

Chick Springs Park Prospectus

The historic Chick Springs property in Taylors has had major significance to the Upstate for hundreds of years. Taylors TownSquare is championing a project to turn it into a park and potential future trailhead for the Enoree River Trail system. For the first time, Taylors TownSquare has a unique opportunity to acquire the property that includes the original springhouse and gazebo and transform it into a publicly accessible place.

Past

The Cherokee identified the spring as a significant spot long before European settlement. When families first arrived to set up homes in the area, now known as Greenville County, the area around the spring was one of the first areas settled. In 1840, Dr. Burwell Chick opened a resort near the property and built a hotel and cottages for summer guests.

The coming of the Southern Railway in the 1870s and 80s expanded access to the site, allowing visitors as far away as Richmond and New Orleans to access and enjoy the springs' "healing powers." Many summer resorts, a military academy, and a sanitarium were operated on the hill above the mineral springs until the final structure (of over 100 rooms) shuttered in the early twentieth century.

The property around the springhouse has remained under private control without public access since then. Several enterprises, such as the Chick Springs Swimming Pool, operated parts of it, but no large-scale public access persisted. In 2017, the family who owned the property sold it with the stipulation that critical portions would someday become a public park.

Present

Taylors TownSquare has taken the lead in bringing a public park at Chick Springs to fruition. Working with the founding members of the former Chick Springs Historical Society, we are actively working to acquire, preserve, and open up the property so that all the public can learn about and enjoy this historic location in the Upstate.



Future

Taylor's TownSquare is working in partnership with the current property owner to acquire the property and will work to open it as a park. Although it is anticipated that Greenville County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism will eventually become the ultimate caretaker of the property, Taylor's Townsquare is taking these steps forward so that the property will no longer be neglected and unprotected.

The next steps include:

- Completing acquisition of the property
- Developing a master plan for usage and safety
- Executing the master plan
- Working towards linkage with a potential Enoree River Trailway
- Transferring it eventually to Greenville County Recreation for long-term protection

How You Can Help

Additional financial support is necessary to ensure success. Would you consider a one-time or a recurring donation to Taylor's TownSquare to further these efforts to preserve this lovely, historic property?

Your contribution will assist with the following:

- Preserving the existing historical structures
- Paying annual insurance costs (~\$1000/year)
- Maintaining the grounds
- Adding signage to explain the history
- Finishing the parking area
- Rebuilding the bridge over Lick Creek

For more information or to make a donation, please visit taylorstownsquare.com or contact Alex Reynolds at alexr@taylorstownsquare.com.

