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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88959653755?pwd=h1NIEAHABC1wUhfTaC8zKpbEuT2Kzj.1>

Passcode: 725576 +19292056099 Webinar ID: 889 5965 3755



**City of Beaufort**  
1911 Boundary Street  
Beaufort Municipal Complex  
Beaufort, South Carolina 29902  
(843) 525-7070

**City Council Worksession Meeting Agenda  
February 24, 2026**

**Statement of Media Notification**

"In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d), as amended, all local media was duly notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting."

**Worksession Meeting - Planning Conference Room - 5:00 PM**

**Please note, this meeting will be broadcast via zoom and live-streamed on YouTube. You can view the meeting at the City's page; City Beaufort SC**

- I. Call to Order - Philip Cromer, Mayor**
- II. Employee New Hire Recognition**
  - A. City Manager's Office - Eric Claussen
  - B. Fire Department - Dwight Isenhour, Collin McCurry
  - C. Police Department - Dustin McNeil, Joel Quarti
  - D. Public Works - Bailey Jato-Dutton
- III. Presentations**
  - A. Strategic Partner Presentations
  - B. Capital Waste Recycling Program overview and clarification of curbside guidelines
  - C. Dominion Energy 2026 Right of Way Activities
- IV. Discussion**
  - A. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Spending Deadline and Financial Update
  - B. Amendments to Chapter 2 Weeds, Sec. 6-2003; and Chapter 3 Litter and Trash Sec. 6-3005
  - C. Freedman Arts District Proposal for Art in the Park
- V. Executive Session**
  - A. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Law: Receipt of legal advice regarding pending litigation



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**City of Beaufort**  
Department Request for City Council Agenda Item

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**To:** City Council **Date:** 02/10/2026  
**From:** Scott Marshall, City Manager  
**Item Name:** Strategic Partner Presentations  
**Meeting Date:** February 24, 2026  
**Department:** City Managers Office

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**Background Information:**

**Introduction:**

Our Strategic Partners will share their activities and contemplated fund requests.

**Background:**

1. South Carolina Nurse Retention Program
2. Prichards Island Research
3. South Coast Cybersecurity Center
4. Palmetto Breeze
5. Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation
6. CVB
7. Beaufort Area Hospitality Association
8. National Park Service
9. Historic Beaufort Foundation
10. Beaufort Digital Corridor
11. Beaufort Chamber of Commerce

**Legal Authority:**

**Staff Recommendation:**

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**Placed on Agenda For:**

**Attachments:**

1. South Carolina Nurse Retention Presentation
2. Prichards Island Research
3. South Coast Cyber Center
4. FY2027 Agency Letter - Palmetto Breeze
5. COB Presentation 2-24-26 - Palmetto Breeze
6. City of Beaufort - BCEDC - Spring 2026
7. City of Beaufort\_Tourism\_Health\_2025 - CVB
8. BAHA Presentation 2026
9. 2026 02 REER City of Beaufort - National Park Service
10. Historic Beaufort Foundation
11. Beaufort Digital Corridor
12. Beaufort Chamber of Commerce



# Partnering to Strengthen Nursing in the Lowcountry

Presented to:  
City of Beaufort

2026



# ABOUT SCNRI

The South Carolina Nurse Retention Initiative (SCNRI) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening healthcare in Beaufort, Jasper, and rural Hampton Counties by recruiting and retaining registered nurses.

SCNRI directs 97% of all proceeds directly to nurse retention efforts, delivering maximum impact to local healthcare systems.

Our mission, Local Nurse Workforce Development, addresses the critical nursing shortage and builds a sustainable pipeline of nurses who live and work in the communities they serve.

Through targeted support and retention strategies, SCNRI helps ensure greater access to quality healthcare for residents across the Lowcountry.

We are proud to operate the first and only program in South Carolina offering a post-graduation stipend in return for a local work commitment, making a lasting investment in the future of healthcare in our region.



# THE SCNRI MISSION

Building a Stronger Nurse Workforce in Beaufort, Jasper, and Hampton Counties

- Post-graduation financial incentive program for ADN and BSN nurses
- Up to \$9,000 (BSN) and \$6,000 (ADN) over two years based on merit, dedication, financial need, educational mobility, and commitment

*South Carolina Faces Shortage  
of 10,000+ Nurses by 2030*



# THE URGENT NEED

The nationwide nursing shortage is particularly severe in the Lowcountry, and it's becoming a critical issue for our healthcare system. With thousands of new residents moving to the area and an aging population, the shortage is expected to grow, especially as new facilities from Novant, BMH, and St. Joe Candler are built in Bluffton.

Currently, over 200 RN positions are open within 25 miles of Bluffton, underlining the urgency of this challenge. If left unaddressed, the shortage will have long-term economic and healthcare impacts, affecting both local communities and businesses.

Beaufort County's 65+ population has grown 70% from 2010 to 2022, and with the populations of Bluffton and Hardeeville projected to grow substantially, the need for nurses is more pressing than ever.



*33% of Nurses Nationally Leave Their Employment within 1st Year*

*Population Growth: Beaufort County Alone Grew +25% Since 2010*

# PROGRAM SPECIFICS

(Application & Enrollment)

Spring Window: February 1 - March 1  
(decision by March 15)

Fall Window: August 1 - September 1  
(decision by September 15)

Who is eligible: Recent graduates (BSN or ADN within the past 18 months)

*62% of South Carolina is Designated as Health Professional Shortage Area*



# IMPACT OF THE SCNRI MISSION

- Improved nurse-to-patient ratios
- Tangible community health improvements:
  - Fewer medication errors
  - Lower patient mortality
  - Shorter hospital stays
  - Reduced readmission costs
  - Higher patient satisfaction

*One Nurse Cares for an Average of 6,000  
People per Year (more than 30 per day).*



# SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE CITY OF BEAUFORT



## Health Care providers

SCNRI can assist healthcare providers to recruit and retain the Nurse workforce they require to provide quality Healthcare to the citizens of Beaufort and the surrounding area.

## Registered Nurses who are recent graduates.

SCNRI will provide financial support to help overcome barriers associated with living and working in our geographic area to retain your services

## Local Businesses

The SCNRI supports economic development in our area by helping to create a Robust health care system.

## Citizens

Increased nurse staffing levels in our healthcare facilities, including hospitals, hospice, primary care, rehab, and home care leads to greater availability and quality of healthcare and patient satisfaction.

# SCNRI RESULTS

- Will have added 79 nurses through 2025
- Substantial fundraising growth
- Exceptional retention rate: 8 % Turnover vs. National Average of 33%
- Nurses report that the initiative significantly influences their decision to stay local (100%)
- Economic mobility: housing, childcare, debt repayment, continuing education



*SCNRI is succeeding in its mission to keep nurses in the Lowcountry.*

# FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY & OVERSIGHT

- Oversight and management by Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, Inc.
- Independent annual audits by Forvis Mazars LLC
- Volunteer board includes former/current executives from healthcare, business, and accounting



# COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

- Strong local government and community backing
- Collaborations with 9 colleges and multiple healthcare providers
- Significant local contributions (\$100 to \$50,000 each)
- Award recognition: Joan and Wade Webster Award





*Colleton River Club*

**Ginn Family Foundation**

*Long Cove Club*

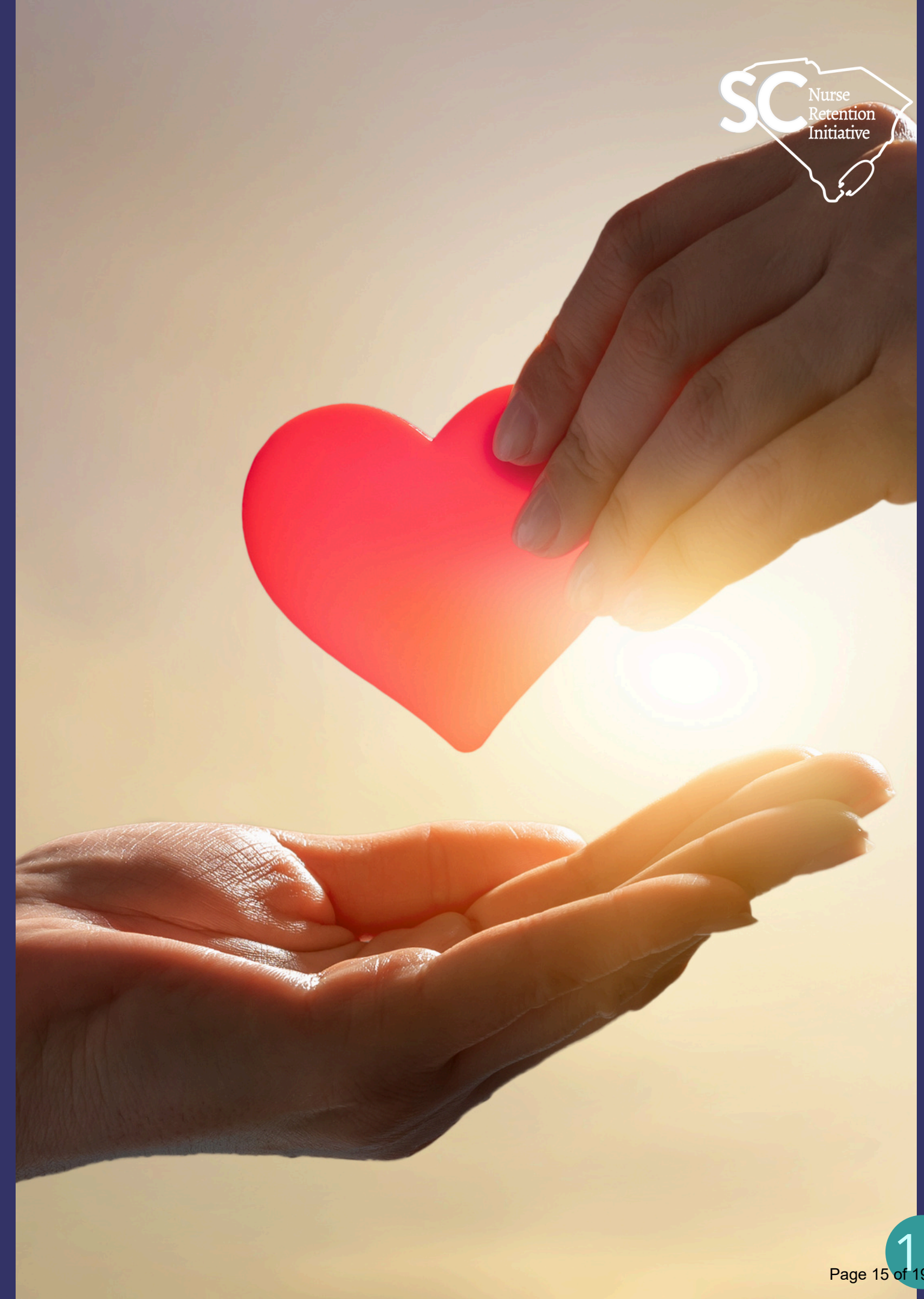


# Notable Sponsors



# BUDGET & FUNDING NEEDS FOR 2026

- Fundraising target \$300,000 in 2026 and 2027
- Breakdown: 97% directly to nurses, 3% administration/marketing (~\$10,000/year)
- Goal: Sustainably add and retain 40-45 nurses per year



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**Email Bob Elliott directly:**

ellbob4901@gmail.com

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**Visit our website**

[www.scnursereention.org](http://www.scnursereention.org)



Three years of partnership

**Let's continue to  
work together**



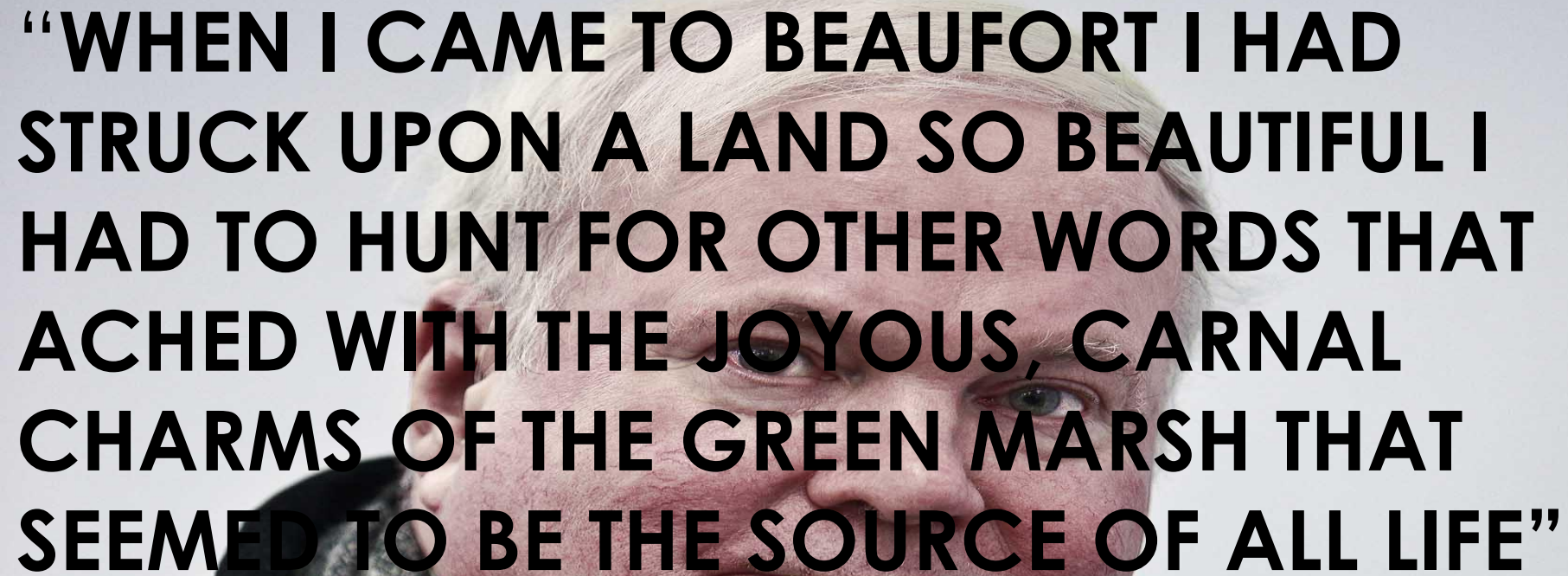
Thank  
you!



# PIRLS

Pritchards Island Research &  
Living Shores Coalition

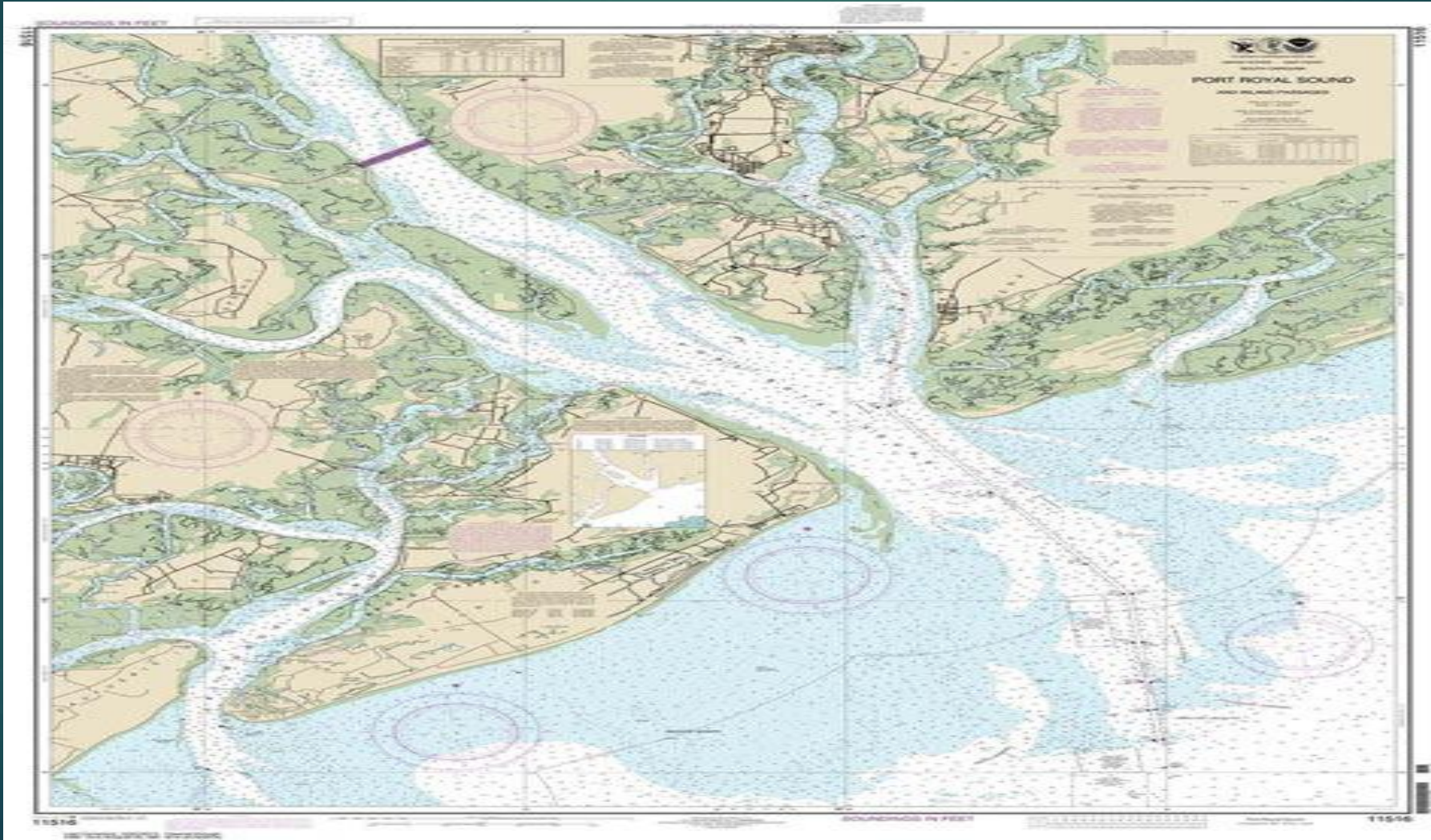




**“WHEN I CAME TO BEAUFORT I HAD  
STRUCK UPON A LAND SO BEAUTIFUL I  
HAD TO HUNT FOR OTHER WORDS THAT  
ACHED WITH THE JOYOUS, CARNAL  
CHARMS OF THE GREEN MARSH THAT  
SEEMED TO BE THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE”**

**PAT CONROY**

# PRITCHARDS: GATEWAY TO OUR REGION



# BACKGROUND

- ▶ GIFTED FOR OCEAN AND MARINE RESEARCH BY RHODES FAMILY IN 1980s
- ▶ DONATED FOR SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATIONAL, CHARITABLE AND PUBLIC PURPOSES
- ▶ LARGELY UNUSED OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES DUE TO LACK OF FUNDING/STAFFING
- ▶ GOV MCMASTER PROMISED RHODES FAMILY HEIRS HE WOULD PROVIDE FUNDING; LEGISLATURE APPROPRIATED \$500K (RECURRING)

# KEY POINTS

- ▶ 1600 ACRES OF PRISTINE BARRIER ISLAND
- ▶ “LIVING SHORES” AND BARRIER ISLANDS CRITICAL FOR RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR COMMUNITY AND MILITARY INSTALLATIONS
- ▶ INVALUABLE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDY OF A UNIQUE MARINE ECOSYSTEM
- ▶ IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTANDING EROSION, SEA LEVEL RISE, CLIMATE CHANGE, USE OF “LIVING SHORES” TO MAINTAIN/IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AND RESILIENCE

# THE CAROLINA BIGHT

WHAT IS IT? The Carolina Bight is the area that includes the Calibogue Sound and the Port Royal Sound. Rivers in the Carolina Bight include the Beaufort, Broad, Chechessee, Colleton, May, Pocataligo, Tulifiny, and the Whale Branch river

# **WHY DOES IT MATTER: A UNIQUE NATIONAL LABORATORY**

- ▶ **VERY LITTLE FRESH WATER INPUT; TIDAL RIVERS AND CREEKS = HIGH SALINITY WATERS**
- ▶ **DEEP CHANNELS**
- ▶ **LOW POLLUTION LEVELS SUPPORT ROBUST PLANT AND MARINE LIFE**
- ▶ **HIGHEST TIDES IN SOUTHEAST; HIGH TIDAL AMPLITUDE**
- ▶ **“CARBON SINK”: 2,000 POUNDS OF CARBON PER ACRE/PER YEAR**

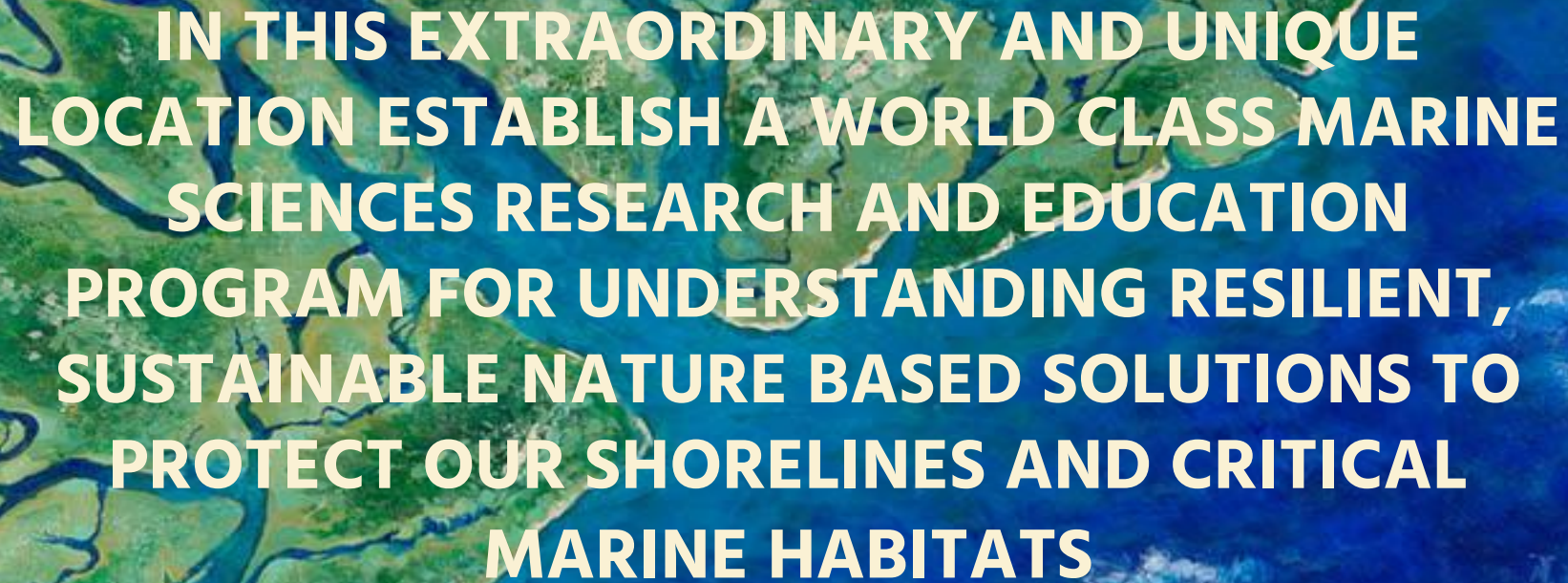
# **WHY DOES IT MATTER: A UNIQUE NATIONAL LABORATORY**

- ▶ **SC HAS MORE SALT MARSH THAN ANY OTHER STATE ON THE ATLANTIC COAST; 50% OF THE SALT MARSH IN SC IS IN BEAUFORT COUNTY; 50% OF BEAUFORT COUNTY IS SALT MARSH**
- ▶ **SALT MARSH IS ONE OF THE MOST PRODUCTIVE ECOSYSTEMS IN THE WORLD; EXTENSIVE MARINE FOOD WEB**
- ▶ **HIGH SALINITY; DEEP CHANNELS; HIGH TIDAL AMPLITUDE; EXTENSIVE SALT MARSH SUPPORT HIGH BIODIVERSITY**

# THE OPPORTUNITY

- ▶ **SEEK DESIGNATION OF THE AREA AS PART OF THE NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM; GOVERNOR NOMINATION TO EPA**
- ▶ **EXPAND THE REACH OF UNIVERSITY OF SC BEAUFORT'S MARINE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS/COLLABORATION**
- ▶ **HIGHLIGHT THE UNIVERSITY OF SC BEAUFORT'S HISTORIC WATERFRONT CAMPUS AS AN IDEAL LOCATION FOR A WORLD CLASS MARINE SCIENCES PROGRAM**

# VISION



**IN THIS EXTRAORDINARY AND UNIQUE  
LOCATION ESTABLISH A WORLD CLASS MARINE  
SCIENCES RESEARCH AND EDUCATION  
PROGRAM FOR UNDERSTANDING RESILIENT,  
SUSTAINABLE NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS TO  
PROTECT OUR SHORELINES AND CRITICAL  
MARINE HABITATS**

# INITIATIVES

- ▶ **USCB/DNR COLLABORATION**
- ▶ **2025 PIRLS SYMPOSIUM; GOVERNOR MCMASTER KEYNOTE**
- ▶ **COASTAL CAROLINA/USCB COLLABORATION; POSSIBLE FUTURE “Coastal Consortium” (USCB/CofC/Coastal)**
- ▶ **2026 PIRLS SYMPOSIUM; FRIPP ISLAND 7 APRIL; KEYNOTE: MARGARET SPRING, CHIEF SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION OFFICER, MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM**
- ▶ **PROPOSED USCB/DNR JOINT RESEARCH AND EDUCATION BUILDING IN BEAUFORT**





# SOUTH COAST CYBER CENTER

A COLLABORATION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERS INCLUDING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BEAUFORT, TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF THE LOWCOUNTRY, THE BEAUFORT DIGITAL CORRIDOR, AND THE BEAUFORT COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WORKING TOGETHER TO DEVELOP A WORLD CLASS REGIONAL CYBER ECOSYSTEM

# THE OPPORTUNITY



- TALENT CRUNCH TO CREATE 3.5M UNFILLED CYBER SECURITY JOBS GLOBALLY
- WHARTON SCHOOL: "NOWHERE IS THE WORKFORCE SKILLS GAP MORE PRONOUNCED THAN IN CYBERSECURITY"
- OVER 300K UNFILLED CYBER WORKFORCE POSITIONS
- BLS: 32% GROWTH FROM 2018-2028 WITH 0% UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE FIELD

*OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH IN THE BEAUFORT REGION: "EXPANDING SECTORS THAT EMPLOY HIGH WAGE, HIGH SKILL WORKERS ... INCLUDE GROWING THE LOCAL PRESENCE OF ... CYBERSECURITY"*

*DR JOSEPH VON NESSEN, UNIVERISTY OF SOUTH CAROLINA (APRIL 2021)*

# WHY HERE?

- QUALITY OF LIFE; GREAT LOCAL TALENT POOL
- CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MILITARY – MANY WANT TO REMAIN IN BEAUFORT COUNTY TO LIVE AND WORK
- UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BEAUFORT AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF THE LOWCOUNTRY IN BEAUFORT OFFERING BACHELOR AND ASSOCIATE DEGREES
- PROXIMITY TO NAVAL INFORMATION WARFARE COMMAND ATLANTIC, ARMY CYBER COMMAND, LOCKHEED MARTIN, GULFSTREAM, THE SAVANNAH RIVER NATIONAL LAB, & GEORGIA CYBER CENTER
- WE ARE SUSTAINABLE; PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT WHILE DEVELOPING THE ECONOMY



# SOUTH COAST CYBER CENTER VISION

“WE WILL BE THE PREEMINENT LEADER FOR  
CYBERSECURITY IN OUR REGION, LEVERAGING OUR  
UNIQUE ADVANTAGES FOR AGILITY AND  
COLLABORATION”

# RETURN ON INVESTMENT

- USCB/TCL CLOSING IN ON NSA/DHS CENTER OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE ENDORSEMENT PROCESS
- USCB CONCENTRATION IN CYBERSECURITY
- TCL ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN CYBERSECURITY APPROVED; NSA/DHS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE DESIGNATION
- ANNUAL CYBER SUMMIT IN BEAUFORT; TABLETOP
- NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION REGIONAL INNOVATION ENGINE GRANT – CYBERSECURITY FOR MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ECOSYSTEM
- EXCEPTIONAL GOVERNING BOARD OF BUSINESS LEADERS; CYBER PROFESSIONALS; ACADEMIC COMMUNITY; LOCAL GOVERNMENT
- ALMOST \$4M IN FEDERAL GRANTS AND STATE FUNDING
- BEAUFORT DIGITAL CORRIDOR: CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS; SCHOLARSHIPS; STARTUP WEEKEND
- STRONG WORKING RELATIONSHIPS W/NIWC ATLANTIC; GEORGIA CYBER CENTER; SAVANNAH RIVER NATIONAL LAB – NATIONWIDE NETWORK OF COLLABORATORS; NATIONAL GUARD; SLED CIC
- NSA GEN CYBER GRANT FOR TEACHER TRNG
- TRANSITIONING VETERANS; YOUNG ADULTS; AND CAREER PROFESSIONALS
- BOTTOMLINE: WE ARE GIVING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE; TRANSITIONING VETERANS; AND CAREER CHANGERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP SECURE THE NATION'S TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE W/HIGH SKILL/HIGH WAGE JOBS

# OUR GOAL

AN EDUCATED CYBERSECURITY  
WORKFORCE



A DYNAMIC EDUCATIONAL AND  
ECONOMIC ECOSYSTEM





February 10, 2026

Mr. Scott Marshall  
City Manager  
City of Beaufort  
1911 Boundary Street  
Beaufort, SC 29902

Dear Mr. Marshall:

The Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority DBA Palmetto Breeze appreciates the opportunity to submit this budget request to the City of Beaufort. Palmetto Breeze respectfully requests a total of **\$102,778** for Fiscal Year 2027 in order to support the provision of public transportation throughout the newly small-urbanized area of the Town of Port Royal and the City of Beaufort. Fiscal year 2027 is a transition year with funding, where **\$76,909** is needed to support urban services currently present and **\$25,869** to support newly acquired grant for capital. This amount represents our best estimate of the amount that will be needed to match the Federal grants that fund urban services. This request is for the required local match funds for the urban grant, north of the broad.

## HISTORY

Lowcountry RTA has been a rural (Section 5311) transportation provider since its inception in the late 1970s. The South Carolina Department of Transportation administers the rural grant programs that, combined with fares and both state and local matching funds, account for the revenue necessary to operate the system. Historically, the local match has been provided by Allendale, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties, as well as the Town of Hilton Head Island. In February 2017, Lowcountry RTA was approved by the FTA as a designated recipient of urban (Section 5307) funds to serve the Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Urbanized Area. In July 2024, Lowcountry RTA was approved by the FTA as a designated recipient of urban (Section 5307) funds to serve the Beaufort/Port Royal Urbanized Area.

## CURRENT LOCAL MATCH NEEDS

### ***NORTH OF THE BROAD***

The newly designed urban area of Beaufort – Port Royal, SC (Section 5307) grant project (for Federal Fiscal Year 2027) includes a small portion towards operational and administrative and the remainder towards capital. FY2027 is a transitional year, as we move current ridership out of the rural sector and into the small urban sector. The total project cost is \$1,467,897. The grant



funding for this project consists of \$958,000 in Federal funds, \$60,139 in State funds, and \$449,758 in local matching funds that must be raised for the project.

These funds will need to be provided by the Town of Port Royal, City of Beaufort, and Beaufort County based on each jurisdiction’s respective share of the total population of the urbanized area (as indicated in Table 1 below).

	Population	Percentage	Local Match Share
Town of Port Royal	15047	18.84%	\$84,734
City of Beaufort	13660	17.10%	\$76,909
Unincorporated Beaufort County	51147	64.06%	\$288,115
	79854	100%	\$449,758

LRTA recently acquired additional funding for North of the Broad, and this (Section 5307) grant project (for Federal Fiscal Year 2027) includes capital items only.

The total project cost for this additional grant is \$1,005,012. The grant funding for this project consists of \$853,729 in Federal funds and \$151,283 in local matching funds that must be raised for the project (as indicated in Table 2 below).

	Population	Percentage	Local Match Share
Town of Port Royal	15047	18.84%	\$28,502
City of Beaufort	13660	17.10%	\$25,869
Unincorporated Beaufort County	51147	64.06%	\$96,912
	79854	100%	\$151,283

**LOCAL COMMITMENT**

Like most transit systems, Lowcountry RTA relies on local, state, and federal funding to subsidize expenses. The funding provided by the Town will play a vital role in the future development of the urban services. The funding provided this fiscal year will go toward covering the local match required for capital items only in Beaufort County and the City of Beaufort/Town of Port Royal Urbanized Area, until the Northern Beaufort County Transit Master Plan Study is completed.



Please contact me directly at (843) 757-5784 or by email at [khepburn@palmettobreezetransit.com](mailto:khepburn@palmettobreezetransit.com) should you have any questions or concerns regarding this request and will final decision regarding our agency ask.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristine Hepburn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristine Hepburn  
Director of Finance & Administration





# LRTA Budget Request

Presentation to the City of Beaufort



Connecting The Lowcountry

February 24, 2026

## Purpose & Context

- Present Lowcountry Regional Transportation request for FY 27 funding based on Federal grant match requirements.
- Support informed decision-making by city Council.



## Urbanized Area – What Changed for Public Transportation ?

- Beaufort County NOB no longer funded completely with rural (5311) grant funding
- Rural grant amount decreasing – Urban amount increasing
- FY 27 is a transition year – LRTA must separate the service into rural and urban service
- What does this mean for the City of Beaufort?

Restructure of routes – Urban routes will start and end in urban area and rural routes will start and end in the rural area.

This change will increase the match money necessary for the urban grant.

### **Reimbursement rates (FTA)**

- Administration (indirect cost) – 80%
- Capital non-ADA – 80%
- Capital ADA (revenue vehicles) – 85%
- Operations – 50%

## Capital Funds Opportunity

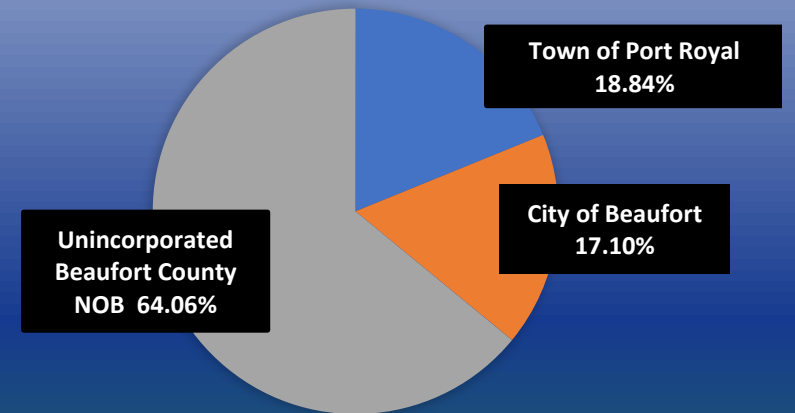
MPO/UZA	Recipient	FY2021 FAST Act Funding Amount
Florence / 30061	Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority	\$1,233,126
Bluffton – Hilton Head / 08601	Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority	**\$853,729**
Spartanburg / 83548	Spartanburg Regional Health Services District, Inc.	\$452,098
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>\$2,538,953</u></b>

\*\* This Updated FFY2021 Lapsing Funds Split Letter authorizes Lowcountry RTA to apply the lapsing funds in the amount of \$853,729 to the Beaufort-Port Royal small urbanized area.\*\*

## FUNDING SOURCES



## URBAN POPULATION SHARE





**Today's Request: \$102,778**

**FY27 FTA Grant - \$76,909**

**FY27b Capital Grant - \$25,869**

## Sources of LRTA Generated Revenue

- Sale of assets: Used vehicles that are beyond their useful life. Allowed to keep up to \$10,000 per vehicle.
- Sale of advertising: Ads on the Trolley maps, the video loop (Trolley), Interior and exterior signs.
- Miscellaneous revenue: Sale of scrap metal, interest income
- Special event transportation (partners).
- Fare Revenue (cannot be used to match the grants).



**Thank You!**





  
**Beaufort County**  
Economic Development Corporation

**City of Beaufort**  
**February 2026**

 /company/BeaufortSCEDC

 /BeaufortSCEDC

# AGENDA

1. Mission & Vision
2. Budget Request
3. County Wide Results
4. City of Beaufort Results
5. Approach to the Work
6. Pipeline
7. Business Retention & Expansion Meetings
8. Recent projects
9. Marketing

# Mission & Vision

## **Vision:**

The Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation (BCEDC) is the collaborative entity for organizing, structuring and leading economic Development efforts on behalf of Beaufort County's residents.

## **Mission:**

The BCEDC will achieve its vision by engaging key stakeholders to diversify the county's economy, attract investments and well-paying jobs. The mission will be carried out in a way that is respectful of the environment.

# Budget Request

**\$42,000 FY 2027**

# Results

# Beaufort County MSA

	<u>APR 2020</u> <u>(000)</u>	<u>AUG 2025</u> <u>(000)</u>	<u>CHANGE</u> <u>(000)</u>	% CH
U.S.	130,424	159,540	29,116	22.3%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,894.3	2,427.2	532.9	28.1%
<u>HH-BLUFFTON</u> <u>- BEAUFORT</u>	<u>69.1</u>	<u>89.9</u>	<u>20.8</u>	<u>30.1%</u>

*“Employment growth in the Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort labor market area is out pacing state averages after 5 years of economic recovery.”*

*Economist Don Klepper-Smith*

# Beaufort County MSA

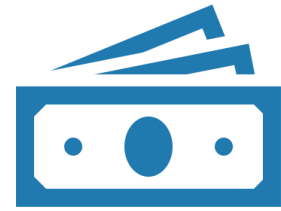
	<u>APR 2020</u> <u>(000)</u>	<u>AUG 2025</u> <u>(000)</u>	<u>CHANGE (000)</u>	<u>% CHANGE</u>
MYRTLE BEACH-CONWAY	104.9	162.2	57.3	54.6%
CHARLESTON	317.6	437.0	119.4	37.6%
<u>HILTON</u> <u>HEAD-BLUFFTON-BEAUFORT</u>	<u>69.1</u>	<u>89.9</u>	<u>20.8</u>	<u>30.1%</u>
GREENVILLE	373.1	479.1	106.0	28.4%
<u>SOUTH CAROLINA</u>	<u>1,894.3</u>	<u>2,427.2</u>	<u>532.9</u>	<u>28.1%</u>
COLUMBIA	361.0	440.3	79.3	22.0%
SPARTANBURG	148.7	181.3	32.6	21.9%
FLORENCE	83.4	99.5	16.1	19.3%
SUMTER	35.4	39.1	3.7	10.5%

*“Our region now ranks 3rd in the State, posting job growth of 30% since 4/2020.”*

*Economist Don Klepper-Smith*



# Results FY 26



\$59.6 Million Investments



165 Jobs



\$87,590 Avg. Comp



\$ 109,000 Sq. Ft. Real Estate

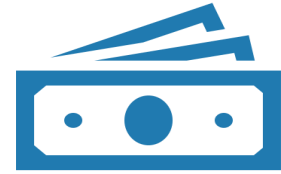


\$305,000 Incentives to Companies and Site Grants

Capital Investment (Million)	\$70 Million
Job Creation	250
Product Development	Initiated Sites
Business Retention Meetings	75 Meetings - Follow-up
Leads	80 Leads



# Results Since 2017



\$909 Million Investments



3,166 Jobs



\$60,177 Avg. Comp

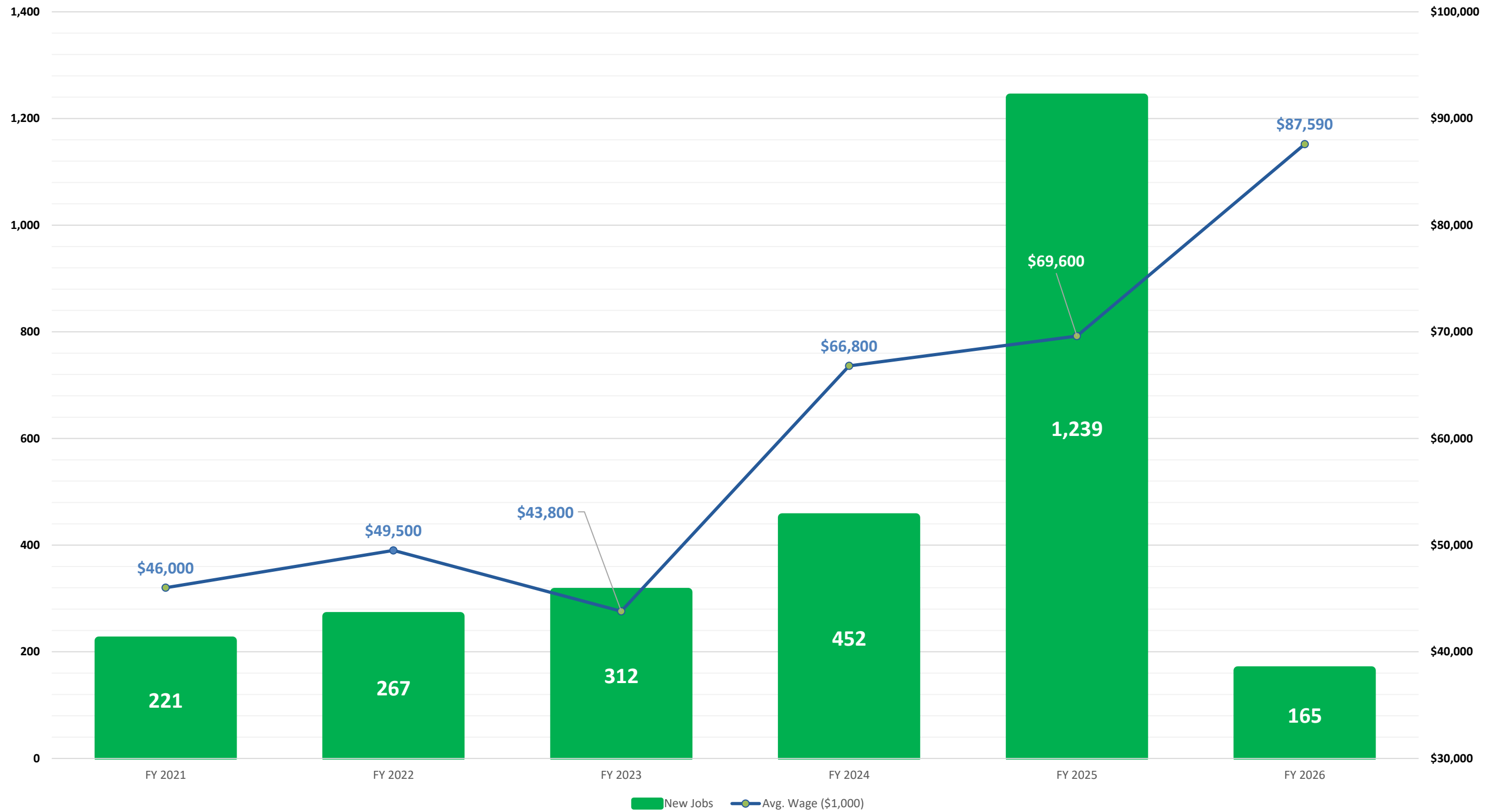


1.6 Million Sq. Ft. Real Estate



\$32.1 Million Incentives to Companies and Site Grants

### Jobs and Wages



FY 2025 - Significantly Impacted by Healthcare Investments

## 5.5 Years – Since The Pandemic

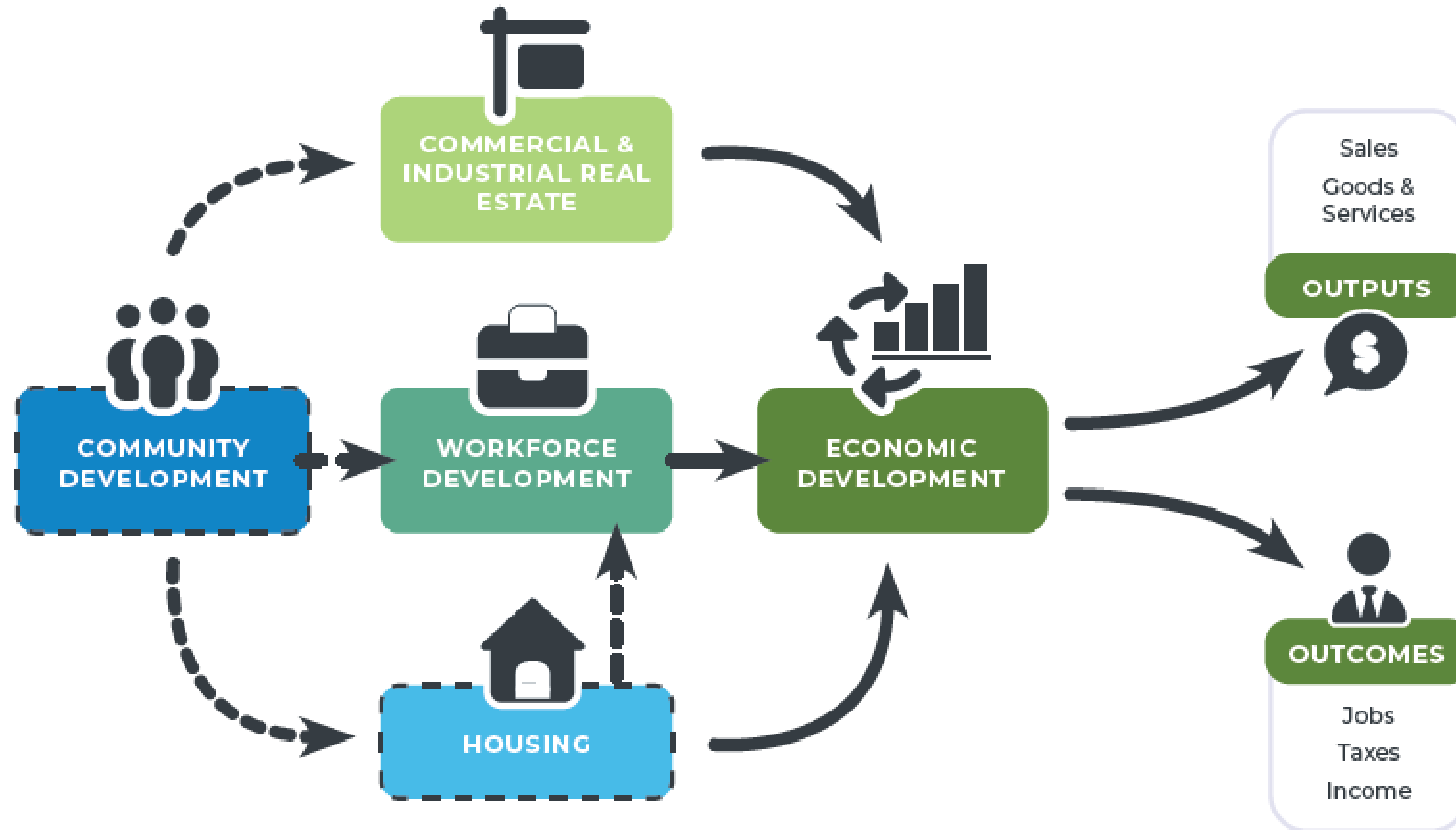
2,656 – New Jobs

\$167,928,100 – Total Compensation

# Approach to Work

# Economic Development Model

## A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



- Marketing and Attraction
- Business Retention and Expansion
- Site Development
- Grants and Programs
- Project Management
- Coordinating with Partners
- Public Policy
- Metrics

# Pipeline

# CONSTRUCTION OF 25,000 SQUARE FOOT PAD SITE - LOT D

FUNDING PARTNERS	CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT	PERCENT OF PROJECT
LocateSC Grant Request	\$200,744.00	50%
Beaufort County EDC Site & Job Fund	\$125,744	31%
Dominion Energy	\$75,000.00	19%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$401,488.00</b>	



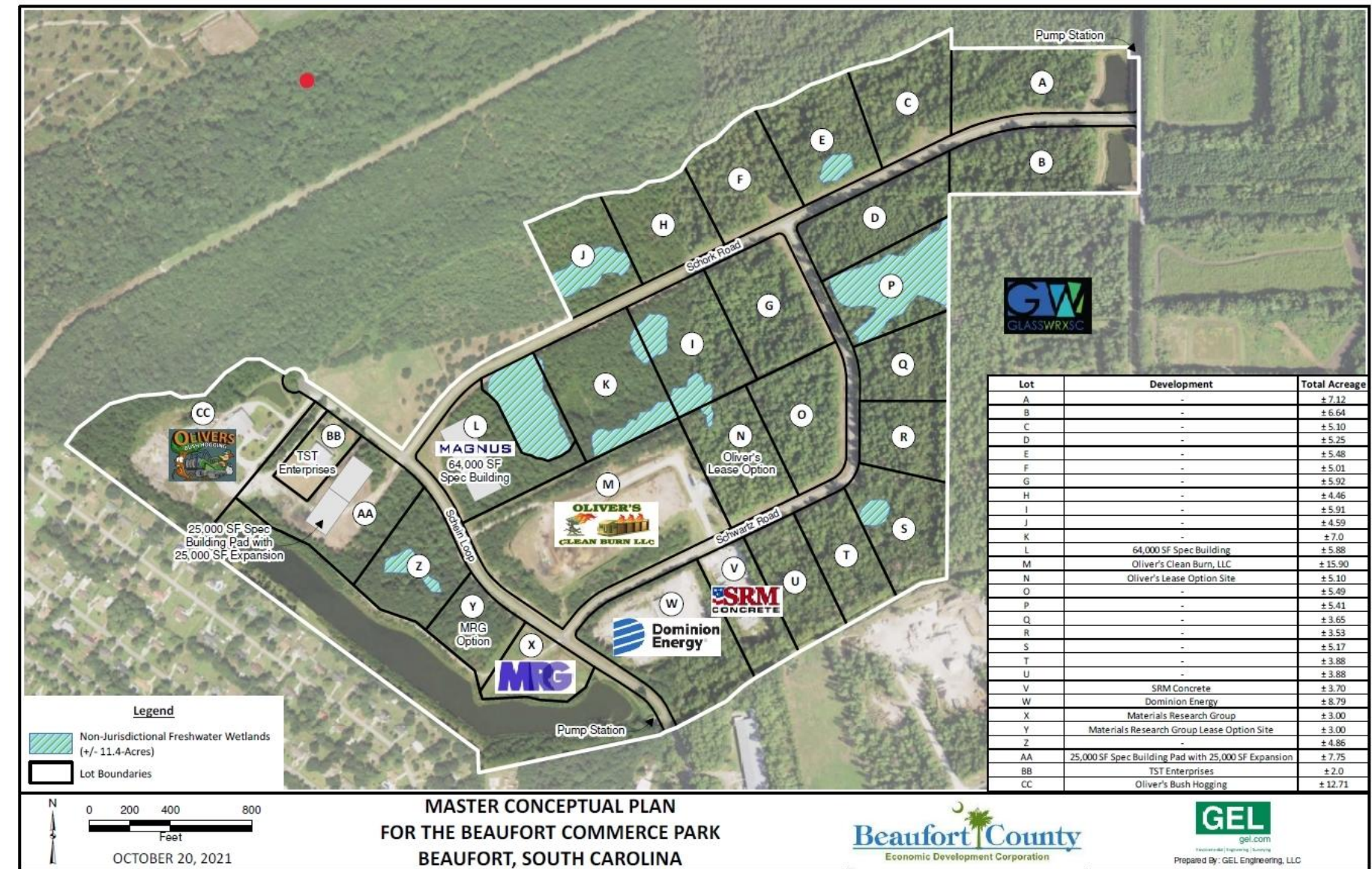
EXAMPLE: In 2018, BCEDC applied and was awarded a site enhancement grant through the Department of Commerce. The grant match of \$133,000 from Beaufort County's Job & Site Fund resulted in a \$35 million investment for Project Laundry on Lot AA.



Project Laundry as of November 6, 2025  
\$35M Investment; 50,000 sq. ft.; 162 jobs

# Update on sale of 31.79 acres in Beaufort Commerce Park

- Letter of Intent for purchase received December 15, 2025.
- Draft purchase and sale agreement received from City of Beaufort - December 2025
- Expected to go before public during March 2026 meeting
- Details:
- Purchase Price: \$2,271,600
  - Donation to BCEDC (Cash): \$1,000,000
  - Actual purchase price of land: \$1,271,600
- Per-Acre Price:  $\$1,271,600 / 31.79 \text{ Acres} = \$40,000/\text{Acre}$
- Donation to BCEDC (In-Kind Borrow Pit): \$600,000



- **Beaufort Commerce Park**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Spec Building
  - 72,000 sq. ft.
  - \$9.2 million



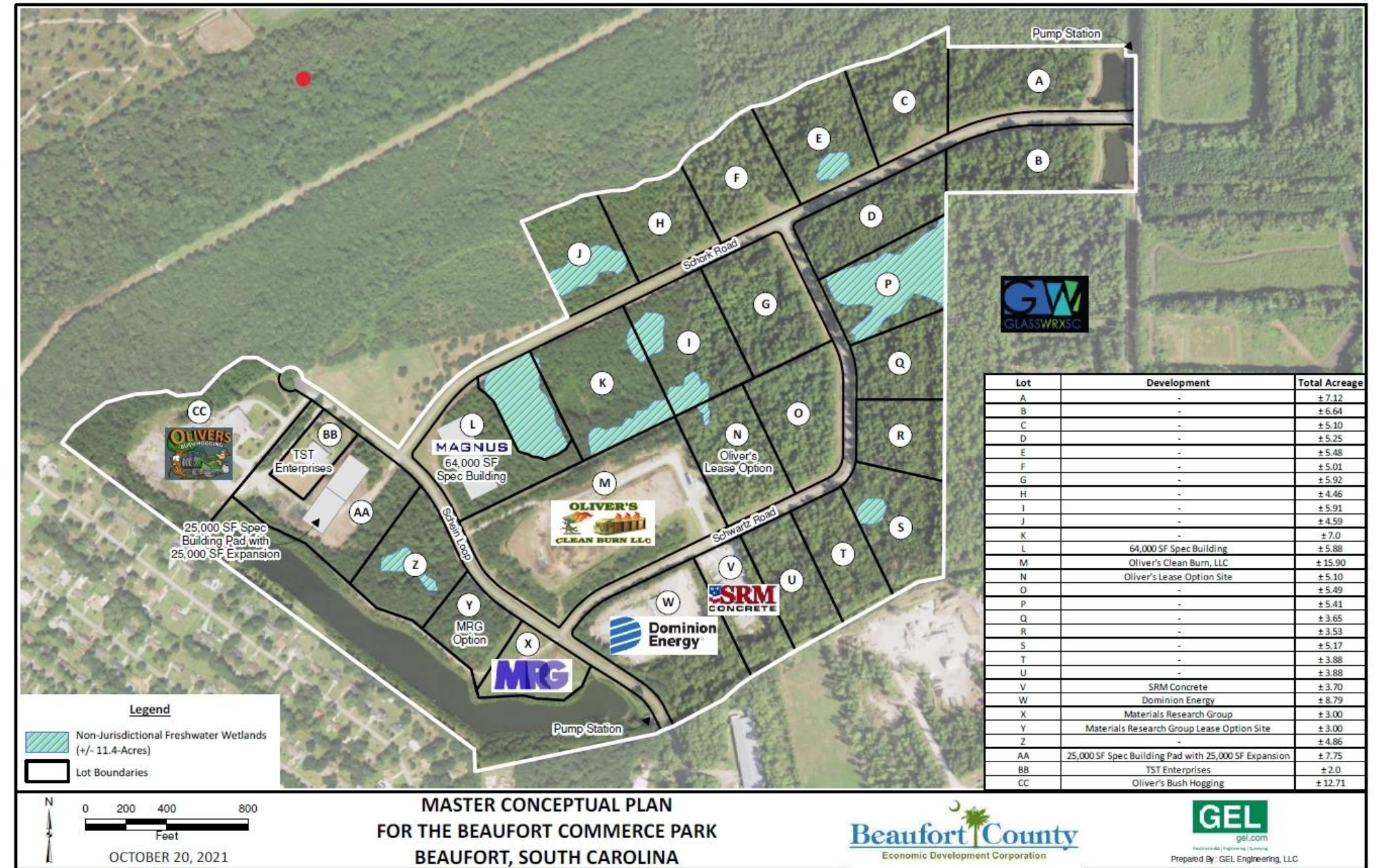
## Project Ceramic – Lot D Beaufort Commerce Park



- Capital Expenditure  
\$6,695,000
- New Jobs Created 10
- Addition of 5 relocated  
positions
- Average Compensation  
\$67,536/year
- Letter of Intent for Lot D  
purchase is pending  
Beaufort Commerce Park

# Anticipate Letters of Intent for Lot U and T

- Purchase of Lot U for \$ 155,000
- Purchase of Lot T for \$155,000



# US COAST GUARD TRAINING FACILITY SUBMISSION

# A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST RESPONSE OF BEAUFORT COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) 70Z0G1, MARKET RESEARCH, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD, ACQUIRE A TRAINING FACILITY

## UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACQUIRE A TRAINING FACILITY

ATTN: PETER SPINELLA ([PETER.C.SPINELLA@USCG.MIL](mailto:PETER.C.SPINELLA@USCG.MIL))

Solicitation No.: Request for Information  
(RFI)/Market Research 70Z0G1

**Responder's Contact Information:** Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation (BCEDC), with the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce (BRCC), Beaufort Military Enhancement Committee (MEC), and Beaufort Defense Community Partnership Task Force (DCP)

**Address:** PO Box 7017, Hilton Head Island, SC 29938

**Phone:** 843-226-3462

**E-mail:** [jotoole@thrivebeaufort.org](mailto:jotoole@thrivebeaufort.org)

**John O'Toole**  
Executive Director, BCEDC  
Phone : 843-226-3462

**Megan Morris**  
President and CEO, BRCC  
Phone : 843-525-8525



RFI Response Due Date: December 8, 2025



HENRY DARGAN McMASTER  
GOVERNOR

December 3, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

I am writing to endorse the initiative by the Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation in partnership with the Defense Community Partnership and the Beaufort County Military Enhancement Committee to provide a home for your newest Coast Guard training base.

Beaufort is a historically military friendly community. Since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Beaufort has been the home of both Marine Corps and Navy installations. Beaufort knows how to treat the military. It is the ultimate military community with the support structure in place not only to bring your new base online but also to provide a schools, housing, and medical care for families.

I can guarantee that Beaufort and the State of South Carolina will do what is necessary to assist the Coast Guard as it stands up this new base. Charleston Coast Guard Station is less than two hours from Beaufort and Savannah is an hour away. Currently Marine recruits arrive in Savannah and are transported to Beaufort. Charleston, of course, offers a number of colleges and universities, a major medical center, and a vibrant community with a significant military presence.

I believe Beaufort deserves a strong evaluation by your team as they look to locate a new training base. Please let me know if I can be of service as you make this decision.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Henry Dargan McMaster".

Henry Dargan McMaster

cc: Admiral Kevin E. Lunday, Acting Commandant, United States Coast Guard

HDM/tw



# Business Retention & Expansion

# Marketing and Attraction

**Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation**  
 2,063 followers  
 2mo •

**Heavy Power Manufacturing Facility for Sale**  
 302 Parker Dr, Beaufort, SC 29906

Property sits ±35.7 acres and features ±83,960 square feet of recently renovated manufacturing facility adjacent to the Beaufort Commerce Park.

- Building features production areas, lab and quality assurance areas, loading and storage areas, a new Class- A office space, and a significant laydown yard.
- Heavy power, natural gas, wet system fire suppression, and new LED lighting throughout.

To learn more about this property and download the listing brochure, visit <https://bit.ly/4dBdCvg>



**Heavy Power Manufacturing Facility For Sale**  
 302 Parker Dr, Beaufort, SC 29906



- FEATURES:**
- 83,960 sq. feet
  - Recently renovated
  - Production, lab & storage areas
  - Class A office space
  - 35.7 acres

**14.77-Acre Industrial Site for Sale – Beaufort, SC**

14.77-acre industrial site just 2 miles from the Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort, SC. Strong workforce with 800+ exiting military personnel in the area each year.

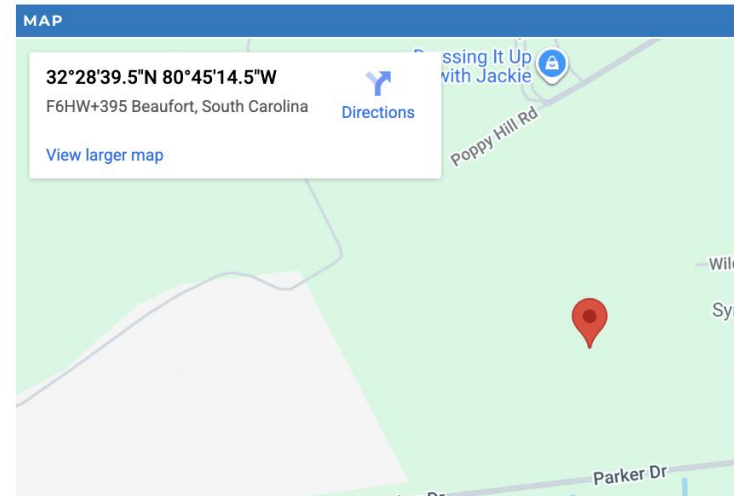
PROPERTY BROCHURE

**DESCRIPTION**

- Located directly off U.S. Hwy 21 with 4-lane access to Interstate-95.
- 40 minutes from the Port of Savannah and 65 minutes from the Port of Charleston.
- Close to the aerospace hubs of Charleston, SC and Savannah, GA.
- Reliable utility service at competitive rates.
- Priced at \$40,000/acre.

**Due Diligence Completed (completed in 2025):**

- Cultural Resource Identification Survey
- Boundary Survey
- Threatened and Endangered Species Assessment
- Preliminary Geotechnical Exploration
- Phase I Environmental Site Assessment
- Wetlands Delineation



**NEW INDUSTRIAL PARK**  
**Beaufort Commerce Park**

US Highway 21 and SC Highway 116  
 Beaufort, SC 29906

Lot	Total Acreage
A	±7.12
B	±6.64
C	±5.10
D	±5.25
E	±5.48
F	±5.01
G	±5.92
H	±4.46
I	±5.91
J	±4.59
K	±7.0
L	±5.88
M	±15.90
R	±3.53
S	±5.17
T	±3.88
U	±3.88

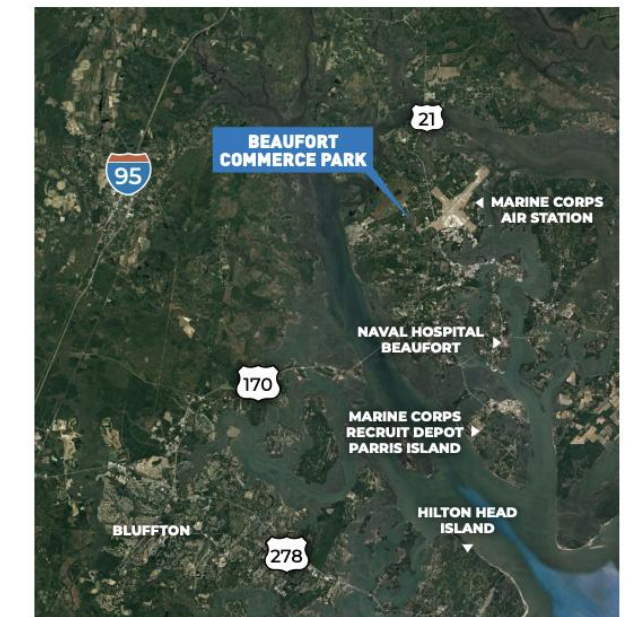
**OPPORTUNITY ZONE**

**199-acre industrial development just 2 miles from the Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort, SC**

- ▶ Located directly off U.S. Hwy 21 with 4-lane access to Interstate-95
- ▶ 40 minutes from the Port of Savannah and 65 minutes from the Port of Charleston.
- ▶ Close to the aerospace hubs of Charleston, SC and Savannah, GA
- ▶ Reliable utility service at competitive rates
- ▶ Priced at \$40,000/acre, negotiable based upon job creation and investment

**DUE DILIGENCE COMPLETED:**

- Cultural Resource Identification Survey
- Boundary Survey
- Protected Species Assessment
- Preliminary Geotechnical Exploration
- Phase I Environmental Protection Agency Site Assessment
- Topographical Survey
- Wetlands Delineation



ThriveBeaufort.org



# TOURISM INDUSTRY HEALTH

City of Beaufort

*2025 Year-over-Year Update*

Data Sources: Zartico Geolocation, Zartico Spend, Lodging Core

# EXECUTIVE SNAPSHOT

VISITOR SHARE

**35%**

↓ -6.4%

OUT-OF-STATE

**69%**

↑ +1.7%

HOTEL OCC

**61%**

↓ -6.6%

AVG SPEND

**\$198**

↓ -\$9

DOWNTOWN

**44%**

No Change

# VISITOR MOVEMENT

**35%**

of Devices are Visitors

↓ -6.4% YoY

**69%**

Out-of-State Visitors

↑ +1.7%

# HOTEL LODGING HEALTH

**61.3%**

Occupancy

↓ -6.6%

**\$153**

ADR

↑ +\$6

**\$94**

RevPAR

↓ -\$6

# HOTEL vs STVR COMPARISON

## HOTEL

Occupancy

**61.3%**

↓ -6.6%

ADR

**\$153**

↑ +\$6

RevPAR

**\$94**

↓ -\$6

## STVR

Occupancy

**54%**

↓ -3.8%

ADR

**\$234**

↑ +\$14

RevPAR

**\$125**

↑ +\$2

# AVERAGE VISITOR SPEND

**\$198**

Average Visitor Spend

↓ \$9 YoY

# PERFORMANCE DRIVERS

## What Held Strong

- Out-of-state visitors increased 1.7%
- Hotel ADR grew \$6 to \$153
- STVR RevPAR improved despite occupancy decline
- Downtown maintained 44% visitor engagement

## What Softened

- Overall visitor share dropped 6.4%
- Hotel occupancy fell from 67.9% to 61.3%
- Average visitor spend declined \$9
- STVR occupancy down 3.8%

# YEAR-OVER-YEAR COMPARISON

Metric	2024	2025	Change
Visitor Share	41.4%	35.0%	↓ -6.4%
Out-of-State %	67.3%	69.0%	↑ +1.7%
Hotel Occupancy	67.9%	61.3%	↓ -6.6%
Hotel ADR	\$147	\$153	↑ +\$6
Hotel RevPAR	\$100	\$94	↓ -\$6
STVR Occupancy	57.4%	53.6%	↓ -3.8%
STVR ADR	\$220	\$234	↑ +\$14
STVR RevPAR	\$123	\$125	↑ +\$2
Avg Visitor Spend	\$207	\$198	↓ -\$9
Downtown Share	44%	44%	No Change

**Protect the Product.  
Grow Smart.  
Measure Everything.**



**BAHA**  
Beaufort Area  
Hospitality Association

# BEAUFORT AREA HOSPITALITY ASSOCIATION

**SUPPORTING LOCAL  
BUSINESSES**

**ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY  
LEADERSHIP**

**COLLABORATION &  
PARTNERSHIP BUILDING**

**EVENT CREATION &  
ECONOMIC ACTIVATION**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
& INDUSTRY GROWTH**

# WHAT DO



# SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

- RESOURCES
- DRIVING FOOT TRAFFIC & CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT
- STRENGTHENING THE LOCAL TOURISM ECONOMY
- ADVOCACY



# BIG LOVE FOR SMALL BIZ



# ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP



**THE RIPPLE EFFECT**



# EVENT CREATION & ECONOMIC ACTIVATION



# COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIPS BUILDING

- CONNECTING BUSINESSES, NONPROFITS, AND CIVIC LEADERS
- FACILITATING COLLABORATIONS THAT STRENGTHEN THE LOCAL ECONOMY
- SUPPORTING INITIATIVES
- BUILDING REGIONAL RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS THE LOWCOUNTRY





# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM SUPPORT

- ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM GROWTH
- SUPPORTING WORKFORCE AND HOSPITALITY INITIATIVES
- ENHANCING BEAUFORT'S REPUTATION AS A CULINARY AND CULTURAL DESTINATION
- DRIVING MEASURABLE ECONOMIC IMPACT THROUGH PROGRAMMING
- INVESTMENT IN DESTINATION MARKETING - CVB

**ENJOY YOURSELF. DO SOMETHING POSITIVE. PROJECT SOME  
LOVE. MAKE SOMEONE HAPPY. LAUGH A LITTLE BIT.  
APPRECIATE THE MOMENT. AND DO YOUR WORK.**

**-NAVAL RAVIKANT**



*Thank you*

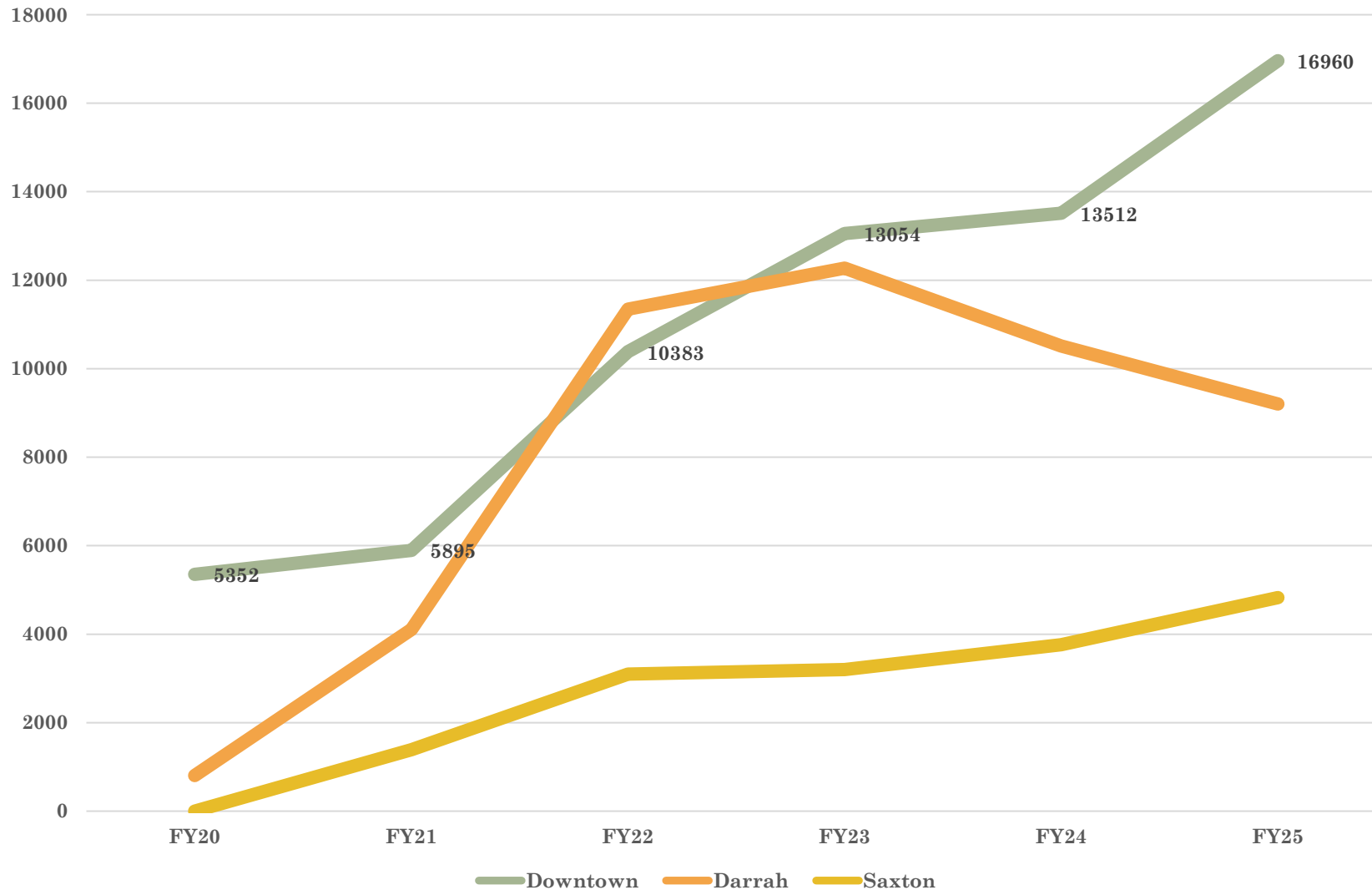


2026 Update

Reconstruction Era National  
Historical Park  
and National Historic Network

Prepared for City of Beaufort  
February 2026

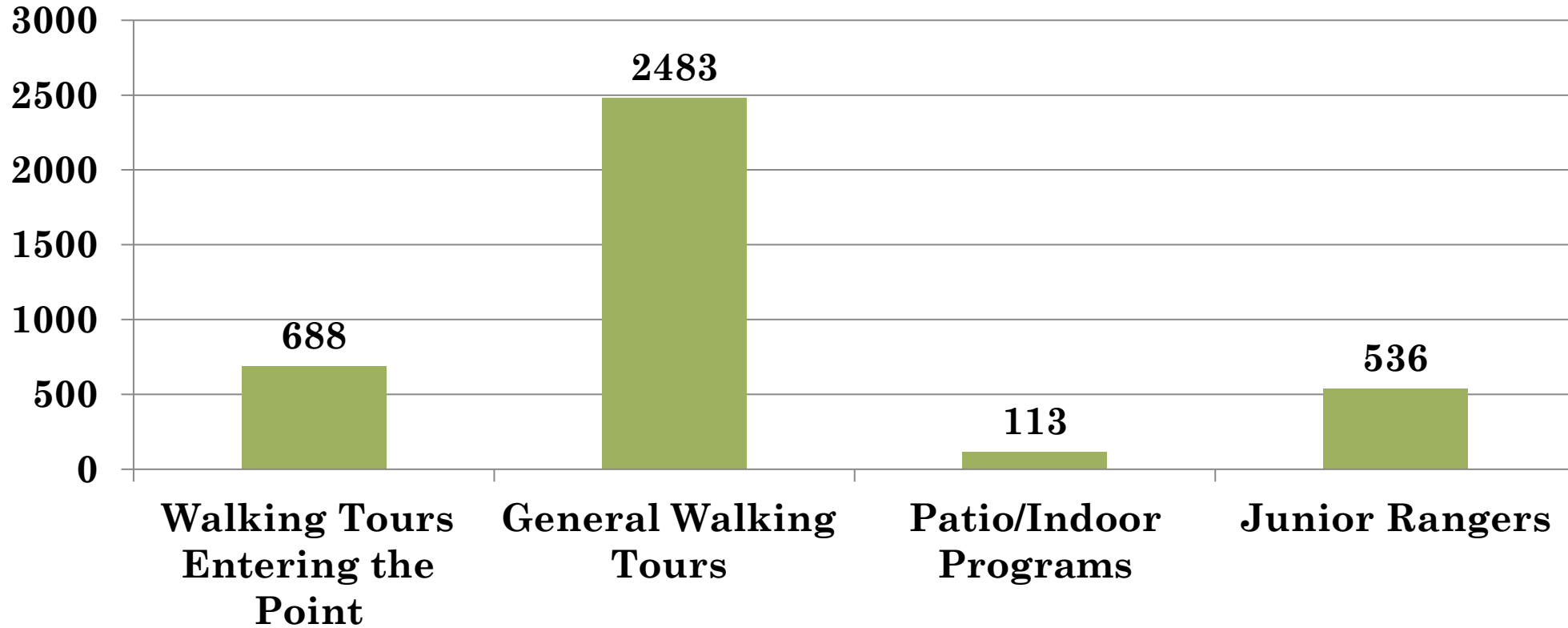
Visitation by Site



# FY 2025 Visitation Highlights

- Total Visitation: 30,979 (+11.5% from FY24)
- **Downtown Visitor Center: 16,958**
- Darrah Hall/Penn Center: 9,195
- Pinckney Porters Chapel/Camp Saxton: 4,826
- Peak Month: March with 4,196 visitors

**FY2025: Oct. 1, 2024 – Sept. 30, 2025**

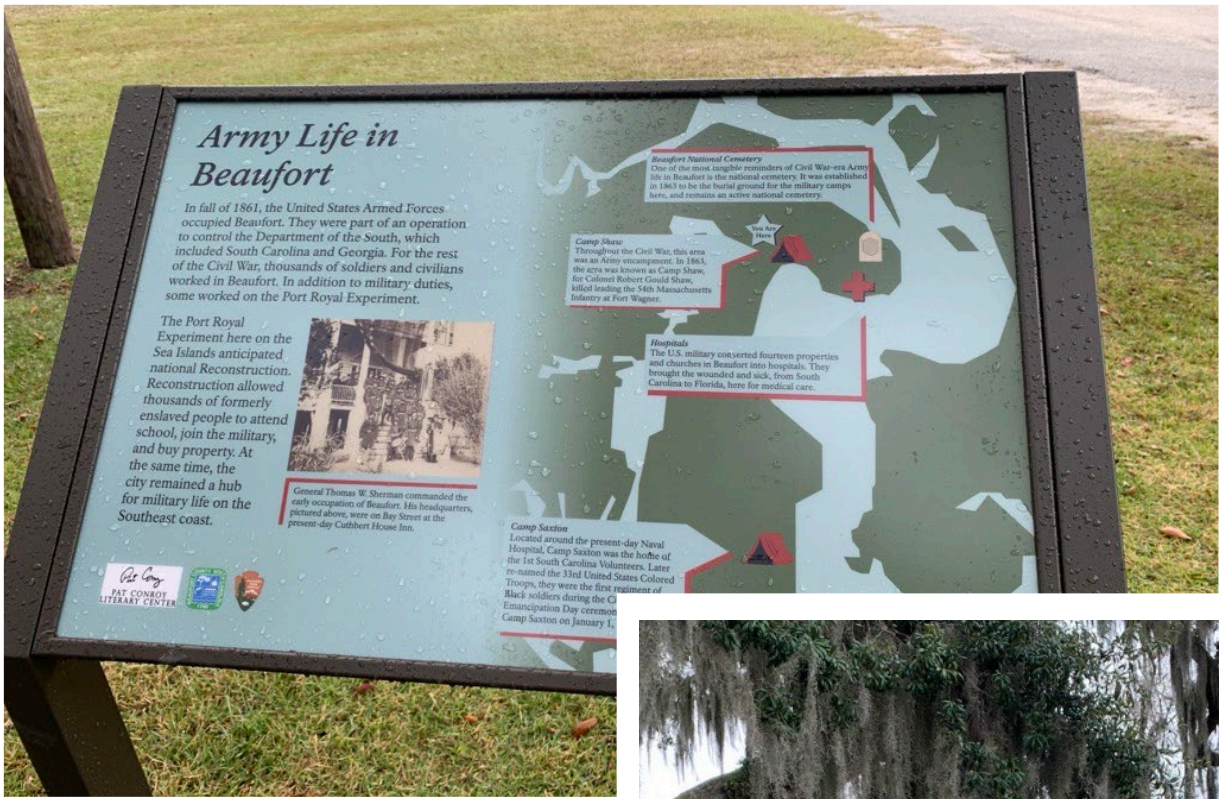


**Formal Program Participants - Downtown**



# Program Engagement

- 18% of visitors engage with a formal interpretive program (e.g. downtown walking tour)
- Debuted new Junior Ranger Handbook in August 2025
- Summer Lecture Series
  - 112 total attendees at four lectures
  - 3 hosted at West Street Learning Center



# Interpretive Wayside Exhibits in Partnership with Conroy Center





# 2025 Project Highlights

In the Beaufort NHLD

913 West Street  
Hurricane Shutter  
Installation





913 West  
Street

Archeological  
Inventory



913 West Street

Interpretive  
Garden  
Establishment



706 Craven  
Street

Cupola  
Stabilization

706 Craven Street

Gutter  
Replacement





# Planned Projects

In 2026



706 Craven Street

Window  
Stabilization



## Staff Development: Masonry Skills

For future  
brick work at  
706 Craven  
Street



# Visitor Services

In 2026



# Education and Youth Programming

- 2026 Goal: Develop a formal field trip offering for school groups visiting the Beaufort National Historic Landmark District that is consistent with city guidelines regarding group size, location, and time constraints.
- Planned to be ready for implementation for 2026-2027 school year



# Daily Operations in 2026

- Visitor Center open daily 9am to 5pm
- Ranger Programs (e.g. walking tours) typically Tuesday-Friday at 11am and 2pm



# Questions?

**Contact Me:**

Laura Waller

Superintendent

Reconstruction Era National Historical Park

Reconstruction Era National Historic Network

[laura\\_waller@nps.gov](mailto:laura_waller@nps.gov)

843-941-3674

# Preserving Beaufort's Past for the Future

Presented by:  
Lise Sundrla, Executive Director  
Historic Beaufort Foundation  
City of Beaufort Strategic Partner  
Report  
February 24, 2026

**HBF**

Historic  
Beaufort  
Foundation



To preserve & protect Beaufort's  
historic & architectural heritage.



George Parsons Elliott House  
1001 Bay Street



The Verdier House  
801 Bay Street



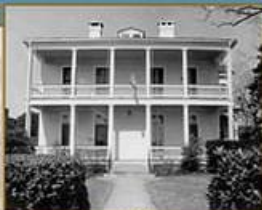
The Anchorage  
1101 Bay Street



William Wigg Barnwell House  
501 King Street



Dr. John Johnson House  
804 Pinckney Street



Trescott House  
500 Washington Street



702 Bladen Street



Without Historic Beaufort Foundation, Beaufort would be a very different place...



807 North Street



Richard Washington Jr. House  
814 Charles Street



Green Scheper House  
502 Scott's Street



The Arsenal  
713 Craven Street



1305 Duke Street



1405 Duke Street



The Frogmore Lodge  
1407 Duke Street  
*under construction*



Protect. Preserve. Educate.







# A visit by the Nation's Hero



# Protecting a National Treasure





Mary M. Dunbar House,  
ca. 1910  
1001 Greene St.



The Vision that launched the modern preservation movement in Beaufort.



The Sea Island Hotel, Built ca.1820 as a residence. Remodeled in 1872 as a hotel.



6A—Savannah News, Sunday, December 30, 1962



Associated Press Wirephoto

## *Apartment Hotel Planned for Beaufort Bay Area*

BEAUFORT, S.C.—This architect's drawing shows how a proposed apartment hotel for Beaufort's Bay area on the Beaufort River will appear as planned by a group of Texas investors. Local groups have given approval for the 11-story structure designed to offer

apartments to retired persons. Its cost was estimated at \$2.2 million. The lower portion jutting to the rear of the main building would provide off-street parking and a number of other service facilities.



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1001 Bay Street



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1407 Duke Street  
*under construction*



# Protect. Preserve. Educate.



William Elliott, III House, "The Anchorage"  
ca. 1800/1890  
1003 Bay Street



William Wigg Barnwell House  
ca. 1816, moved 1973

HISTORIC BEAUFORT FOUNDATION  
REVOLVING FUND

Phone 536-6334

March 16, 1972

281 Bay Street  
P. O. Box 11  
Beaufort, South Carolina  
28520

Page Two

To: All Members of Historic Beaufort Foundation

Dear Members:

I want to take this method of the Beaufort Foundation's Revolving Fund for the campaign, and the need for your help, preclude our making it possible that as a member of the Foundation you understand this procedure. This is the revolving fund.


The Historic Beaufort Foundation has \$200,000 to establish a revolving fund for historic buildings and to purchase and love it.

Your Foundation has made a survey of Historic Beaufort. First, we need and now, by urging the present Revolving Funds campaign, whose purpose is to place legal restrictions upon the present responsible owners.

The survey of Dr. Carl Feltner, a leading authority in the field of historic preservation, of 164 properties of historic Beaufort. The City has now approved the plan with drawings and recommendations for restoration and official action on the part of the City from the Revolving Fund Campaign. We are ahead in preserving Beaufort and enhancing and increasing property values.

We are requesting that as a member of the Historic Beaufort Foundation you consider a five year gift of \$250 to this Revolving Fund Campaign. We don't want any cash at this time, but a pledge of intent on your part. If things continue as they are, you will be able to pay a pledge of \$250 beginning \$50 a year sometime in 1972. If events turn so that you cannot

Every dime we spend in preserving Historic Beaufort is a step in solidifying our community to create an economic asset that will be beneficial for your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren for years to come. I know you want to share in this very worthwhile effort and I am using this means to approach you to solicit earnestly your support. Fifty dollars a year, or \$4.25 per month, to do this job is certainly worthy of your consideration.

  
Henry C. Chambers  
General Chairman

MEMBER NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

HCC:js

Enclosure



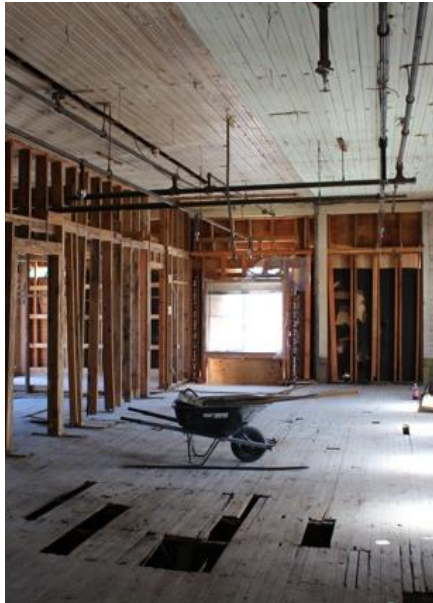
McGrath-Scheper House  
ca. 1852  
807 North



Richard I. Washington House, Jr.  
ca. 1890  
814 Charles



# 702 Bladen David Shein Store, Ca. 1912





Thomas Young  
House, ca. 1890  
1405 Duke St.

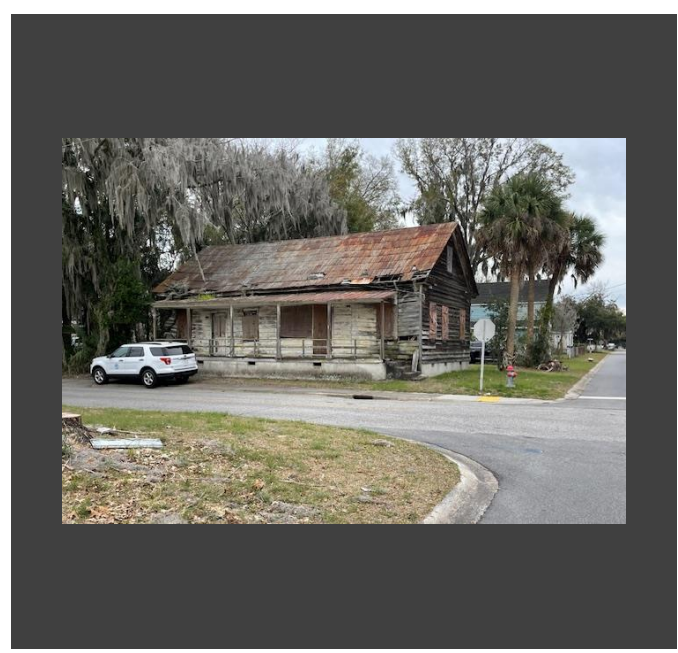




Smalls-Nash Cottage  
508 Duke Street,  
ca. 1890



Mary M. Dunbar House,  
ca. 1910  
1001 Greene St.





# The Rallying Cry





George Parsons Elliott House  
1001 Bay Street



The Verdier House  
801 Bay Street



The Anchorage  
1101 Bay Street



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The Frogmore Lodge  
1407 Duke Street  
*under construction*



# Protect. Preserve. Educate.



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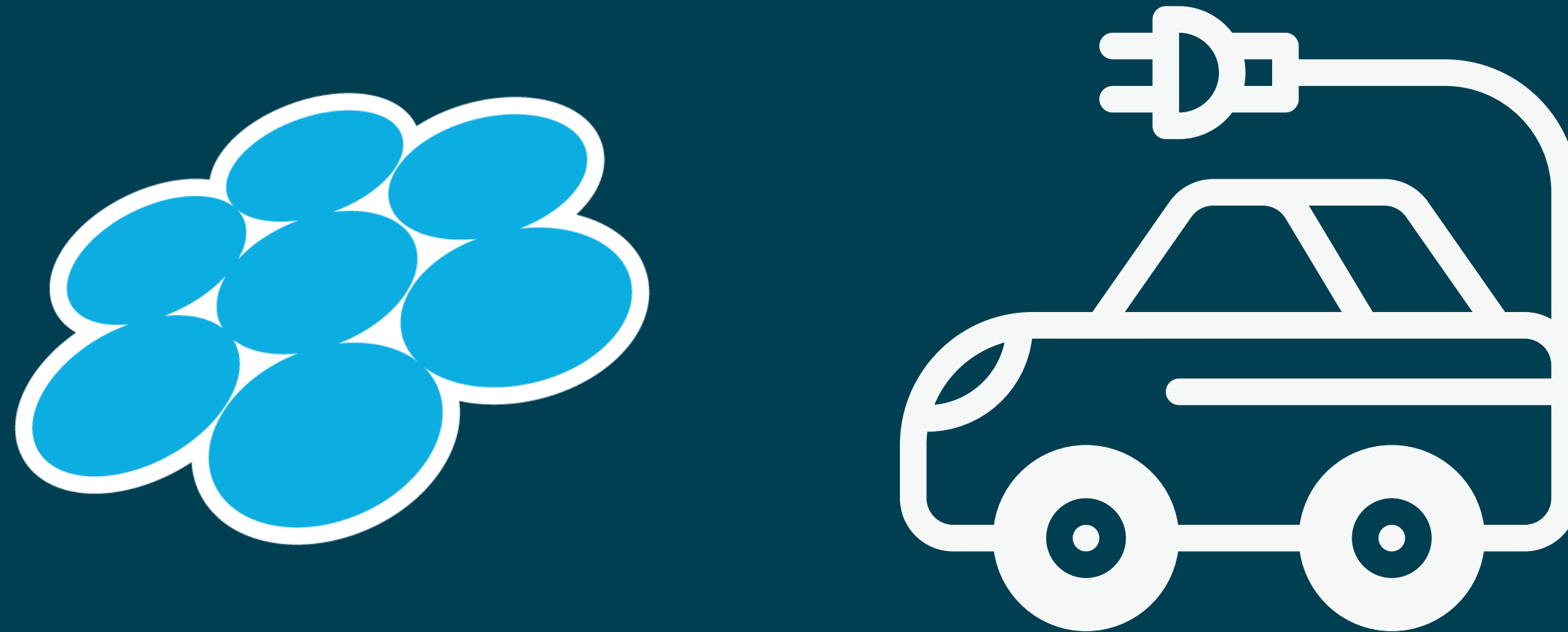
The Frogmore Lodge  
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Without Historic Beaufort Foundation,  
*Beaufort would be a very different place*

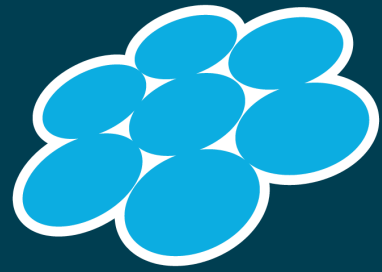
BEAUFORT DIGITAL CORRIDOR

# Fueling Beaufort's Tech Economy



CITY OF BEAUFORT

2026 STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

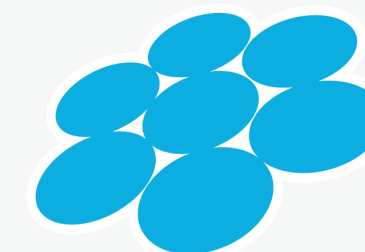


# Fueling Beaufort's Talent Economy





“



**Cybersecurity has been a transformative journey for me, and my experience with the BDC has been nothing short of remarkable. What started as a curiosity to explore careers in the field quickly turned into a life-changing opportunity. In under a year, I not only gained valuable knowledge but also secured an apprenticeship, earned my certification, and landed a new full-time job. The BDC not only equipped me with the skills needed for success in cybersecurity but opened doors to a future I had only dreamed of.**

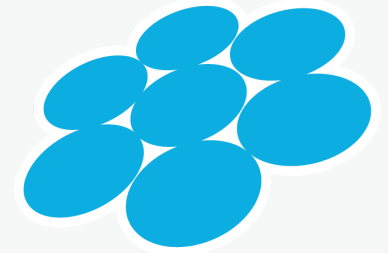
Fombe Vanny Fombe, BDC Cyber Graduate

Previous Job Held: U.S. Navy

New Job Obtained: Information Specialist, Inside Global

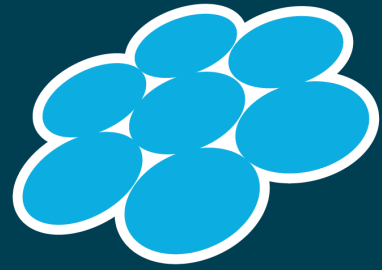


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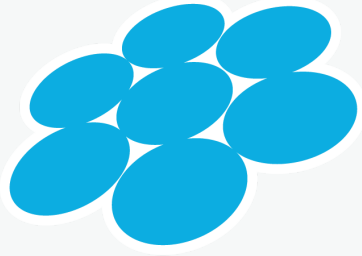
**BDC’s program directly supports the talent pipeline of USCB’s graduating students in the computing sciences and in other disciplines — such as media arts — with high-growth entrepreneurship and talent development related to the knowledge economy.**

Brian Canada, PhD  
Chair, Department of Computer Science & Mathematics  
Professor of Computational Science  
University of South Carolina Beaufort



# Bridging the gap between education and workforce





# 500

**GOOGLE SCHOLARSHIPS  
FOR HIGH-DEMAND  
CAREER CERTIFICATES  
TO BE AWARDED IN 2026!**

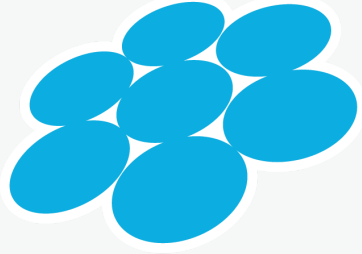
**VALUED AT \$120,000**

Greg Lum  
Google Career Certificate graduate  
Data Analytics

Be job ready  
in six months.

Google Career Certificates

Jump-start your career with a Google Career Certificate Scholarship. Prepare for entry-level positions in cybersecurity, digital marketing & e-commerce, data analytics, project management, user experience design, and IT support—no college degree or relevant experience required.



# \$46,190

**AVERAGE PER CAPITA WAGES  
FOR THE BEAUFORT REGION  
REPORTED BY THE BUREAU OF LABOR  
STATISTICS REPORTS**

---

# \$57,000 — \$112,000+

**MEDIAN ENTRY-LEVEL SALARY  
IN HIGH-GROWTH FIELDS  
NURTURED BY BDC  
THROUGH GOOGLE SCHOLARSHIPS**

Put your skills to work.

Get a job in a high-growth field, with help from Google.

### Google Cybersecurity Certificate

Cybersecurity analysts are responsible for monitoring and protecting networks, devices, people, and data. Learn the foundations of cybersecurity and gain hands-on experience using industry standard tools like Python, Linux, SQL, and Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) tools.

Get started at [grow.google/cybersecurity](https://grow.google/cybersecurity).

**\$100,000+**  
median entry-level  
salary in  
cybersecurity<sup>4</sup>

### Google Data Analytics Certificate

Data analysts make use of data to help inform important business decisions. Develop confidence navigating the data life cycle using tools and platforms to process, analyze, visualize, and gain insights from data.

Get started at [grow.google/dataanalytics](https://grow.google/dataanalytics).

**\$92,000+**  
median entry-level  
salary in data  
analytics<sup>4</sup>

### Google Digital Marketing & E-commerce Certificate

The Google Digital Marketing & E-commerce Certificate graduates learn the fundamentals to help businesses grow their online presence and sales with hands-on practice using popular digital marketing and e-commerce tools.

Get started at [grow.google/digitalmarketing](https://grow.google/digitalmarketing).

**\$59,000+**  
median entry-level salary  
in digital marketing &  
e-commerce<sup>4</sup>

### Google IT Support Certificate

IT support involves troubleshooting and problem-solving to help computers and networks run smoothly, while providing great customer service along the way. Learn the foundations of networking and operating systems and how to solve problems using code.

Get started at [grow.google/it-support](https://grow.google/it-support).

**\$57,000+**  
median entry-level  
salary in IT support<sup>4</sup>

### Google Project Management Certificate

Project managers are responsible for planning and overseeing projects to ensure they are completed efficiently. Learn the foundations of traditional project management and agile principles while applying these methodologies to real-world scenarios.

Get started at [grow.google/projectmanagement](https://grow.google/projectmanagement).

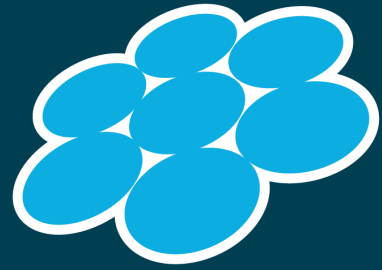
**\$77,000+**  
median entry-level  
salary in project  
management<sup>4</sup>

### Google UX Design Certificate

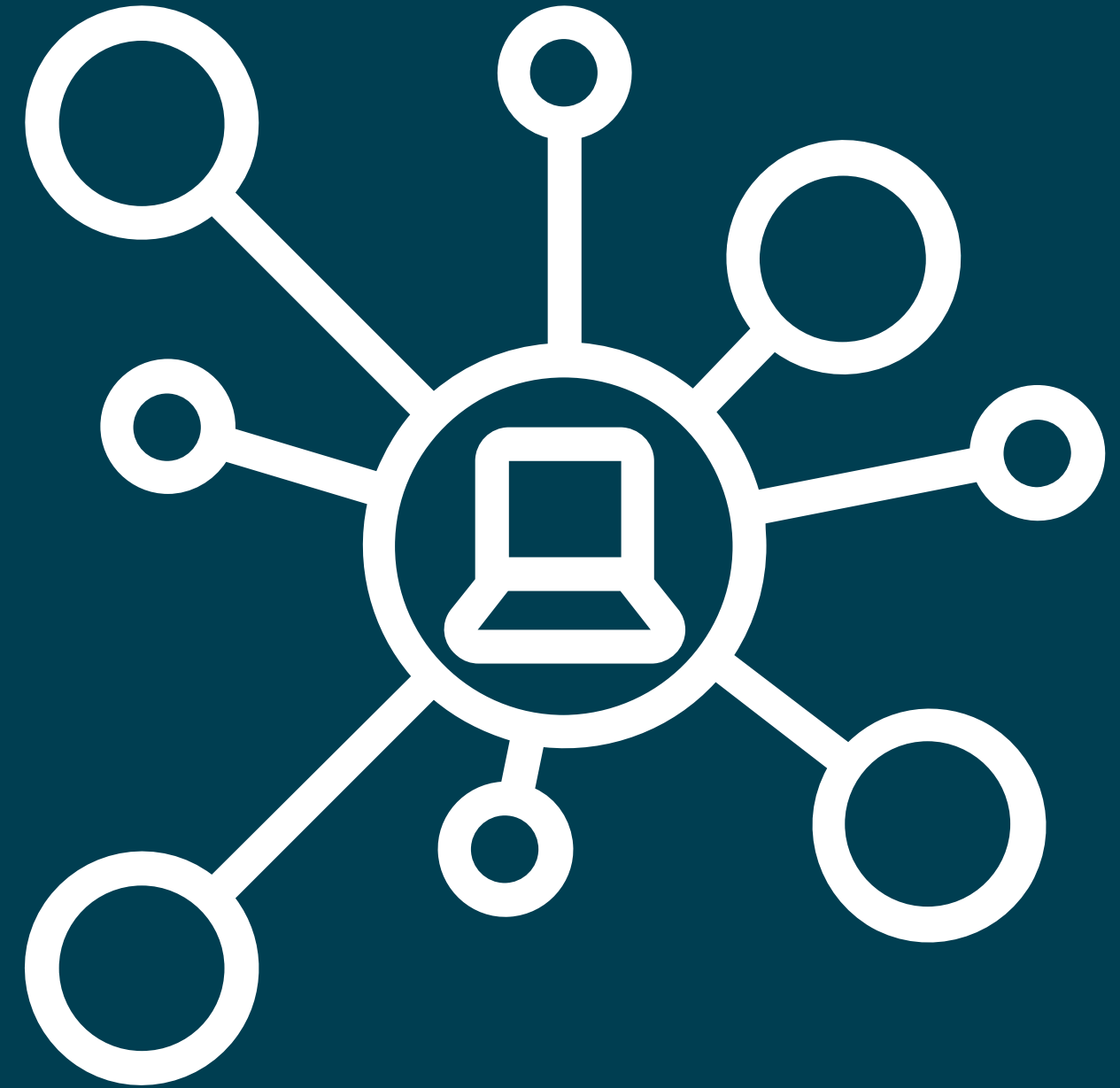
User experience (UX) designers make technology easier and more enjoyable to use. Grasp the foundations of UX design and research while building low-fidelity designs and wireframes, creating high-fidelity prototypes, and testing.

Get started at [grow.google/uxdesign](https://grow.google/uxdesign).

**\$112,000+**  
median entry-level  
salary in UX design<sup>4</sup>



# Strengthening the regional Economic Development network



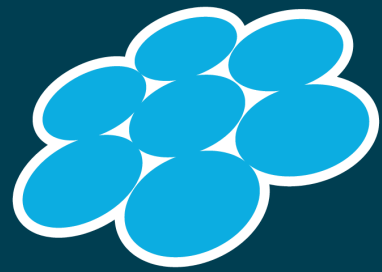
# Propagating Innovation: The Expanding Influence of Beaufort Digital Corridor

**As the Beaufort Digital Corridor continues to thrive, our influence transcends local boundaries, propagating innovation throughout both the city and state. Our strategic partnerships serve as key conduits, amplifying the impact of our initiatives and contributing to the broader technological landscape. By fostering a collaborative environment and consistently influencing our partners, we are not only shaping the local tech ecosystem but also playing a pivotal role in the advancement of technology across the entire state. This propagation of innovation is a testament to the dynamic and influential presence that the Beaufort Digital Corridor has cultivated, reaching far beyond our immediate community.**

The Beaufort Digital Corridor fostered strong collaborations with over 30 local businesses, creating a symbiotic relationship that bolsters the region's overall economic prosperity (highlight list, not inclusive of every single cross collaborative meeting):

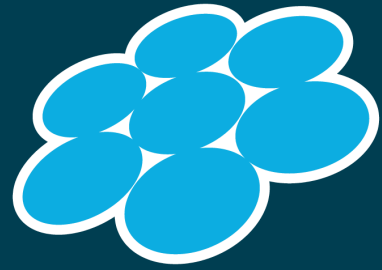
- American Association of University Women
- Beaufort Black Chamber of Commerce
- Beaufort County School District
- Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation
- Beaufort Port Royal Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Beaufort Water Festival (Non-profit Fair)
- Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Beaufort Shrimp Festival (Run Forrest Run 5K)
- Charleston Digital Corridor
- City of Beaufort
- Creative Coast
- DIGSouth
- Don Ryan Center for Innovation
- EforAll (Entrepreneurship for All)
- Ga Cyber Center
- GA Cyber Center of Excellence (Ft. Gordon)
- Leadership Beaufort
- Marine Corps Air Station
- SCBIA (South Carolina Business Incubator Association)
- SCRA (South Carolina Research Authority)
- SC Department of Commerce / Department of Innovation
- SCORE
- Small Business Development Center
- South Coast Cyber Center
- Southern Carolina Alliance
- Technical College of the Lowcountry
- Telfair Museum
- ThumbsUp Beaufort
- University of South Carolina Beaufort





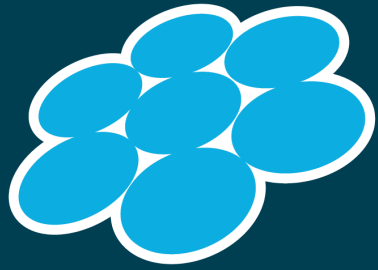
# Providing Tech Community Credibility and Engagement



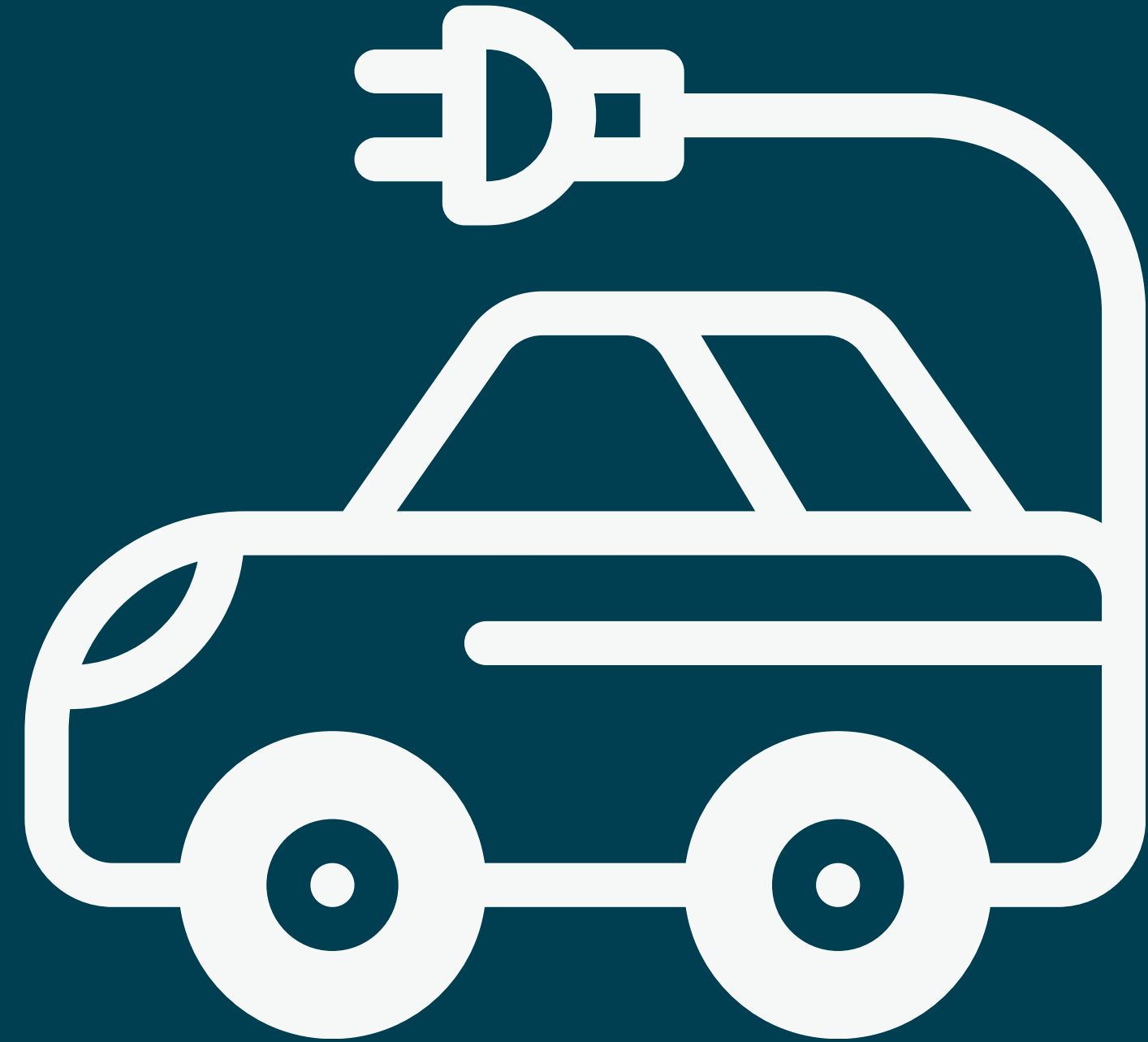


# Building Capacity and Deepening Partnerships





# Fueling Beaufort's Tech Economy



K-12 STUDENTS & TEACHERS

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COLLEGE STUDENTS

---

ACTIVE AND TRANSITIONING MILITARY

---

OUT OF WORK OR IN-BETWEEN JOBS

TECH ENTREPRENEURS

---

REMOTE WORKERS

---

VISITORS & RECENT RE-LOCATORS

---

SMALL BUSINESSES



**BEAUFORT, SC**

REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Chamber Update

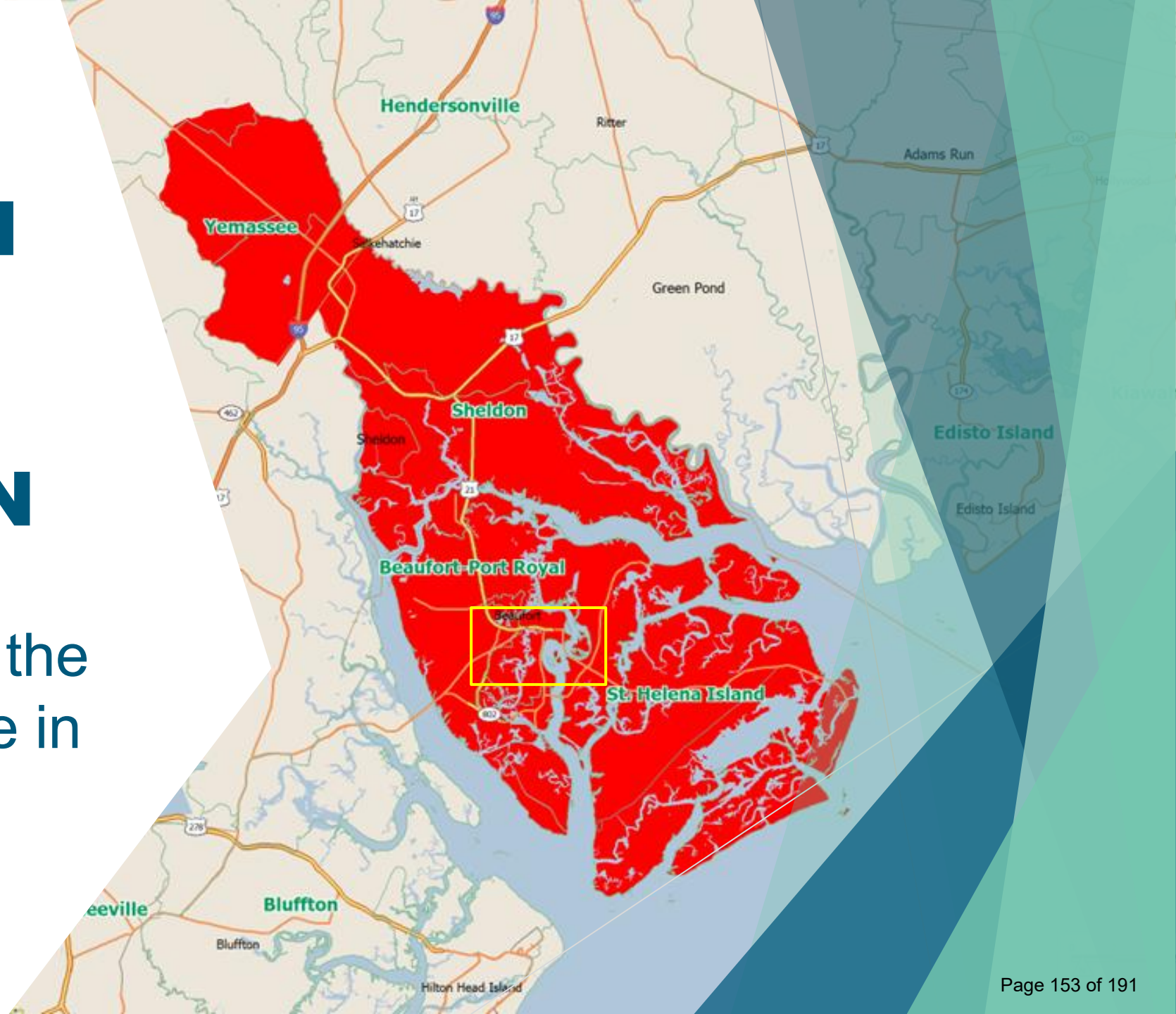
February 2026



# OUR REGION

# OUR MISSION

Promote economic prosperity to enhance the well-being of everyone in our region.



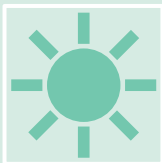
# WHO WE ARE



Independent network of local leaders



Represent businesses of every size & sector.



Advocates for a strong business climate and prosperous future.



# 665 Member Businesses



# 2025 SNAPSHOT

LEADING BEAUFORT'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY  
WITH PASSION AND COLLABORATION

665

MEMBERS

20 BOARD MEMBERS  
60 VOLUNTEERS  
90+ MEETINGS



311 LOWCOUNTRY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS  
61 LEADERSHIP CIRCLE MEMBERS  
31 LEADERSHIP BEAUFORT GRADS

1800+ EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS  
50% OPEN RATE  
100+ WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTERS  
AND E-FLASHES

COMMUNICATING AND SHARING  
VALUABLE INFO WITH MEMBERS  
AND ABOUT MEMBERS



116M FACEBOOK PAGE VIEWS  
15K+ SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS  
7K+ JOB BOARD VISITS



3 SIGNATURE EVENTS

State of the Community

Legislative Reception

Lowcountry Young  
Professionals Gala

500+ ATTENDEES

MAKING CONNECTIONS

800+ NETWORKING EVENT ATTENDEES

39 RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONIES

20+ SPECIAL PROGRAMS + WEBINARS

COUNTLESS REFERRALS



DIVERSITY OF INDUSTRY



3 PRIORITIES

1. Support local businesses every day
2. Diversify and strengthen the local economy
3. Build leadership capacity in the community

THE CHAMBER = YOUR BUSINESS NETWORK

The Chamber provides business growth and learning opportunities to help businesses be more productive and profitable, as well as advocacy and community development initiatives to build a favorable business climate, creating the preferred community to invest, prosper, and enjoy.



THE VOICE OF LOCAL BUSINESSES



LET US HEAR  
FROM YOU!



STOP BY FOR A CUP OF COFFEE TO  
MEET OUR TEAM, LET US KNOW HOW  
BUSINESS IS GOING, GET CONNECTED,  
AND SHARE YOUR PERSPECTIVE

1106 CARTERET STREET, BEAUFORT  
HELLO@BEAUFORTCHAMBER.ORG

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Support Local Businesses
  - ▶ Information, Advocacy, and Connections
2. Diversify the Economy
  - ▶ Partnerships, Sectors, and Military
3. Build Leadership Capacity
  - ▶ Vision, Data, and Organizational Strength

# REGIONAL DATA

## ▶ Responsive Planning to Growth & Demand

### ▶ 2025 Data :

- ▶ 1-2% population growth
- ▶ Increasing age demographic, decreasing workforce ages
- ▶ Need for Attainable Housing; Cost-of-Living Barrier
- ▶ Greater demand for Healthcare and Services; Build Workforce
- ▶ Countywide connections with travel between municipalities

### ▶ 2026 Data will be presented on March 6 at State of the Community event, incl. City leadership

- ▶ Expect these data points to continue their trends

### ▶ DATA SHOWS NEED FOR ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION



# ADVOCACY

## ▶ Partners in community decision-making

- Collective Voice
- Links to regional bodies
- Data and economic drivers of policy
- Federal, State, and Local

## ▶ 2025 Local Priorities for our region

- Attainable Housing
- Business Climate
- Economic Development
- Education
- Healthcare
- Hospitality
- Infrastructure
- Land Use Planning
- Military Retention & Expansion
- Workforce Development



# City of Beaufort

- ▶ Waterfront Park and Downtown Infrastructure
- ▶ Collaborative Planning for Social District
- ▶ Controlled Property Taxes and Impact Fees
- ▶ Beaufort Code updates for Efficiency
- ▶ Fiscal Responsibility; Funding Priorities
- ▶ Policies that support Workforce



# Military Enhancement Committee

- ▶ Public/Private Partnership – City Rep
- ▶ Auxiliary Committee of the Chamber
- ▶ Mission:
  - ▶ Sustain and enhance the quality and value of the military installations, and
  - ▶ To document and communicate the base’s contributions to National Security.

## Military’s Economic Impact

- ▶ \$2.6 Billion annual impact
- ▶ 10,000+ Service Members
- ▶ 20,000+ Jobs Supported
- ▶ 30,000 Veterans

## Focus Areas

- Future Use of Naval Hospital
- New VA Clinic and improved healthcare for active-duty servicemembers/families
- Workforce development for veterans and separating service members
- Improved housing conditions/availability



# The Chamber is a Strategic Partner

- ▶ Trust in businesses and chambers is strong. A 2024 Harris Poll survey, conducted on behalf of ACCE, found that 81% of U.S. adults agree that their local chamber of commerce is a trusted resource and partner for businesses.
- ▶ Nine in 10 feel that their local chamber has an impact on growing the local economy (90%) and addressing challenges within their community (88%).
- ▶ 96% of respondents in annual Member Survey agreed that the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce is a valuable organization, and membership is beneficial to their business
  
- ▶ **OUR MEMBERS WANT**
  - ▶ Action on key priorities
  - ▶ Clear communication
  - ▶ Less red tape



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**City of Beaufort**  
Department Request for City Council Agenda Item

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**To:** City Council **Date:** 02/17/2026  
**From:** Linda Roper, Downtown Operations Director  
**Item Name:** Capital Waste Recycling Program overview and clarification of curbside guidelines  
**Meeting Date:** February 24, 2026  
**Department:** Downtown Operations

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**Background Information:**

**Introduction:**

Capital Waste Representatives will discuss the City of Beaufort's current Recycling Program and clarification of curbside guidelines

**Background:**

The City of Beaufort's Waste Management contractor provides biweekly pickup of recycling products via single-stream from City residents. Beaufort County provides collection of recycling products at the convenience centers. This presentation will explain the differences between the two different programs.

**Legal Authority:**

**Staff Recommendation:**

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**Placed on Agenda For:**

**Attachments:**

None



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**City of Beaufort**  
Department Request for City Council Agenda Item

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**To:** City Council **Date:** 02/19/2026  
**From:** Scott Marshall, City Manager  
**Item Name:** Dominion Energy 2026 Right of Way Activities  
**Meeting Date:** February 24, 2026  
**Department:** City Managers Office

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**Background Information:**

**Introduction:**

This item is provided for informational purposes to notify City Council that Dominion Energy will conduct its routine cyclical right-of-way tree trimming throughout the City of Beaufort beginning in spring 2026. The estimated start timeframe is April, with more detailed scheduling information to be provided once finalized. **Dominion Energy will hold a public information session at City Hall on March 26 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**Background:**

Dominion Energy periodically performs vegetation management within utility rights-of-way to maintain electric system reliability and public safety. Maps from Dominion outlining areas to be trimmed in 2026 are attached. Dominion asserts that activities will comply with ANSI-A300 standards and International Society of Arboriculture guidelines.

In a meeting with City staff on December 15, 2025, Dominion further indicated that contractors performing the work may include Xylem Tree Experts, Lewis Tree Company, and Southeastern Limb and Tree, though additional contractors may be used for unscheduled work.

Operational protocols communicated by Dominion include:

- A designated foreman present with each pruning crew in urban areas
- Availability of a Dominion representative during pruning operations
- Coordination with municipal officials regarding work plans and staffing levels
- Removal of debris resulting from trimming activities

To facilitate coordination and responsiveness, the City will designate a dedicated staff liaison to serve as the primary point of contact with Dominion Energy for the duration of the trimming program. In addition, the City will utilize its full range of public communication channels—including the City website, social media platforms, press releases, and other outreach tools—to

keep residents informed about scheduling and what to expect during trimming operations.

**Legal Authority:**

Dominion Energy performs vegetation management activities pursuant to its authority as a regulated public utility operating within established rights-of-way and easements. Such maintenance is required to meet industry safety standards and reliability obligations applicable to electric utilities. These activities occur within existing utility corridors and do not require Council action.

**Staff Recommendation:**

No action is required. This item is presented for informational purposes to provide Council advance notice of Dominion Energy’s upcoming cyclical tree trimming activities, related public outreach, and the City’s coordination efforts.

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**Placed on Agenda For:**

**Attachments:**

- 1. Dominion Memo to City Manager
- 2. line clearing illustration
- 3. DESC Right Tree Right Place
- 4. 2026 Municipality Map\_City of Beaufort



December 15th, 2025

To: Scott Marshall of the City of Beaufort

Re: 2026 Right of Way Activities within the Beaufort Municipal Limits

This letter is a follow up to our meeting concerning Right of Way activities scheduled for 2026 within your municipal boundaries. The following summarizes our discussion on December 15th, 2025.

- Maps outlining areas to be trimmed on Dominion Energy South Carolina Inc. (hereinafter called "DESC") Right of Way in 2026 were provided to you.
- DESC's current trimming specifications were discussed; current specifications meet requirements of ANSI-A300 standards and ISA guidelines.
- The following summarizes guidelines associated with our Right of Way contracts which provide labor to complete trimming in municipalities. The guidelines are a part of our contract to ensure proper care of municipal trees and proper communications with municipal officials.
  - Within the urban areas of the City, one (1) "top trimmer/foreman" shall be present at all times with each tree pruning crew.
  - During utility pruning, there shall be one designated DESC company representative available as needed.
  - Contractor will work with DESC representative on work plan to ensure level of workforce is manageable in designated area.
  - Debris resulting from trimming activities shall be removed/mowed with the exception of dead trees.
  - Contractor shall be responsible for the timely removal of debris in managed areas.
- Xylem Tree Experts, Lewis Tree Company, and Southeastern Limb and Tree will be performing our scheduled Right of Way Distribution Clearing in your Municipality. There may be other companies performing Right of Way activities associated with unscheduled work.

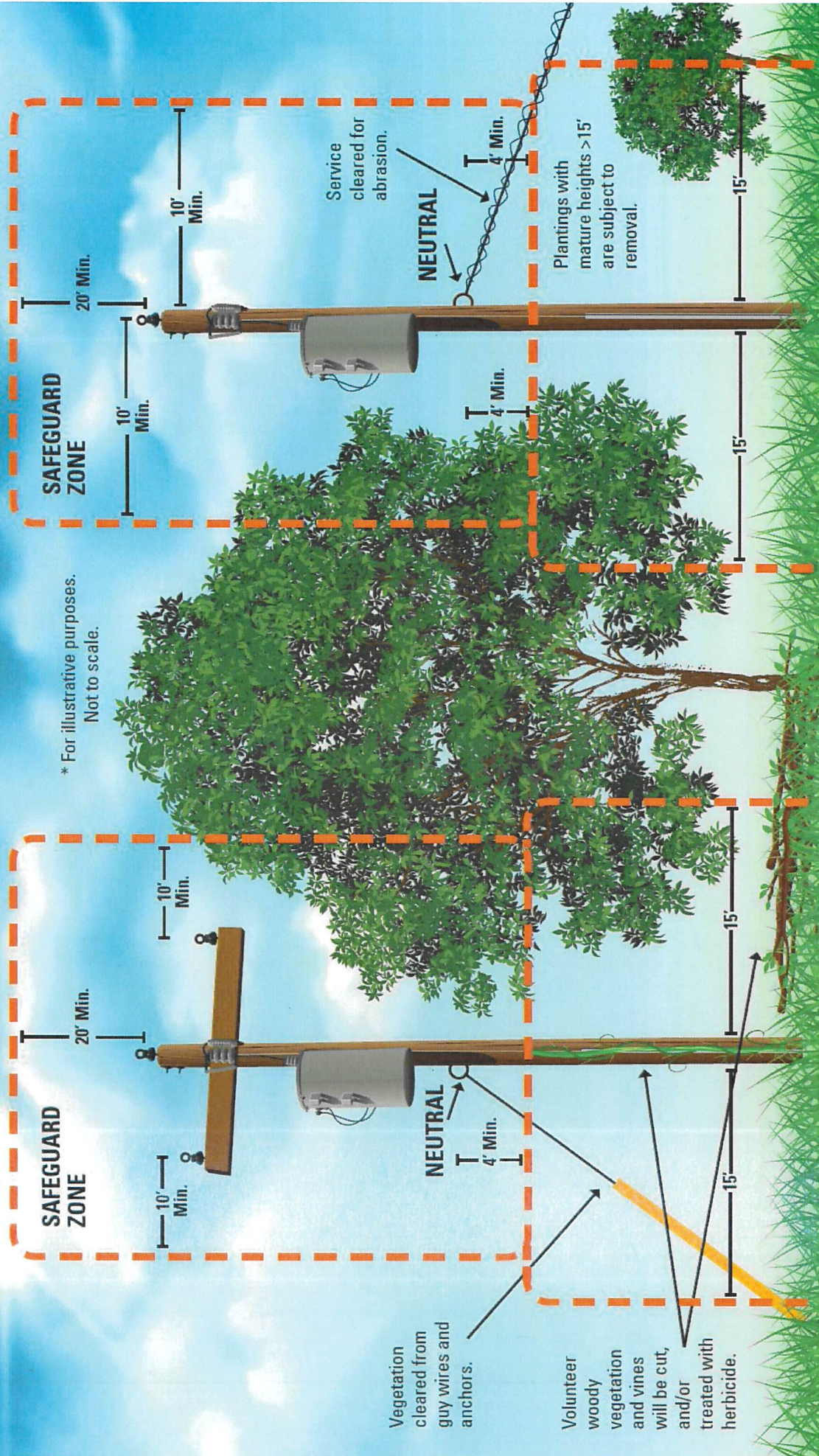
Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions during 2026 related to our Right of Way activities.

Sincerely,  
Tred Dixon

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tred Dixon".



# DOMINION ENERGY SOUTH CAROLINA DISTRIBUTION LINE CLEARING



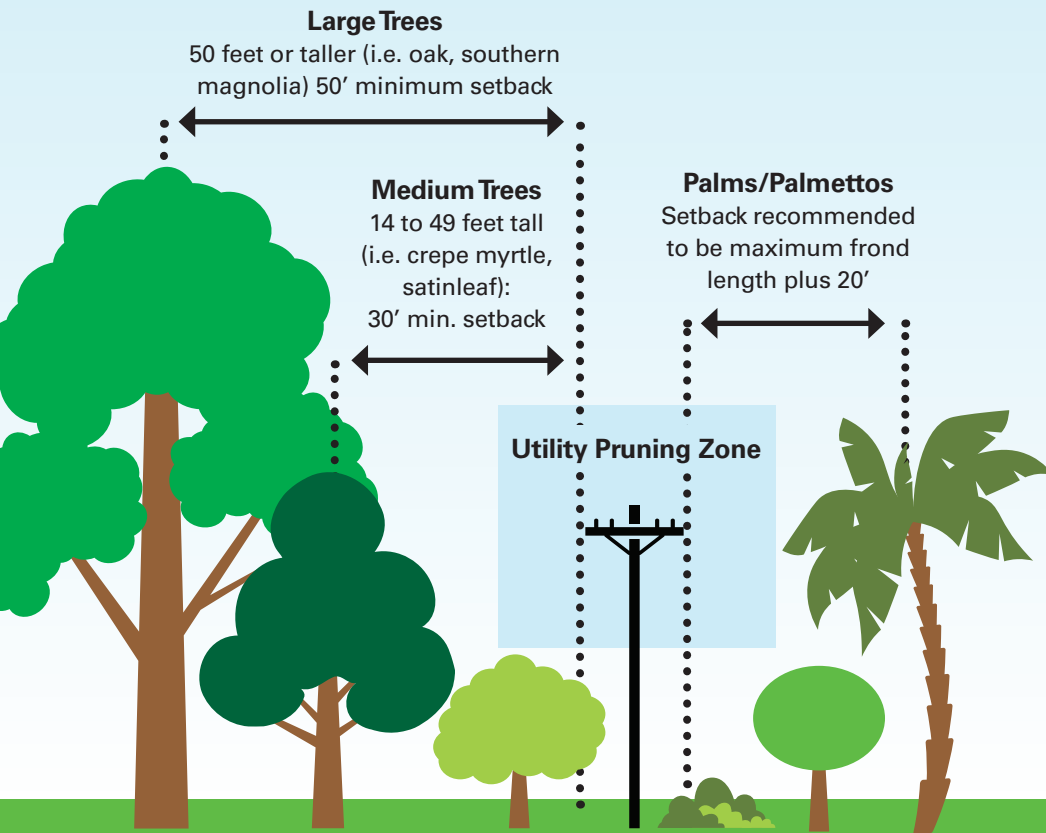
**Only qualified utility line clearance contractors who meet OSHA qualifications are legally permitted to work within 10 feet of distribution power lines or work on a tree that has branches within 10 feet of distribution power lines. To learn more, visit [OSHA.gov](http://OSHA.gov). Safety is our top priority. We urge property owners and contractors to notify us in advance of beginning any work near overhead lines to ensure a safe work zone.**



Scan code to view answers to FAQs at: [DominionEnergy.com/Trees](http://DominionEnergy.com/Trees)  
1-800-251-7234

# What can you do?

One of the most important things businesses and homeowners can do is remember and **follow our Right Tree, Right Place guidelines**. If you're planting trees on your property, look up and note the location of power lines. Before you plant, keep in mind the potential growth of the trees (see diagram below). Think about how your tree will impact existing utility lines as it grows taller, wider and deeper. Keeping trees away from power lines means that, in the event they blow over or tree limbs become loose, they're much less likely to hit a power line and knock out power. This also keeps debris farther away from the lines which helps speed up restoration efforts after a storm. If you notice a tree or limb that is in need of trimming, you can submit a request to us online when you sign in to your Dominion Energy account. Don't wait for a hurricane or other major event. No amount of trimming can substitute for smart landscaping and responsible maintenance of trees and other vegetation by property owners.



A list of native plants that generally will not grow taller than 15 ft. at their maturity is available for you at [dominionenergy.com/treetrimming](https://dominionenergy.com/treetrimming).

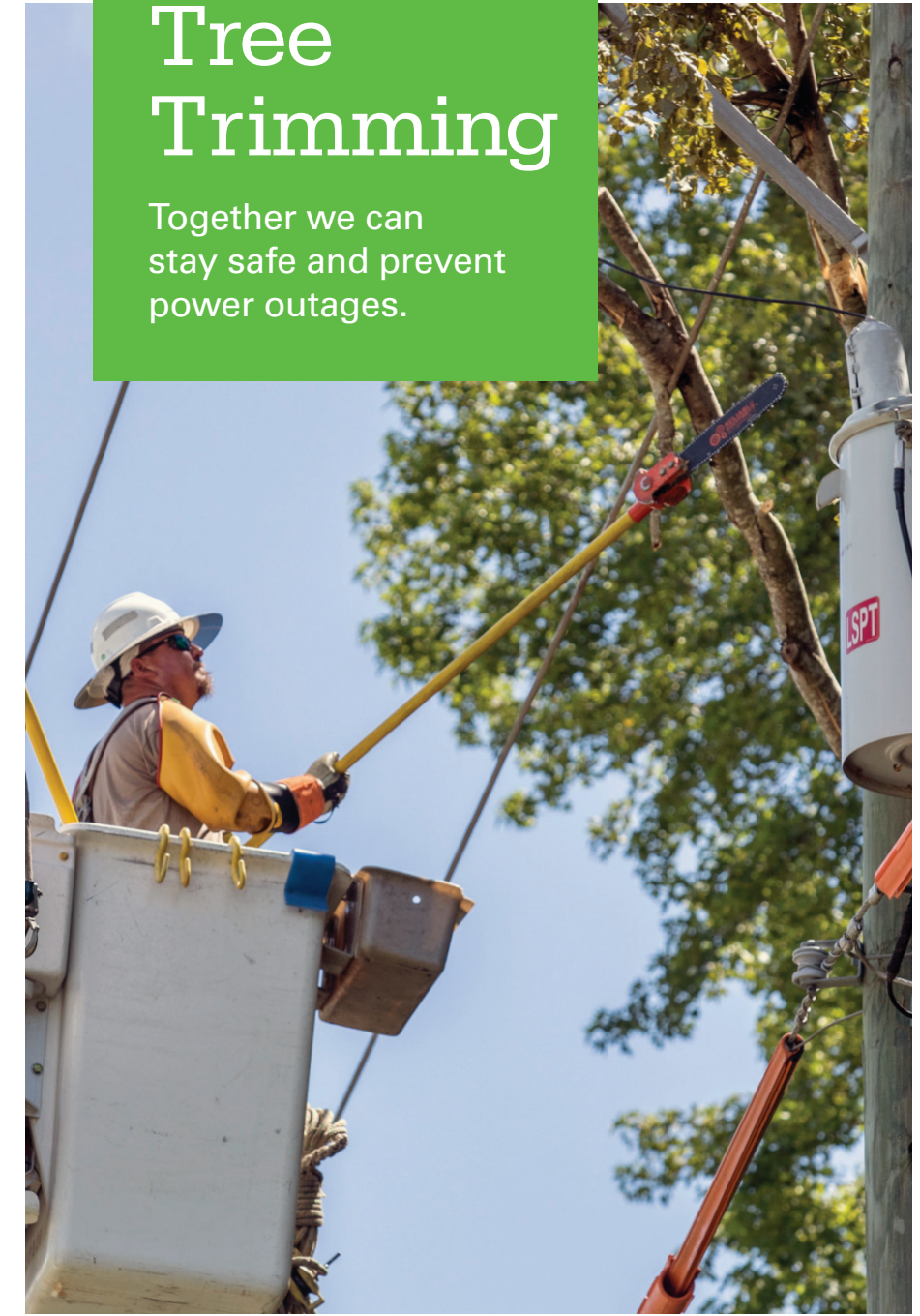


For more information about Tree Trimming in South Carolina, visit [DominionEnergy.com/Trees](https://DominionEnergy.com/Trees)

132024R8551 09/24

# Tree Trimming

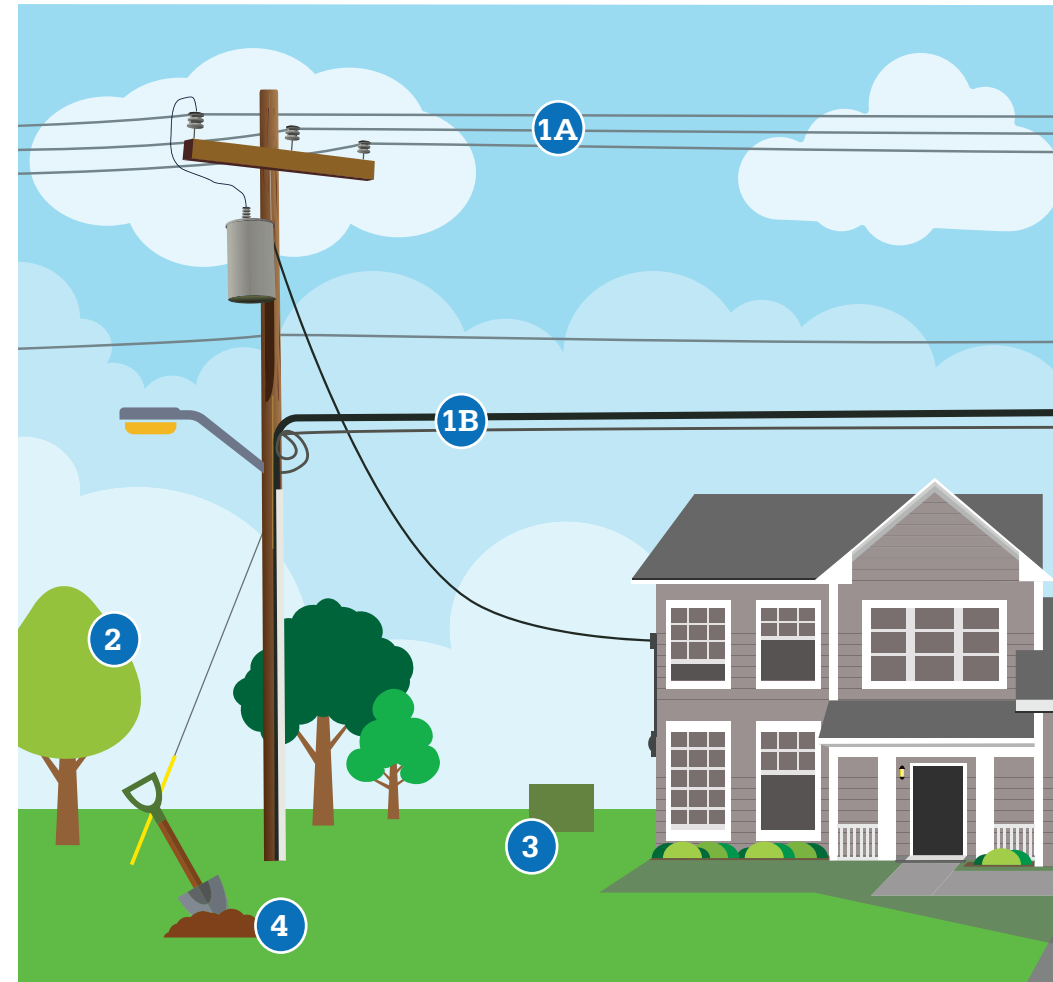
Together we can stay safe and prevent power outages.



## Right tree, right place.

When considering what tree and where to plant it, remember the phrase “**Right Tree, Right Place.**” Choosing the right tree depends on many factors including soil type, climate, and the amount of space the tree will have to grow both underground and overhead without any interference.

- 1 Where are the power lines? (1A)** Power lines are usually located at the top of the utility pole, farthest from the ground. **(1B)** Cable and phone lines run closer to the ground, below power lines.
- 2 Pick the right tree for the right place.** Consider how tall, wide, and deep your tree will be at maturity. Then, prior to planting, make sure trees are not planted within any utility rights of way. Trees planted under or beside an electric line inside the rights of way can be dangerous and are subject to pruning and/or removal. For a tree to achieve its natural shape and thrive it is important to choose a suitable site that does not have any interference under or above the ground.
- 3 Keep the transformers clear.** Keep any bushes or trees away from the transformer boxes to allow for maintenance and repairs. Maintain at least 12 feet of clear zone in the front and at least 4 feet in the back and sides.
- 4 Call Before You Dig.** If you’ll be performing work in your yard that involves digging, South Carolina law requires you contact 811 before you begin to locate, and mark buried utility lines. Call at least four business days before you begin to avoid accidentally hitting underground utility lines. This free service helps keep everyone safe.

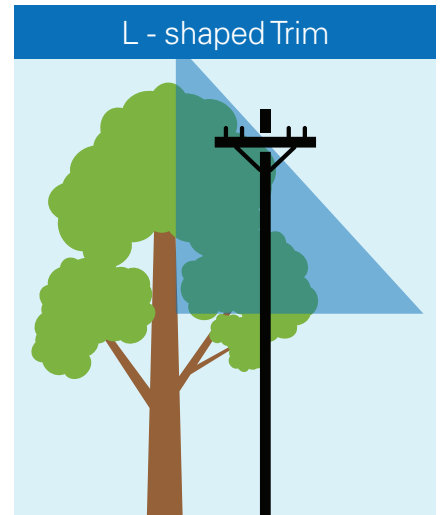
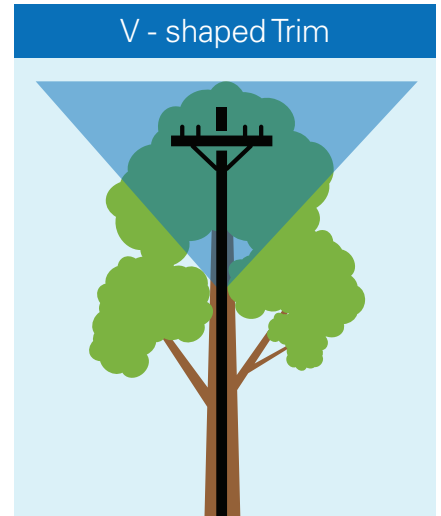


## How trees are trimmed.

The purpose of tree trimming is to protect the power lines and safely maintain service reliability for you.

Dominion Energy’s maintenance trimming is done on cycles typically ranging from four to five years. Trained line-clearing professionals follow ANSI – A300 Standards, which are the generally accepted industry standards for tree care practices. These professionals consider the tree structure and minimum clearance requirements before pruning.

We use directional pruning to guide tree growth away from power lines. The diagram below shows a typical “V” shaped approach on the left; on the right is an “L” shaped trim. We may use other types of trimming methods as well.



## Together we can prevent power outages.

Did you know trees are among the most common causes of outages and flickers, especially during storms? When trees and other forms of vegetation contact overhead power lines, this can cause interruptions to your service. Maintaining the area around the power lines is an important process to ensure you receive the safe, reliable service you expect and deserve.

- ✓ You can request tree trimming on your property when you sign in to your account. You can also upload a picture showing us the area and the tree of concern.
- ✓ You can view our online tree trimming map that shows where and when tree trimming will be done in your area.

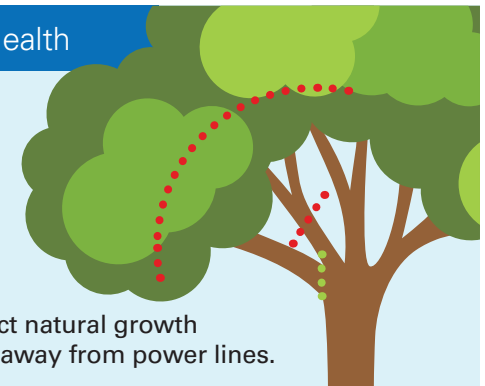
### REMEMBER...

Only qualified utility line clearance contractors who meet OSHA qualifications are legally permitted to work within 10 feet of distribution power lines or work on a tree that has branches within 10 feet of distribution power lines. To learn more, visit [OSHA.gov](https://www.osha.gov). Safety is our top priority. We urge property owners and contractors to notify us in advance of beginning any work near overhead lines to ensure a safe work zone.

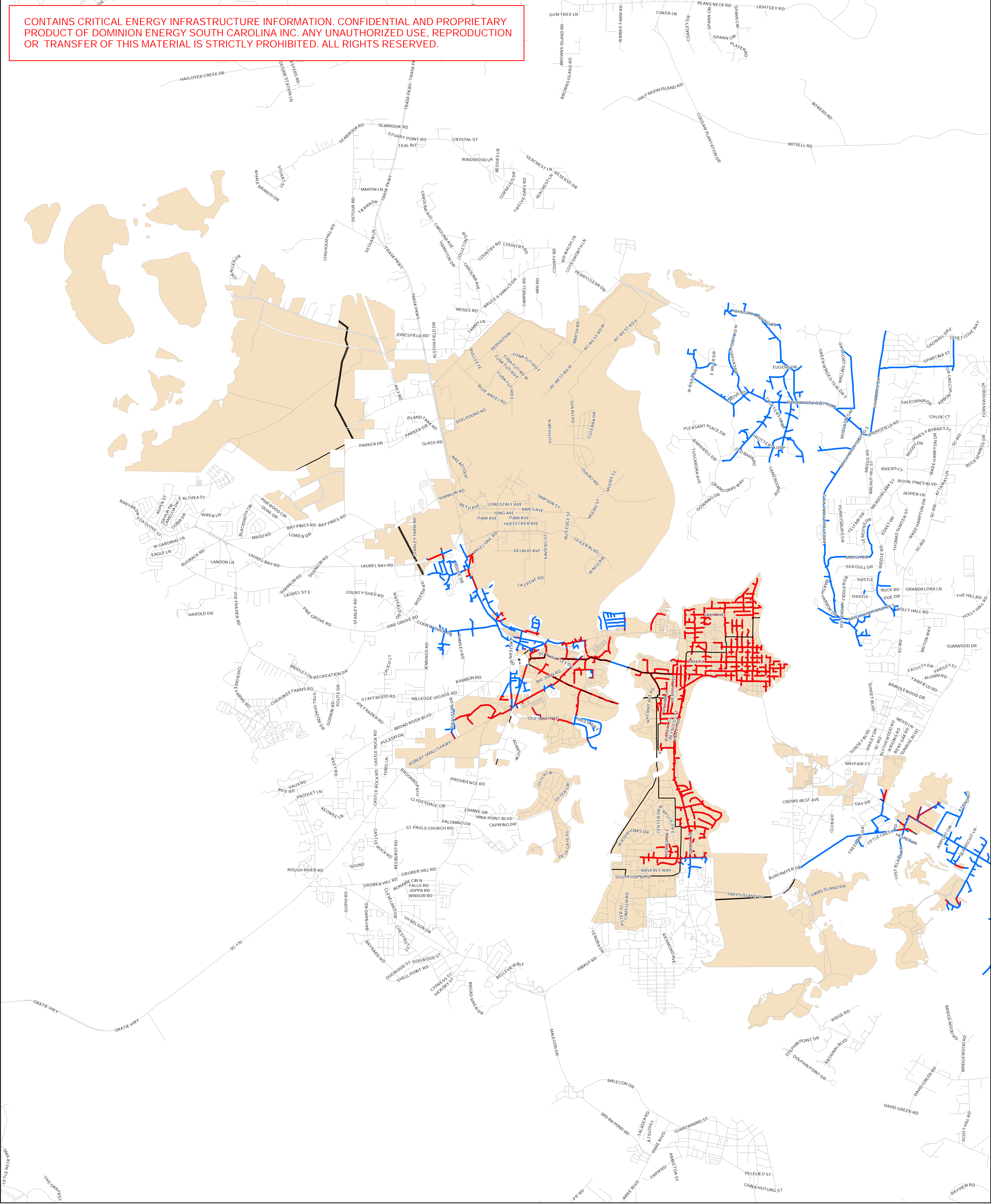
### Proper Pruning for Tree Health

**NO**  
Topping trees or leaving branch stubs severely damages trees and encourages rapid regrowth.

**YES**  
Pruning cuts should be made just outside the branch collar to respect natural growth patterns and direct future growth away from power lines.

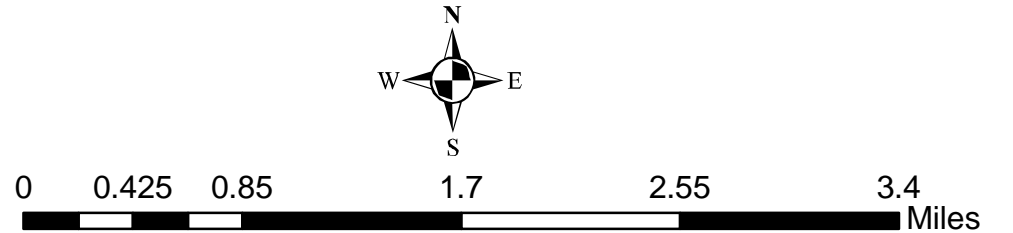


CONTAINS CRITICAL ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMATION. CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY PRODUCT OF DOMINION ENERGY SOUTH CAROLINA INC. ANY UNAUTHORIZED USE, REPRODUCTION OR TRANSFER OF THIS MATERIAL IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



# City of Beaufort

DISTRIBUTION MILES - 45.757  
 TRANSMISSION MILES - 22.42



- Electric Distribution
- Electric Transmission
- Electric Distribution
- Municipal Boundary





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**City of Beaufort**  
Department Request for City Council Agenda Item

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**To:** City Council **Date:** 02/18/2026  
**From:** Alan Eisenman, Finance Director  
**Item Name:** American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Spending Deadline and Financial Update  
**Meeting Date:** February 24, 2026  
**Department:** Finance Department

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**Background Information:**

**Introduction:**

The City's Finance Director, Alan Eisenman, will update Council on the American Rescue Plan Act financials as of December 31, 2025 along with discussion on the upcoming ARPA Treasury spending deadline on December 31, 2026.

**Background:**

**Legal Authority:**

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommendation is to reallocate available ARPA funds to Duke Street and Waterfront Park projects.

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**Placed on Agenda For:**

**Attachments:**

1. ARPA Financials 12.31.25
2. ARPA Spending Deadline and Financial Update- 2.24.26 Worksession

**ARPA Fund Financials as of 12.31.25**

**Revenues**

ARPA Federal Grant	\$ 6,689,031
ARPA Beaufort County Grant	1,000,000
Interest	720,760
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>8,409,791</u>

**Expenditures**

**Projects Using ARPA Federal Grant**

Paramedic/AEMT Training	58,858
Essential Worker Pay & Health Insurance Credit	320,913
Bucket Truck	169,669
Body Camera's (53 Different)	91,024
Camera's for Cars-Video System	323,995
USCB Contribution to Arts Center	185,000
AC Unit Replacements - 500 Carteret	90,038
500 Carteret Street Upfit	97,961
Cardiac Monitors (4)	118,375
Economic Partnerships	150,000
Fire Station 3 Improvements	44,175
Police Radios	37,355
Southside Park at Battery Creek Drainage Project	97,560
Storm Drain Trailer Mounted Pipe Jetter and Root Cutter	120,000
Cyber security enhancements to City's IT Infrastructure	147,827
King Street Drainage Project- Engineering	969,068
King Street Drainage Project- Advertising	104
Capital Project Director Vehicle	31,165
Duke Street Streetscape and Drainage Project- Engineering	322,233
Carnegie Building Roof- Exterior	112,280
Pigeon Point Playground Equipment	300,000
Battery Shores Drainage Project- Study	39,355
Battery Shores Drainage Project- Zulu Marine	194,155
500 Carteret Street Stucco and Window Repair	100,000
Pigeon Point Boat Landing- Master Plan Study- Phase 1	58,000
Pigeon Point Boat Landing- Permitting and Engineering- Phase 2	227,460
Battery Shores Repaving Project	491,909
Waterfront Park Reliving Platform- Consulting Services	255,182
Security Camera Upgrades	50,235
Capital Projects Director- 2.5 Year Term	170,628
Bank Fees	205
	<u>5,374,730</u>

**Projects Using ARPA Beaufort County Grant**

Bridges Building for Workforce Development	500,000
Contribution to County Housing Trust Fund	200,671
Nurse Retention Scholarship Fund	24,000
Grant to TCL for Nursing School Equipment	80,000
Beaufort Digital Corridor Cyber Scholarship Fund	100,000
	<u>904,671</u>

**Total Expenditures**

6,279,401

**Net Change in Fund Balance**

2,130,390

<b>Projects with Current City Obligations</b>	
King Street Drainage Project- Engineering	459,149
Duke Street Streetscape and Drainage Project- Engineering	77,767
Capital Projects Director- 2.5 Year Term	189,302
Contribution to County Housing Trust Fund	95,329
Carnegie Building Roof- Exterior	112,280
Waterfront Park Reliving Platform- Consulting Services	194,818
Pigeon Point Boat Landing- Permitting and Engineering- Phase 2	33,760
<b>Total Current City Obligations</b>	<b>1,162,404</b>
<b>Budgeted Project Using ARPA Interest</b>	
Duke Street Streetscape and Drainage Project- Construction	625,000
<b>Total Budgeted Project Using ARPA Interest</b>	<b>625,000</b>
<b>ARPA Funds Remaining Balance Available to Reallocate</b>	<b>342,986</b>
<b>Completed Projects Underbudget</b>	
Security Camera Upgrades	252
Battery Shores Drainage Project- Study	47
Battery Shores Repaving Project	5,680
<b>Total Completed Projects Underbudget</b>	<b>5,979</b>
<b>Unobligated ARPA Funds Due to Reduction in Project Scope</b>	
King Street Drainage Project- Engineering	241,247
<b>Unobligated ARPA Funds Due to Reduction in Project Scope</b>	<b>241,247</b>
<b>ARPA Interest Not Allocated to Projects</b>	
Remaining Interest (Not Subject to Treasury 12/31/24 Obligation Deadline)	95,760
<b>ARPA Interest Not Allocated to Projects</b>	<b>95,760</b>
<b>ARPA Funds Remaining Balance after reallocation</b>	<b>0</b>

# American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Spending Deadline and Financial Update



February 24, 2026



# ARPA Background

- The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) delivered \$350 billion to state and local governments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the Covid-19 public health emergency.
- Treasury released an interim final rule on August 10, 2023.
- Under the SLFRF program, recipients must obligate all award funds by December 31, 2024 and expend funds by December 31, 2026.



# City's ARPA Revenue

- The City received \$6,689,031 in ARPA Funds from the Treasury in two payments in September 2021 and September 2022.
- The City received \$1,000,000 in ARPA Funds from Beaufort County between June 2022 and April 2023 for Cyber Security and Good Neighbor Program.
- The City earned \$720,760 from interest on investments of ARPA funds as of December 31, 2025 not subject to obligation deadline.



# Treasury Spending Deadlines

- Under the SLFRF program, recipients must expend funds by December 31, 2026.
- Recipients are required to return to Treasury any SLFRF funds that have not been spent by the deadline of December 31, 2026.

# City ARPA Financial Update as of 12/31/25



• Total Revenues	\$ 8,409,791
• Total Expenditures	(6,279,401)
• Net Change in Fund Balance	<u>2,130,390</u>
• Projects with Current City Obligations	(1,162,404)
• Budgeted Using ARPA Interest- Duke Street Project	<u>(625,000)</u>
• ARPA Funds Remaining Balance available to reallocate	\$342,986
• Completed Projects Underbudget	(5,979)
• Unobligated ARPA Funds Due to Reduction in Project Scope	(241,247)
• ARPA Interest not allocated to projects	<u>(95,760)</u>
• ARPA Funds Remaining Balance after reallocation	\$ 0
• See attached spreadsheet for further details.	



# Completed Projects Underbudget

- A few completed projects came under the obligated and budgeted amount.
- A total of \$5,979 can be reallocated to existing ARPA obligated projects.

## Completed Projects Underbudget

Security Camera Upgrades	252
Battery Shores Drainage Project- Study	47
Battery Shores Repaving Project	5,680
<b>Total Completed Projects Underbudget</b>	<b>5,979</b>



# Unobligated ARPA Funds Due to Reduction in Project Scope

- The King Street Drainage Project is funded by ARPA and SCIIP (South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program) grant.
- With the reduction in the project scope by removing the pump station, the ARPA funded commitment decreased from \$1,669,464 to \$1,428,217.
- A total of \$241,247 can be reallocated to existing ARPA obligated projects.

## Unobligated ARPA Funds Due to Reduction in Project Scope

King Street Drainage Project- Engineering

241,247

**Unobligated ARPA Funds Due to Reduction in Project Scope**

241,247

# Budgeted Projects Using ARPA Interest



- The City received \$720,760 in interest in the ARPA fund as of 12/31/25.
- ARPA interest was not subject to the Treasury 12/31/24 obligation deadline.
- The City budgeted \$625,000 in ARPA funds for Duke Street Project in FY26.
- Plan on using ARPA funds first on Duke Street Project to spend by 12/31/26.
- Remaining interest amount of \$95,760 can be used for current or new ARPA projects.

## Budgeted Project Using ARPA Interest

Duke Street Streetscape and Drainage Project- Construction	625,000
Remaining Interest (Not Subject to Treasury 12/31/24 Obligation Deadline)	95,760
<b>Total Projects Using ARPA Interest</b>	<b>720,760</b>



# Recommended Path Forward to Meet Spending Deadline

- Reallocate \$5,979 from completed projects underbudget to existing ARPA obligated projects.
- Reallocate \$241,247 from unobligated ARPA funds due to reduction in project scope to existing ARPA obligated projects.
- Remaining interest amount of \$95,760 can be used for current or new ARPA projects.
- Total amount of \$342,986 available ARPA funds for reallocation.
- Staff recommendation is to reallocate available ARPA funds to Duke Street or Waterfront Park Project as they both are existing ARPA projects.
- City does not want to return any unspent ARPA funds back to the Treasury.

# Questions/Comments





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**City of Beaufort**  
Department Request for City Council Agenda Item

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**To:** City Council **Date:** 02/17/2026  
**From:** Curt Freese, Community Development Director  
**Item Name:** Amendments to Chapter 2 Weeds, Sec. 6-2003; and Chapter 3 Litter and Trash Sec. 6-3005  
**Meeting Date:** February 24, 2026  
**Department:** Community Development Department

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**Background Information:**

**Introduction:**

The amendments being requested for Chapter 2 – Weeds, Sec. 6-2003 – Notice and Abatement, and Chapter 3 -Litter and Trash, Sec. 6-3005 – Notice and Abatement, are proposed to provide a more efficient and plausible means to resolve property maintenance issues within the city as they relate to overgrown lawns/weeds and trash/litter.

Currently, the City Ordinances afford abatement methods for these issues by providing the city with the ability to remedy the issues when property owners fail to do so. In each instance, the city can abate the issues and bill the property owner for the costs of the services required to bring the property into compliance regarding the violations. Upon failure of payment being rendered for those services, the current ordinance(s) allow for the city to place the cost of those services as a lien on the property in favor of the city. The issue with regard to taking this action, as currently codified, is that the lien cannot be collected until the property is sold; or if the accumulated costs are exorbitant enough, through a foreclosure process.

While there is an ability to issue summons to municipal court to a property owner for the violations, there are complications with pursuing this action. There are numerous properties in the city that have weed and trash issues with extenuating circumstances: a. The owner of record is deceased resulting in an heir's property for which there are no known responsible parties; b.) Out of state property owners for whom it is difficult to issue summons; c) Properties placed in corporations or LLC's that make identifying a responsible party difficult. As such, written notices of violations and the requirement to remedy them often go unclaimed or ignored. Having the city clean or clear these properties to mitigate the issues in an effort to prevent blight or health and safety issues in neighborhoods could result in the city undertaking these actions into perpetuity and at the expense of the taxpayers.

**Background:**

The proposed remedy is codified in the South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 5-7-80. - Ordinances relating to upkeep of property within municipality. This allows a municipality to correct the conditions to bring the property into compliance and place the costs of such service as a “...*lien about the real estate and shall be collectable in the same manner as municipal taxes.*” This allows the city to place the costs on the tax bill for the property. It would be billed and collected during the next tax billing cycle. This regulation already exists in the City Code of Ordinances for abatement of unfit houses in Chapter – 1, Article B, Section 5-1028. – Costs; lien upon property. The City has successfully utilized this in the past to collect costs for services for actions taken in that capacity.

The City would still continue to work toward voluntary compliance from property owners, but upon failure of compliance the proposed ordinance revisions are a tool that would allow city staff to gain compliance, remedy the outstanding issue, and place the costs for correcting violations on the persons responsible for the property who ultimately bear the responsibility for maintaining the property in the first place.

**Legal Authority:**

S.C. Const. art. VIII; S.C. Code Ann. § 5-7-10  
et seq.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Recommend amendments to a future City Council Meeting

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**Placed on Agenda For:****Attachments:**

1. Weeds and trash ordinance memo
2. Ch. 2 Weeds revisions
3. Ch. 3 Litter and Trash revisions



**CITY OF BEAUFORT**  
**Community Development Department**

SCOTT MARSHALL  
City Manager

1911 BOUNDARY STREET  
BEAUFORT, SC 29902  
(843) 525-7011  
FAX (843) 986-5606

CURT FREESE  
Community Development  
Director

**February 17, 2026**

**To: City Council**

**From: Curt Freese/Ken Meola Code Enforcement**

**Re: Amendments to Chapter 2 Weeds, Sec. 6-2003; and Chapter 3 Litter and Trash Sec. 6-3005**

**Analysis:**

The amendments being requested for Chapter 2 – Weeds, Sec. 6-2003 – Notice and Abatement, and Chapter 3 -Litter and Trash, Sec. 6-3005 – Notice and Abatement, are proposed to provide a more efficient and plausible means to resolve property maintenance issues within the city as they relate to overgrown lawns/weeds and trash/litter.

Currently, the City Ordinances afford abatement methods for these issues by providing the city with the ability to remedy the issues when property owners fail to do so. In each instance, the city can abate the issues and bill the property owner for the costs of the services required to bring the property into compliance regarding the violations. Upon failure of payment being rendered for those services, the current ordinance(s) allow for the city to place the cost of those services as a lien on the property in favor of the city. The issue with regard to taking this action, as currently codified, is that the lien cannot be collected until the property is sold; or if the accumulated costs are exorbitant enough, through a foreclosure process.

While there is an ability to issue summons to municipal court to a property owner for the violations, there are complications with pursuing this action. There are numerous properties in the city that have weed and trash issues with extenuating circumstances: a. The owner of record is deceased resulting in an heir's property for which there are no known responsible parties; b.) Out of state property owners for whom it is difficult to issue summons; c) Properties placed in corporations or LLC's that make identifying a responsible party difficult. As such, written notices of violations and the requirement to remedy them often go unclaimed or ignored.



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Having the city clean or clear these properties to mitigate the issues in an effort to prevent blight or health and safety issues in neighborhoods could result in the city undertaking these actions into perpetuity and at the expense of the taxpayers.

The proposed remedy is codified in the South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 5-7-80. - Ordinances relating to upkeep of property within municipality. This allows a municipality to correct the conditions to bring the property into compliance and place the costs of such service as a “*...lien about the real estate and shall be collectable in the same manner as municipal taxes.*” This allows the city to place the costs on the tax bill for the property. It would be billed and collected during the next tax billing cycle. This regulation already exists in the City Code of Ordinances for abatement of unfit houses in Chapter – 1, Article B, Section 5-1028. – Costs; lien upon property. The City has successfully utilized this in the past to collect costs for services for actions taken in that capacity.

The City would still continue to work toward voluntary compliance from property owners, but upon failure of compliance the proposed ordinance revisions are a tool that would allow city staff to gain compliance, remedy the outstanding issue, and place the costs for correcting violations on the persons responsible for the property who ultimately bear the responsibility for maintaining the property in the first place.

**Recommendation:** Recommend approval and forward amendments (found attached in red) to a future City Council meeting.

Sincerely,

Curt Freese, AICP

Sec. 6-2001. - Weeds declared a nuisance.

No person, firm, or corporation owning or occupying any property within the city shall permit any grass or weeds or any vegetation whatsoever, not edible or planted for some useful or ornamental purpose, to grow or remain upon the premises so as to exceed a height of six (6) inches or to throw off any unpleasant or noxious odor or to conceal any filthy deposit or vermin. Any grass, weeds or other vegetation growing upon premises in the city in violation of any of the provisions of this section is hereby declared to be a nuisance and detrimental to the health, safety, cleanliness and comfort of the inhabitants of the city.

Sec. 6-2002. - Duty of owner or occupant.

The owner of any premises, as to vacant premises or premises occupied by the owner, and the occupant thereof, in case of premises occupied by other than the owner thereof, shall remove, trim or cut all grass, weeds or other vegetation growing or remaining upon the premises, and shall remove any and all accumulation of trash or waste material remaining upon the premises.

Sec. 6-2003. - Notice and abatement.

- (a) The council, or any officer or employee of the city designated thereby for the purpose, is hereby authorized to give notice, by personal service or United States mail (certified mail, return receipt), to the owner or occupant as the case may be, of any premises whereon grass, weeds, or other vegetation is growing, ~~and where trash and waste material have accumulated,~~ directing and requiring the occupant to trim or cut the grass, weeds or vegetation, and remove the ~~trash and waste material,~~ within ~~five (5) days~~ **the time frame designated by the officer or employee of the city designated to give such notice, but not exceeding a period of 30 days**, after issuance of the notice.

In case any person, firm or corporation shall neglect, fail or refuse to comply with the notice, within the period of time stated therein, the city authorities **upon permission of the City Manager or his designee**, may remove, trim or cut the grass, weeds or vegetation, and remove the trash and waste material, and the cost thereof may be collected by the city from that person, firm or corporation.

- (b) **A** bill or statement for the cost(s) and penalty(s) referenced above shall be mailed, certified mail, or personally served upon the owner, occupant, firm or corporation, as the case may be, specifying that payment thereof shall be due within twenty (20) days thereof. Upon failure of the owner or occupant to remit payment of such bill or statement within the prescribed time such amount(s) shall become a lien on said property in favor of the city, ~~which lien shall be recordable upon proper instrument with the office of the Register of Mesne Conveyances.~~ **such lien shall be collectable in the same manner as municipal taxes.**
- (c) If the whereabouts of such person(s) are unknown and cannot be ascertained in the exercise of reasonable diligence, the city shall make an affidavit to that effect, then the serving of such complaint or notice/order upon such person(s) may be made by publishing the notice/order once each week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper printed and published in the area. The city will post the notice/order on the property one week prior to taking corrective action.



### CHAPTER 3. - LITTER AND TRASH

Sec. 6-3001. - Duty of owner or occupant of premises.

No person, firm or corporation owning or occupying any property within the city shall permit the accumulation of trash or waste material upon any property. Any trash or waste material accumulating upon any premises in the town in violation of any of the provisions of this section is hereby declared to be a nuisance and detrimental to the health, safety, cleanliness and comfort of the inhabitants of the city.

Sec. 6-3002. - Reserved.

Editor's note— Ord. No. O-5-19, § 5, adopted June 11, 2019, repealed § 6-3002, which pertained to littering prohibited and derived from 1962 Code, Sec. 24-28.

Sec. 6-3003. - Litter from vehicles.

It shall be unlawful for any person to drive and operate upon the public streets of the city, any truck, trailer or wagon which has been recently used for the purpose of hauling pine logs, hay, straw, paper or other like material which tends to litter the streets and upon which there remains any bark, straw, hay, paper, resulting from the hauling until the vehicle has been thoroughly cleaned of trash or litter and rendered reasonably free therefrom, the trash or litter is covered or otherwise prevented from falling from the vehicle.

Sec. 6-3004. - Litter from construction.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to permit building rubbish or trash materials upon any property within the city to leave a construction site by wind, rain, or other means that create litter. Any building rubbish or trash materials leaving a construction site and creating litter within the city is hereby declared to be a nuisance and detrimental to the health, safety, cleanliness and comfort of the inhabitants of the city and can result in a stop work order at the determination of the building official or code enforcement.

(b) The following building materials are subject to conditions to prevent building rubbish from leaving a construction site by wind, rain, or other means that create litter:

(1) Exterior Insulation and Finishing Systems (EIFS) or other expanded-polystyrene (EPS) construction practices. Any project that involves Exterior Insulation and Finishing Systems (EIFS) or otherwise utilizes expanded polystyrene (EPS, a.k.a. "Styrofoam") in any element of construction shall follow these specifications. If EPS materials are to be rasped, sanded, sawed, planed or otherwise worked in a way that produces particulates or loose debris of any size, all the following measures shall be implemented:

a. Any rasping equipment shall be equipped with a vacuum.

b. The area around the activity shall be shielded on all sides, from six (6) feet above the area being worked to ground level with construction netting to capture any loose debris.

c. At least one (1) vacuum in addition to any vacuum rasps shall be on site with someone assigned to use it to immediately clean up any EPS debris that is not captured by the vacuum rasps.

d. The contents of all vacuum equipment shall be emptied into sealable, disposable bags before being disposed of in any open containers to prevent wind dispersal of debris after it has been disposed of in open top dumpsters or other containers.

e. EPS debris or scrap too large to be vacuumed shall be disposed of immediately in sealed bags or enclosed containers to prevent it from being broken into smaller pieces and dispersed off-site.

f. Any activities not in compliance with these specifications will be stopped until the specifications of this section are satisfied. Any EPS debris on the construction site or escaping the construction site, regardless of the implementation of these specifications, will be the responsibility of the contractor to clean up immediately and completely.

g. Exemptions: When properly managed indoors so that debris is not loose outdoors, EPS materials are exempt from the prohibitions established by this section.

#### **Sec. 6-3005. - Notice and abatement.**

**(a) The City may give notice, by personal service or United States mail (certified mail, return receipt), to the owner or occupant as the case may be, of any premises whereon trash and waste material have accumulated, directing and requiring the occupant to remove the trash and waste material, within the time frame designated by city, but not exceeding a period of 30 days, after issuance of the notice.**

**In case any person, firm or corporation shall neglect, fail or refuse to comply with the notice, within the period of time stated therein, the city authorities upon permission of the City Manager or his designee, may remove the trash and waste material, and the cost thereof may be collected by the city from that person, firm or corporation.**



**(b) A bill or statement for the cost(s) and penalty(s) referenced above shall be mailed, certified mail, or personally served upon the owner, occupant, firm or corporation, as the case may be, specifying that payment thereof shall be due within twenty (20) days thereof. Upon failure of the owner or occupant to remit payment of such bill or statement within the prescribed time such amount(s) shall become a lien on said property in favor of the city, such lien shall be collectable in the same manner as municipal taxes.**

**(c) If the whereabouts of such person(s) are unknown and cannot be ascertained in the exercise of reasonable diligence, the city shall make an affidavit to that effect, then the serving of such complaint or notice/order upon such person(s) may be made by**

**publishing the notice/order once each week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper printed and published in the area. The city will post the notice/order on the property one week prior to taking corrective action.**

(Ord. No. O-11-21, § 2, 6-8-21)



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**City of Beaufort**  
Department Request for City Council Agenda Item

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**To:** City Council **Date:** 02/20/2026  
**From:** Scott Marshall, City Manager  
**Item Name:** Freedman Arts District Proposal for Art in the Park  
**Meeting Date:** February 24, 2026  
**Department:** City Managers Office

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**Background Information:**

**Introduction:**

This agenda item provides an opportunity for the Freedman Arts District to discuss with Council a proposal to provide sculptures or other art along the new fencing that will be installed in Waterfront Park.

**Background:**

Mr. Dick Stewart, representing the Freedman Arts District, spoke at the February 9 meeting of the Waterfront Advisory Committee. He provided a presentation to the committee which included an offer to install a “Beaufort Friendly Fence” and the placement of artwork and statues in close proximity to the fence.

Staff is pleased to report that the city already has fencing on order—at city expense—with an expected arrival time of approximately 3 weeks. Once it arrives it will be professionally installed.

The purpose of this agenda item is to learn more about the Freedman Arts District’s offer for the placement of artwork and statues in close proximity to the fence after it is installed, and to determine proper next steps.

**Legal Authority:**

- S.C. Code §5-7-30

The central municipal powers statute. Relevant subsections authorize municipalities to:

- Acquire, own, and manage property
- Enter into contracts
- Operate public facilities and parks
- Adopt ordinances for public welfare, safety, and aesthetics
  
- **S.C. Code §5-7-40**  
Authorizes municipalities to acquire real or personal property by **purchase, lease, gift, or otherwise**, and to hold and manage it for public purposes.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Develop a consensus around the offer being made. If it is the will of Council to proceed, Staff will draft a Memorandum of Agreement for consideration of the Freedman Arts District and City Council.

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**Placed on Agenda For:**

**Attachments:**

None