



The South River Current

Promoting interest and collaboration for watershed stewardship



River Restoration

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Mercury remediation at five sections of riverbanks within the City of Waynesboro have been completed. Maybe you've seen the current riverbank work going on at North Park. One of the challenges with replanting the riverbanks with native vegetation is controlling the Japanese knotweed growth. Sound easy? Not really – Japanese knotweed can grow up to 4 inches in a day. Its dense summer foliage can block the sun and slow other native plant growth. This one-two punch makes knotweed pervasive on South River riverbanks and requires a large, coordinated effort to help minimize its spread. A combination of knotweed control strategies including removing by hand and applying targeted herbicide (by spraying and injecting) have been used to combat this aggressive species. The South River Science Team is working with the City of Waynesboro to implement proven knotweed treatment methods on the remediated riverbanks .

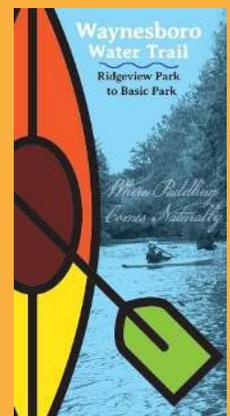


Did You Know?

- The South River Watershed is comprised of 234 square miles of land.
 - The South River is a cold-water fishery thanks to several cold water springs that discharge into the river. That means cold-water fish, like trout, can thrive.
 - The watershed is home to over 16 types of manufacturing operations. One of those produces kombucha—a trendy drink made from fermented tea, popular for its potential health benefits!
 - The South River is part of the Shenandoah River system which flows all the way to the Chesapeake Bay.
 - Mount Joy Pond, a natural preserve in the South River watershed, supports one of the largest stands of Virginia sneezeweed—a rare plant species!
- Click [here](#) to read more.

Connections

Have you ventured out on the Waynesboro Water Trail? It is the newest edition to the City's park system and runs 4 miles from Ridgeview to Basic Park. Seeing Waynesboro from a canoe or kayak on the South River might give you a different perspective. Four boat access areas are located along the trail, and there's lots to see. Between Constitution Park and Basic Park, check out the changes happening at North Park as part of the riverbank restoration. The weather is getting warmer. Don't miss out. Grab a canoe or kayak and venture out on the Water Trail. Download the [water trail brochure](#) for



Take a Walk Back

Next time you travel down Interstate 81/64 or U.S. Highway 11, scan the Blue Ridge Mountains southeast of Greenville. If you look carefully you may spot a large tan-colored, rectangular earthen mass. That mass is not a natural mound, but a tailings pile from the Cold Spring kaolin mines. For those non-geologists out there, tailings are leftover materials from breaking down chunks of minerals in rock, and kaolin is a white clay mineral that was used to make paper and porcelain. In fact, an area about six miles southwest of Waynesboro was known back in the late 1880s as Porcelain, Virginia thanks to these kaolin mines. From 1918 to 1951, kaolin was actively mined in these parts for use as a filler in oil paints, fertilizer, rubber, and paper. A fire shut down the mine in 1951, but the tram tower footers along the conveyor pathway still exist as a reminder of past mining operations. Click [here](#) for more information about the minerals of the Cold Spring clay deposits.



The Current is a publication of the South River Science Team (www.southernriverstewardship.org). To be added or deleted from our distribution list, contact KB at kbaldino@writingunlimitedllc.com