



The Resource

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A Publication of the City of North Augusta
Stormwater Management Department

Results of the 2010 Stormwater Management Department Survey

During February, March and April, the stormwater management department (SWMD) conducted a survey of residents (see February *Resource*) to learn how effective our outreach efforts have been and also to give residents a chance to comment on issues that are important to them. Thank you to all participants that took the time to complete the survey and share your opinions with us. Everyone that participated is greatly appreciated! Participants were entered into a random drawing to win one of two \$50.00 prizes. The drawing was held on April 15th and we would like to congratulate the

two winners, Mr. Sheridan Lynn and Ms. Anne Zercher!

Results of the survey will help to improve our outreach efforts and our service to the community. One hundred forty-eight responses were received. Of those, 43 residents provided additional comments that helped us identify problem areas and understand what the program means to the community. Overall, the results indicate that residents have learned a lot about stormwater issues since the program began. Many people want to learn more about how they can help protect our watershed.

Also, residents enjoy getting *The Resource* newsletter and many share the information they learn. A summary of the results follows and a full report will be available on our website in the near future.

We will continue to accept survey responses if you would like to share your thoughts. The survey is located on our website at www.northaugusta.net. Click on the Engineering Department link and then choose the Stormwater Department, or you may call (803) 441-4246 to have one mailed to you.

2010 Stormwater Survey Questions (148 people responded) <i>the most accurate answers are highlighted</i>	Yes	No	Unsure
1: Have you learned a lot about stormwater?	90%	7%	3%
2: Does North Augusta adequately maintain its stormwater system?	84%	6%	10%
3: Do you share information from The Resource with your family?	75%	24%	1%
4: Do stormwater drains send rainwater to a water treatment plant?	24%	45%	32%
5: Have you visited the North Augusta stormwater web pages?	13%	82%	5%
6: Does sweeping or blowing leaves/trash into the streets potentially impact the Savannah River?	92%	3%	5%
7: Do you know ways you can help prevent stormwater pollution?	81%	12%	7%
8: Would you like to learn more ways you can help?	86%	10%	4%
9: What is the best way to receive stormwater information? <i>71% newsletter, 12% email, 17% newspaper, TV or website.</i>			
10: What is the most significant source of pollution to our waterways? <i>42% runoff from yards, farms, construction sites; 48% all choices; 10% pipes, wastewater plants</i>			
11: Do North Augusta storm drains eventually discharge to Savannah River?	58%	9%	33%
12: If you garden, do you have your soil tested before applying fertilizers? <i>101 gardeners responded.</i>	29%	71%	0%
13: Where is the closest drop-off site for soil testing? <i>45% Country Boy Farm & Garden, Belvedere; 25% Don't know; 27% Do not garden; 2% Aiken, SC</i>			
Comments: 29% of respondents (43) provided additional comments			

Upcoming Events:

North Augusta's Mosquito Abatement program will start May 11, 2010. Spraying will take place between 4:30 and 6:30 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Residents that do not want spraying in their area are asked to call (803) 441-4244.

Species Profile:

Wood Ducks

(*Aix sponsa*)

The Wood Duck is the official state duck of South Carolina. Several pairs are nesting and raising ducklings at Brick Pond Park. Nest boxes that were graciously provided by the Boy Scouts, are located throughout the wetland and are being used by this species. Wood Ducks are sometimes regarded as the most beautiful of waterfowl species.

Adult male Wood Ducks have multi-colored iridescent plumage and deep red eyes. A female is brown colored with a white eye-ring and throat. Both adults have crested heads. The male Wood Duck makes a whistling sound when disturbed or courting a mate. Wood Ducks bob their head back and forth when they are in the water. This shy birds' favorite habitat is wooded swamps, shallow lakes, wetlands, and marshes located in the eastern and western United States and Mexico.

Wood Ducks usually pair up before they arrive to their breeding areas in the spring. They are the only North American duck that can have up to two broods per season. They nest in trees near water and will gladly take up residence in a nest box provided



Dave Menke, USFWS

by humans. Wood Ducks prefer to nest over water so that when the young leave the nest they can drop softly and unharmed. They will also nest in trees up to 1.2 miles from a water body. Females lay 9 to 14 eggs. As soon as the eggs hatch, ducklings drop down from their nest and follow their mother around learning about feeding and danger. They feed by dabbling or walking on land. Wood Ducks mainly eat berries and seeds, but also eat insects, making them omnivores.

Early last century, Wood Duck numbers dwindled alarmingly. Habitat loss

and over hunting were the primary reasons for their decline. Strict hunting regulations and providing nest boxes as substitutes for natural cavities brought their numbers back. Brick Pond Park is a perfect habitat for these animals. Recent Brick Pond Park water test results indicate the water is healthy and can sustain all the creatures living there. If you visit Brick Pond Park anytime soon, you will see the Wood Duck families moving about. Please do not feed any of the wildlife at the park. These beautiful wild creatures do not need us to feed them since nature has everything taken care of.

Note:

Survey – Where is North Augusta Going?

The City of North Augusta has agreed to assist the Chamber of Commerce with a brief survey designed to measure public perception of growth and development in the City. Please visit the North Augusta Chamber of Commerce website www.northaugustachamber.org and complete the survey.



For additional information contact:

Tanya Strickland, Environmental Coordinator
City of North Augusta
Stormwater Management Department
P.O. Box 6400 • North Augusta, SC 29861-6400
(803) 441-4246
stormwater@northaugusta.net



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