**South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
Construction Grant Application**

**Requesting Organization: Friends of the Green Crescent Trail**

**Organization Type: \_\_\_\_Local Government or \_\_XX\_Non-Profit (non-profits must be in good standing at the Secretary of State’s Office)**

**Non-Profits must include a detailed statement explaining the nature and function of the organization.**

**Address: 107-3 Sloan Street**

**City and State: Clemson, SC 29631**

**Contact Name: Heidi C. Williams**

**Phone Number: 864.247.0097**

**Project Name: Green Crescent Trail Central/Clemson**

**Contact Email Address: heidicwilliams@gmail.com**

**Entity Website: www.greencrescenttrail.org**

**Grant Amount: $800,000**

**Projected completion date: August 2024**

**This project will include the following work (check all appropriate categories)

\_\_XX\_\_\_\_ Development of New Facilities \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Renovation of Existing Facilities**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ Planning**

**This project will include the following specific work elements (check all appropriate categories).**

**\_\_\_ Athletic Fields \_\_\_ Athletic Courts \_\_\_ Multi-Purpose Courts \_\_\_ Picnic Facilities**

**\_XX\_\_ Trails \_\_\_ Restroom Facilities \_\_\_Civic Centers/Convention Centers**

**\_\_\_ Community/Indoor Recreation Center**

**\_\_\_ Other (Describe) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**Please list House and/or Senate member/s that sponsors this grant:**

**Rep. Jerry Carter, D-3**

**1.) Proposed site location and Name?**

The Friends of the Green Crescent will allocate funds to complete construction of two separate projects in two different locations within the overall Green Crescent Trail network:

Green Crescent Trail Phase 1 in the City of Clemson - an approximately 1.5-mile new section of trail, beginning at the Berkeley Dr/Frontage Rd intersection, continuing through Clemson Park, the Rippleview neighborhood, and ending at Gateway Park

Green Crescent Trail Phase 2 in the Town of Central - an approximately .4-mile new section of trail along a town-owned sewer easement, beginning near the Central-Clemson Recreation Center on Cross Creek Rd and ending in a residential subdivision at Spring Forest Dr.

**2.) Narrative Description. Describe in sufficient detail the work to be accomplished:**

Phase 1 in Clemson: This will be a 12' wide new-construction trail that will be asphalt or cement depending on the location and will include a variety of implementation types, including 1) completely separated bike paths, 2) raised, sidewalk-style paths in road right-of-ways, 3) protected cycle-tracks alongside a road, and 4) bicycle boulevards sharing space with automobiles on extremely low-volume roads. When finished, this segment will connect an elementary school, two parks, two churches, and various residential areas together and make it safer and more comfortable for residents and visitors to move between these locations without using their automobile.

Phase 2 in Central: The Friends of the Green Crescent in partnership with the Town of Central is already in the engineering phase and pre construction of *Phase 1* in Central, which is a 12' wide asphalt new-construction trail that will be off the road along an existing town sewer easement. This additional 2022-2023 funding will fully fund *Phase 2* and the connection of the Central-Clemson Recreation Center, an important community hub, to a public park space that includes a disc golf course and to a residential subdivision on Spring Forest Drive.

**3.) What is the goal to be accomplished and the proposed measures to evaluate success in implementing and meeting these goals?**

For both locations, the primary goal is to increase recreational and alternative transportation usage by our local residents and visitors. Success will be measured by user counts at regular intervals of time after the trails are open to the public.

**4.) Are other SCPRT Grant programs involved with the project? If so, which program:**

Phase 1 in Clemson: Utilizing SCPRT funds, a ¼-mile track was installed as part of Phase I of the GCT project at Clemson Park. Also utilizing SCPRT funds, a connector trail at Gateway Park will soon be built and will connect to this Phase 1 trail.

Phase 2 in Central: There are no other SCPRT grants involved with this particular project. However, the Town of Central was awarded an RTP grant in the 2021 cycle for a separate Green Crescent Trail project at another location in town.

**5.) Provide additional comments that support the benefits provided to the local residents:**

Phase 1 in Clemson: This segment of trail was selected in response to years of community input and because, after consulting with engineers, designers and stakeholders, it was deemed the most feasible section of trail that also connects important places in the heart of the community. Phase 1 in Clemson will provide much-needed infrastructure improvements to parks long in need of improvements, and it is uniquely located to connect to future spur trails to Clemson University, the South Carolina Botanical Gardens, the Berkeley Dr. pedestrian bridge to Clemson Elementary, the Clemson Area African American Museum (CAAAM), and the Arts Center of Clemson. This specific project and future connections will improve health outcomes by making recreation easier and safer, will increase economic vitality by increasing tourism and business recruitment, and will improve overall quality of life for existing residents.

Phase 2 in Central: Central has a small population and is rural in nature. Like many small towns, Central struggles to find ways to strengthen its economy and lacks funding to provide amenities to attract visitors. Central does benefit from a location near areas that have considerably more spending power than the residents of Central.

The challenge becomes how a community attracts others to visit their community. Nationally, the development of trail projects has been found to be an excellent way to attract new visitors and boost the local economy. Communities along trails benefit from the influx of visitors going to restaurants, snack shops, and other retail establishments which in turn boosts spending at local businesses. On longer trails, hotels, bed and breakfasts, and outdoor outfitters benefit. In addition, trails make communities more attractive places to live. When considering where to move, homebuyers rank walking and biking paths as one of the most important features of a new community.

Central clearly faces challenges in spurring economic development based on the makeup of their existing residents. However, the surrounding areas give Central a great opportunity to attract additional visitors that could help foster economic development within the community. This particular trail and the future network that will connect to it will serve as an attraction that brings more visitors into Central with the potential to promote development and support new business investment.

**The following information must be provided with the completed application:**

* **A detailed budget on how the grant funds will be expended.**
* **A completed W-9 Form (attached)**
* **A Statement of Non-Discrimination (attached)**
* **Procurement Certification Form (attached)**
* **A current operating statement and 2 years of financial statements. Non-profits may provide their most recent Form 990 as a substitution of the financial statements.**

**Important Notes and Reporting Responsibilities:**

* **All records relating to this grant must be retained for a minimum of 3 years from the last expenditure. This grant is subject to audit by the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism and/or the General Assembly or its appointee.**
* **The grantee must prepare a report to SCPRT at the end of each fiscal year ending June 30th providing the status of the project. The report must reflect the actual revenues and expenditures compared to the project budget submitted with the application. In addition, a final report is due within 90 days of completion of the project. In addition, facility improvement projects must include before and after pictures.**
* **Failure to comply with the above will result in the grantee being deemed as non-compliant by SCPRT. As a result, the grantee will be barred from receiving any grant funds administered by SCPRT until the issue is remedied. SCPRT currently administers the Tourism Advertising Grant, Parks and Recreation Development fund, Land and Water Conservation fund, Recreational Trails Program, Undiscovered SC Enhancement Grants, and the SC Sports Tourism Advertising and Recruitment grant program.**

**Submitted by**:

\_\_\_ Heidi C. Williams
**Signature Print Name**

Oct. 1, 2022
**Date**