

## Friends of the Reedy River Hosts Spring River Cleanup

On April 1, Friends of the Reedy River (FoRR) hosted their semi-annual cleanup in and along the banks of the Reedy. Despite a delayed start time of an hour and a half due to inclement weather, the cleanup was a success.

- number of volunteers: 180
- number of cleanup locations: 6
- pounds of garbage collected: 5,100 (over 2.5 tons)

**(April 20, 2023 – Greenville, SC)** Friends of the Reedy River (FoRR), the only organization whose sole mission is to protect and restore Greenville's hometown waterway, recently held its Spring 2023 Cleanup. On April 1, they led 175 volunteers across five locations in the Upstate (Riverside Apartments near Swamp Rabbit Cafe and Grocery, S. Hudson Street by Kroc Center, Cancer Survivor Park, Woodland Way behind First Baptist Greenville, and Log Shoals Rd). FoRR partnered with Keep Laurens County Beautiful to add a sixth site in Laurens. Initially, there were 275 people registered for the event. Due to inclement weather and out of an abundance of caution, the FoRR Board of Directors decided to delay the start time by 90 minutes. The weather and delay resulted in approximately 100 fewer people venturing out to their designated site, making it a total count of 180 volunteers. A diverse group of volunteers collected trash for over two hours that morning. Some of them were from Dapper Ink, The Greenville Tech Charter High School Beta Club, Fairway Subaru, Prisma Health, the Apple Store, and the FoRR members and Board of Directors. They removed 5,100 pounds of garbage (over two and a half tons) from the river and its banks. There were several tires, an air mattress, a sofa, and a 40-gallon water heater.

Greenville County Litter Prevention provided cleanup supplies such as gloves and grabbers, and they cleared massive waste piles from the county sites. The City of Greenville also collected all of the garbage at the city sites. Friends of the Reedy River wants to recognize their Presenting Sponsor, Dapper Ink. Not only did they contribute substantial funding to the organization, but approximately 30 of their employees, family, and friends helped clear out trash for more than two hours. Dapper Ink also provides volunteer shirts for each cleanup as an in-kind donation. Their steadfast support has been essential to fulfilling FoRR's mission of maintaining a healthy watershed. Southernside Brewing Co, once again, generously hosted the after-party where over 100 of the volunteers celebrated the end of another successful event. Friends of the Reedy River (FoRR) will host its 2023 Fall Cleanup on Saturday, September 16 from 8:30 to 11:30 am. Visit [www.friendsofthereedyriver.org](http://www.friendsofthereedyriver.org) and follow them on social media to stay up to date.

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Founded in 1993, Friends of the Reedy River is a 501(c) (3) non-profit, volunteer-based, conservation organization dedicated to promoting, protecting, and restoring the Reedy River. They carry out their work through river cleanups, riverbank restoration, educational events, and water monitoring programs. Friends of the Reedy River is transforming the river through on-the-ground, grass-roots efforts. [www.friendsofthereedyriver.org](http://www.friendsofthereedyriver.org)