



Parks & Recreation Investments

Saluda River Access/ River Boat Ramp

Project Description: Develop the City of Columbia Saluda River Canoe and Kayak Access Point Project on the Saluda Riverwalk, specifically located at the Millrace rapids near Candi Lane parking lot and public restrooms.

The new river access point will be a positive addition to the popular recreation attraction by serving non-motorized boaters, increase attraction and accessibility for canoers/kayakers, and enhance safety/water recreation on the Saluda River.

Objectives: The primary purpose of this project is to provide:

- Safe and Accessible river access to the Saluda River
- New access trail with a connection to the existing Saluda Riverwalk trail
- Direct accessible route to a crucial access point on the Saluda River
- Access point with an opportunity for less experienced river users to get on the river below the class IV rapid of Millrace
- New site amenities to enhance the user experience along the Saluda River

Components of the Project include an ADA-compliant canoe/kayak ramp, shade structures, riverside seating, step upgrades, educational/erosion control amenities, and an improved path for water recreation. These upgrades will tie in seamlessly at the existing Saluda Riverwalk trailhead and greatly improve one of Columbia's most popular water recreation destinations.

Project Type: Parks & Recreation, River Access, Site Enhancement

Council District: 2

Project Funding: Current total secured budget is **\$125,000.00**, which reflects funding secured through an SCPRT grant of \$100,000.00 and a required match of 25,000.00

Current Project Status: In the process of implementing Phase 1 with a Recreation Trails Program (RTP) grant through the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (SCPRT). Phase 1 will provide a direct path by modifying the existing boardwalk with steps down to the existing put-in below the boardwalk. The area below the boardwalk will have stone steps and concrete landings that give access to the river below the class IV rapid of Millrace. In addition, existing boulders in this zone will be relocated to provide a clear path and the steep dirt secondary path, which is the primary tuber route, will receive timber steps.

Additional project components will be completed as funding is secured.

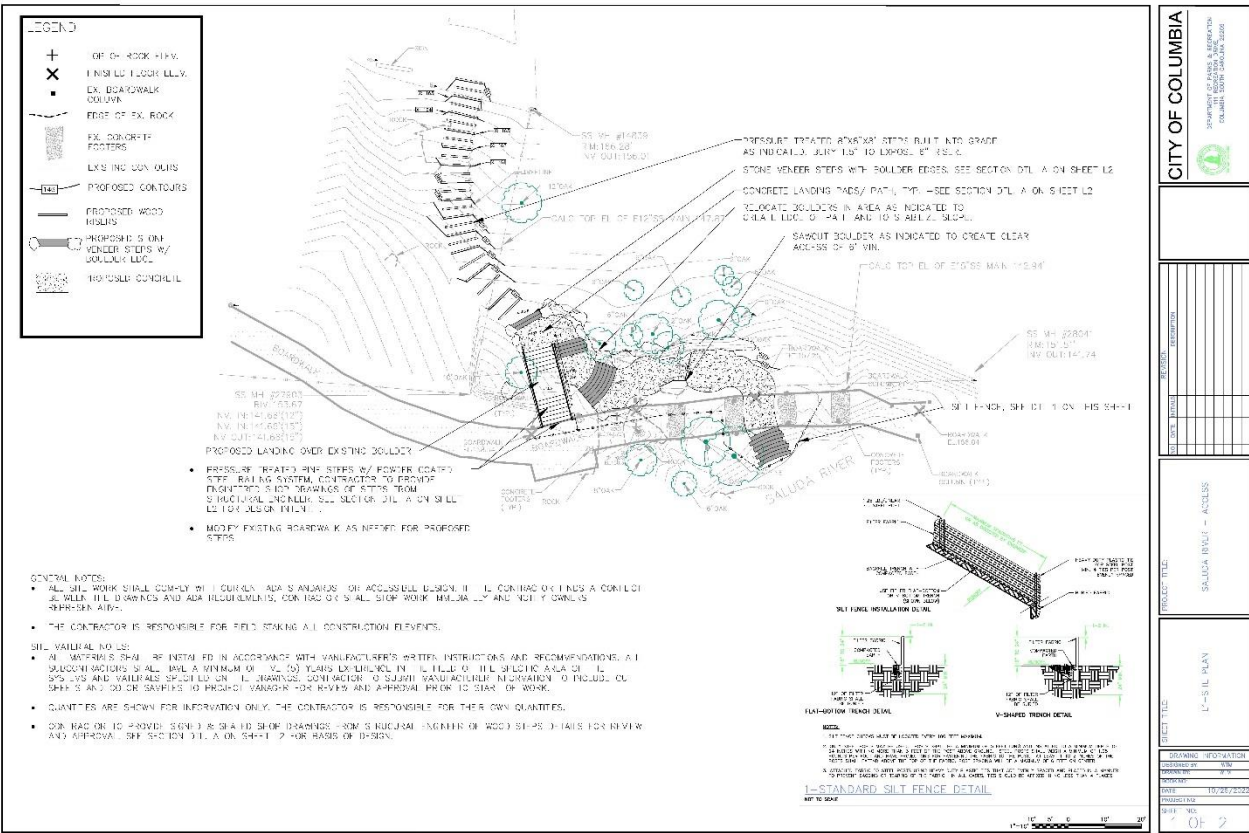


Figure 1: Site plan for improvements in phase 1 (SCPT Grant)



Figure 2: Saluda river imagery with current project zones