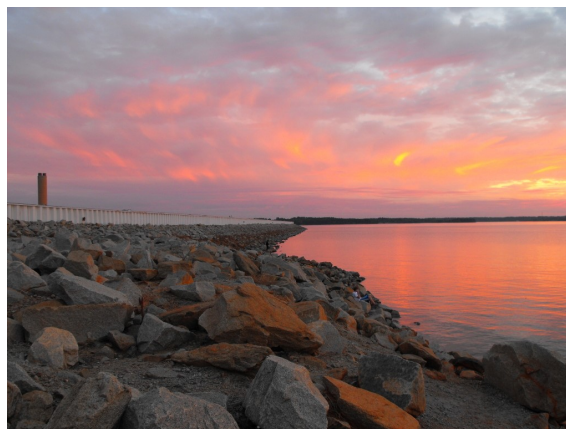


WATER WATCH

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

What is the LCSC?

Whether this is your first *Water Watch* newsletter or your hundredth, now is a good time to reintroduce ourselves. The Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium, also known as the LCSC, is consisted of Lexington County and the following municipalities: Town of Lexington, Town of Irmo, Town of Springdale, Town of South Congaree, Town of Pine Ridge, City of West Columbia, and City of Cayce. Our mission statement is: “We seek to protect waterways in Lexington County from pollution caused by residential & business activity to protect our natural resources by creating a model collaborative water quality education program, fostering citizen involvement & encouraging behavioral change, and achieving clean & healthy tributaries, rivers, & ground waters.” In very simple terms, our goal is to teach citizens how to prevent water pollution and proactively prevent and treat pollution ourselves. One way we do so is through public outreach events. Our most popular outreach event is our Backyard Benefits Workshop, previously known as the Rain Barrel and Composting workshops, in collaboration with LexCo Solid Waste Management. During the workshop, you learn all about stormwater management and composting, then ending it out with making your very own rain barrel! If you are interested, our next workshop is in February (Exact date TBD) at the Edmund Landfill. We frequently post on our Facebook page, @County of Lexington, where we have our own stormwater hashtag! Keep an eye out for our weekly #StormwaterSaturday posts In this edition of *Water Watch*, we will dive into the basics of stormwater pollution!



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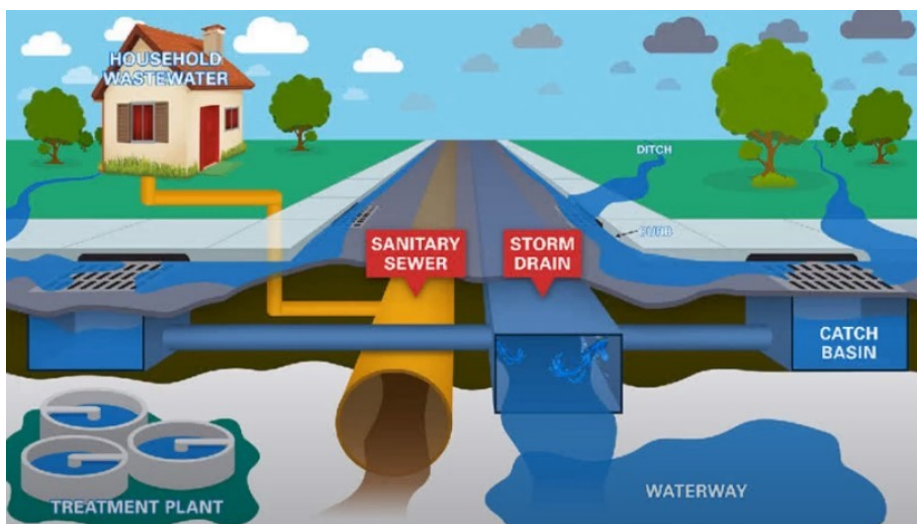
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IMPORTANT DATES

***Backyard Benefits
Workshop— TBD
February***

MS4 Permit

Why is the Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium so important? Well, Lexington County has a MS4 permit. MS4 stands for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. In simple terms, this means that anything (water, leaves, litter, etc) that enters the storm drains on the streets goes directly into the local waterways. Any household drains, such as sinks and toilets, go to the sewer that leads to a treatment plant, therefore preventing any polluted waters to go back to the environment. Since the storm drains lead straight to the water, it is extremely important to keep it clean of any pollutants. Dirty storm drains can lead to unhealthy rivers and creeks filled with trash, oils, and excess nutrients. The LCSC's job is to complete all of the MS4 permit



requirements to keep the waterways and storm drains clean off pollution! For more detailed information, go to www.lcswc.com

What Can I Do Today?

Hopefully, learning more about the Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium and runoff pollution in general has inspired you to do your part in keeping our waterways clean! There are so many easy ways you can start with immediately. Being environmentally friendly overall helps to prevent stormwater pollution but here are some specific ways:

- Limit the antifreeze you put in your car. With the colder weather here, you are probably planning on ‘winterizing’ your car. Use eco-friendly products, such as antifreeze, and check for any fluid leaks.

- Start a compost! When cooking, keep any food scraps in your freezer to add to either a pre-existing compost or create your own. You can buy compost caddies online if you don’t want to freeze your scraps or bring them to the compost everyday. Come to a Backyard Benefits workshop to learn all of the ins and outs of composting.



- Install a pet waste station in your neighborhood— keep reading to learn more!

These are just three quick examples but the environmental friendly changes are endless.

Calling All Educators

Are you an educator at any of the Lexington County schools? Are you looking for a way to incorporate a hands on science lesson? If so, email jwarren@lex-co.com to schedule a water quality presentation or rain barrel workshop with the LCSC. One requirement of the MS4 permit is Public Participation & Involvement and who better to participate than the next generation of leaders? If an in-class activity isn't feasible, the LCSC can provide binders stuffed with handouts and activities for all ages as well!



Trash the Poop!

Do you live in a Lexington County neighborhood and want to help prevent local runoff pollution? Request a FREE pet waste station from the LCSC! Fill out this form to request one. All of the supplies needed are delivered right to you and installation is easy. If you'd like a trash bin attached, you will have to purchase that on your own. A starter roll of waste bags are provided to you as well! Now is the perfect time, right before spring arrives. Email jwarren@lex-co.com with any questions and fill out the request form below.



REQUEST FORM HERE: <https://forms.gle/jhJtDNjZvaDsMbgU6>



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 Wednesday, February 15, 2023 in the City of West Columbia

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