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For Immediate Release

Winthrop University Avoids Major Flooding

The Office of Sustainability's Water Conservation Practices Keep Campus Free of Floods

Winthrop's Office of Sustainability has implemented features around campus to aid in flood prevention as well as rainwater collection. Although Campus Green is a place where students can participate in campus events or pick up a game of Frisbee, it is actually a carefully designed system that controls storm water, preventing that area of campus from flooding.

In early October, thousands of South Carolina residents experienced catastrophic flooding that caused broken dams, numerous traffic accidents, lost electricity, destroyed homes and tragic deaths. Fortunately the Winthrop University campus did not experience significant flooding.

Although Winthrop was not directly impacted by the flooding, many students are from affected areas. Because some students travelled home during the period of rain, several were unable to return to campus for class. Dr. Frank Ardaiole, Vice President for Student Life, urged students in an email to exercise caution while driving and use their discretion in determining whether or not to return to campus.

Headquartered at Winthrop, the South Carolina Campus Compact (SCCC) issued a call to action, inviting students to help rebuild their South Carolina home. The SCCC is a coalition of 17 university presidents, representing their students, who are dedicated to promoting community service, civic engagement and service learning in higher education. As a response to the call to action, many organizations on campus

are making efforts, such as collecting donations, to help those who were affected. “We are encouraging student groups...to raise funds and resources, as well as connect to those organizations who will be on the ground to rebuild for some time to come,” says Jessica Lynn, Executive Director for South Carolina Campus Compact.

Although the excessive rainfall in October has alleviated some of South Carolina’s drought conditions, individuals should still engage in water conservation, which ensures water resources are not depleted. A recent survey of 40 Winthrop students and 10 Winthrop faculty shows that most of the participants recognized water conservation is important and were willing to participate in conservation efforts.

Winthrop’s Office of Sustainability encourages students to practice water conservation, and the university has set an example by applying conservation strategies to new construction as well as to renovations on campus. One strategy involved the installation of hands-free faucets and flush valves, saving 400,000 gallons of water annually. Small cisterns have also been added to the President’s house to collect rainwater. This not only reduces flooding, but also allows the water to be reused for purposes such as watering the garden.

- Winthrop’s Office of Sustainability has implemented features around campus to aid in flood prevention as well as rainwater collection.
- In early October, thousands of South Carolina residents experienced catastrophic flooding directly and indirectly.
- Although Winthrop University was not directly impacted by the major flooding, many students are from affected areas.
- The South Carolina Campus Compact, hosted at Winthrop University, hopes to help rebuild South Carolina with the help of Winthrop’s campus organizations.
- Winthrop’s Office of Sustainability encourages students to practice water conservation.



The Campus Green collects water after a storm that would otherwise flood the surrounding sidewalks. Without this design, students would be forced to splash through water after a heavy rain.

Additional information can be found using the following links.

Winthrop's Water Conservation Efforts:

<http://www.winthrop.edu/sustainability/default.aspx?id=38018>

South Carolina Campus Compact:

<http://www2.winthrop.edu/sccampuscompact/>

Approved quotes:

"Water is an important resource needed to sustain life and requires everyone to do his or her part to conserve," says Chris Johnson, Winthrop University Sustainability Coordinator. This quote explains the importance of water conservation.

"My goal is to make sustainability an integral part of the Winthrop Experience for students, faculty and staff," says Chris Johnson. This quote demonstrates Johnson's efforts to make sustainability, which includes water conservation, a normal part of Winthrop life.

Upon request:

--Specifics on how the Campus Green storm water system works.

--Efforts of Winthrop's campus organizations to help rebuild areas affected by the flooding.

Winthrop University's Office of Sustainability is committed to sustainability and to serving as a positive example through sustainable practices. Sustainability Coordinator Chris Johnson began his efforts to make sustainability an integral part of the Winthrop experience in 2011. Winthrop is a signatory of the Talloires Declaration and is an institutional member of the NCSE, the CRA and the AASHE. For more information, please visit <http://www.winthrop.edu/sustainability>.

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