

## RULES & PRECAUTIONS

- ◆ Picnicking is allowed in designated areas only.
- ◆ Please practice Leave No Trace philosophy. Pack out what you pack in.
- ◆ Do not drink from the Lawson's Fork Creek. The water quality of the creek is fair to good. SC DHEC officially lists the Lawson's Fork as an "impaired stream" which means it is safe for boating but not for swimming.
- ◆ December through February is the wettest season in this area. Since beavers are common in this part of the Piedmont, beware that sections of the Lawson's Fork may occasionally overflow.
- ◆ Please stay on designated trails. There are numerous unofficial trails in the area, some of which venture into private property.
- ◆ Motorized vehicles are prohibited on the trail. If you see motorized vehicles or evidence of such usage, please call University of South Carolina Spartanburg police at 864.503.5911 or 864.503.5269.

### WITH MAJOR SUPPORT FROM:



### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### PALMETTO CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

PO Box 1984, Spartanburg, SC 29304

[www.palmettoconservation.org](http://www.palmettoconservation.org)

To join the effort helping to build the Palmetto Trail, please call 864-948-9615 for membership information.



## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SPARTANBURG PASSAGE *of the* PALMETTO TRAIL

**LENGTH:** 1.3 miles

**USE:** *Hiking, Mountain Biking, Nature Study, Picnicking*

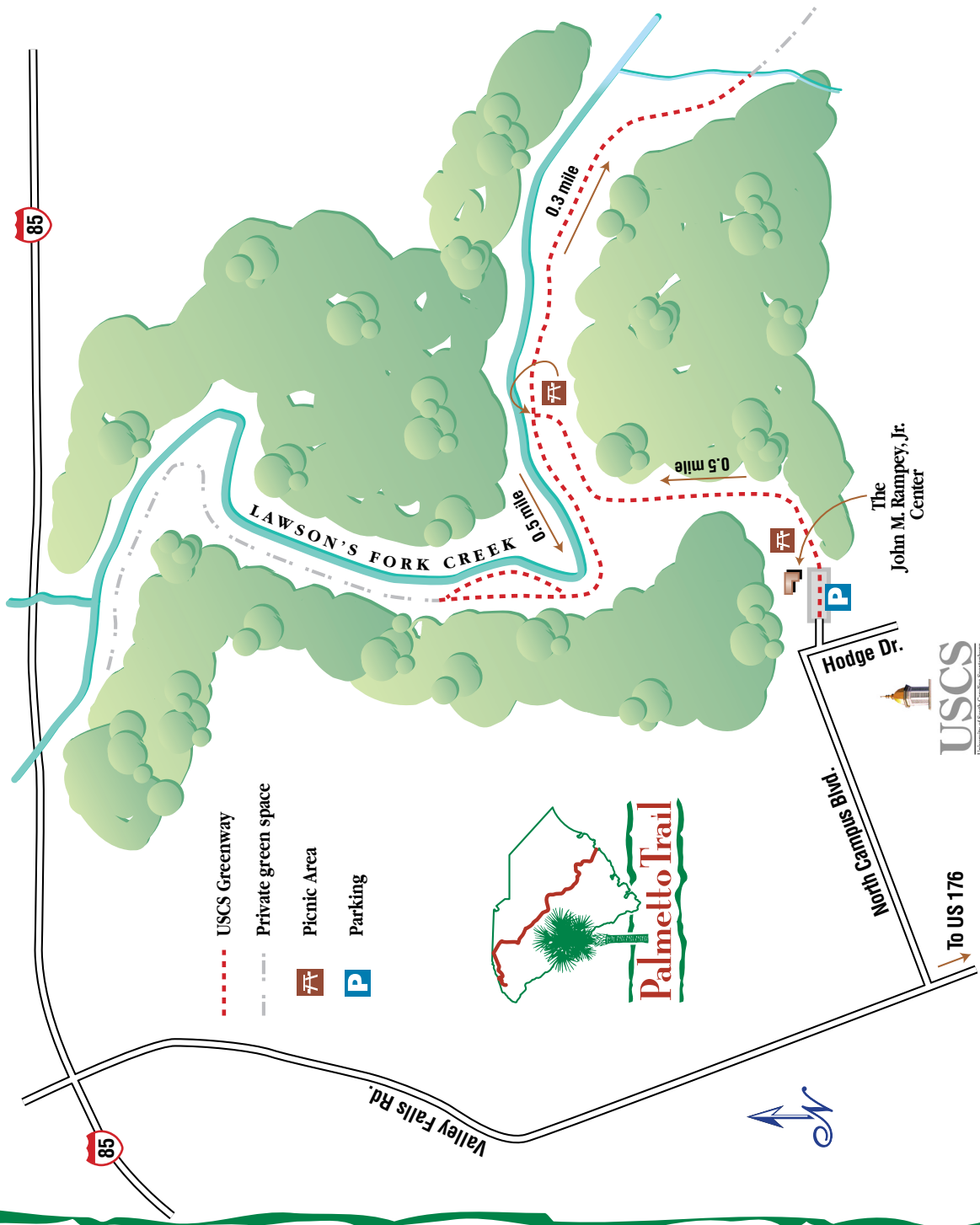
**RESTRICTIONS:** *No motor vehicles, hunting, fires or camping*

**DIFFICULTY:** *Easy/Moderate*

### DIRECTIONS

From Spartanburg, follow Pine Street to Interstate 585. Continue on I-585 to Valley Falls Road (Exit 22). Follow Valley Falls Road north to North Campus Blvd. Turn right onto North Campus Blvd. and follow approximately 0.5 miles to a sharp right turn. Turn left here into the Rampey Center parking lot and trailhead parking. The trail begins at the end of the parking lot.

# University Of South Carolina Spartanburg Passage Of The Palmetto Trail



This 1.3-mile passage of the Palmetto Trail begins on the campus of the University of South Carolina Spartanburg and dives into a wooded forest on the banks of the Lawson's Fork Creek. Visitors may enjoy pleasant vistas in the winter months as the hard packed dirt trail contours away from the trailhead at the Rampey Center and drops slowly to a "T" junction at a picnic area above the Lawson's Fork.

Here, users may continue either north or south on the trail. To the north (left) the trail follows a scenic route on a raised corridor above the creek. Amateur botanists may want to keep their eyes out for the Dwarf-flowered Heartleaf (*Hexastylis naniflora*), which is the only naturally-occurring federally endangered plant in Spartanburg County. The trail passes a rocky knoll and a wooden bridge before venturing onto single-track trail on the banks of the

Lawson's Fork. The creek is a typical Piedmont stream that forms within sight of the Blue Ridge Mountains and flows for 29 miles through Spartanburg County. Kingfishers, great blue herons, mallards, beaver and muskrat are common along its waters. In spring and summer months, it is possible to encounter nonpoisonous water snakes. (Contrary to popular belief, there are no cottonmouths in Spartanburg County.)

Only hikers and mountain bikers may use this section of trail. The USCS Passage is marked with yellow blazes and a short spur trail is marked with white blazes. Hikers and bikers should wear bright colors during big game hunting season, which is from the middle of August through January. Because portions of the trail are located within floodplain, some sections may be wet during rainy seasons.