

Game is on for King's Park playground

Easley council
OKs \$84,500 for
'neglected' park

By Julie Howle
STAFF WRITER
jhowle@greenvillenews.com

Work can soon start on bringing King's Park back to life in Easley.

Easley City Council members have voted unanimously to award a playground construction contract to Cunningham Associates for \$84,500 to build a playground at the park.

"It's a park that we've neglected for so long we just had to do something," said Councilman Chris Mann.

Councilman Brian Garrison said the work is part of the city's overall parks and recreation master plan, which is being used as a guide in efforts to upgrade and expand recreation opportunities in Easley.

Mann said the plan for the playground at King's Park calls for a big play set with items including slides, monkey bars and a small climbing wall, and he said they are looking at putting swings in as well.

He said he also hopes there could be a mountain bike trail at King's Park eventually as part of the city's bike and pedestrian master plan.

Mann said there isn't much at King's Park now.

"There are some bars for a swing set, but I don't think there are any swings down there," he said. "We are going to look at putting a focus on King's Park now with this playground equipment."

City Administrator Fox Simons said work could be finished within 90 days.

Simons said City Council's recreation committee, which includes Mann, Garrison and Dave Watson, reviewed 11 proposals from six playground vendors for the installation of a playground at the about 10- to 14-acre park and made the recommendation to council.

Simons said \$84,500 wasn't the lowest or highest bid. Mann said those involved felt like this option gave them more for the dollar.

"This just gives another option so that our citizens don't feel like they have to go somewhere else to play," Mann said of the recreation efforts. "We're giving them an option here to play."

He said the next step in the parks and recreation master plan is getting the safety recommendations completed, which could mean remedying issues like sharp points on bleachers that don't have caps on their ends or improving fencing.