

Upstate Advocate



HUMAN + NATURE

TEN UPSTATE RESIDENTS REFLECT ON THE BEAUTY AROUND THEM



Photos by Morgan Yelton

ON (& OFF) THE CLOCK:

Upstate Forever staff at work and play



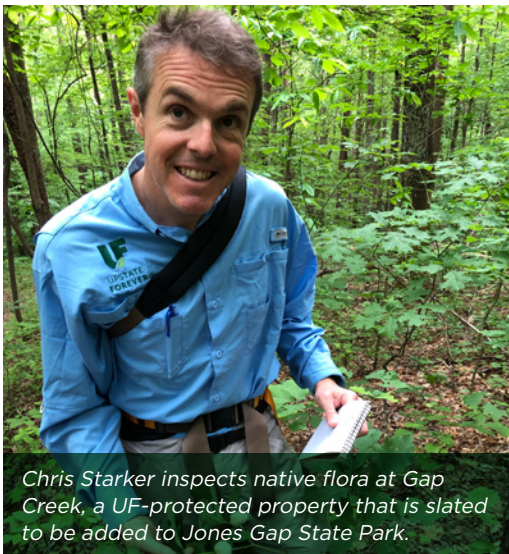
The UF Spartanburg staff checked out Glendale (and picked some in-season scuppernongs).



Board chair Joe Lesesne & executive director Andrea Cooper at CVSC's Green Tie Luncheon



Peg O'Donoghue & Caitlyn Smith enjoy frozen treats from Pink Mama's, courtesy of Smoak PR



Chris Starker inspects native flora at Gap Creek, a UF-protected property that is slated to be added to Jones Gap State Park.



Protecting Land & Water | Advocacy | Balanced Growth

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Mission

Upstate Forever is a conservation organization that protects critical lands, waters, and the unique character of the Upstate of South Carolina.

Vision

To conserve our land and water resources, resulting in an environmentally healthy and economically prosperous region, with a high quality of life now and for future generations.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

What's your nature story?

In our fast-paced daily lives, one of the things I am most grateful for is the time I was able to spend with my family every summer at Caesars Head when my sons were young. Back then, we had no wi-fi, no TV, and no smart phones. The outdoors was the entertainment, and it certainly kept my kids entertained.

Vines were tree swings, and creeks were places to spend hours catching crawfish and striders. A snake could be hiding under any rock. It's amazing the number and diversity of bugs, moss, ferns, and trees that we found in the Mountain Bridge Wilderness area. Nighttime was filled with toasting s'mores and catching fireflies. We were connecting not only with nature, but with each other as well. Those days were some of the best in my life, and I will always cherish them.

I imagine that most of you have similar stories about how spending time outdoors has enriched your life. Intact natural areas are essential not only for clean drinking water, thriving ecosystems, and climate resiliency, but for human health and happiness.

In this issue of the *Upstate Advocate*, we asked ten local residents to share their perspectives on nature and how it has shaped their lives. Their responses touch on childhood memories, mental health, outdoor recreation, family traditions, local food, spirituality, and more. Each one expresses, in their own way, how fortunate they feel to live in a region with such rich and remarkable natural character.

Thanks to you, Upstate Forever is working hard to protect that natural character by saving special places and finding alternatives to the sprawl that could easily consume them. With your support, we will protect the Upstate's most important land and water resources for our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren to enjoy — so they can create their own nature stories.



Andrea Cooper, Executive Director



Andrea Cooper with her son Havilah on the Chattooga River

ON (& OFF) THE CLOCK:

Upstate Forever staff at work and play



Dr. Nika White led a great diversity & inclusion training for our board & staff members.



Clean Water Advocate Megan Chase gets ready to hit the trail on her mountain bike.



GIS Coordinator Katie Hottel visits Falls Park with husband David & son Lewis (10 months).



Communications Coordinator Megan Burton & her husband Hunter welcomed their daughter Eleanor Jane Burton to the world in September.

Members of Upstate Forever's Wyche Society enjoyed a morning hawk watch at Caesars Head State Park in September. Interpretive Ranger Tim Lee gave a fascinating talk about the annual hawk migration, during which thousands of hawks (and other birds of prey) can be seen flying near Caesars Head each fall. *[Read more about Ranger Tim Lee and his passion for sharing the wonders of nature on **PAGES 14-15.**]*

The Wyche Society includes all donors who support Upstate Forever annually at a level of \$2,500 or above. For more information, visit upstateforever.org/wyche-society. PHOTOS BY MORGAN YELTON



Upstate Forever exceeds \$7.5 million capital campaign goal



By Aldon Knight

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
& COMMUNITY RELATIONS
aknight@upstateforever.org

I am thrilled to announce that we exceeded our initial \$7.5 million goal in the *Crossroads Campaign* to protect green space, safeguard water quality, and promote balanced growth in the Upstate region.

The campaign launched publicly this March and ultimately raised nearly \$8.5 million, including a \$1 million anonymous gift made in memory of Marjorie E. Schmidt, a long-time Greenville resident with a heart for nature.

By 2040, more than 320,000 additional people will call the Upstate home. We are at a crossroads regarding how and where we will grow. We want to welcome our new neighbors while being vigilant about the natural assets we need and love.

As a conservation organization, we saw a need to take bold, immediate action to protect land, water, and the special character of the Upstate in light of such unprecedented growth. That's why we launched the *Crossroads Campaign*, and we're truly grateful to everyone who supported it.

Thanks to the many generous donors who gave to the *Crossroads Campaign*, Upstate Forever can work even more effectively to ensure that we grow intelligently while protecting the natural character that makes the

Upstate Forever will use funds from the *Crossroads Campaign* to help:

- Permanently protect 15,000 additional high-priority acres of land by 2022
- Safeguard the region's water quality and quantity
- Provide for work with communities to reduce sprawl
- Engage more voices for conservation and responsible growth practices

Upstate a beautiful place to call home.

Efforts are already underway to protect critical lands throughout the region. Funding from *Crossroads* has directly supported land conservation efforts in places like Jones Gap State Park, Paris Mountain State Park, Persimmon Ridge, and acreage along the Chauga River

[See **PAGE 19** for more information on the *Chauga Heights* project.]

Even with our rich legacy, our work has just begun! Upstate Forever will continue to protect our precious lands and waterways while improving the quality of life in an ever-changing environment. You make this important work possible!

SAVE THE DATE

ForeverGreen

ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

Please save the date for Upstate Forever's annual ForeverGreen Luncheon on Monday, February 24, 2020 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Embassy Suites at Verdae Boulevard in Greenville.

In addition to the awards program, this year's luncheon will feature a special celebration to honor Upstate Forever founder and conservation hero **Brad Wyche**. Stay tuned for more information!



Congratulations to the 2020 award recipients:

THE MARJORIE E. SCHMIDT STEWARDSHIP AWARD
Tom Kester, for his faithful ongoing support of Upstate Forever and other local conservation efforts

THE TOMMY WYCHE LAND CONSERVATION CHAMPION
Norman Pulliam, for his visionary leadership as SC Department of Natural Resources board chair

PUBLIC SERVANT OF THE YEAR
Rep. Bill Sandifer, for his game-changing role in passing the Energy Freedom Act

HUMAN + NATURE

TEN UPSTATE RESIDENTS SHARE HOW THE NATURAL WORLD SHAPES THEIR LIVES

Photos by Morgan Yelton

Shelly Smith | PICKENS COUNTY

Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

As a child, I always felt a little different and felt safest and most at home when I was outside. My favorite pastime was lying in the grass and looking up at the trees and the clouds. My first job as a counselor was at the Greenville Mental Health Center in 1992. One day, I was meeting with a young woman diagnosed with schizophrenia and decided we should go outside for a walk while we talked. I remember it was a crisp fall day and beautifully colored leaves were littering the sidewalk. We were walking in silence and out of the blue she said, "You know Miss Shelly, when I'm out in nature, I don't feel mentally ill." It hit me like a punch to the heart and I heard myself say, "Yes. I know exactly what you mean."

Fast forward twenty years and I decided to transition my private practice to seeing clients exclusively on my thirty-acre property in Pickens County. I didn't have any models for doing this and wondered if I was crazy. But, I'd had great results doing equine-assisted therapy with incarcerated teenage girls and noticed that simply being outside helped them be more in touch with themselves, more willing to express their feelings and learn new ways of relating to themselves and others.

In 2012 I started Nature's Way Home, a nature-based, body-informed counseling, coaching, and personal growth practice. While new clients are sometimes skeptical, once they sit down, they'll look around and consistently say things like, "Oh. This is beautiful," and will start to settle down and relax. I can see it in their posture and in their breathing. My property sits at the base of the iconic Glassy Mountain. It's surrounded by protected lands and home to abundant wildlife. The pristine waters of Town Creek flow through it. I've had people from all walks of life and different spiritual traditions say that there's something special and almost sacred about the land.

Combat veterans with PTSD, people with long-standing depression and/or chronic anxiety, and ordinary men and women who are tired and stressed, and tired of being tired and stressed, have found healing and restoration sitting on the bridge over the creek or out in the pasture, watching the horses, as we talk. One combat veteran said, "I would have never been able to do this sitting in an office." (The this he was referring to was the body-informed process I use to access and release traumatic memories.) A rape victim I worked with could only tolerate her memories when holding onto a tree.

There are many more stories like these, but regardless of the severity of the pain or the type of healing that's called for, I've seen time and time again that being in nature heals us. It grounds us to our bodies and the wealth of information that's stored there, and to our own innate wisdom and healing potential.

In 2017, the Upstate was at risk of losing this peaceful, private refuge that has helped so many. The 182-acre property immediately adjacent to Nature's Way Home was slated for a 254-home development! Most of my clients drive from Greenville and other more populated areas to get away from subdivisions and construction. The noise of the construction alone would have meant the end of my business, my livelihood, and the end of a unique, powerful, and nature-based alternative to traditional counseling.

With the help of Upstate Forever, an agreement was reached to save the 182 acres from development and the surrounding properties like mine from its negative impacts, forever. My clients and I are so grateful. Thanks to Upstate Forever, many more people will experience the healing power of nature in this potently conscious way and the ripple effect will extend out to their families, their workplaces, and their communities.



"Combat veterans with PTSD, people with long-standing depression or chronic anxiety, and ordinary men and women who are tired and stressed have found healing and restoration sitting on the bridge over the creek."

— SHELLY SMITH



Margaret Harrison

SOUTHERN GREENVILLE COUNTY

Farmer, H & G Produce

Fall is my favorite time of the year. I love the different shades of red, orange, and yellow that appear all around. The Upstate has so many beautiful areas during the fall season. The Fred W. Symmes Chapel (also known as “Pretty Place” Chapel) one of the most beautiful places in the Upstate, is especially beautiful during the fall season. The views from the chapel are breathtaking, in my opinion. I remember a couples retreat that my husband and I attended at Pretty Place one fall. I remember looking out and observing how beautiful the colors of the fall landscape were. That experience is one I will hold near and dear to my heart.

Fall is also a time of year that I can continue doing what I love. I am a farmer in Pelzer, SC. Throughout the year, I plant seasonal vegetables. In the fall, I harvest the sweet potatoes that my husband and I planted. My husband Bryant and I have been farming for more than 30 years. He started at a very young age. We started a small company called H & G Produce, where we grow and sell fresh produce at different markets, including the Swamp Rabbit Café & Grocery. I enjoy seeing plants grow and producing food of my own effort. It’s just a blessing to see how you can sustain yourself. The question: Where would we be if we didn’t farm?



Clark Gallivan

GREENVILLE COUNTY

Financial Advisor, UBS

I grew up in Greenville in a house full of “nature geeks.” We always had conversations about nature — it was part of the fabric of our family, and curiosity was just a way of life. Since childhood, my life experiences have revolved around that foundation. My fondest memories include “hiking,” which I now know was my parents’ code word for getting my two brothers and me out of the house. My wife and I now do the same with our four sons.

For college, I chose Sewanee, which is located on 13,000 acres on a mountaintop, and pursued degrees in geology and forestry. I worked as an environmental consultant for many years, and still welcome opportunities to combine my degree and past experience with my current career as a Financial Advisor at UBS. My team has a growing focus on sustainable investing, which allows us to help clients achieve their goals, while having a positive impact on the environment and society.

Outside of the office, for recreation or even as part of my exercise routine, I prefer to be outdoors and engaged with nature. My wife, Katie, and I try to raise our sons the same way, spending time in the natural world and teaching them to have an awareness of those things that make it so special. I’m truly grateful for organizations like Upstate Forever, and appreciate them working so diligently to protect natural areas in the Upstate.

Rev. Rob Brown

SPARTANBURG COUNTY

Rector, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

My earliest memories revolve around images of the outdoors. Walking along a stretch of Grand Strand beach with my older brothers, the sound of bobwhite quail flushing out of high grass along an old fencerow at a family farm in McCormick, and a glimpse of the gray and blue outline of the Blue Ridge lifting its shoulders above the horizon just north of Spartanburg. The fields, forests, and waters of our beautiful state feed my soul.

As an Episcopal priest, I feel compelled to be a steward of God's creation. In Genesis 2:15 we are told to till and keep the garden. We are caretakers and have a responsibility to safeguard the land and water and renew or restore whatever is broken. It is a Holy task, but it doesn't speak to my heart as work or obligation. Instead it is an invitation to live in peace with purpose.

There is an old story I've heard attributed to multiple sources of an old man who watches his granddaughter leave their synagogue and wander into the woods where he hears her praying among the trees and wildlife.

He asks her why she goes there to pray. She tells him that she feels closer to God when she is in nature. He smiles and says to her that God is the same everywhere. She answers quite simply, "I know, but I am not."

The Bible says God's *ruach*, that is God's breath, or God's Spirit, moved across the face of the deep. I feel God's presence with the touch of the wind and I hear God's voice as that same wind sighs among the branches of tall pines. God surrounds me in the outdoors and changes me.

"In Genesis 2:15 we are told to till and keep the garden. We are caretakers and have a responsibility to safeguard the land and water and renew or restore whatever is broken."

— REV. ROB BROWN





Tony Thomas

SPARTANBURG COUNTY

Northside Community Engagement Coordinator

I'm a 54-year-old who has lived in the Upstate for the better part of my life. As the Community Engagement Coordinator for the Northside community in Spartanburg, I have grown to love and admire the natural beauty of my community and its surroundings.

Spring is my favorite season of the year because it is a time of re-birth, when the flowers are blooming, trees begin to sprout their leaves and the sound of birds tending their newly born chicks fills the air. The aroma of fresh grass growing for the first time after a frigid winter alerts us that it's time to go outside and enjoy the new warmth that spring ushers forth.

One of the most meaningful and memorable experiences I've had outdoors during the spring was when the White Dutch Clover had sprung up in my yard, nearly covering it. A "just married" couple passing by got out of their vehicle and asked could they take pictures in my yard. I felt honored and replied, "Of course!"

With the bride in her white gown and the groom in his white tuxedo, needless to say they were stunning. They returned a few months later and offered me a picture in gratitude, and it was beautiful. Now, it is common for folks to ask this of me, and I always oblige. Living in the Upstate is, and always has been, an amazing experience for me — one I could NEVER forfeit!



Lillian Hollis

GREENVILLE COUNTY

Seventh Grader

One of my first memories as a child was going to Bunched Arrowhead Heritage Preserve with my family and dog. I like running on the trails and investigating the bird houses. We would sit at the edge of the pond and listen and watch the frogs. My mother and I would have a picnic there and enjoy the view and listen to the sounds of nature.

We liked to see how the place changed with each season. The flowers blooming in the spring, the green leaves in the summer, the different shades of orange, red, and yellow in the fall, and the little bits of snow and ice in the winter.

We like to bring our visiting out-of-town family there to show them one of my favorite places where I live. I am happy there are places like Bunched Arrowhead where I live so I can experience the beauty of the outdoors.



"I've had many memorable experiences hunting and fishing in the Upstate... I love being personally involved in the entire process of gathering my own food."

— JIMMY YELTON

Jimmy Yelton

CHEROKEE COUNTY

Wedding Filmmaker and Farmhand

My name is Jimmy Yelton, I am 23 years old and I live in Cherokee County. I work as a wedding filmmaker and a farmhand on my grandfather's small cattle farm.

I first experienced nature in the Upstate by spending time deer hunting with my father. He took me with him on several hunts, where I got to witness him kill a buck. Later on, I began to carry my own gun that he provided for me, and when I was 11 years old I killed my first deer on a cold Thanksgiving morning.

As I continued to grow up, I became very passionate about hunting and fishing, and spent a lot of time in

the outdoors. I've had many memorable experiences hunting and fishing in the Upstate, but one of the most memorable was that Thanksgiving morning, shivering in a tree stand with my dad.

I had never experienced the entire process of gathering meat until that day. After I killed the deer, we loaded it into the back of his pickup truck and started the process of dressing, skinning, and butchering the deer. I love being personally involved in the entire process of gathering my own food. Currently this is my favorite part of spending time outdoors in the Upstate.

In the Upstate, there are many tracts of public land and many lakes and rivers that are accessible for everyone. I encourage everyone in the Upstate to spend time outside, whether it is on the water or in the woods.

"We have traveled all over the world... and there are so many wonderful things about every place we visit. But when we return to the Upstate, its natural beauty and richness never cease to amaze us. This place is truly one of a kind."

— CHAD CARSON

Chad Carson

PICKENS COUNTY

Entrepreneur, Friends of the Green Crescent volunteer

Most mornings my wife and I walk or bike with our two daughters to Clemson Elementary School. The fresh morning air, the sounds, the movement, and especially the conversation make it one of our treasured rituals.

But even before kids, moving outside together was always special. My wife and I walked to a waterfall in the Clemson Experimental Forest for our first date.

Not too long after, I asked her to marry me sitting around a fire on a camping trip. Our shared love of being outdoors was a foundation that we built our family upon.

We have traveled all over the world together as a family, including a 17-month stay in Cuenca, Ecuador. And there are so many wonderful things about every place we visit.

But when we return to the Upstate of South Carolina, its natural beauty and richness never cease to amaze us. This place is truly one of a kind.

We feel privileged to live and raise our girls in the Upstate where nature is so accessible and beautiful.

Each time we walk on a local trail or visit a nearby waterfall, we also feel thankful for the people and organizations (like Upstate Forever) who worked and continue to work so hard to preserve and expand these spaces for our children and for future generations.



Do you like to go outside?

I like going outside. It's my favorite thing. I like it when it's a sunny day. I play in the sprinkler and I water flowers with my Nana. And I like to play with my little brother and play house.

Can you tell me about your flowers?

I have planted some flowers. I think I have daisies. I like to water flowers because flowers love that and they grow more. My mommy plants things besides flowers. I think she grows tomatoes.

What are your favorite things to see outside?

My favorite things I see outside are squirrels, dragonflies, and butterflies. I really like butterflies. I had caterpillars and they went into cocoons. And then they were beautiful butterflies. I let my butterflies go because they needed to find their new home. They came back one day to visit.

(Note from Alice's mother: Those... may not have been the same butterflies but that's what we're going with.)

What do you like to do outside?

I have been to a bunch of parks. I love to do that. I have been to a water park. I like to go outside with my mom

and dad and listen to them and talk to them. Daddy has rided me and my little brother on a bike. But now I have my own bike. It's all pink.

And I went apple picking and we went on a tractor ride. We had to wait our turn. We only picked the red ones — not the green ones because they are still growing.

What is your favorite season?

I know all the seasons. I know the leaves turn color in the fall. My favorite season is when snowflakes come down. I have seen snow and when I was two years old we built a snowman and we put a carrot on his nose.

Do you know what "nature" means?

My mommy told me that nature is a lot of animals. And a lot of trees and a lot of flowers. I have seen a big mountain. One time I also went to the beach and there were jellyfish. They were on the ground and the water took them backwards and then back to the land. In the morning I saw deers and an alligator.

Is nature important to you?

Animals and nature are important because we need to watch them and take care of them.



"They say that asking a naturalist a question is like taking a sip of water out of a fire hose — it just keeps coming. I love talking and sharing information with others, so it was a perfect career fit for me."

— RANGER TIM LEE



Tim Lee | NORTHERN GREENVILLE COUNTY

Interpretive Ranger Naturalist, Mountain Bridge Wilderness

I'm the interpretive ranger naturalist for the Mountain Bridge Wilderness area, which consists of Caesars Head, Jones Gap, and the Wildcat Wayside state parks.

I've been working in the Blue Ridge Mountains doing research and education for about 30 years. Through that time, I've come to appreciate how incredible the southern Blue Ridge mountains really are.

We're in a unique area along the Blue Ridge Escarpment. Its abrupt change in elevation and a more southerly facing nature allows us to pick up the warm moisture coming in off the Gulf. That moisture hits the mountain, rises, and then cools and condenses, and as a result we have a temperate rain forest right here in the Southeast. That rainfall, combined with the area's topographical features — the ridges, the valleys, and slopes — creates habitat for an amazing diversity of plants and animals, many of which don't occur anywhere else in the world.

For example, in just the 14,000-acre Mountain Bridge Wilderness tract, we've identified over 80 species that are listed at the state or federal level as threatened, endangered, etc. It's a remarkable place.

It was very early on that I had the opportunity to come and explore the Blue Ridge mountains. My dad was an avid trout fisherman and would go up to the mountains every opportunity he had to fish, and I got to tag along with him. I remember turning over rocks in streams finding salamanders. I found that I felt most comfortable when surrounded by natural things — in the woods, the mountains, the forests.

I've always been a person of many questions. I'd see a hole in a tree and I'd think "What made that hole? Who did that?" So, I'd observe the hole for a while and might be lucky enough to see something stick its head out: a bird, a fledgling, or maybe a squirrel. That would answer one question, but then I'd have another.

That temperament led me into a field about answering questions: science. For a number of years, I did research in the field: going outdoors, making observations about the natural world. The thing that I noticed the most was no matter where I was, there were these patterns. There were natural cycles taking place and connections between organisms. It helped me understand how deeply all these natural things were connected.

Loving these places and gaining a better understanding of them made me want to share that information with people. I think that's what's brought me the most joy: not

just learning (although I love to learn), but sharing that information with other people.

That love led me to become an educator. I became a classroom teacher for a while in the public schools, but I found that I missed doing the research. I finally came across a career that I had heard about — a "naturalist."

They say that "asking a naturalist a question is like taking a sip of water out of a fire hose — it just keeps coming." I love talking and sharing information with others, so it was a perfect career fit for me. It allowed me to ask questions, make observations, come to conclusions, and then share that with people. That's what I see as one of my main roles — sharing information with others to help them make the connection with the natural world around them.

I have the opportunity to work with a lot of schoolchildren. When kids look at something, they see what's there. They're not looking for anything in particular, and they have such a joy to discover.

For example, one day I was in the Mountain Bridge Wilderness area on a day that was a bit foggy, so the distance views weren't quite as visible as they normally are. People who had come to look were like, "Gosh, you can hardly see anything!" Then I heard, in the background, this little boy say, "I can see the WHOLE WORLD FROM HERE!" He said it again; he was so excited. What a great perspective.

Children look at the world differently than adults. They see and make observations at a whole different level. But that's helped me understand that there's a child in all of us, and that sense of wonder is in everybody, regardless of your age. That's where I like to get people's attention and help them gain an understanding — through that sense of wonder.

ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Morgan Yelton is a senior sociology major at the University of South Carolina Upstate who is interning with Upstate Forever's Communications Team this fall. She loves to fly fish and enjoys the adventures this hobby takes her on. Morgan and her husband Jimmy own a photography/videography business called Yelton Collective.



SPRAWLBUSTERS

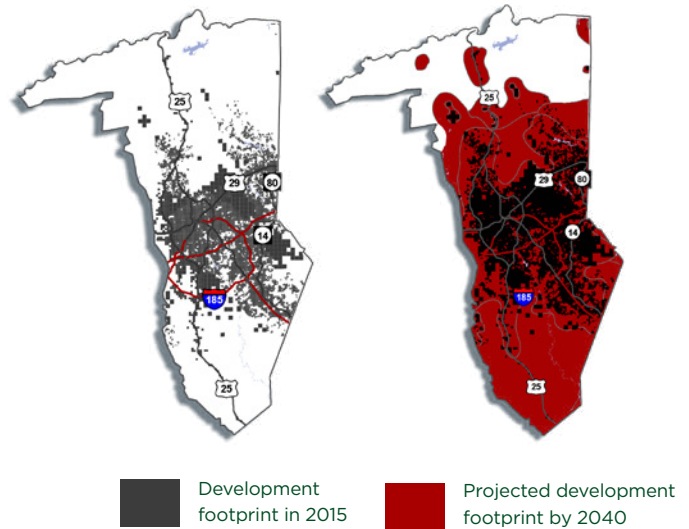
5 things Greenville County can do to accommodate growth and limit sprawl

By **Lisa Scott Halo** and **Sherry Barrett**, Upstate Forever Land Policy Team

There are plenty of reasons to curb sprawl. It eats up our green spaces and local farms. It worsens traffic congestion and causes stormwater problems. It's also exorbitantly expensive to serve with sewer, water, and roads.

Our “business as usual” development practices in Greenville County are putting us on a path to more than double our urban development footprint by 2040. That’s not an option — we simply can’t afford it. A recent study showed that if our current development trends continue, the revenues generated from new development will likely not cover even *half* of the costs to serve it.

Fortunately, there are practical measures we can take right now to mitigate sprawl while welcoming growth and economic development. Here are five that we think make sense for Greenville County.



1) Create pockets of strategic density

Pockets of well-designed higher density development — at a scale appropriate for Greenville County — are needed to build a foundation for more robust public transit. Not only that, building more densely where infrastructure can support it reduces sprawl and protects our rural areas.

We need to identify nodes where this type of development is sensible and prioritize walkability over drive-ability in those areas. Such mixed-use, compact development generates property tax revenue and uses land much more efficiently than lower-density patterns of development.



2) Rethink neighborhood design

If you live in a conventional neighborhood in Greenville County, you likely can’t walk/bike safely or conveniently to work, school, or the grocery store. That’s primarily because of how — and where — we’ve designed many of our neighborhoods in recent decades.

Historic neighborhoods were built to be walkable and close to everyday destinations, and included a mix of housing types. Conventional subdivisions are designed in just the opposite way — homes and price points are homogenous within neighborhoods, and residents must rely on cars for nearly every trip. We need to rethink how we design our neighborhoods, where we locate them, and how to provide residents more housing and mobility options.

3) Remove barriers to Missing Middle housing

One way to provide additional housing and mobility options is through Missing Middle housing — home types like accessory dwelling units, duplexes, triplexes, and quads that are located within walkable areas. These home types — which can generally be found in the most sought after neighborhoods in any urban area — accommodate residents using less land while maintaining the look, feel, and character of established neighborhoods.

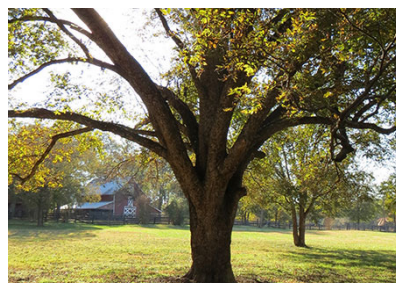
Greenville needs to remove regulatory barriers to Missing Middle housing. Doing so will expand the diversity of home options in our community and help meet the growing demand for affordable and walkable urban living.



4) Improve street connectivity

Have you ever wondered why so many neighborhoods are built with just a single point of entry, funneling all residents onto the same congested rural road? When neighborhoods are designed with only one way in and out, all cars must use the same collector road to reach all destinations — inevitably leading to traffic congestion, even in once rural areas.

Not only that, when areas lack good street connectivity, travel by any means other than a motor vehicle is generally not a viable option.



5) Protect vulnerable rural lands & iconic natural areas

Nearly two-thirds of Greenville County is unzoned, leaving vast areas of rural land open to development types and intensities totally out of scale and character with the surrounding area. These areas must be protected with stronger land use regulation.

Additionally, there are some places so unique, beautiful, and necessary for maintaining an area’s authentic character that their “highest and best use” is truly in their natural state. Local governments can — and should — play a key role in identifying and protecting such critical natural assets.

Greenville must take action now.

More than 220,000 additional residents are projected for Greenville County by 2040. No matter what form that growth takes, it will necessarily mean change for our community.

By taking action now regarding how and where we accommodate new development, we can help shape the impact that change has on our lives.

In the coming year, Greenville County Council will be making important planning and policy decisions that will steer the course of new development for the coming decade.

If you live in Greenville County, the time is now to let your local elected representatives know that you support land use policies that balance economic development with other community priorities like reducing sprawl and expanding housing and mobility options.

You need not be an expert — as a resident of Greenville County who cares about the community’s future, you have a valuable perspective to share.

Not sure who represents you? Visit bit.ly/gvl-voters and enter your street address to find out!

For more info, contact Land Policy Director Lisa Hallo or Land Policy Manager Sherry Barrett at the emails below:

Hallo@upstateforever.org
sbarrett@upstateforever.org

Join our dedicated email list to get updates and alerts for Greenville-based comp plans and other growth issues at upstateforever.org/shaping-growth-gvl

A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

Conservation Director position named in honor of Glenn Hilliard

At the September 2019 meeting, the Upstate Forever (UF) board voted to name the land conservation director position “The Glenn Hilliard Director of Land Conservation.” This naming is in recognition of Glenn’s support of Upstate Forever, and for the time and energy he spends promoting land protection in the Upstate.



Glenn Hilliard

Glenn, a tireless advocate for all things natural, is a master gardener, UF board member, and chair of the Land Conservation Committee. He has given countless hours to UF in meetings and social settings, ensuring that plans and processes are the best they can be, and helping others understand the important work taking place to protect the Upstate.

A native of Anderson, Glenn graduated from Clemson University in 1965 with a bachelor’s degree in English and earned a law degree at George Washington University.

He has led, as CEO and chairman, Liberty Life Insurance Co., ING Americas; and as chairman, CNO Financial, Inc. He continues to serve as CEO of Hilliard Group LLC, an investment and advisory firm based in Greenville.

Glenn founded the Foothills Trail Conference in 1974 and served as the first chairman. He serves on the boards of Brookgreen Gardens and Naturaland Trust. Glenn and his wife Heather have endowed a Professorship in Environmental Sustainability at Clemson.

Glenn and Heather live in Greenville and have three daughters. In his spare time, Glenn enjoys spending time with his family, biking, running, hiking, kayaking, and skiing.



The eastern meadowlark is one of the bird species threatened by loss of grassland habitat.

Photo: Rick & Nora Bowers via the National Audubon Society

PRESERVING NATIVE ECOSYSTEMS

Working for the birds

Upstate Forever and partners recently received a grant aimed at improving habitat for imperilled grassland bird species.

Recent studies estimate that North America has lost more than a quarter of its bird population, due primarily to causes like pesticides, modern agriculture, and development. Grassland birds in particular have decreased by 53%.

Upstate Forever, Clemson University, and Lake Conestee Nature Park received the grant from The Cornell Ornithology Lab and Land Trust Alliance’s Land Trust Bird Conservation Initiative to study, determine, and share best management practices to restore and improve grassland bird habitats.

Together, this partnership will work with local birding clubs to establish baseline data for grassland birds on two distinctive conservation easements, including Lake Conestee Nature Park.

Wildlife biology students at Clemson University will research current regional management practices, with results used to create a condensed guide for land trust partners and landowners. The guide will present the best management practices to restore and improve grassland bird habitats while meeting landowner needs.

Upstate Forever will develop an outreach program to share the project story and educate partners.

RECENTLY PROTECTED LAND

Oconee's Chau Ram Park has more than doubled in size



Photos by Mac Stone / Naturaland Trust

Upstate Forever is excited to share the latest property placed under a conservation easement with our nationally accredited land trust: Chauga Heights. This beautiful 212-acre property along the Chauga River in Oconee County will be added to the adjacent Chau Ram County Park, which will more than double the size of the park.

This conservation success was the result of vision, funding, and dedication on the part of many partners. The South Carolina Conservation Bank provided a \$550,000 grant. Naturaland Trust applied for the grant, purchased the property, and transferred it to Oconee County.

Oconee County provided a \$230,000 investment in the project alongside the Conservation Bank grant and has taken ownership of the property in order to expand public recreation opportunities at Chau Ram Park.

Upstate Forever holds the conservation easement that will ensure that the property is protected in perpetuity. We are honored to protect this beautiful property forever, and grateful to all the partners who made it happen. Upstate Forever now protects 23,158 acres across the Upstate.

To read more about how Chauga Heights was protected, visit upstateforever.org/chauga-heights

NEW NATURE PARK

Nalley Brown Nature Park opens

The long anticipated Nalley Brown Nature Park in Easley is now open! The 38-acre park was part of Catherine Ladnier's family farm for over 100 years. Inspired by a butterfly garden created by students at West End Elementary School, Ladnier was determined to preserve her family's land to provide more opportunities for Easley residents to experience the natural resources on the property. Talk about a "butterfly effect!"

Protected by a conservation easement held by Upstate Forever and featuring a playground constructed of repurposed materials, the park also includes trails, shelters, sitting areas, and more. Nalley Brown Nature Park is located at 380 Adger Rd, Easley, SC 29642.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS *For full bios, visit upstateforever.org/board*

Allen Jacoby

Allen is Vice President responsible for Milliken’s Plastics Additives Business. Allen earned his BS in Chemical Engineering at Purdue; and MBA in Finance & Entrepreneurial Management at Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania. Prior to joining Milliken, Allen worked as a process engineer at Eli Lilly, sales associate at Heinkel Filtering Systems, and Strategy Consultant at Arthur D. Little and Scient Corporation. In his role at Milliken, Jacoby works to make plastics more sustainable.



Chris Richardson

Christopher Richardson is a former U.S. diplomat, immigration attorney, and currently the General Counsel and COO for BDV Solutions, LLC. In this role, Richardson provides strategic counsel on a number of immigration-related matters. As a diplomat, he held assignments in Nigeria, Nicaragua, Pakistan, and Spain. He has won numerous State Department awards and has written op-eds and affidavits of national note. He graduated from Duke University School of Law, and graduated summa cum laude from Emory University.



NEW STAFF MEMBERS *For full bios, visit upstateforever.org/team*

Drew Brittain

Land Conservation Specialist

Raised in the Upstate, Drew graduated from Clemson University with a Master’s degree in city and regional planning and a Bachelor’s degree in English - Secondary Education. Drew focused his Master’s coursework in environmental planning and his thesis studied the effects of land use policy, habitat connectivity, and urbanization on wildlife. In his spare time, Drew enjoys hiking and fishing local spots, spending time with his family, and playing soccer.



Christina Sprecher

Land Stewardship Manager

Christina is an attorney licensed in South Carolina and Louisiana and obtained her J.D. from Tulane University School of Law in New Orleans. During law school, she focused on environmental law, earning the Environmental Law Certificate and working in Tulane’s Environmental Law Clinic. Christina has lived in Greenville for twelve years with her husband, Ben, and two children. In her spare time she enjoys hiking, biking, kayaking, reading, and traveling.



OUTDOOR RECREATION

Tyger River blueway maps are back in stock

Thanks to the generous support of the Callie and John Rainey Foundation and other funders, the Tyger River Blueway map has been updated and is back in stock, spanning not one but TWO maps!

Map 1 features the North, Middle, and South Tyger Rivers from Greer, SC to the main stem of the Tyger River. Map 2 features the entirety of the main stem of the Tyger River all the way down to its confluence with the Broad River.

Pick one up at our offices for free or contact Katie Hottel at khottel@upstateforever.org for information on shipping. Visit upstateforever.org/blueway-mapping to see what other maps are available. Happy paddling!





ENERGY UPDATES

New shared solar program

Solar is all the rage in South Carolina these days, but there is a common misperception that low income households are being left out. That is being remedied now.

Duke Energy Carolinas has rolled out a new program for low- and moderate-income households that pretty much guarantees bill savings — for homeowners as well as renters — but without requiring panels on your roof. The concept is called shared solar. Over the course of a year, the program is expected to save participants at least \$100 a year or more.

Learn more at upstateforever.org/shared-solar

Energy saving tips at our blog

You may have heard the saying "The cheapest kilowatt hour is the kilowatt hour not used." Saving energy through energy efficiency measures definitely saves money in both the long and short term. To make it easier for you to be a little more efficient, we have assembled as many energy efficiency resources as we could find and posted them to our blog, including resources for:

- Duke Energy Carolinas residential, business, and agriculture customers
- Electric co-operative customers
- Piedmont Natural Gas customers
- Tax incentives
- Energy Star options
- SC Energy Office Resources

Check out upstateforever.org/efficiency-2019 to view all the tips, and let us know if we missed any!

LAND CONSERVATION

955-acre Gap Creek property donated to Jones Gap State Park

In late June, Jones Gap State Park became approximately 25 percent larger following a donation of 955 acres to the SC Department of Parks, Recreations & Tourism (SCPRT) from The Nature Conservancy. The property, known as Gap Creek, is protected in perpetuity by a conservation easement held by Upstate Forever. Although Gap Creek is not currently open to the public, Parks officials say it could expand capacity and public access to Jones Gap State Park in coming years.

In addition to healthy hardwood forests and headwater streams, this property is home to several rare and iconic species, including Rafinesque's big-eared bat, green salamander, showy orchis, Carolina fantail darter, black bear and a newly discovered species of trillium, currently known as Jones Gap trillium.

The property is also the last large remaining unprotected piece of land in the Mountain Bridge Wilderness, a 40,000-acre corridor envisioned by late Upstate conservationist Tommy Wyche. It bridges the area between the Table Rock Watershed and North Saluda Watershed.

Thanks to your support, Upstate Forever's land trust will ensure that this property, along with its scenic vistas and natural resources, will be preserved forever. We are grateful to the many dedicated individuals and organizations who made this project a success, including The Nature Conservancy, SCPRT, South Carolina Conservation Bank, Open Space Institute and other generous supporters. Read more about this project in the SCPRT press release at bit.ly/gapcreek



2018 Cumulative Gift and Legacy Societies

Upstate Forever's Cumulative Gift Societies recognize the total program support given by individuals and entities over the life of the organization. Support includes membership and contributions, sponsorships, and planned gifts.

THE FOUNDERS SOCIETY
(\$1 MILLION & UP)

Anonymous, In Memory of Marjorie E. Schmidt
The Mary Black Foundation
Tommy & Harriet Wyche
The V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation
Brad Wyche & Diane Smock

THE UPSTATE CHAMPION SOCIETY
(\$500,000 - 999,999)

Glenn & Heather Hilliard
Fujifilm Manufacturing, Incorporated

THE 1998 SOCIETY
(\$250,000 - 499,999)

The South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control
Greenville Health System
Hollingsworth Funds, Incorporated
Naturaland Trust
The Hipp Foundation
The Graham Foundation
The Pfifer Johnson Foundation
The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

THE STUMPHOUSE SOCIETY
(\$100,000 - 249,999)

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Mike & Laura Baur
The Priester Foundation
ScanSource
Greenville Transit Authority
Genevieve Manly
Warren Guinn
Dana Leavitt
Community Foundation of Greenville
John I. Smith Charities, Incorporated
The Palmetto Bank
Mast General Store, Incorporated
The TD Charitable Foundation
The J. M. Smith Foundation
Lillian Darby
Erwin & Nancy Maddrey
Bettina & Don George
James & Kathy Barr
Anonymous
The Callie & John Rainey Foundation
The Thomas & Sandra Kester Family
The Daniel-Mickel Foundation

THE COMMUNITY PARTNERS SOCIETY
(\$50,000 - 99,999)

The Jolley Foundation
The Mary Peace Sterling Foundation
Bill & Libby Kehl
Carlton & Brenda Owen
David & Angela Shi
Alice Wald
James (Duff) & Margaret Bruce Milliken & Company
The Stringer Foundation
The Duke Energy Foundation
BMW Manufacturing Company, LLC
Mark & Starla Taylor
The Pete & Sally Smith Foundation
Pacolet Milliken Enterprises, Inc.
Roger & Marianna Habisreutinger
Speights & Runyon Trust Account
Spartanburg Water System
Gally & Fielding Gallivan
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of South Carolina
John & Priscilla Hagins
Dianne Culbertson
The Turner Foundation

THE LEGACY SOCIETY (THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT UP IN THEIR ESTATE PLANS)

Tommy & Harriet Wyche	Ed Hall	Anonymous	Jo & Bob Hackl
Brad Wyche & Diane Smock	David & Angela Shi	Ed Krech	Alice Wald



Join The Legacy Society by including Upstate Forever in your estate plans.

Visit our planned giving website to learn how to make a planned gift to Upstate Forever's endowment, ensuring we are able to continue our work for generations of future Upstate residents.

UpstateForever.GiftLegacy.com

Looking for an easy way to give to Upstate Forever this year?

If you are 70 ½ or older, you can use your individual retirement account (IRA) to support Upstate Forever. Making an IRA charitable rollover gift to us will lower the income and taxes from your IRA required minimum distributions. Visit our planned giving website at upstateforever.giftlegacy.com to learn how you can create your legacy by making an IRA charitable rollover gift this year.

For more information, contact Aldon Knight, Director of Development and Community Relations, at (864) 250-0500 or aknight@upstateforever.org.



Jack Robert Photography

Benefits of an IRA charitable rollover gift:



Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100K from your IRA to support UF.



Satisfy some or all of your required minimum distribution for the year.



Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions.



Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts.

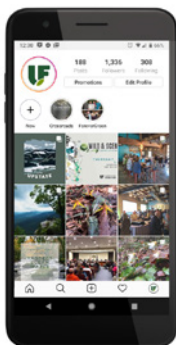


Use your rollover to make payments on an existing pledge to us.

STAY IN THE LOOP

Keep up with the latest news from Upstate Forever

We hope you're enjoying the Upstate Advocate, which is published twice a year in the fall and spring. Want to stay informed in between issues? Here's how to get the latest updates about UF news, events, and opportunities.



Follow us on social media

You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, & Twitter



Join our email lists

at upstateforever.org/email

The Upstate Update

A monthly email with news, events, & stories from UF staff

Legislative Updates

Weekly recaps + action alerts during the SC legislative session

Greenville Comp Plan Updates

Get updates & alerts for all Greenville-based comp plans

Planning & Growth - Spartanburg

Updates & alerts on topics related to growth in Spartanburg County

The Water Log

A newsletter dedicated to clean water issues & advocacy



Check out our website

Find more information about our programs, as well as blog posts, news items, and events at upstateforever.org



Protecting Land & Water | Advocacy | Balanced Growth

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www.upstateforever.org



Please recycle when finished

Upstate Forever can help protect your land for future generations.

Our culture, community, and sense of place are all inextricably tied to the land.

Upstate Forever's nationally accredited Land Trust partners with landowners to protect the special places they and their communities cherish.

If you own land with important natural resources, a voluntary conservation agreement can protect the land you love while you continue to own and manage it for traditional uses. You may also realize significant tax benefits.

For more information, contact Upstate Forever's Glenn Hilliard Director of Land Conservation, Scott Park, at spark@upstateforever.org or (864) 250-0500 ext. 26

About this photo:
Grant, 9, provides his pastured eggs to The Kennedy restaurant and the Milliken Guest House in Spartanburg County (as well as keeping his friends and family well fed).

Photo by Morgan Yelton



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