

A Legacy of Rich Land

There is a reason our ancestors named this county Rich Land. Abundant rivers, prime farmland, bottomland forests, and scenic vistas greeted the earliest settlers. History oozes from the ground, beginning with the relics of our ancestors that date back more than 10,000 years continuing through our role in the birth of this great nation and the subsequent struggles and growth that we have experienced. It is this great legacy that we have inherited.

Despite this rich heritage, the face and feel of Richland County is rapidly changing. Phenomenal development in the past two decades has threatened the loss of open space, rural lands and community identity that make this county a unique and desirable place to live.

In an effort to protect our natural and historic resources so that they may be passed down to future generations, Richland County Council created the Richland County Conservation Commission in 1998.



Richland County is bordered by the Saluda, Broad, Congaree and Wateree Rivers.

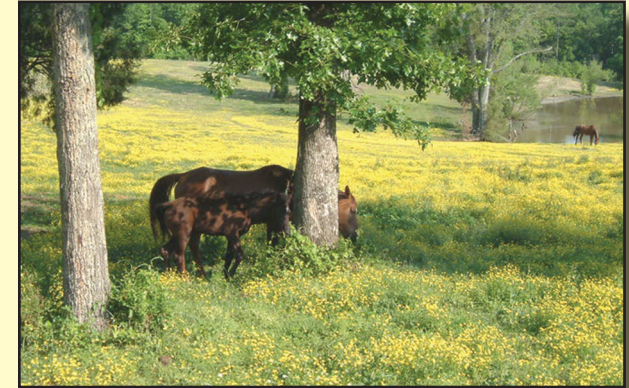
Photo courtesy of River Alliance

What is the Richland County Conservation Commission (RCCC)?

The RCCC is a voluntary board of 11 members that serves in an advisory capacity to Richland County Council. The Commission is charged with promoting the protection of natural, historical, and cultural resources throughout Richland County by negotiating **voluntary** protection strategies with landowners. We call this program **Richland Legacy**.

Richland Legacy seeks to protect the following types of property:

- Open space and scenic views
- Prime agricultural land
- Recreational land for hunting, fishing, water access, and hiking
- Wildlife habitat
- Sensitive ecological properties
- Historic buildings, sites, or landscapes
- Other properties or resources that are determined significant



How does the RCCC protect property?



The RCCC ordinance provides for a number of mechanisms to conserve the property of interested and willing landowners. These include:

- Negotiating conservation easements
- Developing access to resources
- Accepting donations or bargain sales
- Purchasing property for public or protective ownership
- Helping with the maintenance, preservation, protection, identification, or development of significant properties

How is Richland Legacy Funded?

Richland County Council has allocated one-half mill annually for the operation of the Richland Legacy program and the Conservation Commission.

Property Owner Statement of Interest

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Description & Size of Property in Acres: _____

General Location of Your Property: _____

Richland County Tax Map Number (if known)

Your Property's Unique Characteristics:

Mail to:

Richland County Conservation Commission
PO Box 192
Columbia, SC 29202

How can I participate?

Landowners who are interested in discussing the protection of their land are asked to fill out the attached *Property Owner Statement of Interest* form and return it to the Commission or download the form from our website:

www.richlandonline.com/conservcom

Once the form is received, the RCCC will determine if your property meets the program guidelines. If it is determined eligible, we will contact you to schedule a site visit and develop a property description.

All eligible properties submitted to the RCCC are ranked for significance and prioritized. Richland County Council will then authorize further negotiations with eligible property owners. Once a tentative easement/purchase agreement is reached, it must be approved by Richland County Council.

All negotiations are confidential and property owners may withdraw their property at any time without penalty.



**P.O. Box 192
Columbia, SC 29202**

Preserving Richland's Legacy

