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New waterfall overlook will let hikers soak in view

Funding for Table Rock project comes from tax form checkoff

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PICKENS — Work is expected to start soon on a new overlook at a popular hiking trail at Table Rock State Park, with the funding coming from state taxpayer donations.

Around $43,000 was donated in 2008 state income tax returns through the "check off for state parks" initiative, according to Poll Knowland, park manager for Table Rock State Park.

The money will be used to build a new viewing platform for the Carrick Creek waterfall at the park.

"It will provide a safe access point for our visitors to view one of the most incredible waterfalls in this area, and it will protect the resources at the same time," Knowland said.

Last year, more than 48,000 hikers used the trail, Knowland said.

State income tax filers can use their 2009 state form to donate money for park projects in the state, according to Phil Gaines, state park director for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

Taxpayers can use the form, called Schedule I-330 Contributions for Check Off, which has the state parks system and other groups listed, and donate a portion of their state refund or add the contribution amount to their state income tax payment.

Work on the wooden deck platform on the Carrick Creek Trail could start within the week, and the project should be finished before summer, he said.

CHECK OUT CHECKOFF

Learn more about the tax checkoff at www.southcarolinaparks.com