

Conservation group lists South Saluda River project, Jones Gap expansion as top achievements in 2011

Friday, 27 January 2012 Written By Staff Reports



TRAVELERS REST, S.C. -- Upstate Forever, a non-profit conservation group based in Greenville, has released its 2011 Top Ten List of notable achievements in land use, conservation, and sustainable development issues in the Upstate region of South Carolina.

Making the group's annual release were two accomplishments that are located in northern Greenville County: the South Saluda River Trout Enhancement Project and the Jones Gap State Park expansion.

South Saluda River Trout Enhancement Project:

The South Saluda River Trout Enhancement Project, completed in the fall of 2011, involved the installation of 15 native rock cross-vanes in a 2,964-foot stretch of the South Saluda River, the installation of vehicle access controls at all high use areas, and stabilization and re-vegetation of degraded public access areas.

The project was installed by the [Natural Resource Conservation Service](#) and sponsored by Partners for Trout, an alliance of government agencies and nonprofits organizations, including [Upstate Forever](#), committed to the protection and restoration of trout habitat in South Carolina.

"Local residents and all South Carolinians can be very proud of the completed in-stream, aquatic habitat restoration project on the South Saluda River," wrote Dianne Anastos, president of [Save Our Saluda](#) in a Tribune [letter to the editor](#). "[The] project has given new life to this section of [the river], a public recreational resource that can be enjoyed by future generations.

According to the the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, it is estimated that nearly 90 percent of the fish found during a recent sampling of the river were located in the deep water pools created by the project.

([Click here](#) to view pictures of the completed South Saluda River project.)

Jones Gap State Park Expansion:

One of the Upstate's crown jewels, [Jones Gap State Park](#) expanded by 600 acres in 2011, stretching its borders to the North Carolina state line. The property includes a 150-foot waterfall and one of the state's highest mountain peaks.

This additional acreage will enable the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism to add more access points, trails, and interpretive facilities in the park, according to Upstate Forever.

[Naturaland Trust](#) donated 305 acres, which was already protected under a conservation agreement with Upstate Forever. The remaining land was donated by [The Nature Conservancy](#), which purchased the property with the help of 380 individual donors.

([Click here](#) to read more about the Naturaland Trust donation.)

-- To read the complete list as compiled by Upstate Forever, [click here](#) --

About Upstate Forever:

Founded in 1998, Upstate Forever works to promote sensible growth and to protect special places in the Upstate region of South Carolina. Utilizing [land trusts](#), [clean air and water programs](#), and [sustainable community models](#), the group works to educate policy makers, business leaders, and the public on important issues and potential solutions.

To learn more, visit their website [here](#).