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Developer wants to build near Oconee watershed

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Several Upstate environmental and conservation groups have announced plans to try and save public property next to Stumphouse Tunnel and they're asking for your help.

The Walhalla Watershed at Stumphouse Mountain is a 440-acre property owned by the City of Walhalla in Oconee County. Adjacent to Stumphouse Tunnel and Issaqueena Waterfall, the area is a recreational and historic destination spot for local and out-of-town visitors.

A developer has announced plans to buy the property from the City of Walhalla and build on it. If this side of Stumphouse Mountain is developed, according to a press release from Upstate Forever, the area will be endangered.

A conservation partnership including Upstate Forever, The Nature Conservancy, Naturaland Trust, and Chattooga Conservancy has asked the City of Walhalla to help find a conservation solution to address Walhalla's needs and protect the property.

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To help in the effort, contact Walhalla Mayor Lamar Bailes and the Walhalla City Council and ask them to reconsider before acting. The city should consider a conservation option that can meet the needs of the city without having to sell the property to a developer.

Here is contact information for the City Council: Walhalla City Hall; 206 North Church St.; Walhalla, S.C. 29691.
Phone: (864) 638-4343.

Or phone Mayor Bailes at: (864) 638-3058.

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