

Administrator: County looks to flag

Potential greenway project could be undertaken in phases

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR
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WALHALLA — Oconee County administrator Amanda Brock said she plans to ask for council

approval to spend up to \$75,000 for a greenway project feasibility study this budget season.

Brock told The Journal last week the set amount would be flagged for

budgetary purposes and recently said it could be funded out of the economic development capital project fund. The fund is projected to have an ending balance of \$3.6 million at the end of June, according to budget documents. Outdoor recreation was prioritized by residents who participated in the buildout of the county's 2030 comprehensive plan.

"The feasibility for us developing a greenway development may come in phases, which is very likely how we'll have it funded," Brock said during a budget meeting this month.



Brock

A formal budget will be presented at the April

\$75K for trail study

13 budget workshop and will likely account for the study.

At a February strategic planning retreat meeting, Councilman John Elliott called for the county to fund the study for a trail along S.C. Highway 11 near Salem.

"The town of Salem desperately needs revitalization," Elliott said at the meeting. "You look at

what happened at Travelers Rest (which is at one end of Greenville County's Swamp Rabbit Trail) — that's just a prime example of adding something great to citizens and providing revitalization to an area that needs it desperately."

In 2019, Ten at the Top hosted a community work-

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STUDY: Swamp Rabbit an example of success

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shop to discuss forging a greenway trail throughout Oconee County. Participants completed exercises to identify potential paths, amenities and a trail name. The Swamp Rabbit

Trail runs 22 miles, and between 18-25 percent of users of the trail come from outside of Greenville County, a Greenville city official said at the time. The trail runs along the Reedy River.

It cost approximately

\$2.7 million to build, according to Upstate Forever. The trail runs from Travelers Rest to Lake Conestee Nature Park in Greenville. A significant amount of funding came from what was formerly known as the Greenville

Health System, which is now part of Prisma Health.

rmorningstar@upstatoday.com | (803) 973-5895