

# RIVERFRONT REVITALIZATION

## Changing Contaminated Land into a Recreational Resource for our Citizens

### Make It New

Over 1 mile of riverfront in Downtown Augusta has long been underutilized, most of it still bearing signs of the heavy industrial uses it once supported. Slowly this land is being converted back into a place all Augustans can enjoy, and a hub for outdoor sports.

### Make It Healthy

Much of the land along this corridor bears the scars of relic contamination. Revitalizing the now city-owned properties into designated use and green space will not only help heal the land, but also make it into an economic driver for our area through tourism.

### Make it Attractive

Revitalized docks, state of the art boathouse with open-air covered venue, fishing piers, expanded boat ramps, disc golf courses, canoe and kayak launches, and well-designed space for shops and restaurants that would encourage foot traffic, boost economic growth and easily promote the unique culture of our downtown.

## Bringing the River Back to the People

*In the early 1990's this section of river began its revitalization with the installation of the Augusta Rowing Club, who hosted Olympic Rowing Teams from around the world, and rowing events in the 1996 Olympics. Since then, it remains a popular winter training spot for many Northern universities including Yale, Michigan State and Penn State.*

*The Augusta Warehouse Marina and accompanying docks are popular with local boaters and fishermen. Picnic shelters are used frequently and the boat ramp, the largest on this section of the river, is among the most active in the county. The adjoining field is a popular space for concerts, sporting events, boat races, and as a meeting place for athletes and other local citizens. This area, however, is in need of significant improvements.*

*Since 2012 Savannah Riverkeeper has been actively involved in cleaning up 14 acres of riverfront property adjacent to the I-520 bridge. The contaminated land once served as a car parts junkyard but will soon be converted into an outdoor recreation center. Plans include disc golf course, running trails, fishing piers, canoe and kayak launch, beaches, wildlife viewing areas and event rental space in the renovated warehouse. This project is serving as an anchor catalyst for the revitalization of the area.*

*The two parcels of land along this mile of riverfront are privately owned. A great opportunity exists to revamping this section of downtown Augusta, providing a jewel for citizens, prospective newcomers and tourists looking for the next great place to be! We think Augusta is it.*





## Proven Benefits of Active Communities

Open space, green space, public outdoor recreation facilities, and smart, walkable community design with quality aesthetics create huge positives strides:

- Strengthens community image and sense of place
- Supports economic development
- Strengthens safety and security
- Promotes health and wellness
- Fosters human development
- Increases cultural unity
- Protects environmental resources
- Facilitates community problem solving
- Provides recreational and educational experiences

Outdoor activity like running, biking, paddling and swimming lead not just to the long-term benefits listed above. In the short-term, recreation naturally lends itself to eating and drinking, establishing potential and need for bars, restaurants and shops in the nearby area. Foot traffic boosts business of all kinds and contributes to a feeling of safety and community.



## A World-Class Sports Hub

*Augusta's River Region has been slowly emerging in recent years into an internationally recognized outdoor sports venue. Hosting the world's largest Ironman 70.3 triathlon, nationally attended rowing regattas, long-distance swim events, international disc golf tournaments, even drag boat races, Augusta's River Region has it, and people are paying attention. Our dream is to rejuvenate an over-1-mile stretch of land along the Savannah River in downtown Augusta into a regional sports hub, converting what was once an industrial corridor into green space with limited development that everyone can enjoy.*

## A Local Treasure

*The portion of the riverfront we are enhancing has long been viewed as high-crime. Over the last six years, our cleanup efforts have begun to change that perception, transitioning this once-blighted area into one that citizens can enjoy. Restoring the land to its natural beauty and wildlife will encourage recreation. A canoe and kayak launch will promote a portion of the river that is underexplored even by outdoor enthusiasts. Urban children who have grown up with little connection to nature will now have an opportunity to build a relationship with their surroundings, cultivating a love of nature that translates into lifelong respect for the environment and the community. It is not only important for the natural ecosystem of the area that the land be rehabilitated, but it is important that the citizens of the area have access to engage in meaningful recreational experiences along our waterways.*

*Future Development Idea: Savannah Riverkeeper's property at 328 Riverfront Drive—cleanup is underway!*

