



Everything from Table Rock and Jones Gap to Greenville and its suburbs to Lake Greenwood. Every square inch of land. Every drop of rain. It's all our watershed.



From the Blue Wall to Lake Greenwood, the Saluda-Reedy Watershed is our home.

Clean, healthy, and abundant water for a sustainable environment and economy throughout the Saluda-Reedy Watershed. This brochure was funded by a grant from Fuji Photo Film Inc.



The Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium
PO Box 2308, Greenville, SC 29602
www.saludareedy.org



“To touch a river is to touch all that has come before... and all that is to come after.”

Leonardo da Vinci



The Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium



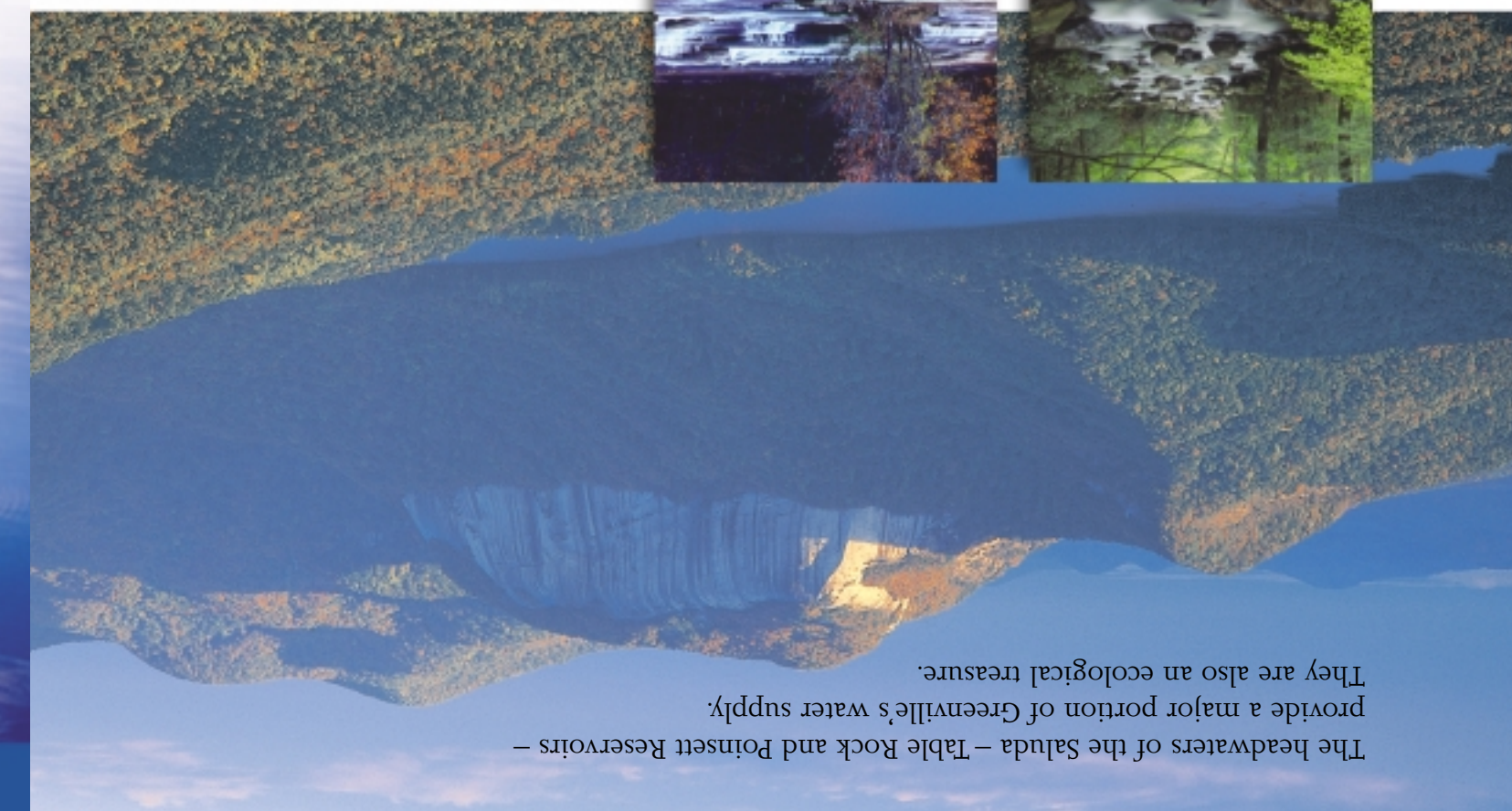
Lake Greenwood – the bottom of the watershed – is a major recreational resource as well as an important source of drinking water.

The floodplain of the upper Saluda has some of the best farmland in the region.

The falls of the Reedy are one of the nation's few urban waterfalls.

ties us all together.

The Saluda and Reedy rivers offer recreational opportunities for hikers, anglers, and boaters alike.



The headwaters of the Saluda – Table Rock and Poinsett Reservoirs – provide a major portion of Greenville's water supply. They are also an ecological treasure.

What is a watershed?



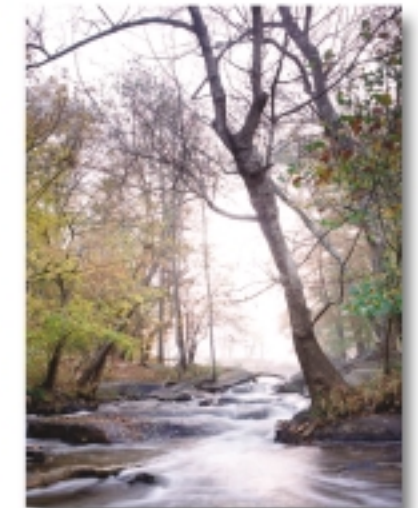
- The place where drinking water comes from
- The place where treated wastewater goes
- The land around a lake or stream

In short, a watershed is all the land and water that drains to a particular point downstream. It's more than just a stream, or a reservoir, or a river. It's the entire landscape that feeds them.



Community leaders across the Upstate now understand that rapid development has put our rivers and lakes at risk. They also increasingly recognize that if we are to continue to enjoy the benefits of a healthy watershed, we must face several major challenges. Most prominent among them are:

1. Supplying all residents of the watershed with clean, healthy water.
Greenville has an abundant, well-protected water supply of extraordinary quality. But Greenwood's water supply originates with the rivers and streams that flow directly through the Greenville metropolitan area. Our foremost challenge is to ensure that Greenville's growth doesn't come at Greenwood's expense, and that all watershed residents have access to high-quality water at a reasonable cost.



Top Ten Solutions for protecting our lakes and streams:

What Individuals Can Do

- 1. Keep Stormwater Clean** – Storm drains don't go to a treatment plant – they discharge directly to the closest stream. Keep motor oil, pesticides and other toxic substances out of storm drains.
- 2. Minimize What You Fertilize** – A “less is more” approach to fertilizers keeps nutrients out of our streams – and builds a healthier lawn. Use only as much fertilizer as a soil test indicates you need.
- 3. Scoop the Poop** – Pet waste left out in yards washes away when it rains, and is a major contributor to bacteria problems in local streams. Protect our streams by properly disposing of pet waste.
- 4. Let It Grow** – Lakes and streams need natural vegetation along their banks to prevent erosion and protect fish habitat. Help streams stay clean and cool by letting vegetation grow.
- 5. Hold Back the Flood** – Impervious surfaces – pavement, roofs, and the like – all cause rain to run off rapidly, making floods more severe. Minimize runoff by creating a rain garden, capturing runoff in a rain-barrel or cistern, or using pervious pavers.



What Communities Can Do

- 6. Keep Dirt in Its Place** – Runoff from construction sites is a major contributor to sedimentation problems in streams. Strong regulatory programs, contractor education, and community awareness work to minimize erosion and sediment impacts.
- 7. Let Floodplains Be Floodplains** – Development in floodplains increases the risks as well as the impacts of floods by putting homes and businesses in harm's way. Communities can avoid these problems – and protect stream health – by prohibiting development in floodplains.
- 8. Turn Waterways into Greenways** – Often, the best way to protect stream corridors is to turn them into public open space. By acquiring land along major waterways, communities can turn community liabilities into public assets in the form of parks and greenways.
- 9. Make Every Drop Count** – Water conservation is everyone's job, but communities can take the lead. Reduced irrigation, installation of water conserving fixtures in public facilities, financial incentives for conservation, and citizen education can have a real impact on water use.
- 10. Safeguard Against Risks** – Every community has numerous businesses and activities that involve potentially dangerous chemicals, fuels, and wastes. Communities must take responsibility for safeguarding water resources by inventorying these sites, planning for their proper management, and having plans to deal with spills and releases.

Our watershed faces challenges.

The Saluda-Reedy Watershed...

The Saluda-Reedy Watershed is – quite simply – the entire land area that drains to Lake Greenwood. It encompasses nearly 1200 square miles, is over 80 miles long, and includes nearly 1500 miles of streams. Though its boundaries are subtle and pass unnoticed by most of its residents, what happens within our watershed has a real impact on our rivers – and on our quality of life.

Most of the drinking water that watershed residents consume comes from the rivers and streams of the Saluda-Reedy watershed. These same rivers and streams receive stormwater and treated sewage from thousands of streets and homes. And much of the growth in the watershed is fueled by a desire to live along the shores of these same rivers and lakes.

From the falls of the Reedy in downtown Greenville to Lake Greenwood's tranquil shores, the rivers and lakes of our watershed are central to what makes the Upstate such a special place. They also are a critical element of the natural infrastructure that keeps our economy strong. Future growth depends on protecting water quality – not just in the rivers themselves, but across the watershed as a whole.



2. Restoring streams damaged by poor land use.
The Piedmont is home to many rivers and streams of exceptional beauty. But development in flood plains, stream channelization, and removal of natural vegetation are doing serious damage to a growing number of Upstate waterways. Another major challenge, then, is to restore degraded streams and recover the many benefits that healthy streams offer to our communities.



3. Mitigating the impacts of development on water quality.
The Upstate's urban neighborhoods, shopping centers, and industrial facilities are the backbone of our economy. They are also major sources of water pollution, from stormwater runoff to effluent from sewage treatment plants. A final key challenge is to manage these wastes in ways that minimize their impacts on water quality and stream health.



Brochure photographs by:
Tom Blagden
Ben Keys
Bill Robertson
Sandy Andrews
Dave Hargett
Don Koonce
S.C. Dept. of Parks Recreation & Tourism
Piedmont Historical Society
Historic Greenville Foundation
Tony Smith

Want More Info?
Visit our website at www.saludareedy.org
Brought to you by the Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium

