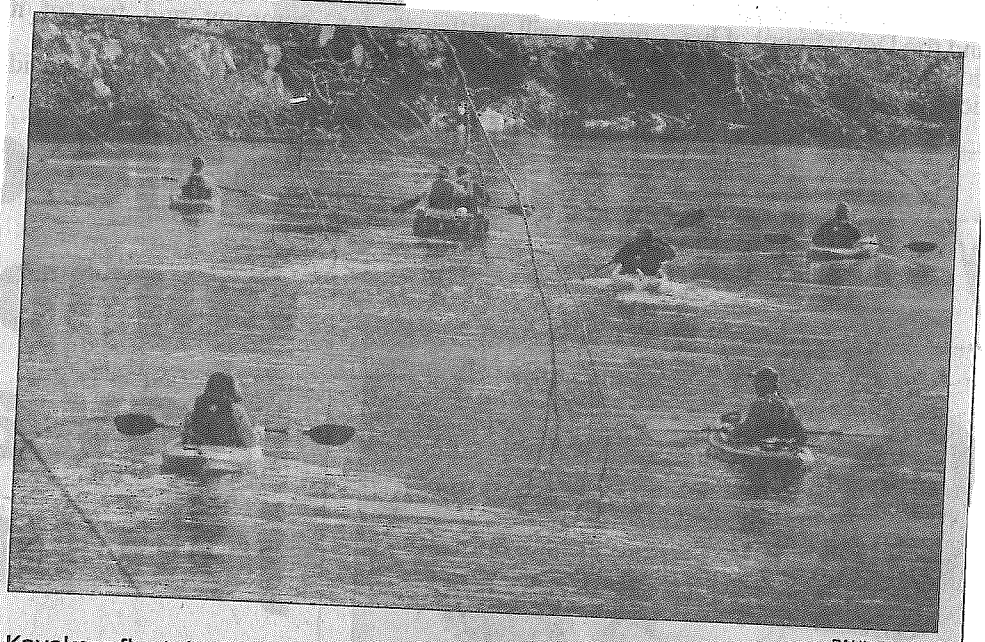


Kayakers float down the Saluda River near Powdersville. Anderson County hopes to create a kayak/canoe course on a stretch of the river. PAUL BROWN

Water enthusiasts may get new place to paddle

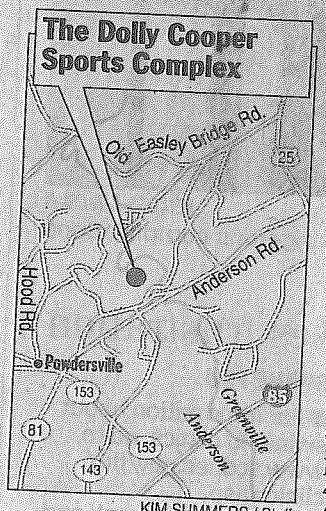
'River Center' on Saluda would offer launch spot for kayaks, canoes

By Terry Cregar
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POWDERSVILLE — Kayak and canoe enthusiasts could soon have another place to enjoy their hobby under a plan to turn a stretch of the Saluda River into a kayak/canoe corridor.

Anderson County hopes to build a "River Center" at the Dolly Cooper Sports Complex near Powdersville that would include a launch pad for kayaks and canoes.

The kayak/canoe course would follow the Saluda River from its put-in point at or near the complex south to the dam near the old Piedmont mill, covering about nine miles, said Matt Schell, manager of Anderson County Parks and Recreation.



KIM SUMMERS / Staff

There now are only two public boat ramps on the Saluda River in the county, both near old mill near Pelzer, Schell said.

"There's no corridor established in Anderson County to support kayaking and canoeing," he said.

Around 30 people climbed into kayaks provided by Grady's Great Outdoors in Anderson this week for the three-hour trip to the Piedmont dam.

The proposed River Center would be the latest addition to the complex which is on around 40 acres off State 81 on the Anderson/Greenville county line. It would be designed as a gazebo-type structure with information on the river.

"Very few people can appreciate the beauty of this river," Schell said.

A boat ramp near the Piedmont dam would improve emergency response times for the Piedmont Fire Department's water rescue team.