



Press Release

For Immediate Release
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South River Litter Trap Receives \$75,000 Grant

A litter trap that will significantly reduce the amount of trash that washes down the South River and into Jackson Lake is much closer to reality. A South River Watershed Alliance (SRWA) led partnership of community organizations, businesses, and local governments were excited to receive notification last week of a \$75,000 Regional Water Planning Seed Grant from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. Grant funds will be used towards the purchase of a \$324,000 Bandalong™ Litter Trap for the river. “Trash laden stormwater is a major problem for the residents of Jackson Lake and South River” says Jackie Echols, SRWA president. For the last three years, SRWA and Jackson Lake Homeowners Association have been working on a solution to the trash problem that would improve water quality in the river and ultimately the lake. The South River ends in Jackson Lake, 60 miles southeast of Atlanta.

It has taken a massive effort to get to this point states Echols. “This project would not be possible without the help of many partners especially the DeKalb County, Department of Watershed Management. Other than raising the money to pay for the equipment, identifying a suitable site on the river to locate the litter trap as well as ensure ongoing cleaning and maintenance of the trap were absolutely critical, DeKalb County has agreed to do both”, Echols continued. She goes on to say that the site is perfect because it meets all engineering requirements, public access is limited making cleaning and maintenance much easier, and trash collection is optimized. Also, this location does not interfere with the aesthetics or public access to the river. The trap is also environmentally friendly, she states.



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Residents of Jackson Lake are very excited about the prospect of much less trash making its way to the lake, states Jared Godin, president of Jackson Lake Homeowners Association. “Jackson Lake is downstream of two of the most densely populated counties in metro Atlanta and trash is a big problem. We have been working towards this day for a longtime and thanks to SRWA and its watershed-wide focus, success is within reach.”

Marcie Seleb, General Manager, Butts County Water and Sewer Authority states, “I have never worked with such a diverse partnership of groups and organizations on a single project. It is a great feeling and makes the likelihood of success even greater.”

The litter trap will be located on the river at the county’s Snapfinger Wastewater Treatment Facility on Flakes Mill Road. It is estimated that the trap will capture as much as 50-80 percent of the trash that enters the river from upstream. SRWA anticipates the trap could be operational within the next twelve to eighteen months.

Thanks to the generosity of partners the halfway mark of the cost of the trap has been reached. Several big fundraising events are planned over the next several months to raise additional funds, Echols states. She encourage any foundation, business, non-profit, or individual that wants to donate to this very worthwhile effort to visit SRWA’s website homepage, click on the donation button, and include “litter trap” on the memo line.

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