

Spartanburg Area Conservancy (SPACE) Kicks-Off 30th Anniversary Cottonwood Trail Boardwalk Renovation Project with Gofundme Campaign and Annual Oyster Roast on October 3rd!

SPACE is launching an ambitious boardwalk renovation project for Spartanburg's beloved Cottonwood Trail as a kick-off to the organizations' 30 year celebration. Formed in 1989, SPACE is the second-oldest local land trust operating in the state of South Carolina, providing our community with access to local green spaces like the Cottonwood Trail. In 1990 SPACE received funding from the Spartanburg County Foundation to purchase the original portion of the Edwin P. Griffin nature preserve along Lawson's Fork Creek just minutes from downtown Spartanburg. A 4-mile nature trail runs through the property and is used by over 60,000 people a year. With the Cottonwood Trail turning 30 next year, the Boardwalk is in need of repair and SPACE is asking the <u>Spartanburg community for support</u>.

The project was initiated earlier this year when founding partner, Spartanburg County Foundation, awarded a \$10,000 grant which has served as the seed money to restore the 550 ft wooden boardwalk that stretches over the wetland area of the preserve and connects two trails. The \$100,000 project will include the boardwalk restoration, the addition of a covered observation deck (shown below), and new Wayfinding signs along the trail.





Funding will be sought in the form of grants, major gifts from individuals and corporations, and through a community <u>GoFundMe campaign</u>. "Approximately 85% of our support comes from the local community," says Executive Director Andrew Waters. "People stop me every week with stories about what the Cottonwood Trail means to them, so we're hoping folks will want to help us make the next 30 years of the Cottonwood sustainable and accessible to all."

You can support SPACE by donating online and joining one of our many events over the next year. Celebrations will kick off on October 3rd out at Glendale Shoals for the 4th Annual <u>A Shucking Good Time</u> oyster roast presented by Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System. A Shucking Good Time is a night of celebrating conservation efforts in Spartanburg with oysters by William Cribb, small plates from over 15 of Spartanburg's most talented chefs, libations and beer from 13 Stripes and RJ Rockers, live music by Mill Billy Three. Tickets are available for \$65 dollars on our website and \$15 from every ticket will benefit the Cottonwood Trail Restoration Project.



Cottonwood GoFundMe Campaign https://www.gofundme.com/f/cottonwoodspace

A Shucking Good Time Tickets https://shuckinggoodtime2019.eventbrite.com/

SPACE website https://www.spartanburgconservation.org/cottonwood-trail and YouTube

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