Pickens wades into next cleanup effort

Volunteers will pick up trash May 22 in Town Creek, on trail

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PICKENS — Volunteers will be asked to get wet next weekend when the city of Pickens completes a spring cleanup of much of the city.

After picking up trash around the downtown area in March, area residents are being asked to bring rakes and waterproof footwear to spruce up Town Creek Trail and Town Creek.

Cleanups are scheduled for May 22 from 9 a.m. to noon in that area, with volunteers also fanning out to several city streets, Pickens City Administrator Katherine Brackett said.

She said these cleanups will serve as the second and third of three required as part of $12,000 in Palmetto Pride grants the city received earlier this year.

The work is part of ongoing efforts to increase the city's appeal to residents, visitors and businesses.

"I think it's important for the community to come together at least once a year and take pride in their streets and the way things look," Brackett said.

YOU CAN HELP

For more information on the cleanup, call 878-6421. Pizza for the volunteers will be provided for free by Pizza Inn of Pickens after the cleanup.

About 30 people participated in a cleanup in March, the first of the three required, that targeted downtown areas, including West Main Street, the site for a proposed park and the Bradley-Boggs House.

Marguerite Porter, who is the natural resources and 4-H extension agent for Pickens County with Clemson Extension, was one of those volunteers.

"It needed cleaning up," said Porter, who lives just outside the Pickens city limits. "I volunteered because it's better for stormwater and helps protect our water sources."

She said cleanups like these are important for getting rid of the debris and garbage but also for public involvement, education and outreach.

"If you spend two hours picking up cigarette butts then you're probably going to be less likely to throw one out your (car) window," Porter said."

Brackett said for this upcoming cleanup volunteers will meet at Legacy Square downtown and will be sent to Town Creek Trail and Town Creek in Jaycee Park or to a street of their choice.

Bags, gloves and safety vests will be provided, but Brackett said if people want to do the creek and trail cleanup they might want to bring a rake as well as boots or waders.

She said the Palmetto Pride grants were for a new four-tier fountain in Legacy Square, planters to be put on West Main Street and improvements at the front of property the city purchased for a park near the Bradley-Boggs House.

Work on the fountain and that section of land for the proposed park has been completed, and the city is getting ready to order benches for the park entrance.

Planters will be built along West Main Street once sidewalk improvements are completed, Brackett said.

In a separate effort, the city has applied for a $200,000 grant through the state Department of Parks and Recreation for further development of the park near the Bradley-Boggs House.

Plans there would include a covered picnic shelter, walking trails, amphitheater and fountain.