The Saugahatchee Creek Study and its Impact on Water Quality

The following article is the first in a new series of articles in Open Line entitled GreenFacts that will feature stories focusing on Auburn’s environment.

In the last decade, Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) has found excess nutrients and sediment entering Saugahatchee Creek from the watershed. Saugahatchee Creek begins north of Opelika in Chambers County and runs through north Auburn to its point of termination north of Talladega at Yates Lake. The excess nutrients and sediment have resulted in a decreased supply of oxygen that at times does not adequately support aquatic life.

In recognition of this environmental issue, the City of Auburn initiated contact with representatives from the City of Opelika, West Point Stevens, and Auburn University to conduct a comprehensive, two-year study of the Saugahatchee Creek.

Since two segments of the Creek do not meet current water quality standards adopted by ADEM, the main goal of the study is to find out what the problems are now and what will be needed to restore and keep the water quality at or better than Fish and Wildlife standards.

The study will assist in the allocation of waste load limits among Auburn’s Northside Waste Water Treatment Plant, Opelika’s Westside Treatment Plant, and the plant at West Point Stevens, as well as identifying other possible problem areas within the watershed. The three participants will share the cost of the study equally.

As a result, the Auburn City Council signed a joint resolution in December 2000 with Opelika and West Point Stevens to conduct this study of the Saugahatchee Creek watershed. Auburn University Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures is conducting the study to determine nutrient and sediment loading in Saugahatchee Creek and the impacts on aquatic biota. The City Council budgeted $35,000 in FY 01 and $35,000 in FY 02 for Auburn’s share of this extensive examination of the Creek.

The outcome of this comprehensive watershed study is to provide data to resource managers and policy makers in Auburn, Opelika, and West Point Stevens to better understand the impacts of all waste discharges to Pepperell Branch and Saugahatchee Creek.
One simple way to help keep Auburn clean is by not attaching signs, posters, and fliers to public utility poles and other public structures. These posters often result in litter when the signs fall off and blow into storm drains and creeks.

Section 13-7 of the The Code of the City of Auburn states: “It shall be unlawful for any person to affix any sign, poster or other printed or written matter of any kind whatsoever to any public utility pole, tower, wire, anchor, guy wire, cable, transformer, meter, device or structure of any kind belonging to any public utility corporation holding a franchise from the City and situated within the City or the police jurisdiction thereof or to any vehicle belonging to another situated on public, state or private property.”

Help keep Auburn clean by refraining from attaching posters to utility poles, traffic control signs, or other structures in the rights-of-way. By working together, we can all do our part to keep Auburn clean.

Help Keep Auburn Litter-Free

Special Tips for Walkers

As the weather warms up, many citizens enjoy walking as a form of exercise. The following tips will help to make sure citizens walk safely:

- If one is available, walk on a sidewalk to be a safe distance from automobile traffic.
- Always walk on your left and face oncoming traffic.
- Wear reflective clothing between the waist and shoulders on the front and back from one-half hour before sunset until one-half hour before sunrise to help drivers identify the presence of a pedestrian. This is a City ordinance.
- Walk with a friend, especially early in the morning and in the evening. If you have to walk alone, call someone and tell them where you are going and when you will be back.
- Vary your schedule or your route.
- Be sure to wait at an intersection for the “walk” signal at a crosswalk.

By working together, we can improve the safety of our community.
Happy Birthday America!

In recognition and honor of America’s 225th birthday, the City of Auburn will be flying special Service Flags at the Auburn Veterans Memorial Monument on July 2 and July 4.

In honor of the establishment of the U.S. Army Air Corps, the Army National Guard Flag will be flown on July 2. On July 4, the POW/MIA Flag will be flown in honor of America’s Independence Day.

Auburn will also be celebrating the 4th of July with a celebration at Duck Samford Stadium. Live musical entertainment will be provided from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. followed by a spectacular fireworks display.

Young Adult Coffeehouse

The Auburn Public Library offers Young Adult Coffeehouse, a monthly program designed for students in grades six through twelve, the first Thursday of every month from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

The themes for Young Adult Coffeehouse in July:
- July 5 - Science Fiction
- July 12 - “The Noise Guy”
- July 19 - Cartooning/Animation
- July 26 - Murder Mystery Night

If you would like more information about this or any other programs offered at the Library, call 887-4997.

Meeting Schedule

Park & Recreation Advisory Board - Monday, July 2, 6:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.
City Council - Tuesday, July 3, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.
Water Works Board - Monday, July 9, 4:00 PM, Engineering Conference Room.
Board of Education - Tuesday, July 10, 6:00 PM, AHS Multi-Media Room.
Board of Zoning Adjustment - Wednesday, July 11, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber.
Planning Commission - Thursday, July 12, 5:00 PM, Council Chamber.
City Council - Tuesday, July 17, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.
Historic Preservation Commission - Tuesday, July 24, 3:00 PM, Development Building (former City Hall).
Library Board - Thursday, July 26, 1:30 PM, Library Board Room.

- Meeting times and places are subject to change -

Holiday Closure

City Hall will be closed on Wednesday, July 4 in honor of Independence Day.

The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling will be unchanged for those citizens with a Monday or Tuesday collection day. However, Wednesday’s route will be collected on Thursday, July 5. Thursday’s route will be collected on Friday, July 6.

Board Vacancies

Appointments to the two vacancies on the Auburn Downtown Redevelopment Authority and one vacancy on the Tree Commission, will be made at the July 3rd City Council meeting.

Citizens interested in serving are encouraged to contact one of their City Council members or notify the City Manager’s Office prior to the meeting.
Summer Day Camps will be held through August 3. Registration is available throughout the summer at Dean Road Recreation Center from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 887-4930.

Works from Auburn Collections displaying a variety of artworks on loan from local, private, public, and corporate sources will be open to the public at the J an Dempsey Community Arts Center Gallery through August 17. Admission is free.

The Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration, co-sponsored by Briggs & Stratton, will be held at Duck Samford Stadium on Wednesday, July 4. There will be live music from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. followed by the fireworks display at 9:00 p.m. Join us in celebrating Independence Day with the most spectacular fireworks display in Lee County!

Auburn Junior Tennis Championships for ages 18 and younger will be held J uly 6 – 8 at the Samford Avenue Tennis Center. The cost is $20.00 for singles and $30.00 for doubles. Registration forms are available at Samford Avenue Tennis Center and Dean Road Recreation Center. For more information, please call David Hume at 887-4935.

The East Alabama Community Blood Bank Bloodmobile will be behind Auburn City Hall from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on J uly 12. Blood donations are used locally in East Alabama area hospitals. Take part in giving the gift of life.

The Hot Time Classic Softball Tournament will be held at the Auburn Softball Complex during J uly 27 – 29. This Girl’s Fast Pitch Tournament will award team trophies and individual awards. For additional information, please contact Robby Carter at 887-4927 or visit www.auburnalabama.org/softball.

Alabama State Hardcourt Closed Tennis Championships for ages 19 and older will be held at the Samford Avenue Tennis Center during August 2 – 5. The entry deadline is J uly 30. This state championship tennis tournament allows players the opportunity to win points toward their state ranking. The tournament will offer M en’s and Women’s Singles and Doubles events. The cost is $25.00 for singles and $30.00 for doubles. Registration forms are available at Samford Avenue Tennis Center and Dean Road Recreation Center. For more information, please call David Hume at 887-4935.

Join Us at the Library

The Auburn Public Library offers Storytime for children ages 3-5 on Tuesdays from 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Toddler Time is offered on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

The themes of Storytime and Toddler Time:

Week of J uly 6:
- Wild about Outer Space
- Wild about Noise
- Wild about the Arts
- Wild about the World

Summer Swim Schedule

Recreational Morning Swimming - Samford Pool only

Dates: June 25 - J uly 6 and J uly 23 - J uly 27
Time: 9:00 a.m. - Noon, Monday – Friday

Recreational Afternoon Swimming - Samford Pool and Drake Pool

Dates: Open all season
Time:
- 1:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday
- 1:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday