

Scope of Project



With the purchase of the railroad right-of-way in 1999, an abandoned rail car was also acquired. The car must have been built around 1947 and operated by the Southern Railway as some of its parts have that year and name printed. Physically, the 64 year-old rail car is in good conditions, except that it contains hazardous pollutants and the potential for its rehabilitation and put it to good use exists.

Greenville County and GCRD have discussed the potential to restore the railcar and convert it into a handicap accessible coffee shop/museum that could serve trail users and Berea area residents. Currently, there are no amenities such as the proposed project along the Swamp Rabbit Trail in the Berea area. This project would be an excellent addition to the trail because it would not only create a place of pride for the Berea community but could potentially spur further economic development opportunities along the trail.

A number of volunteer partners have been brainstorming and working on these efforts in the past few years. For example, Terracon did an asbestos and lead paint survey of the car in June 2011 and confirmed the presence of these hazardous pollutants. The Group g.16 LLC architect firm has developed renderings of how the railcar would look like once restored. Additional community partners include the Li'l Cricket store by allowing trail users to use its restroom and Berea Fire Department by providing safety. Although a match is not required by the grant guidelines, Greenville County is providing the value of the railcar and staff time to manage the rehabilitation and restoration project as an in-kind match. GCRD is also providing the operating and maintenance of the trail and staff time as an in-kind match.

It is estimated that the entire project would cost \$168,211 as follows: Phase 1 would cost approximately \$55,840; and Phase 2, \$112,371. The Greenville Women Giving grant application is for Phase 1 only.



Figure 1. Abandoned railcar on the Swamp Rabbit Trail at Sulphur Springs Road and Pinsley Circle