



## **Environmental Advisory Committee**

4:00 p.m., Thursday, April 10, 2025

Council Chambers

1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC 29451

### **Agenda**

1. **Call to order** and acknowledgment that the press and the public have been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act
2. **Citizen's Comments**
3. **Approval of previous meeting's minutes – March 13, 2025**
4. **Presentations**
5. **Old Business**
  - i. Wildlife
    - a update on interpretive sign effort
    - b update on treat trees on the island
  - ii. Litter - discussion of lighting ordinance
  - iii. Water Quality
    - a update on water quality testing program
    - b update on City engaging Federal lobbyist
  - iv. Climate Action- update on sand placement at Breach Inlet
6. **New Business**
  - i. Discussion of Kiawah Good Neighbor policy
  - ii. Update- Community Enhancement Task Force recommendation
  - iii. Update on glass recycling through Fisher Recycling
  - iv. Update- solid waste grant for composting caddies
7. **Miscellaneous Business**

Next meeting date: 4:00 p.m., Thursday, April 10, 2025
8. **Adjournment**



## ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:00pm, Thursday, March 13, 2025

1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

and broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>

### MINUTES

#### 1. **Call to order**

Present: Laura Lovins, Mary Pringle, Eric Cicora, Cindy Marrs, Sean Popson, Todd Murphy

Absent: Dane Buckout, Lucia Spiotta, Council Member Miars

Staff Present: Director Kerr, Zoning Administrator Simms, Asst. Director Asero

#### 2. **Citizen's Comments**

Blair Ammon spoke with concern about the presence of cyanobacteria in the water. She hopes to secure more recent water quality tests from the Charleston Water System and the IOP Water & Sewer Commission than what is currently available.

#### 3. **Approval of previous meeting's minutes**

**MOTION: Ms. Pringle made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2025 meeting, and Ms. Marrs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### 4. **Presentations – none**

#### 5. **Old Business**

##### A. **Wildlife**

Ms. Pringle said she recently worked at the native plant garden, noting that Purple Martins are moving into the gourds. Another cold-stunned turtle was found in Wild Dunes. Turtle nesting season begins on May 1. She said the QR code on the turtle signs at the beach access paths is no longer working and is working to get it fixed.

Ms. Lovins shared that she and Ms. Smith looked at possible spots for the signs at the public dock and have discussed content. They have spoken to sign companies and shared the idea with Kirby Marshall of ATM. A portion of the funding may come from the Marina and Islander 71. Any outstanding funds will be brought to City Council for their consideration. More details about the number of signs, costs, and content will be reported at the April meeting.

**B. Litter**

Mr. Murphy reported that a review of lighting ordinances from surrounding coastal municipalities show that IOP's ordinance needs to address other areas of the island and not just the front beach. The proposed ordinance offers some changes including shining light down and not shining light beyond the boundaries of your property. It is not as technical as the lighting ordinance from the City of Folly Beach, but more could be added later.

Discussion ensued about ways to communicate the specifics of the lighting ordinance to residents and visitors. Of concern was the use of flashlights on the beach at night. Mr. Cicora believes there would be a lot of pushback from people prohibited from using a flashlight on the beach, adding that most people on the beach from October through May are residents. Ms. Pringle added that she has seen families with flashlights hunting ghost crabs. Director Kerr shared that the City's intent with the lighting ordinance as it relates to turtle season was only meant for buildings.

Word changes were offered. Mr. Murphy will make revisions and send it back to out to the Committee. He shared that compliance in other communities is citizen enforced. Director Kerr will have the Police Department weigh in on its enforceability.

Asst. Director Asero said the RFP for the beach trashcan pickup is ready to go out in June or July. He has spoken with those who might be interested submitting a bid. He is waiting to hear from Wild Dunes about the placement of the corrals.

City staff is implementing roadside cleanups during summer and hopes to offset some of the expense with a Palmetto Pride grant.

**C. Water Quality**

Ms. Lovins reported that Ms. Ammon used AI to help interpret the water quality testing data from GEL. She reviewed those with higher than acceptable outcomes. Mr. Murphy said he would like to match the readings from the first water quality study against these current results. Zoning Administrator Simms stated he is meeting with the environmental specialist from Mt. Pleasant Waterworks next week to discuss the results. He has a map of outfalls he can send to the Committee so the data can be matched up.

Director Kerr added that it will be important drill down in the data to understand the origin of the higher nitrogen levels in three area.

Director Kerr said the Administration Committee interviewed two federal lobbyists and will make their recommendation to the City Council at the March 25 meeting.

**D. Climate Action**

Director Kerr said the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan was formally presented to City Council on March 11. Members of the Planning Commission and Zoning Administrator Simms will be working with that plan and the recommendations from the Community Enrichment Plan to

identify areas of overlap. He anticipates environmentally-related recommendations making their way to this committee in 2-3 months.

The USACE has begun placing sand at Breach Inlet. The City has received the State permit for the shoal management project.

**6. New Business**

**A. Discussion of using tree fund money to treat trees on the island that need nutrients and trimming**

Ms. Lovins said she noticed a live oak at the Recreation Center is not looking well. She would like to have an arborist identify those trees in public areas that are in need of care. Zoning Administrator Simms, who is an arborist, said the tree at the Recreation Center has been treated, and he will look at the others across the island.

Director Kerr believes the tree fund, which is used to pay for palm tree trimming, can also be used to treat trees in public areas as needed. He said that if the care that is needed is below a certain threshold, they can move forward without needing to present it to City Council.

**B. Discussion of glyphosate pesticide ban**

Asst. Director Asero said the City does not use glyphosate in its landscaping. Ms. Lovins will meet with the landscape contractor for the WDCA to see if they are using glyphosate in their work. Ms. Marrs said she would speak to the resort about how the golf courses are treated. Both Ms. Lovins and Ms. Marrs will report back their findings in April.

**C. Discussion of Kiawah's Good Neighbor policy**

Mr. Murphy referenced a brochure in the meeting packet that is distributed by Kiawah Island. He believes it is worthwhile to have such a brochure for the Isle of Palms that could be added to rental agencies' welcome packets, the City's website, and beach signage.

**7. Miscellaneous Business**

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 4pm.

**8. Adjournment**

Mr. Murphy made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Pringle seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk

**Fireworks Update - Feb 13, 2025 EAC Meeting**

Presented by Susan Hill Smith, Isle of Palms Cleanup Crew Cofounder

**Bottom Line on How We Can Reduce Environmental Impact**

**Other available alternatives to July 4th fireworks shows don't seem viable at this time:**

- **Drone shows** - in windy coastal environments currently appear to pose a greater risk for injuries and cancellations than firework shows - see further details from Folly Beach on page 2. Plus, drone shows are currently more expensive than fireworks when looking at costs for shows of the same length.
- **Laser shows** - evidently require a backdrop for the display than the ocean & empty sky cannot easily provide.
- **No-debris fireworks** - are much more expensive and apparently don't have the same range for viewing. They are typically used when people need to be close to the show displays (cruises & stadium events). Even though they burn up more completely, no-debris fireworks involve more plastic materials than the fireworks shells used by the City of Isle of Palms' fireworks contractor, Munnerlyn Pyrotechnics, according owner Brent Munnerlyn.

**But there appears to be an easy opportunity that could significantly reduce the plastic debris and some smoke caused by the show on Isle of Palms, starting this summer.**

- In addition to fireworks shells, the IOP's July 4th show include "cake barrages" - rapid fire sequences of smaller fireworks typically seen at lower levels.
- Most of the plastic debris and lower-level smoke generated from the IOP show comes from including a lot of cake barrages, according to Munnerlyn, who says IOP's former fire chief liked and requested them.
- Cake barrages are fun but not essential to a good show, and it's not unusual for a coastal community to go without them. Munnerlyn told me he agrees with removing them for environmental reasons and as a result of our discussion plans to remove them from other coastal shows that his company does.
- Other than cake barrages, Munnerlyn says the fireworks shells that his company uses are almost all biodegradable, with the exception of the "quick match" - a roughly 2-foot-long fuse that ignites the shell. For safety reasons, he said, that needs to be plastic, but most of the quick match burns up, so it generates only a small amount of debris.

**There are other concerns related to fireworks that this does not address:**

- Impact of noise and light on wildlife & pets
- Residue of fireworks/explosives left in the air, ocean and beach
- Cost of show - \$40,000 + staff overtime

- Stretching staff on what is already the busiest beach day/week of the year
- Late-night traffic gridlock, event management & public safety issues

However, removing fireworks without some kind of replacement could be a difficult/ divisive conversation for the community and is at risk of being shot down by City Council.

The only other alternative that I can think of would be in staging a July 4th event - maybe at the Rec - geared toward residents. This could be during the daytime & tied to the longstanding golf cart parade - or a small-scale fireworks display at night with no-debris fireworks (if that's even possible in that space). But making either of those switches would come with challenges, planning demands, etc. and might not be embraced by the community.

Also, a likely valid line of thinking is that by providing a professional fireworks display, less people are likely to set off fireworks on their own, which is illegal on the island but happens anyway, impacting neighbors and creating safety issues.

#### **Details from the Folly Beach drone show**

- I spoke directly with Kelly Travers, Folly Association of Businesses (FAB) event coordinator & the point person for the attempted New Year's Eve drone show.
- With their Town Council approval, FAB organizes and pays for Folly's fireworks shows on July 4th & Dec. 31.
- On behalf of FAB, Travers researched alternatives to fireworks, including laser shows, which she ruled out because it lacks the needed backdrop for projection.
- She got quotes from three drone companies and chose the middle quote.
- She invested time in assisting the selected company on the 15 slide designs - most of which had local meaning, for example, Morris Island Lighthouse.
- They did a "beautiful" test run of the drone show on Dec. 30 with no concerns.
- The next day, however, high winds were forecasted. While the contractor was certified to do shows in winds up to 30mph and the CEO told Travers they should be safe, she expanded the area restricted from viewing out of an abundance of caution.
- While not the same company, the Folly event came on the heels of an Orlando, Florida incident earlier in the month in which a boy required heart surgery after a drone injured him during a holiday show.
- Early reports say the winds on the ground were 18mph, but Travers suspects the wind sheer at the top of the display was much stronger. She noticed that the top of the lighthouse display was missing and said a few of the drones did fall.
- The show stopped early on when one of the viewers reported being brushed by a drone and had scrapes on his cheek. The drones used by the company were a little larger than a hand.

- The FAA is still investigating. FAB has not received a refund for the show.
- As a result of Folly's experience, Travers would not currently advise paying for a drone show in a coastal environment that's susceptible to high winds. She also noted that it can be hard to get insurance for drone shows. FAB will likely discuss the issue at its March meeting.

## Isle of Palms Cleanup Crew Annual Report



*Looking back at 2024*

### IOP Cleanup Crew Snapshot

IOP Cleanup Crew uses volunteer power to keep the coast clean, protect natural ecosystems and public health, document litter data, and help solve the pollution crisis. Since 2018, thousands of volunteers have joined the crew to collect more than 225,000 litter items, while documenting the data in the [Litter Journal](#), established by South Carolina Aquarium, which also assists us at our events. **Note:** We plan to create an official board and become an 501c3 nonprofit by spring of 2025.

### Our Welcome Committee

Cofounder/leader **Susan Hill Smith**, **Howard Hogue** (Beach Santa), **Rebecca Stephenson**, **Colleen Lehrke**, **Paula Richnafsky** (South Carolina Federal Credit Union community representative), **Linda Rowe** (conservation programs manager for South Carolina Aquarium), and **Beth Timon** (aquarium volunteer).

### Event Schedule

We have established a year-long rhythm of regular litter sweeps. Frequency correlates to increased beach traffic and warmer weather, which influences the amount of litter.

- October through February – second Monday of the month, 4:30-5:30 pm
- March to end of May – spring litter sweep series every other Monday, with a 5:30 pm special welcome that’s good for students and other new volunteers, with a litter sweep until 7 pm.
- Memorial Day week Wednesday to Labor Day – 2 litter sweeps a week: Mondays from 6-7 pm and our Wednesday Breakfast Club from 7-8 am
- In 2024, we partnered again with IOP Police on a July 5th morning litter sweep for three litter sweeps that holiday week.
- We occasionally support other groups, businesses and orgs with off-schedule litter sweeps.





### **Our Volunteers & Supporters**

We involve volunteers from IOP & throughout the Lowcountry, as well as out-of-town visitors.

Our average attendance at our special spring series of sweeps was 90. That includes our April 22 Earth Day litter sweep, one of our highest ever attended events with 125+ volunteers, including City of IOP employees. In summer, our weekly Monday night litter sweeps have an average attendance of 37, and Wednesday morning Breakfast Club average was 12.

The City of Isle of Palms supports the “citizen scientists” of IOP Cleanup Crew by covering costs of T-shirts & magnets, which allow volunteers free City parking during events. Palmetto Pride and the aquarium have helped with supplies. IOP restaurants - Windjammer, Coconut Joe’s, Lawrence’s, Smugglers, The Boathouse, Acme, Sea Biscuit & Cafe Paname - offer discounts to volunteers after litter sweeps.

### **Special 2024 Litter Sweeps**

- We held a “pop-up” Saturday litter sweep after mild impact from Hurricane Helene. With the OK of City staff, we intentionally targeted debris related to the severe erosion and destruction of docks, etc. at the southwest end of the island.
- In October 2024, we went on location for the first time to support Sullivan’s Island Elementary School’s PTA & Kaleidoscope with an after-school litter sweep with guests from North Charleston Elementary, which put together [this excellent video](#).





- We secured extra attention from local TV news outlets - [like this Channel 4 segment](#) - around the post-Fourth of July litter sweep that we typically do with Isle of Palms Police Department - helping to draw attention to the “dirtiest beach day of the year.”
- We are thankful to be featured on the City’s website and see our Facebook posts shared occasionally in the City’s social media.

### Continuing efforts around cheap boogie boards



- In early 2024, Susan and IOP Environmental Advisory Board Chairwoman Sandy Brotherton successfully lobbied the IOP Harris Teeter to stop selling a common kind of cheap boogie boards that break apart easily with the potential to unleash hundreds to thousands of styrofoam beads into the environment.

- More recently, Susan has connected with the director of Isle of Palms County Park. She is talking to the all the county beach parks about eliminating this class of boards from the options they sell to park-goers.
- We are targeting a distinguishable kind of board - fabric cover on top, plastic mesh on bottom - crumbly old-school styrofoam inside. All boogie boards contain some kind of foam, but these low-quality boards appear to pose the most threat.
- Susan plans to reach out directly to wholesale distributors of beachgear, starting with one in Myrtle Beach that supplies stores throughout the Southeast, to see if they will eliminate the cheap boards from their offerings.
- We will also try to promote opportunities on IOP to rent boogie boards that are built to last.

### **Analysis of 2024 IOP Litter Data**

Isle of Palms Cleanup Crew uses the South Carolina Aquarium's Litter Journal (an online platform available to the public) to itemize and document the litter we collect, as do other individuals and groups. A large percentage of our data – and the Litter Journal data for IOP – comes from the Front Beach area, which along with the adjacent area for Charleston County Park attracts the most IOP visitors.

### **Litter Journal Totals & Trends for IOP**

#### **Smoking litter continues to decrease on streetscape**

- The percentage of recorded beach litter tied to smoking declined from 34% in IOP Cleanup Crew's first year (2018) to 21% in 2021 & 2022. This correlates with increased conversation/awareness around cigarette litter and IOP enacting a ban on smoking at the



beach at the start of 2020.

- From 2022 to 2023, the percentage of litter tied to smoking dropped again on the beach (21 to 16%) and on the streetscape, including parking lots (44 to 39%). This correlates

with the City installing more cigarette receptacles, including Surfrider’s eye-catching “Save Your Butt” canisters, with Environmental Advisory Committee support.

- During 2024, the City made more concerted efforts to empty canisters, and the percentage of litter tied to smoking on the streetscape, where smoking is still legal, dropped 5 points to 34%.
- While the percentage of beach litter tied to smoking stayed constant YOY at 16%, we anticipate a further drop in 2025 if IOP Beach Services Officers continue to issue warnings and tickets for smoking on the beach, as they began to do mid-summer 2024.
- Working more with Front Beach businesses to increase available receptacles on their properties and encourage proper litter disposal could help continue the downward trend on the streetscape. Sandy Brotherton worked on this previously for the EAC.
- Cigarette litter is still the #1 litter item documented for the streetscape. It dropped to #2 on the beach in 2023 and remained there for 2024.

### **IOP’s Litter Journal count dropped noticeably in 2024 with less “solo” sweeps by Beach Santa**

For nearly a decade, Howard Hogue (Beach Santa) has devoted a significant amount of his time to independently collect litter on Isle of Palms for free, and in 2018, he began to document that with the Litter Journal. He continues this practice, but is steering more time to other parts of the Lowcountry, and early last year, he had a heart attack, which initially slowed him down.

While the total 2024 litter count for IOP in the Litter Journal showed a YOY drop of 7,826 items, an 11% dip, Howard’s IOP totals dropped by 9,566 as he did less than half the number of “solo” litter sweeps on IOP as he did the year before. The City of Isle of Palms should factor this into their efforts to increase paid litter collection in the Front Beach area.

### **A look at the relative volunteer level of effort**

This snapshot looks at counts from volunteers in similar group efforts for comparison purposes and can indicate changes in the amount of litter over time. The 2022 to 2023 drop was likely influenced by the notable drops in the % of our litter count tied to smoking on both the beach and

the streetscape - declining smoking litter may mean declining litter overall, though there is little



change from 2023 to 2024.

- 2022: 60,487 debris items were removed by 1,382 group volunteers (43.7 debris/volunteer LOE)
- 2023: 48,786 debris items were removed by 1,339 group volunteers (36.4 debris/volunteer LOE)
- 2024: 51,786 debris items were removed by 1,409 group volunteers (36.7 debris/volunteer LOE)

We can't track this but know many groups and individuals collect litter on their own without recording in the Litter Journal. With growing awareness and initiatives that include the Fill A Bag bucket tree at Front Beach, untracked efforts have likely increased and influence the litter amounts our volunteers encounter.

### **IOP Litter Data Totals**

**61,933 litter items documented for Isle of Palms (IOP)**, according to total Litter Journal data for 2024. That's down 7,826 from 69,759 litter items in 2023, likely due to the dip in litter sweeps by Beach Santa.

**6,900 litter items (11% of total) removed by Howard Hogue (aka Beach Santa)** in 23 "solo" sweeps (2 Beach sweeps, 21 Roadside sweeps). That's less than half his litter sweeps (52) and his litter count (16,446) in 2023.

**51,786 litter items (84%) removed by IOP Cleanup Crew & friends**, including 4 SC Aquarium-led sweeps. In total: 41 group sweeps (9 private groups, 4 off-season monthly sweeps, 6 Spring sweeps, 11 Monday Night Summer sweeps, and 11 Summer Breakfast Club sweeps). That reflects 1,409 recorded instances of volunteering, most for 30-60 minutes.

**46,497 items (75%) involve some type of plastic.** That includes cigarette butts, which have plastic threads. All other material types were found in much lower quantities (Paper - 12%, 7,202; Metals - 4%, 2,452; Glass - 1%, 655; Other items [clothes, wood & construction debris, fireworks, etc.] at 8%, 4,927).

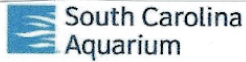
**41,512 litter items removed from beach habitat.** Of these items, **16% (6,467)** were some form of smoking debris (cigarette filters, cigar tips, eCig parts).

**20,421 litter items** removed from roadside, parking lots, and developed areas of the island. Of these items, **34% (6,902)** were smoking debris.

<b>Beach Top 15 Littered Items (87% of all beach litter)</b>	
Plastic Food Wrappers + Film	7009
<b>Cigarettes + Filters</b>	<b>6070</b>
Paper + Cardboard	4535
Plastic Caps + Lids	3345
Other Plastic	2359
Plastic Fragments (rigid)	2218
Clothing, Shoes + Fabric	1805
Styrofoam (other)	1706
<b>Plastic Straws</b>	<b>1526</b>
Plastic Straw Wrappers	1381
Other Items (please list)	1056
Plastic Toys	955
Fireworks	839
Plastic Cups, Plates, etc.	718
Plastic Bottles	670

<b>Streetscape Top 15 Littered Items (93% of streetscape litter)</b>	
Cigarettes + Filters	6642
Paper + Cardboard	2639
Plastic Food Wrappers + Film	2173
<b>Plastic Straws</b>	<b>1702</b>
Plastic Caps + Lids	1031
Other Plastic	752
Other Metals	669
Plastic Cups, Plates, etc.	565
Plastic Fragments (rigid)	528
Clothing, Shoes + Fabric	388
Plastic Straw Wrappers	362
Glass Bottles + Fragments	356
Beverage Cans (aluminum)	349
Plastic Bottles	299
Other Medical Supplies	211





### Litter Journal Report

Input data and photos: <https://www.anecdata.org/projects/view/122>

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Participants: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Habitat: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Duration: \_\_\_\_\_

**When possible, include descriptions/brands!**

#### Plastics

Bags – Non-Retail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bags – Retail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bottles: \_\_\_\_\_  
Caps/Lids: \_\_\_\_\_  
Food Wrappers/Film: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Fragments (rigid): \_\_\_\_\_  
Straws/Stirrers: \_\_\_\_\_  
Straw Wrappers: \_\_\_\_\_  
Styrofoam (food/drink): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Styrofoam (other): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Toys: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cups/Plates (etc): \_\_\_\_\_  
Utensils: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Plastics (list): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Smoking-related Items

Cigarettes/Filters: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cigars/Tips: \_\_\_\_\_  
Electronic Cigarette Parts: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lighters: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tobacco Packaging: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Balloons:

#### Medical Supplies/Personal Hygiene

Band-Aids/Gauze: \_\_\_\_\_ Condoms: \_\_\_\_\_  
Diapers: \_\_\_\_\_ Masks: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other (list): \_\_\_\_\_

#### Metals

Beverage Cans (aluminum): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Food Cans (tin/steel): \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Metals (list): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Miscellaneous Items

Batteries: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clothing/Shoes/Fabric: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fireworks: \_\_\_\_\_  
Paper/Cardboard: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rubber (hard/foam): \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Items (list): \_\_\_\_\_

#### Dumping of Large Items

Appliances (list): \_\_\_\_\_  
Full Trash Bags: \_\_\_\_\_ Car Parts: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tires/Tire Pcs: \_\_\_\_\_  
Building Materials: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Fishing Gear

Fishing Line/Nets: \_\_\_\_\_ Rope: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other (hooks, lures, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

#### Glass

Bottles/Fragments: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other (list): \_\_\_\_\_

#### Special IOP Tally

Sandbags: \_\_\_\_\_ Plastic sandbag threads \_\_\_\_\_  
Boogie boards (note if broken): \_\_\_\_\_

**Sec. 5-4-17. ~~Sea turtle protection; outdoor~~ Outdoor lighting regulations.**

~~The purpose of this section is to control light spillage and glare so as not to adversely affect motorists, pedestrians, natural areas, vistas, and land uses of adjacent properties. More specifically, this section is intended to:~~

- ~~• Control lighting to assure that excessive light spillage and glare are not directed at adjacent properties, neighboring areas, and motorists;~~
- ~~• Protect livability and enjoyment for residents and visitors;~~
- ~~• Filter and reduce glare from artificial light sources, preventing "sky and neighborhood glow"; and~~
- ~~• Avoid negative impacts to Sea Turtles and other wildlife from exterior lighting.~~

(a) *Definitions.* The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

- (1) *Artificial light* means any source of light emanating from a manmade device, including, but not limited to, incandescent, mercury vapor, metal halide, or sodium lamps, flashlights, spotlights, streetlights, vehicular lights, construction or security lights.
- (2) *Floodlight* means reflector-type light fixture which is attached directly to a building and which is unshielded.
- (3) *Low profile luminary* means a light fixture set on a base which raises the source of the light no higher than forty-eight inches (48") off the ground, and designed in such a way that light is directed downward from a hooded light source.
- (4) *Development* means any existing structure for which a building permit has been duly issued and any new construction or remodeling of existing structures when such remodeling includes alteration of exterior lighting.
- (5) *Person* means any individual, firm, association, joint venture, partnership, estate, trust, syndicate, fiduciary, corporation, group or unit, or Federal, State, County or municipal government.
- (6) *Pole lighting* means a light fixture set on a base or pole which raises the source of the light higher than forty-eight inches (48") off the ground.
- (7) Beachfront property means any property that is adjacent to the beach or dunes or any structure that can be seen from the beach.

~~(b) *Development.* No artificial light shall illuminate any area of the beach other than in compliance with this section. Building and electrical plans for construction of single family or multifamily dwellings, commercial or other structures, including electrical plans associated with parking lots, dune walkovers or other outdoor lighting for real property if lighting associated with such construction or development can be seen from the beach, shall be in compliance with the following:~~

~~(b) *Use of lighting.* It is the policy of the City for both new and existing development to minimize artificial light illuminating any area of the beach visible from the beach and limit light spillage on natural areas, vistas, and adjacent properties. To adhere to this policy, outdoor lighting and lighting of structures shall be in compliance with the following:~~

- (1) ~~For the protection of Sea Turtles and other wildlife, no artificial light shall illuminate any area of the beach visible from the beach~~

**Commented [TM1]:** Is there a reference to this section elsewhere in the ordinance that would also need to be updated to reflect this change to the section title?

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- (2) ~~For beachfront properties, Floodlights-floodlights shall be prohibited. External Wall-wall-mounted light fixtures shall be fitted with hoods so that no light illuminates the beach visible from the beach.~~
- (3) ~~Lights illuminating buildings or associated grounds for decorative or recreational purposes shall be shielded or screened such that they are not visible from the beach.~~
- (24) Pole lighting shall be shielded in such a way that the point sources of light will not be visible from the beach. Outdoor lighting shall be held to the minimum necessary for security and convenience.
- (35) Low-profile luminaries shall be used in parking lots and such lighting shall be positioned so that no light illuminates the beach.
- (46) ~~Lights illuminating dune crosswalks of any area oceanward of the primary dune line shall be shielded or screened such that they are not visible from the beach. Dune crosswalks shall utilize low profile shielded luminaries which shall be turned off from sunset to sunrise during the period of May 1 to October 31 of each year.~~
- (57) Temporary security lights at construction sites shall not be mounted more than fifteen feet (15') above the ground. Illumination from the lights shall not spread beyond the boundary of the property being developed and in no case shall those lights illuminate the beach.
- (8) ~~Lights illuminating buildings or associated grounds for decorative or recreational purposes shall be shielded or screened such that they are not visible from the beach.~~
- (9) ~~Security lights shall be permitted throughout the night so long as low-profile luminaries are used and screened in such a way that those lights do not illuminate the beach.~~
- (10) ~~Outdoor lighting on residential or commercial structures facing the Intracoastal Waterway, marsh, or other natural areas must be shielded so that light is directed downward and does not shine directly onto the natural area.~~
- (11) ~~Outdoor lighting of any kind shall not shine directly into the yard or windows of adjacent residential uses.~~

(c) ~~Use of lighting. It is the policy of the City for both new and existing development to minimize artificial light illuminating any area of the beach and limit light spillage on natural areas, vistas, and adjacent properties. To adhere to this policy, outdoor lighting and lighting of structures which can be seen from the beach shall be in compliance with the following:~~

- (1) ~~Lights illuminating buildings or associate grounds for decorative or recreational purposes shall be shielded or screened such that they are not visible from the beach, or turned off from sunset to sunrise during the period of May 1 to October 31 of each year.~~
- (2) ~~Lights illuminating dune crosswalks of any area oceanward of the primary dune line shall be turned off from sunset to sunrise during the period of May 1 to October 31 of each year. shielded or screened such that they are not visible from the beach~~
- (3) ~~Security lights shall be permitted throughout the night so long as low-profile luminaries are used and screened in such a way that those lights do not illuminate the beach.~~
- (4) ~~Outdoor lighting shall not shine directly into the yard or windows of adjacent residential uses.~~
- (5) ~~Outdoor lighting on residential or commercial structures facing the Intracoastal Waterway, marsh, or other natural areas must be shielded so that light is directed downward and does not shine directly onto the area.~~

(d) ~~Individual use of lights. No unfiltered light shall be shown near on adult sea turtles, turtle eggs, hatchlings, or other any other wildlife on the beach.~~

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(e) *Publicly owned lighting.* Streetlights and lighting at parks and other publicly owned beach areas shall be subject to the following:

- (1) Streetlights shall be located so that most of their illumination will be directed away from the beach. These lights shall be equipped with low-pressure sodium bulbs and shades or shields that will prevent backlighting and render them not visible from the beach.
- (2) Lights at parks or other public beach access points shall be shielded or shaded or shall not be utilized during the period of May 1 to October 31 of each year.

(f) *Enforcement and penalty.* Violation of any provision is hereby declared to be a misdemeanor, punishable and enforceable pursuant to the provisions of section 1-3-66.

(Code 1994, § 5-4-17)

**Welcome to Kiawah Island! We hope you enjoy your stay.**



**You will be among many permanent residents during your stay. Please be a good neighbor.**



**Ordinances are enforced and failure to comply may result in citations.**



**To report a violation, call 843-259-2137.**



## **GET IN TOUCH**

4475 Betsy Kerrison Parkway  
Kiawah Island, SC 29455  
843-259-2137  
[www.kiawahisland.org](http://www.kiawahisland.org)



**GOOD  
NEIGHBOR  
BROCHURE**



## PARKING

- Leave a 25 foot clearance to the rental property for emergency response vehicles.
- Parking on the grass or landscaped areas is prohibited. Overnight parking must be off-street.
- Only park approved number of vehicles at rental properties.



## STORAGE

- No clothing or towels are permitted to be draped over deck railing.
- Bicycles and beach gear must be stored in a garage or enclosure from dusk until dawn.



## NOISE

Noise ordinance night-time hours in effect:

- Monday-Thursday from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. to not exceed 60 decibels.
- Friday- Saturday from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. to not exceed 60 decibels.
- Sunday from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. to not exceed 55 decibels.

Daytime noise cannot exceed 70 decibels from Monday to Saturday; or 65 decibels on Sunday.



## WILDLIFE

- Never feed, harass, or approach alligators and other wildlife such as dolphins; or sea turtles or shorebirds, hatchlings, or their nests.
- Never swim or allow pets to swim in the island ponds and stay away from pond edges. Alligators may be present.



## BEACH

- No glass, metal shovels, plastic carry out bags, plastic straws, Styrofoam, balloons, or drones allowed. Please fill all sand holes.
- Stay off the dunes and use public walkovers.
- No wading/swimming in Captain Sam's Inlet (western end of the island).
- No overnight storage of beach equipment.
- Vehicles are not allowed on the beach.



## OCCUPANCY

- Maximum occupancy for rental properties is two occupants per bedroom. Two additional occupants are allowed per dwelling unit.



## FIRE & FIREWORKS

- No open fires or fireworks (beach included).



## LIGHTING

(May 15- October 31)

- Outdoor lighting, facing seaward in beach front units must be turned off from 9 p.m. to 8 a.m.
- Outdoor lighting for all other dwellings shall be turned off from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily.



## PETS

- Never allow pets to swim in any of the island ponds and keep them away from pond edges. Alligators may be present.
- Pets must be leashed at all times outside unless in an enclosed area. Please clean up after your pet.
- Pets are allowed on the beach year-round in designated areas. For more on year-round leash area and seasonal leash restrictions, visit [www.kiawahisland.org/leash](http://www.kiawahisland.org/leash).



## ELECTRIC

- Private motorcycles, mopeds, Segways, motorized scooters/ skateboards, hoverboards, and e-bikes are prohibited (per KICA guidelines).

**From:** [Elizabeth Fisher](#)  
**To:** [Douglas Kerr](#)  
**Cc:** [chris@fisherrecycling.com](mailto:chris@fisherrecycling.com); [Matt Simms](#); [Robert Asero](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: [EXTERNAL] Glass Recycling  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 8, 2025 11:16:20 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[inkv-injection-inliner-209b06d63f3139b7bbda7129634c80da.png](#)  
[inkv-injection-inliner-03755809cc10337ec572b1f12a6beedf.png](#)

[EXTERNAL]



**Caution:** External (elizabeth@fisherrecycling.com)

First-Time Sender



Sure, Doug and thank you very much for reaching out.

The Glass situation at the county has remained the same. The market for Glass is extremely limited and what truly is being “recycled” is still being used as road bed cover at the recycling plant. If any trucks are hauling glass to the end market, is Extremely contaminated and not good quality recycling. By the city participating in this program you are continuing to offer your citizens and outlet to keep glass out of the landfill.

Very Sincerely,

**Elizabeth Fisher | Owner**  
[Fisher Recycling & GlassEco Surfaces](#)  
[elizabeth@fisherrecycling.com](mailto:elizabeth@fisherrecycling.com)

**Office:** [\(843\) 554-6099](tel:(843)554-6099)  
**Mobile:** [\(843\) 200-0293](tel:(843)200-0293)

4214 Domino Ave, Suite D, North Charleston, SC 29405

Proud to be a founding member of the [Professional Women in Building](#), Charleston Chapter  
Click here for more info about joining today!



On Tue, Apr 8, 2025 at 10:44 AM Douglas Kerr <[dkerr@iop.net](mailto:dkerr@iop.net)> wrote:

Elizabeth and Chris- can you advise on the question below? We would like to update the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Thanks, Douglas

Douglas Kerr

City Administrator

City of Isle of Palms

P.O. Drawer 508

Isle of Palms, SC 29451

(p) 843-886-6428

(c) 843-666-9326

(f) 843-886-8005

To submit service requests or sign up for city text alerts:

Text **"Hello"** to **(877) 607-6467**

**Connect with IOP!**



\*\*\* WARNING \*\*\* All e-mail correspondence to and from this address may be subject to public disclosure under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

---

**From:** Douglas Kerr

**Sent:** Friday, March 7, 2025 5:42 PM

**To:** 'Kathy Campbell' <[iopcampbell@gmail.com](mailto:iopcampbell@gmail.com)>

**Cc:** John Bogosian <[john.r.bogosian@comcast.net](mailto:john.r.bogosian@comcast.net)>; Scott Pierce <[scott.pierce@prodigy.net](mailto:scott.pierce@prodigy.net)>;

Katie Miars <[katiemiars@gmail.com](mailto:katiemiars@gmail.com)>; Matt Simms <[msimms@iop.net](mailto:msimms@iop.net)>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Glass Recycling



Ms. Campbell- we will try to pin down what is being done with the glass at the County and provide updated information to the EAC when we have it.

Just for clarity, the City has always been aware that the County accepts glass in the recycling program, but we have been advised as recently as this summer that most, if not all, is crushed and placed as road bed material in the landfill and then ultimately covered up in the landfill. Depending on the demand, the County has also been able to resell some of the glass but the last we inquired, the price was too low so it was all being used as road bed material.

The service with Fisher intentionally keeps the material out of the landfill, which is what led the EAC to recommend the service.

This industry is very much driven by current market prices, so it is good to check in periodically, so we will do that again.

Thanks, Douglas

Douglas Kerr

Deputy City Administrator

Director of Building, Planning and Licensing

City of Isle of Palms

P.O. Drawer 508

Isle of Palms, SC 29451

(p) 843-886-6428

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**Connect with IOP!**



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---

**From:** Kathy Campbell <[iopcampbell@gmail.com](mailto:iopcampbell@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 7, 2025 12:49 AM  
**To:** Douglas Kerr <[dkerr@iop.net](mailto:dkerr@iop.net)>  
**Cc:** John Bogosian <[john.r.bogosian@comcast.net](mailto:john.r.bogosian@comcast.net)>; Scott Pierce <[scott.pierce@prodigy.net](mailto:scott.pierce@prodigy.net)>;  
Katie Miars <[katiemiars@gmail.com](mailto:katiemiars@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Glass Recycling

[EXTERNAL]



External ([iopcampbell@gmail.com](mailto:iopcampbell@gmail.com))



Hey Douglas,

Just following up from my email two months ago to which I had no response. Last year, after I informed you that CHS County does in fact recycle glass, I inquired as to why we are paying a private contractor to do this. You answered that the environmental committee set it up and it would be revisited in Jan 2025. May I have an update please?

Thank you,

Kathy Campbell

843-886-0408

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Kathy Campbell <[iopcampbell@gmail.com](mailto:iopcampbell@gmail.com)>

**Date:** January 16, 2025 at 1:29:48 PM EST  
**To:** Douglas Kerr <[dkerr@iop.net](mailto:dkerr@iop.net)>  
**Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Glass Recycling**

Hello Douglas and Happy New Year to you. Just checking back in to see what the Environmental Advisory Committee review revealed about glass recycling.

Thank you,

Kathy Campbell

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 22, 2024, at 2:11 PM, Douglas Kerr <[dkerr@iop.net](mailto:dkerr@iop.net)> wrote:

Ms. Campbell- the City has verified that some amount of glass is now recycled through the County, but we do believe that some portion of it is still used as road bed material within the paths of the landfill. We cannot confirm the percentages of each.

The Environmental Advisory Committee reviewed this information at their last meeting and felt it would be worthwhile to monitor the County's commitment to reselling the material, particularly if the market becomes less favorable than it currently is. Apparently resell values fluctuate considerably over time.

A fair amount of effort has been put into changing public's behavior in terms of recycling glass and the Committee felt that it could be short sighted to pivot away too quickly. Additionally, the City has a one year agreement with Fisher Recycling that will not expire until the end of 2024. The Committee committed to reviewing the County's glass recycling status at that time and making a recommendation to Council on the issue.

Thank you for your note and we appreciate the insight.

Thanks, Douglas

Douglas Kerr  
Deputy City Administrator  
Director of Building, Planning and Licensing  
City of Isle of Palms  
P.O. Drawer 508  
Isle of Palms, SC 29451  
(p) 843-886-6428  
(f) 843-886-8005

\*\*\* WARNING \*\*\* All e-mail correspondence to and from this address may be subject to public disclosure under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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**From:** Kathy Campbell <[iopcampbell@gmail.com](mailto:iopcampbell@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 22, 2024 1:32 PM  
**To:** City Council <[citycouncil@iop.net](mailto:citycouncil@iop.net)>  
**Cc:** Kathy Campbell <[iopcampbell@gmail.com](mailto:iopcampbell@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Glass Recycling

[EXTERNAL]

<image001.png> **Caution: External** ([iopcampbell@gmail.com](mailto:iopcampbell@gmail.com)) <image002.png>  
First-Time Sender

Dear Council Members,

I am following up on an email I sent a couple of months ago regarding glass recycling on IOP. I have reached out to both Council member Miars and Douglas Kerr more than once with no response.

Again, the Charleston County recycling flyer states that it DOES recycle glass and I confirmed this on the phone with an employee there. So, why are we paying a private company for this service?



# **IOP THRIVES! COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT PLAN**

*To enhance the quality of life and overall experience for all who live, work, and play on the island.*

**February 2025**

## Letter from the Mayor



Dear Residents of Isle of Palms,

I am proud to present the final Community Enrichment Plan, a culmination of the hard work and dedication exhibited by our Community Enrichment Task Force. Over the course of one year, this group met regularly to assess our community's needs and develop thoughtful recommendations aimed at enhancing the quality of life for all residents and visitors on the Isle of Palms. Their work is rooted with substantial community input, including a community wide survey and two community listening sessions.

The insights and recommendations generated by the Task Force are anchored in the belief that our community thrives when we prioritize collaboration and proactive engagement. Their recommendations encompass a variety of initiatives from enhancing public safety, to balancing tourism with quality of life, and environmental stewardship, while also fostering initiatives that promote connection and engagement among residents.

These recommendations are for Council to act upon in alignment with the city's strategic plan. I encourage every member of our community to take the time to review this report. Your feedback is invaluable as we move forward with the implementation of these recommendations. Together, we can ensure that the Isle of Palms becomes the most sustainable, family-friendly beach community in South Carolina.

Thank you to the members of the Task Force and to The McNair Group, who facilitated our process, for their unwavering commitment to our community. I am excited about the future and the positive changes that lie ahead.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phillip Pounds". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Phillip Pounds

## Executive Summary

In late 2023, city Council appointed a Task Force to develop a **Community Enrichment Plan** as part of the island's strategic planning and the **IOPThrives!** initiative. This Task Force was charged with providing recommendations to city Council to ensure Isle of Palms continues to thrive as one of the leading island communities of South Carolina and the Southeast. Key outcomes for this plan were to ensure the Island continues its strong reputation as:

- A safe, sustainable, and friendly beach community;
- A place that welcomes residents and visitors to enjoy unparalleled amenities and natural resources;
- An island that is a leader in environmental preservation and sustainability; and
- An island community committed to balancing the “live, work, play” values: residential neighborhoods, thriving businesses and active visitors.

**Community Input:** Substantial community input and data were collected to guide the city on how to proactively respond to the complex challenges of regional population and tourism growth while ensuring that Isle of Palms thrives. An island-wide survey with over 750 respondees set the priorities for planning. The city hosted two open forum listening sessions to enhance the survey information. Additionally, interviews were held with a number of city staff members to further inform the process.



**Island Priorities:** Utilizing this primary and secondary data, the task force organized the work in four focus areas:

- Environmental Leadership
- Safety Assurance
- Seasonal Impacts: Parking & Traffic
- Quality of Life (including all general aspects regarding social, recreational, short-term rentals, and safeguarding island-life values - family friendly live, work, play)

It was determined that enhanced communications, island education, strong partnerships with neighboring communities, along with use of advanced technology and innovative approaches would be central to meeting collective goals. The Task Force submits this work as a ‘living plan’ for consideration to be monitored by IOP Council and Staff at least semi-annually for progress reporting.



**Our Partners:** The project is funded by Explore Charleston through Isle of Palms accommodations tax funds. Research was conducted by The McNair Group and College of Charleston Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities.

**The Community Enrichment Task Force:** Task Force members were selected by city Council, based on their engagement within the community and expertise in their respective areas of livability and tourism management.

Maryanne Chalmers  
Paige Grimball  
Patsy Hindman  
Ben Marks  
Beverly Miller

Joe Ready  
Bill Skeens  
Susan Hill Smith  
Alex Stone  
Hugh Swingle

Linda Tucker  
Rod Turnage  
Sarah Vega

**Thank you:** This Task Force worked tirelessly, volunteering more than 2000 hours of time to help chart a plan forward. The members wish to thank all residents and businesses who provided input throughout the process. A special thanks goes to the IOP staff who attended all meetings, provided timely and helpful support, and made themselves available for any needs.



## **ENVIRONMENTAL**

**Purpose:** To protect the future of our island community and natural ecosystems by prioritizing environmental conservation, sustainability, resiliency and adaptation. In the face of dramatic challenges that include pollution, threatened natural resources and forecasted sea-level rise of one (1) foot by 2050, the city must act urgently and mindfully while engaging residents, visitors and organizations in solutions.

**Vision:** To be a welcoming, environmentally conscious and resilient coastal community committed to enhancing the quality of life for those who come here to live, work and play.



### **Priority: Leadership**

Strengthen leadership on environmental challenges – including those that threaten the livability and economic health of our island – inspiring and earning the respect of citizens, visitors and other communities.

#### **Goal 1: Natural Resource Management**

Focus on resiliency and natural resource management, exploring adding STEM-trained staff devoted to these areas, as other coastal communities in the region already have.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Preserve, protect, manage and enhance the island's natural resources – including the beach, salt marsh and natural areas in the island's interior.

- Secure grants, provide community education, and collaborate with neighboring communities and state agencies.
- Have in-house, STEM-focused staff ready for conversations on environmental policy and practices.
- Protect the city's best interests with cost-effective planning and increased oversight of contractors for resiliency initiatives, including beach preservation and drainage projects.

## **Goal 2: Ordinances**

Use ordinances related to environmental issues more effectively.

### **Recommendations:**

- Proactively enforce and track violations to environmental ordinances, including those related to beach lights, litter, building, development and tree protections.
- Evaluate whether more resources (ex. staff) are needed for proper enforcement.
- Coordinate with property managers and cleaning companies on proper garbage disposal and beachfront lights out policies.
- Require acknowledgement of city's beach rules as part of the online parking checkout process.

## **Goal 3: Data Collection & Usage**

Collect and use environmental data to inform decisions and educate the public.

### **Recommendations:**

- Develop consistent data collection that includes water quality testing for the ocean, creeks, marsh and interior; surveys of related wildlife and ecosystems; and sea level rise measurements.
- Make environmental data easy to understand, access and share.

## **Goal 4: Resiliency & Adaptation**

With Planning Commission leadership and involvement of the Environmental Advisory Committee, develop a unified plan for resiliency and adaptation.

### **Recommendations:**

- Advance recommendations from city's developing Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan.
- Model, map & monitor areas most susceptible to sea level rise, flooding & storm surges.
- Predict social and economic impacts of climate changes, including cost calculations.

- Explore recommendations for zoning, retrofitting, setbacks for new construction.
- Determine and articulate long-term goals for Adaptation plan that are proactive and transparent.
- Communicate these elements effectively to the public.

## **Goal 5: Energy Practices**

Adapt city's energy practices as a model for residents, visitors, businesses and other communities.

### **Recommendations:**

- Add solar panels to city buildings when it makes sense for sun exposure and roof replacement schedules.
- Explore transition to battery-powered landscaping equipment to reduce carbon emissions, air & noise pollution.
- Consider requesting sustainable practices in city's request for proposals and bids.
- Encourage fuel efficiency as a consideration when buying new vehicles.
- Evaluate feasibility of safety of adding electric vehicle charging stations.

## **Goal 6: Promotion**

Promote Isle of Palms' natural resources and positive environmental practices.

### **Recommendations:**

- Make IOP's environmental leadership a clear and consistent part of the city's brand.
- Highlight related wins and best practices through the city's communication channels, including the developing environmental section of iop.net.
- Secure more related media coverage.
- Add signs to public dock to highlight the location's natural resources, geography and history.
- With IOP Cleanup Crew, pursue IOP Conservation Station exhibit at Front Breach.

## **Goal 7: Effective Communication**

Deepen stakeholder engagement through effective communications.

### **Recommendations:**

- Develop plan to increase awareness of challenges and solutions that includes "Do No Harm" messaging for residents, visitors, developers and businesses.

- Provide QR codes in city signage and required messaging for STR's that direct visitors to environmental rules and best practices.
- Explore ways to better share rules with non-English speaking visitors.
- Create a guide – available electronically and in print form – for residents, developers, contractors and property managers to promote IOP native plants, trees, eco-friendly landscaping and lighting practices.
- Add an annual eco-themed event to the Recreation Department's annual calendar.
- Involve public in South Carolina Aquarium's Searise sign project.

## **Priority: Beach Restoration & Preservation**

To maintain a healthy, wide sandy seven miles of beach to support and protect property, public use, ecosystems and the economy.

### **Goal 1: Monitor**

Monitor the health of the entire beach.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Be proactive rather than reactive in beach preservation with quarterly surveying and monitoring.
- Consistently track, project and evaluate the impact of sea level rise, king tides and storms.

### **Goal 2: Be Prepared**

Be prepared for action.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Pursue promising "natural defense" strategies.
- Have standing permits for agreed-upon projects for beach restoration, shoal management and emergency situations.

### **Goal 3: Informed Decision Making**

Make informed decisions, striving to "Do no harm."

#### **Recommendations:**

- Be fiscally responsible without letting the lowest immediate expense drive decisions.
- Involve Environmental Advisory Committee in review of beach preservation efforts.

- Develop consistent signage policies on dune preservation, with approved options that residents can deploy on their property.
- Include acknowledgment of beach rules as part of the permitting process for events.

### **Goal 4: Funding Model**

Firmly establish a fiscally sound funding model for beach renourishment.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Create a collaborative sense of shared responsibility with the state, local communities and county governments, beach users, and property owners.
- Annually fund beach restoration and maintenance in the city’s budget.
- Continue to explore ways to increase consistent revenue streams for beach renourishment.
- Lobby SC legislators to take on greater fiscal responsibility for maintaining state’s beaches, which they maintain jurisdiction over.
- Consider a policy to only use city funds in conjunction with granted property easements and funding from shared stakeholders – unless a disaster has been declared.

## **Priority: Flooding/Storm Resiliency**

Become more disaster resistant by embracing solutions to increased flooding and storm risks.

### **Goal 1: Drainage Projects**

Accelerate already existing comprehensive list of city drainage projects.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Pinpoint and generate more funding for the remaining major projects, including grant opportunities, to cover estimated costs.
- Put more projects in the pipeline, rather than 1-2 at a time.

### **Goal 2: Septic Systems and Grinder Pumps**

Support transition away from septic systems and grinder pumps.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Work with Isle of Palms Water and Sewer Commission to aggressively pursue grant funding – possibly engaging a federal lobbyist – to support extension of public sewer system.

- Encourage neighborhoods to work collaboratively to facilitate connection to the public system without grinder pumps.
- Routinely collect floodwater samples to pinpoint problems and help prioritize areas where individual onsite disposal systems should be replaced.
- Explore funding to aid elderly and fixed income residents in connecting their residences to the public sewer system.
- Inspect septic systems upon transfer of ownership to create an inventory of existing systems, collect data on system failures and educate new owners.

### **Goal 3: Underground Power Lines**

Advance underground power line projects to protect power use and trees.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Work with energy provider to accelerate already requested projects.
- Develop master plan for converting all remaining areas to underground lines.
- Consider location of at-risk palmettos – important to our community’s identity & resiliency – and other significant native trees in setting priorities.
- Press energy provider to drop use-it-or-lose-it provision of its annual contributions to the non-standard service fund for Isle of Palms, which can help pay for underground projects but currently must be used within five to six years.

## **Priority: Building an Eco-Corridor**

Establish IOP and surrounding natural ecosystems, including salt marsh, as a thriving eco-corridor that also supports flooding resiliency.

### **Goal 1: Collaboration**

Engage and work with conservation organizations and neighbors.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Join the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative (SASMI).
- Consult with groups like Charleston’s M.A.R.S.H. project, Charleston Waterkeepers, Charleston Climate Coalition, South Carolina Aquarium, Barrier Island Eco Tours, Coastal Expeditions and Audubon Society.
- Partner with neighboring coastal communities, especially Mount Pleasant & Sullivan’s Island.

### **Goal 2: Maximizing Native Plants & Trees**

Maximize opportunities for native plants throughout the island.



**Recommendations:**

- With guidance from local experts, emphasize native plants and gardens at all city parks and properties.
- Include in Request for Proposals (RFPs) for landscaping.
- Target city properties at risk of flooding for adding examples of “rain gardens” and dry ponds.
- Encourage and provide incentives for residents, businesses, developers, Wild Dunes Resort and Homeowner Associations (HOA’s) to increase native plants on residential and commercial properties.
- Pursue grants to support re-wilding, rain gardens, and salt marsh retreat in vulnerable residential areas.
- Involve residents in planting and monitoring vegetation to help stabilize drainage ditches/canals.

**Goal 4: Tree Ordinances**

Review and establish ordinances that are friendly to native trees.

**Recommendations:**

- Evaluate and modify the city’s tree ordinances to elevate conservation of native tree species such as palmetto, live oak, pine and wax myrtle. Explore funding a city-wide tree survey to document all native trees on the island.

**Priority: Litter**

Strive for zero litter in public places and natural spaces.

**Goal 1: Removal**

Remove litter routinely with paid personnel and volunteers.

**Recommendations:**

- Recruit volunteer neighborhood captains for regular cleanups of non-commercial sections of beach and island’s interior.
- Create paid IOP Conservation Team to target litter in busy beach and commercial areas by adding seasonal, part time positions geared to students interested in eco/civic careers. (Isle of Palms Cleanup Crew & SC Aquarium’s conservation team can guide educational component.)
- In addition to existing Front Beach setup, explore adding the following to high-traffic beach access paths, with placement closer to the street than dunes:
  - Cleanup bucket tree
  - "No Toys Left Behind” bin

- Bench for visitors to help them collect their things

## **Goal 2: Beach Trash Collection**

Reconsider and improve city's beach trash collection system.

### **Recommendations:**

- Consider transitioning to a new system with **covered** trash receptacles to prevent trash from turning into litter.

## **Goal 3: Sustainable Practices**

Support sustainable practices in island businesses and restaurants.

### **Recommendations:**

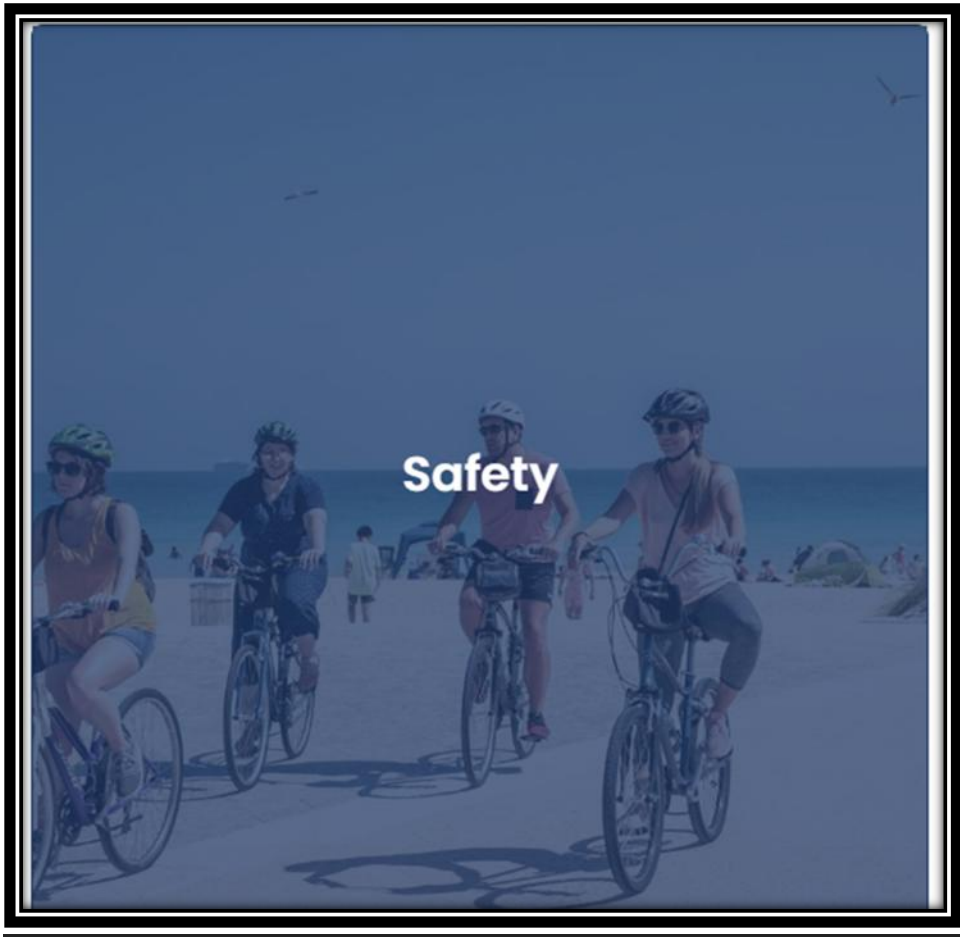
- Adjust packaging ordinances to close loopholes and align with neighboring municipalities.
- Partner with Chamber of Commerce and Isle of Palms Cleanup Crew on workshops for businesses on sustainability practices.

## **Goal 4: Messaging**

Provide more consistent and effective litter messaging.

### **Recommendations:**

- Consistent message on welcome signs to “Leave Only Footprints” and “See Beach Rules at [www.iop.net](http://www.iop.net).”
- Signage at ALL public beach access points with No Smoking message + QR code or complete list of restrictions for beachgoers.
- More local promotions with links/QR codes pointing to iop.net “Beach Rules” – including tie-ins with Beach Shuttle.



## SAFETY

**Purpose:** To provide the safest possible environment in which residents, visitors and workers can live, work and play. Promote collaborative efforts, education and proactive safety initiatives. Fully provide fire and police services for the city's needs to enforce laws that prioritize safety for all.



### **Priority: General Safety**

Ensure safety for all residents, businesses and visitors.

#### **Goal 1: Communication Channels & Key Partnerships**

Utilize new and existing communication channels, as well as partnerships with public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and island businesses, to further enhance safety for residents, visitors, and employees on Isle of Palms.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Explore creating an electronic means (text or web-based form) of contacting police and generating incident reports for non-emergency issues, which includes acknowledgement of receipt and notification of next steps.
- Identify and promote an electronic process for residents, property owners, and businesses to proactively provide background information about their property and special needs of individuals living there to assist Public Safety personnel when they respond to an emergency.
- Monitor safety conditions and rule compliance at the public dock daily, confirming the presence of a life-saving ring, and evaluating the condition of dock surfaces and railings.
- Frequently incorporate safety-related information in messages from multiple city communication channels; place particular emphasis on increasing use of Sunnie for real-time communication. Suggested topics include but are not limited to, paramedics on the island, importance of reporting non-emergency situations,

emergency preparedness, Coffee with a Cop, emergency/incident notification (e.g. Connector closed due to accident, avoid an area due to fire, etc.), and personal property safety (locking doors, etc.).

## **Goal 2: Education and Enforcement**

Increase education efforts & enforcement of golf cart/Low Speed Vehicle (“LSV”) operating rules.

### **Recommendations:**

- Work with golf cart rental companies to develop a communication piece for distribution to each renter, a placard/sticker to be posted in each cart, and/or a pledge to be signed by all renters that emphasizes state and local laws.
- Consider passing an ordinance adding a requirement for golf cart and LSV owners/users to read and agree to a golf cart/LSV safety pledge emphasizing state and local laws.

## **Goal 3: Speed Limit Signage & Monitoring**

Identify areas on the island to improve or reinstall speed limit signage and add speed monitoring to improve overall safety for residents and visitors.

### **Recommendations:**

- Advocating to appropriate state agencies, ex. South Carolina Department of Transportation (“SCDOT”), to reinstall speed limit signs removed from Waterway Boulevard, Palm Boulevard, and any other interior streets that experience frequent speed limit violations.
- Request permission from SCDOT to install permanent speed monitoring/reporting mechanism near Waterway Boulevard & 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue to collect real-time data, informing the need for more frequent traffic enforcement.
- Identify locations on the island with the most repetitive parking violations that impact safety and evaluate the need for signage.

## **Goal 4: Coyote Management**

Improve coyote management efforts.

### **Recommendations:**

- Given the increased activity, assess the costs, risks, impacts to public beach access, and benefits of taking more aggressive measures, such as depredation on public property; seek appropriate state agency, ex. Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”) and state support, if it is determined to be necessary to protect the public’s safety.
- Adapt existing Coyote Management Plan to add color-coded threat levels defining triggers for moving between levels AND actions that the city will take at each level.
- Establish a notification process that would communicate: 1) color-coded threat levels and 2) den locations or reported sighting/incidents so appropriate precautionary measures may be taken. Notify property owners of their right to

- set traps and depredate coyotes on their private property, per DNR guidelines.
- Notifications should occur via multiple communication channels to include text.
- Consistently add temporary warning signs to beach paths where coyotes are active.

## **Priority: Beach Safety**

Provide a safe beach for all to enjoy and enforce ordinances.

### **Goal 1: Police Staffing & Presence**

Increase police staffing and presence during the beach season.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Explore ways to increase police officer and beach safety officer staffing during peak summer hours.
- Recruit from areas that have high demand in winter months.
- Recruit semi-retired officers.
- Create a beach safety lane, where necessary, by maintaining a corridor from the dune for emergency access.

### **Goal 2: Public Awareness**

Increase public awareness of beach safety issues.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Restore, update and improve signage for dune protection, coyotes and beach rules.
- Increase public media messages regarding all safety matters.

### **Goal 3: E-Bikes & Electric Skateboards**

Increase safety on the beach with regards to E-Bikes and Electric Skateboards.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Restrict e-bike usage with speed limitations on beach accesses.
- Extend restriction of e-bikes to April 1st through September 14th

### **Goal 4: Firearms**

Ban firearms from the beach.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Collaborate with other beach communities to request state officials to ban firearms from the beach.
- Get community/resident support to change state laws to designate the beach as a no firearms zone.

## **Goal 5: Overnight Items**

Better control over items which are allowed to be left on the beach overnight.

### **Recommendations:**

- Require registration of any Hobie Cat and volleyball nets that might be left on the beach (similar to Myrtle Beach and Hilton Head).

## **Priority: Pedestrian Safety**

Enhance pedestrian safety with improved infrastructure, education, and enforcement.

### **Goal 1: Prioritize in Key Areas**

Prioritize pedestrian safety throughout the island with emphasis in key areas such as Palm Boulevard, Waterway Boulevard and commercial areas surrounding the connector.

### **Recommendations:**

- Explore installing “in-pavement lighting” on existing crosswalks on Palm Boulevard for increased visibility to advancing cars with brighter paint to designate pedestrian space.
- Maintain 4’ off pavement chalk line on Palm Boulevard more than just weekends.
- Request new, more accurate renderings of Palm Boulevard including existing driveways, beach paths, mailboxes and drainage ditches prioritizing safety of residents and beachgoers. Engage the Berkeley Charleston Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG) to study and supply technical data to improve pedestrian safety.
- Increase the width of the existing sidewalk on Palm Boulevard landside between 21st and 40th and trim all overgrown vegetation. Consider marking cross streets to indicate pedestrian crossing.
- Increase enforcement of speed limit along Palm Boulevard 21st-41st in the off season.
- Consider adding more crosswalks and sidewalks island wide based off data from walkability study with emphasis on 27th, 28th, and 29th streets surrounding the recreation center. Possible funding may come from the infrastructure funds.
- Program intersection at IOP connector and Palm Boulevard that emphasizes the pedestrian right of way with use of lead pedestrian intervals (all-way stop) and raised materials that designate pedestrian space.
- Request updated traffic study to help direct makeover of Palm Boulevard that focuses on pedestrian safety along with traffic and seasonal adjustments.
- Revisit wayfinding signage plan and improve throughout the island.

## **Priority: Bike Safety**

Ensure bicyclists are safe as they navigate on the island.

### **Goal 1: Bike Lanes**

Improve bike safety by encouraging bikers to areas of the island with less traffic and

parking by leveraging the existing bike lane and improving it.

**Recommendations:**

- Clean, better mark, maintain, increase signage and possibly enlarge existing bike lanes on Palm Boulevard from 14th Avenue to Breach Inlet.
- Create a clear path off the connector to bike to Front Beach/County park incorporating the existing path from 14th to Breach inlet.
- Encourage bikers in the direction of the existing bike lane from 14th Avenue to Breach Inlet with improved signage and education of local bike groups to avoid the areas of Palm 21-41<sup>st</sup> Avenues where there is more parking and traffic.
- Determine feasibility for a bike route off the main roadways and sidewalks through neighborhoods or other lower traffic areas. i.e. Waterway Boulevard on the east bound side.
- Install bike repair/air station at the public safety building and recreation center

**Priority: Public Safety**

Ensure Isle of Palms can attract and retain public safety talent.

**Goal 1: Continuous Improvement & Workforce**

Support public safety departments by ensuring best practices through a robust Continuous Improvement Program while offering public safety positions designed to attract and retain employees.

**Recommendations:**

- Consider hiring independent consultants to assess performance and departmental needs periodically.
- Combat attrition by performing an annual review of compensation packages and adjusting to make and keep IOP public safety positions competitive. Match or exceed those of comparable roles.
- Consider post-retirement health care options for public safety personnel, possibly with the assistance of state/county organizations.
- Provide training budgets that meet the ever-changing needs of the Police and Fire Departments.
- Modify the court schedule to have less impact on work shift schedules. Investigate virtual options.
- Explore ways to compensate for the lack of affordable local housing. Look at cost of living increases, housing allowances, and/or incentives for IOP property owners to rent to public safety personnel. Explore using city-owned property to provide housing alternatives for city employees. Assess/survey if this would be desirable to city staff to determine if the market for this exists.

**Priority: Supplementation & Growth**

Ensure island safety at all times of year, including when there are seasonal peaks.

**Goal 1: Emergency Personnel & Equipment**



Evaluate our emergency personnel and equipment based on the seasonal peak demands to ensure adequate response times due to regional population growth.

**Recommendations:**

- Evaluate partnerships with Wild Dunes Resort and Wild Dunes Community Association to establish a staffed and equipped public safety building inside of Wild Dunes reducing response times, providing much-needed training space, and providing respite for police officers following traumatic experiences or waiting between court appearances and the start of their shift.
- Hire seasonal, part-time police officers, recruiting retired police officers when possible; one such position to serve as a transport officer.
- Require local businesses hosting events to pay for additional police support to avoid having to pull scheduled patrol officers away from patrolling the rest of the island.

**Priority: Tools & Equipment**

Ensure the island has the tools and equipment to provide a safe environment.

**Goal 1: Worst Case Scenario Planning**

Provide needed equipment to maintain safe conditions on the island during worst case scenarios.

**Recommendations.**

- Conduct annual review of equipment needs to include considerations for things like a high-water vehicle for the Fire Department and more diverse patrolling options for the Police Department (bicycles, motorcycles or all-terrain vehicles, etc.). Explore resource sharing.
- Consider how to best acquire an accelerant and explosive detection canine for large events, which may include a mutual aid agreement and/or shared use with other jurisdictions.
- Ask the Police Department to present a plan for a formalized drone program utilizing licensed volunteers to supplement the police force. Ensure the plan clearly defines public spaces where drone use can help monitor activity and identify when this type of surveillance is needed (i.e., proactive vs. reactive monitoring, special events, seasonal, emergencies only, etc.).



## **SEASONAL IMPACTS: PARKING AND TRAFFIC**

**Purpose:** Enhance the quality of life for residents and improve the visitor experience by identifying optimal parking and traffic solutions given increasing tourism and population growth.

**Vision:** By June 2026 Isle of Palms will have an updated Beach Visitor Parking Study, with a thorough and forward-thinking approach to beach visitor parking. This plan would be aimed at improving parking efficiency and traffic flow while adhering to an updated parking count as outlined in the Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plan (“LCBMP”). The plan would identify immediate changes that can be implemented quickly while ensuring they align with the broader, longer-term plans outlined in the study.



### **Priority: Parking**

Ensure a sustainable plan for the future which addresses visitor demand and rising costs associated with increasing visitor growth.

### **Considerations**

Successfully welcoming day visitors to the beach and ensuring everyone's enjoyment of the island's natural resources begins with safe and effective traffic flow. Given rapid population growth in Charleston County and recent holiday traffic counts surpassing 25,000 vehicle trips, evaluation of current traffic patterns are needed to avoid traffic gridlock on high season days (ie, July 4th, Memorial Day, etc).<sup>1</sup> Our parking expense far

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<sup>1</sup> Charleston County's population in 2024 is 429,384, a 22.33% growth rate since 2010; projected population for 2029 is 455,323, assuming a 1.18%/yr. growth rate. Mt. Pleasant's population in 2024 is 96,600, a 42.39% growth rate since 2010; projected population for 2029 is 103,200.

outweighs the income from parking, given both direct (maintenance of SCDOT property) and indirect costs (public safety personnel, increased garbage collection, etc.). While SCDOT owns and controls the majority of roads on Isle of Palms, the city is responsible for maintenance.

### **Goal 1: Explore Solutions**

Identify and develop near-term solutions and ongoing processes which protect residential neighborhoods and provide an enjoyable experience for residents and visitors alike.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Update the 2013 Stantec Beach Visitor Parking Study.
- Engage Charleston County for help with the increasing expenses of tourism resulting from population growth, increased demand for beach access, and the finite land mass of the island.
- Lobby the state Legislature to assist coastal municipalities with the increasingly burdensome impacts of tourism.
- Develop a plan for the city to acquire residential roads from the South Carolina Department of Transportation (“SCDOT”).

### **Goal 2: Accurate Data & Reporting**

Formally recognize parking spaces and encroachments that are not included in the current LCBMP.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Determine the number of spaces and, where appropriate, formally add the following free spaces to the Parking Plan when the LCBMP is updated:
  - Public right of way adjacent to the IOP Post Office
  - Unregulated public right of way at IOP Recreation Center on Hartnett Boulevard between 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Avenues
  - Designate a certain number of spaces for IOP Recreation Center use ensure adequate spaces for visitors and residents using the Recreation Center.

### **Goal 3: Parking Optimization**

Provide efficient, safe parking that steers visitors toward the city’s Front Beach lots and other designated visitor parking spaces on the island to accommodate seasonal visitor access and community preference.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Hire a consultant to develop a plan which may include:
  - Adjusting parking footprint that optimizes both the number of spaces in the LCBMP and traffic flow
  - Registered/monitored parking along state highway - if feasible and supported by the community - which satisfies state law and does not add to the traffic or congestion issues in the neighborhoods

- Free beach parking in a city lot to encourage parking at Front Beach

#### **Goal 4: Palm Boulevard**

Expedite the parking process for visitors by establishing intentional, managed parking along Palm Boulevard to enable drivers to readily identify a parking space.

##### **Recommendations:**

- Revisit the Palm Boulevard streetscape proposal.
- Request SCDOT fulfill its commitment to replace the “temporary” concrete markers on the landward side of Palm Boulevard with aesthetically-pleasing, low-profile markers.
- Clearly delineate the spaces on the Seaward side of Palm Boulevard.
- Continue maintaining the 4' chalk parking line along Palm Boulevard each week, and ideally reapply after a significant rain event during high season.
- Continue supporting the SCDOT-approved Parking Plan, especially the residential parking zones.

#### **Goal 5: Communication**

Effectively communicate parking availability for residents and visitors during the high season.

##### **Recommendations:**

- Provide real-time data on parking availability via parking registrations/payment
- Promote parking resources through Sunnie, Beach Reach app, and <https://parkiop.org>.
- Continue to promote alternative means for driving to the beach: use of the Beach Shuttle from Mount Pleasant or cycling, for example.

### **Priority: Traffic**

Ensure optimal flow of traffic, which meets demands of accelerating visitor growth.

#### **Goal 1: Isle of Palms Connector**

Efficiently move traffic on the Isle of Palms Connector (SC-517), especially during high-demand periods such as weekends and holidays.

##### **Recommendations:**

- Manage traffic on the Isle of Palms Connector during specific time periods within the course of the year with seasonal police personnel for traffic management.
- Investigate the possibility of re-striping the Isle of Palms Connector to accommodate:
  - Two lanes of traffic exiting the island
  - Dedicated Bike lane on one side
  - A pedestrian lane that is compliant with SCDOT standards; any additions to the bridge structure should preserve the views that exist today.

- Ensure traffic lights at Palm and Rifle Range are timed correctly during high volume times/days.
- Continue to build relationships with surrounding municipalities and state leaders to effectively manage parking and traffic challenges.

## **Goal 2: Routing Traffic**

Efficiently route traffic to available parking island wide to keep traffic flowing.

### **Recommendation:**

- Hire a consultant to develop a plan which may include:
  - Adjusting parking footprint that optimizes both the number of spaces in the LCBMP and traffic flow
  - Registered/monitored parking along state highway - if feasible and supported by the community - which satisfies state law and does not add to the traffic or congestion issues in the neighborhoods
  - Free beach parking in a city lot to encourage parking at Front Beach

## **Goal 3: Long Range Plan**

Develop a long-range plan given the greater Charleston area's growth and impact to the island.

### **Recommendations:**

- Annual review of identified "opportunity areas."
- Continue working with a traffic engineer consultant to devise solutions to manage traffic efficiently, minimize congestion, and support funding and implementation of priority recommendations.

## **Goal 4: Real-Time Communication**

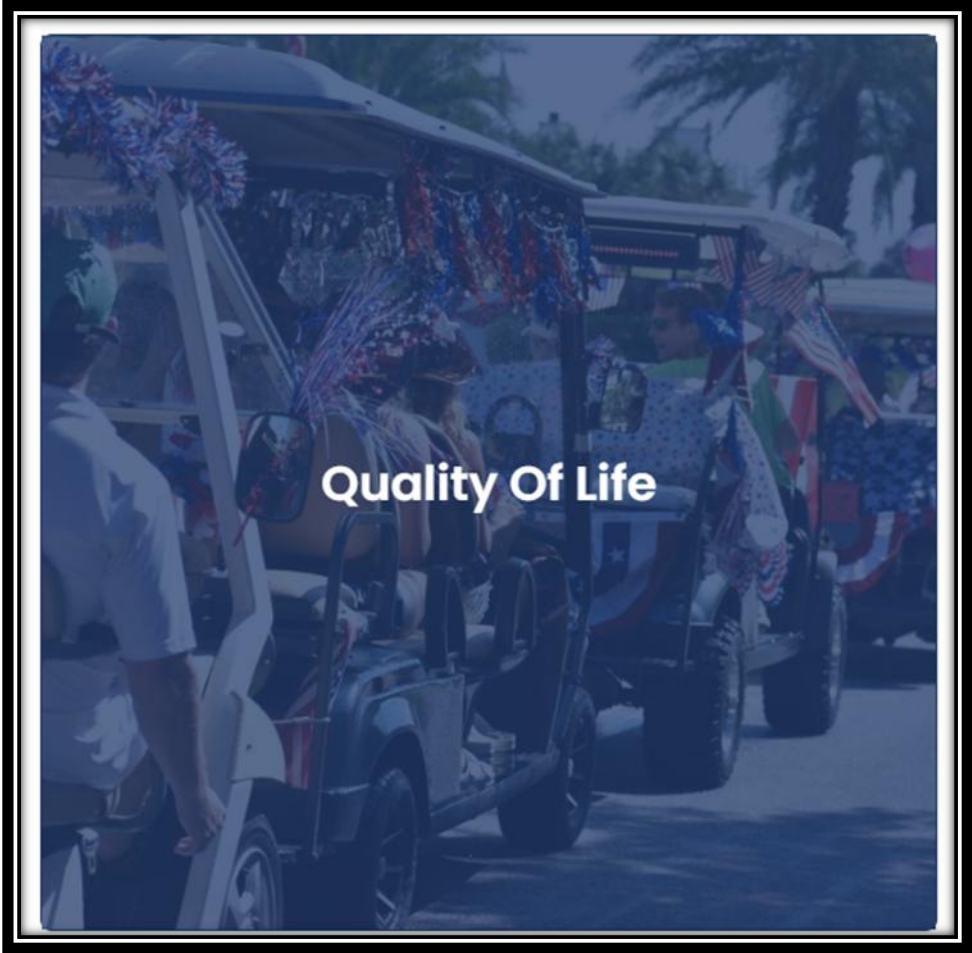
Communicate parking and traffic conditions in real time for residents and visitors, especially for high season, high demand days/weekends/holidays.

### **Recommendations:**

- Ensure promoting of traffic resources through use of Sunnie, Beach Reach app, and <https://parkiop.org>.
- Consider a "Text to Park" model.
- Utilize technology to monitor parking availability.
- Communicate parking alternatives, such as the Beach Shuttle, when approaching full capacity.
- Establish a parking webpage that offers interactive maps and clear information including, but not limited to, available parking lots and parking areas, number of spaces, prices (seasonal and regular, if applicable), and violations.

Examples:

- Wrightsville Beach website for navigation and content
- North Myrtle Beach website for an interactive map



## QUALITY OF LIFE

**Purpose:** Enrich the quality of life on Isle of Palms by embracing our natural resources and promoting an active lifestyle and good social health, all while balancing livability and sustainable tourism.



### **Priority: Recreation & Social**

Provide facilities and programs that emphasize community connections, lifelong learning, active lifestyles, our barrier island environment, support for people of all ages and overall quality of life for residents and visitors.

#### **Goal 1: Facilities & Spaces**

Continue to provide well-equipped, thoughtfully designed spaces supporting the recreational, educational, social, and artistic interests of the community.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Assess the Recreation Center property and facilities to determine the options for expansion or reconfiguration to support demand and growth in program participation, adequate indoor & outdoor storage, and diverse programming that can include educational events, public meetings, the arts, and library.
- Explore partnerships with Wild Dunes, Charleston County Parks, and the IOP Exchange Club to utilize their facilities in the off-peak season (e.g. pool activities and youth golf lessons for courses at Wild Dunes, use of Exchange Club dock for programming)
- Upgrade Recreation Center interior spaces.
  - Give primary attention to cabinetry, fans, audio visual, sound and lighting equipment, storage, paint, and ceiling repairs. Include equipment necessary to live stream and record events held in the Magnolia Room.
  - Install charging stations and workspaces in the lobby.



- Explore upgrades to outdoor spaces at the Recreation Center and Mayor Carmen R. Bunch Park..
  - Utilize native plants.
  - Add swings, benches, picnic tables, etc.
  - Create a community garden at the Recreation Center.
  - Expand Recreation Center’s outdoor shelter to support diverse programming and events, providing fans, electricity, and a stage for music.
  - Explore options for providing an expanded electrical grid throughout the Recreation Center property to support large community events and athletics.
  - Create a WIFI hotspot at the Recreation Center and its surrounding property.
- Consider using existing City properties to increase public access to the water for paddle sports, fishing, etc., or more passive uses (benches/swings). Update indoor and outdoor facilities to create a safe and welcoming space for teens. Consider comfy furniture in the Recreation Center lobby, umbrella tables with charging stations, updated porch furniture, rock wall, and/or ropes course.
- Focus on the acquisition of properties to increase our public space:
  - Contact The Beach Company to identify small pocket parcels they own.
  - Monitor real estate listings of properties located between the current Recreation Center property and Waterway Boulevard; evaluate purchases that could enlarge the recreation footprint.
- Emphasize sustainable/environmentally friendly practices at the Recreation Center.

## **Goal 2: Programming**

To provide diverse programming for all ages that reflects community interests, maximizes connections to our natural environment, and is inclusive.

### **Recommendations:**

- Assess equipment needs to support growing athletic programs.
- Identify unmet recreation needs for which people often leave the island (e.g. youth golf lessons, lacrosse, flag football, gym, year-round swimming, indoor tennis/pickleball, minigolf). Evaluate if there is sufficient demand to expand programming or facilities.
- Develop programming connected to the water (e.g. kayaking, water safety, beach exercise, paddle boarding, paddle board yoga, eco tours, seining, SCUBA).
- Facilitate more programming focused on understanding and protecting our natural environment (e.g. beach/saltmarsh/waterways, native plants, native and endangered species).
- Sustain the speaker series by identifying willing presenters with unique skills, knowledge, and life experiences.
- Explore opportunities for teen programming (e.g. babysitter/CPR course, video game tournament, coffee house karaoke/open mic night, community service projects, rock climbing).
- Explore bringing in food trucks on youth sports nights and/or once a week on a weeknight from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

- Make our special events autism- and neurodivergent-friendly by offering a calming space/tent and/or special sensory-friendly times to attend.
- Explore potential of fee based reservations of key facilities.

### **Goal 3: Awareness & Participation**

Maximize awareness of and participation in Recreation Department programs through multi-channel, two-way communication.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Feature activities and events more prominently in monthly City e-newsletter with departments cross-posting special events on social media.
  - Consider creating a monthly email or e-newsletter just for the Recreation Center to share upcoming key events and deadlines with links to the online registration portal.
- Use Sunnie to communicate about more than special events (e.g. youth sports registration dates, new classes, educational programs); add an option for people to specifically sign up for Recreation Department alerts.
- Ensure staff are facilitating two-way communication on social media by responding to comments and inquiries within 24 hours.
- Create a separate calendar for Recreation Center activities on City website and enable a click feature for users to add to their personal calendars.
- Coordinate with Wild Dunes and Wild Dunes homeowners' associations (HOAs) to share monthly/quarterly updates on programs and events through their communication platforms.
- Emphasize “we are more than just sports and exercise classes” in communications.
- Invest more in online marketing of Recreation Department opportunities to ensure residents are fully aware of what is available to them through the City.

### **Priority: Noise & Light Mitigation**

Consider Best Practices in Noise & Light Mitigation.

#### **Goal 1: Data & Opportunities**

Accurately track noise and light concerns to identify opportunities and partner with other communities to consider best practices.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Identify communities to learn and evaluate what they have done for noise/light ordinances to see what IOP could explore.
- Track noise and light complaints across geographical grids to evaluate levels of complaints for targeted mitigation efforts.
- Recognize that complaint data may not include Wild Dunes Community Association Security, Wild Dunes Resort Security or other island entity data. Work towards consistent data capture.

## **Priority: Short Term Rentals (“STRs”)**

Enhance enforcement efforts of STRs.

### **Goal 1: Enforcement & Data**

Enhance enforcement efforts of STRs and monitor data to ensure livability on the island.

#### **Considerations:**

- Management companies have a consortium, formed as a subgroup of the Chamber, represented by 16 companies that cover 96% of STRs on the island. They are to be commended for their work to enforce, regulate policies and communicate with renters, neighbors, and the City.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Continuously assess the mix of full-time residential, part-time, and STRs to maintain a balance that enhances the livability on the island.
- Create a ‘Good Neighbor’ program to incentivize and recognize those properties that exemplify desirable rentals.
- Develop metrics of predetermined thresholds of STR complaints to become a ‘trigger’ for review of total number of licenses.
- Use the Business License application as a vehicle to encourage rental companies to join consortium meetings for consistent regulation.
- Explore adding an online portal for residents to submit STR complaints and follow the response by property managers and the City. This is available through the City’s current STR monitoring service.

## **Priority: Communication**

Provide residents, businesses and visitors with proactive communication on quality-of-life issues.

### **Goal 1: Proactive Communication**

Ensure there is proactive communication to residents, businesses and visitors regarding ordinances, processes, signage and education on quality-of-life issues.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Additional communications to residents and visitors regarding noise and light ordinances, best practices, and process for proper notifications if concerns exist.
- Educate more of the positives of the STRs and publish data tracking to residents.
- Collaborate with the STR companies to update required signage with quick access to policies/regulations/fines as well as to update on local efforts, i.e., QR Code.
- Educate public of rental companies’ consortium success.