



# Monthly Performance Report

January 2015

## Parks Enhancement Plan Status Report and Recommendations

This edition of the Spartanburg County Parks Department Monthly Performance Report is devoted to a review of the Parks Enhancement Plan (PEP), which was adopted by the Spartanburg County Council, in principle, at the October 2012 Council meeting. The PEP was powered by consultant assessments of existing park conditions and was the result of several months of work by a number of staff members. It was intended as a policy outline for park improvements. After its adoption, the PEP's recommendations, for the most part, have been implemented through the Capital Improvement Program. In June 2014, the PEP was amended by Resolution of the County Council, to incorporate projects in the towns of Duncan and Wellford.

The October 2012 Resolution with which the County Council adopted the PEP stated: *"Whereas, the Parks Enhancement Plan, once approved, will be reviewed at least every two years to ensure that the plan is in alignment with community needs and Council priorities."*

**The purpose of this report is to provide a status report on each of the specific projects included within the PEP, as well as some that were referenced in the plan. The report will also provide some additional recommendations that the County Council may wish to consider in the future.**

### Summary

Based on currently available information, it appears that almost all of the projects covered in this report can be completed by the end of Calendar Year (CY) 2017 (though funding will extend beyond that date since the timely completion of some of the projects will require short-term financing).

There are three exceptions to this statement:

- Development of VSP Centers,
- Development of trails and greenways and
- Development of blue ways.

The timeframe for these three projects, as currently envisioned, depends heavily upon the acquisition of public and private grant dollars and could take ten years or more to complete.

Councilmembers will note that that status of the majority of projects in this report are either “Completed” or “In Process,” representing a radical and positive shift in the Parks Department’s direction and momentum. Many people have shared in this progress, but Jenn Ellis, Project Manager; Joe Jackson, Project Manager; Sean Veilleux, Park Maintenance Manager and Mike Nation, Senior Project Manager deserve particular credit for making these good things happen.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Project Status</b>	<b>Budget Status</b>
Little Africa Park Transfer	Complete	Project Closed Out
Southside Park Transfer	Complete	Project Closed Out
Fairmont-Larkin Park Transfer	Unresolved	Unknown
North Spartanburg Park Renovations	Complete	Project Closed Out
Lyman City Park Grant	Complete	Project Closed Out
Glendale Outdoor Leadership School Grant	Complete	Project Closed Out
Cottonwood Trail Bridge Grant	Complete	Project Closed Out
Woodruff Trail Design and Construction	Complete	Project Closed Out
Academy Park Design and Construction	Cancelled	N/A
Lincoln Park Design and Construction	Cancelled	N/A
295 Park Design and Renovation	In Process	Funding Appropriated
Old Canaan Road Park Design and Renovation	In Process	Funding Not Appropriated
Tyger River Park Construction	In Process	Funding Appropriated
Va-Du-Mar McMillan Park Design, Renovation/Expansion	In Process	Funding Appropriated
Berry Field Design and Renovation	Combined	Combined with Cleveland Park Project Funding
Cleveland Park Design and Renovation	In Process	Partial Funding Appropriated; Balance Requested in FY 2016 CIP
Chesnee Park Acquisition, Renovation and Service Expansion	In Process	Funding Requested in FY 2016 CIP
Linville Hills Park Design and Renovation	In Process	Funding Appropriated
Pacolet Park Design and Renovation	In Process	Funding Requested in FY 2016 CIP
Cowpens Park Design and Renovation	In Process	Funding Requested in FY 2016 CIP
Inman Sports Complex Design and Renovation	In Process	Funding Requested in FY 2016 CIP
Arkwright Park Design, Renovation and Expansion	In Process	Funding Partially Appropriated
W.R McKinney Park Grant	In Process	Funding Appropriated
Park Beautification/Landscaping Plan	Revised	N/A
Park Standards Manual Development	Revised	N/A

<b>Project</b>	<b>Project Status</b>	<b>Budget Status</b>
Lake Cooley Outdoor Recreation Center Design and Construction	In Process	Funding Appropriated
Pacolet River Passage Development	In Process	Funding Appropriated
Big Shoals Park (aka "Clifton Park and Beach")	In Process	Partial Funding Appropriated; Additional Funding Requested in FY 2016 CIP
Tyger River Passage Development	In Process	Partial Funding Appropriated; Additional Funding Requested in FY 2016 CIP
Woodruff Leisure Center	Revised	N/A
Cherokee Springs Hunting and Fishing Preserve	On Hold	N/A
Duncan Linear Park Grant	Proposed	Funding Requested in FY 2016 CIP
Wellford Park Land Transfer and Grant	Proposed	Funding Requested in FY 2016 CIP
Beech Springs Tennis Center Design and Renovation	Complete	Project Closed Out.
Find A Park	In Process	Funding Appropriated.
Holston Creek Park Design and Construction, Phase I	In Process	Funding Appropriated.
Spartanburg Trails and Greenways Master Plan	In Process	Partial Funding Appropriated; Additional Funding Requested in FY 2016 CIP
River Access Planning/Development/Promotion	In Process	Funding Appropriated.
Enoree Park	Proposed	Funding Requested in FY 2016 CIP
VSP Center Development	Proposed	Funding Requested in FY 2016 CIP
Soccer Field Capacity Expansion	Proposed	Funding Requested in FY 2016 CIP

### **Park Investment Guidelines**

Among other things, the PEP recommended County Council adoption of guidelines for park investments. Every investment that the Parks Department has recommended since adoption of the PEP has “checked” one or more of the following ten “boxes.”

- ✓ At a minimum, parks and recreation facilities owned/managed by Spartanburg County will be safe, attractive and family friendly. Once recommended improvements are made, Spartanburg County should incrementally improve parks and recreation facilities.
- ✓ Improving the community's quality of life, encouraging neighborhood redevelopment and tax base expansion are among the reasons that Spartanburg County should consider in making parks and recreation investments.
- ✓ Access to Spartanburg County rivers and lakes should be enhanced, for the purpose of improving the community's quality of life and encouraging regional tourism activity.
- ✓ Spartanburg County should continue to invest in parks that promote development of youth sports tourism.
- ✓ Spartanburg County should focus trail development on in-park walking trails and connecting recreation assets to neighborhoods and centers of activity, for the purpose of wellness, recreation and safe walking routes to parks.
- ✓ Parks and recreation facilities owned/managed by Spartanburg County will be multi-purpose, featuring both active and passive recreation.
- ✓ The Spartanburg County park system will be designed and sized so that a high quality of maintenance can be provided within the available funding level. Parks that receive the highest use will receive the highest priority for maintenance.
- ✓ Municipal participation in the Spartanburg County Parks and Recreation Special Tax District should be a pre-condition for Spartanburg County investment in parks improvements within those municipalities. (The exceptions to this rule are the cities of Spartanburg and Greer, both of which have departments that operate parks and recreation facilities/programs within the municipality.)
- ✓ Spartanburg County should facilitate and support the efforts of private groups to develop parks and recreation assets.
- ✓ Spartanburg County should partner with other public and private agencies, such as schools, towns, water districts and community organizations, to improve parks and recreation availability as well as public information about parks and recreation assets.

### **Reality Check on Expenses**

The 2012 plan contained the following paragraph, which is repeated here as a caution to those who might seek to compare the rough project estimates in the PEP with the actual project budgets reported below.

"The recommendations in the Parks Enhancement Plan were developed to provide County Council with accurate information upon which Council can base

informed policy and priority-setting decisions. However, the recommendations and tentative budgets do not necessarily represent the actual cost of the improvements needed, which will be impacted by materials and labor costs at the time the project is begun. The project cost will also be influenced by citizen participation in planning for the park enhancements.

Also, the Parks Enhancement Plan describes the improvement of the parks as they exist now, but does not take into account the desires of citizens. For example, a community park with two small baseball fields, a tennis court and a playground could be transformed into a community park with two large baseball fields plus adequate parking, if that is what the citizens of that community desire for that park. Once Council makes decisions on the priority of park improvements, a parks design/engineering firm will be selected to design the improvements. Part of the design process will involve citizen participation so that the improvements – to the extent possible – address the needs and desires of the citizens."

## **Parks Enhancement Plan Project Status Report**

### **1. Little Africa Park Transfer (COMPLETE)**

- **PEP Recommendation:** Transfer ownership of the park to one or more of the area churches. If this is found to not be feasible, Spartanburg County should explore outsourcing maintenance of the park.
- **Investments since 10/2012:** The Parks Department Maintenance Team addressed some drainage and building and playground issues in-house, purchased a used shipping container (\$2,000) to house landscaping supplies and equipment and provided a \$7,800 grant to the "Friends" group to purchase a commercial mower and other landscaping equipment. The park is gated and the "Friends" group controls access to the park.
- **Status:** The concept of transferring ownership of the park (with the attendant risk management concerns) was not well-received by members of the community. Instead, a community association was formed. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed, which transfers routine maintenance responsibilities to the "Friends of Little Africa Park." Spartanburg County still owns and insures the facility and is available to assist the "Friends" on periodic "work days." The intent of the project was achieved, as Park Maintenance Team personnel no longer have to routinely travel to Little Africa Park to provide maintenance services. This allows more time to focus on the maintenance of other parks.
- **Probable Future Improvements:**
  - Installation of way-finding, entrance and internal park signage (already funded).

### **2. Southside Park Transfer (COMPLETE)**

- **PEP Recommendation:** Southside Park was developed within Croft State Park and is owned by the SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. The Westside Booster Club (School District 6 Youth Athletic Association) expressed interest in taking over responsibility for the park. The PEP recommended that SCPRT contract with the Westside Booster Club for maintenance and utilization of the park.
- **Investments since 10/2012:** The Parks Department provided a \$12,000 grant to the Booster Club to purchase a commercial mower, landscaping equipment and a storage unit to secure them.
- **Status:** SCPRT was unwilling to lease Southside Park directly to the Westside Booster Club. However, they did approve Spartanburg County to contract with the Booster Club for maintenance and operations. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Westside Booster Club. The intent of the project was achieved, as Park Maintenance Team personnel no longer have to routinely travel to Southside Park to provide maintenance services. This allows more time to focus on the maintenance of other parks.
- **Probable Future Improvements:**
  - Installation of way-finding, entrance and internal park signage (already funded).

### 3. Fairmont-Larkin Park Transfer (**UNRESOLVED**)

- **PEP Recommendation:** Fairmont-Larkin Park is a 6-acre private park which can only be accessed through a 3.8 acre parcel of land owned by Spartanburg County. The organization with whom a contract was signed - the Fairmont-Larkin Recreation Commission - was created by the State Legislature and the contract with the organization is long-expired. The staff recommended a new approach the park and donating the County land to an area church, which could work with the successor organization of the Fairmont Larkin Recreation Commission, owner of the 6-acre parcel, to improve and control use of the park.
- **Status:** While the recommendation was explored, a new approach is being discussed with the successor organization of the Fairmont-Larkin Recreation Commission.
- **Probable Future Improvements:** Unknown.

### 4. North Spartanburg Park Renovations (**COMPLETE**)

- **PEP Recommendations:** At the time the PEP was adopted, this park was largely complete. A number of appearance and function improvements had been identified, including: (1) Improving curb appeal by acquiring and incorporating into the park a non-buildable lot that fronts the park, (2) Improving vehicle and pedestrian circulation in the park to improve safety, (3) Building an in-park trail for exercise; linking the upper parking lot to the ball fields below via the trail,(4) Linking the park to the adjacent neighborhood through improved pedestrian connections and (5) Upgrading landscaping.
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$0

- **Adopted Budget:** \$0
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$86,522 (for walking trail, parking lot connections and neighborhood access).
- **Funding Source(s):** Hospitality Taxes (HTAX).
- **Project Methodology:** Parks Department Project Management.
- **Status:** Recommendations 3 and 4 were completed with funding from CIP Project PR0005, Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure. Recommendation 5 was funded through the Operating Budget.
- **Probable Future Improvements:**
  - Installation of way-finding, entrance and internal park signage (already funded).
  - Installation of outdoor fitness equipment (already funded).
  - As funding becomes available, improving curb appeal by acquiring and incorporating into the park a non-buildable lot that fronts the park.
  - As funding becomes available, repaving parking lot and improving vehicle and pedestrian circulation in the park to improve safety.

5. **Lyman City Park Grant (COMPLETE)**

- **PEP Recommendations:** The Town of Lyman planned to build a new park near Lyman Town Hall as part of a downtown revitalization strategy. Since the park would benefit Lyman revitalization and provide a new amenity for Spartanburg County citizens, the PEP recommended that Spartanburg County should contribute \$100,000 to complete funding for the first stage of the park.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$100,000.
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$100,000.
- **Adopted Budget:** \$100,000.
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$100,000
- **Funding Source(s):** Property Taxes (PTAX)
- **Project Methodology:** N/A
- **Status:** The first phase of the project, including an amphitheatre, was completed. In FY 2015, Lyman officials requested an additional \$250,000 contribution from Spartanburg County to complete the park. However, the Parks Department staff did not include this request in the FY 2016 CIP submittals, as there are still many park renovation projects needed.
- **Probable Future Improvements:** None

6. **Glendale Outdoor Leadership School Grant (COMPLETE)**

- **PEP Recommendations:** The Glendale Outdoor Leadership School (GOLS) requested County assistance in funding a High Ropes Challenge Course, in order to become a "one-stop shop" for hosting large groups for leadership and team-building experiences.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$75,000
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$75,000

- **Adopted Budget:** \$75,000
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$80,640
- **Funding Source(s):** HTAX
- **Project Methodology:** N/A
- **Status:** A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with GOLs, which not only provided the requested funding, but also allowed Parks Department use of the facility for programs. The MOU also committed each partner organization to work together to promote outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism. The funds expended above that which was budgeted paid for the creation of a Google Maps-based trails planning tool by Palmetto Conservation Foundation. The planning tool is used on the Parks Department website to show the location of greenways and blue ways. It is also used by Partners for Active Living for trail development planning.
- **Probable Future Improvements:** Installation of way-finding signage (already funded).

7. **Cottonwood Trail Bridge Grant (COMPLETE)**

- **PEP Recommendations:** The Spartanburg Area Conservancy (SPACE) requested a grant of \$15,000 to re-deck a 100-foot-long bicycle and pedestrian bridge within the 115 acre Edwin M. Griffin Nature Preserve, managed by the Spartanburg Area Conservancy (SPACE).
- **PEP Estimate:** \$15,000
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$15,000
- **Adopted Budget:** \$15,000
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$15,000
- **Funding Source(s):** PTAX
- **Project Methodology:** N/A
- **Status:** The funds were distributed and the project is complete.
- **Probable Future Improvements:** Installation of way-finding signage (already funded)

8. **Woodruff Trail Design and Construction (COMPLETE)**

- **PEP Recommendations:** Use Recreation Trails Program funds, along with County funding to build a fitness trail linking the Woodruff Leisure Center to all District 4 schools, as the first project in a Woodruff trail system.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$225,000
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$320,000
- **Adopted Budget:** \$346,583
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$342,797
- **Funding Source(s):** PTAX, State Grant (SGrant)
- **Project Methodology:** Contractor Preliminary Design, Contractor Construction Documents, Contractor Construction, Parks Department Project Management.



- **Status:** The .85-mile-long Woodruff Greenway was dedicated in November 2014.
- **Probable Future Improvements:**
  - Installation of way-finding signage.
  - As funding becomes available, expand the trail to ring the multi-purpose fields behind the Woodruff Leisure Center. (This was previously budgeted, but the funds had to be used to build more robust pedestrian bridge foundations, since the Woodruff Greenway is located in a wetland.)

#### 9. Academy Park Design and Construction (**CANCELLED**)

- **PEP Recommendations:** Repurpose this unused park, owned by School District 5, into a Westside Soccer Complex.
- **Status:** A preliminary plan was developed and discussed with School District 5 officials. The plan found that the topography of, plus the existing structures in the park, did not allow space for an adequately-sized soccer complex, absent significant investment, totaling more than \$2 million. Also, School District 5 officials are concerned that the property may be needed to build a new school, in order to accommodate student population growth.

#### 10. Lincoln Park Design and Construction (**CANCELLED**)

- **Recommendation:** This new park was proposed to be located on a 25-acre site, owned by School District 6, which was originally the site of Lincoln High School, and later, the Lincoln Alternative School. School District 6 offered the property to Spartanburg County for development of a public park.
- **Status:** After a proposal was floated for the City of Spartanburg (which desired a new "Westside Park") to work with the Parks Department on development of Lincoln Park, the School District 6 Superintendent announced that the District would have to retain the property to build a new school to accommodate student population growth.

#### 11. 295 Park Design and Renovation (**IN PROCESS**)

- **PEP Recommendations:** Address parking, interior circulation, fencing, bleacher, drainage, comfort station condition and access issues.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$962,000
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$999,900
- **Adopted Budget:** \$1,427,900
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$1,275,296
- **Funding Source(s):** HTAX
- **Project Methodology:** Contractor Preliminary Design, Contractor Construction Documents, Contractor Construction, Parks Department Project Management.
- **Status:** Preliminary plan approval was not sought from Council because the design of the park did not change. The substantial increase in the Adopted Budget, as compared to the Preliminary Budget, can be traced primarily to the

condition of the restroom/concession building. The Preliminary Budget assumed renovation of the structure. Construction is underway; substantial completion is expected in mid-CY 2015.

- **Probable Future Improvements:** Installation of way-finding, entrance and internal park signage (already funded).

## 12. Old Canaan Road Park Design and Renovation **(IN PROCESS)**

- **PEP Recommendations:** Address drainage, parking, access and fencing issues.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$594,000.
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$0.
- **Adopted Budget:** \$0.
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$69,445
- **Funding Source(s):** HTAX
- **Project Methodology:** Parks Department Project Management.
- **Status:** The project, as described in the PEP, was placed on hold in FY 2014. County Council decided to add the Chesnee Community Center and Chesnee Park projects without raising the millage rate by 0.5 mills, which was needed to fund the Chesnee improvements and operating costs. To accommodate the addition of the Chesnee facilities, cuts had to be made elsewhere. Since the soccer fields at Old Canaan Road Park were in relatively good shape, it was decided that this park would not be renovated. However, the fitness trail, which also improved access, was funded from CIP Project 0005, "Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure." Also, the Park Maintenance Team has been able to address some of the drainage and fencing issues over the past two years, with materials funded through the Operating Budget.
- **Probable Future Improvements:**
  - Installation of way-finding, entrance and internal park signage (already funded).
  - Installation of a nature trail, disc golf course and outdoor fitness equipment (already funded).
  - As funding becomes available, adding a playground and picnic shelters so that Old Canaan Road Park can become a true multi-use park.
  - As funding becomes available, the soccer fields should be lighted to expand capacity of the fields.

## 13. Tyger River Park Construction **(IN PROCESS)**

- **PEP Recommendations:** The PEP only recommended construction of speed tables to slow vehicular traffic in the park, at an approximate cost of \$12,500.
- **Preliminary Budget:** Unknown (as to the entire park).
- **PEP Estimate:** \$12,900.
- **Adopted Budget:** \$17,586,836
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered. 10/2012-12/2014:** \$1,436,432.
- **Funding Source(s):** HTAX, PTAX, Private Grants (PGrants)

- **Project Methodology:** Contractor Preliminary Design, Contractor Construction Documents, Contractor Construction, Parks Department Project Management.
- **Status:** Working from the budget authorized by the County Council, the Parks Department has methodically gone about finishing the remaining features of Tyger River Park, working primarily in those portions of the year when tournaments are not scheduled. By early CY 2015, all planned improvements to Tyger River Park will be complete. In addition to the aforementioned traffic calming devices, improvements will include: a splash pad, a new stadium restroom/concessions building, batting cages, four picnic shelters (reduced from the planned five), a disc golf course, a perimeter fitness trail, extensive landscaping and outdoor recreation equipment. At this writing, it appears that when these projects are completed, there will be a project balance exceeding \$100,000. This balance resulted from not installing the large picnic shelter at Tyger River Park. Instead, due to corporate demand for rental of Va-Du-Mar McMillan Park, the large picnic shelter will be built there.
- **Probable Future Improvements:**
  - Installation of some internal park signage (already funded).
  - As funding becomes available, construction of a "party deck" at the base of the Tyger River Park tower. This "deck" will be integrated into the tower's accessible ramp and will provide the equivalent of another picnic shelter. It will also double as a stage for performances and ceremonies held at Tyger River Park.
  - The final element is an "outdoor recreation education station," near the Tyger River Park splash pad and playground. The education station will promote understanding of Spartanburg County's rivers and will highlight outdoor recreation opportunities to persons participating in tournaments at Tyger River Park (grant funds will be sought for implementation).

#### 14. Va-Du-Mar McMillan Park Design, Renovation and Expansion **(IN PROCESS)**

- **PEP Recommendations:** Address erosion and drainage, access and bleacher issues; construct three to five new multi-purpose fields.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$778,000
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$963,200
- **Adopted Budget:** \$1,761,181
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$1,647,846
- **Funding Source(s):** HTAX
- **Project Methodology:** Contractor Preliminary Design, Contractor Construction Documents, Contractor Construction, Parks Department Project Management.
- **Status:** Focus group meetings were held to receive input involving volunteers from the AYSO youth recreational soccer organization. A Preliminary Plan was developed. Because of the field capacity increase, more parking and a restroom/concessions facility had to be added to the original project scope, which significantly increased the budget. While the County Council was briefed

on the project and appropriated funds for design and construction, the Parks Department staff, in its zeal to get the project underway, neglected to seek County Council approval for the Preliminary Plan. However, construction is well underway and the park expansion is expected to be substantially complete by mid-CY 2015.

- **Probable Future Improvements:**
  - Installation of way-finding, entrance and internal park signage (already funded).
  - Va-Du-Mar McMillan Park has become a popular location for corporate events, such as employee parties. For this reason, the large picnic shelter, originally programmed for Tyger River Park, will be built at Va-Du-Mar McMillan Park. The picnic shelter will be constructed to include features that also allow it to be used for 50+ Wellness programs in the warmer months (there is a senior citizens' complex across the street from the park). Between excess funds in the Tyger River Park budget and excess funds in the Va-Du-Mar McMillan Park budget, there should be adequate funds to construct this facility.
  - A number of low-cost, value-added improvements will be constructed by the Park Maintenance Team to make Va-Du-Mar park a multi-purpose facility. These include a sand volleyball court, horseshoe court, and community garden.
  - A fitness trail (already funded) will be built after the multi-purpose fields are constructed.
  - As funding becomes available, the fitness trail will be augmented with outdoor fitness equipment.

#### 15. Berry Field Design and Renovation **(COMBINED WITH CLEVELAND PARK)**

- **PEP Recommendations:** Address parking, access, bleacher and erosion issues.
- **Status:** Berry Field is adjacent to Cleveland Park and has potential to be linked to Cleveland Park. Thus, for planning purposes, this project was combined with the Cleveland Park renovation project.

#### 16. Cleveland Park Design and Renovation **(IN PROCESS)**

- **PEP Recommendations:** Address access, lighting improvements, erosion, and playground issues.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$823,450
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$2,263,040
- **Adopted Budget:** \$864,500
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$182,000
- **Funding Source(s):** HTAX, PTAX, PGrants.
- **Project Methodology:** Contractor Preliminary Design, Contractor Construction Documents, Contractor Construction, Parks Department Project Management.
- **Status:** After significant community input, the planning consultants produced a well-received Preliminary Plan for Cleveland Park and Berry Field. The plan

included a large community-build playground, fitness trails, outdoor fitness equipment, new picnic shelters, a memorial garden, a pedestrian/bicycle path beneath Asheville Highway, and renovation of Berry Field into a multi-purpose green space accented with a memorial. The plan was adopted by County Council. Design and permitting for the project is underway. Funding for implementation of the final design was requested in the FY 2016 CIP

- **Probable Future Improvements:**
  - Installation of way-finding, entrance and internal park signage (already funded).
  - Installation of outdoor fitness equipment (already funded).
  - Pedestrian linkage to Glenn Greenway (to be designed and constructed by the Parks Department staff.
  - As funding becomes available, installation of an electronic marquee sign, on Asheville Highway, to advertise parks and recreation facilities and programs.

#### 17. Chesnee Park Acquisition, Renovation and Service Expansion **(IN PROCESS)**

- **PEP Recommendations:** Transfer ownership of the Chesnee VSP Club from Senior Center of Spartanburg to Spartanburg County; expand operations so that the newly-named "Chesnee Community Center" can serve the Chesnee community Monday – Friday, roughly 12 hours per day. Transfer the adjacent ball field complex from the Chesnee Community Youth Athletic Association to Spartanburg County. Improve conditions at the park and manage/maintain the complex in a manner similar to other public parks.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$442,470
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$686,200
- **Adopted Budget:** \$0
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$11,000
- **Funding Source(s):** PTAX, Municipal Grant (MGrant)
- **Project Methodology:** Contractor Preliminary Design, Contractor Design/Build, Parks Department Project Management.
- **Status:** The Chesnee Community Center has been transferred to ownership and management of Spartanburg County. A citizen advisory board has been created, program participation has increased and new programs are being offered by the Parks Department as well as partner agencies. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to transfer ownership of the ball field complex to Spartanburg County was signed in late-2013. Focus group meetings were held and a Preliminary Plan for renovation of Chesnee Park was developed. It will be presented to the Livability Committee in the February/March 2015 timeframe. Funding for implementation of the Preliminary Plan has been requested in the FY 2016 CIP, as part of Project PR0017, "Community Park Improvements."
- **Probable Future Improvements:**

- Installation of way-finding, entrance and internal park signage (already funded).
- As funding becomes available, installation of additional park features, including expansion of the playground, a picnic shelter and a fitness trail.

#### 18. Linville Hills Park Design and Renovation (IN PROCESS)

- **PEP Recommendations:** Convert the facility to a passive family-oriented park featuring: picnic shelters, grassy lawns, a multi-purpose field, a gated entrance, and a fitness trail as well as playground equipment.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$287,525
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$450,000, including \$100,000 in CDBG funding.
- **Adopted Budget:** \$450,000
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$0
- **Funding Source(s):** PTAX, FGrant.
- **Project Methodology:** Parks Department Preliminary Design, Parks Department Project Management.
- **Status:** Focus group meetings were held and a Preliminary Plan was developed. It was approved by County Council in December 2014. The dominant feature of the park – a large radio tower serving the Downtown Airport – will be demolished in the future, opening more property for park use. Land for the area around the tower was conveyed to Spartanburg County by the Federal government under a decades-old program for local use of excess Federal land. Before improvement work begins, ownership of the property should be formally transferred to Spartanburg County, a process that may be lengthy due to Federal involvement. The Parks Department's FY 2016 CIP request incorporates funding for this park into project PROO17, "Community Park Improvements."
- **Probable Future Improvements:**
  - Installation of way-finding, entrance and internal park signage (already funded).

#### 19. Pacolet Park Design and Renovation (IN PROCESS)

- **PEP Recommendations:** Address parking, access, equipment, field condition and fencing issues.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$269,610
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$505,394.
- **Adopted Budget:** \$0.
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$12,800.
- **Funding Source(s):** PTAX
- **Project Methodology:** Contractor Preliminary Design, Contractor Design/Build, Parks Department Project Management.
- **Status:** This is a privately-owned parcel, leased to Spartanburg County for use as a park. The lease runs through 2016. Focus group meetings were held and a Preliminary Plan for renovation of Pacolet Park was developed. It will be

presented to the Livability Committee in the February/March 2015 timeframe. Funding for implementation of the Preliminary Plan has been requested in the FY 2016 CIP, as part of Project PR0017, "Community Park Improvements."

- **Probable Future Improvements:**
  - Installation of way-finding, entrance and internal park signage (already funded).
  - As funding becomes available, installation of additional park features, including expansion of the playground and one or more picnic shelters.

#### 20. Cowpens Park Design and Renovation **(IN PROCESS)**

- **PEP Recommendations:** Address erosion/drainage, access, equipment, field condition and fencing issues.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$409,360
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$661,800.
- **Adopted Budget:** \$0.
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$9,200.
- **Funding Source(s):** PTAX
- **Project Methodology:** Contractor Preliminary Design, Contractor Design/Build, Parks Department Project Management.
- **Status:** This park is owned by the Town of Cowpens and is operated and maintained by the Parks Department. Focus group meetings were held and a Preliminary Plan for renovation of Cowpens Park was developed. It will be presented to the Livability Committee in the February/March 2015 timeframe. Funding for implementation of the Preliminary Plan was requested in the FY 2016 CIP, as part of Project PR0017, "Community Park Improvements."
- **Probable Future Improvements:**
  - Installation of way-finding, entrance and internal park signage (already funded).
  - As funding becomes available, installation of additional park features, including expansion of the playground and one or more picnic shelters.

#### 21. Inman Sports Complex Design and Renovation **(IN PROCESS)**

- **PEP Recommendations:** Address erosion/drainage, comfort station, parking, fencing, access, and bleacher issues.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$317,878
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$632,370.
- **Adopted Budget:** \$0.
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$34,639 (includes repair of sewer line).
- **Funding Source(s):** PTAX.
- **Project Methodology:** Contractor Preliminary Design, Contractor Design/Build, Parks Department Project Management.

- **Status:** This park is owned by Spartanburg School District One and is operated and maintained by the Parks Department. Focus group meetings were held and a Preliminary Plan for renovation of the park was developed. It will be presented to the Livability Committee in the February/March 2015 timeframe. Funding for implementation of the Preliminary Plan was requested in the FY 2016 CIP, as part of Project PR0017, "Community Park Improvements."
- **Probable Future Improvements:**
  - Installation of way-finding, entrance and internal park signage (already funded).
  - As funding becomes available, installation of additional park features, including a playground and one or more picnic shelters.

## 22. Arkwright Park Design, Renovation and Expansion (IN PROCESS)

- **PEP Recommendations:** Address parking, drainage, turf improvement, access, fencing, equipment issues; expand park size.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$325,725
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$400,000 (including a proposed \$100,000 CDBG Grant).
- **Adopted Budget:** \$0.
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$0.
- **Funding Source(s):** PTAX, FGrant.
- **Project Methodology:** Parks Department Preliminary Design, Parks Department Project Management.
- **Status:** While County Council has appropriated funds for Arkwright Park and focus group meetings have been held, the park development is currently on hold until additional land is acquired. CDBG funds will be sought to support this project. The Parks Department's FY 2016 CIP request incorporates funding for this park into project PROO17, "Community Park Improvements."
- **Probable Future Improvements:**
  - Installation of way-finding, entrance and internal park signage (already funded).

## 23. W.R McKinney Park Grant (IN PROCESS)

- **PEP Recommendations:** Though this facility is not programmed or maintained by the Parks Department, it was evaluated as part of the PEP. Needed improvements included equipment, parking, fields, sports court and the playground.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$120,293
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$1,200,000.
- **Adopted Budget:** \$200,000
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$0
- **Funding Source(s):** Property Taxes (PTAX)
- **Project Methodology:** N/A



- **Status:** Just after the PEP effort was begun, the City of Woodruff launched an effort to explore downtown revitalization strategies, including improvement of W.R. McKinney Park. Discussions with Woodruff officials resulted in a funding request to the County Council to assist in renovating W.R. McKinney Park. A sum of \$200,000 was appropriated to assist this project in FY 2014.

#### 24. Park Beautification/Landscaping Plan **(REVISED)**

- **PEP Recommendations:** The PEP pointed out the need to substantially upgrade the appearance of parks owned by Spartanburg County. The PEP recommended tree-planting, installation of low-maintenance plant materials and landscaped buffers between park components to enhance the attractiveness and functionality of parks. The utilization of volunteer contributions of donated plant materials and installation/maintenance labor was also recommended.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$60,000
- **Preliminary Budget:** 0.
- **Adopted Budget:** 0.
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$20,876 (for Tyger River Park, only. All other beautification projects have been funded through the Operating Budget).
- **Funding Source(s):** Property Taxes (PTAX)
- **Project Methodology:** Parks Department Project Management.
- **Status:** When the PEP was adopted, the intention was to hire a landscape architect to describe improvements for parks. However, many members of the Park Maintenance Team have experience in landscaping improvements, as well as maintenance. The expertise of these personnel have been employed in several landscaping projects, including:
  - **Tyger River Park**
    - The entire park has been landscaped. All landscaping was cut out of the budget when the park was built and many open mulch beds were left throughout the park. All entrances and open mulch bed areas have now been landscaped.
    - The tower area in the center of the park has been landscaped which greatly improves the look of the playground area.
    - The playground area is undergoing a renovation in which the playground borders will be shifted and 10,000 square feet of sod will be added to create a better looking and more user friendly playground area.
    - 30 acres of woods on both sides of the Gano road entrance were not being used. This area is now home to one of the nicest disc golf courses in the Upstate. The disc golf course turned an unusable piece of land into an area with trails and beauty.
  - **North Spartanburg Park**
    - Split rail entrance fences were built and phase one of mulch beds and landscaping was added.

- A split rail fence was added at the entrance to the lower parking lot and at the back side of the parking lot. Phase one of landscape plants and trees were added along the fence.
  - Split rail fences were added at the entrance to the maintenance shop and phase one of landscape plants were added along the fence.
  - A gravel employee parking lot was added.
  - Two raised perennial garden beds were added and planted. One is located at the entrance to the ball fields in the lower parking lot and one was added at the entrance to the Miracle League field.
  - Trees were planted around the border of the Miracle league playground.
  - A kiosk was built at the entrance to the ball fields.
  - Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary certification (a measure of environmental design and maintenance quality) should be achieved by late summer of 2015.
- **Va-Du-Mar McMillan Park**
  - Raised garden beds were added and planted on each side of the restroom building and on the center island in front of the restroom building.
  - The entrance island was landscaped.
  - A kiosk was built at the start of the disc golf course.
  - Landscape plans are under development to landscape all parking lot islands and around the bathrooms in the old section of the park.
  - Landscape plans are under development for the section of the park that is currently being built.
  - Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary certification should be achieved by late summer of 2015.
- **Old Canaan Road Park**
  - Landscape plants were added in the lower portion of the park.
  - Landscape plants were added at each entrance.
  - Raised garden beds were added and planted at each field directional sign for a total of 8.
  - The steep banks that surround the upper soccer fields have been cleaned up of scrub growth. Dirt has been added to eroded areas and has been seeded.
  - The perimeter around the lower soccer fields has been cleaned up and all undergrowth has been removed.
  - A split rail fence has been added at the entrance to the lower fields, trees were added, and river rock will be added along the entire fence.

- A disc golf course has been started. Once complete, this course will open up 30 acres of previously unusable land.
    - Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary certification should be achieved by late summer of 2015.
  - **Glenn Greenway**
    - This park has been completely redone. This was an unusable space that is now a beautiful green space near Cleveland Park.
    - All undergrowth and dead trees have been removed.
    - More than 100 tons of dirt was brought in to fill in the low wet areas and fix drainage problems.
    - 50 tons of rip rap was brought in to fill in drainage ditches.
    - The entire park was graded and seeded.
    - Two concrete pads were poured and picnic tables and grills were added.
    - Landscape trees and plants were added throughout the park.
  - **Cleveland Park**
    - Both main entrances to the park were landscaped.
    - Landscape plants and trees were added throughout the park.
    - Dead trees have been removed from the park.
    - The entire fescue grass section of the park has been seeded.
    - The decorative lighting throughout the park is being upgraded to LED light fixtures. This requires some fabrication, but will save money and time in the long run. All work is being done by the Cleveland Park maintenance staff.
    - Perimeter areas of the park have been cleaned up and undergrowth has been removed to allow better view into the park and better views for traffic around the park.
    - Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary certification should be achieved by late summer of 2015.

## 25. Park Standards Manual Development **(REVISED)**

- **PEP Recommendations:** The PEP noted the advisability of standardizing certain park elements, for the purpose of creating a unified look and feel to all parks. The PEP promised that a “park standards manual” - based on the best practices of other park agencies - would help lower design costs and provide for long-lasting construction as well as less-intensive maintenance.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$30,000
- **Preliminary Budget:** 0.
- **Adopted Budget:** 0.
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$0
- **Funding Source(s):** Property Taxes (PTAX)
- **Project Methodology:** Parks Department Project Management.
- **Status:** One of the Parks Department's objectives is to build a well-regarded, professional parks and recreation department. Key to that objective is achieving

national accreditation for the department, which also requires the development of a detailed Procedures Manual. At this writing, the Manual is well underway and should be finished within FY 2015. The completion of the manual is the precursor to seeking national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies. One chapter of the manual, titled "Park Development and Maintenance," will include address standards for park design. One of the ten Park Investment Guidelines recommended in the PEP was: *"Parks and recreation facilities owned/managed by Spartanburg County will be multi-purpose, featuring both active and passive recreation."* In the past, most parks developed in Spartanburg County had one or two uses (such as hosting youth and adult sports). However, Spartanburg County has a small number of parks, relative to the size of the County population. It made sense to the Parks Department staff to make the most of the parks that Spartanburg County has available. While facilities for team sports will continue to be a feature of most parks, there is no reason these same parks cannot host facilities that appeal to a wide range of individuals, groups, ages and abilities. The notion of a multi-use park is a mainstream idea, particularly in the case of "community parks," which are typically smaller than 25 acres. Multi-use parks might include multi-purpose fields, paved or natural-surface "fitness trails," outdoor fitness equipment, disc golf courses, playgrounds, picnic shelters of varying sizes, benches, shade, community gardens, sports courts, parking lots, gates/other security equipment and easy-to-maintain restrooms as well as natural areas.

## 26. Lake Cooley Outdoor Recreation Center Design and Construction (IN PROCESS)

- **PEP Recommendations:** A new lakefront Outdoor Recreation Center was proposed for SJWD's Lake Cooley. Initial investments proposed included an office/classroom building, equipment storage building and fully accessible canoe/kayak launch.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$322,500
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$400,000
- **Adopted Budget:** 0.
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$0
- **Funding Source(s):** HTAX.
- **Project Methodology:** Contractor Preliminary Design, Contractor Design/Build, SJWD Project Management.
- **Status:** A contract to allow construction of the building at an existing lakefront park was signed with SJWD. In 2014, SJWD was asked to take on the construction management of the Outdoor Recreation Center, since they have experienced construction managers on their staff. SJWD hired an architect to develop a Preliminary Plan and the Parks Department staff has met with the architect to discuss building requirements. Once the Preliminary Plan is complete, it will be shared with County Council and the SJWD Board of Directors. Assuming approval, SJWD will seek a design/build contractor to provide a "guaranteed maximum cost." If the bids received are within the \$400,000 that

has been set aside for the project, upon County Council approval, SJWD will proceed with awarding the bid and will periodically request reimbursement from the County for progress payments.

- **Probable Future Improvements:**
  - Installation of way-finding, entrance and internal park signage (already funded).
  - As funding becomes available, installation of additional park features, including a new playground.

## 27. Pacolet River Passage Development (IN PROCESS)

- **PEP Recommendations:** Provide County funds to assist in leveraging State Recreational Trail Program grant funds for enhancements such as paddle-in camp sites, riverside picnic shelters and a public fishing dock.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$100,000
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$125,000
- **Adopted Budget:** \$125,000
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$6,200
- **Funding Source(s):** PTAX, SGrant.
- **Project Methodology:** Parks Department Preliminary Design, Contractor Construction, facilitated by Town of Pacolet.
- **Status:** The grant application filed by the Town of Pacolet requested funding for improvements to the historic town center, including trail and landscaping improvements, a public restroom and a river access point. A \$100,000 grant was received. Spartanburg County is supplying \$25,000 in matching funds. The Parks Department is serving as the fiscal agent for administration of the grant funds.
- Probable Future Developments:
  - a. Installation of way-finding signage (already funded).
    - Design and installation of a riverfront disc golf course (already funded).
    - As funding becomes available, installation of additional park features in the historic town center, such as a new playground.

## 28. Big Shoals Park (aka "Clifton Park and Beach") Purchase, Design and Construction (IN PROCESS)

- **PEP Recommendations:** Purchase the riverfront acreage associated with the demolished Clifton 2 textile mill; hold in trust for future development.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$240,000 (purchase and testing, only)
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$300,000 (Phase I construction)
- **Adopted Budget:** \$50,000
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$242,152 (purchase, surveys, hazard mitigation)
- **Funding Source(s):** HTAX.
- **Project Methodology:** Parks Department Preliminary Design, Parks Department Project Management.

- **Status:** After a period of due diligence, during which the Clifton 2 property was evaluated for potential environmental hazards, Spartanburg County purchased the property. Following the purchase of what eventually became known as "Clifton Park and Beach," the Parks Department addressed some safety and risk management issues on the property. Some brush clearing was also completed. About the same time, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation opened the first section of the Lawson's Fork and Pacolet River Blue way. The land purchase and blue way opening, together with the media coverage that resulted, generated a large increase in usage of Clifton Beach, which resulted in additional maintenance challenges for the Parks Department. The increase in activity also created parking problems on the "beach" side of the future park. This was particularly problematic because the beach was also a designated river access point for the Lawson's Fork and Pacolet River Blue way. In FY 2014, to respond to the increasing popularity of this new recreation asset, the Parks Department staff developed a Preliminary Plan to provide parking, a river access point and limited park amenities, on the "mill" side of the park. The County Council adopted the Preliminary Plan in December 2014. The County Council had appropriated \$50,000 for park planning in the FY 2015 CIP. Since the required planning for the limited-scope Phase 1 plan for Clifton Park and Beach was completed by the Parks Department staff, the Parks Department has requested an additional \$250,000 for Clifton Park and Beach in the FY 2016 CIP. If the funding is approved, the improvements will be managed by the Parks Department staff.
- **Probable Future Improvements:**
  - Installation of way-finding, entrance and internal park signage (already funded).
  - A large playground (to be privately-funded).
  - One or more picnic shelters (to be privately-funded).

## 29. Tyger River Passage Development **(IN PROCESS)**

- **PEP Recommendations:** The PEP outlined the Tyger River Foundation's ambitious plans to develop parks, nature trails, a nature education center and river access points along the Tyger River.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$312,000
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$1,100,000 (public and private funds for five year blue way implementation plan)
- **Adopted Budget:** \$60,000
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$60,000
- **Funding Source(s):** HTAX.
- **Project Methodology:** Parks Department Preliminary Design, Contractor Design/Build, Parks Department Project Management.
- **Status:** The County provided a grant of \$60,000 to help the Tyger River Foundation purchase a 49 acre riverfront parcel for future park development.

The Foundation has also opened the Tyger Ten Nature Park and has contracted with SJWD to provide an access point on Berry's Pond. The Parks Department has agreed to help maintain the Berry's Pond access point, once it is developed. In 2014, the Tyger River Foundation developed a five year plan for land acquisition, design and construction of outdoor recreation assets along two of the Tyger Rivers, created two blue ways totaling more than 20 miles. The total cost of the plan exceeded \$1.1 million. The Parks Department requested, for the 2016 CIP, \$150,000 to build five river access points on Foundation-owned property.

- **Probable Future Improvements:**
  - Installation of way-finding, entrance and internal park signage (already funded).
  - In addition, a multi-agency river access and trails development project that just began, focused on the Middle Tyger Area Council. The Parks Department is a partner in this initiative.
  - Finally, Upstate Forever is developing a grant application to map and set up water quality monitoring along blue ways in twelve upstate counties.

### 30. Woodruff Leisure Center (REVISED)

- **PEP Recommendations:** This facility, which was built by Spartanburg County, on land owned by the City of Woodruff, needs access and equipment improvements.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$278,425
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$0.
- **Adopted Budget:** N/A
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$0.
- **Funding Source(s):** N/A.
- **Project Methodology:** N/A.
- **Status:** A fitness trail, named the "Woodruff Greenway," was recently completed adjacent to the Leisure Center. Playground equipment was also relocated to this site in 2014, the Parks Department staff has completed routine maintenance improvements to the interior of the building and outdoor fitness equipment is scheduled for installation. A capital project was created in the FY 2015 to fund, in FY 2016, architectural services for expansion of the facility, in order to better equip the center to provide services for active seniors. However, in FY 2015, a new community improvement project, the "Senior Wellness Initiative," was completed. With the potential importance of the new initiative in mind, the Parks Department's FY 2016 CIP requests include changing the title of the Woodruff Leisure Center project to "VSP Center Development," to provide a funding vehicle for Spartanburg County contributions towards development of community centers, operating on the VSP model, at Woodruff, Pacolet and other locations in the future. The current contract for Parks Department operation of the Leisure Center expires in 2016. Before any work is done on the Center, the contract should be renewed and revised.

### 31. Cherokee Springs Hunting and Fishing Preserve **(ON HOLD)**

- **PEP Recommendations:** The SC Department of Natural Resources proposed to operate an outdoor recreation program, focused on hunting and fishing education and activities. Associated improvements proposed in the PEP were limited to access controls, fishing pond bank stabilization, a picnic shelter/outdoor classroom and buffer plantings around the property.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$235,000.
- **Preliminary Budget: Adopted Budget:** \$0
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$0
- **Funding Source(s):** N/A.
- **Project Methodology:** N/A.
- **Status:** A portion of the Cherokee Springs property has been leased to SCDNR to provide a supervised dove hunting area. Further improvements have been deferred until all other park renovations are completed.

### 32. Duncan Linear Park Grant **(PROPOSED)**

- **PEP Recommendations:** In June 2014, the Spartanburg County Council amended the PEP to include providing seed money for the construction of the "Duncan Linear Park," essentially a paved and landscaped fitness trail connecting recreation facilities and neighborhoods within the Town of Duncan. The "linear park" was proposed as a means of beginning the implementation of the Town's revitalization plans. County financial participation in the project was made contingent on the Town of Duncan joining the Spartanburg County Parks and Recreation Special Tax District, which the Duncan Town Council has approved.
- **PEP Estimate:** \$100,000.
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$100,000
- **Adopted Budget:** \$0
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$0
- **Funding Source(s):** PTAX.
- **Project Methodology:** N/A.
- **Status:** The Parks Department staff has provided conceptual designs for components of the Linear Park and has recommended that the Town of Duncan should be provided with a grant that can be used to fund the design of the Linear Park. The design can be implemented, over time, as Town funds and private donations are obtained. Funding for the grant has been requested in the FY 2016 CIP, as part of Project PR0017, "Community Park Improvements."

### 33. Wellford Park Land Transfer and Grant **(PROPOSED)**

- **PEP Recommendations:** In June 2014, the Spartanburg County Council amended the PEP to include providing seed money for the construction of the "Wellford Park," on land currently owned by Spartanburg County. The property, which was originally purchased from Spartanburg School District Five, is suited to become a community park, since it was once the location of a school. If approved by



County Council, the ownership of the property will be transferred to the Town of Wellford and a \$50,000 grant will be provided to the Town to assist in the park design. County participation in the project was contingent on the Town of Wellford joining the Spartanburg County Parks and Recreation Special Tax District, which the Wellford Town Council has approved.

- **PEP Estimate:** \$50,000.
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$50,000, plus land transfer.
- **Adopted Budget:** \$0
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$0
- **Funding Source(s):** PTAX.
- **Project Methodology:** N/A.
- **Status:** The Parks Department staff has provided conceptual designs for the proposed Wellford Park and has recommended that the Town of Wellford should be provided with a grant that can be used to fund the design of the park. The design can be implemented, over time, as Town funds and private donations are obtained. Funding for the grant was requested in the FY 2016 CIP, as part of Project PR0017, "Community Park Improvements."

## Status Report On Other Projects

To give the County Council a complete picture of capital projects, this report also includes descriptions of projects that were not addressed in the Parks Enhancement Plan.

*Three projects, the Beech Springs Tennis Center Design and Renovation, Holston Creek Design and Construction and "Find A Park," were authorized before the Parks Enhancement Plan was adopted.*

### 1. Beech Springs Tennis Center Design and Renovation (COMPLETE)

- **Recommendations:** Several years ago, Spartanburg County contracted for public use of the Beech Springs Tennis Complex, owned by Spartanburg School District 5. A part of the contract included a 50/50 cost share for capital improvements. The Tennis Complex surface had deteriorated to the point that a complete renovation was required.
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$280,000
- **Adopted Budget:** \$320,000 (50/50 cost share between School District and County)
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$308,790.
- **Funding Source(s):** PTAX.
- **Project Methodology:** Contractor Preliminary Design, Contractor Construction Documents, Contractor Construction, Parks Department Project Management.
- **Status:** The project was completed in November 2013 and is in use.
- **Probable Future Improvements:**
  - Installation of way-finding, entrance and internal park signage (already funded).

## 2. Find A Park (IN PROCESS)

- **Recommendations:** Many of the parks owned by Spartanburg County are difficult to find, as they are located on rural roads. This project was originally proposed to provide way-finding signs to direct people to park opportunities. The project received grant funding from the Federal government and was expanded to also address the need for park entrance signs, regulatory and warning signs and internal directional signs.
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$75,000
- **Adopted Budget:** \$170,000
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$34,500.
- **Funding Source(s):** HTAX, FGrant.
- **Project Methodology:** Contractor Design, Contractor Fabrication/Installation, Parks Department Project Management.
- **Status:** A signage design firm was hired and, with input from the Parks Department staff, developed a Signage Manual. The Manual was adopted by County Council in December 2014. The Manual will be implemented first at Va-Du-Mar McMillan Park, in an effort to surface any issues with signage content and selection.

## 3. Holston Creek Park Design and Construction, Phase I (IN PROCESS)

- **PEP Recommendation:** Build, on County acreage in the Inman area, the first phase of a large park focused on active recreation (baseball/softball/soccer) as well as passive/outdoor recreation (fishing, wetlands, picnic shelters, nature trails and disc golf course.)
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$1,850,000
- **Adopted Budget:** \$2,292,040
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$109,762
- **Funding Source(s):** HTAX, PTAX, Federal Grant (FGrant)
- **Project Methodology:** Contractor Preliminary Design, Contractor Construction Documents, Contractor Construction, Parks Department Project Management.
- **Status:** The Preliminary Plan for this park was approved by the County Council. Construction documents and an RFP have been completed and the procurement process for selection of the construction firm is underway. Substantial completion is expected in late-CY 2015. A portion of the park land has been set aside for the Holly Springs Fire Department, for construction of a new substation needed to reduce emergency response times.
- **Probable Future Improvements:** Due to other priorities and the projected financial condition of the Parks Fund and the Hospitality Tax Fund, Phase II of Holston Creek Park is probably not feasible for at least ten years.

*The Spartanburg Trails and Greenways Master Plan, has not been adopted by County Council, but funding to support the Master Plan's implementation has been included in CIP Project PR0005, "Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure."*

#### 4. Spartanburg Trails and Greenways Master Plan (IN PROCESS)

- **Recommendations:** Just after the PEP was adopted, the previously-commissioned Trails and Greenways Master Plan was completed. The Trails and Greenways Master Plan was developed in FY 2013 as an update to the 2009 Spartanburg County Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, which established a blueprint for an on-street bikeway and walkway network. The local metropolitan planning organization, the Spartanburg Area Transportation Study (SPATS), commissioned that Plan and has worked with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), local jurisdictions and community partners to implement the Plan's recommendations. Partners for Active Living (PAL), in partnership with the City of Spartanburg, Spartanburg County, SPATS and the Healthy South Carolina Initiative of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), commissioned the Trails and Greenways Master Plan for the urbanized area of Spartanburg County. The project study area encompassed the metropolitan area of Spartanburg County. The City of Spartanburg served as a central hub. From Morgan Square, at the epicenter of the City, the study area boundaries extended a radius of roughly eight mile to the north and east, and roughly five miles to the south and the west. The Spartanburg Trails & Greenways Master Plan focused on the area between the Wadsworth Trail to the west, Va-Du-Mar McMillan Park in Boiling Springs to the north, Croft State Natural Area to the south and the Pacolet River to the east. The Master Plan noted that there were some 200 miles of trails and greenways in Spartanburg County which had been developed, by many organizations, over many years. However, the trail sections are highly localized and are not connected to each other. The purpose of the Plan was to provide a blueprint for connecting many of Spartanburg's existing park and trail facilities to each other and to local residents. The connective elements, which included various types of trails, totaled more than 137 miles for the area addressed by the Master plan. Given the economic circumstances of the Spartanburg community, the Trails and Greenways Master Plan must be considered as a LONG TERM VISION that may require decades to accomplish.
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$710,000 (County funds only)
- **Adopted Budget:** \$327,110 (to date)
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$44,000.
- **Funding Source(s):** HTAX, FGrants, SGrants, PGrants.
- **Project Methodology:** Varies, based on trail location.
- **Status:** PAL developed a Phase 1 Trail Development Plan covering five years and resulting in a connected trail network of 18.1 miles, at an estimated cost of \$6.6 million. Essentially, their Phase 1 plan connects three existing trails: the Rail Trail, the Cottonwood Trail and the

Wadsworth Trail. Spartanburg County's anticipated contribution to accomplishing the Phase 1 Trail Development Plan is \$600,000 for trail construction and \$110,000 to contract with Partners for Active Living for the five-year period of the Phase 1 Trail Development Plan.

*The project called River Access Planning, Development and Promotion, was adopted through a Budget Amendment Resolution in 2014. Funds to support the project were reallocated in CIP Project PR0010, "Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure."*

#### 5. River Access Planning/Development/Promotion (IN PROCESS)

- **Recommendation:** A lead agency is needed to plan and develop river access points.
- **Preliminary Budget:** \$100,000
- **Adopted Budget:** \$100,000
- **Capital Funds Expended/Encumbered, 10/12-12/14:** \$0
- **Funding Source(s):** HTAX, FGrant.
- **Project Methodology:** Unknown at this point. This will be dependent on the findings of technical assistance grant, described below.
- **Status:** A sum of \$100,000 was set aside to provide partial funding for a river access lead agency, similar to the arrangement where Partners for Active Living serves as community-wide lead agency for trail and greenway development. The Spartanburg Area Conservancy, with the assistance of the Mary Black Foundation, applied for and received a National Park Service technical assistance grant for blue ways planning, the process for which has begun. In addition, a multi-agency river access and trails development project just began, sponsored by the Middle Tyger Area Council. The Parks Department is a partner in this initiative. Finally, Upstate Forever is developing a grant application to map and set up water quality monitoring along blue ways in twelve upstate counties.

*Three new projects were **PROPOSED** as part of the FY 2016 CIP.*

6. **Enoree Park** is a proposal developed from an offer, by Inman Mills Corporation, to donate land for a community park in Enoree. In the FY 2015 CIP, a promise was made to evaluate the cost and feasibility of developing a park on the site, which currently has a number of safety, access and functionality issues. A Preliminary Plan has been developed and will be presented to the Livability Committee in the February/March timeframe. The Parks Department staff believes that development of a park in Enoree, while expensive for the size of the park (preliminary estimate of \$400,000), is feasible **IF** an Enoree-based organization or committee can be formed to provide routine park maintenance, in a manner similar to the arrangement at Little Africa Park. Enoree is too far distant for the Parks Department to efficiently provide routine maintenance. Funding for implementation of the Preliminary Plan was requested in the FY 2016 CIP, as part of Project PR0017, "Community Park Improvements." If the funding is approved, the Enoree Park will be constructed through a design/build process.

7. **VSP Center Development** is a proposal that grew out of the Senior Wellness Initiative. The project proposes to set aside County funds to leverage private funding as well as grant funds available through the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging. (The Chesnee Community Center, the Timken Center in Cowpens and the new Pacolet Community Center made use of these funds.) The VSP Center Development project assumes the creation of a private sector oversight and fund-raising group that can assist with creation, funding and operation of new community centers operated on the VSP model.
8. **Soccer Field Capacity Expansion** is a proposal to help address Spartanburg County's soccer field deficit (described below) by lighting existing fields to expand the available playing time. The lighting, which is warranted for 25 years, would be financed through a capital lease. Initially, the project is focused of the new multi-purpose fields at Va-Du-Mar McMillan Park. Eventually, the soccer field lighting project should be extended to the public soccer fields at USC-Upstate and at Old Canaan Road Park.

### **Parks Department Financial Condition**

From 2006, when the Spartanburg County Parks and Recreation Special Tax District was established, until 2011, there was a conscious effort, on the part of the Spartanburg Park Commission, to avoid spending money (which is different from saving money) on existing parks. The goal was to amass a large fund balance to sustain the operating expenses for a future "independent" Spartanburg Parks Commission, modeled on the form of the Spartanburg County Library (which is a special purpose district, as opposed to the special tax district.)

County Council's decision to replace the Parks Commission with a Parks Department whose director reported to the County Administrator relieved the need for the Parks Department to maintain a large fund balance. The funds accumulated from 2006-2011 have served as the basis for funding the projects in the Parks Enhancement Plan.

Projecting forward, absent an increase in the Parks property tax millage rate, or a substantial increase in the tax base, and with the exception of projects already included in the Capital Improvements Program, the Parks Department will be unable to fund any new projects until FY 2021. The Parks Department fund will be capable of supporting small, incremental improvements to existing facilities, such as adding a tennis court, building a river access point, lighting more soccer fields, or building a new disc golf course, etc. to add more value to the County's parks and recreation facilities.

Location	FY 2015 Output Measures	9/2014	10/2014	11/2014	12/2014	FY 2015 TOTAL TO DATE
<b>Park Maintenance Team (Estimated Employee/Hours, By Activity)</b>						
CP Shop	Equipment Maintenance & Repair	8	8	8	8	
CP Shop	General Park Maintenance & Repair	512	512	512	200	
CP Shop	Park Improvements Construction/Installation	288	288	288	600	
CP Shop	Safety Inspections	2	2	2	2	
CP Shop	Sports Field Maintenance & Preparation	-	-	-	-	
CP Shop	Trail Maintenance	20	20	20	20	
Nside Shop	Equipment Maintenance & Repair	8	8	8	8	
Nside Shop	General Park Maintenance & Repair	800	400	400	400	
Nside Shop	Park Improvements Construction/Installation	-	400	400	700	
Nside Shop	Safety Inspections	16	16	16	16	
Nside Shop	Sports Field Maintenance & Preparation	736	736	736	436	
Nside Shop	Trail Maintenance	20	20	20	20	
Sside Shop	Equipment Maintenance & Repair	8	8	8	8	
Sside Shop	General Park Maintenance & Repair	800	400	400	200	
Sside Shop	Park Improvement Construction/Installation	-	400	400	800	
Sside Shop	Safety Inspections	16	16	16	16	
Sside Shop	Sports Field Maintenance & Preparation	736	736	736	536	
Sside Shop	Trail Maintenance	10	10	10	10	
Wside Shop	Equipment Maintenance & Repair	8	8	8	8	
Wside Shop	General Park Maintenance & Repair	512	512	512	512	
Wside Shop	Park Improvement Construction/Installation	-	-	-	1,024	
Wside Shop	Safety Inspections	2	2	2	2	
Wside Shop	Sports Field Maintenance & Preparation	1,024	1,024	1,024	-	
Wside Shop	Trail Maintenance	20	20	20	20	
Various	Volunteer Service for Park Maintenance	-	-	-	-	
	<b>Total: Park Maintenance Team</b>	<b>5,546</b>	<b>5,546</b>	<b>5,546</b>	<b>5,546</b>	<b>33,276</b>
<b>Recreation Team (Estimated Participant/Hours, By Program)</b>						
	<b>50+ Wellness</b>					
Other	Daytrippers	1,353	680	1,137	776	
Other	Education	97	150	-	116	
Other	Exercise	1,709	420	228	213	
Other	Games	44	40	112	112	
Other	Group Dining (BBQs, Lunch Bunch, etc.)	21	44	34	22	
Other	Socials	918	212	12	-	
Other	Volunteer Service for Other	64	12	10	10	
Chesnee	Education	240	250	245	154	
Chesnee	Exercise	164	175	178	316	
Chesnee	Games	320	296	302	262	
Chesnee	Group Dining	404	392	306	136	
Chesnee	Socials	28	44	150	141	
Chesnee	Volunteer Service for Chesnee	160	156	158	98	
Cowpens	Education	264	124	60	50	

Location	FY 2015 Output Measures	9/2014	10/2014	11/2014	12/2014	FY 2015 TOTAL TO DATE
Cowpens	Exercise	390	507	398	457	
Cowpens	Games	90	49	60	60	
Cowpens	Group Dining	304	145	83	66	
Cowpens	Socials	60	96	178	83	
Cowpens	Volunteer Service for Cowpens	110	168	112	88	
Pacolet	Education	400	520	408	350	
Pacolet	Exercise	590	628	596	474	
Pacolet	Games	820	621	630	584	
Pacolet	Group Dining	304	310	306	300	
Pacolet	Socials	-	250	-	-	
Pacolet	Volunteer Service for Pacolet	-	-	-	-	
Woodruff	Education	212	242	230	186	
Woodruff	Exercise	170	228	212	326	
Woodruff	Games	302	316	298	240	
Woodruff	Group Dining	208	210	196	175	
Woodruff	Socials	-	34	-	-	
Woodruff	Volunteer Service for Woodruff	-	-	10	-	
	<b>Total, 50+ Wellness</b>	<b>9,746</b>	<b>7,319</b>	<b>6,649</b>	<b>5,795</b>	<b>41,267</b>
	<b>"On Demand" Programs</b>					
Chesnee	Classes/Programs	70	70	70	56	
Cowpens	Classes/Programs	270	290	290	256	
Inman	Classes/Programs	610	578	544	510	
Other	Classes/Programs	80	80	80	75	
Pacolet	Classes/Programs	140	144	146	240	
Woodruff	Classes/Programs	703	694	682	608	
	Volunteer Service for "On Demand" Programs	10	-	-	-	
	<b>Total, "On Demand" Programs</b>	<b>1,883</b>	<b>1,856</b>	<b>1,812</b>	<b>1,745</b>	<b>10,079</b>
	<b>Outdoor Recreation</b>					
Various	Biking	-	-	-	-	
Various	Paddling	35	67	24	-	
Various	Climbing	40	50	65	32	
Various	Fishing	-	-	-	-	
Various	Snow Skiing	-	-	-	-	
Various	Geocaching	30	-	-	-	
Various	Education	60	49	49	98	
Various	Volunteer Service for Outdoor Recreation	10	10	-	10	
	<b>Total, Outdoor Recreation</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>1,315</b>
	<b>Facility Rentals</b>					
Chesnee	Meetings; Community/Social Events	20	20	30	100	
Cleveland	Meetings; Community/Social Events )	15,422	18,718	7,290	12,914	
Cowpens	Meetings; Community/Social Events	50	60	100	-	
Inman	Meetings; Community/Social Events	-	100	-	100	
Pacolet	Meetings; Community/Social Events	150	-	-	-	

Location	FY 2015 Output Measures	9/2014	10/2014	11/2014	12/2014	FY 2015 TOTAL TO DATE
Picnic Shelters	Meetings; Community/Social Events	1,480	3,120	200	-	
Woodruff	Meetings; Community/Social Events	500	1,077	4,002	178	
Other	Meetings; Community/Social Events	-	-	-	-	
	<b>Total, Facility Rentals</b>	<b>17,622</b>	<b>23,095</b>	<b>11,622</b>	<b>13,292</b>	<b>106,323</b>
	<b>Youth Development</b>					
Various	After Class Enrichment	31,248	33,637	24,503	26,826	
Various	Summer Day Camp	-	-	-	-	
Various	Summer Playground	-	-	-	-	
Various	Volunteer Service for Youth Development	20	-	-	-	
	<b>Total, Youth Development</b>	<b>31,268</b>	<b>33,637</b>	<b>24,503</b>	<b>26,826</b>	<b>194,488</b>
	<b>Total, Recreation Team</b>	<b>60,694</b>	<b>66,083</b>			<b>260,950</b>
<b>Park Operations Team (Estimated Participant/Hours, By Program)</b>						
Various	Basketball Camp	-	-	-	-	
	<b>Team Sports</b>					
Various	Leagues, Adult Softball	3,024	3,780	-	-	
N. Spartanburg Park	Leagues, Adult Kickball	90	360	144		
VDM McMillan Park	Leagues, Adult Flag Football	90	360	288		
Various	Leagues, Baseball	8,496	10,620	648	-	
Various	Leagues, Football	1,728	2,160	1,080	-	
Various	Leagues, Soccer	12,540	14,535	5,814	-	
Various	Leagues, Softball	2,328	2,910	402	-	
Various	Leagues, Tennis	-	-	-	-	
	<b>Total, Team Sports</b>	<b>28,296</b>	<b>34,725</b>	<b>8,376</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>84,612</b>
	<b>Tournaments</b>					
Various	Tournaments, Adult Softball	768	1,920	768	-	
Various	Tournaments, Baseball	3,744	3,510	2,613	-	
Various	Tournaments, Football	-	-	-	-	
Various	Tournaments, Lacrosse	-	-	-	-	
Various	Tournaments, Rugby	-	-	-	-	
Various	Tournaments, Soccer	-	-	-	-	
Various	Tournaments, Softball	7,384	6,006	5,382	-	
N/A	Volunteer Service for Tournaments	-	-	-	-	
	<b>Total, Tournaments</b>	<b>11,896</b>	<b>11,436</b>	<b>8,763</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>69,840</b>
	<b>Total, Park Operations Team</b>	<b>40,192</b>	<b>46,161</b>	<b>17,139</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>154,452</b>
	<b>Estimated Tournament Economic Impact</b>	<b>\$ 612,576</b>	<b>\$ 311,220</b>	<b>\$ 82,274</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$6,815,102</b>
<b>Special Events (Estimated Participant/Hours, By Event)</b>						
School for Deaf & Blind	Christmas Kids	-	-	-	48	48
Cleveland Park	Daddy Daughter Dance	-	-	-	-	-
Lake Blalock	Discover Your Watershed	-	-	-	-	-
Tyger River Park	Easter Egg Scramble	-	-	-	-	-
Pacolet	Indian Summer Festival	-	4,000	-	-	4,000
VDM McMillan Park	Disc Golf Tournaments	-	-	-	-	-
Climb Upstate	Upstate Climbing Team	-	-	-	30	30



Location	FY 2015 Output Measures	9/2014	10/2014	11/2014	12/2014	FY 2015 TOTAL TO DATE
Pacolet River	Paddle the Pacolet	45	-	-	-	45
Tyger & Pacolet Rivers	River Sweeps	-	-	-	-	-
Camp Croft Park	Spartanburg County Adventure Race	-	-	60	-	60
Camp Croft Park	Stump Jump	-	-	-	-	-
Cleveland Park	Take a Kid Fishing Day	-	-	-	-	-
Tyger River Park	Tame the Tyger River Race	-	-	-	-	-
N. Spartanburg Park	Trunk or Treat Assistance	-	39	-	-	39
Various	Therapeutic Recreation Assistance	15	31	-	-	66
Various	Weekly Family Activities	-	-	-	-	12
Various	Volunteer Service for Special Events	-	20	20	87	127
	<b>Total, Special Events</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>4,090</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>4,427</b>