

# Reedy bank work delayed

BY CHARLES SOWELL | STAFF  
4/8/11 Greenville Journal

GREENVILLE OFFICIALS are still waiting for approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to start work on a modified plan to stabilize the banks of the Reedy River at the Peace Center downtown.

Dwayne Cooper, city engineer, said last week that the work is being put off until they can get approval from the Corps. "We had a meeting this morning and decided to delay the startup."

When city officials opened the sluice gates at the pond near the Wyche Pavilion they discovered a huge sandbar blocking the side of the stream where they planned to install boulders that will mirror the rocks placed on the opposite bank.

Jessica Chapman, assistant city engineer said then she saw the sandbar she notified the Corps and decided to close the sluice.

The deposit appeared to be mainly sand washed into the river from construction sites upstream. Work has been ongoing upstream at the Kroc Center and A.J. Whittenberg Elementary.

Previous sediment work at the pool resulted in fish kills downstream when big slugs of mud washed down from the worksite.

Chapman said at no time during the latest work did turbidity monitors placed downstream show levels in excess of EPA standards for impaired rivers. A device was put in place before work began to minimize sediment releases.

The Reedy is on the state and federal listings for impaired streams due to turbidity and issues relating to nutrient levels.

Heather Nix, of Upstate Forever, said her organization heard about the



Greg Beckner/Staff

A large sandbar is blocking one side of the river near the Wyche Pavilion.

project the Friday before work was scheduled to begin.

"We didn't have time to review the plans," she said. "We hope that the city will give us time to take a look at things before this gets underway again."

The 2006 incident that resulted in the fish kill lead Department of Health and Environmental Control officials to investigate and initiate an enforcement action against the city. No fine was levied in that case.

The Reedy, like most urban rivers suffers from low dissolved oxygen content, in the fish kill incident the city used heavy equipment to push the silt into the flowing part of the streambed and it washed downstream.

Dead fish started showing up in the river shortly afterward.

The River Walk opposite the Peace Center and Falls Park, located just downstream, have become an iconic symbol for the city.

On sunny warm days the River Walk and the park are packed with strollers.

The bank stabilization project is designed to enhance and preserve that attraction, city officials have said.

Contact Charles Sowell at 679-1208  
or [csowell@greenvillejournal.com](mailto:csowell@greenvillejournal.com).