

# Upstate Update

NUMBER 68

SEPTEMBER  
2005

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

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### 1. Clean Air for the Upstate.

Is the Upstate destined to become the next Atlanta, choked by polluted air and congested roads? We can avoid that fate--if we obey Clean Air Act deadlines, link land use and transportation planning, and expand transit options--according to a new report released by the nonprofit [Southern Environmental Law Center](#). "*Clean Air for the Upstate Area: An Action Agenda*" details the steps we can take to reduce air pollution and improve the health of our people, our environment, and our economy.

The two main sources of air pollution in the Upstate are "tailpipes and smokestacks," also known as automobiles and power plants. Our local governments are already working to address our air quality problems, including appointing an advisory committee representing the counties of Anderson, Greenville, and Spartanburg. However, more action is needed. Specifically, the report recommends that we:

- **Establish a regional organization for transportation planning.** There are separate transportation study groups in three Upstate counties. Why not work together to create solutions for the entire region, not just pieces of it?
- **Reform transportation funding priorities.** We can use our transportation dollars to develop opportunities for public transit, carpooling, bicycling, and walking. In addition, new and widened highways projects should be carefully planned so that they do not simply result in more sprawl--and therefore more pollution.
- **Apply a regional approach to land use planning.** Our air quality is impacted by the decisions of hundreds of local jurisdictions, from town councils to school districts to sewer authorities. Rather than competing against one another for economic development, Upstate communities should coordinate their efforts in order to achieve regional goals.
- **Pass a "Clean Smokestacks Act" in South Carolina.** South Carolina's twelve coal-fired power plants are the largest cause of stationary source pollution in the state. Several of these plants have not been required by federal regulations to install modern pollution controls, so the state must step in to redress this problem. North Carolina passed such legislation in 2002, and included a provision allowing power companies to recover their costs.
- **Demand full and faithful implementation of federal interstate air pollution requirements.** The Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR), finalized earlier this year, requires states to control air pollution that could impede neighboring states in meeting air quality goals. While much of South Carolina's pollution is home-grown, power plants in other states must clean up their emissions that drift over our borders.
- **Oppose "Clear Skies" Legislation.** This industry-backed legislation would remove the teeth of important Clean Air Act provisions and hinder states' efforts to improve air quality.

## Promoting sensible growth and protecting special places in the Upstate

Although defeated in a Senate committee earlier this year, proponents have not given up trying to push this bill through Congress or incorporate its provisions into other legislation.

Implementing the above strategies will help the Upstate meet EPA standards by a 2007 deadline and avoid the sanctions associated with nonattainment status. And it will move our region toward air quality that is actually good, beyond the bare minimum required.

For more information and to read the full report, click [here](#). See also "[No Time to Breathe Easy](#)" in the September, 2004 *Upstate Advocate*.

## 2. *Upstate Forever News.*

### Special Places Inventory Complete

*Upstate Forever* has just completed a wonderful report on the "special places" of Greenville County. Made possible by a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Greenville and with assistance from the Greenville County Historic Preservation Commission, the inventory identifies both natural and historic locations of particular significance. Some of these treasures are currently protected; others are vulnerable to development or decay. By increasing public awareness of these extraordinary places, it is our hope that the report will lead to the protection of many of them before it is too late. View the full report [here](#).

### Spartanburg Office News

The full text of the Active Living Assessment final report by The Lawrence Group is now available [online](#). This detailed assessment evaluates land development regulations and plans for the City and County of Spartanburg, identifies provisions that impede the development of neighborhoods that encourage residents to engage in regular physical activity as part of their daily routine, and suggests changes that can help make the Spartanburg area more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly.

As part of its education and advocacy efforts, *Upstate Forever Spartanburg* is now conducting a public survey to assess local opinion about Active Living issues. Does Spartanburg have a potentially untapped market for New Urbanist neighborhoods, with sidewalks, smaller front yard setbacks and lots, tree-lined streets, connectivity, and mixed uses? The survey, conducted by Priority Metrics Group (PMG), will test the waters to find out. The project is slated for completion in late November.

## 3. *Upcoming Events.*

### Upstate Forever Events

**October 14, Vince Graham, Spartanburg County Public Library, Barrett Room, 7:30 a.m.** The developer of I'On Village in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina will talk about his endeavors as a builder and renovator of traditional neighborhood developments. Recognized nationally for its thoughtful planning and understated elegance, the 243-acre I'On Village is a neo-traditional community patterned after downtown Charleston and other pedestrian-oriented cities. This "Breakfast Briefing" is co-sponsored by Upstate Forever and the Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce. There is no charge for the event, but reservations are requested. Please call the *Upstate Forever Spartanburg* office at 327-0090 to register.

**October 20, Envision the Upstate, Greenville Marriott, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.** Focusing on regionalism, the event will feature presentations, a survey, and a reception. This is the first in a series of annual community leadership development programs designed to educate citizens on emerging issues. Sponsored by the Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce and the University of South Carolina Upstate. To register, visit the events page at [www.greenvillechamber.org](http://www.greenvillechamber.org), or contact Sandi Coan at 864-239-3723.

November 5, *Upstate Forever's Annual Meeting, Asbury Hills Camp and Retreat Center, Cleveland, SC, 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.* Plan to join us at this beautiful mountain retreat for our annual membership meeting, followed by lunch, hikes, canoeing, and relaxation. R.S.V.P by November 1 to the *Upstate Forever* office at 250-0500 or [gwilson@upstateforever.org](mailto:gwilson@upstateforever.org).

### Upstate Forever Field Trips

October 15, *Reedy River Rail-Trail*. Hike the old rail line that connects downtown Greenville to Travelers Rest. *Upstate Forever* Board Chairman Carlton Owen and Rich Mead of the Greenville Natural History Association will lead a group over rugged terrain along the northern section of the trail. The trip will last from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.; the cost is \$20. To register, call *Upstate Forever* at 250-0500 or email [gwilson@upstateforever.org](mailto:gwilson@upstateforever.org).

November 12, *Rock Gorge Roadless Area*. Butch Clay, photographer and naturalist, will lead a strenuous trip in the Rock Gorge Roadless Area in the Chattooga Watershed. This area of the Andrew Pickens District of the Sumter National Forest is a favorite of hikers and trout fishermen because of its wild backcountry. The trip will last from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.; the cost is \$20. To register, call *Upstate Forever* at 250-0500 or email [gwilson@upstateforever.org](mailto:gwilson@upstateforever.org).

### Other Events

Third Saturday of Each Month, *Garner's Natural Market and Café, Greenville, SC*. Shop at Garner's and help raise money for *Upstate Forever!* On the third Saturday of every month, Garner's will donate ten percent of what you spend to *Upstate Forever*. Simply mention that you are making the purchase in our name and Garner's will handle the rest! For more information about Garner's, visit [www.garnersnatural.com](http://www.garnersnatural.com).

September 28, *Living with and Working in South Carolina's Wetlands, Columbia, SC*. A practical seminar in sustainable wetlands for developers, builders, contractors and others in the building trades. Learn about wetlands identification, legislation and regulation, and how to avoid violations. Sponsored by the Home Builders Association of South Carolina: <http://www.hbaofsc.com> or contact [cmauldin@hbaofsc.com](mailto:cmauldin@hbaofsc.com).

September 29, *Modern Day Plants presentation by Dr. Bobby J. Ward, Poinsett Club, Greenville, SC, 6:30 p.m.* For all those who have a love of gardening! Please join the Greater Greenville Master Gardeners to hear a presentation by the author of *The Plant Hunter's Garden*. Dr. Ward's presentation will discuss the stories and contributions of modern-day plant explorers and the plants they have promoted and introduced. The evening will include hors d'oeuvres, wine, and door prizes. Tickets cost \$10 and must be purchased in advance at The Emporium, 1 Augusta Street, or by calling Ann Friedel at 627-1128 or Terry Gentry at 242-5641.

October 4 and 11, *Nonnative Invasive Plant Species, Clemson University Extension Satellite Course, various locations, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.* Designed for both professionals and the general public, this course on invasive species and their management will be offered simultaneously via satellite in Clemson, Anderson, Greenville, and other locations throughout South Carolina. The course fee is \$125. Online registration is available at [www.clemson.edu/extfor](http://www.clemson.edu/extfor), or call 656-0606.

October 5 (Greenville County) and October 27-28 (Pickens and Oconee Counties), *Walk This Way Day*. Safe Kids Upstate is sponsoring this annual event to promote safe routes to school as well as promote physical activity. For more information contact your local school or Teri Mitchell of Safe Kids at 454-1107. See also [www.saferoutestoschools.org/](http://www.saferoutestoschools.org/).

Oct 14, *Building Green Communities Conference, South Carolina Urban and Community Forestry Council, Columbia, SC*. Workshops on incorporating tree preservation and environmental conservation into the development process. <http://www.scurbanforestry.org/pages/760088/index.htm>

**October 27-30, Community Planning Collaborative Summit 2005: Democracy and Planning in Action, Orlando, FL.** A forum for sharing and exchanging knowledge about tools for community design and decision making, featuring keynote speaker Bruce Babbitt, former U.S. Secretary of the Interior. <http://www.planningcollaborative.org/>

**November 2, Global Warming: the Signs and the Science, documentary broadcast on PBS, 8:00 p.m.** A one-hour documentary about people living with the grave consequences of a changing climate and the individuals, communities, and scientists inventing new approaches to safeguard our children's future. Co-produced by South Carolina ETV, this program was filmed across the U.S., Asia, and South America.

**November 3-4, Forum on the Future of Conservation Easements in the South, Greenville, SC.** South Carolina land trusts along with land trusts from Georgia and North Carolina will discuss current practices in conservation, designing conservation easements for permanent defense, and improving the monitoring and defense of easements. Burnet Maybank, Director of the S.C. Department of Revenue will be the keynote speaker; he recently presented testimony and recommendations to the U.S. Senate on curbing abuses of conservation tax incentives, and his agency is currently investigating abuses of the state's conservation tax credit. For more information, contact the Land Trust Alliance Southeast program office at [southeast@lta.org](mailto:southeast@lta.org) or S.C. Land Trust Network chair Brad Wyche at [bwych@upstateforever.org](mailto:bwych@upstateforever.org).

**November 9-11, Greenbuild International Conference and Expo 2005, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, GA.** Sponsored by the U.S. Green Building Council, Greenbuild is the annual meeting place for green building industry professionals to learn about the latest advancements in green building design, construction, project financing and building management. [www.greenbuildexpo.org](http://www.greenbuildexpo.org)

**November 17-18, American Forests National Conference on Urban Ecosystems: Nature at Your Service, Westin Hotel, Charlotte, NC.** The urban forest is an untapped resource--one that can help cities meet regulatory requirements for clean air and water, revitalize neighborhoods, and reduce the costs of building and maintaining infrastructure. This conference will focus on reconnecting people to their cities' natural resources; *Upstate Forever* Special Consultant Diane Eldridge will present "Advocating for Conservation: Grass Roots and Public Policy." <http://www.americanforests.org/conference/>

#### 4. Lots o' Links.

**The Destruction of Louisiana's Wetlands has increased the region's vulnerability to natural disasters.** Two articles correctly predicted the horrific events unfolding in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

["Gone with the Water," National Geographic, 2004](#)

["Drowning New Orleans," Scientific American, 2001](#)

**[New Orleans Rebuilding Could Learn from New York.](#)** Manhattan's Ground Zero rebuilding plan has been bogged down by the details. A New York journalist suggests grand plans may be doomed in a city as large as New Orleans.

**[A Sad Truth: Cities Aren't Forever.](#)** The author of *Edge City: Life on the New Frontier* cites economic and historical factors in suggesting that New Orleans may not—and perhaps should not—rebuild after all.

**[Long-Term Disaster Recovery.](#)** While under harsh criticism for its disaster response in the Gulf, FEMA has a long-term recovery program that was lauded in a recent article. Rather than helping a community merely to put things back the way they were, long-term recovery aims to rebuild safer, more sustainable places after natural disasters. The program has been tested in communities hit by tornadoes, with implications for larger events such as Hurricane Katrina.

[Car-less in the Eye of Katrina.](#) The reason so many lives are in jeopardy from Hurricane Katrina is a result of our extreme dependence on cars and the lack of planning for public transportation, both for regular use and for emergencies, writes a professor at the University of New Orleans.

[Green Burial: By Land, Sea, or Space.](#) Featuring Billy Campbell and his Ramsey Creek Preserve cemetery in Westminster, SC.

[Town Hilton Head Adds Priuses to Its Fleet.](#)

[Endangered by Sprawl: How Runaway Development Endangers America's Wildlife.](#) The rapid consumption of land in the nation's fastest-growing large metropolitan areas could threaten the survival of nearly one out of every three imperiled species. This new report from the National Wildlife Federation, Smart Growth America, and NatureServe is the first study to quantify the impact of sprawling development on wildlife nationally.

[Downtowns: Not Just for Boomers.](#) In their new book, *Intown Living: A Different American Dream*, authors Ann Breen and Dick Rigby profile eight cities, including Atlanta, that had few downtown residents until recently but are now flourishing. They conclude that it is young people, not empty-nesters, leading the population growth in central cities.

[Old Cities, New Life.](#) Innovative developers and civic leaders are drawing residents back to older suburbs and formerly blighted areas, including the area surrounding the shuttered naval base in North Charleston.

[Report: Spending on Environment Yields Big Returns.](#) Protecting natural resources around the world can be a major tool in combating poverty, according to a new report by the U.N. and other agencies, with benefits far exceeding the costs.

[What Price Glory?](#) A proposed housing development on Morris Island, South Carolina, has ignited a debate over the uses of history.

[Obesity Rate Tops 25 Percent for South Carolina Adults.](#) Our state is ranked tenth in the U.S., according to a new report by the Trust for America's Health.

[Airlines Recalculate their Loads, Thanks to Heavier Americans.](#)

[Wal-Mart Goes Green?](#) The ultimate big box retailer is testing out sustainable development techniques in the construction, operation, and maintenance of a new SuperCenter in McKinney, Texas.

[Smart Growth and the Internet.](#) The revolution in telecommunications provides an opportunity to rethink transportation for the first time since the arrival of the automobile.

[A Main Street for the Locals, Not the Tourists.](#)

['Megalopolis' Comes of Age.](#) Major metro areas working together to plan their transportation futures and economic strategies might be a secret to America's 21<sup>st</sup> century survival and success.

[Removing Road Signs Makes Streets Safer?](#) Forget traffic calming—in the Netherlands, “Shared Streets” are the new wave in road safety.

[The Universe by Powers of 10.](#) View the Milky Way at 10 million light years from the Earth. Then move through space towards the Earth in successive orders of magnitude, down to the subatomic universe of electrons and protons. Fascinating!

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## 5. *Quote of the Month.*

"Short of a collision with an asteroid, land use by humans is the most significant impact on the world's biosphere. It may be the single most pressing environmental issue of our day."

-Jonathan A. Foley, University of Wisconsin climatologist, quoted in the Stanford Report, 7/27/2005

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