

CHAPTER 6: COMMUNITY FACILITIES



INTRODUCTION

Community facilities provide services to meet the day-to-day needs of the community and to enhance quality of life. The Community Facilities Chapter considers general governmental facilities, water supply and wastewater treatment, stormwater, solid waste and disposal, educational facilities, medical services, libraries, recreational facilities, and other public facilities. These facilities are greatly influenced by the direction and intensity of development in Horry County.

Pursuant to Section 6-29-540 of the 1994 SC Planning Enabling Legislation, the Horry County Planning Commission is required to review proposals for all new public facilities except utilities. After the adoption of the Community Facilities Element, no new street, structure, square, park, other public way, grounds, open space, or public building may be constructed in Horry County until plans have been submitted to the Planning Commission for comments and compatibility to the IMAGINE 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

GENERAL GOVERNMENTAL FACILITIES

Horry County maintains a council-administrator form of government, with a current full-time staff of approximately 2,200 employees. While many services are now available through the internet, the County also operates facilities throughout its districts to serve its residents.

County Government Complexes and Offices

The County has several government complexes, including the Horry County Government and Justice Center in Conway, the 21st Avenue Complex in Myrtle Beach, and the South Strand Complex in the Burgess community. While these complexes have redundant services, this makes it easier for the public to access highly used offices, such as the Treasurer's Office. The County has many departments and

services that are not located within these complexes, which can make it difficult for internal and external services and coordination. For instance, Business Licensing is located in a separate building from Zoning, both of which are necessary for someone to visit when setting up a new business. Another example is the Treasurer's Office which is located in a different building than the SC Department of Motor Vehicles (SC DMV), which can impact someone paying their car taxes and needing to obtain a sticker for their license plate. Similarly, someone needing to obtain a social security card, passport or birth certificate has to travel to completely different buildings to obtain copies of these documents.



Horry County Government and Justice Center

Government Building Locations

Horry County Government Main Offices are located at the **Horry County Government and Justice Center** at 1301 2nd Avenue in downtown Conway. Offices include: County Council Chambers, County Administrator, County Attorney, Finance Department, Public Information Office, Human Resources, Assessor, Treasurer, Auditor, Register of Deeds, Planning and Zoning, Code Enforcement, Sheriff's Office, Solicitor, Clerk of Courts, Circuit/General Court, Family Court, Probate Court, Supreme Court, and Master-in-Equity. The government portion of the building was designed to accommodate a third floor in the future.

Other **Downtown Conway Facilities** include the Old Horry County Courthouse, Business Licensing and Hospitality Fee Departments, IT/GIS and E911, Community Development and Voter Registration & Elections, Maintenance, Horry County Library - Conway Branch, Horry County Museum, Public Defender, and Pretrial Intervention Program, and the Cochran Building which houses Horry County Parks and Recreation.

The ML Brown Public Safety Building is located off of Hwy 701 North/North Main Street on the outskirts of the City of Conway. It includes the Emergency Management, Police, Fire Rescue, and Coroner's offices. This facility already has space limitations. In addition, the parking lot and access to this site have experienced flooding numerous times during major storm events. **Horry County Procurement and Records Management** is located off of Hwy 319 East, north of the City of Conway.

The **Industrial Park Road Complex** is located off of Hwy 701 North. It includes the J. Reuben Long Detention Center, Animal Care Center, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Clemson Extension, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC), Veteran's Affairs, Department of Social Services (DSS), Health Department, and SCDMV. There is additional room in and around this complex for the future expansion of facilities.



J. Reuben Long Detention Center
Photo Credit : WMBF News

The **Public Works Complex** is located off of Hwy 701 North on Privetts Road. It houses the Engineering, Public Works, Stormwater and Fleet Services departments. Expansion of this complex will be necessary as the departments' and equipment needs expand.

The **Ralph Ellis Building** is located at Stephen's Crossroads off of Hwy 57. It includes the North Strand Police Precinct, Treasurer's Office, Little River Library, a Fire Rescue Station, Senior Center, SCDMV, and Health Department. This complex has outgrown its existing space.

The **21st Avenue Complex** in Myrtle Beach houses the Treasurer, Auditor, and Magistrate's Offices, in addition to a Fire Rescue Station. This complex is heavily used and undersized for the volume that it handles. This complex is in need of replacement. The SCDMV is located across the street.

South Strand Office Complex located on Scipio Lane in the Burgess Community includes the South Strand Police Precinct and Magistrate's Office, along with extension offices for the Treasurer, Auditor, Assessor, and Clerk of Court.

Other government facilities, such as libraries, parks and recreation, fire stations, and schools are further addressed in this chapter and the Public Safety Element. Government owned industrial parks are addressed in the Economic Development Chapter, and County operated airports are addressed in the Transportation Chapter.

State and Federal Offices

In addition to Horry County Government facilities, there are several state and federal facilities located in Horry County, including but not limited to, SCDHEC, SCDMV, Social Security



Historic Horry County Court House
Photo Credit: Courthousehistory.com

Administration, Veterans Affairs, Health and Human Services, and post offices. Many of these services are collocated in County complexes or in adjacent buildings.

GENERAL GOVERNMENTAL FACILITY FINDINGS

As the population grows, the demand for new facilities will continue to increase. Intradepartmental and interjurisdictional coordination will be necessary to ensure cost effectiveness for major investments. It will also be necessary to ensure a high level of service for facility users by constructing new facilities in convenient locations or reprogramming existing buildings to maximize existing space. The County recently installed wayfinding signage in the Government and Justice Center and Old County Courthouse. This is part of an effort to help direct the public to the correct buildings and offices. At this time, there are no resources on the County's website to inform the public about all of the offices located within each facility beyond the listing of the main address for each department.

UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The following section details power suppliers, water and sewer suppliers, stormwater, solid waste, and telecommunications. These facilities are critical to support existing and new growth. They are also critical for supporting economic development and for restoring normalcy after a disaster.

POWER SUPPLIERS

Santee Cooper is a state-owned utility and the primary source of electricity for approximately two million people in all 46 counties of South Carolina. They serve more than 184,000 residential and commercial customers directly in Berkeley, Georgetown and Horry Counties. Power is transferred into the County from outside generating stations via transmission lines and substations. Inside the substations, voltage is reduced, and then transferred to streets or homes via distribution lines. Santee Cooper maintains both overhead and underground distribution lines.

The 50-year old Santee Cooper Grangier Generating Station in Conway was closed in 2012 and demolished in 2016. The site is being remediated, and its cooling pond, Lake Busbee, is no longer having water pumped into it. The lake is expected to return to a more natural state. Prior to its retirement in 2012, the Grangier station was used in a limited capacity, due in part to the cost of compliance with federal emissions standards for coal fired plants. Santee Cooper produces energy from wind, solar, and landfill gas in Horry County. While the use of solar power is not prevalent in Horry County, Santee Cooper recognizes the opportunity and is working to expand its presence. In 2018, Santee Cooper installed a 10 acre solar farm, Bell Bay, along Hwy 701 South containing 5,904 solar panels with an annual production of 2,827 megawatt hours (MWh). This is in addition to two demonstration projects, the 311-kilowatts Grand Strand Solar Station in Myr-



tle Beach and the 16-kilowatt solar display at Coastal Carolina University. Beyond expansion of solar, Santee Cooper is also exploring on-shore and offshore wind opportunities, which is further discussed in the Natural Resources Chapter.

In order to maintain the reliability of the electrical system serving the growing Horry County population, Santee Cooper is currently planning a 230 kV transmission line between Marion and Conway. This transmission line will utilize the existing

Duke Energy provides electric and gas services across the Country. They provide electric services to the Aynor area. Currently, Duke Energy is in the process of constructing two solar farms along Hwy 9 in Horry County.



Demolition of the Granger Generating Station stacks
Photo Credit: Jim Huff, Santee Cooper

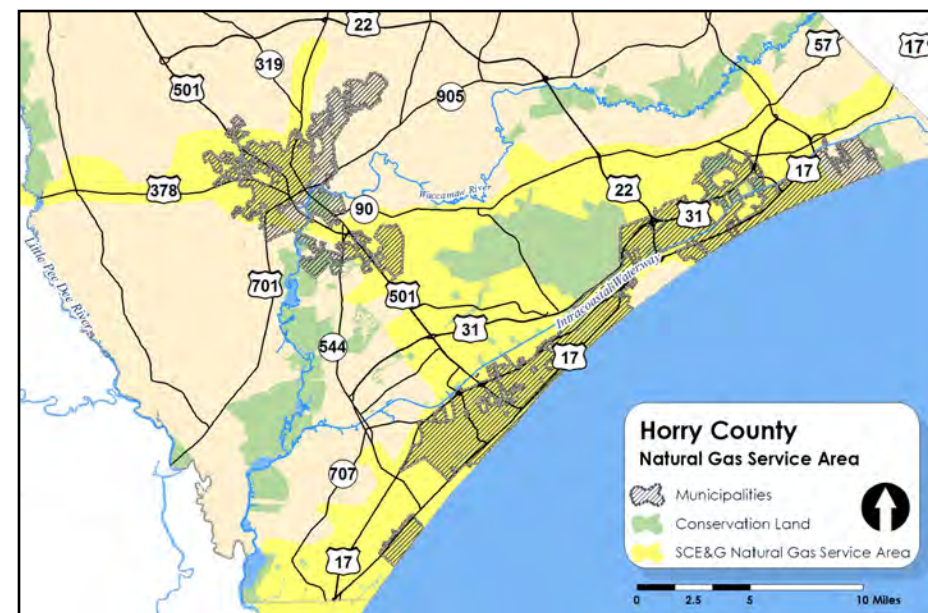
Horry Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Conway, primarily serves the western side of the Intracoastal Waterway. It has franchise agreements with the Cities of Loris, Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle Beach, and the Town of Aynor.

South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G) provides electricity and natural gas services to approximately 1.1 mil-

lion customers across the state. As the natural gas provider in Horry County, SCE&G has served residential, commercial, and industrial gas customers in the area for more than 50 years. SCE&G purchases gas from the **Southern Natural Gas Company**. Natural gas is available along a number of major corridors, such as Hwy 90 and portions of Hwy 501. It is also available in a number of new subdivisions. While natural gas is often a necessary component in manufacturing, it is not readily available to existing industrial parks in the County.

POWER FINDINGS

Energy consumption will continue to increase in Horry County. Additional transmission lines and other means of power generation will need to continue to be developed. With the addition of new transmission lines to accommodate additional growth, these lines may present an opportunity for bicycle and pedestrian connectivity. The closing of the Granger Station also presents an opportunity for redevelopment and reinvestment into downtown Conway; however one drawback to this is Lake Busbee which remains an area of concern for residents.



Source: SCE&G

WATER SUPPLIERS

There are a number of water and sewer providers in Horry County; however, Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority serves all local water authorities, including area municipalities. In the municipalities of Conway, Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle Beach, and Loris, they utilize the extension of water and sewer to developing properties contiguous with their city limits to force annexation. Also, properties that are close to city limits must sign a pre-annexation agreement to receive water and sewer service. This agreement states that once the property becomes contiguous with the city limits, it will be annexed.

The **Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority (GSWSA)** has two surface water treatment facilities. The majority of the area is supplied by the Bull Creek Treatment Plant, supplemented by Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells located throughout the service areas. In addition to the ASR wells, water is stored in ground storage reservoirs and elevated tanks. There are pumping stations at the plant and re-pumping stations in remote portions of the system to boost water pressure.

GSWSA's Bull Creek Regional Water Treatment Plant, located in Bucksport, has a peak flow capacity of 45 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) and is designed for ready expansion. Untreated surface water is pulled from the Bull Creek which carries about 60% of the water flowing through the Great Pee Dee and Little Pee Dee Rivers. During the drought of 2002, the minimum flow in the Great Pee Dee just above Bull Creek was approximately 710 MGD. The plant's peak three day average daily flow (ADF) occurred in June 2008 at a flow of 35 MGD. During this same period, there were 3.7 MGD of flow being added to the distribution system from ASR and blend wells concurrently for a total system demand of 38.7

MGD. The by-product of the treatment process, alum sludge, is thickened and land applied to a designated centipede grass turf farm.

GSWSA's Myrtle Beach Water Treatment Plant, located in the City of Myrtle Beach, has the ability to generate 45 million gallons per day and is also designed for ready expansion. Water is pulled from the Intra-coastal Waterway.

In addition, GSWSA has eight groundwater wells withdrawing 4.2 MGD. This native ground water is blended with treated surface water at major entry points to the distribution system. GSWSA is a national leader in the development of ASR technology. This technique allows for the storing of water treated during off peak periods for use during emergencies or peak demand conditions. Currently, the ASR wells have a combined storage capacity of 1 billion gallons available for use each year. The water can be withdrawn from the wells at a rate of 13.5 MGD.

Altogether, GSWSA services approximately 800 square miles in Horry County with both water and wastewater services. Peak summer demands are approximately 65 MGD. This accounts for all customers including the Cities of Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle Beach, Conway, and Loris, the Town of Tabor City, Little River Water and Sewer, and Georgetown County Water. The combined capacity of the Bull Creek and Myrtle Beach water plants is 90 MGD. In addition to constant maintenance, current plans are to expand both water treatment facilities by 15 MGD and the ASR wells by 20 MGD. However, the existing excess water capacity along with the current ASR wells will allow for a longer time period prior to investing in plant expansions.

GSWSA also has a rural program that tries to help customers with existing water and septic systems that are failing. If water and sewer is available to the parcel, an application simply needs to be made in order to obtain service. If service is not available to a parcel, GSWSA will extend services for up to a mile at no cost, but they require three applications for service prior to the extension.

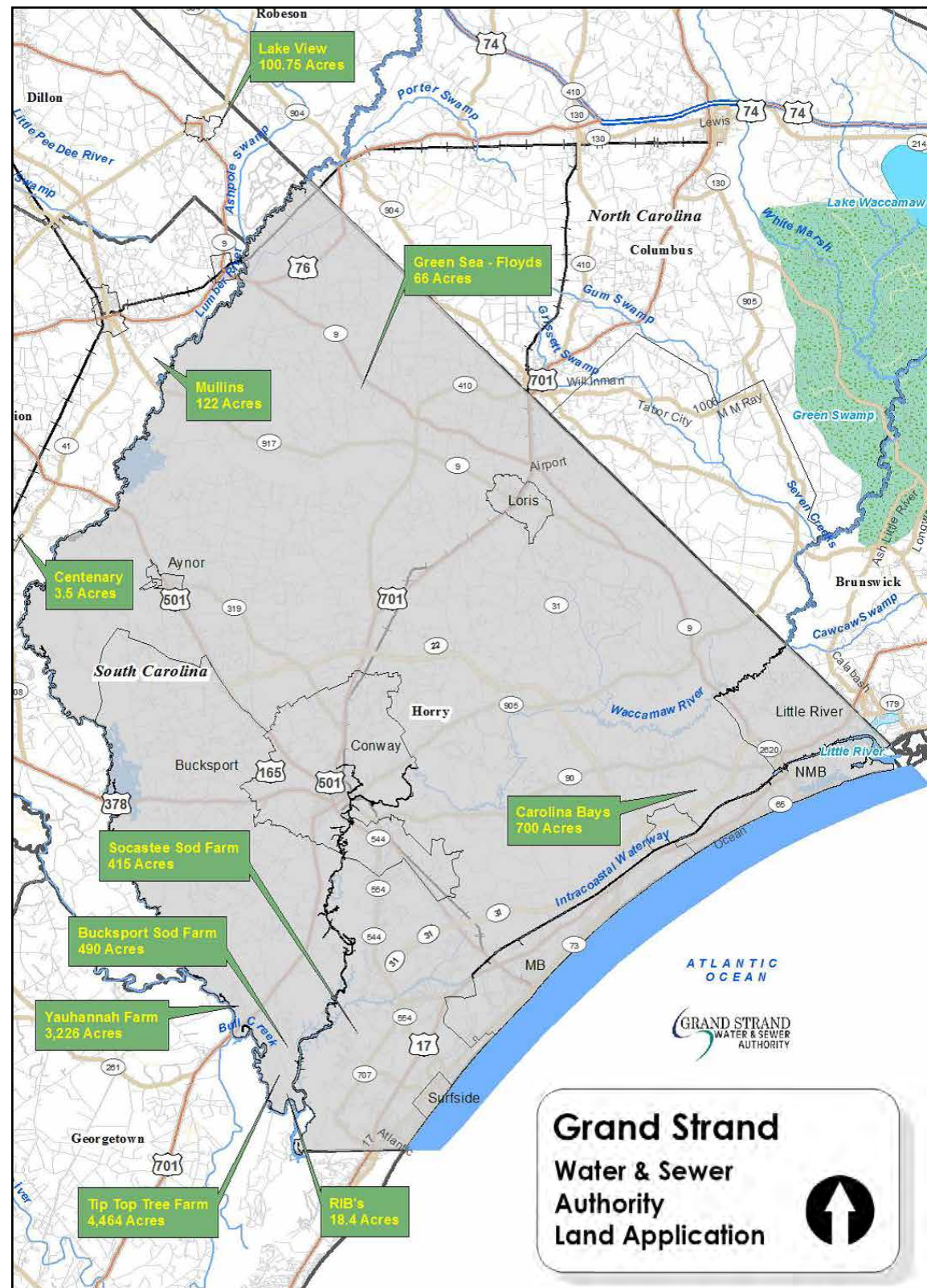
Bucksport Water System is another major water supplier in the County. Bucksport Water System is a member-owned, non-profit water system providing needs based service. The system pumps water from the Black Creek Aquifer and is licensed for a capacity of 550 million gallons of water per year. Currently, the system pumps approximately one MGD, which equates to about 66% of capacity. This system provides water to Bucksport and surrounding communities by utilizing five well sites (four elevated and one ground) with available storage of 1.3 million gallons of water. In early August 2017, Bucksport Water System utilized their first reverse treatment osmosis system at the Pawley Swamp well site. The Bucksport Water System is constantly improving and expanding to support the projected economic growth in their service area. With

the approval of Ride 3, Bucksport Water is preparing for growth with the extension of El Bethel Road in Conway, connecting US 378 to US 701 South, as well as the construction of the Southern Evacuation Lifeline.

Beyond GSWSA and Bucksport Water System, the City of Conway, City of North Myrtle Beach, and Little River Water and Sewerage Company provide emergency water supply through wells.



Source: Grand Strand Water and Sewer



Source: GSWSA 2035 Strategic Business Plan

WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

GSWSA utilizes thirteen wastewater treatment plants and one leach field. Wastewater transmission lines are adjacent to most of the County's major transportation corridors. Rural lines are extended on a petition for service basis. As discharging directly into waterways have become more stringent, GSWSA has developed strategies for effluent and sludge management through land application of treated wastewater and sludge by-products. Plans currently exist for over 9,000 acres in Horry County, 130 acres in Marion County, and over 100 acres in Dillon County.

GSWSA is continually updating their facilities with routine maintenance, as well as relocating lines in coordination with transportation improvements and overall capital improvements. In addition, GSWSA collects water and wastewater capacity fees (impact fees) from new customers so that the current customer base does not bear the burden of new growth for both water and wastewater improvements. In 2014, \$5.21 million in impact fees were collected in direct proportion to new customers added.

The City of North Myrtle Beach maintains two wastewater treatment facilities: Ocean Drive and Crescent Beach. The City is currently in the design phase to upgrade these facilities to continue to provide adequate sewer services to the residents of North Myrtle Beach.

WATER AND SEWER FINDINGS

As development continues to expand in Horry County, water and wastewater facilities will need to follow suit. Currently, existing providers are adequately supplying services and have plans for improvements to keep pace with growth. GSWSA 2035 Strategic Business Plan outlines the capital improvements, structural, human resources, operational requirements and financing required to meet the needs of the area through 2035. In addition, the existing excess water capacity allows plans for expansion to be delayed for a longer period of time.

STORMWATER

Horry County is a regional stormwater leader that recognizes stormwater management as a community-wide issue that requires a community-wide solution. Stormwater refers to the precipitation that drains off the land. The amount of impervious surface (i.e. streets, roofs, and parking lots) is the most significant factor affecting the amount of runoff from an area. As Horry County continues to develop from rural to urban uses, runoff volumes and rates will continue to increase, as will the need to implement stormwater control measures.

The goals of the Stormwater Management Program, as outlined in the Stormwater Management Program Strategic Plan, are to preserve and enhance the quality of the water systems of Horry County; to reduce the impact of flooding in the County; to create public support for the importance of stormwater management; and, to manage stormwater program funds to maximize benefits to the citizens of Horry County.

In 2017, the Stormwater Management and Sediment Control Ordinance was updated to comply with SCDHEC's revised National Pollution Discharge Elimination System. It also clarifies and improves the design, construction, and maintenance of stormwater systems in new developments to minimize flood damage and improve water quality.

Stormwater Advisory Board

The Horry County Stormwater Advisory Board was established in 2000 to provide guidance and advice to County Council pertaining to the Stormwater Management Program. This includes the review of the Horry County Stormwater Ordinance, Stormwater Manual and specialized stormwater plans. In addition, this Board promotes education, awareness, and research regarding stormwater best management

practices to targeted audiences, including, but not limited to engineers, developers, homeowners associations (HOAs), and property owners.

Stormwater Permitting

The Stormwater Management Program reviews and inspects all new developments disturbing over 1/2 acre of land. Since the year 2000, the Stormwater Department has issued over 2,300 stormwater permits within the unincorporated areas of Horry County. During the review and inspection process, emphasis has been placed upon preventing and reducing downstream flooding and on water quality to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II program. Certified construction site inspectors focus mainly on erosion and sediment control measures.

Stormwater Fees

Stormwater utility fees are paid annually by each property owner in the unincorporated areas of Horry County. Single-family homes, townhomes and condominiums are charged a flat fee. Non-residential properties are charged according to a formula that accounts for each property's gross area and percentage of impervious surface. Stormwater utility fees appear on real property tax bills and are collected by the County Treasurer with property taxes. These fees are used for maintenance and capital improvements to the stormwater and drainage system. There are also several watershed areas in the County that are exclusively maintained by the Department as part of a special tax district.

Drainage Maintenance and Improvements

A common citizen concern and primary role of the Stormwater Management Department is drainage maintenance and improvements. As the County's road system expands

with increasing development, so too the drainage system must expand. The County holds many public drainage easements for the purpose of maintaining storm drainage infrastructure. Easements are designed to allow personnel and equipment to access and repair infrastructure (e.g. pipes, catch basins, ditches). Maintenance is routinely conducted on a cycle to keep the drainage system operating smoothly. Some ditches may be maintained using equipment, while others may require the use of hand crews. The Department is limited to using public funds for areas with public benefit and is also limited by environmental rules in sensitive areas, such as wetlands. Beyond maintenance of County stormwater infrastructure, staff often works with HOAs to help them identify options to resolve their pond maintenance issues, such as erosion.



Pond Bank Erosion
Photo Credit: Clemson Extension

Water Quality Monitoring & Education

The Horry County Stormwater Management Department partners with several organizations and other municipalities to take a watershed approach to stormwater solutions through water quality monitoring and public education, thus supporting compliance with the County's NPDES Phase II storm-



water requirements. This collective group of organizations is known as the Coastal Waccamaw Stormwater Education Consortium (CWSEC). This regional organization includes local governments in both Horry and Georgetown County, research institutions, educators, and advocacy organizations. Coastal Carolina University's Center for Marine and Wetland Studies, the University of South Carolina's Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences, and Clemson's Baruch Institute for Coastal Ecology and Forest Science all serve as valuable research partners that are engaged in identifying and researching water quality impairments. CCU's Waccamaw Watershed Academy, USC's North Inlet-Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Clemson's Carolina Clear Program, Murrells Inlet 2020, the Waccamaw Riverkeeper, and SC Sea Grant Consortium, are also CWSEC partners. Together, these organizations provide water quality education to a variety of groups and ages. Training events are also held to educate civil engineers on low impact development practices and further its use locally to minimize water quality impacts of new development.

Through a cost-sharing arrangement with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Horry County supports a network of real time monitoring USGS gages on the Waccamaw and Little Pee Dee Rivers. These gages transmit data to a publicly-accessible website and include various water quality parameters, as well as flow and gage height information that is used to predict and track flooding.

In addition, Horry County provides funding for volunteer water monitoring on the Waccamaw River, Surfside Beach and in Murrells Inlet. Volunteers are coordinated through the Waccamaw Riverkeeper and Murrells Inlet 2020. Program oversight, volunteer training, equipment calibration and maintenance, and quality control is provided by Coastal

Carolina University's Environmental Quality Laboratory (EQL). Under contract, EQL staff also conduct additional monitoring at river gage sites, as well as special projects as needed. In addition, the County also funds monitoring at Apache pier, while the Cities of Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach fund the Cherry Grove and 2nd Ave piers, in collaboration with the Long Bay Hypoxia Monitoring Consortium. This data is also available via a publicly-accessible website. This information is used to identify when water quality is declining and can help determine the sources of the impairments through a variety of indicators. More information on water quality can be found in the Natural Resources Chapter.

Mosquito Control

Mosquitoes are a public health concern, as they can transmit diseases to humans, their pets, and their livestock. Horry County uses integrated pest management techniques to control mosquito populations. Such techniques include: mosquito population assessment; education and outreach; site inspections; biological control of mosquito larvae; and chemical control of adult mosquitoes. Care is taken to avoid chemical application around known sites for beekeeping operations, organic farming operations, or citizens with special health needs. A primary program focus is on public education emphasizing personal protection methods and elimination of breeding sites around homes and businesses.

STORMWATER FINDINGS

Horry County recently updated its stormwater ordinance to ensure that all new major subdivisions are designed to handle a 100-year storm, far greater than the 25-year storm that the state requires for new developments. In addition, first floors must be 18 inches above the road centerline to minimize flood damage in homes. The old standard required 12" above centerline. This measure, while necessary to ensure

positive drainage has resulted in extensive tree removal and grading. With the new requirement, this will result in even more land alteration or it will become more cost effective to not construct slab on grade. Overall, these regulatory changes will result in better designed communities. Older development within the County and developments less than ½ acre in size are not subject to these higher regulatory standards. In many cases, the existing infrastructure is under-designed or failing. A comprehensive Stormwater Drainage & Maintenance Capital Improvements Plan is needed to fully understand the costs associated to improve drainage, reduce flooding and improve water quality.

Because most prime locations for development have already been utilized, the use of marginal lands for construction is likely to continue. The County allows for fill in the flood zone and there are no measures to prevent fill in wetlands beyond US Army Corps of Engineering approval. The reuse and re-purposing of existing developed land will be a challenge moving forward. The County should continue to support projects that help improve drainage and storm water diversion and retention. This includes current projects such as the Melody drainage basin, repair of control structures under Chestnut Rd., the Rosewood Outfall, Hwy 9 Improvement Project, Bay Rd. drainage improvements, and the Simpson Creek drainage improvements.

TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICE

Everyday life, in addition to economic development, is strongly tied to the availability of cell phone service and fiber optic cable. Horry Telephone Cooperative (HTC) and Spectrum provide television cable service, internet services, phone service, and home monitoring in Horry County. Cellular phone services are provided by many national systems including AT&T, Sprint, Verizon, and T-Mobile.

Cell Towers

In recent years, residents have begun to rely more on cell phones than land lines. The importance of coverage is also impacted by the number of tourists that visit to our community each year. With this, there has been an increase in demand for cell towers and antennas.

In the past, the technology for the receiver antennae required large devices. Today's current technology has decreased the size of the cellular antennae. Horry County has seen an increased demand for installing them on top of light poles in larger parking lots and on the side of large malls and box stores. Pursuant to Section 6-29-540 of the 1994 SC Planning Enabling Legislation, the Horry County Planning Commission is required to review proposals for all new cell towers. The County has a special permitting process for Telecommunications Towers, which have to be approved by County Council. The concern over large towers may diminish over time as the industry continues to improve the technology.

Fiber optics

Fiber optics are thin flexible fibers of glass or other transparent solids to transmit light signals for telecommunications. All fiber-optic cabling and pedestals are located underground. Horry County has an extensive service of fiber optic cable offered by HTC and Spectrum. Rural areas have broadband readily available opening up opportunities for home-based businesses and virtual call centers. The County currently maintains a fiber route system for its own facilities, which is a core component of the County's infrastructure.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS FINDINGS

As technology continues to evolve, the concern over the siting of cell towers will likely continue to diminish as the towers become smaller in size. There remains a need for improved cell services in the County, in addition to fiber optic availability in rural communities. Beyond immediate public need, the County should consider the cost of extending the fiber optic network in the early site-selection process for new government facilities.

SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) provides integrated waste management throughout Horry County. Per state law, the governing body of a county has the responsibility and authority to provide for the operation of solid waste management facilities. Therefore, Horry County Council created the SWA in 1990 to carry out these responsibilities regarding waste management. In 2009, Horry County Council enacted Ordinance 02-9 which provides an effective means of regulating the collection and disposal of solid waste generated in Horry County. In Horry County, this includes solid waste recovery, recycling, and disposal services to the unincorporated parts of the County, as well as municipal areas.



Source: SWA



The Horry County Solid Waste Management Plan was originally completed in 1993, and the latest update was completed in 2018. A copy of this plan can be found on the SWA website.

Collection and Transfer

Collection and transfer of waste for disposal in Horry County depends on the location. The collection of solid waste is primarily through curbside pickup or staffed convenience centers. Currently, the Solid Waste Authority staffs 24 convenience centers. Collection sites are generally located within a five-mile radius of any given County residence. A new convenience center was recently constructed on McDowell Shortcut, and there remains a need for an additional center to serve the Carolina Forest and Hwy 544 area.

Neighborhoods and businesses in unincorporated Horry County contract for collection services with private haulers, as the SWA does not have its own hauling fleet. The municipalities of Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle Beach, Aynor, Conway, Briarcliffe Acres, Loris, Surfside Beach, and Atlantic Beach provide curbside collection of household waste and yard waste within their jurisdictions. There are two municipally-operated transfer stations located in Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach.

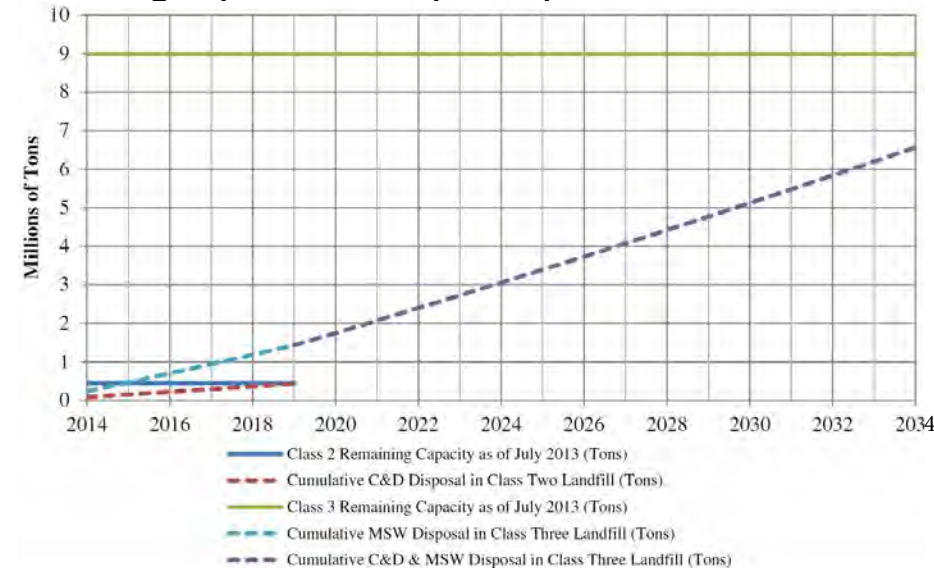
The permanent and tourism populations are both major contributors to solid waste generation in Horry County. Based on FY2016 figures, South Carolina Solid Waste Management 2016 Annual Report determined each South Carolinian disposed on average, 3.6 pounds per day of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). The expected population and tourism growth will also mean more construction and development, which results in increased Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste in addition to the increased MSW. MSW is produced

by households and businesses, while C&D is yielded by construction and industrial activities.

Disposal Facilities

The SWA operates a Class Three MSW landfill and a Class Two C&D Landfill on a 734-acre parcel on Highway 90 outside of Conway. For disposal of MSW, the Class Three landfill has a permitted disposal rate of 750,000 tons per year. Approximately 273,350 tons of MSW were disposed in FY2017. This was high due to storm-related debris. The landfill area has approximately 7,562,000 tons of MSW capacity remaining as of July 2017 (built capacity and yet-to-be-built capacity). Based on estimated consumption, the Class Three landfill will reach capacity sometime in FY2041. However, the SWA plans to initiate in FY2019 the permitting of a new or expanded Class Three Landfill.

Remaining Capacities in Horry County Landfills



Source: Horry County Solid Waste Authority, 2018

The Class Two C&D landfill has a permitted disposal rate of 250,000 tons per year. Approximately 123,250 tons of C&D waste were disposed in FY2017. This was high due to storm-related debris. The landfill area has approximately 591,000

tons of C&D capacity remaining as of July 2017. Based on estimated consumption, the Class Two landfill will reach capacity sometime in FY2024.

Estimated Debris Volume by Hurricane Category

Hurricane Category	Estimated Debris Volume (Cubic Yards)	Debris Management Site Requirement (Acres)
Category 1	331,781	12
Category 2	1,327,123	48
Category 3	4,313,150	155
Category 4	8,295,520	298
Category 5	13,271,232	478

Source: Horry County Solid Waste Authority, 2014

In 2014, Horry County Council enacted Ordinance 78-13. This Ordinance allows construction and demolition (C&D) debris/waste produced in Horry County to be sent to an "appropriately licensed and DHEC permitted" disposal facility rather than the designated HCSWA landfill. This was intended to extend the life of the Class Two C&D landfill.

In order to provide disposal capacity for the remainder of the 20-year planning period, HCSWA completed a Piggyback Extension of the MSW landfill in 2016. This Piggyback Expansion provides additional capacity per acre by taking advantage of the "valley between two previously used waste disposal areas".

SWA has built a C&D recycling facility to reduce the amount of C&D waste in the landfill. The capacity provided by the existing 27-acre Subtitle D landfill, the horizontal expansion, and Piggyback Expansion is anticipated to provide MSW capacity over the 20 year planning period. The Piggyback Phase I is anticipated to last until 2024-2025. The figure to the left illustrates the remaining capacity of the Class Two and Class Three Landfills and the estimated consumption over the next 20 years.

Debris Management

Per SWA Disaster Debris Management Plan, Horry County could generate 4.3 million cubic yards of debris from a category three hurricane. A summary with estimated quantities of debris and the acreage necessary to store and process the debris is shown in the chart below. However, these figures are from 2014 and due to the increase in population these estimates will be low.

Current acreage set aside for debris processing is shown in the following chart. Total acreage for vegetative debris management is 290 acres, eight acres shy of the 2014 estimates needed for a category four hurricane.

Current Acreage Set Aside for Debris Processing in Horry County

Site Name	Closest Address	Site Acreage	Anticipated Site Use
State Road 33 Site	Hwy 33 and Grassy Bay Road Green Sea, SC	141	Vegetative
1187 Site	Hwy 90 and Environmental Parkway Conway, SC	109	Vegetative
State Road Hwy 578 Site	NW Corner of Intersection of Hwy 9 and Hwy 57 (Stephens Crossroads) Little River, SC	40	Vegetative

Source: Horry County Solid Waste Authority, 2014

Green Power

Since 2001, the Landfill Facility has maintained a Green Power Program, a partnership between SWA, Santee Cooper, Horry Electric Cooperative, and Central Electric Power Cooperative. "Green Power" refers to the process of generating electricity through renewable resources such as solar,

wind and decomposing garbage at landfills. The Program transfers methane from the landfill into an environmentally friendly electricity product. Santee Cooper owns and operates the generating equipment. SWA owns and operates the landfill and methane gas collection system and sells the fuel to Santee Cooper. Horry Electric and Central Electric supply the lines for the Green Power to travel.

Waste Reduction/Reuse/Recycling

Horry County maintains programs to encourage recycling, including recycling convenience centers, educational activities, and a regional Material Recycling Facility (MRF). The SWA also operates a yard waste/composting facility. While Horry County recycling is voluntary, residential, curbside pick-up is available in most municipalities. Recycling and yard waste disposal is also available at all County convenience centers. Increasing recycling participation throughout the County is critical to extending the life of the landfill. This can be done through numerous voluntary and regulatory mechanisms, in addition to community education.

The SWA currently leads recycling education efforts through its school recycling programs and its 'Talking Trash' competition. The SWA, in partnership with the Horry County Council on Aging, also operates 'The Store,' a resale outlet offering used items that you can give a second life. The Store accepts donated items that can be recycled, reconditioned or repurposed for continued use. This keeps reusable household items, furniture, lawn and garden and building supplies out of the landfill.

Litter Reduction

A Community Cleanup Program is implemented by **Keep Horry County Beautiful (KHCB)**, a subcommittee to the **Horry County Parks and Open Space Board**. This program is designed to assist civic, community and/or volunteer groups that help in keeping the County's streets, parks, open spaces, rivers, schools, and other community amenities clean and litter free. In 2017, 25,935 pounds of trash were collected off of 98 miles of roadway, 67 acres of parks, one mile of river and three public beach accesses.

KHCB also works in a proactive manner. The 2017-2018 educational focus was on securing loads on trucks and trailers, which has been identified as the number one source of roadside litter. This was a combined initiative between KHCB and the HCSWA. In addition, the County now facilitates an annual county-wide litter assessment and cleanup. These efforts led to KHCB receiving an Affiliate Recognition Award for outstanding efforts in litter awareness and pick up programs in South Carolina from Palmetto Pride.



Volunteers at the 2015 Community Cleanup Day
Photo Credit: Keep Horry County Beautiful

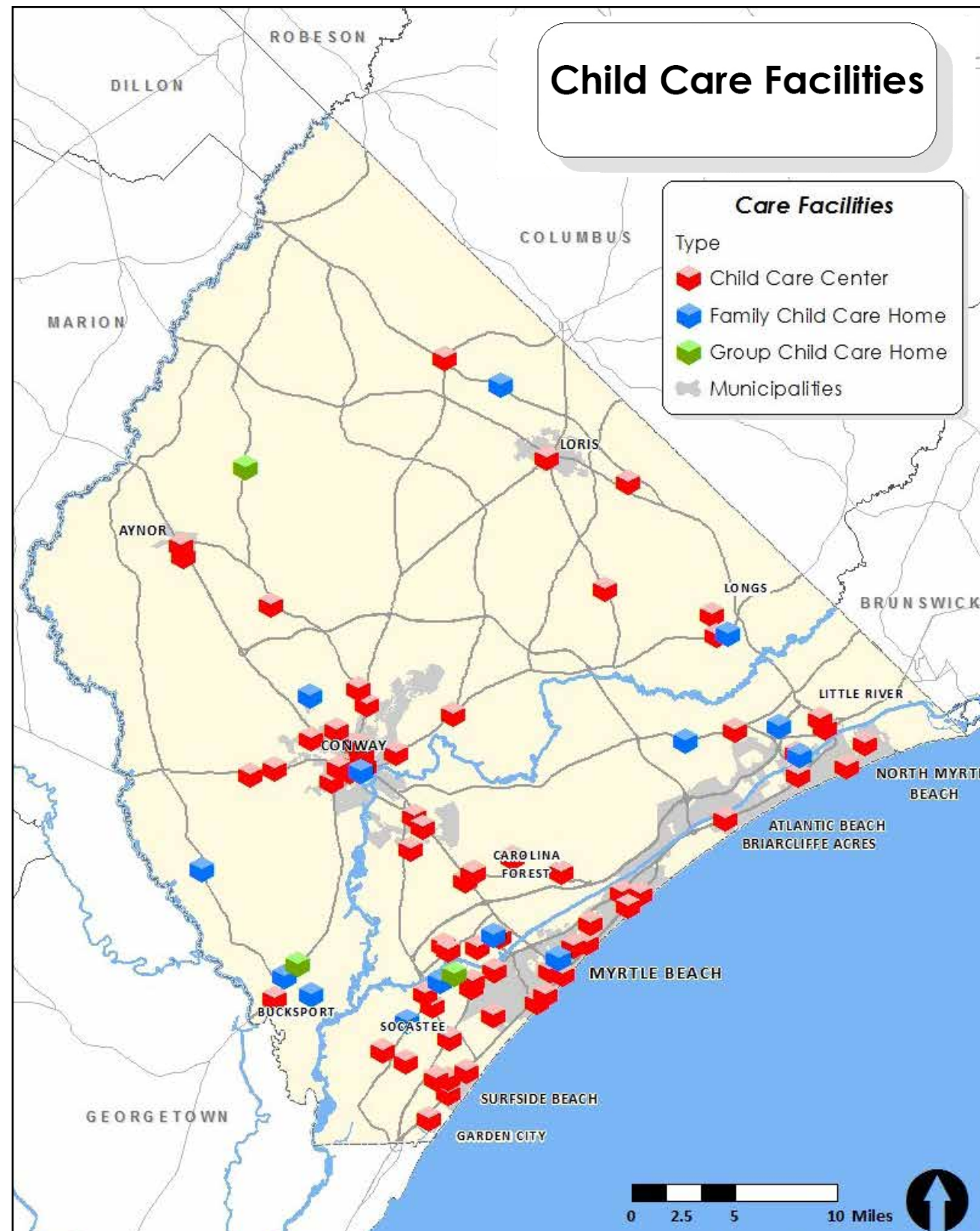


SOLID WASTE FINDINGS

As population and visitor use increases in Horry County, more waste is produced and the landfill gets closer to capacity. Many existing convenience centers will likely need to expand and existing trash haulers will need to consider adding curbside recycling to their offerings. There is also a need to continue to expand recycling and recycling education services to keep recyclables out of the landfill. In addition, it will become a necessity to identify land for a future landfill site, as land acquisition and the permitting of a new landfill is going to be a lengthy and costly process.

UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE FINDINGS

Rapid development places stress on public and private infrastructure. As demand for services increase, so too will the demand for new facilities and the maintenance and upgrades of existing infrastructure, especially in regards to what Horry County provides for stormwater and solid waste. The County and its partners should continue to work together to ensure that future growth and major project information is shared amongst organizations. By doing so, all entities will be better informed of capacity needs and ways to effectively allocate capital improvements.



Source: Horry County Planning & Zoning

EDUCATION FACILITIES

Education is vital to the overall economic and social well-being of any community. Horry County has recently seen a surge in demand for expanded educational facilities for all age ranges. For daycares and PK-12 schools, this correlates with recent birth rates and influx of young families. For higher education facilities, especially Coastal Carolina University, their increase in student population largely stems from out-of-state enrollment. Regardless, growth is driving demand for new facilities.

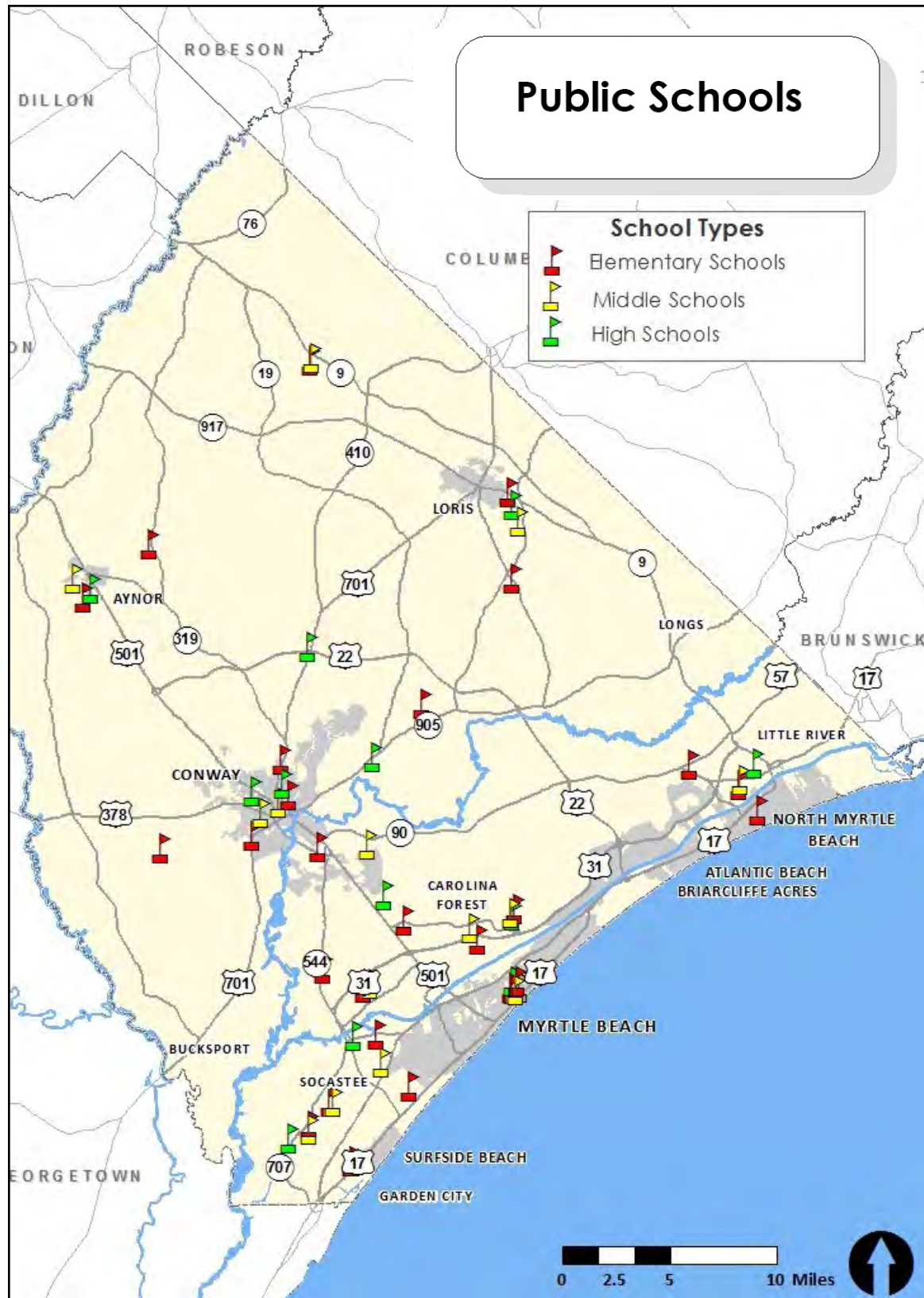
DAY CARE FACILITIES

As of 2016, there were 90 state licensed child care facilities in Horry County, which includes three types:

- 72 licensed child care centers (care for 13 or more children; operates more than four hours a day and two days a week)
- three licensed group child care homes (care for 7-12 children in the home)
- 15 licensed family child care homes (care for up to six children in the home)

There are also many exempt child care providers in Horry County, which include: anyone who cares for children from only one unrelated family; an educational program which operates solely for educational purposes in grade one or above; Kindergartens, nursery schools or other daytime programs operating no more than four hours a day; School vacation or school holiday day camps; Bible schools; Facilities for the mentally ill or handicapped; etc.

With the rising number of children, there is a high demand for additional child care facilities. Many of the facilities maintain a waiting list, which shows how full these facilities are.



Source: Horry County Planning & Zoning

PK-12 EDUCATION

The Horry County School District maintains one countywide school system with nine attendance zones in Aynor, Conway, Carolina Forest, Green Sea/Floyds, Loris, Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle Beach, St. James, and Socastee. Horry County Schools (HCS) operates a total of 57 schools: 26 primary/elementary schools, 15 intermediate/middle schools, ten high schools, four charter schools, three academies and an additional five specialty programs. In addition to the many traditional schools, students also have the opportunity to attend four charter schools: Bridgewater Academy, Palmetto Academy of Learning and Success (PALS), Academy of Hope, and Palmetto Academy for Learning Motor Sports (PALM). Beyond public schools, there are currently 15 private schools in Horry County, the majority of which are religiously affiliated.

HCS also runs the Playcard Environmental Education Center. Playcard instructs students in the natural sciences and provides a place for observation and study by various scientific disciplines.

HORRY COUNTY SCHOOLS FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY ESTIMATES

Five-Year Forecasted 45-Day Modified Average Daily Membership***

(Revised 3-1-2018 with additional facility use data)

	School	Functional Capacity	2017-18 45-Day Modified ADM***	2017-18 Utilization	2018-19 45-Day ADM Forecast ***	2018-19 Utilization	2022-23 45-Day ADM Forecast***	2022-23 Utilization
AYNOR	Aynor Elementary School	720	822	114%	857	119%	895	124%
	Midland Elementary School	735	569	77%	560	76%	572	78%
	Aynor Middle School	631	713	113%	741	117%	818	130%
	Aynor High School	1,059	720	68%	730	69%	840	79%
CAROLINA FOREST	Carolina Forest Elementary School	1,009	1,048	104%	1,084	107%	1,152	114%
	Ocean Bay Elementary School	783	824	105%	860	110%	992	127%
	River Oaks Elementary School	870	1,081	124%	1,160	133%	1,403	161%
	Palmetto Bays Elementary School	639	617	97%	620	97%	683	107%
	Waccamaw Elementary School	863	831	96%	826	96%	887	103%
	Black Water Middle School	833	664	80%	694	83%	773	93%
	Ocean Bay Middle School	909	496	55%	513	56%	687	76%
	Ten Oaks Middle School	1,212	868	72%	937	77%	1,095	90%
Carolina Forest High School	2,388	1,999	84%	2,063	86%	2,508	105%	
CONWAY	Conway Elementary School	644	692	107%	697	108%	743	115%
	Homewood Elementary School	639	607	95%	613	96%	630	99%
	Kingston Elementary School	618	515	83%	498	81%	524	85%
	Pee Dee Elementary School	840	831	99%	832	99%	869	104%
	South Conway Elementary School	639	572	90%	558	87%	573	90%
	Conway Middle School	606	584	96%	639	105%	619	102%
	Whittemore Park Middle School	884	733	83%	758	86%	766	87%
Conway High School	2,095	1,280	61%	1,299	62%	1,492	71%	
GREEN SEA/FLOYDS	Green Sea Floyds Elementary School	660	604	92%	598	91%	616	93%
	Green Sea Floyds High School (6-12)	812	585	72%	604	74%	632	78%
LORIS	Daisy Elementary School	661	602	91%	600	91%	652	99%
	Loris Elementary School	874	764	87%	759	87%	776	89%
	Loris Middle School	833	664	80%	706	85%	728	87%
	Loris High School	1,059	687	65%	681	64%	779	74%
MYRTLE BEACH	Myrtle Beach Early Childhood School**	762	775	102%	437	57%	453	59%
	Myrtle Beach Primary School**	700	657	94%	654	93%	671	96%
	Myrtle Beach Elementary School**	1,100	718	65%	1,001	91%	987	90%
	Myrtle Beach Middle School	1,212	1,001	83%	1,084	89%	1,041	86%
	Myrtle Beach High School	1,329	1,260	95%	1,256	95%	1,421	107%
N. MYRTLE BEACH	Ocean Drive Elementary School	896	950	106%	960	107%	1,020	114%
	Riverside Elementary School	685	627	92%	639	93%	694	101%
	Waterway Elementary School	823	667	81%	636	77%	699	85%
	North Myrtle Beach Middle School	1,212	1,122	93%	1,146	95%	1,209	100%
	North Myrtle Beach High School	1,464	1,159	79%	1,218	83%	1,475	101%
SOCASTEE	Forestbrook Elementary School	1,030	950	92%	935	91%	960	93%
	Lakewood Elementary School	1,006	970	96%	954	95%	978	97%
	Socastee Elementary School	873	815	93%	827	95%	851	97%
	Forestbrook Middle School	1,010	823	81%	892	88%	953	94%
	Socastee Middle School	800	412	52%	464	58%	586	73%
Socastee High School	1,757	1,503	86%	1,533	87%	1,882	107%	
ST. JAMES	Burgess Elementary School	714	715	100%	730	102%	795	111%
	Seaside Elementary School	665	571	86%	562	85%	568	85%
	St. James Elementary School	780	743	95%	753	97%	844	108%
	St. James Intermediate School	1,092	845	77%	844	77%	916	84%
	St. James Middle School	909	781	86%	874	96%	917	101%
St. James High School	1,577	1,554	99%	1,567	99%	1,903	121%	

Source: Horry County Schools

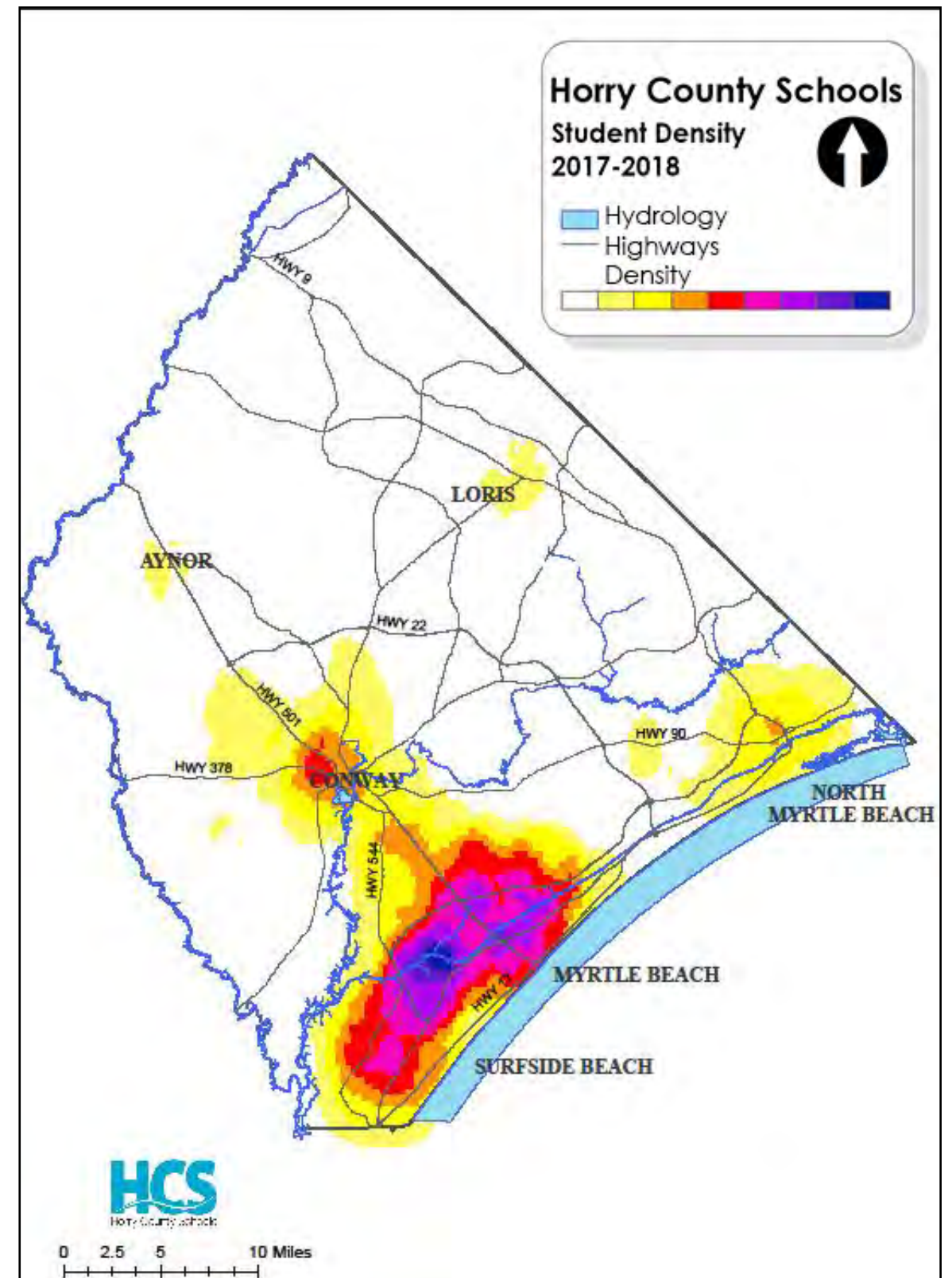


In 2017, HCS completed construction of two middle schools (Socastee and Carolina Forest), one intermediate school (St. James Area), along with the replacement of two older schools (Socastee Elementary and Myrtle Beach Middle). These five schools were designed based on a high performance – energy positive concept, where the building integrates energy conservation, environmental cost-benefit, productivity, sustainability, functionality, and operational considerations. The designs also incorporated the use of various elements such as solar panels, geothermal fields, natural daylight, etc. to create an energy positive environment for the schools. Additional schools are anticipated based off of development trends.

For the 2017-2018 school year, the average daily membership (ADM) for all of HCS K-12 was 42,796 students. That number increased by 903 students from the previous year, or by 2.16%. This growth rate is consistent with the District’s annual growth rate for the past several decades, resulting in it being the third largest school district in South Carolina. By 2023, K-12 enrollment is projected to be 47,739 plus Pre-K and Child Development will have an additional 1,264 students, based on the 2017-2018 numbers, bringing the total PK-12 enrollment to 49,003 (an increase of 4,943 over a five-year period). This does not include enrollment numbers and growth estimates for area charter schools, which all maintain a maximum enrollment based on their charters.

HCS’ Planning Department receives and analyzes monthly Advance Notice reports from the Horry County Planning and Zoning Department for new development rezoning requests. Since new information is received on a monthly basis, the growth assumptions made above are based on data through December 2017. From a school attendance area perspective, the highest anticipated growth areas of the county are Carolina Forest, St. James, Socastee, and North Myrtle Beach. Over 75% of the total student growth in the District will be focused in these four attendance areas. These forecasts have heavily influenced the recommendations of Growth and Capacity projects for the next five years and beyond. Without further capital improvements over the next five year period, HCS anticipates that at least 22 of our schools will be at or above 100% capacity by 2023.

HCS recommends that a new elementary school be added along Carolina Forest Blvd and another off of Ron McNair Blvd in order to reduce overcrowding at River Oaks Elementary. The lack of road connectivity between River Oaks Drive and Carolina Forest Blvd actually necessitates the construction of two elementary schools versus one new facility; however, in the long-term, both facilities will be necessary to accommodate additional growth in Carolina Forest and overflow from the Forestbrook community. Additionally, HCS recommends the replacement of St. James Elementary School and the construction of a new intermediate school in the Little River/North Myrtle Beach area. Replacement facilities are needed for the Horry County Education Center (Alternative School), Conway Education Center, and Whittemore Park Middle School. The HCS Transportation Office and Science Kit program are in need of a combined replacement facility. Additions and renovations are needed for a number of schools over this same five-year timeframe.



Source: Horry County Schools

Land Suitability

In the master planning of some large developments, such as Carolina Forest, the developers set aside tracts for school sites that can be purchased by the School District. If sites are not already “set aside”, HCS look within their attendance zones to find a site with a buildable area that meets size requirements. At a minimum, elementary schools need 20-25 acres; middle schools need 25-30 acres; and high schools with athletic fields need 75-100 acres. In certain areas of Horry County, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find site candidates for new schools. On rare occasions, schools must be constructed outside the attendance zone in order to meet requirements. The District prefers not to go outside the zones, as this means attendance zone changes, which is unpopular and difficult.

Utilities and traffic patterns also play an important role in school site selection. The School District considers the existence of stoplights near the property, or whether stoplights could be added for the site. School location also determines if safe walking and biking routes can be established. Safe routes to school is a way to improve childhood health and adds to the community’s quality of life.

HIGHER EDUCATION

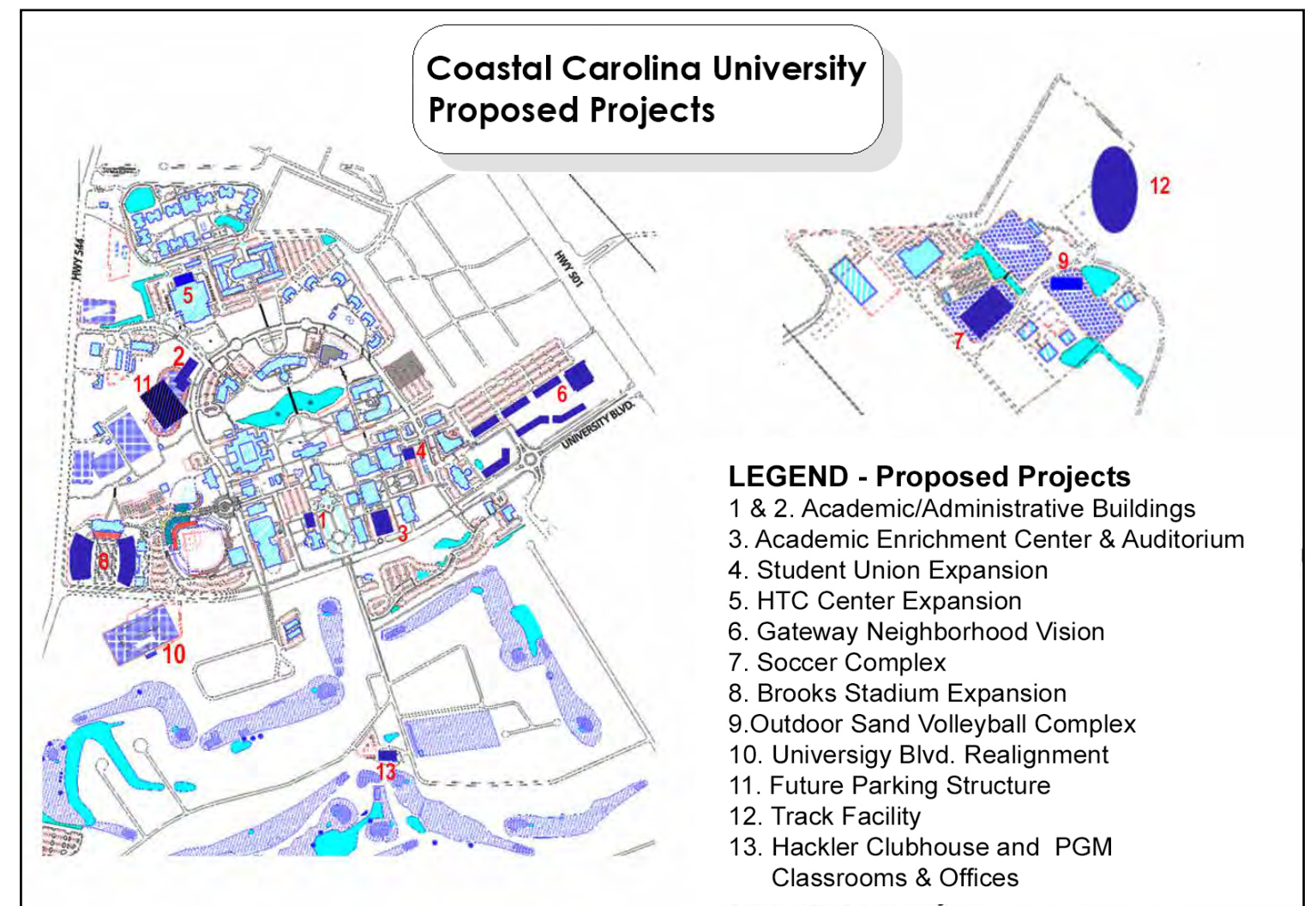
There are four higher education institutions in Horry County. These facilities not only educate students that already live in Horry County, but they attract students to locate here. Student and program growth has positive implications for the County and has the ability to better prepare people for the workforce.

Coastal Carolina University (CCU) is a four-year institution located in Conway that comprises 115 main buildings on 633 acres. The campus also includes the Burroughs & Chapin Center for Marine and Wetland Studies, located in the Atlantic Center on US Highway 501. Adjacent to the CCU campus is the James Hackler Golf Course at Coastal Carolina University, a public 18-hole golf facility and the only university-affiliated course in Horry County. The University also offers courses at the Myrtle Beach Education Center, and in Litchfield and Georgetown. A 1,105 acre tract that includes a portion of Waties Island, a pristine barrier island on the Atlantic coast, provides a natural laboratory for extensive study in marine science and wetlands biology.

In the fall of 2016, a CCU Master Plan Update was approved. This update proposed many future projects, including: two academic/administrative buildings, academic enrichment

center and auditorium, HTC Center expansion, track and soccer complex on the east campus, Brooks Stadium expansion, outdoor sand volleyball complex, potential future parking structure, Hackler Golf Course clubhouse, and PGM program classrooms and offices.

The updated plan also discusses the potential for a “gateway neighborhood vision” at the intersection of Highway 501 and University Boulevard, possibly with a performing arts center. Also included are proposed campus circulation projects, including: a proposal to shift University Blvd/ Highway 544 alignment south to allow possible football expansion; a proposed connection at the north end of campus to 501; and conversion of the section of Chanticleer Drive north of the Wall Building to pedestrian, transit, service, emergency vehicle use only to enhance north-south pe-



Source: CCU Master Plan



destrian connections and safety between student housing and core campus facilities. Other future program needs include a center for literacy education, child development center, music practice rooms, and a band hall.

The growth of the CCU campus also generates a demand for more housing, primarily off-campus high-density residential units. Some of this off-campus housing is located across Highway 544 from the campus, and CCU is reviewing options for student safety while crossing this major corridor. Student housing is also being constructed along the Hwy 501 corridor.

In addition to off-campus apartments, many students live in the surrounding single-family neighborhoods. This can lead to issues within the neighborhoods; therefore, Horry County approved the Coastal Carolina University Neighborhood Overlay Zone in 2009. This was established to provide standards relative to neighborhood appearance and safety in the residential areas surrounding and adjacent to CCU. It provides occupancy limits and parking requirements in these areas in order to promote a sense of place in an orderly neighborhood context.

Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) is a two-year technical college providing more than 80 associate degrees, diploma, and certificate programs of study. The College has three campuses located in Conway, Georgetown, and Myrtle Beach. In 2013 at the Conway campus, HGTC completed the Early College High School, which blends high school and college students. The International Culinary Institute was completed in 2016 at the Myrtle Beach campus.

Webster University maintains a Myrtle Beach campus and designs its programs to appeal to working adults by offering the weekend format for students who may need to travel to attend the campus.

Miller-Motte Technical College in Conway offers programs in CDL training, cosmetology, esthetics technology, massage therapy, medical assisting, medical billing and coding, medical clinical assistant, medical office assistant, criminal justice, paralegal, and business administration.

LIBRARIES

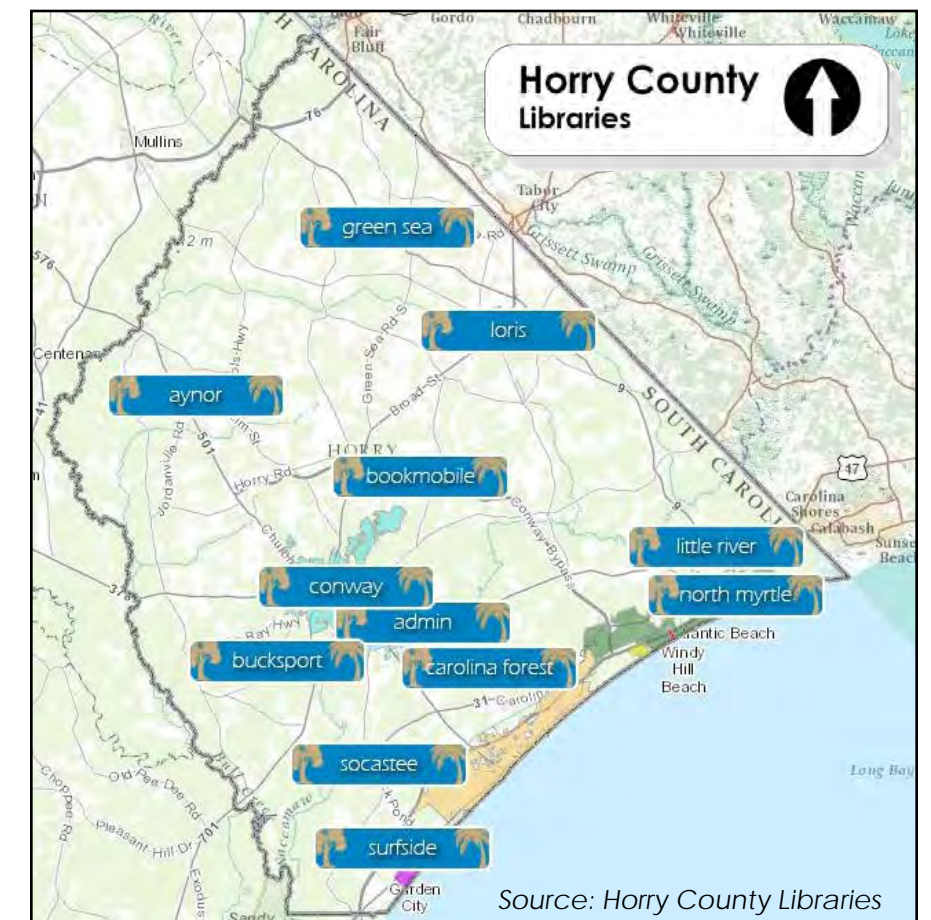
The Horry County Library System provides library services on a countywide basis. The Library System consists of ten locations, a bookmobile, and an administration office. The City of Myrtle Beach also operates the Chapin Memorial Library, which is the only municipally owned and operated public library in South Carolina.

Libraries provide education services for people of all ages. While they provide books, audio and video rentals, they also offer classes, programming, and special events. These events frequently provide resources that are not available through the school system or local colleges, but are often critical to life-long learning. Currently, the library has 132,942 active users with a circulation for FY2017-18 of 1,028,881.

Moving forward, library services and staffing will need to be expanded to keep pace with increased demand and usage of library facilities, resources, and programming. This demand is driven by the County's rapid population growth, but it fluctuates throughout the year with increased usage from snowbirds in the Little River and Surfside communities. There is also a change in usership at libraries, such as Socastee that has an increasing Hispanic speaking population. As Horry County grows, the Library System must keep up with new technology and the changing needs of our demographics. The Library System must also identify ways to integrate themselves in the activities of local residents, and ensure that the programs and offerings remain relevant. They should strategical-

ly identify ways to bring the tools and resources to people that cannot readily access them. In addition, HCS should capitalize on the volunteer resources available to them, as there are many retired residents with specialized knowledge that are willing to get involved in offering programs.

There is a proliferation of information technology and online content that patrons can stream or download from the library's website to their own computers, personal devices or smart phones. In FY2015, the library's total circulation of e-books and other electronic resources (audiobooks, movies, television shows, and music) only accounted for a little more than 40,000 checkouts. In FY2016 the total circulation of electronic resources almost doubled with 70,000 items being downloaded from the library's online collections.



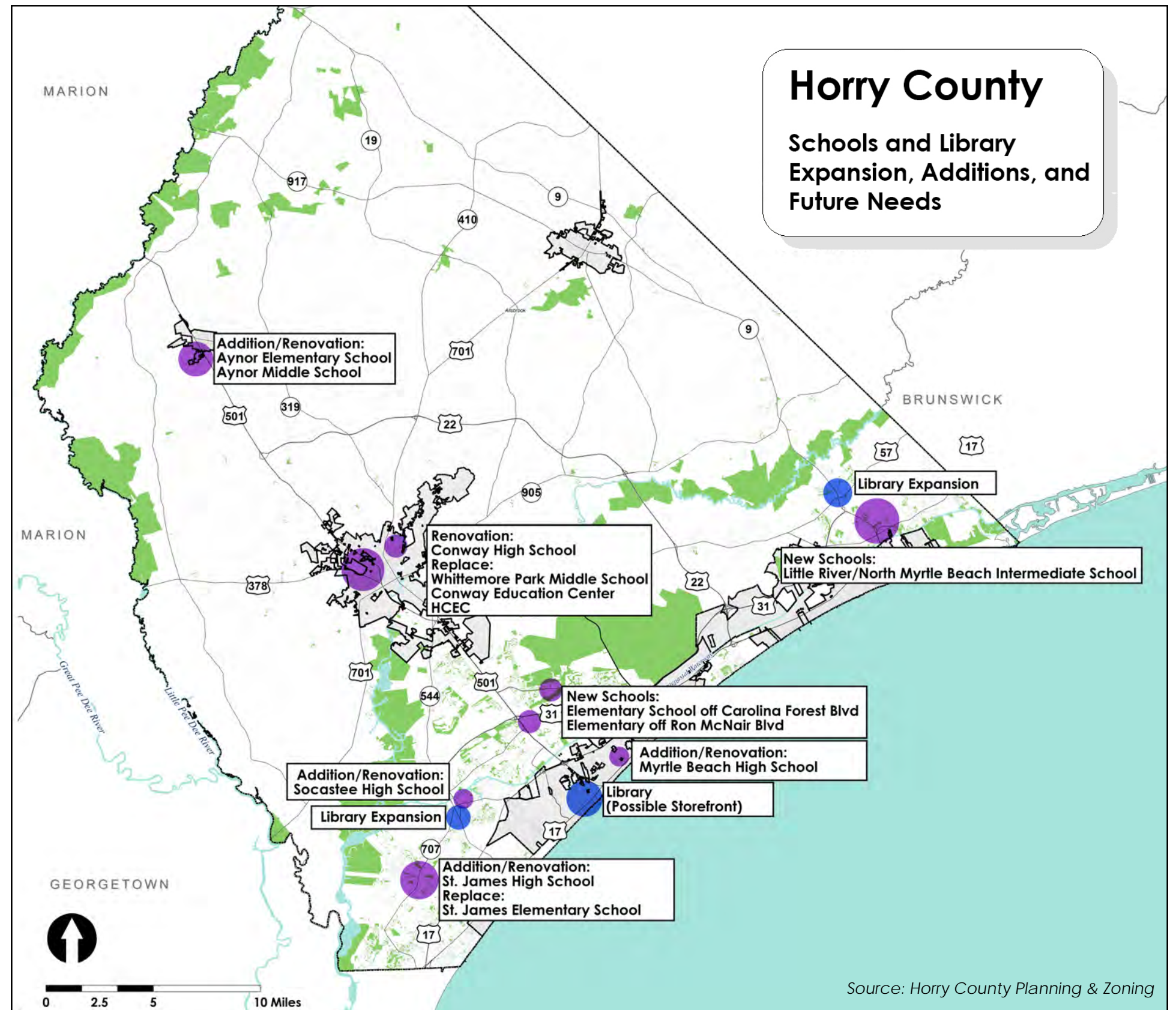
Source: Horry County Libraries

In order to accommodate additional population growth, there are expansion needs in the Little River area, in addition to expanded opportunities with the City of Myrtle Beach. Beyond physical locations, the Library System must also invest in additional bookmobiles and items that it can take to schools, afterschool and summer camp programs at community centers, recreation centers, senior centers, elder care facilities, and other local gathering places. To better serve the public, existing and future facilities should consider expanding operation hours when possible.

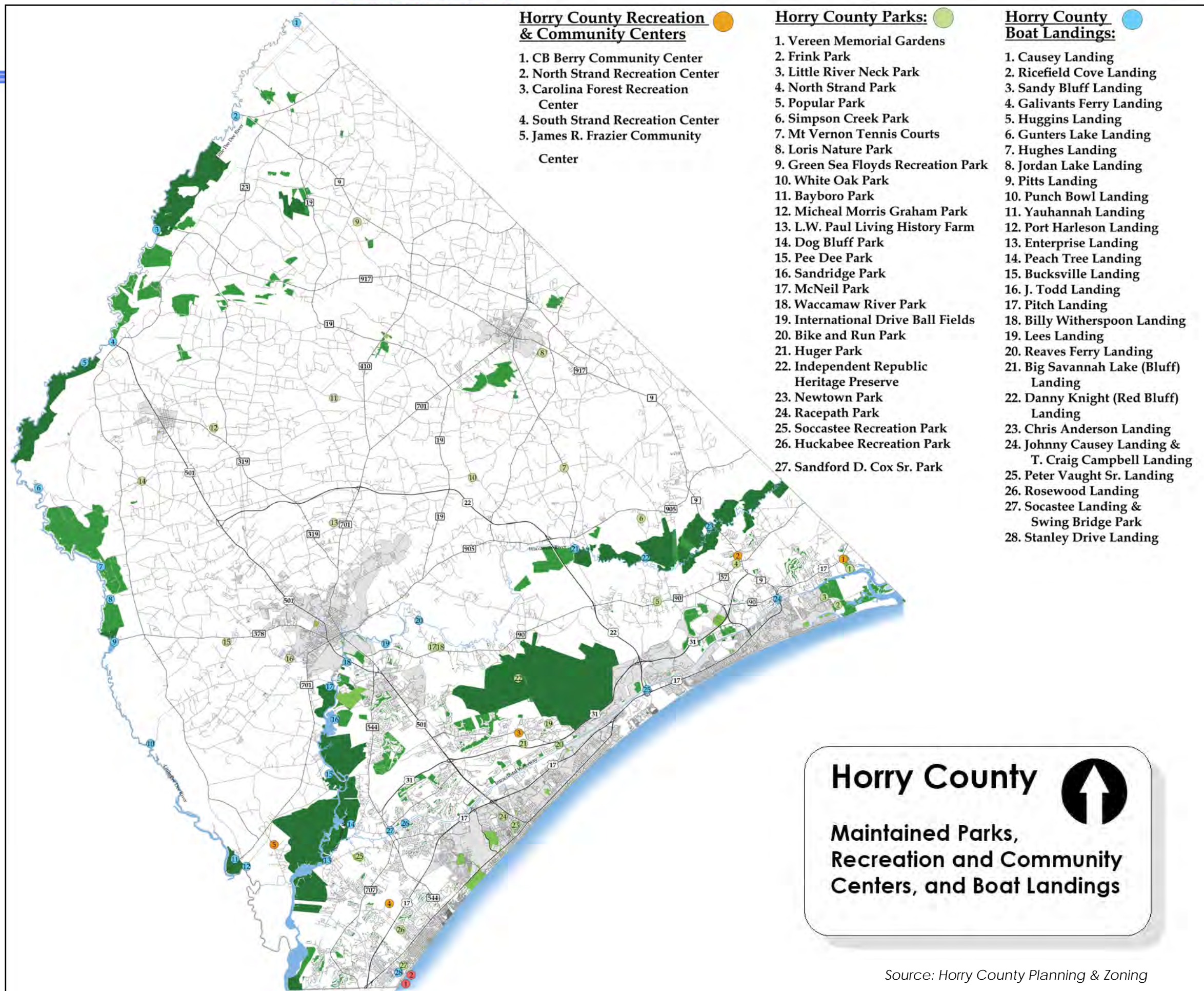
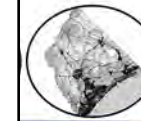
EDUCATION FINDINGS

As Horry County grows, so does the need for additional classrooms, new schools, and expanded library facilities and offerings. As land availability become more scarce, the County will need to work with the School District and developers to identify future school sites. The Library System, while it will need to expand in the future, should also capitalize on the partnership opportunities with the School District, area colleges, and volunteers to increase its program offerings, programming, and impact in the community.

Higher education facilities continue to expand and will continue to grow, but will reach their desired maximum capacity in a short time frame. While the growth of college enrollment is positive for Horry County, it does have implications on land use and public services. As the student population increases, more housing units will be added in close proximity to area campuses. The influx of housing will have impact on traffic and pedestrian patterns. It may also have impacts on established neighborhoods that experience an increase in students living there. The County needs to support higher education growth, but should also be cognizant of the infrastructure needs that coincide with that growth.



Source: Horry County Planning & Zoning



Source: Horry County Planning & Zoning

RECREATION AND LEISURE FACILITIES

Youth and senior populations are growing rapidly, along with the growing seasonal population that lives here for multiple months out of the year. These demographics are often in high demand of activities to enrich their lives. Programming and resources available at County recreation centers and senior centers serve all of these age groups and also provide people with the opportunity to develop a greater sense of community. They also provide a means to develop and maintain good physical and mental health through exercise and socialization.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The Horry County Parks and Recreation Department was created in 1997 to meet the immediate and long-term recreation needs of County residents. The Department's activities are funded through dedicated millage, taxes on Sunday alcohol sales, and grants. The **Parks and Open Space Board** was established in 2000 to provide the County with guidance on land acquisition and recreational improvements to meet residents' needs.

Horry County operates three regional parks, three recreation centers, two community centers, 28 parks, 29 boat landings, and 22 beach accesses. These facilities include 39 baseball/softball fields, 19 multi-purpose fields, 15 tennis courts, 13 outdoor basketball courts, 26 playgrounds, two disc golf courses, and 13.5 miles of trails on nearly 600 acres of land. The County also has two nationally recognized paddling trails, the Waccamaw River Blue Trail and the Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail. A complete list of Horry County recreational facilities can be found in the *Horry County Parks and Open Space Inventory*.



Classes are Provided at Recreation and Community Centers
Source: Horry County Parks and Recreation

In all, the County provides approximately two acres of park space per 1,000 residents, while national standards for a community of our population typically offer six acres per 1,000 people. The County has significant natural features that supplement the recreational assets of the community and can boast an impressive 64,600 acres of open space (which equates to roughly 200 acres per 1,000 residents). Unfortunately, the beach and rivers are not readily accessible

to everyone. In addition, there are many recreational facilities that have limited amenities; thus, they are not usable for people of all ages and physical capabilities.



Model Community Park with mixture of uses
Photo Credit: Jim Leggitt

Access to recreation and natural spaces can have a direct impact on physical and mental health. Based on a review of ten studies, the Center for Disease Control has reported an increase in physical activity simply by improving the proximity of recreational facilities to residences. Neighborhood design, access to walking paths, and appropriate siting of public recreation facilities is essential to consider with future development. Ideally, recreation centers (20 – 100 acres) should be within three miles of urban and suburban residents and within five miles of rural residents. Community parks (five – 20 acres) should be within three miles of residents, and neighborhood parks (1/2 – five acres) should be located within 1/4 mile to one mile of residents in urban/suburban communities.

There is an existing need for the development of communi-

ty and neighborhood parks, especially in older, established portions of the County, like Burgess, Garden City, Forestbrook, Little River, Myrtle Ridge, and unincorporated Surfside. In addition, there are many neighborhood and community parks in need of expansion, as they are already undersized for the population that they serve. Recreation centers are in high demand in Aynor and in Loris, and have been for many decades. There is also a desire for multi-generational parks with a mixture of activities so that families can enjoy spending time together.

While the County has dedicated millage to support recreational needs in the County, the funds are struggling to support the operations and maintenance of existing facilities, let alone meet the development of new facilities. There is a strong demand for recreation among existing residents, which will be augmented by future population growth. The lack of funding cannot meet this demand.

Beyond access to facilities, the County must also consider the programming needs of County residents. Programming is currently available at all recreation and community centers, in addition to a specialized outdoor recreation programs and an athletic programs for leagues. In order to maximize usership and increase program funding, the County will need to evaluate its existing offerings and rates, and capitalize on volunteers and sponsorships. **The Horry County Parks and Open Space Plan** further explores recreational needs in unincorporated Horry County.

SENIOR CENTERS

The Horry County Council on Aging Inc. (HCCOA), a non-profit organization, was founded in 1975 to provide senior care services. They currently serve over 10,000 senior citizens throughout Horry County. Programs and activities include:



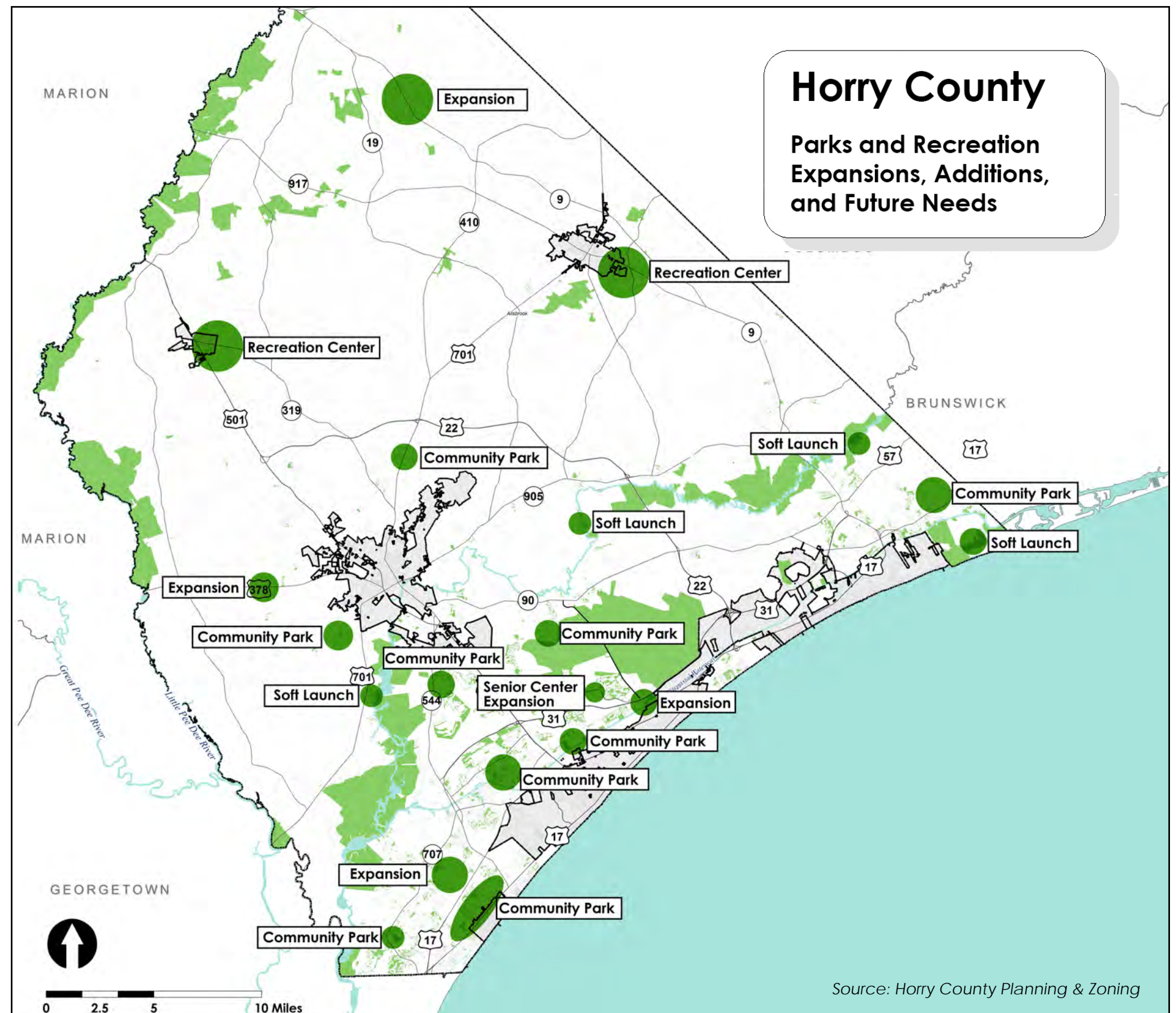
meal services, transportation assistance, housekeeping assistance, senior activities/recreation, exercise programs/health promotion, basic health checks, telephone reassurance, in-home visitation, group counseling, employment opportunities, and field trips/local outings.

Senior Center locations include: Aynor, Bucksport, Burgess, Carolina Forest, Conway, Grand Strand, Green Sea/Floyds, Loris, North Strand, and South Strand. The HCCOA currently operates a senior center out of a small storefront in Carolina Forest, with plans to open a larger senior center facility beside the Carolina Forest Recreation Center and Library.

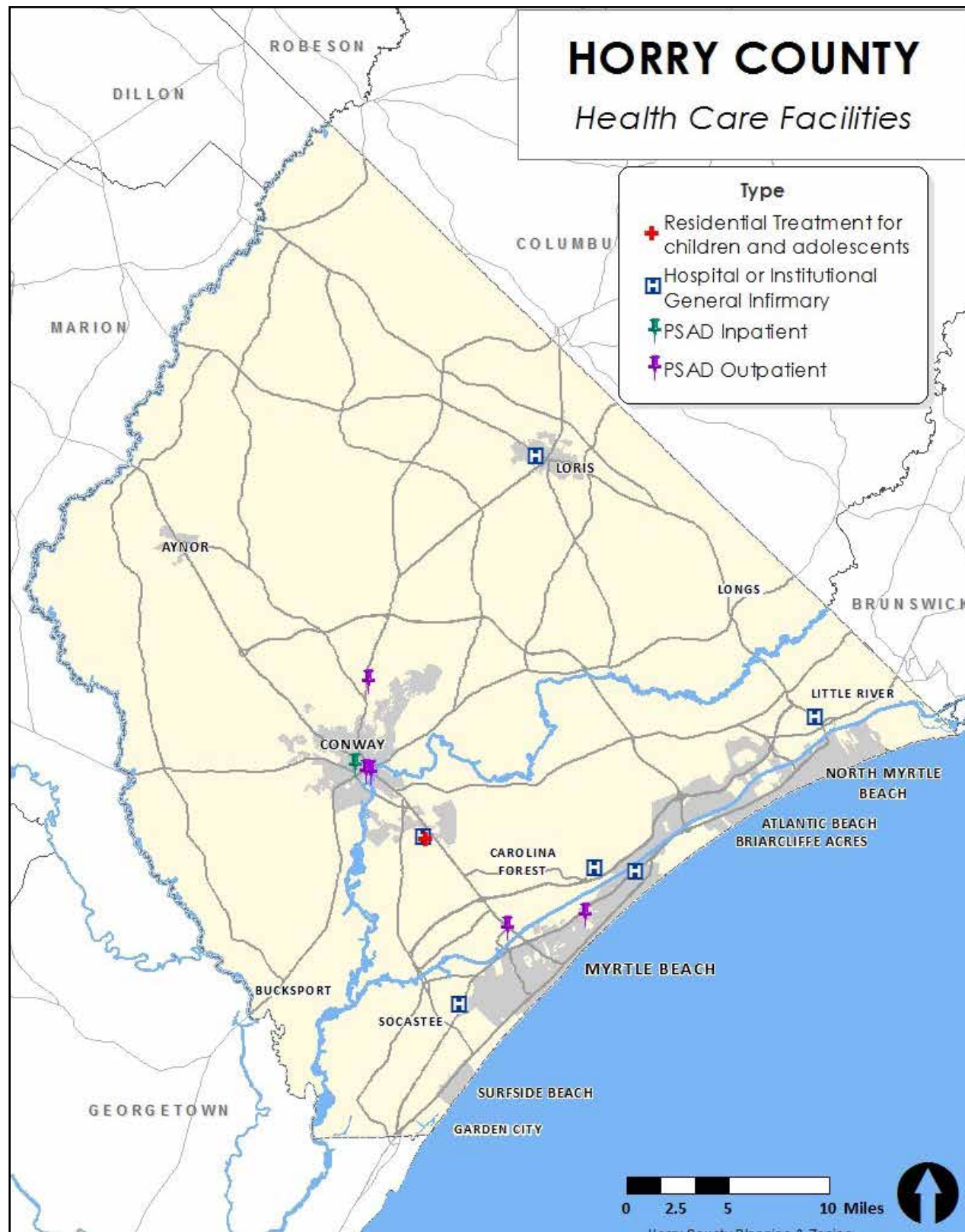
RECREATION AND LEISURE FINDINGS

There is a clear need for the development of parks and community gathering sites throughout the County. The land for future parks should be acquired in the near future, especially in high growth areas. There are also many facilities that are undersized for the population that they serve. While funding may not be available to develop new parks at this time, the County should strive to acquire recreational lands while it is available and affordable. In addition, park lands can be master planned to allow for them to be developed in phases, as funding becomes available.

In order to minimize duplication of services, recreation and community centers, libraries, and senior centers should work together to expand their programming in a strategic manner and to capitalize on their combined capabilities. They should not define their boundaries by their individual buildings, and should share each other's resources and space when possible.



Source: Horry County Planning & Zoning



Source: SCDHEC 2018

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

While Horry County’s permanent and visitor population has greatly increased over the last few decades, the health care system is just starting to identify and catch up to the needs of the County’s population.

HOSPITALS

As of 2016, there were five hospitals in Horry County. Currently, there are several medical parks/campuses that have plans for expansion, including: (1) the addition of an emergency room at the new 43 acre McLeod Seacoast medical campus, located at International Drive and Hwy 31 in Carolina Forest, (2) the development of a Grand Strand Medical Center emergency room near Carolina Forest Blvd and Hwy 501, (3) the expansion of McLeod Seacoast Hospital in Little River, and (4) a \$65 million expansion of existing facilities by Conway Medical Center. In addition, there are a number of, doctor’s offices, physical rehabilitation, and urgent care clinics within Horry County. In 2019, an 84,000 square foot Veterans Affairs Clinic facility is expected to break ground in the Market Commons area of Myrtle Beach.

Per South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Division of Health Licensing, the following facilities were licensed in Horry County as of March 2018:

Hospitals and Medical Centers, Bed Counts

Facility	Total Beds	General Beds	Neonatal Special Care	Psychiatric	Substance Abuse
Conway Medical Center	210	210	6	0	0
Grand Strand Medical Center	345	325	2	20	
McLeod Seacoast Hospital	50	50	0	0	0
McLeod Loris Hospital	105	105	0	0	0
Lighthouse Care of Conway	96			69	27
TOTAL UNITS	806	690	8	89	27

Source: SCDHEC, 2018

Licensed Health Care Facilities

Facility Types	Number of Facilities	Licensed Units Within
Ambulatory Surgery	5	20
Home Health	7	26
Hospice Facility	1	36
Hospice Programs	3	54
Psychoactive Substance Abuse Dependence (PSAD) Inpatient	1	10
PSAD Outpatient	4	6
Renal Dialysis	8	139
Residential Treatment for Children & Adolescents	1	18
Public Health Clinics	5	N/A

Opioid Epidemic

The 2016 World Drug Report from the United Nations stated that heroin use in the US is up 145% since 2007. According to DHEC, in 2016, there were 101 deaths from opioid overdoses within the County. This same year, EMS administered the drug Naloxone (or Narcan) 1,043 times; Naloxone reverses the effect of opioids. In both categories, Horry County is the leader in the state of South Carolina. The death rate is 36% higher than the rate of the next highest county, Charleston with 65 deaths, and the administration of Naloxone was 31% higher than the county of Greenville, which administered the drug 721 times. Currently, Horry County has three methadone clinics. Often zoning laws and public stigma prevent the siting of



facilities. Per the CDC, the US opioid epidemic is continuing and there is an urgent need for a multifaceted, collaborative public health and law enforcement approach.

ELDER CARE FACILITIES

According to US Census data, the overall population of Horry County is growing older. This exemplifies the National phenomenon of the significant “baby-boom” generation becoming older and retiring in warmer climates. 2016 estimates show that 37% of Horry County residents are 55 years and older.

Assisted living facilities, also known as community residential care, help residents with daily activities including bathing, dressing, eating, and taking medicines. Nursing homes provide medical care, and are intended for adults with serious medical needs. Per SCDHEC, Division of Health Licensing, there are three Adult Day Cares (total 175 units), 28 In-Home Care Providers, 16 Community Residence Centers (ten with Alzheimer care, total 1,158 units), and nine Nursing Homes (total 854 units).

In addition, three assisted living facilities are currently in the planning stages. These include River Park Assisted Living and Water’s Edge Assisted Living, located between North Myrtle Beach and Little River and Coastal Palms Assisted Living in Longs. As Horry County’s population continues to age, there will be added demand for these facilities, along with residential communities that offer housing options for people to age in place, and for care facilities with a combination of independent and specialty care housing.

HEALTH CARE FINDINGS

With the growth in population, it can be expected that an increase of facilities/beds will be needed to accommodate

both permanent populations and vacationers. An increased demand for health care services and facilities should be expected as the age of the County’s population increases. This increased need will include nursing homes and assisted living facilities. In addition, as the opioid epidemic escalates more rehabilitation and methadone centers will be needed, along with a multifaceted strategic plan to fight the epidemic within Horry County.

CONCLUSIONS

As Horry County continues to grow, there will be increased needs for community facilities and services, along with increased stress on existing facilities. This will result in additional capital expenditures to ensure that the needs of the community are met and to adequately support future growth. There is a need to have a dedicated funding source for public facilities to ensure that the County can provide a good quality of life. As land becomes scarce, especially in rapidly developing areas, there will be increased competition among government organizations to acquire the same sites as developers, potentially driving up costs for tax payers. Coordination within departments of Horry County Government and with Horry County Schools, utility providers, and developers will be critical in making capital improvements in a smart and fiscally sound manner.