MONTHLY REPORT

August 2026

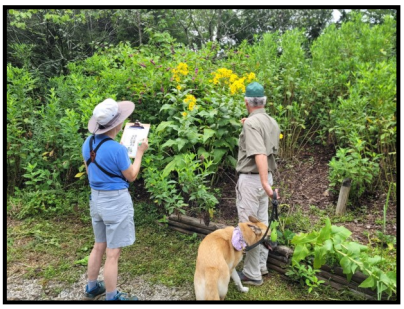
SOIL & WATER

SPLASHING INTO STEAM WITH WATER EDUCATION

A Greenville Water sponsorship awarded to the district enabled it to purchase curriculum guides and offer complimentary lunches, T-shirts and activity kits to teachers attending a water education professional development event for Greenville County Schools. The district partnered with sponsor Greenville Water, Roper Mountain Science Center, SC Adopt-A-Stream and Palmetto Pride to facilitate the event.

Stormwater Programs Coordinator and SC Project WET Coordinator Kendall Juell led Greenville County K-12 teachers through Project WET curriculum with hands-on activities that bring science to life in the classroom. Teachers gained resources and skills to make learning fun and engaging from the new *Water In Earth Systems* guide and local organizations.

COMMUNITY GATHERS TO COUNT BEES, FLIES AND MORE FOR CENSUS



GCSWCD partnered with Conestee Nature Preserve and Master Naturalists to host the Great Southeast Pollinator Census, an initiative by the University of Georgia to engage communities with pollinator conservation and research. Guests counted over 200 bees, flies, wasps and butterflies in the Henderson Meadow over 15-minute observation periods. Participants also went home with a native wildflower seed ball, Seed Library packets, coloring pages and info about GCSWCD and pollinators.

RIPARIAN BUFFERS ARE KEY TO KEEPING WATERWAYS CLEAN

conservation corner
SUSTAINABLE TIPS FOR A GREENER TOMORROW

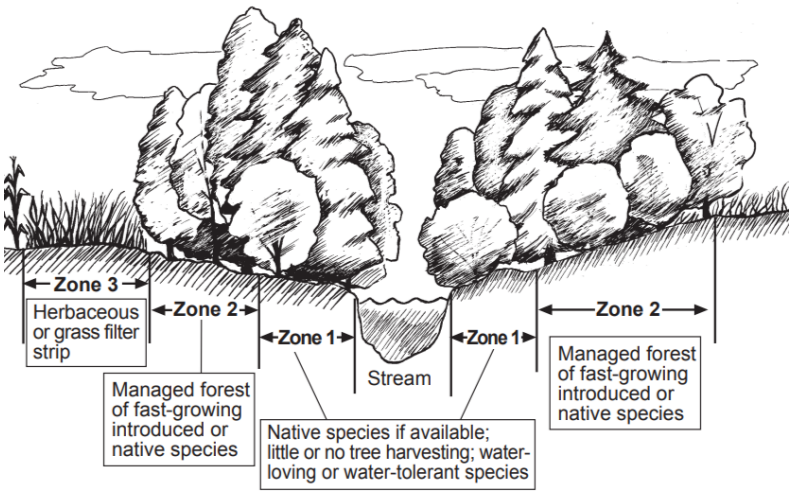
August's afternoon thunderstorms and intense summer heat not only wreak havoc on our gardens and flower beds, but they also affect our local watersheds. As rapid development reshapes the upstate, safeguarding our water systems requires a team effort.

With every new subdivision, shopping center and paved road comes an increase in impervious surfaces and a decrease in nature's forest canopies. When heavy rains hit these impervious surfaces, the water is unable to adequately filter into the soil. Instead, it rushes over hot asphalt, absorbing surface heat and collecting pollutants like pet waste, lawn chemicals and automotive fluids before surging into waterways like the Reedy and Saluda rivers. The runoff—contaminated with thermal pollution and chemicals—impacts local aquatic life, degrading our regional ecosystems.

How you can help

County ordinances and public policy mandate measures to protect the drinking water basins, but residents can also play a key role in helping to protect local streams.

- **Keep natural, un-mowed buffer zones** along creeks or drainage ditches to stabilize soil banks.
- **Limit or skip lawn fertilizers** right before storms to prevent harmful nutrient spikes in the waterways.
- **Learn more** about riparian buffer zones and how to create one, courtesy of Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District.



Riparian buffers should ideally be a minimum of 50-100 feet in width from the stream's edge.

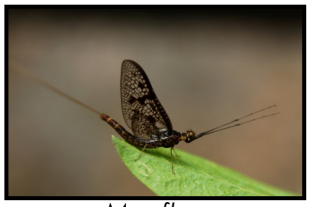
SC ADOPT-A-STREAM MONITORING KITS NOW AVAILABLE

Ever wonder what creatures are lurking in local waterways and what they can tell us about the health of the water? Now that Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District loans SC Adopt-A-Stream (SCAAS) freshwater and macroinvertebrate monitoring kits, anyone interested in being a volunteer can help determine water quality.

Why it matters

Monitoring is essential because living organisms provide a continuous, long-term record of water quality that chemical tests cannot capture. A standard chemical water sample only reveals what is in the stream at that time. Macroinvertebrates—bottom-dwelling creatures like crayfish, snails and insect larvae—live in those conditions for months or years and act as living bioindicators of stream health history.

Macroinvertebrates can survive despite toxic spikes and runoff and can either tolerate or perish from pollutants, making them reliable bioindicators. Why are they vital to the aquatic ecosystem? Because they recycle nutrients in the water, turn decaying organic matter into energy and serve as a main food source for native fish, amphibians and birds.



Mayfly

Sign of pristine water

A stream or river with the presence of mayflies, stoneflies and caddisflies confirm long-term, well-oxygenated water with little pollution.

Leech

Sign of unhealthy water

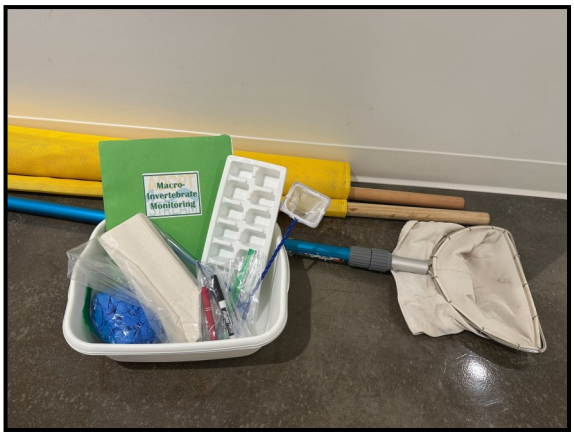
A stream of mostly leeches or blackfly larvae signals a chronically degraded waterway.

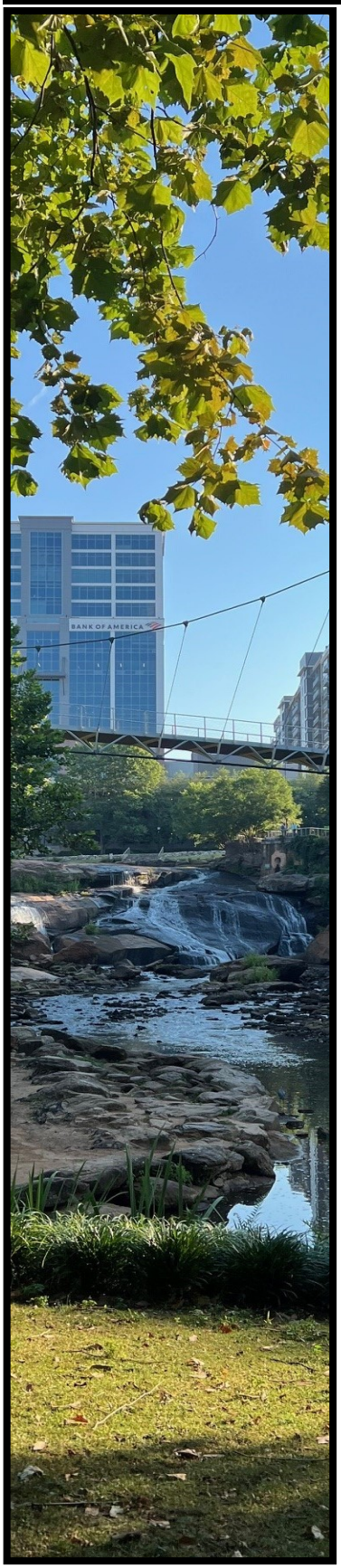
How to get involved

Volunteers can request a kit for a one-week period and receive sampling assistance as well. Stormwater Programs Coordinator, Kendall Juell, has established a GCSWCD sampling group with new sites in upper Greenville County. If interested, contact the office at contact@greenvillesoilandwater.com for more information and to get involved.

Left: Macroinvertebrate Monitoring kit

Right: Freshwater monitoring kit





>>> SOCIAL MEDIA

Stormwater	Total posts	Followers	Follower growth	Impressions
Facebook	7	2,187	+12	4345
Instagram	7	1,491	+19	7608
RRWQG				
Facebook	2	594	-2	806
Instagram	2	206	+2	179
GCSWCD Websites	Total views			
	1249			
RRWQG Website	Total views			
	642			

>>> STORMWATER

- **Responded to 15 citizen questions** about stormwater, erosion and flooding issues
- GCSWCD websites had **691 page views** this month.
- Distributed **five Poop Fairy** signs and **40 storm drain markers**.
- 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**.

>>> 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