



## SENSE OF PLACE

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In the introduction to an issue called "Sense of Place," John E. Davis of *South Carolina Wildlife* provided these thoughts:

*"True sons and daughters of South Carolina, we are formed by her white sand beaches, dark coastal loam, red piedmont clay and mountain stone; shaped by her woods, waters and honored traditions; fired in her sultry summer days – Southern by the grace of God and the generations from whence we came.*

*Our love of land is fierce, our belief in the independence of the individual unshakable. Products of an agrarian society wilting under the heat of change, we are eager to bask in the wealth of development, yet desperate to hold onto our Southern roots – our sense of place.*

*Our state is now developing at a far faster rate than every before experienced here. As our population grows, so too grows the demand upon our resources and our supply of natural open spaces.*

*"You don't get something for nothing," the old adage says. Each stride taken comes at some cost. We must move forward, but we must spend our resources wisely. To ignore this fact is to one day find ourselves bankrupt of the natural splendor that gives us a sense of where we came from, who we are, and where we are going."*

The Sense of Place group did not publish a vision statement per se. However, several ideas from the initial brainstorming session have been incorporated into the final plan.

- *Keep the Green in Greenville. Set standards which maintain water courses, trees and greenways.*
- *Keep the village in Greenville. Villages include all municipalities, as well as Furman University, Westside mill villages and other key points in the County. Create within each village places where people want to gather and enhance those places with public art and architecturally significant structures. Commit to historic preservation of significant places.*
- *Develop a comprehensive plan that connects all major villages with a system of gateways, greenways and boulevards that include trees, public art and fountains.*
- *Enhance development guidelines that limit sprawl and provide less reliance on the automobile.*
- *Continue to create major public attractions in downtown Greenville like the Peace Center and Reedy River Park. Opportunities include a baseball stadium, noteworthy fountains, public art, movie theaters, etc.*

### Vision Summary

#### Keep the "Village" in Greenville

- Each City master planned with signature projects, e.g. Mauldin Civic Center and Greer Partnership for Tomorrow.
- Reinvent historic mill villages as models of smart growth, with mixed use zoning, racially diverse residents and multiple housing options
- Redesign transportation corridors as village connectors with medians, trees, public art and fountains (Poinsett Highway, Wade Hampton Blvd, Laurens Road, Western Corridor, I-385)
- Mixed use neighborhoods and town centers
- Pleasantburg Drive renovated as University corridor