

FY 2018 Buncombe County Community Funding

Buncombe County

Project:

Leicester Community Center

I Driveway Repair and Re-Paving

II Construction and Paving of New Bike Path

Amount Requested:

\$46,305.

Service Area:

Buncombe County Commissioners Joe Belcher, Robert Pressley and Mike Fryar represent the geographic areas served by the Leicester Community Center.

Which county sustainability goal aligns best with the goals of this project?

Healthy People: Decrease rates of childhood and adult obesity

The walking track at the Leicester Community Center is intensively used by the community for exercise. Approximately 100 individuals use the track on a daily basis. Many are following a personal regimen of exercise or just out to get some fresh air and walk off some pounds while others are there following medical advice or recuperating from medical procedures.

We are experiencing a dramatic increase in the number of children who want to ride their bicycles, etc. on the track. While we want to provide that activity outlet for younger community members, there is inherent danger in allowing wheels onto the track where people are walking.

Providing a new “wheels” track would expand exercise opportunities for the community and work to increasing healthy activity, combatting obesity for the entire community.

Second sustainability goal that aligns with project goals:

Healthy Environment: Improve and increase opportunities for safe, active living.

Construction of a new riding path on the property expands opportunities for healthy and safe exercise for children and young adults who currently are not allowed to use bikes, scooters, skates or skateboards on the Community Center walking track.

Decrease unintentional injuries and Improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists

Making sure that folks have a safe and sanctioned “wheels” track separates riders from walkers and provides additional safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Third sustainability goal that aligns with project goals:

Equity in Access: Increase quantity and quality of recreational activities

This project tangibly increases the Community Center’s ability to provide both the quality and quantity of recreational activities for residents.

Project Description

Leicester Community Center: Driveway Repaving and Bike Path Construction and Paving

The project is in two phases.

First of all, we will repair and pave the deteriorating driveway into the Community Center. This improvement will extend from the entrance to the property off New Leicester Highway up to the entrance of the ball field.

Second, we will grade, lay a gravel bed for, and then pave a bike path along the periphery of the ball field.

How many people will this project serve?

Describe the people this project will serve.

Our recreation facilities are available to all visitors but our main focus are the residents of Leicester, all 17,000 of them regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, geographic area of residence, etc.

We advertise our services and events in public media, through flyers and other postings and on our electronic sign which stands at the entrance to the property at 2979 New Leicester Highway.

What key steps will you take to achieve the results of this project?

We have collected quotes for the work from a qualified paving contractor. We will supervise the grading and asphalt-paving of the bike path around the ball field above the Community Center.

We will also personally supervise the repair and paving of the driveway.

Describe the evidence of success that backs this project's approach.

We already have a significant population using our walking track and are having problems keeping bicycles, tricycles, skates and scooters off that track. We know that this new track will get a lot of use by young families and older children.

The Leicester Community Center bike path will be the only such place in our area of the County with a safe area for cycling and other riding activities: scooters, skates, etc.

Organizational Profile

How does the proposed project support your mission and strategic plan?

Leicester Community Center Mission Statement

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life in our Community through individual, family services, community programs, and partnership with other organizations in a cohesive, sustainable and creative manner.

The center will provide facilities for the residents of Leicester to engage in recreational, social, cultural, community service, civic, and governmental activities.

The center will provide opportunities for people of all ages to participate in a wide range of programs that educate and stimulate the the public in a way that makes the Leicester Community a better place to live.

What expertise/accomplishments do you have that are relevant to the proposed project?

We currently maintain and continue to improve:
a 1500 sq. ft. playground and various recreation equipment
a regulation basketball court
a regulation Little League baseball field,
a 755 ft. asphalt walking track
our 1700 sq. ft. community center building

We have just completed an extensive streambank rehab project under the auspices and with the funding support of Buncombe County Soil and Water Conservation. This project required us to solicit bids from contractors, supervise tree removal, grading and installation of new junction boxes, culvert replacement and planting for erosion control.

Describe partners that are critical to the success of your organization.

We partner with various organizations in order to provide programming and functions for the benefit of the community and the center itself.

Some of those organizations are: Leicester Welcome Table, NC Baptist Mens' Organization Dental Bus, Land of Sky Health Fair, ASPCA for Affordable Rabies Clinics twice a year, local churches who offer volunteers for clean-up and repairs and local 4H Clubs as well as others.

Financial Information

Nonprofit financial assurance requirements:

We are a 501(c)(3) and file an annual 990E.

Tax ID number for their reference 51-0540640

What (if any) portion of requested funds will be used to support capital expenses?

None of the requested funds will be used for any other purpose than those stated in this funds request, namely the repaving of the Community Center driveway and construction of, and paving of a new bike path.

Employee Wages, Health Insurance

We are a 100% volunteer organization. There are no salaries or health insurance to report.