

Things to see and do in the Saluda-Reedy Watershed.



1 Saluda Reservoir
As part of the Greenville Water System, this 547 acre lake on the North Saluda River provides Greenville County residents with fresh, clean drinking water.



2 Jones Gap State Park
Here the Middle Saluda River flows from its headwaters down this 2,000 acre valley in the northern Greenville County mountains. Some 400 species of plants call the park home, including a number of rare and endangered species. The Park offers a learning center, natural camp sites and a paradise for trout anglers.



3 Table Rock Reservoir
This 547 acre lake on the South Saluda River was built in 1925 to provide drinking water for Greenville County as part of the Greenville County Water System. It's protected watershed is an ecological treasure, with remnant old-growth forest and large populations of species that are rare elsewhere.



4 Saluda Lake
This beautiful 475 acre lake was constructed by Duke Power in 1930 and offers a wide range of opportunities for aquatic recreation.



5 Furman Lake
The centerpiece of the Furman University campus is located at the headwaters of the Reedy River, and provides students and visitors with breathtaking scenery and year-round recreation.



6 Reedy Falls
Richard Pearis established a trading post and grist mill at the falls of the Reedy River in 1776. Today, a magnificent 25 acre garden is being developed around one of the only natural urban waterfalls in North America.



7 Lake Conestee
This historic lake on the Reedy River, was built in 1835 to supply power to Conestee Mill. Even though its sediments are heavily polluted with 100 years of industrial waste, it boasts an extensive wildlife habitat and stunning scenery. The lake was sold in 1999 to the Lake Conestee Foundation, and will be developed into a public park and education center with walking trails along the river.

15,000 years of history...

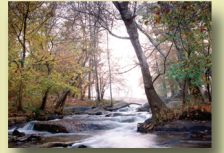
The rivers of the Saluda-Reedy watershed have been the focus of life in the region since the first humans arrived in these valleys 15,000 years ago. The Paleo-Indians hunted giant mammals on their banks and fished their waters. Various Indian cultures thrived here for the next 10,000 years until the arrival of the European settlers who eventually drove the Indians out.

In colonial South Carolina, farmers settled the floodplains in the upper reaches of the Saluda and introduced livestock and tobacco and wheat as cash crops. During the Revolutionary War, cotton became the premier crop, and in the first decades of the 1800s, cotton plantations and slavery spread rapidly to supply a growing textile manufacturing industry in England. Railroads sprang up to support the plantations, and towns formed along the rail lines.

Water power, cotton, low wages and rail transportation attracted textile mills to the region around the turn of the century, many of which used waterpower for electricity. As the textile industry declined, many former textile mills have been converted to other purposes. Economic development officials continue to attract industry from all over the world to the Upstate because of its fine quality of life.



8 Piedmont Mill and Dam
Native Americans called this place "Big Shoals of the Saluda", and settlers later named it Garrison Shoals and finally Piedmont. Henry Pinckney Hammond built the first cotton mill on the Saluda River here in 1848.



9 Cedar Falls
In earlier years, these picturesque falls on the Reedy River were an important commercial asset to the region. This was the site of a grist mill, saw mill, dam and power generating plant that provided operating power for the textile mill at Fork Shoals. Now the falls is one of the most beautiful natural features on the lower Reedy.



10 Pelzer Mill and Dam
In 1880 Ellison Adger Smyth and Francis J. Pelzer built a yarn mill on the banks of the Saluda River with ten thousand spindles. The mill was powered entirely with water power.



11 Tumblin Shoals
In the 1830's, a store, ginney, saw mill and flour and grist mill surrounded these peaceful shoals, but they all were washed away in the flood of 1908. A power plant was later built to provide citizens of Sullian Township with electricity.



12 Ware Shoals Lake, Dam & Power Plant
In the 1920's William Ware built a grist mill near the beautiful shoals, and Benjamin Riegel built a dam and cotton mill at the turn of the century. The mill is gone now, but the town of Ware Shoals is capitalizing on the beauty of the shoals and on the town's rich history to create a master plan for redevelopment.



13 Boyd Mill Pond
In the mid 1800's, this was the site of a grist mill, saw mill and flour mill. In 1907, the newly formed Reedy River Power Company built a dam and power house to furnish power to the citizens of Laurens County. The 184 acre lake has a large population of bass and offers anglers two easily accessible boat landings.



14 Drummond Center
Named for Senator John W. Drummond, longtime conservation advocate, this environmental education center at Lake Greenwood State Park is based on a design from the Civilian Conservation Corps era. It displays focus on the role of the CCC in protecting South Carolina's natural resources.



15 Lake Greenwood
Completed in 1940 with the construction of the Buzzard's Roost Dam, Lake Greenwood has provided both power and recreation for the Greenwood area for over half a century. Recent years have brought considerable development to the lake, as its shores have become a choice residential and retirement area for Greenwood, Laurens, and Newberry Counties.

