



TOWN OF GREELEYVILLE

Council Members

Virgina Moore

Mayor Pro Tempore

Ben Pack

Louis Reid

Charles "Randy" Landreth

Jesse Parker

Mayor

May 23, 2023

Williamsburg County Delegation
State of South Carolina

RE: Request for \$250,000 to Support Mishoe Park/Pearl Whack Park Improvements Project

For Whom This Concerns:

The Town of Greeleyville currently maintains two park facilities within its boundaries. Pearl Whack Park, one of the oldest parks in Williamsburg County was established in 1976, and Mishoe Park, a passive park which is located immediately behind the Greeleyville Town Hall was conferred to the Town in September 2003.

Background: It is well documented that BIPOC communities are vulnerable populations based upon economic, cultural, racial, or health characteristics they are more at risk for disparate healthcare access and health outcomes. The May 2023 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps data reflects that Williamsburg County ranks #40 of the 46 ranked counties in South Carolina which earns it the label of one of the least healthy counties in the state.

With respect to Additional Health Outcomes (not included in the overall ranking) Adult Obesity was 44% in the County, compared to 37% for the State and 32% for the Country. Physical Inactivity was 34% in Williamsburg County, 26% for the State and 22% in the United States. However, most disturbing was the data point that measured Access to Exercise Opportunities. In Williamsburg County the figure was 27% compared to a State of South Carolina rating of 70% while the Nation rated 84%.

Strategies found to work to lessen health disparities include healthy eating, increased physical activity and improved physical fitness, with the additional potential benefit of improved mental health. The County Health Rankings & Roadmaps research presents strong evidence that fitness and exercise programs offered in community settings improve physical fitness and increase physical activity levels for participating adults.

The study also found that the potential to decrease disparities in health outcomes experienced by people of color is enhanced when provided at locations that make it easier for this population to access. It found that access itself is strongly associated with high levels of physical activity, and among adolescents, access was associated with increased time spent in vigorous physical activity, and lower rates of obesity. Lighting was identified as a significant element needed to increase the appeal and perception of safety in such places further encouraging physical activity.

Project Description: The Town is seeking to construct a badly needed restroom facility at the south end of Mishoe Park. The project will construct a 20x24 men and women's restroom. The men's room will consist of 1 ADA toilet and 2 urinals while the women's area will include 1 ADA toilet and 2 regular toilet stalls. The building will be constructed out of CMU block, painted with a metal roof.

The Town also proposes to improve the baseball field and park lighting at Pearl Whack Park to allow for more intensive use of the park during evening hours. We plan to provide increased opportunities for outside recreation and exercise by creating a youth softball league that will provide an organized outlet for greater physical activity, teamwork, and sportsmanship among our youth. The improved lighting will also allow the elderly and others to better utilize the park and walking trail helping to improve their overall health and physical condition.

Project Need: The Town of Greeleyville holds two major scheduled events each year known as Flag Day and the CE Murray Alumni event which are regularly attended by 1,000's of visitors each year. In addition, Mishoe and Pearl Whack Parks are well used by our citizens for civic events, family reunions, birthday parties as well as other community occasions. In 2021, the Town of Greeleyville built a Farmers Market and an openair venue at the north end of Mishoe Park known as the Jonte-Sabb Pavilion which has further increased the use of the park for exercise while also expanding the selection of fresh, healthy, fruits and vegetables available locally.

Greeleyville has a population of 380 persons according to the 2019 Census Population Estimates. According to the 2010 Census, 68.9 percent of the population is African American, White Americans account for 28.3 percent of the population and Hispanics represented the balance of the population or 2.7 percent. In addition, as Table 1 below outlines Median Income for the community was just \$20,893 as compared to Williamsburg County which exceeded the town by more than \$11,000. This also compares to the State, which exceeded the town by 1.5 times and literally represented 2.5 times the Town of Greeleyville Median. Nationally, the US had three times the Median Income of the Town of Greeleyville.

The data for Number of Persons in Poverty is a staggering nearly forty percent in Greeleyville, according to the 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate. Williamsburg County

is more than 11 percent below this number, Greeleyville had nearly three times the poverty rate of the State of South Carolina, and almost 400 percent of the nation's poverty rate. At 39.2 percent, the Town of Greeleyville's poverty is nearly twice the 20 percent rate that identifies persistent poverty communities throughout the State.

Table 1: Population and Income for Selected Places

Category	Greeleyville	Williamsburg County	South Carolina	United States
Population	380	30,368	5,148,714	328,239,523
Median Income	\$20,893	\$32,485	\$53,199	\$62,843
Poverty	39.2%	27.8	13.8%	10.5%

From this data, it is obvious that Greeleyville is a substantially persistent poverty area in need of support and assistance to help the community thrive.

Project Budget: The following details the project activities and costs for the Mishoe/Pearl Whack Parks Improvements Project:

Restroom Construction	\$ 70,440.00
Lighting Installation/Construction	\$284,895.00
Price Increase/Shipping/Construction Contingency	<u>\$ 35,534.00</u>
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$390,869.00

The total cost of the needed park facility improvements project as shown is \$390,869.00. Since the proposals the Town received are somewhat dated and did not include the cost of shipping for the lighting project a ten percent contingency is included to provide for any potential price and construction increases along with the shipping that was not covered by the original lighting proposal.

The Town of Greeleyville is seeking support from the Delegation and the State of South Carolina in the amount of \$250,000. Greeleyville has \$100,000 reserved and set aside for these projects and will be requesting approximately \$50,000 from USDA to support the effort. With your support, together these resources will allow us to successfully complete the proposed project so desperately needed to help improve the fitness, health, and wellbeing of Greeleyville's citizens and those from surrounding communities.

Best regards,



Jesse Parker
Mayor