The Coastal Plain includes the Inner Coastal Plain, Outer Coastal Plain, and the Coastal Zone. Together they combine for two-thirds the state’s total area.
Coastal Plain

Southeast Columbia

Charleston
Inner Coastal Plain

- Entire Coastal Plain was under the sea from 65 to 135 million years B.P.
- Deposition and compaction of sands, clays, silts, and other materials creating sedimentary rock

- Ocean recedes to about the Orangeburg Escarpment
- Erosion takes place on Inner Coastal Plain
- Deposition continues in portions of Outer Coastal Plain and Coastal Zone
Floodplain Features in the Coastal Plain
Floodplain of the Wateree River
Infrared Aerial View
Congaree River Floodplain

I 77 & I 26 Interchange
Meander Scar
Point Bar

Infrared photographs show green areas in red.
Notice that the Congaree River has moved south and west as it widened its floodplain through time.
Bluffs of the Congaree

Located near the Highway 601 bridge
Erosion has exposed strata of sedimentary rock
Santee Swamp

Lakes Marion and Moultrie straddle portions of the Inner and Outer Coastal Plain.
The Inner Coastal Plain has South Carolina’s best agricultural soils. But, only about 50 percent is in crops.
Inner Coastal Plain
Agricultural Heart of South Carolina