

Media Release



bluffton
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY™

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Town of Bluffton to Begin Construction of Boundary Street Park

The Town will begin construction of Boundary Street Park which includes approximately 60 new parking spaces, public restrooms and open space for community events at 68 Boundary Street. The work is scheduled to begin the week of March 25. The Town acquired the 1.47-acre parcel, which is adjacent to DuBois Park and the Heyward House, in October 2016.

“This new park will add more accessibility and options for Bluffton’s Historic District,” Councilman Dan Wood said. “The Historic District is the soul of our town and people want to do more here. This park creates the opportunity for more events to happen and more memories to be made in our special town.”

In addition to parking, about half of the property will be used for community events and open space.

“The greenspace component to this project was very important,” Councilman Harry Lutz said. “With hundreds of events happening annually in the Historic District and requests for more, this park provides the opportunity to accommodate that demand and entertain new ideas as well, such as a community movie night.”

The Town awarded the \$365,589.50 contract to Bluffton-based, Newtech, Inc. The site work portion of the project is expected to be completed by August 2019. The site work consists of tree removal, grading, concrete curbing, asphalt paving, drainage improvements, pervious parking stalls, sidewalks and green space. Enhanced drainage and paving improvements to Green Street will also be part of the proposed site improvements.

The second phase of this project will include the building renovation and landscape development. This phase is expected to be completed by October 2019 and includes landscaping, lighting, site furnishings and a renovation of an existing building to convert it to public restrooms. The second

phase of this project will be awarded under separate contracts and will be implemented as the site development portion is nearing completion.

“This project will add more than 60 parking spaces to a very busy section of Bluffton,” Town Manager Marc Orlando said. “Combining this project with the future parking spaces at 184 Bluffton Road and the new spaces from the May River Road and Dr. Mellichamp Drive Streetscape projects, the Town has enhanced the accessibility and convenience to the northern, southern and middle sections of the Historic District.”

Mayor Lisa Sulka said adding amenities to the Historic District benefits the town’s overall economy.

“This park helps attracts more people and events to Bluffton and with that, the overall economy benefits,” Sulka said. “Providing unique features to a town, such as public amenities around historic sites, is a recipe for economic development. Invest in your town and the town, in turn, reinvests in itself.”

Councilman Fred Hamilton said he is proud Town Council has been able to acquire new properties for public use without incurring any debt.

“Our current Town Council has purchased several properties for open space and parking and all, including 68 Boundary Street, have been paid for with current funds.”

Mayor Pro Tempore Larry Toomer said this new venue is a perfect place for families.

“Drive by the DuBois Park on any day and you know our families treasure Bluffton’s parks,” Toomer said. “The open space which will be available at the Boundary Street Park will offer families an open, grassy area for picnics and gatherings – right in the middle of the Historic District.”

Impact to residents, pedestrians and drivers is expected to be minimal during construction of the Boundary Street Park. Please be mindful of the construction area. During brief periods, traffic may need to be slowed on Boundary, Lawrence and Lawton Streets to allow equipment to enter and exit the construction site. The contractor will coordinate with residents within the construction zone to ensure access will always be available to their homes and businesses.

If you have any questions about this project, please call the Town’s Director of Engineering Bryan McIlwee at (email) bmcilwee@townofbluffton.com or (office) 843-706-7824.

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