



The Resource

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A Publication of the City of North Augusta
Stormwater Management Department

Repairing Stormwater Damage to the North Augusta Greenway Trail



Slope repair product testing along Greenway Trail

The City of North Augusta is working to develop a solution to repair erosion along the North Augusta Greenway Trail at Riverside Boulevard. Storm events that dump lots of water in a short time have caused erosion along the creek banks that is impacting the footbridges. The goal of the project is to stabilize the banks and to repair damage. The City is working to design a solution that includes: installing erosion control fabric, riprap rocks, planting grasses and removing obstacles that are making the problem worse.

In January, a small product demonstration project was done. North Augusta Stormwater Department crews installed three types of erosion control fabric and two types of seed applications to test different products. Over the next couple of months, the project will be studied to see what works best under certain conditions. We would like to thank East Coast Erosion Control, ACF Environmental and Saluda Hill who donated materials and helped to install the products.

The city will be submitting a grant application to the South Carolina Recreational Trails program in March to acquire additional funding for the repairs. **A public meeting will be held at the North Augusta Community Center on February 28, 2011 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. to discuss plans for the repairs and to take public comments. If you would like to share your thoughts, please attend this meeting.**

Ten Easy Things We all Can Do to Prevent Pollution in our Streams

1. When gardening or landscaping, use chemicals sparingly or use organic alternatives on non-rainy days.
2. Have your soil tested before applying fertilizer. Clemson Extension charges \$6.00 to test soil, sample drop off is at Country Boy Farm & Yard. Call for more info: (803) 649-6297
3. Use low maintenance native plants in your yard. They require less water and tolerate native insects and diseases.
4. Make sure not to dump anything near a storm drain or stream.
5. Wash your car on the lawn or on gravel to prevent runoff, filter pollutants and allow water to soak into the ground.
6. If your automobile, motorcycle or lawn equipment is leaking, fix the leaks to prevent harmful chemicals from washing into a storm drain or stream.
7. If you have a septic tank, make sure to maintain it so it does not leak.
8. Sweep or blow off driveways instead of using water. Collect the leaves and place them up on the curb for pick-up.
9. When installing new walkways, use materials that rain will soak through like staggered brick, gravel, cobbles, permeable pavers, or natural stones.
10. Pick up loose trash on the ground. Rain washes everything into local streams and the Savannah River.

Species Profile:

Bald Eagle

(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)

The Bald Eagle is our national bird and symbol. The magnificent birds were once listed as an endangered species in the United States, but successful efforts to save them appear to have worked. They were removed from the list in 2007. In the United States today there are about 9,789 breeding pairs (up from 450 pairs in 1967) with 205 of those pairs in South Carolina and 82 in Georgia. Bald Eagles are truly North American birds only. They can be found throughout the country and in great numbers in Alaska and also in Canada.

In North Augusta, the Bald Eagle has been spotted numerous times visiting Brick Pond Park in the winter time. They can also be seen at Strom Thurmond Lake, the Savannah River and other large bodies of water in the southeast. The most common bird mistaken for the Bald Eagle is the Osprey when seen from a distance. On closer inspection you can't mistake the purely white head *and tail* of the Bald Eagle.

Male and female Bald Eagles look alike with the female being largest. Young Bald Eagles are less easy to recognize since they are mostly brown. It takes a young Bald Eagle four to five years to mature to the white head, neck and tail, brown/black body, yellow beak and legs of an adult. They are two to three feet tall with a wingspan of six to eight feet across and can weigh from ten to 14 pounds. Bald Eagles can lift up to four pounds with their talons and can fly up to 35 miles per hour when going after prey. Their diet consists mostly of fish but also rodents and other dead or dying animals. Male and females pair up and stay together throughout life. They build huge nests high in trees near rivers or coastlines and work together to rear usually two to three young. They have the largest nests of all birds and live up to 30 years.

Many Bald Eagles have suffered and died due to man and nature. The cause of dramatic declines in eagles in the 1940-60's was due to hunting, habitat loss and from pesticide that weakened their eggs shells. By enacting laws against killing Bald Eagles, banning the pesticide DDT, and helping the birds to recover, they have rebounded. Since then the biggest concern for the Bald Eagle is pollution and being hit by cars along



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roadways. A new threat to the bird is a toxin. In Arkansas and South Carolina lakes, American Coots feed on algae attached to a plant that grows there, hydrilla. The plants themselves are not toxic; it is the algae that grow on the leaves. The coots ingest the algae and they become sick with Avian Vacuolar Myelinopathy (AVM), the Bald Eagle eats the coots and then it becomes sick and dies from AVM too. Many Bald Eagles died from 1998-2004 and this year it appears that five Bald Eagles have been found dead from the disease at Lake Thurmond. Scientists say that Lake Thurmond is one of the only sites in the Southeast where the deadly algae grow on hydrilla.

Upcoming Events:

Monday, February 28, 2011

Public meeting (see article in this issue), 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., N. A. Community Center, 495 Brookside Avenue

Friday, March 25, 2011

Yellow Jessamine Festival: 5 to 8 p.m. Jackson Square

Saturday, March 26, 2011

Yellow Jessamine Festival: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Georgia Ave

Saturday, March 26, 2011

Electronics Recycling Event: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., New Kroger

Saturday, April 16, 2011

Kids Earth Day: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lions Memorial Field

Saturday, May 14, 2011

Household Hazardous Waste Collection: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., New Kroger



For additional information contact:

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North Augusta
South Carolina's Riverfront