



Keeping you informed about stormwater issues and Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium activities

Rain Barrel Renewal at Pelion Library Garden



When you go to the Lexington County Branch Library in Pelion, to the left of the building is a thriving raised bed garden. This community garden began in 2013 with a grant from the *Lexington One School and Community Garden Project...a Healthy South Carolina Initiative* in partnership with *Lexington Health Partners and Eat Smart Move More Lexington County*. Shirley Sprenne, Director of the Pelion library spearheaded the garden project with support from the Lexington County Public Libraries Director and the Lead Nurse from Lexington District One.

The raised beds were built in July and planted on August 1, 2013 as part of the summer reading program theme, "Dig into Reading". It began with 3 square-foot gardens with spaces for 27 children to plant their vegetables. Rain barrels were donated by the *Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium* (LCSC) to provide a source of rain water to irrigate the garden. A team of County staff from Community Development and Building Services were involved in the installation of the rain barrels. The original rain barrels were painted in bright colors by children in the reading program.

When the original grant ran out, *Pelion Friends of the Library* assumed the upkeep of the beds with funds raised from community partners. They built 3 more raised beds and one long bed for strawberries. They named the project, *When I Grow Up-I will be Healthy!* Currently *Lexington County Master Gardeners* support this garden as well.

The sunny spot on which the garden is planted is now irrigated using rain water that is harvested in three **new** rain barrels donated by the LCSC (pictured above). After 7 years the old barrels were no longer functioning properly.

These new black food-grade rain barrels are connected to collect more than 150 gallons of stormwater runoff from the roof of the library to water the plants. The barrels are algae resistant and can be cleaned. Rain water, directed through the downspout, fills the barrels through a diverter that directs the water into the barrels. When they are full, the flow of rain then diverts back to the downspout and out to the ground until there is room in the barrels to accept more rain. Using watering cans or a hose, the plants in the garden are irrigated by volunteers. Pollutants captured in this water are cleaned up by macroinvertebrates in the soil and never get into our waterways! During COVID-19 a basket of produce from the garden is available outside the door of the library for anyone to take what they need. Vegetables thrive in the garden and the water is free!



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IMPORTANT DATES

Next LCSC Quarterly Meeting TBA

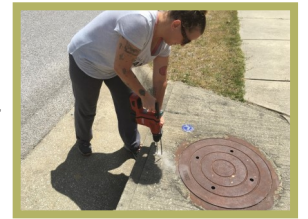
STORM DRAIN TAGGING IN MAPLE GROVE



While most of us go about our lives with little or no thought of what is going on beneath our feet, Nicki Ransom, a resident of Maple Grove neighborhood in Oak Grove, wanted to bring awareness to her neighbors of an important underground system. The storm drainage system carries rain water, litter, and all kinds of pollutants that are picked up during a rain storm out to our waterways. Therefore, your

waterways do not begin at the banks of bodies of water. They actually begin at the storm drains in your neighborhood! Waterway pollution increases to unacceptable levels when people dump substances they don't want down storm drains! Ms. Ransom had heard that the *Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium* had an opportunity for residents of Lexington County and its municipalities to put markers on storm drains in neighborhoods that read "No Dumping...Drains to Waterways." She volunteered, to help tag the drains with metal markers that are good for over 20 years of wear. She is pictured below demonstrating the process of securing these markers.

If you would like to help get the "No Dumping" alert on drains in your neighborhood, contact Mary Hite, Stormwater Outreach Assistant at Lexington County Land Development at (803) 785-8121 or by email at mhite@lex-co.com. This activity is available now since it is done outdoors by individuals. Instruction can be done at a safe social distance.



There is nothing lucky about a pandemic! However, we are certainly lucky to have today's technology as we must navigate COVID-19. Webinars and Zoom meetings are a couple of ways we can learn and associate with one another while being socially distant. The Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium (LCSC) is proud to announce a webinar featuring Betsy Kaemmerlin, LEED-AP - Landscape Architect with Gimbball Cotterill entitled *Runoff and Rain Gardens. Infiltration of Stormwater and Planting for Water Quality*. This webinar was presented on May 15, 2020 in association with the *South Carolina Conservation Coalition* and sponsored by *Gills Creek Watershed Assn. and Gimbball Cotterill (Landscape Architects and Land Planners)*. The LCSC is proud to have Ms. Kaemmerlin as an educational partner.

While making a rain garden is a fairly standard process, planting the right native plants to use in the garden is specific to the locale in which the garden resides. If you live in the Midlands of South Carolina, and want to install a rain garden on your property, this webinar is for you!

[Click Here To View Rain Garden Webinar.](#)

LEXINGTON COUNTY RECYCLING DROP-OFF EVENTS

The following Drop-Off Recycling Events for Lexington County residents (no businesses) are tentatively scheduled. Events are held in all weather conditions but may be cancelled due to COVID-19. To be notified by mail of event details prior to each event, contact Traude Sander, Lexington County Recycling Coordinator at (803) 785-3340 or at tsander@lex-co.com.



DATE: Saturday, August 29, 2020
TIME: 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
PLACE: Batesburg-Leesville High School (parking lot on Summerland Ave.)
ITEMS: **Electronics** (Limited to 8 electronics per vehicle [computer components & small items are bundled and count as one]).
Tires (limited to 8 tires per vehicle)
Paper—Shredded on site (limited to 5 bags or boxes per vehicle)
Household Goods (no limit)

The same limits in above event apply to the event below.

DATE: Saturday, October 3, 2020
TIME: 8:00 a.m.–12:00 noon
PLACE: Irmo High School (Square parking lot on corner of Wescott Rd. & St. Andrews Rd.)
ITEMS: **Electronics**
Tires
Paper—Shredded on site
Scrap Metal (no limit)
Cooking Oil (no limit)
Household Items (no limit)
Household Hazardous Waste (limit on paint of 8 gallons)

RAIN BARREL WORKSHOPS IN LEXINGTON COUNTY

Since March 16, Rain Barrel workshops scheduled for 2020 have been put on hold due to COVID-19 recommendations. Updates on this temporary situation will be available on www.LCSWC.com. Workshops will resume as soon as possible. When workshops can resume, announcements will also be available on the Lexington County website.

GREEN STEP AWARDS FOR LEXINGTON COUNTY SCHOOLS



SC Green Step School awards are presented each year to K-12 schools and their mentors when schools document students learning, doing and teaching others about sustaining projects that improve the environment.

Five Lexington County schools have qualified for 2020 SC Green Step School Awards during the most challenging school year in memory!

4 schools qualified for “certified” status by sustaining at least 2 model quality projects in each of three categories (conserve, protect and restore):

Irmo High School

Irmo Middle School

Pleasant Hill Elementary School

White Knoll High School

One additional school is working toward certification:

Leapheart Elementary School.

Thirteen mentors assisted Lexington County Schools: Richenda Batson, Linda Byars, Mary Hite, John Oxner and Traude Sander. Regional mentors: Laura Blake-Orr, Sarah Chabaane Beth Foley, Jay Keck, and Matt Schnabel. Statewide mentors: Amy Curran, Jane Hiller and Stacey Washington.

To learn more about our South Carolina Green Step Schools Program, [Click Here](#).

Green Step projects can be viewed on the websites of schools that have a web page dedicated to Green Steps: To view school programs, [Click here](#). Green Step Teachers, mentors, and expert volunteers go the extra mile to bring awareness of the natural world and how to conserve, protect and restore it to eager young people in whose hands the future of our planet rests.

Questions? To reach the SC Green Step Schools Coordinator, Jane Hiller, call (803) 779-0608 or send an email to Jane.hiller@sonoco.com.



Contact Information

Lexington County Land Development
Attn: Environmental Coordinator
212 South Lake Drive, Suite 400
Lexington, SC 29072
Phone: 803-785-8634

The next quarterly meeting of the *Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium* is on hold until further notice.

The Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium (LCSC) is comprised of the communities of Cayce, South Congaree, Springdale, West Columbia, Irmo, Pine Ridge, Lexington, and Lexington County. We seek to protect Lexington County's waterways and natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of our citizens.

We're on the web LCSWC.com