

# The Resource

A Publication of the City of North Augusta  
Stormwater Management Department

## Storm Drainage System Mapping



The Stormwater Management Department is currently creating a detailed map of the entire North Augusta Storm Drainage System. Methods employed in the mapping include GPS (Global Positioning System) field surveys with construction plan verification for those portions of the system where plans are available. Data collected include pipe sizes, inlet and discharge points, condition of structures and evidence of pollution. The resulting GIS (Geographic Information System) map and data associated with each structure will be used to prioritize maintenance and capital improvement projects. The map will also be useful during the review of new projects to ensure that the existing system can handle the water from new development.

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, as a part of new stormwater regulations, requires that the city develop a comprehensive map of outfalls from the city storm drainage system. The Stormwater Management Department will be required to assess each outfall for pollutant discharges as well as the potential for pollutant discharges. The comprehensive map that is currently being developed will satisfy this regulatory requirement while providing an invaluable tool to protect and improve water quality. Approximately one third of the system has been mapped with completion anticipated by the end of this year.

## Natural Mosquito Control

Mosquitoes are annoying, sometimes painful and can transmit diseases to both humans and pets. The city implements a mosquito control program every year and trained crews regularly spray for mosquitoes. However, the spray treatment kills only adult mosquitoes. Mosquito eggs and larvae are not affected. A mosquito must have water to complete a life cycle and reproduce. Most mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water or in small water-holding containers where thousands can hatch in as little as a day.

There are a number of simple and positive steps that can be taken to reduce the number of these pesky creatures:

- ✓ Remove any standing water from your yard. (Get rid of old tires, tin cans, buckets, drums, bottles or any other water-holding containers.)
- ✓ Fill in or drain any low places (puddles, ruts, ditches, etc.) in your yard.
- ✓ Keep drains, ditches and culverts clean of weeds and trash so water will drain properly.
- ✓ Cover trash containers to keep out rainwater.
- ✓ Repair leaky pipes and outdoor faucets.

- ✓ Empty child or pet wading pools at least once a week and store them indoors when not in use.
- ✓ Make sure the swimming pool is properly cared for while on vacation.
- ✓ Fill water-holding holes in trees and hollow stumps with sand or concrete.
- ✓ Change the water in birdbaths, plant pots and drip trays at least twice a week.
- ✓ Keep the lawn cut and shrubbery well trimmed to reduce hiding areas for adult mosquitoes.

In addition to the simple steps listed above, natural predators can be very effective in eliminating mosquitoes. Predacious minnows such as *Gambusia*, common name Mosquitofish, can be added to small decorative ponds. Goldfish also consume mosquito larvae. Consider adding a fountain to the pond - the resulting aeration is good for the fish and also creates turbulence which discourages mosquito larvae production. Adult dragonflies, or mosquitohawks, are voracious predators of adult mosquitoes. Dragonfly nymphs, which live in water, are also very effective predators of mosquito larvae and many birds, such as Purple Martins, feed on mosquitoes, as do bats.

# Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

In March, the Stormwater Management Department held a Household Hazardous Waste Collection at the Crossroads Market Shopping Center. Residents were invited to bring in their unneeded automobile fluids, fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, paints, and other materials that are normally difficult to dispose of. Materials were unloaded from 155 vehicles by volunteers from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, the University of South Carolina Aiken and the City of North Augusta. The collected items were then packaged for proper shipment and disposal and removed by Clean Harbors Environmental, Inc.

Following is a summary of some of the more common materials that were brought in for disposal:

MATERIAL	# of CONTAINERS	% of PARTICIPANTS WHO BROUGHT THESE MATERIALS
Paint	730	63%
Oil	193	32%
Herbicides / Pesticides	110	26%
Antifreeze	33	8%
Mercury	9	5%

The Stormwater Management Department will hold another Household Hazardous Waste Collection in the spring of 2005.

## Carolina Yards and Neighborhoods Seminar

On March 16 and 18, the Stormwater Management Department sponsored its second Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service Carolina Yards and Neighborhoods seminar. The featured speakers were Suzanne Holmes of the Aiken County Extension office and Jack Queener of the Beaufort County Extension office. There were 45 attendees for both nights. Subjects covered included environmentally friendly plant selection, fertilizing, watering and yard chemical use.

## Lawns and Low Maintenance Landscaping Seminars Planned

Based on the positive feedback from attendees at the Yards and Neighborhoods Seminar, the Stormwater Management Department has invited the Clemson Extension Service to conduct two additional seminars on topics of interest to many North Augusta residents - Lawns and Low Maintenance Landscaping. The Lawns seminar will be August 18 from 6-8pm, and the Low Maintenance Landscaping seminar will be August 19 from 6-8pm. Both seminars will take place at the North Augusta Community Center. Refreshments will be provided. Admission is free but registration is appreciated. Please call David Caddell at 441-4246 or email [dcaddell@northaugusta.net](mailto:dcaddell@northaugusta.net) to register.

## Mosquito Myths



Did you know that nearly 1.75 million homeowners have turned to the use of ultraviolet or black light electrocutors, more commonly known as bug zappers, to control the mosquito nuisance problem?

While these traps can attract and kill thousands of insects within a 24-hour period, in one study researchers found that mosquitoes comprised only 6.4% of a five-day insect catch. Not only was the mosquito population a small percentage of all insects killed during this particular study, but only half of the mosquitoes killed were the blood-sucking females.

Another common mosquito myth is that the Citrosa plant is a mosquito deterrent. Currently, no studies are available to support the idea that the Citrosa plant actually repels mosquitoes. In fact, some researchers believe that the only way the Citrosa plant can release the Citronella oil is if the plant is touched or disturbed by something much larger than a mosquito.



For additional information contact:

David Caddell, Stormwater Manager  
 City of North Augusta  
 Stormwater Management Department  
 P.O. Box 6400  
 North Augusta, SC 29861-6400  
 (803) 441-4246  
[dcaddell@northaugusta.net](mailto:dcaddell@northaugusta.net)



**North Augusta**  
 South Carolina's  
 Riverfront