



MONTHLY REPORT

February 2026

SOIL
&
WATER



MEADOW PROJECT AIMS TO IMPROVE HEALTH OF REEDY RIVER

Volunteers, including the District Programs Coordinator, Olivia, Reed, met at the Friends of the Reedy River Meadow Project, an area along the Reedy set to become a buffer zone to improve the health of the river. Workers pulled invasive grasses and other weeds to make way for native plantings.

The cleared area will be tarped to prevent invasive growth until it's ready for planting. The project will also include educational signage to teach visitors about the importance of native plants and riparian buffers, which deter erosion and sedimentation in rivers as well as filter runoff into waterways.





DISTRICT LEADS PROJECT WET FACILITATOR TRAINING

Stormwater Programs Coordinator and SC Project WET Coordinator Kendall Juell teamed up with NC Project WET to lead a facilitator training at Crowder's Mountain State Park in North Carolina. Participants engaged in Project WET activities, practiced designing workshop agendas and facilitating lessons, and learned the ins and outs of leading adults through Project WET curricula. Congratulations to one of our Greenville County Schools staff who completed the training!



SPRING FORWARD YOUR ENERGY HABITS



As we look forward to spring, now is the time to be thinking of ways to conserve energy and local resources. Here are four things you can do to embrace springtime!

- **Switch to cold water laundry** – Most of your washing machine's energy goes to heating the water. By switching to cold water, you can save money and energy. Now is also a good time to check your HVAC's air filters and replace them to help your system run more efficiently as temperatures rise.
- **Walk instead of drive** – If you can walk to lunch while at work or ride your bicycle to the store, ditch the car to save on gas, reduce emissions and savor the warmer weather.
- **Honor World Water Day on March 22** – Shoot for a 5-gallon water usage reduction in March! Fix leaky faucets, take shorter showers or install low-flow showerheads to make a big difference.
- **Skip chemical pesticides and fertilizers** – As you prepare garden beds, forgo the use of chemicals. Instead, build healthy soil with compost and plant native plants that require less water and support local pollinators.



TEAM LEARNS ABOUT STREAMBANK STABILIZATION AT WORKSHOP

The district's outreach team added streambank repair knowledge to their skillset after attending a workshop in Fort Mill. They learned about stabilization methods to reduce erosion risk, including slope grading and using coir mats to contain loose soil and live stakes to encourage native tree growth.

For hands-on experience, the team visited a streambank stabilization project in progress and helped lay coir matting and place live stakes.

Why is streambank stabilization important?

- It maintains the integrity of the streambank.
- Prevents soil loss.
- Reduces sedimentation in the waterway.



Learn more about streambank stabilization at <https://www.greenvillecounty.org/LandDevelopment/StreambankStabilization>.

STUDENTS CREATE WATERCOLOR PAINTINGS USING SOIL VARIETIES

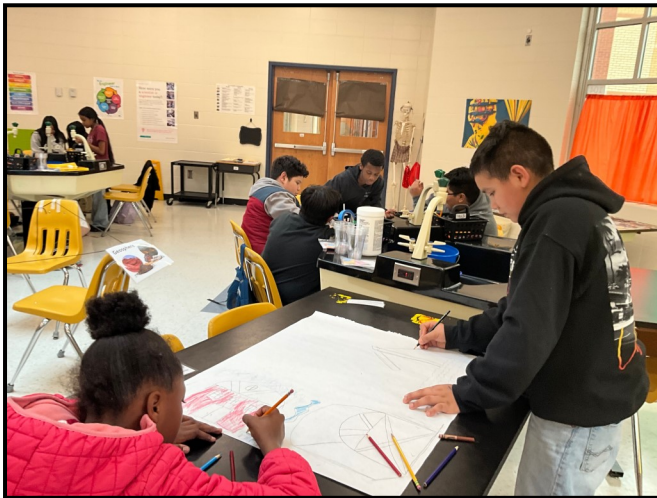
From learning about critters and soil types to identifying soil layers and painting with dirt, Slater Marietta Elementary School Garden Club students got the full gamut during a soil investigation lab led by the district's Stormwater Programs Coordinator, Kendall Juell. Juell covered best soil types for flower and vegetable gardens and offered students hands-on activities, which included matching soil colors, re-

viewing soil layers and deciphering soil textures by conducting a ribbon test. The students explored various soil colors by creating watercolor soil paintings. They also received a Soil Your Undies experiment kit to bury in their garden. Students left with a soils activity booklet, bookmark and information about Greenville's NACD Youth Poster Contest.



STEAM LAB STUDENTS LEARN THROUGH HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

Stormwater Programs Coordinator Kendall Juell returned to Hollis Academy to present programming about the Earth's systems to students in the STEAM Lab. Fifth graders learned how the hydrosphere interacts with the biosphere, geosphere and atmosphere. Students acted 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.



BACKYARD STREAMS NEED SPECIAL CARE AND ATTENTION

A Greenville County family with a backyard stream learned how to better care for it thanks to the district's Stormwater Programs Coordinator, Kendall Juell. Juell shared information about natural systems to encourage healthy soil and water practices. She also provided a colorful caddisfly craft project for the children, as well as information about the volunteer storm drain marking program.



Got a backyard stream? Consider these care tips:

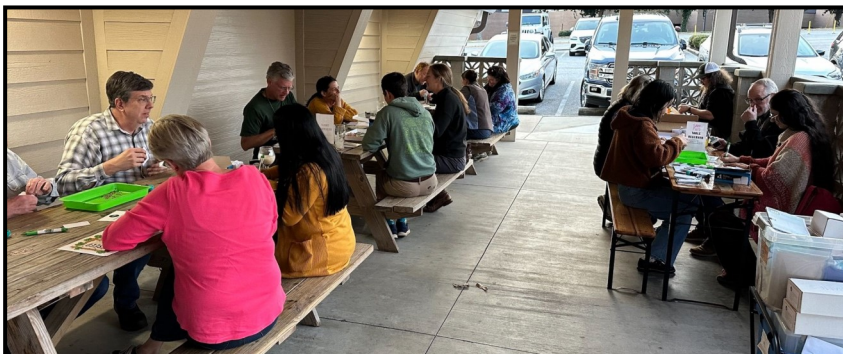
- **Plant native trees**, shrubs and grasses along the banks to stabilize soil and prevent erosion.
- **Maintain a buffer zone** of vegetation when mowing to filter pollutants from runoff.
- **Avoid using fertilizers**, pesticides and herbicides near the water and keep lawn waste out of the stream.
- Maintain at least a **25-foot buffer zone** between the stream bank and any permanent structure.



VOLUNTEERS HELP PACK SEEDS FOR DISTRICT'S SEED LIBRARY

The district partnered with the Environmental Education Association of South Carolina (EEASC) to host a seed packing meetup at Grateful Brew in Greenville. Stormwater Programs Coordinator Kendall Juell spoke about the Seed Library as an initiative that serves the community through stormwater education and conservation, and a program that alleviates food insecurity in Greenville County. Nathaniel Lord, Adult Programs Coordinator for the Greenville Library System, shared about the partnership, growth and impact of the Seed Library.

Volunteers packed 832 seed packets, or approximately 9,000 to 10,000 seeds! Thanks to all of the EEASC members and volunteers who helped provide accessible seeds for Greenville County residents.

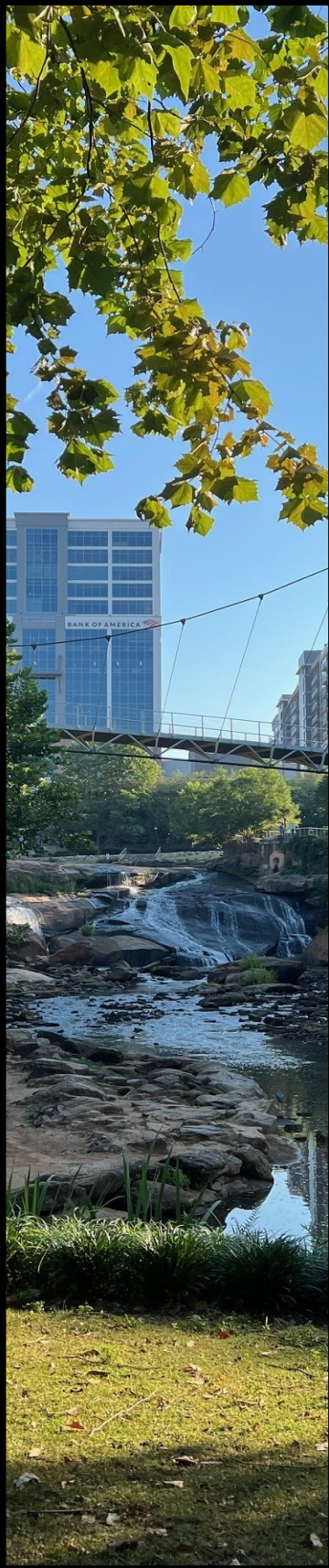


SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION FOCUS OF SCOUT EVENT

Boy Scouts earned merit badges after participating in a program led by the district's outreach team at Roper Mountain Science Center. Serving as counselors for the Merit Badge program, the team led scouts through soil and water conservation education and activities.



Scouts learned about the makeup and textures of soil, elements of soil health, tips for identifying erosion and soil conservation practices. The rainfall simulator was used to show soil runoff and an EnviroScape model to illustrate stormwater pollution. Scouts created watersheds and controlled erosion with the AR sand table and stream table, and were sent home with a Soil Your Undies kit.



>>> 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 **4 citizen requests** for sink holes, drainage and flooding issues.
- Visited the three **South Tyger** and two **Huff Creek** 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



>>> SOCIAL MEDIA

Stormwater	Total posts	Followers	Follower growth	Impressions
Facebook	3	2,166	+10	17,125
Instagram	3	1,448	+7	887
RRWQG				
Facebook	4	590	0	276
Instagram	3	199	+1	145
GCSWCD Websites	Total views			
	1,596			
RRWQG Website	Total views			
	804			

ONE OF FEBRUARY'S FACEBOOK POSTS



Spring 2026 Pop-Up Schedule Greenville County Library System

Check out up to 5 packets of free seeds at each visit!

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|------|------------------------|------|---------------------|
| 2/24 | Travelers Rest Library | 3/17 | Greer Library |
| 2/26 | Simpsonville Library | 3/19 | Anderson Rd Library |
| 3/3 | Fountain Inn Library | 3/24 | Taylor's Library |
| 3/5 | Augusta Rd Library | 3/26 | Five Forks Library |
| 3/10 | Mauldin Library | 3/31 | Hughes Main Library |
| 3/12 | Pelham Rd Library | 4/2 | Blue Ridge Library |

