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... SOUTH CAROLINA STATE  
PARKS

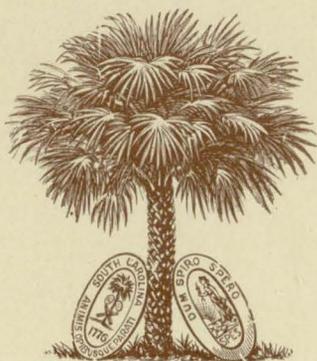


# SOUTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS

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AMERICAN GUIDE SERIES

# SOUTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS



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IN THE  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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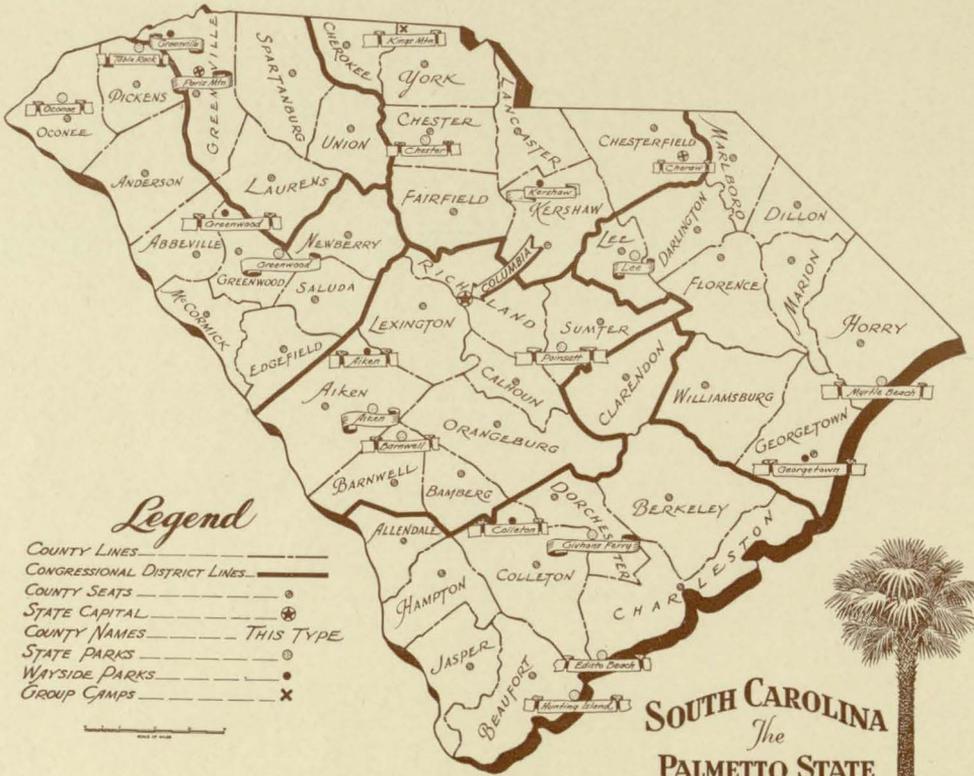
# State Parks of South Carolina

## FOREWORD

For every person in South Carolina—the young, the old, the rich, the poor, the sportsman, the mother of a family, the laborer, the farmer, the college professor, and all others—there is a State park within approximately fifty miles of home, where picnic shelters provide for a day's outing, where sanitary bathing facilities may be found, or well equipped cabins accommodate guests for a longer vacation.

In 1936 three parks were officially opened for the first time and attendance far exceeded the expectations of authorities. Tens of thousands of visitors found their way to the lakes and rivers and beaches and mountains. Each area is a refuge for wild life, plant as well as animal. In no park may plants be disturbed or wild animals molested. Museum objects are being collected for instruction of visitors.

The 15 parks in South Carolina, completed or under construction, dot the State from sea level to the highest mountain in its area. In fourteen of the parks swimming facilities are provided; in six there are 45 cabins; in three there are summer camps, in three there is opportunity for salt water fishing; and in many others there is fresh water fishing.



See Your Road Map For Accurate Locations  
 (Sesqui-Centennial State Park Is 13 Miles North of Columbia)  
 Courtesy of South Carolina Highway Department—Drawn by Metz

# GENERAL INFORMATION

**SUMMER SEASON:** June 1 to Labor Day.

**OTHER SEASONS:** All parks open for use during entire year.

**SUPERVISION:** Superintendent or caretaker at each park. Lifeguard service and equipment accords with American Red Cross standards. Life guards are on duty only during the summer season.

**PICNIC AREAS:** All parks have picnic areas provided with picnic shelters containing open fireplaces, tables, drinking fountains, running water, toilet facilities, and trash boxes. All picnic facilities are free—the users only being required not to deface or injure the property, to dispose of all trash and garbage, and leave the premises and equipment clean for the next user.

**SWIMMING:** Swimming facilities are provided at practically all of the parks. Where parks are not on rivers or the ocean, recreational lakes have been provided, where swimming, boating, and, in due time, fishing may be enjoyed. Such lakes also add to the beauty of the parks.

At all parks where swimming facilities are found, bathhouses have been erected for use during the summer months, and provided with such conveniences as dressing rooms, showers, toilets, towels and soap, checking baskets, and bathing suits for rent. Checking baskets, towels, and suits are kept thoroughly sterilized, clean, and sanitary by methods endorsed by the S. C. Board of Health. Well trained lifeguards are always on duty, with first-aid stations in charge of trained first-aid men. A nominal charge is made for use by the public of bathhouses and conveniences.

**LODGES:** Buildings equipped with kitchens and dining room, where meals are prepared and served, are located at some of the parks, sometimes in combination with the bathhouse. Unless reserved in advance, there is no charge for use of this building and only moderate charges are made for meals.

**REFRESHMENT STANDS:** During the summer months, refreshment stands are rented to operators, or operated by the State, at which candies, cigarettes, drinks, sandwiches, and other supplies are sold at prevailing prices.

**TRAILER CAMPS:** Modern trailer camps are at some of the parks. Shelters with cooking facilities are provided, also showers, running water, toilets, electricity, outdoor fireplaces, and picnic tables—all at a cost of 50c per day, with 25c additional where electricity is used.

**CAMPING GROUNDS:** These are available at a cost of 50c a day. The grounds are equipped with tent platforms, running water, latrines, showers, open fireplaces, and picnic tables.

**SUMMER CAMPS:** Some of the parks are designed to accommodate large organized groups, and are equipped with cabins, running water, latrines, showers, dining hall, recreation hall, infirmary, athletic fields, and swimming beaches. It is planned that individual campers or groups as large as 120 persons can be accommodated, embracing children, school and college classes, etc. Through these organized camps many children should be enabled to get outdoor vacations who would otherwise be denied them. This idea was uppermost in establishing these camps.

**HIKING:** Trails giving access to places of interest and beauty in the park areas have been carefully constructed, under the direction of landscape architects. These trails are designed as aids in nature study of both flora and fauna. Trees, plants, and shrubs have been labeled with this in view. Resting places, with shelters and picnic areas, are provided on some of the longer trails.

VACATION CABINS: At most of the parks well constructed and comfortable cabins are rented to vacationists at very reasonable rates. Cabins are completely equipped with furniture, beds, mattresses, pillows, cooking utensils, tables, bath and toilet facilities. Each cabin has been located so as to give the occupant a lovely view of mountain or river or sea, and they have been placed at convenient intervals from each other.

The cabins vary in size and in rates. Requests for reservations must be made with the State Forest Service, Columbia, S. C., accompanied with a small deposit.

RENTAL RULES FOR CABINS:

Minimum charges cover three days.

Extra cots available at 50c each per week.

Deposit required for reservation.

Deposit refunded if reservation is cancelled two weeks prior to date of reservation.

SUMMER SEASON (June 1 to Labor Day), no reservation made for less than one week or more than two weeks.

OTHER SEASONS, reservations made for less than one week.

FACILITIES ON SOUTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS

State Park	Vacation Cabins	Fishing Cabins	Picnic Areas	Swimming	Bathhouses (1)	Boating (1)	Fishing	Refreshment Stands (1)	Dining Rooms (1)	Lodges	Summer Camps (1)	Tent Camps	Trailer Camps	Trails	Fish Rearing Ponds	Tennis Courts (1)	Bridle Trails	Amphitheatres	Archery (1)	Outdoor Games (1)	Barbecue Pits
1. Aiken .....	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕
2. Barnwell .....			✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	*	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕
3. Cheraw (2) .....	✕	*	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕
4. Chester .....			✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕
5. Edisto Beach .....	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕
6. Givhans Ferry .....	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕
7. Greenwood .....		*	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕
8. Hunting Island .....		*	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕
9. Kings Mountain (2) .....		*	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕
10. Lee .....		✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕
11. Myrtle Beach .....	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕
12. Paris Mountain .....			✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕
13. Poinsett .....	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕
14. Oconee .....			✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕
15. Sesqui-Centennial .....		*	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕
16. Table Rock .....	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕

(1) Available only during summer season.

(2) Areas owned by National Park Service but operated by State Forest Service.

✕ Completed. ✕ Under construction. \* Proposed.

Above list as of June 1, 1940—Construction under way.

# COME!

## Visit *YOUR* State Parks

*Spring - Summer - Autumn - Winter*

### S P R I N G

Out in the lonely woods the jasmine burns  
    Its fragrant lamps, and turns  
Into a royal court with green festoons  
    The banks of dark lagoons.

At times a fragrant breeze comes floating by,  
    And brings, you know not why,  
A feeling as when eager crowds await  
    Before a palace gate

Some wondrous pageant; and you scarce would start  
    If from a beech's heart,  
A blue-eyed dryad, stepping forth, should say,  
    "Behold me! I am May."

—Henry Timrod.



*Picnic Area Showing  
Shelter — Myrtle Beach  
State Park*

*The Trailer  
Camp is Popular  
at Myrtle Beach  
State Park*



*Vacation Cabins  
Face the Sea.  
Myrtle Beach  
State Park*



# MYRTLE BEACH STATE PARK

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LOCATION: 3.4 miles south from Myrtle Beach on U. S.  
Highway No. 17.

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Myrtle Beach State Park consists of 320 acres with a half mile ocean frontage on one of the widest, smoothest beaches along the Atlantic coast. Its five cabins nestle among the myrtle and dwarfed oaks of the sand dunes, facing the sea.

The two-story recreational building, with piazzas, bathhouse, assembly hall, and a refreshment stand, gives access to the wide green lawns beyond which is the board-walk along the beach.

Picnic shelters, outdoor fireplaces, drinking fountains, tables, and seats, invite the visitor to try his hand at oyster roasts and fish fries. There is a large picnic shelter with wide fireplaces where the picnickers are protected in event of rain or too hot sunshine.

Material comfort for recreation is not the only attraction of Myrtle Beach, however. Botanical students from colleges have found fertile field for research among the flora of the dunes and the pinelands. The myrtles, yaupons, and oaks along the shore have been bent landward for many years by the breezes from the sea, affording unusual camera angles for the amateur or professional photographers.

The park caretaker's cottage at the gate on the highway is in a pine grove and from the entrance gates, winding roadways lead through the woods where cedar, oak, dogwood, and many other trees are draped with Spanish moss, and where azaleas, violets, and lilies look up from the leaf-strewn roadside.

Across the highway from the gates is the trailer camp where running water and electricity are provided at each site. There is a large building for cooking, and another with showers and rest rooms for the exclusive use of the campers.





*There are people in the up-country that do not realize the beauties of the palm covered coastal islands. Edisto Beach State Park*



*A Back-Drop of Palmettoes at Edisto Beach State Park Add Beauty to the Beach*



*Semi-tropical vegetation at Edisto Beach State Park provides unusual setting for vacation cabins*

# EDISTO BEACH STATE PARK

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LOCATION: 20.3 miles southeast from Adams Run on State Highway No. 174, on Edisto Island.

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Edisto Beach State Park comprises 1,255 acres and is one of the newer parks secured by the State. For recreational, historical, and scientific interests it is unsurpassed by any other of the State Parks. It boasts some of the tallest palmettos in the State. They rise majestically above the semi-tropical undergrowth which has been thinned out and intersected by roads and trails.

Sloping from the deep green woods, the beach stretches white and smooth along 2.5 miles of the Atlantic. Vacation cottages, bathhouse, picnic areas, and open picnic shelters hide among the palms, cedars, oaks, and pines, listening on one side to the surge of the sea and on the other to the wind in the trees.

The high dunes beneath the great trees were the stamping grounds of strange creatures that roamed the shore long before the coming of man. The great hairy mastodon, forefather of the elephant, stumbled into an ancient swamp and left his bones to be found by workers in the park; strange hoofs of horses that had three toes, teeth of sharks much larger than any today, oyster shells bigger than a man's hand, have all been found in Edisto and placed in the museum in the park. In a later age the Indians made their home on Edisto and gave the island its name. One of their eating places called "kitchen middens" is a prized point of attraction. Here the little periwinkle shells which were boiled to make a soup, "good for fever," may be found along with broken pieces of pottery, discarded as moderns throw away their broken dishes. Edisto Island also knew the coming of Spanish troops and friars. Before there was a permanent settlement in Carolina, the Spaniards claimed this country, and, treasured among the items in the museum, is part of an old Spanish gun. It may have belonged to the soldiers or it may have been left by pirates, for those marauders also visited Edisto.

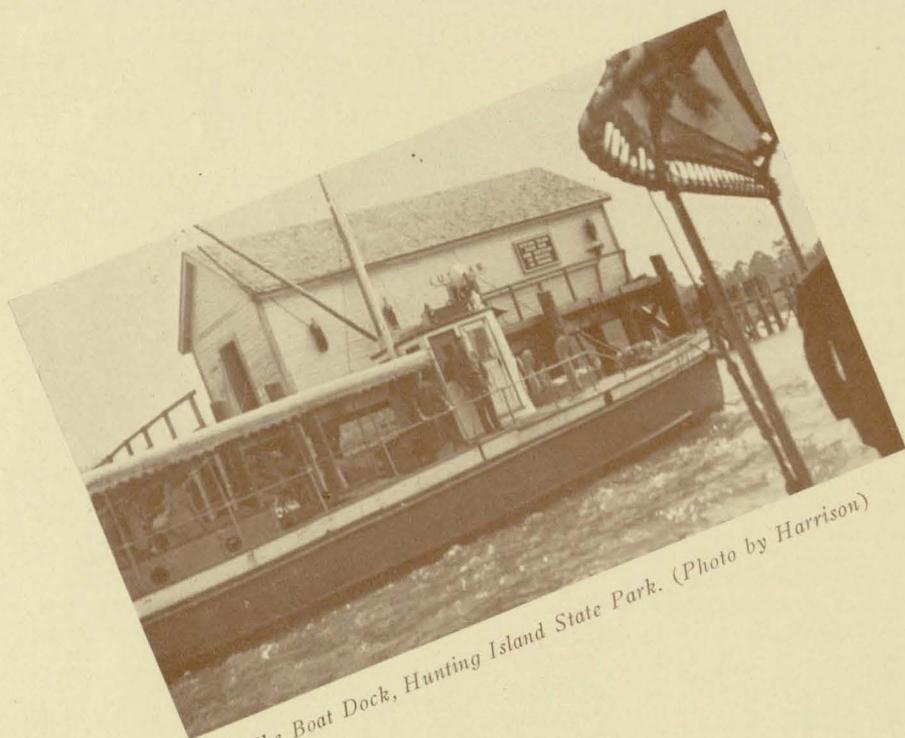
Because of its unusually fortunate situation, it is planned to make this park a center of scientific research. Fresh water streams from inland and salt water streams from the ocean shelter hundreds of varieties of both fresh and salt water life. While fishing as a sport is a great attraction here, the opportunities for study are just as great. Too, the wide variety of plant life attracts hundreds of varieties of birds, mammals, and other animal life, many of which have been catalogued by a local naturalist. This catalogue is filed in the museum. In order to encourage the study of nature, each item is noted with the name of the finder.

In cooperation with other agencies, a biological laboratory is being constructed within the confines of the park. It will be equipped with modern apparatus to enable college classes to study plant and animal life of the coast, and will also provide facilities for scientists to use in making studies to assist industries concerned with natural resources of the sea and rivers.

Construction of the park entrances recalls the tabby buildings of early settlers. Though the original formula of this oyster shell, lime, and sand combination has been lost through the years, a substitute utilizing commercial cement has been found effective.



*Palmettoes Come Down to the Sea—Hunting Island State Park*



*The Boat Dock, Hunting Island State Park. (Photo by Harrison)*

# HUNTING ISLAND STATE PARK

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LOCATION: Off St. Helena Island, 14 miles southeast of Beaufort, at terminus of State Highway No. 285 (Free ferry until causeway is completed).

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Hunting Island State Park is one of the latest acquired, but one of the largest, most beautiful, and most important of all the South Carolina State Parks. Its total acreage is approximately 5,000 acres, of which about 2,000 are high land and 3,000 surrounding marshland. The high land portion, approximately four and a half miles long and averaging one mile wide, is heavily covered with virgin timber, mostly palmettos, slash pines, and live oaks. The entire island, as well as several smaller islands, nearby, make up the park. Through the area are several fresh water lagoons, a natural attraction for wild life, both bird and animal, which is abundant in the area. It is estimated that there are 150 deer in this park, several flocks of wild turkeys, and many other forms of wild animal life.

The beach is one of the finest on the Atlantic coast from Georgia northward. It is smooth, hard, and at low tide, four hundred to six hundred feet wide. The land comprising this park was donated to the South Carolina State Commission of Forestry by the County of Beaufort, which had previously acquired it from private citizens and the U. S. Government. It was turned over to the State for development as a State park.

A lighthouse, 136 feet high, formerly equipped with a 12 bullseye, 120,000 candle power lamp, abandoned by the U. S. Lighthouse Service, but still in excellent condition, is part of the park property and will provide an interesting place for park visitors, since its observation platform affords a magnificent view up and down the coast.

Three major types of development are planned for Hunting Island State Park: first, a portion of the park to be devoted to public use by white persons, the recreational development including a bathhouse, picnic areas, vacation cabins, trailer and camping areas, hiking trails, a tea room, and other facilities; second, an area of land to be set off and laid out into lots for leasing to private persons for cottages in a well planned community development, where restrictions will be placed on the type of building; third, a recreational area for colored people in the northern section of the park, the facilities to be included in this section consisting mainly of a bathhouse and picnic areas.

Hunting Island is one of nearly a hundred islands that compose Beaufort County. In this section there were Spanish explorers within 30 years after Columbus discovered America. This is the only part of South Carolina which has been governed under six flags: Spanish, French, English, the State of South Carolina in the Revolutionary War, the United States, and the Confederate States. From the Spanish survives the name of Saint Helena and Ladies Island, originally Santa Elera and Our Lady's Island. From the French is Port Royal.

Frequently battlegrounds, the fortunes of Beaufort's islands have as regularly returned after an attack as they were lost during wars. Spanish, French, Indians, Scots, Negro slaves, American Colonials, Pirates, Confederates, and Northerners have all lived, fought, and died hereabout.

Nowadays, however, Hunting Island is a lovely, quiet refuge. An alternate route of the Intracoastal Waterway passes near, and numerous shrimp and oyster boats mingle with larger craft in the bays and inlets. St. Helena Sound, just northward, is the largest sound south of Chesapeake Bay.



*The Woods are Nature's School Houses*



# GIVHAN'S FERRY STATE PARK

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LOCATION: 8 miles west from Summerville on State Highway No. 64, then 7.2 miles north from State Highway No. 64 on State Highway No. 65.

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Givhan's Ferry State Park includes in its 1,235 acres the site of the ferry which gave its name to the park. Before railroads and highways, here was the chief crossing between the upper western part of the State and the City of Charleston. Before its days as a ferry, there was a ford here on the famous Charles Town-Savannah Town-Augusta Indian path along which traders went into the Creek territory of Georgia. Stories are told of an Indian horseman who, by small gifts, would be induced to leap from the high river bank.

It is on high bluffs of the Edisto river. The river, though about fifty miles from the ocean, rises and falls with the salty tide. This area also has prehistoric interest. In the marl formation, of which the river banks are largely composed, workmen have found bones of great elephants, teeth of sharks, and remains of other queer animals which roamed the land before the time of man.

Principally, however, Givhan's Ferry Park is famous for its fishing opportunities. This section was known as a recreation place long before it was set aside, laid out in trails, and equipped with vacation cabins and picnic accommodations. Bateaus for many years have slid off the gray banks under the drooping moss and drifted over the clear black waters with fishermen who had no notion of coming back emptyhanded. Even today shad fishing is carried on extensively in this interesting river.

Nowadays, the river has been restocked, and plenty of advice is available from local guides and residents as to the best method of catching trout, sturgeon, perch, bream, and other fish. All visitors must bring their own tackle, but the five cabins are amply provided with utensils for cooking the fish.

A spacious lodge has been built on the river bank, where bathhouse facilities, concession stands, and an assembly hall add their bit to the visitors' enjoyment.

Parking areas, a large picnic shelter, several smaller picnic areas, and a shelter for barbecues are also provided.

Nearly half of the area of this park has been reset with pines and mixed hardwoods, and wildlife abounds, being protected by law.

Adjoining the park, though shut off by a heavy fence, is the upper end of the tunnel that provides the city water supply for Charleston. After running underground for nearly twenty miles, it debouches near Goose Creek, forms a reservoir, and furnishes commercial and drinking water for the city.





*Barnwell State Park—Noted for Picnics and Spring Flowers*



# BARNWELL STATE PARK

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LOCATION: 3 miles south of Blackville, State Highway No. 3.

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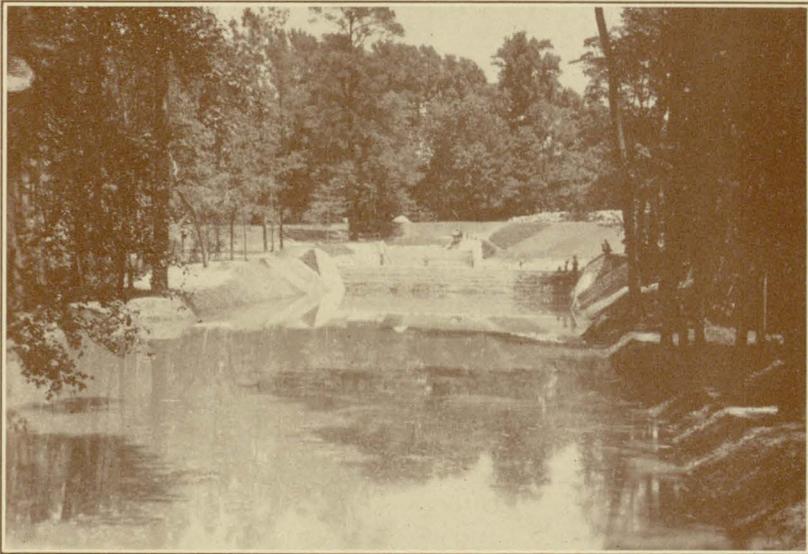
Barnwell State Park contains 252 acres of land, well stocked with trees and shrubs, typical of the area in which it lies.

This park is one of the smallest and one of the latest acquired of the South Carolina State Parks. However, it is very attractive and draws large numbers of persons during the summer months. A picturesque little lake has been impounded by an earth dam and will permit such activities as swimming and boating. A bathhouse and bathing beach have been constructed. Other facilities include picnic areas, a community lodge, caretaker's house, hiking trails, and drives.

The park is well located, in that it places recreational facilities within reach of many persons who, otherwise, would have no opportunity to enjoy such advantages.

Historically, this area is in the section covered on Sherman's march from Savannah. A swath forty miles wide was swept clean from Savannah to Columbia in the early part of 1865. Among the homes destroyed was that of William Gilmore Simms, famous writer of South Carolina. His study where he wrote many of his books is still standing, however, near the town of Barnwell. It is said that Sherman's soldiers called this town Burnwell because of the lively fire they had set.

Nearly thirty years previously the territory roundabout was the scene of quite a different sort of activity, when the first steam railroad's tracks were laid. At Barnwell the plantation owners refused to let the new railroad pass for fear it would frighten the little slave children, and annoy their owners with noise and smoke. Blackville was named for Alexander Black, who did much to secure funds for building the railroad, ten miles away from Barnwell.



*A View in the State Park in Barnwell County*



*Family Picnic*



*The Clear Edisto Is Fine For Fishing*

# AIKEN STATE PARK

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LOCATION: 25 miles east from Aiken on State Highway No. 215, 1 mile south from intersection State Highways No. 215, 394, and 4, on county road.

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The Aiken State Park on the banks of the South Fork of the Edisto, covering 867 acres, has the double advantage of a river where boats are available for fishing parties and a spring-fed lake which provides opportunities for water sports. Three other small lakes are in the area.

It is particularly suitable for one day outings. Three fishing cabins have been provided.

Plans are under way to furnish camping accommodations for groups and clubs of non-profit organizations.

Among the features of this park is the winding driveway which leads from the pine-clad sand hills, in and out through the woodlands to the low swampy banks of the river. Because of the diversity of soils, there is a wide variety of plant life along the route as it circles through the park and returns to its starting point—a huge crosspiece gate of logs, opposite the superintendent's house.

Historically, the park is on lands made famous through many periods of the State's development. There was a large Indian settlement, Savannah Town, near the present Windsor; and the Spanish explorers, De Soto and Juan Pardo, visited here. The Augusta Path, the Indian trade route into the Creek Nation, passed close by. Still later, the Tories and Whigs had bloody skirmishes hereabout. Then, during the years of peace, the first mail train and the longest steam passenger railroad in the country at the time, 1833, was laid down just northward, and during the War Between the States, with its subsequent decade of Reconstruction, there was more fighting. Now, nearby Aiken, the "polo capital" and winter resort is a center of tourist life in the cooler months.

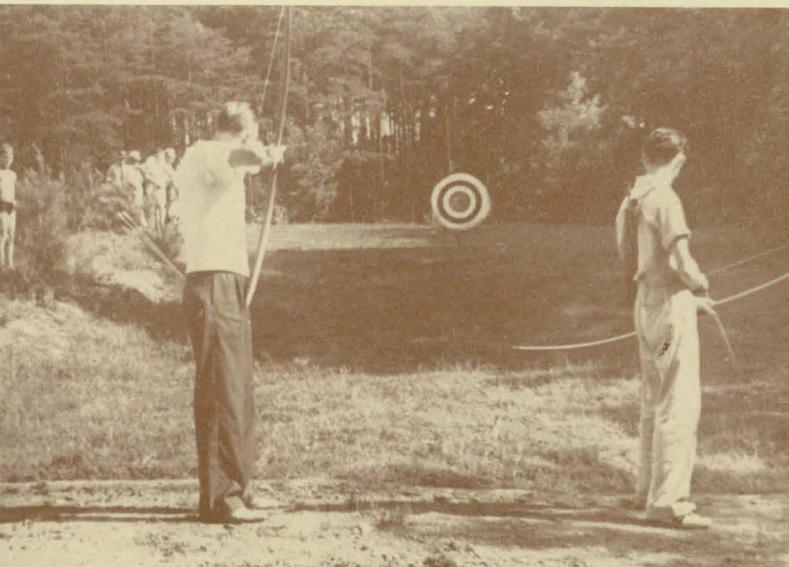
*Lifeguard teaching child to swim in the crystal clear lake at Aiken State Park*





*The spillway of the dam impounding the 31 acre lake built by the C. C. C. in Sesqui-Centennial State Park between Columbia and Camden*

*The beach and commodious bath-house serves the visitors to Sesqui-Centennial State Park*



*Archery is becoming a popular pastime for spectators and participants in the State Parks*

# SESQUI-CENTENNIAL STATE PARK

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LOCATION: 13 miles northeast of Columbia on U. S. Highway No. 1

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Sesqui-Centennial State Park derives its name from the Columbia Sesqui-Centennial Commission. The land, totalling 1,500 acres, was purchased from funds obtained from the sale of Sesqui-Centennial coins minted 1936, when Columbia celebrated its 150th anniversary. It was donated to the S. C. State Commission of Forestry for development as a State Park.

This area supplies what has been recognized for some time as a real need in South Carolina's State park system—a park in Richland County near the State capital. Because of its location close to Columbia and a well populated region, it is expected to accommodate many thousands of guests during all seasons of the year, and especially during the summer months.

The topography is hilly, and within its boundaries are some of the highest hills in Richland County; at some points are magnificent views, with the City of Columbia in the distance. The land is typical of the Sand Hill Region of South Carolina, the high hills being composed mostly of sand and the bottom lands of rich soil, abundant in growth of forest trees, native flowering plants, and shrubs.

Near the center of the park a 25-acre lake has been constructed, fed by a bold, clear spring-fed stream, of sufficient flow to keep the water cool at all times, even during the hot summer months when many of the lakes in this section of the country become warm. A sandy beach has been constructed as well as a large bathhouse, designed to accommodate one thousand bathers a day, and picnic facilities.

Other facilities planned for the very near future include a larger barbecue area, an outdoor theater to be built close to the lake, a custodian's residence, hiking trails, and drives. A riding stable with many miles of bridle paths is also planned, and it is expected, eventually, to construct a tea room.

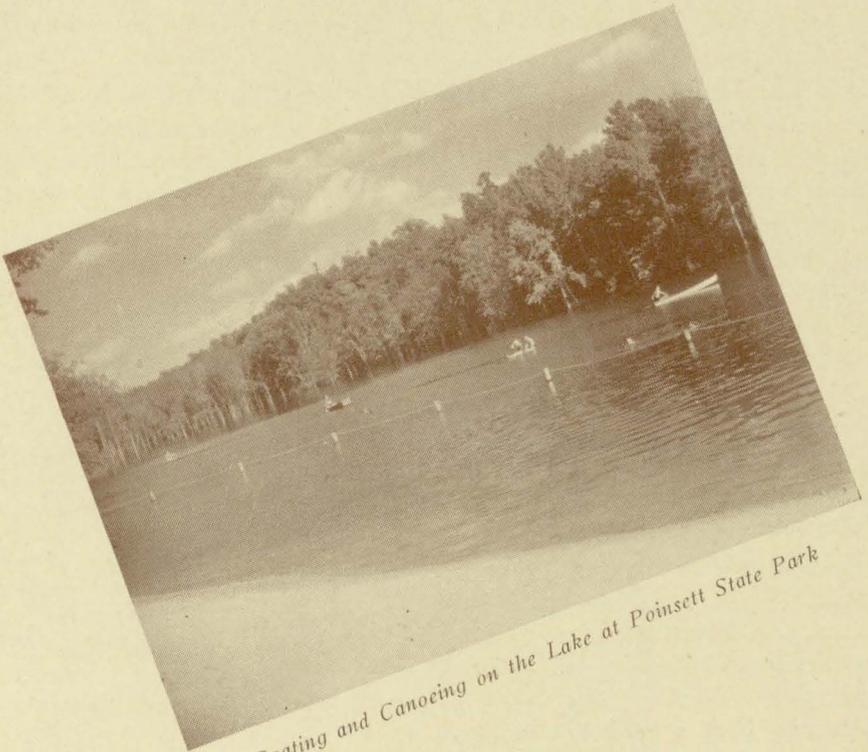
The entire area is being reforested. There are sections largely dominated by blackjack oak—very beautiful in the fall, and pines have been planted among them.

There is an abundance of holly, dogwood, and sweet bay on the area, while a large number of native flowering shrubs will be moved into the park, all of which will make Sesqui-Centennial Park one of the beauty spots of the State.





*Foot Bridge, Poinsett State Park*



*Boating and Canoeing on the Lake at Poinsett State Park*

# POINSETT STATE PARK

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LOCATION: 11.9 miles northwest from Sumter on U. S. Highway No. 76; 10.8 miles south from U. S. Highway No. 76 on State Highway No. 261

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With its thousand acres of laurel-filled woodlands in the High Hills of Santee, Poinsett State Park draws visitors from both the Low-Country and Up-Country. At Poinsett there is a trailer camp with comfort facilities, shower rooms, electricity, and water connections. There are five cabins, picnic areas, a lodge, refreshment stand, barbecue pit, a large lake with bathhouse, a boat dock, and numerous wooded trails.

The park is named for Joel R. Poinsett, naturalist, traveler, statesman, and educator, who was born in South Carolina and contributed his talents and energies before the war between the States in National and State circles. The Poinsettia was introduced by him from Mexico and is named for him. Poinsett died in Stateburg near the park, and is buried in the cemetery of the Church of the Holy Cross in that community.

Rustic bridges of logs lead over clear streams in Poinsett Park, and in late spring the woods are filled with pink clusters of mountain laurel and an abundance of other wild flowers, including dogwood, plum, wild azalea, woodbine, redbud, and others. For years this spot has been a retreat for nature lovers who were intimate with their State's advantages, and since the park was created, a collection has been started which will include the many varieties of plants found in the reservation.

The terrain of the park is unusual in this part of the State, below the Fall Line, where the land is generally flat. Here trails lead over hills, down ravines, around ledges, as though the park contained many little mountains not yet grown up.

The rock used in construction of the bathhouse, entrance portal, chimneys and foundations at this Park is known as "coquina" from the Spanish word meaning "shell." It is a beautiful brown rough rock in which small sea shells are easily visible, and which, combined with carbonate of lime, mud and other substances, was probably fifty million years in the making. Coquina is pronounced "co-kee-na."

Nearby courses the Wateree River, one of the largest in South Carolina. Through its history it has carved a deep bed, leaving the High Hills where, early in Carolina history, the coastal settlers came to find health and comfort from the hot swamplands near the sea. Many of the old mansions of the planters still remain to testify to their wealth and power.

One of the first settlers in this section was General Thomas Sumter, called the "Gamecock" because of his fighting ability. After the fall of Charles Town to the British in 1780, the militia of the Up-Country called on Sumter to organize and lead them, and largely from the activities of Sumter, Marion, and Pickens, the three partisan generals of South Carolina, came the victories of Kings Mountain and Cowpens, each contributing to the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown in Virginia.

Sumter lived in Stateburg and there also lived his daughter-in-law, the Countess Natalie de Lage, who barely escaped with her life during the French Revolution. She was a Catholic, the only one for many miles around, and her husband built her a tiny brick chapel where she worshipped each day. It is still standing near Stateburg, in the family graveyard where the big Sumter memorial stone was erected in 1936.



*Fishing Cabins Along Lynches River*

*The Rustic Bridge—Lee State Park*



# LEE STATE PARK

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LOCATION: 3 miles north from Bishopville on U. S. Highway No. 15; 2 miles east from U. S. Highway No. 15 on county road

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The 2,109 acres of Lee State Park are gradually being converted into one of the largest of South Carolina's recreational areas. It is an inviting place for picnickers and fishermen. On the banks of Lynches River, it affords fishing and swimming opportunities, and through the extensive wooded areas are laid out trails for the nature lovers. Picnic areas, bathhouses, and fishing boats have been provided, and small cabins on the banks of Lynches River have been constructed for use of fishermen and others.

Lynches River, which forms the southeast border of the park, has been noted since Indian days for the quality of clay on its banks. The red men used it in their pottery making, and Josiah Wedgwood of England had wagon loads shipped to his factories before the Revolutionary War. Other notable china makers came to South Carolina to settle, hoping to establish potteries like those they had in England.

Among historical incidents which occurred in the vicinity of this park were numerous duels, the most famous of which was the Cash-Shannon affair in 1880, which resulted in South Carolina passing a law, in existence today, that no man holding public office shall have been concerned with duelling, either as a principal or a second, since January 1, 1881.



*A Hook—A Line—A Pole—Some Bait*



*View of Beautiful 300  
Acre Lake—Cheraw State  
Park  
(Photo by Thompson)*

*The Lake, with its numer-  
ous arms, is popular for  
boating*



*The bath-house and  
beach at Cheraw  
State Park are much  
used by local citizens  
and travellers*

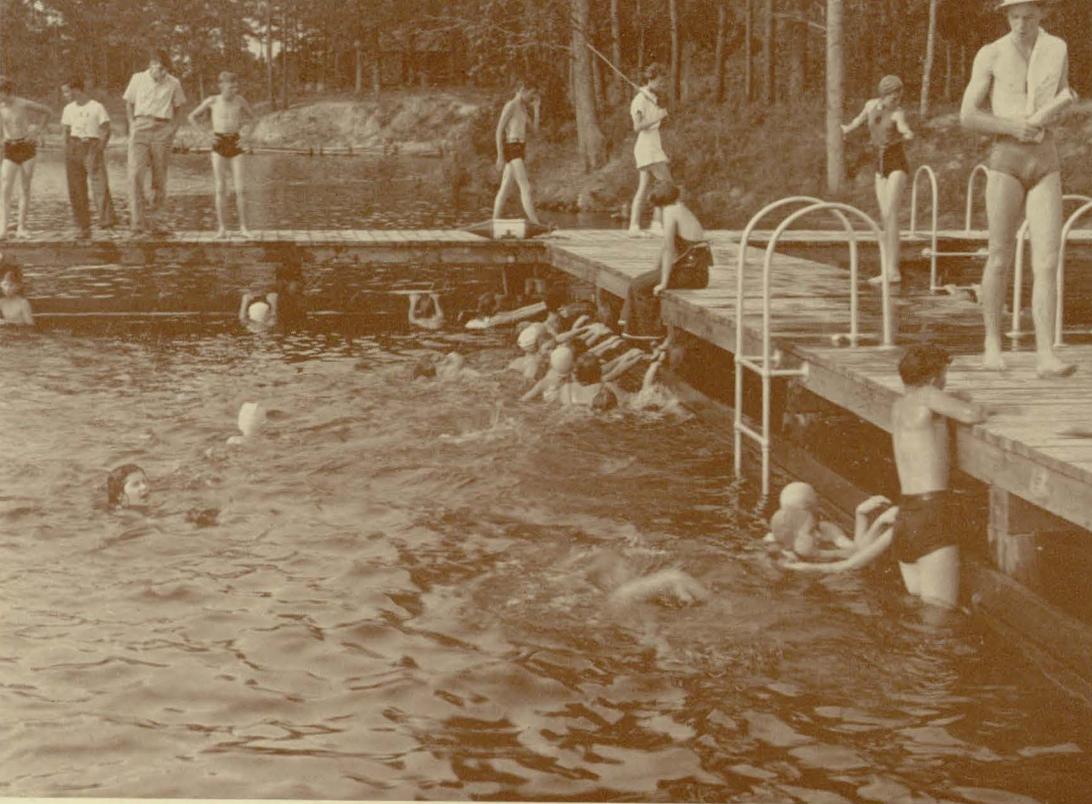
*Each cabin provides sleeping quarters for four campers*



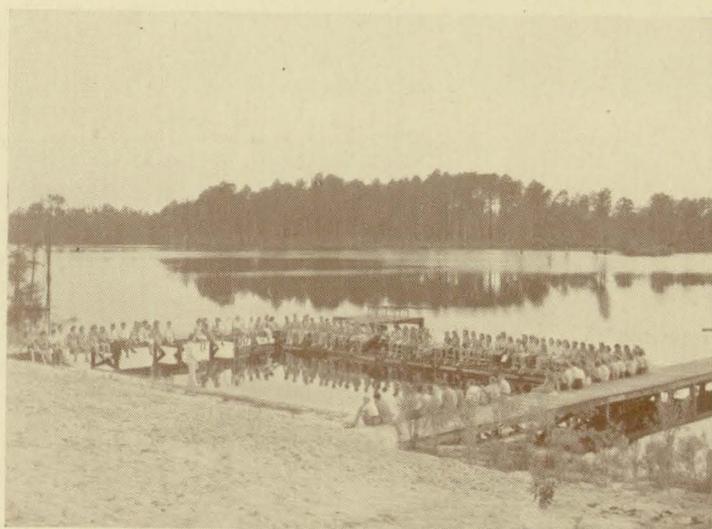
*Campers eagerly await the dinner bell*



*Campers relax in their cabins*



*Swimming is taught and safety is the keynote for campers and visitors at all camps and parks*



*Vesper Services at Twilight*

# CHERAW STATE PARK and RECREATION DEMONSTRATION AREA

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LOCATION: 4.1 miles southwest from Cheraw on U. S.  
Highway No. 1.

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**CHERAW STATE PARK:** This was the first area to be donated by citizens to the State for such a purpose. It comprises 706 acres, adjacent to and nearly surrounded by a larger area of 6,832 acres, purchased by the United States government in its efforts to provide a recreation area developed by the National Park Service, and as an extension to the State Park. This section, in the sand hills near the Fall Line, where vegetation is sparse, is a good example of the conversion of agriculturally unproductive lands into public usefulness.

The park provides for swimming and picnicking parties and is threaded by trails through the woodlands. A newly constructed bathhouse is much used as well as the commodious picnic shelter overlooking the large lake. The flora of the sand hills furnishes opportunity for those interested in studying the productive possibilities of the deep sandy soil.

**RECREATION DEMONSTRATION AREA:** This area, comprising 6,832 acres owned by the Federal Government, is one of the largest areas in the State providing facilities for organized camping parties. It is at present owned by the Federal Government, although it is expected that it will soon be turned over to the State of South Carolina for maintenance and operation. At present the S. C. State Commission of Forestry leases the camps and operates them for individual organizations.

Juniper Lake, of 300 acres, is an achievement of the CCC camps and relief workers, as are the buildings. The dam impounding the lake is 1,200 feet long. Intended primarily to give opportunity for various non-profit groups to spend long or short periods camping at low cost, there have been constructed two large camps where a dining hall, a kitchen, lodges, sleeping cabins, an infirmary, and other buildings furnish accommodations. A sandy beach with swimming docks and diving boards, boating facilities, a play field, and many trails have also been provided.

The State Forest Service, which administers the camps, has charge of preparation and serving of meals, of providing an administrative staff including a camp director, a dietitian, a lifeguard, a first aid attendant, and cooks and helpers. The organization sponsoring the campers furnish leaders and camp programs. One such camp, completed and designed to provide for 120 campers, was first operated during the summer of 1938. A second camp designed for 48 was ready for use in 1939.

The name Cheraw is of Indian origin and means Fire-Town. The town, 4.1 miles northeast, is said to be on the site of an old Indian village. Too, Cheraw recalls an old tribe of Indians, the "Saraws."

On the Jefferson Davis Highway, U. S. No. 1, it is fitting that the first Confederate monument should have been erected at Cheraw in old Saint David's churchyard. Old homes and treasured relics recall Washington, La Fayette, and Sherman. Here also lived Bishop Alexander Gregg, author of HISTORY OF THE OLD CHERAWS, and later Bishop in Texas.



*Campers sometimes prepare meals on the outdoor cooking fire places*

*Here, well led, embattled patriots made their names immortal*



*Each day the campers use the Lake for swimming and boating*

# KINGS MOUNTAIN RECREATION DEMONSTRATION AREA

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LOCATION: 12 miles north from York on State Highway  
No. 161.

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The Kings Mountain Recreation Demonstration Area, comprising 8,882 acres, adjoins the Kings Mountain National Military Park. This area, like Cheraw Recreation Demonstration Area, was purchased and developed by the Federal Government, but is expected soon to be turned over to the State for maintenance and operation as part of its State Park system. The organized camp here has been leased by the Commission of Forestry and operated, similar to Cheraw.

Two large artificial lakes furnish water sports for two summer camps. Lodges, cabins, administrative buildings, dining hall, kitchen, infirmary, and other buildings have been constructed for the use of the organizations which utilize the camps.

In these camps the underprivileged children, farm clubs, and groups from the cities will be enabled to enjoy healthful outdoor life during the summer months, at a low cost, under proper supervision. The groups must provide only their leadership and a program for camp life.

**KINGS MOUNTAIN BATTLEFIELD:** Besides the recreational attractions, the campers will be enabled to visit one of the most historic spots in the country. Within walking distance is the National Military Park, which covers the site of the Battle of Kings Mountain, fought October 7, 1780, between the British regulars and Tories and the American patriots. Sometimes called the "Battle of the Colonels," because neither British nor American officers engaged had higher rank, it broke the hold of the English king in South Carolina, and, by encouragement to other Americans, paved the way for other colonial successes that culminated in the British surrender at Yorktown, in Virginia, a year later.

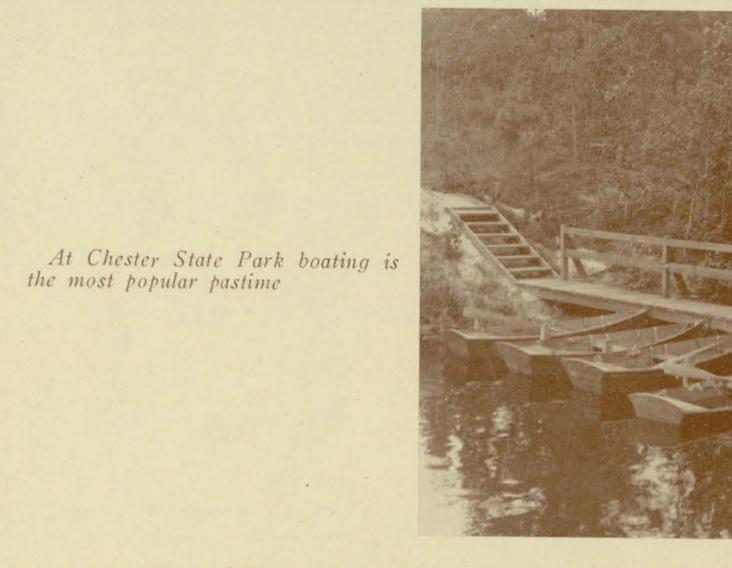
Hiking trails branch out from the granite monument erected by the National Government and pass the many smaller memorials along the side of the mountain. The fighting Americans, led by Colonel Campbell, not one of whom was a member of the Continental army, and their foes under dashing Colonel Patrick Ferguson, seem to live again as the various positions are recalled by the markers. Down on one side of the mountain is the monument reared to the Scot soldier, 150 years later, by descendants of the men he sought to destroy. Urging his men to fight, cutting down their white signals of surrender with his sword in his left hand (his right hand having been wounded in a previous battle) his bravery is still appreciated by his foes. Only after he fell did his men give up to the "over mountain" fighters, who had surrounded the mountain and swarmed up its sides to victory.

Tradition goes that Ferguson's sweetheart, whose real name is concealed by "Virginia Sal," fell at his side in the battle and is buried with him. A rock cairn rises higher each year, when visitors add a stone to the pile above the double grave.

But not all is history in the Kings Mountain reservation. Spring comes late and the woods blossom with dogwood and the Judas tree, with yellow jasmine, and later, the cowslip, the wild azalea, violets of many kinds, and woodbine. In May the mountain laurel blooms, and until the winter comes there are always many flowering plants among the oaks and pines and poplars and cedars.



*Each group of cabins at the Kings Mountain Summer Camp has its own central lodge for instruction and entertainment*



*At Chester State Park boating is the most popular pastime*



*Boys cooking meal over out-door fireplace. Chester State Park*

# CHESTER STATE PARK

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LOCATION: 3 miles southwest from Chester on State Highway No. 7.

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With its 523 acres of wooded hills and rolling lands, Chester State Park offers, especially to the surrounding section, a popular and restful resort. The communities in the adjoining counties are largely industrial and the park provides outdoor release for hundreds of men, women, and children shut up daily in the manufacturing plants.

When opportunity permits, hundreds seek the shelter of the park with picnic baskets, or with dinners to be cooked in the outdoor fireplaces on the shore of the 160-acre lake. The trails through the woods are very popular. Boats are available at the boathouse on the lake shore. An excellent community lodge adorns a prominent knoll overlooking the lake.

There are no charges for the use of the area, all picnic sites being free to users and trails being laid out for anyone who cares to learn the way of the woods and the many kinds of plant life in the forests.

This bit of retreat in a busy industrial area is bounded on the west by the State road, called by people roundabout "The Calhoun Highway", for the great South Carolina statesman. Nearby runs the Broad River, which in early times was the route for traffic and shipment of cotton. The lands on which the park is located were productive in those days—so rich that the owners forgot the needs of the soil and worked it to exhaustion in piling up fortunes in cotton. Depleted for many years, it has been reforested and has now been given back to the people, for the profit of the minds and bodies of hundreds, rather than the swelling of the purses for a few. Planting of shrubbery and flowers, taken from one section and brought to another, gives the visitor an idea of what can be done with worn out land when properly treated. First the broomsedge takes hold, then stray seeds of pine and other trees are given opportunity by nature to build again the earth that has been robbed. The seeds of the smaller plants are borne in by the winds or birds, and once more the forest has charge of the earth. To help the process, the foresters give fire protection and when a plant is taken up in one place to give way to a carefully planned trail, it is immediately set out again in some other sparse region. In the Chester park, the plan of nature, with intelligent assistance of man, to regain the earth is well shown.





“Such fun I’ve had! I saw in the wood  
The violets opening their eyes,  
The little ferns straightening out their curls,  
And Jack-in-the-pulpit rise.”

—Elizabeth Scantlebury.



*Two Families Picnic Near The Lake*



The world is so full of a number of things  
I am sure we should all be as happy as kings.

—R. L. Stevenson.



# GREENWOOD STATE PARK

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LOCATION: 5 miles east from Ninety Six, on State  
Highway No. 22.

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Greenwood State Park, consisting of 1,114 acres, is the newest of all the South Carolina State parks. It is on the shore of Greenwood Lake, where a dam has been constructed to form a 16,000 acre body of water. The shore line in the park is irregular and beautiful, many lovely views being afforded across the big lake.

Because of the great fluctuation in the water level due to its use for the generation of hydro-electric power, the lake will not be used for swimming. A swimming pool will be built with a bathhouse so that this important type of recreation can be furnished to visitors. It is planned also to construct here a community lodge, summer camps, tent camps, an amphitheatre, barbecue shelters, riding stables, bridle paths, hiking trails, and fishing cabins. A boat basin and picnic shelters have been constructed.

On an area a short distance from the main development, a State Park for colored people is being built. Though this portion will be considered a part of Greenwood State Park, it is distinct from the main area and will be handled as a separate unit.

Work on development was begun in the fall of 1938 and it is estimated that it will take three years to complete.

The topography is rolling, well wooded, and will make a very attractive area.

Close by this park is the town of Ninety Six, historically one of the most famous in the Up-Country. It was once on an Indian trail, the Keowee Path, and ninety-six miles away from the northwestern end. The upper terminal is in present day Oconee County, near the State park there. A romantic legend recounts a flight made by Cateechee, an Indian girl, to her lover, a trader named Francis, when she gave warning of an intended Indian attack. Her ninety-six mile journey carried her over Twelve Mile Creek and many other numerically named points, commemorating her flight, so the story goes. Near Ninety Six today are the foundations of Star Fort, a British outpost in the Revolution, and close by is also the site of old Cambridge, where was erected the first courthouse in the Up-Country and a notable academy was early established.





*Two of the Lakes are used for boating and swimming — The third Lake is secluded and on it there is no boating or bathing*



*The old-fashioned barbecue is carefully prepared by a picnic party in Paris Mountain State Park*



*Dining and recreation hall for summer camping of groups at Paris Mountain State Park near Greenville. Built by C. C. C.*

# PARIS MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

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LOCATION: 2.2 miles north from Greenville on U. S.  
Highway No. 25; 3.8 miles east from U. S. Highway  
No. 25 on paved county road.

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Paris Mountain State Park, near Greenville, the largest textile center in the State, comprises 1,275 acres of mountain land through which flows a stream that has been dammed for three lakes. For years Paris Mountain has been one of the chief resorts for picnickers and hikers of nearby towns, but since it has been taken over by the South Carolina State Commission of Forestry and laid out in trails, equipped with bathhouses, a lodge, picnic shelters, and a small summer camp, it has been made available for thousands of others who seek recreation in the mountains.

A small secluded lake is reserved for quiet picnics. A summer camp is on still another lake near the mountaintop. Foot trails and bridle paths weave in and out of the mountain glens. A new automobile road has been built to give the motorist opportunity to see the Carolina mountains. Of safe width, reinforced by rock blasted from the side, the road winding around the mountain is a thrilling scenic drive. Views down steep valleys, and vistas over the low hills to the higher blue mountains were the main thoughts of those who planned the drive.

Paris Mountain is the last local reference to the noted Richard Pearis, the first white settler in these parts. He owned the land on which the city of Greenville is built and many more acres besides. He was an Indian trader who built a home and grist mill, who dealt in horses and cattle and planted corn in cooperation with the Cherokee Indians. He married an Indian woman and lived a life of luxury, affluence, and influence in the days before the Revolutionary War. Some historians say he wanted to espouse the American cause, but was insulted by an unwise Whig. Others say he was a Tory from the start. Be it as it may, he became a Tory captain and received submission from colonial officers after the downfall of Ninety Six. But with the turn of affairs and the success of the Americans, his lands were taken from him and he was forced into exile. Later, after the Revolution, he died on a West Indian island where the British crown had established him in payment for his services in Carolina.

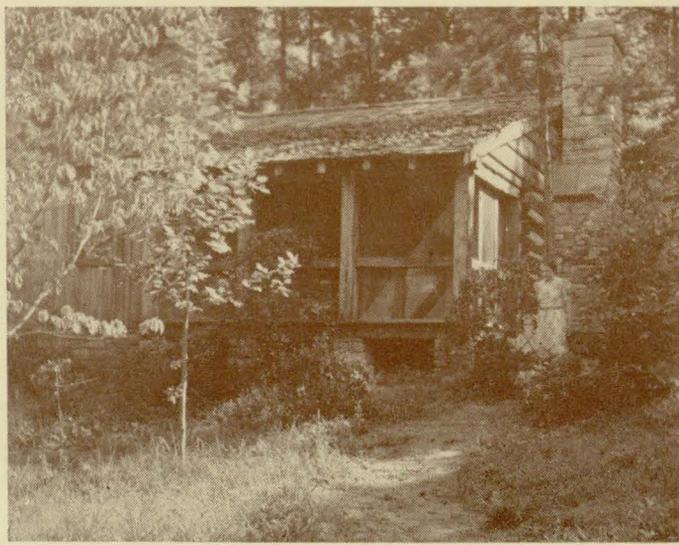
This mountain, separated from others by ten miles, juts up from a fairly level plain, and of all localities where Richard Pearis lived, it alone still bears his name—though with a different spelling.



*Few people from the South Carolina Low-Country realize the beauties of South Carolina's mountain scenery. Table Rock State Park*



*Cabins in State Parks offer vacations for families and groups at reasonable costs*



# TABLE ROCK STATE PARK

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LOCATION: 8.5 miles north from Pickens on U. S. Highway No. 178; 4.3 miles east from U. S. Highway No. 178 on paved county road.

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Three high curved peaks, with rock escarpments, breaking gray through a covering of green, form the back drop curtains at Table Rock Park, the most spectacular of State parks of the South Carolina system. There is always the consciousness of uplifting grandeur here. The odd-shaped meandering lake, the log cabins in the coves, the winding roads and trails, only add to the august presence of Sah-ka-na-ga, the Great Blue Hills of God, as the Indians called these mountains before the coming of the white man. There is the sound of sighing in the pines, the rolling of stones misplaced by small, furtive wild things, and the hidden music of the streams running over rocks in the deep angular valleys. The odor of flowers in the spring and the minty bee balm in the fall are all part of the inherent mountain existence utilized in the park.

The area of Table Rock Park is 2,680 acres. From the entrance to the sky line of The Pinnacle, Table Rock, and The Stool, the park extends up hills, down valleys, around curves, and into unexplored seclusion. For a hundred years or more it has been famous for beauty and inspiration, and beyond the memory of even the red men, there is the tradition of marvels of a gigantic chieftain who sat upon The Stool and dined from The Table, nearly 3,400 feet above ordinary mortals.

With the desire to preserve the awareness of grandeur, buildings have been constructed of native stone and timber in inconspicuous coves. The lake has been formed of two streams, coming down from the heights to form a large artificial lake reflecting images of the surrounding mountains. The automobile roads and foot trails have been carefully developed to follow rather than mar the natural slope of the land. Thousands of plants have been moved to bare places on the routes, and with such skill that they seem always to have been there.

A bathhouse accommodates the swimmers, and from the rearing pools, fish are turned loose in the lake for the mountain fishermen.

Here and there are picnic areas and a large shelter with a stone fireplace. Near the lake are seven cabins, equipped for the vacationist, each commanding a view of the majestic Table Rock. A stone and timber lodge of sturdy construction and excellent design overlook the lake, and affords a splendid view of the mountain scenery.

Not only is the park a recreation center, but it is an enticing area of discovery for botanists, inspiration for artists and challenge for those who love to explore.

Against a back drop of granite towering above streams and woodlands, Table Rock State Park has been built. The stark bare rock, streaked by ancient streams, looms above a dense forest. Tufts of wind beaten trees cling precariously in high crevices and down below are thriving pines and hemlocks, gum and cucumber trees; bass-woods and maples blend together, with laurel, rhododendron, wild hydrangea, with the trillium, the orchid, the galax, lady's slipper, partridge berry, turtle head flower, and hundreds of other plants.

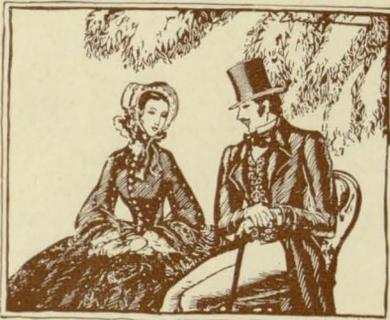
A trail has been cleverly constructed to the top of Table Rock Mountain. It starts at the bathhouse area and terminates at the top of the great rock, more than a mile up. The trail winds along Carrick's Creek, where foot bridges have been built of chestnut timbers. A waterfall with a drop of sixty feet and several smaller cas-

ades are at intervals along the path. Special attention has been taken to avoid steep and sudden ascent. The first third of the trail terminates in a thickly wooded area where an old mountain still has been left for its interest to the curious. Then upward the trail winds among boulders which have fallen away from the granite mass during the centuries. A shelter with seats has been built two-thirds of the way from the start for the hiker. A splendid view of the valley and distant mountains is had from this rest shelter. Farther along, the park limits are reached where a spring bubbles among rocks and ferns. Here is posted a sign that beyond is the property of the Greenville waterworks and no debris is to be discarded in the area. Almost a quarter of a mile distant is the bare granite surface of The Table. Lichen and bee balm, with a few stunted trees, seek nourishment in the crevices.

From the top of The Table there is a sheer drop of 1,000 feet down to the blue lake which is the reservoir of the Greenville city water supply. Formerly there were only the rocky headwaters of the Saluda River and farmlands in the wide chasm. Beyond the Dismal, as the gorge was called, rises Caesar's Head, and it is easy to visualize the traditional ceremonies wherein the loveliest of the young Indian women were tossed down from the Sachem's Head (as the escarpment was called) to appease an angry god who refused rain for the crops.



*Oconee State Park is 1700 Feet Above Sea Level*



# OCONEE STATE PARK

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LOCATION: 8.2 miles northwest from Walhalla on State Highway No. 28; 2.4 miles east from State Highway No. 28 on county road.

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In contrast with the steep slopes and inspiring aspect of Table Rock State Park, Oconee is a restful retreat on a high plateau between Station Mountain and Stump House Mountain, in Oconee County. There are 1,165 acres in the park, which includes a 20-acre impounded lake, earth dam, sandy beach, boating and swimming facilities. The bathhouse is built of stone and timber from the nearby mountains; it contains dressing rooms, refreshment stand, and tea room. A spacious veranda extends across the entire front. Some of the stone used in the construction has been taken from the east end of Stump House Tunnel, just below the south border of the park.

Stump House Tunnel was begun in the 1830's and was to have been a means of passage for the proposed Louisville, Cincinnati, and Charleston Railroad. It was not finished before the Civil War, however, and the subsequent confusion prevented its ultimate completion. The tunnel was supposed to have been a mile long and work was begun on both east and west ends. Remains of the excavation and blasting are still evident. The west end of the tunnel has grown up in underbrush but the east end may be explored for some distance. The CCC boys, in removing stone for park construction, have found numerous coins dated in the 1820's and 30's.

Twelve cabins front the main lake. Seven others are on a higher point in the area. From this park overlooking Choe Valley in S. C., there is a view of Rabon Bald, Georgia, Satoola, N. C., Whitesides, N. C. and a vast extent of range after range of the Blue Ridge.

A foot trail and a horseback trail have been laid out to encircle the park. The lake, stocked with trout, will provide fishing when the young fish reach maturity. A small lake affords a place for more secluded picnics as well as a rearing pool for fish.

Picnic shelters have been completed, including open fireplaces and table-bench combinations. Outdoor fireplaces, picnic tables, and drinking fountains are provided.

A paved road has been built to the parking area, accommodating 200 cars. Roads lead to the cabins; and also extend into other areas, permitting views of mountain scenery and the lakes.

At the gate of the park is a gravelled public road which turns left, and leads to the trout hatchery in the Mountain District of Sumter National Forest. It is one of the biggest trout hatcheries in the world. The road is also a part of the old Station Road from High Hampton in North Carolina through the ridge, over which General Wade Hampton used to ride to Columbia.



# WAYSIDE PARKS

Six Wayside Parks, all on main highways, afford accommodations to the visitor who wishes to stop on his journey and eat lunch. They range from 29 to 62 acres in area and contain picnic shelters, fireplaces, combination tables and benches, sanitary facilities, parking areas for cars, and a caretaker's dwelling.

These parks are as follows:

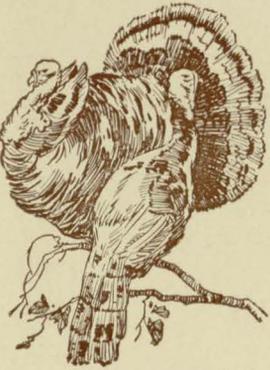
Greenville Wayside Park, 24 miles north of Greenville, U. S. Highway No. 276, east side .....	62 Acres
Greenwood Wayside Park, 16 miles north of Greenwood, U. S. Highway No. 178, west side .....	29 Acres
Colleton Wayside Park, 12 miles north of Walterboro, in northwest angle of intersection of U. S. Highway No. 15 and State Highway No. 65 .....	50 Acres
Kershaw Wayside Park, 9 miles northeast of Camden, U. S. Highway No. 1, north side .....	32 Acres
Aiken Wayside Park, 10 miles southwest of Batesburg, U. S. Highway No. 1, both sides of highway .....	35 Acres
Georgetown Wayside Park, 8 miles north of Georgetown, U. S. Highway No. 701, both sides of highway .....	31 Acres



*Pure Water is Provided at State Parks and Wayside Parks*

# STATE FORESTS

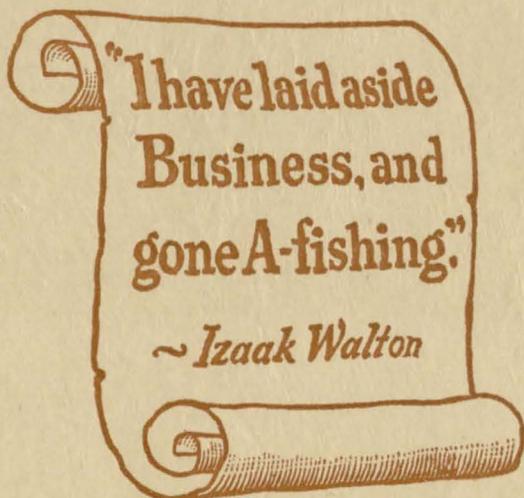
The United States Government has turned over to the S. C. Forest Service 20,000 acres of land adjoining Poinsett State Park. This area has been named the Poinsett State Forest. It has also turned over to the State a 92,000 acre tract adjoining Cheraw State Park. This is the Sand Hills State Forest. Both of these areas are being devoted to the production of timber, using approved forestry methods, the production of game and fish, and the enjoyment of outdoor recreation.





*From The Mountains  
Through The Piedmont  
Down The Sand Hills  
To The Sea  
Dawn or Sunset  
Moon or Starlight  
Carolina Charmingly!*

**S. C. STATE LIBRARY BOARD**



"I have laid aside  
Business, and  
gone A-fishing."

~ *Izaak Walton*

