



Richland County Public Information Office

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Richland County Conservation Commission Announces Grant Programs for FY 2012-13

Columbia, SC – Grant applications for Community Conservation and Historic Preservation projects are now available online at www.RichlandLegacy.com. The deadline for submitting applications is 5:00 pm on Tuesday February 21, 2012.

Richland County Conservation Commission helps protect and preserve the county's natural, historical and cultural resources, through grants available to non-profit organizations, governmental agencies, institutions and commercial entities. "The results have been eye-popping," exclaimed Carol Kososki, chair of the Commission. "Just look at the newly restored Reeder House on Gadsden St. (across from Zion Baptist). Or the new façade on the Fox Theater on Main. Or the Pine Grove Rosenwald School. These are just three of the 19 Historic Preservation Grant projects in which RCCC has been a major funder. Bringing these buildings back to life re-energizes the community and teaches our children important lessons about who we are and where we've come from." Educational grants have funded historical markers, an interpretive sign, oral history projects, cemetery research, and documentaries.

Hiking trails, neighborhood water quality projects, and environmental education are the types of projects funded through the Community Conservation Grants program. For FY 2012-13, the maximum grant award has been increased to \$20,000. Grants awarded in 2011 are funding: the creation of three school gardens, a hiking trail in Blythewood, environmental education at city parks and at Clemson Sandhill REC, and Congaree River blue trail maps. The most innovative grant established a pilot program for reporting stormwater problems in Gills Creek Watershed. Volunteers using iPhones with Motion X-GPS technology, photograph problems and send an email with the exact location to the appropriate city or county department for resolution. Carol Kososki said, "This is the kind of creative approach we're looking for – one that involves, teaches, and provides solutions."

Both grant programs require a 20% match and must demonstrate a clear public benefit. Projects must take place in Richland County. For more information, visit our website www.richlandlegacy.com or call 576-2083.