**Down the Trail and Into the Future**

The City will continue to be active in and support of, local conservation and creation of trails to additional areas. In inventory are three City-owned properties which are not yet connected to the trail system. The Retegy Managed Conservation Area and Midland Swamp Conservation Area are within properties located on Middlebrook Avenue. Midland Park is a developed, recreation-based area located on Middlebrook Avenue. Incorporation of these properties within the trail system is a future goal of the City. In addition, the City is currently working to improve and better define the urban street trail system.

We caution you not to take these trails and what they provide for granted. Good stewardship is a personal responsibility and we ask that you follow trail etiquette, obey the trail rules, respect private property and respect any concerns the City, County, State, and experience the Florence Trail System.

**TRAIL ETIQUETTE & RULES**

- *Trails open one hour before sunrise and close one hour after sunset*
- *Motorized vehicles are prohibited throughout the trail*
- *Other dogs, in the least, be courteous and respect other users*
- *Use the buddy system*
- *Respect private property & stay on the trail*
- *Yield to pedestrians*
- *Walk, run or ride to the right – pass on the left*
- *Respect wildlife and let nature’s sounds prevail*
- *Leave no trash: pack in, pack out*
- *Keep pets leashed and under control*
- *Clean up after your pet*
- *Possession or use of alcohol, drugs or weapons is prohibited*
- *Enjoy the beauty of all plants or planting but leave them undisturbed*
- *Park only in designated areas*
- *From an appropriate distance, respect all historic sites*
- *No overnight stay or fires*
- *To report vandalism, call 843-666-3236*

**City of Florence Trail System**

A common thread to the human experience is the search for beauty and opportunities to find tranquility and solitude in the environments of life. This need leads, a legacy concentrated from 1930 – 1940, linked to these basic needs and defined conservation as “a way of life in which local lands and their inhabitants are managed so that their land and both end up better by reason of partnership.” Recognizing the importance of partnerships and of community development, the Florence City Council in 2004, with support of the Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services Commission, established a vision that provides for the production of natural beauty and open space within the urban area of the City of Florence. This “vision” seeks to follow natural land and water features and link natural areas, parks, cultural features and historic sites with each other for the purposes of conservation, recreation and alternative transportation.

The trail system further allows the opportunity to assist in environmental education and to better understand the wetlands issues relative to downstream to ensure the importance and joy of a healthy urban trail system. To connect to a more natural environment, our history and our neighbors.

**Connectivity**

The City’s vision began as connections between places, i.e., parks, land and buildings, and this vision remains the Trail’s central focus. However, as connectivity is defined, the physical connections are expanding to include the concept of a deeper personal appreciation for the natural and physical world and a new opportunity to view the Florence community.

A number of years ago, a multidisciplinary planning committee edited “Jedediah Creek as a potential ‘green’ network around the City.” It was stated that the community needed to come together to identify these environmental “joints” and connect them to form the network. While it remains true that the Trail provides connectivity in need and supports, a more comprehensive vision that “connectivity” also includes improved health and wellness, recognition of the natural world and new social and civic interactions.

**Trail Connections**

The Florence Trail System is comprised of three distinct groupings of trails, each with its own unique focus and function. Each group of connecting trails or “connections” is shown on the map as the opposite side of this brochure, along with information on the features being linked together.

**RAIL TRAIL CONNECTIONS**

This grouping consists of approximately 50 miles of trails, and provide for historical interest and historic, recognition of environmentally significant areas, opportunities for social interaction and opportunities to an outdoor environment and recreation and experiences. Florence and Florence was the primary focus of the original “Tripee – Trail” Project. This has a hard-surfaced trail provides a means for personal or group exercise in a pristine outdoor setting.

A key component of the original “Tripee – Trail” was the development of urban transportation rides to represent the traditional uses of walking and cycling.” The development of a group of trails, currently called the Tripee Trail, was completed in 2000, and provided the basis for future innovative rides. Alternative transportation opportunities are now provided in the City Center, area schools, Farmers market and central employment, Love’s and Hobby Lobby, as well as West Florence High School and residential neighborhoods.

The Florence Park Trail is in cooperation with the park, provides various opportunities for personal recreation or multi-use. Partnership with Grevy Properties, Inc. also enabled the City to preserve a significant block of Jefferson Creek between the Creek and River. Small Waterfront. The trail connects this natural area and the Florence Park. At the trail’s terminus, the Florence Park allows the public to consider the loss and unlocking of military personnel who served in uniform during the 20th century.

**URBAN CONNECTIONS**

This grouping of urban structures focuses on the connections of city park with the environs cultural center in downtown Florence. The parks, connectivity, landscape, multi-purpose, neighborhoods, provide both wildlife-based recreation and an opportunity for urban residents to enjoy walking and enjoying in natural ecological. The Joyner’s Trail* also demonstrates a recognition of art and culture that is symbolized by new buildings and new energy for the Florence community. The Florence County Library, completed in 2000 opened its doors in 2003. An artist in Florence, Florence County and the Free area. The Florence Public Library, Florence’s oldest branch-based performance group, constructed a new building and relocated to Jackson Street in 2003. Florence, Marion University’s Performing Arts Center, to its constructed downtown, will not only house the University’s new music and nursing buildings but will also be the hub of the arts community with a high-capacity auditorium for cultural arts and special performances. This premier facility will balance the image of the downtown area and act as another catalyst for future development.

**Freedom Florence Connections**

History, education, environmental protection and recreation may be encountered throughout the Florence Trail System as well as the Florence County’s urban and Florence Parks. The connection corridor runs nearly north-south, with the Florence City Park located on the northern boundary and the athletic-based recreation facility, Freedom Florence Recreation Complex, at the southern turnaround. In between, however, the user will find connections to a variety of information and experiences.

Environmental protection and recreation is highlighted at two locations – the Pine Branch Trailhead area and the City’s wastewater management facility. At the SRM project, users can observe environmentally managed wetlands which are being restored by the City to a new natural condition. Connected with the City’s environmental management facility, which is expected to be completed by 2012, the Florence community will share A, and benefit from environmental technology that monitors evaporation, soil, and climate, and provides stormwater and wastewater. In educational partnerships with the Florence City Parks, Florence School System, the City, and other schools, will be able to share an appreciation of wildlife management and the community benefits.

As with the Florence Park, the Florence Stadiums and the adjoining U.S. National Cemetery, the user is an opportunity to quickly consider the strategies and suffering inherent in any conflicts. While the Stonewall and National Cemetery enter into being during the Civil War, reference from both areas that have been, and are still being, interpreted here.