



Official State Parks in SC:

- Aiken
- Andrew Jackson
- Baker Creek
- Barnwell
- Caesars Head
- Calhoun Falls
- Cheraw
- Chester
- Colleton
- Croft
- Devils Fork
- Dreher Island
- Edisto Beach
- Givhans Ferry
- Goodale
- Hamilton Branch
- Huntington Island
- Jones Gap
- Keowee-Toxaway
- Kings Mountain
- Lake Greenwood
- Lake Hartwell
- Lake Warren
- Lake Wateree
- Landsford Canal
- Lee
- Little Pee Dee
- Myrtle Beach
- Oconee
- Paris Mountain
- Poinsett
- Sadlers Creek
- Santee
- Sesquicentennial
- Table Rock
- Woods Bay

For more info visit Southcarolinaparks.com

Inside this issue:

- The Largest Easement to Date 1-2
- Endangered Species Act 2-3
- YCF Info 4
- Earth Day Info 4

The Resource



Preserving our Past and Protecting our Future

Volume VIII, Issue VIII

January 2020

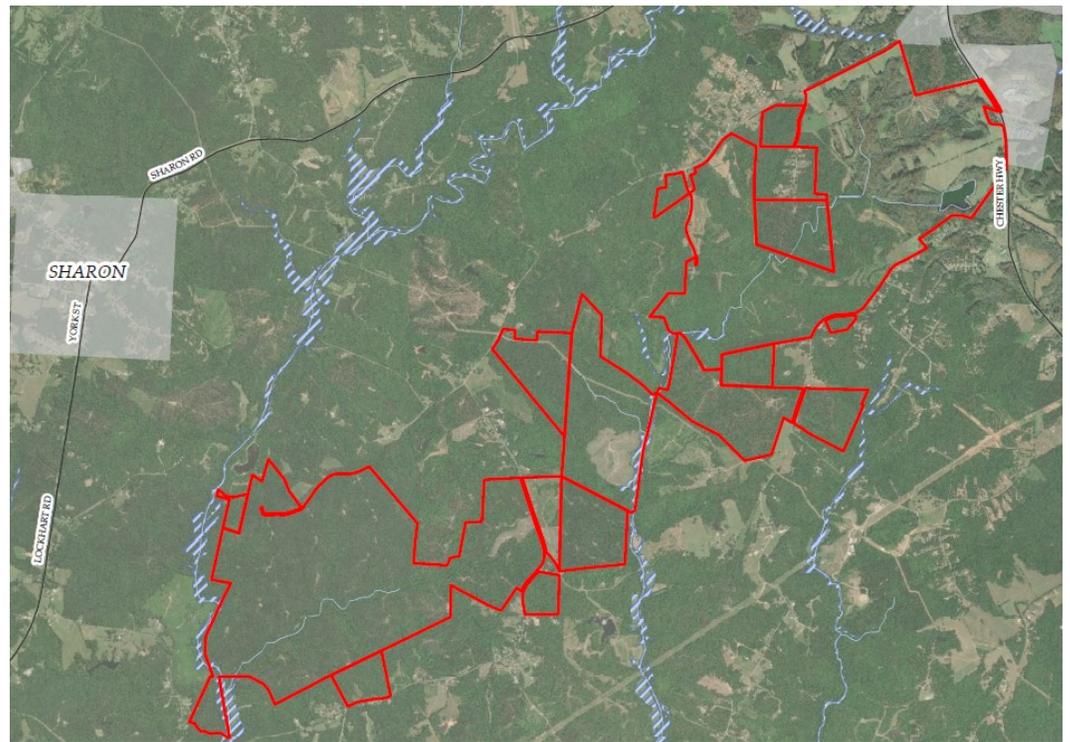
The Largest Easement To Date: 2,764 Acres

Deborah and Robert Stuck have been conserving land since 2006. To date, the Stuck's have conserved 4,091 acres of land in southwestern York County.

In November of 2019, the Stuck's requested York County Forever funding totaling \$138,000 for survey costs pertaining to the placement of a conservation easement on their 3,741 property. The tract spans from Chester Highway, just south of York, and spans southwest at Hord Road, south of Sharon. The property is so large it protects the a large portion of the Upper and Little Turkey Creek watershed.

The tract is primary used for private activities, however, Bob and Debbie are The tract considering allowing a portion of the tract to be used for public recreation.

York County is fortunate to have private land owners willing to place a permanent conservation easement on their land. There are both environmental and economical benefits to permanent land conservation, even more so when the property is privately maintained. Some of the most obvious benefits from an environmental stand point: wildlife habitat, rare and productive soil protection, water filtration and absorption, agricultural



The Stuck Property spans the distance between York and Sharon in southwestern York County.

Page 1 Continued

production, recreation, and clean air. The economic revenue from conserving a parcel this size is difficult to determine. For instance, The Trust for Public Land conducted a study that focused on the economic cost to tax payers of open space compared to developed areas and found that, "protecting parks and open space is eight times less costly to local governments than traditional residential development.," Nassau-and-Suffolk-County-Park-Benefits-Report, 2008. A realist might argue, development is inevitable in major cities and metropolitan areas, developing is just far too lucrative. This is true for many people who, if given the chance, would sell their land to a developer for the right price. However, it should be common knowledge, conserving land actually provides economic services that the tax payers have to fork over a lot of money for to have like: clean air, clean water, stable and productive soil, health care costs, higher property values, local production of your food items, tree canopy insulation, generation of energy, the list goes on.

Forest cover decreases the cost of treating drinking water: for every 10% increase in forest cover in the source area (up to about 60% forest cover), treatment and chemical costs decrease by 20%.

Water quality: When a wooded area is developed, impervious surfaces block the absorption of rain water, and the tree canopy is no longer able to intercept rain before it hits the ground. For natural ground cover, 10% of precipitation runs off lands and into nearby bodies of water. When 75% is impervious surface, 55% of precipitation becomes run off. Parking lots and other paved areas have 98% runoff. Trees can reduce and delay peak flows after a storm, reduce the need for storm water treatment facilities, and improve water quality. Reducing runoff is likely to save city residents millions per year.

Air Quality: Urban trees reduce temperatures and have other microclimate effects, reducing costs energy costs. In Washington D.C., this annually saves residents \$2.7 million and in Milwaukee, it annually saves residents \$216,000. They reduce ozone levels. Although the economic benefit of this is unknown, a 1997 study found that the cost of reducing a single part per billion of ozone through electric utility nitrogen oxides limitations is estimated at one-half to three-quarters of a billion dollars annually. Trees remove air pollutants, typically 11 g/square meter of canopy of ozone, particulate matter less than 10 microns, sulfur and nitrogen dioxide, and carbon monoxide. The annual economic value of this pollution removal, per hectare of canopy cover, is estimated \$663 in Atlanta, \$447 in Boston, \$482 in New York, and \$527 in Philadelphia.

The Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act became law in 1973. The law aims to protect specific animal and plant species whose population numbers fall short of historic population data. The protection of an identified species forbids its capture, collection, or habitat destruction. The goal is to ultimately remove a specified species from the list once their population numbers have recovered and stabilized. For instance, the bald eagle was one of the first species to be placed on the endangered species list with only 400 nesting pairs in the lower 48 states in 1963. The bald eagle was actually under federal protection in 1940, under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and given additional protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. These two pieces of legislation helped eagle populations for a short period of time. Unfortunately, the use of the pesticide DDT, after World War II, caused bioaccumulation in the internal organs of the eagles causing them to lay eggs with weakened shells. Eagle populations fell dramatically across the continental United States. In 1972, the Environmental Protection Agency banned the use of DDT which turned out to be harmful to many plant and animal species, including humans. The ESA helped fund programs to accelerate the recovery of the American eagle population through captive breeding programs, reintroductions, law enforcement efforts, protection of habitat around nest sites, and land purchase and preservation activities. The program proved successful with population numbers reaching almost 10,000 pairs today from a low of 400 pairs in the 1960's. In 2007, the bald eagle was removed from the endangered species list, however, they remain under protection by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ensuring that people do not, kill, sell or otherwise harm eagles, their nests, or eggs.

The ESA provides powerful advantages to struggling species; not only does it guard the species and its environment, it also provides educational opportunities. Educating the public of endangered species provides more eyes and ears for those species under protection. Another advantage of the ESA is habitat space,

The Endangered Species Act cont.

between 2008 and 2013 over 233 million acres of habitat were set aside for conservation. That's an area twice the size of California. Although full recovery of a species is rare, there is a 90% recovery rate in more than 100 species on the list. Currently, there are 1,470 animals and 946 plants listed as endangered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

There are some drawbacks to the ESA that should be mentioned. The species recovery rate under the ESA is only 2%. Scientists estimate that about 230 different threatened species would have become extinct without significant species receive consistent mention in the benefits of the ESA: the bald eagle, California condor, and the red wolf. The implementation of the ESA is chronically under-funded. Between 1980 to 2014, only 9% of recovery projects received adequate funding, with another 5% of them being listed as "overfunded." The amount of funding per species across all programs through the U.S.F&WWS has decreased each year since 2010. There is the perception that the ESA stops planning and development through long consultations and expensive modifications. This disadvantage does exist at a small level with consultations delaying cases only 10% or less. The average time for an informal consultation on a project that involved the ESA was just 13 days between 2008-2014. Formal consultations averaged 62 days. The ESA fails to address the core issues that impact plant and animal life. The legislation does not have the authority to stop carbon/methane emissions or intensive land uses that result in habitat loss (ex. Agricultural projects, suburban sprawl, and oil exploitation).

Overall, the ESA is the most robust law in any country that works to protect biodiversity. The purpose of this legislation is to prevent the extinction of the most at-risk plants and animals, encouraging an increase in their numbers to encourage an eventual recovery. Then that specific species can be removed from this list, like the bald eagle was in 2007.

Some examples of plant and animal species protected by the ESA in South Carolina:

(Pictures obtained from USFWS website: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/reports/species-listed-by-state-report?state=SC&status=listed>)

Miccosukee Gooseberry (date listed 07-18-1985)



Only two populations are documented in Florida and South Carolina.

Mountain Sweet Pitcher Plant (date listed 09-30-1988)



The pitcher plant is currently endangered and found in northern SC and western NC.

Bachman's Warbler (Date listed 03-11-1967)



**YORK COUNTY
FOREVER**

York County Planning
120 E. Elliott Street
Fort Mill, SC 29715

Phone: 803.909.7221
Fax: 803.909.7478

E-mail: brittnay.brown@yorkcountygov.com

Visit our webpage:
[www.yorkcountygov.com/340/
Forever-Commission](http://www.yorkcountygov.com/340/Forever-Commission)

The Resource, the official publication of the York County Forever Commission (YCF) is published quarterly in the months of January, April, July, and October.

The York County Forever Commission (YCF) was created by York County Council in 1998, to serve as the county's land conservation organization through promotion and protection of significant natural, cultural, historic, and environmental resources. Resource preservation is an investment that pays many dividends, to both the individual citizen and the community, whether economic: increasing property values, attracting business and industry, reducing the cost of services; environmental: controlling pollution, managing floodplains-storm water, protecting wildlife and vegetation; or social: promoting a healthy life-style, providing low-cost recreation, managing growth responsibly, improving quality of life. YCF is composed of nine members: a citizen appointed from each of the seven Council districts and non-voting representatives from Nation Ford Land Trust and Culture & Heritage Commission.

For an information packet about how you can protect your land or the personal benefits of donating property or a conservation easement through the York County Forever program, please visit the YCF webpage or contact the York County Planning Department at 803.909.7221.

Earth Day 2020

The Anne Springs Close Greenway is hosting their Earth Day Celebration on April 18th from 11-2pm at the Dairy Barn entrance on Nation Ford Road.

The York County Cultural and Heritage Museum is hosting Earth Day Birthday on April 25 from 10am-3pm at 4621 Mount Gallant Road in Rock Hill.

Both events will host numerous educational exhibits, most of which will possess a hands-on activity or environmental message.

