

for a weekend or whatever and spend money in Walhalla.”

City councilman Tjay Bagwell, who directed Tuesday's council meeting in the absence of Mayor Danny Edwards, circulated the Stumphouse trail

design plans to council members in attendance.

Bagwell said the Stumphouse proposal would be discussed in more detail at upcoming meetings after all council members have had an opportunity to review it.

Majors said the Palmetto Conservation is working closely

with Upstate Forever on the Stumphouse proposal.

In 2007, Upstate Forever, a Greenville-based organization dedicated to preserving natural and historical treasures in the Upstate, led a communitywide effort to stop the sale of more than 400 acres surrounding Stump-

house to a private developer.

The community coalition purchased the property, with help from the city of Walhalla, and placed the property in a conservation easement.

“Upstate Forever is very interested in developing the property for low-impact use,” Majors

said. “They don't want trees cut down and things like that. We'll come up with a design and submit it to them to make sure they're on board with it. They are a partner.”

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Walhalla officials are reviewing a design plan that would incorporate land surrounding Stumphouse Tunnel into The Palmetto Trail, a network of trails planned to eventually stretch from Walhalla to the coast.

Plan surfaces to link Stumphouse to Palmetto Trail

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Walhalla officials began this week reviewing a design plan that would integrate breathtaking scenic areas around Stumphouse Tunnel into the 350-mile, cross-state network of outdoor travel-adventure known as The Palmetto Trail.

Connecting surrounding Stumphouse Tunnel property to the trail would allow bikers and hikers public access into areas with spectacular views of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The city of Walhalla manages Stumphouse Tunnel as a public park along with nearby Issaqueena Falls just off S.C. Highway 28. The park is about seven miles north of the city.

The Palmetto Conservation Foundation, which operates The Palmetto Trail, announced plans

this summer to make Walhalla its terminus for the 350-mile trail. To do so entails connecting the existing 3.2-mile Oconee Station stretch of the trail to Stumphouse property.

Future development would add more trails to connect Stumphouse to downtown Walhalla and end at Kaufmann Square Park near The Depot.

Jim Majors, Upstate trails coordinator for the Palmetto Foundation, put the Stumphouse trails design plan together. Majors and Dan Pollock, head of Walhalla Partners for Progress, were instrumental in promoting Walhalla as a terminus for The Palmetto Trail.

“What we're hoping is it becomes a mountain-biking destination,” Majors said Thursday. “In other words, we're hoping it's going to be such a nice set of trails that it will be of interest to bikers to come

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