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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NICHOLTOWN COMMUNITY & PARTNERS TO ANNOUNCE NEW INITIATIVE, INTERACTIVE FEATURE

Collaborative efforts designed to further enhance neighborhood health and vitality

(Greenville SC) Nicholtown residents, friends and community partners will gather at the Jean Lindhardt Bridge along the Swamp Rabbit Trail on Saturday, April 9 at 2:00 p.m. to launch a new bike share program based at the Nicholtown Community Center and to unveil a new interactive feature, designed by architecture students from Clemson University, in the pocket park adjacent to the bridge. Access to the park is available from Alameda Street and parking is available at First Baptist Greenville at the corner of Cleveland Street and Faris Road, just a short walk from the bridge along the trail.

“Great things are happening in Nicholtown,” said Yvonne Reeder, president of the Nicholtown Neighborhood Association. “Our theme is *Together We Grow* and through our community partnerships we are making Nicholtown one of the best places to live.” Both the bike share program and the design project are the direct result of collaboration between neighborhood residents and a wide variety of community partners.

First Baptist Greenville donated 25 bikes for the bike share program and TTR Bikes, a local bike shop, will provide bike repair and maintenance services. LiveWell Greenville and the City worked with neighborhood residents to identify safe routes from the Nicholtown Community Center, located on Rebecca Street, to the Swamp Rabbit Trail and to install wayfinding signs and traffic calming measures to ensure the safety of children and families riding their bikes to the trail. TTR Bikes will also conduct bicycle safety training for Nicholtown residents at the Nicholtown Community Center on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and the Greenville Spinners Safety Foundation has donated bike helmets for all children and adults who complete the training.

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In addition to announcing the new bike share program, Saturday's event is also one of a series of activities and events designed to celebrate Architecture Month 2011 (AM11). As a part of the AM11 celebration, Clemson University and local architects have enhanced Nicholtown's gateway to the Swamp Rabbit Trail by designing and constructing an interactive feature in the pocket park at the Jean Lindhardt Bridge. "The idea is that we engage in structures and projects that bridge art, health, public space and community sustainability," said Professor Dan Harding, Lead Facilitator of the project. The title of the project is *A Theatre of PLAY*, and Clemson architecture students worked with youth from the Nicholtown Community Center's afterschool program to develop the concept for the new installation, which will include a stage area and a variety of sculptural play elements.

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