



COMMUNITY PROJECT ACCOUNT
(Small, De Minimus Public Projects)

APPLICATION

1) Name of Project: Vernee Springs Park : Cultivating Community
Check Project Type: through Nature and Play

Nonrecurring community requests for infrastructure:

- Flooding
- Roads
- Lights
- Sewer and drainage
- Public buildings and grounds
- Community Centers open to residents of Greenville County
- Infrastructure related studies

Contractual agreements for social, recreational, and educational programs

Contributions to local governments in Greenville County for community projects

2) Amount of Funds Requested \$ 2,500

3) Project Sponsor

Organization: Sans Souci Neighborhood alliance (SSNA)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4682
Greenville, SC 29608

4) Contact Person:

Name Hannah Thompson

Title SSNA Parks Committee
Chair

Telephone 864-704-8122

Alt. Telephone No. _____

Email hannah.tessie@gmail.com

Fax No. _____

Council Representative(s) Benton Blount - District 19

5) Project Timeline ~ Beginning: 04/01/2023
MONTH/DAY/YEAR

Ending: 06/30/2023
MONTH/DAY/YEAR

6) Date Funds are Needed: May 2023

7) Location of Project: Vernee Springs Park - 4 Old Bleachery Road,
Greenville, SC 29609

8) Project Description: (Attach additional pages if necessary)

a. General Description: see attached

b. Benefit project will provide the Community:

c. Additional Comments:

9) Project Budget:

a. Total Project Budget including all sources of funds: \$ 34,000

b. Percent request equals of the total Project Budget. 7.4%

List below all funding sources for this project:

Funding Source	Amount
Leadership Greenville - playground	\$ 30,000
Greenville County - for fence	\$ 2,500
Sans Souci Neighborhood alliance - for fence, parking area and landscaping	\$ 1,500
TOTAL:	\$ 34,000

Hannah Thompson
Signed

4/12/23
Date

SSNA Parks Committee Chair
Title

Greenville County Community Project Account Application

8.) Project Description Attachment

a. General Description

Sans Souci is a dynamic and diverse community in District 19. Over the last decade, Sans Souci has become a tale of two cities with Old Buncombe Road as the dividing line. The east side has an influx of young professionals and active families while the west has historic residents who are mostly ethnic minorities or lower wealth. According to the 2020 Census, 52% of Sans Souci families are ethnic minorities and 63% of households earn less than \$50,000 a year. Sans Souci Neighborhood Alliance (SSNA) is working diligently to unite the community.

One way that SSNA believes it can bring the neighborhood together is through children and public green space. Sans Souci is unique because it has a large population of children and young adults. Although one out of every three residents are youth, there are very few parks and green spaces for them to play, learn, and build bonds with their neighbors. The only local park is Verner Springs Park which is highly underutilized due to lack of signage and playground attractions. Very few residents are even aware of its existence and residents around Verner Springs feel disconnected from the rest of the Sans Souci neighborhood.

However, the park has immense potential to be a neighborhood resource and gathering spot. It is ecologically diverse with a creek running through it. It is also one of the gateways into the Sans Souci. It is walkable and there is room for playground equipment and neighborhood gathering space. Through a partnership between Leadership Greenville, Habitat for Humanity, Greenville County, and others, SSNA will create a strong sense of place and community vibrancy through the installation of playground equipment, more visible signage including a community mural, and free educational events for neighborhood kids and families.

SSNA is making significant progress revitalizing Verner Springs Park. A playground will be installed in April 2023 through the Chamber of Greenville's Leadership Greenville program. According to a community survey for the park, a fence was the number one priority of community residents.

SSNA is seeking \$2,500 from Greenville County to build a fence to border the park and separate it from the busy road. This fence will be a SC Wildlife

Federation "Carolina Fence Garden" featuring SC state symbols such as yellow jessamine, blue granite, Carolina Wren bird houses, and flowers to attract the state butterfly.

b. Benefit Project will provide the Community

Through this project, SSNA will

1. Create an engaging green space and playground area to promote healthy living
 - a. 2,500 households will have access to the park within a 2 mile radius
 - b. 100% increase in park visitation
 - c. 85% of neighbors will have increased community pride
2. Reestablish and protect the diverse ecosystem
 - a. At least 25 native plant species will be planted to attract diverse pollinators
 - b. 85% of invasive species will be removed
 - c. 100% increase in riparian buffer vegetation
 - d. Water testing will demonstrate improvement in water quality indicators, such as macroinvertebrates, temperature, pH between 6-8.5, dissolved oxygen >4 and bacteria (e coli <349)
3. Create a community gathering spot through educational and recreational programs
 - a. At least 10 educational classes will be offered at the park every year including Art in the Park, hands on art education for youth and Neighborhood Naturalists, a nature education program that discusses habitats, food-webs, water quality, and the impact of restoration and protection of green spaces, etc
 - b. At least 3 outdoor yoga classes for adults through Greenville Yoga

In addition to quantitative outcomes, Verner Springs Park has the potential to be a community gathering spot and would build a bridge between the two sides of Sans Souci. It would establish a clear entrance into the neighborhood. It would increase the well being and health of children, encourage community connection, and instill neighborhood pride.

c. Additional Comments

Thank you for your consideration of Verner Springs Park!