



What is 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. It includes parts of fifteen municipalities and seven counties. 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 lakes – 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 hundreds of 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 clear, cold streams of the Mountain Bridge wilderness to 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 every acre of the watershed as a whole.

What kind of shape is the Saluda-Reedy watershed in?

As in every other economically vibrant region in the nation, economic growth in the Saluda-Reedy watershed has often come at the expense of the region's rivers and lakes. Particularly in the Reedy River basin – whose headwaters drain most of the city of Greenville – the impacts of two centuries of hard use are everywhere to be seen. While both the Reedy and the Saluda have recovered significantly in the three decades since the passage of the Clean Water Act, the rapid pace of development in the watershed threatens to undo all our gains.

But as threats to the rivers have grown, community leaders have increasingly recognized the importance of abundant, healthy water to continued growth and to our quality of life. They recognize that we face a number of challenges over the next few decades, all of which must be met if we are to continue to enjoy the benefits that a healthy watershed brings.

Foremost among these is the challenge of supplying all watershed residents – not just those whose water supplies are protected – with clean, healthy water at a reasonable cost. This will demand a true watershed perspective, based on the recognition that the quality of the water downstream is determined by actions upstream. Within the context of this fundamental challenge, we are called on to do two things: restore rivers and lakes that have been damaged in one way or another by past development practices, and protect those same waterbodies from the impacts of ongoing development.



SALUDA-REEDY WATERSHED CONSORTIUM

What is the Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium?

The Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium is a collaborative effort by organizations and individuals concerned about the impacts of changing land use on the purity and abundance of water in the Saluda-Reedy basin. The Consortium includes a wide variety of partners from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Its work has earned the support of a growing list of community leaders in government, business, and academia.

Our work is motivated by the knowledge that, as our region grows, the transition from rural to urban land use has the potential to do lasting damage to our rivers and lakes – unless we develop with care. As organizations and individuals with a longstanding commitment to our rivers and lakes, we are also deeply aware of the impacts of past land use on the watershed. While we know that the watershed will always show the signs of human use, we believe that economic growth and high-quality water resources are not only compatible – they are inextricably linked.

This vision is not ours alone. It is shared by a number of foundations, corporations, and governments throughout the watershed. Our funding sources reflect this diversity of interest. The V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation, a charitable foundation that supports causes in Greenwood and throughout South Carolina, is our principal sponsor. Fuji Photo Film Inc., whose principal U.S. manufacturing facility is in Greenwood, is also a major supporter. A variety of local governments throughout the watershed have also indicated their interest in cooperative efforts. This is a project with roots in the watershed itself.

What are the Consortium's goals?

The consortium has three basic goals, with two to three strategies under each. Together, these goals describe the impact we want to have on management of the watershed.

GOAL ONE:

Promote increased knowledge and changed perceptions about the watershed and its value

- Water quality and quantity analysis
- Growth modeling and economic valuation
- Watershed identity development and public outreach

GOAL TWO:

Improve water quality policies and land development regulations throughout the watershed

- Assessment of water quality policies, regulations, and practices
- Consensus-building for improved land development regulations

GOAL THREE:

Build local capacity for engaging in integrated watershed conservation and management

- Watershed leadership development
- Grassroots partner capacity building



SALUDA-REEDY WATERSHED CONSORTIUM

What can the Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium offer the media?

One key element of the consortium's mission is to create an identity for the watershed and cultivate a sense of concern for its future. We want the public at large to understand three things: that watershed health and economic well-being are inextricably linked, that current development practices threaten both, and that simple and effective strategies exist for mitigating these threats.

We can't convey these messages effectively without your help. People rely on the newspapers and television and radio stations of our region to keep them in touch with local events and issues of concern. When it comes to the watershed and its future, your reporting is the key to raising public awareness.

Our role is to provide you with easy access to the leads, photos, contacts, and background information you need to write good stories. Here is what we have to offer.

- A **web-based press room** at www.saludareedy.org/press/press.html. Here you'll find maps of the watershed, copies of all our press releases, downloadable photos, background information on a variety of issues, and contacts for anything and everything related to watershed conservation. Visit often to check for new updates!
- **Regular press releases** with great story opportunities. Every time we have something interesting to share – a new report on the causes of algae problems, the release of an innovative land use change model – you'll be the first to know. We will send out press releases electronically, and every one will contain links to more information and photos that are free for your use.
- **Specific ideas for great stories.** Looking for a lead on a feature story that will get some attention? We've got plenty of ideas, and would love to give you the contacts and background you need. Check out our website at www.saludareedy.org/press/press.html, or give us a call at **864-250-0500**.
- **Answers to your watershed questions.** Anything. Any hour. Give a call at **864-250-0500**, or drop an e-mail at srwc@upstateforever.org. If we don't know the answer, we'll do our best to find someone who does.



Who supports the Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium?

Below is a list of people and organizations that have lent their support to the Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium as of September 2004, either as members of the Advisory Council or as project partners. Though we continue to add new members, these lists give an indication of the diversity of support for this effort.

MEMBERS OF ADVISORY COUNCIL

Billy Abercrombie, *Retired*, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Daniel Ball, *President*, Lander University
Eric Beddingfield, *Member*, Greenville County Council
Jim Coleman, *Member*, Laurens County Council
Dee Compton, *Member*, Greenwood County Council
Joe Dill, *Member*, Greenville County Council
Patricia Hartung, *Executive Director*, Upper Savannah Council of Governments
Joe Kernell, *Administrator*, Greenville County
Ben Geer Keys, *President*, Keys Printing Company
Jim Kier, *County Manager*, Greenwood County
Ben Lawrence, *President*, The Lawrence Company
Jim London, *Member*, Pickens County Council
Harold McClintock, *President*, Certified Security Systems, Inc.
Mike Monahan, *Chair*, Greenwood Commission of Public Works
The Honorable Floyd Nicholson, *Mayor*, City of Greenwood
Ray Orvin, *Executive Director*, Western Carolina Regional Sewage Authority
Alan Ours, *Administrator*, Pickens County
The Honorable Michael A. Pitts, *Member*, South Carolina House of Representatives
Joey Preston, *Administrator*, Anderson County
Jeff Randolph, *Principal*, The Randolph Group
The Honorable George D. Rush III, *Mayor*, Town of Ware Shoals
Ernest Segars, *Administrator*, Laurens County
Lynn Stovall, *Director*, Greenville Water System
Bob Strother, *Executive Director*, Appalachian Council of Governments
The Honorable Knox White, *Mayor*, City of Greenville

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Upstate Forever

PROJECT PARTNERS

Clemson Environmental Institute
Conestee Foundation
Friends of Lake Greenwood and Rivers
Friends of the Reedy River
Furman University
Jim Self Center on the Future, Clemson University
Lander University
Pinnacle Consulting Group
Pride in Piedmont
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism
South Carolina Water Resources Center
Upper Savannah Land Trust