

The Duncan Float

Floating Forward in Harmony
Calvin Cowen and Susan Haymon

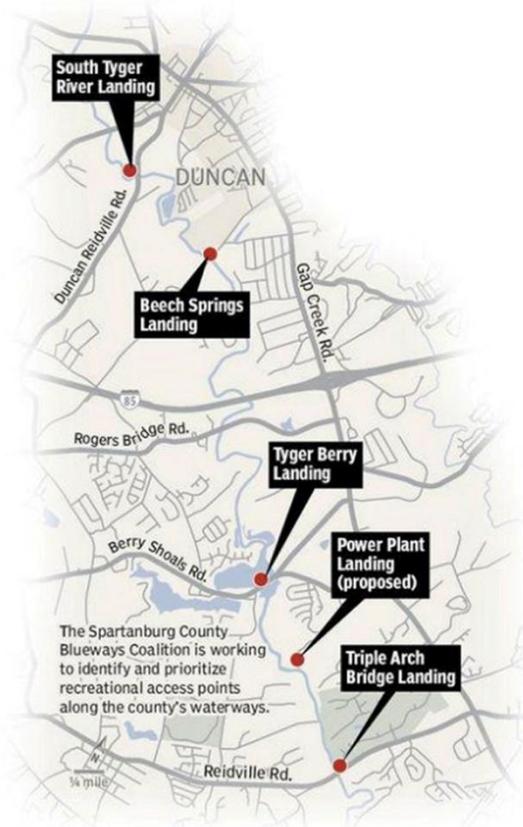


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1. Overview of the concept

The concept is to integrate two water resources available to the Town of Duncan to create an event that will be family friendly. Shipwreck Cove is already a family friendly attraction that is very close to the Tyger River landing shown in section 2. Stoneledge Park is right between these two water attractions and is large enough to sponsor a festival.

Once the Tyger River is opened up to canoe, kayak and tube traffic there will be the opportunity to host planned events to allow families to float down the Tyger River a few times a year. The river will be open to use year round once opened but on days of a planned float there would be no need to leave a car at the end of the float as there would be transportation available to bring participants back to either the first landing or Stoneledge Park for pizza and floats after the float.

People being people there will eventually be kayak and canoe races arranged because this is the South and in the South people race if there is a place to race.

The first objective will be to open up enough of the river to float from the first put in to the Beech Springs take out as shown on the map in section two.

2: The Tyger River Foundation

The Tyger River Foundation is a group that has already been working on making the Tyger River easy to navigate with several put-ins and take outs. There are people in Duncan that are familiar with other efforts that have already been made in our area as well. This is a project that has been in the works for years so there is no need to start from scratch. However if the Town of Duncan joins the effort the project should be completed much quicker. The web site for the Tyger River Foundation is:

<http://www.tygerriver.org/>

The following is from an article that was in the Spartanburg Herald.

Groups hope to build five public accesses for waterways



Tyger River Foundation - Julian Hankinson
Herald Journal 4-11-2017

Groups hope to build five public accesses for waterways

By Chris Lavender

Five new landings are planned to increase public access to waterways along the Middle and South Tyger Rivers.

The Tygerberry Landing at Berry's Pond is the first of the bunch, and it should be open later this year. It's part of a larger plan to open new access points in the Tyger River Basin to make Spartanburg County more attractive to outdoor enthusiasts who want to explore the natural beauty of the terrain. The landings are primarily designed for kayak and canoes, but will be available for any recreational use.

So far, \$35,000 from an S.C. Department of Natural Resources water recreation grant has been used to start construction of Tygerberry Landing. The Spartanburg County Blueways Coalition has approached the county government about helping fund that and the other four through its Parks Department. Beyond that, the Tyger River Foundation has another eight to 10 similar projects in the conceptual stage.

Spartanburg County Administrator Katherine O'Neill said the projects would be reviewed by County Council for funding.

Tyger River Foundation co-founder Julian Hankinson said the landing at Berry's Pond makes for an ideal spot to gain access to the South Tyger River, which flows nearby. The pond was built in 1903 to help generate electric power for a local business. Through the years, the pond has filled in with silt from storm water runoff, but it remains navigable, he said.

"It's an easy upstream paddle not working against the current and a unique access point that we will make usable," Hankinson said.

Tygerberry Landing's parking lot is complete but the landing itself is not yet open to the public. A gated entrance with signs will be installed before the landing opens, Hankinson said, and a fishing pier and picnic shelters will be added later. Plans call for moonlight paddle events and classes for beginners on kayaking and canoeing.

The foundation also plans to construct a nearly two-mile trail from the landing to the South Tyger River this year.

Hankinson said the foundation would construct and manage the park, while the county Parks Department would provide maintenance for the site once it's opened.

The Startex-Jackson-Wellford-Duncan Water District owns the land and is leasing it to the foundation.

Mitch Turner, director of property and risk management for the water district, said some funds have been raised for the landing projects. He anticipates them to be constructed in phases. The landings will open up new areas undiscovered by kayakers and other outdoor enthusiasts, he said.

“The rivers will become destination points, and we can hold events at the landings,” he said.

The Spartanburg County Parks Department will continue to work with the Blueways Coalition to assist with the development of the landings’ potential site plans, Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Stiens said.

The additional projects include Beech Springs Landing, Triple Arch Bridge Landing, Old Power Plant Landing and South Tyger River Landing. According to the Blueways Coalition, the five landings’ projected combined construction cost is \$180,600.

Middle Tyger Area Council Chairman Joe Wilson said the landings would help drive tourism and raise awareness of what recreational activities are available on the county’s waterways. Wilson said there’s limited access on the rivers, which drives people to Asheville and Hendersonville in Western North Carolina, where there’s more accessibility to blueways. Spartanburg County wants to become more competitive in ecotourism, he said.

It could take several years to complete the landing projects based on available funding, Wilson said. The coalition believes a healthy blueway system increases quality of life for residents and tourists and invites businesses to invest in the community. Conservation easements limiting development are being completed at some of the proposed landing sites.

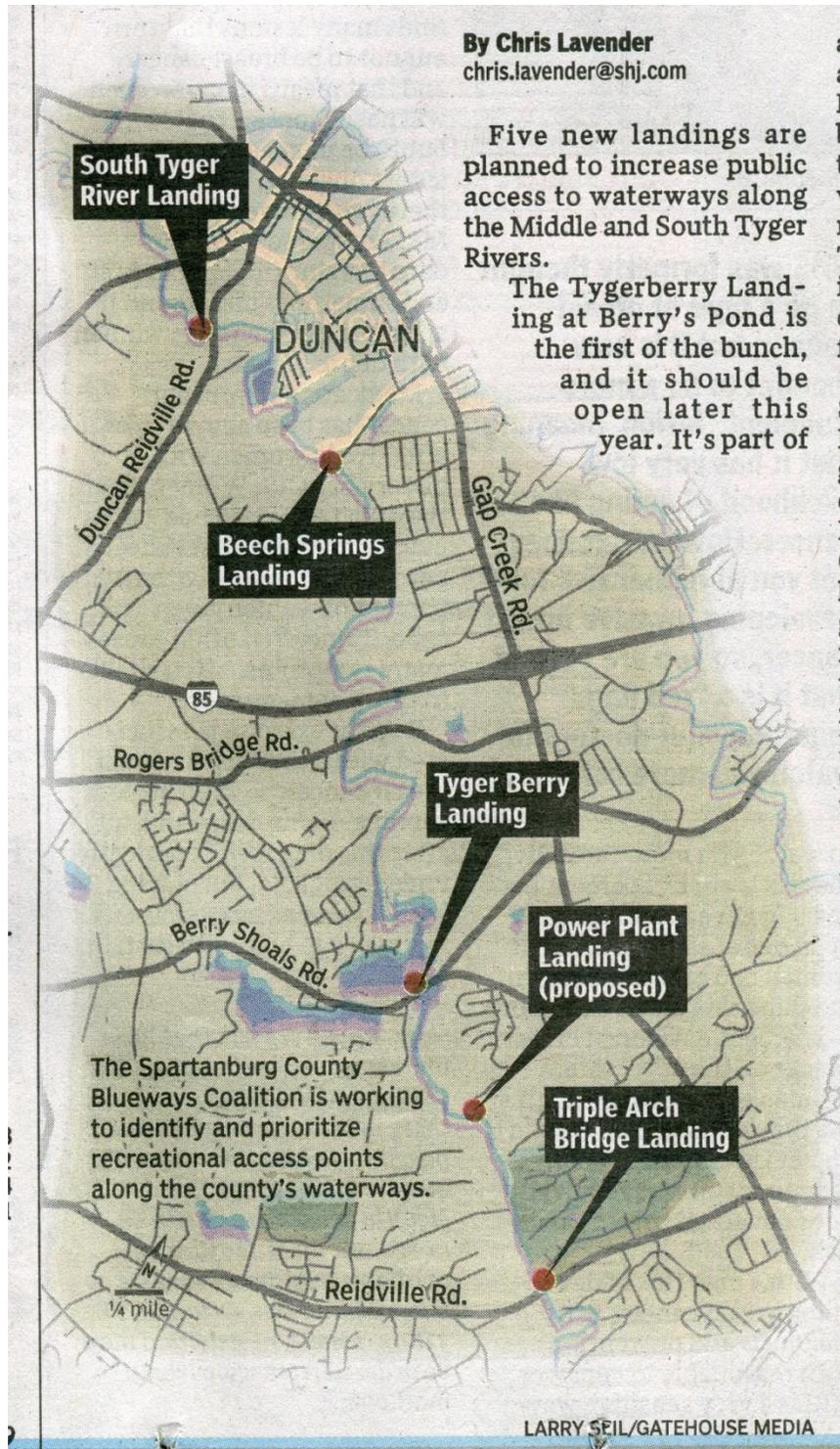
Wilson called the waterways in the Tyger River Basin “hidden gems” that will likely gain interest once the landings are complete, allowing the county to showcase what it has.

Tygerberry Landing will serve as a prototype for the other projects. It cost about \$42,000 to construct and will provide about 20 parking spaces for visitors.

South Tyger River landing on South Spencer Street in Duncan is projected to cost \$16,400 and will include about eight parking spaces and a natural pathway sloped to provide river access. Beech Springs Landing on South Danzler Road in Duncan will include about 10 parking spaces with canoe put-in and take-out points. It will cost about \$18,400.

Triple Arch Bridge Landing on Reidville Road will include 1 acre of river access, 10 parking spaces and a natural pathway sloped to the river. It’s projected to cost \$28,400.

A site hasn’t been approved yet for the Power Plant Landing on Power Plant Road in Duncan. The Blueways Coalition hopes to see a landing built at the site with 20 parking spaces and a roundabout to allow for kayak and canoe drop-off. The projected cost: \$75,400.



The link to this article is:

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20170410/groups-hope-to-build-five-public-accesses-for-waterways>

3. Floats for the float

If you just mention “Duncan Float” to a person who doesn’t know it is intended to be an organized float down the Tyger River some assume it is a float for the annual Christmas parade. At least one person thought it was some kind of specially concocted float of the type that is similar to a milkshake. A special thank you goes out to David, one of Duncan’s finest citizens, for being that person. This morphed into the idea of why not concoct a special float to go with the Duncan Float called the Duncan Float. After all the float will happen in warm weather so a float might go well with the float. A few people liked the idea so it was added to this proposal.

There is a possibility that an ice cream company could be convinced to come up with a special flavor called “Duncan Float.” This would make the Duncan Float exclusive to Duncan. This might help with the cost of the float while helping their bottom line and the bottom line of Duncan.

Who knows? Philadelphia is known for its cheese steaks. Could Duncan become known for its floats? That might be a stretch but people do love a good float.



4. Naturally cooked pizza – The low cost special ingredient

The following is an opportunity to do something novel at a very low cost to the Town of Duncan. The Duncan Float is envisioned as a family fun event but the facilities could be use to sponsor adult themed events as well as be used for private events. Having a novel (and quick) way to cook pizza or other food would add to any event planned to take advantage of the natural asset the Tiger River is to Duncan and the surrounding area.



The Cob Oven described below would be very low cost to the Town of Duncan because the architect is also a teacher that puts on classes to teach how to build these ovens. She has been contacted and is willing to do a class in our area if we are willing to have an oven built. The following description of the oven is copied from her web site which is:

<http://www.lowcountrynaturalbuilding.com/>



April K. Magill
Architect, NC & SC
Root Down Designs, LLC
<http://www.lowcountrynaturalbuilding.com/>

All about the Cob Oven

A Cob Oven is an oven which cooks from retained heat (fueled by small kindling) and is made from a mixture of local mud, and straw! The foundation is composed of local, recycled, & salvaged materials.

This style of cooking is indigenous to many cultures all over the world



and still used by many cultures today. Being that these ovens are made with clay; they 'breathe'....creating the most delicious, crispy outside....moist inside, kind of food you can taste! From 3 minute pizzas, to Thanksgiving Turkeys...the Earth Oven can cook anything your conventional oven will....just better!!!

The best way to build an Earthen Oven is with Community Involvement! With the leadership of April Magill (Architect/Natural Builder) folks can come out and learn how to build with earthen materials, build with their neighbors, and learn how they can build their very own Earthen Oven!

The Oven cooks by retained heat. Small pieces of dry, hard wood works best. Finding a connection with a local wood shop is a great way to use their waste products for fuel!

- Once lit, the fire should be stoked and fed, and little by little pushed to the back of the oven.
- Approximately 45 min.- 1 hr. is needed to get the oven up to proper cooking temperature.
- From here, the fire can remain burning in the back while pizzas are cooked directly on the brick hearth. A thin crust pizza will cook in literally 3 minutes!

The oven will remain hot for the next 10+ hours. The options are endless for what you can cook! Start with pizzas, then as the temperature slowly drops, throw in a roast, bake a few loaves of bread, then some shrimp..... as it cools even more, try a home made granola, or slow-cook some beans over night! When done cooking, fill the oven with wood, close the door, and



let the wood 'kiln dry' for your next firing!

- The Earthen Oven cooks with all 3 heating methods: convection, conduction, and radiant heat, thus, cooking your food quicker and more thoroughly! Not to mention the unbeatable taste of food cooked by a wood-fired oven!!!

- Because the oven is made from a clay mixture, when hot, the oven will expand, and as it cools, it will contract. You will see some cracking over time, this is normal. Simply pick a 'maintenance day' once a year and patch the cracks with more clay; April can show you how or come and do it for you.
- Because the oven is made from a clay mixture, it must remain covered with a small roof or covering. It can stand up to minimal rainfall and spray, but direct rainfall over time would eventually break the oven down.
- So why not just build it out of concrete??? Well, for several good reasons! The earthen mix which is used to build the oven 'breathes.' Concrete does not. When cooking in a clay oven, water from the clay is released in the form of steam. Have you ever baked bread in your conventional oven and created steam with a pan of water? The steam creates a nice, golden, crispy outside.....and a delicious, moist inside....whether we're cooking breads, roasts, pies, etc. And you know those pizza stones people use in their conventional ovens? Well guess what, the oven hearth IS a pizza stone! Also, concrete is expensive and has quite a large 'carbon footprint' in the production of it. Mud is FREE and comes locally right from the ground!!!
- Root Down Designs is happy to demonstrate and/or train people on how to use the oven. A detailed instructions page will be provided and left with the oven.

"Once you have pizza from an Earth Oven, you'll never go back to normal pizza."



So why would you want an Earthen Oven???

- Set an example! Show that you are engaged with the 'Green' movement through the building of an Earthen Oven, which is a true example of Natural Building.

- Engage With the Local Community! Using the Earthen Oven is truly a Community event. Watch as people gather around the oven, help with the tasks, and take turns cooking!

- Build With the Community! Allow the local residents to be engaged with the building process. When people feel a part of the creation of elements in their community, they will, in turn, care for their community.

- Get On Board! Currently, there are 7 states with Earthen Ovens in public parks. "Build an oven, and people will come." " We no longer have to plan events, the events plan themselves." Ovens bring people together!

- Charleston LOVES Food!!! The food events are endless in Charleston. Use the Earthen Oven to attract chefs and 'foodies.' Create new events. Cook and sell 3 minute, wood-fired pizzas!!!

.....The list goes on!!! Contact April @ Root Down Designs for more information.

April K. Magill
Architect, NC & SC
Root Down Designs, LLC
<http://www.lowcountrynaturalbuilding.com/>