

# Clemson council OKs resolution to fund trail

BY GREG OLIVER  
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CLEMSON — The Green Crescent Trail project, which includes plans for building a network of pathways, sidewalks and bike paths throughout the Clemson, Central and Pendleton areas, recently took a significant step forward.

Clemson City Council unanimously approved a resolution designating matching funds for a grant application that would fund a portion of a trail to be located inside Clemson Park. The resolution designates that \$20,000 be used as the 20 percent required local match needed for a \$100,000 grant fund request, as well as permission for construction of the trail.

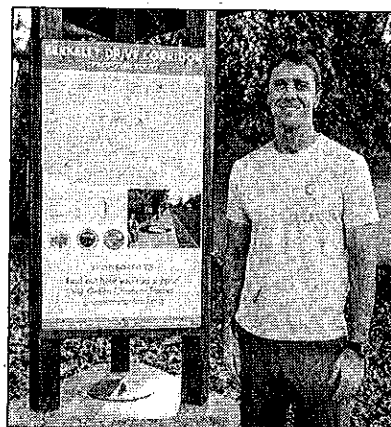
Last summer, the nonprofit hired a consultant to help evaluate possible routes and provide a recommendation on where to begin. The recommendation in the plan is to begin the Green Crescent Trail in Clemson with a route con-

necting two local parks — Clemson Park and Gateway Park.

“We chose this route because it was the most feasible section that also connects important places in the heart of our community,” Friends of the Green Crescent Trail member Chad Carson said.

Carson said the first route will also have a loop trail within Clemson Park and spur trails to the South Carolina Botanical Garden, Berkeley Drive pedestrian bridge, also known as the Green Crescent Trail Bridge, to Clemson Elementary; and the Clemson Area African-American Museum and the Arts Center of Clemson. The estimated cost of that section is \$784,000, which would include engineering, grading and construction of new hard-surface trails and also repainting of some routes on existing low-traffic roads.

“Some of the proposed trail is on Clemson University property, so we are also in the process of requesting that the university fund and construct their portion



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**Friends of the Green Crescent Trail member Chad Carson stands beside a proposed map of the Berkeley Drive corridor of the Green Crescent Trail at Clemson Park.**

of the route,” Carson said.

In 2016, the Green Crescent Trail, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, the town of Central and city of Clemson adopted the Green Crescent Trail Feasibility Study. The focus of the study was to connect the Green Crescent Trail with

the city of Clemson, town of Central and town of Pendleton through more than 35 miles of on- and off-street trails to parks amenities, neighborhoods and cultural points of interest.

Hopefully, Carson said, within the next nine to 12 months, “we can start getting the trail off the ground.”

“This is one segment, but if successful, we can show it’s beneficial to the community, and hopefully continue adding segments such as Nettles Park and the 18 Mile Creek Corridor, as well as the Pacolet-Milliken development,” Carson said. “We want to make downtown more walkable and bikeable.”

Clemson City Councilman Fran McGuire praised the work Green Crescent Trail officials have done.

“This is great that this is actually going to happen,” he said. “This is fantastic.”

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