



The Resource

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A Publication of the City of North Augusta
Stormwater Management Department

Stormwater Management in North Augusta 2012 Annual Report

North Augusta has successfully managed another year and met each of the six program goals required to be in compliance with our small municipal separate storm sewer permit (sMS4). In doing so, we have removed 331 tons of pollutants from our streets, homes, sheds and storm drains. Citizens continue to participate and work to make North Augusta a great place to raise our families. Stormwater projects and drainage repairs were completed throughout the city along with a comprehensive strategy to find and eliminate illicit discharges to the system. Thanks go out to all of the great citizens of North Augusta.

- ✓ The removal of 331 tons of pollutants from our community, with programs such as our storm drain cleaning (296 drains cleaned, ~9.63 tons), street sweeping (306.6 tons) and roadside litter pickup (15 tons), removed pollutants from the watershed.
- ✓ The city held a successful Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event where 5.36 tons of potential pollutants were removed and properly disposed of or recycled.

- ✓ The city also held two successful Electronics Waste Recycle events where 39 tons of materials were recycled and removed from the waste stream and not landfilled.
- ✓ We were successful in that our public participation goals were met with approximately 1,468 participants or volunteers becoming involved in stormwater activities.
- ✓ The Brick Pond Park Outdoor Education Classroom was used to host over 1,358 students, parents, educators and stormwater professionals throughout the year to teach about stormwater pollution. Outreach and education efforts continue with this newsletter that was delivered to every utility customer along with other materials distributed at stormwater education events.
- ✓ A successful construction permitting and site inspection program was conducted that helped to prevent pollutants from leaving construction sites (total of 384 site inspections with an overall compliance rate of 88%).



This year 1,358 kids and adults participated in Brick Pond Park stormwater education events. The full annual report can be found at our stormwater webpage at www.northaugusta.net

NEW Greenway Volunteer Group Established Meet...FROG

The newly formed Friends of the Greenway volunteer group is organized, and is ready to hit the Greenway running. The group has worked diligently over the last several months creating a structure, our mission statement, goals and an identity.

The mission of the North Augusta Greenway Trust (aka Friends of the Greenway) is: "To serve the citizens of North Augusta by improving, enhancing, expanding and encouraging the long-term use of the greenway trail system for recreation and transportation in the vicinity of North Augusta; and, to encourage and facilitate the connection of the system to other neighboring communities."

The broad scope of goals identified by FROG include adding amenities and enhancements to the Greenway, making educational and safety improvements, promoting and creating awareness of this great and valuable community asset, and creating funding for identified projects. As you are out and about, you will easily be able to spot FROG volunteers in fluorescent yellow shirts with the FROG emblem. As community members and Greenway users, we would like to ask you to take the leap and become actively engaged in supporting Frog. You can jump in and become an active FROG by volunteering your time or by signing up as a sponsor. For further information, please go to www.friendsofthegreenway.org.



Species Profile

Anhinga anhinga

The *Anhinga anhinga* is known as the snake bird, fishing bird or water turkey. They can be found at lakes and ponds in our area or along the riverfront. These large black birds grow to be about four feet tall and with an outstretched wingspan also about four feet wide, making them easy to spot. They routinely stand on logs or other perches like tree limbs, where they sun dry their wings after returning from their underwater fishing excursions. At ponds like those in Brick Pond Park, the River Club ponds or others near the river bank, you may see many of these birds in one outing.

Anhingas are excellent at capturing prey. They dive under water seeking food and are expert swimmers that are very graceful in the water. They use their tail feathers like a rudder to turn and move. As they swim along the banks our out in the open near floating plants, they are looking for fish that are hiding. Once they find them, they will plunge up from underneath and spear

the fish with their long bill. The birds then toss the fish off its bill in a skyward motion so it will fall back down into the birds open mouth. Many mistake them for snakes for a moment, thus the nick name.

At Brick Pond Park, the Anhinga's have raised several broods of young in a nest located out on an island. The young birds wait at the nest for food provided by both male and female parents. The young birds have a golden color of feathers around their neck and head. As they mature, the color changes to black. Their favorite food appears to be small fish and insects that have already been eaten and digested by the parent birds.

Water pollution can affect the Anhinga population. Fish often carry pollutants in their tissue from their own exposures to them in their environment. Fish consume many smaller animals or plants that may have toxins in



them. The pollutants can be stored at higher concentrations in their tissue. Once the Anhinga eats fish that contain the toxins, it too accumulates higher concentrations of toxins and the process is repeated all the way up the food chain. If high enough levels exist, the pollutants can sometimes kill the birds or may alter the bird's population by preventing it from reproduction or from having healthy chicks. Other manmade obstacles like trash brought in by stormwater or fishing line can harm the birds.

Stormwater Department Conducting Studies of Bugs in Streams

Please note that over the next year the stormwater management department will be conducting a study of bugs "macro-invertebrates" that live in Pretty Run Creek, Pole Branch, and Mims Branch. You may see staff working in the streams for several hours at a time in neighborhoods within the watershed. The purpose of the study is to learn what bugs are living in these stream systems.

This information will help us to determine if the streams are healthy or are being impacted by pollution. The data generated will be used for future decisions by the department. A similar study is conducted by the state. The state uses its data to list streams as impaired, which lead to stricter regulations that require cities to

address the issues they find. Pretty Run is currently on the list. Water quality studies can be compared to see if the new data shows improvement over older studies.



Upcoming Events in North Augusta!

Saturday, November 24	Christmas in the Backwoods at Living History Park, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Tuesday, November 27	Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony – Calhoun Park 5:30 – 8 p.m.
Saturday, December 1	Christmas for the Birds at Living History Park, 10 a.m. – 2 – 4 p.m.
Saturday, December 9	North Augusta Christmas Parade – 2 p.m. Deadline for entries is November 29! For more information contact: (803) 279-7288 or (803) 279-7701



For additional information contact:

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