

LOCAL NEWS

Land swap touted for greenway

Conestee Foundation plans pedestrian bridge over Reedy by year's end

By Nan Lundeen

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A pending land swap — part of a proposed \$4 million renovation of the old municipal stadium into a Little League park — would place key pieces of property in the ballpark's hands and in the hands of the Lake Conestee Nature

Park next door, officials say.

As part of the stadium and grounds upgrade, the city would swap about 15.5 acres of wooded land along the Reedy River near Mauldin Road for five or six acres of Conestee Foundation land, according to Greenville City Manager Jim Bourey.

The city would use the

six acres to add to its ballfields, bringing the total at the site to five, and the foundation would use the wooded land to construct a pedestrian and bicycle bridge across the river and facilitate access to the 500-acre nature park.

The swap would provide Conestee with some important property along the eastern bluff of the Reedy adjacent to the stadium, which will be part of a greenway system running

to Travelers Rest, according to Dr. Jeffery Beacham, executive director for the Conestee Foundation.

Beacham said the foundation will use a \$100,000 grant from the state Department of Recreation and Tourism and a \$30,000 grant from Greenville Women Giving to build the trail and bridge, which he expects to be finished by year's end.

The property will provide a buffer between the

nature park and the stadium, Bourey said.

It also will provide additional access points to the park, including from the stadium parking lot.

Greenville City Councilwoman Diane Smock said, "This is truly a win-win for all the parties involved."

Bourey expects Greenville City Council to take up final approval of the swap Monday.

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