



The Resource



Preserving our Past and Protecting our Future

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YCF Covers Easement Fees for 314 Acre Property in Rock Hill

With the help of Nation Ford Land Trust, York County Forever, and the South Carolina Conservation Bank (SCCB), a 314 acre property along Fishing Creek is permanently protected under a conservation easement. In February of 2019, the Nation Ford Land Trust submitted a grant request to the SCCB for \$400,000 to purchase David Anderson's development rights on his 314 acre property in southern Rock Hill. Although the grant was awarded for a smaller amount, Mr. Anderson still agreed to place an easement on the property.

The Anderson property is particularly significant because of its location, a few miles east of I-77 in Rock Hill, and because of the 2 federally endangered species and 17 species that are protected by the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) found either on or within 3 miles of the property.

The two Federally endangered species found on or near the Anderson Property: the Carolina Heelsplitter and the Schweinitz's Sunflower.



Photo of the federally endangered Schweinitz's Sunflower.

Photo Credit: Hilton Pond Center



Photo of the federally endangered Carolina Heelsplitter.

Photo Credit: SCDNR

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Public Properties in York County

Worth Mountain

Worth Mountain is a 1640 acre Wildlife Management Area west of Hickory Grove along the Broad River. Visitors can find 3 stocked ponds, boat ramp access to the Broad River, and maintained hiking trails. The property was purchased in 2007 for recreational purposes including: hiking, biking, fishing, and hunting. Worth Mountain is free to visit and open seven days a week during daylight hours.

Herb Kirsh Wildlife Management Area

The Herb Kirsh WMA is located 5 miles south of Sharon and 8 miles northwest of McConnells. The tract is sometimes referred to as the Turkey Creek Tract consisting of over 356 acres of open space with free public access. The property was purchased by South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and York County in 2004. Turkey Creek bisects the tract providing a wide bottomland habitat while the remaining acreage is comprised of planted loblolly pine with scattered hardwoods. Hunting is allowed within Game Zone 2 regulations.



Above: Boat launch at Worth Mountain on the Broad River



Above: The entrance to Nanny's Mountain



Photo of Draper Mountain (photo courtesy of scgreatoutdoors).

Public Properties Continued

Draper Wildlife Management Area

Draper Mountain was purchased by Nation Ford Land Trust and York County, however, in 1995 South Carolina Department of Natural Resources bought the property and currently maintains the tract. The Draper Tract is 806 acres of protected land found 10 miles south of the town of York, in close proximity to Historic Brattonsville. On the property, approximately 80 acres consist of loblolly, shortleaf, and Virginia pine. Another 370 acres is comprised of hardwoods (a mix of various oaks, walnut, and hickory). The remaining 386 acres are numerous open fields, ranging from 50-75 acres. Although managed for hunting, other forms of outdoor recreation such as hiking, biking and bird watching are popular at this WMA because of its proximity to Rock Hill, SC, and Charlotte, NC. No horseback riding is allowed. The property contains 3 stocked ponds and special limits and open times apply. See a list of DNR State Lakes in a current copy of the Rules and Regulations booklet for details.

Nanny's Mountain

Nanny's Mountain is a hidden away Historical Park located off of Hwy 49 South heading towards the town of York, near the intersection of Hwy 49 and Hwy 274. The site is over 90 acres of protected land consisting of hiking trails and a picnic shelter with expansive views of the region at an elevation of 981 ft. Nanny's Mountain is a significant historical site in York County due to its vital iron ores that were utilized during the Revolutionary War to produce cannons, weapons, and other goods. The open pit mines are still visible today and are seen along the hiking trail. Park Hours are from 7am-7pm every day.

Did You Know...

York County is currently building a new recreational center on Lake Wylie on Crowders Creek in the Paddlers Cove subdivision?

Although still under construction, the 32 acre park will have: a playground area, baseball/softball fields, community building, multi-purpose synthetic fields, pickleball courts, two shelters, walking trails, and a Scorer's tower. Lake Wylie Recreation Park is scheduled to open in Spring 2020. Check <https://www.yorkcountygov.com/737/Lake-Wylie-Recreation-Park-Updates> for updates.

If you are unsure where the parks and trails are in York County, visit the York County website. On the YC homepage, click on the GIS Map portal. Once on the GIS page, the second map application provides users with a detailed, interactive map of parks and trails found in York County. Each marker on the map gives detailed information about the park and/or trail including: length of trails, operation hours, and age ranges for children.

<https://www.yorkcountygov.com/237/Online-Mapping-Applications>



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Pictured below is this issue's featured property. For more information, please click on the link or visit the YCF webpage on the York County website.

Did You Know...

York County currently has 8 species of animal and 43 plants that are listed as threatened or endangered? Since 2009, the number of threatened animal species has doubled and the number of plant species has had one addition. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) defines an endangered species as "any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range." The ESA defines a threatened species as "any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range." Typically, the number one cause of species endangerment is habitat loss/ habitat destruction. Other causes of specie loss are: introduction of nonnative/invasive species, exploitive hunting, changes in climate, and loss of genetic variability.

As the human population continues to grow, more space is needed to accommodate the needs of the people. As people begin to take up more land, wildlife is forced out of their native ranges and into smaller, more fragmented areas. Wild cat species, like the Eastern Cougar, each individual requires hundreds of square miles to hunt and breed. Unfortunately, the Eastern Cougar is now believed to be extinct as of 2019. With the loss of a major predator, the food web in the eastern mountain ranges will take years to adjust to a new equilibrium.

There is some good news! Within the last generation, society has begun to notice our impact on the natural world (which we need to survive). We have safe guards in place to help balance the relationship between humans and their environment.

Check out some of these York County native plants and animals that are currently under threatened or endangered status. (All pictures are from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)



Rudbeckia heliopsisidisi– Sunfacing Coneflower



Amphianthus pusillus– Also known as a Pool Sprite



Cambarus spicatus– Also known as the Broad River Spiny Crayfish



Symphyotrichum georgianum
Also known as Georgia Aster