

Upstate Update

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Upstate Forever's Monthly Bulletin on
Important Issues and Events in the Upstate

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Legislative Update

Conservation Bank to Open in July with Full Funding!!

After a two year struggle, the Conservation Bank has been fully funded and will open for business next month with \$10 million available for conservation projects throughout South Carolina. The Budget Conference Committee voted to restore full funding to the Conservation Bank, reversing severe budget cuts made earlier by the House. Thanks to each of you who made phone calls and sent letters and emails to our legislators throughout this long battle! Your voice was heard! And thanks to our legislators for listening!

Bad Wetlands Legislation Stopped.

In *Upstate Update 54* we asked you to contact your Senators to voice your opposition to attempts to weaken an already inadequate wetlands protection bill. Your voices joined many others across South Carolina and the bill, along with its many amendments, was stopped from passing this year. The issue was put on hold and a task force will be appointed to draft a new bill before the next session. Special recognition goes to Christie Renken and Scott Winburn of the S. C. Coastal Conservation League for staying on top of this issue and keeping other interested organizations and citizens informed until the bitter end.

Textile Communities Revitalization Act Signed into Law.

In May Governor Sanford signed into law a bill that provides tax incentives for the redevelopment of abandoned mills. The Textile Communities Revitalization Act offers property, income and other tax credits for rehabilitation expenses made to eligible sites which have been used as a textile manufacturing facility or for ancillary purposes. With more than sixty abandoned mills in South Carolina, this bill offers hope to many communities whose mills have closed and are deteriorating - or worse yet, falling victim to destructive fires - like Spartanburg's Glendale Mill, which burned to the ground in March.

South Carolina Infrastructure Priority Investment Act.

This bill stalled in this year's session but it will be back next year. It would require that local governments with comprehensive land use plans coordinate with infrastructure and service providers to plan ahead where new infrastructure would be built - something *Upstate Forever* has been promoting since our inception. The bill was recommended by the Governor's Quality of Life Task Force and has had broad support from local governments, the development and business communities, and conservationists. We will stay involved next session.

Safe Routes to School Act.

This bill was ratified on the last day of the session and will become law with the Governor's signature. The law will require that municipal and county governments work with school districts in their jurisdictions to identify barriers and hazards to children walking or biking to and from school. While

Promoting sensible growth and protecting special places in the Upstate

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Investing in Bicycle Facilities Pays Off in a Big Way

According to a recent study by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, a \$6.7 million investment in bicycle facilities along the Outer Banks is attracting tourism and generating nearly 10 times that amount each year (\$60 million) in revenues for the region. In addition, 1400 jobs are created or supported annually with expenditures made by bicyclists.

Just as it is in South Carolina, tourism is an important source of income for the state, where visitors spend money that benefits local economies. Seventeen per cent of visitors to the Outer Banks region, or approximately 680,000 people every year, engage in bicycle activity while there. In addition, 53 per cent of visitors to the area reported that bicycling was a strong influence in their decision to return in the future.

The economic benefits alone are enough to justify investing in bicycle facilities. Yet there are also huge benefits such as health and fitness, reduced traffic congestion, improved air quality, and energy conservation.

Findings are reported in "The Economic Impact of Investments in Bicycle Facilities," released by NCDOT in April. To read the summary report, visit http://www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle/safety/economic_impact_summary.pdf

Why Are Young, Creative Citizens Leaving the Region?

Many of our region's young, single college-educated people are finding their way to other "cooler" places - including our neighbors to the north and south. According to the 2000 census, more people in this category¹ are moving out of our region than into it, creating a negative net migration rate.²

According to a report from the US Census Bureau, South Carolina's net rate was -40.7 between 1995 and 2000 while North Carolina's was +50.2 and Georgia's was +150.5. Among our state's three largest MSAs, the Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson region experienced the biggest loss with a rate of -104.9, while Columbia's was -24.5. The only region in South Carolina with a positive net gain was Charleston-North Charleston (+44.9). In contrast, the Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill region's net gain was a whopping +344.3, with Asheville at +143.4.

Why is this important? Because many of these young people are the innovators in technology, research, education, the arts, entertainment, design, architecture and advertising, and include many of the professionals who serve those sectors, including doctors, lawyers and accountants.³ If we truly want to become a "knowledge-based economy," as local and regional economic development experts advocate, we must find a way to keep our own young people and to attract others. One important way is to implement *Upstate Forever's* ten point plan for sensible growth!

Read the report from the Census Bureau here: <http://www.census.gov/population/cen2000/phc-t34/tab02.pdf>

¹ Single, college-educated, between the ages of 25 and 39.

² Net migration rate is the 1995-2000 net migration divided by the approximated 1995 population and multiplied by 1000. The net migration is the difference between the number of domestic immigrants and domestic outmigrants.

³ Florida, Richard, *The Rise of the Creative Class*, as reported by *Washington Monthly*, May 2002. <http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/features/2001/0205.florida.html>

Did You Know.....

.....that one ton (40 cartons) of 30 per cent post-consumer content copier paper saves 7.2 trees and that one ton of 50 per cent post-consumer content copier paper saves 12 trees?

.....that the average single-family house built in the U.S. requires 13,837 board feet of framing lumber?

.....kids bike or walk 40 per cent less than they did 25 years ago?

.....that when Atlanta's suburbs expanded and eliminated 350,000 acres of forest between 1973 and 1998, the city grew hotter by 10 degrees?



Forever Friends



If *Upstate Forever* is to promote sensible growth and protect special places in this beautiful region, we must engage the interest and support of growing numbers of people who care about clean air and water, open space and community revitalization.

Help us expand the reach and impact of our work by nominating several friends for membership. Please send us complete names and addresses by email to info@upstateforever.org, by writing us at P.O. Box 2308, Greenville, SC 29602, or by calling 864-250-0500. We will extend an ever-so-gentle invitation to join. Your friends will be grateful you cared enough to recommend them for membership. So will the Upstate.

Upcoming Events

Upstate Forever Events

Ongoing, Garner's Natural Foods, Greenville, S.C. Recycle your grocery bags and help raise funds for *Upstate Forever*. If you are shopping at Garner's on Antrim Drive, you can help *Upstate Forever* by taking your own shopping bag for your groceries. For every bag you save Garner's, they will give you a bean to drop into your choice of three jars - one jar is for *Upstate Forever*. At the end of the campaign, we will receive 5 cents for every bean.

September 23, 2004, Upstate Forever's Fifth Annual Conference, "Dealing With Dirt: The Impact and Control of Erosion in the Upstate," Palmetto Exposition Center, Greenville, SC. This one-day conference will feature top experts and seasoned professionals who will share their perspectives on a variety of issues. Topics will include information about Upstate soils and topography, how to navigate the NPDES regulatory system, strategies for minimizing impact and maximizing return during construction, municipal responsibilities, and the impacts of sediment on stream habitat and water quality. For more information, visit www.upstateforever.org

Other Events

July 15, 2004, Made in the Shade: Can Urban Trees Improve Air Quality? sreich@gfc.state.ga.us

July 28 (Smithfield, N.C.) and August 19, 2004 (Statesville, N.C.), 2004 North Carolina Forestry Summit. <http://www.dfr.state.nc.us/publications/summit1.pdf>

September 7-10, 2004, Pro Walk/Pro Bike 2004, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Make plans now to attend the NCBW's 13th international symposium on walking and bicycling. For details on how to get to Victoria and where to make hotel reservations, visit the website. Other details posted as they become available. <http://www.bikewalk.org/PWPB2004/PWPB2004.htm>.

Lots o' Links

Smart Growth is Smart Business. This report by the National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals and the Smart Growth Leadership Institute examines the economic benefits of Smart Growth. The study highlights sixteen of the nation's most successful examples of Smart Growth/Smart Business, including the efforts of Bank of America to support sustainable managed growth, and Envision Utah, Utah's innovative public/private partnership to promote economic vitality while protecting quality of life. <http://www.resourcesaver.com/file/toolmanager/Custom093C337F52733.pdf>

Baby Boomers and Seniors Like Living in Traditional Neighborhood Developments. Attracted by the mixed housing types, walkability and diverse populations, people ages 50 to 90 are moving to TNDs like l'On in Mt. Pleasant, SC and Harbor Town in Memphis, TN. The older residents especially like the independence and sociability they experience by living within walking distance of stores and public places and being in close proximity to other residences. <http://www.csmonitor.com/2004/0602/p11s01-lihc.html>

Subsidizing Wal-Mart. A new study by Good Jobs First shows that Wal-Mart has received more than \$1 billion in economic subsidies from state and local governments throughout the country. According to the report, \$38 million of that was in South Carolina. Does the world's largest corporation really need our tax dollars? After all, the net profit for Wal-Mart last year alone was more than \$9 billion. <http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/gjfpubs.htm>

Vasectomy Zoning. Are suburban housing policies intentionally limiting housing options for families with children to keep school costs low? http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2004-05-05-child-proof-housing_x.htm

Chicago's Goal: Become the Greenest City in America. Green roofs, environmentally-friendly buildings, miles of bicycle trails, rapid transit, even the new Trump tower is planned to be LEED-certified. Chicago has it all and wants to do more. <http://www.newtopiamagazine.net/content/issue17/features/greencity.php>

If You're Planning a Trip to Paris, Leave Your SUV at home. According to a story reported by CNN, the city of Paris may ban SUVs on city streets within 18 months. Deputy mayor Dennis Baupin was quoted by CNN saying "We have no interest in having SUVs in the city. They're dangerous to others and take up too much space." To read more, visit <http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/europe/06/10/france.suvs/index.html>

Is Urban Sprawl Unfriendly to People with Disabilities? Urban sprawl and the lack of adequate transit negatively impact the lives of people with disabilities. With few nearby places to go and no good way to get there, the world outside can be un-navigable and unavailable. Full participation in our community is impossible if we can't get to it or around it. http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/040503/dem036_1.html

The Nation's Most Endangered Historic Places. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has released its 2004 list of the eleven most endangered historic places. Among them are the Gullah/Geechee coast of South Carolina and Georgia and the entire state of Vermont. http://www.nationaltrust.org/news/docs/20040524_11most.html

South Carolina Ranks Poorly in "Livability" Survey. South Carolina emerged as the 48th most livable state in the 2004 Morgan Quitno Press ranking, slipping from 43 last year. The rankings were based on 44 factors - everything from income levels to per capita books in public libraries to the highway fatality rate. <http://www.statestats.com/sr04mlrnk.htm>

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Is it Shangri-La? Internet-guru-turned-developer Charles Brewer describes Atlanta's new Glenwood Park as a "loveable, walkable neighborhood like the ones travelers rave about after visiting the great cities of the world." The new community has lots of parks, walking and biking paths, retail shops and offices in addition to a mix of residential uses. <http://glenwoodpark.com>

Quote of the Month

"Upstate homeowners want more protection for the investment they have in their property. They want the scenic and natural treasures of the area preserved. They want their communities to act to define the way they will grow and to manage that growth. Their elected representatives should respond to this demand."

Editorial, "Survey Shows that Upstate Residents Want Stronger Growth Management"
Spartanburg-Herald Journal, June 6, 2004

Shameless Advertisement

As a not-for-profit organization, **Upstate Forever** depends on the financial support of people like you if it is to fulfill its mission of promoting sensible growth and protecting special places. Your contribution bears witness to your concern for the quality of life in the Upstate and your commitment to the preservation and enhancement of livable communities.

If you are not already a member, please consider joining today. If you are a member, but have not yet renewed, please send in your check today. If you want to honor a special person in your life (on an anniversary, birthday or for no specific occasion at all), or if you want to memorialize a loved one who cared about our special places, please consider making a gift in that person's honor or memory. You can make a gift by mailing us your check at P.O. Box 2308, Greenville, SC, 29602. A downloadable form is available on our website at http://www.upstateforever.org/i_want_to_join.htm. All gifts are tax deductible.

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