

LYNCHES RIVER PARK PROJECT COMPLETES FUNDING EFFORT

August 18, 2006 (FLORENCE, SC) Florence County is a step closer to getting its Environmental Discovery Center and Tree Top Canopy Walk built at Lynches River County Park. U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint presented a \$95,000 check from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the county Wednesday for the project.

In presenting the check, DeMint said the project is more than an education and recreation effort. "This project demonstrates world class creativity. Some folks could look at this project and ask "What does this have to do with economic development," DeMint said. "But I know from my years in marketing that sometimes it's a little thing that sets an area apart, and I think this is going to be one of them."

Plans developed by ZINC Projects include the Environmental Discovery Center and the Tree Top Canopy Walk. The center also will feature a various educational designed to encourage people to become "Naturalists" as a means to stimulate lifelong learning.

"The Environmental Discovery Center Committee has envisioned a center that will provide a learning experience that will be ever changing and will leave the visitors with a desire to return," said Sterling Sadler, Chairperson of the Interpretive Center Committee.

The project is designed to bring visitors to the tree tops of the 676-acre park. "The intent is for visitor to gain an understanding of the ecosystems in the park from the view of the worm in the ground, to the bird's eye view in the top of the trees," Sadler said.