

# TOWN OF BLUFFTON RESILIENCY PLANNING





# OVERVIEW

Background

Data Collection

Gantt Chart Review

The background image shows a coastal scene. In the foreground, there's a body of water with ripples. A large, weathered log lies horizontally across the middle ground, partially submerged. To the left, a sandy beach is visible. The background is filled with dense green trees and foliage. A semi-transparent dark green rectangle is overlaid in the center, containing the title text in white.

# THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

# BACKGROUND- THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

- Starting in late 2020, Bluffton began the process of developing its next Comprehensive Plan.
- The Town's Comprehensive Plan, known as Blueprint Bluffton, is intended to guide decision making for the next ten (10) years. It serves as the vision for the Town of Bluffton.
- In 2022, the South Carolina Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act (S.C. Code Section 6-29-510) required local governments to add a resilience element to comprehensive plans.
- Blueprint Bluffton was adopted in November 2022. For the first time, it included a Resiliency Chapter to meet this requirement and prepare the Town for a more resilient future.
- <https://www.townofbluffton.sc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3569/Element-4-Resiliency>

The background image shows a sandy beach with gentle waves lapping at the shore. A white rope or cable runs diagonally across the sand from the top right towards the bottom. A semi-transparent green rectangular box is centered horizontally, containing the text 'THE STRATEGIC PLAN' in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

# THE STRATEGIC PLAN

# BACKGROUND- THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Implementing the Vision and Mission of the town requires discipline and collaboration between the Town Council, Town Manager and Staff. Bluffton will rely on the Strategic Focus Areas and Strategies of the Strategic Action Plan to:

- Develop the operating budget.
- Consider revisions to capital improvement projects.
- Develop new projects and assign them to Staff for execution.
- Implement projects and initiatives already approved in existing town plans.
- Determine an agreed upon process and schedule to prioritize projects and revise priorities as necessary.

## Mission Statement:

We take care of our citizens, the Town and each other by continuously making our community and organization better.

## Vision Statement:

Bluffton, the Heart of the Lowcountry, a Town that appreciates the past, focuses on today and is planning together for a greater future.

## STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS



Affordable and/or Workforce Housing



Community Quality of Life



Economic Development



Fiscal Sustainability



Infrastructure



May River and Surrounding Rivers and Watersheds



Town Organization

# MAY RIVER AND SURROUNDING RIVERS AND WATERSHEDS



## Guiding Principal 4:

Support active planning and management for resilience of natural resources and our response to weather events, future disasters and changing environmental conditions.

## Action Agenda Item:

Develop a resiliency plan focused on the Town's natural resources, sustainability, wetland ordinance/restoration and environmental principals.

## WAPAC STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY 7

Establish a Climate Resiliency Plan for adaptation to coastal impacts from changing environmental conditions (“rain bombs” and sea level rise) on stormwater runoff water quality and quantity. Assess the environmental resilience of stormwater ponds to changing climate conditions for retrofit opportunities, e.g. ensuring ponds have capacity to hold rain events instead of being pumped full with ground water.

A photograph of a marshy landscape with a winding stream, green grass, and a line of trees in the background under a cloudy sky. The image is darkened to serve as a background for the text.

# RESILIENCY ANALYSIS



## DATA COLLECTION AND RESILIENCE PLANNING

- Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24), included funding for a Resiliency Analysis.
- In February 2024, the Town contracted with the College of Charleston and the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium to develop resiliency-focused scientific models and engage community members.
- This project focuses on observing current impacts and anticipating future challenges related to climate change and associated vulnerabilities.
- To mitigate potential damage and maintain critical infrastructure functionality, Bluffton is developing reliable information to guide policy and planning decisions.

## DATA COLLECTION – RESILIENCY ANALYSIS PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Maps and Data of Bluffton's Infrastructure
  - Provide easy-to-understand maps and data showing the layout and elevation of roads, as well as residential and commercial buildings in Bluffton, South Carolina.
- Flood Risk Maps and Information
  - Present maps and tables that illustrate which roads and buildings might be affected by different flood scenarios, including stormwater runoff and storage
- Current Vulnerable Areas & Build-Out Analysis
  - Offer maps and tables that identify areas and properties most at risk of flooding based on current and future land use plans.
- Recommendations for Planning
  - Provide clear recommendations for updates to local policies and codes.
- Comprehensive Data Access
  - Share all the data used in the project in a format that is accessible and easy to understand.
- Interactive Map Tool
  - Create an interactive tool that allows community members to view and explore the project data and results on a map.

## Project Area



## DATA COLLECTION - ENGAGEMENT

- Community invited to complete online or paper flooding survey.
- Three (3) public drop-in events scheduled July – October.
- The data collected from residents will help researchers assist the town with understanding how flooding occurs and help improve scientific flood models.

# Town of Bluffton Coastal Flooding Public Input Opportunities



### About the Study

The Town of Bluffton, working with the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium and the College of Charleston, is undertaking a Resiliency Analysis. The public is invited to help us document past floods and assist researchers in understanding how flooding occurs in the Town. For more information on the project, please visit <https://www.scseagrants.org/community-flooding-survey/>

### Public Input Opportunities

- Share your experience by completing the online Bluffton Flood Observations Survey. This survey can be found using the website below or the QR Code provided:  
<https://arcg.is/10a5Sn>
- Attend one of the three drop-in events detailed below.

#### EVENT 1

 LOCATION: BLUFFTON ROTARY,  
11 RECREATION COURT,  
BLUFFTON, SC 29910

 DATE: THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2024  
6:00PM - 7:00PM

#### EVENT 2

 LOCATION: PRITCHARDVILLE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,  
9447 EVAN WAY, BLUFFTON, SC 29910

 DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2024  
6:00PM - 7:00PM

#### EVENT 3

 LOCATION: ARTS AND SEAFOOD FESTIVAL,  
TOWN BOOTH AT STREET FEST

 DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024  
10:00AM - 5:00PM



The background image is a landscape photograph of a body of water, likely a lake or a wide river. In the foreground, there are tall, green reeds or grasses growing in the water. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the surrounding trees. On the left side, there are dense green trees. In the background, across the water, there is a building with a dark roof, possibly a house or a small structure. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall lighting suggests a late afternoon or early morning setting. The text "COMPREHENSIVE DRAINAGE STUDIES" is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, white sans-serif font, enclosed within a thin white rectangular border.

# COMPREHENSIVE DRAINAGE STUDIES

## DATA COLLECTION – COMPREHENSIVE DRAINAGE PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Identify & determine stormwater infrastructure conveyance systems by type, condition, size, and owner.
- Identify stormwater infrastructure conveyance systems in need of maintenance, repair, upgrade in size or type.
- Identify areas of inundation from storms of different magnitudes.
- Provide information to guide policy and program recommendations for implementation.

## DATA COLLECTION – COMPREHENSIVE DRAINAGE STUDIES TIMELINES

- Will include all subwatersheds within the Town's jurisdiction, not just the May River.
- Successfully completed the Heyward Cove Watershed Comprehensive Drainage Study in October 2023. Serving as a model for on-going and future Comprehensive Drainage Studies.
- Town Council authorized budget and MSA Task Authorization for work associated with the Crooked and Guerrard Cove Watersheds.
- Studies include 2D H/H Model development and preparation of the Master Planning Report.
- Submitted BRIC grant application for planning work associated with the Verdier and Huger Cove Watersheds. Have been invited to submit a full proposal.



# OTHER DATA SOURCES

## DATA COLLECTION – RESILIENCY PLANNING

- May River Baseline Assessment Results Expected in December 2024.
- Previous Water Quality Studies
  - Dr. Montie's 2019 Technical Report and Dr. Sanger's 2015 Tidal Creek Study
- Additional Data Resources
  - Such as South Carolina Office of Resilience, NOAA, USGS, and SC Climatology Office.

# **GANTT CHART REVIEW**

THANK YOU

Beth Lewis  
Town of Bluffton  
Water Quality Program Manager

