



On behalf of its members, Congaree Riverkeeper works to protect and improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreation on the Congaree, Lower Saluda and Lower Broad Rivers through advocacy, education and enforcement of environmental laws.

River Watch

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See a Water Quality Problem?

Call us at 803-760-3357.
We will investigate.

A Special Thanks to Our River Rocks Sponsors

Congaree Riverkeeper thanks our River Rocks sponsors who have helped make this event possible:

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Buy Your Tickets to River Rocks!

On May 28, 2011, Congaree Riverkeeper will hold River Rocks, its first annual fundraising event at Riverfront Park in Columbia. River Rocks will feature great music, with Acoustic Syndicate as the headlining act, after Treadmill Trackstar, Danielle Howle, The Papa String Band, Wanda Johnson, Whiskey Tango Revue, The Project, and J'Ouvert Steel Band take the stage. River Rocks will also feature paddling races in the Columbia Canal and the Broad River, as well as a rock-climbing wall and kid's activities. Arts and crafts and food and beverages will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$12.00 in advance and \$15.00 at the gate. Kids under 12 get in free. Buy your tickets [online](#). Check out our River Rocks website, RiverRocksFestival.com, for more information. If interested in volunteering during the event, call Stuart Greeter at 760-3357. We are excited about this event, and are praying for a nice sunny day, with a large turnout of folks who care about our rivers.

Kids Paddling Event Planned on Congaree River Blue Trail

In celebration of National Trail Day, American Rivers is planning a full day of events on June 4, 2011, including a 45 minute paddle with local youth on the Congaree River Blue Trail. The Congaree River Blue Trail is the first water trail designated a National Recreation Trail in South Carolina by the Department of Interior. It is a 50-mile recreational paddling trail on the Congaree River, extending from the City of Columbia to the Congaree National Park. The Congaree River Blue Trail was recently acknowledged in President Obama's [America's Great Outdoors](#) report as a model blue trail. For more information, call American Rivers at 771-7114.

Application for Proposed Quarry on Congaree Withdrawn

The owner of a 300-acre parcel adjacent to the Congaree River is seeking Richland County approval to rezone the property from rural to heavy industrial in order to allow a granite quarry to be developed at the site. Sustainable Midlands has taken the lead among conservation groups to oppose the project. After a community meeting held in December, the rezoning request was placed on the January agenda of the Richland County Planning Commission for the Commission's recommendation to Richland County Council. However, the request was deferred for several months. In the meantime, USC, the City of Cayce and nearby businesses joined the conservation community in voicing concerns about the impacts of the proposed quarry operation. The rezoning request was placed on the May 2nd Planning Commission meeting for recommendation to County Council. The County Planning staff recommended denial of the rezoning request due to its opinion that mining operations in the Congaree River floodplain are incompatible with the County Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Prior to

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Calling All Photographers

We are looking for beautiful photos of our rivers to use in our newsletters. If interested in sharing your photos, send us an [email](#).



May 2nd, the applicant withdrew his request and plans to re-apply after 60 days have passed. Congaree Riverkeeper joins Sustainable Midlands and others in opposing this rezoning request. We agree with the County Planning staff that the proposed quarry is incompatible with the County's Comprehensive Plan. We also have concerns about impacts to water quality, riparian habitat and the natural floodplain.

We are Serious about Strategic Planning

Congaree Riverkeeper is nearing completion of our 5-Year Strategic Plan. We have been busy compiling a great deal of information about each of our Rivers, such as land use, historical stream flow, surface water withdrawals, number of wastewater discharge permits, threatened and endangered species, and parks, protected areas and recreational access. We have learned a great deal about the Congaree, Lower Saluda and Lower Broad Rivers through this drafting process. For example, did you know that there are six quarries or mines along or near the Broad River? Did you know that there are four surface water withdrawals from the Congaree River, the largest of which is by Eastman Chemical Company? We plan to share this information and more on our website and use the data we have collected to assist us in formulating policy or advocacy goals over the next five years. Additionally, we are working on goals to strengthen our organizational capacity. For example, our organizational goals for next year include increasing our visibility and recognition within the community, funding and hiring a full-time Riverkeeper position, and expanding our membership. We believe the hard work we have put in preparing an in-depth strategic plan will help us successfully advocate for clean, healthy Rivers.

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