



Congaree River Sandbar

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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A big thanks to business members [Access Analytical](#), [S&ME](#), and [Groucho's Deli](#) for supporting our work.

Congaree Riverkeeper has been selected as the recipient of funds raised at

Congaree Coal Tar Update

The plan to deal with SCE&G's toxic legacy coal tar pollution in the Congaree River has changed significantly in the last few months. In 2010 SCE&G publically committed to cleaning up the pollution that was a byproduct of a manufactured gas plant they operated in the early 1900's. In 2013 SCE&G and DHEC began moving forward with a plan to remove the tar and contaminated sediment from the river. Sometime in 2016 SCE&G and DHEC abandoned that plan and began working on another plan, one that would leave the tar in the river and cover a portion of it with a concrete cap.

We have several serious concerns about this new proposal including the inability of the proposed cap to prevent toxic pollutants from entering the water and impacting the aquatic ecosystem, the safety of the cap for river users, the lack of public participation in the process, and the use of a nationwide general permit for the project.

this year's [Mardi Gras Columbia Parade and Festival on Saturday, February 25th at City Roots Farm](#). If you would like to volunteer at the event and help raise money to support our work [you can sign up here](#).

For the last few months we've been working on a film project with Modoc Stories. [Check out this teaser](#) and watch for the film release sometime this spring.

Dam safety reform is finally making some progress at the State House. Last week [dam safety legislation](#) passed out of subcommittee and committee and is expected to come to a vote on the House floor any day. [Read more in this article from The State](#).



DHEC plans to hold a public meeting to discuss the coal tar pollution and the capping alternative sometime in February.

You can read more about this issue in these news articles:

[The State - State, Power Company Abandon Plan to Dig Up Polluted Coal Tar From Congaree River](#)

[The State - Critics Say Public Shut Out of Congaree Coal Tar Plan](#)

[Free Times - Congaree Riverkeeper Mulls Legal Action on SCE&G Pollution Plans](#)

2016 Sewer Spill Report

Every year Congaree Riverkeeper compiles and analyzes data from [DHEC's Sanitary Sewer Overflow Database](#) to produce an annual sewer spill report. We released our 2016 report earlier this month. Last year there were 184 reported spills in the Congaree Riverkeeper jurisdictional area resulting in more than 2.4 million gallons of sewage spilled into local rivers and streams. You can find [the full report on our website here](#). You can also read more in [this article from the Free Times](#).

River Rocks 2017 - Save the Date

The 7th annual River Rocks festival will be held on Saturday April 1st along the banks of the Congaree River next to Founder's Park in Columbia. We're also excited to announce this year's headliner will be [Zach Deputy](#). Zach's self described "island-infused drum n' bass gospel ninja soul" style is a great fit for River Rocks and we're thrilled to bring him back to Columbia to party on (and for) the river. Stay tuned for the announcement of the full lineup and more details about this year's River Rocks Festival.

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