



MONTHLY REPORT

October 2024

SOIL
&
WATER



IMAGINE A DAY WITHOUT WATER FESTIVAL REACHES HUNDREDS

The district partnered with MetroConnects, Greer CPW, ReWa and Greenville Water to organize, promote and facilitate the annual Imagine a Day Without Water festival, held in

memory of the late Lynn Pilewski. Designed to build awareness and celebrate the importance of water in everyday life, Stormwater Programs Coordinator Abbi Greer and District Programs Coordinator Haley Mumaw worked with several agencies and vendors who welcomed about 350 visitors during the Oct. 17 event.



AG IN THE CLASSROOM FOCUSES ON FOOD SOURCING



District Manager Kirsten Robertson traveled to Blythe Academy to teach 125 kindergarteners about food sourcing during an Ag in the Classroom activity. The group participated in a variety of activities, including making applesauce, coloring apple trees, playing in a corn-filled bin and watching virtual reality videos, all designed to highlight where the food they eat originates.



LYNN PILEWSKI RECEIVES POSTHUMOUS EMPLOYEE AWARD



Our beloved Lynn Pilewski, who served as the District Programs Coordinator until her passing in May, has posthumously received the Employee of the Year award for the Southeast region of the National Conservation District Employees Association. Lynn was recognized for her hard work, dedication and service to programs like Project WET, the annual awards banquet and the Poop Fairy campaign.





PUMPKIN SEED SAVING ACTIVITY DELIGHTS GARDEN CLUB GROUP




Abbi interacted with 29 2nd through 4th grade students at AJ Whittenberg's afterschool garden club, teaching them about saving pumpkin seeds. After the lesson, Abbi helped the kids clean up their garden, which had sustained Hurricane Helene damage. Students enjoyed playing in pumpkin guts, spreading the seeds out to dry, and observing the high water line around their school following the hurricane.

TEAM PARTICIPATES IN COUNTY HEALTH FAIR

The team took their messaging about cleaning up after your pet, keeping pollutants out of the storm drains and planting seasonal native species to the county's annual health fair. They distributed kale seeds and pointed their colleagues to the district's seed library, a partnership with the county library system.



STORMWATER POLLUTANTS DISCUSSED ON TRAIL TALKS PODCAST



ON THE TRAIL WITH:
GVL COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
 STREAM EPISODE 73 TODAY!

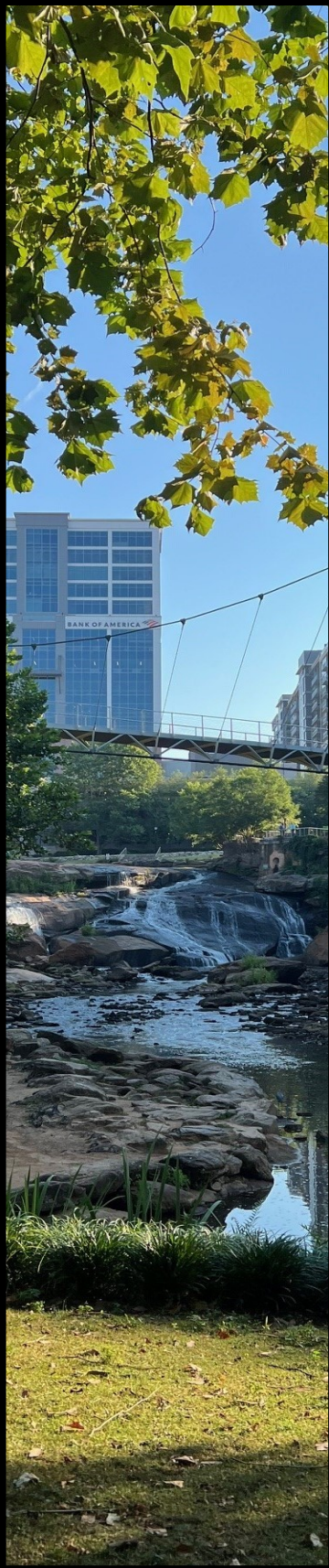
GREENVILLE COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT

In the audio world, Stormwater Programs Coordinator Abbi Greer was invited by the Upstate Trail Talks podcast to talk about stormwater pollutants in Greenville. Podcast host Griffin Donley asked questions regarding how Greenville has changed over the past 20 years, how people can mitigate stormwater pollutants in their daily lives, and the range of educational offerings the conservation district provides to the community. You can listen to this interview via Spotify using the following link: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/6KOJ9hr5ZGUJmU0ApsQJPu?si=HhEkfH9-TKCRE8GHTSnQYA>.

POOP FAIRY CAMPAIGN ON DISPLAY AT HALLOWEEN EVENT

District Manager Kirsten Robertson and Admin Specialist Lainey Veltri took the district's message about keeping pet waste out of the storm drains to trick-or-treaters participating in the county's annual Halloween event. The team served Tootsie Rolls and other candy bars (that, when unwrapped, resemble pet waste) while also reminding visitors about the importance of picking up after their pets to keep bacteria from washing into local waterways. Their tablescap featured fake poop, E. coli bacteria and a storm drain replica. The tablescap took second place in the contest!





>>> STORMWATER

- **Responded to citizen questions** about stormwater issues, stormwater harvesting, rain barrels and soil testing
- **GCSWCD websites reached 2,979 page views this month.**
- Soil and Water staff continues to support the Reedy River Water Quality Group by serving on the Public Outreach Committee. **RRWQG websites CleanReedy.org and ReedyReportCard.org, maintained by Soil and Water staff**, experienced increased traffic in the wake of Hurricane Helene in the month of October.
- **Partnered with Greater Greenville Master Gardeners Association** to provide seeds for its "Plant a Seed" program at the final farmers market of the season.

>>> ENGINEERING

- Responded to **34 citizen requests** for drainage, flooding, erosion and sink-holes
- **Flood control dams -**
 - ◇ Contractor is currently mowing dams.
 - ◇ Cleaning up after Hurricane Helene
- ◇ Coordinated with County regarding Emergency Watershed Protection funding.

>>> AGRICULTURE / FOOD SECURITY

- Continued **Seed Library** partnership with the Greenville Library, providing free vegetable seeds to Greenville residents as a vector to give information about insecticides, herbicides and fertilizers
- Made **no-till drill and soil penetrometer available** to county farmers

>>> INTERDEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT

- **Litter Ends Here** – Supporting social media engagement, participation on the board for the July Executive Committee meeting
- **Keep Greenville County Beautiful** – Participated on the board and working closely with new leadership
- **Continued support of the Reedy River Water Quality Group**
- **Coordinated with GIS** to explore getting buffers on GIS for use by **Land Development Division** and/or engineers.



>>> SOCIAL MEDIA

Stormwater	Total posts	Followers	Follower growth	Impressions
Facebook	11	2,144	+12	224
Instagram	8	1,134	+10	1,326
LinkedIn	7	172	+1	1,301
RRWQG				
Facebook	5	592	5	7,007
Instagram	8	147	+6	740

>>> DISTRICT

- Three commissioners attended the SC Association of Conservation Districts mid-year meeting in Columbia. **Chairman Mike Stewart** accepted the role of SCACD's awards chairman and planned to work on streamlining the award nomination process.

