

>>> 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 FIREFLIES OF OUR
CHILDHOOD**



READ MORE ON PG. 1 & 2

Helping Fireflies

READ MORE ON PG. 3

Help a neighbor



**CLEARING STORM
DRAINS**

**UPCOMING EVENTS,
INFO, & FYIS**



READ MORE ON PG. 4

Plan our your busy
fall

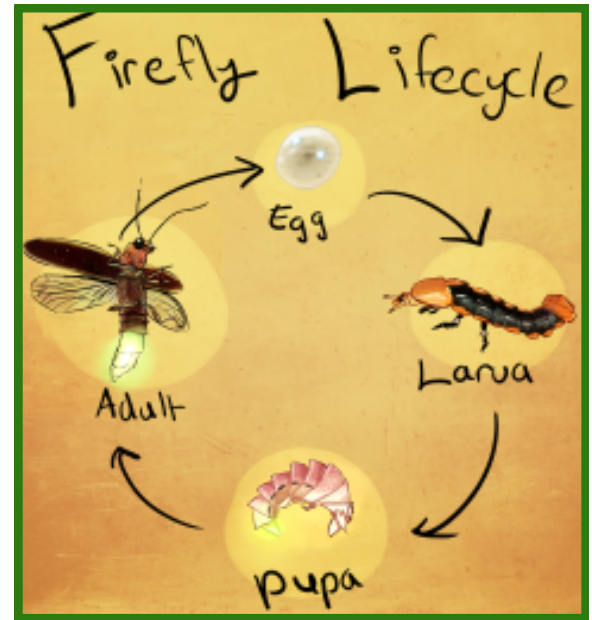
THE FIREFLIES OF OUR CHILDHOOD

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>>> Helping Fireflies

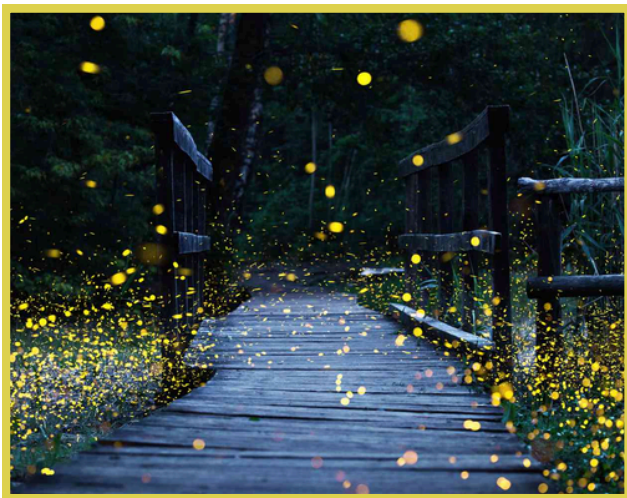
If you're like me, many fond memories from growing up include drinking water from a hose, swimming in the neighborhood pond (which I now realize was a stormwater pond, oops), and watching the fireflies on hot summer nights.

You may agree that it seems like there are fewer fireflies these days. While some things may seem out of our control, there are small actions you can take on the individual homeowner level to ensure we have fireflies for summers to come!



Light Pollution

Fireflies use their light for many reasons, including to drive away predators, claim territory, or communicate with others. The primary reason for these flashing lights is for mating, and each species of firefly has a unique flash pattern that males use to attract females. Knowing this, it's not surprising that our harsh artificial lights are not considered romantic for fireflies and can have an impact on their mating success. Dim or even turn off your outdoor lights in the evening. If you have inside lights on, consider closing the blinds.



Leave the Leaves

Because you've turned off or down your lights, you now have numerous pairs of successfully mating fireflies in your yard. They've gone on to lay eggs in the ground, which will eventually turn into glow worms that are ravenous and will spend their days eating tinier insects and taking refuge in leaf litter. Help them out by **leaving the leaves** on your lawn. This provides habitat and protection for the fireflies!

Helping Fireflies

Toss the Turf

Consider decreasing the amount of turf grass in your yard to make way for native grasses, forbs, shrubs, and hardwoods. Visit your local nursery and ask what species of aesthetically pleasing plants should go in your yard to support native insects, including fireflies!



Pesticide Exposure

As you can imagine, pesticides can harm fireflies and other non-target insects by disrupting firefly metabolism and development in the egg and larval life stages. If mosquitoes are getting you down and forcing you inside, consider the following:

- Remove standing water. Even the smallest amount can support larvae!
- Can't remove all your standing water? Consider Bti dunks. Bti is a natural soil bacterium that controls mosquito larvae.
- Wear long sleeves and pants when working in the yard.
- Clean gutters and make sure they drain well.

Learn to Love Insects

Teach kids, co-workers, and friends that insects are cool! Insects...

- are an essential part of the food web that support amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals;
- pollinate many of our fruits, flowers, and vegetables;
- break down waste through decomposition;
- overall have some have some pretty neat qualities and adaptations!



Take a look at [Firefly.org](https://www.firefly.org) for more information on fireflies, and to certify your yard as Certified Firefly Habitat.

CLEARING STORM DRAINS

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>>> BE A HERO TO A NEIGHBOR!

If you haven't noticed, we've had some flashy rain events this summer. While we may not be able to control the intensity of these events, we can make sure the storm drains in our neighborhoods are clear of pine straw, leaves, and other debris that could prevent water from entering. If you know rain is headed your way, be a good neighbor and clear debris from the storm drains near you! Also, remind neighbors not to pile yard debris where it can be washed into a storm drain.



KEEP LEAVES & GRASS CLIPPINGS OUT OF THE STREET!

The STORM DRAIN is NOT a trash can for YARD WASTE!

Leaves and other yard debris can clog storm drains, causing flooding in roads. As yard waste decays, it can also release excess nutrients harmful to our local waterways. Keep yard waste out of the road and storm drains by...



Composting



Raking it into landscaping beds



Dropping it off at your local County Convenience Center



Leaving it for native wildlife

However you handle yard debris, please DON'T BLOW IT into the streets!

UPCOMING EVENTS, INFO, & FYI

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>>> LAKE SWEEP/RIVER SWEEP

Mark your calendars for the 2026 Lake Sweep/River Sweep on Saturday, **September 19th**! Join Keep the Midlands Beautiful and partners for this statewide event to clear trash from our beaches, rivers, lakes, and creeks!

Link to register:

<https://keepthemidlandsbeautiful.org/lake-sweep-river-sweep/>

Registration ends on September 5th, 2026!



>>> PROTECTING YOUR PET PALS: A BACKYARD BENEFITS WORKSHOP

Join us at Seven Oaks Plant Shop for the **October 10th** Backyard Benefits Workshop: **Protecting Your Pet Pals** - Come learn about the benefits of having your pet spayed/neutered, pet friendly plants, and more. **Register now!**



LET'S CONNECT

Learn more at lcswc.com

 County of Lexington, SC



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