



## Abbeville County Building and Planning Department

903 West Greenwood Street  
Abbeville, SC 29620  
864-366-2400 ext. 64

3/7/25

Re: Donalds Town Park

Mayor William Scoggins  
Town of Donalds  
PO Box 275  
Donalds, SC 29638

Mayor Scoggins:

I am writing in order to re-cap my comments regarding today's inspection of the park facilities at 164 Park Dr. The following points are my professional opinion of the facility and its amenities:

- The #1 hazard present on the property is the electrical system. The meter base and breaker panel located between the gazebo and picnic shelter is extremely dangerous due multiple issues including a broken latch on the cover of the meter base, a broken latch on the door of the breaker panel, missing breaker "knock-out" on the inner cover of the breaker panel, improper grounding of the electrical service, and lack of Ground Fault protection on the attached receptacles. These are just some of the electrical issues present on site. My recommendation is to contact Duke Power immediately to have both this service and another one near the water fountain completely de-energized to eliminate the hazard.
- The structural condition of the picnic shelter is very poor. The original quality of construction was substandard at best. The incorrect multi-piece ridge beam has sagged and separated, the connections from the posts to the roof structure are inadequate, and the roof structure has virtually zero uplift protection. I am very surprised that this structure survived Hurricane Helene. I would recommend complete demolition of the shelter.

- The gazebo could very easily be destroyed by a strong wind as well. Roof-to-post connections are poor, and the entire structure rests on concrete blocks with no anchorage to the ground. Again, I recommend removing the structure entirely.
- The swing on site is also a hazard due to the poor condition of the boards and the extremely unsafe manner in which it is hung from its frame.
- In its current condition, the walking track is less of a liability than the issues listed above, but its inconsistent surface, cracks, and low areas do pose potential hazards. If the town wishes to improve the track, I recommend contracting the services of a registered landscape architect to ensure that applicable ADA requirements are met.
- I am not a certified playground inspector, but in my opinion, the playground's current condition is very good and is likely compliant with current standards.

If the Town is interested in limiting liability, I would suggest starting with the hazards that I have noted above and possibly consider making the park a simple green space with no amenities. Most importantly, consult with your legal council on all of these issues as well.

As always, I am here to help if there is anything that I can do for the Town of Donalds.

Sincerely,

Andy Price, CBO, CFM

Abbeville County Building Official