



A Nature Park and Constructed Wetland for Stormwater Treatment

Welcome to the City of North Augusta's Brick Pond Park. The park is located within the Savannah River floodplain and was used as an industrial property served by the railroad up until the early 1960's. After several flooding events earlier in the century, the industrial and commercial entities (brick, pottery, oil, cotton) abandoned the property for higher ground. In the late 1990's, city leaders created a Riverfront Development Plan that would re-connect citizens with the riverfront. Through careful planning and community involvement, a revitalization plan was approved. This land remained in an abandoned condition up until the beginning of the restoration project in 2005. Brick Pond Park was completed and dedicated to the community in November, 2008. There are four distinct areas within the wetland, the perched wetlands (trap and settle stormwater), the constructed wetlands (treat stormwater), the East Ponds (pavilion area) and the West Pond.

Stormwater has always entered these wetlands from city streets, storm sewers and overland flow. Trash and debris left behind by the industrial and commercial use of the property throughout the last century, polluted the man-made clay borrow pit ponds that were left. The stormwater brought trash and other pollutants, further degrading the environment. Aquatic plants and animals found the environment inhospitable, while semi-aquatic species populated these stagnant wetlands as they still do today. Frogs, reptiles, and alligators are commonly seen. Early water quality studies indicated low dissolved oxygen and high nutrient levels in all but the West Ponds.

The goal of the restoration was to treat the stormwater entering the system through a constructed treatment system and also to bring the water quality back to a healthy point so that aquatic plants and animals could become established. A series of waterfalls and wetland plantings have been strategically located so that the water is treated prior to crossing under Center Street to the East and West Ponds. The waterfalls are re-circulating the water through the constructed treatment wetlands. Nutrients and other elements found in the stormwater are removed through biological processes that are occurring within the soil and plant life. The secondary purpose of the waterfalls is to move the water so that the system is less static. They also provide the added benefit of increasing oxygen levels.

Most of the park construction was completed by city employees, Hammonds Ferry staff, and contractors. The park infrastructure is situated so that the wildlife is not disturbed while it is utilizing the park. The upland areas are off limits to visitors of the park. Scientific studies are occurring throughout the park to determine how it is doing. For more information about Brick Pond Park, please contact Tanya Strickland (803) 441-4246 or via email at tstrickland@northaugusta.net.

Quick Facts about Brick Pond Park

Wetland area..... 30 acres	Upland wooded area..... 10 acres	BPP TrailsAlmost 1 mile
Greenway Trail 8 miles	Birds Identified 109 species	Fishing West Pond Only