

SF424 Form Program Narrative

Project: Westside Park Rehabilitation LWCF Grant Application

Applicant: Greenville County Parks, Recreation and Tourism

Funding: \$250,000-LWCF + \$625,000-Local = Total Project = \$875,000

Westside Park was developed in 1971 and the primary rehabilitation need is the replacement of the original asphalt roadway and parking lots pavement. At several locations the pavement has failed and surface cracks are numerous. Major damage has been repaired in the past, but the overall condition of the pavement shows 40+ years of heavy use.

Westside Park is utilized locally for its one baseball field, two rectangular athletic fields, playground and large group shelter. Also in the park is the new Westside Aquatic Center that serves the greater Greenville area and as a sport tourism facility that attracts athletes from the southeast region. Regional swim meets and annual triathlon draws 600-800 athletes from fifteen southeast states.

Installation of concrete curb and gutter will protect the new paving and control vehicle parking. The existing asphalt will be ground on site and re-installed as the base for the new paving. All stormwater will be retained on site.

We anticipate two contracts. The first will be for the engineering and design of the construction specifications and bid package. The second will be for the construction. All work should be done in 2015.

Paul Ellis – Director of Planning – Greenville County PRT

864-288-6470 pellis@gcrd.org

Section I - Westside Park Rehabilitation

Program Information

Need: Westside Park was developed in the early 1970s with three athletic fields, playground, restrooms, picnic shelter, outdoor swimming pool and tennis courts. Between the development of the park and today, the playground has been replaced, two the athletic fields that were originally softball fields have been convert to rectangular fields for lacrosse, football and soccer. The pool was enclosed and recently replaced with a state of the art competitive aquatic center. The tennis courts were repaired and re-colored several times and then removed with the expansion of the aquatic center. After 40+ years of heavy use the existing park roadway and parking lots need to be repaved.

The park has always been maintained to a high standard and many efforts were made to repair the asphalt paving, but time has taken its toll and the pavement has been patched, but many cracks exist due to heavy use. The maintenance capabilities of our agency increased on July 1, 2013, when the Greenville County Recreation District, a special tax district, became a department of Greenville County government, Greenville County Parks, Recreation and Tourism. Becoming a county department gives us direct access to the County Roads and Bridges Department that specialize in asphalt paving construction and maintenance.

Previous LWCF Grants at Westside Park:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|------|--------------|
| • Westside Park Acquisition | 4500095 | 1969 | \$79,838.69 |
| • Westside Park Development | 4500153 | 1971 | \$64,549.50 |
| • Westside Park Pool | 4500190 | 1972 | \$154,790.00 |
| • Westside Park Tennis | 4500261 | 1973 | \$6,000.00 |

Similar Projects:

Westside Park is a large regional park within our system and there are no comparable parks with as great a variety of recreational facilities in this western section of Greenville County. There are several single baseball fields close by but they are generally single use recreational facilities. Similar parks to Westside are located in other regions of the County like: East Riverside Park, Northside Park, Southside Park, Lakeside Park (southern part of the county) and the new Northwest Park and Conestee Park (east Greenville). These parks were developed to provide close to home park and recreation facilities plus they reduce travel time and concentrated heavy park facility use.

Projected Use:

- The Westside Park **picnic shelter** had 27 group reservations in 2013 with a participation total exceeding 3,000 people. (RecTrack Computer reservation system) We know that we have additional picnicking individuals and families that use the facilities on a "First Come" basis when there are not shelter reservations.
- The 12th Westside Park **Triathlon** had over 400 registrations and previously had a high of 600+ registrations. (participant registrations)
- **Furman United Soccer Association**, a partner with our agency had 44 teams in the Spring league and 66 teams in the Fall league. Westside Park fields #1 and #2 are used by them for practices, games and tournaments, although they also use Herdklotz Parks. Generally, there are 12 players per team and most of the Spring teams play in the Fall league. Therefore, we anticipate that over 450 players and coaches utilize the park, plus parents and other family members as spectators. (athletic registrations)
- The seventh annual **Touch A Truck**, a **special event** at the park, is a free hands-on event for children to see, touch and explore big trucks and other large equipment. There were 500+ children and family members that participated in 2013. (crowd estimate from staff evaluation meeting)
- The **S.C. State Short Course swim meet** was held in the park in 2012, 2013 and 2014. These meets last for 3-5 days and attract 5,000+ people per day. For southeast regional meets, the parks draws 600-800 swimmers plus spectators from 15 southeastern states. Additionally, there are 400+ members of Team Greenville (the local swim team) that practice weekly and sponsor many small swim meets. (meet registrations)
- The **playground** is a large draw for the park, but we do not know the number of annual users, although we know it is in the thousands.
- **Greenville Senior Action** (non-profit senior programming and services agency) utilizes the aquatic center for weekday morning programming and lunch. There are 150+ participants.

S.C. State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan (SCORP)

- *"Promoting Healthy Lifestyles and Communities"*: The park is well maintained in a urban setting and provides a variety of opportunities for exercise and leisure activities such as a playground for children's fun and fitness, a group picnic shelter for family reunion, company picnics, and non-profit agency functions.
- *"Stewardship of Resources"*: The proposal will help to protect the park resources from erosion and run off sedimentation, plus control vehicle access to paved parking areas

only. By controlling vehicle parking, we will protect the park tree roots, turf areas and landscape plantings.

- *"Sustained Economic Benefit"*: The park and facilities have a high sports tourism and special event economic impact.

Scope of Work:

Project Description:

The Westside Park Rehabilitation project is a very simple project. It consists of repaving the existing 40+ year old asphalt park roadway and parking lots. The only new addition would be concrete curb and gutter to better control the stormwater runoff and define the transition from paved surfaces and park land.

Projected Cost:

There are two basic costs for the repaving project. We have budgeted:

<u>Task/Activity</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Engineering and Field Testing	\$50,000 – Greenville County funding
Construction*	\$825,000 – LWCF-\$250,000 & \$575,000-County
Total Project Cost	\$875,000

*Construction includes: concrete curb and gutter, repaving, striping, signage and a \$50,000 contingency for unanticipated changes during construction. Preliminary Engineering Cost Estimates provided to GCPRT from Arbor Engineering, Inc. of Greenville, S.C. (see attached)

Additional Project Activities:

- The Greenville County Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism will have a **County Council Resolution** passed for the project funding prior to LWCF grant application deadline.
- The Department had several athletic field light poles and several hundred feet of chain link perimeter fencing relocated to **convert two softball fields to rectangular athletic fields in April.**
- In 2013 the Department contracted with Roger Dyar, professional traffic engineer, to **redesign the intersection of the park roadway** where it meets the Aquatic Center

parking lot to reduce traffic conflicts. This design will be implemented as part of the construction contract.

- No other participants will be involved or are contributing to project.

Impact:

Project Impact:

By repaving the existing park roadway and parking lots a key component of the park's infrastructure will be rehabilitated to facilitate future local, statewide and U.S.A. Southeast regional park use. Westside Park has a regional/statewide/Southeastern U.S.A. impact.

Sports Tourism: The park athletic fields are utilized for soccer, football and lacrosse tournaments and impact the local economy by participants utilizing local hotels, restaurants, gas stations and other local commercial companies. The same holds true for the annual Triathlon and the many Southeast regional and statewide swim teams held at the Aquatic Center.

****Jeff is provide more economic impact data