

# ENR Southeast

Digital Wire

This story was not reported, edited or fact-checked by ENR editors.

## Construction of Saluda River Portion of Columbia, S.C., Greenway to Begin in '16

*2015-12-15*

State (Columbia, SC)

---

Dec. 15 -- COLUMBIA, S.C. -- People who like to walk along Columbia's riverbanks got some good news Tuesday.

City Council endorsed new standards for wider recreational walkways and heard an update that construction is likely to begin next year for the long-sought, scenic, 3-mile stretch along the Saluda River .

The new greenway standard would widen new portions of the Granby walkway from its current 8 feet to 10 feet as it is built to reach the Gervais Street bridge, city engineer Dana Higgins said.

Urban greenways such as those along Gills Creek , Smith Branch and in the Vista would be 14 feet wide to accommodate more pedestrians and bicyclists.

Council did not authorize any new money for those walkways.

Mike Dawson , director of the advocacy group River Alliance , told council at an afternoon work session that all but one 150-foot parcel has been acquired for the Saluda Riverwalk portion of the Three Rivers Greenway . That portion reaches from the I-26 river overpass near Lexington Medical Center to just shy of the Columbia Canal .

Greenway advocates have been working on property acquisition for about 15 years, and the last parcel is facing condemnation, Dawson said.

The 3-mile stretch will cost about \$4 million , and construction is likely to take about 220 days, he said.

The walkway will have three bathrooms and a 40-car parking lot near Riverbanks Zoo , which Dawson acknowledged is inadequate and only a start to meeting parking needs.

Richland County is to put the project out for bids in January or February, Dawson said. He hopes the 3-mile portion will be open late in 2016.

Dawson said the greenway is a high-priority project of Richland County and is using income from the penny sales tax that included provisions for spending to improve recreation.

---

(c)2015 The State (Columbia, S.C.)

Visit The State (Columbia, S.C.) at [www.thestate.com](http://www.thestate.com)

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

[View all news wire headlines](#)

