



The Congaree River on Earth Day

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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Thank you to [Garner's Natural Life - Columbia](#) for their recent donation supporting our work.

Federal Court Rules in Favor of Congaree Riverkeeper in Carolina Water Service Lawsuit

On March 30th a federal court ruled in favor of Congaree Riverkeeper in a citizen Clean Water Act lawsuit brought against private sewer company Carolina Water Service (CWS). The court ruled that the Carolina Water Service I-20 wastewater treatment plant has been violating the Clean Water Act by discharging pollution into the Saluda River and violating the terms of their NPDES permit. The judge fined the utility \$1.5 million and ruled that CWS will be permanently prohibited from discharging into the river, and must connect to a regional wastewater treatment plant within one year. This ruling is the result of years of work by Congaree Riverkeeper and our attorneys with the [Southern Environmental Law Center](#).

Are you interested in doing volunteer water quality monitoring? South Carolina is rolling out the Adopt-a-Stream program now. You can find more information about the program and how to get involved at www.scadoptastream.org

A HUGE THANK YOU to everybody who made this year's River Rocks Festival a success! From the bands and the sponsors to the volunteers and attendees, we couldn't do it without you, thanks so much.

Check out the Free Times' recent [Outdoors Issue](#) featuring [a great article about Congaree National Park](#) and [a very interesting opinion piece from Kevin Fisher](#).

This month The State Newspaper ran a series of articles on the impacts of mega-farms on South Carolina, including [this piece about water withdrawals from rivers and our broken water withdrawal law](#).

Our friends at Canoeing For Kids will be hosting their annual fundraiser, Raft-a-Rama, on Saturday, May 20th. This guided whitewater raft trip is a great way to experience the thrills of the Lower Saluda River at high water. [Learn more and sign up here](#).

[Read the full ruling here.](#)

Unfortunately this is not the end of the CWS saga. Earlier today the company filed a motion for reconsideration, asking the judge to vacate the ruling. Additionally, less than two weeks after the Federal Court ruling Carolina Water Service was cited by DHEC for violations at their Friarsgate wastewater plant, another facility on the Saluda River with a history of compliance problems.

You can read more in these news stories:

[The State - Carolina Water fined \\$1.5 million; ordered to stop river discharges](#)

[Free Times - Judge Slaps Carolina Water Service with \\$1.5 Million Fine, Orders End to Sewer Discharge](#)

[WLTX - Carolina Water Service in Hot Water Again](#)

[The State - DHEC cites Carolina Water Service for another sewage violation](#)

Midlands Gives - Tuesday, May 2nd

Tuesday is Midlands Gives, a 24 hour regional day of giving. This event is a great way to support your favorite non-profits here in the Midlands. We hope you will participate and help support our work fighting for clean water and healthy rivers. Mark your calendar for May 2nd, or go ahead and make a scheduled donation right now.

[Visit Congaree Riverkeeper's Midlands Gives Page](#)

To show their support for our work Riverkeeper Board Members Dr. Mark Salley and Chris Kueny have generously offered to match Midlands Gives donations up to \$1,500. In addition to the match there are also several [prizes](#) your donation can help us win.

Watch Confluence

Earlier this month we released *Confluence*, a short film about our three rivers, highlighting what makes them so special and why we fight to protect them. You can watch the film at the link below.



Visit our website at <http://www.congareeriverkeeper.org>.
Donate to our cause at <http://congareeriverkeeper.org/become-member>.