

TOWN COUNCIL

STAFF REPORT

Projects and Watershed Resilience Department



MEETING DATE:	September 12, 2023
SUBJECT:	Projects and Watershed Resilience Department Monthly Report
PROJECT MANAGER:	Kimberly Washok-Jones, Director of Projects and Watershed Resilience

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (CIP) AND SPECIAL PROJECTS UPDATE

PATHWAYS

1. **Buck Island-Simmons ville Neighborhood Sidewalks and Lighting**
 - Construction of the Phase 6B sidewalks and drainage is complete.
 - **Next Steps**
 - Complete Phase 6B SCDOT closeout.
 - Construction of the street lighting is to be completed in FY 2024 by Dominion.
2. **New River Linear Trail**
 - Conceptual Master Plan is complete.
 - Submitted plans to Santee Cooper for review and cost share for bridge replacements. They stated they will not participate in a cost share; thus, staff is reviewing the agreement terms with legal for next steps.
 - Received \$26,000 PARD grant award and \$2 million in appropriations.
 - Easement donation from New Riverside Community Association, Inc. approved at 3/14/23 Town Council.
 - Restroom purchase agreement approved at 7/11/23 Town Council.
 - Well contract finalized.
 - **Next Steps**
 - Continue engineering design for Phase 1 pathway (New River to Hwy 46).
 - Dominion utility easement for First Reading in September and Second and Final Reading in October.
 - LED light fixtures switch from Bridge Street to New River Linear Trail and well installation in November.

SEWER & STORMWATER

1. **Buck Island-Simmons ville Sewer (Phases 5A-D)**
 - Received permits to construct from DHEC and SCDOT.
 - Department of Commerce approved the contract and contractor has executed his portion.

- **Next Steps**
 - Pre-construction meeting scheduled following Town Manager execution of the contract.
 - Start construction September 2023.
- 2. Historic District Sewer Extension Phases 2 & 3 - Bridge & Colcock Streets**
- Jordan Construction of Hilton Head, Inc. continues construction.
 - **Next Steps**
 - Start house connections once construction is complete and Permit to Operate is issued by DHEC.
- 3. Historic District Sewer Extension Phases 4 through 6 – Lawrence, Green and Water Streets**
- Reviewed initial design for Phases 4, 5, & 6 and submitted to BJWSA for initial review.
 - **Next Step**
 - Incorporate any Phases 4, 5, & 6 design changes to drawings after BJWSA review.
 - Obtain Quit Claim Deeds from all the property owners along the ghost roads or initiate legal action.
- 4. May River Watershed Action Plan Impervious Restoration Water Quality Projects**
- Initial site investigations are complete for 9 of the 11 participating project partners.
 - Palmetto Pointe Towns, Lowcountry Community Church and Apartment One declined to participate in the Program at this time. Updated Policy document for Impervious Restoration Program submitted and under review.
 - Geotechnical investigations at 6 school sites complete and field results under analysis for use in development of Preliminary Design. Geotechnical investigations for remaining sites being scheduled.
 - Initial Property Owner contacts for the selected 15 Additional Sites within Municipal Limits have been made.
 - **Next Steps**
 - Geotechnical evaluations at the 3 remaining site locations being coordinated with Property Owners.
 - Begin preliminary site design.
 - Final Review meeting on Updated Draft Policy Document held 8/10/23 and comments to consultant being prepared.
- 5. Buck Island Drainage Improvements**
- Project closed out.
 - **Next Steps**
 - Evaluating modifying SCDOT encroachment permit to accommodate construction of handrails at boardwalk crossing the wetland.

HISTORIC DISTRICT IMPROVEMENTS**1. Boundary Street Lighting**

- Phase 2 light locations are being reevaluated based on streetscape plans and road ownership changes.
- SCDOT and Dominion previously indicated poles must be installed on private property due to conflicts with sewer force main and communication utilities within the right of way.
- **Next Steps**
 - Finalize new light locations and install streetlights on the west side of the street in FY 2024. Coordinate conduit and light installation for the east side of the street in conjunction with larger streetscape project, if warranted.

2. Squire Pope Carriage House Preservation

- The contract with Huss Inc. was executed and construction began on 1/16/23 with a groundbreaking ceremony held on 2/4/23.
- Structure was lifted. Excavation, footers, slab, blockwork, brick piers, block walls were sealed and insulated, perimeter sill beams and interior beams were installed, flooring at crawl space has been insulated and structure has been lowered. Both masonry fireplaces have been reinstalled.
- **Next Steps**
 - The next several weeks will focus on additional deconstruction of the exterior siding, structural wood framing of all walls and subflooring to prep for rough in mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire suppression, replacement of existing roof and sheathing. Window and door restoration are ongoing offsite at Huss's shop and re-installation in progress.

3. Bridge Street Streetscape

- Issued Notice to Proceed for Phase 1 construction to start 12/5/22.
- Obtained survey proposal for Phase II streetscape project.
- Engaged Barrier Island for Phase II design.
- Drainage, parking, sidewalks, and mill and overlay have been finished.
- Landscaping has been installed at 5' strips.
- Obtained easement from Cunningham LLC for parking sign installation.
- Installed 3-hour limited parking signs.
- Updated SCDOT encroachment permit for No Parking signs.
- Installed tabby planters at Calhoun and Bridge Streets.
- **Next Steps**
 - Continued construction to complete lighting and additional power.
 - Continue Phase 2 conceptual plan for SCDOT permitting.

4. Boundary Street Streetscape

- Engineering Design is 70% complete and submitted to Watershed for stormwater for initial review.
- Met with Dominion Energy on 5/17/23. Still awaiting underground conversion plans from Dominion Energy.

- **Next Steps**
 - Continuing with Engineering Design, Underground Power Coordination, and Permitting.
 - Obtain easement exhibits and begin appraisals in FY 2024.
 - Bid construction in FY 2024, subject to acquisition of all required easements.

5. **Calhoun Street Streetscape**

- Preliminary engineering design is 40% complete.
- Met with Dominion Energy on 5/17/23. Awaiting underground conversion plans from Dominion Energy.
- **Next Steps**
 - Begin negotiations with May River Road property owners for main transmission line easements.
 - Once the main line transmission line easements have been completed, then continue with engineering design into FY 2024.
 - Prepare easement acquisition plats for Phase 1 in 2024 and begin easement acquisition.
 - Phased construction is planned to begin in FY 2025 pending budget approval and acquisition of required easements.

6. **Pathway Pedestrian Safety Improvements**

- Completed Historic District crosswalk study identifying and prioritizing future intersection/crosswalk improvements to meet ADA compliance.
- Phase 1 ADA sidewalk improvements along Goethe Road were completed in January.
- US DOT RAISE grant application for planning and design of bike and pedestrian safety improvements in Historic District, Goethe/Shults and Buck Island/Simmons ville neighborhoods for implementation in a phased approach was not awarded.
- **Next Steps**
 - Contract for engineer design to be considered by Town Council at 9/12/23 Council meeting.

7. **Comprehensive Drainage Plan Improvements**

- Asset inventory and condition assessment complete for Heyward Cove.
- 2D H/H model development complete.
- Initial Tidal Gauge information gathering at Calhoun St Dock has been completed.
- Review of 2D H/H model development results and area of inundation/choke points complete.
- FY24 Scope of Work being developed and evaluating inclusion of Sea Grant work elements.

- **Next Steps**

- Updated *DRAFT* Final Project Report review complete and final review comments provided to consultant. Updates to Final Report in progress.
- Establish maintenance and CIP project needs list and Master Planning report to reduce risk of flooding.

8. **Pritchard Street Drainage Improvements**

- Cranston Engineering has re-submitted updated 70% project design of streetscape elements based on review comments and under review. Project scope has increased to include streetscape elements, pedestrian connectivity, street lighting and traffic calming evaluation. Updated 70% design submission review meeting held. Growth Management and Stormwater Pre-Application meeting being scheduled.
- **Next Steps**
 - Coordinate approval for proposed improvements with Beaufort County School District.
 - Complete 100% design submission, permitting submissions and bid document formulation.

PARK DEVELOPMENT

1. **Oyster Factory Park**

- Civil Construction substantially complete. Landscape construction to be completed by August 2023.
- Executed Task Authorization with Witmer, Jones, Keefer for design of the event Area.
- **Next Steps**
 - Finalize design of area event area based on Council feedback in April Quarterly Workshop and Town staff internal stakeholder review.
 - Prepare event area plans for bid in November.

2. **Oscar Frazier Park**

- Started construction of Rotary Center Improvements in June. Construction to be phased and coordinated with events planned for the Rotary Center
- Received responses to RFP splash pad solicitation on 7/12/23.
- **Next Steps**
 - Complete Rotary Hardscape construction in October.
 - Selected design/build contractor for the Splash Pad in September and obtain contract approval in October.

3. **New Riverside Barn/Park**

- Architectural design services for the Barn additions are 99% complete.
- Design of the playground area is 95 % complete.
- JS Construction started phase 1 site construction on 1/27/2023.
- Contract has been executed with Nix Construction for Construction Manager at Risk Services for Phases 2 and 3.
- **Next Steps**

- Complete the architectural design of barn addition.
- Complete design of playground area.
- Continuing construction of Phase 1 Site Development Infrastructure.
- Obtain guaranteed maximum price from Nix Construction and present contract to Town Council in October.

4. Miscellaneous Park Improvements

- Per Town Council direction, staff ordered playground equipment for DuBois Park. Equipment is expected to arrive in September.
- Executed contract to install the DuBois playground equipment beginning in late September.
- Obtained quotes and selected a contractor to install perimeter sidewalk for the DuBois Playground Expansion.
- Executed contract with T&H for landscape and hardscape design services for improvements at Evicore Park.
- **Next Steps**
 - Install playground equipment with Palmetto Recreation Equipment, LLC.
 - Install perimeter sidewalk at DuBois Park.
 - Continue preliminary design of Buckwalter Place Park and all FY 2024 park improvements.

TOWN FACILITIES AND MISCELLANEOUS PLANNING

1. Town of Bluffton Housing Projects

- **Next Steps**
 - Provide financial assistance to joint venture partner for planning, design and permitting of Affordable/Workforce Housing at 1095 May River Road.

2. Law Enforcement Center Facility Improvements

- Clearing sodding, columns and fence construction for the challenge course is complete.
- **Next Steps**
 - Complete construction punch list items with The Greenery for the challenge course.
 - Begin design work for an expanded area to accommodate an impound lot, and possible storage of Public Service maintenance equipment.

3. Sarah Riley Hooks Cottage

- Completed conceptual master plan concepts and building assessment. Presented plans to Town Council at the April Workshop for review and direction.
- Selected Meadors Inc to provide design services and construction documents for the restoration of the Sarah Riley Hooks Cottage.
- Executed design services contracts with JK Tiller and ShearLock Engineering for FY 24 site development and structural plans.
- **Next Steps**
 - Execute design contracts with Meadors Inc. and complete construction documents for the Cottage in FY 2024.
 - Complete Site Development Plans in FY 2024
 - Begin restoration construction of cottage in FY 2025.

4. Ghost Roads

- Surveying and easement exhibits are complete.
- Staff is currently working with Lawrence, Lawton, Green, Pope, Allen and Water Street property owners to obtain Quit Claim Deeds.
- Staff continue to meet with property owners to raise awareness of the acquisition efforts and communicate next steps and requested Council assistance.
- **Next Steps**
 - Obtain remaining Quit Claim Deeds for Historic District Sewer Phases 4-6 or initiate quiet title proceedings.

5. Document Management

- RFP contract was awarded in March 2022.
- Electronic Document Management system is live.
- Documents for 6 departments have been transitioned to DMS.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Historical documents for the remaining 4 departments will transition through FY 2026.

6. Network Infrastructure

- Replaced core switches at Town Hall and the Law Enforcement Center.
- Replaced two VMWare hosts for a more stable server environment.
- Migration of Munis and EnerGov systems to a hosted environment completed.
- Replaced phone system to a more modern system.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Replacing two more VMWare hosts.
 - Implementation of ExecuTime to replace Intime.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

1. Stoney Creek/Palmetto Bluff Sewer Partnership

- 2022 updated cost-estimate for the project from BJWSA is \$7.2 million + contingencies. BJWSA has agreed to be the Project Manager.
- Awarded the RIA SCIPP grant in support of Stoney Creek/Palmetto Bluff Sewer Extension with BJWSA and Beaufort County.
- Met with partners to address BJWSA IGA concerns on 3/2/23. A draft 3-party Intergovernmental Agreement was discussed at a follow up meeting on 5/30/23.
- **Next Steps**
 - Finalize 3-party IGA with Town, County and grant splitting sewer extension costs and BJWSA funding water extension costs.
 - BJWSA RFQ for design engineers closes on 8/1/23 and award anticipated by BJWSA Board by end of September 2023.

2. SC Department of Health and Environmental Control May River Shellfish Harvesting Monitoring Data Year-to-Date and May River Shellfish Harvesting Status Exhibit – *Attachments 1 and 1a*

3. May River Watershed Action Plan Implementation Summary - *Attachment 2*

- Staff continue to work with Water Environmental Consultants (WEC) to review continuous flow data from the Stoney Creek, Rose Dhu Creek, and Palmetto Bluff subwatersheds. WEC is reviewing continuous flow data in real time with the implementation of Turnkey telemetry systems. WEC provided recommendations on the Town's water quality grab sampling program to ensure sufficient data for model calibration. Staff began implementing these recommendations on 7/31/23.
- The Town's Calhoun Street Dock tidal elevation gauge was repaired and is recording tidal elevation data. Water Environmental Consultants (WEC) will establish two (2) additional tide gauges near the Stoney Creek and Rose Dhu Creek model boundaries as part of a 4-week headwaters tidal gauge study. The Calhoun Street dock and headwaters tidal elevation data will be used to establish a relationship between tidal amplitude and timing in the headwaters of the May River.
- The University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) Water Quality Laboratory Manager has resigned, and Dr. Tye Pettay is now sole Principal Investigator (PI) for the Town's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). USCB notified Town staff as required by the newly executed MOU and USCB will be seeking a new laboratory manager.
- Staff met with SC Sea Grant on 8/01/23 to discuss components of a Resiliency Assessment as recommended in the Comp Plan and funded in the FY24 budget. Emergency Management, Growth Management, and Watershed presented their needs. Sea Grant has delivered an initial scope and staff is in the process of reviewing. Needs for the Buck Island/Simmons ville area for flooding were included. Staff met with Beaufort County on 8/09/23 to discuss the Town's current May River Baseline Assessment Update and discussed potential for conducting similar studies in other watersheds, such as the Okatie River.

- Dr. Pettay, USCB MST Laboratory PI, provided staff with information on field kits that can be utilized to determine if a harmful algal bloom (HAB) is producing toxins. Staff have procured and received these field kits to better equip the Town to respond to potential HAB's.
4. **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program Update**
 - Joe Sease has been authorized as an Environmental Code Enforcement Officer.
 5. **MS4 Minimum Control Measure (MCM) - #1 Public Education and Outreach, and MS4 MCM - #2 Public Participation and Involvement**
 - The May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee (WAPAC) was held on 8/24/23 and the Committee reviewed priorities to present for Council's consideration during their upcoming Strategic Planning session in November 2023.
Attachment 3
 - Staff continues to coordinate the Town's Beach Sweep/River Sweep which will be held September 16, 2023, from 9:00am-11:30am at Oyster Factory Park.
 6. **MS4 MCM – #3 Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**
 - Stormwater Infrastructure Inventory Map - **Attachment 4a**
 - *E. coli* Concentrations Trend Map - **Attachment 4b**
 - Monthly, Microbial Source Tracking (MST) Maps - **Attachments 4c and 4d**
 - SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) collects MST samples for the Town concurrently with their routine shellfish harvesting water quality sampling at stations 19-19, 19-19A, 19-19B, 19-19C, and 19-24. SCDHEC conducted sampling 8/23/23. All results are currently pending.
 - Illicit Discharge Investigations – **Attachment 4e**
 7. **MS4 MCM – #4 Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control – Attachment 5**
 8. **MS4 MCM – #5 Stormwater Plan Review and Related Activity – Attachment 6**
 9. **MS4 MCM – #6 Good Housekeeping (Staff Training/Education)**
 - No update.
 10. **MS4 MCM – #6 Good Housekeeping (Ditch, Drainage and Roadside Maintenance)**
 - Public Services performed weekly street sweeping on Calhoun Street, Highway 46, Bruin Road, May River Road, Pin Oak Street, and curbs and medians on Simmonsville and Buck Island Roads.
 - Performed ditch inspections.
 - Arrow ditch (2,569 LF)
 - Red Cedar ditch (966 LF)
 - Buck Island roadside ditch (15,926 LF)
 - Simmonsville roadside ditch (13,792 LF)
 - Ongoing roadside mowing, litter clean-up and maintenance of Masters' Way, McCracken Circle, Hampton Parkway, Buck Island and Simmonsville Roads, Goethe

Road, Shults Road, Jason and Able Streets, Whispering Pine Road, May River Road and Eagles Field.

11. Citizen Drainage, Maintenance, and Inspections Concerns Map – Attachment 7

12. Citizen Request for Watershed Management Services & Activities – Attachment 8

Attachments

1. SCDHEC Shellfish Harvesting Monitoring Data Year-to-Date
 - a. SCDHEC May River Shellfish Harvesting Status Exhibit
2. Quarterly Update – May River Watershed Action Plan Implementation Summary*
3. MS4 Minimum Control Measures #1 and #2 – WAPAC Public Notice
4. MS4 Minimum Control Measure #3 – Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
 - a. Stormwater Infrastructure Inventory Map
 - b. *E. coli* Concentrations Trend Map
 - c. Microbial Source Tracking Trend Map – Human Source
 - d. Microbial Source Tracking Map – All Sources
 - e. Illicit Discharge Investigations
5. MS4 Minimum Control Measure #4 – Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control
6. MS4 Minimum Control Measure #5 – Stormwater Plan Review and Related Activity
7. Citizen Drainage, Maintenance and Inspections Concerns Map
8. Citizen Request for Watershed Management Services and Activities Map
9. CIP Master Project Schedules

* Attachment noted above includes the latest updates in green.

	19-19				19-19A				19-19B				19-19C				19-24				19-16			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)	Fecal Coliform (MPN)
December	17.0	79.0	33.0		22.0	49.0	49.0		17.0	4.5	17.0		4.5	17.0	49.0		4.0	6.8	6.8		11.0	7.8	13.0	
November	70.0	33.0	33.0		31.0	33.0	13.0		17.0	7.8	7.8		13.0	4.0	4.5		13.0	4.5	6.1		4.5	2.0	13.0	
October	49.0	49.0	23.0		79.0	26.0	46.0		31.0	13.0	13.0		21.0	23.0	23.0		33.0	23.0	11.0		79.0	17.0	14.0	
September	110.0	33.0	540.0		49.0	11.0	350.0		49.0	17.0	350.0		33.0	13.0	170.0		33.0	2.0	79.0		33.0	11.0	33.0	
August	49.0	49.0	23.0		49.0	49.0	23.0		23.0	23.0	11.0		23.0	49.0	13.0		17.0	14.0	17.0		22.0	14.0	11.0	
July	33.0	350.0	920.0	350.0	13.0	64.0	49.0	920.0	23.0	79.0	95.0	70.0	7.8	33.0	130.0	49.0	7.8	33.0	23.0	33.0	17.0	13.0	46.0	17.0
June	NS	49.0	13.0	14.0	NS	79.0	4.5	7.8	NS	13.0	11.0	23.0	NS	17.0	2.0	13.0	NS	22.0	1.8	33.0	NS	2.0	9.3	13.0
May	70.0	2.0	4.5	23.0	49.0	49.0	4.5	33.0	23.0	23.0	4.0	17.0	22.0	23.0	1.8	13.0	6.8	23.0	1.8	33.0	4.5	7.8	2.0	21.0
April	33.0	33.0	4.5	170.0	33.0	23.0	4.5	130.0	13.0	22.0	1.8	110.0	6.8	17.0	2.0	70.0	13.0	7.8	1.8	NS	13.0	2.0	1.8	7.8
March	170.0	33.0	33.0	23.0	49.0	11.0	23.0	49.0	130.0	17.0	2.0	17.0	49.0	13.0	4.5	17.0	70.0	2.0	2.0	17.0	33.0	2.0	2.0	17.0
February	17.0	79.0	23.0	540.0	7.8	70.0	31.0	350.0	21.0	79.0	17.0	240.0	4.5	23.0	22.0	240.0	4.5	7.8	2.0	33.0	6.8	6.8	11.0	33.0
January	95.0	17.0	49.0	33.0	33.0	17.0	22.0	33.0	33.0	13.0	33.0	13.0	17.0	23.0	7.8	33.0	17.0	17.0	7.8	7.8	17.0	7.8	7.8	4.5
** Truncated GeoMetric Mean	34.0	36.0	40.0	42.0	21.0	26.0	28.0	34.0	16.0	18.0	18.0	19.0	12.0	15.0	14.0	17.0	10.0	10.0	9.0	10.0	9.0	8.0	9.0	8.0
** Truncated 90th Percentile	106.0	139.0	192.0	254.0	59.0	69.0	91.0	166.0	50.0	58.0	72.0	91.0	37.0	39.0	54.0	81.0	31.0	35.0	41.0	48.0	35.0	33.0	32.0	27.0

NS = No Sample

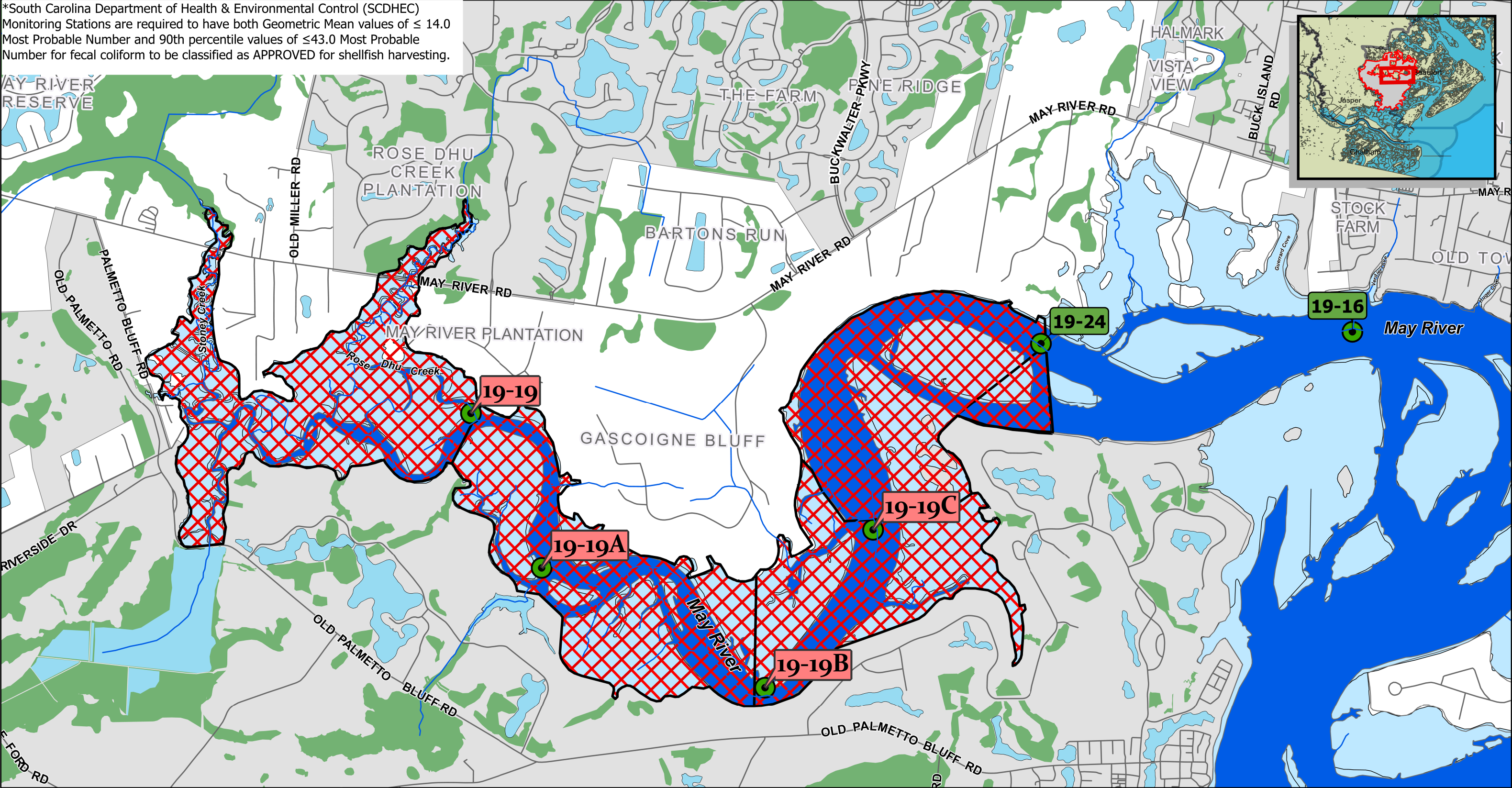
SCDHEC Regulatory Requirements:

Geometric Mean ≤ 14


90th Percentile ≤ 43


** Town staff calculations utilizing SCDHEC statistics


*South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (SCDHEC)
Monitoring Stations are required to have both Geometric Mean values of ≤ 14.0
Most Probable Number and 90th percentile values of ≤ 43.0 Most Probable
Number for fecal coliform to be classified as APPROVED for shellfish harvesting.





SCDHEC Shellfish Monitoring Stations


 Restricted 2022/2023 Shellfish Season


 Open SCDHEC Shellfish Monitoring Stations


 SCDHEC Shellfish Monitoring Station Classification Change


 Streets

 Drainage

 Town Jurisdiction

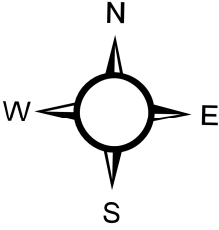
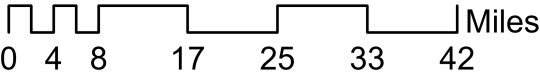
 County Jurisdiction

 Water

 Wetlands

Town of Bluffton
Beaufort County, SC

SCDHEC SHELLFISH HARVESTING STATUS



WAPAC Meeting Presentation
May River Watershed Action Plan Update & Modeling Report
Overview and Status
August 25, 2022

Updated July 27, 2023

Overview

- May River Watershed Action Plan Update & Modeling Report completed November 2020.
- Town Council Adoption of May River Watershed Action Plan Update as a Supporting Document to the Comprehensive Plan completed February 2021.
- May River Watershed Action Plan Update & Modeling Report Summary:
 - **Executive Summary** provides an overview of the project background, findings and interpretation, current state of knowledge concerning fecal coliform fate and transport, and an overview of proposed recommendations for the Town.
 - **1.0 Introduction** includes more detailed project background including the purpose of the document and the Project Team's tasks to 1) develop water quality models to compare current conditions (2018) to pre-shellfish impairment conditions (2002) to develop pollutant load reduction estimates, and 2) evaluate 2011 Action Plan BMPs for appropriateness under current conditions and provide up to eleven (11) alternative projects and preliminary cost estimates.
 - **2.0 Model Setup; 3.0 Model Calibration, and 4.0 Water Quality Model Results** details the methodology used by the Project Team to establish and calibrate the models and the model outputs. This highly technical information is necessary for future Water Quality (WQ) Model calibration and use for consistency.
 - **5.0 Recommendations** includes strategies to improve the Town's monitoring efforts to calibrate the WQ Model further (§5.1), strategies and BMPs for bacteria reduction (§5.2), an evaluation of 2011 Action Plan BMP projects (§5.3), and methodology used to develop 2020 Action Plan Update recommended projects (four septic to sewer conversion projects and eleven stormwater BMP retrofit projects) with cost-estimates and ranking/prioritization (§5.4).
 - **6.0 Conclusions** offers a summary of the WQ Model results in context of current state of knowledge.
 - **7.0 References** documents the prior research findings used to inform recommendations.
 - **Appendices** reference supporting materials:
 - Montie et al. (2019) "Technical Report: Historical Analysis of Water quality, Climate Change Endpoints, and Monitoring in Natural Resources in the May River,"
 - Technical Memo from Dr. Rachel Noble,
 - Watershed Treatment Model Spreadsheets, and
 - Detailed Project Cost Estimate Spreadsheets.

MRWAP 2020 Update Septic to Sewer Project Recommendations/Evaluations:

- Four (4) septic to sewer conversion projects were evaluated in the Rose Dhu Creek and Stoney Creek subwatersheds:
 - Cahill
 - Gascoigne
 - Stoney Creek
 - Pritchardville
 - These projects overlap with 42 subcatchments in the Stoney Creek watershed and 11 in Rose Dhu Creek. Based on WQ Model outputs, these projects alone may potentially reduce FC loading by 3.46×10^{13} FC per year.
- The estimated septic to sewer conversion costs of these projects also requires water capacity upgrades. Previous cost estimates are not accurate and will be updated by BJWSA as each project is considered.

Work Performed and Current Status as of August 25, 2022 Meeting

Discussions with the Town, Beaufort County and BJWSA have been held about future Septic to Sewer Program projects identified above. Stoney Creek Septic to Sewer Project has been identified as the next priority project to pursue under the Septic to Sewer Program.

- The Town and Beaufort County are finalizing Funding and Cost share elements relative to the project. The Stoney Creek sewer and water project cost estimate is nearly \$14 million which is offset by a \$5,925,000 grant.

Update for WAPAC July 27, 2023 Meeting:

Stoney Creek/Palmetto Bluff Sewer: Three-party agreement is being finalized by BJWSA legal team now. BJWSA's RFP for water and sewer design services was supposed to close 6/30/23. Due to RIA protocol, they must review and approve an RFP prior to posting, thus the RFP was canceled. BJWSA received RIA approval and reposted the RFP on 7/17/23 with a closing of 8/1/23.

MRWAP Update Eleven Impervious Restoration (stormwater retrofit) Project Recommendations/Evaluations:

- Eleven (11) project sites (incorporating various individual BMPs) were selected in consultation with the Town (prioritizing subcatchments with FC bacteria hotspot and/or large impervious areas). These sites were evaluated in terms of the potential benefits gained by retrofitting to meet the 95th percentile storm retention, to the maximum extent possible, under the proposed Impervious Area Restoration/Stormwater Retrofit Program.

Eleven (11) proposed project sites Rose Dhu Creek (6 projects) and Stoney Creek (5 projects):

- Bluffton Early Learning Center (BELC)
- Boys and Girls Club of Bluffton (BGC)
- Benton House (BH)
- Bluffton High School (BHS)
- Buckwalter Recreation Center (BRC)

- Example** of Impervious Restoration Project evaluation from May River Watershed Action Plan Update & Modeling Report:



Work Performed and Current Status as of August 25, 2022 Meeting

Update for WAPAC July 27, 2023 Meeting:

Work performed for this project is being performed by MSA Consultant Engineering Firm:

- Drafted a detailed scope of work for Engineering Consultant Firm review and cost proposal (Expression of Interest) regarding performance of the work elements presented herein and related to MRWAP Update recommendations for implementation.
- The Expression of Interest was submitted to 3 consultant firms under existing Master Service Agreements with the Town for review and a request for response.
- All 3 Firms responded and their respective responses were evaluated, scored and discussed internally.
- A recommendation for Award was made to Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood selected.
 - Phase I of this work performed under existing FY 22 funding from Watershed Management Division.
 - Phase II of this work was approved for FY23 funding.

Task 1 : MRWAP Update 11 site locations

Update for WAPAC July 27, 2023 Meeting:

Eleven (11) proposed project sites Rose Dhu Creek (6 projects) and Stoney Creek (5 projects):

Yellow highlight indicates geotechnical evaluations complete.

1. **Bluffton Early Learning Center (BELC)**. Participating in preliminary design development phase.
 2. Boys and Girls Club of Bluffton (BGC). Participating in preliminary design development phase.
 3. Benton House (BH). Participating in preliminary design development phase.
 4. **Bluffton High School (BHS)**. Participating in preliminary design development phase.
 5. Buckwalter Recreation Center (BRC). Participating in preliminary design development phase.
 6. Lowcountry Community Church (LCC). Declined to Participate.
 7. **McCracken Middle School/Bluffton Elementary School** (MMSBES). Participating in preliminary design development phase.
 8. **May River High School**. Participating in preliminary design development phase.
 9. One Hampton Lake Apartments (OHLA). Declined to Participate.
 10. **Pritchardville Elementary School** (PES). Participating in preliminary design development phase.
 11. Palmetto Pointe Townes (PPT). Declined to Participate.
- Evaluate 11 sites and proposed BMPs. **Complete**.
 - Update concept plans for 11 sites based on site evaluations, recommendations and discussions. **Complete**.
 - Perform geotechnical evaluations at each site at locations related to BMP locations of updated concept plans. **Completed** for **the 5 school sites**. Geotechnical evaluations for the remaining **3** participating partner sites are being schedule based on recent property owner participation status being known/confirmed.

Coordinating geotechnical work approval with property owners and schedule for Benton House (BH), Buckwalter Recreation Center (BRC) and Boys and Girls Club of Bluffton (BGC).

- Refine updated concepts and use for presentations to Property Owner to discuss Impervious Restoration Program goals, objectives and gain support for Program and their participation. **Based on geotechnical investigation results, updated Concept plans for the 5 school sites have been refined. A meeting will be scheduled with School District to discuss the updated concept plans to get their feedback prior to beginning Preliminary Design task.**
 - Develop list of “incentives” to secure Property Owner participation (**see Policy Document Formulation below**).
- Based on geotechnical information and Property Owner feedback further refine concept plans to Preliminary Design :
 - Determine BMP types and location to maximize SWRv/WQ treatment in cost effective approach. **Estimated impervious area treated and SWrv capture based on refined Concept plans developed for the 5 school sites.**
 - Determine estimated pollutant load reductions.
 - Develop site specific BMP details.
 - Develop preliminary BMP maintenance schedule and cost for each site.
- Preliminary Design development plans will be presented to the Property Owner for review and discussion. Other Restoration Program details (maintenance responsibilities, easements, incentives, etc.) developed as part of the Program (see Policy Document Formulation below) will also be discussed in hopes of establishing a commitment from the Property Owner to participate in the Program. Once a “commitment” is secured from the Property Owner, the project site will be moved to Final design, permitting, and ultimately construction.

Task 2 : Identify 15 new project sites for Town of Bluffton Impervious Restoration/BMP Retrofit Projects.

- The Town wishes to identify an additional 15 project sites located within the municipal limits of Bluffton for the Impervious Restoration/BMP Retrofit Program. However, the criteria for site selection will be considered to be more “low hanging fruit” based on the following:
 - Within Town of Bluffton Municipal limits.
 - Soils – sandy soils with high infiltration rates offer the biggest bang for the buck for water quality treatment/improvement. Utilizing soil survey and other information target sites where infiltration can be maximized on-site.
 - Public or governmental agency land/property owner (not SCDOT RoW).

Update for WAPAC July 27, 2023 Meeting:

Finalized the list of 15 additional sites (and 5 alternates) to be considered/evaluated within the municipal limits of Bluffton for Impervious Restoration feasibility and concept plan development. Site evaluations will be performed as property owner approvals for access to property to perform site assessment is obtained.

Town of Bluffton Impervious Restoration/BMP Retrofit Policy Documents.

Task 3 : Section 5.4.4. Stormwater BMP Retrofit Projects of the May River Watershed Action Plan Update and Model Report identifies potential Impervious Restoration/BMP Retrofit projects located on Public and Private Land. As mentioned earlier, one of the primary site selection criteria, at time of report development, was to identify sites with large impervious areas so that pollutant load reductions could be estimated and the benefits of such projects on stormwater quality quantified/estimated, if implemented into construction. Generally, Public Funds are not expended to improve private property nor is Town of Bluffton funding generally expended on Public Land owned by another government entity. In order for such projects identified in Section 5.4.4. to move forward in the interest of improved water quality and for the overall benefit and welfare of the constituents of the Town of Bluffton, Policy Documents need to be formulated that establishes the parameters of such a Program to be initiated and implemented.

Policy Document Formulation has been initiated and includes research of similar programs nationwide.

Update for WAPAC July 27, 2023 Meeting:

- **Updated Draft Policy Document was completed and submitted in June for staff review and comments are being finalized.**
- **Upon Policy Document Final Draft development, the Policy Document will be presented to WAPAC with a request for recommendation to Town Council for adoption.**

Other, Related MRWAP Update Recommendations

- Adopt proposed regional Southern Lowcountry Post Construction Stormwater Ordinance and Design Manual - **complete** September 2021.
- The Town should incorporate volume reduction BMPs (those that encourage infiltration) within existing and future CIP projects to the maximum extent practical, especially for project locations with well-drained soils (HSG A or B) – **in progress**, see below.

○ Work Performed and Current Status as of August 25, 2022 Meeting

▪ Bridge Street Streetscape Project

- Project design/permitting is complete, and Construction Contract has been awarded.
- Incorporated Infiltration BMPs within the project to capture and treat 1.95" of rainfall over impervious surfaces within the project area, prior to discharge into the May River.
- Received Section 319 Grant from DHEC to cost-share cost of construction of proposed BMPs.
- Construction was initiated by JS Construction in early December 2022. Construction considered 65% complete.

Update for WAPAC July 27, 2023 Meeting:

- **Project work is Substantially Complete.**
 - **Partial reimbursement from DHEC for construction cost supported by 319 Grant requested and received.**
- #### ▪ Pritchard Street Drainage Improvement Project

- Project in Design Phase and considered 30% complete.
 - Incorporated Infiltration BMPs within the project to capture and treat 1.95" of rainfall over impervious surfaces within the project area, prior to discharge into Heyward Cove.
 - 70% design plan submitted, reviewed and comments presented to consultant.
 - 319 Grant was awarded by DHEC to the Town.
 - Update for WAPAC July 27, 2023 Meeting:
 - **Project Scope of Work and budget increase approved for FY24 to include streetscape elements of lighting, sidewalk, traffic calming and ADA compliance.**
 - **Updated survey received.**
 - **Updated 70% design drawings received in July and under review.**
- In-House Microbial Source Tracking – **in progress**, see below
 - The Town entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) in July 2021 to establish and fund a regional Microbial Source Tracking (MST) laboratory capable of accepting environmental water quality samples.
 - Analytical services are provided by the USCB-MST laboratory for all environmental samples collected by the Town.
 - Staff has collected additional fecal samples needed for dog, bird, and deer. The USCB-MST Laboratory is conducting the assessment on additional fecal samples and Dr. Pettay will provide a final report to the Town once all fecal markers in regional watersheds have been analyzed.
 - Update for WAPAC July 27, 2023 Meeting: Additional genetic fecal markers continue to be analyzed by Dr. Pettay and the MST Laboratory.
- Future (new) Bacteria Monitoring Locations - **in progress**, see below
 - Staff increased sampling frequency and implemented additional monitoring sites and parameters in the May River headwaters based upon recommendations in the 2020 May River Watershed Action Plan Update and Model Report.
 - Staff is collecting intermittent flow data at SonTek IQ sites in conjunction with grab FIB samples.
 - Update for WAPAC July 27, 2023 Meeting Staff is working with the consultant to identify recommended strategies for intermittent flow data collection and a review of the Town's FIB grab sample schedule.
- Future (new) Water Flow Monitoring Locations.
 - **Work Performed and Current Status as of August 25, 2022 Meeting**
 - The MRWAP Update included recommendations for the Town to perform certain rainfall and flow data measurements in May River Headwater Watersheds in order to "calibrate" and make more accurate Model predictions. These recommendations were evaluated and a game plan to address recommendations to calibrate model developed.

- Utilizing existing flow and rainfall data collected over past years with rain gauges, IQ Plus and Sontek measuring instruments in Stoney Creek, Rose Dhu Creek, Palmetto Bluff, Duck Pond and Heyward Cove, the Town hired a consultant to review the data and determine:
 - Useful data obtained to gain the required information to calibrate model.
 - The data obtained from Stoney Creek and Heyward Cove was deemed sufficient for Model calibration and Final report for this work is in process.
 - Duck Pond was deemed inconsequential, not needed due to drainage area size and proximity/outfall to tidal waters.
 - Consultant Final Report delivered, and Model Calibration Data for Stoney Creek and Heyward Cove identified.
 - If data review resulted in insufficient data, develop a monitoring program that would produce the data needed.
 - Rose Dhu Creek and Palmetto Bluff flow data review resulted in data that was insufficient to calibrate Model.
 - Potential purchase of telemetry stations to equip continuous flow monitoring stations with real-time data access.
 - Final Report delivered. Based on recommendations of data and process needed, staff has procured needed telemetry station equipment and has hired a consultant to assist in getting the intermittent and continuous flow data and producing a Final Report. The field work installation of equipment is being scheduled. Once installed and operational, data collection will last 6 months.

Update for WAPAC July 27, 2023 Meeting

- The Town of Bluffton procured and installed two (2) SonTek Turnkey Systems that enable real-time continuous flow data review to a cloud-based service. These systems are deployed in the Rose Dhu Creek and Palmetto Bluff subwatersheds.
- A SonTek IQ remains deployed in the Stoney Creek subwatershed. The consultant's first data review determined there was sufficient flow data for model calibration in the Stoney Creek subwatershed. However, staff determined it would continue to collect continuous flow data at this location so that continuous flow, intermittent flow, bacteria samples, and rainfall data were

collected for three (3) of the four (4) Modeling Report subwatersheds simultaneously.

- Consultant is reviewing data and identifying power, beam, or possible maintenance issues weekly.
- Intermittent flow measurements, utilizing the FlowTracker2, will be conducted at the time of grab sampling at the three (3) SonTek IQ flow stations beginning 7/31/23.



May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, August 24, 2023 at 3:00 PM

Theodore D. Washington Municipal Building, 20 Bridge Street, Henry "Emmett" McCracken Jr.
Council Chambers

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

VI. OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Review of the May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee (WAPAC) Charter - Kim Washok-Jones, Director of Projects & Watershed Resilience
2. Consideration of WAPAC Strategic Plan Priorities for FY25-26 - Beth Lewis, Water Quality Program Manager

VIII. DISCUSSION

IX. ADJOURNMENT

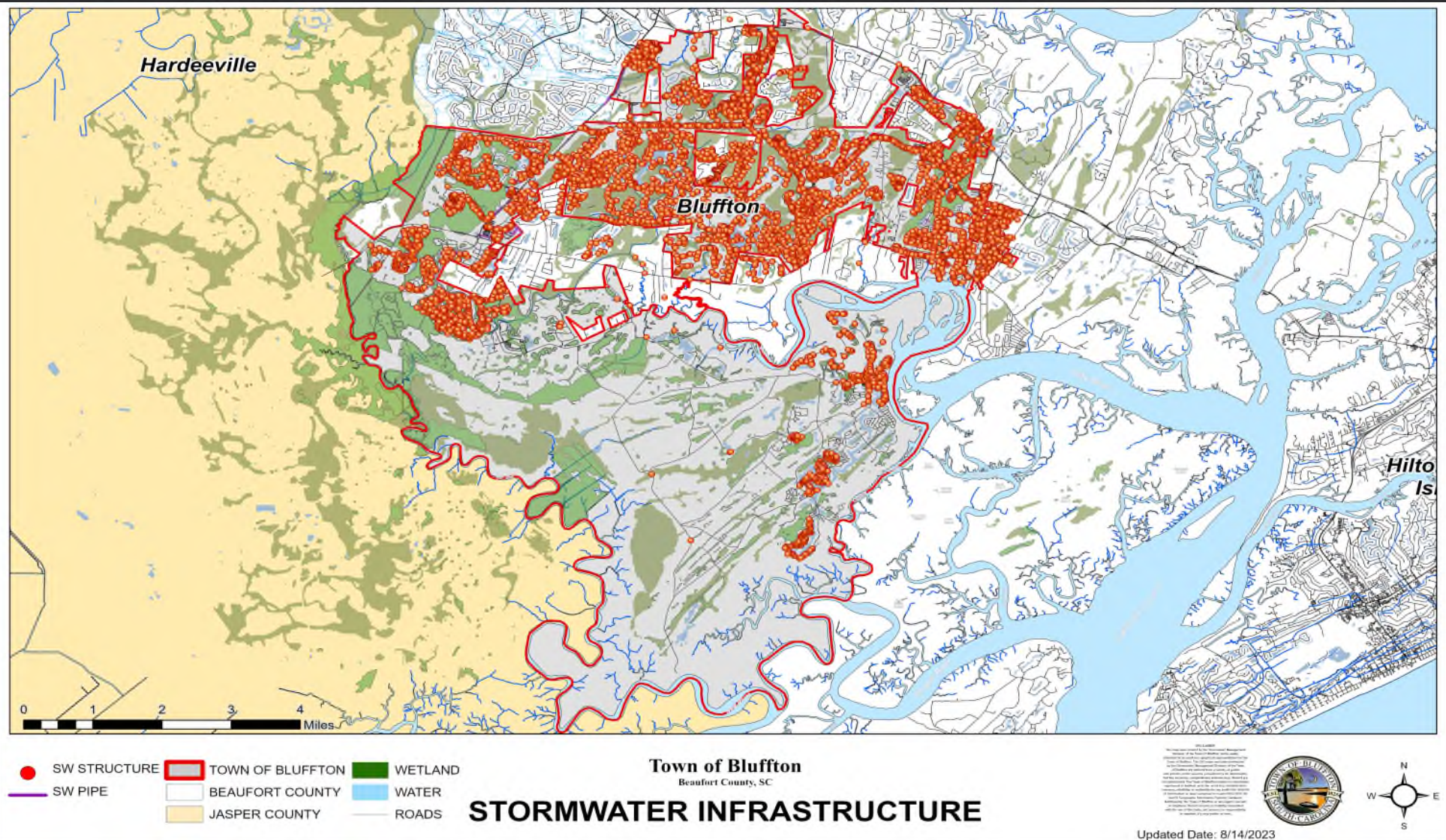
NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, September 28th, 2023 at 3:00PM

"FOIA Compliance – Public notification of this meeting has been published and posted in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Bluffton policies."

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Town of Bluffton will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities. The Town of Bluffton Council Chambers are ADA compatible. Auditory accommodations are available. Any person requiring further accommodation should contact the Town of Bluffton ADA Coordinator at 843.706.4500 or adacoordinator@townofbluffton.com as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

**Please note that each member of the public may speak at one public comment session and a form must be filled out and given to the Town Clerk. Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per speaker.*

MS4 Minimum Control Measure #3 – IDDE (Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination): Stormwater Infrastructure Inventory



Stormwater Infrastructure Inventory Collection Status

Collection Totals

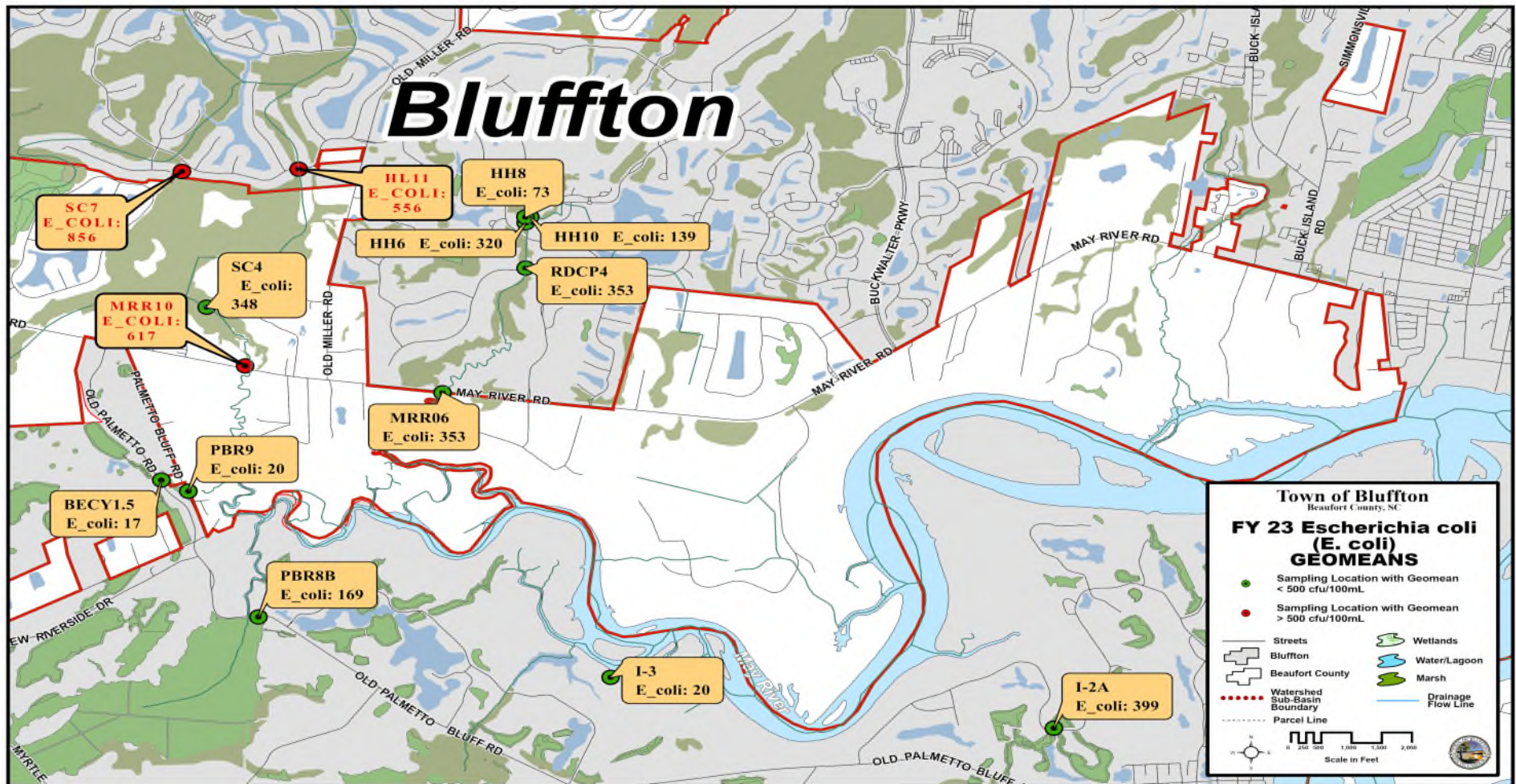
16,670

FY 2024 YTD

13

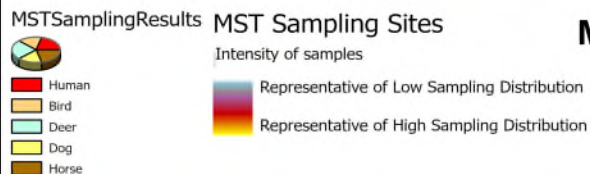
8/27/2022

MS4 Minimum Control Measure #3 – IDDE: *E. coli* Concentrations Trend Map



	USCB Water Quality Samples	Microbial Source Tracking Samples	MS4 Quarterly Samples Collected
FY 2024 YTD Totals	80	10	45
FY 2023 Totals	584	108	108
FY 2022 Totals	447	78	119

Totals include only samples submitted for laboratory analysis, and not *in situ* parameters.



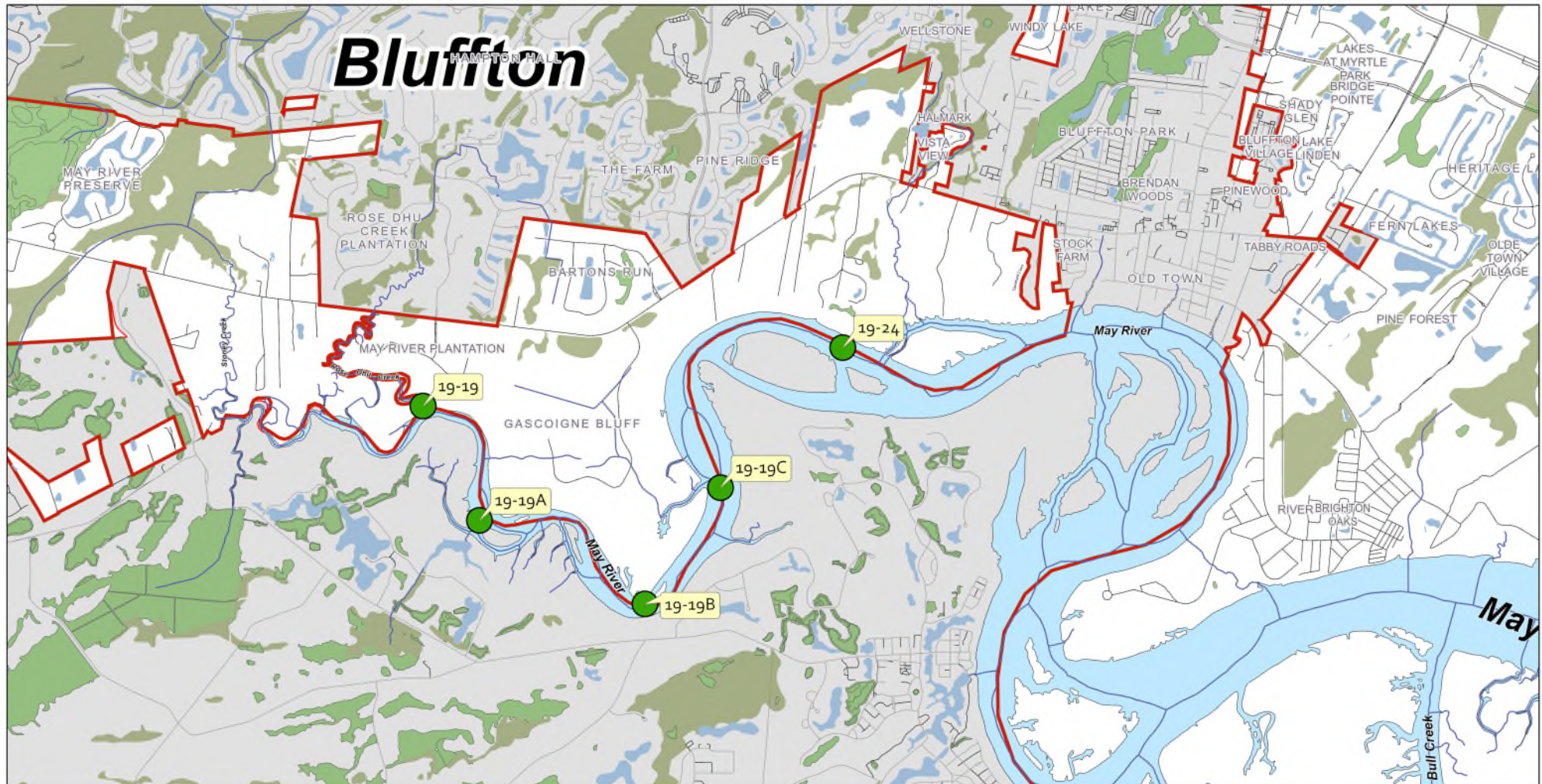
Samples at Sites With Positive Detection and the Intensity of Positive Hits

 Town Jurisdiction
 Beaufort County
 Drainage Flow Lines

Updated Date: 8/15/2023



MS4 Minimum Control Measure #3 – IDDE: Microbial Source Tracking (MST) Map – Human Sources

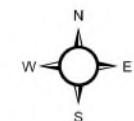


- MST Sampling Location Without Detection
- MST Sampling Location With Detection
- Flowline
- Street
- Town Jurisdiction
- County Jurisdiction

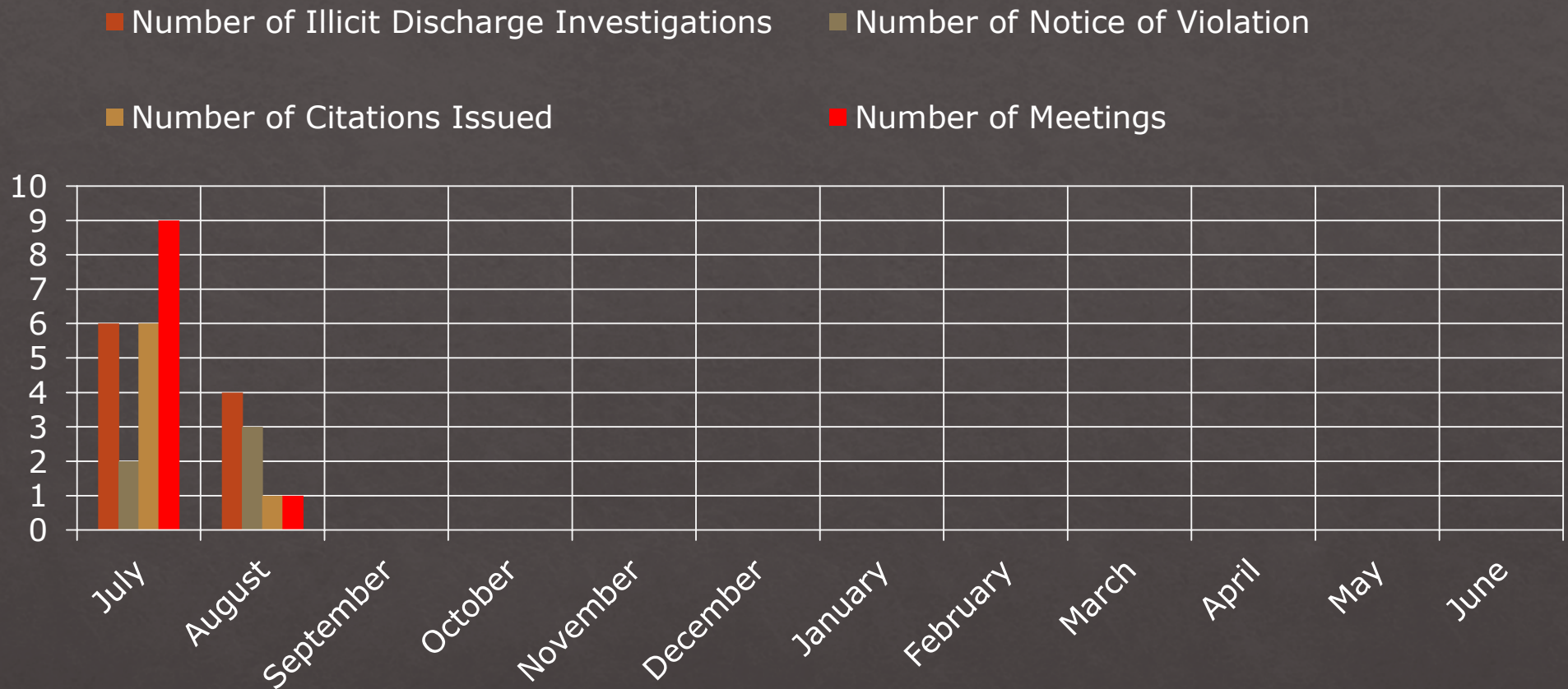
MICROBIAL SOURCE TRACKING LOCATIONS

Sampling Results July 2023

Town of Bluffton
Beaufort County, SC

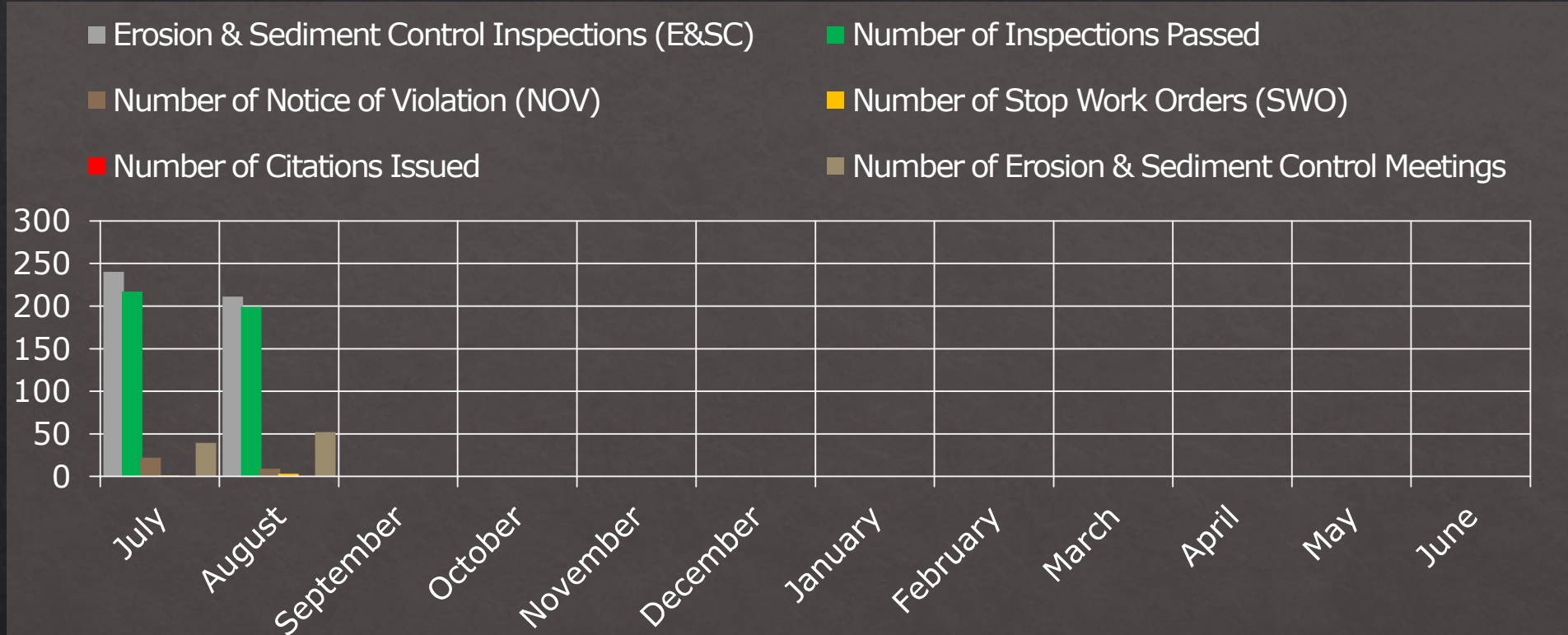


MS4 Minimum Control Measure #3 – IDDE: Illicit Discharge Investigations



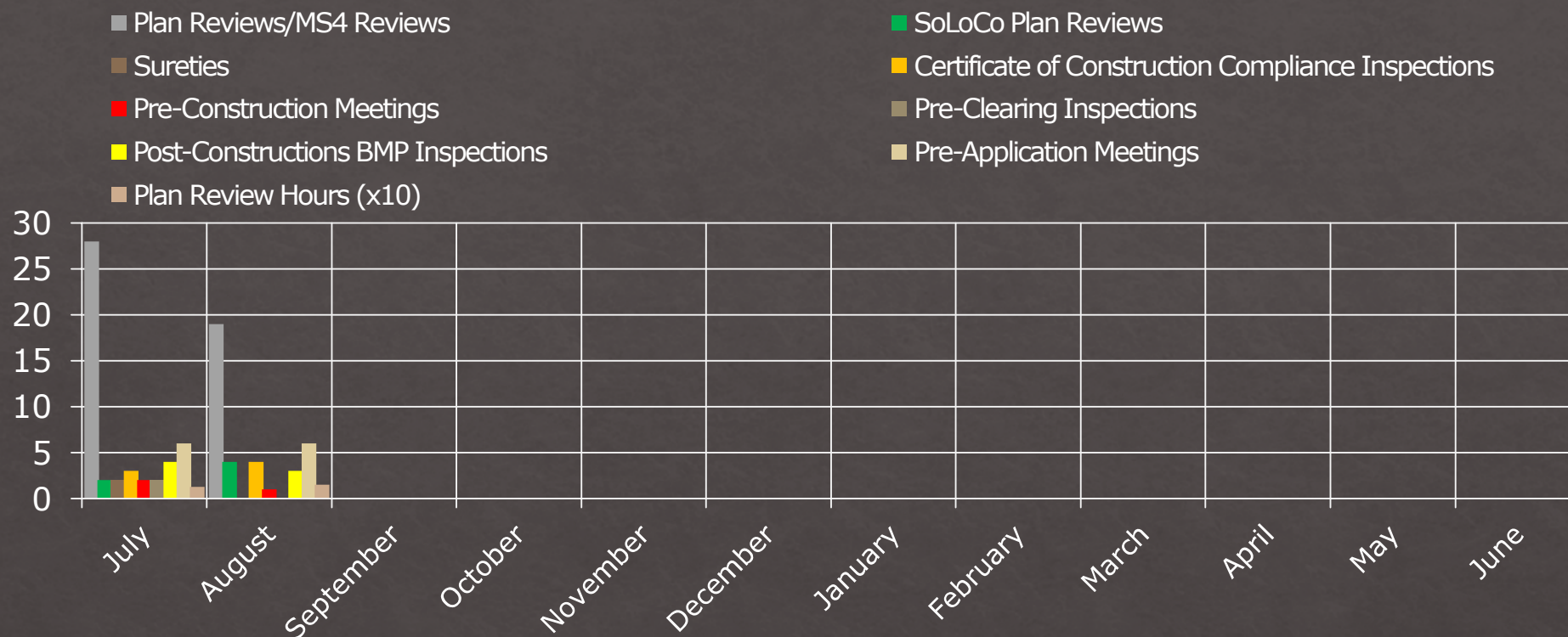
	Number of Illicit Discharge Investigations	Number of Notices of Violation Issued	Number of Citations Issued	Number of Meetings
FY 2024 YTD Totals	10	5	7	10
FY 2023 Totals	27	89	1	20
FY 2022 Totals	30	5	3	17

MS4 Minimum Control Measure #4 - Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control



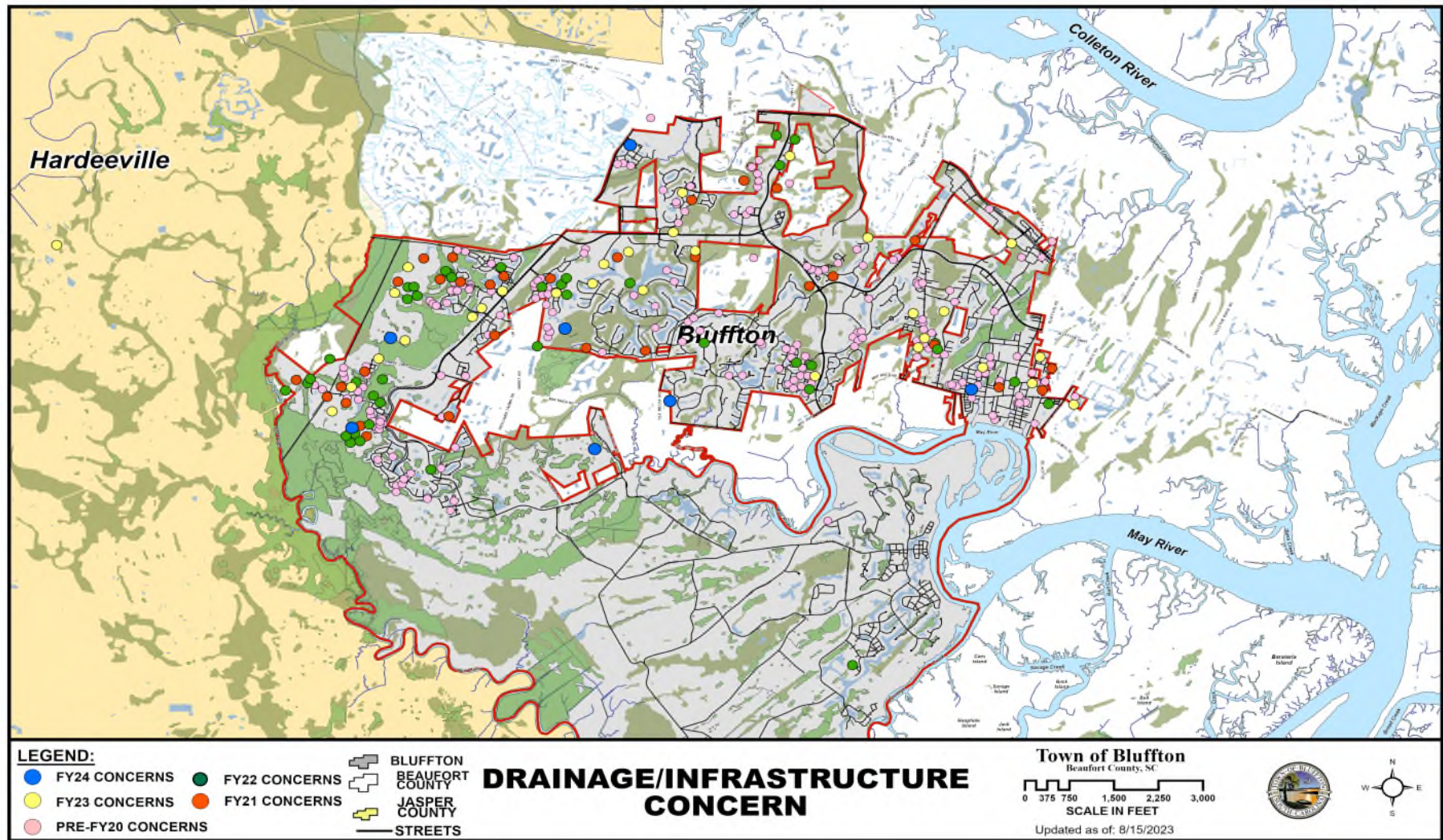
	Number of Sediment & Erosion Control Inspections	Number of Inspections Passed	Number of NOV's Issued	Number of SWO Issued	Number of Citations Issued	Number of E&SC Meetings
FY 2024 YTD Totals	451	416	31	4	0	91
FY 2023 Totals	2,321	2,030	266	26	0	577
FY 2022 Totals	3,127	2,701	392	49	0	673

MS4 Minimum Control Measure #5 Stormwater Plan Review & Related Activity



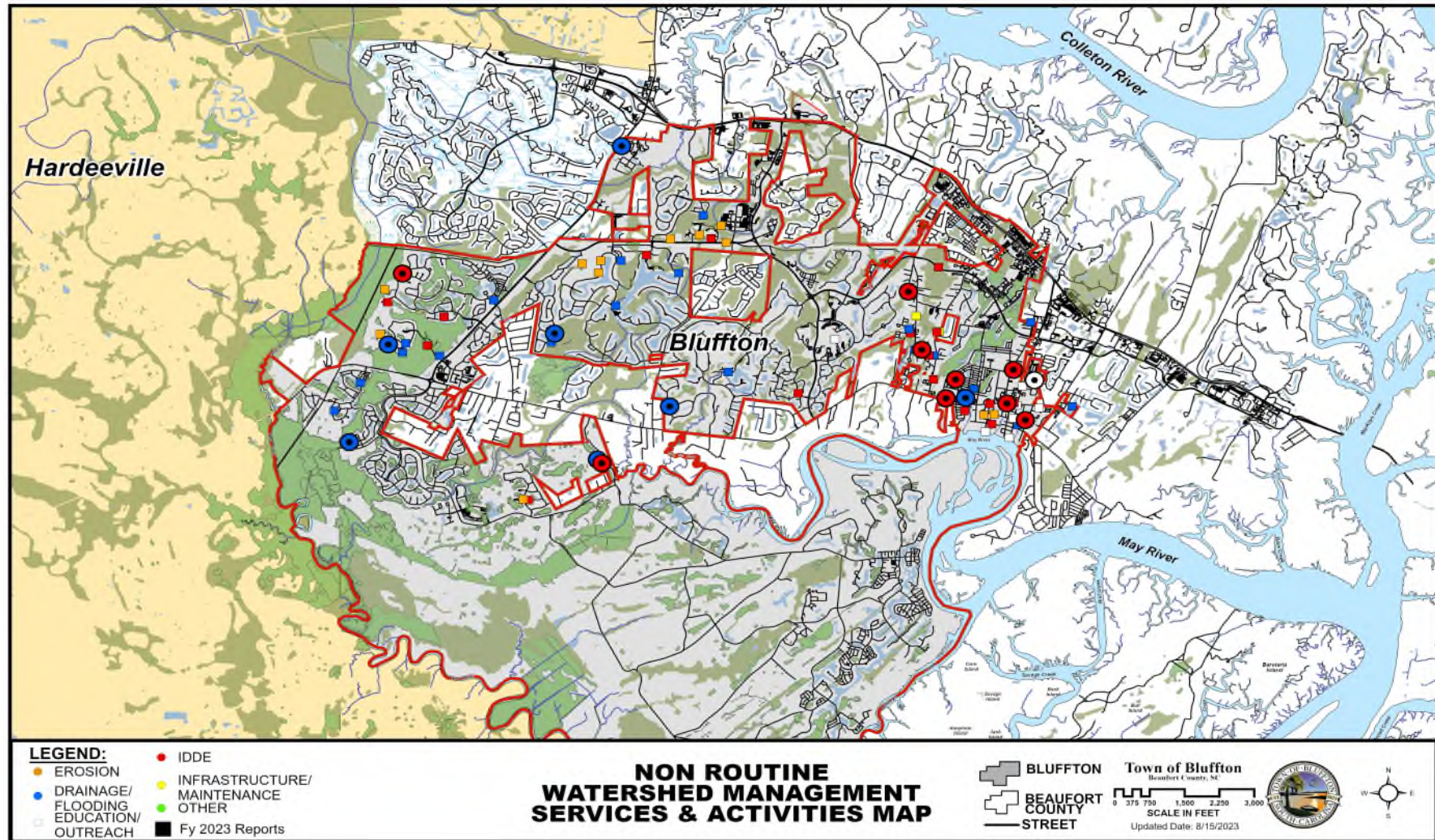
	Plan Reviews MS4 Reviews	SoLoCo Plan Reviews	Sureties	CCC Inspections	Pre-Construction Meetings	Pre-Clearing Inspections	Post Construction BMP Inspections	Pre-Application Meetings	Total Plan Review Hours
FY 2024 YTD	47	6	2	7	3	2	7	12	27.50 Hrs.
FY 2023 Totals	297	67	42	40	15	13	45	50	386 Hrs.
FY 2022 Totals	231	13	42	26	30	23	44	26	454 Hrs.

Citizen Drainage, Maintenance and Inspections Concerns Map



	Number of Drainage Concerns Investigated	Number of Meetings
FY 2024 YTD Totals	7	0
FY 2023 Totals	61	52
FY 2022 Totals	38	34

Citizen Request for Watershed Mngt. Services & Activities Map



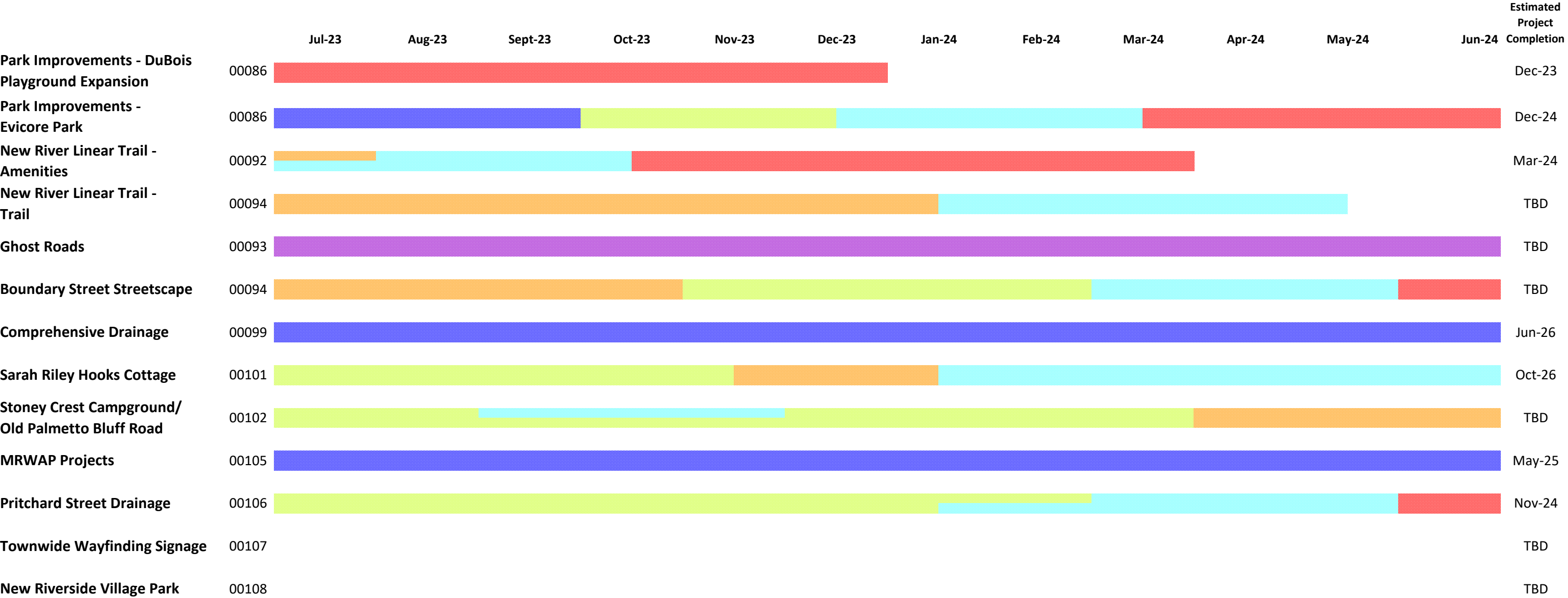
	Number of Citizen Requests Investigated	Number of Meetings
FY 2024 YTD Totals	15	13
FY 2023 Totals	46	23
FY 2022 Totals	33	21

FY24 CIP Master Project Schedule



SUBJECT TO CHANGE

FY24 CIP Master Project Schedule



SUBJECT TO CHANGE