

## **AARP Community Challenge 2020 – Grant application**

Finance Committee

Greenville County Parks, Recreation and Tourism requests approval to submit an application for AARP's Community Challenge grant in the 2020 cycle. The grant application requires no match. If selected, the funds would be used to make improvements to the outdoor space of the Berea Community Center. Improvements include arbor swing benches, stationary benches, landscaping, garden beds, and a walking path.

The Berea Community Center is thriving with active seniors participating in Senior Action programs throughout the week. Exercising with Silver Sneakers, enjoying lunch with friends, and learning new things are hallmarks of the successful new community center. The Department of Parks, Recreation, & Tourism seeks to build on this momentum and add outdoor amenities to the site. Currently the backyard is fenced in with a grass lot and horseshoe pits. A landscape plan prepared by Arbor Engineering with input from Senior Action staff and Berea Community Center participants calls for outdoor seating, gardens, and a walking path.

Improvements are not currently budgeted, therefore this grant opportunity would improve the county property without impacting the budget. The submission will request \$20,000 from the AARP grant program with the opportunity to be funded at a lower level if necessary.