

The Resource



Preserving our Past and Protecting our Future

NPS Facts & Figures:

- ◆ The NPS covers 84 million acres and is comprised of 410 sites with 28 different designations, including 128 historical parks or sites, 81 monuments, 59 national parks, 25 battlefields or military parks, 19 preserves, 18 recreation areas, 10 seashores, 4 parkways, 4 lakeshores, and 2 reserves.
- ◆ The NPS employees more than 20,000 permanent, temporary, and seasonal workers.
- ◆ The NPS budget for 2014 fiscal year was \$2.6 billion, or 0.06% of the federal budget.
- ◆ Recreational visits to national parks ranged from 1 million in 1920 to over 307 million in 2015.
- ◆ National parks contain at least 247 species of threatened or endangered plants and animals, more than 75,000 archaeological sites, more than 167 million museum items, and 18,000 miles of trails.

(From www.nps.gov)



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Celebrating 100 Years of the National Park Service

The [Act of March 1, 1872](#), created Yellowstone National Park in the Territories of Montana and Wyoming as the first national public park "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people" and placed it "under exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior." In the years following the establishment of Yellowstone, the United States authorized additional national parks and monuments, many of them carved from the federal lands of the West. These, also, were administered by the Department of the Interior, while other monuments and natural and historical areas were administered by the War Department and the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture. No single agency provided unified management of the varied federal parklands until 1916.

On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the act creating the National Park Service (NPS). The "[Organic Act](#)" states that the fundamental pur-

pose of the NPS "is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Additional legislation in [1933](#) and [1970](#) expanded the NPS to include monuments and sites that cumulatively help express our single national heritage.

Today, the NPS administers 84 million acres and 410 sites, with designations that include national parks, seashores, monuments, and parkways, with at least one protected site in very U.S. state and territory. When the NPS was created in 1916, there were approximately 326,000 visits to existing park sites. In 2015, that number was over 307 million, with the [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#) ranking as the most popular park with over 10 million visitors annually.

To join in the centennial, the NPS invites you to [Find Your](#)

[Park](#) and discover amazing places in your own backyard, share the inspirational stories that the sites tell, and learn more about our diverse cultural heritage. There are hundreds of special events planned throughout the year. As part of the birthday celebration, entrance to all NPS sites will be free from August 25-28, 2016, and every fourth grader in the U.S. gets a free NPS pass for the year, to inspire nature conservation in the next generation. Support the parks by joining [VIP](#) (Volunteers-in-Parks), a program which matches an individual's unique skills to volunteer opportunities. Each year more than 240,000 Americans volunteer at parks in all 50 states and enjoy access and experiences behind the scenes of a typical visit. As plans for the 100th birthday celebration move forward, the NPS remains committed to its original mission of maintaining and protecting our national parks for the continued benefits and enjoyment of all Americans.



Pictured above: NPS Centennial Logo; and at left: Sunrise in the nation's most popular national park, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, on the North Carolina-Tennessee border.

(Photo courtesy of [UNC](#).)

National Park Sites in South Carolina

Almost every American city and town claims a little bit of the National Park Service. Working with the local communities, the NPS builds trails and playgrounds, returns historic buildings to productive use, revitalizes neighborhoods, expands affordable housing, protects watersheds, recognizes and promotes local history, and introduces the next generation to stewardship opportunities.



The State of South Carolina has 6 National Parks or Sites.

Charles Pinckney National Historic Site - Charles Pinckney was a principal author and signer of the United States Constitution. This remnant of his coastal plantation near Mt. Pleasant tells the story of his life.

Congaree National Park - Astonishing biodiversity exists in this park near Columbia, including the largest intact expanse of old growth bottomland hardwood forest remaining in the southeastern United States.

Cowpens National Battlefield - This Revolutionary War site near Gaffney commemorates the decisive victory of American Gen. Daniel Morgan over British Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton in 1781.

Fort Sumter National Monument - Located in Charleston harbor, the first shots of the Civil War were fired there in April, 1861, when Confederate artillery on James Island opened fire on the Union garrison stationed at the Fort.

Kings Mountain National Military Park - This park near Blacksburg preserves the site of a crucial Revolutionary War Patriot victory on October 7, 1780, which turned the tide of success in the Americans' favor on the march toward final victory at Yorktown.

Ninety Six National Historic Site - The park, located near Greenwood, marks the first Revolutionary War battle in the South, fought in 1775, and the longest field siege of the American Revolution, lasting 28 days in 1781.

- In 2015, there were over 1.5 million visitors to South Carolina national parks.
- There are 2 national heritage areas, 1 national trail, 76 national historic landmarks, 6 national natural landmarks, and 104 archaeological sites in South Carolina.
- The economic benefit from national park tourism in South Carolina was almost \$83 million in 2015.

(SC National Parks Map courtesy of www.wikitravel.org.)



Congaree National Park - Hopkins, SC
(Photo courtesy of www.charlestonscouthdoors.com)



Ninety Six National Historic Site - Ninety Six, SC
(Photo courtesy of www.sciway.net)



Cowpens National Battlefield - Gaffney, SC
(Photo Courtesy of www.tripadvisor.co.za)

Commission Corner

YCF Commissioners were delighted to participate in the Roddey Conservation Easement Dedication. The event, hosted by Nation Ford Land Trust and property owners, Jack and Ann Roddey, was held on April 30th at the historic site located on McConnells Hwy in Rock Hill. Speakers at the celebration included York County Councilmember, William “Bump” Roddey, representing the Fourth Council District, and YCF Chairman, Greg FitzGerald. The Commission was pleased to assist with providing funding for the fees associated with the conservation of the property, which includes the historic Roach-Roddey House, built in 1811, and 58 acres of significant natural and open space resources. (For the complete story, please see the April, 2016 edition of *The Resource*.)

Pictured at right, top: York County Councilmember William “Bump” Roddey (District 4); property owners Ann and Jack Roddey; and YCF Chairman, Greg FitzGerald, pose near the Roach-Roddey House in Rock Hill.

(Roddey photo courtesy of Janet Steele, Nation Ford Land Trust.)

The Commission expresses its appreciation to all who contributed to and assisted at recent local Earth Day activities, with special thanks to its event exhibit partners, [York Soil & Water Conservation District](#) and [Nation Ford Land Trust](#).

The Commission continued to enjoy participating in successful local Earth Day celebrations in 2016. YCF Vice-chair Cathy Bratton, Commissioner Steve Hamilton, and Ex-officio Commissioner Janet Steele represented YCF at the Anne Springs Close Greenway activities in Fort Mill on April 16th. YCF Chairman Greg FitzGerald and Commissioners Alan Abernathy and Lindsay Walker assisted with the Commission’s display at the Museum of York County’s Earth Day celebration on April 30th in Rock Hill. Focusing on the theme of tree planting and conservation, the Commissioners distributed over 1,500 pine seedlings to the thousands of attendees at the two celebrations. In coordination with their exhibit partners, they also disseminated a variety of educational and informational handouts about YCF and other local environmental resource protection efforts. Planning is already underway for 2017 Earth Day celebrations.

Pictured at right, second from top: YCF Earth Day display at the Museum of York County (MYCO) on April 30th; at right, second from bottom: YCF Vice-chair Cathy Bratton speaking with visitors at the Anne Springs Close Greenway (ASCG) Earth Day event on April 16th; and at right, bottom: Commissioner Steve Hamilton, Ex-officio Commissioner, Janet Steele, and Vice-chair Cathy Bratton prepare to set-up the YCF display at the ASCG event.

(MYCO photos courtesy of YCF Chairman Greg FitzGerald; ASCG photos courtesy of YCF Commissioner Steve Hamilton.)

(Commission Corner Continued on Page 4.)



YORK COUNTY
FOREVER

York County Planning
1070 Heckle Blvd.
A-5
Rock Hill, SC 29732
Phone: 803.909.7221
Fax: 803.909.7478

E-mail: jacque.sorrentino@
yorkcountygov.com

Visit our webpage:
www.yorkcountygov.com

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.



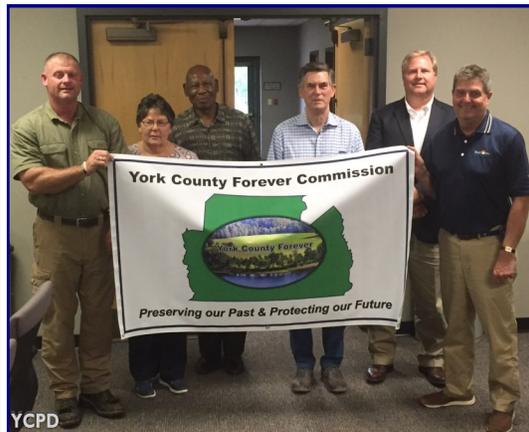
[Draper WMA, McConnells](#)

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 (Cont.)

YCF Commissioners proudly display their new promotional banner which will be used at various conservation-related activities and events to publicize the YCF mission of conserving unique York County resources.



(Pictured above, left to right: Commissioner Alan Abernathy, Vice-chair Cathy Bratton, and Commissioners Odell Bailey, Jr., Lindsay Walker, Robert Walker, and Steve Hamilton.)

Previously Featured Site: Pictured in the April, 2016 issue of *The Resource* is the John S. Rainey Cotton Gin, Seed House, and Office in the Town of Sharon. Connected by a shed, the buildings were constructed in 1944 and are contributing resources to the Sharon Downtown Historic District listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) in 2001. The town of Sharon was established soon after the arrival of the "Three C's" (Charleston, Cincinnati, and Chicago) railroad line in western York County in 1888. A

depot was built on a lot donated by J. L. Rainey, and a village soon began to develop around the railroad stop. The downtown area remained relatively small, which helped to preserve a significant collection of the early commercial buildings. The presence of the railroad enabled Sharon to thrive as a town where merchants received cotton from farmers in surrounding areas, stored it, processed it in gins, and shipped it to markets by rail. The Rainey buildings represent a late period in the cotton industry in the area. The historic district provides an important record of the development of a small Piedmont village, and the associated small business properties are characteristic of the community which they helped to sustain for many years.

(Courtesy of www.nps.gov)

Can you identify the site pictured below, its significance, and location? Check back in the October issue of *The Resource* for the answer.



(Photo courtesy of [SC Dept. of Archives & History](#).)