

# The Lower Saluda River Corridor Plan



# **The Lower Saluda River Corridor Plan**

***South Carolina Water Resources Commission  
South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism  
Lower Saluda River Task Force***

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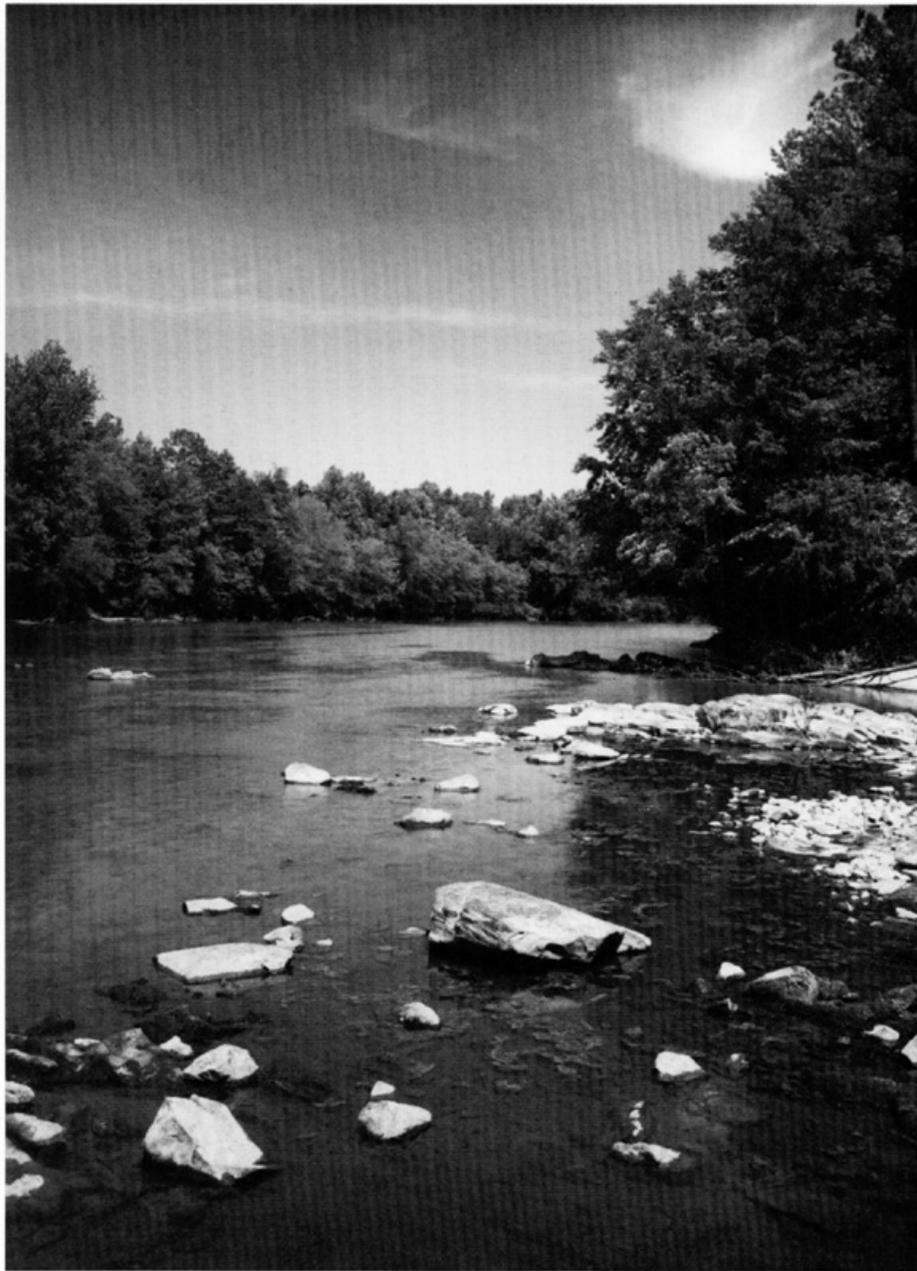
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## *Foreword*

Rivers seem to occupy a special place in the American spirit. They are central features in our landscapes, enlivening the land with the moving vitality of flowing waters. The urban communities of South Carolina's central midlands are linked by three rivers; the lower Saluda, the Broad, and the Congaree. Each of these rivers makes a significant contribution to the landscape and quality of life in the metropolitan areas of the midlands. Of these rivers, the lower Saluda has attracted the community's attention in recent years as various efforts have arisen in order to protect the resources of this unique river.

In September of 1988 a comprehensive planning effort for the lower Saluda River was initiated by the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and the South Carolina Water Resources Commission. A 30-member citizen's task force worked diligently for 18 months compiling the plan contained in this book. This management plan contains over 70 recommendations aimed toward solving problems along the lower Saluda River corridor and providing for wise use of this unique natural, cultural and recreational resource.

We congratulate the members of the Lower Saluda River Task Force for their hard work and strong commitment in the corridor planning process. The South Carolina Water Resources Commission and the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism stand ready to continue to support the Task Force in efforts to implement this innovative management plan.

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## **Acknowledgements**

The Lower Saluda River Corridor Plan is a product of a cooperative effort among a diversity of community leaders and individuals. The need and validity for the plan is derived from the enthusiastic, voluntary contributions of these people to such an endeavor.

The Lower Saluda Task Force was made up of over thirty individuals who made time to direct the planning process and its final outcome (See Table 1). Over fifty additional people participated in the formation of recommendations for the corridor plan as subcommittee members, and deserve a great deal of the credit for making the study a success. The combined work of the Task Force and subcommittees has given the Lower Saluda River Corridor Plan its credibility as a community-generated plan. We express our sincere appreciation and extend special recognition to these deserving individuals.

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One individual, not a part of the Task Force, who deserves special thanks is Pat Heydt of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. It is Pat's creativity which gives this report its exciting visual and artistic appeal.

We would also like to thank the landscape architect and consultant firm of Craig, Gaulden and Davis, Inc. of Greenville for their able assistance in developing the visual components of the conceptual river corridor plan presented in Part B and elsewhere in this document. Laura Byington and Bill Turner were instrumental in creating the visual plan with the professional contributions of Rob Fisher of Robinson Fisher Associates, Inc.

One who deserves special recognition is Will Barnes. Will's photographs in this document provide visual evidence of the majesty and serenity found along the lower Saluda River. Will put tremendous time and effort in this project which is evident in his stunning photographs of the river.



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# The Lower Saluda River: Past and Present

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Natural resources are gaining increased attention in the human environment. Both urban and rural communities are seeking to set aside river corridors, wetlands, lakeshores, greenways, and other natural amenities in order to meet growing demands for open space. Many communities see the availability of open space as critical to the overall quality of life.

In order to meet open space needs and provide new recreational and economic opportunities, many communities are vigorously attempting to revitalize urban riverfronts. In recent years, several southeastern cities have initiated efforts to restore viability to forgotten or ignored rivers. Some examples include the Chattahoochee River near Atlanta, the James River in Richmond and the Tennessee River in Chattanooga.

For the same reasons, the urban communities of the midlands of South Carolina have initiated efforts aimed towards riverfront planning and development. Columbia, West Columbia and Cayce have recognized opportunities presented by the Congaree River by preparing master plans for the Congaree Vista in Columbia and the Congaree riverfront properties in West Columbia and Cayce. Unlike many communities, these urban centers of the midlands possess not one but three rivers.

These three rivers, the Congaree, the Broad and the Saluda, offer opportunities to meet a variety of the community's evolving recreational and economic demands. This study examines the resources of the lower Saluda River and the opportunities it presents to the community. This document will describe the natural, cultural, and recreational features of the lower Saluda River and present a plan oriented toward the overall enhancement of these riverine characteristics.

The lower Saluda River begins at the base of the Lake Murray dam, with its primary flow coming through the Saluda Hydroelectric Plant. From the dam, the river flows approximately eleven miles before joining the Broad River to form the Congaree River adjacent to Columbia and West Columbia.

The lower Saluda River has played a key role in the lives of people living on and near the river since the first native Americans ventured into the area. Native Americans farmed and established villages along the river as early as 500 B.C. European settlers began to settle the area around the Congaree and Saluda rivers in the early 1700s.

In the early 1800s economic development began along the lower Saluda River with the building of the Saluda Factory, the Saluda Canal and the Saluda River bridge. The importance of the lower Saluda as a fishery resource was also recognized. In the 1834 charter granting the Saluda Manufacturing Company the right to build a dam at Beard's Fall (presently known as Millrace Rapids), the

legislature required that a fishing sluice be maintained from February 1 to March 15 of each year.

The lower Saluda River has continued to provide various important functions for the communities in the midlands. Presently the lower Saluda River is a multiple-use river corridor with uses ranging from industrial to recreational. The lower Saluda River corridor is the site for one of the midlands' largest industrial facilities, and contains a variety of residential areas. Also in the corridor is the Riverbanks Zoo, one of South Carolina's major tourist attractions, and the river abounds with such wildlife as great blue heron, kingfishers and otters.

Obviously the lower Saluda River has played a significant role both historically and contemporarily in the evolution of the communities along the river. One interesting aspect of the Saluda's history and continuing use is the maintenance of the relatively natural character of the riparian lands in the corridor. One still finds wooded and pastoral scenery along most of the river, providing significant wildlife habitat in an urban environment.

These characteristics of the lower Saluda River created interest which led to various efforts over the years to preserve the character of this river. The first interest in protecting the lower Saluda came in 1977 when an individual made a request to the South Carolina Water Resources Commission to designate the river as a State Scenic River. The Commission decided to withhold action until a broader base of support was evident.

Strong community interest surfaced in the early 1980s when Save Our Saluda, Incorporated, organized interested citizens and landowners into an advocacy group for the river. Due to this strong interest the Water Resources Commission declared the lower Saluda River eligible for Scenic River designation on July 20, 1983. In 1984 the Commission staff completed a management plan for the river and began the process of seeking protection of the lower Saluda River through the negotiation of conservation easements.

The largest landowner in the lower Saluda River corridor, South Carolina Electric and Gas Company (SCE&G), and the South Carolina Water Resources Commission reached a tentative agreement for a conservation easement on the majority of the SCE&G properties along the river. Although final agreement over a conservation easement has not been concluded, SCE&G has protected the scenic character of the riparian properties named in the easement.

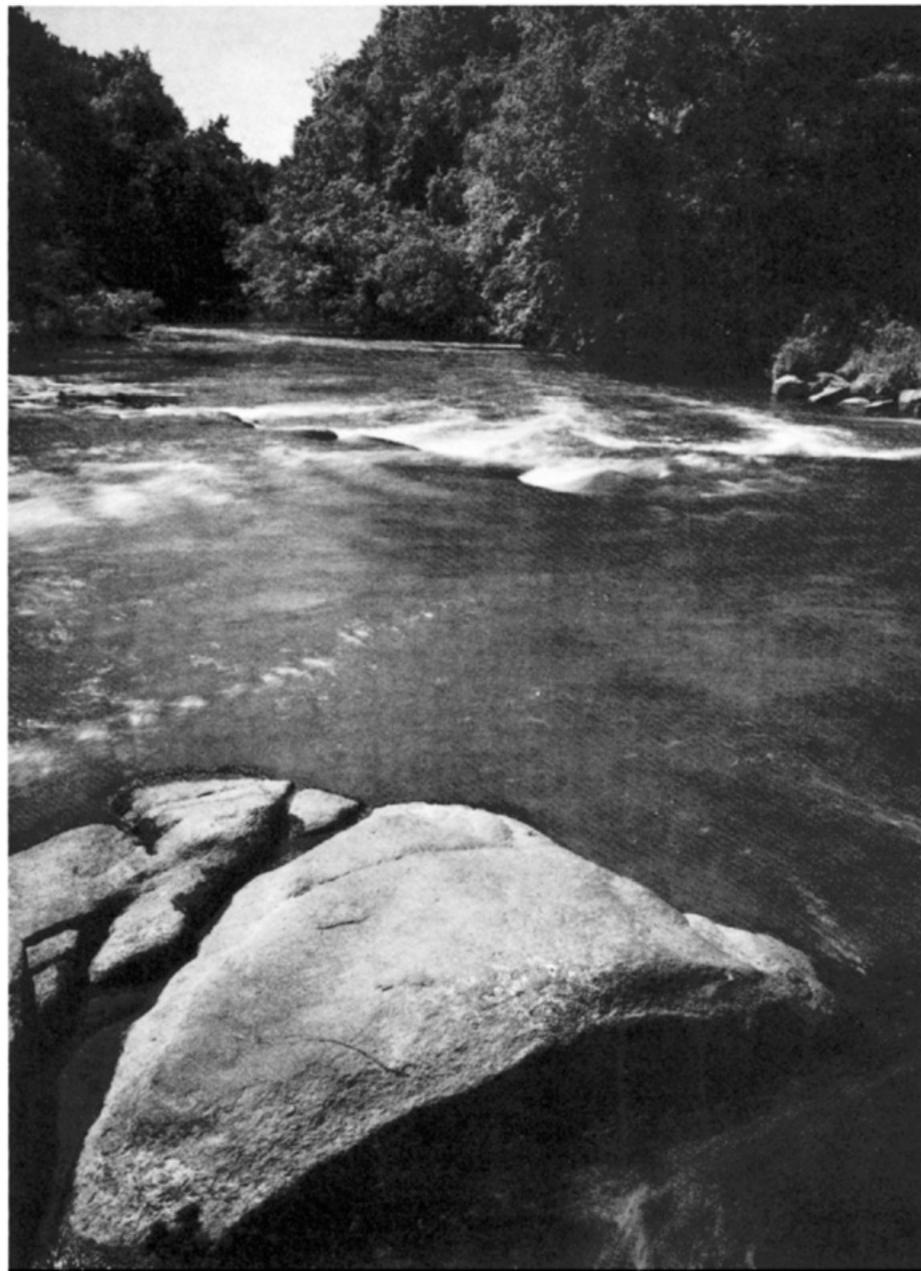
In the late 1980s a growing interest in a comprehensive management framework for the river began to emerge. As a result of this interest, the South Carolina Water Resources Commission and the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism initiated a comprehensive river planning effort in

September of 1988. The process began by assembling the Lower Saluda River Task Force, a 30-member committee comprised of a cross section of individuals with an interest in the river and its future (Table 1). The mandate for the task force was to identify significant values of the river corridor and develop a plan for protecting these values, focusing on the enhancement of the river's overall potential as a natural, recreational, and cultural resource for the midlands of South Carolina.

The formal goals of the Task Force are to:

1. Enhance existing and potential recreational, natural, and cultural values.
2. Examine potential impacts of anticipated growth.
3. Develop management alternatives to guide future corridor planning.
4. Study use patterns and make recommendations regarding safety issues.

This document describes the corridor planning process and presents the Task Force recommendations along with the proposed corridor plan for the lower Saluda River.



**Table 1.**

**The Lower Saluda River Task Force.**

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# River Resources

Comparatively few cities in America are without a lake or river. This is because of the desirability and the necessity of water in the human life and landscape. Our rivers are under increasing pressures from a number of sources, making protection of their most valuable natural, cultural and recreational features an impetus for local and state initiatives in river management and conservation. The Lower Saluda River Corridor Plan is one such initiative to preserve the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Saluda's waters in South Carolina.

The mainstem of the Saluda River originates in Greenville County near the North Carolina/South Carolina state line and flows for 170 miles from the mountains to the Piedmont, meeting the Broad River in Columbia, South Carolina. The Lower Saluda River Corridor Plan is concerned with the lowermost ten miles of the Saluda River which extend from just below the remains of the old railroad bridge near the spillway of the Lake Murray Dam to the confluence with the Broad River.

The lower Saluda River is in the Columbia Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, which according to 1988 estimates from the Census Bureau had a population of 465,500 people. The Saluda is therefore situated to offer its unique diversity of natural, cultural and recreational features to a large population.

The South Carolina Rivers Assessment, prepared by the South Carolina Water Resources Commission in 1988, provides an analysis of the importance of each river in the state as it relates to river uses. The lower Saluda River was rated highly among the over 1400 river segments studied. The Assessment was designed as a planning tool to aid in decisions about the future of individual rivers in the state. The Rivers Assessment placed a value on each river as it related to each of fourteen river use categories, providing a common index for river comparison in the state and serving as one of the best available collections of data for determining compatible and conflicting river uses in South Carolina. The assessment set the stage for statewide multi-objective river corridor planning.

In the Rivers Assessment the lower Saluda River was rated by value classes for each river use category studied (see Table 2). Value classes ranged from one to four, with class one of highest value. Value class one rivers were considered "superior" in the Rivers Assessment, with resources of statewide or greater than statewide significance. Value class two rivers were considered "outstanding", with resource values of regional significance. Value class three rivers were considered "significant", with resource values of local significance. Value class four river resources were "unknown", but rivers rated as value class four were considered important enough to require further research and documentation.

**Table 2.**

## **River Use Classifications for the Lower Saluda River (from The South Carolina Rivers Assessment, 1988).**

River use category	Class
Agricultural	3
Historic and cultural	3
Industrial	2
Inland fisheries	1
Natural features	-
Recreational boating (whitewater)	2
Recreational fishing	2
Timber management	3
Undeveloped	-
Urban	4
Utilities	1
Water quality	-
Water supply	1
Wildlife habitat	3

( - represents category falling outside of class ranks)

## Hydrology

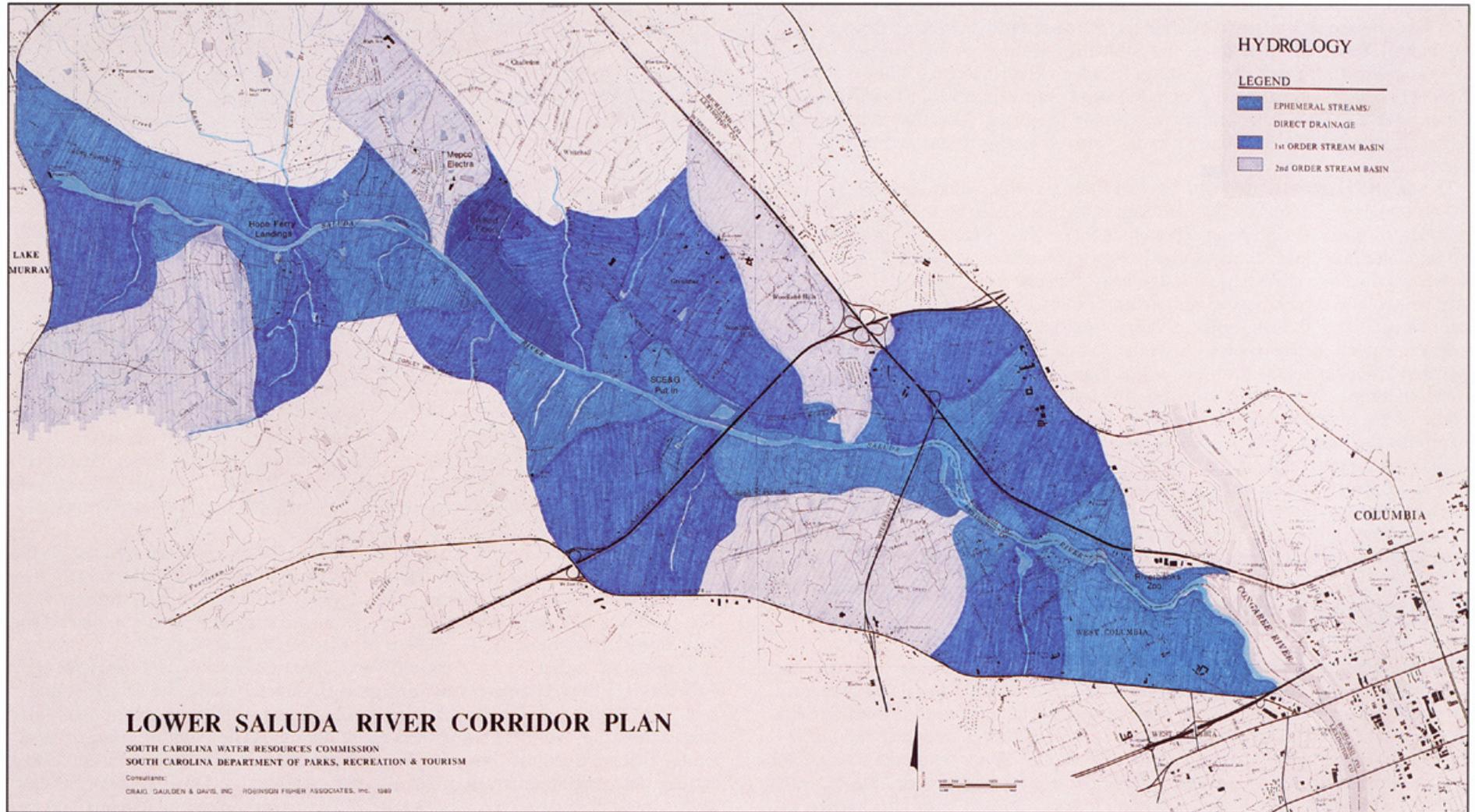
The Saluda River drains approximately 2,520 square miles of the northwestern portion of South Carolina. Originating in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Greenville County, the Saluda flows southeasterly across the piedmont for 170 miles before joining the Broad River below the Fall Line. The lower Saluda River drains approximately 100 square miles of Richland and Lexington counties. Tributary streams include Rawls Creek, Stoop Creek, Kinley Creek and Twelvemile Creek.

The U.S. Geological Survey maintains a streamflow gaging station one and one-half miles above the mouth of the Saluda River. The average daily flow of the river is about 2,901 cubic feet per second (cfs) and the maximum flow of record is 67,000 cfs. The minimum daily flow of record, 12 cfs, occurred in 1930 and was

Figure 1. • Map of Lower Saluda River



Figure 2. • Hydrology



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caused by construction of the Lake Murray Dam above the gage site. In recent years, flows have not dropped below 110 cfs. During normal weather conditions when power is not being produced, low flows can be expected to be approximately 200 cfs.

Streamflow in the lower Saluda River is regulated by releases from the Saluda Hydroelectric facility located at the Lake Murray dam. The dam was constructed by SCE&G between 1927 and 1930 for the purpose of hydroelectric power generation. Rising 210 feet above the Saluda River, the dam impounds over two million acre-feet of water. Adjacent to the Saluda Hydroelectric facility is the McMeekin Station, a coal-fired generating plant that withdraws 160 million gallons of water per day from Lake Murray for cooling purposes. Less than one million gallons of this water is consumed per day; the remainder is returned to Lake Murray.

The Saluda Hydroelectric Plant has five turbines with a total generating capacity of 206,000 kilowatts. Electricity from Saluda Hydro is used to meet peak load demands, thus no set operating schedule is followed. SCE&G operates the plant and regulates lake levels to maximize energy production. Generally the lake is allowed to fluctuate eight feet, with the lowest levels occurring in late fall and early winter, and the highest levels occurring during the summer months. Daily water elevations in the lake seldom vary more than half of a foot.

When water is being released from the Saluda Hydroelectric facility, the river level may rise as much as four feet in less than one hour. The rapidly rising water level sometimes catches river users off guard and may trap them on rocks in the middle of the river or sweep them away. To reduce the dangers associated with the rapidly fluctuating river level, SCE&G installed a warning system at Millrace Rapids over 20 years ago. Large warning signs with flashing lights and horn were erected. A sensor approximately one mile upstream from Millrace Rapids monitors river levels. When the rise in river level exceeds a preset minimum rate of change, the alarms atop the signs sound a warning for 90 seconds. At the same time, the flashing lights are activated and remain on for ten minutes.

## Natural Features

Despite urban pressures of development and changing land use patterns, much of the lower Saluda River corridor has remained essentially natural in character. Its waters presently receive a Class A water quality rating from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, with this standard defined as "freshwaters suitable for primary contact recreation." Water temperature is cooler than a normal midlands stream due to the flow from the bottom of Lake Murray.

This stretch of the river is rich in natural history. Striped bass, also known as "rockfish", lurk year-round in the cold, deep holes near boulders, and school up the river each spring. The trout in the river are stocked, but there has been some limited evidence of natural reproduction. Great blue herons nest along the river.

Green herons and anhingas can be spotted, and several species of ducks are common. Occasionally one can catch a glimpse of a river otter, white-tailed deer, red fox or bobcat.

Mountain laurel intermixes on the lower Saluda River corridor bluffs, the species range extended rather uncharacteristically into the midlands due to the shady bluffs and cold-water micro-environment of the river. Spanish moss is also found along the river, which represents the northern limit of its range. The river's primary bordering forests are made up of common upland and flood plain species, with natural species distribution related to topography. However another distinction of the Saluda exists near the confluence of the Saluda and Broad rivers in a small colony of the threatened rocky shoals spider lily, one of only twelve colonies known to currently exist in the United States.

## Cultural Features

The lower Saluda River has a variety of unique cultural characteristics that contribute to the overall importance of the resource. Several prehistoric archaeological sites exist along the river, some dating back to as early as 11,000 and 8,500 B.C. The earliest inhabitants were hunters and gatherers. Early Woodland people began exploiting the Saluda valley's resources around 500 B.C. and settlement patterns revolved increasingly more around agriculture than hunting and gathering.

The area is also steeped in more contemporary history. Goods were at one time transported up the Saluda 120 miles above Columbia, with upstream navigation past the Fall Line made possible by a system of five locks. Remains of the historic Saluda Canal still stand below Riverbanks Zoo. Historic ferry crossings are also recalled in contemporary place names such as Lorick's Ferry and Hope Ferry.

The largest cotton mill in the state, the Saluda Factory, was constructed on the river in the 1830s, and its remaining foundation is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A dam built in 1834 supplied the factory with water power. The dam was ultimately destroyed, leaving jagged rock and protruding metal rods that remain today beneath the surface of adjacent Millrace Rapids.

Legend has it that during the Civil War, General Sherman spent the night of February 15, 1865, camped under a large rock directly above the Saluda cotton mill. On February 16 the State House was barraged with Union cannonball fire from across the river on a hill southwest of the mill. The night of February 15 a bridge that spanned the lower Saluda near the old mill was burned in Confederate retreat, deterring Sherman from entering the city, and the remains of the bridge abutments still stand today. Reportedly, Sherman set the old mill aflame and then crossed the river on February 16 on a pontoon bridge. The burning of Columbia took place on February 17.

Out of the Saluda's rich history emerges a contemporary mosaic of multiple

Figure 3. • Topography

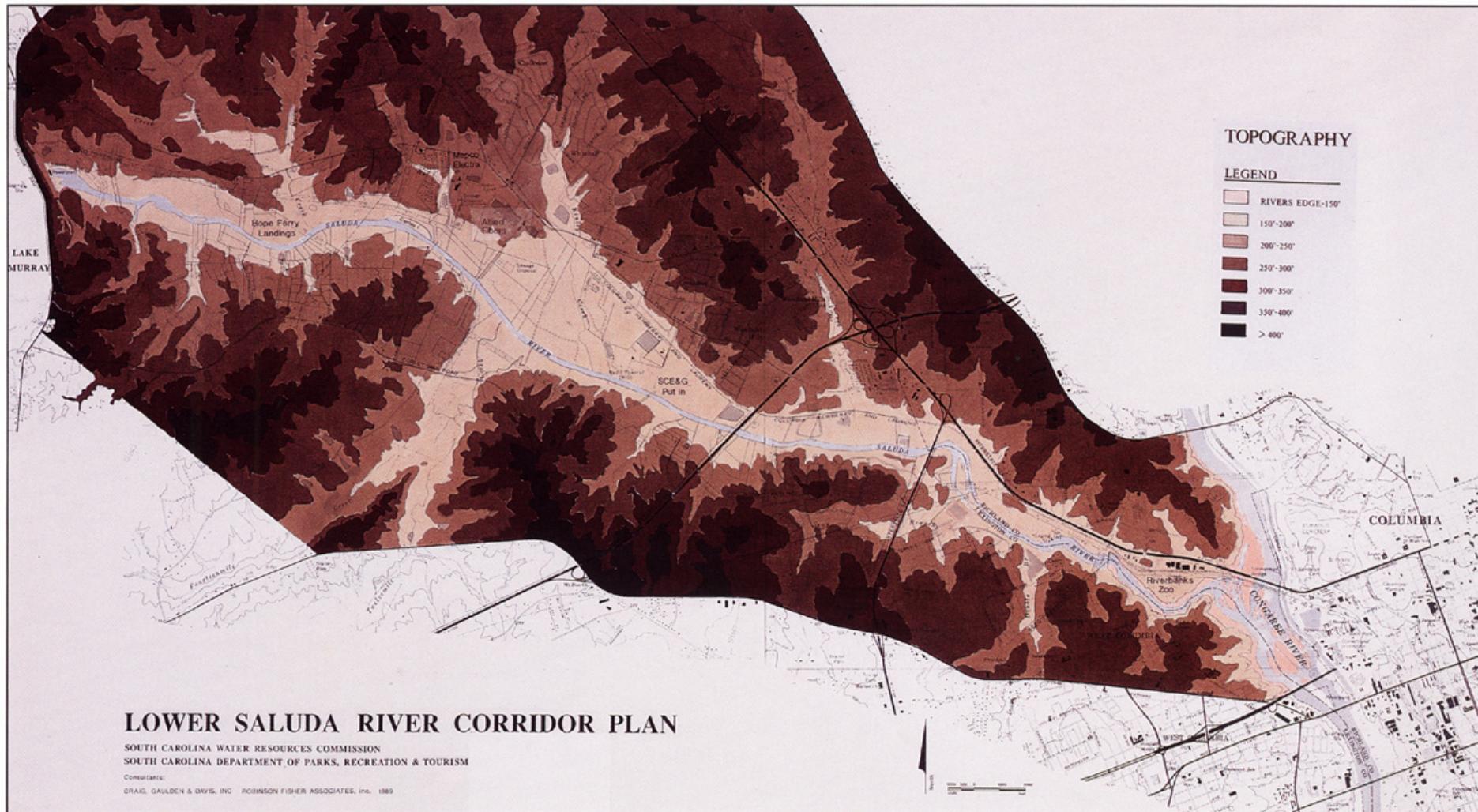


Figure 4. • Land Use

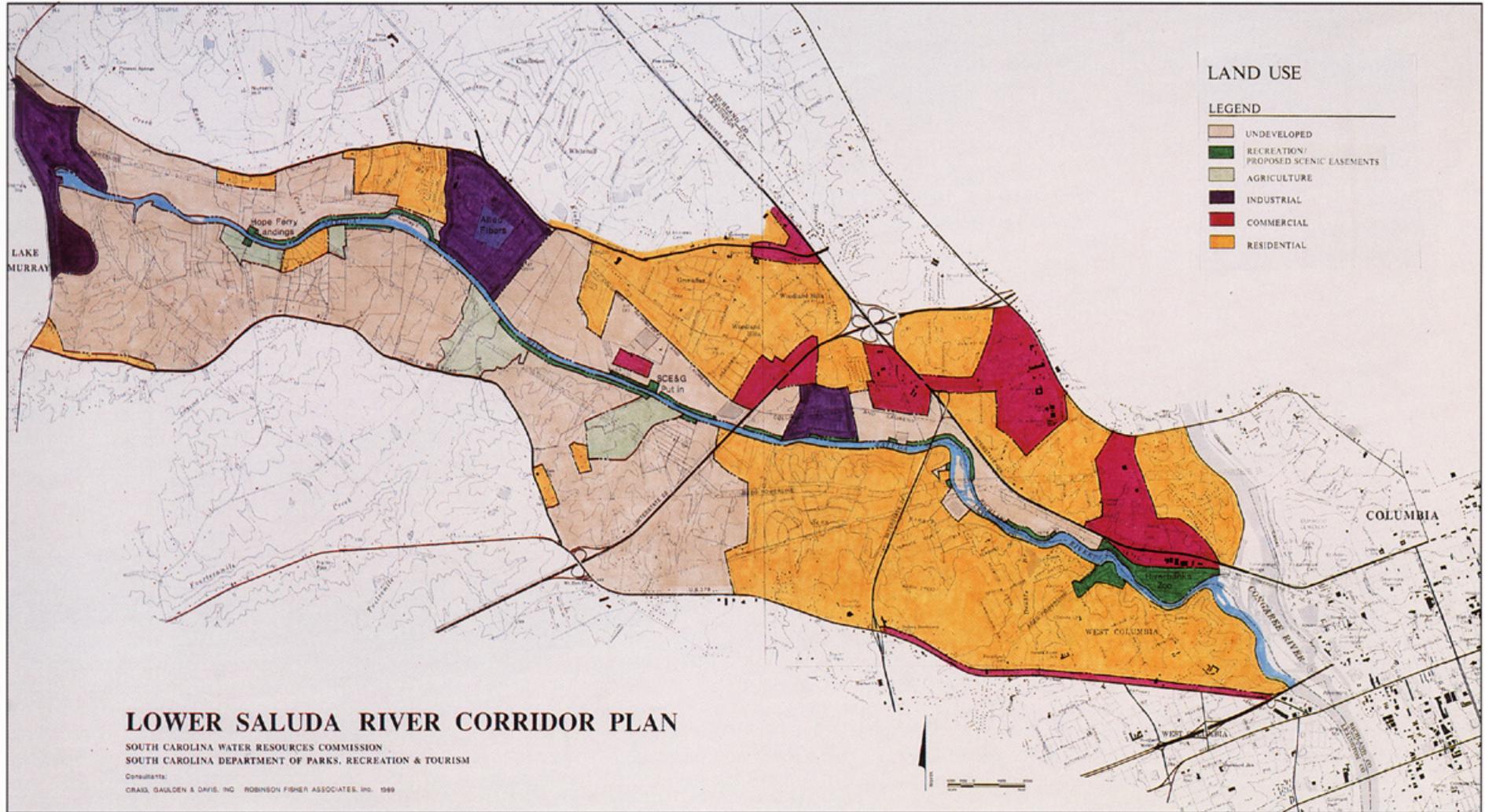


Figure 5. • Zoning

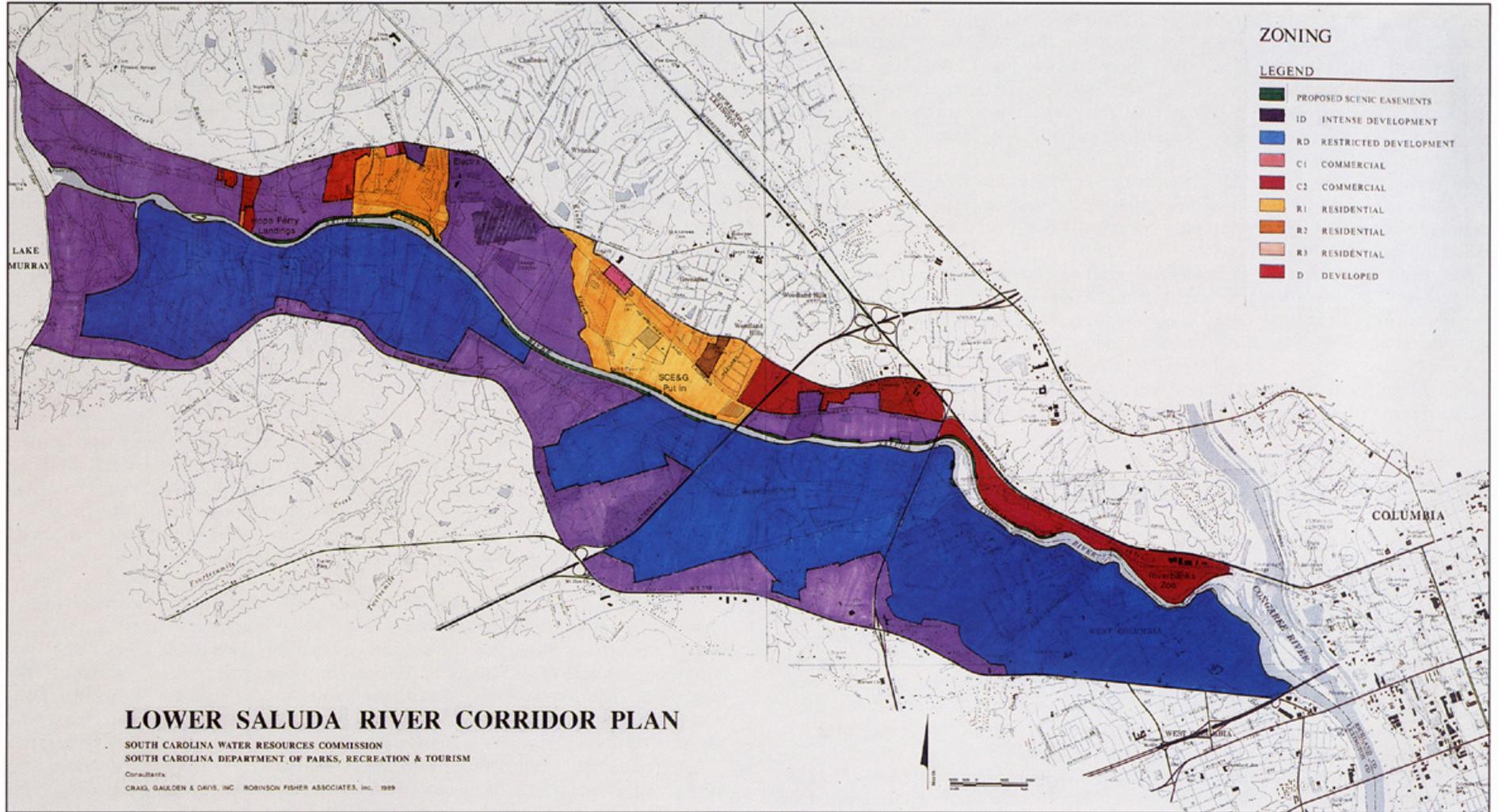


Figure 5. • Zoning

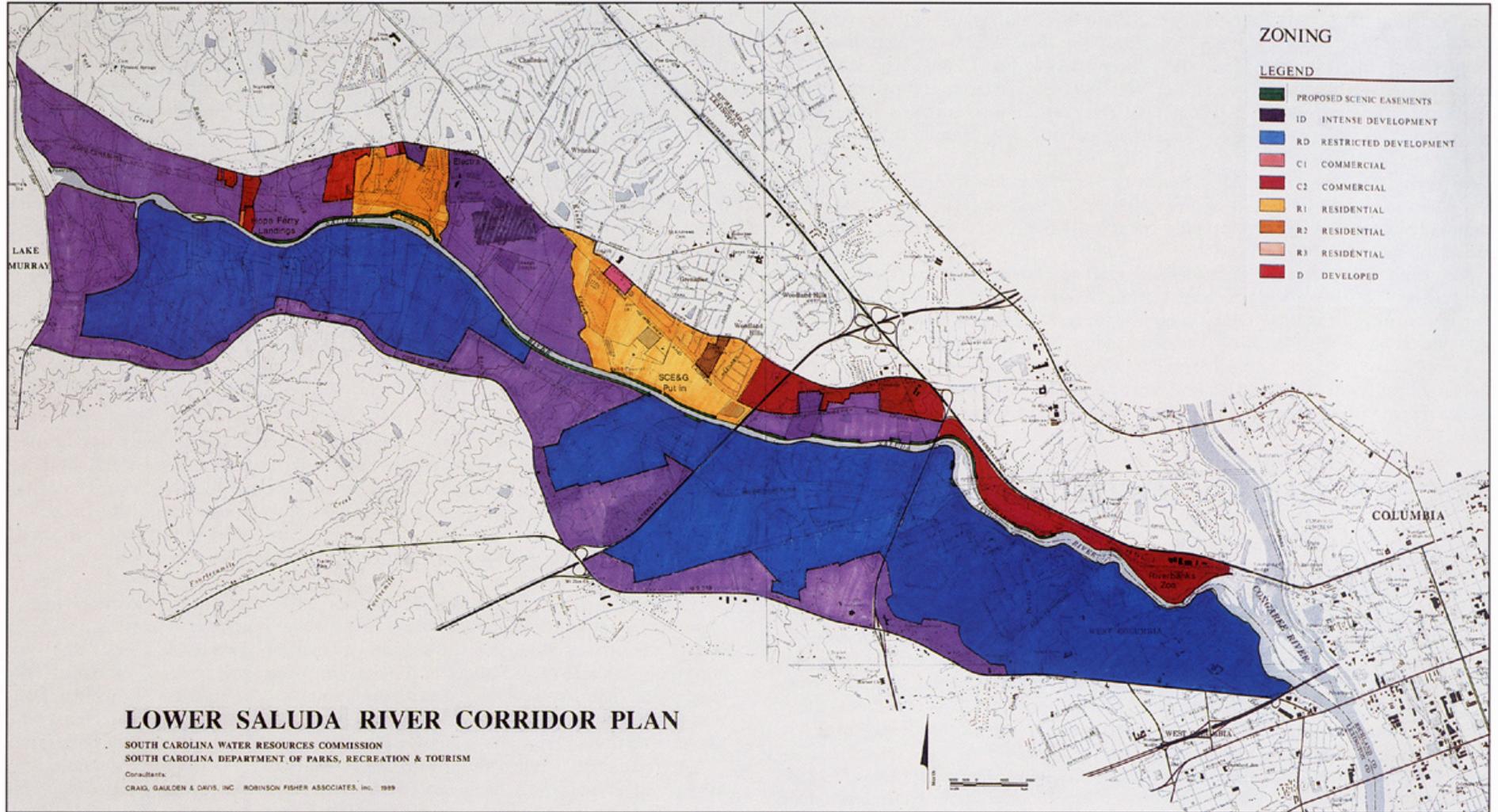
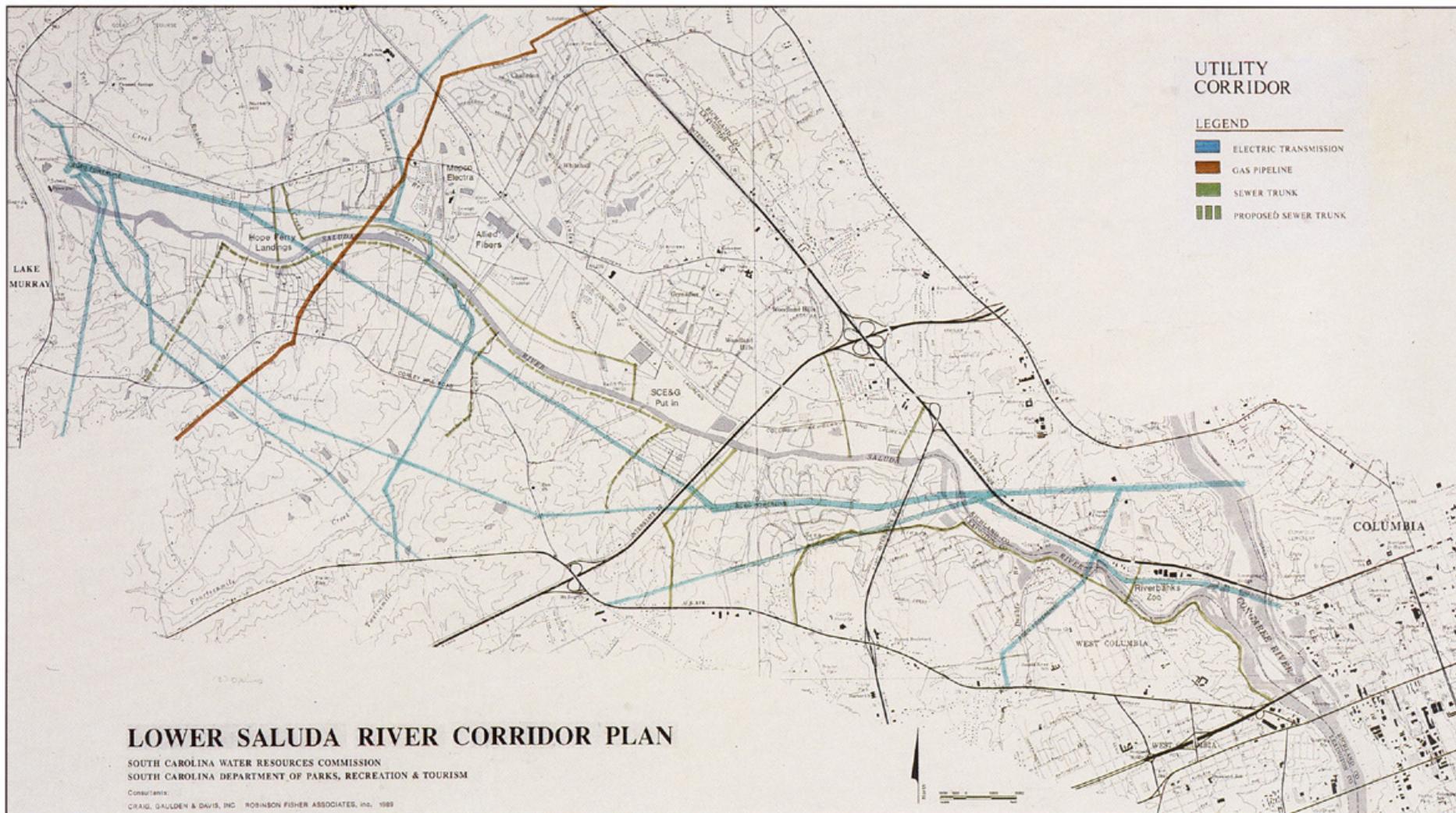


Figure 6. • Utilities





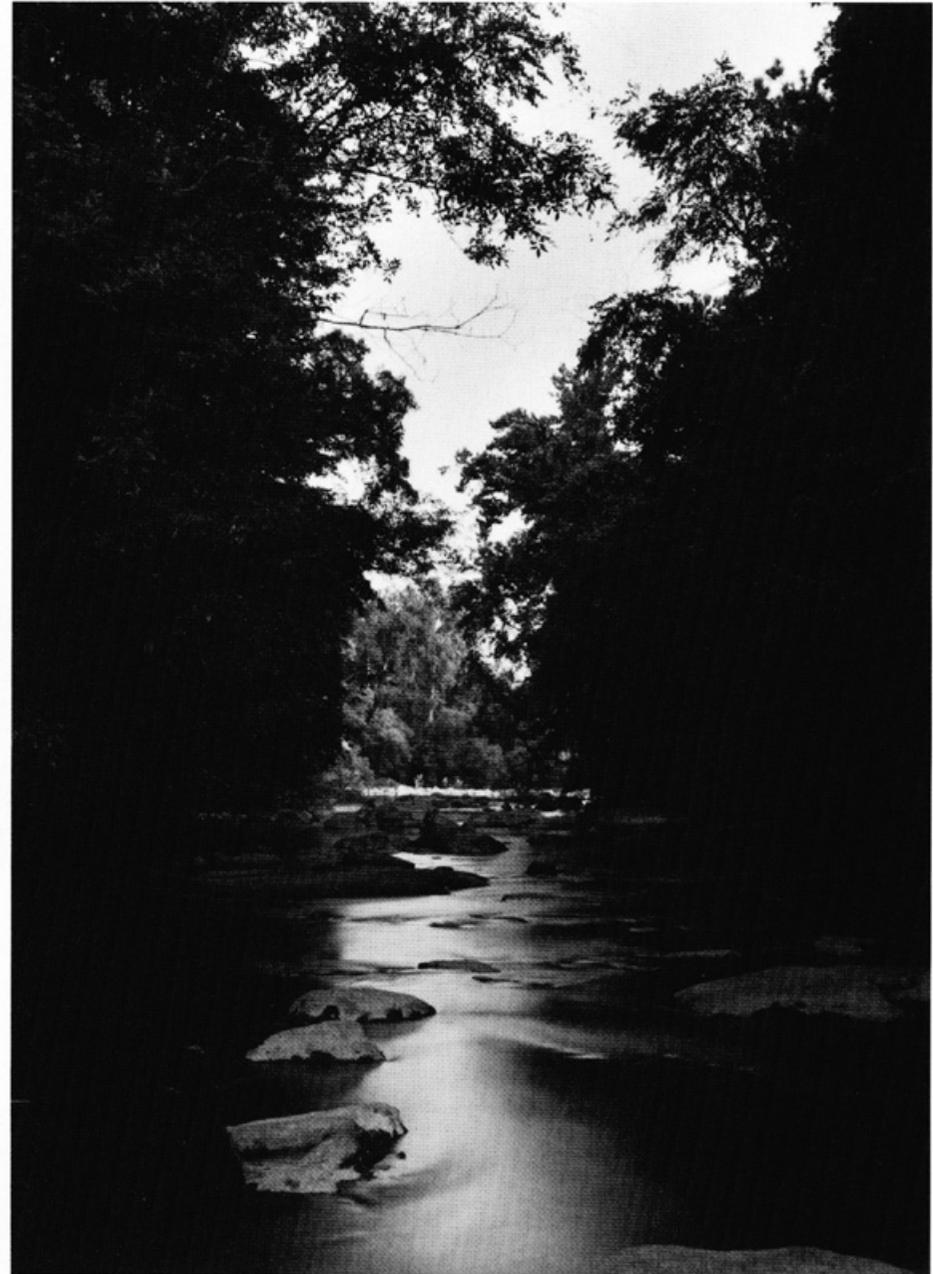
rapid rise of water becomes dangerous to boaters, waders and fishermen. Rising water occasionally strands people on rocks or islands in the river, requiring expensive and hazardous river rescue efforts.

Also of concern is the issue of property rights. The riparian lands in the lower Saluda corridor are privately owned. Four public access points presently exist in the river corridor. Trespassing presents concerns to landowners since legal access points are few and access to the river is sought by various river users. There is little question that the river will remain a high-demand recreation area but there are outstanding questions regarding how, and how much, river access should be made available.

Trespassing in the river corridor takes a variety of forms and causes several problems. Trespassing on residential property is only one type of problem. Several areas along the river are utilized by off-road vehicle owners. The use of these vehicles in the river corridor and occasionally in the river itself, causes the loss of significant vegetative ground cover, erosion, sedimentation of the river and leaves ugly scars which harm the aesthetic character of the riverine environment.

Other significant problems include vandalism to cars left at boat access ramps and vandalism to facilities along the river such as the remains of the old Saluda Mill and facilities at the boat ramps. Illegal use of firearms, as well as illegal use of drugs and alcohol, have also been problems in recent years in the lower Saluda River corridor.

The Task Force addressed all of these problems in the corridor planning process and came to the realization that corridor management must begin with problem-solving. There is confidence among Task Force members that the problems in the corridor can be solved. Many of the recommendations from the Task Force subcommittees specifically address each of these problems and provide achievable solutions upon implementation of the recommendations contained in this corridor plan.





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# Study Process

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The first step in developing the river corridor planning process was to assemble a task force of key river-related interests to help guide the work of the South Carolina Water Resources Commission and the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. The Task Force was formed of persons with the resources and expertise to provide a comprehensive overview of the lower Saluda River, and the commitment to implement a final corridor plan developed by community members. The Task Force was organized in September, 1988.

During the initial meeting of the Task Force, an exhaustive list of river issues and concerns was recorded, and then grouped into major categories. Due to the size of the Task Force and the enormity of the planning process, the Task Force expanded into seven subcommittees to study the major issues in detail. Non-task force members were invited to participate on the various subcommittees. The Task Force was committed to this citizen-based participation in plan development so that the final plan would have a broad base of support and be wholly produced by members of the community in which it would be implemented.

Members of the seven subcommittees are listed in the Acknowledgements section of this document. The subcommittees included:

- Access and Facilities
- Historic and Archaeological Sites
- Law Enforcement
- Litter
- Resource Protection
- Tourism and Promotion
- User Safety

To familiarize Task Force and subcommittee members with the resources of the lower Saluda River, several field trips were conducted focusing on river resources and river corridor problems. These introductions to the resource included two canoe trips and tours of the Old Mill site, the Hope Ferry landings, the SCE&G put-in and the Saluda Hydroelectric Plant.

Since part of the corridor planning process for the lower Saluda River included the creation of visual conceptual plans from the recommendations, it was necessary to hire a landscape architecture firm. The firm of Craig, Gaulden and Davis, Incorporated, of Greenville, South Carolina, was hired to provide a landscape architect and an environmental consultant. The landscape architect team provided advice to the Task Force and subcommittees and eventually designed many of the recommendations into visual concepts. The consultants also joined the Task Force in the field trips and conducted independent field

surveys. This work resulted in the conceptual plans presented later in this document.

Each subcommittee met periodically throughout the year to develop their mission, goals and objectives, work plan, membership and a set of policy recommendations. An executive committee made up of the subcommittee chairs met regularly to facilitate communication, discuss their progress and exchange ideas. As subcommittee recommendations were finalized, they were presented to the entire Task Force for discussion and approval. Few changes were made to recommendations presented by subcommittees to the Task Force.

Public participation efforts included the establishment of the thirty-member citizen's task force and the seven subcommittees comprised of approximately fifty other individuals. Thirty additional individuals expressed interest in staying current with project developments, and were placed on a mailing list to receive meeting summaries. After the Task Force began its work, a news release and publicity brochure were developed to inform the public of the corridor planning process.

All riparian landowners and local elected officials were notified of the study and were kept abreast of the study's progress. A survey concerning the ongoing Lower Saluda River Corridor project was sent to all landowners adjacent to the river to determine their concerns and attitudes and to request their input and participation. In September, 1989, an Interim Report was completed and presented at a public meeting to obtain general input, specific comments, and to encourage further citizen involvement. All interested individuals were added to the Task Force general mailing list and to specific subcommittees upon request.

An Implementation Committee was established to consider the Task Force's recommendations and lead the process of plan implementation. These individuals were selected for their keen interest in the river corridor resources and their ability to take action towards the goals and recommendations of the plan. The entire study process is summarized in Table 3.

**Table 3.**  
**Lower Saluda River Corridor Plan Process**

**STAFF TEAM**

Identify need & opportunities.  
Develop study proposal.

Develop workplan.

Identify river related interests &  
ask individuals to serve on task force.

Coordinate task force activities.

Begin data gathering:  
maps, landowner lists,  
zoning.

Coordinate subcommittee  
activities. Hire consultant.

Develop publicity brochure.  
Notify landowners and  
officials of process.

Survey landowners & send  
notice of public meeting.

**TASK FORCE**

Identify issues & major categories.  
Identify other groups to be  
represented.

Begin introduction to the  
resource. Continue data  
gathering.

Establish 7 subcommittees  
& chairpersons.

Tour Old Mill Site.  
Canoe river.

Tour Saluda Hydro plant.

**SUBCOMMITTEES**

Identify additional non-task force  
members. Develop mission  
statement & work plan.

Participate in task force  
activities. Continue data  
gathering.

Make recommendations to  
task force.

**IMPLEMENTATION  
COMMITTEE**

**Table 3. *continued***  
**Lower Saluda River Corridor Plan Process**

**STAFF TEAM**

Compile Interim Report.

Hold public meeting.  
 Incorporate public  
 comments into draft.

Identify & contact  
 members for Implementation  
 Committee. Coordinate  
 Implementation Plan activities  
 & keep task force  
 informed.

Prepare final draft &  
 have printed.

Continue to publicize Plan  
 & assist in implementation.

**TASK FORCE**

Review & revise sub-  
 committee recommendations.

Review draft.

Review final draft.

Assist in implementation.

**SUBCOMMITTEES**

Review draft.

Review final draft.

Assist in implementation.

**IMPLEMENTATION  
 COMMITTEE**

Review task force  
 recommendations & analyze  
 based on ease/complexity.

Determine how to & who  
 will implement. Begin  
 implementation.

Continue to lead  
 implementation process.



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# The Lower Saluda River Corridor Plan

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The main objective of the Lower Saluda River Task Force is to put together a comprehensive corridor plan for the lower Saluda River. The following two sections of this document will present the two components of the corridor plan.

The first part of the plan (Part A) consists of over 70 recommendations which were compiled by the seven subcommittees and subsequently approved by the Lower Saluda River Task Force. The recommendations are presented in alphabetical order, by issue. Each set of recommendations is preceded by an introduction which provides some background and further explains the study process. Most of the recommendations are straightforward, but certain recommendations are accompanied by explanation as to significance or related background material. Recommendations that were selected for immediate implementation are indicated by an asterisk (\*).

The second part of the Lower Saluda River Corridor Plan (Part B) is the visual master plan for the river. It is made up of several components. First is the visual plan for the 10-mile stretch of the lower Saluda under consideration, beginning below the dam near the spillway and ending at the confluence with the Broad River. The area directly below and adjacent to the dam is a high-hazard industrial area and for this reason was omitted from the plan consideration. The area from the old Saluda Factory site to the confluence with the Broad River on the south side of the river was also omitted from Part B since a 56-acre tract which includes and surrounds the old factory site will be the site of a botanical garden, being developed by the Riverbanks Zoo. It is anticipated that the botanical gardens will be linked by pedestrian bridge over the river to the zoo. A separate planning process has started for this tract of land. Because this area was incorporated into the West Bank Plan recently completed for the riverfronts of West Columbia and Cayce, the Lower Saluda River Task Force felt that the West Bank Plan adequately addressed the area and further planning efforts would be redundant.

The visual plan is basically a facilities plan which identifies several sites for parks or points of access in the river corridor. Two sites, the area on the north side of the river below Interstate 20 and the area downstream of Twelvemile Creek, were selected for a more detailed opportunity analysis. Conceptual plans for parks on each of these sites are presented in this section.

In summary, it should be noted that the comprehensive corridor plan consists of the two parts, A and B, described above. Both the recommendations and the visual components of the Lower Saluda River Corridor Plan are equally important. The recommendations delineate a long series of tasks concerning a variety of activities important to maintaining the integrity of the lower Saluda River while

allowing for its continuing development. The visual plan presents to the community a balanced approach in its proposal for controlled and managed river access in the river corridor.

## Part A - Recommendations

### *Access and Facilities*

Many issues led to the development of the Access and Facilities recommendations, such as the lack of legal public access to the river, too much illegal access, high recreational potential for the corridor, the need for necessary facilities to support recreation, and the long-term management of public access and recreation facilities.

The Access and Facilities Subcommittee needed a variety of interests and expertise to draft a set of recommendations aimed at providing adequate legal access and recreational facilities and the management of these facilities. The subcommittee was composed of 11 members with frequent participation by members of other subcommittees. Hector McLean chaired the subcommittee, which included park and recreation managers, planners, commercial and industrial representatives, fisheries biologists, boaters, and fishermen.

Initially, the subcommittee developed a mission statement and work plan to guide its work. In the course of several meetings, the subcommittee considered activities that allow using the river, viewing the river, and using the land near the river. They reviewed the existing and potential access points and areas currently used by the general public. They also learned of several recreational and residential projects planned in the corridor.

The subcommittee worked diligently and quickly reached agreement on five initial recommendations at its first meeting. On June 15, 1989, the Access and Facilities Subcommittee presented 16 recommendations to the Task Force for approval. The presentation included five new public access points (mostly of low impact) and a canoe portage for the most dangerous rapids. Adequate control and management of facilities was stressed repeatedly to make public access facilities safe places to visit and to protect the natural, scenic, and cultural resources of the corridor.

It should be noted that the subcommittee emphasized the protection of landowner rights throughout the process. Neither the South Carolina Water Resources Commission nor the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation

and Tourism has any intention to use eminent domain for acquisition of land. Furthermore, the Task Force encourages local governments to refrain from using the condemnation process for acquisition in this corridor. The landowners at proposed access sites have not made any commitments at this time. The Implementation Committee, with the assistance of interested parties, will lead the negotiations necessary to carry out the recommendations.

Following are the Access and Facilities Subcommittee's recommendations, with explanations and overview where appropriate. Seven of the subcommittee recommendations were selected by the Implementation Committee for immediate implementation (denoted by \*).

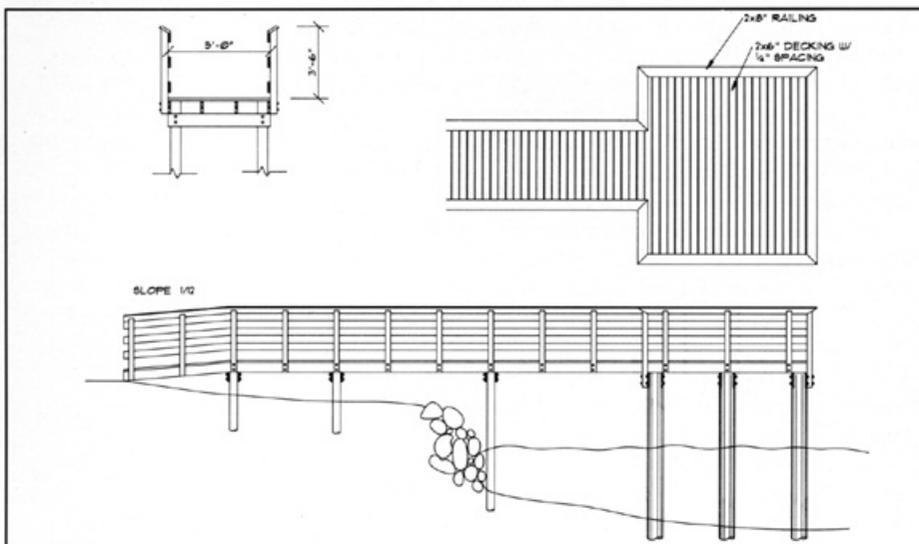
## Recommendations

- \*1. All access and facilities should be controlled to the extent necessary to prevent vandalism and other inappropriate behavior.**

This would provide for gated facilities with specific hours of operation, patrols, and/or staffing and deter such things as drug and alcohol use, shooting, off-road vehicle use in undesignated areas, littering, and dumping.

- 2. Consider accessibility for elderly and handicapped persons in all facility development; specifically, provide some fishing piers and/or observation decks.**

**Figure 7. • Conceptual Design of Pier for Handicapped**



- 3. Where appropriate, attempt to obtain scenic easements across the river from public access points and recreational facilities to provide full enjoyment of the natural resource.**

This would create scenic vistas from all public viewpoints and enhance the quality of the public areas.

- 4. Create linear trails where appropriate to facilitate access, law enforcement, and improved quality of life.**

These could be along utility corridors and would enable horseback law enforcement as well as walking, bicycling, and jogging, i.e., activities of high participation and demand in the region.

- 5. Support emergency/law enforcement access points as recommended by the User Safety and Law Enforcement Subcommittees.**

- \*6. Recognize the upper portion of the river, from Hope Ferry Landing to the SCE&G throw-in, as a "premier" canoeing segment.**

Under normal conditions, this segment is easily paddled by novices yet has some challenge and offers unique opportunities to observe fish and wildlife.

- 7. No additional public motorboat access is needed. The activity should not be encouraged.**

- \*8. Improve and control access to the South Hope Ferry Landing. Provide signage and management.**

- 9. Develop a canoe portage around Millrace Rapids. Since Riverbanks Zoo controls this area on both sides of the river, through lease or ownership, the Task Force should coordinate with the Zoo to determine the location, design, and maintenance responsibilities. No public access from the road is needed for a portage.**

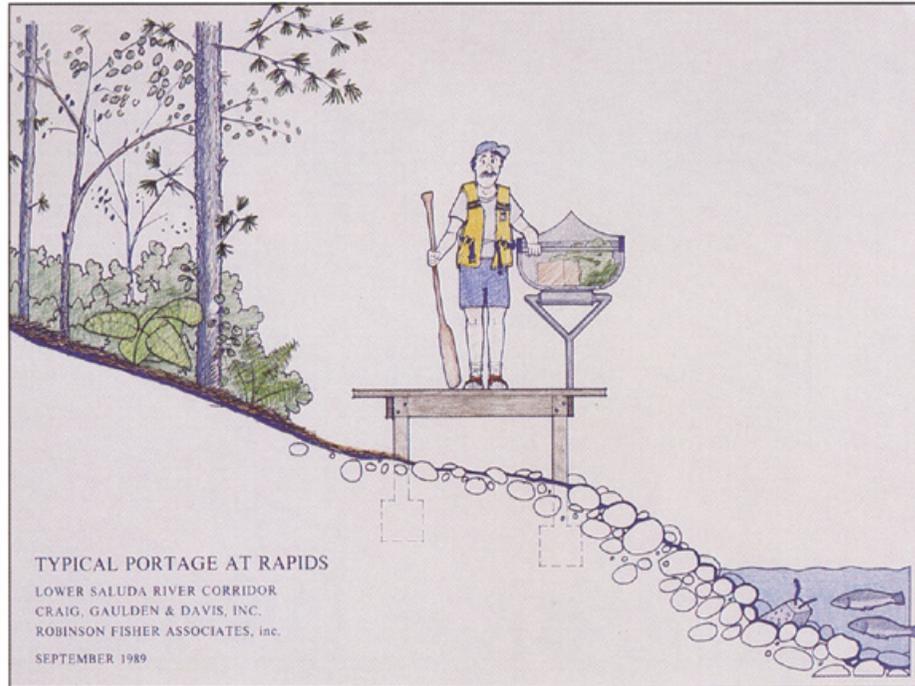
This is needed for legal, safe passage around the river's most dangerous rapids.

- \*10. River access should be developed in conjunction with the development of the master plan for new facilities being planned by Irmo-Chapin Recreation Commission on the north side of the river. The Commission is obtaining several abandoned sewage lagoons between Allied Fibers and the new SCE&G throw-in site (near Gardendale).**

This area will probably be used for parking, soccer fields, and other amenities; however, river activities should be included. This could provide parking well away from the river with a mostly natural walk-in access.

- \*11. Provide a throw-in site and/or other appropriate facilities on the South side of the river between Hope Ferry Landing and I-26. SCE&G already has plans to establish access in this vicinity and it would help meet the needs of future growth. (See Figure 12 for the conceptual plan for this facility.)**

**Figure 8. • Typical River Canoe Portage**



12. Provide a walking trail/fishing access just below I-20 on the North side (near the Mustard-Coleman site). SCE&G has plans to establish this area. (See Figure 13 for the conceptual plan for this facility.)
- \*13. Improve the take-out ramp at Bicentennial Park near Gervais Street or provide other such facilities below Shandon Rapids which are compatible with the West Bank Plan.
14. Provide a portage around Shandon Rapids.
15. In the scenic spot below I-26 at Saluda Hills subdivision (South side), address the problems of abuse, preserve the natural character of the area, and provide limited public access.

This area is a narrow flood plain with nice trees and an abandoned sewage lagoon. It has been identified as a premier fishing area and an excellent birdwatching area. A large island in the center of the river is very scenic, as are the rapids and rocks in both arms of the river. Much of the area is

currently abused by dumping/litter, off-road vehicle use, shooting, and trespassing.

- \*16. Create a regional park in the vicinity of Corley Island. This should include Corley Island, the SCE&G property from the shoals above Hope Ferry Landing (immediately downstream from the confluence of the tailrace and spillway canal) to Lorick Branch (below Corley Island), and the Biehl and Metts properties. Facilities should provide for activities consistent with floodplain/floodway properties downstream of a hydroelectric facility. Activities such as, but not limited to, fishing, walking/jogging, picnicking, boating, golfing, and general access to the river should be considered in the park master plan. The park master plan should address the scenic and environmental integrity of the river resource. The subcommittee noted the current law enforcement problems such as shooting, off-road vehicle use, vandalism, and litter/dumping at Hope Ferry Landing and upstream, and encouraged the Law Enforcement Subcommittee to address these problems. This Hope Ferry area (and upstream) should be included in the overall master plan for the regional park and redeveloped as necessary. Access to the regional park should be provided through private property (purchased) from Old Bush River Road (current zoning regulations prohibit access through existing subdivisions).

The Irmo-Chapin Recreation Commission has expressed interest in developing and operating a regional park on this site. All facilities should be planned with concern for the danger posed by the operation of the hydroelectric plant and concern for the scenic and environmental resources.

## *Historic and Archaeological Sites*

The Lower Saluda River has a variety of historic and archaeological characteristics that make it an important resource in the midlands of South Carolina. Several historic and prehistoric sites have been found along the corridor.

Near the present site of Riverbanks Zoo, traces of the Old State Road and the abutments of a bridge that once spanned the Saluda River can be seen. The Saluda Factory Historic District is included in the National Register of Historic Places. Legend has it that General Sherman camped beneath a boulder directly above the factory in 1865. A Confederate prisoner-of-war camp was also located along the corridor.

Some of these and other sites and artifacts remaining have been vandalized in recent years. The Historic and Archaeological Sites Subcommittee wanted to

protect these areas not only for future generations, but also for further research by professional archaeologists, historians, geographers and planners.

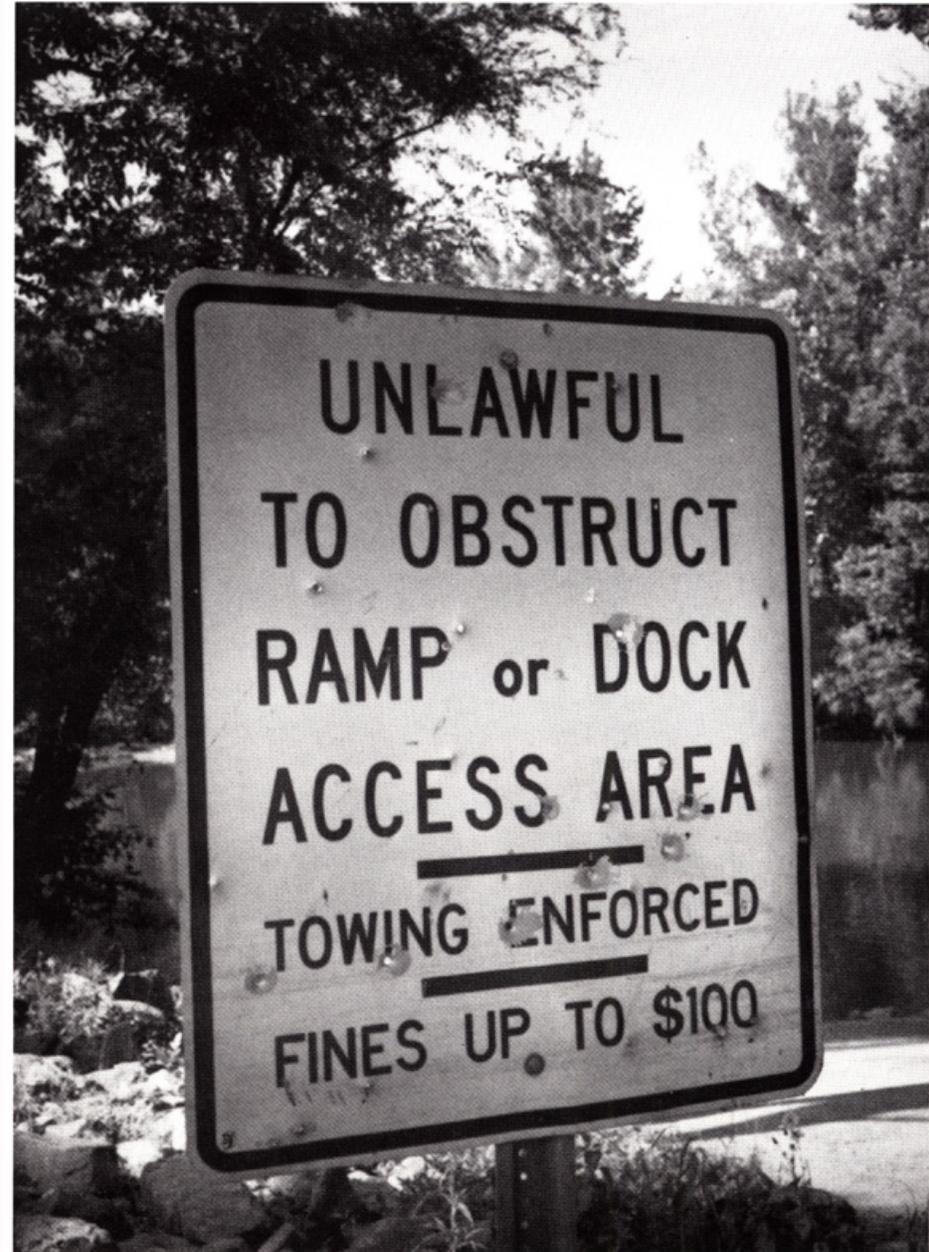
The subcommittee was comprised of six members and was chaired by Nancy Brock of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. The membership included representatives of the South Carolina Institute of Anthropology and Archaeology, the Historic Columbia Foundation, the University of South Carolina, the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, and the Sierra Club.

After several meetings, the subcommittee identified seven recommendations which were unanimously approved by the Task Force on June 15, 1989. Two of these recommendations were selected by the Implementation Committee for immediate implementation (denoted by \*).

### ***Recommendations***

- \*1. Develop a broad history and historic contexts for the corridor.**
- 2. Determine what research questions will be developed, based on the historic overview and the known archaeological and historic sites located along the lower Saluda corridor.**
- \*3. Determine the level of archaeological survey needed for areas of high archaeological potential. Areas that have undergone extensive residential or commercial development are not likely to have a very high potential.**
- 4. Determine which areas are best suited to interpretive purposes, such as the Saluda Factory Site, and which areas should be avoided (passive preservation).**

Development of park and public access facilities should include consideration for interpretive displays of the corridor's cultural history.
- 5. Correlate data developed above with the work plans suggested by the other Lower Saluda River Task Force subcommittees. This is to ensure that an area recommended for passive preservation under this work plan will not be recommended as an access point under another work plan.**
- 6. Recommend reference to the historic overview and possibly an archaeological survey precede any new construction or ground disturbance along the lower Saluda River corridor.**
- 7. Recommend that the study results generated by this work plan be made available to professional archaeologists, historians, cultural geographers, and planners so that further cultural resources research can be generated.**



## Law Enforcement

Trespassing, illegal use of firearms, unauthorized vehicular access, and littering have long been problems in the lower Saluda River corridor. Landowners and river users are too often faced with these types of illegal behaviors while using the river. Many of these illegal behaviors also threaten the safety of river users as well as the scenic and natural beauty of the lower Saluda River.

The Law Enforcement subcommittee, chaired by Bill Unthank, brought together the experiences and expertise of the law enforcement offices of Lexington County, the Cities of West Columbia and Columbia, and the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department. The subcommittee also included representation from the Crime Victims Compensation Fund.

One of the first tasks of the subcommittee was to develop a mission statement and work plan. These focused on identifying law enforcement problems, studying current laws and their effectiveness and any necessary corrective actions via laws to address these concerns. Trespassing, substance abuse, abuses by off-road vehicles and the discharge of firearms were identified as particularly troublesome. In June of 1989, after five meetings, the subcommittee drafted its final set of recommendations. The subcommittee's recommendations were presented to the full Lower Saluda River Task Force on July 19, 1989. Ten of the fourteen final subcommittee recommendations were selected for immediate action by the Implementation Committee (denoted by \*).

## Recommendations

- \*1. Increase patrols in public access areas. Improve lighting of public use areas and hire patrol with private security personnel where possible. Involve landowners, church and community services to assist with vagrancy.**

Although public access areas are necessary to provide for public use of rivers, they can also be the source of problems. The Hope Ferry landings have experienced problems such as littering, automobile break-ins and unauthorized use of vehicles on adjacent properties. This latter problem received considerable attention from the subcommittee. In January of 1990, the Implementation Committee began pursuing the above recommendation by investigating measures to increase patrol car visits to the Hope Ferry landings.

- 2. Close parks during certain hours.**
- \*3. Establish a zone along the corridor within which firearms could not be possessed, with exceptions for law enforcement officers and river landowners on their own properties.**
- \*4. Prohibit alcoholic beverage consumption in public recreational facilities.**

Letters received from landowners on the lower Saluda expressed concern for controlling substance abuse. Alcohol is normally related in strandings of people requiring river rescue as the river rises.

- \*5. Investigate methods of pressing charges for littering.**

Letters received from landowners on the lower Saluda expressed concern for litter problems and suggested placement of "no littering" signs. Subcommittee discussions also suggested signs posting fines for littering. It was agreed that repeat offenses should receive more serious treatment, but methods of enforcing littering charges require further investigation.

- 6. Train law enforcement personnel in whitewater rescue.**

When power is generated at the Saluda Hydroelectric Plant, the lower Saluda can become a torrent of raging whitewater. Rescue of individuals on the river under these conditions calls for properly trained rescue personnel.

- 7. Improve parking to allow legal access and alleviate trespassing.**
- 8. Improved law enforcement river access must be developed for rescue and patrol purposes.**
- 9. Mounted police patrol is recommended for park and trail areas.**
- \*10. Establish centralized equipment sites for rescue equipment to be used by the different agencies involved in river rescues. These sites should be at the West Columbia Fire Department and at the Zoo.**

- \*11. User laws and regulations should be adopted and enforced, enabling rescue costs to be passed on to river users requiring rescue.**

Currently the heavy cost of river rescue is borne by the rescue authorities. This recommendation calls for these costs to be collected from those requiring rescue efforts. This would also help promote better safety on the river.

- \*12. Develop procedures for law enforcement and rescue operations on the river, agreed to by all agencies involved.**

Emergency notification networks should be established among rescue agencies to facilitate estimated times of arrival and other aspects of rescue operations.

- \*13. Prohibit unauthorized vehicles in the lower Saluda River corridor.**
- 14. Support state and/or local legislation to implement the above recommendations.**

## Litter

The lower Saluda River retains a wide variety of uncommon natural and scenic features. However, it is an urban river with a number of external pressures including litter, unsightly discarding of appliances, and the dumping of raw

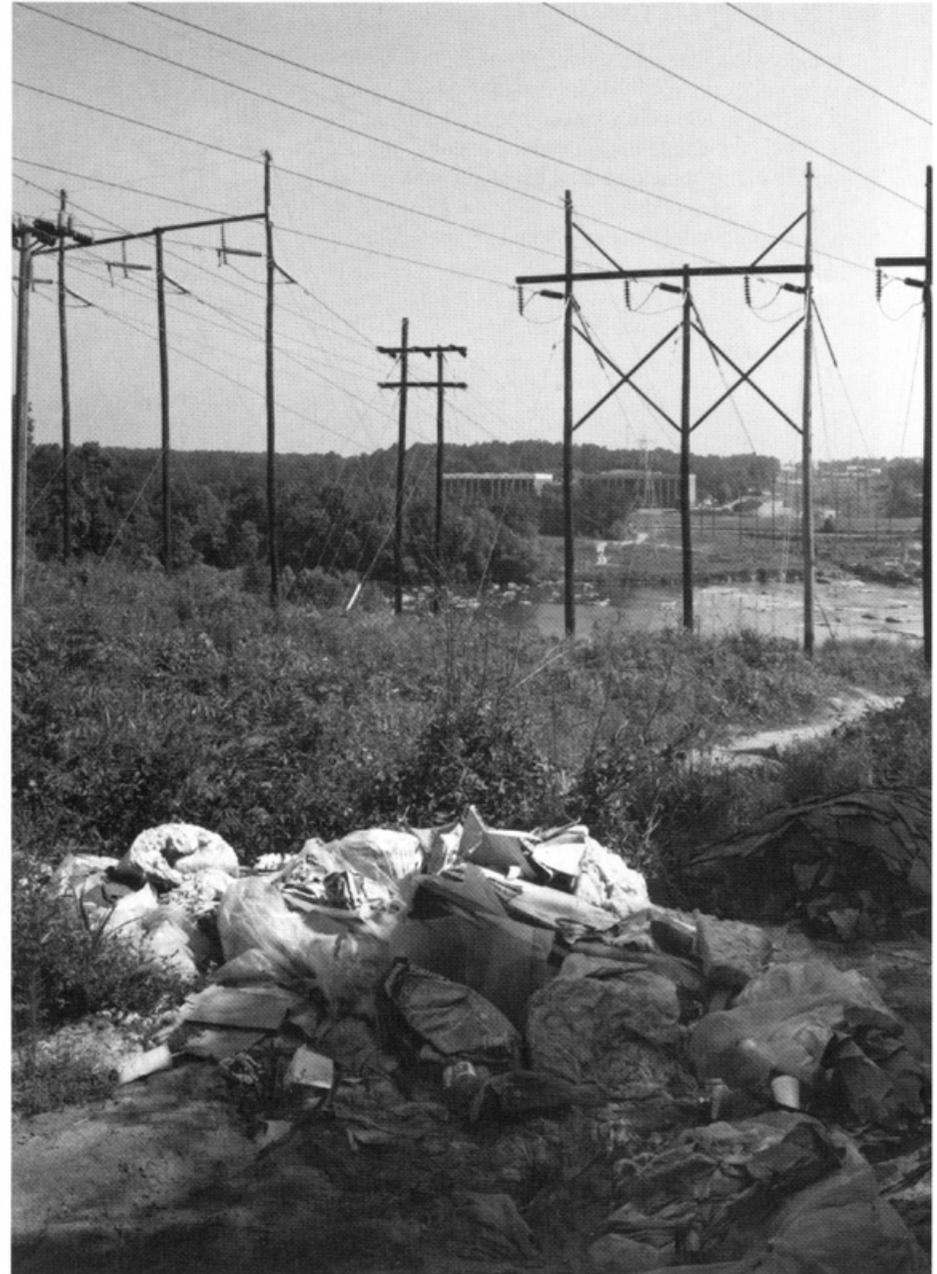
materials into the river. Litter is unsightly and hazardous to the well-being of the environment, detrimental to the scenic quality of the corridor, and unsafe. The Litter Subcommittee felt that a long-term management plan must be developed to achieve and maintain a litter-free environment.

The subcommittee, chaired by Carolyn McLaughlin of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, was composed of representatives from the Governor's Task Force on Litter, the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, West Metro Chamber of Commerce, the Law Enforcement Division of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, Riverbanks Zoo, and interested citizens. This subcommittee differed somewhat from other subcommittees. In addition to developing a conceptual design to assist in a litter-free corridor, the subcommittee continues to promote clean-up projects. One such clean-up was held September 9, 1989, with over forty volunteers concentrating on Millrace Rapids.

The Lower Saluda Task Force unanimously approved the following recommendations by this subcommittee. Four of these recommendations were selected by the Implementation Committee for immediate implementation (denoted by \*).

## ***Recommendations***

- \*1. Create public awareness of litter and abuse of public and private lands through the organized activities of such groups as the Governor's Task Force on Litter, Keep America Beautiful of the Midlands, and other community organizations.**
- 2. Generate community support for maintaining a litter-free corridor.**
- 3. Develop a management plan for litter control on a community-wide basis for the corridor. Include a litter plan for any newly developed access areas or parks.**
- \*4. Provide for regular servicing of litter containers.**
- \*5. Clean up existing litter and identified dump sites.**
- 6. Promote further adoption of sections of the river by Water Watch groups.**
- 7. Enforce existing litter laws.**
- \*8. Post litter fine signs at appropriate areas.**
- 9. Encourage jurisdictions to impose maximum fines and community service for littering.**
- 10. Research applying community service sentences to river clean-up.**



11. **Nurture a positive atmosphere through awards to promote recognition and support of volunteers.**

## ***Resource Protection***

The natural resources of the lower Saluda River are multi-faceted, ranging from wildlife habitat to rare plant habitat. The cold water of the river supports trout and also creates micro-climates which sustain upland vegetation such as mountain laurel. In order to maintain these significant natural resource values, the waters of the lower Saluda must stay clean and the surrounding land needs to continue to provide wildlife habitat and buffer harmful impacts.

The Resource Protection Subcommittee brought together a broad array of interests and expertise in order to draft a series of recommendations oriented toward managing and protecting the natural resources of the lower Saluda River corridor. The subcommittee was comprised of nineteen members and was chaired by Chip Berry and Tim Connor. The membership included industrial representatives, landowners, fisheries biologists, botanists, water quality experts, environmentalists, planners, and ornithologists.

The subcommittee was faced with the difficult task of sorting out the key issues and developing them into recommendations. Over a series of approximately ten meetings, the Resource Protection Subcommittee delineated 14 major recommendations, plus nine recommendations that are subset under several of the major recommendations. This resulted in a total of 23 recommendations.

The subcommittee presented its recommendations to the Saluda River Task Force for approval on August 17, 1989. Following is a list of the recommendations with explanations and overview where appropriate. Five of the Resource Protection Subcommittee recommendations were selected by the Implementation Committee for immediate implementation (denoted by \*).

## ***Recommendations***

### **I. Scenic and Riverine Habitat Protection**

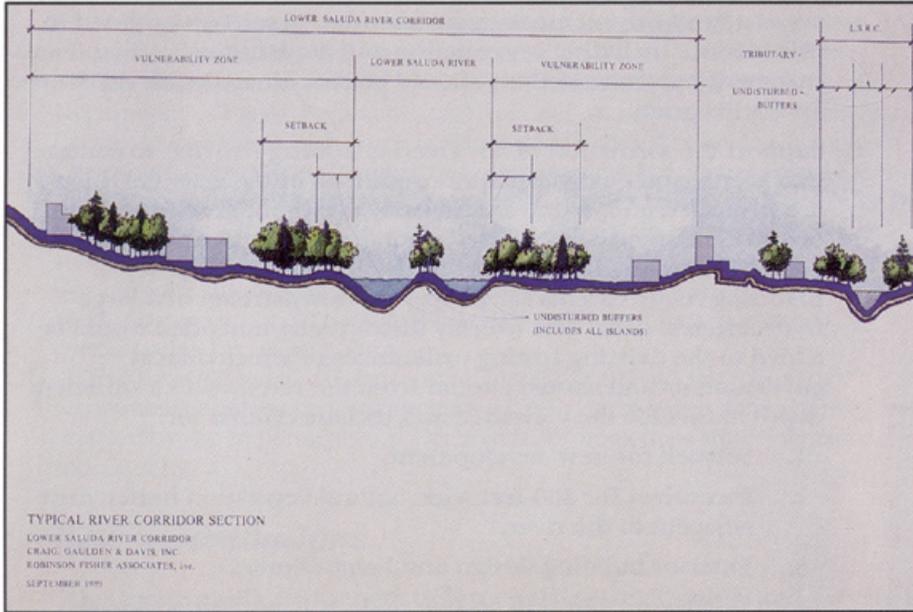
**We recommend that the Lower Saluda River Task Force support the following objectives to ensure that the scenic qualities of the river are protected, and that suitable wildlife habitats are maintained within the river corridor.**

- \*A. Support the protection of the lower Saluda River through provisions of the South Carolina Scenic Rivers Act.**
- B. Support the formation of a mechanism for land and easement purchases within the river corridor to facilitate the procurement of scenic, natural, and cultural resources. The creation of a "local**

**land trust" concept should be fully explored whose purpose would be to acquire fee simple properties and easements, and to act as a fund-raising mechanism for other objectives outlined in this section, including revegetation and landscaping. All land and easement purchase options should be coordinated with the Scenic Rivers Program.**

- C. Support the formation of an "Overlay Zoning District" to ensure that scenic and environmental conditions of the river corridor are protected and, to the extent that development occurs, it is orderly and compatible with desirable scenic and environmental conditions and with proper consideration for emergency planning requirements for properties downstream of a large hydroelectric dam. The overlay district recommended would be added to the existing zoning ordinances of affected local governments and should extend from the riverbed to a sufficient depth to include the viewshed and include criteria for:**
  - 1. Setback for new development.**
  - 2. Incentives for 100-foot wide natural vegetation buffer zone adjacent to the river.**
  - 3. Exterior building design and height limits.**
  - 4. Signage prohibition and provisions for existing signage removal, with the exception of safety and welfare concerns.**
  - 5. Land use which is compatible with the existing scenic, natural, and cultural amenities.**
  - 6. Sub-divided property developments to hold a riparian zone in common to provide access to the river for its residents.**
- D. Support efforts to establish a system of wildlife and botanical sanctuaries within the corridor that would also include all islands of the Lower Saluda. To facilitate this effort, floral and faunal studies should be conducted by qualified entities along the corridor and the aquatic environment to determine plants and animals that warrant special habitat or protection needs.**
- \*E. Support a comprehensive effort to enhance the scenic quality of over-utilized and abused areas along the Lower Saluda River Corridor. A comprehensive effort should include:**
  - 1. Landscaping and revegetating eroded, non-scenic and abused areas.**
  - 2. Planting additional wooded buffers in areas where the buffer is thin.**

**Figure 9. • Typical River Corridor Cross-Section**



**3. Prohibition of unauthorized motorized vehicles.**

Vegetated buffers play an important role in helping to prevent water quality problems associated with non-point source pollution. They also help maintain the scenic character of the river and provide natural strips to aid in the movement of wildlife along the river corridor.

The Task Force hopes to work with organizations such as local garden clubs to publish a guide to revegetating and restoring eroded or abused areas.

**II. Fisheries Management and Protection**

**We recommend that the Lower Saluda River Task Force support the following objectives to ensure that the fishery resources and subsequent recreational fisheries of the lower Saluda River are protected and enhanced.**

**A. Encourage and support the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department in the following areas:**

1. Support efforts in developing and managing the Lower Saluda River as a year-round fishery for warmwater and coldwater (trout) species.

2. Support the continuing development and enforcement of appropriate regulations associated with the warmwater and coldwater (trout) fisheries such as establishing size and creel limits and designating catch and release areas.

3. Support stocking as well as wider disbursement of trout in order to meet the growing fishing pressure in the Lower Saluda River.

- B. Support continued scientific studies such as the Instream Flow Incremental Methodology study being conducted to assess dissolved oxygen, minimum flow water temperature and other habitat needs for the fisheries. We recommend that the Task Force review any recommendations resulting from such studies and, if appropriate, support their implementation.**

**III. Water Quality Protection**

**We recommend that the Lower Saluda Task Force support efforts to improve and protect the water quality of the lower Saluda River by addressing point and non-point pollution sources in the following manner:**

**A. Non-point Source Pollution**

- \*1. Encourage and support efforts of local governments within the Lower Saluda River corridor to seek the financial and technical assistance necessary to create, maintain and enforce comprehensive programs for sediment, erosion and stormwater runoff.
- \*2. Support effective efforts to rectify existing sediment, erosion, stormwater runoff and flooding problems identified in high growth areas such as Kinley and Rawls Creek watersheds.

Non-point source pollution has caused problems in the Saluda River ranging from threats to the fishery such as trout to the aesthetic problems of turbidity. Most of the sediment problems of the Saluda come from its tributaries, particularly Rawls Creek. Other non-point source pollution problems occur where vegetated buffers are too thin.

The Task Force strongly supports the two recommendations above as a means to better control these types of pollution problems.

3. Tributaries of the lower Saluda River should be protected by a vegetated buffer sufficient to control erosion, sedimentation and other water quality problems associated with runoff.

## \*B. Point Source Pollution

**We recommend that jurisdictions bordering the Lower Saluda River watershed begin planning for future consolidation of domestic wastewater, and amend the 208 area-wide waste treatment management plan to reflect this goal. We also recommend that all domestic wastewater discharge be eliminated from the lower Saluda River.**

One of the most controversial topics in recent years concerning the lower Saluda River has been the use of the river for the disposal of domestic wastewater. The Task Force encourages long-range comprehensive planning in order to better facilitate a regional approach to the treatment and disposal of domestic wastewater. The Task Force also recommends as a future goal that domestic wastewater discharges be eliminated from the lower Saluda River.

## C. Support the reclassification of the lower Saluda River from Class A to Trout Waters (Put, Grow and Take).



## *Tourism and Promotion Recommendations*

This subcommittee met several times throughout the study process and determined that any recommendations or implementation would occur as part of the implementation process following the approval of the Lower Saluda River Corridor Plan. Therefore, no recommendations are proposed by this subcommittee at this time.

## *User Safety*

The lower Saluda River is a tailrace below a peaking hydroelectric plant which makes the river subject to rapidly changing flow regimes. The river can increase in flow from 200-300 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 18,000 cfs in a matter of hours. Water levels can rise as much as four feet in a single hour. These fluctuating flows and high flow levels can pose serious threats to all river users. The User Safety Subcommittee addressed these issues.

The User Safety Subcommittee involved the advisement and expertise of frequent river users and persons involved with river rescue. The subcommittee was chaired by David Rhoten and was composed of six members including representatives from Palmetto Paddlers, both the City of Columbia and West Columbia Fire Departments, the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, and Trout Unlimited.

The subcommittee developed a mission statement and work plan which concentrated on providing an adequate number of alternative means of exiting the river during times of rising water, timely advisories and/or warnings of impending water rise, and educating the public (focusing on frequent user groups) of the dangers of fluctuating water level on the lower Saluda River below Lake Murray dam. The subcommittee identified that the only existing safety regulations for state waters are that boaters carry personal flotation devices and that there be no negligent use (endangering life, limb or property).

Three subcommittee meetings were held between January and April, 1989, during which time the subcommittee drafted its final set of recommendations. The subcommittee's recommendations were presented to the Lower Saluda River Task Force on July 19, 1989. Four of the twelve final subcommittee recommendations were selected for immediate action by the Implementation Committee (denoted by \*).

## *Recommendations*

### **1. Improve access for rescue purposes.**

Present access sites are inadequate for rescue purposes. Sites are needed in the areas around the hazardous rapids on the river. This recommendation

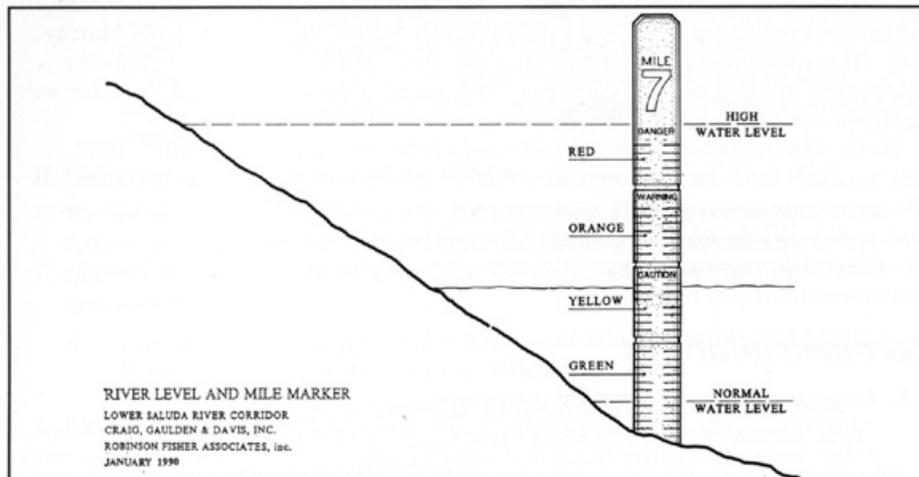
calls for developing future sites for rescue purposes and restricting the use of these sites to rescue or law enforcement personnel only.

- 2. Develop/improve appropriate warning system. A color-graduated pole system should be installed at the rapids and shoals that shows various water levels (such as low water, medium flow, and hazard) for boaters and other users. These must be calibrated by elevation to site to function as an integrated system. River miles will be placed on the poles as location identifiers for rescue purposes. The present warning system should be maintained at Millrace, and possibly installed at other locations.**

Presently the only warning system on the river is the system at Millrace Rapids. This system, installed by SCE&G, consists of signs, sirens and a flashing light. It is activated by a sensor one mile upriver. The User Safety Subcommittee recommends adding a system of color-coded markers that would be used by river users throughout the river to note rising water levels.

- 3. River map signs should be installed at all authorized access points, indicating the hazardous rapids and shoals and listing the minimum safety equipment for negotiating rapids (such as personal flotation devices and helmets for deck boats). Sections should be defined on the map and captioned similar to "You will encounter Class III to Class IV rapids" at associated spots. Maps should show the universal "You are here" mark, and also carry the message "Laws and regulations will be enforced."**

**Figure 10. Diagram of Graduated Warning Marker**



- 4. User laws and regulations should be adopted and enforced, enabling rescue costs to be passed on to river users requiring rescue.**

Currently the heavy cost of river rescue is borne by the rescue authorities. This recommendation calls for these costs to be collected from those requiring rescue efforts. This would also help promote better safety on the river.

- 5. A training program should be offered in whitewater rescue to personnel involved in rescue operations.**

When power is generated at the Saluda Hydroelectric Plant, the lower Saluda can become a torrent of raging whitewater. Rescue of individuals on the river under these conditions calls for properly trained rescue personnel.

- 6. Coordinate with SCE&G to get periodic information on flow releases. A phone number should be available to acquire water flow information in cubic feet per second.**

A system of this sort presently exists on the Edisto River where water temperature and river level in relation to flood stage are relayed over the phone through an electronic gage system. Instantaneous flow data could be more available for the lower Saluda River to provide information on present river level. The difficulty is in providing information on river levels generated by the operation schedule of a peaking hydro facility which produces fluctuating flows.

- 7. A boardwalk to portage Millrace is necessary to get around this most hazardous rapid.**

Presently the rapids at Millrace are much too hazardous to negotiate for a majority of boaters, and they are difficult to portage.

- 8. Remove rebar at rapids.**

Iron rebar spikes protrude underwater from the ruins of an old dam at Millrace rapids. These rods are treacherous to boaters, swimmers and waders.

- 9. Control access. Parking at the zoo is to be for zoo visitors only.**

- \*10. Standardize place names for rescue coordination.**

Emergency coordination should be established to facilitate rescue operations, with emergency teams familiar with commonly used place names.

- \*11. Create river map for distribution, illustrating hazardous rapids and shoals.**

Suggested map format is illustrated in publications by William Nealy.

- \*12. Public education materials relating to user safety should be developed.**



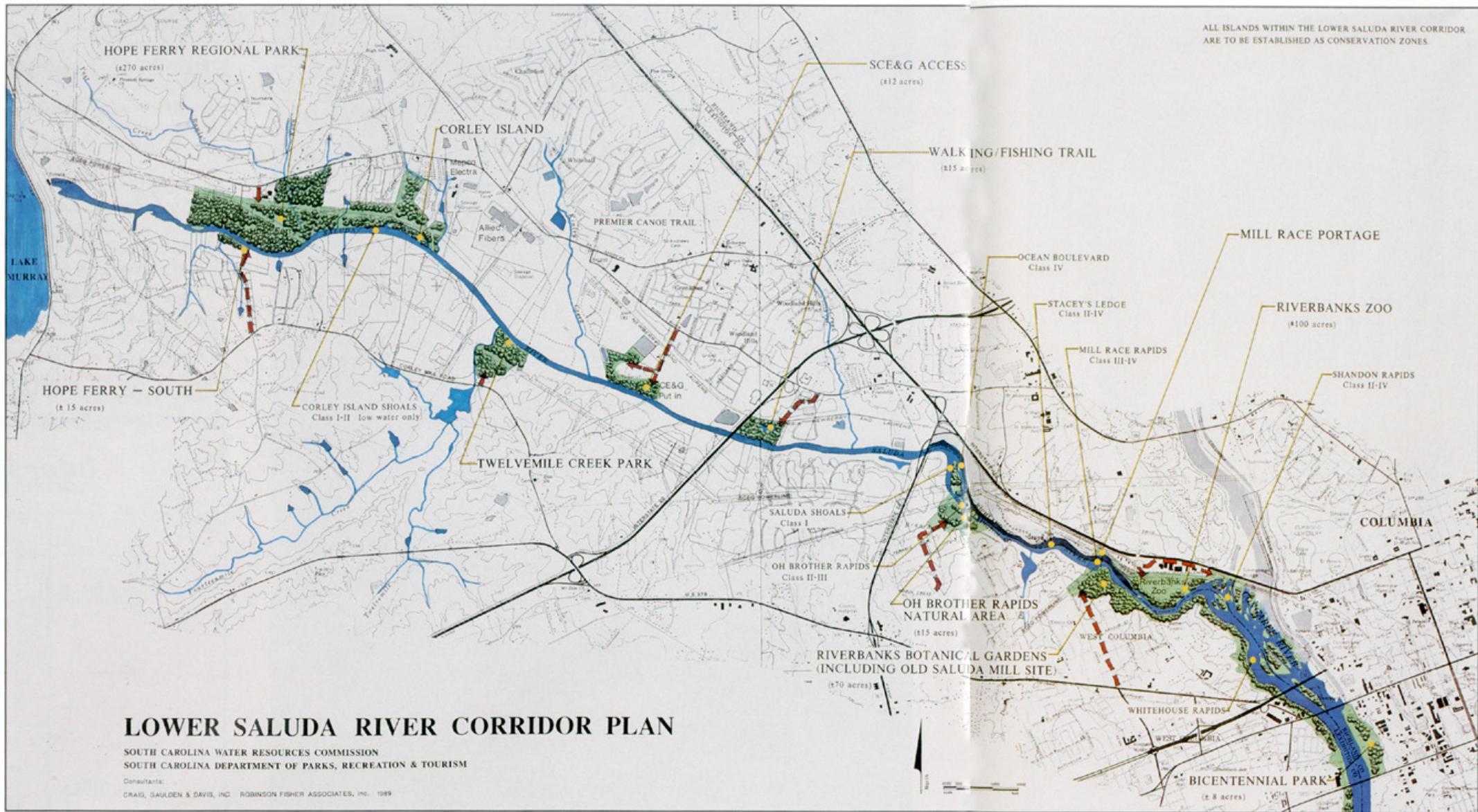
## **Part B - The Conceptual Plans**

***Fig. 11. Lower Saluda River Corridor Plan***

***Fig. 12. Conceptual Park Opportunity Analysis - Twelvemile Creek***

***Fig. 13. Conceptual Park Opportunity Analysis - Interstate 20***

Figure 11. • Lower Saluda River Corridor Plan



## LOWER SALUDA RIVER CORRIDOR PLAN

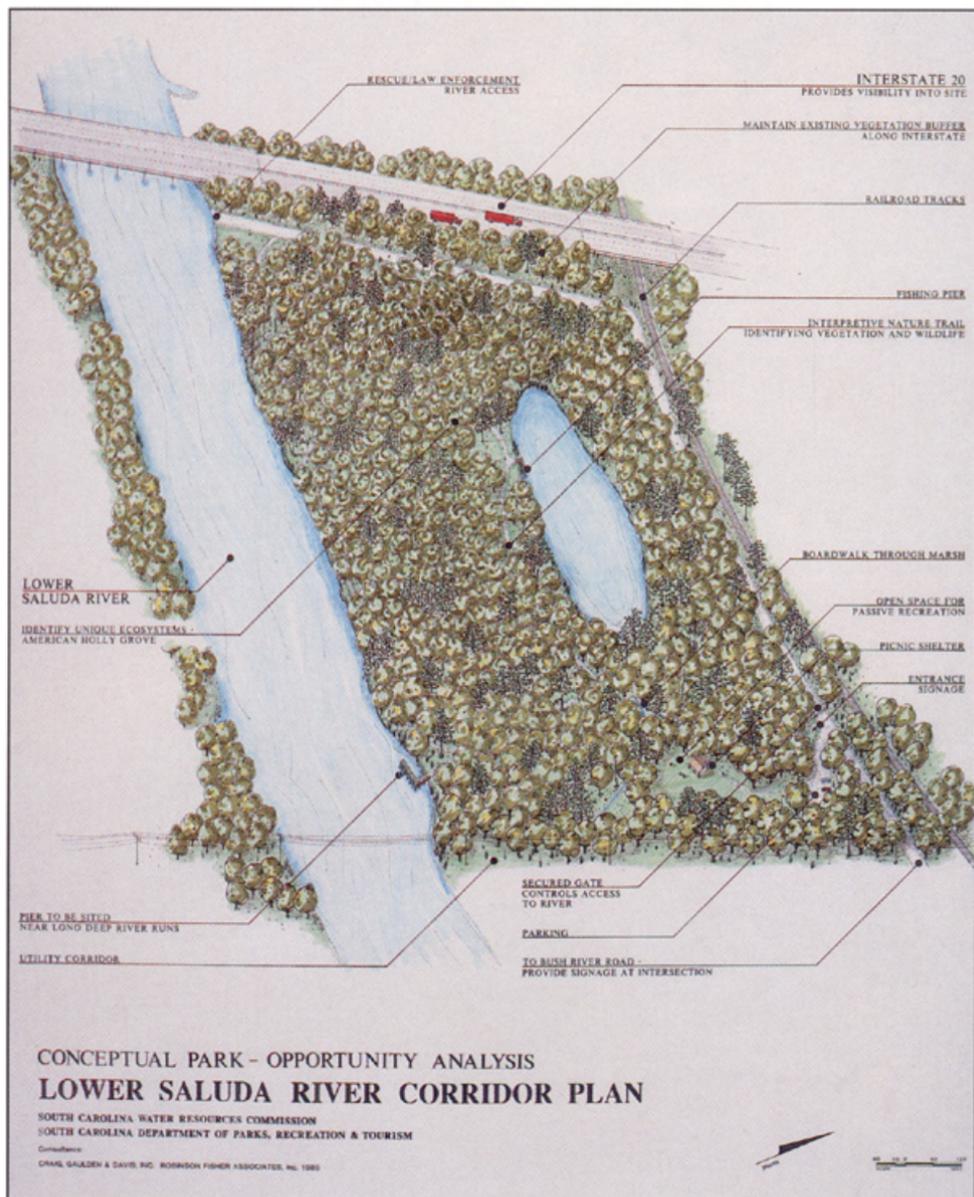
SOUTH CAROLINA WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION  
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

Consultants:  
CRAIG, SAULDEN & DAVIS, INC. ROBINSON FISHER ASSOCIATES, INC. 1989

**Figure 12. • Conceptual Park Opportunity Analysis — Twelvemile Creek**



Figure 13. • Conceptual Park Opportunity Analysis — Interstate 20





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# Implementation

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The Lower Saluda River Task Force arrived at over 70 different recommendations from seven different subcommittees which are incorporated into Part A of the Lower Saluda River Corridor Plan. As a part of this plan, the subcommittee recommendations provide a good foundation for pragmatic local initiatives in management strategies for the lower Saluda River. However, logistically every recommendation could not be handled at once. To begin an effective implementation process for the Task Force recommendations, it was necessary to establish an implementation committee to prioritize the list of recommendations and determine which actions were most appropriate for immediate application in the river corridor.

The Implementation Committee is comprised of ten individuals involved in the lower Saluda Corridor Plan development that are committed to implementing the task force recommendations. The committee first met on November 2, 1989. A problem-solving approach was adopted by the Implementation Committee which shaped decisions about which recommendations became priorities. Basically the Implementation Committee felt it most important to focus on recommendations which are directed toward solving the problems in the river corridor.

The first step was to evaluate the numerous subcommittee recommendations and categorize them by the type of implementation effort required for each recommendation. Four categories were selected: political/legal, financial/negotiations, resource conservation/research, and social/educational.

The Implementation Committee then categorized the recommendations by ease or complexity of implementation. Next, the committee prioritized the recommendations based upon benefit to the community and likelihood of success. This included consideration for which recommendations could be implemented "now" (within the next six months) or "in the future" (initiated now but will require long-term research or application).

Thirty recommendations were identified for immediate implementation. These are denoted with an asterisk (\*) in the preceding chapter. The remaining recommendations will be reserved for future consideration. Recommendations that were not selected for immediate implementation are not considered any less important to the lower Saluda River and, hopefully, will soon be acted upon by the Task Force members or other interested individuals. Interest groups of people have been assembled to begin action on this "short list" of thirty recommendations.

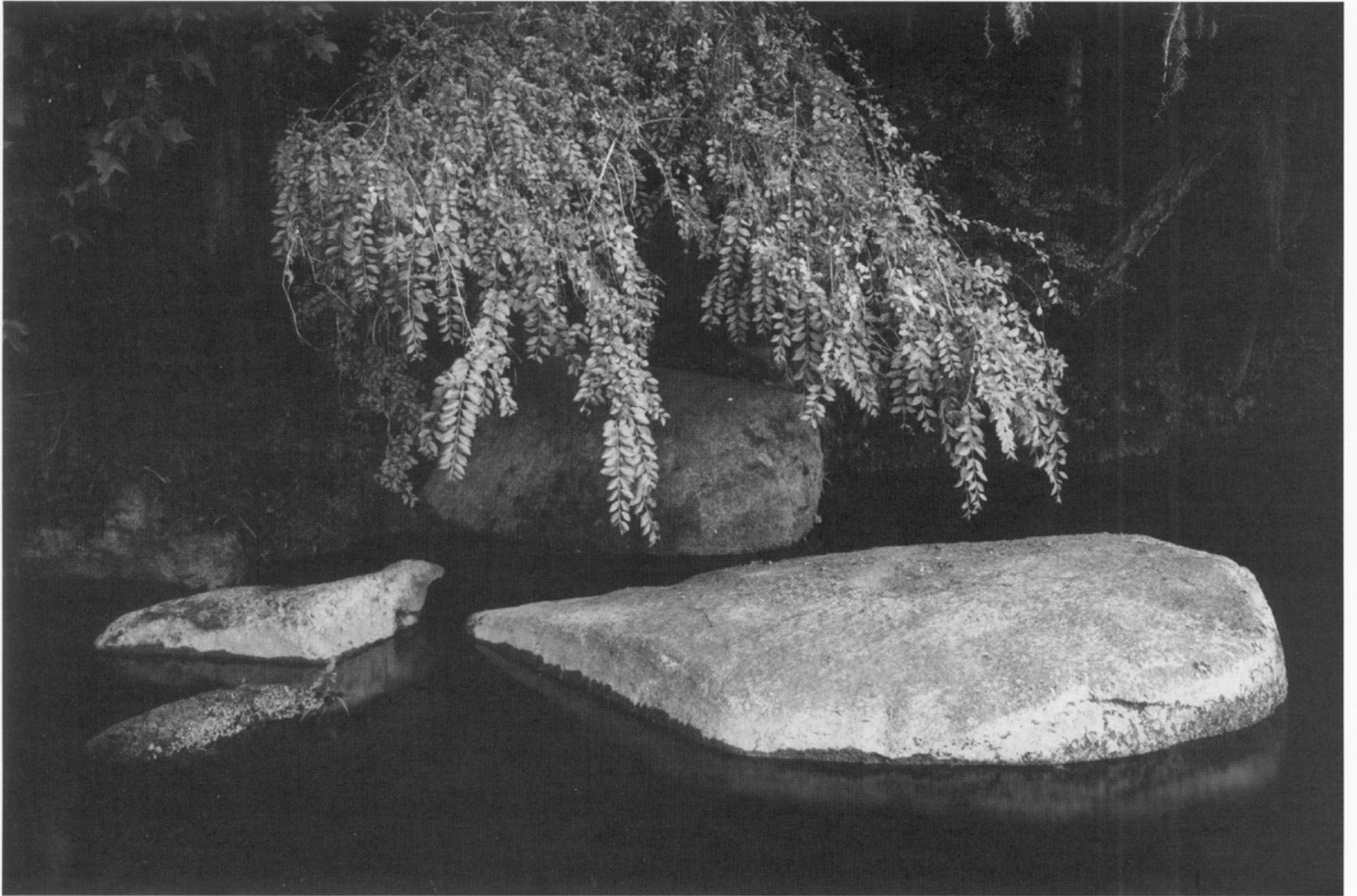
Action strategies continue to be developed for implementing task force recommendations. Involving as many interests as possible is important to ensure that many people have a stake in the outcome. The strategies embraced

throughout the Lower Saluda River Corridor Plan process and adopted by the seven subcommittees are designed for the overall improvement of the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the lower Saluda River. The plan sets in motion the potential for guided renewal and growth that will enhance the character of the region, and seeks to establish the corridor as a multiple-use amenity that serves the community and the environment.

In implementing the Lower Saluda Corridor Plan it will be imperative to work openly and cooperatively with landowners in the corridor and local government officials. Task Force and Implementation Committee members are aware that residential property owners in the corridor were drawn to the river by its beauty and tranquility. An emphasis throughout the corridor planning process has been landowner rights. Neither the South Carolina Water Resources Commission nor the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism has the power of eminent domain. Furthermore, the Task Force encourages local governments to refrain from using condemnation process for land acquisition in the river corridor.

Like numerous urban rivers, the lower Saluda River continues to feel the pressures of growth. As this study illustrates, the Saluda River possesses unique natural, cultural and recreational attributes. The recommendations contained in this corridor plan offer ways in which the important values of the river can be protected. However, the plan also offers ideas on how to continue residential growth in the corridor, but with limited impacts on the river.

The lower Saluda River Corridor Plan is a citizen-based planning effort. It is a plan offered to the community by a variety of river-related interests. The goal of the Task Force is that the corridor plan provide guidance concerning the future use and management of the lower Saluda River corridor.



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