



# MONTHLY REPORT

January 2026

SOIL  
&  
WATER



## STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT THEIR IMPACT ON WATER RESOURCES

Stormwater Programs Coordinator Kendall Juell visited the STEAM Lab at Hollis Academy to provide education about the connections among Earth's Systems. Juell engaged fifth graders in a review of how the hydrosphere interacts with the biosphere, geosphere and atmosphere, placing an emphasis on human interactions and impacts to the hydrosphere.

Students were assigned different roles as water users in a community, discovering differences in amounts and types of water use as well as ways to be mindful of their own water footprints. Did you know? The Earth's hydrosphere includes all of the water on Earth, and humans interact with this sphere daily when they drink water or walk in the rain. Pollutants such as automotive fluids, pet waste, yard waste and debris, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and litter can impact this sphere by washing into storm drains and nearby waterways through stormwater runoff.

### HOW CAN YOU REDUCE YOUR WATER FOOTPRINT?

- Take **shorter showers**
- **Fix water** leaks
- **Run full loads** of laundry and dishes
- **Reuse or pass down** containers and clothing to reduce industrial water footprint
- **Turn off taps** while brushing teeth
- **Join a rain barrel workshop** this spring to learn how to collect rainwater for plants
- Water plants in the early morning or evening to **reduce evaporation**
- **Use a watering can** to water plants



*Collecting rainwater in a barrel for watering plants*

## TEAM TAKES MESSAGING ON THE ROAD IN NEWLY WRAPPED VEHICLE

The team's outreach vehicle got an updated look. One side promotes the district's free seed library and the other reminds the community "only rain down the drain" to keep stormwater pollutant-free. If you see it around town, give us a wave or a thumb's up. You can also get a closer look at our "outreachmobile" when you attend one of our community events.

Learn more about programs and events at [www.greenvillesoilandwater.com/district-news/](http://www.greenvillesoilandwater.com/district-news/).



## LONG LIVE THE STATELY OAKS: LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP!



If you've ever had the pleasure of visiting the nearly 400-year-old Angel Oak in Charleston, then you know how breathtaking these stately ancient trees can be. But did you know oaks depend on us humans to help them



Angel Oak in Charleston

age gracefully so they can defend our ecosystem?

Some oaks can live up to 900 years! Help them live a long life:

- **Let fallen leaves lie** – As leaves decay on the ground's surface, they deposit nutrients into the soil.
- **Prune wisely** – Don't get prune happy with your shears! Pruning branches unnecessarily or pruning in warm weather can introduce diseases into the tree's circulatory system.
- **Give them room to grow** – Oaks need up to three times the width of their dripline to grow. Keep that in mind when planting an oak. Too near roads, patios and piping systems can inhibit the reach of their roots and compromise their growth.
- **Limit digging** – Avoid trenching or grading near the tree as it can damage roots.
- **Watering** – For young trees, water deeply and infrequently with a drip system. For mature trees, water deeply during dry spells, but avoid overwatering, which can encourage disease.



## AWARD-WINNING DISTRICT SHINES AT STATE CONFERENCE

The team attended the 84th annual South Carolina Conservation Partnership Conference, where the district earned a couple of top recognitions.



*Kirsten Robertson wins Conservation District Employee of the Year*



*Robert Hanley wins Conservation District Commissioner of the Year*

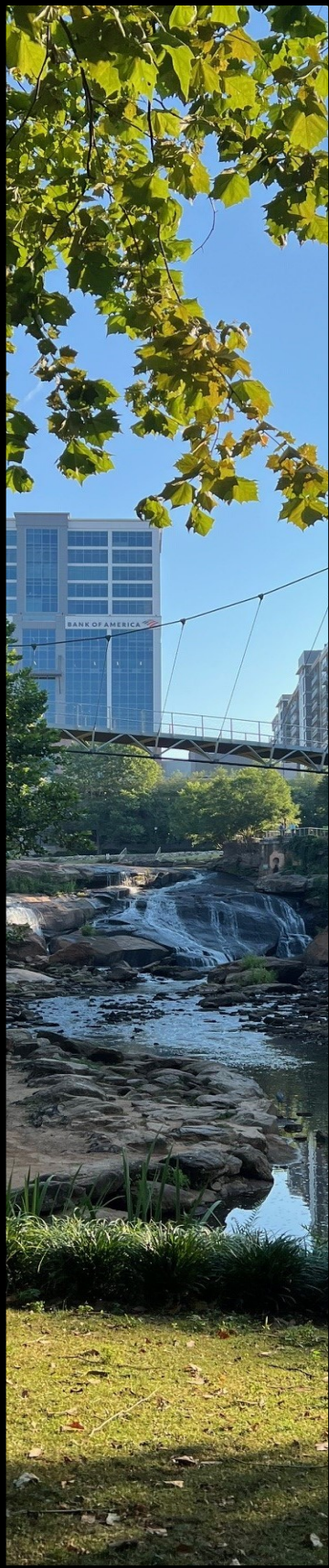


Former District Manager Kirsten Robertson was awarded Conservation District Employee of the Year for her service and commitment to educating the community on conservation practices. Robertson created the "Soil Health Matters" and made it her mission during her tenure to underscore the importance of maintaining healthy soils for sustainable farming.

Commissioner Robert Hanley earned the Conservation District Commissioner of the Year award for his conservation efforts locally and statewide. He has been heavily involved in projects like Save Our Saluda and the Reedy River Meadow Project.

Congratulations to these district representatives for their outstanding contributions to conservation and their communities. The district was also recognized as a Certified South Carolina Conservation District for completing an extensive training program facilitated by the SC Department of Natural Resources.





## >>> STORMWATER

- Responded to **citizen questions** about stormwater issues, stormwater harvesting, rain barrels and soil testing
- GCSWCD websites had **920 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 **6 citizen requests** for sink holes, draining and flooding.
- **Reviewed five** of the county's nine flood-control dams.

## >>> 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



LITTER ENDS HERE

**Report litter** by downloading the Litter Tracker app at [greenvillecounty.org/LitterPrevention](http://greenvillecounty.org/LitterPrevention)

## >>> SOCIAL MEDIA

Stormwater	Total posts	Followers	Follower growth	Impressions
Facebook	4	2,156	0	2860
Instagram	4	1,441	+3	3291
RRWQG				
Facebook	0	590	0	38
Instagram	0	198	0	12
GCSWCD Websites	Total views			
	920			
RRWQG Website	Total views			
	429			

## GLIMPSE OF JANUARY'S FACEBOOK POST

# Winter Weather? Salt Responsibly.



**one** teaspoon of road salt can pollute **5 gallons** of water when ice melts, flowing to nearby storm drains and streams.

Salt is harmful to our Greenville fish, insects, and salamanders. Help protect our aquatic neighbors and use only **one mug of salt per 20 feet** of driveway.

