

## Online Open Space Survey Results – as of 3/30/07

**Total responses:** 122

**Gender:**

- Male: 64
- Female: 55

**Age range:**

- Under 18: 0
- 18-24: 6
- 25-34: 40
- 35-54: 52
- 55+: 23

**Importance of open space preservation:**

- Scale of 1 to 10, 1 = lowest and 10 = highest
- Average score: 9.3

**What open space areas would you like to see protected?**

Specific Areas Shown on Map:

1. Everything between Fort Jackson and I-20
2. Chestnut Hill Plantation
3. Harmon's Tree Farm to Gilbert
4. Boiling Springs (natural spring) – Boiling Springs and Steele Pond
5. Areas around Peachtree Rock
6. Monticello Road
7. Sumter Highway/US-378 corridor
8. Area around Earlewood Park towards Sunset Blvd
9. US-1 between Gilbert and Leesville

Broader Areas:

- What is left of the Sandhills
- 29054 zip code (From Lake Murray south past Gilbert and Summit)
- 29029 zip code (between Garner's Ferry Road and Fort Jackson)
- Lower Richland
- Southeast Richland County and North Columbia
- Any and all natural areas and waterways
- Headwaters of N. Edisto River

## **What creek/stream corridors would you like to see protected?**

### Specific Areas Shown on Map:

10. Twelve-Mile Creek corridor – Corley Mill Rd to Town of Lexington
  11. Black Creek
  12. Bear Creek
  13. Congaree River Bridge area
  14. Confluence of Saluda and Broad Rivers / Congaree at Columbia
  15. Broad River – NW Richland County – Kennerly Road to Peak
  16. Hallmark Subdivision stream
  17. Gills Creek
- Cannon's Creek – Newberry (not shown on map)

### Broader Areas:

- Broad River
- Congaree, Saluda Rivers

## **Please share thoughts on preserving working lands within county/region:**

- Restricted tree cutting in housing or commercial developments
- It is imperative that land owners are recruited now before heirs or developers gain control of the lands
- I don't like continuous areas of strip malls. Would like to see more separations, green space, mall, church, green space, mall etc.
- Carve out the preserved areas and make them permanently off limits
- You must preserve some green space.
- Limit housing developments
- We do not want to become a mini-Atlanta. Keep it southern and no more Kahn developments!!!
- Working lands get huge tax breaks with Ag Use tax assessment
- Poultry farms should not be allowed to operate close to residential areas
- It is important for urban sprawl to be limited.
- There is almost no publicly owned land in Lexington County.
- Great concern with growth of subdivisions in Lexington around farmlands
- Western Lexington County feeds the State of South Carolina

**Are there any other open space areas, river/stream corridors or working lands within the Central Midlands region (Lexington, Richland, Newberry and Fairfield Counties) that you feel should be protected/preserved?**

- All riparian areas, wetlands, and upland sandhills not already developed.
- Lots of areas, but most of us don't 'see it' until we suddenly find scores of bulldozers taking it down. Do we actually have a way of preserving land in SC without infringing on the landowners right to do what he wants with his land.
- Just a rumor, but I had heard at one time that a part of the Harbison Forest was going to be sold for private development. I sincerely hope that this never happens.
- The Bear Creek area of Lexington County near Chapin, and the Camping Creek area of Newberry County.
- I think it is a tragedy that there is no where to go swimming in lakes and rivers where there is public access. Everything is privately owned. Crystal Springs lake is now privatized and gated. It stinks that an area so beautiful has nowhere for us poor folks to fish and swim.
- The following: 1. all flood lands, 2. 50 foot buffer along all streams, 3. 100 foot buffer along lakes, Murray and others, 4. more grasslands, required, around all public recreation areas,
- I would like to see the Black Creek preserved.
- I believe we should make every effort to protect the Saluda, Congaree, and Edisto Rivers, their tributaries and water quality.
- All river/stream corridors
- I think the public should have access to the Wildlife Preserve at the Honeywell plant on St. Andrews Road.
- This survey is impossible for the average person to complete. I don't know which areas near me are already protected and which are not.
- More needs to be protected in the Irmo/Harbison area to prevent it from becoming a concrete jungle. Also, Lexington is getting out of control. Subdivisions are taking over in the most remote parts of the countryside, and the farmlands and country is losing its land to houses and now even stores and shopping malls for a way too overcrowded town
- Lower Saluda River. All riparian forests should be protected or restored. This single act would save South Carolina tens-of-millions of dollars.
- Colonial Creek, Cedar/Myers/Cabin Creek inflow to National Park Broad River Islands Lower Saluda Buffer zone restrictions
- Any places near our water sources, whether it is streams or rivers. Preservation of farm areas in rural areas. Focus on rebuilding existing developments that may have been run down, however preserving affordable housing options.
- All open space should be protected at all cost. Development reduces the quality of life for everyone.
- It is good to see development along the river and in other parts of the county. Diverse development offers job opportunities to be sure. However, uncontrolled growth, weak and ineffective planning/zoning regulations make the results undesirable.
- Open/wooded area north of I-20 between Calks Ferry Road and Oscar Price Road.

- How about Gill's Creek and its related swampy areas back behind Hampton Ridge and Hampton Trace (Richland County).
- No area should be developed without keeping some land open for local parks or play areas even when there is no equipment. Don't need to create cost centers when approving land for housing, just make sure we do create a treeless housing development. Perhaps require a play area in every block of development ( a block being 1/10 of a mile square in size).
- I don't know of any specific open space area that needs to be protected, but I feel that either minimizing the amount of land available for development, or enforcing heavy regulations on the land would help to control blight in more urban centers. I am all for development, but not at the expense of natural beauty or destruction of our forests.

**The following elements constitute the different parts of a green space plan: 1) open space areas; 2) plant/wildlife corridors; 3) water quality areas; 4) farmlands; 5) forest lands. Using a scale from 1 to 10, 1 = lowest and 10 = highest, how would you rank the importance of each particular element? (Average scores will be shown)**

1. Open Space Areas:	<b>8.8</b>
2. Plant/Wildlife Corridors:	<b>8.5</b>
3. Water Quality Areas:	<b>9.5</b>
4. Farmlands	<b>8.3</b>
5. Forest lands	<b>8.6</b>

**Do you have any other comments about region-wide open space preservation?**

- Lexington County needs to manage growth and stop giving out building permits to everyone that comes in. The greed for tax revenue has let development run wild. The out of control sprawl has got to stop.
- It is horrible that Lexington County's rural areas are being snapped up by private subdivisions and greedy people. All the trees are being cut down. Can you help us??
- Farm lands and Forest lands are business decisions made by the land owner; not open space/green space. Once the price gets right most will sell. Until then they have terrific price incentives with the current tax structure
- Since leaving in Lexington County, I have noticed that there are not to many open spaces left because of the development of subdivisions.
- I believe it is important to preserve as much forest land and preserve as much plant and wildlife diversity as possible.
- I am the reforestation technician for the city and I think that large areas of open space would do a lot to enhance the appearance of the city, as well as the air quality. I would like to have a role in developing these open spaces if possible. Thank you, Carroll Williamson

- Great concept that is long overdue.
- There are enough vacant buildings/shopping centers in the area that we should focus on using more of these for new businesses so that the land they're on is not wasted and to avoid needlessly developing new land.
- This is something that South Carolina should work hard for. My wife grew up in California, and because of the strict regulation and setting aside of lands, the atmosphere of the north bay area is pleasant, and enjoyable to live in. I am not a tree hugger, and I like to see development, but it should be controlled. I think the easiest way to control development is for the government to purchase large tracts of land in rural areas, thus decreasing the supply and availability of forest and open land. In turn developers will have to 'recycle' blighted areas, or make better use of smaller parcels. One example would be a run down mobile home park on 20 acres. Why would a developer buy this mobile home park and redevelop it into a 50 home housing community if he can go across the street and easily buy a 20 acre tract of forested land? If that 20 acre tract of land wasn't available, the new 50 home community could have a nice park and hiking area just across the street instead of blight.
- I think it is a great idea. I'm glad other people care and that you have this survey. Is the 3 rivers greenway part of this...could it be connected?