

Friends
of the } Reedy
River

River brings growth and prosperity

- Indian hunting grounds
- Grist Mills
- Wagon-maker
- Textile Mills
- Water for both power and to remove wastes

Improvements Begin

- Awareness: Reedy is stinky and overgrown
- Clean Water Act 1972
- The Clean Water Act stopped much industrial polluting
- 72 miles of the Reedy still contained pesticides, detergent, storm water runoff, sewage, trash, litter, tires, silt.
- Carolina Foothills Garden Club!

More recent improvements

- Friends of the Reedy River – 1993
- Master Plan for Reedy in Greenville - 1995
- Upstate Forever – 1998
- Removal of the Camperdown Bridge - 2001
- Liberty Bridge – 2004
- Opening of Falls Park
- Conestee Park
- Swamp Rabbit Trail

Mission and Vision statement:

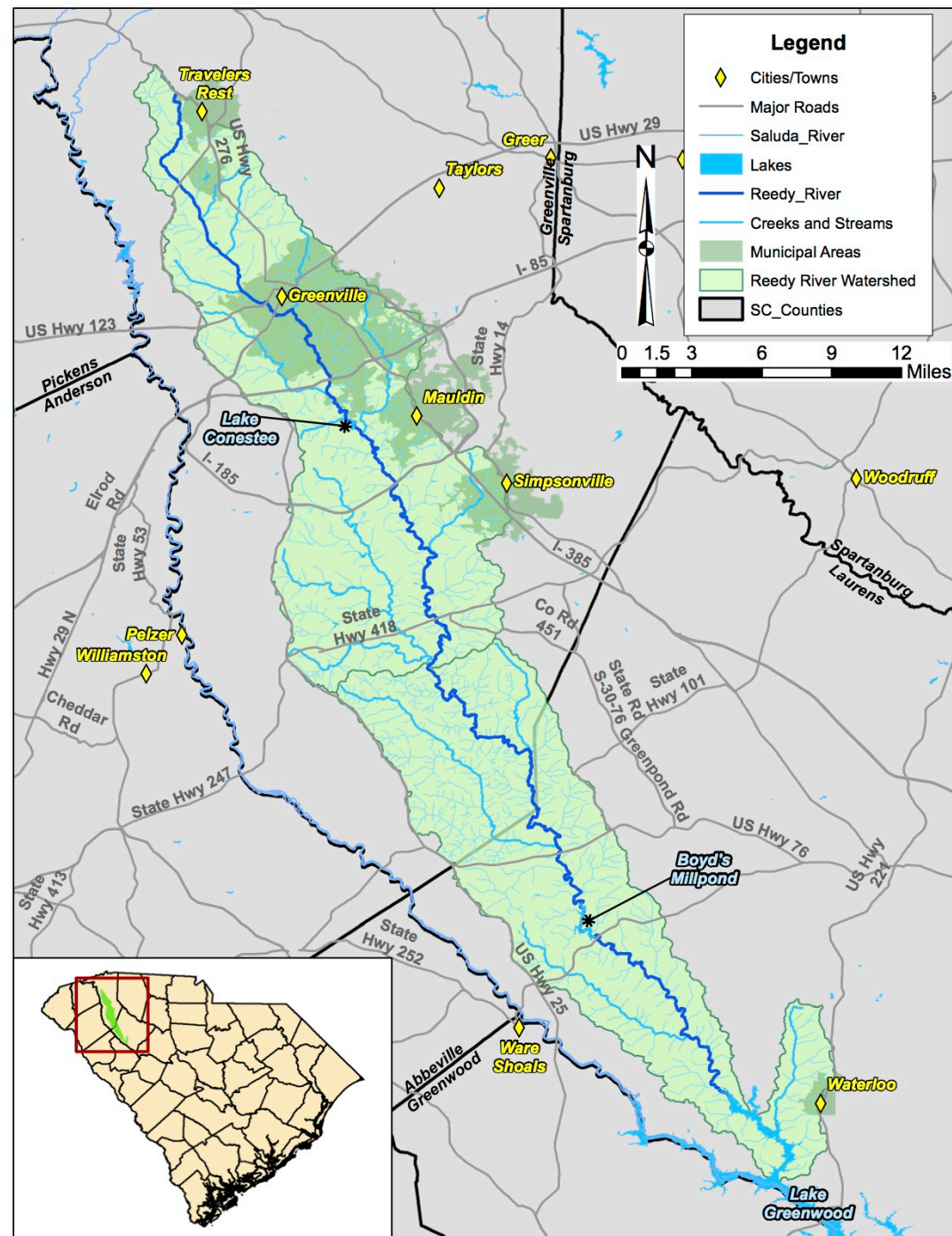
Friends of the Reedy River is a volunteer organization dedicated to conservation of the Reedy River through education, advocacy, and action.

Friends of the Reedy River

In 1993 Friends of the Reedy River was formed.

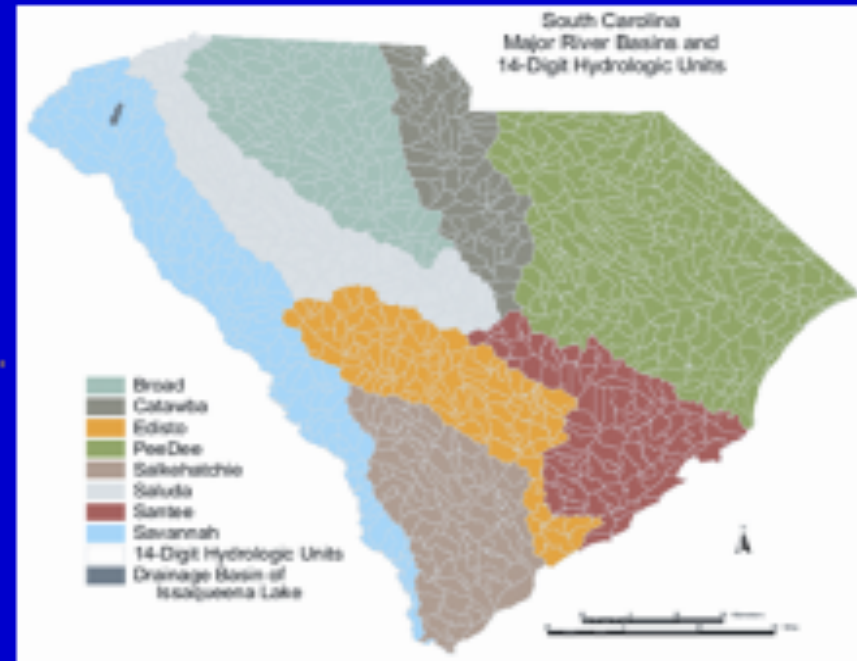
Today we have approximately 100 members, many of whom are experts and professionals in environmental fields.

The Saluda-Reedy Watershed is all the land that drains to Lake Greenwood, including the Saluda and Reedy rivers, Rabon Creek, and their tributaries.



Watersheds in South Carolina

- Most precipitation reaches a water body only after touching ground and flowing downhill.
- The entire area of land from which water drains into any lake or river is called the watershed, or drainage basin.
- Substances other than water flow into drainage basins, such as:
 - dissolved chemicals, soap suds
 - microbes
 - oil slicks
 - septic tank overflows
 - filtrate from landfills
- These are now the major pollution contributors to our water systems.



Major Drainage Basins in South Carolina



Taking a
water
quality
sample.

Present Condition

- Urbanization has resulted in significant runoff from the impervious surfaces of roads, buildings, and parking lots.
- The historic riparian forest along the Reedy River has been converted to commercial, institutional, and residential developments consisting of mostly paved areas.
- With the exception of relatively small vegetated areas and greenways along some sections of the river.

- The Reedy River in Greenville is similar to many rivers in urban settings, characterized by impaired water quality, eroded banks, and compromised riparian conditions.
- Water quality is impaired by pollutants that are rapidly transported with runoff to the river.

- In areas of Greenville where a vegetated zone buffers the river, exotic invasive species have become dominant.
- They have overgrown native vegetation resulting in conditions with poor quality wildlife habitat and diminished recreational and aesthetic values for parkland and greenway amenities.

Benefits of Shoreline Vegetation

- Tree canopy shields the ground, breaks the wind, absorbs impact.
- Leaf litter can reduce velocity of water.
- Roots prevent erosion and allow more water to infiltrate.

Using Native Plants

- Easier to install
- Cost effective—easier to maintain
- Don't need pampering with fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation.
- Pollinators and birds prefer them.

Friends of the Reedy River

- Clean-ups
- Report problems
- Native plantings
- Advocacy
- Monitor
- Education and awareness

Solutions

- Look to other communities which have been successful: Seattle, Cleveland, San Antonio, etc.
- Advocate for the Reedy with businesses like Confluence that rely on water.
- Institutions like County and City government, DHEC, SCDNR, and the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Join with like-minded non-profits like Trout Unlimited, and advocates like River Keepers.

The return of the Reedy

- We imagine a beautiful river with tubing, fishing, wading and playing. An abundance of natural aquatic life.
- Greenways and buffers renewed by native plants and the removal of invasive exotics.
- Plantings along streets and buildings--all modified by native greenery. Rooftop gardens. Rain Gardens.
- It depends on all of us and many more. Remember the Foothill Garden Club ladies!