

Sumter County Active Lifestyles Pedestrian Plan

Prepared for:
Sumter County

Prepared by:
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Executive Summary

The Sumter County Active Lifestyles Pedestrian Plan is a presentation of the work Sumter County Active Lifestyles (SCAL) has been doing, and plans on doing, to achieve our vision of "...everyone in Sumter County being aware of and regularly enjoying the use of the county's safe, convenient, and attractive sidewalks, streets, public spaces, and trails." Our efforts focus on:

- Trails development and use
- Development and implementation of a community education and awareness plan that promotes and advocates for safe and enjoyable pedestrian travel, leisure, and exercise
- Education of property owners about their rights and responsibilities for helping to keep sidewalks bordering their property a safe path for pedestrians
- Outreach to areas of Sumter County that are underserved in terms of community resources for physical activity and recreation
- Engaging key policy and decision makers in discussions of pedestrian travel issues in Sumter County
- Promoting use and maintenance of city and county parks and trails

The plan details SCAL's action steps and progress since 2006 toward resolving key issues we've identified for each of the above focus areas. Noteworthy achievements along the way are highlighted, which include the development of new parks and trails, the annual Wednesday Walkers worksite-based community walking program, upgrades to the county's Cypress trail, SCAL's integral role in the development and adoption of the new Sumter Urban Area Transportation Study (SUATS) Long-Range Transportation Plan, the adoption of four city parks and one county park through SCAL's Adopt A Park Program, and the adoption of portions of the SC Palmetto Trail through the Adopt A Trail Program.

Formal data collection and evaluation of SCAL's progress on these key issues are managed by the University of South Carolina Prevention Research Center. Individuals interested in more information about these data should contact the SCAL office at (803) 774-3860 or 3861.



Preface

I am pleased to present you with this publication, Sumter County Active Lifestyles (SCAL) Pedestrian Plan, March 2008. This publication outlines SCAL's long-range vision of an active and pedestrian-friendly community environment and our specific plan of action toward achieving this vision for Sumter County. The vision is grand and requires thoughtful, decisive, persistent, and sometimes seemingly insignificant steps to be fulfilled. However, SCAL is committed to achieving the vision, and we are already well on our way to bringing the vision literally down to "where the rubber meets the road."

This publication is intended for Sumter County government leaders, planners, decision makers, community coalitions, residents, and any other interested parties for informational use relative to what SCAL is doing to improve the health and quality of life for all citizens of the county. I welcome any comments, questions, and concerns you may have about any of the information contained herein or suggestions for what SCAL can do to make Sumter County an active and pedestrian-friendly community environment. Contact me by mail, e-mail, or phone:

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Sincerely,

Linda M. Pekuri, MPH, LD, RD
Executive Director



Part I: Master Plan

Section Contents:

Section 1: Vision and Objectives

Section 2: Issues, Recommended Actions, Progress, and Completed Actions



Section 1: Vision and Objectives

Vision

We envision everyone in Sumter County being aware of and regularly enjoying the use of the county's safe, convenient, and attractive sidewalks, streets, public spaces, and trails.

Objectives

Objective 1: Increase trail development and use in cooperation with relevant community partners.

Objective 2: Develop and implement an education and awareness plan for a pedestrian-friendly community that promotes and advocates for safe and enjoyable pedestrian travel, leisure, and exercise.

Objective 3: Identify and educate property owners/occupants about their responsibility for cleaning and maintaining sidewalks bordering their property.

Objective 4: Advocate for further development and expansion of trails in the county. Continue to identify trail expansion opportunities in underserved areas of the county.

Objective 5: Develop and implement a plan to engage influential land developers, land use planners, realtors, and policy makers in discussions of pedestrian travel issues in Sumter County.

Objective 6: Promote use and maintenance of city and county parks and trails.



Section 2: Issues, Recommended Actions, Progress, and Completed Actions

Objective 1: Increase trail development and use in cooperation with relevant community partners.

Issues:

- 1) Partnerships must continually grow and develop, thereby ensuring ongoing trail development.
- 2) Funding must be sustained for trail projects and staffing.
- 3) Access to the right of way needed to facilitate connectivity of trails must increase.
- 4) Existing trails are underutilized.

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Continue ongoing communication with the Sumter County Recreation and Parks Department. Hold planning meetings with the Recreation and Parks director and bicycle-pedestrian coordinator at least quarterly.
- 2) a) Identify funding for trail projects.
b) Identify funding for a Sumter County bicycle-pedestrian coordinator position.
- 3) a) Expand existing trail projects, and identify potential projects that enhance connectivity, accessibility, and safety of trails.
b) Identify the Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines for trail accessibility.
- 4) Continue promotion of existing and new trails.

Progress and Completed Actions:

- 1) Recreation Department Director, Rose Ford, is an active member of SCAL who gives and receives trails-related information on a monthly or bi-monthly basis to and from the SCAL executive director and county bicycle-pedestrian coordinator, as well as SCAL's Bike-Walk and Accessibility & Outreach committees. Regular communication exists among the SCAL executive director, Recreation Department director, and county bicycle-pedestrian coordinator through monthly reports and meetings as necessary.
- 2) a) The University of South Carolina Prevention Research Center (USC PRC) provides grant monies to the Recreation Department specifically for Sumter County trails projects. To date, these funds have been used to construct walking trails/tracks at Live Oak Park and the Cherryvale Community Center. The university also provides grant funds through SCAL for community groups to build walking trails, parks, and other recreational areas in underserved neighborhoods. Since 2005, two new community parks have been developed (Wedgefield Park and Willow Recreation Park) and one revitalized (VIM Park). Walking tracks/trails were installed at Wedgefield Park, VIM Park, and the Greater Township Community Center. Funds also paid for park benches,



trash cans, a bicycle rack, and a sign for the new walking track at the Cherryvale Community Center.

In April 2007, SCAL submitted a grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services for funding for a trail-related project in an underserved area of Sumter County. The proposal was not funded but will be submitted to other funding sources.

b) Completed: The USC PRC provides funding to the Recreation Department for a part-time bicycle-pedestrian coordinator. The most recent coordinator, Wayne Argabright, was hired in July 2007.

- 3) a) In March 2007, SCAL partnered with USC Sumter to create a marked, one-mile sidewalk walking trail on the college campus. SCAL is currently partnering with the Sumter Housing Authority to develop a marked, one-mile walking trail in one of the public housing complexes.

As a member of the Sumter Community Vision – Livable Sumter Committee, SCAL is participating in a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) initiative with Willow Drive Elementary School. In October 2007, Sumter Community Vision received financial support from the South Carolina Department of Transportation to collaborate with the school and community partners in implementing the SRTS program. A component of the SRTS program concerns environmental infrastructure changes that provide safe passage to schools via bicycling and walking (examples: sidewalks, crosswalks, bicycle lanes, and pathways).

The Sumter County bicycle-pedestrian coordinator has identified a potential rail trail project in the Foxville community of Sumter County, near Manchester State Forest, and is pursuing the necessary steps to convert an unused railway into a multi-use trail. This trail would connect Foxville to Horatio.

b) Completed: The Americans with Disabilities Act Recreation Facilities Guidelines for trails accessibility have been identified. See pages 26-29.

- 4) SCAL sponsors National Trails Day events every two years to highlight and promote Sumter County's parks and trails. In 2006, a National Trails Day event featured Second Mill Pond and included a fitness walk along one of SCAL's designated sidewalk walking routes. Another event will be held on June 7, 2008.

In October 2006, SCAL initiated a highly-successful, worksite-based community walking program, called Wednesday Walkers. The purpose of Wednesday Walkers is to promote physical activity among organizations and businesses, increase awareness of places to walk in Sumter County, and foster positive work relationships. The program was expanded in 2007.



Because of its popularity and success, Wednesday Walkers is now an annual event each spring.

Objective 2: Develop and implement an education and awareness plan for a pedestrian-friendly community that promotes and advocates for safe and enjoyable pedestrian travel, leisure, and exercise.

Issues relative to safety:

- 1) The awareness level of pedestrian safety and the benefits of and barriers to pedestrian travel in Sumter County is limited.
- 2) There is a need for greater public awareness of local laws and ordinances regarding pedestrian use of sidewalks, crosswalks, and crossing signals within the city and pedestrian safety on county roads.
- 3) The impacts of new infrastructure construction (e.g., parking lots and garages) on pedestrian and traffic patterns, and pedestrian and motorist safety must be considered and managed.
- 4) Street lighting is inadequate or insufficient in many areas throughout Sumter County.
- 5) Some crosswalks are not visible.

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Research local laws and ordinances that relate to pedestrian use of sidewalks, crosswalks and crossing signals, and laws relating to walking on county roads.
- 2) Develop an educational campaign about safe pedestrian travel in Sumter County. (Campaign should address sidewalks, crosswalks, and crossing signals and may include fliers, neighborhood association presentations, radio and TV public service announcements, a list of “do’s and don’ts” as they relate to pedestrian travel, etc.)
- 3) Meet with Planning Commission, SCDOT, and Tuomey officials to identify plans to address traffic flow at the hospital’s new parking garage on Hampton Street and the public parking lot under construction nearby, as they pertain to pedestrian and motorist safety.
- 4) Identify existing standards for street lights (distance between, maintenance, etc.) and party or agency responsible for their installation and maintenance.
- 5) Advocate for more visible crosswalks (speed bumps, flashing light, etc.).

Progress and Completed Actions:

- 1) Completed: The ordinances relative to pedestrian use of sidewalks, crosswalks, and crossing signals and laws relative to walking on county roads have been identified. See pages 18-22.
- 2) SCAL began implementing its pedestrian safety education campaign in March 2006 and continues presently. Components have included:



- Creation of a professionally produced infomercial about crosswalk laws and pedestrian safety tips that aired for 30 days on local cable television.
 - Creation of a pedestrian safety rules bookmark for pedestrians and motorists. The bookmarks were used at Willow Drive Elementary School's "Walk to School Day" event in October 2006. The rules were also included in a newspaper feature story about walking in Sumter County and recited at the warm-up during the 2006 March of Dimes WalkAmerica event.
 - Signs on three RTA shuttles that promoted pedestrian (and bicyclist) safety. The signs were in place for over three months in late 2006.
- 3) Completed: A very visible crosswalk was added on Hampton Street to provide safe passage of pedestrians walking to and from the hospital's parking garage.
 - 4) Completed: See page 30 for information on street lighting in the city and county.
 - 5) The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Team at Willow Drive Elementary School has prioritized the school crosswalk over Broad Street as the principal engineering improvement project for the SRTS initiative.

Issue relative to public spaces:

The ongoing maintenance, enhancements, and safety of public spaces are essential to a pedestrian-friendly community environment.

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Create an inventory of existing and proposed public spaces.
- 2) Identify parties or agencies responsible for maintenance, enhancements, and safety of public spaces.
- 3) Advocate for ongoing maintenance, enhancements, and safety of public spaces to ensure pedestrian-friendly environments.

Progress and Completed Actions:

- 1) SCAL has a listing of city and county parks. The county's bicycle- pedestrian coordinator is currently creating a pictorial inventory of all city and county public parks and trails.
- 2) Completed: SCAL has identified all agencies responsible for maintenance, enhancements, and safety of public spaces.
- 3) SCAL provides recommendations to the Sumter Urban Area Transportation Study (SUATS) team about sidewalk and street projects. SCAL was an active participant on the SUATS Long-Range Transportation Plan Advisory Group to ensure that pedestrian-friendly environmental supports/amenities were included in the plan. SCAL members testified in support of adoption of the transportation plan by the SUATS Policy Committee at its public meeting in November 2007.



The SCAL executive director wrote a letter to The Item newspaper editor regarding the 2006 capital sales tax referendum. The letter was published in the November 5, 2006 issue of the newspaper. It listed reasons why SCAL supported the sales tax, which if passed, would have funded proposed projects to make environmental improvements supportive of a pedestrian-friendly community.

Issue relative to trails:

Public awareness of laws and ordinances pertaining to trails (e.g., leash laws, motorized vehicles, etc.) is low.

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Identify laws and ordinances pertaining to trails.
- 2) Create public awareness of the laws and ordinances.
- 3) Advocate for placement of signs listing ordinances at trail heads.

Progress and Completed Actions:

- 1) Completed: The prohibition of off-road motorized vehicles on trails, and “leash laws” for trails within the city limits, are the existing ordinances.
- 2) Action toward creating public awareness of trails laws and ordinances is in progress.
- 3) In September 2007, trail markers and guidelines signs were upgraded and added along the developed portions of the county’s Cypress Trail by the county’s bicycle-pedestrian coordinator.

Objective 3: Identify and educate property owners/occupants about their responsibility for cleaning and maintaining sidewalks bordering their property.

Issue:

Property owners/occupants need to be educated on their responsibility for keeping the sidewalks bordering their property clear of overgrowth, litter, trash cans, vehicles, etc., to provide a safe environment for pedestrians using the sidewalks.

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Identify city ordinances relative to sidewalk maintenance by property owners/occupants.
- 2) Identify all neighborhood association presidents. Meet with them to share SCAL’s pedestrian plan and inform them of the city ordinance relative to sidewalk maintenance.
- 3) Create a “Who to Contact” listing of local agencies responsible for handling property owners’ questions and concerns about sidewalk construction, repair, maintenance, etc.



Progress and Completed Actions:

- 1) Completed: The City of Sumter Code of Ordinances—Items Related to Neighborhoods has been identified. See pages 22-24.
- 2) Completed: SCAL has identified all city neighborhood association presidents. The SCAL executive director met with the South Sumter Neighborhood Beautification Association in September 2006 and shared SCAL's pedestrian plan and informed them of the city ordinance relative to sidewalk maintenance.
- 3) Completed: The SCAL publication, "Who to Contact about Property Concerns," is available free to the public at the SCAL office. See page 31 for a reproduction of the publication.

Objective 4: Advocate for further development and expansion of trails in the county. Continue to identify trail expansion opportunities in underserved areas of the county.**Issue:**

There is a need for countywide trail development, connectivity, and accessibility, especially in the county's rural areas.

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Use the SCAL Accessibility and Outreach Committee's database of underserved areas to identify potential partners for trail expansion opportunities (e.g., faith communities, community development corporations, and schools).
- 2) Create a one-page trails development resource list to share with interested groups.

Progress and Completed Actions:

- 1) Through its community mini-grant program, SCAL's Accessibility and Outreach Committee formed partnerships with three community coalitions and one neighborhood group to build walking tracks in rural or underserved areas of the city and county in 2006 and 2007 (Wedgefield, Rembert, Cherryvale, and the Broad Street area).
- 2) The trails development guide is under development by the Sumter County bicycle-pedestrian coordinator.

Objective 5: Develop and implement a plan to engage influential land developers, land use planners, realtors, and policy makers in discussions of pedestrian travel issues in Sumter County.**Issue:**

Mutual cooperation, education, and give-and-take between land use planners and land developers must be fostered and maintained.



Recommended Actions:

- 1) Develop a list of best practices for active living environments/active communities/smart growth to share with and promote to land developers, home builders, real estate professionals, and policy makers.
- 2) Communicate these best practices to these stakeholders, and advocate for adoption of policies and ordinances in support of active living environments and pedestrian-friendly communities.
- 3) Communicate with partners at least quarterly.

Progress and Completed Actions:

- 1) Completed: SCAL was an integral part in the development of the Sumter Urban Area (SUATS) Long-Range Transportation Plan, which includes extensive information about “complete streets” design concepts and other ideals/best practices for pedestrian-friendly communities. The SCAL director served on the transportation plan advisory group; SCAL members provided input at several respective public meetings; and SCAL’s bicycle and walk maps were used as tools for planning future bicycle and pedestrian pathways for Sumter County.

The SCAL director, Sumter County bicycle-pedestrian coordinator, and USC PRC staff gathered information and created a supporting document for the transportation plan, entitled, “Evidence to Show Why the SUATS Long-Range Transportation Plan Should be Adopted, Endorsed, Funded, and Implemented.” This document was given to the City-County Planning Commission’s Transportation Coordinator for distribution and is available to the public at the SCAL office.

- 2) SCAL members testified in support of adoption of the transportation plan by the SUATS Policy Committee at its public meeting in November 2007.
- 3) The City-County Planning Commission’s Transportation Coordinator and the Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Government’s Transportation Coordinator are members of SCAL and attend monthly meetings.

Objective 6: Promote use and maintenance of city and county parks and trails.

Issues:

- 1) The current Adopt A Park (AAP) Program cosponsored by the City of Sumter and SCAL needs to be reevaluated and refined to increase greater community participation and adoption of more parks.
- 2) The lack of continuous funding devoted to trails hinders optimal trails maintenance.

Recommended Actions:



- 1) Schedule a meeting with interested SCAL members, City Parks & Gardens Department officials, and current AAP contact persons to evaluate the current program.
- 2) Partner with the Sumter County bicycle-pedestrian coordinator to create an Adopt A Trails Program.

Progress and Completed Actions:

- 1) Completed: The SCAL executive director met in person with City Parks & Gardens Department officials in November 2007 and January 2008 to evaluate the current program and discuss ways to improve it and increase the number of adopted parks. She also spoke by phone with the current AAP Program adoptive group leaders to obtain their input.

Fulton Park was adopted in January 2008. There are now four city parks (Benton, Herbert, South Sumter, and Fulton) and one county park (Cypress Park) that have been adopted since the AAP Program was created in 2004.

- 2) Although an Adopt A Trails Program has not yet been formed, a unit of the Third Army has adopted a portion of the SC Palmetto Trail to help the bicycle-pedestrian coordinator with periodic maintenance of the trail.



Part II: Ordinances

Section Contents:

CODES OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES pertaining to:

- Rights and duties of pedestrians
- Neighborhoods



CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

ARTICLE 25. PEDESTRIANS; RIGHTS AND DUTIES THEREOF (excerpted)

SECTION 56-5-970. Traffic-control signal legend. Whenever traffic is controlled by traffic-control signals exhibiting different colored lights or colored lighted arrows, successively one at a time or in combination, only the colors green, red, and yellow, shall be used except for special pedestrian signals carrying a word legend. Such lights shall indicate and apply to drivers of vehicles and pedestrians as follows:

(a) Green indication:

1. Vehicular traffic facing a circular green signal may proceed straight through or turn right or left unless a sign at such place prohibits either such turn. But vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left, shall yield the right-of-way to other vehicles and to pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or an adjacent crosswalk at the time such signal is exhibited.
2. Vehicular traffic facing a green arrow signal, shown alone or in combination with another indication, may cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by such arrow or such other movement as is permitted by other indications shown at the same time. Such vehicular traffic shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.
3. Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian-control signal, as provided in § 56-5-990, pedestrians facing any green signal, except when the sole green signal is a turn arrow, may proceed across the roadway within any marked or unmarked crosswalk.

(b) Steady yellow indication:

2. Pedestrians facing a steady circular yellow or yellow arrow signal, unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian-control signal as provided in § 56-5-990, are advised that there is insufficient time to cross the roadway before a red indication is shown and no pedestrian shall then start to cross the roadway.

(c) Steady red indication:

3. Except when a sign is in place prohibiting a turn, vehicular traffic facing any steady red signal may cautiously enter the intersection to turn right or to turn left from a one-way street into a one-way street after stopping as required by item 1 or 2. Such vehicular traffic shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.



4. Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian-control signal as provided in § 56-5-3110, pedestrians facing a steady circular red or red arrow signal alone shall not enter the roadway.

SECTION 56-5-990. Pedestrian "walk" and "wait" signals. Whenever special pedestrian control signals exhibiting the words "Walk" or "Wait" are in place, such signals shall indicate as follows:

(1) "Walk" indicates that a pedestrian facing such signal may proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal and shall be given the right of way by the drivers of all vehicles; and

(2) "Wait" indicates that no pedestrian shall start to cross the roadway in the direction of such signal, but any pedestrian who has partially completed his crossing on the walk signal shall proceed to a sidewalk or safety island while the wait signal is showing.

SECTION 56-5-3110. Pedestrian obedience to traffic-control devices and traffic regulations.

(a) A pedestrian shall obey the instructions of any official traffic-control device specifically applicable to him unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

(b) Pedestrians shall be subject to traffic and pedestrian-control signals as provided in §§ 56-5-970 and 56-5-990.

(c) At all other places, pedestrians shall be accorded the privileges and shall be subject to the restrictions stated in this chapter.

SECTION 56-5-3120. Local regulations. Local authorities may by ordinance require that pedestrians shall strictly comply with the directions of any official traffic-control signal and may by ordinance prohibit pedestrians from crossing any roadway in a business district or any designated highways except in a crosswalk.

SECTION 56-5-3130. Pedestrians' right-of-way in crosswalks.

(a) When traffic-control signals are not in place or not in operation, the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way, slowing down or stopping, if need be, to yield to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.

(b) No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.



(d) Whenever any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass such stopped vehicle.

SECTION 56-5-3140. Pedestrian shall use right half of crosswalk.

Pedestrians shall move, whenever practicable, upon the right half of crosswalks.

SECTION 56-5-3150. Crossing at other than crosswalks.

(a) Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

(b) Any pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point where a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing has been provided shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

(c) Between adjacent intersections at which traffic-control signals are in operation, pedestrians shall not cross at any place except in a marked crosswalk.

(d) No pedestrian shall cross a roadway intersection diagonally unless authorized by official traffic-control devices, and, when authorized to cross diagonally, pedestrians shall cross only in accordance with the official traffic-control devices pertaining to such crossing movements.

SECTION 56-5-3160. Pedestrians on highways.

(a) Where a sidewalk is provided and its use is practicable, it shall be unlawful for any pedestrian to walk along and upon an adjacent roadway.

(b) Where a sidewalk is not available any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall walk only on a shoulder as far as practicable from the edge of the roadway.

(c) Where neither a sidewalk nor a shoulder is available, any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall walk as near as practicable to an outside edge of the roadway and, if on a two-way roadway, shall walk only on the left side of the roadway.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, any pedestrian upon a roadway shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

SECTION 56-5-3200. Vehicle shall stop for pedestrian guided by dog or raising cane. Whenever a pedestrian is crossing or attempting to cross a public street or highway, guided by a guide dog or carrying in a raised or extended



position a cane or walking stick which is white in color or white tipped with red, the driver of every vehicle approaching the intersection or place where such pedestrian is attempting to cross shall bring his vehicle to a full stop before arriving at such intersection or place of crossing and before proceeding shall take such precautions as may be necessary to avoid injuring such pedestrian.

SECTION 56-5-3210. Penalties for violating §§ 56-5-2720, 56-5-3190, or 56-5-3200. A person who violates any of the provisions of Sections 56-5-3190, 56-5-3200, or 56-5-2720 is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be punished by a fine not exceeding twenty-five dollars or imprisonment for not exceeding ten days.

SECTION 56-5-3220. Effect of failure of incapacitated person to carry walking stick or cane, or to be guided by dog. Nothing contained in §§ 56-5-3190 and 56-5-3200 shall be construed to deprive any totally or partially blind or otherwise incapacitated person not carrying such a cane or walking stick or not being guided by a dog of the rights and privileges conferred by law upon pedestrians crossing streets or highways, nor shall the failure of such totally or partially blind or otherwise incapacitated person to carry a cane or walking stick or to be guided by a guide dog upon the streets, highways, or sidewalks of this State to be held to constitute or be evidence of contributory negligence.

SECTION 56-5-3250. Pedestrians' right-of-way on sidewalks. The driver of a vehicle crossing a sidewalk shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and all other traffic on the sidewalk.

SECTION 56-5-3260. Pedestrians yield to authorized emergency vehicles.

(a) Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle making use of an audible signal meeting the requirements of § 56-5-4970 and visual signals meeting the requirements of § 56-5-4700, or of a police vehicle properly and lawfully making use of an audible signal only, every pedestrian shall yield the right-of-way to the authorized emergency vehicle.

(b) This section shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway nor from the duty to exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian.

SECTION 56-5-3270. Pedestrians under influence of alcohol or drugs. A pedestrian who is under the influence of alcohol, or any drug, to a degree which renders himself a hazard shall not walk or be upon a highway except a sidewalk.

SECTION 56-5-3280. Bridge and railroad signals.

(a) No pedestrian shall enter or remain upon any bridge or approach thereto



beyond the bridge signal, gate or barrier after a bridge operation signal indication has been given.

(b) No pedestrian shall pass through, around, over or under any crossing gate or barrier at a railroad grade crossing or bridge while such gate or barrier is closed or is being opened or closed.

(Source: South Carolina Legislature Online, <http://www.scstatehouse.net>)

City of Sumter — Code of Ordinances (excerpted)

* Items Related to Neighborhoods *

Sec. 14-43. Dogs or cats prohibited at large. It shall be unlawful for the owner or person in the possession of any dog or cat to permit such dog or cat to run at large within the corporate limits of the city; provided, however, that a dog may be allowed on the streets of the city when the same is on a leash held by the person in charge of such dog. (Code 1976, § 6-29)

Section 46-31. Unlawful accumulation and growth.

(b) It shall be the duty of every person with ownership, use, care, custody, or control of real property to at all times maintain said property, the space between the property line and the street (including between any sidewalk and curb line), and in the front, rear and along the sides thereof in accordance with this article and all local property maintenance codes.

(c) A person with ownership, use, care, custody, or control of real property includes but is not limited to any owner of record, landlord, tenant, adult resident, adult user, adult occupant, real estate agency or agents, and/or any other person who uses the property, cares for the property, maintains the property, controls the property, or obtains an economic benefit from the use or maintenance of the property.

(e) It is unlawful for any person with ownership, care, custody, or control of real property which has been developed to allow grass, weeds, or overgrowth to grow above the height of one foot on said property, the space between the property line and the street, including between any sidewalk and curb line, in the front and in the rear and along the sides thereof. It is the responsibility of said person to insure that grass, weeds, and undergrowth on the property are cut and mowed so that neither the grass, weeds, nor undergrowth shall grow above the height of



one foot and to maintain real property as required by this article and the property maintenance code.

Sec. 74-44(c). Roll-a-Waste containers or recycling bins shall not be placed on sidewalks, entrance walkways, driveways, streets or on the property of another, or in such a manner as to obstruct the free flow of traffic or drainage along any public street.

Sec. 74-50. Unlawful deposits.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to deposit or place any garbage, within the meaning of this chapter, in any alley, street, stream or other public place within the city, nor shall any person deposit or place any garbage upon private property, whether owned by such person or not, within the limits of the city, unless the garbage shall be enclosed in a suitable container.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to discard, place, drop, throw or leave any paper, bottle, can, rubbish or any other waste matter upon any street, sidewalk or right-of-way of the city or upon any private property within the limits of the city unless the same is deposited in a suitable container normally provided therefor. (Code 1976, § 14-27)

Sec. 78-7. Parkways. All such places as lie between the street curbing and the sidewalks of the city are hereby declared to be parkways. The maintenance of this area shall be the responsibility of the abutting property owner. It shall be unlawful for any person to ride, cross or to allow any horse or other animal, motor vehicle or other vehicle to pass over, stand upon or otherwise trespass on any of the parkways in the city, or to pick, damage or injure any flowers, shrubbery or grass growing on such parkways. (Code 1976, § 28-7)

Sec. 78-116. Allowing water from roof to run on sidewalks. It shall be unlawful for any person to build, construct, erect or maintain a house or building of any description in the city in such manner that rainwater may flow from the roof, eaves, cornices, gutters or other part thereof, upon any sidewalk so as to cause holes, depressions, unevenness, gullies or other defect or damage to such sidewalk. Any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. (Code 1976, § 28-52)

Sec. 78-118. Pedestrians. It shall be unlawful for any persons walking on the



sidewalks of the city to walk more than two abreast on any sidewalks of the city, and it shall further be unlawful to walk on the sidewalks other than single file when the sidewalks are restricted to the extent that no more than two persons can pass each other on such sidewalks, thereby forcing the third person to walk in the street subjecting himself to possible injury by motor vehicles traveling in such street. (Code 1976, § 28-54)

Sec. 86-48. Blocking off-street driveway. No vehicle shall stop, stand or park in such a manner as to block any driveway, entrance or exit to an off-street parking lot, business, residence or any other building or property requiring entrance or exit to the roadways. (Code 1976, § 19-178; Ord. No. 1489, § 19-178, 11-21-95)

Sec. 86-53. Prohibited in specific places.

(a) Except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic, in compliance with law or the directions of a police officer or official traffic control device, no person shall:

(1) Stop, stand or park a vehicle on the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street; on a sidewalk; within an intersection; on a crosswalk; between a safety zone and the adjacent curb or within 30 feet of points on the curb immediately opposite the ends of a safety zone, unless a different length is indicated by...



Part III: Resources

Section Contents:

Americans with Disabilities Act- Recreation Facility Guidelines
Sumter County Street Light Policies
Who to Contact for Property Concerns



Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Recreation Facility Guidelines

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a comprehensive civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. The ADA requires that newly constructed and altered state and local government facilities, places of public accommodation, and commercial facilities be readily accessible to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities. The ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) is the standard applied to buildings and facilities. Recreational facilities, including sports facilities, are among the facilities required to comply with the ADA.

The recreation facility guidelines cover the following facilities and elements:

- Amusement rides
- Boating facilities
- Fishing piers and platforms
- Miniature golf courses
- Golf courses
- Exercise equipment
- Bowling lanes
- Shooting facilities
- Swimming pools, wading pools, and spas

Accessible Routes

Accessible routes are continuous, unobstructed paths connecting all accessible elements and spaces of a building or facility. The accessible route must comply with ADAAG provisions for the location, width (minimum of 36 inches), passing space, head room, surface, slope (maximum of 1:12 or 8.33%), changes in level, doors, egress, and areas of rescue assistance, unless otherwise modified by specific provisions outlined in this guide. Facilities must provide accessible routes connecting all accessible elements and spaces within areas of indoor or outdoor sports activities. If not all elements need to be accessible, only those that are accessible must be connected with an accessible route. The guidelines apply to "fixed" facilities and elements. They do not cover equipment that is frequently moved. For example, a wrestling mat or badminton net may be portable and moved regularly.

Areas of Sport Activities

An "area of sport activity" is a broad term intended to cover a diverse number of indoor and outdoor sports fields and areas. This includes, but is not limited to: basketball courts, baseball fields, running tracks, soccer fields, and skating rinks. The "area of sport activity" is "that portion of a room or space where the play or practice of a sport occurs." For example, football fields are defined by boundary lines. In addition, a safety border is provided around the field. Players may



temporarily be in the space between the boundary lines and the safety border when they are pushed out of bounds or momentum carries them forward when receiving a pass. So in football, that space is used as part of the game and is included in the area of sport activity.

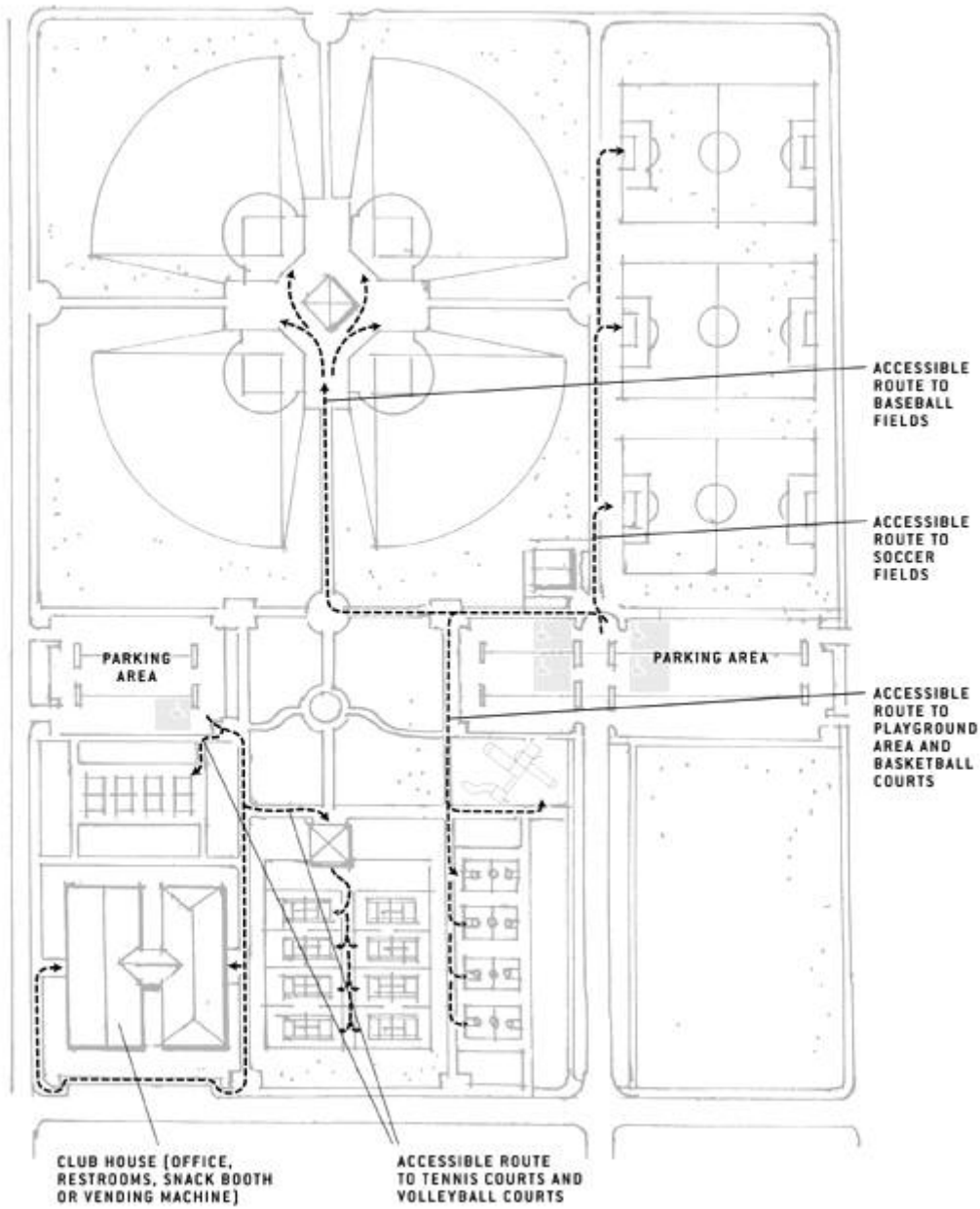
Accessible routes must connect each area of sport activity. Areas of sport activities must comply with all ADAAG requirements, except that they are exempt from the requirement that surfaces must be stable, firm, and slip resistant, and from the restrictions on carpets, grating, and changes in level. They are also exempt from restrictions on protruding objects. These provisions are not required inside of the area of sport activity since they may affect the fundamental nature of the sport or activity. For example, an accessible route is required to connect to the boundary of a soccer field, but there is no requirement to change the surface of a field to an accessible surface.

Where light fixtures or gates are provided as part of a court sport or other area of sport activity, they must comply with ADAAG provisions for controls and operating mechanisms, and for gates and doors.

An example of an accessible route connecting various elements of a multi-use recreational facility is shown on the next page.



ACCESSIBLE ROUTE CONNECTING VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF A MULTI-USE FACILITY



EXAMPLE



(ADA guidelines, continued)

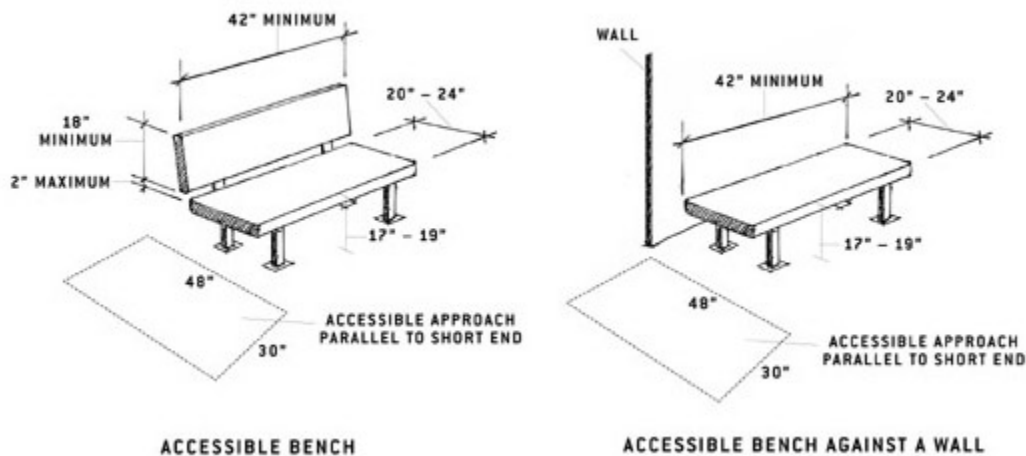
Benches

Accessible benches are required in dressing, fitting, and locker rooms, and where seating is provided in saunas and steam rooms. Benches must have a clear floor space positioned to allow persons using wheelchairs or other mobility devices to approach parallel to the short end of a bench seat. In saunas and steam rooms, this floor space may be obstructed by readily removable seats.

Benches must have seats that are a minimum of 20 inches to a maximum of 24 inches in depth and 42 inches minimum in length. The seat height should be a minimum of 17 inches to a maximum of 19 inches above the finished floor. If the bench is not located next to a wall, the bench must have back support that is 42 inches minimum in length and extends from a point 2 inches maximum above the seat to a point 18 inches minimum above the bench. Benches must be strong enough to withstand a vertical or horizontal force of 250 pounds applied at any point on the seat, fastener, mounting device, or supporting structure. The provisions for benches are not intended to apply to park benches or other benches used for sitting or resting.

If benches are located in wet areas, the surface must be slip-resistant and designed not to accumulate water.

EXAMPLES:



(Source: <http://www.access-board.gov/recreation/guides/sports.htm>)



SUMTER COUNTY STREET LIGHT POLICIES

Within the city limits:

- Street light poles and fixtures are owned by the utility companies. The City of Sumter pays for monthly illumination cost per location.
- Lights are provided at all intersections and hazard curves on streets and are spaced on roadways as necessary.
- Street light outages are reported to the Special Projects office at City Hall (436-2664) and are then reported to the utility company. The lights are generally repaired within days of notification.

Outside of city limits:

- Residents of housing subdivisions should report street light outages to the respective power company.
- Sumter County is currently developing a county street light policy for dangerous intersections, which County Council will have to approve. Anticipated policy completion and approval is March or April 2008.





WHO TO CONTACT ABOUT PROPERTY CONCERNS

ACCUMULATION AND GROWTH

- The growth of grass, weeds or undergrowth other than trees, bushes, flowers or other ornamental plants above the height of one foot
- The presence of dilapidated structures or buildings, unsecured buildings, trash, rubbish, debris, garbage, offal, stagnant water, glass, tree trimmings or limbs, wood, unsightly materials or conditions, or any matter, material or condition harmful to good health, public sanitation or public safety
- The storage of “junk” (defined as, but not limited to: any appliance, motor vehicle, trailer, equipment, machine or other product that is inoperable, partially operable, wrecked, partially wrecked, dismantled, partially dismantled or discarded-- or any parts or pieces of the above; used cans, bottles or paper; discarded chemicals or other such salvage or scrap; and any motor vehicle with an expired license tag or otherwise unsuitable for highway or street operation)

CONTACT: City Public Services, 436-2558.

SIDEWALKS

- Holes, depressions, unevenness, gullies or other defect or damage
CONTACT: Sumter County Department of Transportation, 778-5466.
- Vehicles parked on the sidewalk or parkway (the place between the curb and sidewalk)
CONTACT: City Dispatch, 436-2774 or 2775 or 2776.

STREET LIGHTING

- Burnt-out bulbs, inadequate lighting, etc.
CONTACT: City of Sumter Special Projects Office, 436-2664.



Sumter County Active Lifestyles (SCAL) is a community-based coalition working to make it easier to be physically active in Sumter County. SCAL advocates for places to exercise for all people of Sumter County, such as parks, trails, sidewalks and bicycle lanes. We are working hard to fulfill our vision of “everyone in the county being aware of and regularly enjoying the use of the county’s safe, convenient and attractive sidewalks, streets, public spaces and trails.” SCAL appreciates the efforts of citizens and neighborhood groups helping bring this vision to pass by creating neighborhoods that residents can enjoy. This publication is a tool to help you in your efforts. *Together, we can* make a difference!

For more information about *Sumter County Active Lifestyles* or to learn how you can be involved with SCAL’s work, call 774-3860 or 3861, or visit our website at www.sumtercountyactivelifestyles.org.



Part IV: About Sumter County Active Lifestyles

Section Contents:

What is SCAL?

SCAL's mission, overall goal, priority issues, history, and committees

Contact information



What is Sumter County Active Lifestyles?

Sumter County Active Lifestyles (SCAL) is a nonprofit community-based coalition of representatives from city and county agencies, local businesses, health care, law enforcement, media, nonprofit organizations, associations and local residents, working to make it easier to be physically active in Sumter County.

SCAL advocates for places to exercise for all people of Sumter County, such as parks, trails, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes. We work to increase awareness about the things the county has to offer that make it easier to get outside and be more active. We promote the message that physical activity includes routine, day-to-day activities like walking, biking, washing your car, or gardening.

Mission Statement

Promote health and quality of life in Sumter County by advocating for a community environment that supports physically active lifestyles for all citizens.

Overall Goal

Increase physical activity or exercise among Sumter County residents by creating a supportive environment through policy and environmentally-focused strategies.

Priority Issues:

- Promote a bicycle-friendly community
- Promote a pedestrian-friendly community environment
- Promote an overall active community environment
- Expand outreach to underserved areas to address disparities in supports for physical activity
- Maintain community education activities and general advocacy efforts
- Achieve sustainability of the coalition to promote active community environments

History/Background/Committees

Sumter County Active Lifestyles (SCAL) resulted from a grant awarded to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC)-Region 4 from the University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health Prevention Research Center (PRC) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Funding began in 1998 and will continue through 2009. SCAL receives its own budget from the university. In January 2006, the grant moved from SCDHEC to the Sumter County Recreation and Parks Department (RPD), and RPD funds a full-time project coordinator and part-time administrative assistant.



To determine how to best achieve its goals, SCAL conducted numerous community audits, surveys, and assessments in which a cross-section of county residents' opinions was collected. We continue to develop partnerships with various groups in the community to provide safe and enjoyable places to exercise and to develop community programs. For example, SCAL and the City of Sumter coordinate an Adopt A Park Program; we join with the Sumter Mall to implement the Heart & Soles walking program; we host Sumter Cycle Fest in conjunction with the Sumter YMCA, Safe Kids Coalition, RPD and Palmetto Cycling Coalition; and we co-sponsor the Wednesday Walkers community walking program.

SCAL currently operates through two committees:

- *Bike-Walk* focuses on increasing public awareness of trails, locating and identifying areas for walkways and bike paths, and advocating for and promoting the use of pedestrian and cyclist facilities.
- *Accessibility and Outreach* focuses on assisting communities with limited resources in determining ways to improve and increase physical activity opportunities for their residents. This committee also offers mini-grant opportunities.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Wayne Argabright, Sumter County Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator
Sumter County Recreation & Parks Department
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Phone: (803) 436-2248, extension 28
FAX: (803) 436-2400
E-mail: trails@sumtercountysc.org

**For more information, visit our website at
www.sumtercountyactivelifestyles.org**

