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# CLEMSON COLLEGE LAND UTILIZATION PROJECT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND CLEMSON COLLEGE



Lake Issaquena Dam

ISSUED MARCH 1938



**I**N THE CLEMSON COLLEGE LAND USE PROJECT, established by the United States Department of Agriculture and South Carolina's Clemson College, 23,000 acres of worn-out farms and idle lands are being developed into productive forests, pastures, and public recreation areas as a contribution to the social and economic welfare of the people of this State and region.

When the project was begun in 1934, the land now purchased by the Government was either lying idle, or being used for the production of small, unprofitable crops of cotton and corn by families grown poor on the sterile soil.

The area now provides for the people of northwestern South Carolina extensive play areas along the shores of a new 135-acre lake. Woodlands have been improved, and new forests planted. The rapidly wasting soil is being conserved by the restoration of cropland to natural cover. Methods of pasture improvement are being demonstrated for southern farmers, and wild game is being brought back in increasing numbers.

Visitors are invited to inspect the project freely and make use of its lake, drives, and picnic areas. Detailed information concerning the demonstrations in erosion control, reforestation, pasture improvement, and wild-life conservation may be obtained from the office of the project manager in Clemson.

### A Typical Piedmont Area

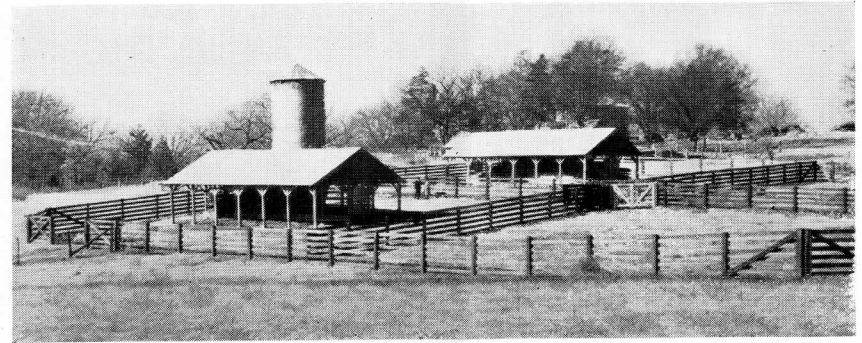
The Clemson project area was selected for this demonstration in better land use because it presented, in serious form, problems that exist throughout a large portion of the southern Piedmont region. Fields on the project were gullied and stripped of much of their topsoil by unchecked erosion. What soil remained was near exhaustion from continued planting of cotton.

Soil that has lost its fertility cannot support farms, yet on the project area 180 families, most of them in desperate poverty, were attempting to wring a living from the land. Many families were tenants and croppers, whose insecure, year-by-year tenure gave them little reason for conserving or improving the soil. Woodlands and wild game suffered likewise from the inability of land users to apply conservation principles.

That this distressing condition had not always existed is shown by the dilapidated remains of old plantation houses occupied generations ago by wealthy, cultured families of the old cotton aristocracy. In one of the homes located on a now submarginal tract, marble mantelpieces, imported



Spanning Six Mile Creek, this triple-arched bridge on the Park Road was constructed entirely by relief labor, and largely with native materials



These corrals have been built for the sheltering, feeding, and examination of the cattle that will be run on the project's 2,200-acre improved pasture

from Rome a century ago, bespeak the prosperity which these plantations formerly enjoyed. Falling into decay, this once magnificent home now symbolizes the inevitable collapse of a society that wastes and abuses its land.

### Objectives of the Project

The Government has purchased and improved the 23,000 acres at Clemson as part of a Nation-wide program for the better use of land resources. The immediate purpose was to restore to some productive use the land which had outlived its value for farming, and to help the families stranded on barren soil to move to better farms. The larger objective, however, is one of demonstration: to point out by concrete example how millions of acres of worn-out and cast-off lands in the old Cotton Belt can be reclaimed to fill the social and economic needs of people who inhabit this region today.

### Forestry

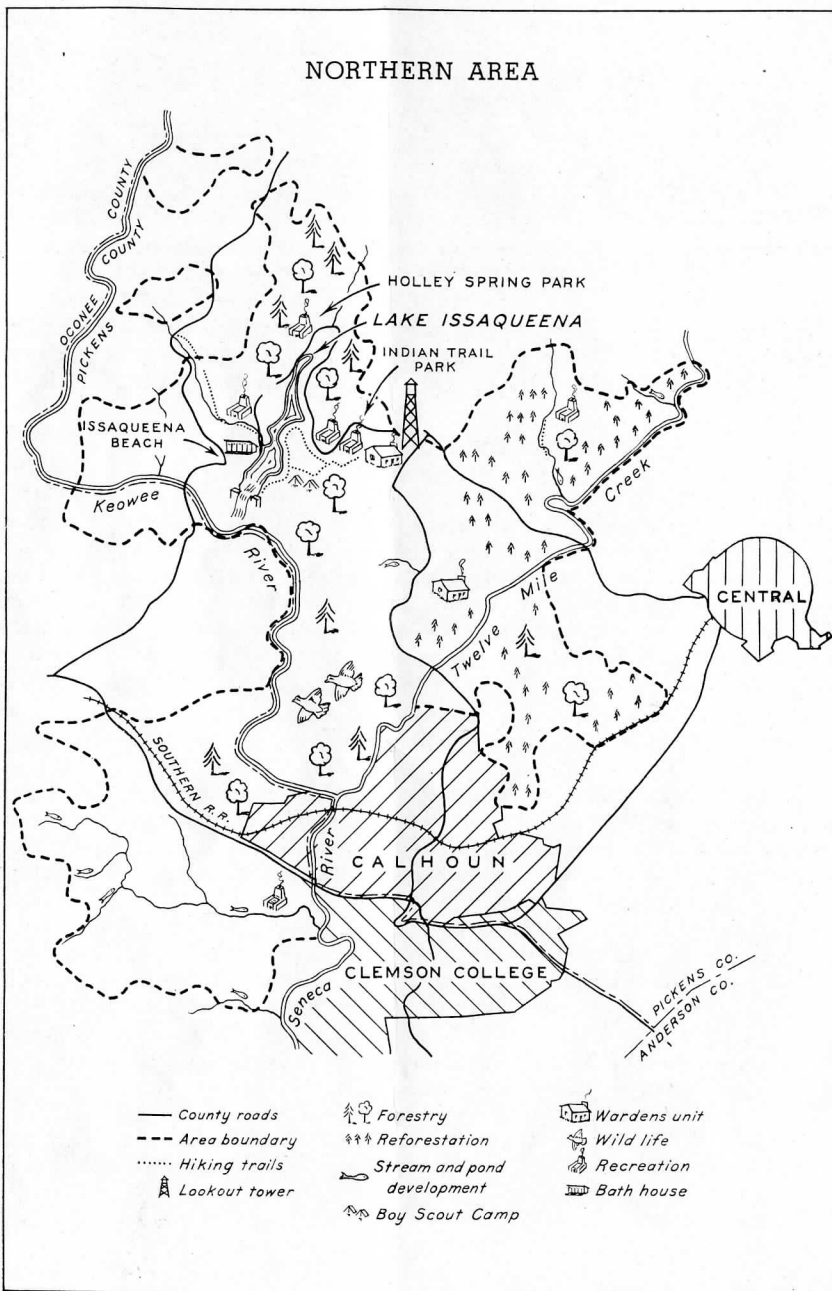
Vigorous young forest seedlings throughout the Clemson project area demonstrate that although the land is no longer suitable for production of cotton or corn, it is well adapted to the growing of trees. The major portion of the project lands are being scientifically developed as a future forest of great potential value.

Woodlands on 8,800 acres of the project have been improved by the removal of old and undesirable trees. Protection against fire has been insured by the development of truck trails and roads that make it possible for fire-fighting crews to reach all parts of the forest quickly. Two 100-foot lookout towers have been located at strategic points from which the whole area can be surveyed, while telephone lines have been installed to facilitate rapid reporting of any fire discovered.

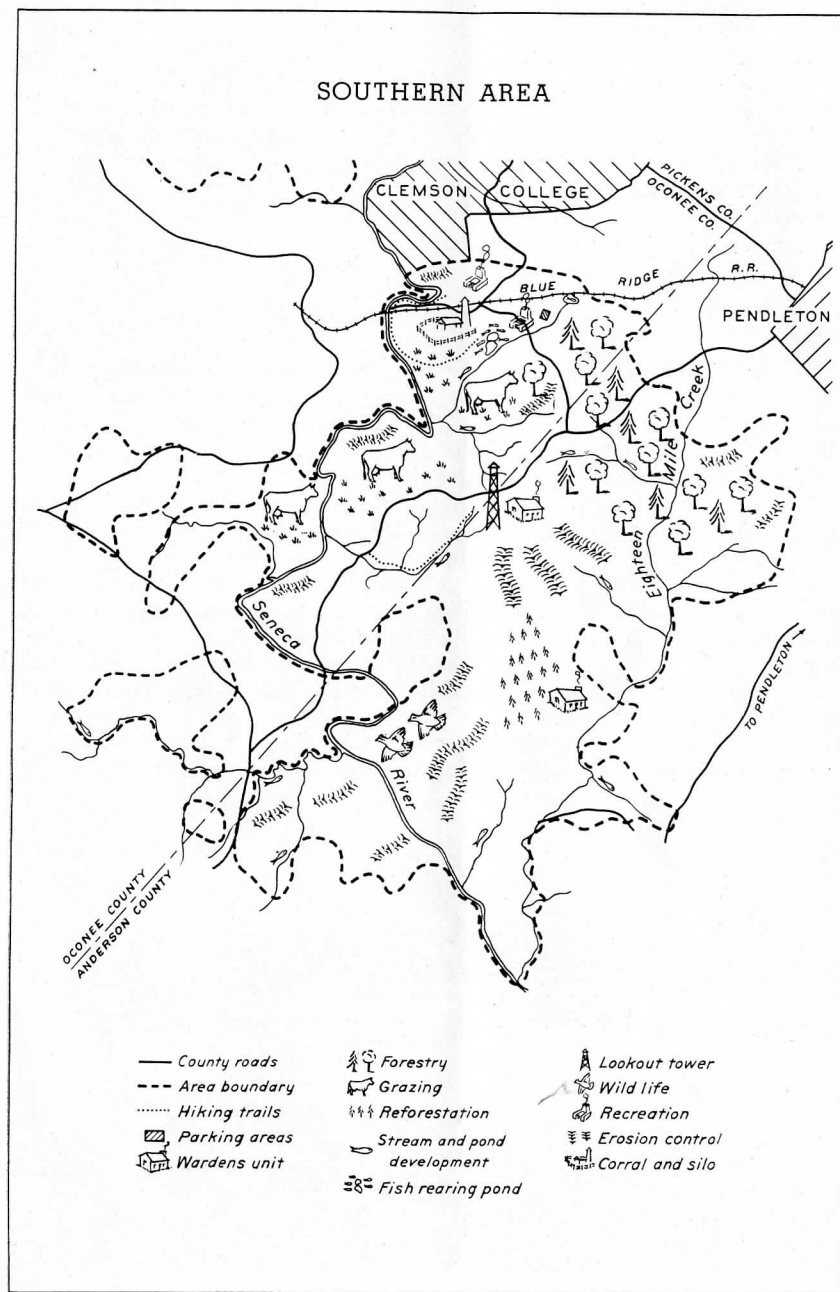
Most significant of the forest developments, however, is the planting of more than a million young trees on lands that were formerly devoted to unprofitable farming. These plantings serve a multiple purpose—they provide a future crop of value, and also act as a means of stopping the destructive erosion of formerly cultivated lands. Shipmast locust, a valuable and quick growing tree, has been planted in severely gullied fields to stop soil washing. More than 1,000 acres have been planted to slash and loblolly pine.

# GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF CLEMSON COLLEGE PROJECT

## NORTHERN AREA



## SOUTHERN AREA



Recent perfection of the process for the manufacture of pulp and kraft paper from southern pine lends a new importance to the forestry demonstrations at Clemson. An industrial development of tremendous economic importance to the South is already at hand. The Clemson project is demonstrating how submarginal land, no longer profitable for agriculture, can be given a new economic value through the production of pulpwood for this nascent southern industry.

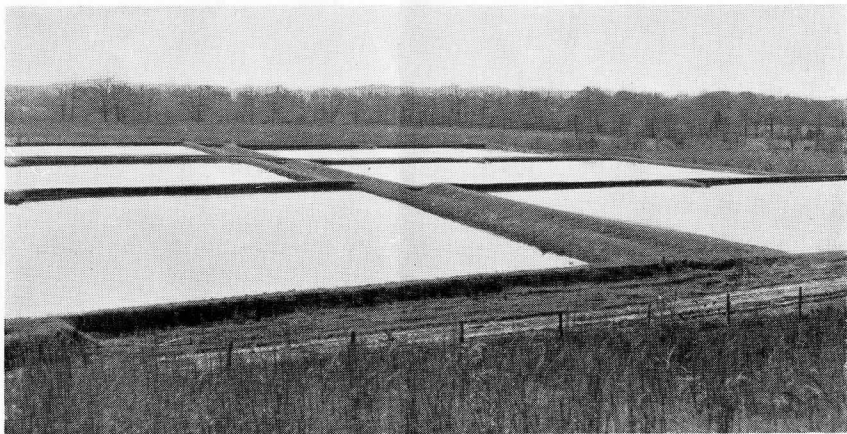
Millions of acres of cut-over forest land throughout the United States, and "ghost towns" left in the track of wasteful forest exploitation, emphasize that conservation must be practiced if this new forest industry is to contribute something of permanent economic value, rather than merely another boom and collapse in land values, trade, and employment. Demonstrations in forest conservation at Clemson are intended to help promote a wiser use of the land from which the raw material for this industry comes.

### Recreation

Outstanding among the improvements made on the Clemson project area are the recreational facilities to serve the growing population of the industrial and agricultural communities of northwestern South Carolina. Swimming, boating, camping, picnicking, hiking, and fishing are among the chief activities for which the project has made provision.

Lake Issaqueena, located in the rugged northern portion of the project, is the center for most of the recreational features. For 2 miles this body of water, created by the construction of a large dam, winds among the foothills of the Blue Ridge, while along its wooded shores, easily reached by automobile, are picnic areas, a bathing beach, and footpaths that lead off into wilder portions of the native hardwood forest. Issaqueena, meaning "deer head" in the Creek Indian tongue, was the name of an Indian woman who saved the lives of the early settlers of this locality by warning them of an impending raid.

Wayside parks, including picnic grounds with outdoor fireplaces, tables, and auto-parking space are also located on the main road from Clemson to Seneca near the Seneca River.



In these ample fish hatcheries are being reared 120,000 black bass and 46,000 brook trout to feed the hooks and egos of fishermen on Lake Issaqueena and its rivers



Already, these 8-year-old slash and long-leaf pines have grown to many times the height of the school children who planted them

### Pasture Improvement

Agricultural authorities at Clemson College are conducting demonstrations in pasture improvement on 2,200 acres of the project area, as a means of developing additional economic use for the submarginal lands. Southern farms generally need more grass—to stop erosion on sloping lands and to provide pasture as the basis for diversified farming with greater emphasis on livestock.

Several different types of grass, including lespedeza, crab grass, Bermuda grass, and bluegrass, have been seeded in the pasture section, and experiments will be carried out to determine which varieties are best suited to the land. Farmers and others interested in agriculture are welcome to inspect these developments and discuss the work with representatives of Clemson College.

Work on this pasture unit has included the building of corrals and sheds for cattle. Like all other developmental activities, this work has been done by relief labor provided through the Works Progress Administration.

### Wildlife

An abundance of wild game is native to the Clemson project area. Destruction of feed crops, and lack of protection in the past caused a steady dwindling of all forms of wildlife. Both fish and game birds are now being brought back by the development and management of the purchased lands. This year, for example, the number of quail noted on the project is five times as large as the number counted 2 years ago.

Planting of game food and cover crops has been carried on throughout the area, and is largely responsible for the increase in wildlife. As part of the erosion control work, strips of peas, segrain, hegari, millets, and other bird foods have been established on formerly cultivated fields. Under proper conservation increased opportunities for hunting should be possible,

not only on the project area but on adjoining lands which will benefit from the growing numbers of game.

Fishing is possible on both lakes and streams that have been stocked with bass and bream. In six 1-acre ponds constructed during the past year, 120,000 black bass and 46,000 bream have been reared for stocking purposes.

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