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## **Spartanburg Water Provides Grant Support to TreesUpstate and The Noble Tree Foundation**

*Grant will help fund a joint tree canopy mapping project to benefit all of Spartanburg County*

SPARTANBURG – TreesUpstate and The Noble Tree Foundation were recently awarded a grant for \$10,000 by Spartanburg Water to provide funding assistance for a large-scale tree canopy mapping project that will offer important data related to urban planning, stormwater management and water quality for all of Spartanburg County.

On Wednesday, December 13, 2023, Spartanburg Water presented representatives from TreesUpstate and The Noble Tree Foundation with a check for the grant, which represented equal contributions from both the Commission of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg and the Spartanburg Sanitary Sewer District Commission.

The mission of TreesUpstate is to plant, promote and protect trees in the upstate. Since the non-profit's beginning in 2005, more than 37,000 trees have been planted. The Noble Tree Foundation works to promote the education and activities of the people of Spartanburg County relating to the knowledge and planting of Noble Trees, landscaping and alignment of projects that help beautify the broader community.

During the past four years, TreesUpstate and The Noble Tree Foundation have partnered on a five-year initiative to plant 1,000 trees at Spartanburg County Schools. This initiative has helped improve air quality, water quality, and led to decreased stormwater runoff while improving the lives of Spartanburg County residents.

Their joint tree canopy study project will produce tree canopy maps and reports for the City of Spartanburg and Spartanburg County, which will include ecosystem services. It will aid County objectives and state level initiatives, as well as providing better understanding of the impact of trees in the Broad River



watershed. This watershed area includes Spartanburg Water’s reservoirs, Lake Bowen, Lake Blalock and Municipal Reservoir #1, as well as the North and South Pacolet Rivers.

“The long-term vitality of our watershed directly impacts drinking water quality, and trees are one of the greatest resources in ensuring that the Broad River watershed remains in a healthy state,” said Spartanburg Water CEO, Guy Boyle. “A tree canopy mapping study will help all local and state partners better understand our best pathway moving forward to balance upcoming growth in the watershed and our natural resources.”

ABOUT SPARTANBURG WATER: Spartanburg Water, an industry leading utility, is comprised of Spartanburg Water System and Spartanburg Sanitary Sewer District. It serves a population of nearly 200,000 within Spartanburg County, as well as others in parts of Greenville, Union and Cherokee counties. With the help of its dedicated team of nearly 300 employees, each day it produces an average of 25 million gallons of drinking water and cleans 14 million gallons of wastewater for its customers and community.

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