

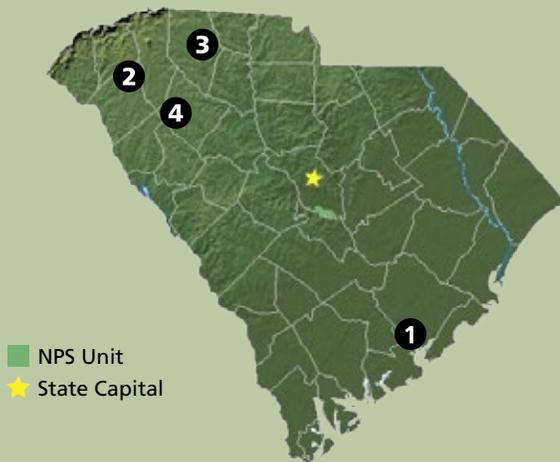


South Carolina News



Lowcountry regional blueways. Photo: Archie Thompson

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2015



- NPS Unit
- ★ State Capital

CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Lowcountry Regional Blueways**
Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments
- 2. Saluda River Blue Trail**
Anderson County Parks and Recreation Department
- 3. Spartanburg County Blueways**
Spartanburg Area Conservancy (SPACE)
- 4. Laurens County Trails Master Plan**
Laurens County Trails Association

Find out more about each project starting on this page.

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

Recent Successes

Saluda River Blue Trail, 2014 River Rally

As part of the Saluda River Blue Trail project, Anderson County Parks and Recreation hosted its fifth annual Saluda River Rally. The annual event included outdoor activities such as kayaking, tubing, fishing, hot air ballooning, camping, and bluegrass music. With well over 500 in attendance over a two-day period, the event continues to grow from past years and helps increase awareness of the many Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) recreational and watersports opportunities available on the Saluda River.

The River Rally also highlighted one of South Carolina's first ADA floating kayak launches. As part of the proposed 48-mile Saluda River Blue Trail, the Dolly Cooper Park river access point is the first of many planned ADA accessible launches to be installed along the blue trail.

Current Projects

1. Lowcountry Regional Blueways

Project Partner: Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments
NPS Contact: Bill Lane
Location: Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester Counties
Congressional Districts: SC - 1, SC - 6

Project Goal

Create a regional blueways partnership to link coordination and planning efforts on all tri-county waterways in order to enhance recreation, economic development, and environmental stewardship while protecting the area's natural

We're Here For You.

Could your project benefit
from NPS Staff Assistance?
Contact us to find out.

Bill Lane
404.507.5690
bill_lane@nps.gov

2014 Nationwide Partnership Success

3,278.74 Miles of Trail Developed

2,046.25 Miles of River Conserved

9,411.06 Acres of Open Space and
Parkland Protected

Find more information online
at
www.nps.gov/rtca



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Current Projects cont.

resources through education and outreach strategies.

NPS Role

Provide guidance in developing a regional blueways partnership and educational outreach material and strategies and work with the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments to collect and inventory all existing recreational opportunities.

2. Saluda River Blue Trail

Project Partner: Anderson County Parks and Recreation Department

NPS Contact: Bill Lane

Location: Anderson County

Congressional Districts: SC - 3, SC - 4

Project Goal

Develop a 48-mile blue trail along the Saluda River in Upstate South Carolina. The greater vision will create a 127-mile blue trail connecting six counties and several municipalities. Phase one will include developing long-term support strategies, new partnerships, creating a wayfinding signage design manual, and designing specific access points.

NPS Role

Assist project partners to develop a 48-mile ADA accessible blue trail, including support for a new partnership with SC-ASLA in order to complete a two-day design charrette. The charrette will focus on creating concept plans for two river access points—Greenville County access point and portage design around Piedmont Dam.



Saluda River Rally. Photo: Matt Schell, Anderson County Parks and Recreation

3. Spartanburg County Blueways

Location: Spartanburg County

Project Partner: Spartanburg Area Conservancy (SPACE)

NPS Contact: Bill Lane

Congressional District: SC - 4

Project Goal

Create a countywide master plan and paddle guide for blueways throughout Spartanburg County and develop strategies for unifying existing blueway efforts and partnerships.

NPS Role

Work with the Spartanburg Area Conservancy to develop a master plan and paddle guide, marketing and branding package, and short- and long-term development strategies for unifying existing blueway efforts.

4. Laurens County Trails Master Plan

Location: Laurens County

Project Partner: Laurens County Trails Association

NPS Contact: Bill Lane

Congressional Districts: SC - 3, SC - 4

Project Goal

Create a conceptual trail system master plan for Laurens County, conduct a feasibility study for extending the Swamp Rabbit Trail, and plan for a demonstration project from existing trails or new construction.

NPS Role

Work with project partner to develop a trails master plan, trail feasibility study, and demonstration project. Assistance includes facilitating public workshops, GIS mapping, researching potential funding sources, and evaluating the feasibility of routing the Swamp Rabbit Trail through Laurens County.