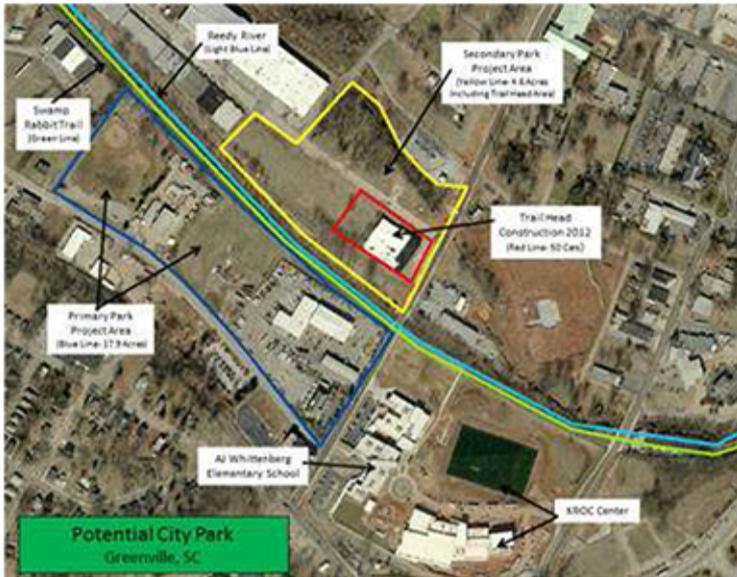


# Help plan Swamp Rabbit Trail park

SWAMP RABBIT TRAIL | FEBRUARY 14, 2013 | BY: KATHLEEN STORY |



With the HUD and DOT grant, Greenville SC is planning new park projects.  
**Credits:** Connections for Sustainability

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A week-long design charrette for working with consultants in planning a potential community park along the [Swamp Rabbit Trail](http://www.examiner.com/topic/swamp-rabbit-trail/articles) (<http://www.examiner.com/topic/swamp-rabbit-trail/articles>) in Greenville, South Carolina's West Side will be held in February 2013. The proposed park would connect West Side residents to the Swamp Rabbit Trail and downtown Greenville.

The potential park location is near A.J. Whittenberg Elementary School, the Kroc Center and where the Public Works Center is now. The city is considering moving the Public Works Center to another site since it is currently in a Reedy River flood plain. The Center has been unusable during flood periods in the past and has required flood cleanup expenses. A park would provide a temporary flood plain for the river, with the open space and vegetation being more flood tolerant than a building.

A charrette is a public meeting where designers get feedback from the citizens on their ideas and draw designs based on those comments. Seamon Whiteside & Associates are the park design consultants who will collect the information generated at the public meetings and charrettes, and create several designs based on the input.

On Thursday, February 21, 2013 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Kroc Center, there will be a public meeting and project kickoff. "This presentation will introduce the project and the Seamon Whiteside consulting team.

On Saturday, February 23, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Kroc Center, there will be the public charrette and work session, with childcare and lunch provided.

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On Monday through Wednesday, February 25-27 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Tabernacle Baptist Church, there will be an open house public charrette. The church is across the street from A.J. Whittenberg and walk-ins are encouraged.

On Thursday February 28, 2013 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Kroc Center, there will be a public meeting and drawing exhibition. "At this meeting the consultant team will share the drawings they've produced over the previous week, highlight the requests and comments they heard most often, and make sure they have documented everyone's comments."

In the fall of 2010, the City of Greenville received \$1.8 million in a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). The city's proposal was chosen along with 42 others to receive money, and only one of 14 for joint funding from HUD and the DOT. The project, named Connections for Sustainability: Linking Greenville's Neighborhoods to Jobs and Open Space, began in spring 2011. It focused on the West Side where the need was greatest.

For more information, contact Jeff Waters at 864.467.4350, email [connections@greenvillesc.gov](mailto:connections@greenvillesc.gov) (<mailto:connections@greenvillesc.gov>), or visit the [project website](http://connections.greenvillesc.gov) (<http://connections.greenvillesc.gov>). The meeting is open to all who are interested in the park, and the designers really want to hear your ideas. Please attend any or all meetings if possible. [Sign up](http://connections.greenvillesc.gov/contact.aspx) (<http://connections.greenvillesc.gov/contact.aspx>) for the monthly e-newsletter on the Connections for Sustainability project.



**Kathleen Story**, Greenville Green Building Examiner  
 Kate Story has been a licensed realtor in SC, NC and FL for over ten years with ECO certification from Asheville. She is a member of the Green Building Council, buys and "greens" existing homes and promotes green building in the Greenville SC area. She was an exhibitor at the annual Southern...