

THE SPACE REPORT WINTER 2024

Edwin M. Griffin Nature Preserve
Home of The Cottonwood Trail

SPACE
SPARTANBURG AREA
CONSERVANCY

EST



1989

← **PARKING**

keep spartanburg wild.



SPACE

SPARTANBURG AREA
CONSERVANCY

100 E. Main St., Ste 7b, Spartanburg, SC 29306

MISSION

To promote, protect, and preserve natural resources and open space in the Spartanburg community.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Laura Stille - Chair
- King Mueller - Vice-Chair
- Marghretta Shisko - Secretary
- Jason Hill - Treasurer

- | | |
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| Greg Colbath | Hootie Solesbee |
| Michele Cook | Libbo Wise |
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- Sam Parrott - Executive Director
- Lynn Rhodes - Lands Manager
- Deb Stevens - Development & Marketing Director

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



A Note from Laura Stille, Board Chair

What a banner year it has been for SPACE! I am proud to have served on the board for three years, most recently as board chair. SPACE was created in 1989 when directors of a local community foundation became concerned over rapid growth and the increasing loss of greenspace and habitat. As growth and development has accelerated even more today, our current board takes the charge very seriously to promote, protect and preserve natural resources and open space in Spartanburg. This year alone, we have protected 1,644 acres, including the single largest conservation acquisition in Spartanburg County history! I can't wait for you all to experience the jaw-droppingly gorgeous, unspoiled 1,000 acres at Glendale that will be forever unchanged because of SPACE.

I am sure many of you will agree that the world around us at times seems chaotic and harsh. Lately, I try to find balance in the chaos by reminding myself of the Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr (go ahead and Google it :)). A part of that prayer is: "Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time." I most often find moments of serenity - the state of being calm, peaceful and untroubled - while enjoying nature. That might be a walk on a trail such as the Cottonwood or Chinquapin, listening to the rushing water of Glendale shoals, watching the birds and wildlife in my backyard, fishing a mountain stream, or an old-fashioned drive out in the (undeveloped) country. I truly believe that humans need a regular connection with nature to feel balanced and whole. I also believe it is our duty to take care of the Earth. Supporting the work of SPACE is a way to fulfill that duty, right here in our own community. I hope you will join me by renewing your membership or becoming a new member of SPACE.

Sincerely,

Laura Stille




Ways to Support SPACE

1 Follow SPACE on social media.

 @spartanburgSPACE

 Spartanburg Area Conservancy

 Spartanburg Area Conservancy

2 Sign up for our eNews at www.spartanburgconservation.org

3 Volunteer with SPACE! We have volunteer workdays throughout the year - come out and get your hands dirty with us! Follow our social media and eNews for opportunities.

4 Attend an event! We host events throughout the year, from outdoor adventures to fundraising galas... there's something for everyone!

5 Become a member of SPACE! As a nonprofit organization, we rely on our members to sustain our work and fund stewardship efforts. Your annual contributions help Keep Spartanburg Wild!

Visit our website!





The Glendale Nature Preserve: Coming Soon!

For much of this past year, SPACE staff have been working hard on one of the biggest conservation projects in Spartanburg history - one we weren't sure we'd ever see cross the finish line. The goal was to pull together a competitive bid to purchase a large, beautiful, and historically significant property we'd had in our sights for potential public access for a long time. When we found out about a potential development offer on the property, we knew we had to act fast and try to protect this land. With large tracts of undeveloped land quickly disappearing and rising land costs, it would not be easy to find the funds to compete.

Thankfully, Spartanburg has allies who recognize the importance of local conservation and protecting our natural heritage. We wouldn't have been able to complete this project without the steadfast support from our community leaders like Senators Harvey Peeler and Shane Martin, Spartanburg County Council, the SC Office of Resilience, the SC Conservation Bank staff and Board, and our friends at the Tyger River Foundation, along with many others who championed this project across the finish line!

Together, with the support of the State of South Carolina, the SC Conservation Bank, the SC Office of Resilience, and Spartanburg County, we were able to come up with a plan. The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism will hold title to the property and lease it to Spartanburg County Parks and

Recreation to manage as a passive greenspace park for public access. SPACE will hold a conservation easement on the property to ensure it could never be sold for development. Thankfully, the transaction closed in July of 2024, and this incredible piece of land is now owned by SC Parks, Recreation, and Tourism and will be a publicly accessible greenspace forever!

The new park will integrate with SPACE's Glendale Shoals Nature Preserve to create the new Glendale Nature Preserve with nearly 1,000 acres of green space. Crews have been working hard over the last few months installing the first phase of trail infrastructure expanding on the current trail system at the mill ruins site. This will include about two miles of natural surface trail that will extend from the Glendale Shoals trail along Lawson's Fork Creek and connect to Lewis Chapel Road.

Future phases of park development will bring more miles of trails and other outdoor recreation amenities for the residents of Spartanburg to enjoy. PAL: Play, Advocate, Live Well also recently announced that they will begin surveying and engineering work next year on an extension of the Mary Black Rail Trail that will run through the preserve towards Clifton Beach.

Spartanburg County Parks & Recreation plans to have the **first phase** of natural surface trails open to the public in 2025. Stay tuned for more information about the ribbon cutting and grand opening coming soon!



Thank you to our funding partners who helped us protect this land.

It's important that our government leaders know that our community values their investment in conservation in the Upstate. The Glendale Nature Preserve project was the largest investment the State has ever made in land conservation in Spartanburg County. Developing a plan to protect this property, provide public access, and secure **\$25 Million** was no easy task.

Senator Harvey Peeler, Senator Shane Martin, the SC Conservation Bank (with special thanks to Raleigh West, Amber Larck, and Board Chair Michael McShane), Mr. Ben Duncan and the SC Office of Resilience, and Spartanburg County Council (with special thanks to Manning Lynch and David Britt) were champions of local conservation and were extremely important in making this conservation dream a reality. Let's show them our gratitude and fill their mailboxes with thank you notes!

Join us in sending thank you letters to:

Senator Harvey Peeler

SC Senate District 14
Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union, & York Counties
P.O. Box 742
Gaffney, SC 29342

Senator Shane Martin

SC Senate District 13
Spartanburg, Union, and Greenville Counties
P.O. Box 575
Pauline, SC 29374

Spartanburg County Council

Attn: Manning Lynch
PO Box 5666
Spartanburg, SC 29304

SC Conservation Bank

Attn: Mr. Raleigh West
2711 Middleburg Dr, Suite 308
Columbia, SC 29204

South Carolina Office of Resilience

Attn: Mr. Ben Duncan
632 Rosewood Dr.
Columbia, SC 29201



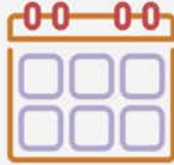
YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER



VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

From USC Upstate Engage Green classes to Hurricane Helene clean-up days, our calendar stayed full!

47
Days



1,000+

OF VOLUNTEERS

More than 1,000 volunteers showed up to help out when we needed it most! From local college students to Scout troops and church groups and everyone in between, we are building a community through conservation.

Litter
19.1%



Invasive Plants
55.3%

Hurricane Debris
25.5%

WE CLEANED UP!

Together, we cleaned up thousands of pounds of trash and litter, removed tens of thousands of invasive plants from our greenspaces, and cleared hundreds of downed trees from our local trails.

2,000+
HOURS OF
SERVICE

**Thank
you!**



keep spartanburg wild.



Hurricane Helene: Damage & Recovery



While our preserves were hit hard by the storm, we were humbled and blessed with volunteers in our community who jumped in to help out. Within two weeks, we spent countless hours with over 200 volunteers clearing fallen trees and storm debris. All our nature trails are now open, but work will continue for some time as we repair and rebuild all the damage. We can't thank our volunteers enough for all your help!



2024 Year in Review

1,644 ACRES PROTECTED



Four Leaf Farm

170 acres of private land near the Spartanburg/Union County line was protected with a conservation easement funded by the SC Conservation Bank.



Glendale Nature Preserve

945 acres with 2.5 miles of river frontage on Lawson's Fork Creek will be Spartanburg County's newest Nature Preserve! This property is adjacent to SPACE's Glendale Shoals Preserve and Wofford College's Environmental Studies campus creating a nearly 1,200-acre conservation corridor in Glendale, SC



Arrowhead Farm

525 acres of private land in Union County with 5 miles of river frontage on the Enoree River was protected with a donated conservation easement. This property is adjacent to 2,352 acres previously protected by the landowners creating a nearly 3,000-acre conservation complex.



New Kayak Launch

Installed at Heathwood Ave. on Lawson's Fork Creek provides blueway access along a family friendly 2.5-mile stretch of water to the take-out at the Glendale Shoals Preserve. *(Note: the launch and this stretch of river still need work after Hurricane Helene. We will share further information when it's safe to paddle again.)*



New Signs @ the Cottonwood Trail



Rachel's Bridge Rebuilt

Special thanks to Women Giving for Spartanburg and the City of Spartanburg for funding this project and extra special thanks to Lynn Rhodes for his many hours of hard work and expert craftsmanship!



1st Annual Earth Day Bash!

The Spartanburg community gathered for a day of family fun at the Glendale Preserve!



10th Annual Shucking Good Time!

\$70,000 raised to support local conservation!



THANK YOU

Corporate Sponsors

Arken Media Group
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Cribbs Kitchen
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The Alfred Moore Foundation
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The Milliken Charitable Foundation
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OneSpartanburg Foundation
South Carolina Conservation Bank
South Carolina Forestry Commission
Spartanburg County
Spartanburg County Foundation
The Tides Foundation
Tyger River Foundation
USC Upstate
Upstate Land Conservation Fund
Wofford College
Women Giving for Spartanburg

Oak Society (\$5,000+)

Mr. & Mrs. Luke and Ivey Allen
Mrs. Randi A. Berry
Mrs. Susan A. Bridges
Mr. & Mrs. Halsey and Michele Cook
Mr. & Mrs. Erwin and Amy Holbein
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Mr. & Mrs. Daniel and Alane Russell
Mr. & Mrs. Brand and Laura Stille

Sycamore Society (\$2,500+)

Mr. and Mrs. Greg and Lisa Atkins
Mrs. & Mrs. Martha Carol and Ken Neely III
Mr. & Mrs. Steve and Shannon Smiley

Maple Society (\$100+)

Thomas and Jane Abbott
Alex and Wiley North
Douglass and Judith Allen
Thomas and Jane Abbott
Cecil and Patricia Amick
Joel Atance
Jane Bagwell
Walker Barnes
Vicki Bomar
Elizabeth Boyce
David Brock
Austin Brown
Erica Brown
Dan Bryant

Gil and Pam Bulman
Fred Bunell and Teresa Holleman
Jan Caldwell
Alasdair and Sheila Carmichael
Alan Chalmers and Sally Hitchmough
John and Alice Claggett
William D. Coan
Paul and Nancy Cote
Christopher and Garrow Crowley
Andrew Dally
Kenneth Darr
Alicia Davis
Carol Davis
Nan Dempsey

Christian and Helga Doerholt
Sarah Donnan
Barbara Dorsey
William and Bobbi Duncan
Carolyn Earley
Coy and Patti Eaton
W. David and Susan Ellis
Edwin Epps
John Faris
Carroll Foster
Gordon and Melissa France
Pamela Frost
Greer Giegerich
Jeremy and Jennie Gilbert
Lucas Giles

Janet Glancy
William Goshorn
William Granger
Banks Griffith
John Grodrian
Roger and Marianna
Habisreutinger
Michael Hanke
Chris Harper
Kathryn Harvey
Abigail Hoffman
Michael Holmes Jr.
Jimmy Hunt
Michael and Nicole Jarrett
Cathryn Judice

thank you

SPACE MEMBERS!

Cottonwood Society (\$1,000+)

The Arkwright Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley and Paula Baker
Mr. & Mrs. Jay and Ali Beeson
Mr. Chris Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Ty and Ellen Cheek
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Mrs. Alice Eberhardt
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Mr. & Mrs. Robert and Jean Haas
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Mrs. & Mrs. Kam and Emily Neely
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Mr. & Mrs. George and Patricia Sykes
Ms. Merike Tamm
Ms. Susan Webb
Mr. and Mrs. David and Katherine Wise

River Birch Society (\$500+)

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Mr. & Mrs. James and Julia Burnett
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Mr. & Mrs. Vernon and Johan Peers
Mr. Luke Perkins and Mrs. Alix Refshauge
Dr. Frank Phillips
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Ms. Fern Powell
Dr. Kaye Savage
Mr. & Mrs. Burnham Uhler II
Mr. & Mrs. Marshall and Deborah Walsh



Dogwood Society (\$250+)



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Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kay and Jennifer Bonner
Ms. Tabby Brickley
Mr. & Mrs. C. Robert and Roberta Faucette
Mr. Mark Nichols and Mrs. Melissa Fritsche
Mr. & Mrs. Larry and Betsy Fritz
Mr. & Mrs. Laurence and Laura Fritz
Mr. & Mrs. Perry and Carla Gentry
Mr. William Granger
Dr. and Mrs. Robert and Jean Haas
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Mr. Wilton and Vivian Jordan
Mr. & Mrs. Lindsay and Francis Little
Mr. & Mrs. Mary Beth and Alan Lyles
Mr. and Mrs. Manning Lynch
Mr. & Mrs. Edward and Jada McAbee
Mr. Yancy McDougal
Mr. Stanford McMillan
Vivian B. Fisher and Jim Newcome
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Mr. & Mrs. Sam and Steely Parrott
Mr. David A. Polk

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Dr. Clemson Turregano
Dr. & Mrs. Gregory and Phyllis Valainis
Mr. & Mrs. Marshall and Christine Wilkins
Mr. Paul Willis
Mr. & Mrs. Blake and Sarah Zemp



Maple Society (\$100+)



Alicia Kane
Bernard and Jeanette Keepers
Leah Kent
Sonny and Mallie King
Leon Kinsey
Robert Levy
Hines Liles
Paul and Anna Liles
Harry and Judith Mamroth
Lorry May
William McCusker
Stanford McMillan
Mark and Amy Mezger
Brian and Dorcas Miller

Betty Montgomery
Thomas Mumper
Isabel Nunez
Steve Oliphant
H. Lynn and Sandra Parker
Tony Patterson
Steve and Penni Patton
Linda Pearson
Thomas Phillips
Nancy Pope
Samuel and Eva Pratt
Eileen N. Rampey
Chuck Reback and Melissa Walker
Lynn Rhodes

Jack and Amanda Richardson
Claire Roussos
Franz Schmid
Lundy Sharpe
Jake Shelley
Michael Silverman
Ron and Caroline Smith
Julie Smoak
Hootie Solesbee
Deborah Southern
Kristin Stewart
Steve Stewart
Richard and Norwood Strasburger
Elizabeth Tisdale

Jack and Joan Todd
Patrick Toomey
Angela Tucker
Clemson Turregano
Carolyn Vaught
Amanda Wall
William and Winnie Walsh
Douglas and Rita Weeks
Jim and Regina Weeks
Jim and Nancy White
William Whitney
Elizabeth "Libbo" Wise
Ann Witwer
Brad Wyche and Diane Smock



SPACE

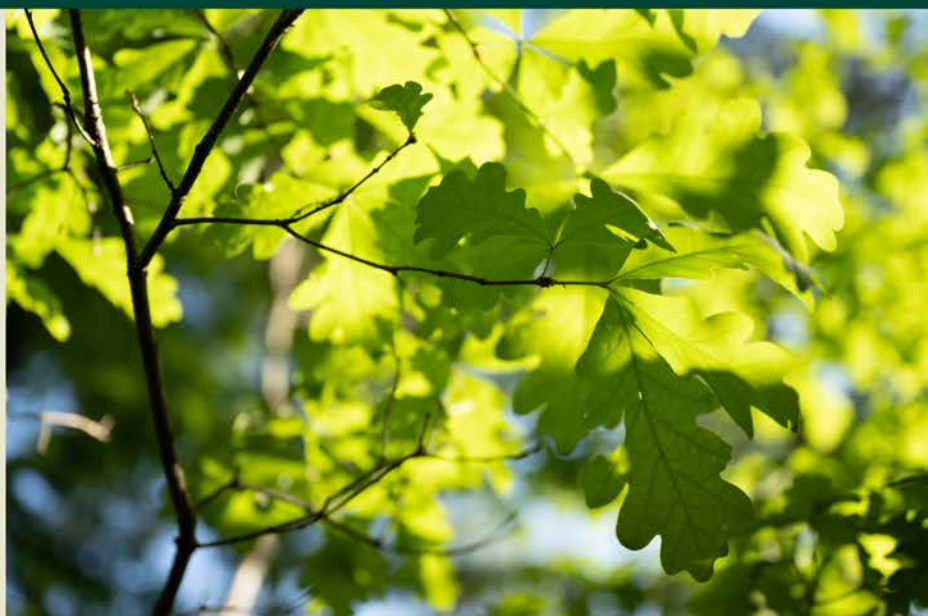
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Spartanburg, SC 29306

Give the Gift of SPACE

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, we rely on the generosity of our patrons to support much of the work we do, including the maintenance and stewardship of over 300 acres of publicly accessible greenspace with over 9 miles of nature trails along with a multitude of local conservation projects each year. Your tax-deductible donations help support this important work in Spartanburg County that protects our natural resources, wildlife habitat, river corridors, family farms, and publicly accessible greenspaces.

By becoming a member of SPACE, you're joining a team of local conservationists who share the values of sustainability, strategic growth, and value outdoor recreation in safe, beautiful places. Donate now, sign up for our newsletter, follow us on social media, and join us in our mission to Keep Spartanburg Wild now and forever!



Donate now! 



Upcoming Events

Jan 20 - MLK Day of Service
@ Upper Chinquapin Greenway

Mar 15 - Rachel's Bridge
Ribbon Cutting
@ the Cottonwood Trail

Apr 19 - Earth Day Bash!
@ Glendale Shoals Preserve

