



Kayakers enjoying the Lower Saluda River near the Zoo.

Congaree Riverkeeper protect and improve water quality, wildlife and recreational opportunities on the Congaree, Little Congaree and Lower Broad Rivers through advocacy, education and enforcement of environmental laws.

River Watch

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Nine Sewer System Overflows in One

On July 11th our region experienced nine different overflows (SSOs) totaling 37,250 gallons wastewater that was released into the environment. Overflows were reported by the City of Columbia and Palmetto Wastewater Reclamation. Overflows (estimated at 5,000 gallons each, 50,000 gallons) listed excessive rain as the cause. They also listed power outages or line blockages as the cause.

On July 10th the midlands received between 1.5 to 2 inches of rain, this was in addition to rains that had already fallen in the area earlier that week. During heavy rain, water can infiltrate into sewer pipes causing them to overflow untreated wastewater into nearby streams and waterways. This usually occurs in areas where infrastructure is old and may have cracks and other ways for rainwater to infiltrate. The City of Columbia did issue one public notice on the 11th for the SSO that was caused by the problem at their wastewater treatment plant. Public notices were issued for any of the other eight SSOs. We recommend

mission of protecting our rivers.

The SC Department of Natural Resources will be hosting two public meetings in August on Lower Saluda River trout regulations. If you fish on the Saluda or just want to learn more please attend. Read more [here](#).

Check out these great pictures of [recreation on the Saluda River](#) that people have been sending in. If you want to share your pictures email them to us.

Thanks to Daryl Smith and Stephen Scott, two USC students who organized a river cleanup on the Congaree this last weekend. To see news coverage of the event click [here](#).

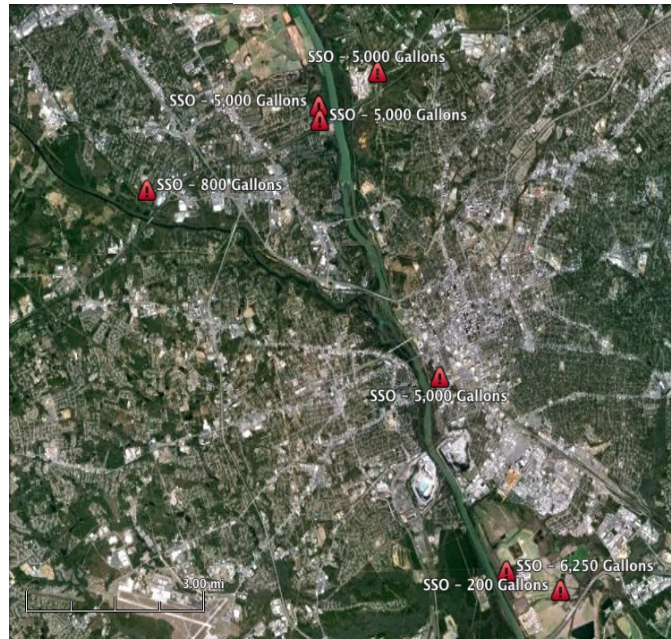
Take a look at these art installations recently added to two portions of the Palmetto Trail right here in the Midlands.
[Art On The Trail](#)

See a water quality concern? Call us at (803) 760-3357 or email us at CRK@congareriverkeeper.org and we will investigate.

exercise caution if they are going to use our river for recreation after a rain event. Check



manholes, strong smells and water that looks un-
sure to report any suspected SSOs to your city,
utility or Congaree Riverkeeper.
Learn more here.



Riverbanks Zoo to Block Access to Sa

Starting this week the Riverbanks Zoo and Garde
river users while they erect a fence that will pr
from accessing the Saluda River from their p
decades, river enthusiasts and the paddling c
accessed the Lower Saluda River below millrace r
is now the Zoo parking lot, well before the Zoo
Because of the close proximity to downtown, and
recreational opportunities the Lower Saluda ha
millrace rapids area of the Lower Saluda is still
popular spots for river recreation today. We
there are serious issues with crime, litter and
conduct along the Lower Saluda River that the
address due to the City of Columbia's failure to a
this area. We have discussed with the Zoo our i
ways in which it could control or deter crime yet
access to the paddling community, and we are
the Zoo's decision to take the drastic measure
access from its parking lot. However, we will con
to protect and enhance public access to the Lowe
The long term answer to this problem is the build
Saluda River Greenway which will provide publi
extraordinary beauty of the Lower Saluda,
commitment by the City of Columbia to adequat

management of the greenway. Funding for th
Greenway is currently included in the penny tax
Richland County residents will vote on in Novemb
Read more [here](#)

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