

»»» LCSC PRESENTS «««

WATER WATCH

Keeping you informed about local stormwater issues and LCSC activities



The Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium (LCSC) is comprised of the following communities: Lexington County, Cities of Cayce and West Columbia, and the Towns of South Congaree, Springdale, Irmo, Pine Ridge, and Lexington.

We seek to protect the natural resources in Lexington County from pollution caused by residential and business activities. We accomplish this by the following:

- (1) Creating a model collaborative water quality education program,
- (2) Fostering citizen involvement and encouraging behavioral change, and
- (3) Enforcing state and local stormwater regulations.

Through these accomplishments, we strive to achieve clean and healthy streams, rivers, lakes, and groundwater.

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

THE BENEFITS OF RIPARIAN BUFFERS

»»» **READ MORE ON PG. 1**

Why the vegetation along our waterways should matter to you!

READ MORE ON PG. 2 «««

Impress your neighbors with your lawn this spring by incorporating native plants!

BEYOND TURF GRASS

RIPARIAN BUFFERS

THE BENEFITS OF A “NO MOW” LIFESTYLE

>>> WHAT IS A RIPARIAN BUFFER?

A riparian buffer is another way of describing plants along a stream, river, or lake. Buffers are comprised of grasses, shrubs, sedges, and trees, and some species can be flowering and aesthetically pleasing, while others are used by our native wildlife as habitat or as a food source.

>>> WHY ARE BUFFERS IMPORTANT?

Species of plants that establish along a waterway provide many benefits to water quality as well as landowners.

- The roots stabilize shorelines and streambanks to prevent erosion and property loss.
- The vegetation provides habitat for species that love to hang out near the water, like spiders that eat aquatic insects emerging from a stream!
- Buffers filter pollutants in stormwater runoff that would ultimately end up in our streams. Pollutants include excess fertilizers applied to lawns, sediment from eroding areas, and bacteria from pet waste.
- Leaves and other vegetation that fall into the water provide habitat and food for aquatic insects and fish.
- Shade from trees and other woody species helps to regulate the temperature within a stream, which is important for a healthy population of fish and other aquatic organisms.

>>> HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Always leave a “no mow” zone along waterways and encourage your neighbors to do the same!
- **Never** spray herbicides or fertilizer in a buffer area.
- Consider adding plants to your riparian zone. Check out HGIC Factsheet 1907 from Clemson Extension:

Livestakes: Easy Propagation for Streambank Plants.



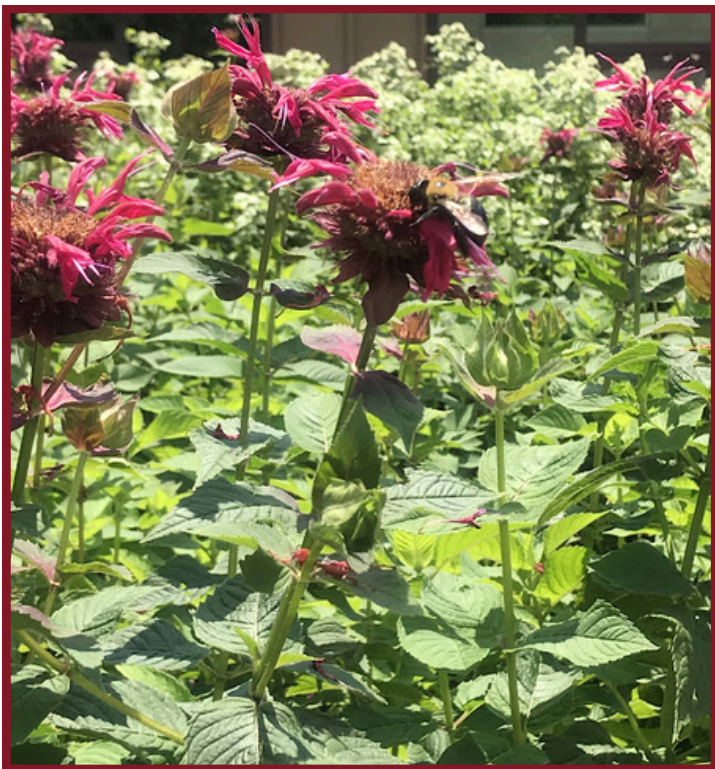
NATIVE PLANTS

GO BEYOND THE TURF!

➤➤➤ NATIVE PLANTS 101

Native plants have adapted to the environment of South Carolina and tend to persist during our weather extremes, growing with little to no amendments or fertilizer, and requiring little irrigation after establishment.

A yard consisting of turf grass might look nice, but imagine the variety of colors, shapes, and sizes native plants can bring to the landscape! For instance, consider Carolina Allspice (*Calycanthus floridus*), a deciduous shrub that blooms May to July that does well in well drained, sunny spots. The deep red blooms attract butterflies while insects feed on the flowers. Even more, it is resistant to deer and tolerant of our hot weather!



Clemson Extension and the South Carolina Native Plant Society have developed an easy-to-use online tool to help select the right plant for the right place. The Native Plant Directory allows you to filter for plant type, region, bloom season, light requirements, and more! Visit <https://scnps.org/plants/> to see what native plant will work best in your yard.

DATES, INFO, & FYIS

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!

IRMO COMMUNITY EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Join us on **April 26** from **10 am to 2 pm** at **McGregor Presbyterian Church** for a day full of learning and fun! Several booths will be set up with Earth Day activities for all ages! Take a look at the details:

Learn about: Recycling, Water Quality, Local Plants, Wildlife, and Insects, Landfills

Make & Take: Non-toxic Rosemary Vinegar Cleaner, Seed Balls

Enjoy: Local Treats and Door Prizes

Bring: Plants for the Plant Swap and Garden Tools to be sharpened (donations to toward McGregor Snack Packs Program

Recycle: Gently used shoes for Keep the Midlands Beautiful Shoe Drive; Old textiles to reuse/recycle in new "Clothes Bin" in Preschool parking lot; Unwanted rechargeable devices to recycle with Redwood Materials; Plastic bags for Leaphart Elementary School's NexTrex Recycling Challenge

Buy: Plants grown by Irmo Middle School students

Questions: Contact Jane Hiller at jane.hiller@gmail.com



STORMWATER PRESENTATIONS

Did you know that you can request a presentation from the LCSC? This can be for a group such as HOAs, K-12 classroom, or afterschool programs! The LCSC has a variety of educational materials, lesson plans, and hands-on activities such as an EnviroScape to help facilitate learning for all ages. If you are interested in having a presentation, give us at call at 803-785-8121 or email vollmer@lexingtoncounty.sc.gov

LET'S CONNECT

Learn more at lcswc.com

 County of Lexington, SC



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