January 1, 2019-December 31, 2019
Public Education & Outreach
and
Public Involvement & Participation
Annual Report
The Spartanburg Water Quality Partners are 4 core agencies, and a number of affiliate partners. The core agencies consist of Spartanburg County’s Stormwater Management Department, Spartanburg County’s Recycling Department, USC-Upstate’s Watershed Ecology Center, and Clemson Extension’s Spartanburg office. Under SC-DHEC’s NPDES General Permit for Small MS4s, the core agencies serve to meet the requirements for Public Education and Outreach, and Public Involvement and Participation.

Mission Statements

Protect Our Watersheds.

Spartanburg County Stormwater: The Stormwater Department is responsible for promoting cleaner stormwater runoff from our urbanized and developed areas. We are also responsible for administering the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). All of the County’s stormwater outfalls, detention ponds, and stream crossings have been located on GIS maps and are monitored by the Stormwater Department. Certified inspectors conduct dry screenings for illicit discharges and take water samples when needed. Our inspectors conduct post construction inspections on engineered structures and update the GIS maps.

Spartanburg County Recycling: Charged with education and outreach efforts for adults and students on best management practices for not only solid waste disposal, waste reduction, and restoring soil via compost, but also outside-the-box education programs to help the public understand the struggles with pollutants of concern and how proper waste management can help make surface waters cleaner and safer for all of Spartanburg County.

Watershed Ecology Center: The Watershed Ecology Center’s mission is to collect, analyze, and disseminate sound scientific information on the ecology of the region. Special emphasis is placed on watershed conservation, education, water quality and the study of organisms living in the area encompassed by a watershed. The Center serves as a repository for regional ecological information, providing education and research assistance to individuals, communities, local schools and governmental organizations. The WEC is also dedicated to providing research opportunities for the faculty and students at the University of South Carolina Upstate and other regional institutions.

Clemson Extension: The mission of the Cooperative Extension Service is to provide sound, scientifically based information to South Carolinians and help them use that information to improve the quality of their lives.
Spartanburg County Recycling Programs

The County’s Solid Waste Department focuses on educating adults and students on the environmental and economic benefits of recycling, and each recycling program includes lessons on the importance of recycling concepts to water quality, and how our actions build upon one another. During this reporting period, the recycling education programs and services reached 2,000 adults.

**Green Crafts** — These programs are geared towards teaching adults to use recycled and reused materials to create something unique. Each Green Craft program includes an abbreviated version of the Spartanburg County Recycling Services presentation, in which the preferred process of reducing and reusing waste products before recycling or disposing of the materials in landfills is discussed.

**Green Cleaning** — This activity covers basic chemistry concepts and shows participants how to make natural, environmentally friendly cleaning products. Common and economical household products and essential oils are combined while attendees also hear about proper disposal for hazardous household waste and the importance of it.

**Landfill Tours/Enviroscape Landfill Model** — Landfill tours detail how the County-owned Wellford Landfill Facility is structured, with special attention given to the design of a modern landfill. Issues addressed include land use problems after landfills are capped, environmental concerns of building and maintaining landfills, regulations regarding surface waters and landfills, groundwater monitoring, and the Landfill Gas-to-Energy project operated in partnership with Lockhart Power. The Enviroscape Landfill Model is used as a way to bring the landfill tour to a school or group with a limited field trip budget. The model highlights the differences between old style and modern landfills and demonstrates groundwater pollution.

**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** — In this activity, students classify a variety of common items into the categories of “recycle,” “reduce,” “reuse,” “compost,” “landfill,” and “reject.” Each category option is discussed in great detail, then students are given a bag of trash, weighing approximately 5 pounds (the average amount of solid waste generated per person per day). Students are asked to sort then justify why they choose to put each item into a specific category. The goal of this program is to teach the importance of recycling to protect our natural resources, lessen pollution, protect water quality, and leave people with a greater awareness of waste generation and disposal.

**Compost 101** — This program is customizable and is well suited for adults or children. The goal is to teach the basics of how composting works and how it can protect water quality and conserve valuable landfill space. For children, the importance of worms in the compost process is a main focus and songs, games, and observation are major tools used to engage them.

**Pollution Solution** — This is a great follow-up program from other basic lessons and is well suited for all ages. Students dig deeper into the impact that humans have on the environment and the delicate balance of ecosystems.

**Spartanburg County Recycling Services** — Geared towards adult audiences, this PowerPoint presentation highlights the many recycling services that Spartanburg County offers, including the annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event, recycling education programs, how and what to recycle in Spartanburg County, a brief description of how the County-owned Wellford Landfill facility operates and how groundwater regulation is approached in Spartanburg County.
Spartanburg County Recycling Participation:

Spartanburg County residents recycled over 7,200 tons of solid waste (including plastics, aluminum, and steel cans, mixed paper and cardboard, motor oil, cooking oil, batteries, tires, metal, and electronics), during the reporting period, keeping FOG out of the landfill and water supply, as well as preserving valuable landfill space.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event:

The HHW Collection Event is Spartanburg’s partnership effort among the Solid Waste Department, Stormwater Department, City of Spartanburg, Men’s Garden Club, Master Gardener’s of the Piedmont, Spartanburg Water, and Upstate Forever, to help residents learn how to properly dispose of hazardous materials, keep those materials out of landfills, and prevent hazardous materials out of the water system. One HHW event were held during the reporting period, allowing County residents to keep more than 40 tons of hazardous material from the water supply, and reaching nearly 400 individual residents to provide information on proper management of hazardous materials. Each HHW event also offers residents the opportunity to purchase locally made rain barrels, and during the reporting period, 6 barrels were sold.

Clean-Up Events:

The county’s Solid Waste Department held 2 community clean-up events during the reporting period, where more than 700 residents properly disposed of nearly 100 tons of banned materials, including electronics, appliances, furniture, tires, and yard debris, and received informational flyers and handouts on the importance of properly recycling said materials to help protect the environment.

Other Events:

The Solid Waste Department frequently partners with other local agencies such as Spartanburg Water, Atlas Organics, Spartanburg Science Center, Spartanburg County Parks, Upstate Forever, Trees Coalition, and other Water Quality Partners to sponsor, support, and volunteer in events such as invasive and non-native species informational talks and guided hikes, water quality kayaking tours, composting workshops, summer camps, and programs for senior citizens. The Department also works with local business to encourage recycling, increase business participation rates, and promote local business recycling programs, as well as educate employees of those businesses on the importance of recycling to preserving landfills, protecting water quality, and reducing waste.
The Watershed Ecology Center’s water education programs reached out to over 27,000 students across Spartanburg County in 2019. The knowledgeable staff and excellent programs keep the WEC busy throughout the year. Below are descriptions of WEC’s most popular free educational programs for K-8th grade students.

**That’s My Baby**—This hands-on program uses one of our live animals to introduce habitats, teach what organisms need to stay alive, and the importance of clean water. A fun hands-on matching game teaches the children that baby animals often look like their parents.

**How Does Your Garden Grow?**—Adapting an activity from PLT, students become parts of a plant and review plants’ basic needs. Then they will explore the importance of water and how different environments support interesting plants through comparing plant adaptations.

**Water Matters**—In this interactive program, students are introduced to the different states of matter. During a simplified game of “Molecules in Motion” (PWET), students pretend to be molecules in water, water vapor, and an ice cube. The lesson ends with a short discussion regarding water pollution and oil spills; touching on the fact that some materials will not mix with water.

**Hurray for Habitats II**—Students visit with one of our live animals to learn what four things every habitat must have! Then we will explore different animals from all over the world and see how distinct environments support different types of life.

**Our Natural Homes**—A Watershed Ecology Center program that covers biomes and regions. The program will focus on the role of rainfall in different environments and covers the special adaptations animals and plants use to cope with excess or lack of water.

**Water, Water Everywhere**—Learn about saltwater and freshwater features while practicing your mapping skills. How do humans influence and affect our saltwater and freshwater features? We will learn after we analyze the jumbo map we have created.

**Super Sleuths** — In this program from PWET, students will be epidemiologists as they learn about water-borne illnesses and disease transmission. Students will discover how unicellular organisms can cause disease and their effect on major organs and body systems.

**Reasons for Seasons** — Using skills, such as sorting and classifying, students learn about the four seasons and the importance each season holds. Students will define which seasons have the most rainfall and the least and when the different life stages of the spring peeper occur.
Home Sweet Home — Students explore their local communities and learn about different types of maps. While exploring their community, they learn to recognize natural features including different body water types. They will try their hand at creating maps as they pretend to travel in a hot air balloon...now where is that river?

Up Down All Around — Learn about the composition of the earth while creating earthquakes! As we explore the Earth’s components we will learn how water shapes our earth, its importance, and the neat properties that make water so special!

Barrier Island Preview — Taking your trip to Barrier Island this year? This presentation serves as a good introduction to barrier island formation and the importance of resulting wetlands that are associated with them. Students study salt marsh artifacts and play "Barrier Island Bingo."

Wild Wetlands — The different types of wetlands are introduced as unique ecosystems containing organisms that fill specific niches. The Enviroscape Wetland Model demonstrates their importance as a filter for our watershed.

Wise up About Watersheds — In this hands-on program, students learn about the watershed we live in and are introduced to the concept of non-point source water pollution. Using the Enviroscape watershed model, students see how a watershed becomes polluted as each student is asked to add various pollutants to the model. Afterwards, students then brainstorm solutions to clean up the pollution and restore the watershed.

Weather Works — During this fun, hands-on lesson, students learn weather terminology and review the seasons. They will actively participate by acting our cold and warm front sand what happens when the fronts collide!

Elementary Summer Camps

WEC sponsored two summer day camps in 2019 for 110 students.

Discover Wet focused on water and its value as a resource. Students, grades 1-3, use games, crafts, experiments, and new friends to discover what makes water so special.

Discover Wild focused on grades 4-6 and gave students the opportunity to spend a week exploring animals of all kinds. Live animals, crafts, games, and experiments are used to teach an appreciation of wildlife.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Totals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wise Up About Watersheds</td>
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<td>Water Matters</td>
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<td>That’s My Baby</td>
<td>3k-5k</td>
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<td>Up Down All Around</td>
<td>1st</td>
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<td>Reasons for Seasons</td>
<td>K4, K5</td>
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<td>Super Sleuths</td>
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<td>Hurray for Habitats</td>
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<td>Our Natural Homes</td>
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<td>How Does Your Garden Grow</td>
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<td>Home Sweet Home</td>
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<td>Other Programs</td>
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Adult Outreach and Education Programs

The WEC offers a variety of programs and presentations available to college students, civic organizations, gardening clubs, and other citizens, some of which are described below. During the reporting period, these programs reached over 2,000 adults, and included many rain barrel workshops described later in the report.

Adopt-A-Stream
A South Carolina certified citizen science program encouraging citizens to adopt local waterways and submit chemical and bacterial data as well as sample macroinvertebrates for stream health to a database. This program helps fill water quality testing gaps and has helped decision makers and stakeholders determine how to target water quality initiatives. Adopt-A-Stream participants must agree to minimum reporting requirements after becoming certified.

Know Your Watershed
We will use our hands-on model to learn all about a watershed, see how it works, what it does for you, how it can become polluted and how you can improve the condition of your local watershed.

Storm Drain Marking
Your group will not only be educated about how pollution enters local water sources via storm drains, but will also take part in protecting a precious resource by marking near by storm drains. When disaster strikes, clean drinking water is often in high demand. Let’s make a plan for crisis readiness and put together an emergency kit of essentials to get you and your family through until help arrives.

Animals Need Water Too!
Allow us introduce you to some of the animals that we house at the Watershed Ecology Center. You will discover the special adaptations each one has that allow it to take full advantage of the water in their unique habitats. In this program we will discover the science behind cleaning up, well...behind man’s best friend as well as discover some very simple steps to keep your pet’s footprint on the environment small.

Compost 101
In this program we will discover what composting is, the science involved and how it can work for you. Then we will find the right composting option for you by discussing various composting methods.

Do You Have What it Takes?
When disaster strikes, clean drinking water is often in high demand. Let’s make a plan for crisis readiness and put together an emergency kit of essentials to get you and your family through until help arrives.

Where Does it Go From Here, Part One
Let’s find out how much impact your trash has on the landfill by using our hands-on model to follow trash from your house through the landfill. We will then present ways to reduce our landfill contributions.

Where Does it Go From Here, Part Two
Whether into a septic tank or a sewer system, all the water we use goes somewhere. Using a hands-on model we will see where it goes once it leaves your house and what you can do to keep it “going” well!

Conservation - You Can Do It!
Arm yourself with the knowledge and resources to conserve water. We will discuss home conservation methods, including rain barrels, drought resistant landscaping, water gardens and more.
Master Gardener Program & Community Education
Clemson Extension staff teaches Master Gardener classes at Spartanburg Community College throughout the year. Topics include Soils, Plant Nutrition, and Composting, as well as Integrated Pest Management, and Pesticide Safety, and Water Smart Landscaping. Clemson Extension provides many educational opportunities and technical services for community members as well as natural resource professionals. Among these are rain barrel workshops, pond consultations, aquatic weed management, and integrated pest management practices; programs are designed to address stormwater runoff concerns, and provide advice on best management practices for pollution control. The agency also offers a unique array of courses for professionals including the Master Wildlife Class, Commercial Pesticide Applicator Training, and turfgrass and vegetable gardening seminars open to the public. Clemson Extension staff also participates in many special events, such as Discover Your Watershed, and river sweeps. During the reporting period, over 850 adults and children were impacted by Clemson’s educational and outreach efforts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
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<tr>
<td>Initial Private Pesticide Applicator Training</td>
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<td>Webinar: Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Landscape Professionals</td>
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<td>Drip Irrigation Workshop</td>
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<td>Stream Bank Erosion Consultation</td>
<td>Inman, SC</td>
<td>11/18/19</td>
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<td>Master Gardener - Diagnosing Plant Problems Prior To Pesticide Treatment</td>
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<td>Master Gardener - Irrigation, and Waterwise Landscaping</td>
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<td>11/5/19</td>
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<td>2019 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Symposium</td>
<td>Canon Centre, Greer, SC</td>
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<td>Gardening Question and Answer Booth</td>
<td>Piedmont Interstate Fair</td>
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<td>Commercial Pesticide Applicator Exam Prep Course</td>
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<td>Integrated Pest Management and Pesticide Safety</td>
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<td>Effective Weed Management</td>
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<td>Weed Identification and Management</td>
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<td>Initial Private Pesticide Applicator Training</td>
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<td>Turf Management and Nuisance Wildlife</td>
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<td>Using Cover Crops Effectively</td>
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<td>Master Gardener - Soil Basics, Fertilizers, and Composting</td>
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<td>Composting and Using Fertilizers Effectively</td>
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<td>Commercial Pesticide Applicator Exam Prep Course</td>
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<td>Treekeepers Workshop - Presented Soils and Fertilizers, and Pesticides</td>
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<td>A Closer Look: Fescue Lawn Management</td>
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<td>All About Vegetables - Soil Conditioning and Fertilizers</td>
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**TOTAL:** 850
Through a partnership with Spartanburg County Stormwater, Coca Cola, and our partner agencies of USC-Upstate’s Watershed Ecology Center and Clemson Extension, rain barrel educational workshops and take-home barrels are provided at no-cost to any Spartanburg County homeowner. In 2019, these rain barrels have been installed at 201 homes throughout Spartanburg County. All participants/those who receive barrels must participate in an educational class hosted by one of our Water Quality Partner agencies.

Rain barrel workshops are hosted throughout the year at schools, libraries, and offices, and because we are able to offer them to the public at no cost, participation remains very steady and many residents are utilizing these barrels. In 2019 our funds and in-kind donations from Coca Cola allowed us to host 15 of these workshops with many attendees, and we continue to grow the program each year.
Discover Your Watershed

The Discover Your Watershed event was held in April of 2019 at Lake Cooley. This event was a collective effort among a number of local agencies, including SJWD Water District, the City of Spartanburg, SPACE, Spartanburg Parks, Spartanburg County, Clemson Extension, The Tyger River Foundation, Spartanburg County Recycling, the Watershed Ecology Center, Spartanburg Soil & Water Conservation District, Upstate Forever, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Glendale Outdoor Leadership School and others.

Discover Your Watershed events impacted over 300 individuals from across the Upstate region, with educational booths in topics such as water conservation, proper septic tank maintenance, best management practices for erosion control and shoreline stabilization, and storm-water pollution causes. The events included hands-on activities for children, such as crafts, fishing and scavenger hunts, paddling contests, native animals, and the opportunity to try out new recreational activities at Lake Cooley, such as stand-up paddleboarding.
Litter Clean-Up Efforts

Spartanburg County’s Environmental Enforcement division operates an Adopt-A-Road volunteer program for County roads, as well as an ongoing litter pick-up crew using a litter officer and inmate labor to help keep our roads clean of litter and debris. In 2019 the volunteer Adopt-A-Road program cleaned up 221 miles of roadway, with the assistance of over 607 active volunteers, resulting in 9.09 tons of trash removed just in one year.

Our inmate crew, which works diligently nearly every day tackled 719 miles of roadway, 764 inmates help fulfill community service requirements from work detail, and 138 tons of litter. They also were able to get 617 tires out of ditches and roadsides to eliminate the human health hazard and unsightliness of old tires out in the environment.

The Tyger River Foundation, an affiliate partner, has begun regular sustained voluntary litter clean-ups, partially to clean and manage their own properties like the Tyger -10 Park and the Nesbitt Shoals Nature Center, but also to do their part to work as an affiliate partner to manage the problem of litter and tires as a stormwater concern. In 2019, the Tyger River Foundation cleaned up a total of 405 pounds of trash with the assistance of only 27 volunteers. The Tyger River Foundation efforts are unique in that they not only partner with a local Geocaching group for an annual “Cache in, Trash Out” litter clean-up effort, but they also have quarterly (and as needed additional) “Power Hour” clean-ups, wherein volunteers only give up one hour of their time to clean up as much trash from a very targeted area as possible. These Power Hours have become wildly popular with seniors, working folks, those with children, and scouts, as they occur early in the mornings before the heat sets in, and are not too exhaustive to any volunteer. As the success of the Power Hour events grow, we expect to see more Power Hours and more volunteers participating for a net positive growth in how much trash is cleaned up!
319 Grant and Community Development Block Grant

Upstate Forever received a federal 319 grant in 2018 for the Upper, Middle, and Lower Tyger River Watersheds, spanning both Greenville and Spartanburg County. In partnership with Spartanburg Water Quality Partners and Greenville County, as well as our affiliate partners, septic tank repair grants, farm improvements, and education programs to target pollutants of concern have begun starting in 2019. In 2019, this 319 grant paid to repair 20 septic systems in the Tyger River Watershed, as well as 3 farm projects, in which over 2,500 feet of fencing was installed to prevent livestock from accessing streams, and 6 acres of drip irrigation was installed.

Spartanburg County Stormwater Department Sponsorships

Spartanburg County Stormwater also sponsored the IECA Southeast Chapter SC Erosion and Sediment control Training and Field Day in October of 2019. This workshop routinely hosts over 200 professional engineers, landscape architects, developers, and stormwater personnel annually, learning about successes, new innovations in stormwater management and sediment control measures, and networking with other professionals as well as vendors.

Summary

Over 4,400 adults and more than 27,000 K-12 students were reached through the partner agencies’ combined Public Education and Outreach efforts. Over 7,000 tons of solid waste was recycled, and more than 800 tons of banned materials, hazardous wastes, and prescription drugs were kept out of landfills and out of the water supply during the reporting period. Thanks to our combined efforts, Spartanburg County has more than 200 new rain barrels installed at citizens’ homes.