

News Release
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Western Carolina and Greenville County Rec Sign Agreement to Renovate the Old Pelham Mill Office and Build New Park

Greenville, S.C. (September 25, 2008) – Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority (WCRSA) and the Greenville County Recreation Department (GCRD) signed an intergovernmental agreement allowing for the renovation of Old Pelham Mill Office and the building of a park. The agreement was signed Thursday morning by Ray Orvin, Executive Director of WCRSA and Gene Smith, Executive Director of GCRD at the GCRD administrative offices located at 4806 Old Spartanburg Rd. in Taylors. Also in attendance were Rick Owens and other members of the Greenville County Historic Preservation Commission.

The 16 acre property is the historic site of the first textile mill in Greenville County. It is currently owned by WCRSA and is located off of Highway 14 on the Enoree River. Founded in 1820, the Pelham Mill operated until 1935 and later became listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The historically significant antebellum mill office offers physical evidence of the birth and growth of the piedmont textile industry, which was one of the major shapers of South Carolina's economic and social history. WCRSA will be responsible for renovating the Pelham Mill Office, and upon its completion will be available for private rentals.

GCRD plans to enhance the existing stone overlook at the dam, construct additional parking, a dog park, and develop a 1.3 mile nature trail along the river with historical interpretative signage. Long range plans include a pedestrian bridge over the river connecting the park to an extended greenway trail system along the Enoree.

Both Gene Smith and Ray Orvin were able to offer valuable insight into this project. Orvin spoke about the important and longstanding relationship between GCRD and WCRSA which has allowed this project to happen. Smith spoke about how important green space development is to economic development and community enrichment.

Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority

Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority provides wastewater treatment services to over 400,000 industrial, commercial and residential customers in Greenville County and parts of Anderson, Spartanburg and Laurens Counties. WCRSA operates and maintains 300 miles of major sewer trunk lines and 10 major wastewater treatment facilities. For more information, visit www.wcrsa.org.

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