

Section XII

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

	Time Range Scale	
Short	Medium	Long
0-2 years	2-6 years	6-10 years

Goal 1: Reduce the Level of Community-generated Stress upon Public Facilities Which Use or Affect Natural Resources.

Objectives	Strategies	Participants	Time Range
Encourage recyclable or reusable technologies and products, including Electric Vehicles and EV infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Public information campaigns and promotions. -Add Encourage installation of electric car charging stations around county in new parking lots - Encourage application to Santee Cooper’s Evolve grant program and the Palmetto Clean Fuels Coalition - Pursue purchase of EV’s for county vehicles and charging stations - Consider introduction of phased-in ordinance to limit the use of plastic bags and other non-recyclable and non-compostable containers -Partner with the Palmetto Clean Fuels Coalition on EV grants and education. -Restrict single use plastic bags under 4 mil thickness.¹ -Give retail, grocery, and other business establishments’ ample time to adjust to the new ord. Suggested 9-12 months. -Tier in other non-recyclable and non-compostable containers 	SC Energy Office, Planning staff, County residents, Public Works, Santee Cooper	Short

¹ www.charleston-sc.gov/1454/Minimizing-Plastic-Bags.

DRAFT (REDLINE VERSION)

2/8/23

<p>Reduce the emissions and energy consumption by the County landfill. (also see Community Facilities Element)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Educate residents on Landfill consumption & capacity limits. -Assist with efforts to encourage reduce, reuse, and recycle campaign within the County & PW Dept. -Increase recycling efforts across the County to limit waste going to the landfill. -Add Expand/improve existing new recycling centers. - Add/install new trash compactors in high volume tourist areas 	<p>County residents, Public Works, Businesses, Murrells Inlet 2020</p>	<p>Long</p>
<p>Encourage a reduction in the usage of single-occupancy vehicle trips.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Work with transit providers to promote ridesharing/vanpools and public transit, - Promote walking/biking communities, working remotely, and digital bill pay. -Facilitate communities that encourage walking/biking. 	<p>Planning staff, Local government, Residents, Coast RTA, Williamsburg RTA</p>	<p>Medium</p>

Goal 2: Make the Protection of Natural Resources a Priority in Shaping the Future Development of the County by Directing New and Sustainable Development to Locations that Minimize the Potential for Negative Impacts on the Region’s Ecosystem. (now combined with Goal 9)

Objectives	Strategies	Participants	Time Range
Increase public awareness of natural resources, issues and benefits. (Combined with Goal 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sponsor natural resources awareness and conservation campaigns, partner with civic groups and nonprofits. -Hold building and floodplain seminars to educate residents, businesses, and professionals. -Encourage professionals to use “Design with Nature” principals when developing tracts in all areas of the County. 	Building & Planning dept., Community groups (CCL, SCDNR, TNC, OSI, Keep it Green)	Medium
Create policy for wetland and stream buffers to protect critical habitats. (ref. Hazard Mitigation Plan, Action Item #3A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Since law allows stricter standards, Add elevated wetland & stream buffer restrictions for increasing levels of development: Single-family, Multi-family, Commercial, and Industrial. -Use native species in buffer areas. 	Planning staff, Stormwater Mgmt., PC, engineers, and developers	Short
Consider a comprehensive wetlands protection ordinance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Draft a proposed wetlands protection and conservation ordinance that is stricter than both OCRM and USACE regulations. -Consider further restrictions on all development in or adjacent to any wetlands. 	Planning staff, PC, Council, OCRM, USACE	Short
Incentivize cluster development and smart growth. (from Goal 9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reward or incentivize Consider a policy of regulatory incentives for conservation development and open space requirements that protect the natural environment. -Improve on Review the pervious/ impervious ratios for all development. 	Planning staff, PC, Land owners, Developers	Long

<p>As the availability of developable land on the Waccamaw Neck continues to decrease, Encourage development in other areas of the County adjacent to existing infrastructure water, sewer, stormwater and electric infrastructure. (from Goal 9)</p>	<p>Entire Encourage residential and non-residential development towards the periphery of urban cores to utilize existing infrastructure and utilities. Drive Encourage sustainable economic development towards southern and western portions of County where land is more plentiful and affordable.</p>	<p>Economic Development, Planning staff, PC, Land owners, Developers, Business partners</p>	<p>Short</p>
<p>Pursue state, federal, & private grants to help attain protect environmentally sensitive land and areas prone to flooding for greenways network and preservation of environmental habitats.</p>	<p>BRIC grants through FEMA and SCEMD. FMA grants through SCDNR SC Forestry Commission grants through Green Infrastructure Center (GIC). Evolve grant Santee Cooper Mitigation grants through nonprofits like the Bunnelle Foundation. - Pursue grants for mitigation through local state and federal agencies based on availability of local matching funds</p>	<p>SCDNR, SCEMD, SCFC, GIC, State and federal agencies, Nonprofits, Planning staff, Finance dept., Economic Dev</p>	<p>Long</p>

DRAFT (REDLINE VERSION)

2/8/23

<p>integrity of the County's waterbodies and wetlands.</p>	<p>like the (upcoming) such as the Georgetown County Watershed Plan, Murrells Inlet Watershed Plan, Waccamaw & Great Pee Dee Rivers Watershed Basin Plan, and the Waccamaw 208 Water Quality Mgmt Plan, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Ensure protection measures from SW Mgmt. and regional water utilities.-Develop a Marsh Front Mgmt. Plan that compliments the Beach Front Mgmt. Plan.-Complete update of the Beachfront Management Plan	<p>OCRM, SW Dept., Public Works</p>	
--	---	---	--

Goal 4: Preserve and Enhance Unique Plant, Fish, and Wildlife Habitats in the County, and prevent or mitigate adverse impacts due to human activities.

Objectives	Strategies	Participants	Time Range
<p>Protect endangered species and their natural habitats, prior to, during, and after development.</p>	<p>Prevent infiltration of development into these protected and rare habitats. -- - Require documentation of compliance with state and federal regulations regarding rare, threatened, and endangered species inventories for large scale developments as part of preliminary reviews. - Educate developers regarding such requirements. Work with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Low Country Land Trust to preserve more areas of Georgetown County as National Wildlife Refuges or sanctuaries.</p>	<p>Planning staff, TNC, SCDNR and other agencies, OCRM, County residents, Nonprofit groups</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Strive to reopen closed shellfish harvesting grounds and maintain the health of open shellfish harvesting grounds.</p>	<p>Develop and implement more stringent SW regulations and BMP's. Identify and implement Watershed Protection Areas that have different SW requirements based on water quality in specific areas. Reduce non-point source pollutants near marsh and wetland areas and enforce the reduction of said pollutants.</p>	<p>SCDNR, OCRM, Residents, SW Dept., Council, Planning staff, POA's, Fishermen</p>	<p>Medium</p>

Goal 5: Protect Prime Agricultural and Forest Lands in the County.

Objectives	Strategies	Participants	Time Range
<p>Protect agricultural and forest lands through Zoning regulations.</p>	<p>Revise Zoning Ordinance/ Review text of Land Use Element to add stricter include additional standards on rezoning FA Districts. -Assure that developers or land owners are not spot zoning rural lands. Discourage rezoning approvals of rural lands to high densities when adequate infrastructure is not available. -Propose area minimums for zoning districts to avoid spot zoning of rural areas. -Promote SC Arbor Day.</p>	<p>Planning staff, PC, developers, Timber industry, and Rural land owners</p>	<p>Short</p>
<p>Curtail Discourage urban sprawl.</p>	<p>-Address development regulations and zoning ordinance to add denser, smaller units, or cluster developments. -Amend zoning ordinance and land development regulations to promote allow conservation subdivisions in order to preserve rural, agricultural and forest land, open spaces, and natural vegetation by allowing denser, smaller units or cluster developments -Partner with nonprofit agencies and apply for housing grants to fund clustering projects. -Educate public on value of conservation and cluster subdivisions. -Incentivize these developments through the use of regulatory waivers such as setback reductions, reduced parking allowances, etc. -Help reduce the effects of urban heat islands by preserving the tree canopy.</p>	<p>Planning staff, PC, Developers, Private land owners, GHA, Habitat for Humanity</p>	<p>Medium</p>

DRAFT (REDLINE VERSION)

2/8/23

<p>Continue to strengthen policy on tree removal and landscaping requirements.</p>	<p>-Help prevent clear-cutting of lots protected trees and promote sustainable infill development in urban areas. Propose increased enforcement actions for unapproved tree removal. -Add more regulations on residential tree removal, including consideration of longleaf pines of certain DBH. -Research and pursue grants through the SC Forestry Commission for an urban forestry program in the Waccamaw Neck region</p>	<p>Planning staff, PC, timber companies, developers, private land owners</p>	<p>Medium</p>
--	---	--	---------------

Goal 6: Maintain and Protect the Proper Functioning of the County’s Waterbodies, Wetlands, Forests, and Wildlife Habitats Wetlands, Watersheds, and Flood Plains in the County for their natural, ecological and economic benefits. (Now combined with Goal 7)

Objectives	Strategies	Participants	Time Range
Create protection regulations for small-scale wetland losses.	Monitor and maintain an inventory of wetland impacts from development & fill. Work with the SC Enviro Law Project on adopting Draft a Wetlands Protection Ordinance	Planning & Zoning staff, USACE, OCRM, SCEL, Land owners	Medium
Strengthen regulations on development buffers, and clear-cutting of both protected and non-protected trees.	-Amend policy/ordinances to improve retention of natural tree landscapes and buffers between non-compatible land uses.	Planning staff, PC, Council, SCEL, GIC, Other regulatory agencies, Developers	Short
Encourage use of Natural & Nature Based Solutions (NNBS) should be utilized when possible.	- Research funding for sustainable NNBS projects through state/federal grants or other agencies (living shorelines) -Develop a policy to incentivize NNBS and the use of native vegetation instead of bulkheads through the use of regulatory bonuses, such as parking reduction, roof pitch, & height allowance (in certain areas). -Only permit hardened engineering measures to be used where NNBS are impractical or ineffective. -Create saltmarsh/wetland buffer requirements that may only use native vegetation instead of hard structures like bulkheads.	DHEC-OCRM, DNR, Engineers, Planning staff, Developers, Conservation groups	Medium
Synchronize Analyze County Zoning/Planning requirements and	- Review existing Land Developments Regs and Zoning requirements for	DHEC, DNR, FEMA, US Army Corps, OCRM,	Short

<p>efforts with the guidelines and requirements of existing agencies other County departments and minimize conflicts</p>	<p>conflicts with Stormwater and Public Works regulations - Secure more robust guidelines from other regulatory agencies and apply them to County regulations; stormwater, public works, and zoning.</p>	<p>Planning Staff, PC, Public Works, Stormwater Other regulatory agencies</p>	
<p>Protect floodplains to maintain their natural functions and to minimize damage from floods.</p>	<p>-Promote the cleaning, filtration, infiltration, and storage functions of floodplains and wetlands. -Continue to promote the CRS program and implement outreach & education projects.</p>	<p>Public education, OCRM, SCDNR, FEMA, Planning staff, Building official, Insurance agents, Land owners</p>	<p>Long</p>
<p>Expand on the East Coast Greenway project to connect scenic pedestrian and bike paths throughout Georgetown County. (from Goal 7)</p>	<p>- Partner with nonprofits, local municipalities, and SCDOT to connect the existing pedestrian paths & extend the Greenway wherever practicable while remaining cognizant of maintenance costs. - Review and update the current County Bike/Ped plan (see Transportation Element)</p>	<p>City and County Planning Dept., SCDOT, Nonprofits, Regulatory agencies</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Ensure the continued functional integrity of the County’s rivers, streams, and wetland ecosystems & implement strategies and recommendations from County watershed studies. (from Goal 7)</p>	<p>Ensure protection measures, including SW Mgmt and Regional Water plans. Preserve the environment and water quality of the Murrells Inlet watershed by reducing pollution, runoff, and the degradation of the inlet. Partner with upstream Counties to curtail unbridled development along stream and river systems to reduce catastrophic flooding downstream.</p>	<p>Watershed Counties and municipalities, WRCOG, County SW Dept., Planning staff, Social groups, Other state regulatory agencies</p>	<p>Medium</p>

DRAFT (REDLINE VERSION)

2/8/23

	-Review and consider implementation of recommendations from sources such as the Georgetown County Watershed Plan, Murrells Inlet Watershed Plan, Waccamaw & Great Pee Dee Rivers Watershed Basin Plan, and the Waccamaw 208 Water Quality Mgmt Plan		
Increase areas of open space around developed parcels. (from Goal 7)	Incentivize and/or mandate Consider new requirements for open spaces as part of newly proposed development plans for large residential subdivisions.	Planning & Zoning staff, PC, County Council	Short
Increase public access to natural resources. (from Goal 7)	-Identify areas where public access to beaches is limited. -Support efforts to create more public access points to the beaches, rivers, and inlets.	Planning and Zoning staff, Public Works, SCDOT, Town of Pawleys Island	Medium

Goal 7: ~~Protect the natural and scenic beauty of the County’s forests, rivers, tidal marshes, and wildlife habitats for natural, ecological, and economic benefits.~~ (Now combined with Goal 6)

Objectives	Strategies	Participants	Time Range
Identify funding mechanisms to support and facilitate natural resource protection.	Apply for funding for sustainable natural and nature-based solution (NNBS) projects through state grants (living shorelines, greenways)	SCOR, SCP&R, SCDHEC, SCDNR, SCDOT, FEMA, Nature Based Exchange	Long
Expand on the East Coast Greenway project to connect scenic pedestrian and bike paths throughout Georgetown County.	– Partner with nonprofits, local municipalities, and SCDOT to connect the existing pedestrian paths & extend the Greenway wherever practicable	City and County Planning Dept., SCDOT, Nonprofits, Regulatory agencies	Medium
Ensure the continued functional integrity of the County’s rivers, streams, and wetland ecosystems & implement strategies and recommendations from County watershed studies.	– Ensure protection measures, including SW Mgmt and Regional Water plans. – Preserve the environment and water quality of the Murrells Inlet watershed by reducing pollution, runoff, and the degradation of the inlet. – Partner with upstream Counties to curtail unbridled development along stream and river systems to reduce catastrophic flooding downstream.	Watershed Counties and municipalities, WRCOG, County SW Dept., Planning staff, Social groups, Other state regulatory agencies	Medium
Increase areas of open space around developed parcels.	Incentivize and/or mandate open spaces as part of newly proposed development plans.	Planning & Zoning staff, PC, County Council	Short
Increase public access to natural resources.	– Identify areas where public access to beaches is limited. – Support efforts to create public access points to the beaches, rivers, and inlets.	Planning and Zoning staff, Public Works, SCDOT, Town of Pawleys Island	Medium

Goal 8 7: Promote ~~the designation of additional wildlife preserves~~ and encourage the conservation of natural habitats including, but not limited to, forest, river systems, estuaries, wetlands, and salt marshes.

Objectives	Strategies	Participants	Time Range
<p>Establish more areas of protected land. Encourage the protection of environmentally sensitive tracts.</p>	<p>-Identify properties of interest. -Identify marsh/wetland migration corridors. - Distribute conservation easement information to priority conservation properties. -Utilize existing land protection programs (e.g. the SC Conservation Bank Act), work with nonprofits and state agencies to preserve undeveloped areas and/or place them in conservation. -Expand on State Scenic River designation of the Black River. -Continue to support SC DNR’s scenic rivers program</p>	<p>Planning staff, County Council, Nonprofits, Universities, State agencies, Federal agencies</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Discourage development or require Encourage preservation of environmentally sensitive areas.</p>	<p>-Develop policy to incentivize protection of wetland and forested areas through density bonuses and other regulatory waivers. -Offer tax breaks for conservation easement.</p>	<p>County staff, County Council, Nonprofits, Developers, Private land owners</p>	<p>Short</p>
<p>Promote conservation through sales tax or grants.</p>	<p>-Explore the utilization of the new County Green Space Sales Tax Act (2022).</p>	<p>County staff, County Council, Property owners</p>	<p>Short</p>

Goal 9: ~~Direct new growth and sustainable development to areas and locations of the County that minimize the potential for negative impacts upon the region’s greenspace ecosystem. (Now combined with Goal 2)~~

Objectives	Strategies	Participants	Time Range
Utilize existing infrastructure to avoid significant negative impacts from development on the natural environment.	Drive development towards or adjacent to urban areas to utilize existing water, sewer, stormwater, and electric infrastructure.	Utility Companies, City and County planning, Developers	Medium
Incentivize cluster development and smart growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reward or incentivize Consider a policy of regulatory incentives for conservation development and open space requirements that protect the natural environment. -Improve on Review the pervious/ impervious ratios for all development. 	Planning staff, PC, Land owners, Developers	Long
As the availability of developable land on the Waccamaw Neck continues to decrease, Encourage development in other areas of the County adjacent to existing infrastructure water, sewer, stormwater and electric infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Entice Encourage residential and non-residential development towards the periphery of urban cores to utilize existing infrastructure and utilities. -Drive Encourage sustainable economic development towards southern and western portions of County where land is more plentiful and affordable. 	Economic Development, Planning staff, PC, Land owners, Developers, Business partners	Short
Explore the potential for a new Natural Resources Committee to review development proposals that impact the County’s natural resources. (See Goal 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Develop a model using other coastal county ordinance(s) and regulations as a model. -Explore a Resiliency and Sustainability advisory panel to review developments and their impacts on natural resources before PC meeting. -Committee/panel to advise on new conservation tracts. 	Planning staff, Regulatory agencies, County Council, Public volunteers	Medium

Goal 10 8: Promote environmental, science-based education for local decision-makers, businesses, and members of the public.

Objectives	Strategies	Participants	Time Range
<p>Raise level of understanding and appreciation for natural resources and other environmental topics and issues.</p>	<p>Initiate environmental protection training for County Officials (including PC and Council members) each year. –Continue participation in environmental trainings offered by groups such as the North Inlet/Winyah Bay NERR by staff, County Boards, design professionals and the public</p>	<p>County staff and officials, Board members, Nonprofits, Universities, State agencies, Federal agencies</p>	<p>Short</p>
<p>Increase public awareness of the County’s unique natural vegetation and habitats. (Combine with objective above)</p>	<p>Implement Work with local environmental/educational groups to provide education on various topics, such as: -Natural & Nature Based Solutions (NNBS), planting native vegetation, the effects of non-point source pollutants, sea-level rise and salt water intrusion. -Explore new software to help with the CRS program and educate public on the program’s importance.</p>	<p>Planning staff, Public, SW Dept., Civic groups, POA’s, K-12 schools, Nonprofits, Parks & Recreation, State agencies, Federal agencies</p>	<p>Short/ Medium</p>
<p>Prevent forest fires and foster healthy forest ecosystems.</p>	<p>Participate in efforts to educate the public on the importance and benefits of prescribed burns.</p>	<p>Public, DNR, Parks & Rec., Civic groups, POA’s, Fire Depts</p>	<p>Medium</p>