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Upstate Forever to help Walhalla save watershed
Upstate group gets \$1.2 million grant for Stumphouse tract

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Greenville's Upstate Forever has been awarded a grant of \$1.2 million from the South Carolina Conservation Board Bank to protect a 440-acre tract on Stumphouse Mountain near Walhalla.

The property is part of a 1,000-acre parcel that conservationists and natural resource agencies want to preserve for the public's enjoyment, according to Dana Leavitt of Upstate Forever.


The site also includes the 100-foot Issaqueena Falls and two tunnels built before the Civil War, she said. The railroad bed is now used for hiking, officials said.

A developer had wanted to build houses and a hotel nearby but withdrew the proposal after opponents circulated a petition and packed City Council chambers.

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"I want to thank the city of Walhalla for its support and for allowing us to proceed with this application," said Leavitt, a land trust director for Upstate Forever, an environmental conservation group.

Officials are now focused on raising another \$1.4 million to complete the preservation of the site.

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