



Site History

The 1.86 acre site, located at the intersection of Highway 8, Railroad Street, and East Cedar Rock Street, was developed as a passenger train depot with railway yard and shipping warehouses as early as 1889. The City of Pickens purchased the facility in 2013 along with the 7.5 mile rail line. In 2015, the Doodle Trail, a multi-use asphalt trail, was constructed on the 7.5 mile rail line between the cities of Pickens and Easley. The 1.86 acre rail depot site currently sits idle waiting for cleanup and redevelopment into a trail head for the Doodle Trail. Research was conducted and we have found that there were warehouses on site that burned down in the 1950s. In the 1960s a cinder-block building was constructed to house rail car maintenance. The site buildings, which are a considered a blight in the community, are contaminated with asbestos containing materials. Perceived as unsafe due to appearance of the dilapidated buildings, and also exudes a perceived environmental stigma associated with the site. The roof and interior of the structure have declined to a point where they are becoming unstable and pose a safety and health risk to local residents and visitors of the Doodle Trail. The goal of the Doodle Trail Head Project is to transform the blighted property into the Pickens Doodle Park.



Doodle Trail Head Brownfields Cleanup Project

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What is a Brownfield?

A brownfield is a vacant or underutilized property where actual or perceived environmental contamination complicates its expansion or redevelopment. Clean-up costs and risks deter potential developers and create a barrier to community revitalization and economic development.

Program Details

The City of Pickens received \$127,000 in cleanup funding through the US EPA Brownfields Program. Grant funds will be used to conduct public outreach, create a cleanup design (cleanup plan) and conduct the oversight and removal of asbestos and lead-containing paint in building materials from the former railroad depot building prior to demolition of the building.



Doodle Park Project

Goals of the Doodle Park project include: provide outdoor recreation to residents and visitors; attract tourism and stimulate the regional economy; attract and retain employers and new businesses as well as their employees. Park facilities will include a Pickens Rail Depot replica, open air Farmers Market structure, ADA compliant restrooms, ADA accessible ramp down to Railroad Street, ADA compliant playground equipment, outdoor exercise equipment, and an information kiosk just to name a few.

Cleaning up and reinvesting in Brownfields:

- Increases the local tax base
- Helps spur redevelopment
- Uses existing infrastructure
- Facilitates job growth
- Improves and protects the environment



railroad park | pickens, south carolina



*Sample rendering, plans not finalized