Oconee County Administration

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June 28, 2016

Ms. Deirdre Hewitt
Chief, RTCA Program
National Park Service
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building, 100 Alabama Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Ms. Hewitt:

On behalf of Oconee County, South Carolina, we are requesting Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) consultation assistance for the Fiscal year 2017 to create a Master Plan Concept for a multi use trail, pathway and lakeside boardwalk system for the Sanctuary Pointe Resort Development in Southern Oconee County.

Sanctuary Pointe is a public / private development project in Oconee County, South Carolina. It is on 325 acres of US Army Corps of Engineer land on Lake Hartwell in South Carolina. The Corp Lease the property to the State of South Carolina Department of Parks Recreation and Tourism (SCPRT). They in turn subleased the property to Sanctuary Pointe, LLC (SPLLC) to help them develop the property at an Outdoor Recreation Tourist Destination. Oconee County is collaborating with SPLLC on different aspects of the development process and programming. Part of that collaboration is the design and development of an extensive trail and lakeside boardwalk system in connection with an interpretive conservation and signage program. The interpretive conservation and signage program will be a collaboration between the SCPRT and the SC Department of Forestry.

This project will have a regional impact throughout the Southeastern United States. The site has direct interstate access from I-85 at Exit 1 in Oconee County, SC. There will be a resort hotel and conference center along with a resort harbor complex and marina with wet slip rentals and courtesy docks for Lake Hartwell boaters and residents to access the property by boat.

The core outdoor recreation and education development component is centered on the Outdoor Life Center (OLC) complex. The complex will include the center itself with an Indoor Archery range and programs associated with the US Olympic Archery program (JOAD) and the National Archery in the School Program (NASP) coordinated state wide by the SC DNR. There will be an outdoor competitive Archery Range and 3D field archery course. The OLC will also have an Adventure Park with rope courses, canopy tours, zip lines and a Lakeside Center with flat water experiences for kayaks, canoes and paddle boards.

The Outdoor Life Center itself will be the main interpretive and educational facility with class rooms for all types of different programs and meetings. These programs are focused on environmental and conservation education as well as connecting the community and general public with the benefits of outdoor recreation as a platform for wellness and fitness to enhance the quality of life for everyone.

In addition, there is a special focus initiative on Veteran's Wellness / Fitness and its relationship to outdoor recreation. SPLLC has connected with Clemson University, Greenville Health System and Upstate Warrior Solution to develop a special targeted outreach to the 2.4 plus million Veterans' and their families who live within the 4 state

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area surrounding the property. This program will include Wellness counseling along with outdoor recreation activities at the Outdoor Life Center at Sanctuary Pointe.

A significant component to all these programs and activities within the OLC will be the trail and lakeside boardwalk network. SPLLC has set aside a significant portion of the property for nature trails, walking trails, fitness trails and mountain bike trails as well as a significant section of Lake Shoreline for lakeside trails, boardwalks and fishing piers. It is also planned that throughout the system there will be gathering areas (patios, fire pits and pavilions) for group outings, weddings and lectures along with courtesy docks for boater access to the network.

This is a very sophisticated and extensive undertaking. It is important to design a system that keeps the different activities from interfering with each other. It is also important to provide access to the trails and shoreline for the limited mobility community as well.

We are requesting assistance from the RTCA Program to help us with the following:

- Identify and map the best pathways for the trail system throughout the property keeping the different activities (hiking, fitness running, mountain bikes, ADA access) from interfering with each other and synchronize whenever possible.
- Identify and map the best pathways for the shoreline trails, boardwalks, fishing piers, gathering areas and courtesy docks.
- Identify and map the best pathways for ADA and limited mobility access to the nature trails and shoreline pathways including best practices on material use and slop recommendations.
- Identify potential funding sources for the development of the trail system at Sanctuary Pointe.

This is a significant project and will have a massive impact on the Southeastern United States. The project is slated to begin construction in the first quarter of 2017 and open to the public in the second quarter of 2018.

Respectfully,

Paul A. Cain

Oconee County Council Chairman

Oconee County Administrator