



The Congaree River looking downstream from the Blossom Street Bridge

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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Thanks so much to the [awesome volunteers](#) who came out last weekend for the cleanup of Rocky Branch. Together we removed about 500 pounds of trash from the creek.

Water Quality Monitoring

After 15 weeks of sampling the HowsMySCRiver Coalition collected our last water quality samples for the year on Wednesday. We ended on a great note with none of the samples showing elevated bacteria levels... all greens to end the season. You can see the full results and map at <http://howsmyscriver.org>.

All told we collected 136 samples from 9 sites on the Lower Saluda and Congaree Rivers, issued two swimming advisories, and shared important water quality information with thousands of river users. The coalition plans to resume weekly sampling again next year from May 1 through Sept. 30. In the off season the website will still be used to display water quality alerts (things like wastewater plant upsets and spills) and other important river information.

Earlier this week Congaree Riverkeeper also conducted our regular bi-monthly water quality monitoring, which covers a handful of additional sites including several urban streams.

Join us on the evening of October 5th for a wine tasting fundraiser at [The Aristocrat](#). A portion of all sales during the event will be donated to Congaree Riverkeeper. [RSVP on the Facebook event page here.](#)

Do Good Columbia was last week and it was a great creative and collaborative effort focused on improving access to and enjoyment of Columbia's rivers. Thanks so much to the Richland County Public Library for putting the event together and to all the participants for their efforts. [Learn more about the process and the winning proposal on the Do Good Columbia Website.](#)

The South Carolina Supreme Court has agreed to rehear the surface water withdrawal case they ruled on this summer. This is an important case for the future of South Carolina's rivers and the public trust doctrine. Congaree Riverkeeper filed an amicus brief in this case and will follow these new developments closely. [Read more here.](#)



Only one of those samples, Crane Creek (a tributary to the Broad River), had a result over the state standard. [You can see all of those results on our website here.](#)

Save Our Water Events

We're partnering with the great folks at [SweetWater Brewing Company](#) again to raise money for Congaree Riverkeeper and give away [an awesome kayak](#) to one lucky raffle winner.

Come by any of these upcoming events to enjoy a SweetWater beer (or a few), grab some raffle tickets, and support the work we're doing to protect our rivers. Thanks so much to The Whig and Pawleys Front Porch who already hosted pint nights this week.

Upcoming Save Our Water Events:

Oct. 3rd - [Jake's](#)

Oct. 10th - [Craft & Draft](#)

Oct. 18th - [World of Beer](#)

Oct. 20th - [Liberty Tap Room](#) - Finale and Raffle Drawing

Carolina Water Service Updates

Earlier this month the Town of Lexington officially began the condemnation process for Carolina Water Service's I-20 Wastewater System. While this is a step towards resolving the ongoing pollution problems with the CWS I-20 facility the condemnation process may take some time. We will continue our efforts to end this illegal discharge and protect the Saluda River until this issue has been fully and permanently resolved.

[You can read the Town of Lexington's letter and notice of condemnation here.](#)

[You can also read more in this story from The State Newspaper.](#)

Earlier this month Carolina Water Service was also fined \$12,000 as part of a DHEC consent order for violations that occurred at their Friarsgate Wastewater Plant in April. You can see the [details of the consent order from the DHEC Board agenda here.](#) CWS will likely face further enforcement actions and fines for additional discharge violations and sewer spills that occurred at the Friarsgate plant this summer.

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