

DISCOVER GREENVILLE

A Falls Park Guide and Activity Book



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Discover Greenville!

Falls Park is located in Greenville's downtown near the historic West End district. Currently a popular destination for tourists and residents alike, Falls Park is a fascinating place where the history of Greenville merges with the modern city. Throughout the park you will find historic markers and ruins that help tell the story of the founding of Greenville, natural and landscaped vistas that highlight the plant life and natural features of the Upstate and provide a number of important environmental benefits for the City, art that merges the past and the present, and much more.

How to use this book:

The *Discover Greenville: A Falls Park Guide and Activity Book* is made for children, families, tourists, residents, curious explorers, and anyone who would like to learn more about Falls Park and the benefits it provides for all of us.

This booklet is set up like a self-guided tour with nine stops, shown on the map on page 3. As you explore the park, you will also learn about the natural and built environment, the park's history, and the animals and plants that call Falls Park home. Coloring pages, word finds, and other fun activities are provided for you to do as you explore the park or later.

Please enjoy your visit to Falls Park, and keep this book as a souvenir or recycle it when you're done.

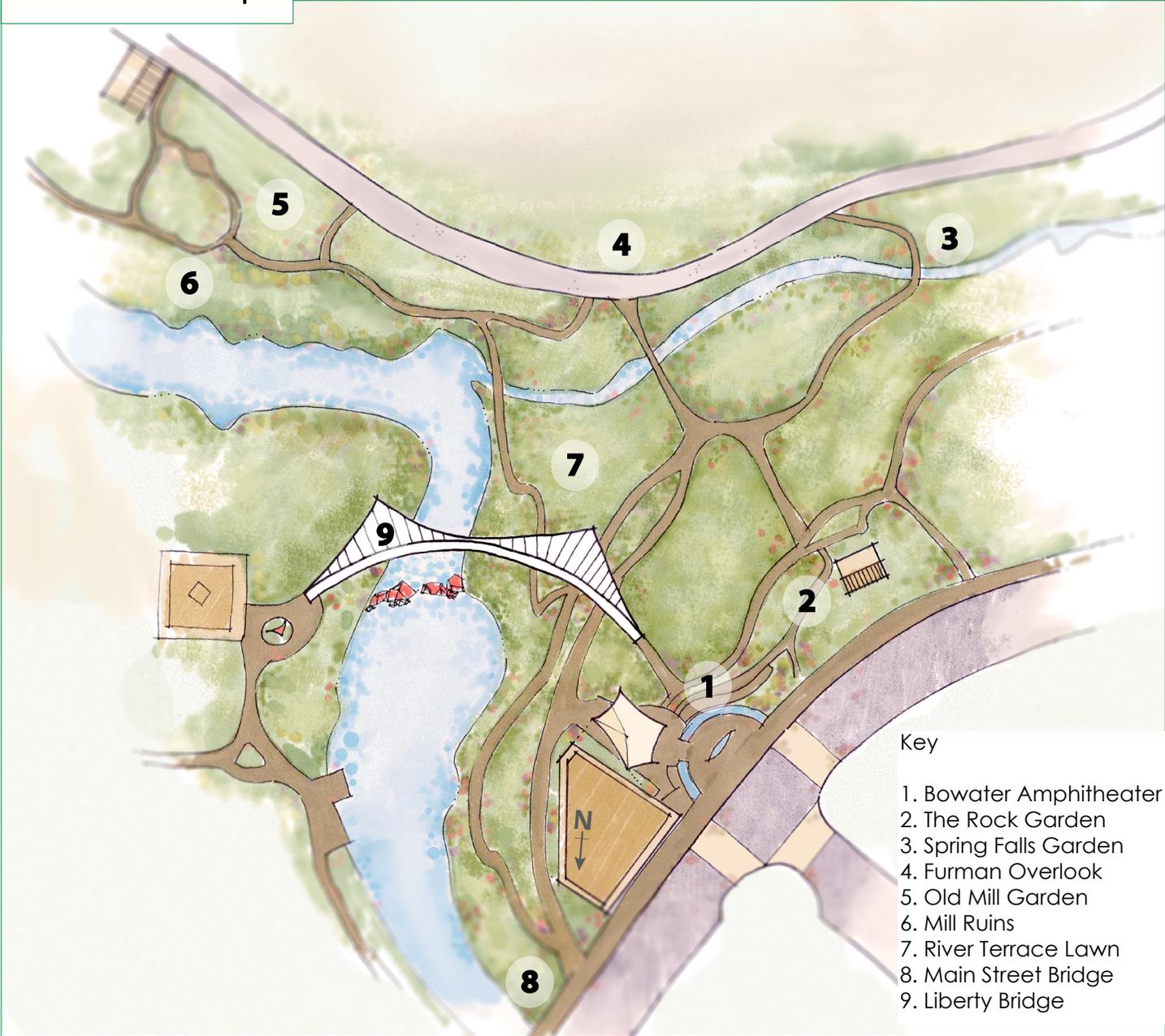


Falls Park Activity Book

The map below highlights nine areas within Falls Park. These areas are home to a diversity of natural communities. Each number on the map coincides with a section of the activity guide. This guide will lead you through an exploration of these nine areas, emphasizing the nature that surrounds us in the city of Greenville and our connection to these natural systems.



Falls Park Map



Discover Greenville!

Unscramble the words below, and then fill in the sentence at the top to learn some important things YOU can do to help Falls Park stay great!

K _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

IKPC _ _ _ _ 0 LCCERYE _ _ _ _ _ _ 0

PU _ 0 TELMA _ 0 _ 0

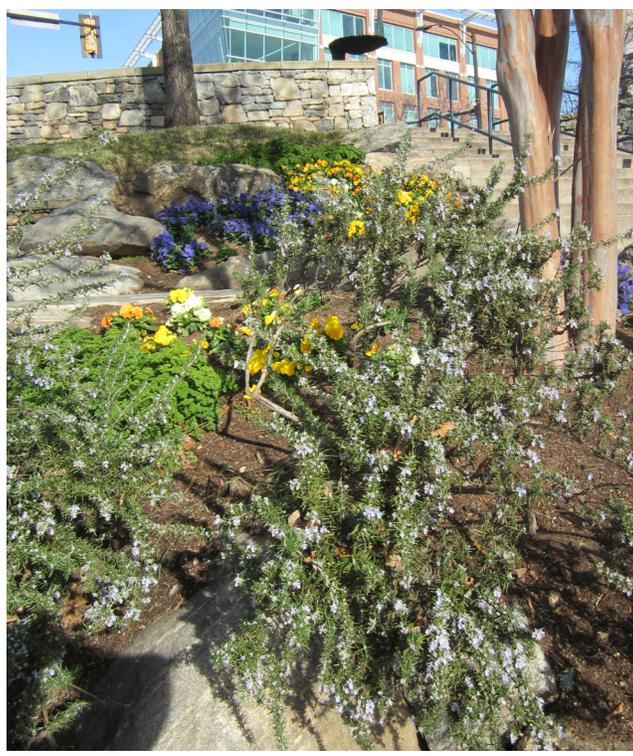
RHATS 0 _ _ _ 0 SLGAS _ 0 _ _ _ _

NDA _ 0 _ TCPALIS _ _ _ _ _ _ 0

TPE 0 _ _ DNA 0 _ _

SEATW _ 0 _ _ 0 EPPAR _ _ _ _ _ 0

1. Bowater Amphitheater



Close to one of the main entrances to Falls Park, Bowater Amphitheater is a great place to stop for a moment and enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of the park.

Once upon a time, before European settlers came to the Upstate, the Cherokee may have had hunting camps along the Reedy River in the area that is now Falls Park. Close your eyes and listen to the sound of the river. What other sounds can you hear?

The landscape designers, gardeners, and others who work to make Falls Park beautiful use a variety of plants in the beds in the park. Some are planted for a season and removed, while others stay in the park year round. Some of the plants are even edible, like the rosemary bush seen left. Run your hand gently over the rosemary leaves. Doesn't that smell great?

Falls Park Activity Book

Falls Park represents a unique combination of the built and natural landscape. People picnic on lush planted lawns and natural rock outcroppings. Native and ornamental flowers bloom in planned beds. Some of the trees were planted, while others grew naturally over many years.

As you walk through the park, keep your eyes open for wildlife. Lizards, frogs, squirrels, birds, insects, and other animals all call Falls Park home.



- Open spaces and parks like Falls Park are called "**green spaces**" and are important to urban areas for many different reasons.
- Green spaces provide a wide variety of environmental, health, and social benefits to the people that live in cities such as Greenville.



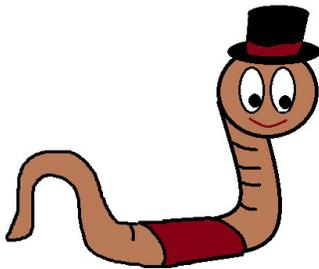
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2. The Rock Garden



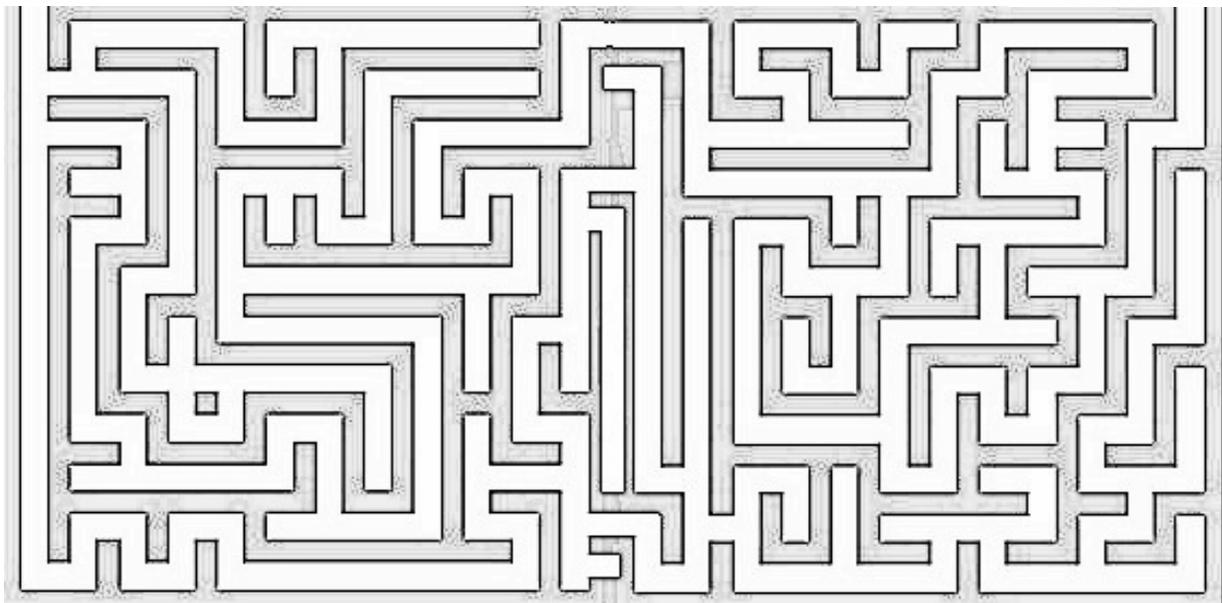
Falls Park didn't always look like it does today! One of the challenges that the designers of the current park had to face was how to help people get from Main Street to the river. From the Rock Garden, you have a great view of all of the steps, terraces, and pathways that provided a solution to this challenge!

On the terrace overlooking the Rock Garden is Falls Cottage. Originally, the cottage was built as a home for one of the mill foremen. The foreman never actually lived there, but the house remained and has been home to many businesses over the years, including a gas station and a restaurant.

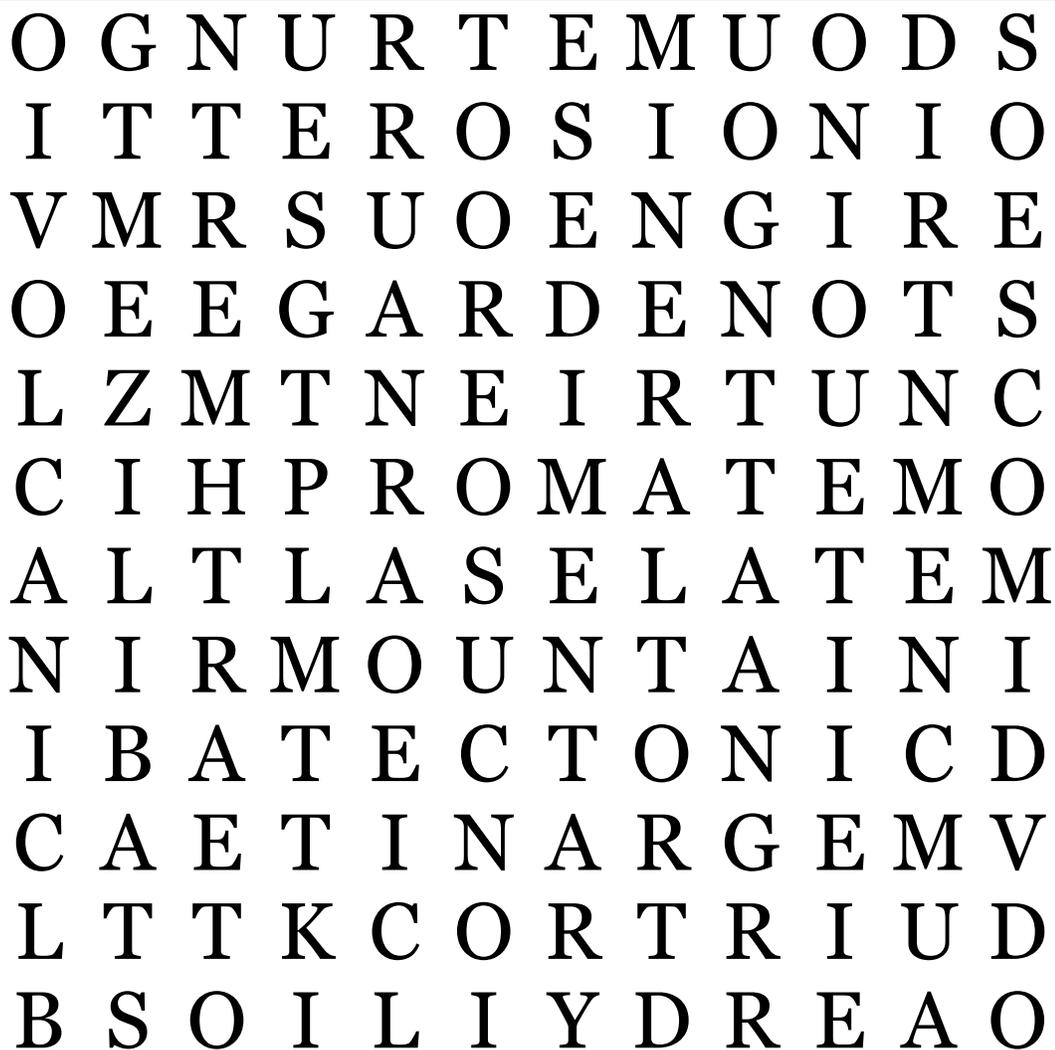


Healthy soil is important!

Can you help the hungry earthworm find his way through the maze to the yummy pile of leaves?



Falls Park Activity Book



GEOLOGY WORD SEARCH

Use the list below to make sure you have found all of the words. Make sure to look backwards, forwards, up, down, and diagonal!

gem

stone

rock

mineral

tectonic

soil

dirt

nutrient

granite

root

earth

erosion

salt

garden

stabilize

mountain

sedimentary

igneous

metal

volcanic

metamorphic

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A Little Bit of History.....

The first known European settler to own property where the city of Greenville now sits was Richard Pearis. The Cherokee still owned the rights to the land, and Pearis was able to purchase land from his son, George, who was considered a member of the Cherokee nation because his mother was Cherokee. Pearis established a trading post and a grist mill alongside the Reedy River. During the Revolutionary War, Pearis sided with the British, and lost his land.

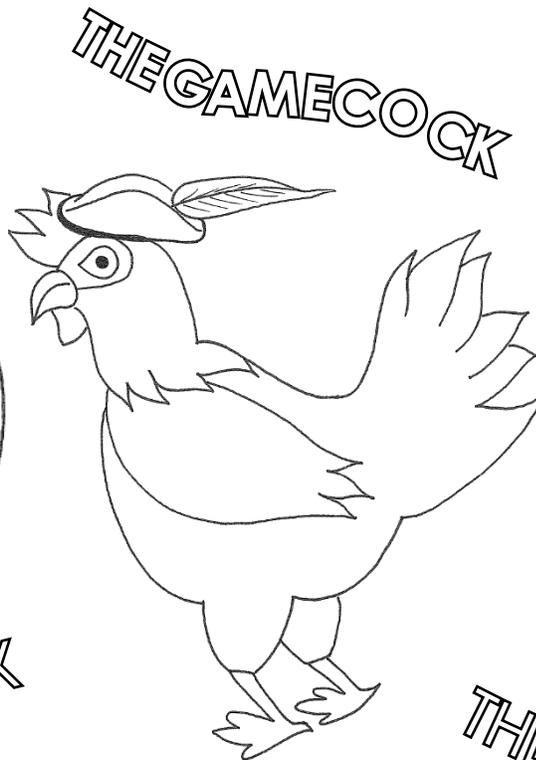
There are two theories that may explain how Greenville got its name. One suggests that the county and city were named for the beautiful, verdant (rich and green) land. The other theory suggests that Greenville was named for General Nathaniel Greene, who commanded the southern forces in the Revolutionary War. General Greene commanded and fought alongside other South Carolina heroes in the war, including The Wizard Owl, Andrew Pickens; The Gamecock, Thomas Sumter; and The Swamp Fox, Francis Marion.



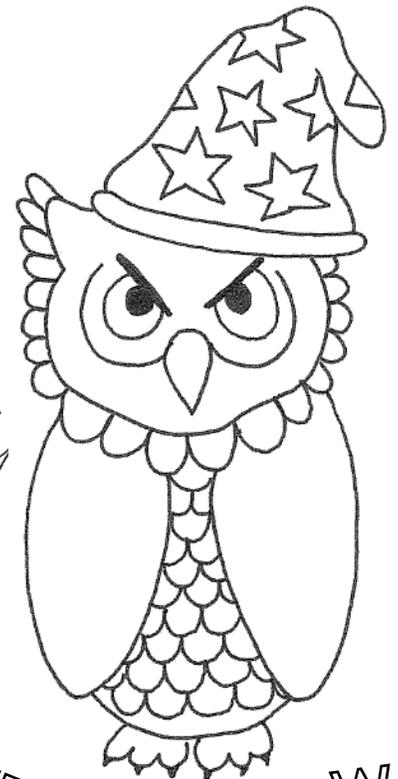
This statue depicting General Nathaniel Greene can be found at the corner of Main Street and Broad Street in downtown.



THE SWAMP FOX



THE GAMECOCK



THE WIZARD OWL

3. Spring Falls Garden

The spring house, shown right, was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC was one of the programs established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as part of the New Deal to help provide jobs during the Great Depression.

Can you find the date that this spring well was constructed?



An important function of parks and green spaces is to preserve important pieces of history so that people can learn about and feel connected to their past. Members of the CCC were paid \$30 a month and given food, clothes, and shelter while they worked on projects such as this spring house.

Water is important!

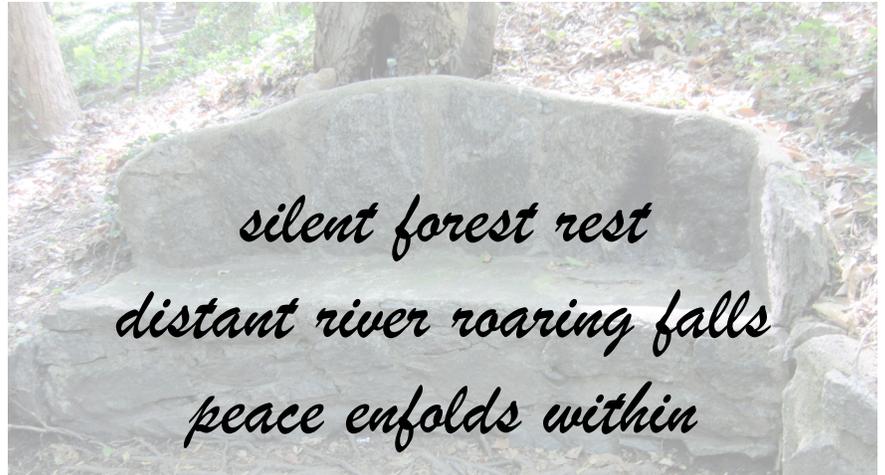
Historically, the availability of clean fresh water has had a huge impact on where people live. We use water to travel, drink, ship goods, grow crops, and much more. This spring house provided fresh water for residents of Greenville.

Use the space below to draw or list 15 different things that people do with water.

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Beyond Spring Falls Garden, a less formal set of trails leads through an area of Falls Park that was part of the Furman arboretum before the university moved.

An arboretum is a garden that is devoted to trees. Trees are a big part of the whole park, but here, you can almost imagine that you are in a forest in the middle of the city!



Natural areas inspire many types of art, from sculpture to music. The haiku above was inspired by this spot in Falls Park. How will the park inspire you?

Use the space below to write a poem or draw a picture.



Falls Park Activity Book



Plants are a very important part of the landscape of Falls Park. Many of the plants that can be found in the park are native plants, which means that these plants are found naturally in the Upstate of South Carolina.

Native plants are adapted to the climate and soils of this area, so they often take less maintenance and care and require less water than non-native plants do. Native plants also provide food and shelter for insects, birds, and other animals that live in Falls Park.

As you wander through Falls Park, see if you can spot some of our native plants.

Make sure to check them off as you find them!



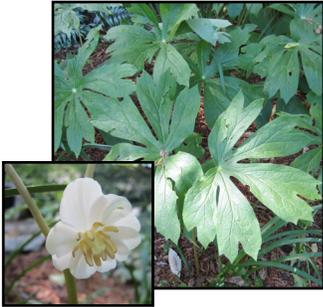
___ Mistletoe

A parasitic plant that lives on other plants, mainly trees. It is easiest to find in winter because it is green while the host tree loses its leaves.



___ Tulip Poplar

Very tall, straight trees with leaves shaped like a "cat's head" and bright yellow/orange tulip like flowers.



___ Mayapple

No taller than 1 1/2 feet, each plant has large umbrella like leaves and a single flower that blooms in May. Look under the leaves for the flower.



___ Sycamore

Tall trees with peeling grey/brown bark. Leaves are large with many lobes. The fruit are small round balls filled with seeds.



___ Oakleaf Hydrangea

Shrub with many stems; can grow up to 10 feet high with large oak like leaves and big clusters of white flowers.



___ Holly

Evergreen tree with leathery green leaves that have sharp pointed tips. Bright red berries in winter.

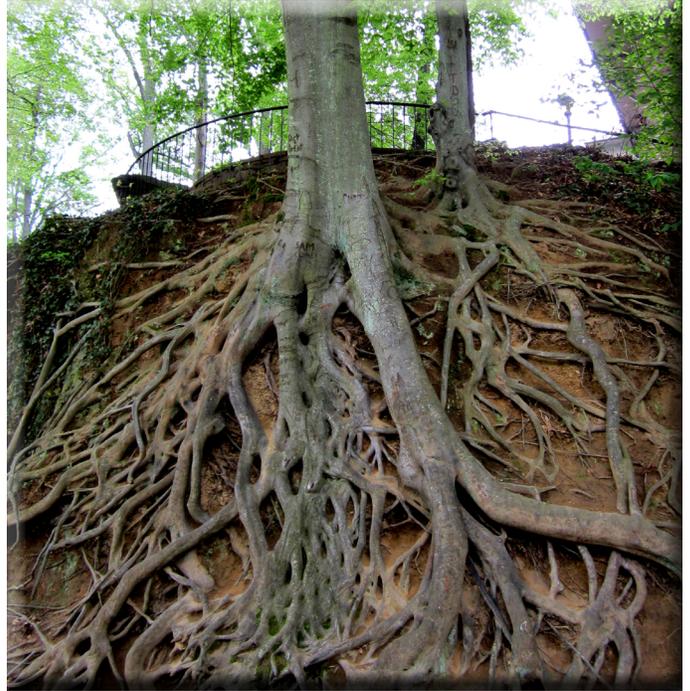
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4. Furman Overlook

From 1851 to 1958, Furman University was located on this bluff, overlooking the Reedy River.

The American Beech shown at right is a beautiful and unique tree that attracts a lot of attention. Much of the root structure is visible. These roots are still working to bring nutrients and water to the tree from the soil, and they are also helping to prevent erosion and hold the bluff in place.

Take a look, but don't climb or carve on the tree. Damage to the bark also damages the vessels that move water and nutrients through the tree. Too much damage could kill this tree, and rob Falls Park of a special natural feature.



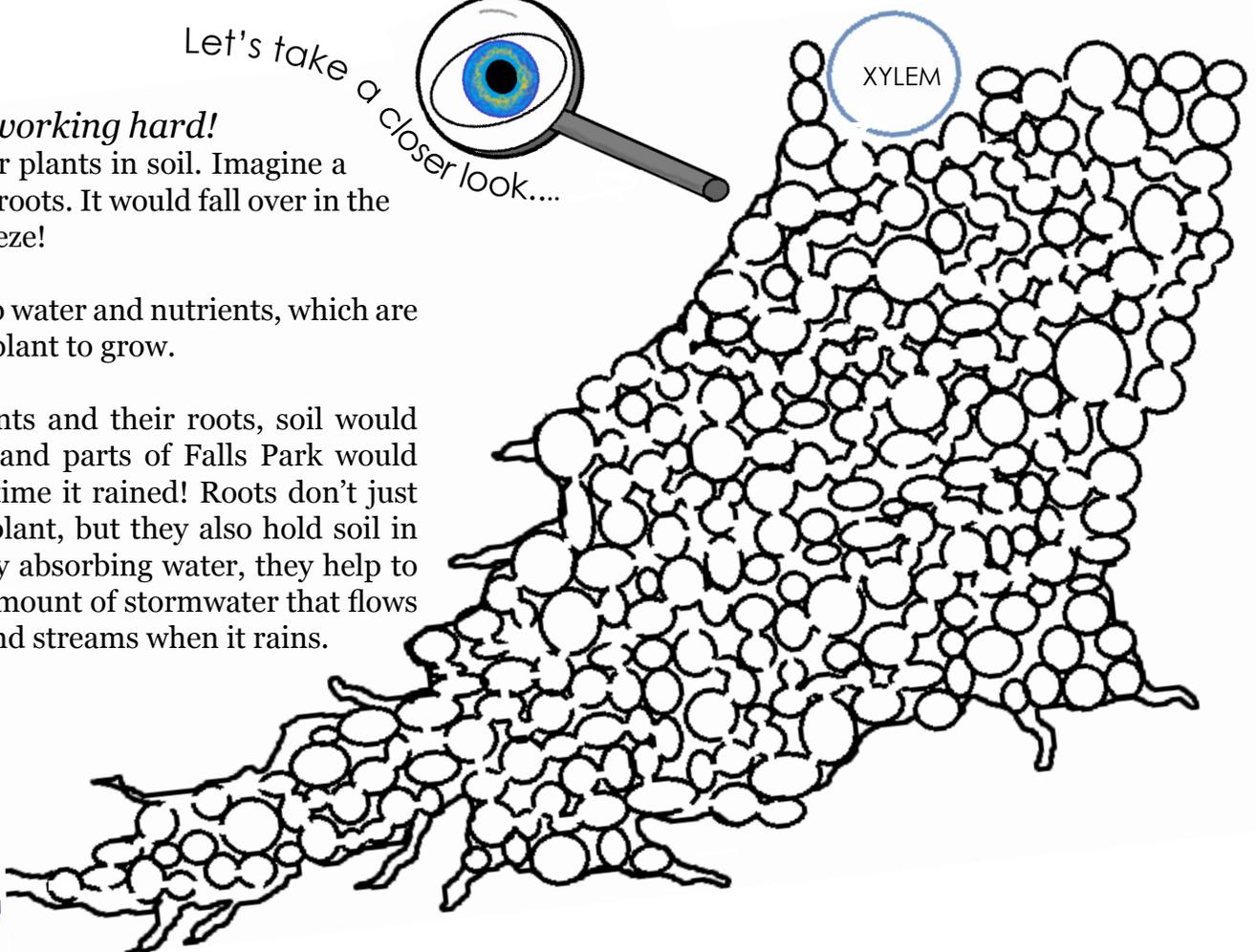
Roots are working hard!

Roots anchor plants in soil. Imagine a tree with no roots. It would fall over in the slightest breeze!

Roots absorb water and nutrients, which are used by the plant to grow.

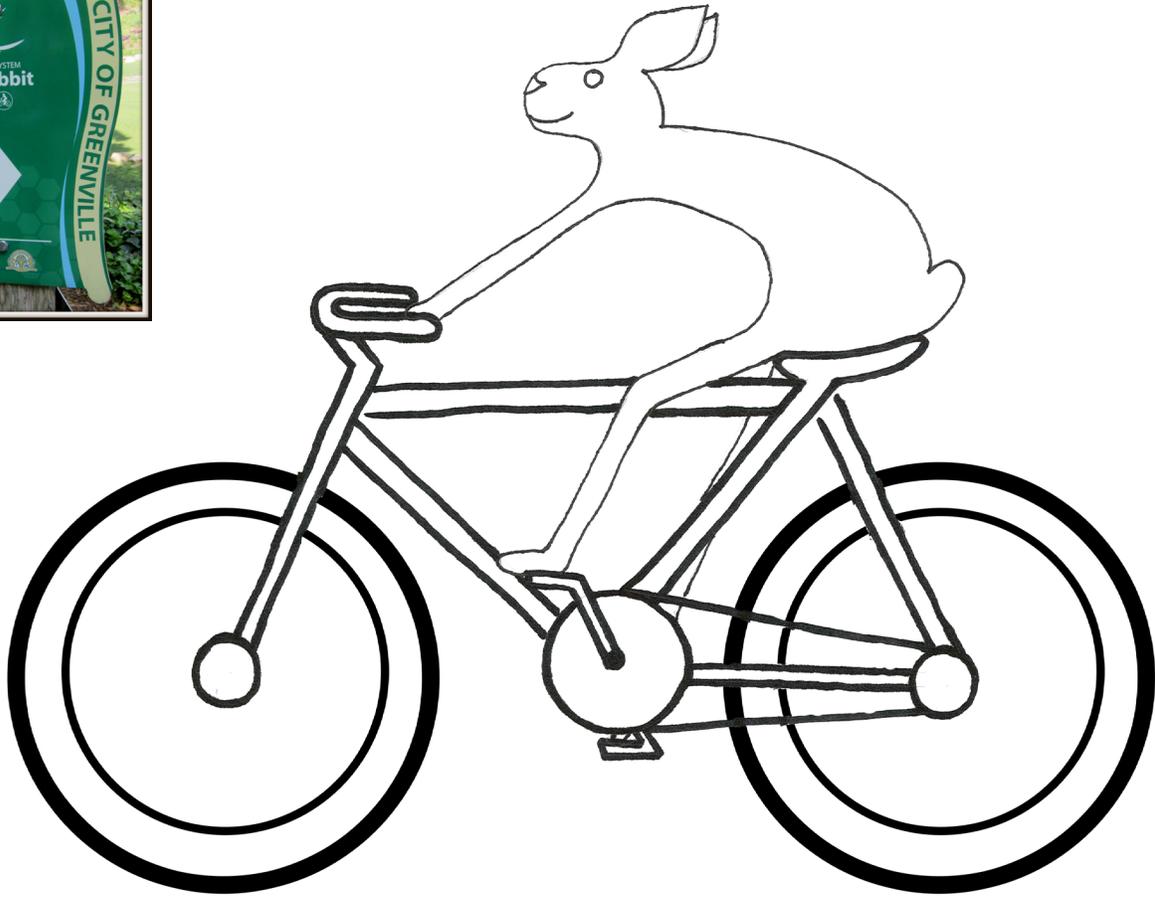
Without plants and their roots, soil would wash away, and parts of Falls Park would flood every time it rained! Roots don't just anchor the plant, but they also hold soil in place, and by absorbing water, they help to reduce the amount of stormwater that flows into rivers and streams when it rains.

Let's take a closer look....



Help the water droplet find its way through the cells to the xylem. Once water enters the xylem, it can be transported from the root to the rest of the plant.

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Green spaces can be connected by paths and trails to become "greenways."

Greenways provide alternative transportation routes where people can walk or ride their bikes to get from one place to another. Greenville's trail system includes the Swamp Rabbit Trail, which follows an abandoned railroad line through Falls Park and up to Traveler's Rest, connecting many of Greenville's parks.

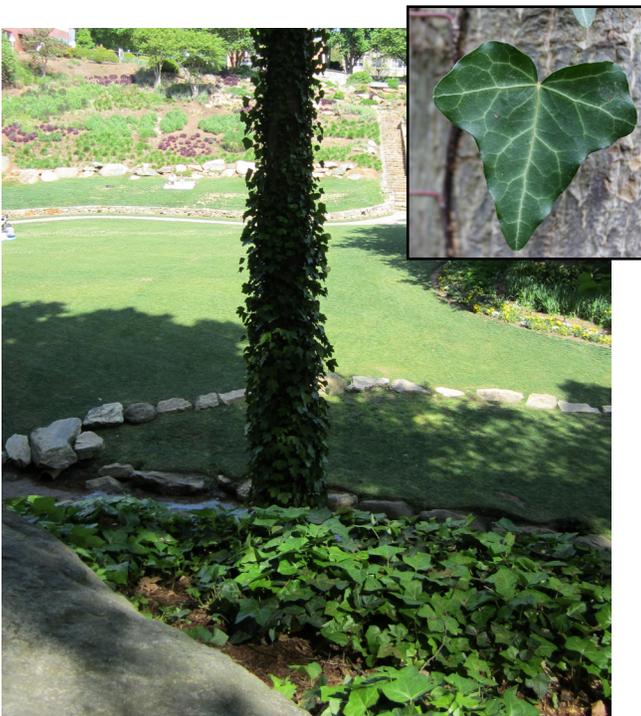


The origin of the nickname "swamp rabbit" could be from the way that the old railroad followed the Reedy River, often alongside and sometimes through swamp land, or from the jerking, rabbit-like motion of the old train.

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Not all of the plants in Falls Park are here on purpose. Many of the native plants have grown here on their own while some of the plants that were planted here on purpose are now unwanted, and can be very difficult to get rid of!

An invasive plant is a plant that is not native to an area and causes environmental or economic harm. Invasive plants can cause a lot of damage to an ecosystem and can cost a lot of money to get rid of. The gardeners at Falls Park spend a lot of time and effort trying to control plants like the invasive English Ivy, shown below.



Why are invasive plants a problem?

Invasive plants often grow and reproduce quickly, taking over an area and out-competing the native plants that live there. This can happen quickly and cause changes throughout the whole ecosystem. Invasive plants can change the way that water and nutrients move through an ecosystem, altering not only the way a place looks, but how it functions and what can live there. Native animals such as birds, insects, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles all depend on native plants for food and for shelter, so a loss of native plants can rearrange the food chain of an area, making it difficult for animals to survive.

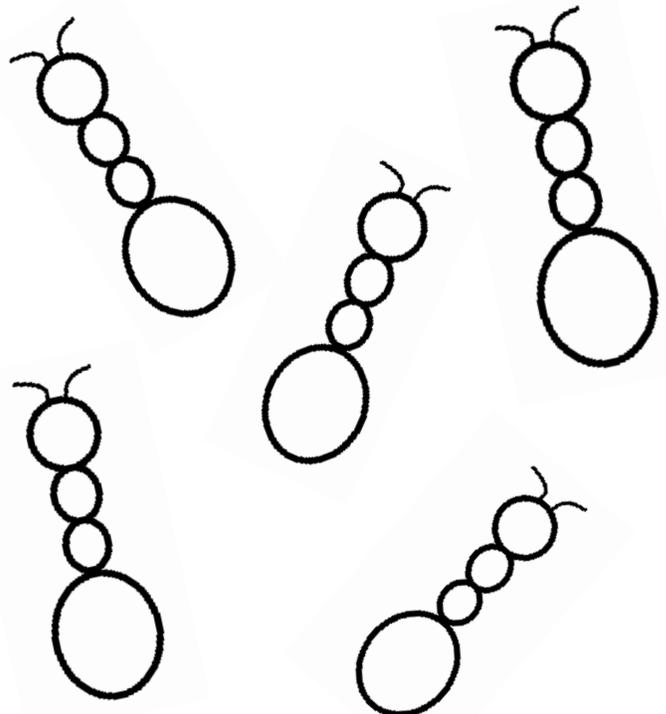
You can help protect our environment from invasive species!

- Learn to recognize the invasive species in your area, and make sure to only plant native plants. Always clean hiking, biking, boating, and other equipment so that you don't accidentally move a species to a new place, and never release or dump house plants or pets such as fish, amphibians, or reptiles in the wild.

Plants aren't the only invasive species around. Some of our least favorite animal pests are also invasive, including red imported Fire Ants.

The native ants below aren't doing well. They've lost their legs! Give them new legs and some color. Native ants are an important part of our ecosystem.

Fire Ants aren't.



Falls Park Activity Book

5. Old Mill Garden

Throughout Falls Park, you will find ruins from the mills and mill villages that once stood along the banks of the Reedy River.

The power of the river made it possible for early industries such as ironworks, corn and flour mills, and textile mills to exist in Greenville.

The textile mills were especially important to the city's economy. Many people worked in the mills and lived in the mill villages, even children as young as nine or ten years old.



Mill Village Word Search



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s a n c e h t a s l p v w a o
l g r o m t v i l l a g e s d
t e x t i l e l r n n e f a f
e c u t v e t d t w s r h c a
k r a o w i o p f o r d t a b
d e o n a w s o l d s n i u r
a v t a n m a w a r e r o o u
l b e t w e i d w e i l e o n
t r e o l r g l u p c l a l t
o v c i r b a f l m y l f h a
c a r t t s i r p a d o o r k
f r e r h k c n o c e v y t e
r d v w a t e r w h e e l u h
e r e r a v b p e a r h c h a
v y r e i m a c r p c y e h t
    
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- | | | | |
|------------|---------|------------|-------|
| mill | village | textile | reedy |
| waterwheel | power | cotton | ruins |
| fabric | vardry | camperdown | cloth |

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Noticing Nature.....

List 10 animals that you think might live in Falls Park

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Green spaces such as Falls Park aren't just for people and plants. They are important habitats for animals as well. Green spaces provide food and shelter for a variety of animals. Parks and other green spaces can be considered refuges for many animal species. Often, these are some of the only places that many animals can survive in a city.



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The most abundant animals in Falls Park are definitely insects!

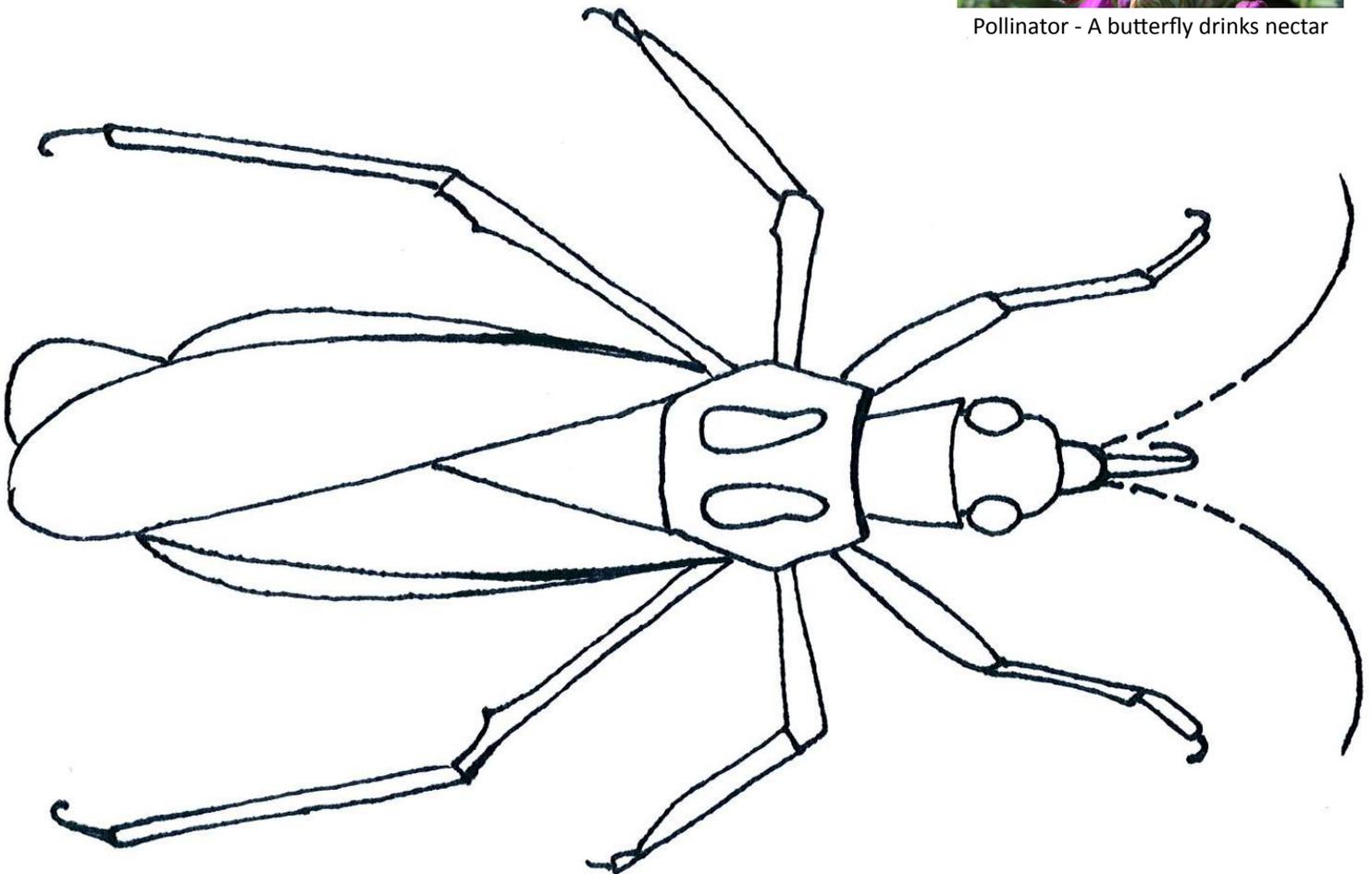
Insects come in many shapes and sizes, though most are very small. All insects have six segmented legs and three body segments.

Beneficial insects help us out in many ways:

- Pollinators help plants reproduce, including many of the crops that we eat
- Insect predators and parasitoids kill pests that damage our crops, buildings, and health
- Insects are also important as part of the food chain, as decomposers, and they even provide us with food and clothing!

The beneficial insect coloring page below features a predator. Do you know what insect predator is also the state insect of South Carolina? Unscramble the letters to find out.

GAIPNRY NSMITA



ASSASSIN BUG



Predator - A wasp catches a caterpillar

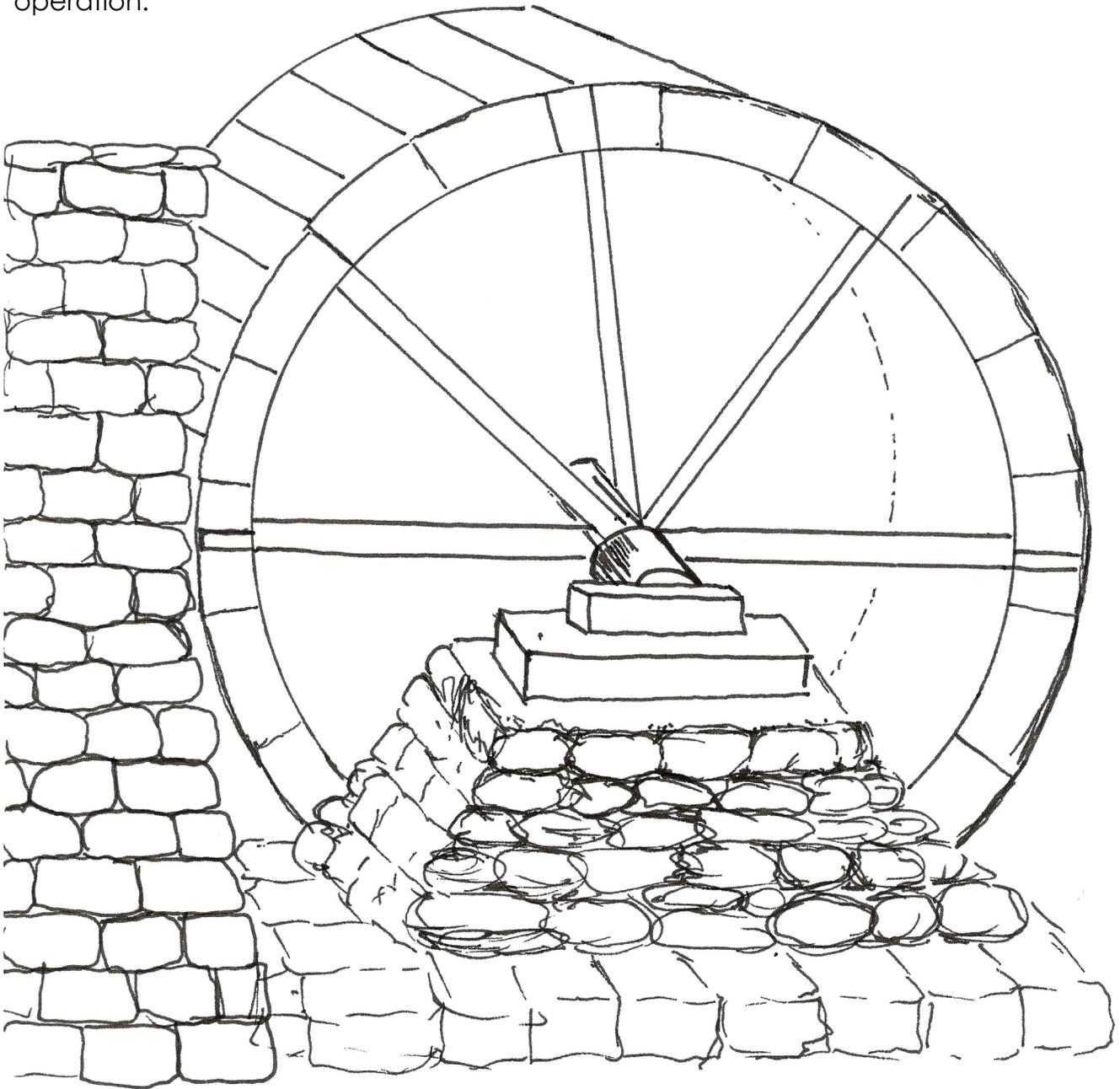


Pollinator - A butterfly drinks nectar

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6. Mill Ruins

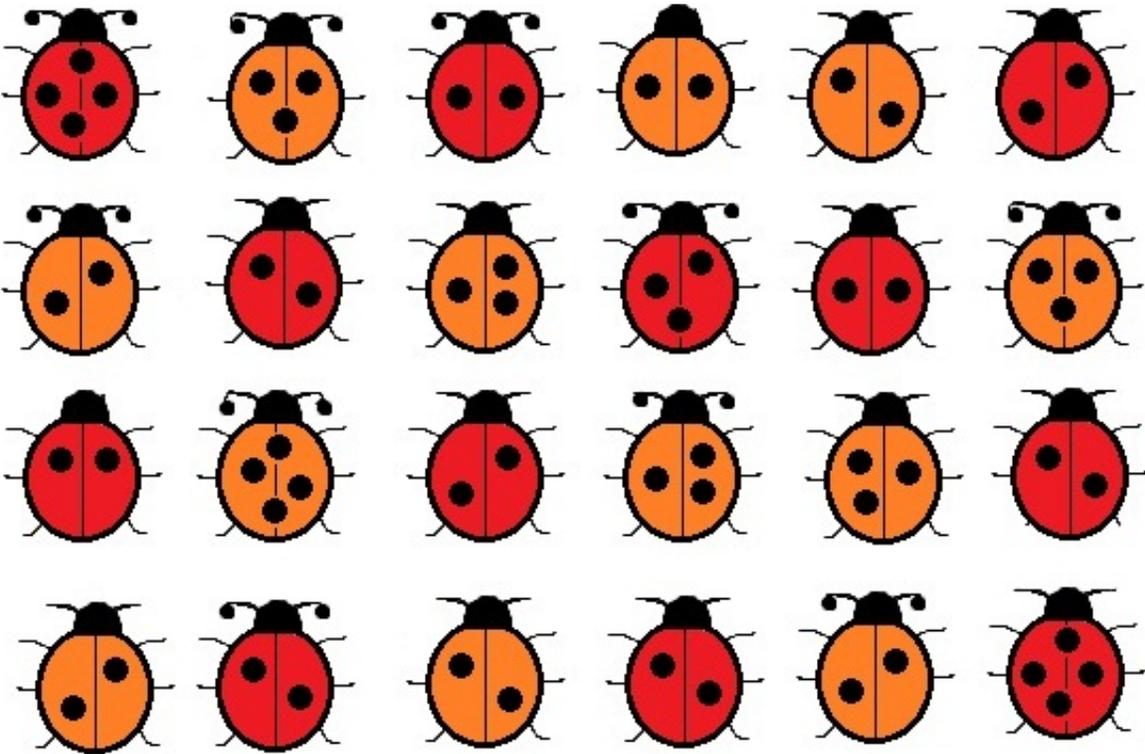
The first mill on the Reedy River where Greenville now sits was Richard Pearis' grist mill. A grist mill is a mill for grinding corn, wheat, and other grains into flour. This early grist mill was simpler than the textile mills that sprang up alongside the river in later years, but they all operated on the same principle, using the force of the river to turn a waterwheel or turbine which then turned gears to power the rest of the operation.



Falls Park Activity Book

Green spaces provide many health benefits for people in cities. Trails and parks provide places to get outside and exercise, encouraging people to live a more active, healthy lifestyle. Many studies have linked access to nature with both physical and mental well-being.

What is your favorite thing about Falls Park?



Find the two Ladybugs that are the **SAME**

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7. River Terrace Lawn

The River Terrace Lawn provides a wonderful view of the river and the falls that the park is named for. It is easy to see why people have been drawn to this area for so long. The lawn is a great place to spread out a picnic or play a game.

The river is a centerpiece of the city of Greenville, and Falls Park is part of the City's efforts to protect the water quality of the river.

When rain falls in a city, it washes along streets, parking lots, roofs, and other similar surfaces. We call these things impermeable surfaces, because water can't go through them to get into the ground. As the rain washes across impermeable surfaces, it carries any dirt, oil, trash, or chemicals that it passes over straight to the river.

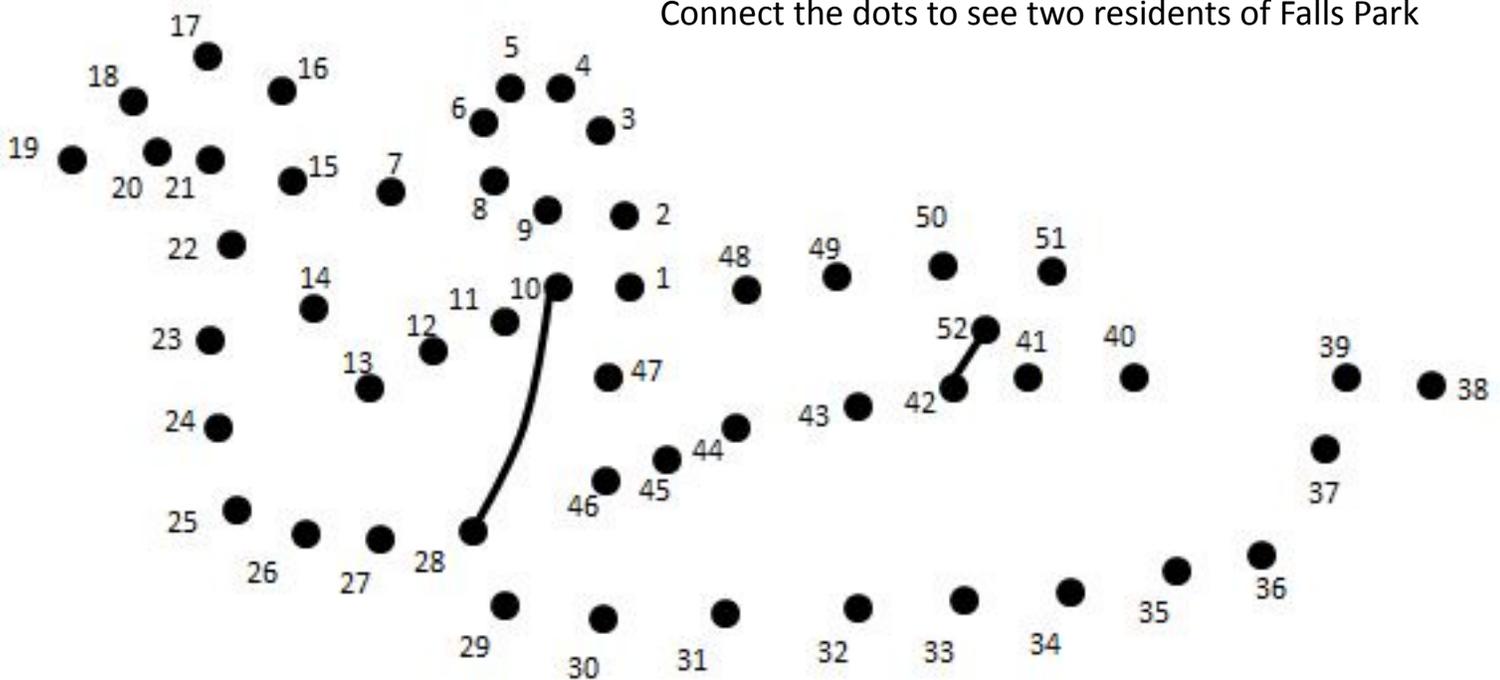
Green spaces like Falls Park have trees and other plants alongside the river that help slow the flow of rainwater and absorb and catch some of the chemicals and dirt that stormwater has picked up. These green spaces help protect the water quality of the river.

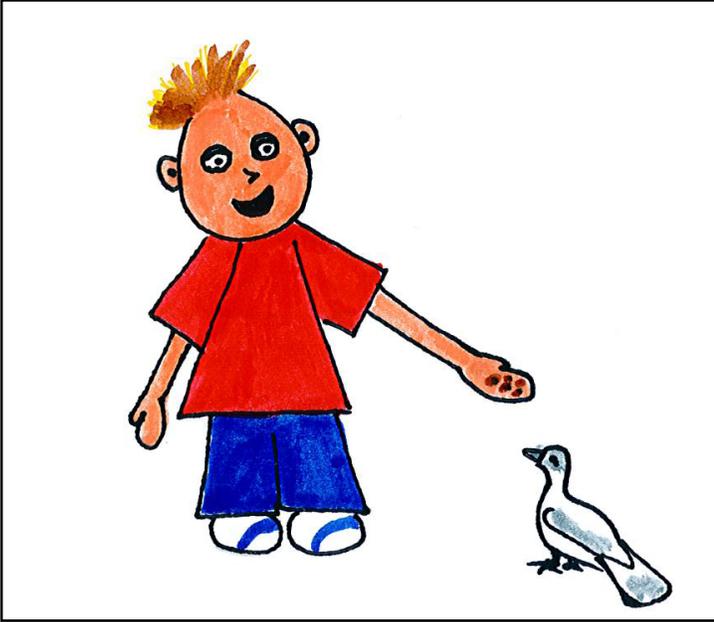
You can protect the river too!
Make sure that you pick up your trash and pick up after your pet. Don't leave anything behind!



There are recycling bins and trash cans all around. I can't believe that anyone would just leave trash on the ground where it will wash straight into the river!

Connect the dots to see two residents of Falls Park





Don't Feed the Birds...

Signs like the one shown at right remind people not to feed the birds in Falls Park, but did you every wonder, "Why not?"

The answer may surprise you. It is the same reason that there are stations throughout the park providing free baggies to dog owners so that they will pick up their dog's waste...water pollution.

Hand feeding encourages large numbers of birds to stay in one place and rely on people for food instead of finding their own. Free meals attract more birds than the park can handle, who eat, and then poop. When it rains, all of the bird droppings wash into the river. If there are lots of extra birds in the park, their waste will add high levels of bacteria and nutrients to the water, which can lead to poor water quality.

Luckily, birds and other animals that call Falls Park home are wild, and are capable of finding their own food. Enjoy the birds from a distance, let them find their own food, and help protect our water quality.



A "dabbling" duck finds food by partially submerging itself in water and searching with its bill.

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8. The Main Street Bridge

The Main Street Bridge is a beautiful, historic structure that has stood the test of time. The bridge was constructed in 1910 and renovated in 2001.

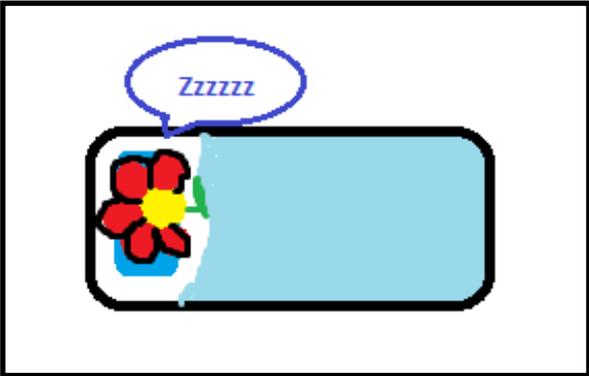
Underneath the bridge, you will find a beautiful and unique seating area. During the week, it is common to find people in business attire having a relaxing lunch in the shade beneath the main street bridge.

- Green spaces help improve air quality in urban areas. By encouraging people to walk and bike, trails, greenways, and parks help reduce the number of cars on the road. Trees, shrubs, and other plants absorb carbon dioxide and other air pollutants and give off oxygen, helping reduce air pollution.



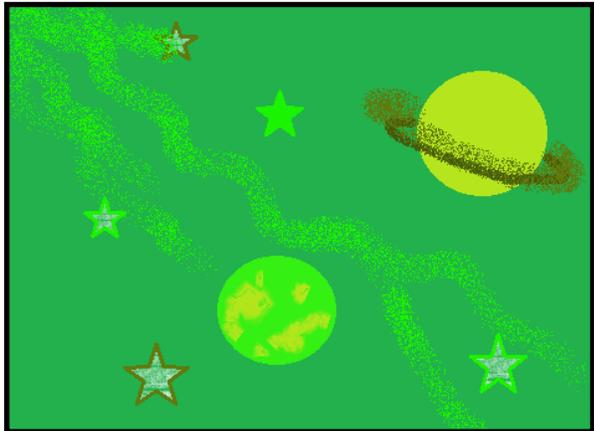
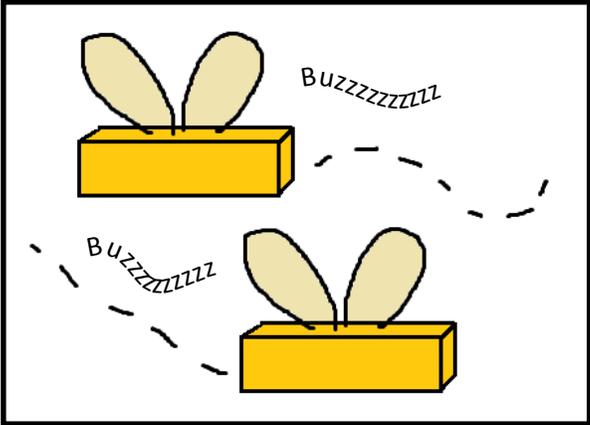
Falls Park Activity Book

Solve the picture riddles below to discover some of the things you may see in Falls Park.



CYCLE CYCLE

WALK

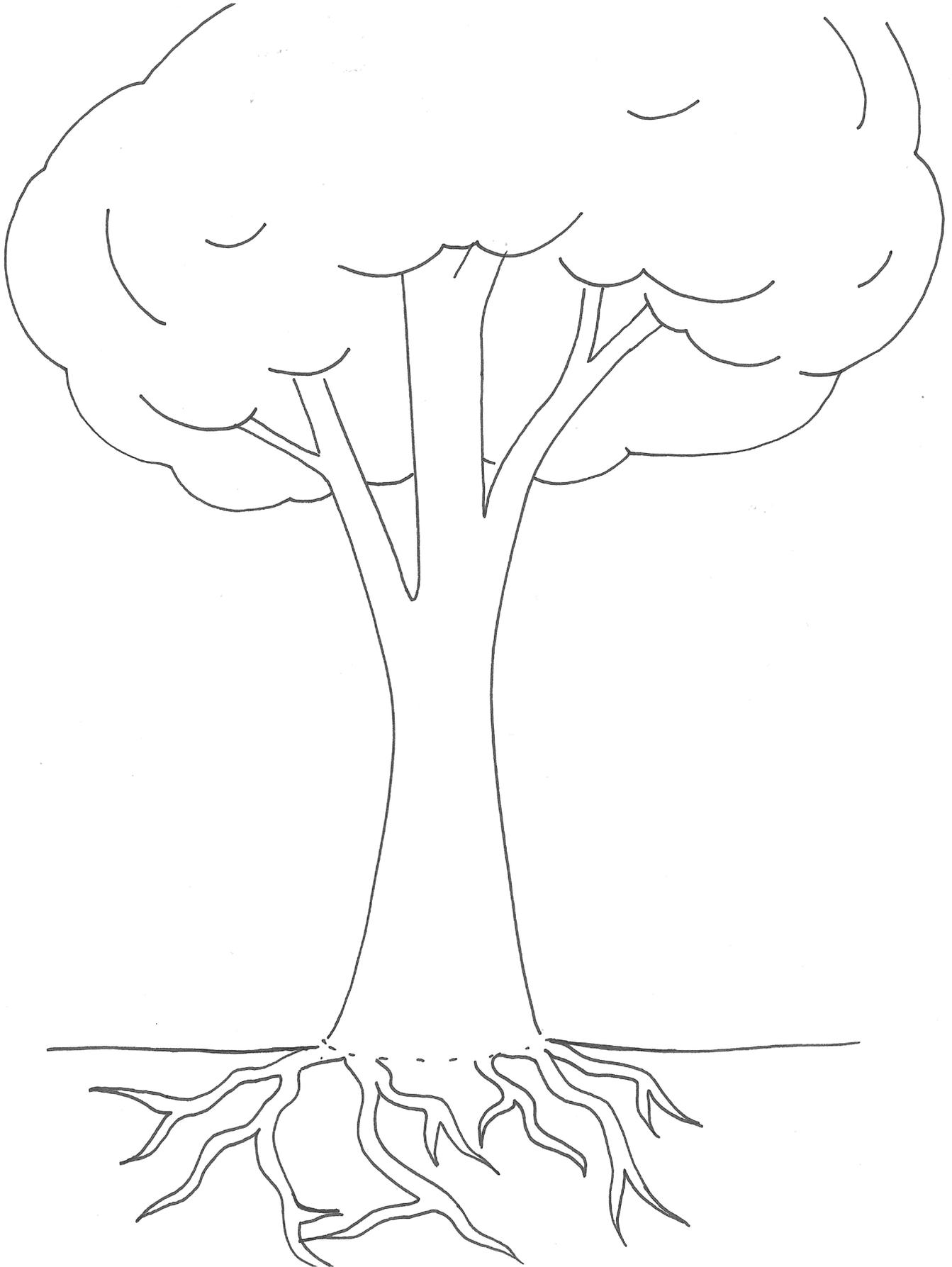


WATER

Answers: Flower bed, bicycle, sidewalk, butterfly, green space, waterfall.

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Color the tree, and list five ways the trees in Falls Park make Greenville a better place.

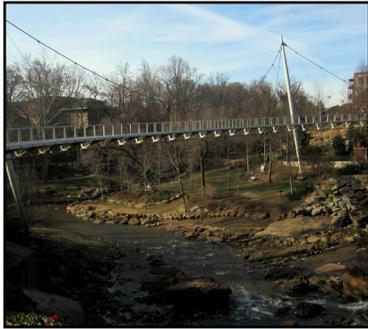


9. The Liberty Bridge

This unique pedestrian bridge is the only one of its kind in the US. It is 345 feet long and is supported by three primary cable systems which work against and with each other to hold the bridge in suspension. The two masts that support the bridge weigh more than 28 tons each, and are 90 feet tall!

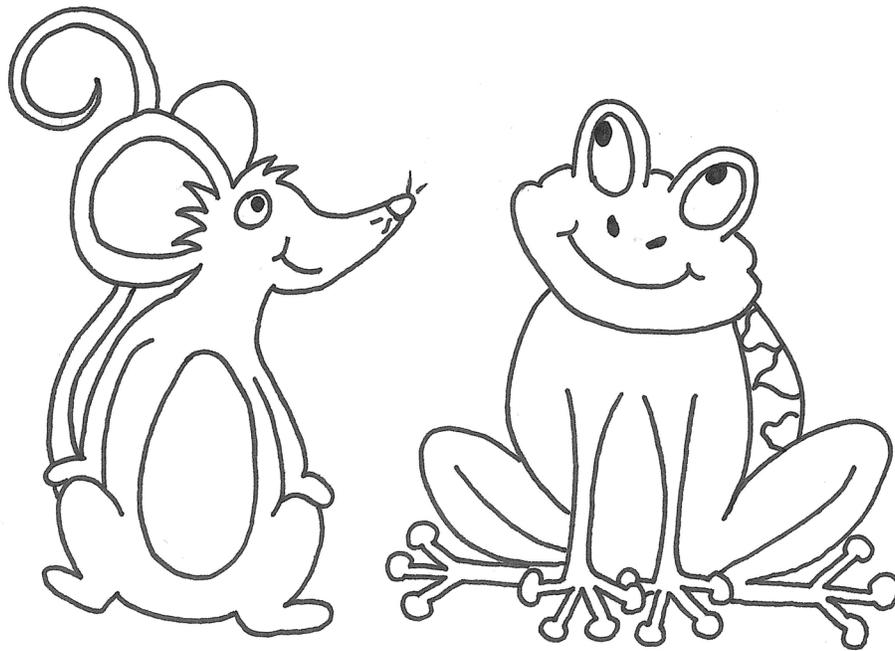
The Liberty Bridge is a tourist attraction all by itself, and it is a great place to stop and have your picture taken with the falls that are such an important part of Greenville's history in the background.

Tourism is an important part of many cities' economies. Parks, gardens, and trails can be tourist attractions that bring people to a city. Falls Park is a beautiful place to visit for many reasons, and the tourism income that is generated by the park helps keep downtown Greenville vibrant.



We hope you enjoyed your visit to Falls Park on the
Reedy River.

Come back soon!



The Connections for Sustainability Project is a three-year grant project dedicated to improving quality of life for residents of the city of Greenville. As part of the Connections project, the City's Livability Educator has developed a variety of educational programs, materials and activities designed to inform and engage citizens of all ages. Download the Livability Educator's programs, including the Discover Greenville series, the Green Craft Challenge, and more for free online from the Livability Educator's page at connections.greenville.gov.

