



This drawing shows a potential view of Westminster's Retreat Street Park if city officials approve a plan to upgrade the park.

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

# Officials get cost projection for Retreat Street Park upgrades

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR  
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WESTMINSTER — No decision was made on the future of Retreat Street Park at a recent meeting, but Westminster city officials have a price estimate in hand for potential upgrades.

City administrator Chris Carter said upgrades to the park would cost approximately \$48,000, which would include wall repair and a mural.

Carter researched the figures and utilized a rendering for the park from an independent architect based in Clemson.

"I took it down to the Gateway Arts Center and asked (director Melody Davis) to show it among some muralists, people who hang around together," Carter said of a potential mural. "I called her back and she gave me the estimate, and that included everything except scaffolding. I thought, 'Boy, I don't know.'"

Council made no decision, but officials repeated any money used for upgrades would come from the city's 2 percent fund. Money in the fund comes from tax collections on meals prepared in the city and is devoted

## Retreat Street Park work

Hardscape improvements with arbor	<b>\$16,500</b>
Wall repair	<b>\$14,000</b>
Mural	<b>\$7,000</b>
Wall hangings	<b>\$4,000</b>
Replacement landscaping	<b>\$3,500</b>
Lighting and miscellaneous	<b>\$3,000</b>

to tourism development. There's nearly \$600,000 in the city's 2 percent fund account.

Council has discussed updating the park for a handful of years, and Mayor Brian Ramey said it would be a nice addition for residents.

"We felt obligated to try and dress it up, because everyone complains about the wall," Ramey said. "That was the original intent, and then during all the Music on Main events, we started to see a lot of people wouldn't come because they had alcohol, so we thought if we could do this and have a little venue over there, people could have their kids on the same night as the Music on Main event, then more people may attend. We had several different people offering they could do a movie night for kids over there, a story time, and it would be a place

that people could go and still attend Music on Main."

Ramey offered to donate scaffolding for the artists if council moves forward with the project.

Councilman Rusty Cater added he approved of the plan presented.

"I like it — I'm not opposed to using that money," Cater said. "I would like any donations from Blue Ridge Bank or anything else. I have no problem with it."

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