

2020 - 2021

ANNUAL REPORT

Hitchcock Woods

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P.O. Box 1072
Aiken, SC 29802
803.642.0528
hitchcockwoods.org



MISSION

To protect and preserve the Hitchcock Woods in a natural and ecologically healthy state, maintain and manage historic and traditional equestrian and pedestrian uses, and foster education and research on the history and resources of the Woods.

VISION

To maintain and restore the ecological integrity of the Hitchcock Woods and to serve as a model for sustainable urban forestry, balancing stewardship of forestland natural resources with compatible human uses.

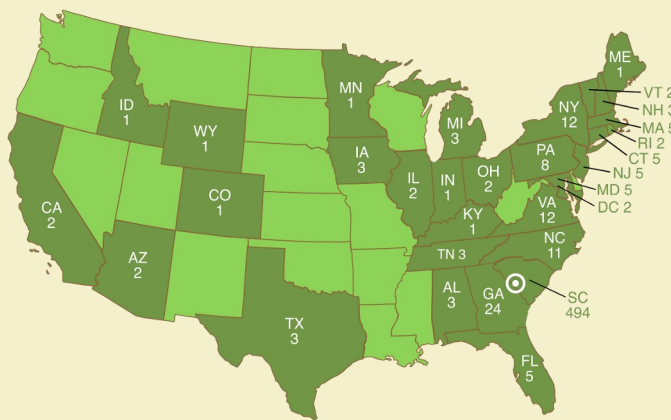




The Board of Trustees of the Hitchcock Woods Foundation is most grateful for the continued financial support you have graciously provided us over the past year. It has been especially significant since we have been unable to host the Aiken Horse Show, our primary fundraiser, for the past two years due to Covid.

Your donations have been vital in helping us accomplish our mission and goals and has enabled us to continue to provide the highest level of stewardship of the Woods...providing you with enjoyment of the Woods today and allowing future generations to experience the beauty and tranquility of this forest tomorrow.

DONOR SUPPORT FOR HITCHCOCK WOODS FOUNDATION



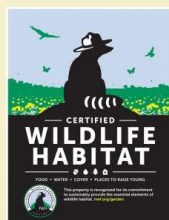
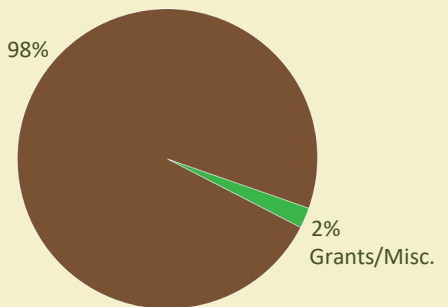
Your Support Makes a Difference

- 626** Donors
- 3** Countries
- 32** States
- 90%** Of all donations came from South Carolina residents

OUR REVENUE SOURCES

We are funded almost entirely by the generosity of private donors, and we remain committed to be fiscally responsible with every donation that has been gifted to us. Every dollar makes a difference. We receive no city, state, or federal funding.

Individual Donors 98%



"The Foundation is not only an excellent steward of the community oasis but also very careful and considerate in their handling of funds donated."

"Hitchcock Woods will always give back to me more than I can ever give to it."

STORMWATER RELIEF PROJECT

- The highest priority of the Board has been finding a solution to the escalating erosion and damage to the Woods caused by the City's unmanaged stormwater. The Foundation came to an agreement in 2018 with the City of Aiken for a shared solution to resolve this sixty-year problem that has destroyed over 90 acres of forested wetland and caused serious environmental damage and safety issues.
- The City began work on the environmentally friendly project in mid-September which will address these issues by constructing massive underground retention vaults to control stormwater runoff. Also a beautiful new greenspace will be developed for the community to enjoy at the corner of South Boundary Ave and Laurens St.



STORMWATER PROJECT VIDEO

- This informative 3-minute video provides detailed information about the Stormwater Relief Project with actual footage of the devastation in Hitchcock Woods. (Kindly produced by Koelker & Associates)

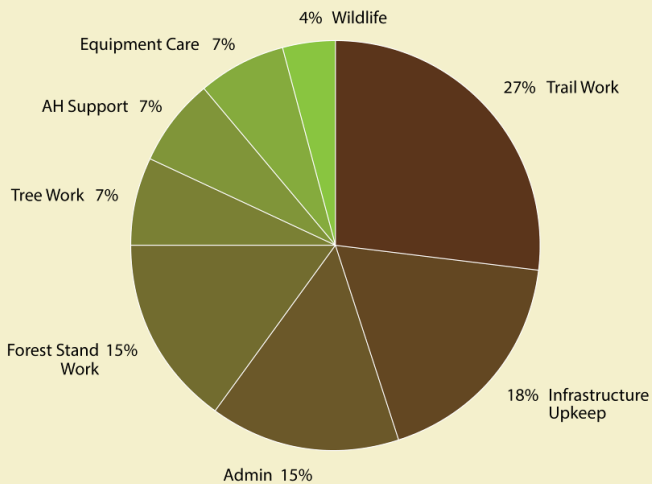
Stormwater Relief Project Greenspace

This greenspace will provide a visible Gateway to Hitchcock Woods by highlighting and connecting the Woods' main entrance to Aiken's historic downtown area. This area will include educational kiosks, a pollinator garden, and a rain garden.



Care of Hitchcock Woods and all it holds is perpetual. Care hasn't stopped for over 100 years, and with our kind donor support, it will continue for the next 100. A substantial amount of our donations goes to the ecological management of this 2100-acre forest to maintain the health of the Woods and to ensure visitor safety...70 miles of trails, trees, wildlife, equipment, and so much more must be maintained.

How Our Woods Stewards Spend Their Time



Palmetto Ride, closed for over 5 years due to erosion and stormwater damage, was rerouted into a useable, quality, sustainable trail. This complicated and challenging task was completed entirely "inhouse" by our own team saving the Foundation a substantial amount of money.

"The Hitchcock Woods Foundation has the daunting task of preserving and managing its 2100 acres and 70 miles of trails."

This Year...

- Over 8 acres of pollinators were planted...64 pounds of pollinator seeds with 26 different species.
- 160 pounds of oats and 32 pounds of millet were planted first to serve as a nurse crop for the tiny pollinator seeds.
- Over 50 miles of trails have been actively maintained
- Staff has responded to more than 45 emergencies and incidents in the Woods
- Over 80 equestrian jumps were rehabilitated



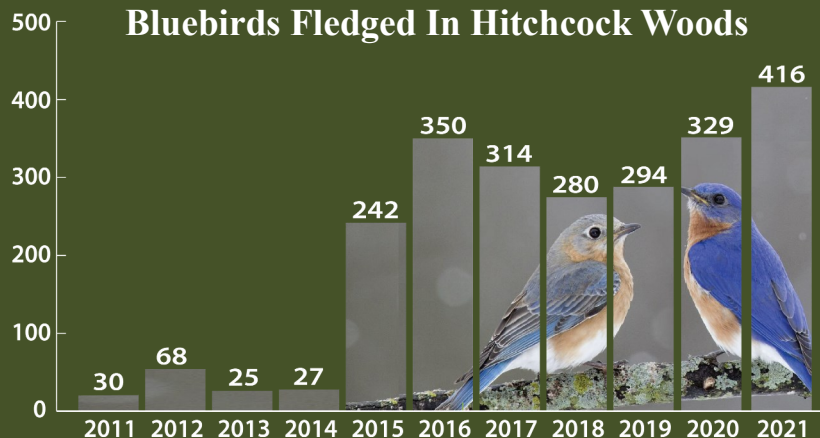
Fauna in the Woods

"Hitchcock Woods is the jewel of Aiken, and this from a non-equestrian longtime resident. The Woods are safe, well managed, historic, and beautiful with a wide variety of flora and fauna and walking trails, very dog friendly."

The presence of quail, red-cockaded woodpeckers (RCWs) and eastern fox squirrels are significant indicators of a healthy forest. Ours are thriving...



Bluebirds Fledged In Hitchcock Woods



? Did you know:

- Screech owls are the size of a robin and have large heads, bright yellow eyes and pointed ear tufts
- They are active at night and are more often heard than seen
- Despite their name, they don't screech...listen at night for their soft trills and whinnies

Education and Outreach

Education and Outreach is part of our mission and a priority for the Foundation. We have some exciting educational projects coming in the near future that will help expand knowledge, appreciation, and experiences in this amazing outdoor classroom.

Many thanks to those who supported our successful fall online auction for our educational mission...you are making a difference

"Hitchcock Woods has been my wonderland, sanctuary, and teacher for 62 years."



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"Its beauty is evident in every season."

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CUMULATIVE GIVING FROM JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021

The Hitchcock Woods Foundation works very hard to ensure that our donor information is listed correctly, however, occasional mistakes do occur. Please contact the Foundation office at 803.642.0528 with any questions or corrections.

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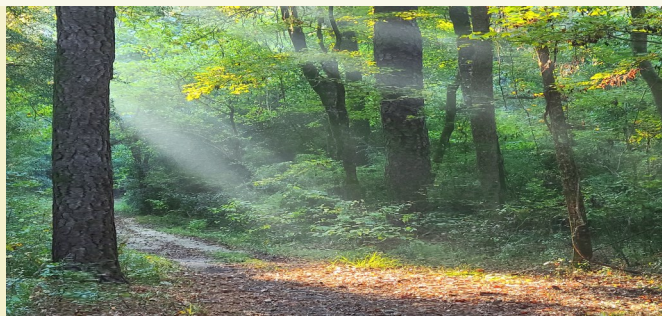
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 Ms. Whitney McWhorter Williams
 Dr. Sarah Young
 Ms. Anna Zouck

Our Supporters Say It Best



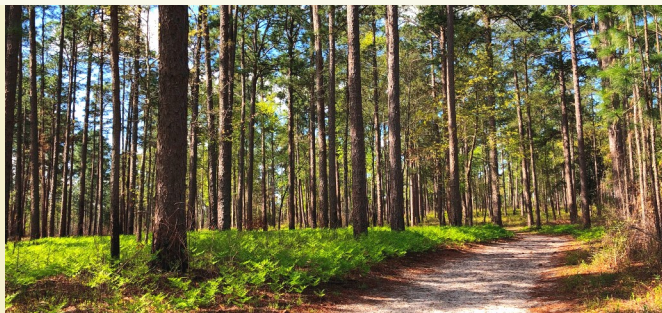
"At any time of day – it restores an ancient sense of balance and humility to my spirit and reminds me to open my mind and senses to the signals of deep creativity and beauty that only nature can send."



"With over 65 miles of trails, I never get bored, and I love to explore new routes..."



"It is a gem for wildlife, beautiful trees and wild flowers, a gift to walk and ride horses in and a nod to keeping pieces of our environment as natural as we can."



"The people of Aiken have used the Woods as a sanctuary, a place of serenity and peace, a place to return to time and time again to breathe fresh air and renew ones' spirit."



"I grew up riding horses in Hitchcock Woods and when I moved away, I was shocked to learn that the horsey town I moved to didn't have a Hitchcock Woods."

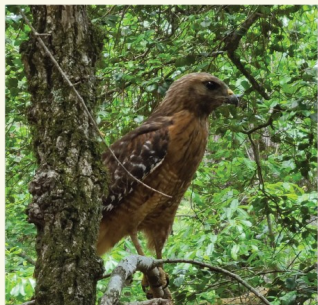
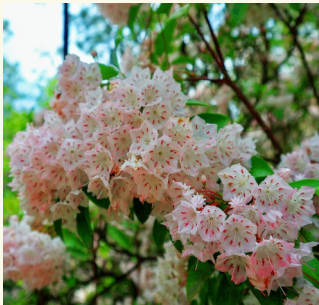
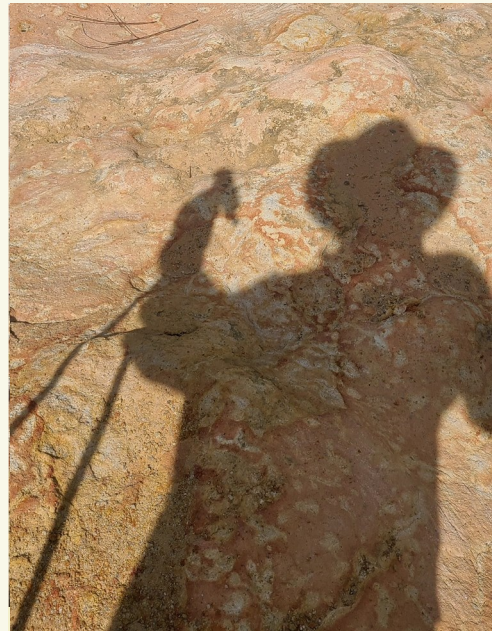
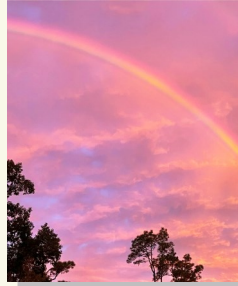


2021

In The Woods



"The Woods is a place where you can escape to enjoy nature at its best."



Pete Bidwell's Hitchcock Woods Challenge
Goal of 1000 Miles in 12 months
Currently 667 miles, 89 hikes in 6 1/2 months



"The Hitchcock Woods is a real hidden gem... an oasis in the middle of the city."

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The 104th Aiken Horse Show is
returning this spring!

April 1-3, 2022

We hope you will join us.