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COMMUNITY FACILITIES ELEMENT

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How we function...

Introduction

The Community Facilities element describes the activities and services that support the overall quality of life on Sullivan's Island. This chapter will summarize the function of Town government, including emergency services, public works and water and sewer infrastructure. Other community assets such as libraries, parks and educational facilities will be incorporated as well. Evaluating the current state of Town facilities and public infrastructure is critical in addressing existing needs for services and how those services will be provided to meet future needs.

Town Government and Departments

Town Council

Town Council serves as the governing body for the Town of Sullivan's Island. Operating under the council-administrator form of government, the Town's system of governance combines the political leadership of an elected mayor and council members with the managerial experience of a professionally trained administrator to oversee the day-to-day delivery of public services. The Council is a seven-member elected body, including a voting mayor.[1] Each council member serves a staggered four-year term with regularly held meetings at the Town Hall, located at 2056 Middle Street.

Town Administration

The Town's municipal complex is located in the center of the Island and serves as the epicenter of Town government operations. The campus includes the newly constructed Town Hall, Fire Station, Water and Sewer facilities, and Stith Park.

Town Hall is the newest addition to the municipal campus, which held its ribbon cutting in the fall of 2016. Town Hall is a 10,000-square foot, state of the art construction housing a majority of the Town administrative departments, Police

[1] Municipal Association of South Carolina, 2014

Department, municipal court functions, and serves as the meeting venue for all regularly held community boards and commissions.

The Town Administrator serves as the chief executive officer for all Town business, and works to implement the various policies and decisions adopted by Town Council. The Administration Department includes the Town Administrator, Deputy Administrator/ Comptroller, Assistant to the Town Administrator/ Personnel Administrator, Town Clerk, Accounting Clerk and Town attorney.

With the expansion of Town facilities in recent years, several administrative positions have been added to the Town's staff. A front counter receptionist position was created upon the opening of Town Hall to assist the public with daily Town services.

Building and Zoning Department

The Building and Zoning Department is located in Town Hall and is comprised of a Building Inspector, Zoning Administrator and one permitting and licensing specialist who manage all planning and development related services.

The department's primary responsibilities are handling the day-to-day building and permitting activities such as issuing building permits, business licenses, performing plan review, and performing zoning and building code enforcement.

Additionally, the Building and Zoning Department is responsible for all long-range planning activities. Long-range planning activities include writing zoning text amendments, policy creation, implementation of special projects, and management of long-range planning studies such as the Comprehensive Plan, Beachfront Management Plan, Island-wide Parking Plan and assisting Town Council with the crafting of other policies. The Department also staffs all standing Boards and Commissions:

- Board of Zoning Appeals: Appeals of staff decisions, considers dimensional variances
- Design Review Board: Historic preservation board, design reviews for new construction and renovations (within commercial and residential districts)
- Planning Commission: Writing and updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan, writing text amendments, approving subdivisions and rezoning
- Tree Commission: Handles review of large specimen removals, tree related policy, special projects with Tree Funds

- Construction Appeals Board: Appeals of staff decisions related to Building Permits, Building Code interpretations.

Court Services

The Sullivan's Island Municipal Court system is comprised of a Town Council appointed municipal judge, one part-time substitute judge and is staffed by the Clerk of Court. The Town retains the services of a part time prosecuting attorney for professional legal assistance with various court proceedings. Court is held in Town Hall on the first and second Tuesday of the month.

Water and Sewer Utilities

Drinking water supply and wastewater treatment are managed under the Town's Water and Sewer Department. The Department consists of six (6) full-time employees, including one departmental manager and one full time billing clerk who operates from Town Hall. There are five licensed water and sewer operators holding South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) certifications in the area of water treatment, water distribution and wastewater treatment. All employee certifications are maintained through continuing education, training and meet the facility's state permitting requirements.

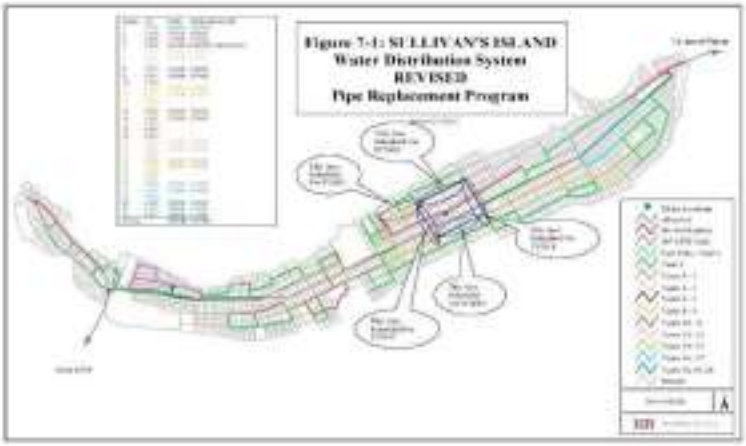
Water Supply

Since the Town's inception, shallow and deep-water wells served as the primary water supply to Island inhabitants. However, following Hurricane Hugo in 1989, and the widespread water quality problems in the early 1990's, the Town initiated a $1.9 million-dollar contract to begin purchasing water from Charleston Water System (CWS), the primary water distribution agency for the greater Charleston area. Charleston Water System currently supplies Sullivan's Island and the Isle of Palms by way of a 24-inch water line that runs under the Charleston Harbor and is accessed from the western tip of Sullivan's Island. This water main runs along the Middle Street right-of-way for the length of the Island.

The water discoloration problems experienced in the late 1990's and into the early 2000's led to a long-term phased program for replacing the Island's 80,000 linear feet of water distribution system at a cost estimated to be more than $7 million dollars. The first phase of the water line replacement program was completed by hired contractors in 2004, which accounted for nearly half the system. The remaining portion of the initial 20-year program is being completed "in-house" by the Town's Water and Sewer Department. To date, the Department has completed the replacement of 18,000 feet of pipe, 30 valves and 15 hydrants. Taking these steps have successfully mitigated the discolored water issue along with the long overdue need to begin the replacement of aged and failing water pipes. These efforts have increased fire flow to all hydrants island-wide resulting in better

insurance rates for homeowners and increased public safety. In recent years the Department has approved a new 32-year water line replacement plan. The map to the right shows the Department's five-year focus area, as of 2017.

The Town's current contract with the Charleston Water System provides a limit of 750,000 gallons of water per day for Sullivan's Island use. However, the Island maintains an emergency water agreement with the Isle of Palms water treatment facility in the event of a CSW failure from the Charleston Harbor pipeline. Additionally, the Town maintains two deep wells for water pressure in the event of an emergency.



Residents' water usage data is maintained by a touch read computerized meter reading system that allows meters to be read easily and downloaded for automatic billing. The Town uses a progressive rate structure, meaning that the unit cost of water increases as more water is used. Current water and sewer rates and fees are passed by Council via resolution. Water testing is accomplished on a regular basis in accordance with DHEC standards. Annually, a report is mailed to all users summarizing the water tests and results in compliance with regulations.

Wastewater

The Town owns and operates a wastewater treatment facility and its associated gravity collection system. This collection system consists of nearly 80,000 linear feet of gravity collection mains, 25,000 feet of service lateral lines, over 325 manholes and six pump stations. In 1968, construction was completed on the wastewater treatment facility that is still in operation today. Currently, the plant has a capacity of 0.57 million gallons per day (MGD) and a daily average flow of 0.58 MGD, which meets current DHEC operating and discharge standards. The plant is located on Gull Drive with a permitted effluent discharge point into the Intercoastal Waterway (ICWW) via an unnamed creek.

Although a plant upgrade was made in 2003, the main oxidation ditch and its associated structures have deteriorated over the years, resulting in an antiquated tank which is at a high risk of failure. Town Council has long recognized the realities of repairing and replacing this critical yet vulnerable community facility.

In 1996, the Town committed resources to performing a three-phase Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) upgrade project and even considered pumping

wastewater off Island to be treated, which was ultimately deemed to be cost prohibitive. The Town then passed a local referendum that supported the Town remaining an independent WWTP operator. In 2017 the Town approved a plan for the reconstruction of a new oxidation ditch and associated structures that will comply with all state and federal regulatory standards.

Perhaps the most significant concern for the Town's wastewater system relates to the occurrence of Inflow and Infiltration (I&I). I&I occurs when groundwater and stormwater enter the sanitary sewer system through a variety of ways. Inflow refers to water that enters the sewer collection system through improper connections, such as downspouts and groundwater sump pumps and infiltration is ground water that enters the system through damaged or leaking pipes. (www.rdn.bc.ca) In 2015 the Town began the first phase of a $3 million dollar I&I reduction program, resulting in a 36% reduction of I&I. This process included the grouting of 13,000 feet of the existing system. The second phase of the project will be completed as part of the 2017-2021 Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Program and will utilize both in-house and contracted services.

Potential I & I sources (www.rdn.bc.ca)

Water and Sewer Planning Reports & Projects

The following list of projects and planning reports have been developed by various consultants and the Town's Water & Sewer Manager as part of the *2017-2021 Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Program*. This program considers the current, and projected water and wastewater needs for the Town.

- Water Distribution Replacement Program- Continuation of 2004 study to replace remaining 22,000 linear feet of unlined cast iron pipe, valves, hydrants.
- Wastewater Treatment Facility Replacement- 2017 Town Council approved plan to reconstruct existing oxidation ditch, treatment plant headworks, treatment plant generator, drying beds, and other associated accessory structures.
- Pump Station improvements- Retrofit all six pump stations to submersible pumps which will make them flood proof.
- Poe Avenue Sewer Replacement- Relocate 1,400 linear feet of 8-inch pipe and install five new manholes in Poe Avenue right-of-way.
- Station 17 to Citadel Sewer Replacement- Relocate 382 linear feet of 8-inch pipe and install two new manholes in Middle Street right-of-way.
- Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) Rehabilitation Project- Phase II will address the remaining sewer collection system subsections via the process of

chemical grouting and *cured in place point repair* (CIPPR) and cured in place liners (CIPPL).

- Phase I- Completed. Two of the most damaged sections of I&I areas $1.6 million.
- Phase II- Replace remaining subsections $4.5 million estimated.

Public Safety & Emergency Services

Public Safety Services are offered through the Police and Fire Departments. The Police Department maintains animal control, fleet management, beach patrol services and parking enforcement. The Fire Department includes full time fire fighters on permanent rotating shifts and public works personnel who handle Island-wide maintenance activities. The Department also maintains large volunteer fire fighting force of over 50 individuals.

Police Department

The increasing popularity of Sullivan's Island's beaches can be attributed to both the explosive population growth of the Charleston region and the area's limited access to public beaches. What was once a seasonal increase of beachgoers has now become a year-round presence of visitors to the Island's restaurant district, its beaches and other cultural tourist attractions such as Fort Moultrie. The year-round impact of traffic congestion and other law enforcement activities has subsequently led to a need for both seasonal beach security and parking enforcement personnel as well as regular patrol officers. In the fall of 2016, a public parking plan was implemented by the Town which increased the Department's need for additional technical equipment, patrol vehicles, and all-terrain vehicles.

Table 2.1 **Police Department's anticipated Needs (10-year horizon)**
Personnel Needs
One new full-time officer (Part time investigative/ part school resource officer)
Four seasonal officers (two beach patrol officers, two parking enforcement officers)
Equipment Needs
Two new Kubotas (all-terrain vehicles for beach and parking enforcement)
Continue vehicle replacement program
Taser replacement 3 -5 years
Radio replacement (Motorola 800 will be obsolete in 3-5 years)
Weapon replacement 5-10 years
Body cameras replacement every 5 years
Body armor replacement every 5 years
Continue emergency helicopter evacuation program
Continue consolidated 911 dispatch program

Currently, the department is comprised of ten (10) full-time uniformed officers, one (1) full-time animal control officer and two (2) part-time seasonal beach services officers. The uniformed officers consist of a Police Chief, an Assistant Chief, Capitan, four (4) Sergeants, one (1) Corporal and three (2) Patrol Officers, typically working 12-hour shifts. The Department occasionally uses reserve officers and constables during the peak of tourist season.

The department has also attempted to keep abreast of technological advancements in the field of law enforcement through the acquisition of updated Police vehicles adapted with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) guided laptop

computers and updated radio equipment. Body cameras, tasers and body armor, now considered standard issue local government law enforcement, will now require ongoing maintenance and regular replacement. Table 2.2 identifies the various projects and capital improvements for the Police Department.

Fire Department

The Fire Department holds the responsibility of providing two separate and distinct public services: 1) Fire protection and emergency first responders 2) Public works and facility maintenance.

The Sullivan's Island Fire and Rescue Department consists of eleven (11) paid full-time shift firefighters: one (1) Chief, one (1) Assistant Chief & Training Officer, two (2) Captains, three (3) Lieutenants, one (1) Engineer and three (3) Firefighters. The full-time staff is supported by 43 on-call volunteer fire fighters who are available for structure fires as well as disaster recovery from emergency weather events. The Department provides emergency first response to all areas of Sullivan's Island and provides fire protection for the Fort Sumter National Park and associated structures. Assistance is provided from the Town of Mt. Pleasant and the City of Isle of Palms by way of a consolidated 911 dispatch service operated by Charleston County. Fire hydrants are maintained regularly by the department and are available throughout the Town.

The Town's fire station is located at the corner of Station 20 ½ and Middle Street and is a cornerstone of the Town's municipal complex. The fire station was constructed during the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo with the intent of serving as the Island's Municipal Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) in the event of an emergency storm event. The building is an elevated, steel-frame construction and is powered by two generators.

Table 2.2

Fire Department's anticipated needs (10-year horizon)

Fire Department Needs
Maintain all firefighter certifications and training
Construct new building & shop for the Maintenance Department
Replace 2 fire engines
Architectural up-fit of fire station, incorporate similar design to Town Hall
Maintain watercraft
Maintain boat landing- emergency water response
Maintain adequate firefighter staff
Maintain volunteer staff and training facilities
Public Works Needs
Four new lawn mowers ($10,000-$12,000 apiece)
Replace Kubotas (all-terrain vehicles for beach maintenance and enforcement)
Replace tractors
Construct new public works building
Continue vehicle replacement program

The facility is fully equipped with phone and fiber optic connections to serve as an emergency support facility to Town Hall with the capacity and space to house all emergency response operations. Currently, the building houses the Town's Fire and Rescue and Public Works Departments.

In 2016, the Fire Department received the highest possible protection rating of a Class 1, which is determined by the Insurance Service Office (ISO). The ISO is a nationally recognized entity that evaluates a community's firefighting preparedness on a scale of 1 to 10, with Class 1 being the highest possible rating.

Many rural areas and small towns in Charleston County maintain a relatively low rating of Class 9 due to response times and general level of service. The Sullivan's Island Fire and Rescue Department has received the Class 1 by continually updating its firefighting equipment, water supply and distribution, maintaining trained personnel and through a dedication to timely responses during emergency events.

Additionally, the fire department maintains a boat landing at Station 9 and Osceola Avenue. Membership is sold to Town residents and non-residents, with residents' fees being less than half of what non-residents pay. The fire department also operates and maintains a training center at Battery Thomson, which is also used by Mt. Pleasant and the Isle of Palms Fire Departments.

Table 2.2 lists the various departmental needs within a 10-year planning horizon. Being a coastal community, the Sullivan's Island Fire and Rescue Department is not only charged with fire protection, but also water rescue. An offshore fire rescue boat was purchased in 2014

Public Works (Maintenance Department)

The Public Works Division is managed by the Fire Department's leadership and is charged with assisting with the regular maintenance of public parks and rights-of-way. The staff consists of one (1) full time supervisor and three (3) full time maintenance workers. Seasonal part-time employees are retained as needed.

With increased building and development in the past 10 years there has been an increased citizen demand for park maintenance, recreational courts and availability of open spaces for special events. This increased demand in facilities and services has led to more frequent use of Public Works equipment by departmental staff with an increased demand on maintenance staff. The Public Works Division currently lacks a permanent facility for storage of maintenance equipment and operation of personnel. A new facility will be needed in the coming years.

Emergency Operations Center

As a barrier island Sullivan's Island shares a unique set of challenges when beset with emergency storm events. It is essential that community residents and visitors understand the fact that the entire Island is located within a flood hazard area and prone to catastrophic damage and loss of life if confronted with extreme weather events. Town government must continually stress the importance its evacuation plans and the importance of heeding emergency public directives if confronted with tropical storms, hurricanes, tsunamis, floods and fires.

The primary Municipal Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) is located within Town Hall at 2056 Middle Street and is equipped with an elevated generator capable of sustaining operations in the event of a power outage. Town Hall also

maintains all phone, radio and internet communications necessary to handle the function of Town government.

Emergency services have greatly expanded for the Island in the past 10 years. In 2011 the Sullivan's Island Remote Emergency Notification System (SIRENS) was implemented and is comprised of two (2) sirens located at Station 24 and Station 15. This audio notification will activate should residents become unresponsive to telephone, mobile devices, and internet. The Town also manages an emergency alert system through "Nixle," (www.nixle.com), which allows residents to register phones and mobile devices to receive text messages and emails from the Police and Administration Departments.

Annually, the Town participates in the Charleston County Emergency Operations Plan and the Charleston County Hurricane Preparedness Guide in addition to the Town's Hurricane Plan.

Parks and Recreation Facilities

Both passive and active recreational opportunities are found throughout Sullivan's Island. Passive recreation is generally defined as an undeveloped space or environmentally sensitive area that requires minimal development. Active recreation, on the other hand, includes structured or organized recreational activities, most often associated with developed sports fields, playgrounds, marinas, theaters and skateparks. The recreational activities on Sullivan's Island can be divided into these two distinct areas of recreation.

Active Recreation Areas: Parks, Sporting Facilities

Town Hall Municipal Campus. The Town Hall municipal campus is a host to multiple recreational opportunities, listed below.

- *J. Marshall Stith Park.* Located in the heart of Town, the park includes three tennis courts (one practice court), one full basketball court, younger and older children's playground, historic bandstand (community gathering place)

- *Fishing Pier.* Located behind the water treatment facility, this small pier extends 160' into the creek and is open to the public.

- *Multipurpose Sports fields.* Used year-round for general public use, soccer, lacrosse, and other organized sports.

- *Battery Capron/Butler.* Better known as "the mound," this hill top is the highest elevation on Sullivan's Island. Battery Capron/Butler is located behind Stith Park and was originally an Endicott Period military fortification that was filled for being a danger to public safety due to its

forty-foot deep mortar pits.[2] Occasionally, special events are held on the grass plateau atop the mound and is well known for its "bamboo forest," growing on the eastern face of the mound. In 2017 Town Council established a maintenance program for re-grading the hill facing Stith Park and containing the proliferation of bamboo to just the eastern face of the mound.

- *Historic Bandstand*. Located in the J. Marshall Stith Park adjacent to Town Hall at 2056 Middle Street. The U.S. Army built the bandstand in 1905 to complement the parade ground. When the U.S. Army withdrew from the Island in 1947, the bandstand was sold to a resident who used it as an apartment structure. In the mid-1980's, the structure was donated to the Town. The Town restored the structure to its original design and relocated it to J. Marshall Stith Park where it serves as a gathering place for picnics, birthday parties, musical concerts, and community activities.

Poe Park. Located on Middle Street between Artillery Drive and Citadel Street, Poe Park underwent multiple renovations in 2016-2017, including resurfacing of two tennis courts, adding new fencing, adding one basketball goal, and installing new playground equipment.

Fish fry shack. Used as a training and fundraising facility for the Sullivan's Island Volunteer Fire and Rescue organization.

Island Club. Used as a venue for various community events.

Battery Gadsden Community Facility. The Battery Gadsden Cultural Center is a local organization comprised of residents and nonresidents who host an array of community and civic events annually:

Farmers Market. Operating from April through June, the Farmers Market hosts 25-30 vendors, food trucks and live entertainment.

Poe Library. In March 1977, the Sullivan's Island Library ---located in Battery Gadsden—was named The Edgar Allan Poe Library in honor of the author, who was stationed on Sullivan's Island as a U.S. Army private from 1827 and 1828. Poe used the island setting as the background for his famous story, "The Gold Bug." Many of the Island's streets are similarly named after Poe's stories and literary themes.

Arbor Day. Sullivan's Island was awarded Tree City USA status in 2016 and has held regular Arbor Day celebrations and tree giveaway events at Battery Gadsden.

[2] Sondermann, Karl 2013

Thompson Park Interpretive Memorial. Small interpretive pocket park at Breach inlet on Middle Street, initially dedicated in June 2011. The Park's purpose is to commemorate historic military event that occurred at Breach Inlet during the Battle of Sullivan's Island during the American Revolution on June 28, 1776 (Carolina Day). During the Battle of Sullivan's Island, Colonel William "Danger" Thomson and his 780 forces on the bank of Breach Inlet repulsed the British Army's attack on Sullivan's Island from Ocean and land invasion from the neighboring island, which is now the Isle of Palms. This battle at Breach inlet, in concert with Colonel William Moultrie and his forces' actions inside Fort Sullivan's (now known as Fort Moultrie), defeated the British force, with its superior firepower and man power, and protected Charles Towne and its important port from British occupation at an early, critical time in the Revolutionary War. Primarily private funds developed and currently maintain the Park, but it is available to the public for free. (Data Source: Thomson Park Website, http://thomsonpark.wordpress.com)

Fort Moultrie Visitor's Center and Fishing Pier. Located at 1214 Middle Street, Fort Moultrie is an historic National Monument site with various recreational activities. Touring the monument is primarily self-guided through the various interpretive wayside exhibits however daily tours and programs are available depending upon the season. A fishing pier and open space with picnic shelters are open to the general public.

Passive Recreation Areas:

Old Dump Kayak Launch. The old dump is a deed restricted property located at Station 19, which now serves as an open space for general public use. Mainly serving as a wildlife viewing area and canoe and kayak access to Cove Creek, this property is held in a perpetual conservation easement through the East Cooper Land Trust. http://eastcooperland.org/conserved-land/

Old Trolley Bridge. The trolley bridge predates the Revolutionary War and served as Sullivan's Island's only connection to the mainland. Also held in a perpetual conservation easement through the East Cooper Land Trust the remnants of the bridge are open to the public and accessible by a short trail the opens to a scenic overlook of the Charleston Harbor, Mount Pleasant, and Cove Inlet. http://eastcooperland.org/conserved-land/

Trolley Bridge- Late 1800's

Town Protected Land & Beach Access Paths. There are 26 public access paths to the Island's beaches, of which there are seven ADA (accessible) and 10 emergency access enabled. Two beach wheelchairs are available at the Fire Department and may be used for beach access throughout the day.

Station 16 Nature Trail. The trailhead is located off of the Station 16 beach access Opened in June 2015, the 650-foot nature trail offers two observation decks and benches along a partially elevated boardwalk

Other Utilities

Electric

Electric power is provided by South Carolina Electric and Gas (SCE&G) however, natural gas is currently unavailable Island residents. Natural gas must be purchased from private vendors. SCE&G provides tree pruning maintenance on a three-year cycle. and cable television is provided by Comcast Cable.

Phone, Cable and Internet Services

Primary cable and internet service providers are AT&T U-verse, Comcast Xfinity, Dish network, Direct TV and Verizon.

The Town has also considered the merits of establishing a municipal wireless network, which would offer broadband services to island residents. This type of system would require multiple wi-fi access points throughout the Town.

Solid Waste

Sullivan's Island contracts with a third party, privately held company to provide weekly solid waste collection. This service includes house hold trash and garbage collection via roll container, bulk waste (large furniture, appliances, carpet, mattresses, etc.) and yard waste. During the three summer months, when beach traffic and rentals are at the highest, the regular household trash is picked up twice a week and bulk trash/yard debris once per week. The refuse is taken to the Charleston County landfill.

In 2015, Charleston County Environmental Management Department (CCEMD) began providing all-in-one (single stream) residential recycling services to the Island. This allows the convenience of placing all recycled materials into one container instead of pre-sorting. Recyclables are picked up once every two weeks by way of 55-gallon roll carts.

Emergency debris collection from major storms and extreme flooding events has long been a critically important issue for Island residents. Because the Town does not operate its own solid waste collection authority, debris collection following these events must be retained by private contractors which is often seen as an unfunded liability from a budgetary standpoint. The Town must rely on FEMA reimbursements for these expenditures and assistance from CCEMD.

SCDOT Traffic Cameras

Two traffic cameras were installed in 2017 providing live video streaming of traffic flow conditions on both the Sullivan's Island side of the Ben Sawyer Boulevard (Highway 703) and Mount Pleasant sides of the Causeway. This feed can be viewed from a smart phone or other mobile device at http://www.511sc.org/ .

Health Care and Emergency Services

Medical Offices

There is one primary care facility on Sullivan's Island offering a wide range of family care services including pediatric, adolescent and adult medicine. Additional medical facilities are located in Mt. Pleasant, Isle of Palms, and downtown Charleston. Three major hospitals are easily accessible from the Island including East Cooper Regional Medical Center, Roper Saint Francis Hospital, and the newly opened Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) East Cooper facility, offering a

wide array of clinical and same day (outpatient) services. All facilities are located within 10 miles of Sullivan's Island, the closest being East Cooper Medical Center at a distance of 6 miles by way of the Isle of Palms connector.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

The Fire and Rescue Department has long provided first responder services to the Island since its founding in 1948. Initially organized as a volunteer fire department, todays firefighters are cross-trained in emergency first responder care and work 24-hour shifts. Additional emergency first responders are provided through the Charleston County 911 Consolidated dispatch service consisting of a nine (9) member intergovernmental agreement, of which Sullivan's Island, IOP and Mount Pleasant are a part.

In 2016 Town Council also initiated an agreement with Air MedCare Network (Meducare) to provide citizens and Town employees with ambulatory air service. Any insured resident of Sullivan's Island may receive paid air medical transport, if they are within Charleston County.

Educational Facilities

Schools

Charleston County School District completed construction of the new Sullivan's Island Elementary School in 2015 and maintains an annual enrollment of approximately 500 students, serving the Isle of Palms and Sullivan's Island. The school offers pre-kindergarten through fifth grade and is one of the top ranked public elementary schools in South Carolina. In 2011, Sullivan's Island Elementary earned the Palmetto Gold Award for student achievement and maintains the highest achievable rating on its School Report Card.

In the 2011-2012 school year, Sullivan's Island Elementary achieved partial magnet status, focusing on math and science, with an emphasis on the coastal environment.

Other public schools that serve Sullivan's Island include Laing and Moultrie Middle Schools for grades 6, 7 and 8, and Wando High School for grades 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Libraries

The Edgar Allan Poe/Sullivan's Island Library, located in Battery Gadsden, is a branch of the Charleston County Public Library system. The library is located at 1921 I'On Avenue in the renovated military installation dating to the Spanish-American War. The library is named for author Edgar Allan Poe, who was stationed on Sullivan's Island as a private in the United States Army in 1827 and 1828, and who used the island setting as the background for his famous story, "The Gold Bug."

The 2,000-square foot branch houses a collection of more than 6,800 materials, including fiction and non-fiction, juvenile and young adult books, periodicals,

books on CD and DVDs. Library cardholders also have access to downloadable materials including e-books, audiobooks, magazines, music, and more and can request more than 250,000 additional titles from other branches. The branch circulated 25,919 materials in FY 2017 and provides its visitors with four Internet-connected computers and free Wi-Fi. The branch also hosts hundreds of educational and entertaining programs throughout the year. In FY 2017, more than 9,000 patrons attended nearly 500 events. These included children's programs, lectures, games, writing groups, book club discussions, and crafts.

	Circulation	Programs	Program Attendance
2017	25,919	491	9,458
2016	20,037*	310	5,932*
2015	28,254	433	8,934

Note: The decrease in circulation, number of programs and program attendance in FY 2016 is attributed to the two-month closure of the library branch, which was caused by the severe flooding in October of 2015.

Stormwater Management

In 2007, the Town entered into an inter-governmental agreement with Charleston County to administer and enforce all Island stormwater utility regulations. These regulations are codified under Chapter 25, Sections 1-12 of the Town Code of Ordinances. In addition to serving as the regulatory authority for enforcement, billing and collecting the Town's stormwater fees, the Charleston County Stormwater Management Division is charged with conducting regular maintenance of all inlets, conduits, manholes, channels, ditches, waterways and infiltration facilities.

Although the Town does not operate its own stormwater utility, Town officials have taken great strides to lessen the impact of stormwater inundation during rain events by implementing various policy and regulatory initiatives. Many of these stormwater management initiatives are part of the larger strategy for mitigating the future effects of sea-level rise and are discussed in greater detail as part of the sea-level rise awareness section of the *Natural Resources Element*.

In response to the catastrophic flooding events of 2015 (Hurricane Juaquin), the Planning Commission performed a detailed study of the effects of Island development at the neighborhood scale, and subsequently created a Zoning Ordinance regulation requiring an onsite stormwater management system for any residential or nonresidential development. This regulation can be found in Section 21-17 of the Zoning Ordinance and mandates that a plan be developed with any substantial construction project that prevents adverse impacts to adjacent or

downstream properties. This plan must be developed by a professional engineer or landscape architect.

Town staff also received approval of a FEMA grant in 2017 to study the existent stormwater drainage deficiencies Island-wide. This grant authorized a Two phased approach of first, identifying the problematic areas and secondly, improving the drainage infrastructure along Station 18, one of the worst areas affected during heavy rain events.

Although stormwater conveyance and drainage systems are owned by SCDOT, Town staff and County officials continue performing regular maintenance of ditches and providing jet-vac services on an as needed basis.

Community Facilities Goals and Strategies

The Town anticipates an increased demand for recreation facilities, maintenance and expansion of existing community facilities. The Town is committed to managing the development and expansion of its infrastructure to serve current and future residents as well as providing a diversity of recreation facilities. It is also committed to providing an exceptional level of safety and security for its residents. As such, the Town has adopted the following goal, policies and strategies:

Community Facilities Goal: Maintain essential Town government facilities and other community assets to meet the future needs of the Island's citizenry, including Town Hall services, maintenance, recreation, and expansion of public infrastructure.

Administration- Policy 1: The Town will continue to explore opportunities for expanding community facilities.

	Objectives	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
	CF1.1 Identify areas for expanding recreational opportunities.	Town Administration Town Council	Ongoing
	CF1.2 Consider the following when locating and improving community facilities: • Accessibility to all citizens and visitors • Protecting the character of neighborhoods • Preserve natural resources • Cost effectiveness of improvements (Continue to assess Town-owned property as needed)	Town Administration Town Council	Ongoing
	CF1.3 Establish and maintain Town entrance signage on Ben Sawyer Boulevard and Jasper Boulevard.	Town Administration Town Council	Ongoing
	CF1.4 Explore opportunities for public restroom facilities.	Town Administration Town Council	Ongoing

Administration- Policy 2: Maintain a fully staffed, capable and professional workforce with primary objective of keeping citizens as informed and as engaged as possible.

	Objectives	Responsible Parties	Timeframe

	CF2.1 Continue to provide adequate staff support to all boards, commissions and committees.	Building Department Town Administration Town Council	Ongoing
	CF2.2 Implement new Town website. Periodically assess new website and mobile application technology to keep citizens as informed as possible. Ensure emergency alerts correspond with the Town's website and written notices.	Town Administration	Ongoing
Water and Sewer- Policy 3: Maintain and improve the existing water distribution and wastewater collection systems.			
	Objectives	**Responsible Parties**	**Timeframe**
	CF3.1 Continue pursuing the various goals of the Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Program. The program is periodically reviewed and updated through the oversight of the Council Committee for Water and Sewer.	Water and Sewer Dept. Town Council (W&S Committee)	Ongoing
	CF3.2 Continue pursuing replacement of critical facilities at the wastewater treatment plant.	Water and Sewer Dept. Town Council (W&S Committee)	Ongoing
	CF3.3 Continue pursuing repair of wastewater collection system to avoid I&I.	Water and Sewer Dept. Town Council (W&S Committee)	Ongoing
Water and Sewer- Policy 4: Explore methods to educate citizens on water usage and encourage conservation of water sources.			
	Objectives	**Responsible Parties**	**Timeframe**
	CF4.1 The Town should evaluate use of advanced meter reading technologies to enhance consumer access to water usage information.	Water and Sewer Dept. Town Council (W&S Committee)	Short-term
	CF4.2 Explore rate structures that reflect water infrastructure and foster conservation.	Water and Sewer Dept. Town Council (W&S Committee)	Short-term
	Objectives	**Responsible Parties**	**Timeframe**

	CF5.1 Ensure appropriate staffing levels are maintained and that all staff, volunteers and reserve officers are adequately trained.	Police and Fire Dept. Administration Town Council	Ongoing
	CF5.2 Ensure all equipment and supplies are appropriate and up to date and evaluated on an annual basis. Reconstruction of Fire Station	Police and Fire Dept. Administration Town Council	Ongoing
	CF5.3 Continue to explore innovative approaches to shared services through intergovernmental mutual aid agreements and pursue service excellence through technological advances.	Police and Fire Dept. Administration Town Council	Ongoing
Maintenance- Policy 6: Continue to support other governmental and private entities providing community facilities.			
	Objectives	**Responsible Parties**	**Timeframe**
	CF6.1 Construct a new public works building	Administration Town Council	Short-term
	Objectives	**Responsible Parties**	**Timeframe**
	CF7.1 Continue regularly scheduled solid waste collection service to ensure a visually attractive for living environment for residents and visitors.	Administration Town Council	Ongoing
	CF7.2 Continue support for Sullivan's Island Elementary School.	Administration Town Council	Ongoing
	CF7.3 Continue to support the operation of Poe Library.	Administration Town Council	Ongoing
	CF7.4 Continue to support and keep a U.S. Post Office on Sullivan's Island	Administration Town Council	Ongoing
	CF7.5 Continue to support projects and initiatives for burying utility powerlines where economically feasible. (SCE&G power lines, cable, etc.)	Administration Town Council	Ongoing

Emergency Preparedness and Services- Policy 8: Enhance the existing community-wide emergency reaction training program and communication system.			
	Objectives	**Responsible Parties**	**Timeframe**
	CF8.1 Prepare appropriate informational sessions for community residents, providing particular focus on new coastal residents.	Administration Town Council	Ongoing
	CF8.2 Assist vulnerable members of the Island's populations during emergency situations. Ensure an up to date list is maintained for outreach.	Administration Town Council	Ongoing
	CF8.3 Continue to improve community-wide system of notification in case of emergency situations (consider all forms of mobile technology	Administration Town Council	Ongoing