



MONTHLY REPORT

December 2025

SOIL
&
WATER



WINTER'S MAIN FOOD SOURCE—EVERGREENS—KEEP WILDLIFE FED

A course attended by the district's education team and hosted by the SC Native Plants Society underscored the importance of native plants to wildlife and the environment. Stormwater Programs Coordinator Kendall Juell and District Programs Coordinator Olivia Reed toured the SC Botanical Garden, where they learned to identify several different types of pine trees and other evergreens.

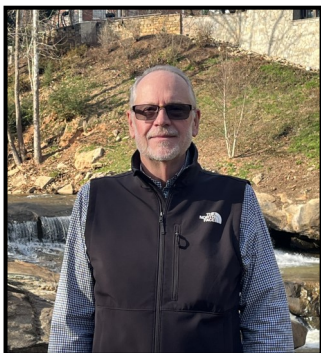
DID YOU KNOW?

Local wildlife prefer to eat native plants, and often evergreens are the only plants that offer food sources in the winter, such as holly berries, which are rich in fat. Preserving native plants and evergreens can help ecosystems, especially since native plants have such great importance to areas like riparian buffers. These buffers depend on native plants, which are better adapted to local soils, to help prevent streambank erosion and slow runoff that may be carrying pollutants into rivers and streams.



Holly berry

COUNTY WELCOMES NEW LEADER FOR THE DISTRICT



Ronn Beebe is the newest team member at the Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District. He's a professional geologist with more than 10 years of environmental experience. His focus on environmental reviews, compliance and engineering projects has provided him with key insights that will serve the community well. Most recently, Ronn worked at the US Army Corps of Engineers in Norfolk, VA. He led multiple Geo-Environmental programs to ensure project delivery for DoD installations and a variety of civil works projects. When he's not working, Ronn is an avid outdoor enthusiast. He enjoys hiking in the mountains, biking on the Swamp Rabbit Greenway and playing golf.



YOUNGSTERS LEARN ABOUT RAINFALL'S IMPACT ON EROSION



Tigerville Elementary students in grades second through fourth received customized programming that met curriculum standards, delivered by the district's education team. Second-graders built stream runoff models; third-graders studied weather patterns by analyzing real Greenville weather data and created their own "rain maps"; and fourth-graders explored the movement of soil and water through an erosion activity called Soils on the Move. This exercise enabled the students to experiment with different scenarios and how water drops (simulating

rainfall) impact a layer of soil. All three classes made connections about erosion and weather, and how rainfall and runoff impact the environment.

SMALL ACTS REAP BIG BENEFITS FOR SOIL HEALTH



We celebrated World Soil Day on Dec. 5. Why is that significant? Because soil is fundamental for life. It supports 95 percent of our food, purifies water, stores carbon and hosts immense biodiversity. Pollution and degradation threaten soil health. Although the World Soil Day is behind us, everyday forward can be an opportunity to raise awareness about soil's vital role and do your part to protect this finite resource

for future generations.

8 WAYS YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO HEALTHY SOILS

- Plant trees, **native plants** or start a home garden
- Set up a **compost bin** for kitchen scraps
- Participate in local **soil sampling** or attend workshops
- Organize or join a local **cleanup event** to remove litter from soil and natural areas
- Watch "**Kiss the Ground**" movie to learn more about this valuable resource
- Minimize **plastic and food** waste
- **Support farmers** using sustainable practices
- Use **natural alternatives** instead of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers



KEEP LOCAL WATERWAYS CLEAN BY SCOOPING YOUR DOG'S POOP

District educators partnered with Friends of the Reedy River to pull water samples from different sites along the Reedy River as part of the Adopt-a-Stream effort. Samples were pulled from Falls Park, near the Greenville Zoo and near the Swamp Rabbit Café. Included in the sample were dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, temperature and E. coli levels.

Samplers also photographed the areas and checked for trash and oil spills. Their work measures the effects of stormwater and rainfall in the area and detects any health issues that may require notifying city and county officials.

DO YOU KNOW HOW E. COLI GETS IN THE WATER?



Dog poop is a big source of E. coli pollution in Greenville County waterways. The district's Poop Fairy campaign encourages pet owners to pick up after their dogs to reduce the risk of E. coli contamination. Please, scoop your pet's poop!



WORKSHOP EQUIPS EDUCATORS WITH FUN TEACHING TOOLS

Youth educators from across the state, including Greenville County, gathered for a workshop at Riverbanks Zoo to discuss rainwater and the environment plus how to engage students using impactful activities that relate to those subjects.



DIY rain stick made with paper towel holder

The workshop was facilitated by the district's Stormwater Programs Coordinator, Kendall Juell, who is also the SC Project WET Coordinator with Project WILD Coordinator Beth Foley and PLT Facilitator Cassidy Roof. Participants created rain sticks that imitate the sound of rain and explored the science of worms through painting with mud, an activity from Project WILD.

DISTRICT EMBRACES THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS AND EARNS AWARDS

Greenville Soil & Water Conservation District took top honors in a pair of competitions held across several county departments to recognize outstanding Christmas trees and “gingerbread” creations.



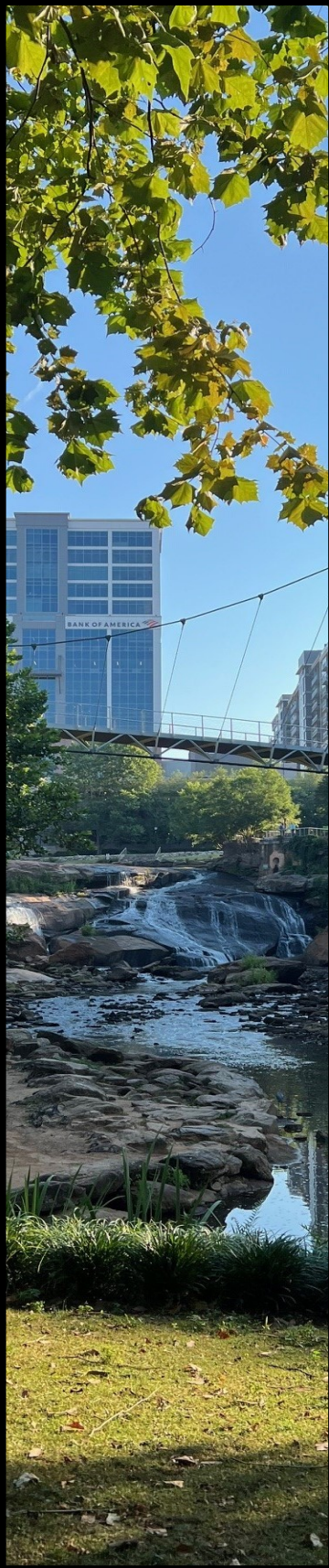
The district's Christmas tree was inspired by water, of course. Created by Administrative Specialist Lainey Veltri, the tree featured ornamentation designed to mimic the flow of clear, clean and brilliant water. Called the “Waterfall of Wonder,” the tree included blue and silver icicles, glittery snowflakes, an impressive spray that cascaded over the top of the tree, and water drop ornaments featuring the faces of staff and commissioners. It earned the “Most Beautiful” Christmas tree award among its competitors.

In the gingerbread contest, which required the main structure be constructed of cardboard, the district office chose to depict a barnyard theme. Calling themselves “Team Mud Pie,” the team built a barn, silo and an outhouse out of cardboard but made nearly every other detail from an edible item. Marshmallows became sheep and a pig, ice cream cones turned upside down and iced became trees, frosted mini wheats mimicked a thatched barn roof and peanut brittle marked the barn entrance. Real gingerbread horses, cows and chickens and a fence made out of pretzels likely sealed the win for Team Mud Pie, who won First Place in the competition!



Team Mud Pie is already planning next year's gingerbread surprise and hope to keep up their winning streak!





>>> STORMWATER

- Responded to **citizen questions** about stormwater issues, stormwater harvesting, rain barrels and soil testing
- GCSWCD websites had **910 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.**

>>> ENGINEERING

- Responded to **3 citizen requests** for sink holes, draining and flooding.
- Awarded a **contract for mowing** of the nine flood control dams in the county.

>>> 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

>>> INTERDEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT

- **Litter Ends Here** - Supporting social media engagement, participation on the board
- **Keep Greenville County Beautiful** - Participate on the board and work closely with leadership



Report litter by downloading the Litter Tracker app at greenvillecounty.org/LitterPrevention

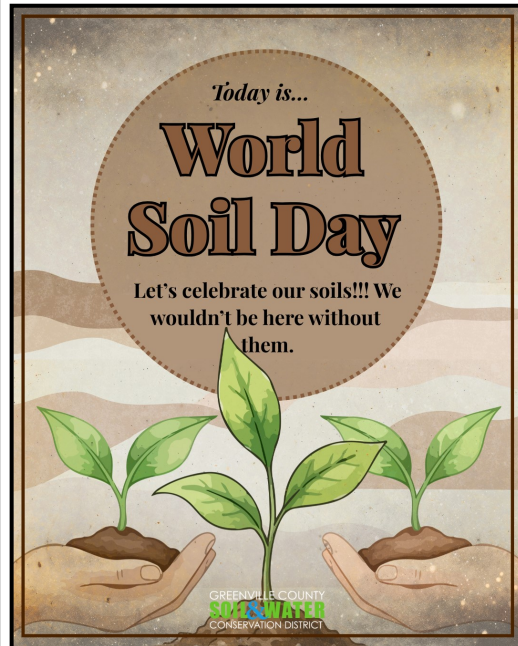
LITTER ENDS HERE



>>> SOCIAL MEDIA

Stormwater	Total posts	Followers	Follower growth	Impressions
Facebook	4	2,156	+1	1264
Instagram	4	1,438	+2	1466
RRWQG				
Facebook	1	590	-1	146
Instagram	1	198	+1	181
GCSWCD Websites	Total views			
	910			
RRWQG Website	Total views			
	1348			

GLIMPSE OF DECEMBER'S FACEBOOK POSTS



>>> HAPPY NEW YEAR



Wishing you and yours a healthy, prosperous and joyous new year!

From the staff and commissioners at Greenville Soil & Water Conservation District!

