

South Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan



South Carolina
Just right.



2019

**SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR
RECREATION PLAN
(SCORP)
2019**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *2019 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)* is South Carolina's official outdoor recreation plan. This five-year plan serves as a guide for various federal, state and local governmental agencies and the private sector entities involved in recreation and natural resources planning and development. The purpose of the plan is to consider outdoor recreation issues relating to the needs of both residents and visitors to South Carolina, provide an inventory of the state's recreational resources, analyze demand for recreational opportunities, develop an implementation program to address the identified needs and issues, and identify funding opportunities and resources for recreation development.

South Carolina's Geographic, Demographic and Economic Profile

South Carolina's diverse geography and wealth of natural resources play an integral role in shaping the state's growth patterns and its appeal as a recreational and tourist destination. South Carolina ranks 40th in size among the fifty states at 32,007 square miles. Of this total, land area comprises more than 30,111 square miles, or 94%, with the remaining 1,896 square miles, or 6%, consisting of water. The state offers a full range of topographic features – from the mountains and foothills of the southern Blue Ridge Mountains, to the rolling Piedmont, Sandhills, and broad Coastal Plains, and the coastal barrier islands and expansive beaches on the Atlantic Ocean.

Climate influences the quality and accessibility of outdoor recreational activities in South Carolina. Nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and the Blue Ridge Mountains, the state enjoys relatively favorable weather conditions. The state's climate offers long summers and mild winters, providing year-round recreational opportunities. The Appalachian Mountains that form the northwestern border contribute to a temperate climate. Their proximity blocks much of the cold air from the northwest, resulting in mild winters; however, their presence also creates a notable area of decreased rainfall in the Piedmont region of the State. The average temperature in the middle of the state ranges from 33°F to 56°F in January and between 71°F and 92°F in July. The average temperature statewide was 64.9°F in 2016.

South Carolina benefits from an abundant supply of water in the form of lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands and aquifers. This water supply has contributed to the development and growth of the State's economy, particularly its tourism industry. The state's water resources are presently ample and still reasonably clean and fresh. The primary sources for water in the state are precipitation and stream flow from adjacent states. There are 11,000 miles of rivers 30,000 miles of streams, nearly one-half mile for every square mile of land surface.

South Carolinians and tourists to the state enjoy 187 miles of coastline. The coastal beaches are the state's greatest single attraction among the various natural, historic, and man-made recreational resources and are a significant focal point of the state's travel and tourism industry. The 60-mile Grand Strand that extends from northern Horry County south to Georgetown County contains some of the Atlantic Coast's longest unbroken stretches of beaches. Further south along the coast, the semi-tropical barrier islands of Charleston, Colleton, Beaufort, and Jasper Counties offer diverse recreational opportunities ranging from the elite, manicured resort developments of Hilton Head Island to undeveloped, wilderness areas such as Cape Romain Wildlife Refuge and Capers Island State Heritage Preserve.

Nearly one-fourth of South Carolina's land surface, or 4.5 million acres, is considered wetlands. Wetlands are a vital natural resource – providing a natural filtration system for sediment and pollution and serving as habitat for numerous species. Of the state's wetlands, 90% are freshwater and 10% consist of saltwater or brackish marshland. Freshwater wetlands occur throughout the state and include freshwater marshes, forested wetlands (primarily cypress-tupelo swamps and bottomland hardwood forests), and isolated wetlands (Carolina bays, pocosins, potholes, mountain bogs, and sinkholes).

In terms of outdoor recreation, South Carolina's wetlands are important components of the state's overall recreation landscape, as they provide unique opportunities for activities such as fishing, hunting, canoeing/kayaking, wildlife viewing and photography, camping, swimming and hiking. In consideration of their ecological and recreational significance, and in consideration of the conservation priorities established by state and federal agencies, SCPRT has identified the following types of wetlands as priorities for acquisition and conservation:

- Carolina Bays
- Bottomland Forests
- Freshwater, Tidal and Brackish Marsh

South Carolina's population increased from 4,625,364 in 2010 to an estimated 5,021,219 in 2017, representing an 8.6% increase in total population. At the county level, much of the substantial population growth has occurred along South Carolina's coast and in the area just below Charlotte, NC. The counties with the greatest estimated population increase from 2010 – 2017 are Horry (23.5%), Lancaster (20.8%), Berkeley (20.6%), York (17.7%), Dorchester (16.3%), Beaufort (15.0%), Charleston (14.7%), and Jasper (14.6%).

South Carolina enjoys a diversified economic profile and industrial inventory composed of aerospace, agribusiness, automotive, manufacturing, technology and tourism industries. These industries benefit from the state's extensive transportation infrastructure, which includes five interstate highways, 41,000 miles of state-maintained roads, two coastal ports, two inland ports, three international airports, two regional airports and 2,300 miles of rail. Like many parts of the U.S., South Carolina has experienced substantial economic growth and low unemployment rates over the past few years. The state's GDP has increased from \$172.1 billion in the first quarter of 2014 to \$190.5 billion in the fourth quarter of 2017. The state's unemployment rate has dropped from 6.4% in January 2014 to 4.2% by the end of 2017. Significant capital investments from companies that have established new facilities in South Carolina, as well as existing companies that have expanded facilities within the state, have driven much of the state's recent economic gains and job growth. From 2014 – 2017, the impact of South Carolina's tourism industry – which heavily relies on the state's natural, cultural and recreational resources – grew from \$19.1 billion to \$22.6 billion, an 18% increase.

Recreation Grant Resources

South Carolina offers several grant opportunities to support recreation initiatives, many of which are administered through SCPRT. Additional opportunities are available through SCDNR, the SC Department of Archives and History and the SC Department of Transportation. Grant programs that support recreation development include

- Land & Water Conservation Fund (SCPRT)
- Recreational Trails Program (SCPRT)
- Parks and Recreation Development Fund (SCPRT)
- Undiscovered SC Grants (SCPRT)
- Historic Preservation Grants (SCDAH)
- Transportation Alternatives Program (SCDOT)
- Boating Infrastructure Grants (SCDNR)
- Beach Renourishment Funding Assistance Grants (SCPRT)
- Tourist Oriented Directional Signage Program (SCPRT, SCDA, SCDOT)
- South Carolina Conservation Bank

2014 SCORP Goals

From 2014 – 2018, SCPRT awarded 32 LWCF grants totaling over \$7.2 million. These projects supported the three goals outlined in the 2014 SCORP:

- Promote Healthy Lifestyles
- Encourage Stewardship of Resources
- Ensure Sustained Economic Benefits

Outdoor Recreation Demand

As part of the development process for the 2019 SCORP, SCPRT conducted two online surveys to identify outdoor recreation demand. The first was general public survey, titled “Public Outdoor Recreation Usage and Perceptions Survey,” which received 860 responses, of which 840 identified as South Carolina residents. Nearly all survey respondents (98.4%) indicated that they have visited a local or state park or recreation area in South Carolina for outdoor recreation within the past 12 months. Approximately 28.8% of respondents indicated that they visited a state or local park for outdoor recreation a few times a month. Nearly 27% of respondents indicated that they visited once a month and 25% indicated they visited less than once a month. Approximately 19% reported that they visited a park once or more per week. Based on the survey results, the most popular outdoor recreation activity reported was hiking (70.5%), followed closely by walking (67.2%) and camping (58.9%). Approximately 24.3% reported sedentary activities (e.g., sitting, reading or supervising children) as a primary activity, while 23.9% reported playing (e.g., Frisbee, playing catch, playing with children) as a primary outdoor recreation activity. The most popular water-related activity reported was canoeing/kayaking (36.9%).

In addition to outdoor recreation usage, survey respondents were also provided an opportunity to share their opinions regarding perception and satisfaction with current outdoor recreation resources. Of the total 860 survey respondents, 821 (95%) chose to provide their opinion on the overall condition of the outdoor recreation facilities they currently use. Overall, the survey respondents’ evaluation of current facilities was very positive. A little over 51% rated the current facilities as “Very Good,” 22.4% rated the current facilities as “Excellent,” and 22.4% rated the facilities as “Good.” Only 3.5% provided a rating of “Fair” and less than one percent responded with a rating of “Poor.”

Respondents were also asked to report their satisfaction with the recreational opportunities currently available to them. Similar to the evaluation of current facilities, the overall responses to this question were very positive. Of the 821 respondents to this question, approximately 55.1% indicated that they were satisfied with the current recreational opportunities, and 35.6% indicated that they were very satisfied. Only 6.3% reported that they were neutral (neither satisfied nor dissatisfied), 2.4% reported that they were dissatisfied, and less than one percent (0.2%) responded that they were very dissatisfied.

The second survey conducted by SCPRT to determine demand was a “Recreation Provider Survey,” a quantitative and qualitative survey, which was made available to local government recreation offices. This survey allowed local recreation providers the opportunity to identify their greatest needs, priorities, and barriers for outdoor recreation. A total of 35 local government outdoor recreation providers responded to this survey. Of the 35 total respondents, 54.3% represented municipal governments, 31.4% represented county governments, and 14.3% represented special purpose recreation districts. As part of this survey, local recreation providers were asked to rank five topline categories in order of importance for their organization. The categories were Park Land Acquisition, New Developed Facilities, Development of Inclusive Facilities, Disabled Access to Current Facilities, and Maintenance of Existing Facilities. Maintenance of Existing Facilities was ranked as the number one priority by 48.4% of respondents. New

Developed Facilities was ranked as a top priority by 32.3% of respondents, followed by 12.9% of respondents who indicated that Park Land Acquisition was the number one priority for their organization.

Outdoor Recreation Supply

Based on data collected for the 2019 SCORP, SCPRT estimates that South Carolina has nearly 1.7 million acres of public recreational land – accounting for seven percent of the state’s total area. Approximately 64% of the total recreational acreage is owned and operated by Federal agencies, and 33% is owned and managed by State agencies. Local governments account for approximately 3% of the total public recreational land acreage.

Based on data provided by local government organizations, SCPRT determined that South Carolina has approximately 40,000 acres of parks or recreation areas that are owned or operated by local government organizations. County parks or recreation areas account for 84% of the total acreage of local recreation inventory, followed by municipal parks and recreation areas, which account for 13% of the total. In terms of local recreation facilities, the most common type of facilities in South Carolina are baseball and/or softball fields, followed by playgrounds, tennis courts, picnic shelters and basketball courts. The least common facility types were water parks, skate parks and archery ranges.

South Carolina has over 3,700 miles of trails and established greenways and blueways, offering a diversity of experiences for various types of trail users. These resources are managed by a variety of agencies and organizations, including local, state and federal government agencies, as well as not-for-profit organizations such as the Palmetto Conservation Foundation and the East Coast Greenway Alliance. When broken down into major categories of use, Hiking/Walking Trails are the most common trail type in the state, followed by Equestrian/Hiking Trails and Biking/Walking Trails. Mountain biking and ATV single use trails are the least common type in South Carolina.

The South Carolina State Park System has 47 State Parks comprised of 85,000 acres that include 3,000 campsites, 144 cabins, 80 hotel rooms, two 18-hole golf courses, and over 300 miles of hiking and riding trails. The South Carolina Forestry Commission manages five State Forests totaling over 92,000 acres that offer a diversity of landscapes and recreational opportunities such as hiking, horseback riding, hunting and fishing. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) owns over 290,000 acres of property that include Wildlife Management Areas, State Heritage Preserves, and the State Natural Area at Jocassee Gorges. These areas offer a wide range of outdoor recreation experiences, including hiking, fishing, boating, and hunting.

Federally-owned parks and recreation areas in South Carolina include several properties owned and operated by the National Park Service, two National Forests, several camping and recreational day-use areas owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and seven National Wildlife Refuges. These federally owned and managed properties provide recreational opportunities such as hiking, canoeing/kayaking, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

2019 SCORP Goals

The guiding goals for the 2019 South Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan are derived from a combination of state and local outdoor recreation planning goals, conclusions drawn from the recreation demand and supply results, and external factors, such as population growth, industrial and urban development, that broadly impact recreation planning and development. The four goals outlined below are designed to deliver optimal benefit to South Carolina residents and communities, provide guidance and assistance to state and local recreation providers, and ensure the effective use of LWCF funding.

SCORP Goal 1: Improving Access to Public Recreation Areas

The proven public health benefits of outdoor recreation necessitate that opportunities be made available to everyone, regardless of economic circumstances or physical ability. Having the ability to enjoy the outdoors through recreation is as much a fundamental right of all citizens as those determined in the documents and laws that established this nation.

SCORP Goal 2: Promoting Stewardship of Resources

Conserving South Carolina's natural and cultural resources, as well as the financial resources of recreation providers, will continue to be a critical component of outdoor recreation planning, especially in areas with significant population growth and urban development. Each recreation project in the state is an investment by the project's sponsor – one made on behalf of and for local or state residents. As such, it is important to ensure recreation projects are well-planned and adequately suit local demand and the state's recreation needs.

SCORP Goal 3: Ensuring Sustainable Economic Benefits

Outdoor recreation experiences are a significant driver for the state's tourism economy and for many local business communities. By strategically conserving the state's natural resources and leveraging its outdoor recreational assets, South Carolina can further enhance its economic profile – generating new job opportunities for South Carolina residents and contributing millions of additional dollars to the state's economy.

SCORP Goal 4: Adapting to Changes in Recreation Demand

While the overall need for recreation is universal and remains, largely, unchanged, public demand for outdoor recreation experiences is not static. Rather, outdoor recreation demand increases and evolves as the state's population grows and as the state's demographic composition changes. Outdoor recreation best serves its social purpose when it effectively addresses and adapts to changing public needs.

It is the aim of South Carolina's *2019 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*, through the goals and guidelines established in this report, to optimize South Carolina's outdoor recreation potential. As with all planning activities, outdoor recreation planning in South Carolina must balance between steadfast principles and ever-changing circumstances. In doing so, the SCORP may best serve the needs of South Carolina – its natural resources, its people and its economy.

SECTION I. INTRODUCTION

The *2019 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)* is South Carolina's official outdoor recreation plan. This five-year plan serves as a guide for various federal, state and local government agencies and the private sector entities involved in recreation and natural resources planning and development. The purpose of the plan is to consider outdoor recreation issues relating to the needs of both residents and visitors to South Carolina, provide an inventory of the state's recreational resources, analyze demand for recreational opportunities, develop an implementation program to address the identified needs and issues, and identify funding opportunities and resources for recreation development.

The plan provides an opportunity for a variety of agencies and organizations to communicate upcoming projects, leverage limited resources, and coordinate activities. The SCORP meets the National Park Service requirements for a state plan and serves as the planning document for the disbursement of South Carolina's share of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which is administered by the National Park Service of the US Department of the Interior. In addition, the SCORP is used as a guide for distribution of state recreation grant funds, such as the Parks and Recreation Development (PARD) Fund. It is also used as a guide for the distribution of the federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Fund, and by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the USDA Forest Service, the SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, the SC Department of Natural Resources, and other state, regional and local agencies and organizations to identify recreation use and needs.

The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (SCPRT) is the designated agency responsible for outdoor recreation planning in the state. The South Carolina General Assembly established SCPRT in 1967 and reaffirmed its role in 1993:

- To promote the State's tourist attractions;
- To promote the general health and welfare of South Carolinians by developing and expanding recreational areas;
- To develop a coordinated plan which best utilizes the State's facilities and resources such as the natural scenery, outdoor sports, and recreational activities;
- To provide for the preservation and perpetuation of the Palmetto State's rich historical heritage;
- To lease or convey lands to local governments for parks and recreation facilities; and
- To study the State's park and outdoor recreational resources and facilities, the current and projected needs for these resources, and the extent to which these needs are being met.

SCPRT is also charged with promoting economic diversity in all areas of the Palmetto State by extending the full benefits of tourism and recreation.

As noted previously, the SCORP is used as a guide for distribution of recreation grant funds, particularly for the disbursement of South Carolina's share of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, and is also used as a guide for state and local governments, as well as the private sector, in making policy and planning decisions. The LWCF was established by Congress in 1964 to create parks and open spaces, protect wilderness, wetlands, and refuges, preserve wildlife habitat and enhance recreational opportunities. Under the Stateside LWCF grant program, funds can be used to acquire land for parks and recreation purposes; build or redevelop recreation and park facilities; provide riding and hiking trails; enhance recreation access; and conserve open space, forests, estuaries, wildlife, and natural resource areas through recreation projects. A list of LWCF projects in South Carolina, by county, is located at <https://waso-lwcf.ncrc.nps.gov/public/index.cfm>.

SECTION II. STATE PROFILE

Located in the southeastern United States, the state of South Carolina is in the heart of a region that is experiencing substantial population and commercial/industrial growth. An overview of the state's geographic, population, and economic development trends provides a glimpse into the challenges and opportunities faced by South Carolina as it works to accommodate growth while preserving and enhancing the state's quality of life. These trends have a profound effect on recreation and tourism resources and help define the direction and focus of outdoor recreation planning in the Palmetto State.

A. Geographic Profile

South Carolina's diverse geography and wealth of natural resources play an integral role in shaping the state's growth patterns and its appeal as a recreational and tourist destination. South Carolina ranks 40th in size among the fifty states at 32,007 square miles. Of this total, land area comprises more than 30,111 square miles, or 94%, with the remaining 1,896 square miles, or 6%, consisting of water. The state offers a full range of topographic features – from the mountains and foothills of the southern Blue Ridge Mountains, to the rolling Piedmont, Sandhills, and broad Coastal Plains, and the coastal barrier islands and expansive beaches on the Atlantic Ocean.

South Carolina is comprised of six physiographic regions: the Blue Ridge, Piedmont, Sandhills, Inner Coastal Plain, Outer Coastal Plain, and Coastal Zone. The Blue Ridge Mountains is the smallest of the geographic regions and is located in northwestern corner of the state. The highest point in the state is Sassafras Mountain in Pickens County, with an elevation of 3,548 feet above sea level.

As a transitional zone between the Appalachian Mountains and the Atlantic Coastal Plain, the Piedmont region roughly spans the area between Greenville and Columbia. The Piedmont, also known as the Upstate, is separated from the Coastal Plain by the Sandhills region, which contains the fall line – the boundary where the upland terrain gives way to less rocky, softer soil conditions, generally spanning diagonally across the middle of the state through its capital, the City of Columbia.

The Inner and Outer Coastal Plains are often combined and simply referred to as the Coastal Plain Region, which extends over approximately half of the State – from the fall line to the Atlantic. This region is also commonly referred to as the Lowcountry. The Coastal Zone refers to the state's 187-mile coastline, which contains barrier islands, salt marshes and sandy beach areas. The Grand Strand Area is a large, continuous stretch of sandy beach that extends from Little River to Georgetown. The overall mean elevation of the state is estimated at 350 feet above sea level.

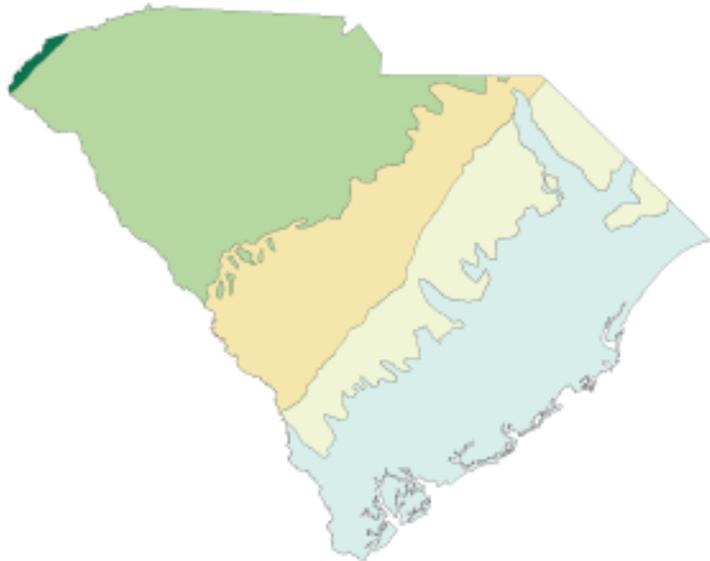


Figure 2.1 South Carolina Physiographic Regions



Climate also influences the quality and accessibility of outdoor recreational activities in South Carolina. Nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and the Blue Ridge Mountains, the state enjoys relatively favorable weather conditions. The state's climate offers long summers and mild winters, providing year-round recreational opportunities. The Appalachian Mountains that form the northwestern border contribute to a temperate climate. Their proximity blocks much of the cold air from the northwest, resulting in mild winters; however, their presence also creates a notable area of decreased rainfall in the Piedmont region of the State. The average temperature

in the middle of the state ranges from 33°F to 56°F in January and between 71°F and 92°F in July. The average temperature statewide was 64.9°F in 2016.

South Carolina benefits from an abundant supply of water in the form of lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands and aquifers. This water supply has contributed to the development and growth of the State's economy, particularly its tourism industry. The state's water resources are presently ample and still reasonably clean and fresh. The primary sources for water in the state are precipitation and stream flow from adjacent states. There are 30,000 miles of rivers and streams, nearly one-half mile for every square mile of land surface.

South Carolina State Scenic Rivers

Ten South Carolina river segments have been designated State Scenic Rivers to date - the Middle Saluda, Little Pee Dee (US 378 to the Greater Pee Dee River), Lower Saluda, Broad, Catawba, Lynches, Ashley, Black, Great Pee Dee and Little Pee Dee (Dillon County). Several others are now considered eligible under the State Scenic River Program – the Congaree, Whitewater, Thompson, Edisto and Little Pee Dee/Lumber. South Carolina also shares most of the Chattooga National Wild and Scenic River along its northwestern border with the State of Georgia. For additional information and locations, see the following web site: <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/water/river/index.html>.

There are four major river basins in South Carolina: the ACE River Basin, with sub-basins consisting of the Ashepoo, Combahee and Edisto Rivers; the Pee Dee River Basin, with sub-basins consisting of the Black, Little Pee Dee, Lynches, Great Pee Dee and Waccamaw Rivers; the Santee River Basin, with sub-basins consisting of the Cooper, Santee, Congaree, Saluda, Broad, Wateree and Catawba Rivers; and the Savannah River Basin, which spans portions of South Carolina and Georgia.

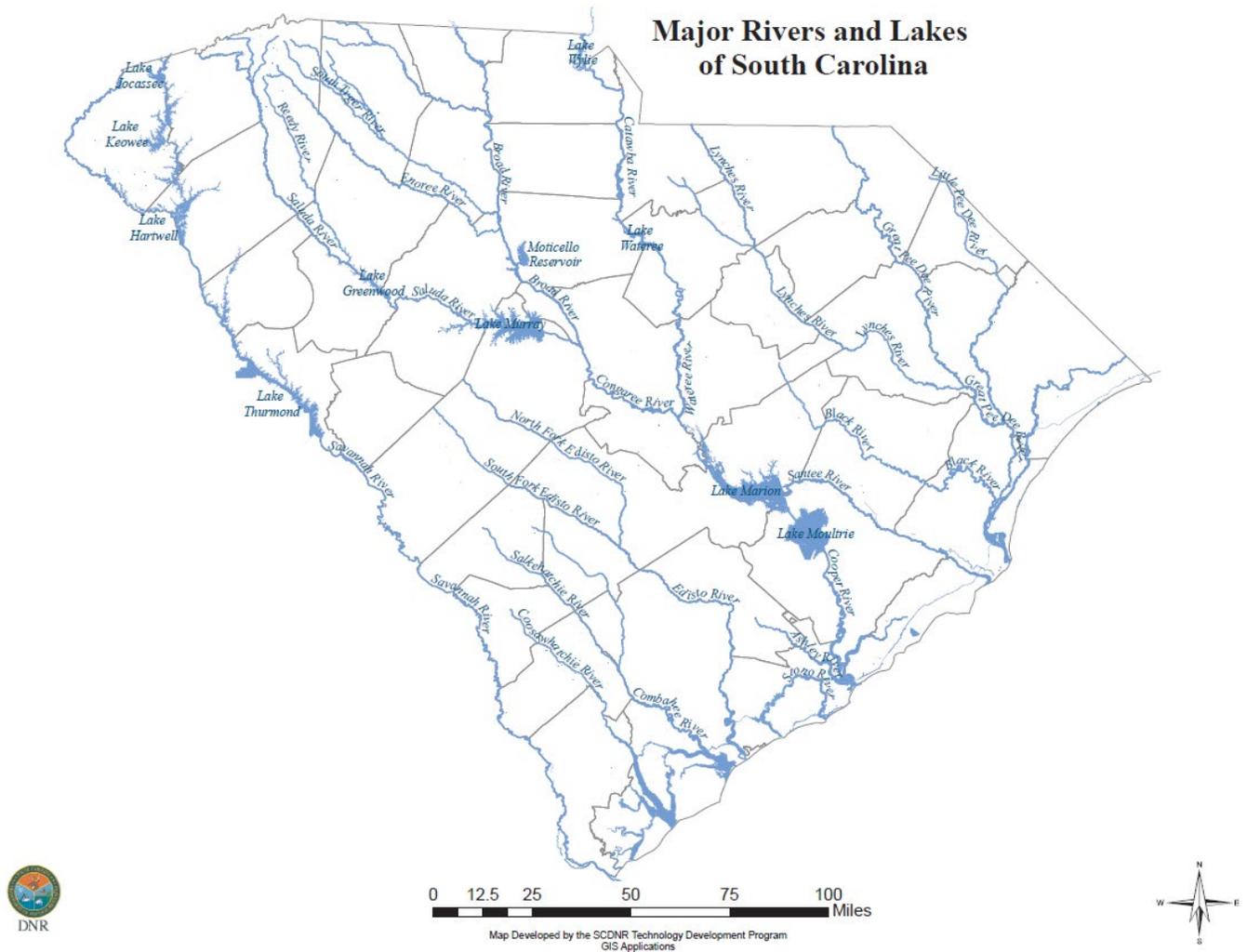


Figure 2.2 Major Rivers and Lakes of South Carolina

Rainfall impacts the condition and supply of the state's water resources and is usually abundant and distributed relatively evenly throughout the year. The annual rainfall ranges from 30 to 75 inches, and averages 45 inches. The heaviest rainfall occurs in the northwestern area of the state in the Mountains and Foothills, while the Midlands area is the driest. The Coastal Plain receives higher levels of rainfall due to the influence of the Atlantic; however, periods of drought are not uncommon and can influence natural and outdoor recreational resources.

A one-in-four probability of drought is projected for somewhere in the state at any given time. Droughts are naturally-occurring events that can seriously impact agriculture, drop water bodies to record low levels, damage forestry resources, drastically lower shallow and deep ground water resources, threaten public drinking water supplies, and endanger water quality. More recent droughts have included moderate to severe drought periods in the Mountain and Piedmont areas from October 2016 to June 2017.

While the Mountain and Piedmont areas are more prone to drought, conversely, South Carolina’s Sandhills, Coastal Plain and Coastal Zone regions have been significantly affected by flooding over the past few years. In October 2015, a record-setting rainfall event generated 10 – 26 inches of rain in the Sandhills, Coastal Plain, and Coastal Zone regions over a five-day period, resulting in widespread, catastrophic flooding in the state’s Midlands, Pee Dee and Lowcountry areas. This flooding displaced over 20,000 residents, closed over 500 roads and bridges and resulted in 47 dam failures. The state’s Coastal Plains and Coastal Zone – particularly in the Pee Dee, Grand Strand and Lowcountry areas – were impacted by flooding in October 2016 during and immediately following Hurricane Matthew, in November 2017 as a result of Hurricane Irma, and – most recently – in the wake of Hurricane Florence in September 2018.



Flooding at Hunting Island caused by Hurricane Matthew in 2016

Man-made controls such as dams have significantly influenced stream-flow and recreational opportunities in several regions of the State. There are 1,617 lakes larger than 10 acres scattered throughout South Carolina. According to the Inventory of Lakes in South Carolina, these lakes cover more than 521,737 acres and impound in excess of 15 million acre-feet of water. Of these, 17 reservoirs larger than 1,000 acres account for more than 450,000 acres of surface water (Table 2.1). Power production was the primary reason for constructing 15 of these large reservoirs. However, recreation is a principal use of most of the state's lakes.

The major lakes include: Lakes Jocassee, Keowee, Hartwell, Richard B. Russell, and Strom Thurmond (formerly Clarks Hill) on the Savannah River; Lakes Greenwood and Murray on the Saluda River; Monticello and Parr Reservoirs on the Broad River; Lakes Wylie and Wateree and Fishing Creek Reservoir on the Catawba and Wateree Rivers; Lakes Marion and Moultrie on the Santee and Cooper Rivers; and Lake Robinson on Black Creek (see Table 2.1).

Table 2.1 Major Reservoirs in South Carolina

Lake	Owner	Acreage
Lake Marion	Santee Cooper	110,600
Lake Thurmond	US Army Corps of Engineers	71,100
Lake Hartwell	US Army Corps of Engineers	56,000
Lake Moultrie	Santee Cooper	60,400
Lake Murray	SCE&G	48,000
Lake Russell	US Army Corps of Engineers	26,650
Lake Keowee	Duke Energy	18,372
Lake Wateree	Duke Energy	13,025
Lake Greenwood	Greenwood County	11,400
Lake Jocassee	Duke Energy	7,565
Lake Wylie	Duke Energy	7,316
Monticello Reservoir	SCE&G	6,700
Parr Reservoir	SCE&G	4,400
Fishing Creek Reservoir	Duke Energy	3,431
Lake HB Robinson	Progress Energy	2,250
Lake Bowen	Spartanburg Water	1,534
Lake Secession	City of Abbeville	1,450

South Carolinians and tourists to the state enjoy 187 miles of coastline. The coastal beaches are the state's greatest single attraction among the various natural, historic, and man-made recreational resources and are a significant focal point of the state's travel and tourism industry. The 60-mile Grand Strand that extends from northern Horry County south to Georgetown County contains some of the Atlantic Coast's longest unbroken stretches of beaches. Myrtle Beach is frequently ranked nationally as a top family beach destination in the country and enjoys year-round visitation from South Carolina residents, domestic and international travelers. Further south along the coast, the semi-tropical barrier islands of Charleston, Colleton, Beaufort, and Jasper Counties offer diverse recreational opportunities ranging from the elite, manicured resort developments of Hilton Head Island to undeveloped, wilderness areas such as Cape Romain Wildlife Refuge and Capers Island State Heritage Preserve. Other coastal resources include 240 miles of Intracoastal Waterway, extensive saltwater marshes, and numerous bays and sounds.

Wetlands

Nearly one-fourth of South Carolina's land surface, or 4.5 million acres, is considered wetlands. Wetlands are a vital natural resource – providing a natural filtration system for sediment and pollution and serving as habitat for numerous species. Only four other states have a higher percentage of wetlands than South Carolina – Alaska, Florida, Louisiana and Maine. South Carolina's wetlands comprise nearly 12% of the total wetland area of the southeastern United States. Of the state's wetlands, 90% are freshwater and 10% consist of saltwater or brackish marshland. Freshwater wetlands occur throughout the state and include freshwater marshes, forested wetlands (primarily cypress-tupelo swamps and bottomland hardwood forests), and isolated wetlands (Carolina bays, pocosins, potholes, mountain bogs, and sinkholes).

Wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems in the world, comparable to rain forests and coral reefs. Unfortunately, the US Fish and Wildlife Service report entitled *Wetlands Losses in the United States, 1780s to 1980s*, estimates that wetlands in South Carolina decreased by 27% during the last century, resulting in a loss of more than 1.75 million acres of wetlands.

Because wetlands provide numerous benefits for humans, it is important to encourage their protection. In addition to providing habitat for plants and wildlife, estuarine wetlands provide critical habitat for a majority of the commercial fish and shellfish consumed in the United States. According to information provided by the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), 96% of the commercial catch and more than 50% of the recreational catch in the Southeast consists of fish and shellfish that depend on estuary/coastal wetland systems. Coastal wetlands also act as a buffer to protect shore areas from waves and storms and help to reduce and even prevent erosion.

Ninety percent of the state's wetlands are freshwater wetlands. Freshwater wetlands can store storm water to reduce flooding, as well as purify water by holding and breaking down pollutants and by trapping silt or soil so that it settles in the wetlands instead of clogging up nearby streams. Some wetlands store water in the rainy season and release the water later into nearby aquifers or underground streams. This cycle recharges the groundwater that supplies many South Carolinians with drinking water. There are also aesthetic values to wetlands in that they provide opportunities for boating, fishing, hunting and nature watching. Wetlands also provide valuable educational experiences for all ages.

Scientists have linked atmospheric maintenance as an additional beneficial wetland function. Wetlands store carbon within their plant communities and soil (plants use carbon dioxide to photosynthesize) instead of releasing it to the atmosphere. Thus, wetlands even play a role in moderating global climate conditions.

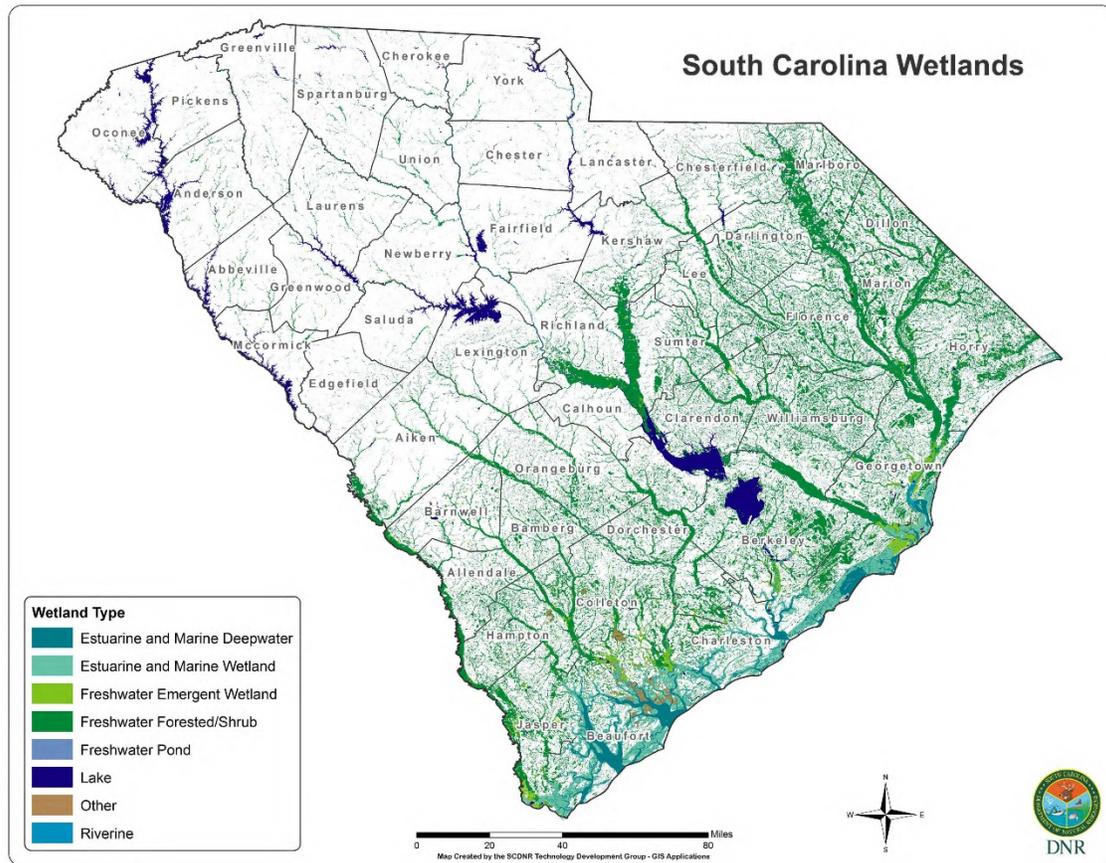


Figure 2.3 Map of South Carolina Wetlands

South Carolina features a variety of wetlands including coastal marshes and estuaries; swamps, bogs, isolated wetlands; and transitional areas around lakes, bays, ponds and rivers. Because of the many benefits of all of these types of wetlands, it is important to protect and conserve these areas for future generations.

While more than 30 agencies and organizations in South Carolina have a direct interest in wetlands and wetland preservation, there is no comprehensive state program for wetlands protection. Many factors affect wetlands and are leading to their loss or degradation. In addition to natural influences, the human impacts of urban development, pond construction, draining for agriculture, and pollution have resulted in wetland loss or degradation.

Loss of any wetlands, especially through filling, increases runoff with a subsequent loss of the wetland functions for flood control, groundwater recharge, and water quality improvement. Of particular concern is the conservation of unique isolated freshwater wetlands such as Carolina Bays.



The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources describes isolated ponds and wetlands as temporary freshwater features found embedded in other habitats. Examples include Carolina Bays, limesinks, flatwoods ponds and pocosins. While these waterbodies differ in their geologic origin and geomorphology, they are typically isolated from flowing streams, particularly any inflows. Occasionally these waterbodies will have an outflow "stream" that only flows when exceptionally heavy rains fill the pond above full pool. These isolated ponds and wetlands are vital to many species, particularly to amphibians as breeding ponds. Abundant grasses and sedges found at the edges of these waterbodies provide habitat structure for many species of amphibian larvae. Adjacent upland habitats are equally important to amphibian species. Although the waterbodies are used for breeding and nursery areas for the larval stages of these animals, they require appropriate upland habitat as adults. As noted in the *2015 State Wildlife Action Plan* (SWAP), Carolina Bays contain over fifty animal species that have been identified as moderate, high or highest priority for protection, including several species that are recognized as of concern or threatened by state or federal government agencies. These species include the American Alligator, Wood Stork, Tiger Salamander, Southeastern Bat, Snapping Turtle and Upland Chorus Frog.

In addition to isolated wetlands, SCDNR also noted the ecological importance of South Carolina's Coastal Plain in the SWAP. The SWAP notes that, of the approximately 144 species of amphibians and reptiles found in South Carolina, 112 occur in the Coastal Plain and 49 of these are either endemic or nearly endemic to this region. The SWAP reinforces the importance of the Coastal Plain region for herpetofauna, noting that one particular area of the southern Coastal Plain supports more frog species (25) than any other place in North America.

The 2015 SWAP also identified priority endangered or threatened animals in estuarine, tidal, fresh and brackish systems, such as the Florida Manatee and American Alligator. The 2015 SWAP identified the loss of rare, uncommon or vulnerable habitats, such as the isolated freshwater wetlands and freshwater seepage wetlands as a specific challenge to animal protection efforts, especially as even minor alterations to these wetlands can impact their suitability as habitats and breeding environments for reptiles and amphibians. Lastly, the 2015 SWAP highlighted the importance of River Bottoms, or Bottomland Forests, in all physiographic regions of the state as critical habitat areas for many priority animal species, such as the flatwoods salamander, the swamp rabbit, and the yellow-bellied slider.

The prioritization of animal and plant species by SCDNR is reflected in the agency's Conservation Focus Areas concept. Born out of the ACE Basin project, the Conservation Focus Areas concept seeks to establish coordinated conservation plans for specific areas of the state. As of 2018, conservation plans have been developed and completed for three focus areas: the ACE Basin, the Cowasee Basin, and the Little Pee Dee.

SCDNR currently manages 20 wetlands areas across the state, either through its Heritage Preserve program or as Wildlife Management Areas. The South Carolina Conservation Bank, whose mission is to conserve significant natural resource lands, wetlands, historical properties, and archeological sites in the state, has conserved nearly 25,000 acres of wetlands and 869 acres of Carolina Bays from 2014 – 2017.

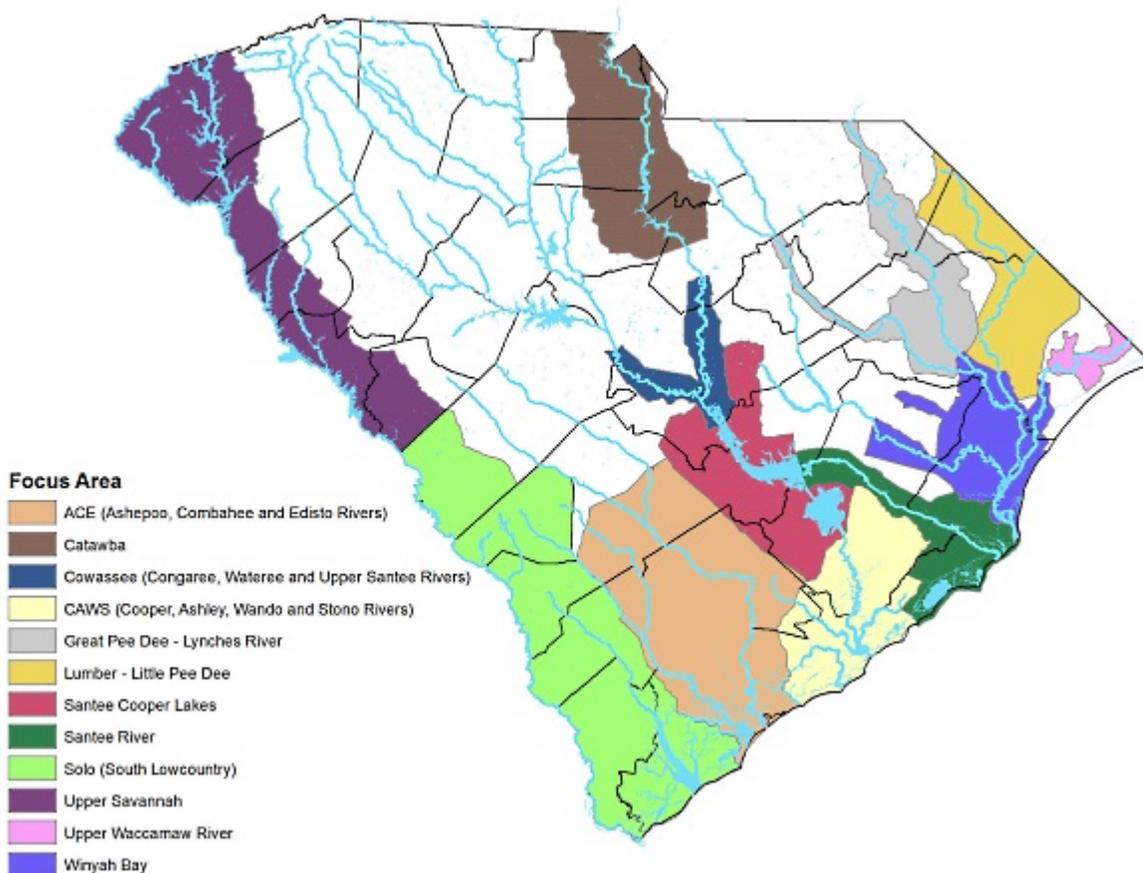


Figure 2.4 SCDNR Conservation Focus Areas

Further wetland acreage is conserved through various non-profit conservation organizations. The Nature Conservancy has acquired a significant amount of wetland acreage for protection, in addition to efforts by Ducks Unlimited, local land trusts, and many other organizations in wetland preservation and education. Many of these wetlands are protected through local non-profit groups working with private landowners using voluntary conservation easements. These organizations play a critical role by working in conjunction with the State to establish wetland sanctuaries and conservation areas.

In terms of outdoor recreation, South Carolina's wetlands are important components of the state's overall recreation landscape, as they provide unique opportunities for activities such as fishing, hunting, canoeing/kayaking, wildlife viewing and photography, camping, swimming and hiking. As noted in Section VI of this report, wetlands provide recreational opportunities at sites such as Congaree National Park, SCDNR Heritage Preserves, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Nature Preserves. In consideration of their ecological and recreational significance, and in consideration of the conservation priorities established by state and federal agencies, SCPRT has identified the following types of wetlands as priorities for acquisition and conservation:

- Isolated Wetlands (Carolina Bays, Limesinks, Flatwoods Ponds and Pocosins)
- Bottomland Forests
- Freshwater, Tidal and Brackish Marsh

Isolated Wetlands are defined as wetlands with no apparent surface water connection to perennial rivers and streams, estuaries, or the ocean. In South Carolina, types of Isolated Wetlands include Carolina Bays, Limesinks, Flatwoods Ponds and Pocosins. Wet pine flatwoods are extensive flat areas that have a shallow water table and are dominated by pine. Pocosins are wetlands vegetated by evergreen shrubs or low-growing trees. Carolina Bays are isolated freshwater wetlands formed in elliptical depressions. The State Heritage Trust Program has identified 2,651 Carolina Bays that are two acres or larger. Flatwoods ponds, pocosins and Carolina Bays can be found throughout South Carolina's Coastal Plains region.

Bottomland Forests are woody communities found primarily on the alluvial flood plains. These wetlands are found along the rivers of South Carolina and occur in the Piedmont and Coastal Plains regions. The presence of extensive wetlands along a 45-mile segment of the Congaree River has resulted in the consideration of the Congaree River for the State Scenic Rivers Program and the designation of over 26,000 acres of old-growth bottomland hardwood forest wetlands as Congaree National Park. The Sumter National Forest contains 1,500 acres of bottomland hardwood forest wetlands and the U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River Site contains approximately 34,500 acres of bottomland hardwood forest wetlands.

Tidal-freshwater marshes are tidally influenced but receive freshwater input from precipitation and rivers, preventing significant salt water intrusion from the ocean. There are an estimated 46,300 acres of tidal-freshwater marshes in South Carolina, occurring primarily along the Santee River and the rivers that form Winyah Bay, Charleston Harbor and the Saint Helena Sound. South Carolina's 344,500 acres of salt marsh make up two-thirds of the state's coastal wetlands. Much of the state's brackish or saltwater marsh can be found in state or federally-protected areas such as the Botany Bay Plantation Wildlife Management Area, the Pickney Island National Wildlife Refuge, and the ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge.

The identification of these wetlands types is consistent with Section 303 of the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's *National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan*. Each of the identified wetlands types meets one or more of the criterion established in the *National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan*. As noted in Section B: Demographic Profile, the state's coastal areas have experienced continued population and commercial growth during the past five years. As such, ensuring the protection of remaining freshwater, tidal and brackish marsh is of increasing importance as population growth and development continue in these areas. The conservation of these types of wetlands is also consistent with SCDNR's Conservation Focus Areas program, the South Carolina Conservation Bank priorities, and SCDHEC-OCRM's Critical Area Permitting program. As previously noted, the conservation of Isolated Wetlands and Bottomland Forests ensures the protection of unique natural habitats for rare, threatened and endangered species identified in SCDNR's *2015 Wildlife Action Plan*.

By protecting these types of wetlands, the state can help to ensure the continuation of these unique ecosystems and their numerous flora and fauna species. From a recreation perspective, safeguarding these types of wetlands ensures the availability of unique recreational resources, especially for high-demand recreation activities identified in Section V of this report. Specifically, these wetlands types provide opportunities for high-demand recreation activities such as camping, wildlife viewing, canoeing/kayaking and walking. Recreation opportunities at specific wetlands locations can be found in Section VI of this report.

The ACE Basin Project: A Success Story for Conservation & Recreation

Located primarily in Colleton, Charleston and Beaufort counties, the Ashepoo, Combahee and South Edisto (ACE) Basin is one of the largest undeveloped estuaries on the United States east coast. Approximately 1.1 million acres of diverse habitat, including pine and hardwood uplands, forested wetlands, tidal and brackish marshes, barrier islands and beaches, comprise the ACE Basin.



Featuring a unique estuarine system, this area provides an invaluable habitat for a diversity of finfish and shellfish. Due to the variety of natural habitats found within the areas, the basin also provides habitat for a wide variety of wildlife, including threatened or endangered species such as bald eagles, woodstorks, ospreys, loggerhead sea turtles and shortnose sturgeon. In addition to these priority species, the ACE Basin is also home to a wide range of more common animal species, such as raccoon, bobcats, deer, opossums and foxes.

Historically, the ACE Basin area was used primarily for agriculture until the American Civil War. With only three local plantation homes surviving the war, the area became fertile ground for hunting and outdoor enthusiasts. Responding to development pressures in the 1970s and 1980s, a group of concerned citizens petitioned local, state and federal government to assist with preserving the basin. In the late 1980s, the ACE Basin Task Force was formed, composed of concerned citizens and advocacy groups. Their efforts yielded the ACE Basin Project – a collaborative effort between USFWS, SCDNR, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, and other private organizations, which resulted in the conservation of 350,000 acres of this unique, natural resource.

Today, the ACE Basin serves as a treasured natural, cultural and recreational resource for South Carolinians and visitors to the Palmetto State. Recreation opportunities throughout the ACE Basin area include canoeing, kayaking, hunting, fishing, outdoor viewing and photography. This area also provides opportunities for environmental education and historical interpretation, and serves as an invaluable research resource for habitat management practices. Ultimately, the ACE Basin Project exemplifies the long-term, broad benefits of collaborative, public-private conservation efforts.



B. Demographic Profile

South Carolina's population increased from 4,625,364 in 2010 to an estimated 5,021,219 in 2017, representing an 8.6% increase in total population. During this seven-year period, the state's population growth resulted from a net natural population increase of 89,552 and a net migration increase of 303,557. Domestic migration accounted for approximately 87% of the total net migration. South Carolina currently enjoys a growth rate of 1.06%, which ranks 18th in the country.

At the county level, much of the substantial population growth has occurred along South Carolina's coast and in the area just below Charlotte, NC. The counties with the greatest estimated population increase from 2010 – 2017 are Horry (23.5%), Lancaster (20.8%), Berkeley (20.6%), York (17.7%), Dorchester (16.3%), Beaufort (15.0%), Charleston (14.7%), and Jasper (14.6%).

According to 2010 U.S. Census data, approximately 66% of South Carolina's population resided within urban areas of the state. An analysis of population growth based on the 2017 estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau indicates strong population growth in many of South Carolina's major urban areas. The Hilton Head Island/Bluffton population increased by 23.2%, with a population total of 49,629 in 2010 and an estimated population of 61,140 in 2017. Combined, municipalities in the greater Charleston metropolitan area¹ experienced a population growth of 17.4%, increasing from 391,265 in 2010 to an estimated 459,308 in 2017. The City of Greenville's population is estimated to have increased by 16.8%, up from 58,409 in 2010 to 68,219 in 2017. The population for the City of Rock Hill, just south of Charlotte, NC, is estimated to have increased from 66,154 in 2010 to 73,068 in 2017 – an increase of 10.5%. The greater Columbia metropolitan area² experienced an estimated 6.9% population increase from 2010 through 2017, increasing from 198,150 to 211,789 during the seven-year period.



While South Carolina's major municipalities have experience substantial population growth since 2010, many smaller towns and cities, especially in the state's vast rural areas, have experienced population declines. The cities or towns with the largest population decrease were Bennettsville (-1031), Orangeburg (-1010), and Union (-572). In terms of percent decrease, the City of Denmark (-16.1%) experienced the greatest population percent change, followed by the Town of Fairfax (-14.0%) and the Town of Allendale (-13.1%).

Women account for 51.4% of the total 2017-population estimate and men account for 48.6%. The median age of South Carolinians has increased slightly from 37.4 in 2010 to 39.0 in 2017. South Carolina's overall racial composition has remained relatively unchanged since 2010 (see Table 2.2).

¹ Includes cities of Charleston, Folly Beach, Goose Creek, Hanahan, Isle of Palms, and North Charleston and the Towns of Mt. Pleasant, Sullivan's Island, and Summerville.

² Includes cities of Cayce, Columbia, Forest Acres, and West Columbia and the Towns of Blythewood, Irmo, and Lexington.

Table 2.2 South Carolina Racial/Ethnic Composition (2010 v 2017)

Race/Ethnicity	2010 Census	2017 Population (Estimate)
Caucasian	66.2%	68.5%
African American	27.9%	27.3%
Asian	1.3%	1.7%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.4%	0.5%
Two or More Races	1.7%	1.9%
Hispanic/Latino	5.1%	5.7%

Median household income in South Carolina has increased from \$43,939 in 2010 to an estimated \$48,781 in 2017. Counties with a median household income greater than the state’s average in 2017 are Beaufort, York, Dorchester, Charleston, Lexington, Berkeley, Greenville, Richland and Lancaster. Lancaster County experienced the greatest estimated growth in median household income, increasing from \$38,959 in 2010 to \$50,557 in 2017. Three counties – Darlington, Newberry, and Hampton – experienced estimated decreases in median household income from 2010 through 2017.

Although the statewide poverty level has remained relatively unchanged from 2010 through 2017, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that some of South Carolina’s most economically-distressed counties have experienced improvements in poverty rate. As of 2017, an estimated 16.6% of South Carolinians lived below the poverty level. The counties with the highest poverty rate estimates in 2017 were Dillon (30.6%), Allendale (30.4%), Williamsburg (28.2%), Barnwell (27%), and Marlboro (26.6%). Of the top five counties in 2017, three (Allendale, Williamsburg, and Marlboro) experienced poverty rate decrease, one experienced no change (Dillon), and one (Barnwell) experienced a poverty rate increase. A comprehensive county population table can be found in Appendix B of this report.

C. Economic Profile

South Carolina enjoys a diversified economic profile and industrial inventory composed of aerospace, agribusiness, automotive, manufacturing, technology and tourism industries. These industries benefit from the state’s extensive transportation infrastructure, which includes five interstate highways, 41,000 miles of state-maintained roads, two coastal ports, two inland ports, three international airports, two regional airports and 2,300 miles of rail.

Like many parts of the U.S., South Carolina has experienced substantial economic growth and low unemployment rates over the past few years. The state’s GDP has increased from \$172.1 billion in the first quarter of 2014 to \$190.5 billion in the fourth quarter of 2017. The state’s unemployment rate has dropped from 6.4% in January 2014 to 4.2% by the end of 2017.

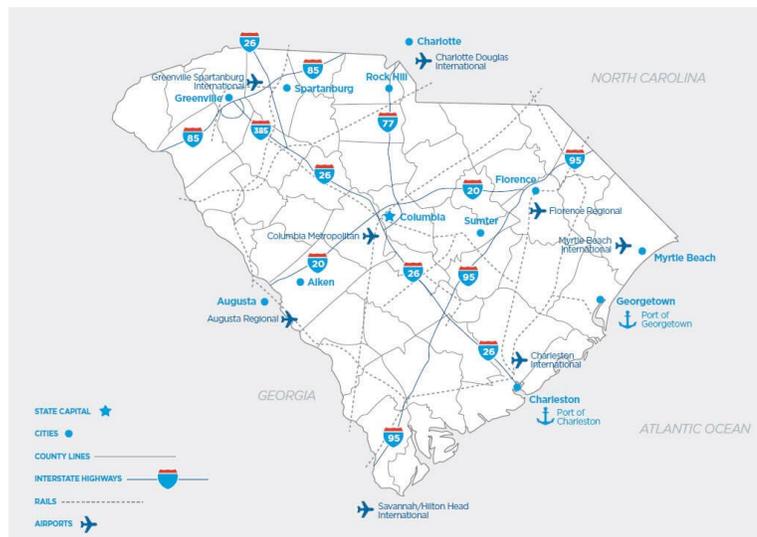
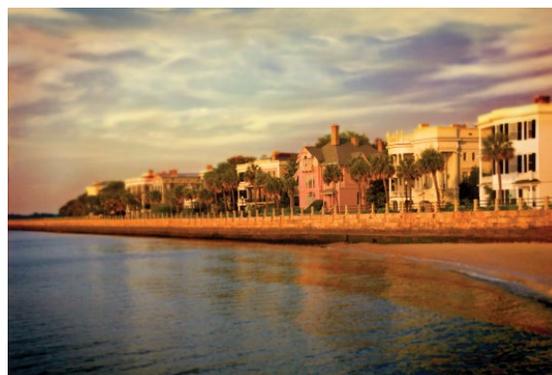


Figure 2.5 South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure

Significant capital investments from companies that have established new facilities in South Carolina, as well as existing companies that have expanded facilities within the state, have driven much of the state's recent economic gains and job growth. South Carolina has experienced significant new investment in its automotive industry in the past few years. Most recently, BMW completed a \$1 billion expansion of its facility in Greer, adding 2,000 new jobs. In 2018, Volvo Cars opened a new \$500 million production facility in Berkeley County, creating more than 2,000 new job opportunities. Mercedes-Benz opened a new Sprinter plant in North Charleston in 2018, with an investment of approximately \$500 million and more than 900 jobs at the new site. Also in 2018, Samsung opened a new \$380 million home appliance manufacturing facility in Newberry County, hiring 650 new full-time employees. In 2017, South Carolina-based McCall Farms, located in Florence County, announced a \$35 million expansion, adding 150 new jobs at its facility in Effingham. Other companies that have announced capital investment or job creation projects in South Carolina include Electrolux (Anderson County), Robert Bosch (Anderson County), Trane (Richland County), and Harbor Freight Tools (Dillon County). As part of its business recruitment strategy, the South Carolina Department of Commerce highlights the state's numerous green spaces and outdoor recreation opportunities as indications of the quality of life in South Carolina.

South Carolina's Tourism Industry

Like other sectors of South Carolina's economy, the Palmetto State's tourism industry has enjoyed substantial growth and success over the past few years. Since 2014, the economic impact of tourism increased by 18%, from \$19.1 billion to \$22.6 billion in 2017. A significant portion of this growth has resulted from increases in both domestic and international visitor spending. Domestic visitor spending in South Carolina has increased from \$13.6 billion in 2014 to \$15.2 billion in 2017, an increase of 11.7%. International visitor spending has increased from \$737 million in 2014 to \$912 million in 2017, an increase of 23.7%.



The recent expansion of British Airways, which began providing direct air service from Charleston to London in April 2019, promises to further elevate the state's profile as an international travel destination and market share in the key international markets.

From 2014 through 2017, South Carolina experienced over \$3.5 billion in tourism capital investment. 2017 proved a banner year for tourism business growth in the Palmetto State, with \$1.1 billion in tourism capital investment projects. These capital investments have added considerably to the state's tourism inventory, including new hotels and attractions in many of the state's travel destinations. These capital investments have resulted from and, in turn, helped to spur six years of record tourism growth in the Palmetto State.



The majority of visitor spending occurs in South Carolina's coastal destinations. Horry County ranks as the top county in South Carolina in terms of domestic visitor spending, generating over \$4.3 billion in 2017. Charleston and Beaufort counties rank second and third, with \$2.4 billion and \$1.3 billion respectively. The inland counties of Greenville and Richland round out the top five, with \$1.2 billion and \$684 million respectively.

Statewide, tourism supports one in ten jobs in South Carolina and generates \$1.7 billion in state and local taxes.

SECTION III. RECREATION GRANT RESOURCES

South Carolina offers several grant opportunities to support recreation initiatives, many of which are administered through SCPRT. Additional opportunities are available through SCDNR, the SC Department of Archives and History, the SC Department of Transportation, and the SC Conservation Bank. The following list of programs includes those that are specifically designed to support recreation projects, as well as programs that allow recreation components or indirectly support recreation in South Carolina.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) - LWCF is a federally-funded grant program administered by SCPRT for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation areas. LWCF funds are available only for local or state agencies. Grants provided under the program require a 50% match and are reimbursable. The minimum grant request is \$50,000 and the maximum amount is \$300,000. However, if the proposed project is determined to have regional or statewide significance it may be eligible for funding up to \$500,000. South Carolina receives approximately \$1.5 million annually in available grant funding and conducts grant funding cycles every two years with approximately \$3 million in available grant funds.

Contact: SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
Office of Recreation, Grants & Policy
1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 225
Columbia, SC 29201

<https://www.scpert.com/recreation/recreation-grant-programs/land-and-water-conservation-fund>

Recreational Trails Program (RTP) - RTP is a federally-funded grant program available to state, federal and local government agencies or qualified private organizations for the purpose of building or improving trails. In South Carolina, SCPRT administers RTP as a reimbursable grant program that requires a 20% match for trail projects across the State. The minimum grant amount available under the program is \$10,000, with a maximum of \$100,000. Motorized projects are eligible for the maximum amount of motorized funding available. South Carolina receives approximately \$1.2 million annually in available grant funds. The State has traditionally conducted funding cycles every two years with approximately \$2.4 million in available grant funds.

Contact: SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
Office of Recreation, Grants & Policy
1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 225
Columbia, SC 29201

<https://www.scpert.com/recreation/recreation-grant-programs/recreational-trails-program>

Parks and Recreation Development Fund (PARD) - PARD is a state-funded, non-competitive reimbursable grant program for eligible local governments or special purpose districts that provide recreational opportunities within each county. The actual grant awards are made on a project-by-project basis. The funds are used for permanent indoor or outdoor improvements to public parks and recreation facilities. These projects must consist of new development, not maintenance. Each applicant must have the endorsement of its county legislative delegation members with a combined weight factor of more than 50%. Eligible project costs are reimbursed at a rate of 80% (80/20 match). New allocations are received in July of every year and total approximately \$3 million annually.

Contact: SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
Office of Recreation, Grants & Policy
1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 225
Columbia, SC 29201

<https://www.scprr.com/recreation/recreation-grant-programs/park-and-recreation-development-fund>

Undiscovered SC Grants – The Undiscovered SC grant program was established in 2014 to provide assistance to local governments for the creation or expansion of viable tourism products with the potential to add value to their communities. The applicant must be a county or municipal government with total State Accommodations Tax distributions of \$550,000 or less. A local government may also apply on behalf of a non-profit organization, as long as the project property is owned by the local government. The minimum grant award is \$100,000, and the maximum grant award is \$200,000. This reimbursable grant requires a 1:1 cash match. This grant program receives \$500,000 in available funds each year. Funding cycles occur on an annual basis.

Contact: SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
Office of Recreation, Grants & Policy
1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 225
Columbia, SC 29201

<https://www.scprr.com/tourism/grants/undiscovered-sc-grant>

Historic Preservation Grants - The South Carolina Department of Archives and History administers the State's Historic Preservation Grant Program through funding provided by the US Department of Interior's National Park Service. Grant awards range from \$2,500 to \$25,000, with a maximum award of \$30,000. Approximately \$100,000 is available yearly for grants, with 10% allocated annually per Federal regulation to projects for Certified Local Governments (CLGs) in the form of matching grants. Grant applications may be made under two project categories:

Survey and Planning Projects - Any governmental entity, non-profit organization, or institution may apply for funding under this category, including churches and other religious organizations. Funding under this program can be used for a variety of historic preservation projects including identifying, recording and recognizing historic properties; planning for historic districts and multiple historic properties; strengthening local government historic preservation programs; and planning for individual historic properties.

Stabilization Projects - Grants for stabilization projects may only be used in cities and towns that are CLGs, and may be applied for by the CLG, or any non-profit organization or institution within the incorporated limits of a CLG, as long as the grant application includes the signature of the Chief Elected Official of the CLG. CLG grant funds may be used to help pay for stabilization repairs to National Register buildings, excluding churches and church-owned property.

Contact: SC Department of Archives and History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223
<https://scdah.sc.gov/historic-preservation/programs/grants>

Transportation Alternatives Program Grants (TAP) - The Transportation Alternatives Program is a federally-funded for community-based projects. Eligible projects are pedestrian facilities, bicycle facilities and streetscaping projects. Eligible applicants include local governments, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, natural resource or public lands agencies, school districts, local education agencies, tribal governments, and any other local or regional government entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreation trails. The TAP grant program will pay for up to 80% of eligible project costs. A local match is required to pay for 20% or more of the remaining project costs. This grant fund uses the following population-based sub-allocation: \$2,999,400 for urbanized areas of the state with an urbanized area population of over 200,000, also known as a Transportation Management Area; \$1,834,589 for areas of the state other than urban areas with a population greater than 5,000; and \$2,600,164 for areas of the state with a population less than 5,000.

Contact: SC Department of Transportation
955 Park Street, Room 424
Columbia, SC 29201
<https://www.scdot.org/projects/community-transportation-alternatives.aspx>

Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG) – The Boating Infrastructure Grant program provides funding through competitive grants for the development and maintenance of boating infrastructure facilities in South Carolina for transient (15 day visit or less), non-trailerable (26 feet or more in length) recreational (operated primarily for pleasure; or leased, rented, or chartered to another for the latter's pleasure) vessels. This grant program is only available to assist with the transient portion of a facility, and the facility must allow reasonable access to all recreational vessels. Eligible projects include mooring buoys, day docks, floating docks, and fixed piers, as well as certain support facilities and equipment. Both publicly owned and privately owned marina facilities that are open to the public are eligible to apply for funding. The Boating Infrastructure Grant is divided into two tiers. Tier I Projects compete against other South Carolina projects for funding and may not exceed the state’s apportionment of \$200,000. Tier II Projects compete against other South Carolina project and, if selected by the committee, compete against other projects on a national level. This grant program requires a 25% local match for awarded projects.

Contact: SC Department of Natural Resources
217 Fort Johnson Road
Charleston, SC 29422
<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/big/index.html>

Beach Renourishment Funding Assistance Grants – The Beach Renourishment Funding Assistance Grant Program provides financial assistance to South Carolina local governments for beach renourishment and the installation, repair or extension of permanent shoreline stabilization structures. Projects must meet the State’s definition for full and complete public access in order to be eligible for award. This reimbursable grant program requires a 1:1 cash match. To-date, this program has received \$46 million in non-recurring grant funds. Grant applications are accepted on a year-round basis.

Contact: SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
Office of Recreation, Grants & Policy
1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 225
Columbia, SC 29201
<https://www.scprt.com/tourism/grants/beach-renourishment-funding-assistance>

Tourist Oriented Directional Signage Program (TODS) - This program allows tourism and agri-tourism-oriented facilities to have directional signing placed in the highway right-of-way. The program is a cooperative effort between the SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT), the SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (SCPRT) and the SC Department of Agriculture (SCDA). Designed to promote agri-tourism and tourist-oriented facilities in rural areas, the program provides directional signing from the closest primary route, a designated SC or US route. SCDA and SCPRT are responsible for promoting the program and screening businesses to ensure that they qualify to participate in the program.

Contact: SC Department of Transportation
955 Park Street
Columbia, SC 29202
<https://www.scdot.org/business/agritourism.aspx>

SC Department of Agriculture
Wade Hampton Bldg., 5th Floor
Columbia, SC 29211
<https://agriculture.sc.gov/divisions/external-affairs-economic-development/marketing/agritourism/>

SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 248
Columbia, SC 29201
<https://www.scpert.com/tourism/tourist-oriented-directional-signage-program>

South Carolina Conservation Bank Grants – The mission of the SC Conservation Bank is to improve the quality of life in South Carolina through the conservation of significant natural resource lands, wetlands, historical properties, archeological sites, and urban parks. The SC Conservation Bank may award grants to eligible trust fund recipients for the purchase of interests in land. Eligible recipients include SCDNR, SC Forestry Commission, SCPRT, municipal governments, and not-for-profit charitable corporation or trust authorized to do business in SC whose principal activity is the acquisition and management of interests in land for conservation or historic preservation purposes and which has tax-exempt status as a public charity under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Contact: SC Conservation Bank
1201 Main Street, Suite 1820
Columbia, SC 29201
<https://sccbanc.sc.gov/>

SECTION IV. SCORP & LWCF

The Land & Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program provides matching grants to states and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The program is overseen by the Department of the Interior's National Park Service (NPS), which delegates grant administration to each individual state under the direct oversight of NPS. Since the program began, SCPRT has granted funding to more than 1,160 projects.

A. Open Project Selection Process

South Carolina receives approximately \$1.5 million annually in available grant funding and conducts grant funding cycles every two years with approximately \$3 million in available grant funds. SCPRT provides technical assistance to local governments and state agencies to identify potential eligible projects in order to ensure the full use of the state's annual apportionment. In the event that awarded funds are reverted due to a project being completed under budget or a withdrawal of grant award resulting from cancelation of a project, the unexpended funds are reverted to a special reappropriation account (SRA). Annual apportionments and SRA funds not allocated each fiscal year may be applied to cost overruns on active projects. Amendments to increase federal assistance without further competition through the Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) may be approved in an amount not to exceed the maximum possible total award of \$300,000 and may only be used for cost-overruns associated with project components approved in the original project scope. In some cases, the maximum possible total award amount may be waived at the discretion of the South Carolina's State Liaison Officer or the Director of SCPRT.

SCPRT conducts grant funding cycles in even-numbered years (e.g., 2014, 2016, 2018). The application process follows a standardized schedule of steps outlined below:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| • Request for Letters of Intent (LOI) | November (Preceding Odd Year) |
| • Deadline for Letters of Intent | December |
| • Grant Applications Emailed to Eligible Applicants | January (Even Year) |
| • Mandatory Application Workshop | February |
| • Grant Applications Due | End of March |
| • Application Reviews | April – May |
| • Notification of Recommended Projects | June |
| • NPS Approval of Projects | September |
| • Fiscal Briefing/Signed Grant Agreement | October |

LWCF Application Guidelines are available on SCPRT's website (www.scpert.com) year-round. SCPRT provides public notice of the request for LOIs through a media advisory and the agency's monthly e-newsletter. In addition, statewide organizations, such as the South Carolina Recreation & Parks Association, are also notified of the request for LOIs and asked to share this information with its membership. Any local parks and recreation departments that are not members of SCRPA are notified individually via a memo from the SLO. Following the deadline for submission, LOIs are reviewed to determine applicant and project eligibility. Eligible applicants include county governments, municipal governments, special purpose districts (with the authority to acquire, develop, operate and maintain public parks and recreation areas), and eligible state agencies as designated by law. An eligible applicant may apply for only one project during an LWCF cycle and that project must be located within the applicant's legal boundaries.

Once LOIs have been evaluated, eligible applicants are then emailed a copy of the LWCF Grant Application. These applicants are required to attend a mandatory application workshop prior to the submission of their applications. During this workshop, SCPRT staff provide technical assistance for the development of applications. This workshop also provides the opportunity for SCPRT to ensure that applicants understand the full requirements of receiving LWCF grant funding, including the requirement that all projects funded through the program are restricted in perpetuity to outdoor recreation use and the condition that no changes may be made to the property without the express written permission of the National Park Service and SCPRT. In addition to the mandatory workshop, SCPRT staff also provides technical assistance to current or potential applicants on an as-requested basis. Often, this assistance includes identifying which SCPRT-administered grant programs are best suited for the proposed project. This assistance also includes providing guidance in the development of proposals and providing guidance for required environmental assessments, cultural resource reviews, and other application requirements.

Once the grant application period has closed, all LWCF grant applications are evaluated and scored based on scoring criteria established in SCPRT's Open Project Selection Process. South Carolina's OPSP outlines both objective and subjective criteria for funding determination, including an applicant's past grant performance, the potential impact of the project, and the level of collaboration and partnership involved in the project. South Carolina's OPSP Scoring Criteria can be found in Appendix C of this document, as well as in the LWCF Application guidelines on the SCPRT website.

Application scoring is a two-step process. First, applications are scored by a group of selected internal and external scorers, who evaluate the project based on defined subjective criteria. As part of the application process, applicants must identify which goals in most recent SCORP will be addressed by the project and specify how this project will help the state meet one of more of the current SCORP goals. In the subjective criteria scoring process, scorers evaluate how well the project meets current SCORP goals and provide a score based on defined values. In addition, the external scorers also evaluate project feasibility, readiness and collaboration.

The second step in the scoring process is an objective criteria evaluation that is conducted by designated SCPRT staff. In the objective review, applications are scored based on the level of recreation services provided by the applicant organization, the date of their most recent LWCF grant award, and past grant performance, which includes a review of grant performance for LWCF, RTP, PARD and other applicable grant programs administered by SCPRT.

Notification of recommended projects generally occurs in June. A list of recommended projects is submitted first to South Carolina's State Liaison Officer and, subsequently, to the SCPRT Director for final agency approval. Once agency approval occurs, the list of approved projects is submitted to NPS for approval and obligation of funding. Once projects are fully-approved, SCPRT staff conducts fiscal briefings with grantees. At these fiscal briefings, the grant agreement is signed, allowing the project to commence.

Just as SCPRT is an equal opportunity employer and, through its programs, does not discriminate against anyone based on color, race, national origin, or handicap. Likewise, all participants in the Land and Water Conservation Fund program must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Grantees are made aware of non-discriminatory practice requirements in the project documents they receive during the fiscal briefing with SCPRT.

B. 2014 – 2019 SCORP Goals & Accomplishments

The *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* for South Carolina has been updated on a regular basis since it was first developed in 1965. The initial plan was developed by the South Carolina Department of Wildlife and Marine Resources (now the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources). Subsequent plans have been developed by the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, which was created in 1967. The SCORP has been revised and published every five years, with the most recent being the *2014 South Carolina State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (SCORP).

The 2014 SCORP identified three goals to be addressed during the 5-year SCORP planning period.

Goal 1: *Promote Healthy Lifestyles and Communities* through greater collaboration with healthcare providers and other stakeholder groups, providing broader accessibility to recreational facilities, and expanding the network of the state's trails for a variety of user groups.

Goal 2: *Encourage Stewardship of Resources* by working collaboratively with federal, state and local agencies, as well as not-for-profits organizations to identify and protect the state's natural resources, prioritize major rehabilitation projects for grant funding, and improve public access to existing recreation lands.

Goal 3: *Ensure Sustained Economic Benefits* by creating greater public awareness of the state's natural and recreational resources, encouraging collaboration between communities to reduce project duplication, and prioritizing those projects that utilize existing community assets.

SCPRT has continued to address the priority issues identified in the 2014 SCORP. Since 2014, SCPRT has awarded 32 LWCF grants, primarily to municipal or county governments. A complete list of grant awards can be found in Table 4.1. The following section addresses SCPRT's efforts to further the three goals identified in the 2014 SCORP.



LWCF Grant Awards in South Carolina (2014 - 2018)		
2014 awards		
City of Newberry	McSwain Street Park Renovations	\$100,000
SCPRT – State Parks	Hickory Knob Renovations	\$250,000
City of Hartsville	Lawton Park Playground Improvements	\$75,000
City of Greenville	McPherson Park Improvements	\$100,000
Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission	Seven Oaks Park Renovations	\$50,000
City of Greer	Century Park Reconstruction	\$200,000
City of Cayce	Guignard Park Redevelopment	\$250,000
Laurens County	Laurens County Park Renovations	\$50,000
Greenville County	Westside Park Rehabilitation	\$250,000
2016 awards		
City of Aiken	Eustis Park Rehabilitation	\$200,000
Aiken County	Langley Pond Park Inclusive Playground	\$250,000
Town of Cheraw	Laney Landing Erosion Control	\$250,000
City of Florence	Freedom Florence Rec Complex	\$60,000
City of Hartsville	Byerly Park Playground Improvements	\$130,225
Jasper County	Robertville/Gray’s Park/Tuten’s Landing	\$150,000
Town of Mt. Pleasant	Queen Street Tennis Courts	\$195,250
City of North Augusta	Maude Edenfield Tennis Courts	\$91,025
City of Rock Hill	Hargett Park Athletic Fields	\$250,000
Spartanburg County	Cleveland Park/Berry Field Renovations	\$250,000
City of Sumter	N. Main Street/Optimist Parks Rehabs	\$50,000
2018 Awards		
City of Aiken	Virginia Acres Park Improvements	\$300,000
City of Beaufort	Waterfront Park Stabilization	\$500,000
City of Camden	Wateree Riverfront Park	\$500,000
Charleston County Parks & Recreation Commission	Folly Beach County Park Improvements	\$500,000
City of Folly Beach	Folly River Park Dock Renovations	\$62,500
City of Greenville	Westside, Lakeside & Northside Parks - Shelter Rehabs	\$300,000
City of Greer	Turner Park Restroom Building	\$37,500
City of Myrtle Beach	Whithers Swash Observation Pier Rehab	\$60,000
City of Newberry	Newberry Recreation Complex	\$500,000
City of Rock Hill	Manchester Meadows Synthetic Turf Replacement	\$500,000
SCPRT - State Parks	Gap Creek Acquisition	\$500,000
City of York	City Park Redevelopment	\$250,000
Total Awards (2014 - 2018)		\$7,211,500

Table 4.1 South Carolina LWCF Grant Awards 2014-2018

Goal 1: Promote Healthy Lifestyles and Communities

Combating steadily rising obesity rates – as well as increasing rates for illnesses related to obesity – continues to be a concern, both nationally and in South Carolina. According to data provided by the Trust for America’s Health and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, adult obesity rates exceeded 30% in 29 states and exceed 25% in 48 states. With an obesity rate that has increased from 21.1% in 2000 to 34.1% in 2017, South Carolina currently has the 10th highest obesity rate in the U.S. The implications of this climbing obesity rate are reflected in the rising rates of obesity-related illnesses and conditions, such as adult diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and obesity-related cancers. Properly addressing this public health issue requires a comprehensive strategy informed and implemented through collaborative efforts from a variety of government agencies, educational institutions, and health care organizations. The challenge with these broad, collaborative initiatives is that they may become mired in discussions of

funding and determining appropriate metrics for success. While continuing to pursue these types of broad initiatives is integral to encouraging overall healthy behavior, there are actions recreation providers may take to promote healthy lifestyles and communities and, in this regard, become a catalyst for better health choices.

The South Carolina State Park Service participated with other public and private partners to provide input for the State’s *2014 - 2019 Obesity Action Plan*. The Park Service has also piloted a program to provide access to parks for patients who are prescribed outdoor recreation by their physicians as a means to improve physical or mental health. The South Carolina State Park Service also continues to introduce new programs designed to engage and encourage non-traditional park users to visit local or state parks and participate in outdoor recreation activities. For example, First Day Hikes are currently offered at 42 State Parks across the state on January 1st of each year. These ranger-led programs include walks along beaches, lakes, in forests or on historic trails, where visitors can learn more about the cultural and natural heritage of South Carolina while also keeping New Year’s resolutions to improve health and exercise more. First Day Hikes have averaged 2,000 participants since the program began. Another example of engaging non-traditional park users is the Palmetto Campout held at Sesquicentennial State Park each year. This event is designed to engage families with no previous camping experience and offer them the opportunity to learn the basics of camping from State Park rangers. The Palmetto Campout has averaged 250 participants each year since the program began.



LWCF Project Spotlight: North Main St. and Optimist Parks

Located in Sumter, North Main St. Park and Optimist Parks were two city parks with facilities that no longer met the needs of the surrounding communities. North Main St. Park featured a tennis court, constructed in 1978, that was no longer being utilized by residents, as well as a basketball court and playground. Optimist Park included a playground with outdated equipment in need of replacement. The goal of this project was to establish Optimist Park as the “Children’s Park” and North Main St. Park as the “Adult Sports Park.” The scope of work for this project included demolishing the tennis court at North Main St. Park and replacing it with a full-size basketball court and irrigated greenspace for activities such as picnicking, Frisbee and free play. In addition, the playground equipment at North Main St. Park was removed, with outdated equipment discarded and the remaining good condition equipment relocated to Optimist Park, which also had new playground equipment installed. The ultimate impact of this project was providing area residents updated, safer recreational equipment that better met their needs, and encouraging physical activity for adults and children alike.



Goal 2: Encourage Stewardship of Resources

The state's abundance of natural, historical, and recreational resources provide South Carolinians a variety of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and pursue a range of recreational activities. Unfortunately, state and local financial resources are not always sufficient to appropriately adapt and update recreational areas and facilities to meet increasing or changing public recreation demand. Insufficient financial resources and increasing public demand, especially resulting from population increases, intensifies the challenge of preserving natural resources for public use.

SCPRT continues to work with both state and federal agencies, as well as conservation organizations, to identify, prioritize and acquire strategically-located natural areas in order to increase the state's inventory of public recreational space. An example of this activity includes the planned acquisition of the Gap Creek property, a 955-acre parcel located northern Greenville County. Owned by The Nature Conservancy, Gap Creek is the last large remaining unprotected piece of land in the Mountain Bridge Wilderness, a 40,000-acre corridor of land envisioned by the late South Carolina conservationist, Tommy Wyche. By acquiring this property, SCPRT will ensure that future generations will enjoy ample open space for hiking, fishing, camping, birding and more in the Mountain Bridge area. Another significant acquisition by the State Parks Service is the McCall tract at Paris Mountain. This tract consists of 160 acres adjacent to and adjoining Paris Mountain State Park and will be used to provide outdoor recreation activities such as hiking, walking and birding, while preserving one of the longest-protected areas in the South Carolina State Parks System.

Through LWCF, SCPRT encourages recreation providers to prioritize and address rehabilitation needs for existing parks and recreation areas. Often, these rehabilitation projects also allow recreation providers the opportunity to not only address aging facilities, but also adapt these facilities to increased usage demand. Examples of these types of projects awarded between 2014 and 2018 include Cleveland Park/Berry Field Renovations in Spartanburg County, Folly Beach County Park Improvements in Charleston County, and McPherson Park Improvements in the City of Greenville.

LWCF Project Spotlight: McPherson Park

McPherson Park, the City of Greenville's first and oldest park is a unique and historic property cherished for its shady paths and variety of recreational opportunities. The park land was donated by William C. Cleveland in 1850 and originally named City Park. In 1910, the park was renamed McPherson Park, in honor of John A. McPherson, the head of the city's Park and Tree Commission at that time. Located close to the city's commercial center, the park features an array of recreational facilities and amenities, including walking trails and bridges, a miniature golf course, a recreation center, tennis/pickle ball courts, a bandstand shelter, picnic shelter, and two playgrounds. During a routine maintenance inspection in 2012, the Greenville Parks and Recreation Department discovered that one of the park's most distinctive features – its pedestrian bridges – were in need of significant repair or complete replacement. This LWCF project, awarded in 2014, provided assistance to repair or replace these bridges, as well as redesign McPherson Park's parking lot to address its deteriorated condition and ensure sufficient space to meeting rising public use.



Goal 3: Ensure Sustained Economic Benefits

South Carolina’s parks and outdoor areas not only provide recreational opportunities for residents, they also often serve as primary attractions for visitors to the state. This is especially true for many rural areas of the state, in which the tourism product inventory consists almost entirely of natural resources such as lakes, rivers, forests, and mountains, and the facilities or amenities constructed to provide public access to these resources. In addition, South Carolina’s green spaces enhance the State’s business recruitment efforts by assuring prospective companies of a high quality-of-life standard throughout the state.

SCPRT has achieved significant marketing success for State Parks through its Ultimate Outsider Challenge program, which encourages State Parks users to become Ultimate Outsiders by acquiring a State Parks Visitors Guide and visiting all 47 State Parks. Visitors must collect a stamp in their Visitors Guide at each park and have a park ranger verify their stamp book at their final park visit. To-date, over 1,000 people have successfully completed the Ultimate Outsider Challenge program. This program has benefitted State Parks not only by increasing user engagement, but also by diversifying visitation, and driving greater visitation to under-utilized park locations, many of which are located in South Carolina’s rural areas.



As part of SCPRT’s evolving Undiscovered SC statewide marketing strategy, the agency highlights many of the state’s unique outdoor recreation experiences, such as paddleboarding on Lake Jocassee and kayaking to the Edisto River Treehouses. Overall, SCPRT’s Undiscovered SC marketing strategy has experienced consistent increases in influenced travel to the state’s rural and developing areas. In Fiscal Year 18, SCPRT’s advertising influenced an estimated 683,000 trips to the “Undiscovered” areas of South Carolina. Moreover, this advertising has proven effective for increasing visitor participation in recreation activities such as hiking, boating, sailing, camping, cycling and visiting State and National Parks.

In addition to its marketing programs, SCPRT encourages recreation-based economic development through LWCF and its other grant programs, such as the Undiscovered SC Grant program. South Carolina has many examples of parks that not only serve local recreational needs, but also act as tourism business drivers for the local economy. One example is the Oyster Factory Park in Bluffton, which features a passive park, boat ramp, picnic area, the historic Garvin House, and the state’s only active oyster factory. Examples of recent LWCF projects that ensure sustained economic benefits include the Waterfront Park Stabilization in the City of Beaufort, the Freedom Florence Recreation Complex Improvements in the City of Florence, and the Manchester Meadows improvements in the City of Rock Hill.

LWCF Project Spotlight: Manchester Meadows

Manchester Meadows is a regional park owned and operated by the City of Rock Hill in York County. Established in 2001, the park features two lighted synthetic turf multi-purpose fields, six lighted natural turf multi-purpose fields, a soccer pavilion, playground, walking and cycling trails, a lake pavilion and playground pavilion. In addition to providing area residents with a diverse range of recreational opportunities, Manchester Meadows has become an important economic driver for the City of Rock Hill as a major sports tourism facility. Annually, the park hosts an average of 40 tournaments or other sports events. From 2005 – 2017, Manchester Meadows has contributed more than \$76 million in economic impact to the local business community. The scope of work for their most recent project is replacing the aging synthetic turf, which has reached the end of its useful life. By reinvesting in Manchester Meadows, the City of Rock Hill is not only enhancing recreational opportunities for area residents, it is also ensuring the successful continuation of this critical economic driver for the benefit of the local economy and business community.



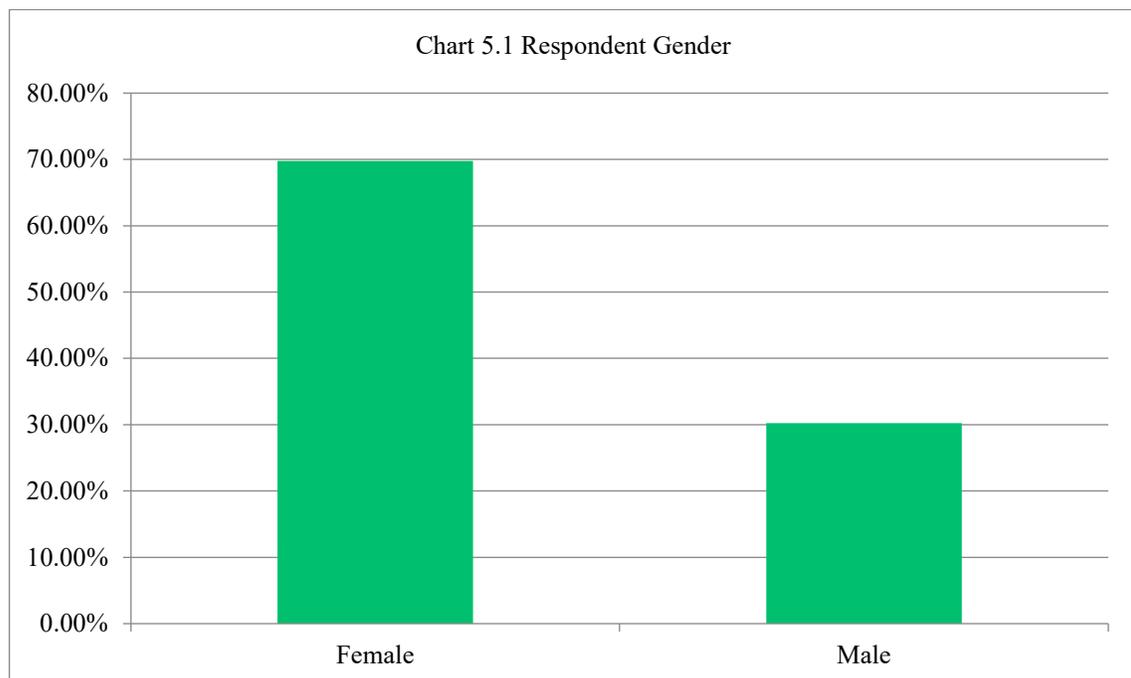
SECTION V. OUTDOOR RECREATION DEMAND

The *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (SCORP) is updated and prepared for publication and distribution on a five-year cycle. Implementation of the plan is a continuous process. The process employed to develop the 2019 South Carolina SCORP is defined by an inclusive and participatory planning process that is grounded in agency involvement and in public participation.

As part of the development process for the 2019 SCORP, SCPRT conducted two online surveys to identify outdoor recreation demand. The first was a general public survey, titled “Public Outdoor Recreation Usage and Perceptions Survey,” which was made available to the public via the agency’s website: www.scprt.com. Public participation of this survey was encouraged through a variety of resources, including media advisories, the agency’s e-newsletter and social media channels, State Parks social media channels, and Discover South Carolina social media channels (see Appendix E for examples). In addition to these agency resources, SCPRT contacted and shared information about the survey with outside organizations such as the South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association and the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission in an effort to ensure broader public participation. Data for this survey was collected between January 14, 2019 and March 15, 2019.

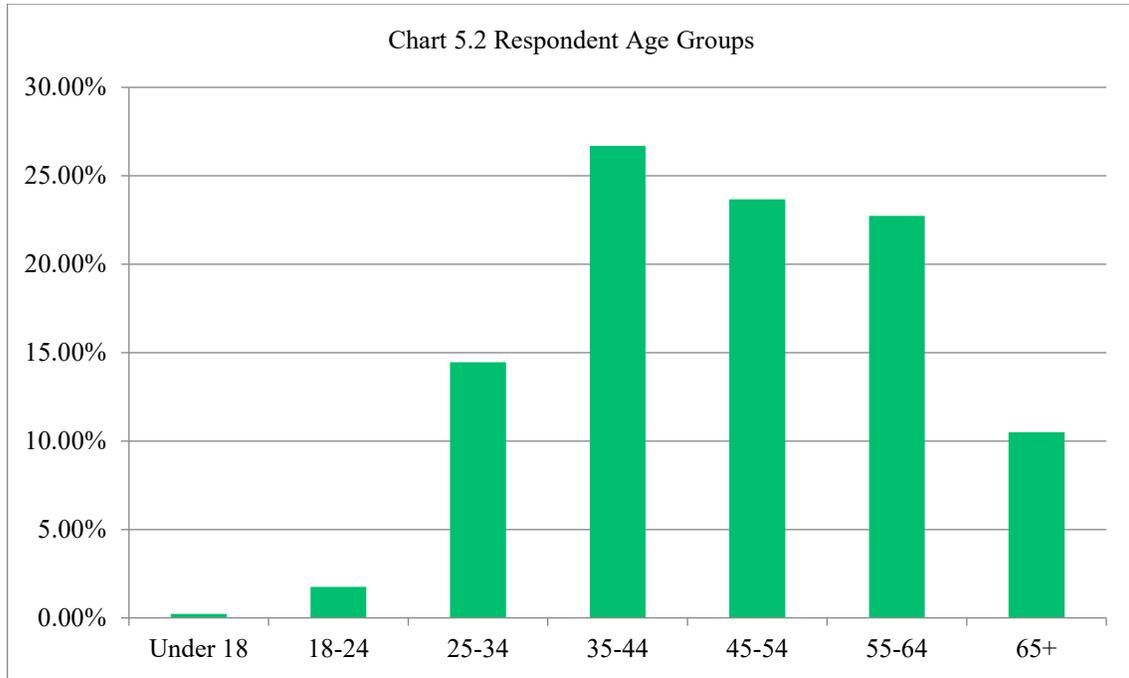
A. Public Survey Respondents’ Demographic Profile

Overall, this survey received 860 responses, of which 840 identified as South Carolina residents and 20 identified as non-residents. Of the total respondents, approximately 69.8% of the respondents were female and 30.2% were male.

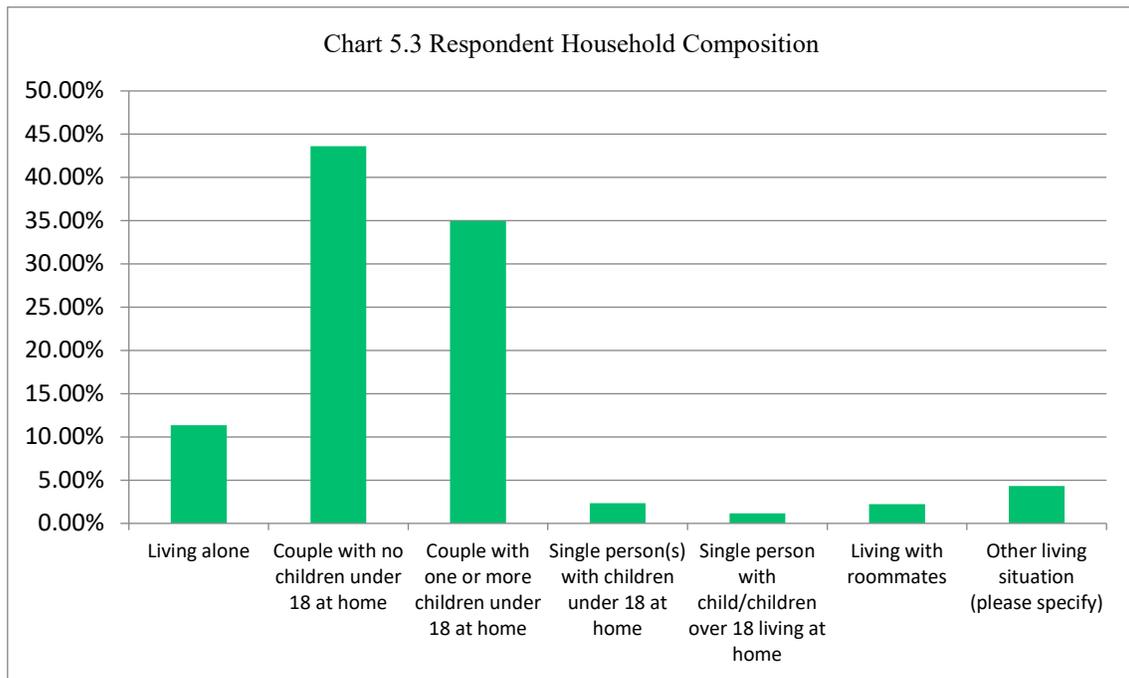


Approximately 96.1% of the survey respondents identified their race as White and 2.4% identified their race as Multiple Races. Less than one percent of respondents identified their race as African-American, Asian, or American Indian. Approximately 98.7% of all respondents identified as Non-Hispanic/Spanish/Latino.

The majority of survey respondents (50.7%) were between the ages of 35 and 54, with the age range of 55 – 64 representing the third highest age range group (22.7%).

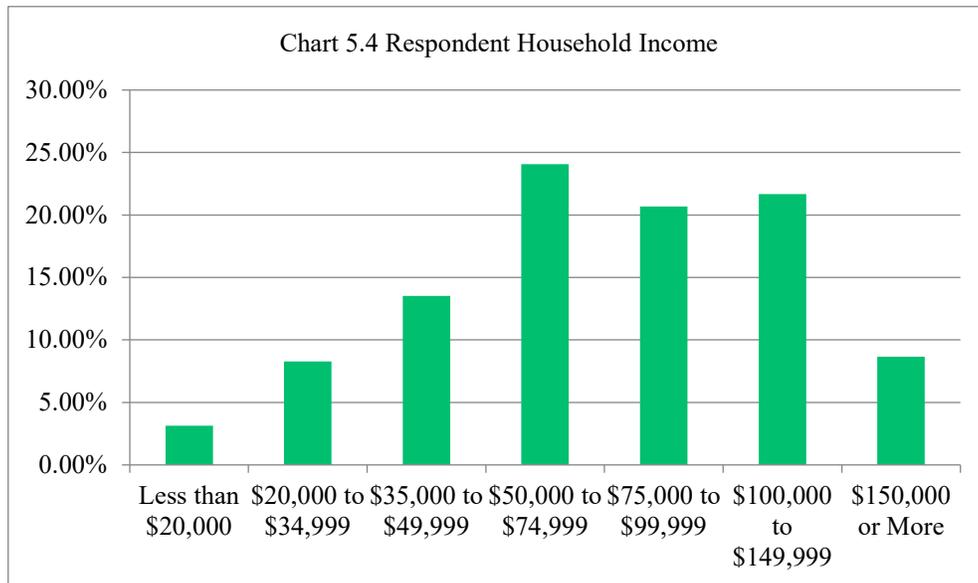


Approximately 43.6% of respondents identified their household composition as a couple with no children under the age of 18 at home. Respondents who identified their household composition as a couple with one or more children under the age of 18 at home represented the second highest group (35.0%). Respondents who indicated that they live alone represented the third highest group (11.4%).



The majority of respondents (66.4%) indicated a household income between \$50,000 and \$149,999. Approximately 24.1% of respondents reported a household income of \$50,000 to \$74,999; 21.7%

reported a household income between \$100,000 and \$149,000; and, 20.7% reported a household income between \$75,000 and \$99,999.



In terms of geographic diversity, respondents from the Piedmont area of the state accounted for 36.3% of all respondents. Respondents from the Central area of the state accounted for 33.6% and respondents from the Coastal area accounted for 19.5% of all survey respondents. The Catawba – Pee Dee region, which is one of the most sparsely populated area of the state, only accounted for 10.6% of all survey respondents.

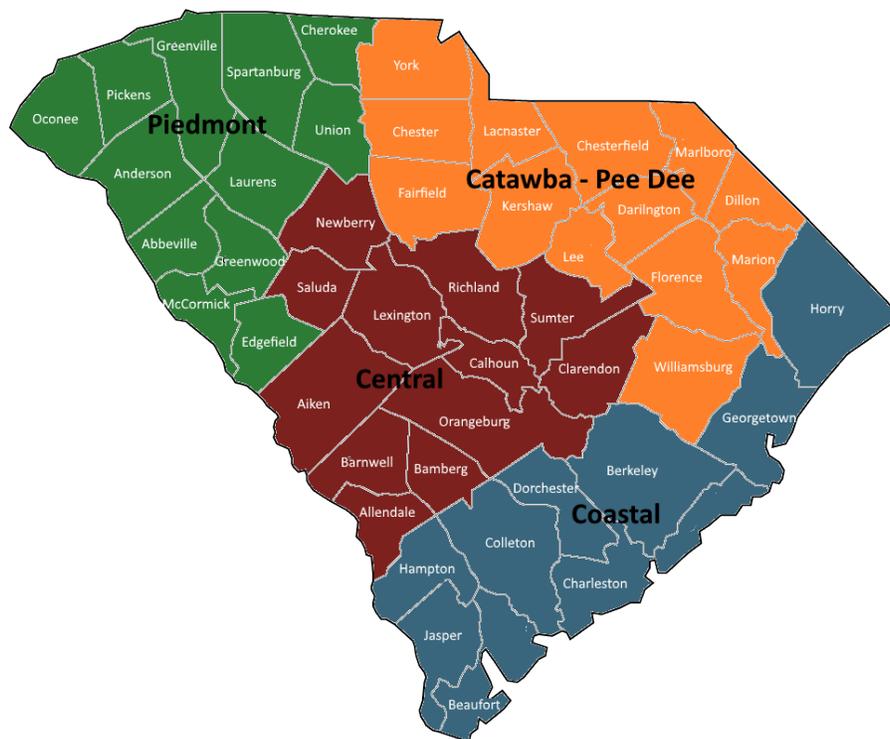
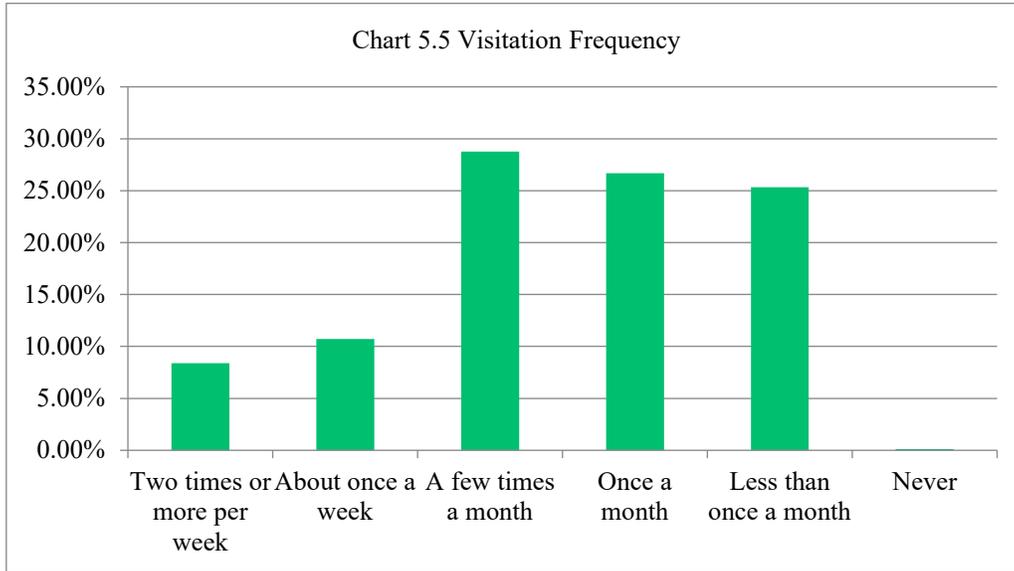


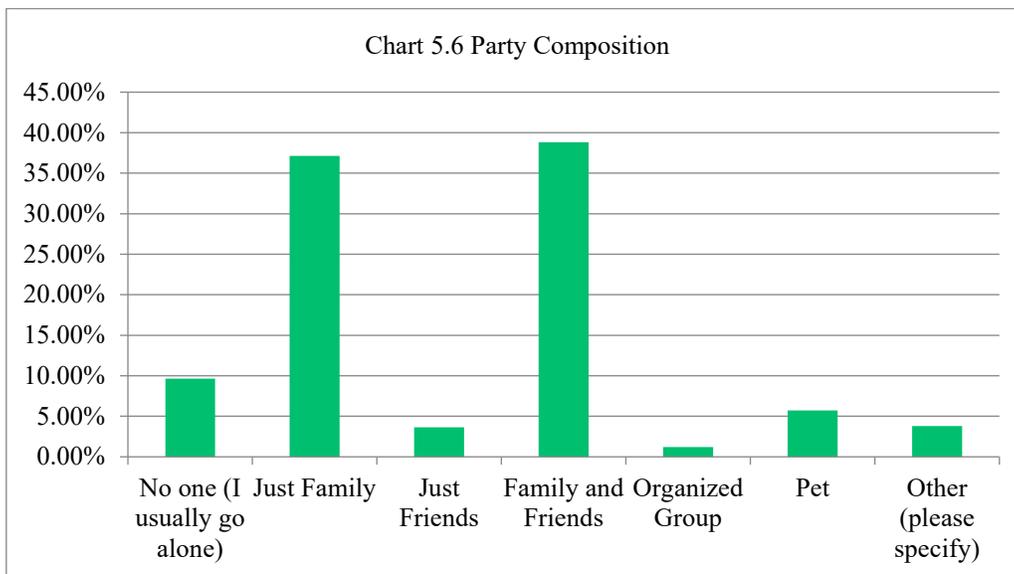
Figure 5.1 Major Regions of South Carolina

B. Public Survey Respondents' Outdoor Recreation Usage

Nearly all survey respondents (98.4%) indicated that they have visited a local or state park or recreation area in South Carolina for outdoor recreation within the past 12 months. Approximately 28.8% of respondents indicated that they visited a state or local park for outdoor recreation a few times a month. Nearly 27% of respondents indicated that they visited once a month and 25% indicated they visited less than once a month. Approximately 19% reported that they visited a park once or more per week.



When asked about their typical party composition when visiting a local or state park for outdoor recreation, 38.8% of respondents reported that they typically go with family and friends, while 37.1% reported that they typically visit with just family members. Nearly 10% reported that they typically go to a park alone and approximately 5% reported that they go with a pet.



Based on the survey results, the most popular outdoor recreation activity reported was hiking (70.5%), followed closely by walking (67.2%) and camping (58.9%). Approximately 24.3% reported sedentary activities (e.g., sitting, reading or supervising children) as a primary activity, while 23.9% reported playing (e.g., Frisbee, playing catch, playing with children) as a primary outdoor recreation activity. The most popular water-related activity reported was canoeing/kayaking (36.9%).

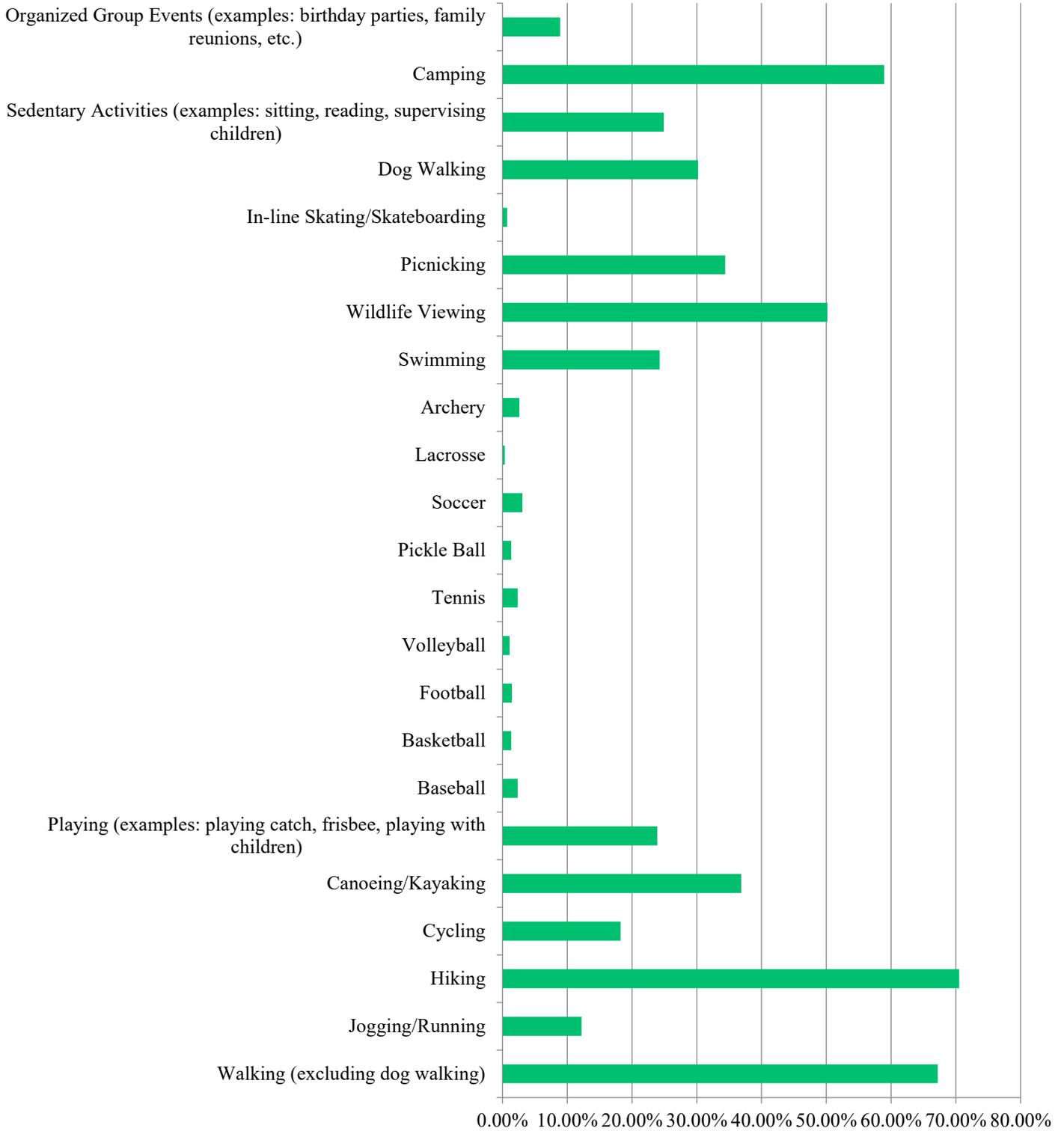
With the exception of walking, there was very little significant variance between men and women in terms of reported primary outdoor recreation activities. Nearly 72% of female respondents listed walking as a primary activity, while only 57% of men indicated walking as a primary activity. For both male and female respondents, approximately 70% reported hiking as a primary activity. Nearly 37% of women indicated picnicking as a primary activity, while only 28.7% of men indicated this as a primary activity. Approximately 32.5% of women reported dog-walking as a primary activity compared to 25.0% of men who reported the same activity. A slightly higher percentage of men (40.6%) reported canoeing/kayaking as a primary activity compared to women (35.5%).



As may be expected, when analyzed and compared by age groups, respondents between the ages of 35 and 64 comprised 75% of the respondents who indicated walking, hiking, cycling, canoeing/kayaking, swimming or camping as primary outdoor recreation activities. Nearly all respondents who indicated a team or individual sports activity as a primary outdoor recreation activity were also between the ages of 35 and 64; however, the survey yielded insufficient data for further statistical analysis of these activities. Respondents between the ages of 25 and 44 comprised over 67% of those who indicated jogging/running as a primary activity.

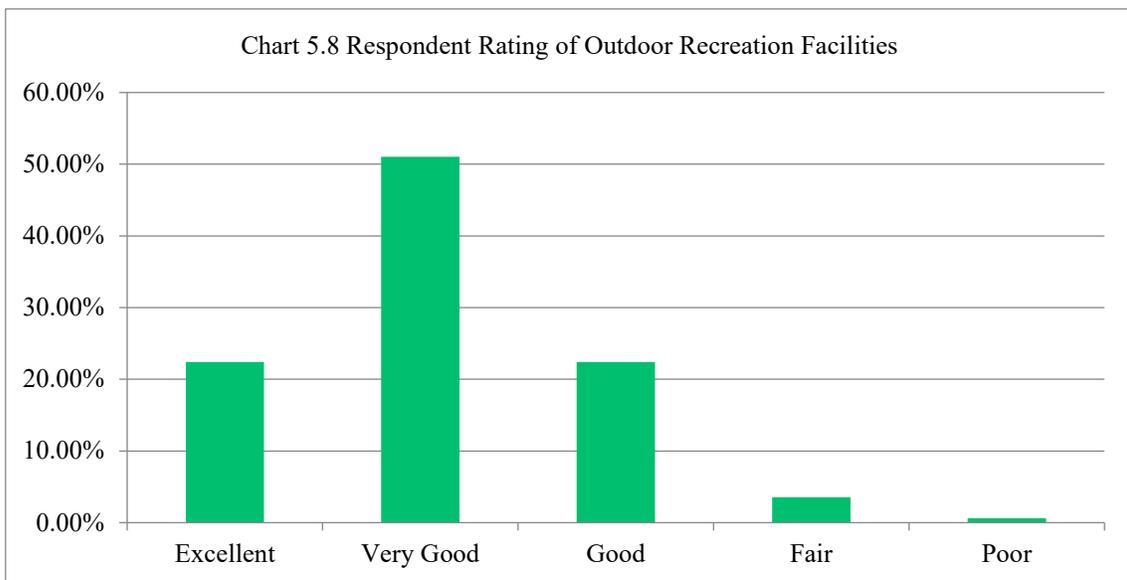
For most activities, there was little significant statistical difference when compared and analyzed by household income levels. Between 60% and 70% of all income levels reported walking as a primary activity. Based on the survey data, there appears to be a positive correlation between income level and the activities of jogging/running, hiking and cycling. The data also revealed an inverse correlation between income level and wildlife viewing.

Chart 5.7 Primary Outdoor Recreation Activities

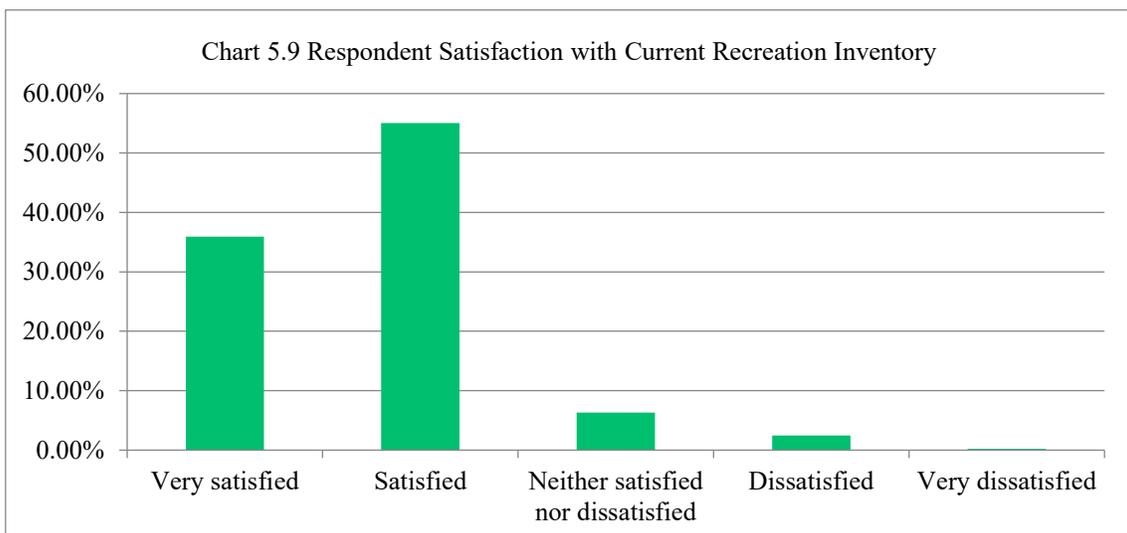


C. Public Survey Respondents' Perceptions & Interests

In addition to outdoor recreation usage, survey respondents were also provided an opportunity to share their opinions regarding perception and satisfaction with current outdoor recreation resources. Of the total 860 survey respondents, 821 (95%) chose to provide their opinion on the overall condition of the outdoor recreation facilities they currently use. Overall, the survey respondents' evaluation of current facilities was very positive. A little over 51% rated the current facilities as "Very Good," 22.4% rated the current facilities as "Excellent," and 22.4% rated the facilities as "Good." Only 3.5% provided a rating of "Fair" and less than one percent responded with a rating of "Poor."

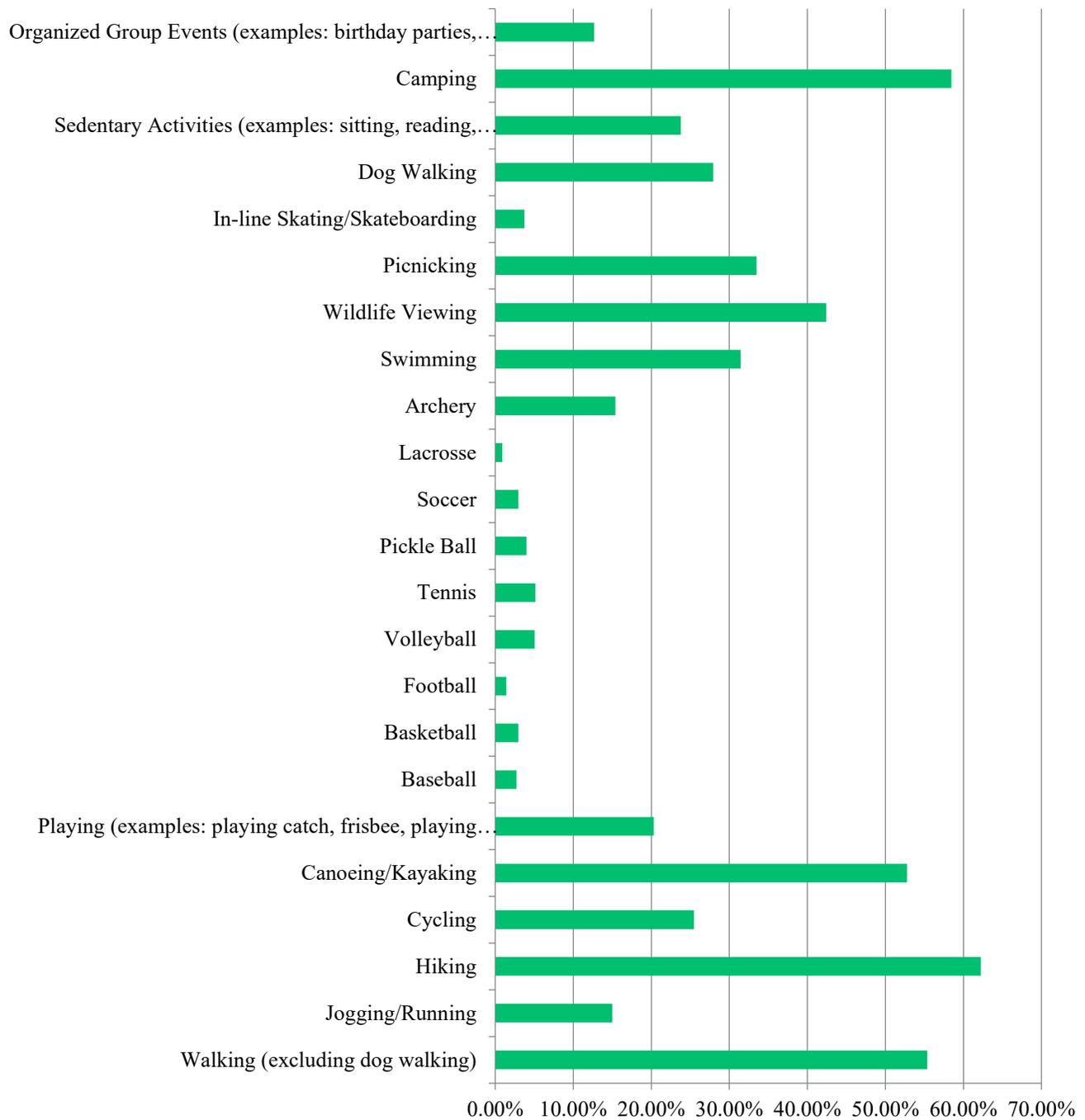


Respondents were also asked to report their satisfaction with the recreational opportunities currently available to them. Similar to the evaluation of current facilities, the overall responses to this question were very positive. Of the 821 respondents to this question, approximately 55.1% indicated that they were satisfied with the current recreational opportunities, and 35.6% indicated that they were very satisfied. Only 6.3% reported that they were neutral (neither satisfied nor dissatisfied), 2.4% reported that they were dissatisfied, and less than one percent (0.2%) responded that they were very dissatisfied.



Lastly, respondents were provided an opportunity to indicate which outdoor recreation activities they would be most interested in doing if facilities were available nearby. Of the 773 respondents who answered this question, 62.2% indicated that they would be most interested in hiking, and 58.5% indicated camping as an activity of interest. The other top activity interests reported were walking (55.4%), canoeing/kayaking (52.8%), and wildlife viewing (42.4%). Greater than 25% of respondents also indicated an interest in picnicking, swimming, dog-walking and cycling. The activity with the lowest amount of interest was lacrosse (0.9%).

Chart 5.10 Respondent Outdoor Recreation Activity Interests



State Parks Visitor Profile

In 2018, SCPRT’s research vendor (Strategic Marketing and Research Insights, or SMARI) conducted a profile study of overnight visitors to South Carolina’s State Parks.

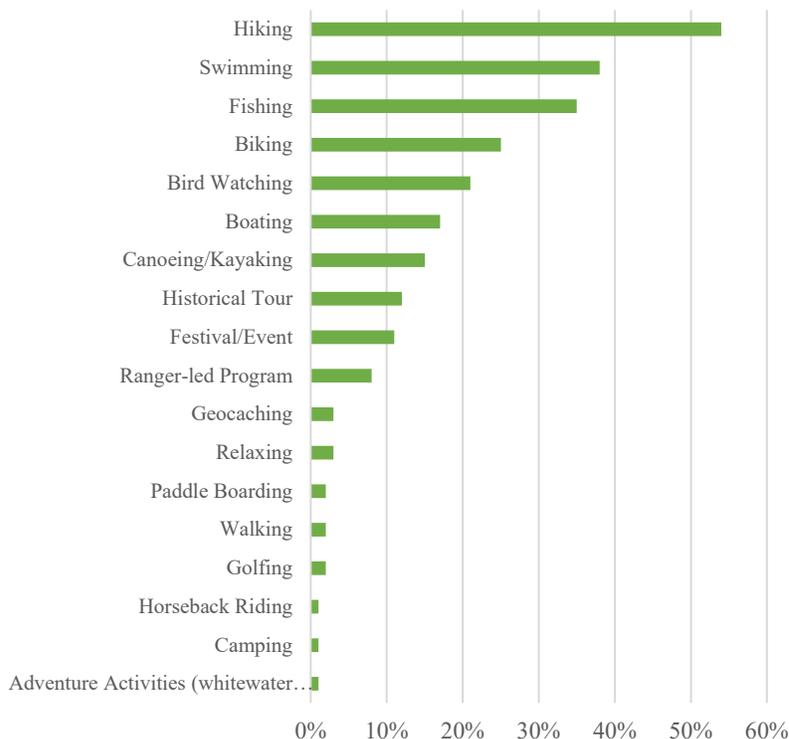
The visitor profile was formed using surveys completed by respondents gathered from SCPRT’s parks reservation database. The database contained 145,000 active records covering reservations made from July 2017 through June 2018. A total of 553 surveys were completed during this timeframe.

Based on data obtained from these surveys, South Carolina residents accounted for approximately 59% of State Parks visitors who made overnight reservations, with the majority of the remainder coming from other southeastern states.



In terms of visitation frequency, approximately 30% indicated eleven or more visits within the past five years, 18% indicated 8 – 10 visits, and another 17% indicated 5 – 7 visits. Only 16% indicated visiting a State Park only once in the past five years. In terms of party size, most visitor parties (72%) consisted of four or fewer people. Approximately 37% of visitors indicated having a child under the age of 18 in the party. Approximately 65% indicated that their party included only some combination of immediate family members.

In-Park Activities



RV Camping accounted for 70% of the visitors’ overnight accommodations, followed by established tent sites (18%) and cabins (8%).

The most popular in-park activities were hiking, swimming, and fishing, each of which were indicated by greater than 25% of survey participants.

The most popular off-park recreation activities indicated by survey participants were walking (45%), picnicking (38%), beach activities (35%), visiting other state or national parks (26%), and biking/cycling (18%). In addition, recreation activities such as golf and visiting water parks were also indicated as off-park activities; however, these were indicated by less than 5% of participants.

D. Public Meetings – Orangeburg County

While the Public Recreation Usage Survey provided a broad set of quantifiable data to determine outdoor recreation usage, preferences and perceptions across South Carolina, this data proved limited in terms of qualitative information. Using the Public Survey findings as a baseline of information, SCPRT worked in conjunction with Orangeburg County government to conduct three public meetings in Orangeburg County. These meetings were held in the Town of Santee (May 23), the Town of North (May 28) and in the City of Orangeburg (June 6). All three meetings were advertised via Media Advisory. The Orangeburg Times & Democrat featured an article on May 16, 2019, providing background information on the purpose of these meetings and encouraging public participation. In addition, public participation in these meetings was encourage by a local radio station, WOCS 93.7 FM.

Altogether, these meetings attracted 28 participants. The May 23 meeting in Santee had fourteen participants. The May 28 meeting in North had the least attendance, with only three participants. The June 6 meeting in Orangeburg had eleven participants.

In terms of recreation needs, some of the most common themes in each meeting included better access facilities at the Edisto River, more biking trails and pedestrian infrastructure, and improvements to current recreation facilities. In addition, participants also identified the need for more outdoor pavilions and picnic shelters, more enabling or inclusive playgrounds, and a greater diversity of team sports fields and facilities.



Participants in these meetings also identified challenges that they felt hindered usage and development of recreation facilities. One of the principal challenges identified was the need for better security and safety measures at boat landings and public parks. Funding was also identified as a primary challenge for recreational facilities development by many community leaders who attended these meetings. In addition, these meetings brought to light the need for better access to recreation information. Specifically, many attendees indicated that they were unaware of the current recreation inventory within the county and indicated that this information has not been made publicly accessible or available.

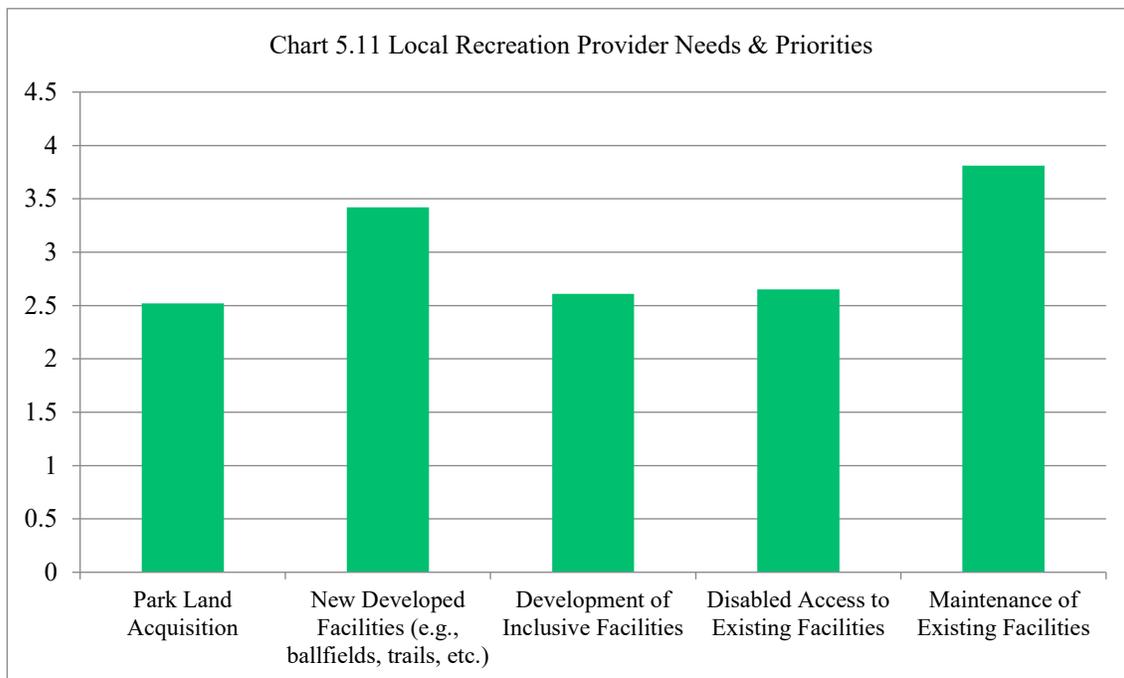
A full report of the complete findings of these meetings is available on the SCPRT website and serves as an addendum to the 2019 SCORP. SCPRT plans to continue conducting county-level meetings throughout the next five years to provide more actionable recreation information to local governments and to provide more in-depth information in subsequent statewide plans. While some of the information obtained from these meetings may be specific to the individual counties, by conducting a series of these types of meetings, SCPRT can determine commonalities between counties and better identify broader trends in outdoor recreation.

E. Local Recreation Providers’ Priorities, Barriers & Needs

The second survey conducted by SCPRT to determine demand was a “Recreation Provider Survey,” a quantitative and qualitative survey which was made available to local government recreation offices via email invitation in coordination with the South Carolina Recreation & Parks Association (SCRPA). This survey allowed local recreation providers the opportunity to identify their greatest needs, priorities, and barriers for outdoor recreation. The purpose and value of this information was shared with SCRPA members in a presentation at the 28th Annual Southern Leisure Management & Trends Institute, held in Columbia, SC on January 31 & February 1, 2019. This survey was also used to collect data to determine the state’s outdoor recreation supply (See Part VI. Outdoor Recreation Supply).

Approximately 80 local government parks and recreation departments were invited to participate in the survey, and a total of 35 local government outdoor recreation providers responded to this survey. Of the 35 total respondents, 54.3% represented municipal governments, 31.4% represented county governments, and 14.3% represented special purpose recreation districts. In terms of geographic diversity, recreation providers from the Piedmont region accounted for 29.4%, the Coastal region accounted for 26.5%, the Catawba – Pee Dee region accounted for 23.5%, and the Central region accounted for 20.6% of all respondents.

As part of this survey, local recreation providers were asked to rank five recreation development activities in order of importance for their organization. The categories were Park Land Acquisition, New Developed Facilities, Development of Inclusive Facilities, Disabled Access to Current Facilities, and Maintenance of Existing Facilities. Maintenance of Existing Facilities was ranked as the number one priority by 48.4% of respondents. New Developed Facilities was ranked as a top priority by 32.3% of respondents, followed by 12.9% of respondents who indicated that Park Land Acquisition was the number one priority for their organization.



Over 50% of the respondents ranked Disabled Access to Current Facilities and Development of Inclusive Facilities as a second or third priority. Just over 45% of respondents ranked Park Land Acquisition as the lowest of the five priorities for their organization.

The Recreation Provider Survey also offered respondents the opportunity to provide specific, qualitative input for their organizations' barriers and needs for outdoor recreation development.

When asked to specify their organizations' greatest outdoor recreation facility needs, a significant number of respondents indicated a need for new or improved sports facilities (e.g., multi-purpose fields, soccer fields). Improvements to existing infrastructure or support facilities, such as public restrooms or ADA accessible facilities, was the second most-common response, followed closely by a need for new or improved trails and trail facilities. Improved playgrounds, better access for aquatic recreation, and additional greenspace or passive parks were also indicated as priority needs by several respondents.

Reviewing the responses to the question of what barriers to outdoor recreation would be addressed if funding became available revealed four overarching themes. The most popular responses indicated a lack of new facilities to meet current demand. The second most popular response theme was the need to improve existing facilities or address maintenance issues. Other common responses included a lack of ADA or inclusive facilities and insufficient public access to or awareness of existing parks and recreation facilities.

Lastly, Recreation Providers were asked what steps their organization would take to overcome barriers if funding became available. The most common response to this question was assessing public needs and the development of planning resources to guide future development. The next most common responses were addressing deferred maintenance needs and the development of new facilities on existing property. A few respondents indicated that they would address staffing or programmatic needs. Only two respondents indicated that land acquisition would be their next step to overcome current barriers to public outdoor recreation use.



F. Recreation Demand Conclusions

In terms of public usage and demand, soft adventure activities, such as camping, hiking, walking, canoeing/kayaking, and cycling, were the most common types of activities indicated by public survey respondents, regardless of age, area of residence and income level. The most popular types of recreation activities identified by the Public Usage Survey mirrors the outcomes of the State Parks Visitor Profile Survey conducted in 2018. Specifically, the activities of walking/hiking, wildlife viewing, swimming and canoeing/kayaking were indicated as some of the most popular in both surveys. Given the number of sports-related facilities around the state, it appears that sports-related recreation may be under-represented by the survey results. In addition, SCPRT notes that African-Americans and Hispanics were under-represented in the survey sample. For future planning purposes, targeted outreach efforts to these demographic communities are included in the 2019 SCORP Goals.

In terms of demand from recreation providers, maintenance of existing facilities is the top priority, followed closely by demand for new facilities. These two priorities reflect the ongoing issues of deferred maintenance needs and potential capacity issues as the state's population continues to grow. To that end, both of these issues are also addressed in the 2019 SCORP Goals.

SECTION VI. OUTDOOR RECREATION SUPPLY

South Carolina is home to a variety of outdoor recreational resources provided by federal, state and local governments, as well as not-for-profit organizations and for-profit businesses. There are numerous publicly-owned recreation areas in South Carolina ranging from national forests, national parks and state parks, to local parks and single purpose facilities such as boat access ramps. This section of the report provides an overview of the state’s current recreation inventory.

Based on data collected for the 2019 SCORP, SCPRT estimates that South Carolina has over 1.7 million acres of public recreational land – accounting for 8.5% of the state’s total area. Approximately 71% of the total recreational acreage is owned and operated by Federal agencies, and 26% is owned and managed by State agencies.

Table 6.1 Recreational Acreage by Government Level

	Local	State	Federal
Recreation Acreage	40,084	463,031 ³	1,214,672

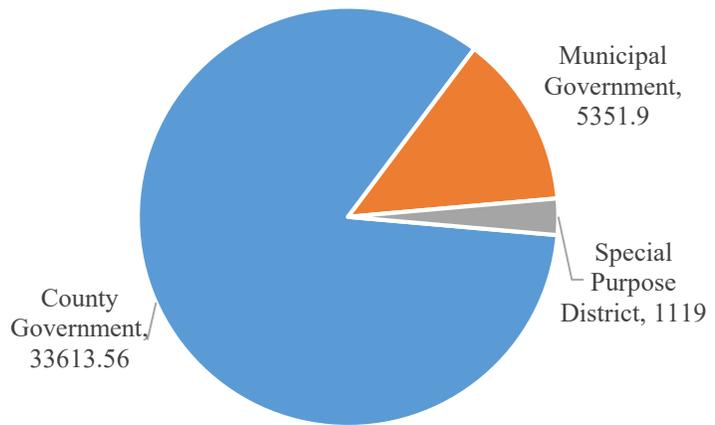
A. Local Parks & Recreation Areas

Data to determine the state’s inventory of parks and recreation facilities was collected through a variety of methods. Some information was collected through the Local Recreation Provider survey, which included questions regarding total park acreage and number of various types of recreation facilities. For counties or municipalities that did not complete the survey, information was collected through research of city or county master plans, city or county recreation plans, city or county recreation websites, or through direct communication with city or county recreation departments. This variety of data collection methods was used to ensure the most accurate data possible for this report.

Based on data provided by local government organizations, SCPRT determined that South Carolina has approximately 40,000 acres of parks or recreation areas that are owned or operated by local government organizations. County parks or recreation areas account for 84% of the total acreage of local recreation inventory, followed by municipal parks and recreation areas, which account for 13% of the total.

The counties with the largest amount of total acreage are Charleston, Beaufort, Anderson, Greenville and Union. The municipalities with the largest amount of total acreage are Rock Hill (York County), Florence (Florence County), North Augusta (Aiken County), Aiken (Aiken County), and Columbia (Richland County).

Chart 6.1 Acreage by Type of Local Government Organization



³ South Carolina State Parks that are located on leased property from the US Army Corps of Engineers were excluded from the total state acreage to avoid double counting.

Recreation Facility Type	Total Number
Baseball/Softball Fields	884
Outdoor Tennis Courts	641
Playgrounds	624
Picnic Shelters	512
Basketball Courts	394
Campsites	364
Multi-Purpose Fields	314
Soccer Fields	218
Boat/Kayak/Canoe Launches	130
Football Fields	65
Outdoor Pickle Ball Courts	64
Outdoor Volleyball Courts	50
Observation Decks/Overlooks	39
Fishing Piers	36
Fitness Station Areas/Trails	32
Disc Golf Courses	30
Outdoor Swimming Pools	29
Splash Pads	20
Dog Parks	14
Water Parks	7
Skate Parks	5
Archery Ranges	4

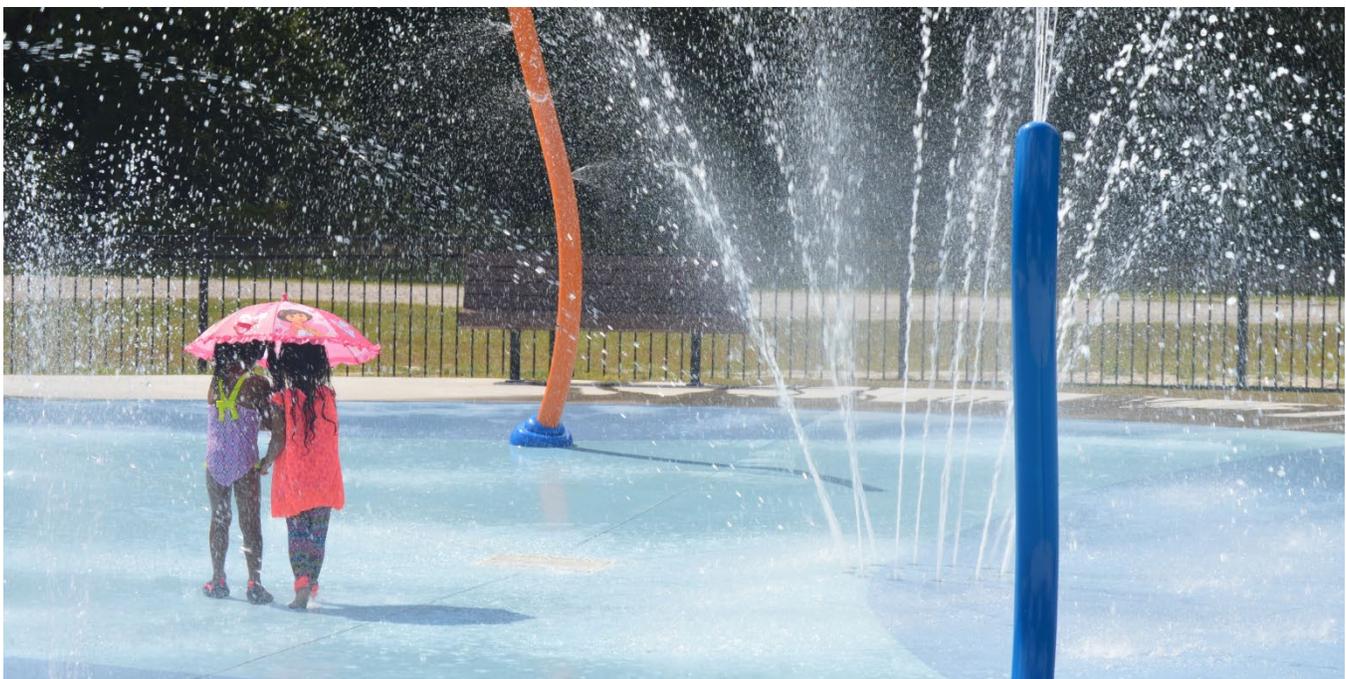
Table 6.2 Local Recreation Facility Inventory

In terms of local recreation facilities, the most common type of facilities in South Carolina are baseball and/or softball fields, followed by playgrounds, tennis courts, picnic shelters and basketball courts. The least common facility types were water parks, skate parks and archery ranges.

In terms of sports fields and courts, local governments in higher population areas of the state have the largest inventory of these types of recreational facilities. Lexington County has the largest inventory of any local government in the state, with a total of 287. Greenville County accounted for the second largest inventory of sports fields, with 162. Other local governments with significant sports field and court inventories include the City of Florence (146), Richland County (140), Beaufort County (135), Georgetown County (127), Horry County (121), and the City of Columbia (118).

As may be expected, counties or cities with higher populations also accounted for the largest inventories of playgrounds and picnic shelters.

Although relatively few in number compared to other types of facilities, aquatic facilities can be found in both large and small population areas and are distributed relatively evenly throughout the state.

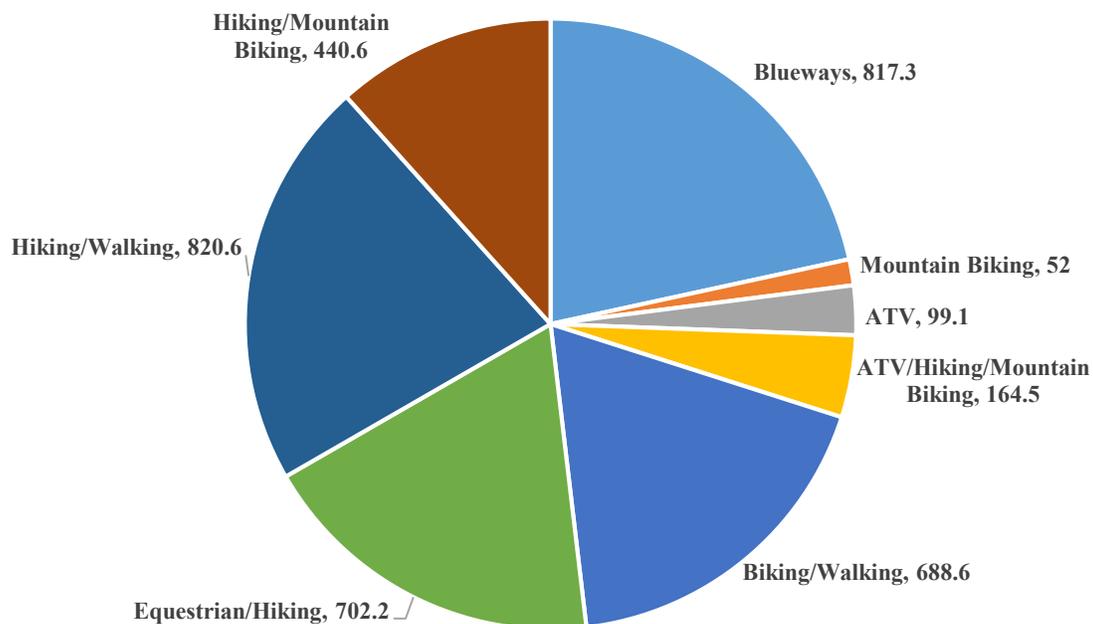


B. South Carolina Trails

Based on data collected from the South Carolina Trails website, South Carolina has over 3,700 miles of trails and established greenways and blueways, offering a diversity of experiences for various types of trail users. These resources are managed by a variety of agencies and organizations, including local, state and federal government agencies, as well as not-for-profit organizations such as the Palmetto Conservation Foundation and the East Coast Greenway Alliance.

When broken down into major categories of use, Hiking/Walking Trails are the most common trail type in the state, followed by Equestrian/Hiking Trails and Biking/Walking Trails. Mountain biking and ATV single use trails are the least common type in South Carolina.

Chart 6.2 South Carolina Trails Inventory by Type



South Carolina's coastal counties (Horry, Georgetown, Charleston, Colleton and Beaufort) account for nearly 925 miles of trails. The Upstate counties of Oconee, Pickens, Greenville, Anderson and Spartanburg contain nearly 755 miles of trails. Other counties with significant trail inventory include Berkeley, Richland, Aiken and York. More information on South Carolina trails can be found at this website: <https://www.sctrails.net/trails>.

Since 2015, SCPRT has awarded 56 Recreational Trail Program grants for trail projects, primarily for non-motorized trails. These trail projects include trails managed by local, state and federal agencies, as well as statewide trails such as The Palmetto Trail and East Coast Greenway. For a complete list of RTP awarded projects from 2015 – 2019, see Appendix F.

C. State Parks & Recreation Areas

State Parks

The State Park System began by legislative action in 1934 under the South Carolina Forestry Commission. The commission provided stewardship of the system until 1967, when management was transferred to the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. The system began with 15 parks established by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Since then, the State Park System has become a substantial state-run enterprise, with 47 State Parks comprised of 85,000 acres. The system also includes

- 3,000 campsites
- 144 cabins
- 80 hotel rooms
- Two 18-hole golf courses
- Over 300 miles of hiking and riding trails

Activities and events vary at each park but commonly include a combination of natural or historical attractions, camping, lodging, picnicking, interpretive and educational programs, swimming, fishing, boating, hiking, equestrian trails, playgrounds, biking, or community buildings. These park properties contribute to the state's protected base of natural and historic areas, providing South Carolinians with public access to diverse outdoor experiences that are representative of the state's rich base of natural, cultural and historic resources. A complete list of State Parks, including acreage and recreation opportunities can be found in Appendix C. For additional information, see the following web site: <http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/>.



St. Phillips Island

In December 2017, SCPRT acquired a significant property for the South Carolina State Park System – St. Phillips Island.

Located near Hunting Island and owned by Ted Turner since 1979, St. Phillips Island is one of South Carolina's most spectacular and pristine Sea Islands. Totalling 4,680 acres, the island features over 1,000 acres of upland, 70 acres of sandy beach, 70 acres of ponds and lowland, 2880 acres of tidal marsh, and 590 acres of interior marsh.

St. Phillips Island, which is only accessible by boat, is protected under a conservation easement with The Nature Conservancy and has been annexed as part of Hunting Island State Park. SCPRT is currently operating limited weekend day tours while it continues to evolve the management plan and operational strategy for this unique property. This acquisition by SCPRT not only allows the public the ability to discover and enjoy a largely untouched natural treasure, it also ensures the continuity of this invaluable natural resource for future generations.



Figure 6.1 State Parks Map

State Forests

The South Carolina Forestry Commission manages five State Forests that offer a diversity of landscapes and recreational opportunities. Sand Hills State Forest, located in Chesterfield and Darlington counties, totals 46,838 acres and provides outdoor recreation opportunities for hunting, fishing, camping, horseback riding, hiking and picnicking. Harbison State Forest, located in Richland County, totals 2,137 acres and provides recreation opportunities for hiking, cycling, camping, picnicking and access to the Broad River. Composed of 2,498 acres, Poe Creek State Forest in Pickens County includes recreation opportunities for hunting, fishing, hiking, as well as cabin and conference facility rentals. Located in Sumter County, Manchester State Forest is composed of 28,675 acres and allows hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, cycling, motorcycling, picnicking, and also features a rifle and pistol firing range. Wee Tee State Forest, located in Williamsburg and Georgetown counties, is composed of 12,403 acres and provides opportunities for hunting, fishing, cycling and kayaking/canoeing. For additional information, see the SC Forestry Commission’s Recreation website: <https://www.state.sc.us/forest/recreat.htm>.



SCDNR Recreational Properties

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) owns over 290,000 acres of property that offer outdoor recreation opportunities. Major categories for these properties include Wildlife Management Areas, State Heritage Preserves, and the State Natural Area at Jocassee Gorges. These areas offer a wide range of outdoor recreation experiences, including hiking, fishing, boating, and hunting. A complete list of SCDNR-owned properties can be found in Appendix D.

Jocassee Gorges

Located in Oconee and Pickens counties, the Jim Timmerman Natural Resources Area at Jocassee Gorges encompasses approximately 32,874 acres of forested hills and mountain terrain, numerous streams and waterfalls that surround Lake Jocassee. This vast natural area offers recreational opportunities for hunting, fishing, bird watching, hiking and primitive camping.



State Heritage Preserves

SCDNR manages 75 State Heritage Preserves totaling 95,661 acres throughout the state. These preserves range in size from 1 acre to more than 18,000 acres. Of the 75 total State Heritage Preserves, 58 are natural preserves and 17 are cultural preserves. Recreational opportunities at most sites include trails and wildlife observation, with organized nature and historical programs, picnicking, and hunting opportunities provided at many of the preserves. For additional information and locations, see the following web site: <http://heritagetrust.dnr.sc.gov/index.html>.

Wildlife Management Areas

SCDNR leases approximately 750,000 acres of public and private land for designated wildlife management areas to provide game hunting opportunities for the public as part of its Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Program. The Department also manages approximately 250,000 acres of state-owned WMA land, including some Heritage Preserves. For additional information, see the following website: <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/wma/>.

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

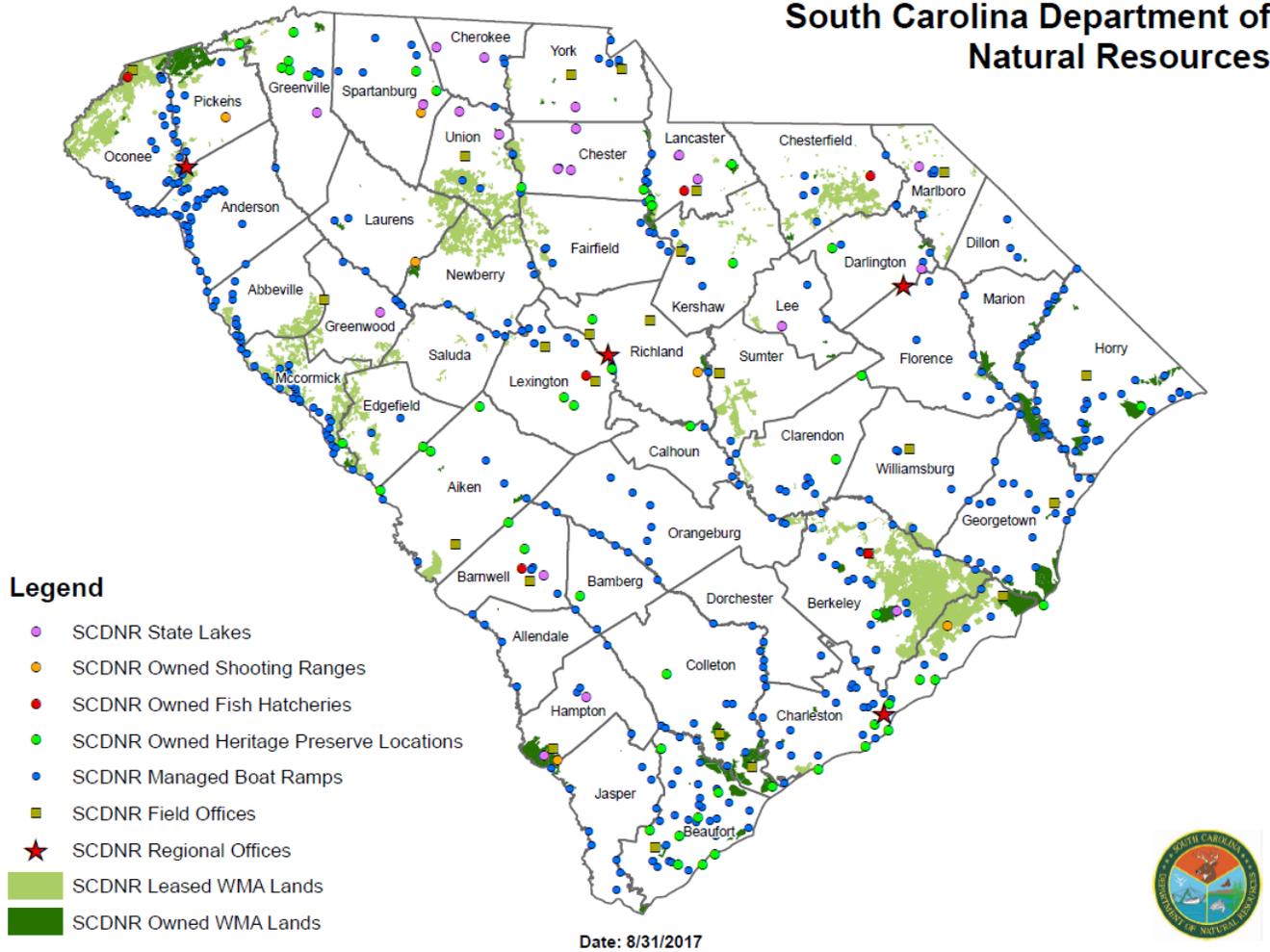


Figure 6.2 Map of SCDNR Properties

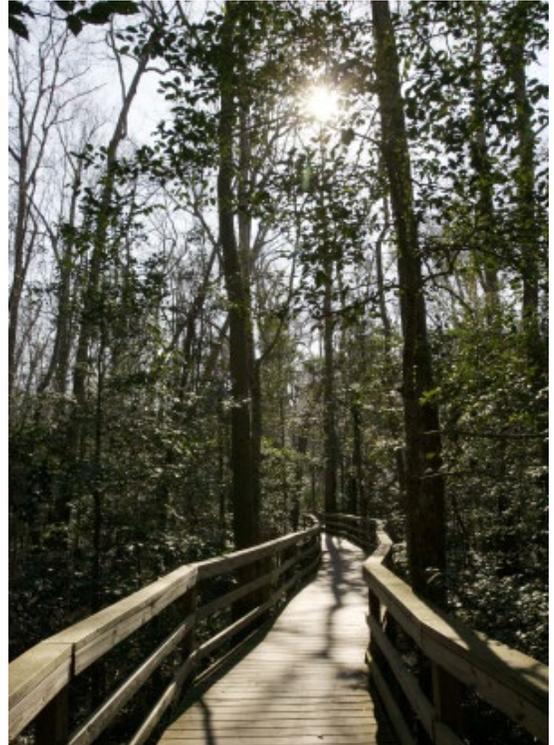
D. Federal Parks & Recreation Areas

Congaree National Park

Located in Richland County near the Town of Eastover, Congaree National Park encompasses 26,276 acres of old growth bottomland hardwood forest – the largest intact expanse in the southeastern United State. Congaree National Park offers recreation opportunities for primitive camping, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, and bird watching.

Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park

Initially designated as national monuments in 1948 (Fort Sumter) and 1960 (Fort Moultrie), Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie, along with Sullivan’s Island Life Saving Station Historic District, were re-designated as a National Historical Park in March 2019. Collectively, the three sites that comprise Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park encompass approximately 199 acres. Recreational activities at Fort Sumter are limited to passive activities such as picnicking, scenic viewing and bird watching; however, Fort Moultrie offers recreational opportunities for bird watching, fishing, nature walks, and wildlife viewing.



Congaree National Park

National Military Parks, Battlefields and Historic Sites

Kings Mountain National Military Park, located in York and Cherokee counties and adjoining Kings Mountain State Park, encompasses approximately 3,950 acres. In addition to historic interpretation, this park also offers recreational opportunities for walking, hiking, horseback riding, camping, and bird watching.

Cowpens National Battlefield covers approximately 841 acres and is located in Cherokee County near the City of Gaffney. Cowpens offers trail access for Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, as well as walking, cycling, and picnicking opportunities.

Ninety Six National Historic Site encompasses 1,022 acres of land in Greenwood County and features trails for hiking and horseback riding, as well as opportunities for picnicking and fishing at Star Fort Pond.



National Forests

South Carolina has two national forests that offer a wealth of outdoor recreation experiences – from world-class whitewater rafting, kayaking, and canoeing on the Chattooga National Wild and Scenic River to a myriad of Low Country experiences in blackwater rivers, swamps, maritime forests and marshes. The Francis Marion National Forest, located in the coastal plain of South Carolina between Charleston and Myrtle Beach, spans nearly 259,000 acres, and offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities ranging from hiking, biking, motorcycle and canoe trails to rifle ranges and a boat launch.

The Sumter National Forest is composed of three, non-contiguous ranger districts that, in total, encompass nearly 371,000 acres. The Enoree Ranger District, located in Newberry, Union, Chester, Laurens and Fairfield counties, consists of more than 170,000 acres that provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, canoeing, photography, and scenic viewing. The Long Cane Ranger District, located in Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, McCormick and Saluda counties, offers 120,000 acres for activities such as horseback riding, motorcycle and mountain bike riding, hiking, picnicking and hunting. The Andrew Pickens Ranger District, located in Oconee County, features over 85,000 acres for hunting, fishing, hiking, fall color viewing, camping, horseback riding, and whitewater rafting on the Chattooga River.

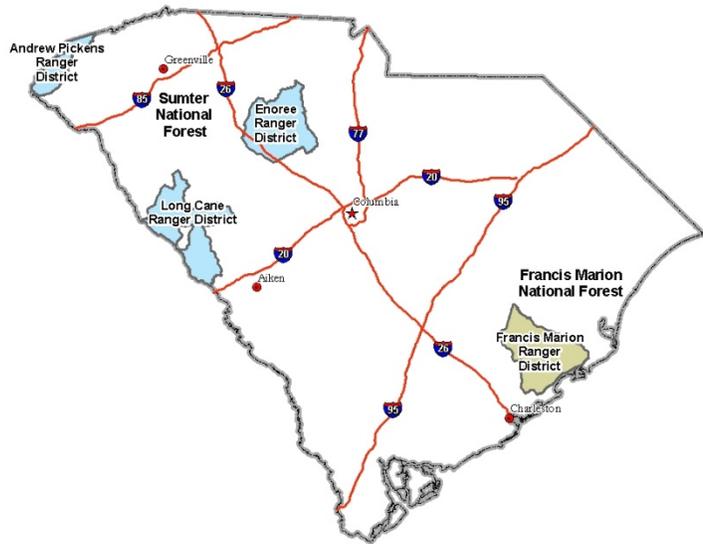


Figure 6.3 South Carolina National Forests Map

US Army Corps of Engineers Recreation Areas

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) owns approximately 325,000 acres of land and water along the Savannah River. The three lake projects – Lake Hartwell, Lake Russell, and Lake Thurmond – are among the largest Corps projects in the country. Much of this land is leased by the USACE to state or local governments for recreation. The USACE directly manages several campgrounds and recreation areas in South Carolina around Lake Hartwell and Lake Thurmond. These areas provide visitors with a range of recreational opportunities, including camping, hunting, hiking, picnicking, fishing and boating. The majority of the USACE lands around Lake Russell are leased to state or local agencies to provide recreational opportunities.



	Campsites	Picnic Shelters	Playgrounds	Boat Ramps
Lake Hartwell				
Singing Pines Recreation Area	0	2	2	1
River Forks	0	2	3	1
Weldon Island	0	1	0	1
Broyles Recreation Area	0	1	1	1
Twelve Mile Recreation Area	0	2	2	1
Coneross Park	106	0	4	1
Crescent Group Campground	32	2	1	0
Oconee Point	70	0	2	1
Twin Lakes	102	3	6	1
Springfield Campground	79	0	3	1
Lake J. Strom Thurmond				
Leroys Ferry	10	0	0	1
Modoc	70	0	1	1
Hawe Creek	34	0	0	1
Mt. Carmel	44	0	0	2
Below Dam South Carolina	0	7	1	1
Parksville	0	2	0	1
Clark Hill	0	10	0	1

Table 6.3 USACE-Managed Camping and Day-Use Areas

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuges

South Carolina has seven National Wildlife Refuges that are open to the public for outdoor recreation.

The Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge, which is located in parts of Beaufort, Charleston, Colleton, Hampton counties, spans 12,000 acres and offers recreational opportunities for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

The Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, located in Charleston County, spans 66,306 acres and offers opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, hiking, and shelling.

The Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge, which is approximately 47,850 acres, is located in Chesterfield County and offers opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, hiking, and cycling.

The 4,053-acre Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge in Beaufort County provides opportunities for wildlife viewing, hunting, and fishing.

The Santee National Wildlife Refuge in Clarendon County offers 13,000 acres of land for hunting, fishing, hiking, and wildlife viewing.

The Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge, which spans Horry, Georgetown, and Marion Counties, is approximately 55,000 acres and provides opportunities for hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, and kayaking/canoeing.

The Savannah National Wildlife Refuge is a 29,175-acre refuge located in Jasper County, South Carolina, and Effingham and Chatham Counties, Georgia. This refuge offers opportunities for wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, and geocaching.

SECTION VII. 2019 STATE OUTDOOR RECREATION GOALS

The guiding goals for the *2019 South Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* are derived from a combination of state and local outdoor recreation planning goals, conclusions drawn from the recreation demand and supply results, and external factors, such as population growth, industrial and urban development, that broadly impact recreation planning and development.

The general outdoor recreation goals of the *2019 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* build upon the goals established in the previous South Carolina SCORP. In general, these four goals are designed to deliver optimal benefit to South Carolina residents and communities, provide guidance and assistance to state and local recreation providers, and ensure the effective use of LWCF funding. The goals listed below are not presented in order of importance. Rather, they represent inter-related values that, when combined, provide strong, sustainable guidance for outdoor recreation planning.

SCORP Goal 1: Improving Access to Public Recreation Areas

Numerous studies have highlighted the health benefits of outdoor recreation – not only the physical health benefits, but also the emotional and social benefits as well. Engaging in outdoor recreation reduces stress, improves blood circulation and reduces the likelihood of obesity. Outdoor recreation also presents opportunities to build stronger relationships and bring families and communities closer together. For these reasons, it is imperative that outdoor recreational opportunities be made available to everyone, regardless of economic circumstances or physical ability. Having the ability to enjoy the outdoors through recreation is as much a fundamental right of all citizens as those determined in the documents and laws that established this nation.

- Action 1: Encourage collaborative efforts to promote healthy lifestyles between recreation providers and government agencies or organizations that provide healthcare services or services for persons with disabilities.
- Action 2: Encourage the development of outdoor recreation areas in urban and suburban areas to provide more convenient public access.
- Action 3: Expand the state’s network of trails to provide a variety of experiences for various types of trail users.
- Action 4: Prioritize projects that bring new recreational opportunities to under-served communities.
- Action 5: Prioritize projects that extend new or greater recreational opportunities to multiple age groups or persons with disabilities, including ADA, inclusive and enabling recreational facilities.

SCORP Goal 2: Promoting Stewardship of Resources

Conserving South Carolina’s natural and cultural resources will continue to be a critical component of outdoor recreation planning, especially in areas with significant population growth and urban development. The state’s green infrastructure not only reflects the physical characteristics of South Carolina’s diverse geographic profile, it is also an intrinsic, defining aspect of the state’s identity and the identities of the state’s residents. Promoting stewardship of resources also includes the stewardship of

financial resources. Each recreation project in the state is an investment by the project's sponsor – one made on behalf of and for local or state residents. As such, and in consideration of the finite financial resources available, it is important to ensure recreation projects are well-planned and adequately suit local demand and the state's recreation needs.

Action 1: Continue to collaborate with other state agencies, as well as public and private organizations, to protect and conserve South Carolina's natural, cultural and recreational resources.

Action 2: Collaborate with appropriate state and federal agencies to improve access to existing public lands for outdoor recreation.

Action 3: Encourage efforts to increase public awareness of the importance of South Carolina's natural and cultural resources through interpretation and educational programming.

Action 4: Prioritize projects that preserve new, previously unprotected lands for outdoor recreation, especially environmentally sensitive areas such as priority wetlands identified in the 2019 SCORP and the Blue Ridge escarpment.

Action 5: Prioritize projects that include major rehabilitation of existing parks and recreational areas.

SCORP Goal 3: Ensuring Sustainable Economic Benefits

The economic benefits of outdoor recreation in South Carolina are significant. Outdoor recreation experiences are a significant driver for the state's tourism economy and for many local business communities. In addition, green space and outdoor recreation opportunities play a significant role in the State's business recruitment efforts by providing prospective companies with assurances of positive quality of life in the state. By strategically conserving the state's natural resources and leveraging its outdoor recreational assets, South Carolina can further enhance its economic profile – generating new job opportunities for South Carolina residents and contributing millions of additional dollars to the state's economy.

Action 1: Enhance and promote the State Park System to deliver tangible economic benefits to surrounding communities, especially in rural areas of the state, by serving as a catalyst for tourism growth and overall economic development.

Action 2: Develop marketing strategies that elevate consumer awareness of the state's natural, cultural and recreational resources.

Action 3: Encourage cooperation and collaboration between communities for major outdoor recreation initiatives.

Action 4: Encourage recreational product development in the state's rural or economically distressed areas.

Action 5: Prioritize projects that enhance outdoor recreation activities and provide opportunities for sports tourism development.

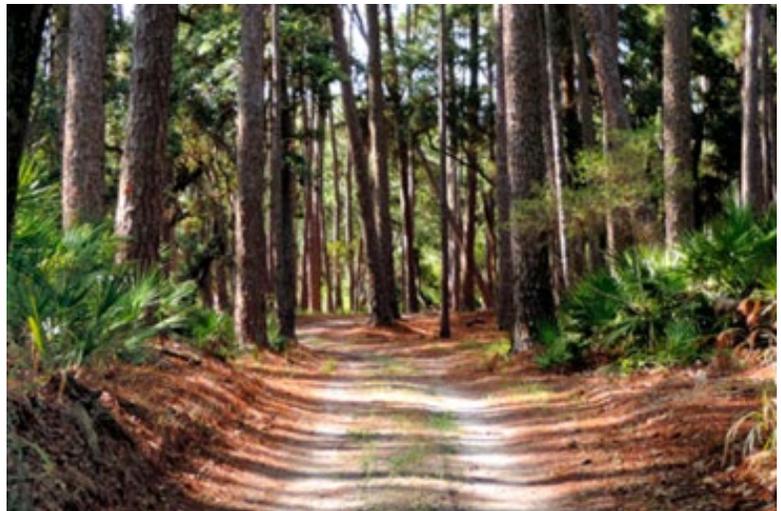
SCORP Goal 4: Adapting to Changes in Recreation Demand

While the overall need for recreation is universal and remains, largely, unchanged, public demand for outdoor recreation experiences is not static. Rather, outdoor recreation demand increases and evolves as the state's population grows and as the state's demographic composition changes. In order to adequately address changing recreation demand, it is important to first identify how and why various demographic segments participate in outdoor recreation. Outdoor recreation best serves its social purpose when it effectively addresses and adapts to changing public needs.

- Action 1: Encourage diversification of recreational resources statewide to ensure greater inclusiveness for all demographic segments of the state's population.
- Action 2: Encourage strategic recreation planning that identifies under-utilized recreational facilities and provides sustainable, adaptive solutions.
- Action 3: Research recreation preference, demand and use for specific demographic groups within the state in order to ensure adequate representation in future recreation plan development.
- Action 4: Prioritize projects that adapt existing recreational facilities to meet the needs of changing population demographics.
- Action 5: Prioritize projects that address over-capacity issues by establishing new parks or recreation areas, or by expanding existing parks or recreation areas.

The Path Forward

The 2019 SCORP is a call to action for all recreation providers and natural resources and outdoor recreation-related agencies within the state to implement the goals and actions listed above in order to address the needs of South Carolina's citizens. In order to complete this mission, the State will need to be in close communication with other federal, state, and local recreation providers to develop a dialogue and strategic plan as to how recreational funds can best be utilized. It is incumbent on the State to form partnerships and work in cooperation with recreation providers to determine what each can do within their jurisdictions to address the priorities of the 2019 SCORP.



The SCORP provides a broad outline that encourages recreation providers to use the plan as the basis for their own project funding decisions. As much as the SCORP considers previous and current recreation circumstances and needs, it should also be treated as a forward-looking document that can not only guide recreation development over the next five years, but also provide a solid foundation for subsequent plan development and provide direction for the path forward.

In order to facilitate this strategy, the general guiding principles for outdoor recreation policy and planning in South Carolina for the next five years are summarized below.

- Establish a SCORP Advisory Committee composed of federal, state, and local recreation providers, as well as other organizations and groups with a vested interest in outdoor recreation in South Carolina. This SCORP Advisory Committee should meet regularly to review previous SCORP documents, discuss ongoing recreation issues, and provide input into future SCORP development.
- Establish a systematic approach to collect recreation facility inventory information to better monitor outdoor recreation development trends in South Carolina.
- Enhance data collection methods for outdoor recreation demand, including the collection of both broad quantitative data and targeted qualitative information, ensuring that a broad cross-section of South Carolina’s population is represented in these findings.
- Inform and educate federal, state, and local agencies about the purpose and goals of the SCORP to encourage greater collaboration of information resources and recreation development efforts.
- Inform and educate the state’s tourism marketing offices and organizations of the importance of outdoor recreation and the impact of programs such as LWCF, RTP and state recreation grant programs on the state’s tourism industry and economy.
- Work with local governments and communities to identify sustainable recreation projects that are compatible with their financial capacities and serve the needs of area residents.
- Identify and pursue opportunities for increased stewardship of resources, including cost-sharing projects, land donations, and other conservation activities.

It is the aim of South Carolina’s *2019 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*, through the goals and guidelines established in this section, to optimize South Carolina’s outdoor recreation potential. As with all planning activities, outdoor recreation planning in South Carolina must balance between steadfast principles and ever-changing circumstances. In doing so, the SCORP may best serve the needs of South Carolina – its natural resources, its people and its economy.



Appendix A: SCORP Acronyms

ACE	Ashepoo-Combahee-Edisto (Rivers)
BIG	Boating Infrastructure Grants
CLG	Certified Local Government
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
LWCF	Land & Water Conservation Fund
PARC	Parks and Recreation Development (Fund)
RTP	Recreational Trails Program
SCDHEC	South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control
SCDNR	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
SCDOT	South Carolina Department of Transportation
SCORP	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SCPRT	South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism
SCRPA	South Carolina Recreation & Parks Association
SWAP	State Wildlife Action Plan
TAP	Transportation Alternatives Program
TODS	Tourism Oriented Directional Signage
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WMA	Wildlife Management Area

Appendix B: County-Level Demographic Information

Geographic Area	Population (2010)	Population (2017 Est.)	Population % Change	Median Age (2010)	Median Age (2017 Est.)	Median Household Income (2010)	Median Household Income (2017 Est.)	Poverty Rate (2010)	Poverty Rate (2017 Est.)
South Carolina	4625364	5021219	8.6%	37.4	39	\$43,939	\$48,781	16.4	16.6
Abbeville County	25417	24560	-3.4%	41.1	43.7	\$33,143	\$35,254	20.7	22.7
Aiken County	160099	168256	5.1%	39.6	41	\$44,468	\$47,713	16.6	16.7
Allendale County	10419	9001	-13.6%	37.6	40.6	\$20,081	\$23,331	42.4	30.4
Anderson County	187126	198268	6.0%	39.2	40.5	\$42,871	\$45,551	15.8	15.6
Bamberg County	15987	14397	-9.9%	38	41.8	\$32,538	\$32,330	29.9	24.5
Barnwell County	22621	21356	-5.6%	38.2	40.6	\$33,816	\$34,035	25.4	27
Beaufort County	162233	186492	15.0%	40.2	44	\$55,286	\$60,603	10.5	11.9
Berkeley County	177843	214470	20.6%	34.3	35.8	\$50,777	\$56,697	12.6	12.8
Calhoun County	15175	14693	-3.2%	43.9	45.9	\$36,790	\$44,010	15.8	18.3
Charleston County	350209	401738	14.7%	35.7	37.2	\$48,433	\$57,882	16.5	15.3
Cherokee County	55342	56925	2.9%	37.4	38.9	\$34,132	\$35,286	19.5	22
Chester County	33140	32285	-2.6%	39.3	41.8	\$32,743	\$37,421	21.4	21.8
Chesterfield County	46734	45920	-1.7%	38.7	41.9	\$32,979	\$38,469	22.7	23.8
Clarendon County	34971	34000	-2.8%	40.9	43.6	\$33,066	\$35,838	23	23.3
Colleton County	38892	37594	-3.3%	39.5	42.2	\$33,263	\$34,996	21.3	22.3
Darlington County	68681	67033	-2.4%	38.7	41.2	\$38,379	\$36,217	20	22.7
Dillon County	32062	30551	-4.7%	37.1	37.4	\$26,818	\$30,866	30.5	30.6
Dorchester County	136555	158881	16.3%	35.7	36.2	\$55,034	\$58,685	11.2	11.8
Edgefield County	26985	26772	-0.8%	40.1	42.6	\$42,834	\$47,500	21.2	15.5
Fairfield County	23956	22612	-5.6%	41.8	45.4	\$32,022	\$35,551	22.7	21.3
Florence County	136885	138513	1.2%	37.2	38.8	\$40,487	\$43,310	18	19.6
Georgetown County	60158	61841	2.8%	44.5	48.5	\$42,666	\$46,967	19.7	18.7
Greenville County	451225	506552	12.3%	36.9	38	\$46,830	\$53,739	14.1	13.5
Greenwood County	69661	70587	1.3%	38.1	39.3	\$38,797	\$39,196	17.6	24.2
Hampton County	21090	19501	-7.5%	37.6	39.9	\$34,846	\$32,147	20.8	18.4
Horry County	269291	332651	23.5%	40.8	44.4	\$43,142	\$46,475	16.1	17
Jasper County	24777	28398	14.6%	34.9	38.1	\$37,393	\$39,740	21.5	22.6
Kershaw County	61697	65092	5.5%	40.1	41.8	\$44,064	\$46,565	15.5	16.4
Lancaster County	76652	92624	20.8%	38.8	42	\$38,959	\$50,557	20.4	15.5
Laurens County	66537	66915	0.6%	40.2	40.8	\$37,529	\$40,580	19.2	20.7
Lee County	19220	17267	-10.2%	37.6	41.7	\$23,378	\$31,963	29.9	26.4
Lexington County	262391	290818	10.8%	37.5	38.9	\$52,205	\$57,482	11.1	12.8
McCormick County	10233	9567	-6.5%	48.2	52.8	\$35,858	\$40,622	18.2	20.1
Marion County	33062	31292	-5.4%	39.1	40	\$30,629	\$31,129	25.1	26.5
Marlboro County	28933	26702	-7.7%	38.1	39.9	\$27,688	\$33,921	27.5	26.6
Newberry County	37508	38428	2.5%	39	41.5	\$41,815	\$39,600	16.6	19.8
Oconee County	74273	77437	4.3%	42.6	45	\$42,266	\$43,978	16.6	18.6
Orangeburg County	92501	87673	-5.2%	37.3	39.5	\$32,849	\$34,943	25.8	23.2
Pickens County	119224	123687	3.7%	34.5	36.2	\$41,898	\$45,332	16.6	18.3
Richland County	384504	411471	7.0%	32.7	33	\$47,922	\$52,082	14.5	16.7
Saluda County	19875	20424	2.8%	39.4	40.6	\$40,508	\$41,885	15.1	20.5
Spartanburg County	284307	306632	7.9%	37.7	38.3	\$42,680	\$47,575	14.8	15.6
Sumter County	107456	106514	-0.9%	35.3	36	\$39,137	\$41,946	19.4	21.1
Union County	28961	27498	-5.1%	41.7	43.7	\$33,470	\$37,493	20.1	19.3
Williamsburg County	34423	31185	-9.4%	39.9	41.7	\$24,191	\$30,976	32.9	28.2
York County	226073	266146	17.7%	36.7	38.3	\$51,925	\$59,394	12.5	12.3

APPENDIX C: South Carolina’s OPSP Scoring Criteria

Objective Criteria: *Scored by SCPRT staff*

1. **Level of Park and Recreation Services:** *SCPRT staff will use the applicant's current Park and Recreation Development Fund (PARD) Classification.*

Class A = 25 points Class B = 20 points Class C = 15 points Class D or None = 10 to 0 points

2. **Last LWCF Grant awarded to the Property being assisted:** *SCPRT staff will provide the date of the applicant’s last LWCF grant award to the park.*

1965 - 1975 = 20 points	1976 - 1986 = 15 points	1987 - 1997 = 10 points
1998 - 2008 = 8 points	2009 – 2014 = 6 points	2015 – 2019 or never assisted = 4 points

3. **Grant Administration and Park History:** *SCPRT grant staff will evaluate the applicant’s track record for administering grants and the on-going maintenance of existing parks.*

0 to 25 points

Bonus Points:

Regional or Statewide Usage: *SCPRT staff will review how the project contributes to enhancing a resource that attracts significant day-to-day participation from persons who live at least 50 miles away. Please understand that the site is to be the attraction and not the subsequent programming. Applicants must provide user/beneficiary numbers and their methodology for determining those numbers.*

Statewide significance = 10 points Regional significance = 5 points

Donated Land: *SCPRT staff will review if the applicant is using donated land value as a part of the required match. The donated land must be “accepted” according to LWCF requirements and the donation must occur during the approved project period or the project sponsor must have been granted a waiver of retroactivity by SCPRT and the National Park Service.*

50-100% of match = 10 points 1 – 49% = 5 points

Subjective Criteria:

4. **SCORP Priorities:** *Projects will receive points based on the priorities of the current State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).*

<u>Acquisition Projects</u>	<u>Points</u>
Acquisition of land that expands an existing LWCF park	30 (max)
Acquisition of land for a new park	15
<u>Development Projects</u>	<u>Points</u>
Repurposing an existing LWCF property to meet the current recreational needs of the community	30 (max)

Development of new support facilities at an existing LWCF property to include restrooms, utilities, parking areas, maintenance facilities and roads	25
Renovations to existing facilities, including improvements to accommodate persons with disabilities and all age groups at an existing LWCF property.	20
Development of a new park or a non-LWCF existing park	15

5 bonus points to projects meeting one of the above criteria that also enhances the enjoyment/access to the Atlantic Ocean or provides lake/river access

5. Leveraging and Collaboration: *Projects will be reviewed for their partnerships and collaboration, especially with the private sector.*

Private sector partner(s) involved and providing funding	30 points
Private sector partner(s) involved	25 points
Public sector partner(s) involved and providing funding (other than applicant)	20 points
Public sector partner(s) (other than applicant) involved	15 points
Only applicant involvement	10 points

6. Planning and Public Review: *Projects will be graded solely on the basis of the materials submitted with the application and not on any personal knowledge the reviewers may have about the project.*

Documentation of the use of professionals such as architects, engineers and planners, and/or the solicitation of assistance from governmental agencies, private industry or special interest groups to assist in planning/developing the project.

0 to 30 points

Documentation of public meetings, committee meetings, surveys, comprehensive plans, master plans, or other means used to determine the feelings of the community toward this project.

0 to 20 points

7. Project Feasibility: *The project will be scored based on the information provided in the application's narrative, budget and timeline.*

Proof of budget sufficient to carry out project	0 or 5 points
Timeline is reasonable & sufficient to complete activities within 24 month period	0 or 5 points
Outcomes are sustainable and necessary ongoing resources are committed	0 or 5 points
Activities can reasonably be expected to result in proposed outcomes	0 or 5 points

8. Environmental Clearances and Project Readiness: *Projects are subject to the National Environmental Protection Act requirements. The reviewers will use the PD/ESF in the application to determine this score, and any other environmental information that may be submitted.*

0 to 15 points

Maximum score possible (excluding bonus points): 215 points

Minimum score for funding (70%): 150 points

Appendix D: State Parks Inventory

Park	County	Acres	Recreation Activities
Aiken State Park	Aiken	1,067	Camping, Hiking, Boating, Picnicking, Fishing, Swimming, Playground
Andrew Jackson State Park	Lancaster	360	Camping, Hiking, Boating, Picnicking, Fishing, Playground Museum
Baker Creek State Park	McCormick	1,305	Camping, Hiking, Biking, Picnicking, Fishing, Playground
Barnwell	Barnwell	307	Camping, Cabins, Hiking, Picnicking, Boating, Fishing, Swimming, Playground
Caesars Head State Park*	Greenville		* See Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area
Calhoun Falls State Park**	Abbeville	318	Camping, Picnicking, Hiking, Fishing, Playground
Charlestown Landing	Charleston	664	Walking Trails, Picnicking, Museum, Animal Forest
Cheraw State Park	Cheraw	7,361	Camping, Cabins, Picnicking, Fishing, Boating, Swimming, Playground, Golf, Group Camps
Chester State Park	Chester	523	Camping, Picnicking, Hiking, Fishing, Boating, Playground, Disc Golf
Colleton State Park	Colleton	35	Camping, Picnicking, Hiking, Fishing
Colonial Dorchester State Historic Site	Dorchester	325	Hiking, Historic Tour
Croft State Park	Spartanburg	7,054	Camping, Hiking, Boating, Biking, Horseback Riding, Fishing, Picnicking, Playground
Devils Fork State Park	Oconee	644	Camping, Cabins, Picnicking, Hiking, Fishing, Playground
Dreher Island State Park	Newberry	348	Camping, Cabins, Picnicking, Fishing, Playground, Hiking, Biking
Edisto Beach State Park	Colleton	1,255	Camping, Cabins, Picnicking, Hiking, Fishing, Swimming
Givhans Ferry State Park	Dorchester	988	Camping, Cabins, Picnicking, Hiking, Fishing, Playground, Horseback Riding
H Cooper Black Field Trial Area	Chesterfield	7,000	Camping, Picnicking, Hiking, Horseback Riding, Field Trial Area
Hamilton Branch State Park	McCormick	731	Camping, Picnicking, Hiking, Playground, Fishing
Hampton Plantation State Historic Site	Georgetown	274	Hiking, Biking, Historic Home Tour
Hickory Knob State Resort Park	McCormick	1,091	Camping, Cabins, Motel Rooms, Picnicking, Hiking, Fishing, Playground, Skeet Shooting, Restaurant, Golf, Barracks
Hunting Island State Park	Beaufort	5,000	Camping, Cabin, Picnicking, Hiking, Biking, Fishing, Swimming, Lighthouse Tours
Huntington Beach State Park	Georgetown	2,500	Camping, Picnicking, Hiking, Biking, Fishing, Swimming, Historic Castle Tours
Jones Gap State Park*	Greenville		* See Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area
Keowee Toxaway State Park	Pickens	1,000	Camping, Cabin, Hiking, Fishing
Kings Mountain State Park	Cherokee	6,883	Camping, Picnicking, Hiking, Horseback Riding, Boating, Fishing, Playground, Historic Farm, Group Camps
Lake Greenwood State Park	Greenwood	914	Camping, Picnicking, Hiking, Fishing, Playground
Lake Hartwell State Park	Oconee	680	Camping, Picnicking, Hiking, Fishing, Playground
Lake Russell**	Abbeville		** See Calhoun Falls State Park
Lake Warren State Park	Hampton	440	Picnicking, Hiking, Fishing, Playground
Lake Wateree State Park	Fairfield	238	Camping, Picnicking, Fishing, Playground
Landsford Canal State Park	Chester	448	Picnicking, Hiking, Playground
Lee State Park	Lee	2,839	Camping, Picnicking, Hiking, Horseback Riding, Fishing, Swimming
Little Pee Dee State Park	Dillon	835	Camping, Picnicking, Hiking, Fishing, Playground
McCalla**	Abbeville		** See Calhoun Falls State Park

Park	County	Acres	Recreation Activities
Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area*	Greenville	11,730	Camping, Hiking, Picnicking, Fishing
Musgrove Mill State Historic Site	Laurens	397	Picnicking, Hiking, Fishing, Battlefield
Myrtle Beach State Park	Horry	312	Camping, Cabins, Picnicking, Hiking, Fishing, Swimming, Playground
NR Goodale State Park	Kershaw	763	Picnicking, Hiking, Boating, Fishing, Playground
Oconee State Park	Oconee	1,165	Camping, Cabins, Picnicking, Hiking, Biking, Fishing, Swimming, Playground, Carpet Golf, Square Dancing
Oconee Station State Historic Site	Oconee	210	Hiking, Biking, Historic Home Tour
Paris Mountain State Park	Greenville	1,540	Camping, Group Camps, Picnicking, Hiking, Biking, Fishing, Swimming, Boating, Playground
Poinsett State Park	Sumter	1,000	Camping, Cabins, Picnicking, Hiking, Biking, Fishing, Boating, Swimming
Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site	Aiken	369	Picnicking, Historic Home Tours
Rivers Bridge State Historic Site	Bamberg	390	Picnicking, Hiking, Battlefield
Rose Hill Plantation State Historic Site	Union	44	Hiking, Historic Home Tours
Sadlers Creek State Park	Anderson	395	Camping, Picnicking, Hiking, Playground, Fishing
Santee State Park	Orangeburg	2,495	Camping, Cabins, Picnicking, Hiking, Biking, Fishing, Playground
Sesquicentennial State Park	Richland	1,419	Camping, Picnicking, Hiking, Biking, Fishing, Splash Pad, Playground, Boating, Retreat Center
Table Rock State Park	Pickens	3,083	Camping, Cabins, Picnicking, Hiking, Fishing, Boating, Swimming, Playground
Woods Bay State Park	Florence	1,591	Picnicking, Hiking, Fishing
Hanging Rock Park	Lancaster	250	Battleground
Isaac Hayne Tomb	Colleton	1	Tomb & Graveyard
Francis Marion Tomb	Marion	10	Tomb & Graveyard
Thomas Sumter Tomb	Sumter	5	Tomb & Graveyard
St. Phillips Island***	Beaufort	4,680	Currently being planned, property recently purchased by agency
*Caesars Head and Jones Gap State Parks are part of the Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area			
**Lake Russell and McCalla are managed as part of Calhoun Falls State Park			
***St. Phillips Island is annexed as part of Hunting Island State Park			

Appendix E: SCDNR Recreational Property Inventory

County	Property Name	Property Type	Acres
Abbeville	Lake Russell/Calhoun Falls	WMA	690.480
Aiken	Bear Branch	HP	172.250
Aiken	Gopher Branch	HP	10.090
Aiken	Gopher Tortoise	HP/WMA	1707.264
Aiken	Henderson	HP/WMA	494.940
Aiken	Savannah River Bluffs	HP	83.840
Aiken	Windmill Highpond Janet Harrison)	HP	30.110
Aiken/Barnwell	Ditch Pond - Hoffmeier Tract	HP/WMA	227.525
Allendale	Cohens Bluff Boat Ramp	Boat Landing	3.000
Allendale	Little Hell Landing Boat Ramp	Boat Landing	4.620
Bamberg	Bobcat Landing Boat Ramp	Boat Landing	1.500
Bamberg	Buford's Bridge	Boat Landing	2.350
Bamberg	Cathedral Bay	HP	57.840
Bamberg	Hwy 641 Boat Ramp	Boat Landing	0.500
Bamberg	Zig Zag Landing	Boat Landing	4.000
Barnwell	Fish Hatchery	Hatchery	17.160
Barnwell	Lake Edgar Brown	State Lake	270.510
Barnwell	Long Branch Bay	HP	50.900
Beaufort	Altamaha	HP	100.000
Beaufort	Bay Point Shoal	HP	1.000
Beaufort	Buzzard Island	WMA	140.000
Beaufort	Daws Island	HP	1881.000
Beaufort	Fort Frederick	HP	3.044
Beaufort	Green's Shell Ring	HP	3.057
Beaufort	Joiner Bank	HP	1.000
Beaufort	North Williman Island	WMA	7532.000
Beaufort	Old Island	HPWMA	3160.000
Beaufort	South Bluff (Coosaw Island)	HP	24.462
Beaufort	St Helena Sound - South Williman Island	HP/WMA	2765.000
Beaufort	Stoney Creek Battery	HP	0.500
Beaufort	Trask	Wetland	84.000
Beaufort	Victoria Bluff	HP/WMA	1113.000
Beaufort	Old Combahee Island	WMA	201.200

County	Property Name	Property Type	Acres
Berkeley	Bonneau Ferry	WMA	10712.480
Berkeley	Childsbury	HP	87.500
Berkeley	Dennis Center	WMA	69.940
Berkeley	Rediversion Fish Hatch	Hatchery	1.620
Calhoun	Congaree Bluffs	HP	201.000
Charleston	Bird Key Stono	HP	20.000
Charleston	Botany Bay Plantation	WMA	3363.000
Charleston	Buzzard Island	HP	0.735
Charleston	Capers Island	HP	1202.500
Charleston	Crab Bank	HP	22.000
Charleston	Devereaux Bank	HP	12.890
Charleston	Doe Hall Marsh	Wetland	3.000
Charleston	Dungannon Plantation	HP/WMA	730.756
Charleston	Ft. Lamar	HP	14.508
Charleston	Lighthouse Inlet	HP	79.750
Charleston	Slann Island Marsh	Wetland	369.310
Charleston	Tolar's Cove Marsh	Wetland	32.920
Charleston & Georgetown	Santee Reserve	WMA	23776.500
Cherokee	Lake Cherokee	State Lake	136.390
Cherokee	Lake Thicketty	State Lake	137.010
Chester	Landsford Canal	WMA	1049.000
Chester	Mountain Lake	WMA	88.560
Chester	Fish Dam Ford	HP	138.420
Chesterfield	Cheraw Fish Hatchery	Hatchery	206.100
Chesterfield	Crossroads & Angelus Tracts	WMA	411.800
Chesterfield	McBee	WMA	1220.993
Clarendon	Bennett's Bay (Junkyard Bay)	HP	679.290
Clarendon	Woods Bay	HP	427.030
Colleton	Bear Island	WMA	12153.210
Colleton	Crosby Oxypolis	HP	31.530
Colleton	Donnelley	WMA	8143.429
Colleton	Pine Island	WMA	99.000
Colleton	St Helena Sound	HP/WMA	7434.000
Colleton	South Fenwick Island	WMA	405.100

County	Property Name	Property Type	Acres
Darlington	Great Pee Dee River	HP/WMA	2725.000
Darlington	Segars McKinnon	HP	795.107
Dillon	EP Lee Rec Area	Boat Landing	2.360
Dillon	Little Pee Dee State Park Bay	HP	300.574
Dorchester	Edisto River	WMA	1393.860
Dorchester	T. Coke Weeks Landing	Boat Landing	0.210
Dorchester	TW Messervy Landing	Boat Landing	1.000
Georgetown	Direlton/Samworth	WMA	1586.260
Georgetown	Jordan Marsh Land	Wetland	4.200
Georgetown	Murrells Inlet Boat Ramp	Boat Landing	5.610
Georgetown	North Santee Bar	HP	1.000
Georgetown	Pawleys Island Marsh	Wetland	11.220
Georgetown	Santee Delta	WMA	1899.000
Georgetown	Thornton Marsh Land	Wetland	1.000
Georgetown	Yawkey	HP/WMA	18092.900
Greenville	Ashmore	HP/WMA	1125.500
Greenville	Bald Rock	HP	163.020
Greenville	Belvue Springs	HP	28.410
Greenville	Blackwell	HP	15.800
Greenville	Bunched Arrowhead	HP	178.708
Greenville	Chandler	HP/WMA	253.260
Greenville	Chestnut Ridge	HP/WMA	2190.950
Greenville	Clear Creek	HP	18.830
Greenville	Poinsett Bridge	HP	119.590
Greenville	Watson	HP/WMA	1713.530
Greenville/Pickens	South Saluda	Fisheries	49.290
Hampton	Belmont Place - Webb Center	WMA	5860.000
Hampton	Lake Warren	State Lake	1159.000
Hampton/Jasper	Palachucola	WMA/Shooting Range	6789.190
Hampton	Hamilton Ridge	WMA	13280.000

County	Property Name	Property Type	Acres
Horry	Bucksport/Oliver/Sarvis Tracts	WMA	7661.020
Horry	Cartwheel Bay	HP/WMA	567.590
Horry	Lewis Ocean Bay	HP/WMA	10426.947
Horry	Waccamaw River	HP/WMA	6691.190
Horry/Marion	Little Pee Dee	HP/WMA	10454.655
Jasper	Tillman Sand Ridge	HP/WMA	1421.390
Jasper	Turtle Island	WMA	1667.000
Kershaw	Savage Bay	HP	110.322
Lancaster	Forty Acre Rock	HP/WMA	2964.685
Lancaster	Springs Stevens Hatchery	Hatchery	49.410
Lancaster	Heritage Tract	WMA	1539.190
Lancaster	McDowell Creek	WMA	1877.960
Lancaster/Kershaw	Liberty Hill	WMA	3452.710
Laurens	Dove Field	WMA	61.030
Laurens	Pitts - Reedy River	WMA	1098.781
Lee	Longleaf Pine	HP/WMA	842.752
Lee	Lynchburg Savannah	HP/WMA	290.940
Lexington	Congaree Creek	HP	644.539
Lexington	Peachtree Rock	HP	154.760
Lexington	Shealy's Pond	HP	61.520
Lexington	Styx Fish Hatchery	Hatchery	289.200
Marion	Marsh Furniture	WMA/Shooting Range	8653.566
Marion	Woodbury	WMA	25668.000
Marlboro	Lake Paul Wallace	State Lake	846.990
McCormick	Mason Tract - Woodland Plantation	WMA	1994.740
McCormick and Edgefield	Stevens Creek	HP/WMA	433.710
Newberry & Laurens	Belfast	WMA/Shooting Range	4664.380

County	Property Name	Property Type	Acres
Oconee	Brasstown Creek	HP/WMA	461.303
Oconee	Buzzard Roost	HP/WMA	501.021
Oconee	Stumphouse Mountain	HP/WMA	442.119
Oconee	Walhalla Fish Hatchery	Hatchery	94.000
Pickens	Dove Field	WMA/Shooting Range	86.650
Pickens	Eastatoe	HP/WMA	373.550
Pickens	Glassy Mountain	HP/WMA	64.880
Pickens	Jocassee Craig & Tiller Donation	WMA	43.720
Pickens	Laurel Fork	HP/WMA	1361.060
Pickens/Transylvania	Sassafras Mountain	WMA	7.060
Pickens	Wadakoe Mountain	HP/WMA	37.040
Pickens/Oconee	Jocassee Gorges	WMA	32874.990
Richland	Nipper Creek	HP	90.280
Richland	Wateree River	HP/WMA	3676.770
Richland	Wateree Shooting Range	Shooting Range	131.620
Spartanburg	Pacolet River	HP	277.570
Spartanburg	Peter's Creek	HP	160.510
Sumter	Woods Bay	HP/WMA	43.210
Union	Lake Long	State Lake	216.200
Union	Thurmond	WMA	195.145
York	Draper	WMA	806.396
York	Kitty Sandifer/James Ross Wildlife Reservation	WMA	304.610
York	McConnells Tract	WMA	249.150
York	Rock Hill Blackjacks	HP/WMA	289.779
York	Turkey Creek	WMA	356.626
Total Acreage			291,798.03

Appendix F: Examples of Public Survey Media/Social Media Outreach

Public Comment Sought for State Recreation Plan

January 17

Columbia -- The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism is seeking public input on recreational preferences and priorities as it develops the 2019 South Carolina State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP.) Public comment can be made by taking a survey at [this link](#).

The SCORP identifies outdoor recreation issues of statewide significance and sets priorities for recreational planning and development. The SCORP provides unified guidance to state and municipal officials as they develop and expand outdoor recreation opportunities for their respective constituents.

In addition to its value as a planning document, the completion of a SCORP also satisfies a requirement of the federally administered Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which then makes South Carolina eligible to receive its annual apportionment from the LWCF State Assistance Grant Program. Apportionments from the LWCF can be used by the state and its municipalities to acquire new land for outdoor recreation and conservation, and to construct new outdoor recreational facilities.

Public comments will be accepted until 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28. For more information, click [here](#) or contact Dawn Dawson-House at ddawson@scprt.com or 803-734-1779.

###

South Carolina State Parks
February 9 · 🌐

The SC Dept of Parks, Recreation & Tourism is looking for your input! We encourage SC Residents to take the survey found at the link below, and share your opinions so state and local communities can identify current recreation trends and planning priorities. Find the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WNN3MZZ>



South Carolina State Parks
February 19 · 🌐

The SC Dept of Parks, Recreation & Tourism is looking for your input! We encourage SC Residents to take the survey found at the link below, and share your opinions so state and local communities can identify current recreation trends and planning priorities. Find the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WNN3MZZ>



Discover South Carolina
February 25 · 🌐

Do you love South Carolina's State Parks and Recreational areas as much we do? We want to hear from you!

Click here to take a quick survey and share your voice. bit.ly/2Nqgi3q



SCPRT Retweeted

SCPRT @SCPRT · Jan 24

SCPRT is seeking public input on outdoor recreation preferences for its State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The plan helps state & local governments build facilities that benefit their constituencies. Take the survey at [this link](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WNN3MZZ) [surveymonkey.com/r/WNN3MZZ](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WNN3MZZ) before Feb. 28!

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Appendix G: RTP Projects Awarded 2015 - 2019

2015			
Project County	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Total Amount
Abbeville	Long Cane OHV	USDA Forest Service - Long Cane Ranger District Sumter National Forest	42,125.00
Laurens	Enoree OHV Trail 2015/16/17	USDA Forest Service - Enoree Ranger District Tyger Office Sumter Nat'l Forest	159,875.00
Berkeley	Wambaw Cycle Trail Maintenance	USDA Forest Service - Wambaw/Frances Marion National Forest	215,000.00
Pickens	Palmetto Trail Ext. - Dug Mtn. Fishing Access to Keowee State Park	Palmetto Conservation Foundation	125,000.00
Pickens	Sassafras Peak Trail & Observation Platform	South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources	125,000.00
Florence	Lake City Park Boardwalk/Trail Project	Florence County Parks and Recreation	125,000.00
Georgetown	East Bay Park Recreational Trail	City of Georgetown	97,198.25
Charleston	Palmetto Islands County Park Marsh Boardwalks	Charleston County Parks & Recreation Commission	1,790.03
Oconee	Palmetto Trail Extension - Stumphouse Mountain	Palmetto Conservation Foundation	125,000.00
Pickens	Sassafras Falls Trail	South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources	99,062.50
York	Riverwalk/River Park Trail Connector Project	City of Rock Hill	125,000.00
Union	Union Co. Flat Stack Trail - Phase II	Union County	125,000.00
Beaufort	Southside Park Trail	City of Beaufort	125,000.00
Pickens	Doodle Trail Extension & Amenities	City of Pickens	32,921.88

2016			
Project County	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Total Amount
Charleston	Palmetto Islands County Park Marsh Boardwalks	Charleston County Parks & Recreation Commission	123,209.98
Marlboro	Brightsville Trail Project	Marlboro County	77,900.00
Hampton	Town of Brunson Walking Trail	Town of Brunson	99,500.00
Marion	Zion Outdoor Wellness Center	Marion County	117,578.94
Pickens	Doodle Trail Extension & Amenities	City of Pickens	92,078.13
Kershaw	Sweet Gum Connector Trail - Phase 1	City of Camden	125,000.00
Laurens	Lake Rabon Trails - Phase III	Laurens Commission of Public Works	102,125.00
Anderson	Mineral Spring Trail	Town of Williamston	95,162.50
York	York County Culture & Heritage Commission	Nation Ford Land Trust	125,000.00
Dillon	Viking Greenway	Dillon District 3, Latta School District	18,219.60

2017			
Project County	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Total Amount
Marion	Zion Outdoor Wellness Center	Marion County	7,421.06
Marlboro	Lake Wallace Walking Trail	Lake Paul Wallace Authority	93,750.00
Colleton	Ace Basin Greenway - Phase 1	Colleton County	125,000.00
Aiken	Aiken County Recreation Center Walking Track	Aiken County Parks, Recreation & Tourism	37,000.00
Dorchester	Courthouse Park Recreational Trail	Dorchester County	125,000.00
Dillon	Viking Greenway	Dillion District 3, Latta School District	106,780.40
Laurens	Millers Fork Trail	City of Clinton	123,875.00
Charleston	Awendaw East Coast Greenway	Town of Awendaw	125,000.00
Horry	Grand Park Avenger API Trailhead	City of Myrtle Beach	125,000.00
Charleston	Hollywood Trails at the Sap - Phase One	Town of Hollywood	125,000.00
Union	Flat Stack Trail - Phase 1	Union County	125,000.00

2018			
Project County	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Total Amount
Aiken	Generations Park Walking Trail	City of Aiken	\$125,000.00
Aiken	North Augusta Greenway Phase I Resurfacing	City of North Augusta Parks & Rec Dept.	\$125,000.00
Oconee	Ross Mountain Passage of the Palmetto Trail	Palmetto Conservation Foundation	\$125,000.00
Greenville	Arts Park Connectivity Trail	City of Greer Parks and Recreation	\$125,000.00
York	Catawba River Trail Extension - Phase III	City of Rock Hill	\$125,000.00
Kershaw	Scott Park Trail	City of Camden	\$125,000.00
Charleston	Stono River County Park Access & Amenities Project	Charleston County Parks & Recreation Commission	\$125,000.00
Laurens	Woods Ferry Trail Project	USDA Forest Service - Enoree Ranger District, Tyger Office - Sumter Nat'l Forest	\$74,000.00
Florence	High Hill Creek Bike and Run Park	City of Florence	\$96,115.00
Dillon	Viking Greenway Phase 2	Dillon District 3, Latta School District	\$76,511.70
Abbeville	Long Cane OHV 2018/2019	USDA Forest Service - Long Cane Ranger District - Sumter National Forest	\$34,375.00
Laurens	Enoree OHV Trail 2018/2019	USDA Forest Service - Enoree Ranger District, Tyger Office - Sumter Nat'l Forest	\$108,250.00

2019			
Project County	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Total Amount
Dillon	Viking Greenway Phase 2	Dillon District 3, Latta School District	\$48,488.30
Colleton	ACE Basin Greenway - Phase 2	Colleton County	\$125,000.00
Richland	Owens Field Park Pump Track	City of Columbia Parks and Rec. Dept.	\$119,875.00
Greenville	Boardwalks & Observation Deck Rehab/Replacement	Conestee Foundation	\$108,700.00
Cherokee	Cherokee Ford Road Trail	Cherokee Recreation District	\$125,000.00
Greenville	Silver Steps Access and Trailhead	SC State Park Service	\$125,000.00
Charleston	Pinckney/Kit Hall Trail Segment	Town of McClellanville	\$125,000.00
Aiken	Roy Warner Walking Trail	Aiken County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism	\$125,000.00
Berkeley	Wambaw Cycle Trail 2018 & 2019 Enhancement Project	USDA Forest Service - Wambaw Office - Francis Marion National Forest	\$50,000.00