



# connections

## FOR SUSTAINABILITY

*Linking Greenville's Neighborhoods to Jobs and Open Space*

City of Greenville, South Carolina

December 2013, Issue No. 21

### Sustainability Spotlight

#### Sharing

by  
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*Wayne, Sarah, Jaclin, and Christa wish you and your family  
a Happy Holiday from the 6th floor of City Hall!*

### Happy Holidays from the Connections Team

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Connections for Sustainability project this year. Thanks for letting us email you, call you, and send you postcards in the mail. Thank you for reading the updates, telling your friends about the meetings, showing up to the presentations and workshops, asking questions, and lodging complaints. Thanks for listening to us at the neighborhood meetings and presentations, and for letting us hear what's important to you. We are grateful for your participation, we need your help to make these plans the best they can be, and will continue to need your help in the future as we work to make the plans a reality. It's been a great year. I look forward to working with you to make 2014 even better.

Sharing is a simple sustainable behavior that can have a tremendous positive impact on our environment, pocketbook, and community. As the holidays approach, consider ways that we can elevate the concept of sharing with others from a lesson that we teach children to a value that can help empower and sustain our communities.

Public libraries, museums, and other resources are great ways to share, but if you're interested in going one step further, some easy ways to share resources as an adult are:

- Join a bike share. The Greenville **B-Cycle** is a bike share program open for anyone to use. There are six bike stations spread throughout downtown. There are annual memberships available or you can pay a nominal fee, grab a bike, and ride to your destination. It provides an efficient and easy way to move about downtown, while getting some exercise.

- Host a clothing swap. Get together a group of friends, family, or children and collect clothes that you no longer use. When everyone comes together with their clothes, sort them and put them out according to size or type.

# GREENVILLE WEST SIDE

## MASTER PLAN



DRAFT - November 8, 2013  
City of Greenville, South Carolina



### UPDATE:

## West Side Comprehensive Plan

The *West Side Comprehensive Plan* is almost complete. We are working on it over the holidays to get it ready to publish on our website. It's more than 200 pages long, and covers all of the information you've seen at the meetings and charrettes this Fall. The information covers a wide range of topics, from affordable housing and gentrification issues, to community building and empowerment suggestions. If you live or work in the west side, there is something in this plan for you!

One of the comments we've heard loudest at the public meetings is the need for a local grocery store for the west side. The *Comprehensive Plan* takes a look at the local market, and presents some of the information that would be needed to attract and support a grocery store. The plan also offers a few other options, such as a food coop or a larger focus on urban agriculture. One of the first next steps to come out of the plan will be a closer look at this issue. We will be conducting this in-depth market analysis in the Spring of 2014, and need your help. Please stay tuned for more details in January, and plan to participate in this study to help bring a healthy food options to the west side.

This is a great way to get a nice, new-to-you outfit without having to spend any money. If there are leftovers, these can be taken to a local thrift store and donated.

- Share a meal. Host a potluck or a block party with the people on your street. This is a great way to spend time with your neighbors. Everyone could bring a dish and it's a fun time waiting to happen.

- Put up a tiny library. Like [these](#). Have a take a book, leave a book policy, and see how the collection changes over time. Who knows, maybe a book club or after school reading time will develop because of this.

- Create a community tool shed. Another idea is to create a small neighborhood co-op for tools such as a lawn mower, leaf blower, drills, and such. Have a community shed and rental check-out period. Imagine how much more cost-effective it would be for you if everyone was able to share these items.

- Carpooling or ride sharing is another great way to share resources. You can split the cost of gas, or alternate drivers as you take children to school, commute to work, or even go on a business trip. Carpooling emits less CO2 into the atmosphere, uses less fossil fuel, is less expensive than driving your own car everywhere you go, and can provide a great way to get to know someone new.

- Share through the internet with resources such as [freecycle](#), where you can trade or give away items you don't want and pick up new things free or lending library sites for items like shoes, purses, books, and more.

Sharing our resources can include sharing time, labor, or knowledge, with friends, family, or volunteering at a local shelter, retirement community, and more. Sharing is a great way to be more sustainable and gain a lot in return.



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## Village Streetscape

**The Village of West Greenville** is growing thanks in large part to the arts district that resides there. It is also the subject of a streetscape plan to look at issues such as sidewalks, crosswalks, street lights, and street trees, all of which would help slow traffic in this area. These amenities make an area safer and more comfortable for pedestrians, and could help the businesses and neighborhoods in and around The Village to thrive.

The streetscape plan is being led by a team of landscape architects and engineers from local design firms, Parks McLeod Landscape Architects, LLC and Darrohn Engineering, LLC.. This team introduced the project at a public meeting on December 7 in the **Artisan Traders** event venue located in the Village. Initial public comment received at that meeting focused priority on street lighting, traffic calming, and sidewalk safety. Once the plan and designs are complete, a small budget will allow the City to start addressing some of the top priorities. Part of the consultants' job is to determine where the small budget can best be invested to yield the greatest benefit to the local economy, thereby helping to fund more improvements in the future.

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