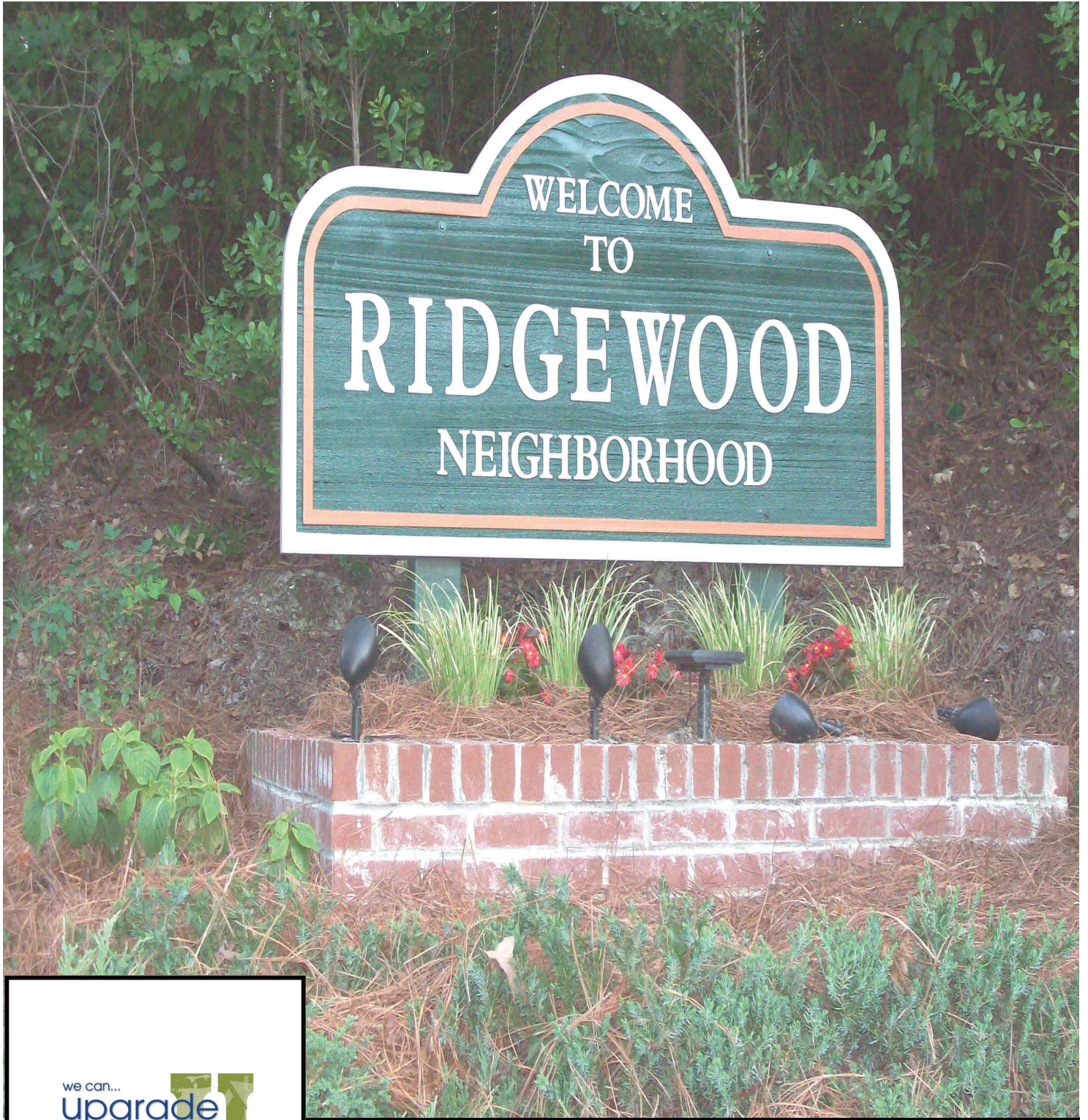


2012 Revitalization Report



we can...
Upgrade
• homeowner assistance
• financial empowerment
• neighborhood revitalization
RICHLAND COUNTY
community development

**Richland County Government
Community Development Department**

Ridgewood Revitalization At A Glance

Project Goals

- Improve the quality of life for Ridgewood residents
- Neighborhood connectivity and beautification
- Improve infrastructure, recreation and natural environments
- Improve housing and raise property values
- Enforcement of County codes

Challenges

Considering the scope of the project , the number of problems and limited funding, Richland County Community Development carefully chose activities that were doable and those that would strongly impact the quality of life for residents of Ridgewood.

Issues identified by neighborhood stakeholders consist of the following:

- Housing
- No neighborhood connectivity
- Limited recreation
- Faulty septic tanks and poor drainage
- Neighborhood core development
- Poor residential lighting
- Traffic calming, safety enhancements
- Security lighting on commercial corridor
- Marketability
- Kudzu growth
- Overgrown lots
- Community perception
- Unsafe housing
- Public transportation needs
- Illegal dumping
- Drug problems
- Code Violations
- Outdated zoning
- Dirt Roads
- No sense of entry into the neighborhood
- Connect ability of Ridgewood Park



Funding Sources

- \$1,380,000.00 - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- \$ 319,569.00 - 2009 American Recovery Reinvestment Act (Stimulus)
- \$ 800,000.00 – HOME Investment Partnership Program
- \$200,000 Environmental Protection Agency
- \$71,000 City of Columbia

Partners

- Partnership was established with the City of Columbia to fund 5000 Block of Monticello Rd streetscape project.
- In conjunction with the City of Columbia a retail study was completed for Monticello Road from N. Main Street to Interstate-20.
 - Four vacant residential parcels were donated by the RC Forfeited Land Use Commission.
- Benedict-Allen CDC received \$543,730 for Youth Build from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grant provided academic and construction education, support services and OJT to youth from Ridgewood and the surrounding community.
- SC Uplift Community Outreach established a presence in the neighborhood and is committed to future housing development.
 - Ridgewood/Barony Neighborhood Association established 8 flower gardens in the neighborhood.
 - Richland County Recreation Commission lent its talent and resources to accomplish goals of the master plan.

Summary of Activities Completed

Infrastructure:

- Engineering, design work and road paving for Shady Grove Road from Dartmouth to Elliot. The street was renamed Julius Dixon Lane.
- Installation of sewer lines and the connection of 28 residents. Streets receiving sewer were Lawton, Manigault, Lewis, Knightner, Monticello and Dixie.
- Resurfaced Lawton St, Lewis St and portions of Knightner St.
- SCDOT re-surfaced all of Ridgeway St.
- Acquisitions of multiple properties for housing and infrastructure projects
- Reduced illegal dumping in Ridgewood commonly found on Shady Grove, Dixie, Ridgewood Camp Road and Lawton.
- Reclaimed County Road - Woodbrier extension, cleaned up road, removed 100+ tons of debris and eliminated vehicular access to the road.
- Residential lighting petition to add 39 additional lights. This is ongoing and a challenge for senior citizens who are concerned that they can not afford an additional \$4.00 on their bill.

Housing

- Completed the rehabilitation and emergency repair of 15 owner occupied homes in the neighborhood.
- Provided a \$35,000 mortgage for very low income family with a 15 year term at 2% interest.
- Constructed 9 single family homes with average sales at \$105,000.
- Renovated two single family homes for affordable rental.
- Richland County demolished 26 abandoned and unsafe houses throughout the neighborhood.

Recreation

RC Recreation Commission received grants totaling \$153,000 for the development of Ridgewood Park. Improvements include exercise stations, design and installation of state of the art rubberized walking trail, lighting, water fountain and community garden with irrigation.

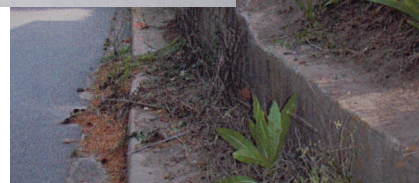
Beautification

- Gateway improvements were made at Monticello and Summit and at Monticello and Knightner.
- Richland County Neighborhood Improvement Program granted \$10,000 to the Ridgewood /Barony Neighborhood Association.
- Ridgewood-Barony Neighborhood Association installed 4 gardens and one pocket park with the assistance of Richland County Community Development.

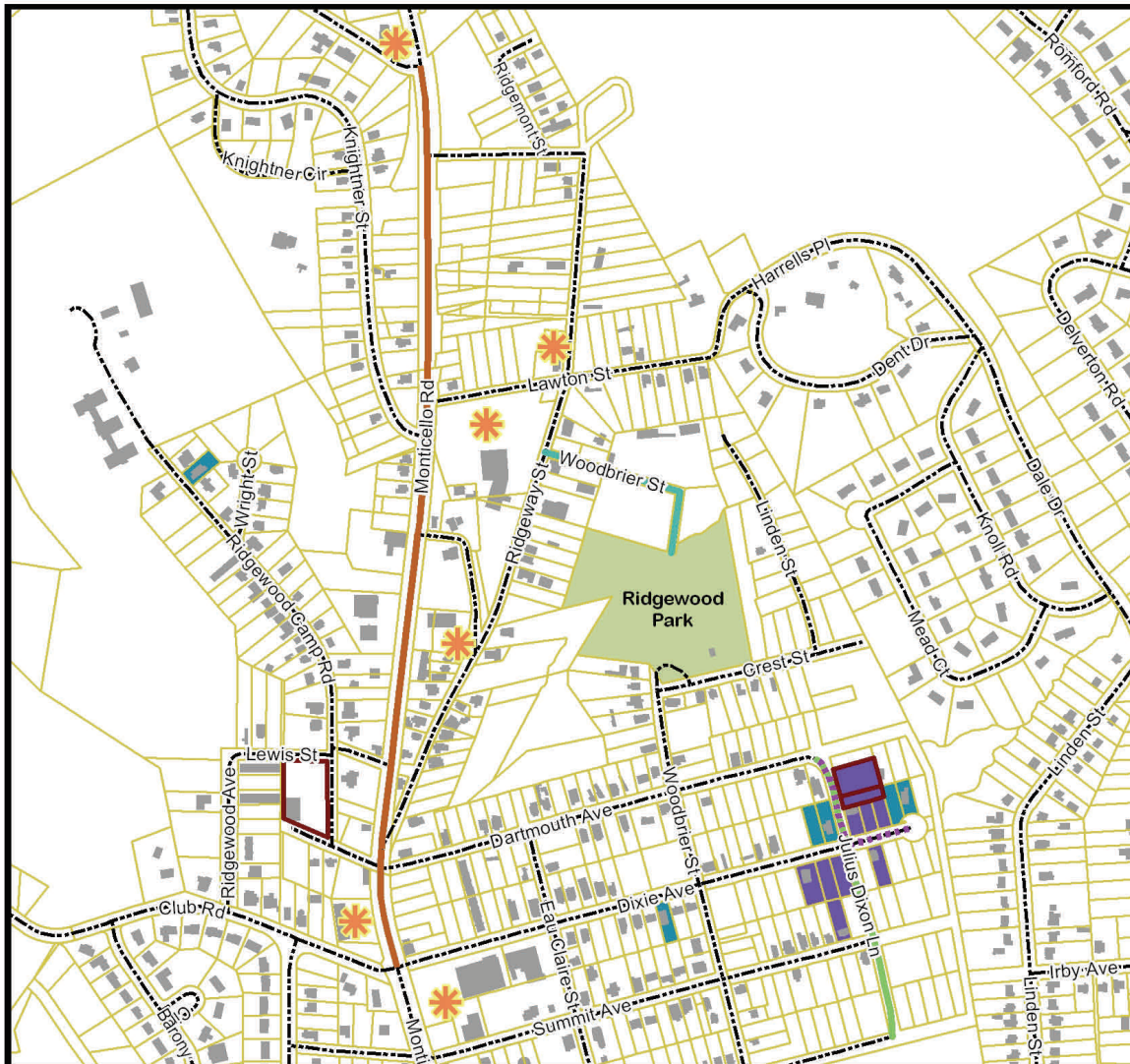


Year 2013 Monticello Road Streetscape, the final activity in the project will begin early in the year and is expected to take 120 days to complete. This project will be constructed in two phases. The total cost is estimated at \$550,000. The project will include:

- A pocket Park
- Bus stop shelter
- Traffic calming
- Decorative street lights
- Replacement of Retainer Walls
- Repair of sidewalks
- Additional sidewalks



The Ridgewood neighborhood is one of Richland County's oldest communities. The predominately African-American neighborhood includes approximately 145 occupied housing units, is in Census Tract 106, block group 04; this block group contains 68% low and moderate income residents.



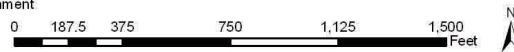
Ridgewood Community, Richland County

- Beautification
- Newly Paved Rd.
- Access Road
- Parcels
- New House Sites
- Streets
- Renamed Street
- Streetscaping
- Brownfield Sites
- Future House Sites

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