



MONTHLY REPORT

January 2025

SOIL
&
WATER



DISTRICT EARNS STATE RECOGNITION FOR OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District was named Outstanding Conservation District of the Year by the SC Association of Conservation Districts at the Association's partnership conference in Spartanburg. The team was recognized for a number of major 2024 accomplishments, including the creation of a stormwater conveyance and rain garden at Roper Mountain Science Center, designed to manage runoff using pools to filter some of the water into the ground before it travels downstream. Other noteworthy accomplishments included a series of soil health workshops and the redesign of storm drain curb makers.

Also at the conference, the district's 2024 Teacher of the Year, Katie Martin, with Lakeview Middle School, was named Educator of the Year for her commitment to conservation education.



Katie Martin



Staff and commissioners



SCOUTS EARN MERIT BADGES FOLLOWING SOIL HEALTH LESSON

GCSWCD's Stormwater Programs Coordinator partnered with Roper Mountain Science Center for the annual Merit Badge University Program. In this yearly program, Scouts from throughout the state can visit the science center and work with experts in a variety of fields to earn merit badges. The Soil and Water Conservation badge workshop had seven participants who enjoyed learning about soil erosion and water health through hands-on experiments and demonstrations.



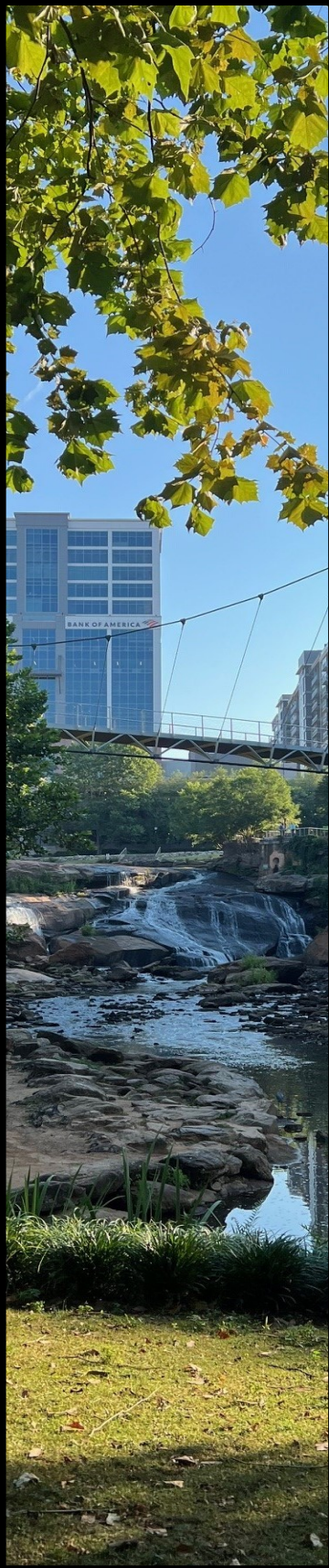
Scouts used erosion prevention structures to stabilize a miniature neighborhood landscape in an erosion simulation activity.

NRCS ASSESSMENT OF AREA DAMS NOW COMPLETE

The county's nine PL566 dams were inspected by the SC Department of Environmental Services and found to be in fair condition. This is the highest level the dams can receive without having a seismic study. The overall verbal summary from the DES inspector was to "just keep doing what you are doing."

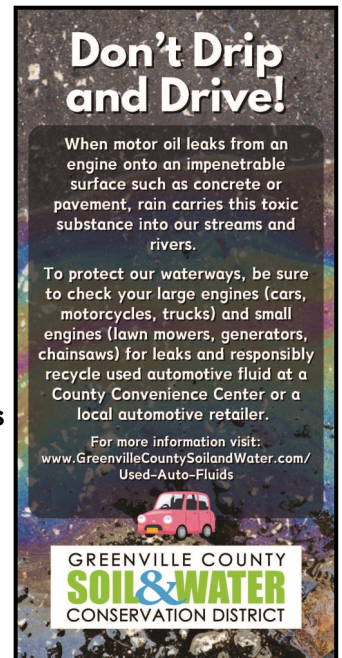
The recent large storms, including Hurricane Helene have tested these dams and they have performed as designed. They safely caught water, held it, and let it out slowly to minimize flooding downstream, silently helping to keep Greenville County citizens safe.





>>> STORMWATER

- Responded to **citizen questions** about stormwater issues, stormwater harvesting, rain barrels and soil testing
- **GCSWCD websites reached 4,784 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, are maintained by Soil and Water staff.**
- Distributed **1 pet waste station**
- Created **monthly ad** for Greenville Journal



Greenville Journal ad

>>> ENGINEERING

- Responded to **39 citizen requests** for drainage, flooding, erosion and sink-holes technical advice
- **Flood control dams – completed dam inspections**
- **Eight applications for streambank stabilization have been received** for use of state and federal funds through a grant with Natural Resources Conservation Service.

>>> 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



>>> SOCIAL MEDIA

Stormwater	Total posts	Followers	Follower growth	Impressions
Facebook	10	2,141	-5	1,915
Instagram	5	1,360	+3	1,246
RRWQG				
Facebook	8	593		607
Instagram	8	160	+6	479
GCSWCD Website	Total views			
	569			
RRWQG Website	Total views			
	500			

>>> DISTRICT

- Several members of the board continue to meet monthly regarding the Huff watershed. Some also attended the SC Partnership Conference.

SC Partnership Conference Snapshots



District staff, commissioners and the NRCS district manager attend the Conference in Spartanburg.

District commissioners and associate commissioners.



Staff with the SC Association of Conservation Districts and District Commissioner Chair Mike Stewart pose with Gov. Henry McMaster at the conference.

