



River Watch

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A big thanks to all the volunteers who came out on Earth Day to help with the Rocky Branch clean-up. Because of you we were able to

River Rocks Festival a Big Success

The second annual River Rocks Festival was held on April 14th and it was a big success. More than 650 people came out to Riverfront Park to support Congaree Riverkeeper and have a great time. Thanks to this tremendous support we almost doubled our fundraising goals.

Thanks again to all of our sponsors, Columbia City Parks and Recreation staff, environmental education presenters, the band, an awesome show, and the vendors providing food, drinks and activities; we couldn't have done it without all of you. Most importantly,



remove dozens of bags of trash from the creek. A special thanks to Gus Thompson and Christopher Wormley for helping organize it.

If you see a pollution problem or have a concern let us know! Report it by calling (803) 760-3357 or email CRK@congareriverkeeper.org

Check out these 360° panoramas of our rivers. Thanks to USC Sustainability and Environment for helping capture these amazing images.

[Broad River](#)
[Saluda River](#)
[Congaree River](#)

We're Looking Out for Our Rivers

One of the many advocacy efforts that Congaree Riverkeeper participates in is the public comment process for the issuance, renewal or modification of NPDES permits. NPDES, which stands for National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, is a permit program for wastewater discharges that was established as part of the Clean Water Act in the 1970s. Any industry or other entity that wants to discharge wastewater into our rivers or streams must apply for a permit with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Before a permit can be issued there is a public comment period where concerned citizens and organizations can voice their concerns about the proposed permits and request modifications. These permits generally last for 5 years and before they can be reissued there is another public comment period.

people who came out... you made this We think this festival will only continue hope to see you out there for River Rock to all of our Sponsors: the City of Columbia, Construction, Lockhart Power, AFLAC, Company, CMC Steel, First Citizens Bank, James Smith PA, Blue Cross Blue Shield

Congaree Riverkeeper is currently commenting on two very important NPDES permits. The first of these is a new permit for the discharge of wastewater and cooling water from the two new reactors being built at the VC Summer Nuclear Station on the Broad River. The second one we are commenting on is the reissuance of the permit for the Westinghouse facility off of Bluff Road. Through this public comment process, we work to keep our Rivers healthy and to assure public input is heard.



Carolina, Get Your Gear On, California F
Hilton Columbia Center, and Sub Statio
photos from the Festival

Let's Get the Lower Saluda Gre

As part of its mission, Congaree F
improve river access, protect fish and w
rivers, and advocate for clean water flo
Greenways touch on all three of our mi:
improve river access, but we also t
catalyst to increase awareness and
quality and habitat protection. We firm
people see and enjoy our Rivers, then
about them and want clean and hea
believe greenways can help protect ri
quality by sensitive design that respec
the functions of riparian buffers, with
that allows public use and enjoyment
natural environment. For these re
continue to support the River All
Greenway Plan.

The Lower Saluda is an outstanding r
the Midlands' only river designated as a
offers some of the best urban white
Country, and supports a coldwater trou
made the Lower Saluda along the
increasingly popular place for people t
just hang out. We're glad folks are
Saluda; however, the large number of
strain on existing access points, creat
safety problem. We think that constru
Greenway will provide improved acces
the same time, protect the River by ad
police protection, and design element
wear and tear of its riparian buff
"shovel-ready" because the River Allia
the design work, which means that or
Saluda Greenway construction can com

So, we are calling upon our local electe
to fund the estimated \$8 million dol
Saluda Greenway, or at least some
initiated an online petition to Colum
Richland County Council imploring the
Saluda Greenway. We need those o
Midlands area to sign it and share
neighbors and colleagues so that we c

local demand for the Greenway. Let's
Petition

Please visit our website at <http://www.congareeriverkeeper.org>.
Donate to our cause at <http://congareeriverkeeper.org/become-member-help-clean-our-wa>