

SPARTANBURG AREA CONSERVANCY

# THE SPACE REPORT

Fall 2025



**keep spartanburg wild.**



# SPACE

SPARTANBURG AREA  
CONSERVANCY

100 E. Main St., Ste 7b, Spartanburg, SC 29306  
(864)948-0000 | [info@spartanburgconservation.org](mailto:info@spartanburgconservation.org)

## MISSION

*To promote, protect, and preserve natural resources and open spaces in the Spartanburg community.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Luke Allen - Chair  
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Lynn Rhodes - Lands Manager  
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# A Note from Luke Allen, SPACE Board President

Dear Friends-

Spartanburg is growing fast—new families, businesses, and opportunities are arriving every day. With this growth, it's more important than ever that we work together to protect the lands, rivers, and green spaces that make our community such a special place to call home. Conservation today ensures that future generations will inherit the same natural beauty and outdoor opportunities that we enjoy.

We're excited to share two important steps forward. First, we are thrilled to celebrate the successful opening of the Glendale Nature Park. Thanks to strong community support, the park has grown into a place where families gather, students learn, and neighbors connect with nature. It's a shining example of what's possible when we come together around conservation.

Second, SPACE is looking to add a new Conservation Director position to our team, but we'll need your support to make it happen. This new role will help us continue to partner with landowners, neighborhoods, and local leaders to protect more of the landscapes that matter most across Spartanburg County at this critical time in our community.

Thank you for being part of this work. Your care for Spartanburg's future helps us balance growth with conservation, ensuring that our shared home will remain vibrant and beautiful for generations to come.

Sincerely,

*Luke Allen*

*Board President, Spartanburg Area Conservancy - SPACE*



## Welcome our new board members! Jasmine Herbert



Jasmine is the CEO of HR Compliance Partners, where she helps small businesses build compliant and people-focused workplaces. She graduated from USC Upstate with a B.S. in Psychology and Business Administration and later earned her Masters in Human Resources. Jasmine and her husband, Cedric, live in Spartanburg, and in her spare time she enjoys traveling, reading, and exploring new local spots. She is excited to bring her passion for people and community to the SPACE Board.

## Chris Caggiano



Chris was born and raised in Spartanburg, SC, and serves as the Operations Field Manager at Parris Lawn Management. He and his wife, Sidney, have two children. In his spare time, Chris enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time outdoors with his family. He values hard work, teamwork, and supporting his community, and is honored to serve as a member of the SPACE Board.



*SPACE Board and staff members at the SC Conservation Partners Welcome Reception in Spartanburg on June 17, 2025.*





*Left to right: Sam Parrott, Raleigh West, Luke Allen, Ben Duncan, Manning Lynch, Sen. Harvey Peeler, Sen. Shane Martin, and Norman Pulliam cut the ribbon to officially open the new Glendale Nature Park!*

## The Glendale Nature Park is NOW OPEN!

On a beautiful, sunny afternoon in June, many of South Carolina's leading conservation advocates gathered in Spartanburg to celebrate the Grand Opening of the new Glendale Nature Park. This moment marked the culmination of years of collaboration, vision, and hard work—and the joy in the air was unmistakable.

The event brought together a wide range of partners from across the state, all of whom played a role in bringing this transformative project to life. Senators Harvey Peeler and Shane Martin, along

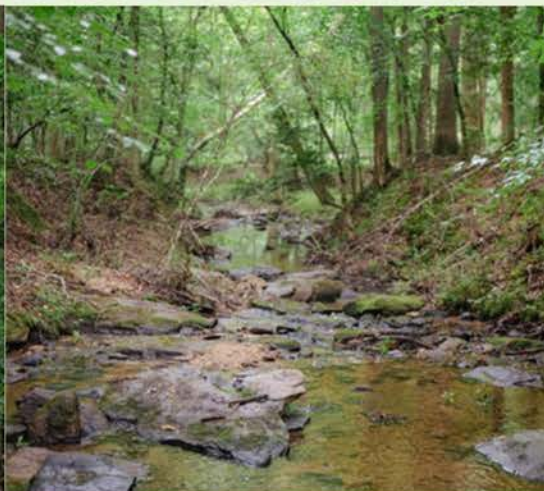
with Ben Duncan from the SC Office of Resilience and other local leaders, joined SPACE staff and board members to officially open the new trails with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting.

After the celebration, guests set off on a guided hike along the newly opened trails, experiencing firsthand the beauty and potential of this 945-acre park—a space that blends conservation, recreation, and history. The park is not only a haven for wildlife and outdoor enthusiasts, but also a symbol of what's possible when communities come together to protect and restore the land.

*A bridge on the new Box Turtle Trail at the Glendale Nature Park.*



*An unnamed tributary of Lawson's Fork Creek on the Box Turtle Trail.*



*A box turtle enjoying the new Box Turtle Trail!*





# Preserving the Past: Conservation at Glendale Mill

The historic Glendale Mill towers are more than just an interesting landmark—they are a symbol of Spartanburg's industrial heritage and a gateway to the region's natural beauty. Once a thriving textile hub, the mill played a vital role in shaping the Glendale community and the broader economic landscape of Spartanburg County for over 100 years.

Though much of the structure was lost to fire and time, the iconic stair towers still stand, weathered but proud—like sentinels watching over a landscape in transition. Where machines once roared and cotton spun from 45,000 spindles, nature has quietly reclaimed the space, transforming it into a haven for wildlife, wildflowers, and nature lovers. Nature trails wind through the forest beyond the towers, leading to the broader trail system in the new Glendale Nature Park.



*A 1920s era Ford Model T parks in front of the 1902 mill tower during the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Horseless Carriage Tour in July 2025.*

Today, the site is part of the Glendale Shoals Preserve, where nature and history intertwine. SPACE is committed to preserving these historic towers and is actively seeking grant funding to stabilize and protect them for future generations. This effort is part of a broader vision to honor the legacy of Glendale Mill, ensuring it remains a visible and meaningful part of the landscape while enhancing public access to the surrounding natural spaces. Thanks to a generous grant funded by the SC Department of Archives and History, SPACE collaborated with a team of historical preservation engineers to develop bid-ready plans to stabilize the stair tower structures. The next phase of the project will involve fundraising to support the construction work.

By conserving the mill property and preserving the towers, we're not only safeguarding a piece of Spartanburg's history—we're creating a place where the community can connect with both its roots and with nature. We look forward to sharing more updates as this historic preservation project progresses!

*Poplar leaf hinges and a shadow of the old staircase remain inside the 1902 tower.*

*Native wildflowers grow where the textile mill building once stood.*

*A creek-side swing stands next to remnants of the old mill complex.*







# Why I chose to protect Cedar Hill Farm

By King Mueller, SPACE Board Vice-President

When we first purchased Cedar Hill Farm along the Enoree River, I saw it as a peaceful retreat—a place to enjoy the outdoors and spend time with family and friends. I never imagined that years later, I'd be speaking passionately about conservation and land stewardship. But that's exactly what happened after I became involved with SPACE.

Joining the SPACE Board opened my eyes to the bigger picture. I began to understand how individual properties—like mine—play a critical role in protecting water quality, wildlife corridors, and the rural character of our region. I saw firsthand how conserved lands benefit the entire community.

That's when I decided to permanently protect my land with a conservation easement.

This wasn't just about protecting wildlife habitats or scenic views (though those are important). It was about legacy. I wanted future generations to experience the same peace, beauty, and connection to nature that my family and I have been fortunate to enjoy.

I believe that land stewardship is a responsibility, not just a privilege. By conserving this property, I'm joining a growing community of landowners, including a neighbor who conserved his property over a decade ago, who understand that protecting our natural spaces is one of the most meaningful things we can do.

Conservation has become more than a cause for me—it's a calling. I've come to see land not just as something we own, but something we care for. And I'm proud to be part of an Upstate community that values that responsibility.

If you're a landowner who loves your land, I encourage you to consider conservation. It's one of the most meaningful legacies you can leave behind.



*A bee savoring the delicious nectar of a passionflower.*



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# Pulling Together at the Upper Chinquapin Greenway

We're in our third year partnering with USC Upstate's Engage Green Program – a dynamic service-learning and community engagement initiative that connects student volunteers with local conservation efforts through SPACE. Designed to foster environmental stewardship and hands-on learning, the program allows students to actively participate in habitat restoration projects at the Upper Chinquapin Greenway. Volunteers work alongside SPACE staff to remove invasive plant species such as Chinese privet and eleagnus, helping to protect native ecosystems and improve the health of this vital greenspace. Through this experience, students gain a deeper understanding of conservation challenges while making a tangible impact on the natural spaces that shape our community. We're so thankful for their enthusiastic support!



*Engage Green students from USC Upstate pause for a group photo behind a giant pile of invasive plants they removed at the Upper Chinquapin Greenway.*



*USC Upstate Biology students flagging native plants.*



*It takes teamwork to pull a large privet tree!*



*The cold didn't stop volunteers on this year's MLK Day of Service!*



*Dr. Smoak and her family pulling together!*





On a bright, beautiful Saturday morning in April, we had the delight and honor of celebrating the coming of Spring and Earth Day with more than 500 nature lovers of all ages at our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Earth Day Festival. This free community event is quickly growing into one of our favorites!

We can't wait to see you all again next year! Save the date on your calendars for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Earth Day Festival at the Glendale Shoals Preserve on Saturday, April 18, 2026!



*In the quiet moments before the festival began, Katelyn from the SC Falconry Association released a red-tailed hawk she helped rehabilitate back into the wild.*



*Children observing a live beehive displayed by the Spartanburg Beekeepers Association.*



*A family learning about raptor rehabilitation from the SC Falconry Association.*



*Jacob Ryan from the Glendale Outdoor Leadership School is introducing his bearded dragon to a group of curious kids.*



*Spartanburg Planetarium staff are showing how to see sunspots with their Sunspotter telescope.*



*Kids showing off their whimsical face-paint by the talented Shannon Schluder of Wild Spirit Body Art!*



*Staff from the Spartanburg Science Center show and tell their cool nature finds like fossils, geodes, and more!*





# Friends of the Cottonwood Trail Celebrate hard work and hurricane recovery

The Edwin M. Griffin Preserve, home to the beloved Cottonwood Trail, is one of Spartanburg's most cherished natural spaces—built with love by our community, for our community. On a beautiful Friday afternoon in May, Friends of the Cottonwood Trail, grant funders, SPACE staff, and Board members gathered near Rachel's Bridge to celebrate the culmination of a community-wide effort to invest in and improve this special place.

Troy Hannah from the Spartanburg County Foundation shared why the Foundation chose to allocate Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief funding to help repair Rachel's Bridge, which was nearly lost to flood waters after the devastating storm. Katie Biggert from the SC Forestry Commission applauded the work done to mitigate invasive

species, including the emerald ash borer, which has been steadily impacting ash trees throughout the forest. Jonathan Fowler from the City of Spartanburg recognized Eagle Scout Anderson Hanke for his outstanding work in replacing a bridge that had been washed away in a flood.

After a celebratory ribbon-cutting to officially reopen Rachel's Bridge, guests enjoyed popsicles and cold drinks before joining Sam Parrott and Katie Biggert for a guided hike along the Cottonwood Trail, highlighting the incredible work our partners have supported over the past year.

This event was a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish together—and why protecting places like the Cottonwood Trail matters so deeply to our community.



*SPACE Lands Manager, Lynn Rhodes, is recognized Board Member, Lamar Baehr, for his hard work on the renovation of Rachel's Bridge.*



*Troy Hannah, CEO of the Spartanburg County Foundation, talks about grant support provided for Hurricane Helene Recovery.*



*Three of the Cottonwood Trail's biggest fans, Laurel, Pickens, and Buck, have fun making new friends!*





# The Wildflowers of Wildflower Way

If you've walked down Wildflower Way this summer, you probably noticed the vibrant tapestry of colors lining the trail. But these native wildflowers are more than just eye candy — they're ecological powerhouses that bring life, balance, and beauty to our local environment.

At SPACE, promoting native wildflowers supports a key part of our conservation mission.

Through habitat restoration projects and the distribution of native wildflower seeds to our community, we actively encourage the planting and protection of native species that support local pollinators and biodiversity. Our recent efforts include establishing wildflower meadows at the Glendale Shoals Nature Preserve and lining trails with wildflowers that not only beautify the landscape but also serve as vital ecosystems for bees, butterflies, and birds.



White-checkered skipper on  
Swamp Verbena (*verbena hastata*)



Black-eyed Susans  
(*Rudebeckia hirta*)



Join us and our pals at PAL for the Wildflower Way Ribbon Cutting





Indian Blanket  
(Gaillardia pulchella)



Scarlet Sage  
(Salvia Coccinea)



Lemon Bee Balm  
(Monarda citriodora)

## What makes a Wildflower Native?

Native wildflowers are plants that have evolved naturally in a specific region over thousands of years. They're perfectly adapted to local soil, climate, and wildlife.

One of the biggest benefits of native wildflowers is their role in supporting pollinators. Bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other critters rely on these plants for nectar, pollen, and seed. In turn, these pollinators help fertilize crops and wild plants, keeping ecosystems healthy and productive.

Native wildflowers are drought-tolerant and require less water than non-native species. Their deep root systems help prevent erosion, improve soil health, and even filter rainwater — making them a smart choice for sustainable landscaping. By planting and preserving native wildflowers,

we help support biodiversity throughout our properties. These plants provide food and shelter for a wide range of wildlife, from insects to birds to mammals. A diverse ecosystem is a resilient one — better able to withstand pests, diseases, and climate shifts.

Want to see these benefits in action? Visit Wildflower Way and experience the magic for yourself! Whether you're snapping photos, birdwatching, or simply soaking in the scenery, you'll be walking through a living example of nature's brilliance.

Let's celebrate and protect our native wildflowers — because when they thrive, so does everything around them. ***Find us this Spring and pick up a packet of native wildflower seeds for your yard!***



Yellow Cosmos  
(Cosmos sulfureus)



Plains Coreopsis  
(Coreopsis tinctoria)



Swamp Milkweed  
(Asclepias incarnata)

on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025 @ the Rainbow Bridge at 10 a.m.!





# See you next year, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds

By Sam Parrott

If you've spotted a hummingbird in the Upstate of South Carolina this summer, odds are you've just seen a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird is the only species of hummingbird that breeds in eastern North America and is, by far, the most common hummingbird species in our area.

Ruby-throats can bring a lot of joy to your life in the dog days of Summer. In the mornings while drinking your coffee or evenings after dinner, you can become mesmerized by flashes of emerald and sapphire as these territorial, precise-flyers swarm around your yard like hornets around a disturbed nest.

This summertime bliss is very attainable. Like the movie field of dreams, "if you build it, they will come". But instead of prompting you to build a baseball field in the corn, we're prompting you to build hummingbird mecca.

Here are a few easy tips to invite Ruby-throated hummingbirds to your yard:

1. **Hummingbird Feeders** - fill these feeders with sugar water mixtures consisting of one-quarter cup of table sugar per cup of water. That's it. Don't use food coloring, artificial sweeteners, or honey. And make sure to clean your feeders every few days (daily if it's really hot out) to prevent dangerous fermentation, mold or mildew growth that can harm or kill hummingbirds.
2. **Plant Native Flowering Plants** - Salvia species, coral honeysuckle, and cardinal flower are favorites of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, who are extremely fond of trumpet-shaped flowers.
3. **Perches and roosts** - That big, shady hardwood tree in your yard is an excellent spot for hummingbirds to perch in the heat of the day and roost at night. And a dead tree



or branch overlooking the yard is also very valuable real estate for hummingbirds to rest and observe. Hummingbirds beat their wings around 50 times per second, which uses a lot of calories. And being such aerodynamic and master flyers comes at a cost; tiny legs and feet that prevent them from walking or hopping. Resting spots that aren't far from food sources can significantly reduce the caloric expenditure of your hummingbirds.

4. **Water** - Having a water source is extremely valuable for attracting birds, insects, and mammals

Follow these tips, and you can experience the joys of a hummingbird summer. But you'll likely have to wait until next year. In September, Ruby-throats begin to leave our area to gather in Florida, Louisiana, and along the South Texas in preparation for the final push south (either over the Gulf of Mexico or via an overland route through Mexico) to their wintering grounds in Central America and Mexico.





# Welcome back to South Carolina, American Woodcock

By Sam Parrott

Another migratory bird, like the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, the American Woodcock's summer breeding range includes southern Canada and the Great Lakes region, dropping as far south as West Virginia. However, in late October and early November, woodcock begin their migration south to their wintering range which includes South Carolina. Woodcock migrate at night, flying at altitudes of only about 50 feet, travelling alone or in loose flocks called "flights". Migrating at night has many benefits for woodcock, such as cover from avian predators that are more active during the day, cooler temperatures, which can prevent overheating during long flights, and navigational cues provided by the stars and moon.

The super-camouflaged American Woodcock, also known as timberdoodles, spend their days on the forest floor resting or foraging by probing for earthworms in moist dirt with their long beaks. While foraging, woodcocks wobble around back and forth, shifting their weight between their feet. It is theorized that the gentle vibrations of their tottering entices earthworms to move underground, which the woodcock can sense, and making them an easy meal.

American Woodcock are about the size of a Mourning Dove but have huge eyes that sit abnormally far back and high on their heads. This unique and somewhat bizarre physiology is believed to be associated with predator detection as woodcock are vulnerable when feeding on the ground during daylight hours. With their set back eyes, woodcock can see nearly 360 degrees around them.

Due to their lifestyle, timberdoodles are rarely seen by the general public in South Carolina since they spend most of their days here hunkered down in moist, dense thickets. However, during their courtship period in February and early March, you can readily watch woodcock put on a show.



*Can you spot the woodcock in this picture? They are masters of camouflage!*

At dusk and dawn, during this time period, woodcock will perform their courtship ritual in fields and forest openings along rivers. Males start the show by making an onomatopoeic "peenting" sound while strutting around on the ground before launching high into the sky, falling back to earth with whirling aerial acrobatics, twittering the whole way down.

So while the American Woodcock may be a master of camouflage most of the year, their sky-dancing courtship displays offer a rare and magical glimpse into the secret life of one of South Carolina's most fascinating migratory birds.





# What is a Conservation Easement?

A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust, like the Spartanburg Area Conservancy (SPACE), that permanently protects the natural, scenic, or agricultural value of a property. While the land remains privately owned, the easement restricts certain types of development and land use to ensure the property's conservation values are preserved forever.

## How It Works

Landowners who enter into a conservation easement continue to own and manage their land. They can farm, harvest timber, or live on the property—depending on the terms of the easement—but they agree to limit future development in ways that protect the land's ecological integrity. Each easement is tailored to the landowner's goals and the unique features of the property.

## Why It Matters

Conservation easements are one of the most effective tools for protecting land in Spartanburg County.

*They help:*

- Conserve wildlife habitat and biodiversity
- Protect water quality in rivers and streams
- Maintain scenic views and open spaces
- Support working farms and forests
- Provide opportunities for public recreation and education (on select properties)

## Stewardship in Perpetuity

When SPACE accepts a conservation easement, it commits to stewarding that land forever. This means regularly monitoring the property, maintaining a relationship with the landowner, and ensuring the terms of the easement are upheld over time—even as ownership changes. Stewardship is a long-term responsibility that reflects SPACE's promise to protect the land's conservation values for future generations. It's a deep trust placed in us by landowners—and one we take seriously.

## SPACE Easements

SPACE holds 31 easements in Spartanburg, Union, and Greenville Counties.



SPACE's conservation easements protect over 6,545 acres of private land.



These protected lands include over 52 miles of stream and river frontage.





## Community Impact

By conserving land through easements, SPACE helps ensure that Spartanburg's natural heritage remains intact for future generations. These protected lands contribute to cleaner air and water, climate resilience, and a stronger connection between people and nature. They also help guide responsible growth by preserving green space as our region develops.

Conservation easements are a powerful way for landowners to leave a lasting legacy—and for our community to thrive in harmony with the land.

## Interested in Conserving Your Land?

SPACE is here to help you explore whether a conservation easement is right for you.

**Call us at (864)948-0000.**

## Tax Benefits of Conservation Easements

Conserving your land through a conservation easement not only protects its natural value—it can also offer significant financial advantages.

**Federal Tax Deductions** - landowners who donate a qualified conservation easement may be eligible for a federal income tax deduction based on the appraised value of the easement. In some cases, this can be carried forward for up to 15 years.

**State Tax Credits** - South Carolina landowners may also qualify for state tax credits on qualifying donated conservation easements. These tax credits can also be gifted or sold.

**Estate Tax Benefits** - Additionally, conservation easements may reduce estate taxes, helping families keep land in long-term ownership.

These benefits make conservation easements a powerful tool for landowners who want to protect their land and invest in their financial future.





# THANK YOU

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(\$5,000+)

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(\$1,000 - \$2,499)

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Cecilia Cogdell  
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*Our dearly missed friend, Kirk H. Neely,  
and Claire Long Neely*  
Mark Nelson  
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Elizabeth "Libbo" Wise  
Nelly Zimmerli

*\*The members listed on these pages have made a donation to SPACE within the past 12 months.*



# SPACE MEMBERS!

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(\$250- \$499)

Joel Atance and Kara Bui  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Barnet  
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Donate today. Sign up for our newsletter. Follow us on social media. Join us in our mission to Keep Spartanburg Wild—now and forever.



*Donate now!*



### Upcoming Events

**Oct 16 - A Shucking Good Time!**  
6 PM @ Glendale Shoals Preserve

**Oct 25 - Cottonwood Society Hike**  
9 AM @ Glendale Nature Park

**Dec 6 - Arbor Day Tree Planting**  
9 AM @ Edwin M. Griffin Preserve

**Jan 19 - MLK Day of Service**  
9 AM @ Upper Chinquapin Greenway

**Apr 18 - Earth Day Festival!**  
10 AM @ Glendale Shoals Preserve

[www.spartanburgconservation.org](http://www.spartanburgconservation.org)