

Richland County Trails

FROM CYPRESS KNEES AND MOSS-DRAPE TREES to mountain laurel and rock strewn creeks, Richland County has an abundance of wonderfully diverse natural places awaiting exploration. This map will help you find ancient sand dunes, towering pines, the hoot of a barred owl or a quiet place to converse with nature.

Although technically not a swamp, Congaree National Park floods often enough to look and feel like a swamp with all the beauty and mystery that word evokes. Champion size trees and abundant wildlife life beckon the Sunday afternoon strollers and the serious hikers.



Photo courtesy of Les Thyou



EVERYONE LOVES THE WATER. Whether it's the Broad and Congaree Rivers or the lake at Sesqui, the fountain at Finlay, creeks at Harbison and Belser, or the pond at Hampton Park, water encourages a slower pace and time for reflection.



Photo courtesy of Pat DeCourney

WISH YOU COULD WALK OUT YOUR BACK DOOR and be on a trail? Check out Harbison Community with over 13 miles of pathway running through neighborhoods with playgrounds scattered throughout.

Maybe you'd like to learn about the plants and ecosystems of the Midlands. Belser Arboretum is a sanctuary for 10 biomes or communities of plants and animals. The Conservation Station at Sandhill Research and Education Center provides an outdoor classroom focused on our natural resources while Harbison Environmental Education Center concentrates on forest ecosystems.



Photo courtesy of Karen Kuszak



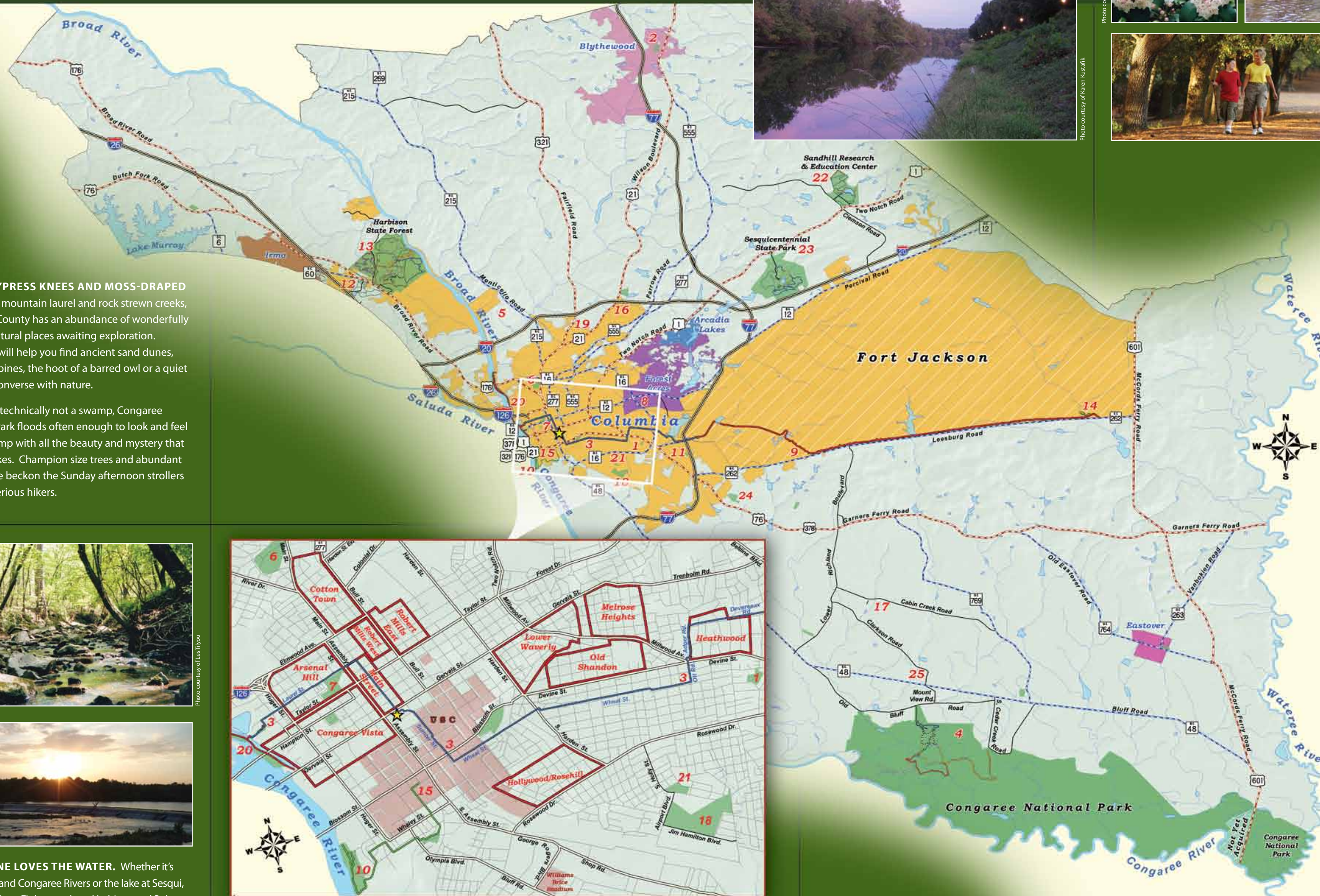
Photo courtesy of Les Thyou



Photo courtesy of Congaree National Park



Photo courtesy of SC RPT



EVER WONDERED ABOUT THE ARCHITECTURAL GEMS in Columbia or what famous person lived in that house? Historic Columbia has the answer with self-guided walking tours of 11 downtown neighborhoods.

If you're looking for exercise, you'll find plenty of company at Riverfront Park on the running and walking paths from downtown to the diversion dam. The new rubberized trail at Ridgewood Park weaves among 4 exercise stations. Dog walkers and pluggers in joggers are plentiful at Rosewood and Earlewood Parks.

THE DIVERSITY OF TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES is as varied as the county. Surprises abound like the new trails at Denny Terrace and Wateree Retreat Center. Richland County Conservation Commission invites you to explore the county and discover a new favorite place. All you have to do is lace up your walking shoes.



Photo courtesy of Richland County Recreation Commission



- 1. Belser Arboretum** .6 mi.
Entrances on Wilmot Ave. and Bloomwood Rd., Columbia
Open third Sunday each month, 1-4 pm
(803) 777-4141
www.zebra.biol.sc.edu/arboretum
 - 2. Town of Blythewood** (under construction)
171 Langford Rd., Blythewood
(803) 754-0501
 - 3. Capital City Passage, Palmetto Trail** 7.5 mi.
www.palmettotrail.org
(803) 771-0870
 - 4. Congaree National Park** (see back)
100 National Park Rd., Hopkins
(803) 776-4396
 - 5. Denny Terrace Park** .25 mi. partially rubberized
6429 Bishop Ave., Columbia
(803) 754-6720
 - 6. Earlewood Park** .8 mi. gravel
NOMA Nature Trail
1111 Parkside Dr., Columbia
(803) 545-3100
 - 7. Finlay Park** .3 mi. paved
930 Laurel St., Columbia
(803) 545-3100
 - 8. Forest Acres** (under construction, open 2011)
Behind Publix at Trenholm Plaza
4840 Forest Dr., Forest Acres
(803) 782-9475
 - 9. Fort Jackson Passage, Palmetto Trail** (see back)
www.palmettotrail.org
(803) 771-0870
 - 10. Granby Park** .5 mi.
1 Catawba Circle, Columbia
345-3100
 - 11. Hampton Memorial Park** .3 mi. paved
1117 Brandon Ave.
(803) 545-3100
 - 12. Harbison Community Trails** (see back)
106 Hillpine Rd., Columbia
(803) 781-2281
 - 13. Harbison State Forest** (see back)
5600 Broad River Rd., Columbia
(803) 896-8890
 - 14. McCrady Nature Trail** 1.2 mi.
SC Army National Guard Environmental Resource Center
5411 Leesburg Rd., Eastover
(803) 806-2237
(access from east end of Palmetto Trail)
 - 15. Mill Villages Riverlink** 1.5 mi. paved
Includes Olympia Park
1050 Olympia Rd.
(803) 754-6720 ext. 200
www.riveralliance.info
 - 16. Monteith Outdoor Classroom** (complete March 2011)
6808 N. Main St., Columbia
(803) 691-1168
 - 17. Neal Ecological Center** .4 mi.
(upon request)
6640 Cabin Creek Rd., Hopkins
(803) 576-2084
 - 18. Owens Field Park** .6 mi.
1351 Jim Hamilton Blvd., Columbia
(803) 545-3100
 - 19. Ridgewood Park** .25 mi. rubberized
805 Crest St., Columbia
(803) 754-6720 ext. 200
 - 20. Riverfront Park** (see back)
312 Laurel St., Columbia
(803) 545-3100
 - 21. Rosewood Park** .25 paved
901 S. Holly St., Columbia
(803) 545-3100
 - 22. Sandhill Research and Education Center** (see back)
900 Clemson Rd., Columbia
(803) 788-5700
 - 23. Sesqui Centennial State Park** (see back)
9564 Two Notch Rd., Columbia
(803) 788-2706
 - 24. Southeast Park** 1 mi.
951 Hazelwood Rd.
(803) 545-3100
 - 25. Wateree Retreat Center** 1.5 mi.
2350 Clarkson Rd., Hopkins
(803) 447-1291
- Historic Columbia Walking Tours** (see inset and back)
(803) 252-1770



Harbison State Forest

5600 Broad River Road (803) 896-8890

Only nine miles from downtown Columbia, Harbison State Forest is managed primarily for natural resource education and recreational greenspace. Various forestry practices are demonstrated throughout the 2177 acres and 4 outdoor classrooms encircle the Environmental Education Center. With so many trails, Harbison is a favorite with mountain bikers, hikers, and trail runners.



Photo courtesy of Les Tilyou

- Trails: 25 miles on 11 trails; range is easy to difficult
- Fees: \$5 daily parking pass; \$25 annual pass; pay at fee boxes at each parking area
- Gate open 9 – 4:30; June, July, Aug. weekends 9 – 6:30; front parking area open dawn to dusk
- Canoe landing on the Broad River; float plan must be filed
- Amenities: picnic tables, restrooms, rental facilities, interpretive signs

<http://www.state.sc.us/forest/refharb.htm>
<http://www.friendsofshf.org>



Sesquicentennial State Park

9564 Two Notch Road (803) 788-5700

Sesquicentennial State Park was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and given to the city of Columbia to celebrate its 150th (sesquicentennial) birthday. Located in the middle of the Sandhills region, the 1419-acre park is surrounded by suburbs, providing welcome green space and a beautiful 30-acre lake for its many neighbors.



Photo courtesy of Congaree National Park

- Trails: 5.9 miles hiking on 3 trails; 5 miles mountain biking

- Entrance Fee: \$2 adults; \$1.25 SC seniors; age 15 & younger free
- Open 8am – 6pm, 7am – 9pm during Daylight Saving Time
- Amenities: picnic tables, restrooms, campground, dog park (permit required), mid 1700s restored log cabin, interpretive nature programs, ropes course, rental facilities



Photo courtesy of SCSPRT

www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/469.aspx

For more information, contact:

Richland County Conservation Commission
 2020 Hampton Street, Room 3063A
 Columbia, SC 29201
 (803) 576-2084
www.richlandlegacy.com

City of Columbia Parks & Recreation
 1932 Calhoun Street
 Columbia, SC 29201
 (803) 545-3100
www.columbiasc.net/parksandrec

Richland County Recreation Commission
 5819 Shakespeare Road
 Columbia, SC 29223
 (803) 754-7275
www.richlandcountyrecreation.com

Palmetto Conservation Foundation
 722 King Street
 Columbia, SC 29205
 (803) 771-0870
www.palmettoconservation.org

River Alliance
 420C Rivermont Drive
 Columbia, SC 29210
 (803) 765-2200
www.riveralliance.info

Cover photo courtesy of Rhonda Grego

Produced by Palmetto Conservation Foundation for Richland County Conservation Commission
 Mapping by Steve Collum



Harbison Community

106 Hillpine Road (803) 781-2281

Columbia's first planned community, Harbison was designed with over 13 miles of paved pathways weaving through neighborhoods, natural areas and around two lakes.

- Trails: ~9 miles east of I-26, ~4 miles west
- Amenities: picnic tables, playgrounds
- Detailed map available at Harbison Recreation Center, 106 Hillpine Rd

<http://harbisoncommunity.com>



Photo courtesy of Harbison Community Association



Riverfront Park

312 Laurel Street (803) 545-3100

Columbia's favorite walking place is along the canal embankment on the Congaree and Broad Rivers. The park stretches from Gervais Street to the Broad River Diversion Dam and the locks of the Columbia Canal with a paved path for bikes and scooters, a soft trail for runners, and a beautiful shady walk along the river.

- Trails: 4.2 miles on 2 trails
- Open: 6am - 9pm
- Amenities: picnic tables, restrooms, interpretive signs, lighted paths, emergency call boxes
- Parking: North end – take gravel road off River Road at the Broad River Bridge; South end – Laurel Street behind AT&T building



www.columbiasc.net/parksandrec

www.riveralliance.info/riverwalkpark.htm



www.clemson.edu/public/rec/sandhill

Sandhill Research and Education Center

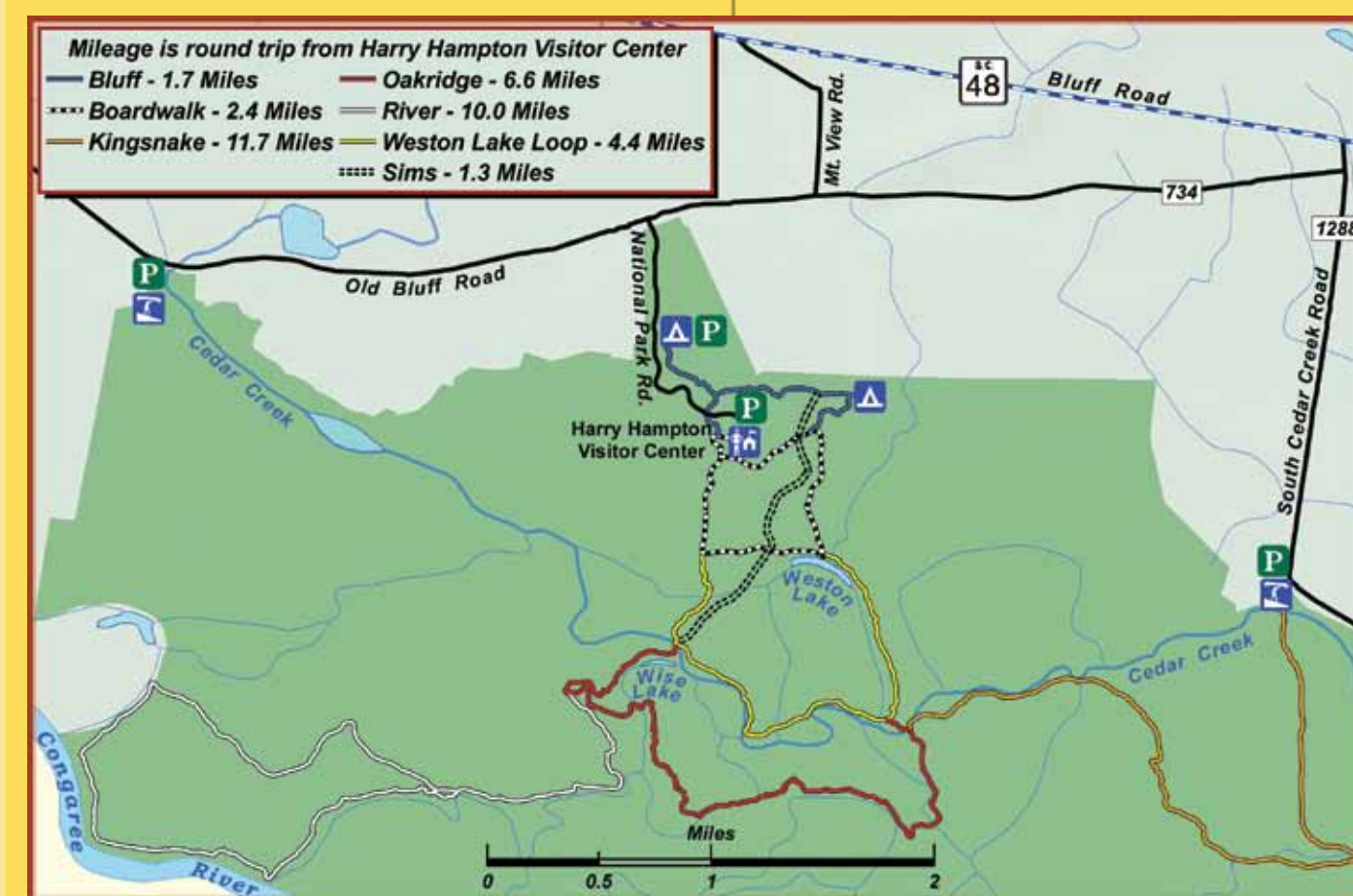
900 Clemson Road (803) 788-5700

Clemson University opened its Sandhill facility in 1926 to conduct agricultural research and provide extension services. Now the focus is on economic and community development, conservation, and sustainability. The 630-acre facility is home to several ecological systems that include longleaf pine and hardwood pocosin.



Photo courtesy of Jerry Bright

- Trails: 2.6 miles on 5 trails; extensive dirt road system that is open only to foot and bicycle traffic allows lengthy connections
- Open dawn to dusk
- Environmental Themed gardens: Children's Garden, Carolina fence garden, Butterfly garden, Backyard Wildlife Habitat
- Conservation Station
- Farmers Market: May-Oct, Tuesdays 2:30 – 7pm
- Amenities: picnic tables, 3 ponds, rental facilities, interpretive signs



Congaree National Park

100 National Park Rd., Hopkins (803) 776-4396

Congaree is South Carolina's only national park and protects the largest remnant of old-growth bottomland forest remaining in the United States. It is a dynamic floodplain ecosystem with incredible biodiversity, including state and national champion trees. Much of the park's 27,000 acres is congressionally designated wilderness and provides opportunities for solitude and backcountry recreation.

- Trails: 38 miles on 7 trails; 2.4 miles on ADA accessible boardwalk; dogs allowed on all trails except the boardwalk and must be on a leash; bicycles not allowed
- Harry Hampton Visitor Center open 8:30 – 5; until 7 pm Fri. – Sun. during daylight saving time; park open 24 hours/day, all year
- Primitive camping – must register for free backcountry permit
- Cedar Creek canoe trail; ranger guided canoe trips by reservation
- Amenities: ranger-led hikes; restrooms; fishing; picnicking



Photo courtesy of Congaree National Park



Photo courtesy of Congaree National Park

www.nps.gov/cong

Historic Walking Tours

Historic photos and forgotten facts come together in a series of beautiful brochures that provide fascinating architectural and cultural tours of 11 Columbia neighborhoods. Created by Historic Columbia Foundation, the brochures with fold-out maps may be picked up at the Foundation's office and at the Columbia Visitors Bureau. Some of the brochures will not be ready until late 2010.

- Main Street
- Congaree Vista
- Robert Mills East
- Robert Mills West
- Arsenal Hill
- Cottontown
- Lower Waverly
- Hollywood/Rose Hill
- Melrose Heights
- Old Shandon
- Heathwood

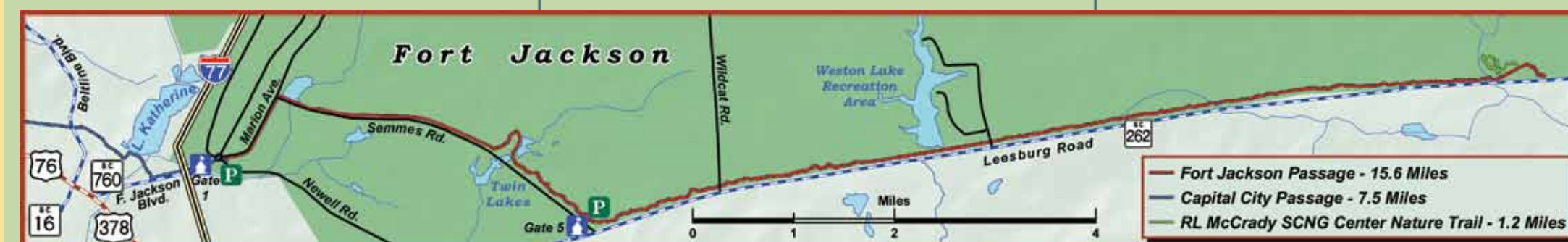


Historic Columbia Foundation
 1601 Richland Street
 (803) 252-7742
www.historiccolumbia.org

Columbia Visitors Bureau
 1101 Lincoln Street
 (803) 545-0000
www.columbiacvb.com



Photo courtesy of Historic Columbia Foundation



Fort Jackson Passage of the Palmetto Trail

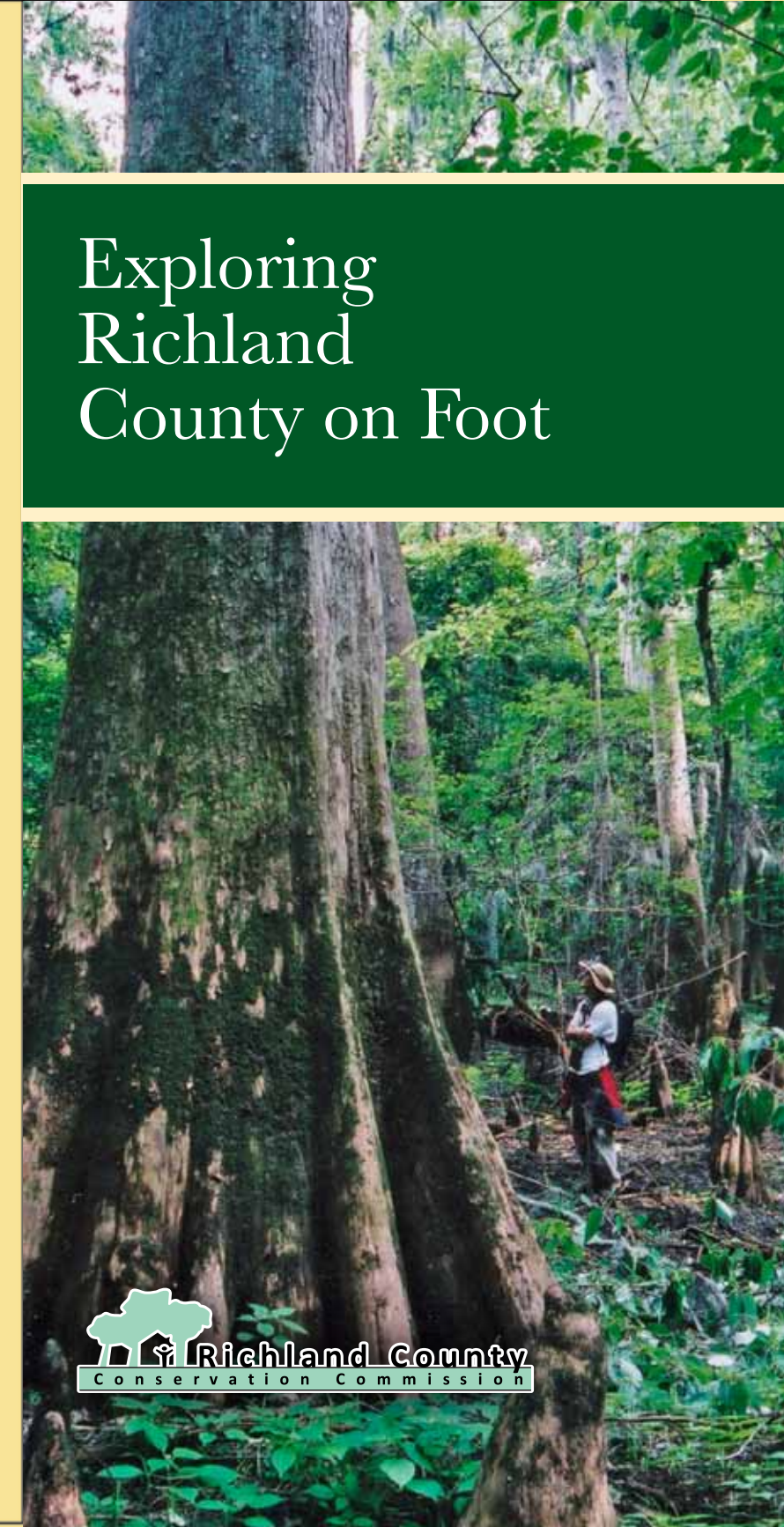
Fort Jackson, established in 1917 to train soldiers for World War I and named for Andrew Jackson, native son of the Palmetto State is the Army's largest basic training installation. The Palmetto Trail runs along the southern border of the 52,000-acre base, through sidewalks in the cantonment area and out/in Gate 1. Through pines, upland and bottomland

hardwoods, and red cockaded pecker habitat, the trail offers a shady path for hikers, mountain bikers, and trail runners.

Access: All trail users must have a government-issued ID (i.e. driver's license) with them. Driving access to the Fort is through Gate 2 on Forest Drive. Drivers must show car registration and proof of auto insurance. From Strom Thurmond Blvd. turn right onto Marion and follow that to the traffic circle near Gate 1 where there is a sign for Palmetto Trail parking. Walkers

and cyclists may enter all gates with ID. **Recommended access:** From Leesburg Road, turn onto Semmes Road, Gate 5. The trailhead is on the right before the gate. Trail users **MUST** notify the guards they will be on the trail. There is no designated parking at the east end of the trail.

Off road trail mileage: 12.5 miles (803) 771-0870 www.palmettotrail.org



Richland County
 Conservation Commission

