



MONTHLY REPORT

August 2025

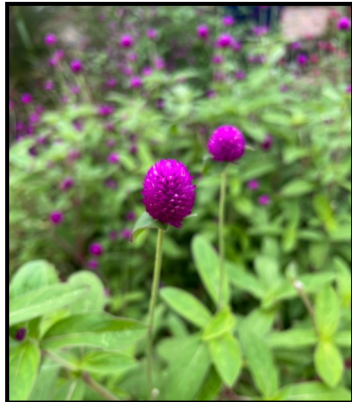
SOIL & WATER



MID-YEAR MEETING INCLUDES WORKSHOP AND GARDEN TOUR



District Manager and Administrative Specialist Lainey Veltri attended the SC Conservation District Employee Association's mid-year meeting, which included an Ag in the Classroom workshop and a tour of the Riverbanks Botanical Gardens.



The workshop covered several lessons that are offered through the program to schools throughout SC. Attendees received hands-on instructions on how to facilitate the lessons by engaging in the exercises.

Following the workshop, attendees toured the gardens to learn more about native plants and landscapes.



GARDENERS CREATE WORM BIN DURING TALK ON VERMICOMPOSTING

District Manager Kirsten Robertson engaged with an enthusiastic group from the Greenville County Community Gardens regarding soil health, composting and vermicomposting.

The class was participatory, and everyone enjoyed creating a worm bin (vermicomposting), which allows composting kitchen scraps inside! One lucky participant was able to take the worm bin home, but everyone left with knowledge and tips on how to make one of their very own.





TEAM LEADS STUDENTS THROUGH STORMWATER EDUCATION



District Programs Coordinator Haley Mumaw and Stormwater Programs Coordinator Kendall Juell visited Brutontown Community Center for two days of engaging stormwater activities.

On the first day, they spent time with the 5K-2 group, creating a classroom thunderstorm, reading a storm drain pollution story, and guiding

the students to make chalk drawings of anything they could think of that contains water.

On the second day, the team used the GCSWCD watershed model to teach grades 3-5 students about their local watersheds and how various types of pollution impact streams and rivers in the watershed through Sum of the Parts, a Project WET activity.



CELEBRATING A JOB WELL DONE AS TEAM MEMBER BEGINS A NEW CHAPTER



The Greenville Soil & Water Conservation District recently said goodbye to Haley Mumaw, our dedicated District Programs Coordinator, as she relocated to North Carolina. Haley joined our team while completing her degree at Clemson University and quickly made a lasting impact.

From the start, she brought energy, creativity and professionalism to her role. Her work on social media and advertising campaigns stood out for its quality and effectiveness, and she played a key role in organizing a highly successful district awards banquet.

Beyond her professional contributions, Haley showed exceptional character by extending her time with us to ensure a smooth transition for her successor. We're grateful for everything she brought to the team and wish her all the best in this exciting new chapter!

FELLOW CONSERVATIONIST INSPIRES TEAM MEMBER

Stormwater Programs Coordinator Kendall Juell attended an event at Grandfather Mountain, where she met Biologist and Conservationist Jeff Corwin, author of 100 Heartbeats. Corwin

has appeared on Discovery Channel, Animal Planet and other networks. During his presentation, Corwin spoke about the importance of supporting the environment through conservation and volunteering. Juell, a former naturalist at Grandfather Mountain, said she was inspired by Corwin's passionate presentation. Juell also took time to explore the natural communities

and biodiversity of the mountain during her visit. She captured photos of several native plants that are federally and globally imperiled, including Blue Ridge Goldenrod and Heller's Blazing Star.



TURN YOUR BACKYARD INTO A WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



Attract birds and butterflies to your landscape by adding these native plants: **Elderberries, blueberries, pawpaw, persimmon, hazelnuts, hickory, butterfly weeds, flowering grasses and flower varieties.**

Here are some resources for seeds and native plants:

- <https://roundstoneseed.com/>
- [https://www.ernstseed.com/?](https://www.ernstseed.com/?srsltid=AfmBOoq6XqSPscbEZ_tcHIDRuR9r2ZCObvU3RNz_rQVAM1T9V2AzeRqE)

[srsltid=AfmBOoq6XqSPscbEZ_tcHIDRuR9r2ZCObvU3RNz_rQVAM1T9V2AzeRqE](https://www.ernstseed.com/?srsltid=AfmBOoq6XqSPscbEZ_tcHIDRuR9r2ZCObvU3RNz_rQVAM1T9V2AzeRqE)

- Search for free butterfly weed seeds on Google. Even if it's a small packet, that makes a difference to the monarchs.
- <https://www.blueoakhortsc.com>
- <https://mdc.mo.gov/trees-plants/tree-seedlings/order-seedlings>
- Google native plants for your area.





>>> STORMWATER

- Responded to **citizen questions** about stormwater issues, stormwater harvesting, rain barrels and soil testing
- GCSWCD websites had **477 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 **5 pet waste** stations.

>>> ENGINEERING

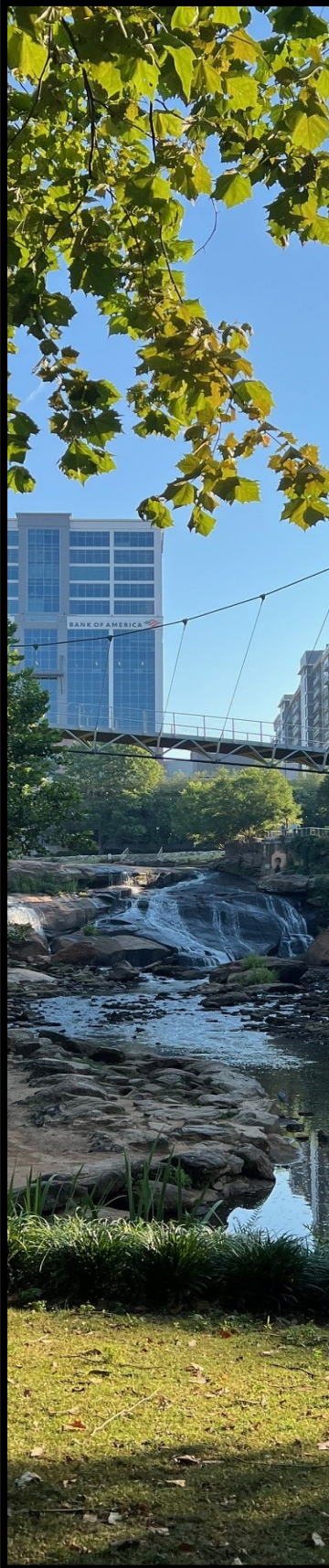
- Responded to **24 citizen requests** for drainage, flooding, erosion and sink-holes technical advice
- **The streambank stabilization project**, a partnership program with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, is on hold.

>>> 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, a roller crimper and soil penetrometer available** to county farmers

>>> SOCIAL MEDIA

Stormwater	Total posts	Followers	Follower growth	Impressions
Facebook	7	2,151	+2	2,500
Instagram	4	1,421	0	3,300
RRWQG				
Facebook	3	591	-1	296
Instagram	3	196	+2	377
GCSWCD Websites	Total views			
	477			
RRWQG Website	Total views			
	153			



>>> INTERDEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT

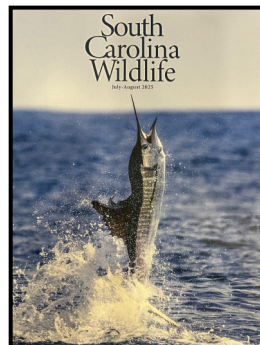
- **Litter Ends Here** – Supporting social media engagement, participation on the board for the July Executive Committee meeting
- **Keep Greenville County Beautiful** – Participated on the board and working closely with new leadership

>>> DISTRICT

- In addition to the monthly scheduled commission meetings, several members of the board continue to meet monthly regarding the Huff watershed.

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHTED IN WILDLIFE MAGAZINE

South Carolina Wildlife magazine recognized Greenville Soil & Water



Conservation District in its July-August issue for the district's 2024 Outstanding District of the Year award.



2024 Outstanding District of the Year, Greenville Soil and Water Conservation District, was presented the Governor's Proclamation of SC Stewardship along with a county and city proclamation.

DISTRICT MANAGER FEATURED IN LOCAL ARTICLE

In her capacity as a member of the Reedy River Water Quality Group, District Manager Kirsten Robertson was quoted in a Post & Courier article about the health status of the Reedy River and swimming at Falls Park. In the article, Robertson reminded readers about why swimming after a heavy rain event is especially unsafe due to the elevated levels of E. coli bacteria in the water, caused by animal and human feces contamination from rainwater runoff.

E. coli can cause illness if contaminated water enters the body through the mouth, nose, eyes, ears or an open wound. Efforts are underway to lower the contamination level. The Water Quality Group also said raising public awareness about picking up after their pets is important to help lower contamination levels.