

# Monroe to represent Spartanburg at APA

**Upstate Forever  
Director to present to  
national conference**

Upstate Spartanburg Forever's Office Director Stephanie Monroe was invited to present at the 2006 American Planning Association conference, April 22 -26 in San Antonio, Texas.

Monroe will host a session at the conference called Active Living in Spartanburg which will highlight an innovative report commissioned by Upstate Forever. The APA national conference generally attracts more than 5,000 regional, urban, rural and transit planners from across the country and abroad.

"I am excited to represent Spartanburg at this well-known and attended conference," Monroe said. "This is a wonderful opportunity for me to spread the word on the good things that are happening in Spartanburg."

Spartanburg City Manager Mark Scott said that Monroe will be an excellent representative of the community.

"She combines state-of-the-art planning and design knowledge, with a strong sense for

Spartanburg's love of healthy, active, family living," Scott said. "I have found that Stephanie is practical in her orientation to planning challenges, but is an advocate for new and creative ways to reach our goals. Her selection is an honor for both Stephanie and our community."

Monroe will talk about one of the major barriers to active living in Spartanburg — development patterns that emphasize the automobile. She will highlight the transformation of Morgan Square from an auto-dependent downtown to a downtown that is walkable, and pedestrian friendly. She will showcase some new and old developments in Spartanburg, such as Chandler Place, Converse Heights, Hampton Heights and Crooked Creek that emphasize the importance of sidewalks, neighborhood parks, nature trail, front porches, reduce front yard setback, great architectural detail, etc. There will also be an overview of about the Active Living Assessment report that The Lawrence Group completed for Upstate Forever in August 2005. The Assessment entailed a comprehensive review of

city and county plans and documents relevant to active living conditions in Spartanburg County. The report discusses existing regulatory practices, identifies opportunities to encourage best design practices through incentives, and makes specific recommendations for regulatory changes that enhance Active Living opportunities in the community.

"The Active Living Assessment is the first of its kind, not only in the Upstate, but — as far as I know — it is not being done anywhere in South Carolina," Monroe said.

Monroe received Upstate Forever's Public Servant of the Year Award in 2002 for her efforts as the first-ever Director of Planning for Laurens County. Most recently she has worked for the City of Clinton as Director of Planning. She holds a bachelor's degree in public affairs management and a master's degree in urban and regional planning, both from Michigan State University. She also recently completed a master's degree in public administration from the University of South Carolina.