



The Resource

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A Publication of the City of North Augusta
Stormwater Management Department

BEING AWARE OF STORMWATER FLOW AT HOME

Flooding can be a serious problem during heavy downpours. During dry weather, a clogged storm drain is a small problem but it can become serious in a matter of hours during rain. One thing that each of us can do, before the storm, is to assess your property and surrounding areas to determine if you could potentially be impacted by flooding. If your home is at the bottom of the hill or in the lowest point in a subdivision, think about the flow of water across the land. How is water transported and where? These are important things to know. Look out and determine if your street has storm drains. If so, it is a good idea to look at them (from the street) and think about the flow that will go to them. Is there a blockage by limbs, debris, balls or other toys that may have made their way there? Even a small clump of debris or grasses that may be growing next to a drain, can divert the water around the drain so water flows right past it and into the next lower spot, like a driveway or the roadway. The city has maps of the storm drains and can assist you if you have questions.

If you see a blockage on the exterior of a storm drain, ditch, or grate, you can report the problem to the stormwater department. We will come out and clear it. Keeping areas clear by removing a small blockage



As seen here on a North Augusta street: a small obstacle such as a clump of grass and leaves can completely divert flow away from a storm drain.

such as a limbs or other debris from the drain will keep the problem from getting worse. During a storm, if you see a drain that has water backing up instead of flowing into the drain, the blockage may be inside the pipe. For safety reasons, DO NOT attempt to clear blockage when water has covered it since dangerous sinkholes or other problems may not be visible. Report the problem to us by giving the closest address. In some cases even unclogged drains can back up if they cannot handle the amount of water flowing. In those cases, an engineering solution might be needed. For more information, contact the Stormwater Department at (803) 441-4246 or send questions by email to: stormwater@northaugusta.net.



Volunteers Making a Difference

Joel Farrar (pictured) is our guest writer for this issue of *The Resource* sharing with readers what he has learned as a volunteer. Joel recently completed three amazing public service projects in North Augusta as part of his attempt to earn the Boy Scouts William T. Hornaday distinguished service in natural resources and conservation Award. Joel also hopes to soon qualify as Eagle Scout, Scouting's highest achievement rank. This month Joel is leaving for college at Clemson University. The city thanks Joel for organizing and completing these projects and also thank you to each one of his teammates for all their efforts to make the city a better place. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact us for more information (803) 441-4246.

NORTH AUGUSTA PARKS NEED COMMUNITY TLC by Joel Farrar

Beautiful parks and natural areas don't just magically stay that way. We all know that recycling, using less energy and "Leaving No Trace" are important contributions that everyone should make for the environment. But this summer, I learned that conservation is a job for everyone. Troop 7 Boy Scouts took on three projects in various parts of North Augusta that included erosion control work at the Riverview Park Activities Center (REC), cleaning up Pretty Run Creek and helping keep Brick Pond Park free from an invasive tree species. These efforts could have big implications if the North Augusta community joins us to maintain our parks and help clean our waterways.

In May of this year, disc golfers at the REC might have been a little disappointed to see that the third hole was closed off for a couple of days. A serious erosion problem had been in development for years. Damage to the soil and slope had occurred from rain water and lots of foot traffic by people. The soil damage prohibited new grass and vegetation from growing to prevent erosion. In an attempt to repair the area and to lay a foundation

for vegetation to grow, straw filled mesh and mulch were put down to help control soil movement and to guide water flow down the slope. With these protections and improvements, soil stability should improve and hopefully resolve the slope erosion. Staying on the pathways is a good way for Disc Golfers to help.

The second project involved removing an invasive tree species from Brick Pond Park. The Chinese tallow tree, or Popcorn tree, has a toxic sap which falls and creates a dead zone around the tree. The sap prevents other trees from growing in its vicinity, and the process continues until the forest is only made up of Popcorn trees. To prevent this from happening in Brick Pond Park, I had groups looking for and removing the species and treating the ones too large to remove. Many volunteers worked in the park, including the paths, wooded areas and some even went out in canoes to cut down the trees growing on islands. At our last count, more than 1000 trees and saplings were cut down or treated.

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Species Profile

RED FOX (*Vulpes vulpes*)

Glimpsing a red fox moving across the back yard or darting across the street happens every now and then and for that moment, we get to see an elusive creature that rarely makes its presence known. The Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) is the larger of the two foxes known to live in South Carolina. While many live in North Augusta's wooded areas, Red foxes prefer to live in open spaces such as agricultural fields with woods nearby, unlike the Gray fox that prefers the woods most of the time. Red foxes have been seen in Brick Pond Park and along the Greenway Trail. They are most active at night and in early morning hours and are secretive creatures.

Red foxes stand about 16 inches tall and can weigh eight to 13 pounds. Red fox's bodies are a red to orange color with short legs and feet that are covered in black fur. They have white fur on their belly and throat. The tail is longer than the body and has long reddish fur with a white tip on the end. Gray foxes are much smaller but look similar at a glance. A quick way to determine if what you see is a Red or a Gray fox is to focus on their height and the color of the tip of the tail. The Gray fox's tail has a black tip. Red foxes are omnivores and will eat rabbits, mice, birds, insects, fruits and berries. A large part of their diet includes



USFWS John Sarvis

insects and crayfish but they will eat whatever they can find.

The Red fox pairs with one female from December to February. The female will sometimes build several dens. In about 53 days, the female will have 4-8 kits (puppies) in the den. If worried about safety, she will move the kits to another den including borrow other creature's dens. The male fox will bring food during the first few weeks for both the female and the young. In five weeks, the kits are old enough to venture out. In three months they will leave the den and forage with their parents. They leave their parents around seven months. Red foxes live only one to four years in the wild and their biggest threat is habitat loss.

JOEL FARRAR *continued*

The last project involved helping the City locate illicit discharge pipes and cleaning trash from Pretty Run Creek. Pretty Run creek acts as a natural gutter that transports a lot of the rainwater runoff. The creek itself was difficult to navigate due to completely overgrown and extremely littered areas. In the creek we found bikes sunk up to their handlebars, tires, hoses, batteries, garbage bags, cans, bottles, shattered glass, chicken wire, tape, plastic, and everything in between. Truckloads of trash were removed from the creek, but more importantly, we were able to identify problem areas that have contributed to this creek

being listed as impaired (polluted) therefore requiring the City to work to eliminate contaminants. Animal fences too close to the creek and pipes directly dumping into the creek will be addressed by the City of North Augusta now that they have been located.

All of these projects illustrate the need for citizens to take better care of their city and their environment. From the REC project, remember that human traffic can be just as damaging to the soil as water. Keeping on the path, stepping on stones or roots instead of soil, or just avoiding

areas where there is soil erosion or new plant life, can help. As with the issues at Brick Pond Park, don't forget that not all plants are good for the ecosystem. Sometimes plants with beautiful flowers or other aesthetic qualities are extremely invasive, so make sure to do a lot of homework when selecting flowers or trees in your garden. At Pretty Run Creek, the most important thing is to dispose of garbage properly so stormwater does not carry it to our streams. Use the city collection services, put trash in the trash cans and please recycle. Much of the garbage picked up was plastic that could have been recycled or repurposed. The trouble with environmental problems is that many of them occur at such a slow rate that most people barely notice them happening at all. Hopefully with these examples, you can take a more active role in preventing environmental damage, provoke awareness and protection or volunteer to help by taking on projects in the community.



Erosion-Disk Golf Course at Riverview Park Activities Center

Brick Pond Park - Popcorn tree Eradication Project

Pretty Run Creek Clean-up Project

Upcoming Events in North Augusta!

Please contact Riverview Park Activities Center (803) 441-4311 to learn more about each.

August 1-24th	Fall Sports Registration Youth Soccer (ages 4-18) Football & Cheerleading (Ages 7-12),
September 15-16th	Catty Shack Cat Show at Riverview Park Activities Center
October 5-7th	Augusta Kennel Club Dog Show at Riverview Park Activities Center
October 27th	Jack O'Lantern Jubilee , 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Georgia Avenue
November 1-20th:	Youth Basketball Registration (ages 4-18)



For additional information contact:
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