



Mist on the Lower Saluda River

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 the folks at [Aveda](#) and [Carmen Carmen Salon](#) for their recent fundraising efforts and generous donation.

Coalition Launches Weekly Water Quality Monitoring Program

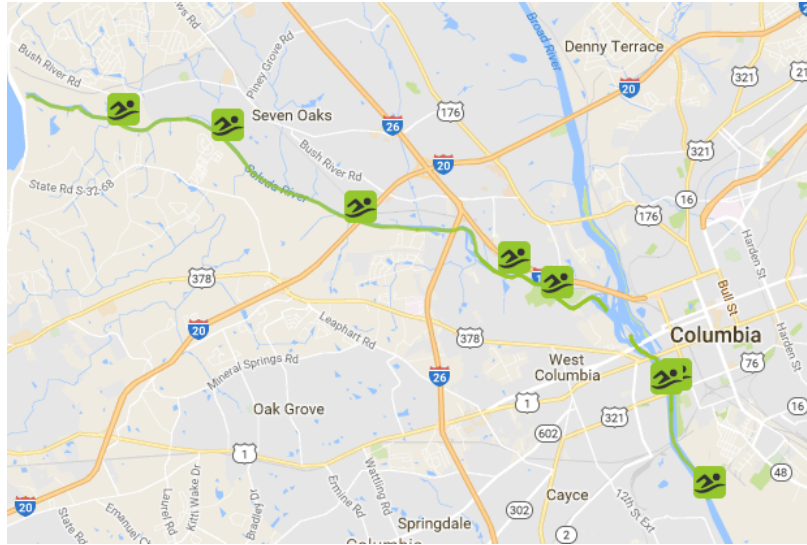
Earlier this month a coalition of river stakeholder kicked off an enhanced water quality monitoring program for the Lower Saluda and Congaree Rivers. Weekly bacteria samples will be collected at 8 sites along the river during the peak recreation season which lasts through the end of September. Samples will be collected every Wednesday and results and swimming advisories will be posted to the website Thursday. If a sample exceeds the state standard we will also resample on Thursday and publish updated results and advisories on Friday.

We're excited to be one of the hosts of Columbia Opportunity Resource's [Table For Six: Social Change Agents](#) event on July 11th. Come out to hear what we (and several other great organizations) are doing to improve our community!

Earlier this week the Trump administration and EPA administrator Scott Pruitt moved to rescind the Clean Water Rule, a decision that will leave many streams and wetlands without critical protections. Read more in [this article from The State](#) and [this statement from Waterkeeper Alliance](#).

Mark your calendars, the Summer Celebration of Water will be on August 26th at Riverfront Park. Learn more about this fun and educational event on [the website here](#).

Do Good Columbia, an immersive problem solving event led by Richland Library, is focusing on increasing access, usage and enjoyment of Columbia's rivers. [Learn more about this project and how you can get involved here](#).



Our goal is to provide river users with up to date and accurate water quality information so they can make informed recreation decisions, but it is important to remember that these results are only a snapshot of a single location at a specific moment and water quality conditions may change.

Read more about this initiative in these news stories:
[Free Times - Find Out Whether the River Is Safe for Swimming](#)
[The State - Are The Congaree, Saluda Rivers Clean Enough For Swimmers? This Website Will Tell You](#)

River Safety

In the span of just seven days this month three people lost their lives on our rivers. As the temperature rises and more people head to the rivers to stay cool and have a good time it is important to remember that there are risks associated with river recreation. Here are some helpful hints for staying safe on the river:

- Wear a personal floatation device (PFD, aka Life Jacket)
- Water and alcohol don't mix, save the drinking for after the river
- Check river conditions and weather before getting on the water
- Learn about potential river hazards like rapids, strainers and low-head dams
- Don't exceed your skill level (this applies to paddling, tubing and even swimming)
- Don't go alone and always tell someone where you're going

For more river safety information check out these local news stories:

WLTX - Riverkeeper: "You Have To Respect These Rivers"

The State - How Dangerous Are Columbia's River? 5 Things You Need To Know Before You Wade In

WIS - Keeping Your Nose And Toes Above The Water Could Save Your Life

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