

The Springfield Multipurpose Community and Recreation Center at Goodland Park

The Town of Springfield has for numerous years offered many benefits to the surrounding community. The amenities include clean air, little traffic, low crime rates and simply a slower pace. Like many small towns Springfield has suffered under the weight of economic downturns. While the Town of Springfield has played host to the Governor's Frog Jump for many years which attracts thousands of visitors, it is now time for the development of facilities that will directly benefit the people of the community on a daily basis.

We are therefore proposing the development and construction of The Springfield Multipurpose Community and Recreation Center at Goodland Park. Goodland Park has provided recreation opportunities for the Springfield Community for generations. The time has come to enhance the area through the development of a Community Center which will provide much needed resources to the community. Some of the benefits are as follows:

Promotes Exercise

The health disparities in Orangeburg County are significant particularly among the underserved communities. There is a disproportionate number of residents who suffer from chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes in the county, which translate to a higher rate of heart disease, stroke and residents dependent upon dialysis or subject to amputations. Regular fitness activities have proven to be a remarkable asset in minimizing or managing the medical conditions listed above. Exercise is one of the most obvious benefits of a Community & Recreation Center. ("Community Center - The Benefits for Small Towns | SFA") In many small towns, people must commute to larger cities to gain access to high quality exercise equipment. Statistics show that close proximity to a quality workout facility has a tremendous impact on how often an individual works out. According to established data, people who worked out five times per week lived 3.7 miles from a local gym. "The further the commute, the fewer times, on average, people travelled to the gym." ("Community Center - The Benefits for Small Towns | SFA") Community recreation centers provide an affordable and convenient place for people to work out and focus on their fitness goals. "Overall, this boosts the health and wellbeing of a community." The Springfield Multipurpose Community & Recreation Center will play a key role in reducing the significant health disparities suffered by members of the Orangeburg community.

Keeps Adolescents Safe

Juvenile crime is a common problem for small towns. With busy parents and few entertainment options, adolescents are likely to get involved in drugs and alcohol. According to the most recent data from the FBI, the total crime rate in Orangeburg County is 7,176.3 per 100,000 people. That is 189.75 % higher than the national rate of 2,476.91 per 100,000 people and 107.91 % higher than the South Carolina total crime rate of 3,451.6 per 100,000 people. This translates to being 159.37% higher than the South Carolina violent crime rate of 511.3 per 100,000 people. A person living in Orangeburg County has a 1 in 17.1 chance of being a victim of property crime in Orangeburg County compared to a 1 in 47.4 chance nationally. The property crime rate in Orangeburg County is 5,850.2 per 100,000 people. That's 177.28%

higher than the national rate of 2,109.9 per 100,000 people and 98.97% higher than the South Carolina property crime rate of 2,940.3 per 100,000. The Springfield Multipurpose Community and Recreation Center will provide a safe place for young people to hang out, make new friends, and stay out of trouble. According to a report from the University of Chicago, afterschool programs have been linked to reduced drug use in many communities. With a focus on sports and fitness, community centers can also reduce childhood obesity and promote health and wellness.

Provides Meeting Space

While there is a significant focus on the welfare of the youth in the community, the older residents continues to grow. This population remain vibrant and continues to be an asset to local communities. Outside of town halls and churches, many small towns do not have a meeting place. Whether it be a corporate event, a club meeting, a senior meal location or a fundraiser, recreation centers provide a convenient place to gather. By having a meeting venue, you can increase community involvement and revitalize your town's social scene.

Boosts Property Values

Community centers are a powerful addition to any neighborhood. People are drawn to convenient and affordable access to exercise equipment, meeting spaces, and other amenities. Overall, this can boost property values and the resale values of homes. The Development of Springfield Multipurpose Community and Recreation Center will meet the immediate and future needs of the Town of Springfield. The development plan calls for a minimum of five thousand square ft which will feature several meeting rooms and functional commercial food prep area and many other amenities designed to enhance fitness, health, and social interaction.