

Upstate Advocate

2017 | VOL. 2

LOOKING AHEAD

Our strategic goals for 2018-2022
envision a future that is green,
vibrant, and prosperous.

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A bold strategy for a green, prosperous future

The word "strategy" can sound impersonal, but at the foundation of every strategy is something deeply personal — a commitment to our core values. Whenever we begin to create a strategic plan, we think about *what it is we value* and how we'll take deliberate steps to support those values.

We all know that the Upstate is growing — fast. And we know that strategic action is necessary to manage that growth while maintaining the things we treasure about our region. But what exactly do you value most about the Upstate? Have you stopped to really think?

For me, the following images come to mind. Riding my bike on the Swamp Rabbit Trail on a clear September afternoon. (No ride is complete without a treat and a selfie at the Swamp Rabbit Café & Grocery!) Going for long nature walks at Caesars Head State Park with my two sons. Fresh, locally farmed food that's readily available at restaurants and farmers markets. Our walkable downtowns,



vibrant public spaces, and parks and green areas.

I feel so fortunate to live in an area where natural beauty coexists with such a high quality of life, and, with your support, Upstate Forever is working hard to make sure it stays that way.

To that end, we have come up with a bold Strategic Plan for the next five years. And I'm not exaggerating when I say bold! One of our most audacious goals is to protect an additional 15,000 acres of open space. It's a tall order, but we believe that, with your support, we can achieve it. Given the Upstate's rapid growth, when it comes to protecting green spaces, it's now or never. (You can read more about our Strategic Goals starting on page 5.)

I hope you'll enjoy this issue of the *Upstate Advocate*, which focuses on planning for the future and how we can begin to make positive changes right now to ensure smart growth, clean water, and a high quality of life for future generations. From guiding Greenville's growth options through the upcoming County Comprehensive Plan (page 8) to envisioning a better energy future for the entire state (page 10), Upstate Forever has its eyes on the horizon.

Andrea

Andrea Cooper, Executive Director



A nonprofit conservation organization that protects critical lands, waters, and the unique character of the Upstate of South Carolina.

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MAIN OFFICE

507 Pettigru Street,
 Greenville, SC 29601
 (864) 250-0500
 info@upstateforever.org

www.upstateforever.org

SPARTANBURG OFFICE

201 E. Broad Street, Suite 1C
 Spartanburg, SC 29306
 (864) 327-0090
 spartanburg@upstateforever.org

Preservation Ride 2017 a success at new venue

Boasting a new venue and its first-ever mountain bike ride, the 6th annual Preservation Ride was a great event. All in all, we had 165 total road cyclists, mountain bikers, and hikers show up to enjoy a beautiful day at Pleasant Ridge State Park in Greenville County. Thanks to all who participated, sponsored, and volunteered! PHOTOS BY DICK CARR



THANK YOU, SPONSORS!

Ashmore Brothers, Brown Arrow, GE, Half-Moon Outfitters, Kehl Culbertson Andrighetti, KPMG, Mast General Store, McMillan Pazdan Smith, Piney Mountain Bike Lounge, ScanSource, Schneider Tree Care, Symtech

In-Kind Sponsors: Allegra, Bike Law, Boyd Cycling, Greenville Cycling & Multi-Sport, Performance Bicycle, Swamp Rabbit Cafe, Swamp Rabbit Inn

Celebrating nearly two decades of conservation

Since 1998, Upstate Forever has worked to protect some of our region's most important assets — its wild and working farmlands, rivers and clean air, and rural character — and to ensure that our Upstate communities are vibrant and retain their unique identities in the face of rapid development and significant sprawl. As we approach our 20th anniversary, here's a look back at some of the accomplishments we're most proud of!

- » Signing 114 conservation agreements that protect more than 21,000 acres of critical lands in the region, such as Stumphouse Mountain in Oconee County, Nine Times in Pickens County **(1)**, key tracts in the Blue Ridge Escarpment, land along Highway 11, and a number of beautiful farmlands that collectively help to preserve our greatly threatened natural heritage
- » Becoming the first land trust organization in South Carolina to receive national accreditation
- » Playing an essential role in securing and opening Greenville's GHS Swamp Rabbit Trail **(2)** and catalyzing an extension of the trail from downtown to CU-ICAR and continuing to play an active role to complete the long-term plan for the trail
- » Establishing and operating the Greenville B-cycle bike-share program
- » Leading coordination of blueway trail mapping throughout SC and working to improve river access across the Upstate **(3)**
- » Mobilizing public opposition to stop Duke Energy's proposed substation and 45-mile long transmission line across the Foothills and Blue Ridge Mountains of the Upstate and western North Carolina, and working with Duke to find a mutually beneficial alternative
- » Securing a voluntary agreement from Duke Energy to remove coal ash improperly stored along the Saluda River
- » Stopping a proposed mega-landfill in Spartanburg County and a coal ash landfill in Pickens County and promoting waste reduction and recycling through collection events for household hazardous waste and pharmaceuticals
- » Restoring nearly 3,000 feet of trout habitat along the South Saluda River
- » Managing one of the most comprehensive watershed studies ever undertaken in the country and leading implementation of many recommended solutions throughout the Saluda-Reedy Watershed **(4)**, resulting in significant water quality improvements which allow residents and industries to continue to use and enjoy Lake Greenwood **(5)**

See more success stories at www.upstateforever.org/successes



It's decision time.

No matter how you look at it, the Upstate of South Carolina is special. With its breathtaking landscapes, award-winning parks, and high quality of life, it's no wonder the area is experiencing unprecedented growth. And growth can be a great thing — if appropriately planned!

Unfortunately, the way our area is currently growing will result in gratuitous sprawl, strained infrastructure, and depletion of natural resources. The Upstate, many times recognized as a nationally celebrated “hidden gem,” could soon become just another bland metropolitan expanse with unplanned sprawl, oppressive traffic, and not enough green space.

It's not too late to change this trajectory, but we're running out of time. Upstate Forever is working tirelessly to advocate for policies and plans that support smart, balanced growth. Our strategic goals for 2018-2022 envision a future that's healthy, vibrant, and prosperous. We need you to help us protect the critical lands, waters, and unique character of the Upstate of South Carolina.

Turn the page to learn more about Upstate Forever's goals for the next five years.



Protect land and water

We must reduce sprawl, preserve green space, and safeguard our water supply.

THE PLAN:

- » Identify and permanently protect an additional 15,000 acres of the lands related to water quality and high quality habitat for plants and animals, resulting in the start of a system of greenbelts.
- » Reduce land consumption rates in 10 local municipalities by enacting plans and policies that support alternatives to sprawling development.
- » Serve as a resource to expand access to recreational opportunities, such as greenways for hiking and biking, open space for hunting and birding, and blueways for fishing and paddling.
- » Maintain water quality of streams, rivers and lakes (even as population pressure increases) and ensure river flows remain as healthy as they are today as an unprecedented number of individual and industry users compete for our valuable water resources.

Foster a love of place

Our area is special — Let’s keep it that way.

THE PLAN:

- » Instill community pride and ownership of the Upstate’s lands and waters by engaging local citizens in the protection of the areas that define our natural heritage: the Upstate’s Conservation Keystone areas.
- » Grow our member base to more than 5,000 by expanding public awareness and understanding of the importance of balanced growth and the protection of our natural heritage.
- » Foster new collaborations with community leaders, local governments and other organizations.

We need your support to achieve these goals!
upstateforever.org/get-involved

Convey the importance of now

The Upstate is at a tipping point.

THE PLAN:

- » Educate the public about the need to preserve the natural assets that make our region so special – farmlands, forests, rivers and recreational areas.
- » Raise awareness of the urgency and critical need to balance the rapid growth of the region with the protection of our natural resources before it is too late. Based on an analysis from 2017, if we continue on our current land use trajectory, by 2040 the size of the Upstate’s urban footprint will more than double. That means that an area (currently serving as wildlife habitat, open space, or farmland) larger than Spartanburg County will be consumed — primarily by low-density, single-use residential living.

Serve as a trusted community champion

We will advocate to defend your natural resources.

THE PLAN:

- » Act as a watchdog by improving or actively opposing large projects that threaten water quality, critical lands, community character, and quality of life.
- » Engage the public and expand their role in shaping future growth and protecting natural resources.
- » Encourage civic, business, and political leaders to prioritize planned and balanced growth.
- » Build and maintain a strong and capable staff with the resources to achieve the organization’s mission to protect critical lands, waters, and the unique character of Upstate South Carolina.

Questions about our strategic goals? Contact Sally Boman, Communications Director, at sboman@upstateforever.org.

Why we give to Upstate Forever



KATIE & CLARK GALLIVAN

Clark and I both grew up with a deep appreciation of the outdoors and all of its treasures. It’s extremely important to us to pass that on to our sons, so that no matter where they go, they’ll always look to the natural world for peace and recreation. We believe it’s much easier to support that which we understand, so educating them about their environment is essential. The Upstate community is our home, and we’re increasingly (and anxiously) aware of the dramatic, unsustainable growth in our area. We are unwavering in our support for Upstate Forever and their diligent efforts to protect this place we hold so dear. 🌿

To become a member, go to www.upstateforever.org/donate

Greenville County can't afford the status quo



Lisa Scott Hallo
 LAND POLICY DIRECTOR
 lhallo@upstateforever.org

Remember the controversial approval of the Copperleaf subdivision in the rural southern part of Greenville County last summer? Amidst strong public opposition, and despite the fact the subdivision did not align with the Greenville County Comprehensive Plan, the proposed development was approved in late August 2016 by the Greenville County Planning Commission. In response, a community group – Citizens for Quality Rural Living – appealed the commission’s decision, a fight that appears to still be ongoing in the court of law.

Or what about the more recent Woodruff Road and Highway 14 rezoning case – you remember, that particularly messy and highly-contentious land use dispute involving a Sprouts Grocery Store, a local church, an adjacent cemetery, and many angry neighboring citizens? A close vote by Greenville County Council ultimately approved the rezoning, allowing the

“Increasingly, people are coming to Greenville County Council to express their frustration with the effects of large-scale suburban developments on local roads, landscapes, utilities, and services. Citizens feel overwhelmed by the volume of development and by the massive scale of cutting and grading being done. People are concerned about how all this is changing their lives... Much more can be done to ensure growth meets demand in ways that preserve and promote the great quality of life enjoyed here – now and into the future.”

H.G. "BUTCH" KIRVEN
 Greenville County Council Chair
 (from a recent op-ed)

development to proceed and provoking the ire of nearby residents.

One of the reasons for the residents’ rancor was that the rezoning did not comply with the county-adopted East Woodruff Corridor Plan. That said, planning staff, planning commissioners and the majority of county council members supported the rezoning request.

Whether or not you recall these particular land use disputes or agree with their ultimate outcomes, the sheer number of rezoning requests – and more so – number of approvals that don’t comply with adopted plans – should indicate an obvious need to update land use plans and ensure that zoning and other land-use regulations reflect those updates.

When plans and policies are out of sync, it is confusing and frustrating to both citizens and developers, and difficult for elected and appointed leaders to navigate. Moreover, such a disconnect devalues the time, energy, and resources community members, government staff, elected officials, developers, and other stakeholders give to such planning efforts.

Upstate Forever is a conservation organization that protects the critical lands, waters and unique character of our region. We rarely engage in specific land use disputes due to the time, attention, and energy each would require, and in fact, did not take positions on the disputes described above. We work instead to establish land use plans and policies that accommodate growth in ways that are more sustainable and less harmful to natural resources in the long term.

The need for more proactive growth management in Greenville County is urgent. By 2040, Greenville County – already the size of Mecklenburg County (Charlotte) less than 30 years ago – is projected to become home to 160,000+ new residents. This growth could be positive if managed proactively. However, land development trends over the last several decades do not instill confidence that proactive growth management will come without a deliberate community-based effort to demand such action.

A recent study commissioned by Upstate Forever and partners highlighted that if land development trends continue, nearly 206,000 additional acres of land in Greenville County – primarily farms, forests, rural lands and other open space – will be consumed by low-density subdivisions, strip malls and parking lots by 2040.

This pattern of development will be exorbitantly expensive >>



Sprawling development is extremely expensive to serve long term. The estimated revenues from our current pattern of development are less than half the projected costs to serve. PHOTO: BEN GEER KEYS

>> to serve, and the estimated revenues produced will likely not cover half of the projected costs. What’s more, this trajectory will negatively impact quality of life for current citizens – exacerbating traffic congestion issues, gobbling up farmlands, and ruining the scenic beauty of many of our most prized natural places. Sprawling development also makes travel by any other mode than a personal vehicle nearly impossible. This disproportionately impacts the county’s most vulnerable citizens, who often do not have reliable access to personal automobiles, and presents a formidable barrier to residents’ access to essential goods, services, and opportunities.

Learn more about the growth study at www.shapingourfuture.org

The county’s comprehensive plan is the basis for proactive growth management. It is the guiding document that illustrates how and where new development should happen and identifies recommendations for how such a vision could be enacted. Citizens want a voice in future development, but many times are at a loss as to how to make their voice heard. And rightfully so – the path to such influence is often convoluted at best. Citizens are frustrated, as many plans fail to ever materialize as policies and thus fail to result in the change they want to see in their communities.

Greenville County is scheduled to kick-off their comprehensive plan update process – which only

happens every 10 years – in late 2017 or early 2018.

That process is an opportunity for county leaders to engage their constituents in an informed conversation about growth and for all involved to better understand – and thus more effectively balance – the trade-offs associated with land use choices that must be made as Greenville grows. It is imperative that a diverse spectrum of county citizens are empowered to participate in that planning process.

It is even more important that once they do – and the plan is adopted – county leaders take bold steps to enact land use policy that reflects the plan and realizes the community’s vision.

Land use policies affect us all, and the Comprehensive Plan is one of the best tools to ensure that Greenville County’s growth policies reflect the wishes of the community.

Upstate Forever wants to help demystify and empower citizens to influence the Comprehensive Plan update process. Join this dedicated email list to receive updates, alerts, and ways to get involved for all upcoming Greenville-based comp plans:

www.upstateforever.org/cp-updates

South Carolina's shifting energy paradigm

The failed V.C. Summer project revealed that our state needs better options



Shelley Robbins
ENERGY & STATE POLICY MANAGER
srobbins@upstateforever.org

Every time I've written about the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station project in the Midlands, I've intentionally avoided the term "meltdown." It was too trite. But after this summer's announcement that the project, undertaken jointly by SCE&G and Santee Cooper, would be abandoned, "meltdown" seems to be the only term that fits.

So what happened? Basically, South Carolina's laws and regulatory oversight all cataclysmically failed and the project collapsed under its own weight.

Upstate Forever staff saw this coming when Westinghouse, the contractor hired to build the two nuclear reactors, filed for bankruptcy. We calculated the cost to complete the V.C. Summer project and compared it to current costs for natural gas plants and grid scale solar, which are much cheaper. The numbers simply didn't add up. How could the powers that be possibly determine that finishing the nuclear plants was in the best interest of South Carolina ratepayers?

That was in April — three months before V.C. Summer officially scrapped the project.

It was clear then that V.C. Summer was in deep trouble, but they didn't pull the plug when they should have. The ratepayers will pay the costs. And it's not just the Midlands and Lowcountry, who'll bear the consequences— the Upstate will be affected too.

First, the Upstate must suffer the environmental damage and the assault on property rights caused by Dominion's 55-mile Transco to Charleston natural gas pipeline, which will cross through sensitive habitat in the Upstate from Moore to Chappells. When completed, the project will permanently impact 255 acres of land, including agricultural, forest and residential land, and will cross bodies of water 73 times. This pipeline will serve the Midlands and Lowcountry customers in lieu of the nuclear plant. The Upstate gets no benefit.

Second, Duke Energy will need to make some decisions about future capacity in the Upstate soon, and it doesn't look like nuclear is a viable long-term option. They will almost certainly have to decommission the Oconee Nuclear Station around 2030, and they're abandoning its



The V.C. Summer project. PHOTO: NRCGOV

plan to build the Lee Nuclear Station in Cherokee County. Massive nuclear capacity simply isn't justified or cost-effective. The V.C. Summer failure exemplifies this.

The good news is that this situation has brought systemic regulatory problems to light— specifically, the deep flaws in the state's Base Load Review Act from 2007. The act's problems are exacerbated by a weak Public Service Commission and an Office of Regulatory Staff that operates under a conflicting mission - to represent the interests of both citizens and industry in matters before the commission.

This structure must change. Fortunately, Gov. Henry McMaster has called for hearings on the nuclear failure, but this isn't enough. The entire system needs an overhaul, and now is the perfect time because the state's energy paradigm is currently shifting dramatically.

Costs for utility-scale solar have fallen, battery storage technology has improved, and there is a significant interest in energy efficiency options. All of these things can be incentivized by the state, but the regulatory structure in South Carolina either doesn't allow it or makes it very difficult. I wonder how many residential batteries or solar panels could be incentivized with the money spent on one peaking plant?

It's also completely conceivable that new base load will not need to be built at all. This is already being proposed in California and New York, where nuclear base load is being replaced by aggressive efficiency, renewables, and storage programs.

We have the opportunity right now to make positive change. Let your Upstate legislators know you want more accountability, more transparency, and more clean energy options for all of us in South Carolina. 🌿

Originally published as an op-ed in the Greenville Journal

How can we improve the health of our rivers?

A look at the main factors that impair water quality, and what you can do to help



Heather Nix
CLEAN WATER DIRECTOR
hnix@upstateforever.org

You might think it's a simple question: "Are our Upstate rivers healthy?" But the answer is complicated — because water quality IS complicated. As the director of Upstate Forever's Clean Water program, I want to help people understand the factors that impact the health of our rivers. Let's start with the basics... what are some of the main river contaminants we look for to determine water quality, and what can you do to help prevent problems?

Nutrients

Nutrients sound like a good thing, right? And they are, except when we're talking about streams and lakes with high nutrient levels — specifically nitrogen and phosphorus — which means that more algae can grow. This is bad for a few reasons. Algae can lead to fish kills, get stuck in boat propellers, make swimming unpleasant, interfere with industrial or agricultural use of water — and it can make drinking water taste really bad (even though it's perfectly safe to drink).

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO REDUCE NUTRIENTS?

- » Reduce your fertilizer use and apply it only when appropriate — not before rain, not close to a stream/river/pond/lake.
- » Have your soil tested so you know how much fertilizer you actually need to apply.
- » Plant native plants! They're already adapted to local conditions, so they generally need little to no fertilizer (or irrigation) to thrive. Bonus: native plants also support local bird and wildlife populations.

Sediment

Sediment is composed of soil particles. It's basically what makes rivers look muddy. Other pollutants can easily "bind" to sediment, so when sediment levels are high, other pollutant levels will often be elevated as well. Erosion along streambanks, driveways, construction sites, and ditches is a leading cause of increased sediment in rivers.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT SEDIMENT?

- » Improve vegetation along streams and roadside ditches to help hold the soil in place.
- » Reduce stormwater runoff by capturing rain in rain

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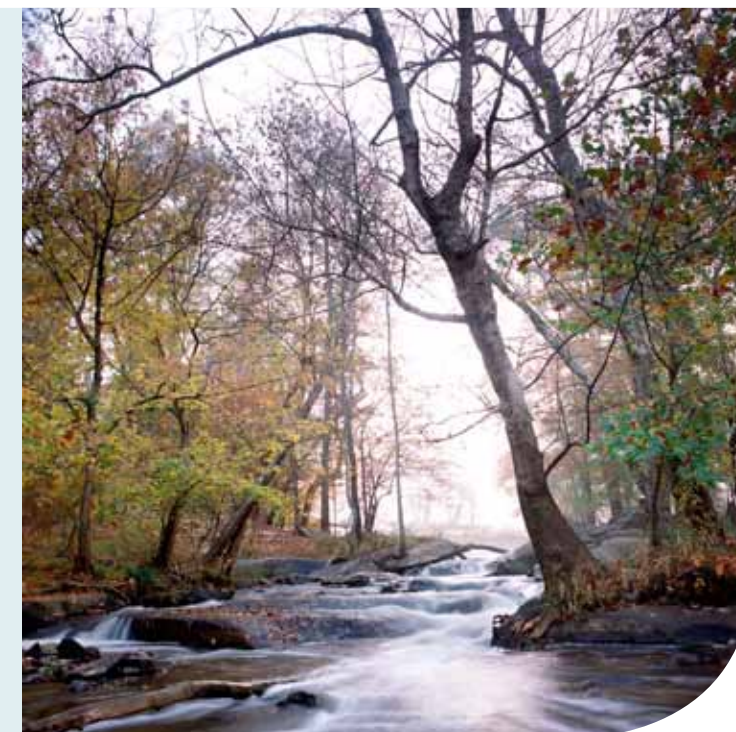
Plan an Upstate river adventure

In addition to our work improving water quality, Upstate Forever also supports outdoor recreation through our blueway mapping projects. The following maps are available:

- » The Pacolet and Lawson's Fork Blueway
- » The Tyger River Blueway
- » The Upper Saluda River Blueway (1 & 2)
- » The Broad River Blueway
- » The Twelve Mile River Blueway

We are currently working to map the Enoree, Reedy, and Chauga Rivers.

To download PDFs or request a waterproof map: www.upstateforever.org/blueway-mapping



Cedar Falls on the Reedy. PHOTO: DON KOONCE

More acreage protected at Hester Dairy

A 110-acre tract formerly used to pasture cattle for the historic Hester Dairy in Pickens County is now permanently protected through a partnership between Upstate Forever and conservation-minded landowner Newell Hester. Located just outside of Easley, the historic Hester Dairy Farm was purchased in the late 1800's from Robert Elliot Holcombe, the first "citizen" of Easley. The protected property not only preserves the unique character and history of the Easley community, but also helps keep working farmlands in production. It includes significant frontage on Burdine Creek, a tributary of Georges Creek and the Saluda River, and contains several wetlands essential to protecting water quality and providing habitat for a diverse array of wildlife.



Found at the historic Hester Dairy farm by Upstate Forever staff, clockwise from top left: native thistle, five-lined skink, lichen and slime mold, bachelor button and yellow clover, maidenhair fern, and scarlet buckeye

UF welcomes two new board members

We are thrilled to welcome Charles Mickel and Pamela Vaughn to our board of directors. A native of Greenville, Charles serves as President of RSI Holdings, Inc. and Manager of Capital Deployment, LLC and various other entities. Charles is active in the Greenville area community, serving on the boards of The Daniel-Mickel Foundation, the Charity Ball, GLDC, Clemson University President's Advisory Board, The Cotillion Club, the Peace Center, the Governor's School for the Arts Foundation, and the Finance and Investment Committee of the Community Foundation of Greater Greenville.



Charles Mickel



Pamela Vaughn

Pamela is the Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Manager at FUJI-FILM Manufacturing U.S.A., Inc in Greenwood. In this key position within the organization, she is responsible for the site's environmental and regulatory compliance, preservation and stewardship. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Tennessee Technological University.

B-cycle has installed its tenth station

Greenville B-cycle installed its tenth publicly-accessible bike station in July in front of the new Link Apartments West End. The new station brings Greenville's bike-share network to a total of 10 stations - the target number identified by partners Upstate Forever and Greenville Health System (GHS) when the program first launched less than five years ago. Greenville B-cycle offers adult-sized bicycles that members can check out and return at conveniently located stations throughout downtown. For more information, visit GreenvilleBcycle.com.



Byrnes Mile Linear Park officially underway

The installation of Whistle Stop #1 is the first in a series of landscaped parklets that will establish Byrnes Mile Linear Park. Byrnes Mile Linear Park is an outgrowth of partnership efforts led by Upstate Forever with funding from the Mary Black Foundation to help Spartanburg County communities become more walkable. Three additional Whistle Stop locations have been identified for future installations, and ultimately, 20 parklets enhanced with train-themed art are planned to complete Byrnes Mile Linear Park. Each Whistle Stop will provide a place for rest and/or engagement along a mile-long fitness trail that connects key destinations in Duncan.



Critical Lands mapping project completed

With the generous support of Pacolet Milliken Enterprises, Upstate Forever recently completed a mapping project to identify the region's most environmentally sensitive lands in regards to water quality and high-quality habitat. Developed in partnership with Furman University and using advanced ecological modeling software, the map will be a key tool in determining the most effective ways to protect our region's natural heritage - the most critically important farmlands, forests, natural areas, and public lands. What's more, it made the cover of the August 10 Greenville News!

Paddle SC website is live

Upstate Forever launched the new Paddle SC website (www.gopaddlesc.com), which features an interactive map of blueways in South Carolina. The site allows users to easily search for a water adventure based on criteria such as skill level, location, and duration of trip. An online map includes listings of trips ideas and waterways across South Carolina as well as resources that will help paddlers navigate such as coastal tides and river flow gauges. The website will be updated with additional content on a regular basis, so start planning your blueway trip today.

The latest update on Glassy Mountain

Upstate Forever filed an appeal and a request for pre-litigation mediation in Pickens County circuit court in response to a decision by the Pickens County Planning Commission to approve a development at the base of the Glassy Mountain Heritage Trust Preserve in Pickens County.

In late August, a Pickens County judge denied the developer's motion to dismiss our appeal, which is great news for us! We will continue our efforts to preserve this special area and keep you updated on our progress.

The proposed development has been the subject of local outcry since it was first made public. Glassy Mountain, a rare geologic formation known as a "monadnock," is a Pickens County icon. The SC Department of Natural Resources preserves 65 acres of the monadnock, the Glassy Moun-



tain Heritage Preserve, as this landform is unusual in South Carolina and harbors several rare plant species. Glassy Mountain is surrounded by several large, privately-owned and rural or agrarian tracts that contribute significantly to the protection of the sensitive ecosystem that surrounds it and contribute to the viewshed.

The appeal was filed in conjunction with adjacent landowners Shelly Smith and Doug Hinkle. Upstate Forever, Smith and Hinkle are represented by J.J. Andrighetti of the Greenville law firm Kehl Culbertson Andrighetti LLC. The appeal is based on the Commission's

failure to consider several issues, including inadequate access roads.

Our goal is to have this controversial proposal remanded back to the Planning Commission for closer scrutiny and more public input. Unfortunately, a legal challenge is the only mechanism available to move us toward that goal. We applaud the county staff and their efforts to date and we look forward to resolving this issue in a manner satisfactory to all parties while protecting the rural character of the area and the treasure that is the Glassy Mountain Heritage Trust Preserve.

CLEAN WATER 101

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

barrels or cisterns, reducing impervious surfaces, and diverting runoff from gutters into vegetated areas to allow it to soak into the ground.

Bacteria

This is the big one — the primary contaminant that tends to scare people about river quality. The main offender: poop of all kinds. Whether it's from dogs, livestock, wildlife, or sanitary sewer overflows, it all can contribute to a river that may not be safe to swim in. But it can be hard to detect and control, since it comes from a wide variety of sources and isn't readily visible.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT BACTERIA?

- » Dispose of ALL pet waste in a trash can.
- » If you have livestock, fence them out of streams. It's healthier for them, it reduces erosion, and it prevents them from pooping straight into streams.
- » Make sure your septic tank is properly maintained to prevent contamination of streams or lakes.
- » Resist the urge to feed geese! They produce 1-2 pounds of waste per day, and it's higher in bacteria than other animals.
- » To further discourage geese, allow vegetation to grow higher near streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds. Better riparian buffers (which is what streamside areas are called) also help filter pollutants out of stormwater and prevent streambank erosion.
- » Call sewer utilities immediately if you notice a sanitary sewer overflow or leaking pipe.

Litter

Trash and debris are unsightly, pollute our water, reduce our enjoyment of rivers and lakes and harm the organisms that live there. Whether it starts out along a road or in a yard, at some point rainwater will carry litter into a stream. Some items, like styrofoam and plastic, last almost forever and will eventually make their way into the ocean. But even natural debris, including yard waste, can degrade water quality and cause flooding if it clogs a storm drain or culvert.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT LITTER?

- » Make sure all of your trash ends up in a trash can.
- » Pick up litter wherever you see it.
- » Don't pile your yard waste near a storm drain or in the street gutter. Composting can be a great solution and increase the health of your soil.

The Upstate is full of amazing streams and rivers; with a little help from each of you, we can be sure to pass along clean water to future generations! 🌿

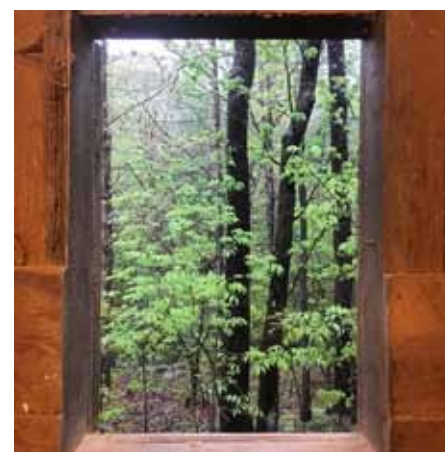
Originally published as a Voices column at GVLToday.com.



@NRG51



MANELLA CALHOUN



@DOCBRADLEY



@PHILLIPMCREIGHT

Last spring, we asked you to show us what you love about the Upstate's natural splendor, and here are some of the results! We still want to see your outdoor adventures, whether you're hiking, cycling, gardening, or just taking your kids to the park. (Bonus: you might be featured in our next newsletter!) Here's how to participate:



UpstateForever

Like our page and tag us in your outdoor photos!



@upstateforever

Tag us and/or use the hashtag #myupstateforever



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Mention us and/or use the hashtag #myupstateforever



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Protecting Land & Water | Advocacy | Balanced Growth

507 Pettigru Street, Greenville, SC 29601
201 E. Broad Street, Suite 1C Spartanburg, SC 29306

www.upstateforever.org



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Thank you for helping us protect the special character of the Upstate.

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW WEBSITE?

Thanks to A-LINE Interactive, our website has a fresh new look and streamlined navigation. Visit www.upstateforever.org to check it out!

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- » Make a monetary gift at www.upstateforever.org/donate
- » Make a planned gift through property, life insurance, a bequest, or a trust. Learn more at www.upstateforever.org/legacy
- » Join the Wyche Society, which is open to all who give \$2,500 or more annually, by emailing aknight@upstateforever.org
- » For more ways to help, visit www.upstateforever.org/get-involved

SAVE THE DATES

- » Annual Meeting - Sunday, November 12, 2017
- » ForeverGreen Luncheon - Tuesday, February 27, 2018

CYCLISTS AT THE UPSTATE FOREVER PRESERVATION RIDE. PHOTO: DICK CARR



GREENVILLE
HEALTH SYSTEM

GHS is pleased to support Upstate Forever in improving the quality of life for all Upstate residents.