION

Master Plan

The June edition of *North Augusta Forward* reported on the final draft of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan and its acceptance by the City Council. The plan, developed with the assistance of the planning and engineering firm Woolpert LLC, combines community input with an evaluation of existing and planned recreation programs and services against state and national standards. The plan provides a ten-year guide for the city to enhance its parks and recreation system to meet existing and future needs of North Augusta area residents.



Aerial view of Riverview Park

The categories include regional parks of approximately 200 acres, district parks that average 60 acres, ten-acre community parks and neighborhood parks of less than five acres. A linear park category addresses the Greenway and planned bikeway system. The final category, special facilities, includes recommendations for Community Center renovations, the development of a senior center, an aquatics center, a town square park and a performing/cultural arts facility. The six park categories are further divided into phases of implementation, estimated cost and suggested funding

sources. The City Council will review the plan regularly and each phase will be modified as necessary, budgeted and approved prior to implementation.

The plan recommends an estimated \$57 million in renovations and new park facilities by the year 2015. Implementation of the plan is divided into six standard park categories based on size and the number of people the park is designed to serve.

PHASE ONE PROJECTS

The City Council has authorized the preparation of preliminary plans and cost estimates for the implementation of the first phase of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan. Several projects in phase one will be considered for implementation in 2004.

REGIONAL PARKS

Riverview Park is currently the city's only regional park. The master plan recommends improvements to Riverview Park and the development of a new regional park. In the coming months the City Council will be evaluating potential sites for a new regional park to serve the area. At this time soccer facilities represent the greatest need for a second regional park complex.


COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks in North Augusta include Summerfield Park on Old Edgefield Road, Maude Edenfield Park on East Buena Vista Avenue and Walnut Lane Park in the Walnut Grove subdivision. Recommendations for community parks include improvements to existing parks and the development of four new parks in this category after the development of a second regional park. Summerfield Park was significantly improved

over the last two years. Phase one of the master plan recommends improvements to the Walnut Lane Park play areas and additional site furnishings including benches, trash receptacles and new walkways. The budget estimate for Walnut Lane Park is \$150,000.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

North Augusta's neighborhood parks include Bunting Park, John C. Calhoun Park, Col. Leroy Hammond Park and Wade Hampton Park. The master plan recommends upgrades to existing parks as well as the development of six new neighborhood parks by the year 2015. Recommendations for the first phase of implementation include upgrades to existing parks and the preliminary development of two new parks.

Bunting Park is scheduled for drainage improvements, new playground equipment and site furniture. Calhoun Park will receive landscaping and new site furniture. New parks include the skate park at the Hammond Hills Suburban Club and the further development of Waterworks Park. Waterworks Park, adjacent to Riverside Boulevard below East Buena Vista Avenue, is the location of the old municipal waterworks facilities and Sertoma funded picnic pavilion. 

EMPLOYEES *Recognized*

The North Augusta Employee Recognition Committee recognized Cathy Hudson, utility billing coordinator in the Finance Department, as the Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2003. Hudson has been with the city since December 1992. She is an extremely hard working and dedicated employee, always available to assist customers and co-workers. Her dedication was proven when she worked evenings and weekends to implement a computer software conversion.



Chris Fulton, secretary in the Department of Public Works, was selected as the Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2003.

Fulton began her employment with the city in October 1996. As the secretary for the Building Standards, Engineering, and Sanitation Services Divisions, she ensures that contractors are properly licensed, issues building



permits and schedules building inspections. For Sanitation Services she takes calls and forwards the information to the appropriate personnel about missed sanitation pickups, lost – or found – pets and sometimes more unpleasant issues. Despite the often hectic pace, she is always upbeat and friendly as she quietly and consistently performs her duties.

North Augusta's Employee Recognition Program was established in 1996 to honor employees who distinguish themselves through unique accomplishments, cost-saving efforts, customer service and consistent performance above normal expectations. A committee of city employees accepts nominations from city employees and citizens and selects an outstanding employee each quarter.

For more information or to nominate an employee, please call 441-4301.

RIVERFRONT PARK AND GREENEWAY *Extension*

A community luncheon and meeting was convened at the Community Center on August 26 to introduce representatives of Sasaki Associates Inc. to community leaders. Sasaki, an internationally renowned design firm, was selected by the North Augusta Riverfront Company to design the riverfront Greenway extension and park and other public spaces planned for Hammond's Ferry, the 200-acre riverfront traditional neighborhood development. The city's agreement with the North Augusta Riverfront Company requires the developer to design all of the public spaces in the central riverfront area including the 33 acres of public parklands. The city will construct the park improvements, primarily with Aiken County Capital Projects Sales Tax funds.

Stu Dawson and Varoujan Hagopian of Sasaki explained the process for designing the planned riverfront park and Greenway extension. Mr. Dawson commended the city on its commitment to provide public access to the Savannah River. A goal of the Sasaki firm in the design of waterfront projects is "to create dynamic public environments that invite people to the water's edge, forge new connections, and stimulate private investment by capturing the value of a waterfront location." Mr. Dawson also said that the city's past achievements in park development, including the Riverview Park Activities Center and the Greenway, attest to North Augusta's record of providing high quality public services and facilities.

The 1.5 mile Greenway extension will be constructed at the same time as the first phase of Hammond's Ferry. The riverfront park will be built during the second phase. Other public spaces, including tree lined street medians and a large public lake, will be constructed with subsequent phases of the neighborhood. 🇺🇸




North Augusta community leaders attend a presentation by representatives of Sasaki Associates, the designers of the riverfront park, Greenway extension and public spaces in Hammond's Ferry.

SKATE PARK *Update*

Despite unanticipated delays, construction on North Augusta's new skate park will begin soon. As reported in the June edition of *North Augusta Forward*, the city leased the unused tennis court at the Hammond Hills Suburban Club to improve as a skate park. The site is adjacent to the Hammond Hills swimming pool on Cypress Drive near the Greenway.

Approved by the City Council in May, work on the park was scheduled to begin in July and end in August but was delayed after bids came in much higher than the \$15,000 budgeted for the project. The wet weather this year has delayed the construction and increased the cost of all asphalt paving projects. On August 18 the council approved an additional \$13,500 so the project could be completed this year. The skate park will include new asphalt paving, fencing, sidewalks, landscaping and ramps.

When complete, the park will be open to skateboarders, rollerbladers and BMX cyclists of all ages. The skate park will be gated and supervised and park patrons will be required to follow specific rules and regulations. Admission to the park will require a nominal annual membership fee and a fee for each session. Questions about membership can be submitted to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services at 441-4300. 

UPCOMING *Events*

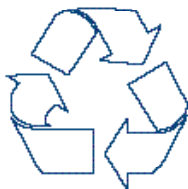
Saturday, October 11 & Sunday, October 12 – A Day to Remember, Camp opens 10:00 a.m., Creighton Living History Park, Lake Avenue. North Augusta's colonial past comes to life at this weekend long Colonial Trades Fair and Militia Muster. The North Augusta Olde Towne Association sponsors this event. For more information call 279-1327 or 279-7560.

Saturday, October 25 – Jack-o-Lantern Jubilee, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Downtown North Augusta. Dress up the kids and join the festivities. This event features a haunted house, live entertainment, crafts, rides, costume contests and fun for the whole family. For more information call 441-4300.

Monday, December 1 – Christmas Tree Lighting, 6:00 p.m., John C. Calhoun Park. Local church and school groups perform holiday carols while the city tree is illuminated. Jolly Old St. Nick is usually a surprise guest! For more information call 441-4300.

Thursday, December 4 – Carols in the Park, 6:00 p.m., Creighton Living History Park, Lake Avenue. North Augusta area church and school choirs usher in the holiday season in this lush, natural setting. For more information call 441-4300.

Sunday, December 7 – Christmas Parade, 3:00 p.m., Downtown North Augusta. A Christmas tradition. Sponsored by the North Augusta Lions Club and the City of North Augusta.



**NORTH
AUGUSTA
*Recycles***

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

POLICE & FIRE EMERGENCY	911
PUBLIC SAFETY	
Non Emergency	279-2121
Administration	441-4251
Records/Court Services	441-4271
Investigations	441-4274
PARKS, RECREATION & LEISURE SERVICES	
Riverview Park Activities Center	441-4300
Activities Coordinator	441-4311
Community Center	441-4290
GENERAL SERVICES & FINANCE	
Taxes	441-4215
Utility - New Service/Disconnects	441-4219
Utility Billing Services	441-4212
Business Licenses (Non-Contractor)	441-4214
Human Resources	441-4205
ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS	
After-Hours Emergencies	279-2121
Engineering	441-4223
Building Standards	441-4227
Permits	441-4227
Business Licenses (Contractors)	441-4227
Animal Control	441-4227
Sanitation Services	441-4223
Sanitation - New Service	441-4219
Stormwater Management	441-4246
PUBLIC UTILITIES	
After-Hours Emergencies	279-2121
Utility - New Service/Disconnects	441-4219
Utility Billing	441-4212
Water and Sewer Repairs	441-4240
Streets and Drains Repairs	441-4240
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	
Economic Development	441-4221
Planning	441-4221
Zoning	441-4221
Code Compliance	441-4258
ADMINISTRATION	
Mayor	441-4202
City Administrator	441-4202
OTHER FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS	
North Augusta Chamber of Commerce	279-2323
Nancy Carson Library	279-5767
North Augusta Health Center	278-3621
Comcast (cable)	706-733-7712
S. C. Electric & Gas	442-2000
BellSouth	780-2355
S. C. Department of Transportation	1-800-442-1368
Magistrate	202-3580



CITY of NORTH AUGUSTA
400 East Buena Vista Avenue
PO Box 6400
North Augusta, SC 29861-6400

www.northaugusta.net

North Augusta Forward is mailed quarterly to every city water customer. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please write to:

North Augusta Forward,
P. O. Box 6400, North Augusta, SC 29861-6400
or call 803-441-4221.