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Implementing the Horry Co. Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

The Horry County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was adopted by Horry County Council in 2013. This plan focuses on providing attractive and safe connections for bicyclists and in this fast growing suburban community. In order to achieve this goal, the plan indicates the need to incorporate bicycle and pedestrian facilities into future road projects, provide way-finding signage for cyclists and walkers, and provide regional connectivity via the East Coast Greenway. The plan also identifies future locations of 5 foot-wide sidewalks and 10-12 foot multi-use paths. Not only do these planned paths connect Carolina Forest Blvd and River Oaks, they also tie into the East Coast Greenway, which currently runs the full length of Robert Grissom Blvd and in the future will lead to North Myrtle Beach through Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve.

Since the adoption of the Horry County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, Horry County has been able to secure funding for a two mile multi-use path along River Oaks Drive and Frontage Road B-2. This multi-use path will be part of the East Coast Greenway and is estimated to cost \$494,000 with GSATS Transportation Alternative Funds covering 80 percent of the cost. Project design will begin this year, and construction is anticipated to be completed in 2017. It will connect to the Horry County Bike and Run Park where the construction of a trailhead for the East Coast Greenway has commenced. The East Coast Greenway Trailhead and path connection to the existing trail on Robert Grissom Blvd is estimated to cost \$81,000, of which approximately \$61,000 is being funded by the SC Recreational Trails Program. These improvements have begun and the project will be completed this summer with a grand opening in the fall upon final inspection by South Carolina Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. Both of these projects are a product of recommendations made in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

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Highways and Byways...

CAROLINA FOREST MEDIANS TO GET MAKE-OVER

Landscaping was placed in a couple of the medians along Carolina Forest Blvd. and River Oaks Drive in May of 2012. However, last fall Richard Skrip chairman of the Beautification Committee for the Carolina Forest Civic Association and his wife Cindy, noticed that they were not being maintained well and decided to do something about it. He met with Leigh Kane & Lou Conklin, senior planners in Horry County’s Planning & Zoning Dept. Leigh assisted the Civic Association with preparing a Palmetto Pride Grant and Lou worked with Richard to create planting layouts and renderings for inclusion in the grant proposal. With the successful Grant application an award of \$2,500.00 was obtained. (An additional \$2,500.00 was also donated from Tanger Outlets and a few smaller donations have come in)

Five of the medians on Carolina Forest Blvd. and River Oaks drive are in the process of getting make-overs. While the plantings will include, Crape Myrtles, Sabal Palms, Saw Palmettos, Knock-out Roses , Muhly Grass and annual flowers, currently 77 Crape Myrtles have been planted in four medians. This is considered phase 1 & 2, as the Civic Association is refurbishing as the funding is available.

In addition to the help from Planning & Zoning, Horry County Engineering Department also assisted with the project by helping with the encroachment permit updates and providing cones and “Road Work Ahead” signs. Horry County Police set up patrols at the ends of the work zones on the days of installation to assure the safety of the workers.

If anyone is interested in helping on this project as it progresses, or would like to apply for a Palmetto Pride Grant for a different beautification project, please contact Leigh Kane at kaneL@horrycounty.org or conklinL@horrycounty.org for more information.



Layouts and renderings were developed for inclusion with the Palmetto Pride Grant application.

Landscape Calculators

The Planning & Zoning Department has developed calculators to help designers insert the correct quantities & types of landscape material into their designs. As it stands now a designer must do several calculations to arrive at the correct number for the different types of trees and shrubs. In addition, there are several ordinances that govern the landscaping and all calculations are not the same. Sometimes comments are given on a project due to incorrect landscape calculations. For example, the overall number of plants may be correct but the plan may contain too few evergreen trees. With the development of these calculators, all a designer needs to do is calculate the correct length of the area needing landscaping and enter this number into the correct line in the chart. All calculations will be done automatically. For example a parcel not within an Overlay district would use 527.1, the Standard Landscape Ordinance. The designer would enter the lengths of the parcel perimeter into the correct red boxes. The tables allow for the fact that some sides may require a buffer while others may not. (See table shown below)

Measurements are placed in the red squares using feet as the measurement increment.

ALL NUMBERS TO BE ENTERED IN FEET / ENTER NUMBERS INTO RED SQUARES		Linear feet	Calculated Total Trees	Corrected Total Tree Number	Canopy Trees	Evergreen Trees	Shrubs
527.2C.1 & 2 - Landscape strip	parcel front	120	4.8	5	3	1	24
	Parcel right side	288	11.5	12	6	3	58
	Parcel left side	340	13.6	14	7	4	68
	Parcel rear		0.0	0	0	0	0
527.3C.2 - Buffer	parcel front		0.0	0		0	0
	Parcel right side		0.0	0		0	0
	Parcel left side		0.0	0		0	0
	Parcel rear	120	8.0	8		4	20

The tables allow for each side of a parcel to be added separately thus allowing for the fact that different sides may require a landscape strip or buffer.

Results are shown with the total number of trees and then how many of this number that must be canopy and evergreen.

The calculators are not designed to be used alone. Each calculator works in conjunction with the landscape ordinance it is designed for. The calculator only calculates based on the number inserted. A designer will still need to determine what parts of an ordinance apply to the parcel being developed and the type of landscaping needed (ex. A buffer versus a landscape strip). After the table is filled out a designer can then print out a copy of the calculator and include it with the landscape submittal.

The link for the calculators appears on the Planning & Zoning page on the Horry County website. From Horry County's home page click on Departments and then click on Planning & Zoning. A blue box marked "Landscape Calculators" is at the top of the page under Planning and Zoning. A complete set of instructions on how to use the calculators is posted. The individual calculators themselves will need to be downloaded from the website. For any questions or problems with the calculators contact Lou Conklin at conklinL@horrycounty.org or 843-915-7892.

Recreational Needs Assessment

Horry County Planning & Zoning is assessing the recreational needs of Horry County residents with the assistance of Horry County Parks & Recreation and the Swain Scholars at Coastal Carolina University. This needs assessment is intended to gauge the recreational needs of existing full and part-time residents and will take into account potential population growth over the next 15-20 years. The needs assessment will be developed over the course of the year and will include an inventory of existing facilities, the results of a public input survey and six regional focus groups, and project facility needs to support future population growth. Upon the completion of the Recreational Needs Assessment, the Horry County Parks and Open Space Board will begin updating the Parks and Open Space Plan.

The Swain Scholars at Coastal Carolina University have assisted the project by designing and executing a public input survey and assisting with focus groups that have been held in varying geographic areas in the County. The survey will be available on the Horry County websites home page until mid-April (www.horrycounty.org). Thus far, approximately 800 responses have been collected, but the students are aiming for at least 1,000 responses. After the surveys have been collected, the students will not only compile and make the results available to Horry County, they will also present the results to municipalities throughout the County.

The Swain Scholars Program is comprised of junior and senior level students who have been selected through a competitive process and have been charged with conducting a community health outreach and research project that will improve the health of Horry County residents. Jason Lee, a student at CCU, will be serving as an intern this summer to help analyze the results of the Recreational Needs Survey, in addition to updating the recreation facility inventory.

Update to Burgess Bike/Pedestrian Plan

Progress continues to be made on the Burgess Bike and Pedestrian Plan, scheduled for completion in late 2015. The Burgess Bike/Ped Plan will be added to the County Bike/Ped Plan as an Appendix. The Greater Burgess Community Association held a meeting on March 26th, 2015 at the South Strand Recreation Complex in cooperation with Planning staff. John Danford and Leigh Kane from the Long Range Planning Division were on hand to introduce the community to bicycle and pedestrian planning. Additionally, they led the attendees through a Topical survey and a Visual survey. The Topical survey gauged general interest in walking and cycling activities, asked about potential roads in Burgess that could benefit from facilities, and queried folks on what types of facilities they would like to see. The Visual survey was a fast paced exercise that flashed pictures of different types of facilities on the screen, giving participants a few seconds to determine if the picture appealed to their senses or not. These efforts are intended to get staff and the community on the same page as we move forward with the planning effort. Next up is a meeting with the community scheduled for April 30, 2015. Planning staff will review the results of the survey with the community, open the floor to the community to solicit specific projects, and work with attendees on a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis. The meeting is open to the public. Please call John Danford at 843.915.7909 for more information.



A variety of pictures were presented in the Bike & Pedestrian Plan Visual Survey for community feedback.



The Horry County Parks and Open Space Board will meet on April 14th at 1 pm at the Horry County Government and Justice Building in Conway. This board is responsible for the Horry County Parks and Open Space Plan and Inventory. The Parks and Open Space Board has multiple seats available. Please contact your County Councilman if you live in and are interested in representing Council District 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, or 11. Contact Leigh Kane for more information at 915-7034 or kaneL@HorryCounty.org. For more information on this board, visit <http://www.horrycounty.org/Boards/ParksandOpenSpace.aspx>



Keep Horry County Beautiful completed the annual Litter Index on March 16th. While the overall number did not indicate any improvement, there were areas which proved to be much cleaner. The Annual Litter Index is a drive through the County on pre-determined routes to assess the quantity of litter and illegal signs. The Great American Cleanup is March 1st thru May 31st and several cleanups are scheduled throughout the County. During April, we will celebrate Zero Tolerance Month for litter and EARTH DAY. Check out our Facebook page for the many events KHCB will participate in or contact Nancy Tindall to learn more about KHCB or to set up a roadway or park adoption: 843-915-7893 or tindalln@HorryCounty.org. The next Keep Horry County Beautiful meeting will be held on May 26th at 2:30 pm in the Horry County Government and Justice Building in Conway. The public is invited to attend.



The Horry County Board of Architectural Review

The Horry County Board of Architectural Review (BAR) & Historic Preservation is planning a Legacy Business Recognition Program for Nye's Pharmacy on April 9th at 11:00 a.m. with a ribbon cutting ceremony. This program pays tribute to local businesses that have contributed to the economic heritage of Horry County for more than 50 years.




In addition the BAR is also planning a Patriot Tree Project dedication scheduled for Aynor Library on May 8th at 11:00a.m. This is a joint collaboration between the BAR, the Aynor-Galivant's Ferry Historic Foundation, and the Horry County Historical Society. Check the Bar & Patriot Tree Project Facebook Page for updates.

The 2015 Horry County Historic Preservation Awards have been scheduled for May 19th. This meeting will be hosted by The Horry County Museum at 805 Main Street, Conway in the McCown Auditorium.

The BAR is having it's next meeting public hearing on April 21st at 2:30 p.m. at the Government Building located in Conway on 2nd Avenue. The agenda includes five properties to be added to the historic property register.

For more information about these projects or to contribute to them please contact Mary Catherine Hyman at 843-915-7891 or email at hymanm@horrycounty.org.

2015 Meeting Calendar

<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
<p>2 Planning Commission; 5:30 PM</p> <p>3 Good Friday—Offices Closed</p> <p>7 County Council; 6:00 PM</p> <p>13 Zoning Board of Appeals; 5:30 PM</p> <p>14 Parks and Open Space Board; 1:00 PM</p> <p>21 County Council; 6:00 PM</p> <p>21 Board of Architectural Review; 2:30 PM</p> <p>28 Keep Horry County Beautiful; 2:30 PM</p> <p>30 Planning Commission Workshop; 3:00 PM</p>	<p>5 County Council; 6:00 PM</p> <p>7 Planning Commission; 5:30 PM</p> <p>11 Zoning Board of Appeals; 5:30 PM</p> <p>19 County Council; 6:00 PM</p> <p>19 Board of Architectural Review; 2:30 PM</p> <p>25 Memorial Day—Offices Closed</p> <p>26 Keep Horry County Beautiful; 2:30 PM</p> <p>28 Planning Commission Workshop; 3:00 PM</p>	<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  </div> <p>2 County Council; 6:00 PM</p> <p>4 Planning Commission; 5:30 PM</p> <p>8 Zoning Board of Appeals; 5:30 PM</p> <p>16 County Council; 6:00 PM</p> <p>16 Board of Architectural Review; 2:30 PM</p> <p>23 Keep Horry County Beautiful; 2:30 PM</p> <p>25 Planning Commission Workshop; 3:00 PM</p>
		

One last note:

Highway 17 Bypass Volunteers Needed

For the past twelve years everyone who has traveled on Highway 17 Bypass from Glens Bay Road to the Garden City Connector has been able to enjoy the median landscaping. 'Lou Krieger and Friends' and 'Cumulus Broadcasting/Sunny 106.5' have planted and maintained these medians for years. However these long-standing volunteers are unable to keep maintaining the medians. To ensure the landscaping looks beautiful and does not become a maintenance concern for drivers and SCDOT, Keep



Horry County Beautiful is seeking volunteers to adopt this area. A group of volunteers would not have to take over the entire area, it can be divided among several groups of volunteers.

A two year contract will need to be signed to trim the plants and take care of some mowing (SCDOT to handle the majority of mowing). Adoption signs will be provided for the adopting group(s). For more information on how to adopt this area or a portion of it please contact Nancy Tindall of Keep Horry County Beautiful at tindalln@horrycounty.org or call her at 843-915-7893

