



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- FM Stormwater Hosting Sculpture Unveiling and Education Event**

July 24, 2024 — The Fort Mill Stormwater Department is pleased to announce that PalmettoPride, South Carolina’s anti-litter organization, will donate an environmental sculpture to the Town during an exciting educational event on Aug. 6 featuring several family-friendly activities.

The sculpture, a river otter, is hollow and able to be filled with collected trash, helping to make the connection that what we leave in the environment impacts our local wildlife and waterways.

The sculpture will be installed in Harris Street Park, 465 Harris Street, on Tuesday, Aug. 6 between 8:30 a.m. and 12 p.m., in conjunction with a family-friendly educational event, as well as a public trash cleanup. The trash cleanup begins at 8:30 a.m., followed by a Stories & Shaved Ice event at 10 a.m. with free Kona Ice for all who participate. A story walk will be set up along the sidewalk in the park and there will be several interactive educational stations for the community. At 11 a.m., the Columbia Marionette Theatre will present a production of “Litter Trashes Everyone,” followed by filling of the sculpture and dedication at noon.

The public is welcome to attend the event and participate. For more information on the event, please visit the Town of Fort Mill’s website at <https://fortmillsc.gov/597/Environmental-Art>. If you are interested in volunteering with the cleanup, visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A48A8A62BA5FA7-50300061-creek#/>

Dating back to 2013, PalmettoPride first began its partnership with artist Jim Swain, creator of Environmental Sculptures, whose unique artwork dramatizes the issue of plastic litter within our communities. Jim teamed up with friend and fellow creative Paul Quirk to find a solution to environmental pollution that is both effective and engaging. PalmettoPride has sponsored the placement of 20 environmental sculptures throughout South Carolina in hopes the art will encourage citizens to keep our state beautiful and its natural resources and wildlife safe.

“We are so excited to add this amazing sculpture to Fort Mill,” said Mina McLean MacDonald, Stormwater Management Coordinator for the Town of Fort Mill. “The sculpture will help create a connection between litter and wildlife for our community members. Often, folks don’t realize the environmental impact litter makes, thinking it’s just one cup, one bottle, one can, but it all adds up! We chose a river otter because they are a native animal that is directly impacted by water pollution here in our region.”

For more information, please contact Stormwater Management Coordinator Mina McLean MacDonald at (803) 833-8729 or by email at [mmacdonald@fortmillsc.gov](mailto:mmacdonald@fortmillsc.gov).

### **About Palmetto Pride and the Town of Fort Mill Stormwater Department**

The South Carolina Governor’s Task Force on Litter was established in 1999 to lead the fight against litter in our state. By 2001, the Task Force established PalmettoPride as a non-profit, 501(c) 3 organization that is comprised of state agencies, concerned citizens, corporate sponsors, and community and civic groups with the goal of encouraging “behavioral change” in our citizens about litter. Learn more by contacting [info@palmettopride.org](mailto:info@palmettopride.org).

The Town of Fort Mill Stormwater Department is dedicated to a vision of safe, healthy, and sustainable Fort Mill waterways that can be enjoyed by everyone. We do this by working to maintain and improve Fort Mill’s waterways from pollution by mitigating the effects of urban development. Part of this mission is accomplished by engaging the community through public participation and education initiatives. ###