



NATURAL RESOURCES

1998 Needs/Goals/Implementation Strategies

2008 Needs/Goals/Implementation Strategies

2008 Citizen Feedback Form



**2008 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
NATURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT
CITIZEN INPUT**

Instructions:

Below are the Needs & Goals identified in the draft 2008 Plan. Please indicate your level of support for each and provide any additional comments as desired.

Please ensure your comments are received by/before Wednesday, June 10, 2009. You may leave them at the May 26, 2009 Public Hearing or return them to Town Hall, Attn. Lisa Darrow, 1610 Middle Street (PO Box 427), Sullivan's Island, SC 29482. Email: ldarrow@sullivansisland-sc.com.

Thank you for providing feedback to Council as it considers the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

Needs & Goals – Natural Resources Element-(PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR CHOICE)

- 1. In an effort to protect the dunes and the dune vegetation, best management practices should be employed.**

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Very important | | | | Not important at all |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

- 2. Complete the study of the Accreted Land Management Plan with the broadest possible community participation and input.**

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Very important | | | | Not important at all |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

- 3. Encourage the use of native vegetation on public and private property.**

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Very important | | | | Not important at all |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

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May 26, 2009

4. Continue to protect the existing trees on the Island.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Very important | | | | Not important at all |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

5. Continue to recognize that the marshes, beaches and waterways on and adjacent to the Island are critical habitats that require special protection.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Very important | | | | Not important at all |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

6. The Town recognizes that Sullivan's Island is a major nesting and hatching site for migratory sea turtles and birds, and thus special protection efforts are required.

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|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Very important | | | | Not important at all |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

7. COMMENTS (Additional Needs & Goals, Implementation Strategies and/or Other Comments):

NATURAL RESOURCES

Sullivan's Island is a barrier island. This fact provides the Town and its residents with special situations due to the dynamic nature of barrier islands. In addition, Sullivan's Island is habitat, permanent or temporary, for many species of unique and threatened plants and animals. The policies and ordinances of the island should not cause harm to these species and, in fact, should work towards protecting them.

The ocean front dune vegetation is an important part of erosion and flood control. This vegetation needs to be protected and in some cases enhanced. The marsh, or back beach, has equal value and importance to the barrier island ecosystem. The marsh provides habitat for many permanent and migrating species of animals. Additionally, vegetation and landscaping on the island is a useful tool for light and sound abatement.

NEEDS AND GOALS:

1. **In an effort to protect the dunes and the dune vegetation, all public accessways to the beach should have constructed walkovers.**

Implementation: Identify existing public access ways needing constructed walkovers. Pursue funding through gifts and grants to construct (Possible funding sources include the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) Enhancement program). (Town Council, Planning Commission, Town Administration; Long term)

Implementation: Inventory and evaluate each beach access to determine ways to limit damage or negative environmental impacts.

Implementation: Evaluate pedestrian access including foot traffic only, walkover development, handicap access and/or on and off street parking, litter containment and signage.

Implementation: Develop a program to stabilize, maintain, and enlarge the dunes.

Implementation: Strictly enforce the rule of not walking or climbing on the dunes.

Implementation: Plant sea oats and other vegetation and replace walkways through dunes with wooden walkovers.

2. **Study building educational and recreational boardwalks in parts of the accreted land.**

Implementation: Create a plan for the recreational boardwalk. Seek school involvement/sponsorship of program. (Planning Commission, Tree Commission, Local schools; Long term)

3. **Encourage the use of native vegetation on public and private property. There should be no penalties for choosing to landscape with the natural environment.**

Implementation: Review existing ordinances and revise where they conflict with the use of native vegetation. (Town Administration, Planning Commission, Tree Commission; Long term)

Implementation: Set an example by planting and publicizing the use of native plants in public areas. (Town Administration, Civic Groups; Long term)

4. **Continue to protect the existing trees on the island.**

Implementation: Continue to support and update existing tree protection ordinance. (Town Council, Tree Commission; Ongoing)

5. **Create a street tree plan and implementation program.**

Implementation: Authorize Tree Commission to proceed carrying out tree planting plan. (Town Council; Long term)

6. **Continue to strictly enforce FEMA codes and take actions that will ensure that the Town is highly rated by the ISO.**
Implementation: Periodically review policies and update to conform to most current FEMA requirements. (Town Administration; Ongoing)
7. **The commission recognizes that the marsh and the beaches are critical habitats that require special protection from development on the island. Necessary steps need to be taken to protect these areas, not only for the wildlife habitat that exists there but also for the enjoyment of the residents of the Town.**
Implementation: Investigate the use of additional setbacks and buffers on property adjacent to wetlands. (Town Council, Planning Commission; Long term)
Implementation: Continue to participate in the ocean water quality monitoring program. (Town Council, Town Administration; Ongoing)
Implementation: Continue to monitor the drainage outfalls. (Town Council, Town Administration; Ongoing)
Implementation: Continue with implementation of the storm water management program. (Town Council, Town Administration; Ongoing)
Implementation: Explore the issue of the use of chemical applications, such as pesticides, on Sullivan's Island and its impact to the environment. (Town Council, Town Administration; Ongoing)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Sullivan's Island is a barrier island. This fact provides the Town and its residents with special opportunities and challenges due to the dynamic nature of barrier islands. In addition, Sullivan's Island is a permanent and temporary habitat for many species of unusual and threatened plants and animals. The policies and ordinances of the Island should not cause harm to these species and, in fact, should work towards protecting them.

The ocean front dune vegetation is an important part of erosion and flood control. This vegetation needs to be protected and managed, and in some cases, enhanced. The marsh, or back beach, has equal value and importance to the barrier island ecosystem. The marsh provides habitat for many permanent and migrating species of animals. Additionally, vegetation and landscaping on the Island are useful tools for light and sound abatement.

NEEDS AND GOALS:

- 1. In an effort to protect the dunes and the dune vegetation, best management practices should be employed.**

Implementation:

Identify existing public accesses needing constructed walkovers that include appropriate access and parking for handicapped visitors. Pursue funding through gifts and grants to construct and maintain beach accesses. (Town Council, Planning Commission, Town Administration; Long Term)

Implementation:

Inventory and evaluate each beach access to determine ways to limit damage and mitigate environmental impacts. (Town Administration; Ongoing)

Implementation:

Continue to provide for adequate animal waste, refuse and recycling resources at beach access paths. (Town Council; Town Administration; Ongoing)

Implementation:

Incorporate in the Town's Beachfront Management Plan a program to stabilize, maintain and enlarge the dunes. Enforce ordinances pertaining to walking or climbing on the dunes. (Town Council; Town Administration; Ongoing)

- 2. Complete the study of the Accreted Land Management Plan with the broadest possible community participation and input.**

Implementation:

Implement the Town-approved recommendations of the 2008 Accreted Land Management Plan Study. (Town Council; Town Administration; Ongoing)

3. Encourage the use of native vegetation on public and private property.

Implementation:

Maintain existing ordinances to maximize the opportunities for the use of native vegetation. (Town Administration; Planning Commission; Tree Commission; Long Term).

Implementation:

Continue to set an example by planting native plants in public areas. (Town Administration; Civic Groups; Long Term).

4. Continue to protect the existing trees on the Island.

Implementation:

Review and update, as required, the existing tree protection ordinance. (Town Council; Tree Commission; Ongoing).

5. Continue to recognize that the marshes, beaches and waterways on and adjacent to the Island are critical habitats that require special protection.

Implementation:

Continue supporting efforts to protect these areas, not only for the wildlife habitat that exists there but also for the enjoyment and safety of the residents of the Town. (Town Administration; Ongoing)

Implementation:

Continue to participate in the ocean water quality monitoring program (Town Council; Town Administration; Ongoing).

Implementation:

Continue partnership with Charleston County to ensure full compliance with NPDES Phase II requirements and take any other steps necessary for timely permitting of stormwater systems. (Town Council; Town Administration; Ongoing)

Implementation:

Continue to encourage the use of permeable surfaces on private and public lands where hardstand is required. (Town Council; Town Administration; Ongoing).

Implementation:

Monitor silting in the waterways on or adjacent to the Island and determine what if any actions should be taken to preserve the waterways. (Town Council; Ongoing)

- 6. The Town recognizes that Sullivan's Island is a major nesting and hatching site for migratory sea turtles and birds, and thus special protection efforts are required.**

Implementation:

The Town will continue to enforce existing ordinances that will support the protection of seasonal turtle nesting and seabird nesting areas. (Town Council; Ongoing)

Implementation:

Encourage and support community participation to protect turtle and seabird habitats. (Town Council; Town Administration; Ongoing)