

Upstate Advocate

2017 | VOL. 1

SHAPING OUR FUTURE

The Upstate is projected to welcome more than 300,000 new residents by 2040.

Now is the time to decide how we will grow.

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WORKING TO PROTECT OUR VANISHING FARMLANDS

THE SHAPING OUR FUTURE ANALYSIS LOOKS AT HOW WE'RE GROWING

THE VALUE OF PROTECTED OPEN SPACE

Planning for Future Growth

Dear Upstate Forever Member,

Balancing the Upstate's growth is no easy task, but thanks to you, we've been hard at work to protect what we all love about this beautiful region.

As you know, development pressure continues to increase. We can't assume that our natural places are going to remain undeveloped, and we must be proactive in planning our growth.

Upstate Forever is working tirelessly to provide an effective balance and — in the words of our updated mission — to protect the critical lands, waters, and unique character of the Upstate of South Carolina.

To that end, we recently completed our new strategic plan with aggressive goals to achieve by 2022. The staff and board worked hard to fine-tune our efforts to ensure that we can have the greatest impact as an organization. Look for more information about our strategic plan (and how you can help us achieve it) later this summer in a special mailing.

As your advocate for smart growth and the protection of critical lands, Upstate Forever is making great strides.

Our Land Trust staff is working with landowners on more than 4,500 new acres for conservation easements, and our Clean Water team is working with utility providers to protect drinking water quality.

Additionally, Upstate Forever helped spearhead the Shaping Our Future Growth Alternatives Analysis, which paints a sobering picture of our region's sprawling growth trajectory, and provides alternatives for far more desirable growth patterns over the next 20 years and beyond. You can read more about the study, and its implications for our work, starting on page 4, and at www.ShapingOurFutureSC.org.

As a region, we have the opportunity to be proactive and create the future we all want to see, but we need your help to grow our efforts — we can't do this alone. Please share our work with your friends, families, and coworkers.

Thanks for your support!



Andrea Cooper,
Executive Director



Spring Reception recognizes members of the Wyche Society

Event featured remarks by Dr. Patrick McMillan and Andrea Cooper

Upstate Forever hosted a Spring Reception for the Wyche Society on Tuesday, May 23 at the home of Executive Director Andrea Cooper and Edwin Cooper. About 70 people attended the event and enjoyed remarks by Dr. Patrick McMillan, Director of the SC Botanical Garden & Hilliard Professor of Environmental Sustainability At Clemson, and Andrea Cooper.

The purpose of the Wyche Society is to honor the Wyche family legacy of conservation in the Upstate, to promote fellowship and collegiality among its members, and to provide an ongoing forum to discuss land conservation, clean water, and growth management issues.

Membership in the Wyche Society is open to all who support Upstate Forever annually at a level of \$2,500 or above.

To join, please email Aldon Knight, Director of Development and Community Relations, at aknight@upstateforever.org

Photography by
David Bonner / TOWN Magazine



Note: all photo captions are left to right. **1.** Dick Carr, Marianna Habisreutinger, and Erwin Maddrey **2.** Glenn Hilliard and Dr. Patrick McMillan (speaker for the event) **3.** Jack Stone and Ricardo Urbina **4.** Anne Kester and Nancy Giguere **5.** Betty Stall and Betty Pearce **6.** Bruce Snyder, Susan Riordan, and Mike Riordan **7.** Signe Cann, Bill Taft, Pat Dilger, and Judy Cromwell



A nonprofit, membership-based organization promoting sensible growth and protecting special places in the Upstate region of South Carolina.

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It's time to decide the way we want to grow.

The ten-county Upstate region of roughly 1.4 million residents today is projected to welcome more than 300,000 new people over the next 25 years—an increase of 64% since 1990. Greenville County's population alone is nearly that of Mecklenburg County (Charlotte) 25 years ago, and Greenville County will likely receive approximately half of the growth projected for the Upstate during the next 25 years.

How and where the region grows will have real impacts on our quality-of-life - affecting commute times and transportation choices, economic development, environmental sustainability, home choices, government finances, and family pocketbooks. The Shaping Our Future Consortium, composed of Upstate Forever, Ten at the Top, and the Riley Institute at Furman, recently completed a 10-month Growth Alternatives Analysis to explore the implications of growth patterns in our region.

The Issue: Our Trend Land Use Trajectory (Sprawl) is Unsustainable

Development in the Upstate over the past 25 years has followed a low-density, single-use pattern moving away from existing city centers - commonly referred to as sprawl. This land use pattern consumes a tremendous amount of land and requires costly outward expansion of roads, water and sewer lines, and other community services to support new growth. There is no one driver to blame - the 'blueprint' for this type of growth is contained within the plans, programs and ordinances of government, market demands, available investment capital and developer interests.

The findings from the Growth Alternatives Analysis show that if the Upstate continues on this current land use trajectory, by 2040 the amount of land consumed to accommodate new growth could more than double (Figure 1). Government's cost to serve newly developed areas will increase dramatically over time, and expected revenues will likely not cover half of the projected costs. The amount and rate of change for some Upstate communities could threaten our high quality-of-life and competitive advantage.

A Call to Action

Most Upstate communities would like to find ways to accommodate new growth and encourage economic prosperity while protecting current community character, citizens' quality-of-life and unique natural assets. However, changing the Upstate's current land use trajectory will not be easy. Tough choices must be made.

There are alternatives to sprawl. The Growth Alternatives Analysis also measured the impacts of three hypothetical alternatives: Compact Centers, Major Corridors and Rural Villages. Visit www.ShapingOurFutureUpstateSC.org to access the full report and other relevant materials.

If you are a community stakeholder interested in further examining the study's findings in your jurisdiction, we want to help! For more information, contact Upstate Forever at (864) 250-0500 or info@upstateforever.org.

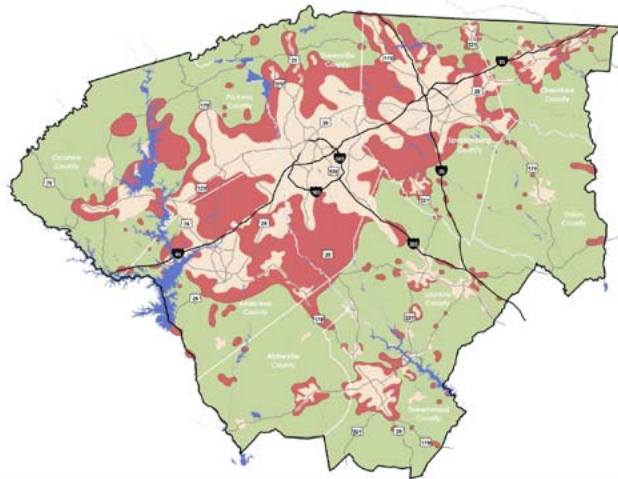


Figure 1: The tan area represents current development in the Upstate, while the red area shows projected growth by 2040 if we do not change current development patterns.

This scenario is a hypothetical future illustrated by conceptual maps created by the consultant for modeling purposes only.

The Economic Value of Protected Open Space

The following is adapted from the Shaping Our Future Growth Alternatives Analysis, which included a case study series highlighting growth-related issues that Upstate communities are current grappling with and recommendations for how to address them. The full text of the case study, authored by Nadine Bennett working with consulting firm City Explained, is called "The Economic Value of Protected Open Space & Local Water Resources," can be found online at www.ShapingOurFutureUpstateSC.org.

Applying an economic value to the natural world seems in some ways to be a paradox. Many of us think of natural spaces as places to escape the everyday world of dollars and cents. While we typically recognize the health and quality-of-life benefits afforded by a forest walk, a favorite fishing hole or a beautiful landscape, we often fail to acknowledge the economic benefits such areas provide.

Not surprisingly, farmers, hunters, and fishermen often intrinsically understand the value of productive land and clean water - in economic terms. With their livelihoods in some cases dependent on these resources, they have historically been some of the first to advocate for their proper stewardship and conservation.

Most past attempts, however, to assign economic value to natural areas have focused solely on resources that quickly convert to commodities, such as standing timber.

More recently, however, economists and researchers are taking a more sophisticated look at the economic value of natural areas, open space and local water resources. And some forward-thinking communities and utilities are taking action to not only preserve, but also capitalize on, the economic value these natural areas provide.

Natural areas can serve as local economic engines

As anyone who has visited Great Smoky Mountains National Park on a busy summer weekend can attest, the popularity of scenic places has risen

dramatically in recent years. Studies have cast new light on how natural areas can serve as local economic engines for nearby communities.

While this opportunity may seem obvious for communities outside national parks like Great Smoky Mountains, it is also true for other scenic destinations and publicly-accessible natural areas such as state and city parks, and greenways and blueways. Known as "amenity destinations," these communities often have stronger, more diverse economies - especially as compared to other rural areas.

Upstate destinations such as Table Rock State Park, Sumter National Forest and Chattooga National Wild and Scenic River draw visitors from around the country. Jocassee Gorges - in Pickens County - has been ranked by National Geographic as "one of the world's last great places." Visitors to these destinations support the local economy, especially small businesses critical to



the prosperity of smaller towns.

One of the Upstate's success stories is the Greenville Health System Swamp Rabbit Trail, a 20-mile trail weaving from south of downtown Greenville to north of Traveler's Rest. The Trail was the product of a multi-year effort of a coalition of public and private resources, including initial key efforts from Upstate Forever. Once complete, the uniquely-named trail has sparked an economic resurgence as restaurants and businesses have popped up or even relocated to be alongside it. The most recent estimates of usage suggest that over a half million people use the trail per year.

Ecosystem Services: the benefits we receive from the natural world

In the last century, researchers have coined terms such as "natural capital" and "ecosystem services" - generally defined as benefits that people receive from the healthy and often complex systems found in the natural world.

These services are not just luxuries, but rather, are vital to life on earth. Additionally, when not provided by nature for little or no cost, these services must be provided through other - often costly - means. For example, we know that deforesting watersheds negatively impacts water quality, making it more difficult and expensive for utilities to treat for human use. Conversely, protecting land surrounding drinking water intakes is a strategic investment to reduce

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



1. Reedy River Easement 2. Campobello 3. Garrett Farm 4. Keithfield 5. Pennell Farm

Upstate Forever Protects New Properties

Over the last few months, Upstate Forever’s Land Trust has partnered with six landowners across Greenville, Spartanburg, and Anderson Counties to permanently protect their rural properties from development.

Upstate Forever’s accredited Land Trust now permanently protects 113 properties totaling close to 21,000 acres across the Upstate through voluntary conservation agreements with landowners. For more information, contact Scott Park at spark@upstateforever.org

Critical Connections for 7,500 Acres

A 302-acre former tree farm in Spartanburg County is now permanently protected through a partnership between Upstate Forever and a conservation-minded landowner. Located just outside of the historic Glenn Springs area in Pauline, the Keithfield property provides a critical connection linking Croft State Park to another large property protected by Upstate Forever. Altogether, over 7,500 acres of protected natural resources now exist in this area. The property is mostly forested, with about 60 acres of farmland. A historic family cemetery sits adjacent to the property, with grave markers dating back to the early 19th century.

With the protection of Keithfield, Upstate Forever member and landowner Dr. John Keith, Jr. supports a larger effort to improve water quality in the Tyger River Basin, which is designated by the state of South Carolina as “impaired.” The property includes significant frontage

on Pauline Creek, Lancaster Branch, and Dugan Creek. Additionally, Keithfield contains 17 acres of ponds and wetlands, essential to protecting water quality and providing habitat for a diverse array of wildlife.

Once Threatened, Now Preserved

The proposed site of a power substation — nearly 200 scenic acres in northern Spartanburg County — is now permanently protected, thanks to a partnership between Duke Energy, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Upstate Forever. In a happy ending to the Duke powerline controversy of 2015, TBP Properties, LLC, a subsidiary of Duke Energy, donated the Campobello tract »

“This is a win-win. The rural character of Campobello will be maintained, while the resale of the property will generate needed funds to protect more land in the Upstate.”

MARK ROBERTSON
State director for The Nature Conservancy in South Carolina

» to TNC, which concurrently signed a conservation easement with Upstate Forever to ensure the land will remain rural in perpetuity. As part of the agreement, TNC may subdivide almost 200 acres into three homesites and will use funds generated by the resale of the property to protect more land in the Upstate.

The Campobello tract has traditionally been used as pastureland and includes about 770 feet of frontage along Scenic Highway 11 and 760 feet along Interstate 26. The property sits adjacent to Smith Chapel Baptist Church and cemetery, as well as the historic Smith Chapel Elementary School. Former slave John Henry “Buck” Smith founded the congregation circa 1900.

A Mile of Reedy River Protected

On what was the site of a planned subdivision in rural southern Greenville County, 68 acres are now permanently protected. Combined with existing easements in the area, this partnership preserves an entire mile of Reedy River frontage and more than 440 acres of hardwood forests and agriculture. The generous landowner wishes to remain anonymous.

Preserving Farmland and Habitat

The protection of Pennell Farm in Anderson County by landowners Don and Kay King preserves rural agriculture, hardwood forests, riverine habitats, walking trails, hunting areas and scenic rural views. Mr. King has already protected an adjacent tract with Upstate Forever and has hosted landowner education events on his property to spread the word about conservation. The 109-acre Pennell Farm is an active farm and contains significant frontage along Hencoop Creek, which is also considered an “impaired” waterway in South Carolina.

A Rural Remnant in a Developing Area

A 112-acre farm in southern Greenville County will remain agricultural forever, thanks to a conservation agreement between Upstate Forever and a forward-thinking landowner. W. Gordon Garrett is preserving his family farm so a fifth generation and beyond can enjoy this beautiful land near Fountain Inn. Although the area around the farm on Fairview Road has changed dramatically over the years, Garrett Farm remains mostly forested, with about 28 acres of pasture and a six-acre wetland.

By protecting this property from future development, the rural scenic view along nearly 2,000 feet of Fairview Road has been preserved forever. In addition, the tract includes significant frontage along both sides of Craigo Creek and two tributaries of Rabon Creek, so protecting the land also has a significant positive impact on water quality, especially for Laurens County residents. 🌿

Cragmoor Farms: Adding to the Lunch Line

Demand in our region for healthy food has expanded into our school districts, with some significant examples in Greenville and Spartanburg counties. Servicing schools creates a large, consistent demand for local farmers. Thanks to a generous landowner, the farm-to-school project in Spartanburg just got bigger and better.

Cragmoor Farms, a historic farm in Spartanburg County adjacent to the Walnut Grove Plantation, added more land to nearly triple its protected acreage. The initially protected site is already being prepared to grow food to benefit Spartanburg County School District Six schools. Plans for the expanded acreage includes grazing fields for cattle. Upstate Forever protected the initial parcel with a conservation easement in 2016. This site will provide fruits, vegetables, and educational opportunities to students in pre-K through 12th grade.

The 72-acre addition to Cragmoor Farms completes the 120-acre project and surrounds Walnut Grove, which is on the National Register of Historic Places and is open to the public as a living history farm. Cragmoor Farms was once part of the same tract as Walnut Grove, owned by a single family dating back to the Colonial Era. Partial funding from the South Carolina Conservation Bank will offset some of the costs involved in placing the easement, making the land donation, and endowing the property’s perpetual care.

... To learn more about how farmland preservation creates a strong foundation for local food, turn to page 8.



Cragmoor Farms

Supporting local food by saving local farms

The issue: local farms are vanishing.

Let's start with the good news for farmers in the Upstate: current demand for local food exceeds supply, so there's plenty of room to grow in the market for high-quality agricultural products and protein. However, to have an abundance of local food, you must have plenty of local working farms.

With unprecedented growth projected for the Upstate over the next 25 years (see page 4 for more details), the amount of land developed to accommodate this growth could more than double. Because rural land is so highly prized by developers for new construction, owners of local small to mid-sized farms are facing growing pressure to sell.

For more information about the Upstate's growth trends, turn to page 4.

A strong foundation for local food starts with protecting high-quality rural farmland. Upstate Forever's land conservation efforts have helped save

more than 4,900 acres containing farmland since 1998. Here's a look at why farms are so crucial for our quality of life and rural heritage.

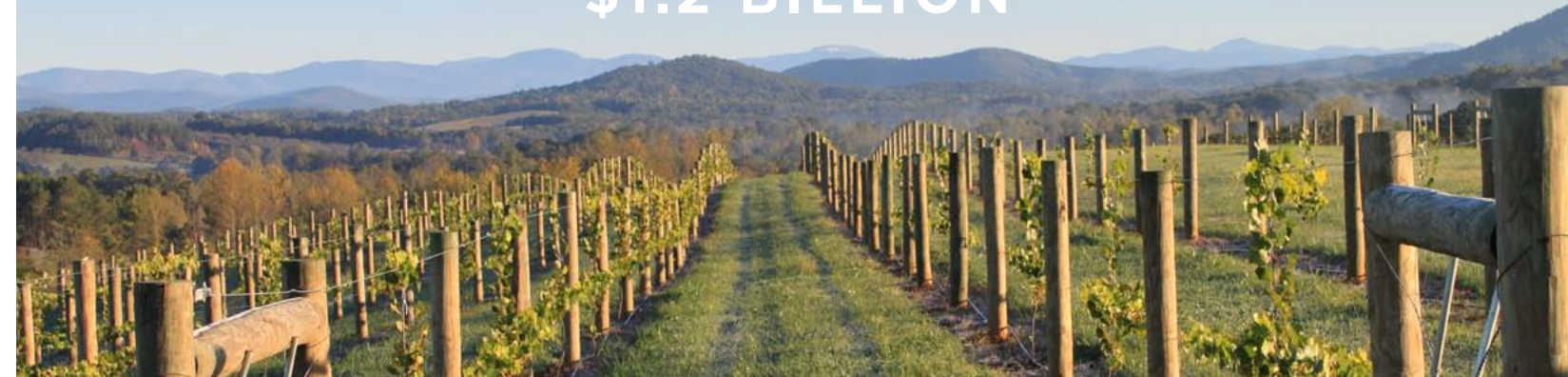
Farms are good for the economy.

Our current economy has pushed towards manufacturing, while our farms are being converted into residential subdivisions. However, keeping a wide range of options open for available career paths benefits any community. Farming has always been a foundational part of South Carolina, and continues today, but this heritage is quickly losing traction as a viable way to make a living. In order to maintain any future potential for the farming community and related businesses, farmland preservation is key.

Some enterprising new and expanding farms are positioned to serve the local specialized market. These farms direct their products to specifically supply value-added products such as heirloom grains, fruits, and vegetables that are integral to beers, wines, breads, and the menus of local high end restaurants, as examples. These uses from local products have experienced a recent renaissance with the advent of farmers markets, community supported agriculture >>

If every South Carolina resident purchased \$5 worth of food each week directly from a farmer in the state, the potential impact would be about

\$1.2 BILLION



>> subscriptions, and support for regional food hubs.

The economic development opportunities for the region and state, as a result of a thriving local food network, are significant. In fact, the potential impact if every South Carolina resident purchased \$5 of food each week directly from a farmer in the state would be about \$1.2 billion.

Local food is fresher and healthier.

The shorter the trip from the farm, the fresher the food. Our local weather and water availability are generally ideal for growing a wide range of crops, oftentimes grown without greenhouses and limited irrigation. Some farms are moving towards using these tools to improve growing capacity and to reduce liability to crop losses, however, with great return.

Retaining the ability to choose to grow and buy our food locally means better food security and resilience from national or international interruption in supply. With the number of steps between harvest and our plates, many challenges exist to maintain freshness and nutrition. Regulations and clean handling processes may be overlooked by the end consumer, but every step to transport food introduces potential contamination and reduced nutrition.

To see how Upstate Forever's conservation efforts at Cragmoor Farms support healthy school lunches, turn to page 7.

Rural areas increase quality of life

Communities dominated by farmlands create a rich, rural lifestyle that continuously attract new residents for many reasons. Rural living means working farms, including ranches, hay fields, commodity crops; farm machinery on roadways; long distances to cities; and all of the activities associated with farming practices like

planting, fertilizing, irrigating, harvesting and transport.

Land values in these communities are generally affordable, although commute time and number of car trips needed to live in the area are significantly higher for new residential subdivision dwellers. Oftentimes, these types of developments have replaced a farm, which stresses transportation, water use, sewage volume, police and fire protection, while infringing on nearby farm operations. Stronger land use planning is needed to create balance in rural communities.

How can I support local farmers?

You can support local farmers by buying local at the grocery store or farmer's market or from the regional food hub. Food hubs are a great way to ease the stress of marketing, distribution, and processing that small farmers may face.

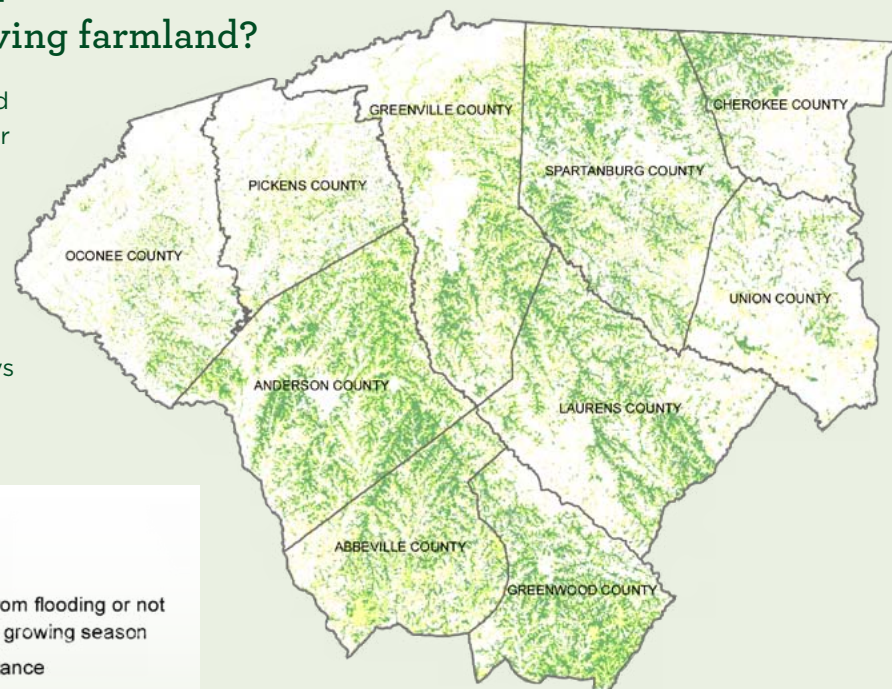
A local food hub is a business or organization that actively manages the aggregation, distribution, and marketing of source-identified food products primarily from local and regional producers to strengthen their ability to satisfy wholesale, retail, and institutional demand.

The Coastal Conservation League launched GrowFood Carolina, the state's first local food hub, in 2011. Since opening, GrowFood has grown from marketing for five producers to more than 75, and has returned more than \$3 million to South Carolina farmers.

Any Upstate residents feeling left out? Not to worry! Our region's first food hub, Feed & Seed, will be opening its doors soon. The Feed & Seed facility will be located on Wellborn Street in downtown Greenville, right next to the Swamp Rabbit Trail. This Upstate Regional Food Hub is a big step forward to supporting small- to mid-size farmers, since it bolsters their access to larger markets. It may even help some retain their family farms despite development pressure. 🌱

What criteria does Upstate Forever look for when preserving farmland?

- Lands that, if developed, would have significant effect on water quality
- High quality soils and those deemed important for farming (see map)
- Potential buffers to protected lands and significant waterways
- Parcels over 100 acres



farm land classification

- All areas are prime farmland
- Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
- Farmland of statewide importance

Spartanburg office relocates to Broad Street

We're also very excited to announce that Upstate Forever's Spartanburg office has moved to 201 E. Broad Street, Suite 1C. The new location is just around the corner from the office on Main Street we called home for more than 12 years. That location, with its large display windows and highly visible location, is truly more appropriate for retail use. We are thrilled to have been a part of downtown Spartanburg's revitalization, which has progressed to the point that our old location will become a retail destination once more.

Our new office is conveniently located, better suited to our needs in its layout, and will save valuable funds that we can use for our programs. Our Greenville office remains at 507 Pettigru Street.



Ava Thacker and Sherry Barrett welcome visitors to Upstate Forever's new Spartanburg office

Southeast Climate Resilience Circuit Rider Program acceptance

We're happy to announce that Upstate Forever was recently accepted into the Land Trust Alliance and the Open Space Institute Circuit Rider program, which reviews and relates how our work strategy interacts with the affects of climate change. A circuit rider with expertise in climate resilience and strategic conservation planning will offer direct coaching and technical assistance to help Upstate Forever integrate climate resilience concepts into our strategic conservation planning.

UF welcomes two new staff members

Pam Barber is the most recent hire and joined the team as the new Land Stewardship Manager in mid May. Pam is a graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Law and earned a Ph.D. in conservation planning at the University of Central Florida. As Land Stewardship Manager, Pam will administer stewardship of Upstate Forever's conservation easements, work with landowners, and engage in public outreach.



Pam Barber



Sally Boman

Sally Boman joined Upstate Forever as Communications Director in early April. A Greenville native, she graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor's degree in liberal studies and from Virginia Tech with a master's degree in English. Sally will develop a communications strategy to broaden the organization's exposure, assist with grant-related materials, and create marketing collateral for events and campaigns.

We've launched a brand new look

You'll notice a fresh new look to this newsletter and other Upstate Forever materials. As we sharpen our focus on protecting critical lands and waters and advocating for balanced growth with our 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, the organization is ready for an updated look to go with it.

The new logo and associated materials are forward-looking and represent our mission. Plus, the simplified color scheme will allow for greater flexibility in application. But whatever colors, fonts, and designs we may use, we remain the same organization we have been since our founding in 1998: Protecting land and water, advocacy, and promoting balanced growth.



Do your online shopping through Amazon-Smile, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to Upstate Forever. Sign up at www.upstateforever.org/amazon-smile.

Thank you, Greenville Women Giving!

At their 2017 Annual Meeting in May, Greenville Women Giving (GWG) awarded Upstate Forever a grant for \$80,000 in the Environmental category. Upstate Forever will use the grant funds to preserve Greenville's unique character through land conservation efforts.

"With this grant, we're specifically focused on two outcomes," said Scott Park, Land Conservation Director at Upstate Forever. "First, we want to preserve the character of Falls Park, which is an irreplaceable asset to our downtown, by permanently protecting 55 Camperdown from the recently proposed development. Second, we will work to protect Greenville's rapidly vanishing farmlands to help retain our rural heritage and create a strong foundation for local food."

"We deeply appreciate GWG's generosity and are so thankful to their members for believing in our mission to balance growth with the protection of our natural resources," said Upstate Forever's Executive Director Andrea Cooper.

Founded in 2006, Greenville Women Giving has donated \$4.8 million in total grant funding over the past 11 years.

To learn more about how farmland preservation creates a strong foundation for local food, turn to page 8.



Photo: Erin Knight

SHAPING OUR FUTURE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

treatment costs down the line and deliver high quality water to customers.

Several Upstate utilities have begun working more recently in partnership with local land trusts, private landowners and others to utilize voluntary land protection as a proactive means to encourage stewardship of soil and water on private lands in strategic locations.

How development patterns impact Ecosystem Services (and our wallets)

When land is converted from fields and forests to urban development, any ecosystem services that were once being provided by that land are lost. Though it is difficult to quantify these types of benefits, recent advances in the field are making this kind of research more accessible.

As part of the Shaping Our Future project, the Furman researchers examined the degree to which undeveloped lands in the Upstate provide value in terms of water quality protection, high quality habitat and carbon sequestration. Not surprisingly, their research found that if Upstate communities

continue on their current growth trajectory, they stand to lose the greatest amount of value currently being derived from natural areas as related to critical habitat, carbon sequestration and water quality protection.

Fortunately, many impacts from land use changes can be mitigated with thoughtful planning. Leaving vegetative buffers along streams, thoughtfully managing timber and agricultural lands, and strategic land protection can go a long way towards mitigating the impacts of development on ecosystem services.

A recent application of this innovative modeling software is the development of an Upstate Critical Lands Map. Through a partnership of Upstate Forever, Furman University and Pacolet Milliken Enterprises, the region's most environmentally sensitive lands in regards to water quality and high quality habitat for plants and animals have been identified and mapped.

Other factors such as adjacent protected lands, historic sites and drinking water sources also helped pinpoint these special places. Upstate Forever will use the results of this work to help guide future land protection efforts and provide local Upstate governments with important data to inform future comprehensive planning and land use policy decisions.

ForeverGreen Annual Awards Luncheon Honors Six

Upstate Forever's ForeverGreen Annual Awards Luncheon was extra special this year. In addition to honoring six amazing conservation champions, the event featured lunch prepared by award-winning chef Alan Scott. WYFF's Myra Ruiz emceed the event, which culminated with an entertaining and informative keynote speech by Josh Dorfman, "The Lazy Environmentalist."

Our 2017 honorees are:

Sustainable Communities Champion
Homes Of Hope

Clean Water Champion
ReWa (for Project Rx)

Clear Skies Champion
Trees Greenville

Three Rs Champion
Gina McClellan and the Pickens County "Traveling Trash Bash"

Public Servant Of The Year
Senator Larry Martin

Volunteer Of The Year:
Neil Batavia



1. 2017 Honorees, left to right, Joelle Teachey (TreesGreenville), Sen. Larry Martin, Gina McClellan, Stacey Flax (ReWa), Don Oglesby (Homes of Hope), and Neil Batavia 2. Upstate Forever Executive Director Andrea Cooper, Keynote speaker Josh Dorfman, and Upstate Forever Board Chair Mark Taylor 3. WYFF's Myra Ruiz

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Membership in the Wyche Society is open to all who support Upstate Forever annually at a level of \$2,500 or above. To join, email Aldon Knight, Director of Development and Community Relations, at aknight@upstateforever.org

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SAVE THE DATES

- » Preservation Ride - Saturday, September 23, 2017
- » Annual Meeting - Sunday, November 5, 2017
- » ForeverGreen Luncheon - Tuesday, February 27, 2018

COMING SOON

- » GoPaddleSC.com will be online this July! Paddle SC is a statewide online interactive map connecting paddlers of all skill levels to nearby rivers and adventures.



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