

Upstate Forever

Promoting Sensible Growth and
Protecting Special Places in the Upstate

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UPSTATE FOREVER ANNOUNCES DOWNTOWN POCKET PARK PROJECT

SPARTANBURG (Jan. 6, 2012) – Upstate Forever announced today a project that will soon transform an overlooked downtown alley into a unique urban open space situated between two of downtown Spartanburg’s most historic buildings.

The new pocket park will encompass approximately 2,000 square feet between the Masonic Temple (home to Hub City Bookshop, the Coffee Bar, and Cakehead Bakery) and the former Cantrell Wagon Company building (home to Carriage House Wines & Wine Bar) on West Main Street. The parcel is owned by the Masonic Corporation, which has graciously agreed to lease it and allow it to be developed into a unique, multi-use public outdoor amenity.

Upstate Forever is part of a public-private partnership developing the pocket park that includes local non-profit Hub-Culture, Inc., and the City of Spartanburg. Other private partners who wish to remain anonymous also are involved. Once completed, the pocket park will include bench-style seating, trees, lighting and a steel trellis that will provide shade on the north side of the park. The pocket park also will feature approximately 1,600 square feet of permeable pavers, a new product that filters storm water runoff.

“Pocket parks are urban open spaces on a small scale that provide a safe and relaxing environment for people to use in a variety of functions, including small events, lunch breaks, and just relaxing and visiting with friends,” said Angela Viney, Director of the Spartanburg office of Upstate Forever. “I am very pleased to see the incorporation of permeable pavers into the plan. This project will help to highlight storm water management and low impact development techniques on a smaller scale.”

"We're excited about the addition of this pocket park on our block and look forward to presenting some public events there, such as open mics and author readings," said Betsy Teter, Executive Director of the Hub City Writers' Project.

Construction is set to begin Monday, Jan. 9, and will take about 4 to 5 weeks. Once near completion, a grand opening date will be announced.

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