



THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
celebrates

EARTH DAY 2026

through science, service and sustainability during the agency's second year and beyond.

Congaree National Park

Astonishing biodiversity exists in Congaree National Park - the largest intact expanse of old-growth, bottomland, hardwood forest remaining in the southeastern United States. Waters from the Congaree and Wateree Rivers sweep through the floodplain, carrying nutrients and sediments that nourish and rejuvenate this ecosystem. Redesignated as a national park in 2003, Congaree today encompasses over 26,000 acres of bottomland and upland forest in the Midlands. Congaree serves as a reminder of what our nation used to look like prior to the arrival of European explorers and colonists.

Synchronous Fireflies

Fireflies - often referred to as lightning bugs - are fascinating beetles having the unique ability to light up their abdomens. The enchanting flash is used to attract a mate. Distinct light patterns help male and female fireflies of the same species identify one another. Most emit a greenish-yellow light, but some have more of a blue or white hue. One of the best places to witness the annual light show - between mid-May and mid-June - is Congaree National Park. During this time, visitors can experience an awe-inspiring display of synchronous flashing while the fireflies search for a mate.

OUR PLANET. OUR STATE. OUR HOME. DO YOUR PART.



SC DEPARTMENT of
**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**

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Second in a Series of Commemorative Earth Day Posters



Earth Day
SOUTH CAROLINA