

October 13, 2014 Draft

Comprehensive Plan Five-Year Review (proposed deletions shown as strikethroughs; proposed additions shown as red text)

Chapter 3.8 Community Facilities Element

3.8.1: OVERVIEW

The County includes community facilities as a component of the *Comprehensive Plan* to ensure that land use planning is balanced with the availability of public services and infrastructure. Coordinating land use decisions with the provision of public facilities and services protects the quality of life for existing residents and ensures the ability to provide for future residents. There are many agencies involved in the provision of public facilities and services making interjurisdictional coordination a key component in managing them. *Additional information on coordination efforts to ensure efficient provision of public services can be found in Chapter 3.7, Transportation Element, as well as in Chapter 3.9, Priority Investment, Implementation, and Coordination Element.* South Carolina State Law regarding comprehensive plans was recently amended to require that transportation be a stand-alone element in the Comprehensive Plan, separate from the Community Facilities Element; therefore, transportation facility data and strategies are contained in Chapter 3.7 Transportation Element.

Purpose and Intent

The strategies contained in this Element are intended to ensure that essential facilities and services necessary for the growth, development, or redevelopment of the County are provided. They are also meant to ensure coordination with the various providers of public

facilities and services, including, but not limited to:

- Water and sewer service, such as Charleston Water Systems, Mount Pleasant Water Works, and North Charleston Public Service District;
- Parks and recreation, such as the Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission;
- Fire departments, such as the St. Johns Fire Department;
- ~~Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), such as the Charleston County Sheriff's Office;~~ **Consolidated 9-1-1 Center;**
- Public safety services including Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, and the Charleston County Emergency Preparedness **Management** Department;
- Solid waste collection and disposal;
- School District;
- Public libraries and other cultural facilities; and
- Government facilities.

3.8.2: BACKGROUND AND INVENTORY OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

Numerous agencies are involved in the provision of public facilities and services. Many of these agencies

are outside the purview of Charleston County requiring interjurisdictional agreements to ensure the coordinated provision of public facilities and services. While this Plan can establish general strategies for the County to follow, the actual provision of most services and facilities is managed by outside agencies.

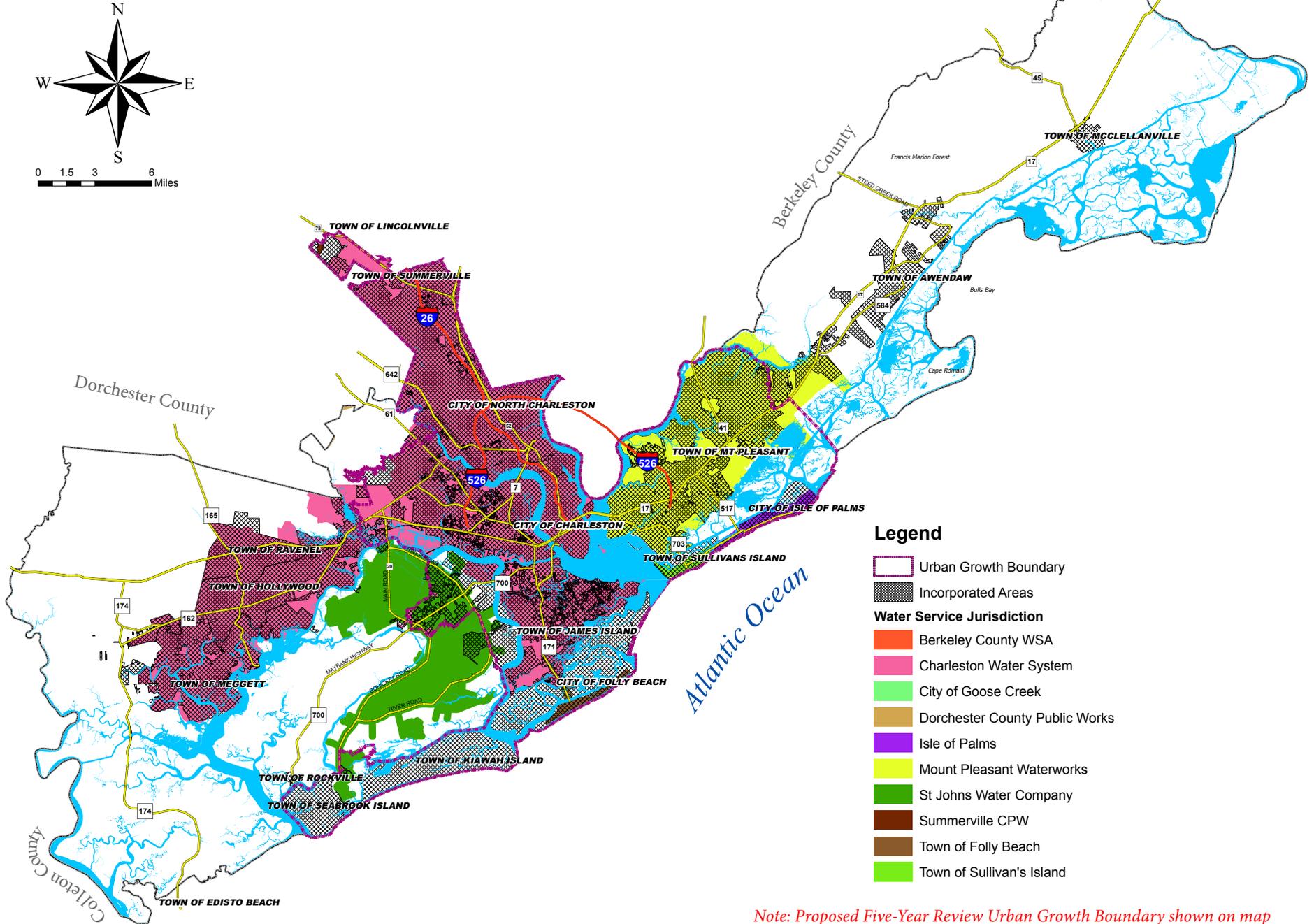
Water Supply

Charleston County is not a water service provider. Water service is provided by various agencies including, but not limited to Charleston Water Systems, Mount Pleasant Water Works, St. Johns Water Company, Kiawah Island Utility, Seabrook Island, Isle of Palms Water and Sewer, Sullivan's Island, Lincolnville, and Dewees Island. Each provider has a specific service area. Residents in areas located within water service areas where water lines do not exist or in areas located outside of service areas rely on wells to provide water supply. Areas within service areas generally have moderate residential densities while the Rural Area where service is not available is recommended for agricultural, natural, and very low density residential to make on-site wells a practical approach to potable water. See *Map 3.8.1* for Water Service Areas.

Wastewater

Charleston County does not provide wastewater treatment services. Wastewater treatment service providers within the County include, but are not limited

MAP 3.8.1: WATER SERVICE AREAS



Note: Proposed Five-Year Review Urban Growth Boundary shown on map

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to, Charleston Water Systems, Mount Pleasant Water Works, North Charleston Public Service District, **James Island Public Service District**, Kiawah Island Utility, Seabrook Island, Sullivan's Island, Isle of Palms, and Dewees Island. Individual on-site wastewater disposal systems are in use throughout much of the Rural Area and in some of the Urban/Suburban Area where centralized wastewater treatment is not available. SCDHEC is responsible for permitting individual on-site wastewater disposal systems.

The Section 208 Water Quality Management Plan (WQM Plan), administered by the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG), guides the provision of wastewater treatment services by various agencies within the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Region. The goal of the WQM Plan is to preserve and enhance water quality and to meet the water quality requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act and the South Carolina Pollution Control Act.

Designated Management Agencies assist the BCDCOG with managing and carrying out the provisions of the *WQM Plan*. There are several Designated Management Agencies within the Region, **including Charleston County**. Charleston County, along with a few of its small, rural municipalities, are the only entities in the Region that are not designated as Management Agencies for water quality planning purposes. The BCDCOG currently carries out this management function for the County; therefore, the County has limited input into the water quality planning decisions made in and for the Region. The County is currently exploring the benefits of becoming a Designated Management Agency as a tool to further growth management efforts. This would increase coordination with the BCDCOG, which is the area wide 208 Water Quality Management Agency. See *Map 3.8.2. for Wastewater/Sewer Service Areas.*

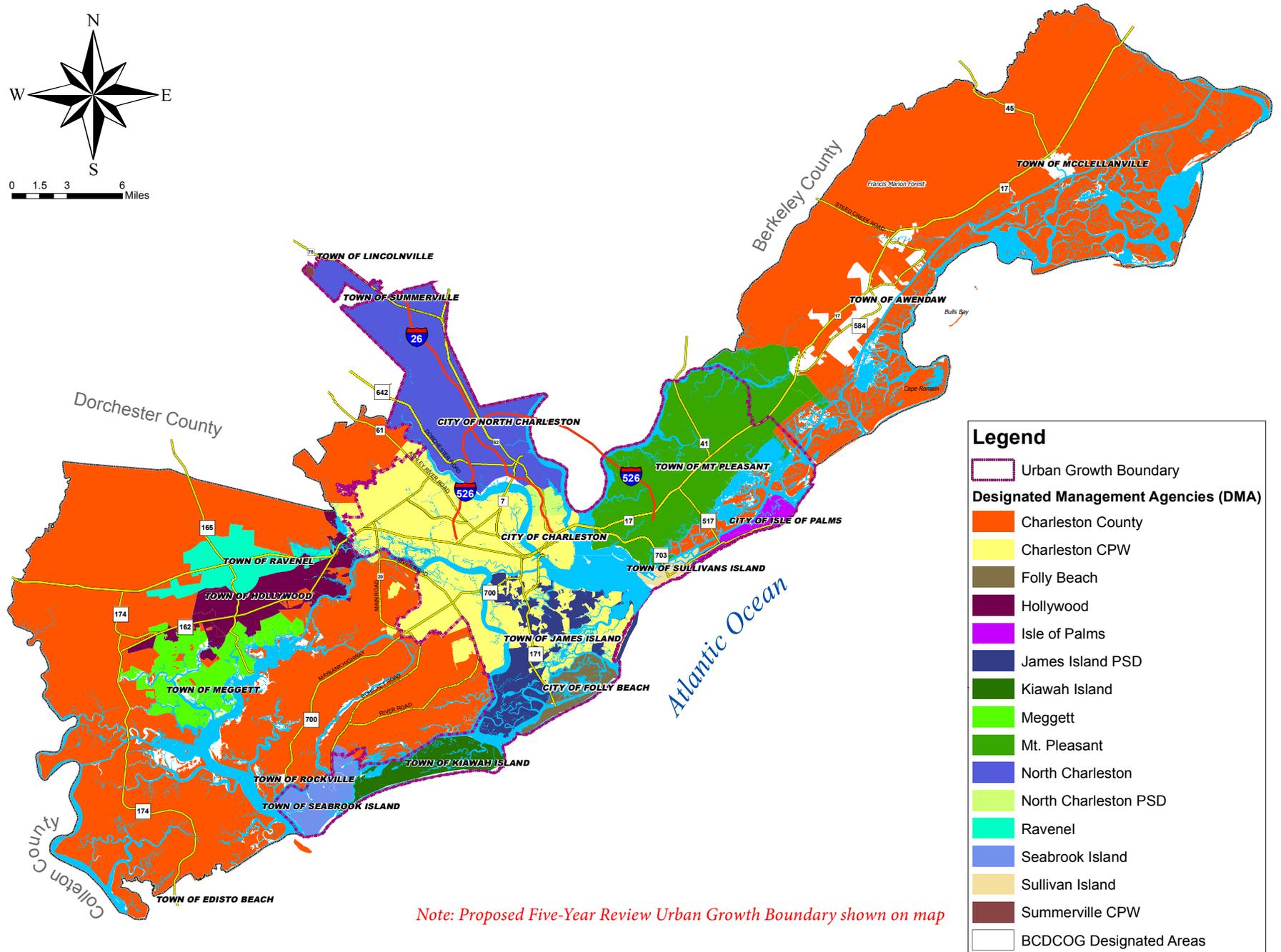
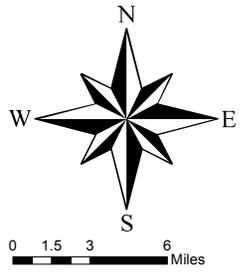
Solid Waste Environmental Management

The Charleston County **Environmental Management Department** of Solid Waste (DSW) provides solid waste disposal and recycling services to all residents (incorporated and unincorporated areas) of Charleston County. The **Environmental Management of Solid Waste** Department's responsibilities encompass solid waste collection, processing, disposal, and recycling in order to provide citizens with a clean and healthy environment in which to live. Services include municipal solid waste (MSW) disposal, construction and demolition debris (C&D) disposal, and composting at the Bees Ferry Landfill. The Bees Ferry Landfill tract's continued use as a public solid waste landfill without "use-specific conditions" is consistent with the ~~previous versions of the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance, and the 10-Year Update of the Charleston County Comprehensive Plan.~~ Other services include waste-to-energy, curb-side recycling, drop-site recycling, convenience centers, metals and white goods recycling, tire recycling, materials recovery facility, household hazardous waste, enforcement of litter codes, and public education. The **Solid Waste Environmental Management Department** operates in accordance with a **long-range solid waste plan to identify how to best serve the citizens of Charleston County through the year 2030.** ~~20-year solid waste management plan, which is updated approximately every five years. The next update of the plan is expected to be completed in fiscal year 2009.~~ **The Environmental Management Department focuses on public outreach and education regarding recycling, composting, and disposing of solid waste in proper ways that do not harm the environment.**

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MAP 3.8.2: WASTEWATER/SEWER SERVICE AREAS



Note: Proposed Five-Year Review Urban Growth Boundary shown on map

Public Safety Services

Fire Protection

Fourteen fire departments, as shown on *Map 3.8.3: Fire Service Districts*, provide fire protection services to the residents of Charleston County. One (St. Andrews) serves only unincorporated areas of the County. Four (James Island PSD, St. John's, St. Paul's and Awendaw Consolidated Fire District) are fire districts that serve a combination of municipalities and unincorporated areas. Two (North Charleston and Mount Pleasant) are municipal fire departments that have service agreements with Charleston County to provide fire protection to nearby unincorporated areas. Charleston, Lincolnville, Isle of Palms, Sullivans Island, and Dewees Island serve only the municipality in which they are located. The ~~Charleston Air Force Base (AFB)~~**Joint Base Charleston** has its own fire department which is federally maintained. One (C&B) is a volunteer department serving unincorporated areas of Charleston County located north of Ladson Road (as well as some unincorporated areas in Berkeley County).

The City of Charleston, the ~~Charleston AFB~~**Joint Base Charleston**, the City of North Charleston, the St. Johns, and the St. Andrews fire departments are staffed by paid firefighters. The C&B Volunteer Fire Department is staffed only by volunteers. The remaining eight departments have both paid and volunteer firefighters in differing ratios, with the majority of these fire departments relying almost exclusively on paid firefighters.

The standards by which fire protection services are evaluated are a function of the distances between fire stations and structures served, water availability, and the numbers and types of fire fighting equipment, fire stations, and personnel. The most widely used indicator of a fire department's ability to provide fire protection services is its rating assigned by the Insurance Services Organization (ISO). The lower the ISO rating the higher the level of protection and the lower the fire insurance premiums for insured properties within the service area.

Emergency Medical Services

~~The~~ Charleston County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provides emergency medical assistance to residents of the urban and rural communities of Charleston County, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas. Its mission is to provide pre-hospital, advance life support, and paramedic services to residents and visitors. Services are administered from EMS Headquarters in North Charleston, ~~where dispatching operations are based, and~~ where the EMS Director maintains offices and directs administrative functions, **and dispatching operations occur at the Consolidated 9-1-1 Center on Palmetto Commerce Parkway in North Charleston.** A board certified emergency medical physician directs the medical aspects of the services, and a professional staff of emergency medical dispatch certified dispatchers and emergency medical technicians

perform the services. Emergency medical services are decentralized, provided by medic units located in ~~fourteen~~**14** EMS districts. Eight of the EMS districts are classified as urban and six of the EMS districts are classified as rural.

Charleston County EMS utilizes nationally recognized goals for response time in order to assess its service delivery, as well as to routinely evaluate the need for upgrading or re-distributing facilities, equipment, and personnel. Response time goals adopted by Charleston County EMS are as follows:

In Urban/Suburban Area

- Acceptable – Response time less than eight minutes ~~eighty~~**80** percent of the time.
- Marginal – Response time between eight and ~~fifteen~~**15** minutes.
- Unacceptable – Response time greater than ~~fifteen~~**15** minutes.

In Rural Area

- Acceptable – Response times less than ~~fifteen~~**15** minutes ~~eighty~~**80** percent of the time.
- Marginal – Response time between ~~fifteen~~**15** and ~~thirty~~**30** minutes.
- Unacceptable – Response times greater than ~~thirty~~**30** minutes.

Charleston County EMS includes special units and programs including, but not limited to the Special Operations Emergency Medical Support Team, the Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Medical Support Team, the Tactical Emergency Medical Services Support Team, the Technical Emergency Medical Support Team, a Motorcycle Team, and a Bicycle Team. EMS locations are shown on *Map 3.8.4: EMS Locations*.

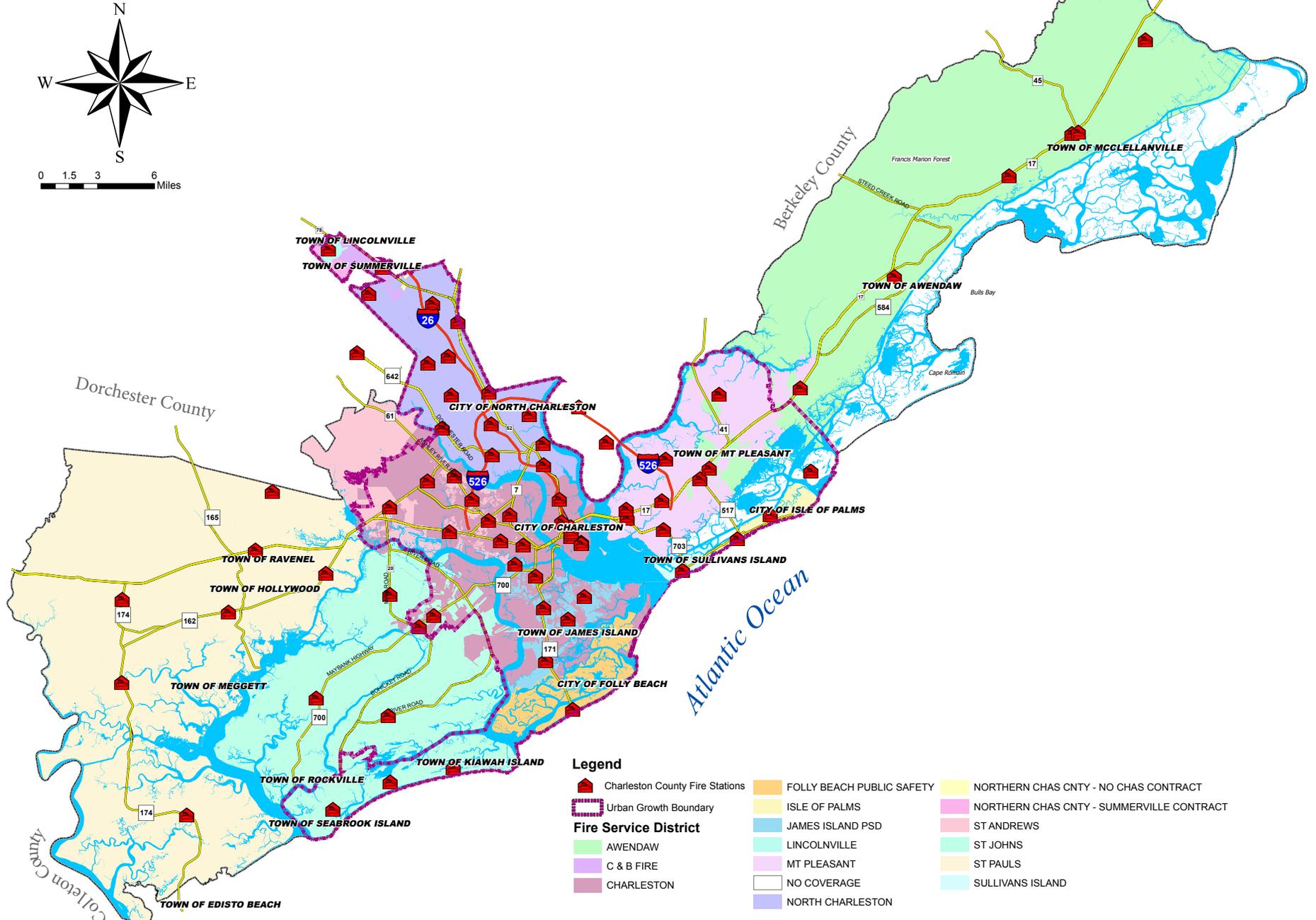
Law Enforcement

The Charleston County Sheriff's Office is the primary provider of law enforcement services for all unincorporated areas of the County. As the Sheriff is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer in the County, the agency may provide services to citizens living within a municipality. These services may be delivered directly to the citizen in need, or indirectly in the form of support for the police department of the respective municipality. The Sheriff's Office also maintains the County Detention Center, which is comprised of a jail facility for adults, a Juvenile Detention Center, and two post-conviction housing facilities for adults. The agency is also responsible for all civil and criminal process issued by Magistrate Courts and courts of record, as well as prisoner transport, therapeutic mental health transport, courtroom security, school crossing guards, and animal control. The Sheriff's Office contains

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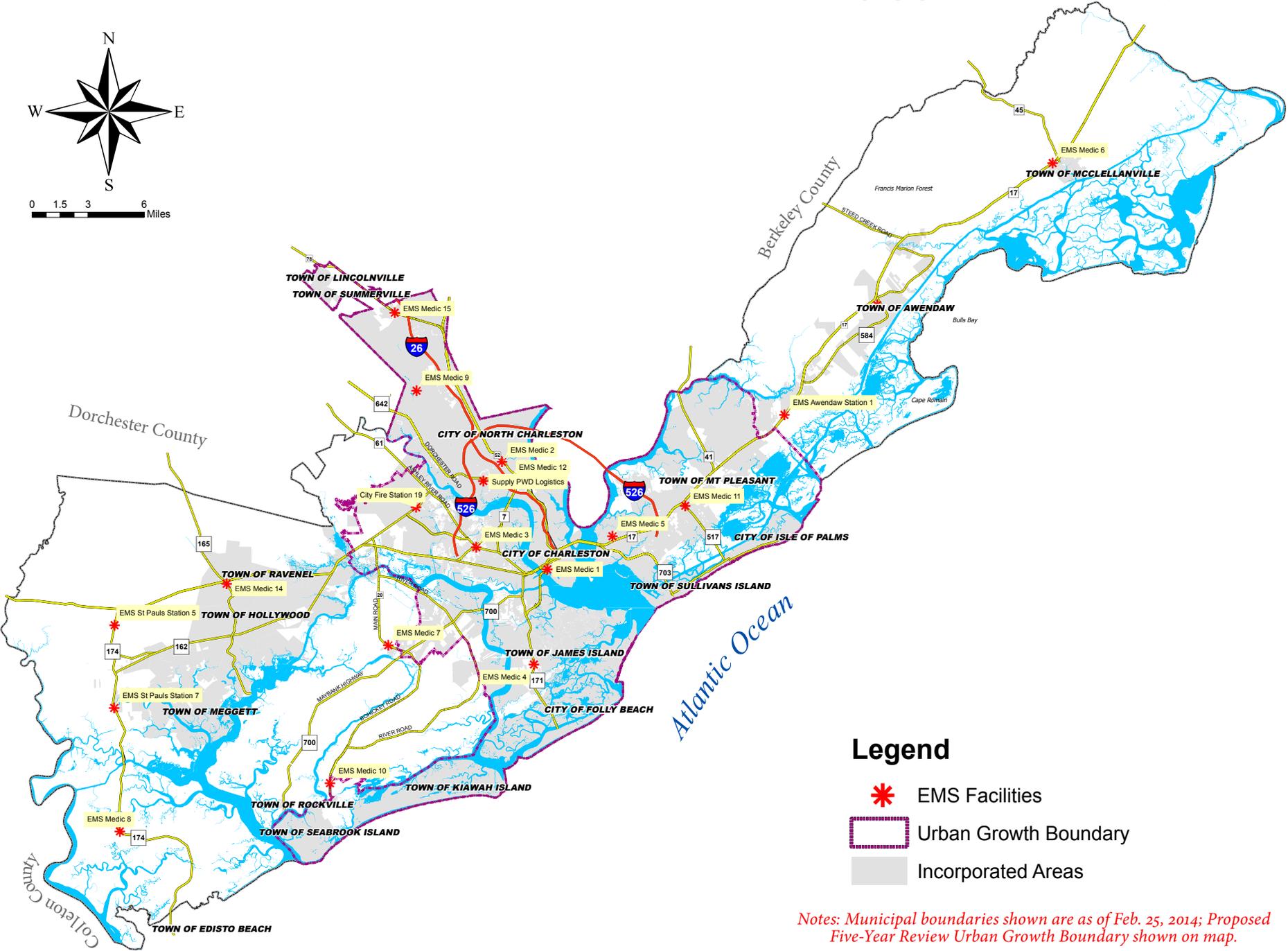
MAP 3.8.3: FIRE SERVICE DISTRICTS, 2014



Note: Proposed Five-Year Review Urban Growth Boundary shown on map

MAP 3.8.4: EMS FACILITIES, 2014

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Legend

- * EMS Facilities
- Urban Growth Boundary
- Incorporated Areas

Notes: Municipal boundaries shown are as of Feb. 25, 2014; Proposed Five-Year Review Urban Growth Boundary shown on map.

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several units with specialized purposes and functions, such as SWAT and K-9. The Charleston County Detention Center, which **was most recently expanded in May 2010, has a capacity for 1,917 inmates.** ~~In 2014,~~ the yearly average daily population was 1,266 inmates. ~~is well over capacity, is currently being expanded.~~ The Detention Center occupies 189,251 square feet and has a capacity of 661 inmates; however, it houses over 1,700 inmates. ~~The expansion will encompass 323,000 additional square feet and maintain an inmate capacity of 2,033.~~ ~~The expansion includes a four-story inmate housing structure and a support building. The housing units are projected to be completed by February 2010 and the remainder of the facility is projected to be completed by August 2010. This project is currently being managed by Charleston County's Capital Projects Department.~~

Public Safety Answering Points (9-1-1 Dispatch) Consolidated 9-1-1 Center

Provision of the public safety services discussed above involves the coordinated efforts of many agencies. Critical time can be lost when a citizen or visitor who has dialed 9-1-1 is transferred and/or asked several times for the same information. Additionally, dependency on cellular phones and other communications devices continues to increase, impacting the efficiency of operations of emergency communications centers. **Charleston County recognized the need to address these issues and successfully created a Consolidated 9-1-1 Center, which opened in spring 2013. The Consolidated 9-1-1 Center is housed with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in a newly constructed facility in North Charleston. The new facility is approximately 38,000 square feet and received the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification goal. As of 2014, the Consolidated 9-1-1 Center dispatches for:**

- Charleston County Sheriff's Office;

- Charleston County Emergency Medical Services;
- Charleston County Volunteer Rescue Squad;
- Awendaw Fire Department;
- City of Charleston Police and Fire Departments;
- Dewees Island Fire Department;
- Isle of Palms Police and Fire Departments;
- James Island Fire Department;
- Lincolnville Police and Fire Departments;
- Mount Pleasant Police and Fire Departments;
- St. Andrews Public Service District Fire Department;
- St. Johns Fire District;
- St. Pauls Fire Department; and
- Sullivan's Island Police and Fire Departments.

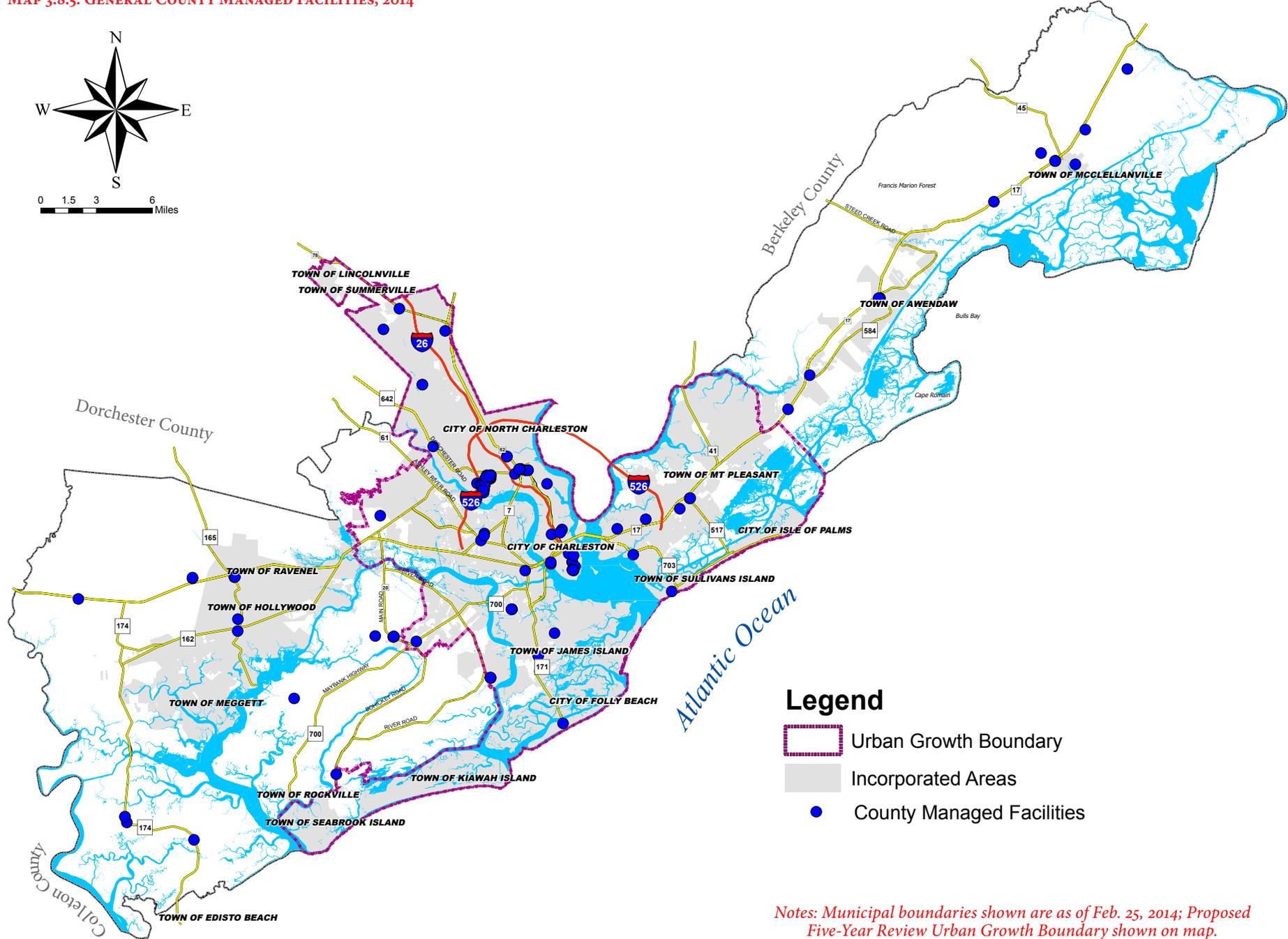
9-1-1 dispatch for these services is provided by Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP), which are operated by various agencies. The five primary PSAPs include the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, North Charleston, Mount Pleasant, City of Charleston, and the Isle of Palms. Charleston County EMS is the only secondary PSAP where location information is transferred with the emergency call from the primary PSAPs for emergency medical response countywide. There are four dispatch-only sites, which are emergency communications centers at which no 9-1-1 calls are directly received and to which they cannot be transferred with address and telephone number information (due to lack of equipment). These include:

- Folly Beach Public Safety Dispatch;
- St. Johns Fire Department Dispatch;
- St. Andrews Public Safety District Fire Department Dispatch; and
- James Island Public Safety District Fire Department Dispatch.



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MAP 3.8.5: GENERAL COUNTY MANAGED FACILITIES, 2014



Critical time can be lost when a citizen or visitor who has dialed 9-1-1 is transferred and/or asked several times for the same information. Additionally, dependency on cellular phones and other communications devices continues to increase, impacting the efficiency of operations of emergency communications centers. Charleston County recognizes these issues and is working with affected municipalities and agencies to consolidate public safety emergency communications services in the County.

Government Facilities

General operations of the Charleston County Government are based in numerous county-owned or leased facilities located throughout the County. The County has expanded these facilities to keep pace with growth and to provide its citizens with social, legal, health, and other necessary services. Currently, the inventory of Charleston County's Real Property assets, which consists of facilities and land owned and leased by the County, includes ~~133~~ **142** facilities totaling approximately ~~2.4~~ **8** million square feet and approximately 1,600 acres of land. This property is divided into ~~nineteen~~ **19** sections based on function such as administration, boat landings, EMS stations, fire stations, fleet operations, public works sites, tower sites, libraries, service centers, parking, and vacant land/buildings/offices.

The Lonnie Hamilton III, Public Services Building is the County's main administrative office building. It houses the offices of the County Administrator, County Council, the Budget Office, the Controller, the Planning Department, the Building Services Department, the Human Resources Department, the Geographic Information Systems Department, and other County departments. The O.T. Wallace County Office Building and Annex, located in downtown Charleston, houses the main offices of the Assessor and the Treasurer, although representatives from these departments are available to assist the public at the main County building. Complimenting the County Office Building are two satellite service centers located in St. Paul's (Ravenel) and East Cooper (Mt. Pleasant). These centers offer residents access to county services at locations closer to home. The Ravenel Service Center has been limited to the Magistrate's Court and the EMS station. Satellite offices of the Auditor, Treasurer, Planning Department, and Building Services Department no longer provide services at this location.

The Judicial Center, located Downtown, is the County's main judicial office building housing Circuit Judges, the Clerk of the Court, the Probate Court, Small Claims Court, the 9th Circuit Solicitor, the General Sessions Court, and State Probation and

Parole Court Services. Offices of the County Attorney as well as the Magistrate's Summary Courts are located at the Lonnie Hamilton III site. Magistrate's Courts and Small Claims Court are dispersed at ~~fourteen~~ **14** locations throughout the County.

The Public Works Headquarters central office is located at the Lonnie Hamilton III site; however, various support facilities are clustered along Azalea Drive in North Charleston. These include various facilities that support fleet operations and mosquito control, and warehouse and storage facilities. In addition, the Public Works Department has six Public Works camps located in the following areas: Edisto Island, St. Paul's, Johns Island, James Island, Ladson, and McClellanville.

The Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) is headquartered at the Charleston Center. The various functions of DAODAS include Adult Residential Services, Community and Prevention Services, Criminal Justice Services, Detoxification Services, Women's and Children's Outpatient Services, and Youth Services. Community-based outreach facilities are located throughout the County, the larger of which include the McClellan-Banks Ambulatory Care Center on Ashley Avenue, which is an extension of the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), and the DAODAS Sojourner Center for Women and Women's Intensive Outpatient Center located on Hanover Street in Charleston.

The Charleston County Perimeter Center, located on Bridge View Drive in North Charleston, includes the County's General Services Department, the State Health Department, and the County Coroner's facilities.

Other locations used for Charleston County government functions include:

- **Consolidated 9-1-1 Center and Emergency Management Department, located at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Palmetto Commerce Parkway;**
- ~~Emergency Preparedness Department, located at the Lonnie Hamilton III site;~~
- Radio Communications and Telecommunications, Lonnie Hamilton III site;
- North Charleston Housing Authority, Goodman Boulevard;
- Charleston County Records Center, Leeds Avenue;
- Offices of Veterans' Affairs are located at The Chicora Center; and
- Offices of the Board of Election and Voter Registration, Headquarters Road.

The locations of the Government Facilities are shown on *Map 3.8.5: General County Managed Facilities*.

Emergency Preparedness

The Charleston County Emergency Preparedness **Management** Department (~~EPD~~)

¹ Source: *The Countywide Emergency Communications Services Consolidation Feasibility Study* completed by L. Robert Kimball & Associates for Charleston County in 2007.

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(EMD) is responsible for setting up measures that assist the public in the event of a natural or man-made disaster, providing land and water search operations, and recording hazardous materials in the community. These measures include fire protection, educational services, and rescue operations. The Emergency Preparedness-Management Department sets up the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with other County departments and agencies. Coordination with the various municipalities, adjacent counties, South Carolina Emergency Preparedness Division, and other agencies to ensure public safety in the event of a disaster also falls under the purview of EPMD.

Public Libraries

The Charleston County Library is an independent authority established by the State of South Carolina Legislature to provide library services to the residents of Charleston County. A Board of Trustees, appointed by County Council, directs the activities of the Library.

The Charleston County Library System is organized to provide three tiers of service, including a main library, regional branch libraries, and local branch libraries. Currently the County operates the new Main Library in downtown Charleston, five regional branch libraries, and ten local branch libraries. In addition, the Charleston County Library operates one bookmobile that provides library services to the County.

The Charleston County Main Library is the focus of the library system. Its primary function is to act as the principal information center for Charleston County. As the hub of the system, information is distributed from the main library throughout the community via the network of branch libraries. The flow of information of a more specialized nature is from the main library through the regional branches to the local branches for distribution. Both the regional branch libraries and the local branch libraries serve the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs

of the community in which they are located. *Map 3.8.6* shows the library locations.

As the County's population has grown, the Charleston County Library has not necessarily kept pace in increasing its public services. When compared to the public library standards adopted by the SC State Library, Charleston County Public Library failed to meet several standards. This resulted in a thorough analysis of the existing libraries and services, which included surveying the public and gathering community input. The research was compiled, and a proposal, which calls for construction and renovation measures, was created to improve the overall operations of the Library.

In April 2013, the Charleston County Library board members, along with members of Charleston County Council plus library and County staff, held a series of ten community meetings to introduce the new proposal to local residents and ask for feedback. The proposal calls for constructing four new buildings, renovating 12 existing branches, and moving library support services out of the Main Library to free up that space for public use. The estimated cost to construct, renovate, and relocate the 17 buildings is \$103.8 million. In January 2014, Charleston County Council agreed to put the building referendum on the ballot in November 2014. If approved by voters, officials estimate the four new libraries could open by late 2017 or early 2018. The renovation of existing branches would be staggered, with most of it completed in 2018-2019.

Parks and Recreation Services

Established as a Special Purpose District in 1968, the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) has specific areas of responsibility defined by state legislation. PRC's area of responsibility encompasses the entire County, with the exception of Francis Marion National Forest, Capers Island, and Dewees Island. Its mission is to improve the quality of life

in Charleston County by offering a diverse system of park facilities, programs, and services. In 1995, County Council increased the responsibilities of PRC by turning over responsibility for improving and managing the County's public boat landings.

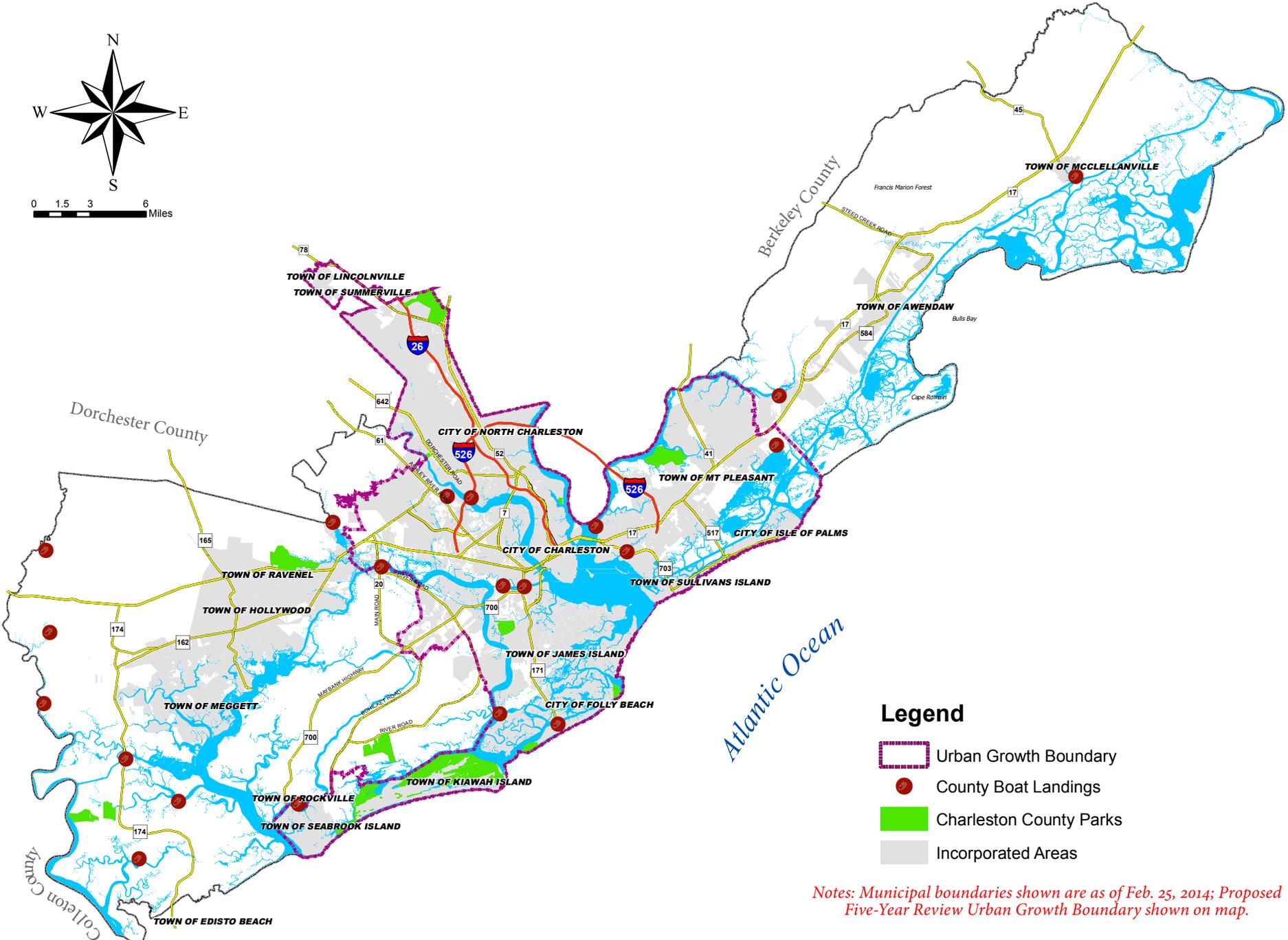
PRC's operations are overseen by a seven-member board that is appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the Charleston Legislative Delegation. PRC's orientation is toward resource-based passive recreation with income-producing activities. Charleston County has established public policy that its mission with respect to parks is to provide special purpose facilities (such as beach and water access), and large regional parks, typically greater than 300 acres in size within reasonable accessibility of all County residents.

It is a goal of the PRC to provide at least one County park within reasonable access of each population center in the County. The abundant waterways create physical barriers that in many cases greatly increase travel time from one area to another. It is therefore important that all areas are provided with recreation facilities. It is also a goal to acquire undeveloped lands while they are still available, in order to preserve and protect the land for future generations.

PRC is involved in providing public recreation programs, primarily through its various County park fa-



MAP 3.8.7: CHARLESTON COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION PARKS AND PUBLIC BOAT LANDINGS, 2014 Comprehensive Plan Five-Year Review (proposed deletions shown as strikethroughs; proposed additions shown as red text)



- Legend**
-  Urban Growth Boundary
 -  County Boat Landings
 -  Charleston County Parks
 -  Incorporated Areas

Notes: Municipal boundaries shown are as of Feb. 25, 2014; Proposed Five-Year Review Urban Growth Boundary shown on map.

cilities and through the Community Education Program. PRC's Recreation Division offers a variety of environmental education and interpretive programs, land- and water-based activities, special events, experiential education, and park-related programs, most of which center around PRC's various County parks.

There are many other entities involved in the provision of or purchase of land for parks and recreational areas including, but not limited to the Charleston County Greenbelt Plan Program, the Town of Mount Pleasant, and the Cities of Charleston and North Charleston. Map 3.8.7 shows the parks and public boat landings in Charleston County.

Educational Facilities

Public educational facilities are the only educational facilities that fall under the purview of the South Carolina Department of Education and the Charleston County School District. This section is broken down into two sections, one regarding public educational facilities and another regarding private educational facilities.

In addition, information on schools in Charleston County that offer opportunities for continuing education such as associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees and doctorates, is included.

Public Educational Facilities

Charleston County School District is divided into eight constituent districts educating a combined total of over ~~42,000~~47,000 students in ~~forty-four~~46 elementary schools, ~~fourteen~~13 middle schools, ~~ten~~14 high schools, ~~five multilevel combination~~four alternative schools, and ~~eight seven~~ seven charter schools, and ~~seven programs~~. There are also 53 Childhood Development (CD)/Head Start facilities. There are 11 Magnet Schools for which applications are required included in this number. The school facility locations are shown on Map 3.8.8.

A nine-member Board of Trustees governs the School

District. The Trustees are elected by the registered voters of the County for a four-year term of office. Planning, decision-making, and policy are determined by the Board of Trustees. The County School Superintendent is responsible for administrative management of the School District.

The eight constituent districts are special districts that are responsible for a variety of administrative functions. Each has its own elected board, known as the Constituent Area Board of Trustees. These boards determine the attendance zones of individual schools, make decisions regarding discipline referrals, and generally make recommendations to the Board of Trustees relative to the individual districts.

The overall mission of the School District includes public education excellence for kindergarten through 12th grade. However, the School District is offering some pre-kindergarten programs. The School District provides early childhood education and is merging the Head Start Programs with pre-kindergarten education, which will provide a good opportunity for change in low-income areas.

There is a high correlation between the standardized test scores and the socioeconomic status of the students attending the District's schools. The students living in the more affluent communities in the County have tested higher and the schools serving those communities have been rated Good-Excellent. ~~However, over sixty percent of the students~~ Approximately 53 percent of students attending District schools receive free or reduced price lunches, which indicates that they are from families earning below poverty level incomes. ~~attending District schools are from high poverty communities that are racially isolated. There is a measurable achievement gap at these schools.~~ Additionally, the School District has seen an influx of students that speak Spanish as their primary language, especially on Johns Island, which increases the need

for bilingual teachers. In the 2013-2014 academic year, the School District had nearly 3,000 English Language Learners, and eight percent of the entire student body was Hispanic.

The County School District's strategic plan, Charleston Achieving Excellence, is focused on raising the academic performance of all schools and closing the achievement gap.

~~As noted in the Population Element, the number of school age children is declining, resulting in a slow decline in school enrollment. Historically, the District has seen a decrease in students enrolled in public schools; however, in recent years, enrollment in the public school system has increased. The decline percentage of school-age children has declined over the County, as noted in the Population Element,~~ is not uniform and some areas are experiencing a growing number of students. Furthermore, some growing areas are not located close to existing schools and require the District to seek new school sites. Meanwhile, some Rural Area schools have extra capacity due to the declining school age population. Opportunities exist for shared facilities in underutilized schools incorporating Sheriff's and EMS stations, administrative offices, and use of playgrounds as community recreation areas. The School District is partners with the various municipal and county authorities to increase recreational opportunities for all County residents².

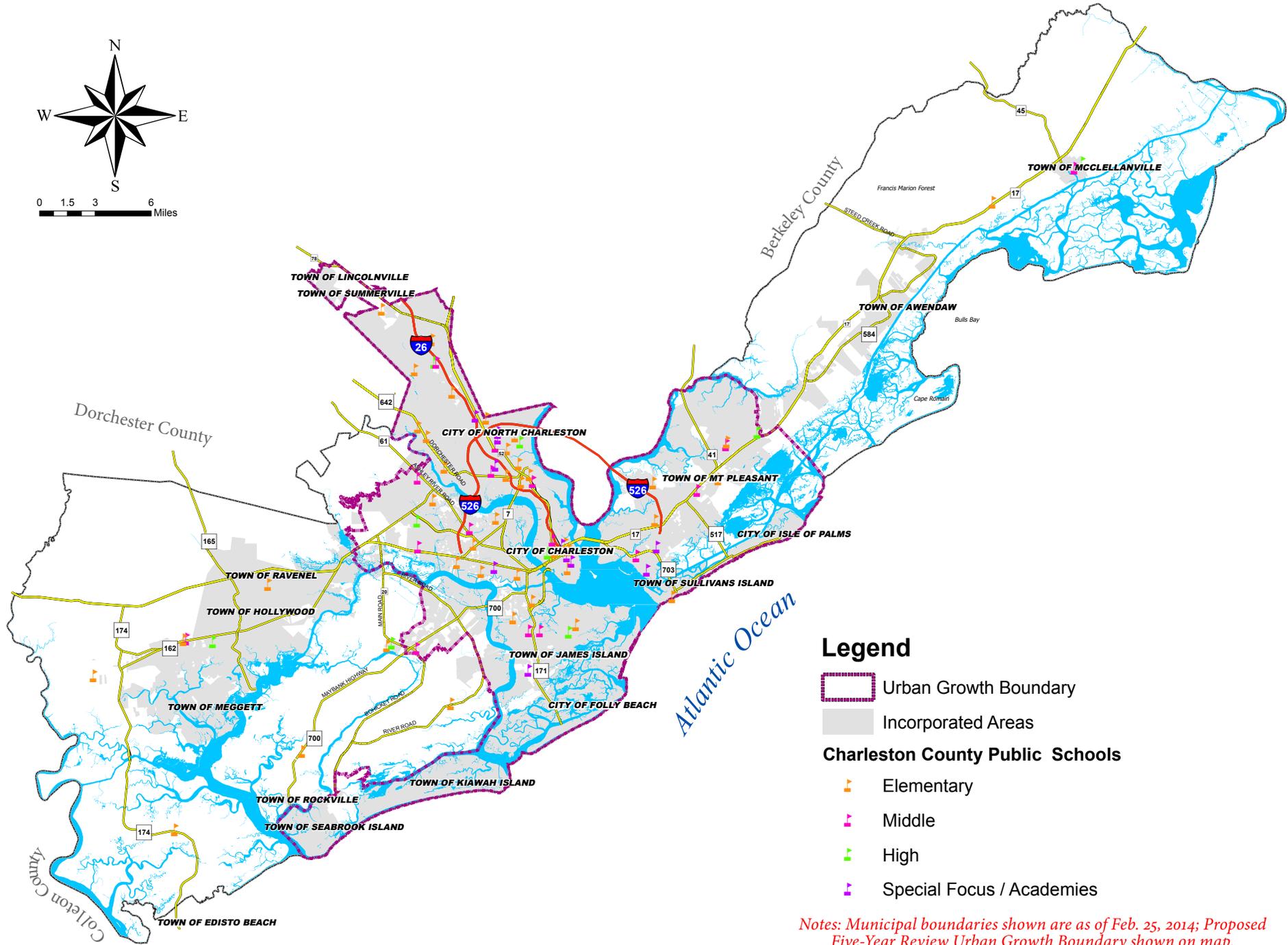
Private Educational Facilities

Private Educational Facilities are not regulated by the South Carolina Department of Education or by the Charleston County School District. The South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) provides accreditation standards for private schools, although private schools are not required to be accredited. There are

² Source: Charleston County School District. 2008.

MAP 3.8.8: CHARLESTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL LOCATIONS, 2014

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Legend

- Urban Growth Boundary
- Incorporated Areas

Charleston County Public Schools

- Elementary
- Middle
- High
- Special Focus / Academies

Notes: Municipal boundaries shown are as of Feb. 25, 2014; Proposed Five-Year Review Urban Growth Boundary shown on map.

a total of ~~forty-two~~46 private schools in Charleston County educating approximately ~~8,000~~10,000 students. ~~Fifteen~~Sixteen of these schools meet the accreditation criteria of the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA).

SCISA Accreditation Standards

An accredited independent elementary school must employ qualified (defined II, B) teachers and other necessary staff personnel, maintain a proper pupil-teacher ratio (defined II, G) use a course of study appropriate to its pupils, adopt adequate textbooks approved by appropriate personnel or by a committee on standards representing the SCISA, provide adequate library services and adequate guidance services including annual use of nationally recognized tests to validate local evaluation and to determine proper placement.

An accredited independent secondary school must meet the minimum standards set by the SCISA. To be accredited, an independent secondary school must:

- Employ a school administrator with at least a bachelor's degree who does not teach more than two of the following: Two periods a day or coach two varsity athletic teams, or one of each. An assistant administrator, who teaches less than a full load, is required in schools over 250 students enrolled.
- Employ teachers in grades K5 (hired after January 1994) through 12 whose academic training, experience, or combination of same, fully indicate the professional ability, insight, and enthusiasm necessary to complete classroom assignments satisfactorily. Each teacher in grades K5 through 12 must have a minimum of a state certificate and/or bachelor's degree.³

³ Source: *The South Carolina Independent School Association website.*

Once accredited, the school is recognized as a corporate body and is inspected every five years to maintain accreditation standards. The school must also establish its code/means of governing and maintaining conduct, which is overseen by SCISA. Some of the SCISA schools in Charleston County include Addlestone Hebrew Academy, Ashley Hall, Northwood Academy, Charleston Collegiate School, Palmetto Christian Academy, Montessori School of Mt. Pleasant, and Trident Academy.

Continuing Education

There are ~~20~~26 schools in the tri-county region Charleston County that offer continuing education opportunities. This number includes schools that do not have main campuses located in Charleston County, but that do have branches or school programs located in Charleston County. Table 3.8.1 lists these schools, along with location information and brief descriptions. The table does not list all institutes of higher learning; however, it does include the institutions with the highest enrollments in the region.

TABLE 3.8.1: CONTINUING EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

School	Location	Type of School	Enrollment*	Brief Description
Art Institute of Charleston	Market Street, Downtown Charleston	4-Year, Private	700	A branch of the Art Institute of Atlanta, GA. 2- and 4-year. programs consist of Photography, Graphic Design and Interactive Media, Fashion and Retail Management, among others
Charleston School of Law	Mary Street, Downtown Charleston	Graduate, Private	700	Originated with the Forensic Club in 1825, is the oldest Law school in the South and effectively prepares students for the passing of the Bar as well as becoming positive civic leaders
Charleston Southern University	University Blvd, North Charleston	4-Year, Private	3,300	33 majors are available for study as well as an array of minor programs. The school features masters programs in Business Administration, Criminal Justice and Education as well
The Citadel	Moultrie Street, Downtown Charleston	4-Year, Public	3,206	Consisting of nearly 2000 3,300 students and 19 programs of study, civilian evening graduate/undergraduate classes are available as well
Clemson Architecture Center, Charleston	20 Franklin Street, Downtown Charleston	4-Year, Public	22	3rd & 4th year Undergraduates can take Urban Design and Fabrication studios to learn to solve issues pending the Lowcountry. Graduate Architecture students can study here during their M.Arch degree
Clemson Restoration Institution	1360 Truxtun Ave, North Charleston	4-Year, Public	N/A	Established in 2004, students study in six fields including Renewable Energy, Resilient Infrastructure, among others, to create new technology that is both restorative and environmentally efficient
The College of Charleston	George Street, Downtown Charleston	4-Year, Public	11,466	Founded in 1770, now caters to nearly 10,000 students and 1,500 graduate students seeking a liberal arts education, 7 programs of study as well as 17 masters programs are available
ECPI College of Technology	Northside Drive, North Charleston	2-Year, Private	300	Associates and Diploma programs in Network Security, Electronics Engineering, Medical Administration as well as Medical Assistant are available programs of study

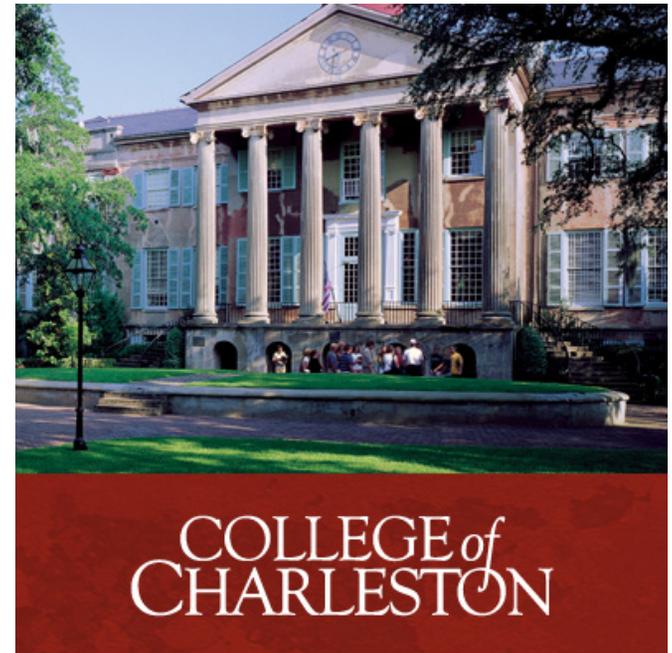
*From the Charleston Regional Development Alliance, updated May 2013.

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Comprehensive Plan Five-Year Review (proposed deletions shown as strikethroughs; proposed additions shown as red text)

TABLE 3.8.1: CONTINUING EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

School	Location	Type of School	Enrollment*	Brief Description
Limestone College	Leeds Ave, North Charleston	Evening, Private	120	Associates and Bachelors Degrees in Business Management/Administration, Liberal Studies, Social Work as well as an array of online classes are available for study
Lowcountry Graduate Center	International Blvd, North Charleston	Graduate, Public	300	13 graduate programs administered in conjunction with The Citadel, The College of Charleston, Medical University of South Carolina, Clemson and the University of South Carolina
Medical University of South Carolina	Ashley Ave, Downtown Charleston	4-Year, Public	2,593	Chartered in 1823, was the first medical school in the south, now caters to nearly 2,600 2,500 students with its Colleges of Dental Medicine, Medicine, Graduate Studies, Health Professions, Nursing, and Pharmacy
Miller-Motte Technical College	Rivers Ave, North Charleston	2-Year, Public	667	9 degree or certificate programs are offered in fields such as, Cosmetology, Criminal Justice, Medical Assisting, Management-International Trade, among others
Springfield College, Charleston Campus	Belle Oaks Drive, North Charleston	Weekend, Private	185	Masters and Bachelors degrees in Science, an Executive Masters Program in Human Services, and a YMCA Professional Directors Program for students working with the YMCA are available for study
Strayer University	Wetland Crossing, North Charleston	2,4-Year, Private	N/A	Undergraduate/graduate programs available for study such as Accounting, Business, General Studies, Health Services Administration, Information Systems, and Public Administration
Trident Technical College	Rivers Ave, North Charleston	2-Year, Public	16,195	The main campus in conjunction with the Two Downtown branches, Palmer Campus and the Culinary Institute of Charleston, offer 2 and 4 year specialized programs to students in 12 areas of study
Webster University	International Blvd, North Charleston	2,4-Year, Private	400	Located off of International Blvd and the Air Force Base, graduate/undergraduate programs of study are offered in fields such as Behavioral and Social Sciences, Business Management, among others



3.8.3: COMMUNITY FACILITIES ELEMENT GOAL

Community facilities and services will be provided in a fiscally responsible manner with adequate levels of service and will be coordinated with surrounding jurisdictions and will be linked to land use planning and development decisions so that community facilities and services have capacity for expected growth and are in place when needed.

Community Facilities Element Needs

Community Facilities Element needs include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Continuing to evaluate and plan for additional community facilities and services;
- Coordinating with the various service providers in the County;
- Creating a stronger link between capital improvements programming and land use planning;
- **Maintaining existing community facilities to ensure long-lasting, efficient use;** and
- Encouraging the cost-effective provision of public facilities and services by promoting compact and mixed use development.

3.8.4: COMMUNITY FACILITIES ELEMENT STRATEGIES AND TIME FRAMES

The County should undertake the following action strategies to support the Community Facility Goal and the Vision for this Plan. These implementation strategies will be reviewed a minimum of every five years and updated every ten years from the date of adoption of this Plan.

- CF 1. ~~Develop alternatives to e~~Ensure that new development contributes its fair share to the costs associated with growth with regard to community facilities and services.
- CF 2. Create a stronger link between capital improvements programming and land use planning.
- CF 3. Take the lead in establishing intergovernmental agreements for the provision of services to the residents of the County consistent with the land use and growth management strategies of this Plan.
- CF 4. Support efforts to provide safe, high-quality, adequate supplies of potable water to meet the needs of present and future residents ~~through growth management, land development regulations, and intergovernmental coordination and agreements.**~~
- CF 5. Coordinate with the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments to carry out water quality planning responsibilities under Section 208 of the *Clean Water Act* designating the Rural Area to have primarily individual on-site wastewater disposal and the Urban/Suburban Area to have primarily public sewer service.
- CF 6. Any proposed community based wastewater treatment systems proposed for the Rural Area should be approved by County Council and should be publicly owned.
- CF 7. Continue to implement the *Charleston County Solid Waste* ***Environmental Management Plan*** to provide for adequate collection, processing, disposal of solid waste, and recycling efforts in an environmentally sound and economically feasible manner to meet the needs of present and future residents. Plan for new and expanded solid waste management facilities and changing technologies including coordinating with adjacent counties.**
- CF 8. Support coordination efforts to provide adequate fire protection to all residents and visitors of Charleston County through efforts of the Charleston County Fire Chiefs Association, and shared service agreements, **and the Consolidated 9-1-1 Center.** ~~and consolidated dispatch and call centers.**~~
- CF 9. Plan for and provide adequate emergency medical care to all residents and visitors of Charleston County as provided by Charleston County Emergency Medical Services **and the Consolidated 9-1-1 Center.****
- CF 10. Continue to support and provide quality public safety services to all residents and visitors of Charleston County.**

COMMUNITY FACILITIES ELEMENT STRATEGIES AND TIME FRAMES CONTINUED

- CF 11. Continue to encourage efforts of the Charleston County School District to coordinate their facilities planning with land use planning.**
- CF 12. Continue to support public library facilities and services throughout the County.
- CF 13. Continue to provide government facilities to support County government functions and responsibilities.
- CF 14. Explore opportunities for sharing/consolidating government facilities and services to lower the cost to all residents.
- CF 15. Continue to coordinate and promote Countywide emergency preparedness to handle any emergency.
- CF 16. Continue efforts to provide parks and recreational facilities and services in coordination with the Charleston County Greenbelt Plan **Program** and the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission.
- CF 17. Maintain legislative mandates of the County such as judicial operations and property record maintenance.
- CF 18. Support efforts of ~~the Awendaw Fire Department and other~~ fire departments to educate the public on the dangers of wildfires and the benefits of controlled burning in forested areas to reduce the chances of uncontrolled wildfires.
- CF 19. Encourage alternative energy sources such as wind and solar energy systems, where appropriate.
- CF 20. Encourage public-private partnerships in infrastructure planning.
- CF 21. Adopt innovative planning and zoning techniques such as Form-Based Zoning District regulations to authorize coordinated and integrated infrastructure planning based on compact and mixed use land use patterns.
- CF 22. As recommended in the *Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan*, prepare and adopt a county-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) with the assistance of local and locally represented land management agencies and organizations and local hazard mitigation officials, including fire departments.
- CF 23. Investigate programs such as Septic Maintenance Programs to protect water quality and provide clean and safe sewage systems to communities in the Rural Area.

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