

## ***Rocky River Conservancy – At a Glance***

### ***What you should know***

Rocky River Conservancy is a citizen led non-profit group (501c3) collaborating with the City, County, Anderson University and other community partners to provide green space for the citizens of Anderson through clean-up and preservation of Rocky River, its Swamp, and surrounding area. Through efforts to preserve and enhance this community asset, the Conservancy seeks to provide an active and passive outdoor recreational venue, wildlife habitat and environmental education opportunities. The Conservancy also seeks opportunities to connect the Rocky River area with other planned community recreational and environmental resources to provide a comprehensive network of unique venues to promote a special “sense of place” in Anderson, South Carolina.

Located in the city limits of Anderson, the Rocky River and associated swamp, is unique in that it is the largest swamp in the Upstate within city limits. ***The area (as shown in conceptual form on reverse) may include up to 400 acres that comprise wetland areas; open water for canoeing and kayaking; walking, biking, equine trails; and a discovery center/environmental educational facility.*** There are multiple benefits of this project including economic development, conservation of land, enhancement of water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities for area citizens, all of which translate to enhanced quality of life.

Since its inception in the spring of 2010, the Conservancy Task Team (***members include: Juan A Brown; James Broyles, Annette Guiseppi-Elie; Ann Herbert; Doug Lawson; Julie Miller; Burris Nelson; George Sands; Matt Schell; and Dean Woods***) has received encouragement from several of the local property owners and has the support of the Mayor and County Administrator. The Conservancy is a 501c3 entity and expects to finance the effort with both private donations and public funding. The Conservancy plans to apply for funds from the SC Conservation Bank (with help from the Upstate Forever staff) and continues to work with property owners on securing the acreage in a phased approach.

Next steps include obtaining surveys, environmental assessments, and moving from conceptual design to detail plans and implementation. The group plans to proceed with all deliberate speed.

#### ***A number of noteworthy features of the Rocky River effort include:***

- The largest swamp in the Upstate within city limits
- Mitigation Bank opportunity that could provide improvement and maintenance income
- Coordination with other greenway projects, e.g., Anderson Greenway System and Belton Connection
- Enhanced entrance to Anderson via an Anderson University Discovery Center

***The goal is simple, to take a wonderful but underused city “swamp” and unlock its great potential for local residents and visitors alike.***

