

For Immediate Release

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**UPSTATE IS BEING DEVELOPED AT THE RATE OF A NEW
HAYWOOD MALL EVERY THREE DAYS**

Land is being developed in the Upstate at the rate of a brand new Haywood Mall about every three days, according to the data compiled by the United States Department of Agriculture and released today by Upstate Forever, a non-profit organization promoting sensible growth and protecting special places in the upstate region of South Carolina.

The USDA data is summarized in the following table for the six Upstate Counties.

LAND DEVELOPMENT IN THE UPSTATE						
County	Total Area (Acres)	Developed By 1982	Developed By 1997	Acres Per Day 1982-1997	County Rank 1982-1997	County Rank Overall
Anderson County	484,800	76,598.00	103,747	4.90	8	5
Greenville County	510,100	85,697	136,197	9.22	3	1
Laurens County	462,000	25,872	35,112	1.69	26	22
Oconee County	431,100	33,626	49,577	2.91	18	14
Pickens County	327,600	37,346	55,692	3.35	14	7
Spartanburg County	524,300	79,169	138,415	10.82	1	2
Total Upstate	2,739,900	338,308	518,740	32.89		
South Carolina	19,939,300	1,355,872	2,093,627	134.80		

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Resources Inventory. Data contact: Jeff Goebel (301) 504-2270.

As the data indicate, land is being developed in our region at the rate of 32.89 acres per day. Haywood Mall is 88 acres in size. So that's about one new mall every three days!

Four Upstate counties are ranked in the top seven of South Carolina's 46 counties in the amount of land developed from 1982 to 1997: Spartanburg is number 1, Greenville is number 2, Anderson is number 5 and Pickens is number 7.

During the 1982-97 period, as shown in the chart below, population in the Upstate increased by approximately the same number—33 persons every day. So, during the past 20 years, *one acre of land was developed for every new person in the Upstate!*

POPULATION GROWTH IN THE UPSTATE				
County	Year			Per Day Increase 1980-2000
	1980	1990	2000	
Anderson County	133,235	145,196	165,740	4.45
Greenville County	287,913	320,167	379,616	12.56
Laurens County	52,214	58,092	69,567	2.38
Oconee County	48,611	57,494	66,215	2.41
Pickens County	79,292	93,894	110,757	4.31
Spartanburg County	201,861	226,800	253,791	7.11
Total Upstate	803,126	901,643	1,045,686	33.22
South Carolina	3,121,820	3,486,703	4,012,012	121.9

Source: Based on data from U.S. Bureau of Census, Population Census 1980-2000.

Brad Wyche, Executive Director of Upstate Forever, said, “We hope this information will be a wake-up call for better land use planning and funded conservation programs in the Upstate. The Upstate’s present course is eerily similar to the Atlanta region, now one of the nation’s worst examples of out-of-control growth. But we have time to change direction here. We must take steps now to acquire, or protect through conservation easements, many of these tracts. It is outrageous that a region growing and changing as rapidly as the Upstate provides almost no funding for acquiring and protecting natural areas, prime farm land, valuable wildlife habitat, and historic sites—the very places that make our region so special.”

Diane Eldridge, Associate Director of Upstate Forever, added, “There are numerous strategies that can help us provide the same services and opportunities to our residents while using fewer of our precious resources. Upstate Forever’s Ten Point Plan for Sensible Growth discusses many of these, such as traditional neighborhood developments, concentrating services in the areas where we want growth, alternative transportation, stream buffers, and so forth.”

For more information, contact: Brad Wyche or Diane Eldridge
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