



The Resource



Preserving our Past and Protecting our Future

Benefits of LWCF:

- Conserves natural areas, wildlife habitat and open space from urban parks to large landscapes.
- Improves access for sportsmen and recreationists on federal, state, local and private land and waters.
- Stimulates local economies and jobs supporting tourism and outdoor recreation sectors.
- Preserves wetlands, forests, and watersheds ensuring clean and adequate water supplies.
- Streamlines federal land management by improving access, consolidating ownership, and reducing management and fire-fighting costs.
- Builds rural partnerships to keep ranchers and farmers on the land, and promotes sustainable, working forests.
- Protects treasured cultural and historical sites, such as battlefields.
- Provides state and local governments grants to support community parks, trails, recreational sites, and open spaces to promote healthy, active lifestyles.



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Volume VII, Issue I

January, 2016

The Sun Sets on Premier LWCF Federal Conservation Program

Created by Congress in 1965, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was a bipartisan commitment to safeguard natural areas, water resources, our cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans. Since President Johnson signed it into law, the LWCF has pumped almost \$17 billion into federal, state, and local parks. It has protected more than 500 million acres of land, ranging from neighborhood playgrounds, to dramatic basalt cliffs in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, to the Flight 93 National Memorial promontory in Pennsylvania. The program also paid for almost two-thirds of the Appalachian Trail. LWCF purchases wildlife habitat, buys private inholdings

within wildernesses and national parks, preserves cultural heritage sites, provides public access for fishing and hunting, and pays for urban parks, playgrounds and ballfields. The LWCF did all this without costing taxpayers a dime. It is funded entirely by royalties from the offshore oil and gas industry, a symmetry that links resource extraction to investment in places that make America great.

On October 1, 2015, the 50-year old fund, widely viewed as one of the nation's most popular and successful land conservation programs, with broad bipartisan support, was allowed to "sunset" or expire completely, when Congress failed to take the action necessary to reauthorize it. That means that

offshore oil and gas producers will no longer be paying into the chest that funds the program, and now that the funding connection has been broken, reinstating it will be very difficult, although permanent reauthorization bills have been sponsored by several Congressmen from both political parties.

To [contact](#) Congress for support of intact reauthorization of this program, please urge your senator to sign onto bill [S. 890](#) and your congressman to sign onto [HR. 1814](#) of the 114th Congress (2015-16). To download the 50th Anniversary and final [report](#) of the LWCF, please visit their website at www.lwcfcoalition.org.

(Excerpted from High Country News, October, 2015.)

LWCF in South Carolina

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped to protect some of South Carolina's most treasured places. The state has received approximately \$279 million over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Cowpens National Battlefield (pictured at right, top) and the Fort Sumter National Monument (pictured at right, bottom). Other sites funded range from the Congaree National Park near Columbia, to the Ninety Six National Historic Site in Greenwood, to the Francis Marion National Forest between Charleston and Myrtle Beach. The fund also provided additional money for state matching grants and forest and habitat conservation programs.

Outdoor recreation is an important part of the South Carolina economy. Each year, 893,000 sportspersons and 1.1 million wildlife watchers combine to spend \$2.5 billion on wildlife-associated recreation in South Carolina. LWCF funding has benefited nearly every county in America, supporting over 41,000 projects, furnishing approximately \$4 billion in grants to leverage more than \$7 billion in nonfederal matching funds.

(www.lwcfcoalition.org. Photos courtesy of www.nps.com.)

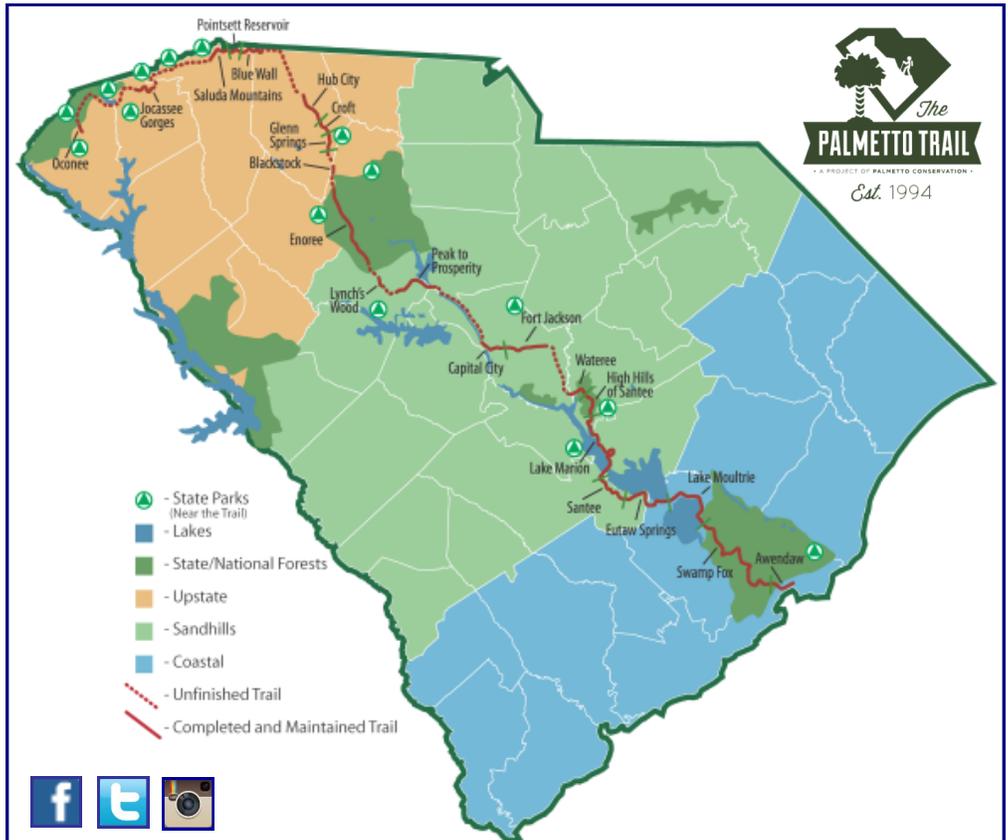


Take a Hike . . . Along the Palmetto Trail!

Most of us are familiar with the regional Carolina Thread Trail that connects 15 counties in the Charlotte area, but we are also fortunate to have another regional trail near York County. Established in 1994, the multi-purpose [Palmetto Trail](#) is South Carolina's longest bicycle and pedestrian trail and largest trail construction project. Currently 350 miles of the 500 planned miles have been completed. Providing free public access to the outdoors, from Walhalla in the Blue Ridge Mountains to Awendaw on the Intra-coastal Waterway, every South Carolinian is no more than two hours away from a trail segment or passage. There are 26 passages that connect state and county parks, national forests, nature preserves, wildlife management areas, Revolutionary War battlefields, Native American paths, urban to rural, from the upstate, to the sandhills to the coast. Most of the trail runs through rural areas, although it does pass through downtown Columbia and even crosses the state house lawn! The terrain and levels of difficulty vary greatly, from nice hard-packed dirt to challenging rough trails. Designated passages and sites are available for mountain biking, horseback riding, and camping. The trail is sponsored by the Palmetto Conservation Foundation in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Parks Recreation and Tourism, and is a federally designated [Millennium Legacy Trail](#).

Join the Annual [Palmetto Trail Challenge!](#)

For 15 weeks in the spring, teams log as many miles as possible walking or biking. Teams can watch the season unfold on the Trail, or walk or bike anywhere that is convenient. Teams compete in like categories for excellent prizes, celebrating their healthy lifestyles at an end-of-contest party. The challenge is a fun way to get fit! Check the [website](#) for 2016 dates, to sign up, or for further information.



(Pictured above, clockwise from left: Scenes along the Hub City Passage, Peak to Prosperity Passage, High Hills of Santee Passage, and Lake Moultrie Passage of the Palmetto Trail. Map & photos courtesy of [PCF](#).)

Celebrating 50 Years of Historic Preservation

America's relationship with its past changed fundamentally when the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) was signed into law in 1966 and historic preservation was recognized as an important policy of the United States. The act finds and declares that 1) the spirit and direction of the Nation are founded upon and reflected in its historic heritage; and 2) the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people.

The American people took these words to heart in the last half-century, transforming their communities from coast to coast through historic preservation and generated widespread social and economic impacts. The NHPA established the legal

framework and incentives to preserve historic buildings, landscapes, and archaeology. These heritage resources shape our sense of place, anchor economic revitalization, and ensure a more sustainable future for our nation.

The NHPA helps stabilize neighborhoods and downtowns, contributes to public education, attracts investment, creates jobs, generates tax revenues, supports small business and affordable housing, and powers America's heritage tourism industry. Publicly owned historic properties, from community landmarks to federal facilities and national parks, also maintain community pride and identity, aid local and regional economies through their operation and maintenance, and foster a variety of public uses.

Federal historic rehabilitation

tax credits have leveraged more than \$45 billion in private investment in historic places. Compliance with federal requirements has engaged local communities across the country in better planning for development. Grants from the Historic Preservation Fund have supported restoration of historic treasures, assisted with community recovery from disasters, and improved education history.

[Preservation 50](#) is a multi-year effort by government agencies at all levels, private businesses, preservation organizations, and citizens to celebrate the NHPA legacy while assuring a more vibrant future for preservation in America. Visit the [website](#) to learn more about its mission and goals and how you can get involved.

(From www.preservation50.org.)



[Next Exit History](#) (NEH), a *Preservation 50* partner, is a FREE mobile app that provides users a fun and exciting way to learn more about the history and culture of thousands of sites and landmarks around the world. The goal of the NEH project is to provide the stewards of historic resources a way to engage the public through an innovative platform and to draw awareness for historic sites. NEH has teamed with *Preservation50* to highlight, among other things, the more than 2,500 designated National Historic Landmarks in the United States.

Highlights of the National Historic Preservation Act

The National Historic Preservation Act establishes a national preservation program and protections, that include:

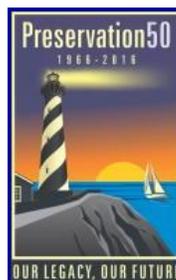
- ◆ The National Register of Historic Places to allow communities to identify and document significant historic and cultural sites to facilitate their preservation;
- ◆ Provides for state historic preservation programs;
- ◆ The Section 106 Review Process, which requires the federal government to take

into account the effects of its undertakings on historic and cultural resources;

- ◆ The Advisory Council on Preservation to advise the President and Congress and to collaborate with other government entities on historic preservation opportunities;
- ◆ The Historic Preservation Fund to provide grants to states, Certified Local Governments, and Indian tribes for projects relating to

historic preservation;

- ◆ Federal preservation programs in each agency;
- ◆ Public-private partnerships in support of common historic preservation goals.



NHPA By the Numbers

1. The historic tax credit has helped create 2.3 million jobs, saved 38,700 historic structures, and attracted \$106 billion in private investments.
2. In the past 25 years, 1,600 communities have revitalized their downtowns and main streets. The 89,000 building renovations and efforts to preserve the historic nature of neighborhoods led to 56,000 new businesses and 227,000 new jobs.
3. Historic preservation efforts are pivotal to sustainability across the nation. The EPA has noted that building construction debris constitutes approximately 1/3 of all waste generated in the U.S. and preserving historic resources can cut down on that waste.
4. Over 27% of existing buildings will be replaced between 2000 and 2030.
5. From 1970 to 2000, the U.S. lost approximately 6.3 million older and historic year-round housing units.
6. There are more than 80,000 properties listed on the National Register, and those listings represent 1.4 million individual resources.
7. Almost every county in the U.S. has at least one place listed on the National Register.
8. Thirty historic lighthouses across the U.S. have been transferred to new owners for preservation and public use.
9. There are 880 postal buildings on the National Register.
10. The Secretary of the Interior designated National Historic Landmark sites, which are considered to possess exceptional value and quality in representing the heritage of the U.S. Fewer than 2,500 historic resources bear this national distinction.

(From www.preservation50.org.)



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

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



[Nanny's Mountain](#), Clover

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

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

Commission Corner

The Commission welcomes Dr. Robert H. Walker as the representative from County Council District Five (Councilmember Christi Cox). Dr. Walker resides in the Bethesda community near Rock Hill and is a medical healthcare consultant. He is a member of Nation Ford Land Trust, Katawba Valley Land Trust, Carolina Thread Trail, Boy Scouts of America, Sierra Club, Historic Rock Hill, and York County Culture & Heritage Museums, where he previously served as the Culture & Heritage Commission's *ex-officio* representative to the York County Forever Commission. Dr. Walker looks forward to again utilizing his strong background and passion for conservation and preservation in serving on the Commission.

The Commission Extends its Thanks to Travis Morehead, Carolina Thread Trail Operations Director, for his CTT update at the October Commission meeting. Mr. Morehead reviewed the trail's background, benefits, plan implementation, funding, organization structure, partnerships, and most recently completed connections. He noted that approximately 250 miles of the 1590 miles of the original master plan have been completed. The [Riverwalk Trail](#) in Rock Hill is the most used trail in the network.

The Commission congratulates Jerry West, Curator of the [Museum of Western York County](#), for the recent proclamations by the Town of Sharon and the State of South Carolina honoring his "initiative, outstanding civil service, vision, and leadership role

in launching the museum in 2003, and subsequently guiding its growth." A former minister and noted local historian and author, Rev. West resides in the Bullocks Creek community.

Previously Featured Site: Pictured in the October, 2015 issue of *The Resource* were archaeologists with the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill) Research Laboratories of Archaeology conducting excavations on the Catawba project. An extension of their twenty-year Siouan project, the Catawba Project seeks to trace the evolution of native societies of the Carolina Piedmont through the 18th and early 19th centuries. The York County archaeological site shown has been identified as the paired towns of Nassaw and Weyapee by reference to a map drafted in 1756. The site consists of two discrete loci separated by a spring. The name "Nassaw" appears to derive from the Catawban term "Nea Iswa," which translates as Esaw people or River people. This suggests they were affiliated with the "Yssa" or "Esaw" groups recorded in early Spanish and British accounts. UNC Archaeological Field Schools took place at Nassaw and Weyapee in 2007 and 2008, resulting in the identification of at least seven house areas. The site was abandoned in 1759 after a devastating smallpox epidemic introduced by Catawba warriors returning from the Quebec campaign of the French and Indian War. (Courtesy of [UNC-RLA](#).)

(Look for the next York County featured site in the April issue of *The Resource*.)