

HISTORY

THE ORIGINAL RAILROAD trail connected Anderson and McCormick in the 1880's and was the chief means of transporting goods as well as people until nearly 100 years later. Railroad service declined sharply all over the US in the 1970's. Miles and miles of railroad lines were no longer being used.

Enterprising civilians repurposed the railroad beds into hiking and biking trails. As much of the construction labor and expense had been completed decades before, the "rails to trails" movement quickly built momentum.

A number of interested, local residents and studies effected the current results beginning in the 1990's. Volunteers serve on the Board of Directors and others clear and maintain the trail on a monthly basis.



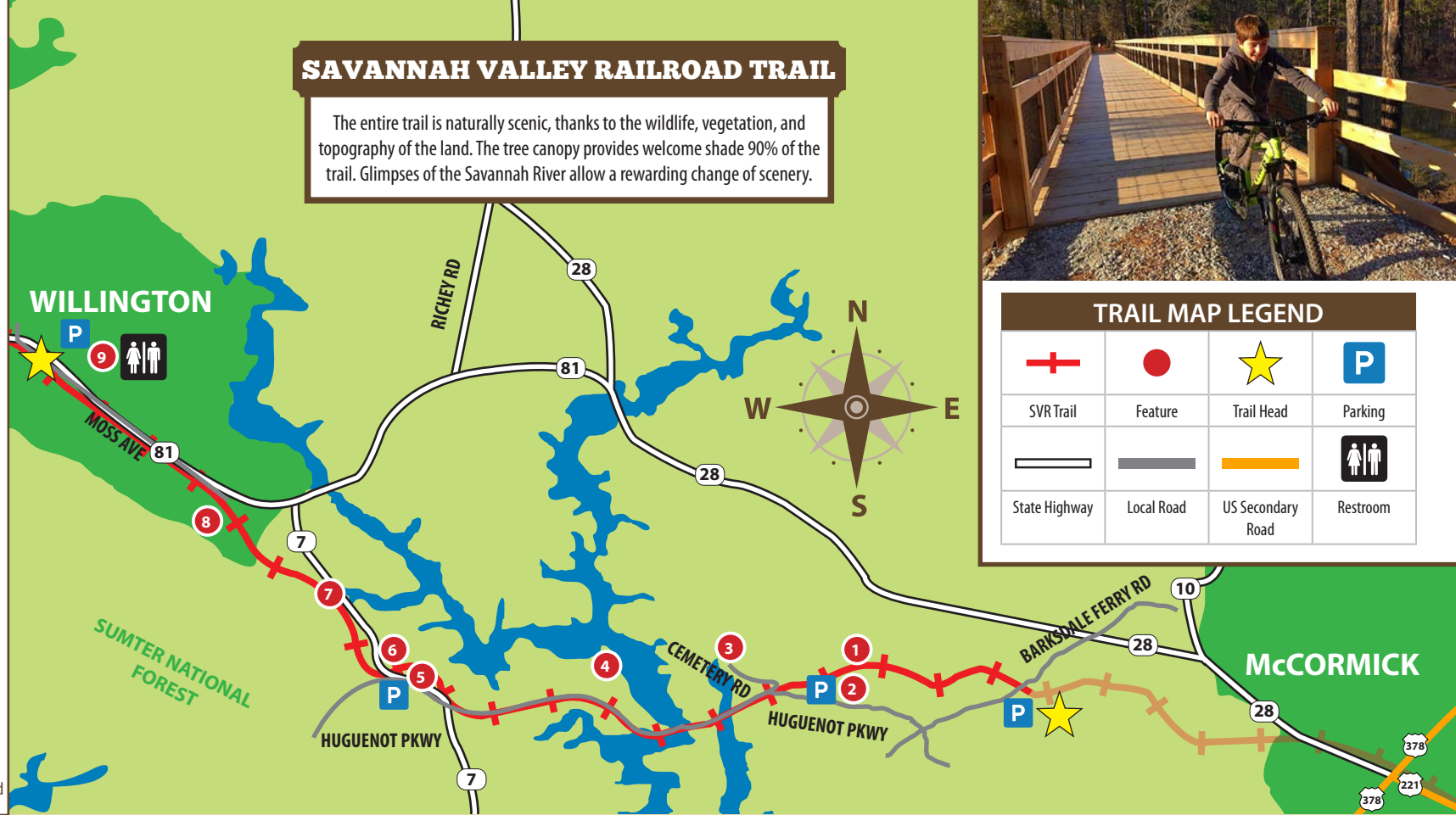
Railroad Crew-circa 1890



Operating lines that used Savannah Valley Railroad

SAVANNAH VALLEY RAILROAD TRAIL

The entire trail is naturally scenic, thanks to the wildlife, vegetation, and topography of the land. The tree canopy provides welcome shade 90% of the trail. Glimpses of the Savannah River allow a rewarding change of scenery.



TRAIL MAP LEGEND			
SVR Trail	Feature	Trail Head	Parking
State Highway	Local Road	US Secondary Road	Restroom

SAVANNAH VALLEY RAILROAD TRAIL FEATURES

1 Badwell Plantation Site: Owner James L. Pettigrew (1789-1863) was a lawyer, statesman, and jurist. He is best known as a SC Attorney General. Disagreeing with SC's secession in 1860, Pettigrew famously remarked, "South Carolina is too small for a republic and too large for an insane asylum."

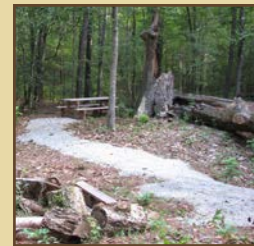


3 Badwell Cemetery: Rev. Jean Louis Gibert, leader of the 1764 French Huguenot settlement of New Bordeaux is buried here. Gibert was Pettigrew's grandfather.



4 Huguenot Worship Site: The monument marks the site of the original Huguenot Church in New Bordeaux. About 300 Huguenots lived in the settlement in 1756. It was the last of seven French Huguenot colonies founded in South Carolina.

5 New Bordeaux Station Site: The rail station closed in the 1950's.



6 Frank Clayton Park: A welcoming parklike area graced by a cedar picnic table honors Frank Clayton (d. 2014), one of many who worked tirelessly to make this trail a reality. Surplus cedar from decking the railroad trestle was used to build the table.



7 Mill Creek Trestle: A 2013 grant from SC Parks, Recreation, and Tourism enabled Savannah Valley Trails, Inc., to re-deck this 100 plus years-old train trestle across Mill Creek. The Mill Creek Trestle opened for hiking and biking late in 2014.

8 Guillebeau Cemetery: This Revolutionary War burial site is a short distance from the trail. It is located on Guillebeau Cemetery Rd., just off of Moss Rd., near Willington.

9 Willington, SC: A history buff's dream—History Center, Book Shop, early post office, African-American Cultural Center in one-room school; public restrooms; open 11-3 Wednesday – Saturday.

MORE ABOUT THE TRAIL

WREN SCULPTURES: Located at Willington and Barksdale Trailheads, their purpose is to raise awareness against littering.

WHISTLE POSTS: Over 120 years old, the codes on the posts signaled the train engineers what warnings to blow and when. How many

posts can you find? What do the codes mean?

GEO-CACHING: Geo-cachers love our trail!

MILE MARKERS: Posted every 0.5 mile. How many can you find?

ABOUT THE TRAIL



SVRT KIOSK

THE TRAIL LIES near the western border of SC in McCormick County, just north of Augusta, GA. Access the Hugh C. Brown, Sr., Trailhead on Barksdale Ferry Road, north of McCormick. The linear trail extends west and north to the Willington Trailhead and can be accessed at various sites along the way.



TRAIL LENGTH: 9.35 miles

The linear trail is two sections connected by 2.5 miles of the paved Huguenot Parkway.

TRAIL TERRAIN

“Rustic” is the official rating given to this trail—composed of densely packed soil with a mostly even, grassy surface. Its mild grades are best suited for walking and fat-tire biking.

SAFETY

- Motorized vehicles and horses are not permitted on the trail.
- Mile markers are posted every 0.5 mile. In case of emergency, note location and call 911.
- Always wear bright colors. An orange vest is recommended October 1 through January 1. Hunters are not permitted to hunt from the trail but do access it at various points to reach destinations.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT THIS PROJECT

- **USE** our trail year-round!
- **PROMOTE** the trail: post a photo and fun comment on [facebook.com/SavannahValleyRailroadTrail](https://www.facebook.com/SavannahValleyRailroadTrail)
- **REPORT** any concerning situation regarding the trail: svrrt506@gmail.com



- **VOLUNTEER:** Join our “Bush Hawks” who groom and maintain our trail monthly. Serve on the Board of Directors.
- **DONATE:** Always appreciated! Mail to: **SVRT, PO Box 556, McCormick, SC 29835**
Donation boxes are also located at the trailheads
- **ATTEND:** The annual Savannah Valley Trails Founders Day trail event in October.

CONTACT US

Mailing Address:

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SVT E-Mail Address: svrrt506@gmail.com

www.SVTrails.org

www.savannahlakes.com/trail

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**EXPLORE THE HISTORIC
SAVANNAH VALLEY RAILROAD TRAIL**

McCORMICK COUNTY, SC