

Established in 1990, the property protects a 1.5 mile stretch of Lawson's Fork Creek and several feeder streams. It is owned and maintained by the Spartanburg Area Conservancy (SPACE), a nonprofit land conservancy serving the Spartanburg community.

SpartanburgConservation.org

The 115-acre nature preserves follows the course of Lawson's Fork Creek through a mature eastern floodplain forest featuring the namesake Cottonwood trees along with Silverbell, Pawpaw, Sassafras, and other native trees. Signs identify over 50 species of trees. You'll find many unique and outstanding features including several wetlands, open spaces, geological formations, and outstanding wildlife habitat. Look for deer, wild turkey, fox, beaver, raccoon, along with numerous birds and reptiles, and wildflowers.



Edwin M. Griffin Nature Preserve

Cottonwood Trail MAP & GUIDE

Five minutes from downtown, the Cottonwood Trail is one of Spartanburg's most popular greenspaces. The 115-acre recreational nature preserve features over 5 miles of trail including a boardwalk over a 20-acre wetlands. It is a favorite destination for runners, dog walkers, bicyclists, nature photographers, youth groups, picnickers and nature lovers. Officially known as the Edwin M. Griffin Preserve, in honor of a longtime volunteer, the Cottonwood Trail is an urban nature oasis and a great place for a run or a peaceful stroll through the woods.

About Spartanburg

Located in the foothills of the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains, Spartanburg, SC is known for its Revolutionary War battles, as well as a rich textile and agricultural history. Located along two major interstates Spartanburg is a hub of activity, including rich cultural offerings, extensive educational opportunities, musical heritage, and the abundance of stunning landscapes. It is at the crossroads of the modern South.

Stuff like this only happens in a place that's truly Revolutionary. Come see for yourself.



SPARTANBURG
REVOLUTIONARY

Produced in cooperation with the Spartanburg Convention & Visitors Bureau
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Edwin M. Griffin Nature Preserve

Cottonwood Trail MAP & GUIDE



Cottonwood Trail

1.25 miles

The preserve's signature trail stretches just over a mile along Lawson's Fork Creek through a mature floodplain forest featuring, of course, the native Cottonwood tree. For a great run, start at the Sydnor Road entrance and follow the trail downstream, then loop back on Beaverdam Trail; or use the Cottonwood Trail as the main connector for exploring other areas of the preserve.



Loblolly Trail

0.25 miles

Loblolly Pine is a huge cash crop in South Carolina. This trail features a mature loblolly forest with large pines over 50 years old, interspersed with emerging hardwood trees. Located at the eastern end of the preserve, the Loblolly Trail offers a quiet respite from the more heavily used Cottonwood Trail.

Pinecone Trail

0.35 miles

Access the Pinecone Trail near the Beechwood Drive entrance. As it skirts the border of the preserve's wetlands complex, the Pinecone Trail offers excellent opportunity to view the deer, heron, snakes, and other species that frequent the wetlands.



Beaverdam Trail

0.25 miles

The Beaverdam Trail follows a small tributary that drains the wetlands complex into Lawson's Fork Creek and creates a convenient loop at the western terminus of the Cottonwood Trail that will connect you back to the main trail near the wetlands.

Ridge Trail

0.25 miles

Located on a bluff overlooking the western end of Cottonwood Trail, the Ridge Trail offers a quiet sanctuary above the rest of the preserve. Get your heart rate pumping by climbing the stairs to the Ridge Trail accessible from the Beaverdam Trail.



Wetlands Trail

0.35 miles

Popular with photographers and bird watchers, the Wetland Trail includes a boardwalk complex crossing a 20-acre wetlands area and offers some of the best wildlife viewing at the preserve. Heron, snakes, salamander, fish, and birds of all types can be viewed. And watch out for beavers--though not often visible during the day, many beaver dams and lodges dot the wetlands.

Highlands Trail

0.5 Miles

The Highlands Trail features one of the few upland areas of the preserve, above the floodplain forest that typifies much of the area. Here the history of the surrounding area is on display: terraces reveal the area's earlier cotton growing history and rows of planted loblolly display its more recent one in commercial forestry.

Turkeycut Trail

0.3 miles

One of two trails leading from the Woodburn Road parking area to Lawson's Fork, the Turkeycut Trail meanders through a mature floodplain forest to a picnic area and the bridge across Lawson's Fork. After a heavy rain this trail will be wet--try the Powerline Trail instead.



Powerline Trail

0.5 miles

Indicative of its urban setting, the Powerline Trail follows a power line right-of-way from the Woodburn Road parking area to the bridge over Lawson's Fork. The understory and high grasses on this portion of the preserve provide excellent habitat for small mammals and ground-dwelling birds. Keep an eye out high overhead for raptors perched on the powerline towers scanning the understory for their next meal.



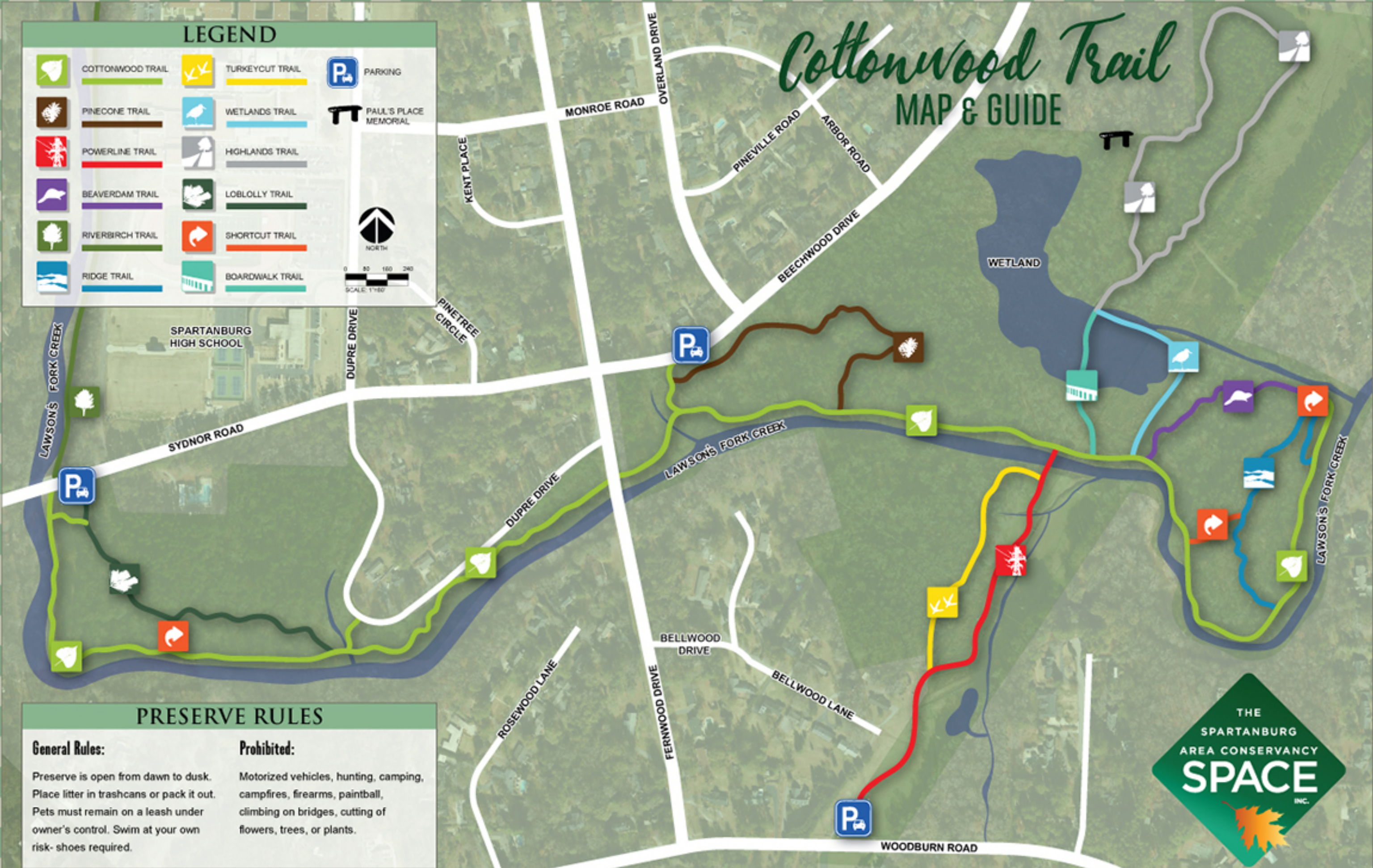
Cottonwood Trail

MAP & GUIDE

LEGEND

 COTTONWOOD TRAIL	 TURKEYCUT TRAIL	 PARKING
 PINECONE TRAIL	 WETLANDS TRAIL	 PAUL'S PLACE MEMORIAL
 POWERLINE TRAIL	 HIGHLANDS TRAIL	
 BEAVERDAM TRAIL	 LOBLOLLY TRAIL	
 RIVERBIRCH TRAIL	 SHORTCUT TRAIL	
 RIDGE TRAIL	 BOARDWALK TRAIL	

 NORTH
 SCALE: 1"=80'
 0 80 160 240



PRESERVE RULES

<p>General Rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve is open from dawn to dusk. Place litter in trashcans or pack it out. Pets must remain on a leash under owner's control. Swim at your own risk- shoes required. 	<p>Prohibited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motorized vehicles, hunting, camping, campfires, firearms, paintball, climbing on bridges, cutting of flowers, trees, or plants.
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