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## Partners plan to build park in downtown plot

### Site near Carriage House to feature storm water pavers

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Improvements to a small, often overlooked downtown space situated between the Masonic Temple and Carriage House Wines could become a regional example of low-impact, positive urban park design.

A public-private partnership involving the city of Spartanburg, Upstate Forever, the Masonic Corporation and other private donors will finance the \$40,000 needed to construct a small, urban pocket park nestled between the Carriage House Wines and Wine Bar and the Masonic Temple, which houses the Hub City Bookshop, the Coffee Bar and Cakehead Bakery. The Masonic Corporation is leasing the land to the city to ensure the land is for public use, said city of Spartanburg Communications Manager Will Rothschild.

He said the city is providing \$20,000 and Angela Viney, director of the Spartanburg office of Upstate Forever, said that nonprofit agency is purchasing about 1,600 square feet of permeable pavers, a new product that filters storm water runoff. Private donors are providing the remainder of the funds.

"Many people assume storm water is treated, but it's not, and it runs directly into our rivers and streams," she said. This park will be one of the first in the area to feature permeable pavers, she said.

The project is a true community partnership with private anonymous donors providing funding for about half of the park, Viney said. The idea for the park started with city Stormwater

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Manager Jay Squires, who said the space was perfect for permeable pavers, Viney said.

“The ideas just started flowing after that,” Viney said. “We’re really excited about it.”

The park will have benches, trees, lighting and a small trellis for shade. It will be a place where people can visit, enjoy lunch and where public events could be held.

Construction on the park will begin Monday and is expected to last about five weeks.

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