



Jackson County ADMINISTRATOR/CONTROLLER

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PRESS RELEASE -- OCTOBER 14, 2014

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The Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department is excited to announce that an anonymous donor is funding a new, state-of-the art LED sign for The Cascades. The new sign will be lighted and will be easier to read for those driving or walking by the Cascades. The sign is used to promote activities within the park.

Installation of the new sign will take place in early October and will kick-off major improvements being planned for The Cascades.

The Cascades is an illuminated waterfall and fountain. Opened in 1932, it is the centerpiece of a park heavily used by local residents, and a tourist attraction. For over 80 years the Cascades has been one of the signature features of the community however the structure and equipment have deteriorated to the point where continued operation of the Cascades is in jeopardy.

The Jackson County Commission has appointed a 'Champions Team' that is planning how the updates will be accomplished. The first phase of the process is to remove the amphitheater at the base of the falls and restore the area to its original design. Current seating within the amphitheater, much of which was donated by individuals in the community, will be preserved for future use and adding accessible seating is also part of the plan. Removal of the wall will provide a visible improvement and gain goodwill toward raising funds for the remaining phases of the project.

Though many of the individual elements have been replaced or repaired, no major renovation to the facility has occurred since 1932. An engineering study done in 2012 recommended that all electrical elements, nearly all major mechanical system elements, and at least 20% of the concrete work must be replaced.

Since the 1970's a wall has blocked the view of the falls from persons standing at ground level. The wall has been unpopular with many community members and it will be removed later this year. The area will be leveled and a grassy area created, surrounded by a decorative fence. The area at the base of the falls will be an open space amenable to a variety of uses. The sight lines of the original design will be restored.

Community members are encouraged to participate through contributing to this project; volunteer opportunities are also available. Contact Scott Robbins at the Parks Department office for more information. Donations can be made on-line through the Jackson Community Foundation at www.jacksoncf.org.