The Heritage and Recreation Project of Dorchester County

Rural Conservation through Passive Recreation

HPCP 415- Group C: Smith, Pate, Wilson, Jenkins, Nadenicek
**Dorchester County:**
- Comprised of 574 square miles, of which farmland and forestland make up the vast majority.
- Farmland and forestland are representative of 19% and 62%, respectively, of the 561 square miles of surveyed land.
- Dorchester County is home to many natural resources, such as forestland, wetlands, farmland, and habitats for endangered and threatened species.
- The conservation and preservation of these natural habitats is extremely important to ensure that they are maintained for current and future enjoyment.

**Natural Resources Present in Dorchester County:**
- Francis Beidler Forest Sanctuary
- Shallow bottomland hardwoods
- Natural wildlife habitats
- Habitats for endangered and threatened species
- Rural agricultural and timber lands
- Four Holes Swamp
- Estuaries
- Historically and archaeologically significant sites
- ACE River Basin
- Wildlife corridors
- Blackwater sloughs
- And more…
A multitude of conservation organizations, both local and statewide, are involved in efforts to help preserve and maintain the natural setting of Dorchester County and its significant resources. This is done through the implementation of conservation easements and land trusts to help protect the lands from being affected, or even destroyed, by future development.

Some of the organizations involved:

- The National Audubon Society – South Carolina Chapter
  - Conservation and Advocacy
  - Habitat Conservation Areas
- Lowcountry Open Land Trust
  - ACE Basin Focus Area
  - Santee Cooper Lakes Focus Area
  - Partnership Projects
- Friends of the Edisto
- The Conservation Bank of South Carolina
  - Land Legacy Initiative
What WE Propose to do About It

- The enhancement and conservation of the natural habitats found in Dorchester County
- The creation of new outlets for passive recreation
- Maintain and preserve the rural character of Dorchester Co.
- The inclusion and creation of an Interpretive Center as a starting point for all passive recreation
- Interpretive Center will provide information on the culture, outdoor environment and areas of recreation throughout the county
- Greenways – trails for biking, hiking, walking, etc
- Blueways – canoe and kayak trails
- Kayak/canoe boathouse and launch site
- Enhancing the rural character of the county through the promotion of passive recreation and eco-tourism
Proposed Highway 61 Bike Path
ACE Basin
- Audubon Center at Beidler Forest
- Colleton State Park
- Colonial Dorchester State Historic Site

Cypress Gardens
- Drayton Hall
- Givhans Ferry State Park
- Herbert H. Jessen Public Boat Landing
- Magnolia Plantation and Gardens
- Middleton Place and Gardens
- Old Santee Canal Park
- Sawmill Branch Walk/Bike Trail
- Timothy Creek Riding Center
- Wassamassaw Community Park
Amenities:
• Boating: Motor, Kayak, Canoe
• Bird Watching
• Hike/Bike Trails
• Driving Trail
• Fishing
• Hunting
Cypress Gardens

Amenities:
- Swamp Boat Rides
- Nature Trails
- Butterfly House
- Swamparium

Educational Programs:
- Swamp Safaris
- Fossil Digs
Middleton Place & Gardens

Amenities:
• Landscaped Gardens
• House Museum
• Equestrian Center
• Trail Rides
• Middleton Place Hounds
• Outdoor Center
• Kayak Tours
• Nature Trails
• Black Water Cypress Swamp tours
• Challenge Course
LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

- Lower operating costs
- Reduce waste sent to landfills
- Conserve energy and water
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
LEED Certified Interpretive Center

- Accessible through various forms of transportation
- Water efficient building techniques
- Use of recycled materials
- Use of regional materials
Proposed Boathouse & Launch