On national urban to-do list



KEN OSBURN / Staff

Falls Park is listed as one of the best parks in the country by US Airways magazine, which cites "elegant suspension footbridge," "rushing Reedy River."

Falls Park one of 'best'

Downtown Greenville attraction only state site on magazine's list

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One of the best parks in the country is right here in Greenville.

That's a sentiment expressed in the June online issue of US Airways magazine, which has Greenville's Falls Park listed as one of the "Best City Parks" in the nation.

The list is part of the magazine's "Let's Go" column, offering travelers "one more item for your urban to-do-list."

In describing Falls Park, the article says, "It's hard to decide which is more beautiful: Falls Park's elegant suspension footbridge, a favorite spot for an evening stroll from downtown, or the rushing Reedy River Falls below the bridge."

The park is the only South Carolina site to make the listing.

Greenville Mayor Knox White said the recognition is "just affirmation that Falls Park is one of the most beautiful public spaces in America.

"It goes to show that when people come to town from outside, the park is more and more recognized as the centerpiece of downtown Greenville," he said.

US Airways magazine is among the many publications and organizations to take note of Falls Park.

More than a year ago, the park was a finalist for the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Amanda Burden Urban Open Space Award, a competition that "recognizes an outstanding example of a public open space that has catalyzed the transformation of the surrounding communities."

The US Airways of Best City Parks includes the High Line in New York City; Balboa Park in San Diego; Discovery Green in Houston; Discovery Park in Seattle; New Orleans city parks; City of Boston parks; Fairmount Park in Philadelphia; the Great Forest Park Balloon Race in St. Louis; Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta; Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C.; Mile High City's 200 plus parks in Denver; Golden Gate Park in San Francisco; Millennium Park in Chicago; and South Mountain Park in Phoenix.

White has visited many of the places cited in US Airways and says "we're in excellent company."