



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

Water Watch is BACK!

COVID has plagued everyone’s schedule with shut-downs and unforeseen difficulties. 2020 was both the longest and strangest year of many people’s lives. Combine that with a change in personnel at Lexington County and *Water Watch* went unwritten. Have no fear, your most-loved outlet for Consortium news and information is BACK! Events are gearing up and public involvement is in full-swing (as much as safely possible with all COVID regulations in effect). Stay tuned for updates on countywide stormwater events and how YOU can get involved!

Lex Co Welcomes New Employees

Lexington County has two new faces around the office. Susan Yates now serves as the Environmental Coordinator, accepting the position after Gary Price felt led to move elsewhere. Susan comes to Lexington County from the City of Aiken with more than 22 years of experience in storm-



water management, specializing in sediment and erosion control measures. Having also worked at DHEC, she brings a full-spectrum of knowledge to the county. Susan is passionate about utilizing her skill set to protect the environment and goes about daily tasks with a refreshing enthusiasm. Taylor Brewer now works under Susan as the new Stormwater Outreach Coordinator since Mary Hite retired. Taylor received her Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of South Carolina. After graduation she worked at City Roots, a local, urban, organic farm, where she helped grow the education outreach program.

Inside This Issue

<i>River Bluff High Mural Contest</i>	2
<i>Lakeside Litter Sweep</i>	2
<i>Rain Barrel Workshop</i>	3
<i>Illicit Yard Waste Disposal</i>	3
<i>Our Job, Your Waters</i>	4

IMPORTANT DATES

- December 4, 2021
Rain Barrel Workshop*
- February 16, 2022
Next LCSC quarterly meeting*

River Bluff High School Mural Contest

Here in our county the storm drains DO NOT flow to a water treatment plant but rather straight into our local waterways, meaning anything dumped down a storm drain or dropped on a roadway ends up in our local bodies of water. To help raise awareness, Lexington County has partnered with the Congaree Riverkeeper and River Bluff High School to host a Storm Drain Mural Contest. Students will be tasked with creating ideas for murals to be painted on storm drains located on campus with the aim of preventing illicit materials from entering our waterways. A special thank you goes out to Lexington School District One for approval of this project! Administrators from the school along with the Riverkeeper and Lexington County Environmental Coordinator, Susan Yates, will select a handful of ideas from the submissions for the student body to vote on for the final designs. This project will also qualify River Bluff High School for a Green Step School Award. What a fun way to learn about and implement pollution reduction strategies!



Photo credit: Cumming Corporation

Lakeside Litter Sweep



Keep the Midlands Beautiful held their yearly Lakeside Litter Sweep on September 18 in congruence with DNR's annual Beach Sweep/River Sweep which is held every third Saturday of September. This event continues to be the largest one-day litter clean-up in South Carolina. An astounding 242 volunteers showed up to assist KMB in cleaning up the beaches and islands of our state's jewel, Lake Murray. Dive teams spent the morning bringing submerged litter up to the surface while volunteers loaded onto the donated-for-a-day private boat *Miss Behavin* to be shuttled to Spence Island and Sandy Beach for trash pick-up. The collective effort lead to an incredible 5,758 lbs of trash removed from 27 islands, 10 boat ramps, parks and local neighborhoods. If you missed it this year, put it on your calendar of "events to attend" for next year! Contact Laura-Blake Orr at Keep the Midlands Beautiful for more information.

Laura Blake-Orr, Core Programs Administrator
803-733-1139
AAW@kmbc.org



Rain Barrel Workshop

Due to COVID, our Rain Barrel Workshop Program has not operated on a regular schedule but as things are getting “back to normal” so are our events! We have a workshop scheduled for December 4th, a little later than usual but better late than never. Due to the number of canceled workshops, we are working off of a waitlist. Once we offer an opportunity to everyone on the list, workshops will be opened back up to the public (hooray!). Stay tuned for dates of upcoming workshops! We are very excited to be out and about in the community again! For more information, contact Taylor Brewer at tbrewer@lex-co.com or by phone at (803) 785-6054.



Illicit Yard Waste Disposal

We tell you not to dump your yard waste down the storm drain, ever wonder why? Both the liquids AND the solids deposited down the drain go directly into local bodies of water. Yard trash is often contaminated with fertilizer. In addition, adding too much decaying vegetation can lead to lower dissolved oxygen (DO) levels in the water causing fish and aquatic life to suffer.

How YOU can HELP:

- * Fertilize your lawn ONLY when NECESSARY! Many people fertilize on a set schedule and if not absorbed the extra fertilizer washes off the lawn and straight down the drain.
- * Do NOT dump yard trash down storm drains or in detention ponds! Grass clippings and leaves can be used in a backyard compost pile. A healthy compost ratio should contain 3 parts brown (yard trash) and 1 part green (organic material i.e. food scraps).
- * Properly dispose of your yard trash by taking it to your local collection center or if you have curb-side pick-up leave it in a pile next to (NOT IN) your trash bin.

Our Job, Your Waters

Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium (LCSC) was formed to monitor, regulate and educate the public about stormwater pollution. Lexington County is a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) regulated by SCDHEC under the National Pollutant Discharge Eliminating System (NPDES) permit. This means ANYTHING and EVERYTHING that washes down a drainage conveyance flows UNTREATED, straight to our local waterways. There are three major river basins that run through Lexington County: the Broad, the Saluda and the Edisto. In addition to providing clean water to the state and eventually draining into the Atlantic Ocean, all three rivers provide numerous recreation activities to the public.

The Saluda River

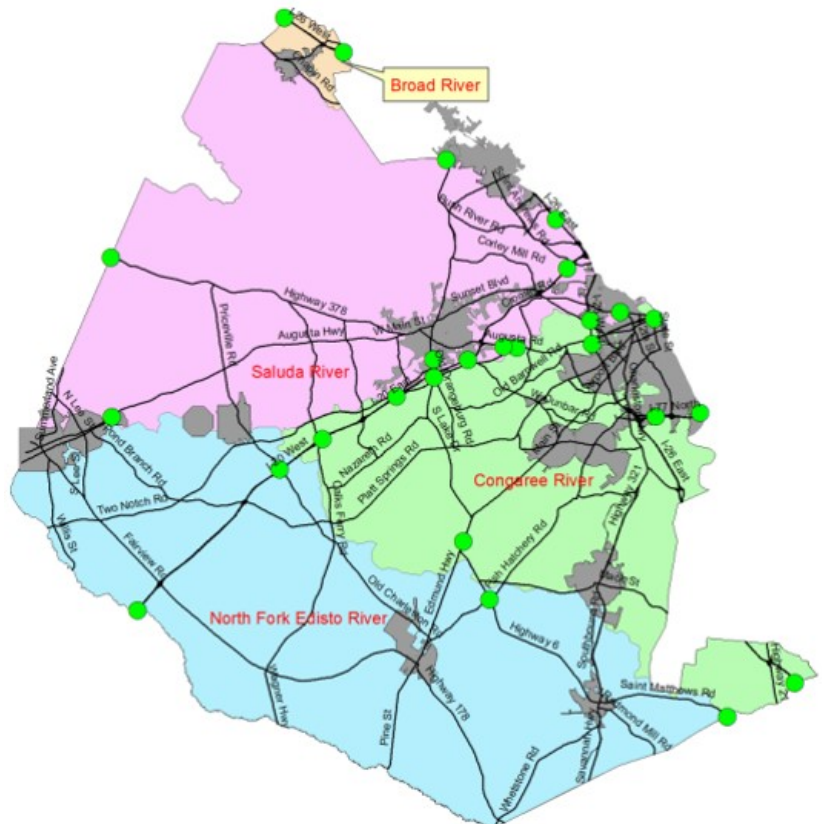
- ⇒ Designated as a State Scenic River
- ⇒ Classified as "Put, Grow and Take" Trout Waters (TPGT)
- ⇒ Stocked with 30,000 trout per year by DNR
- ⇒ Used by Saluda Hydroelectric Project and McMeekin Electric Generating to produce clean energy

The Edisto River

- ⇒ Passes thru the Francis Beidler Forest, a 15,000-acre National Audubon Society Sanctuary
- ⇒ Longest and largest basin completely contained in SC
- ⇒ Blackwater river: slow moving and stained by tannins formed by decaying vegetation
- ⇒ Longest undammed river in North America

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT OUR LOCAL WATERS: The Broad River

- ⇒ Includes 7 hydroelectric projects that produce clean energy
- ⇒ Ideal for paddling trips
- ⇒ Surface water drawn for agriculture use and other: up to 37,173 million gallons/year





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 16, 2022 in the town of Pine Ridge.

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