



## **Environmental Advisory Committee**

4:00pm, Thursday, April 9, 2026

City Hall

Council Chambers

1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

### **Public Comment:**

All citizens who wish to speak during the meeting must email their first and last name, address, and topic to Nicole DeNeane at [nicoled@iop.net](mailto:nicoled@iop.net) no later than **3:00 p.m. the business day before the meeting**. Citizens may also provide public comment here:

<https://www.iop.net/public-comment-form>

### **Agenda**

1. **Call to Order** and acknowledgement that the press and public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.
2. **Approval of previous meeting's minutes – March 12, 2026**
3. **Citizen's Comments**
4. **Presentation – none**
5. **New Business**
  - a. Discussion of Tree Ordinance (10 minutes)
6. **Old Business**
  - a. Discussion of changes to the lighting ordinance (10 minutes)
  - b. Discussion of EAC participation in Hurricane & Resilience Expo (remainder of meeting)
7. **Miscellaneous**

Next meeting: Thursday, May 14, 2026, 4:00pm
8. **Adjournment**



## ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:00pm, Thursday, March 12, 2026

1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

and broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>

### MINUTES

1. **Call to order**

Present: Laura Lovins, Sean Popson, Todd Murphy, Eric Cicora, Britton Foy, Susan Smith, Cindy Marrs, Charlotte Webster, Council Member Miars

Staff Present: Administrator Kerr, Deputy Administrator Kuester, Asst. Director Asero

2. **Approval of previous meeting's minutes**

**MOTION:** Ms. Popson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2026 meeting, and Ms. Smith seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith noted a missing word in the motion about pursuing Sea Rise signage.

**VOTE:** The amended minutes passed unanimously.

3. **Citizen's Comments -- none**

4. **Presentation – none**

5. **New Business**

**Discussion of Native Tree Guide**

Ms. Lovins said Sullivan's Island is allowing the Committee to adjust their Native Tree Guide to suit the Isle of Palms. Ms. Smith added that minus the first four pages specific to Sullivan's Island, the document can be adopted for use here. She said there would be a nominal cost to adjusting the guide for Isle of Palms' purposes.

Administrator Kerr noted that the Building Department already distributes something similar to building license applicants.

6. **Old Business**

A. **Update on cost of Sea Rise Signage**

Ms. Lovins reported that the signs are \$35/each with free shipping. The cost with posts should be approximately \$250. Signs will be placed at Myrtle & 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Palm Blvd somewhere between 38<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> avenue, and three beach access paths with significant flooding.

Asst. Director Asero will order the signs and posts.

**MOTION: Mr. Foy made a motion to move forward with the project as discussed. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**B. Update on the Interpretive Sign project**

Ms. Smith shared some of the small signs that will be hung at the public dock. She will schedule a ribbon cutting ceremony when all the signs are installed. She has asked PIO Uys to post a pdf of all the signs on iop.net. She also shared that the Recreation Department has fall speaker series planned to guide people through the signs.

**C. Discussion of Mujeres Latinas Signage for cleanup station**

Ms. Smith shared the updated signage that will be placed with the toy bin and cleanup station donated by Mujeres Latinas at 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue beach access.

**D. Discussion of EAC participation in Hurricane & Resilience Expo**

Ms. Lovins reviewed each Committee member's area of interest for the upcoming Hurricane & Resilience Expo. Administrator Kerr said compost bins have been ordered for the event.

The Committee had a brief discussion with Administrator Kerr about vegetation and sand fencing and if/how residents can employ them upon completion of the upcoming beach renourishment project. Administrator Kerr said the City will be installing vegetation and sand fencing within the project area.

Committee members then discussed what materials they will prepare for the expo. PIO Uys will create a template for Committee members to assist in consistent branding across their messages. Committee members are to forward a pdf of their designs to the City Clerk to include in next month's meeting packet.

**7. Miscellaneous Business**

Administrator Kerr said the lighting ordinance will come back to the Committee in May.

Ms. Lovins said that she wrote an article about the change in glass recycling on the island. A private citizen has offered to pay for Fisher Glass Recycling.

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, April 8, 2026 at 4pm.

8. **Adjournment**

Mr. Murphy made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:27.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk

**Environmental Advisory Committee April 9, 2026**  
**Tree Ordinance / Native Tree Protection**

Proposal for the Environmental Advisory Committee to review Recommendation Matrix items 151 and 205.

- 1) Review and revise current tree ordinance. Today the ordinance is focused on zoning and development or residential and commercial structures
  - a. **This is directly aligned to Recommendation Matrix item 151.**
  - b. Provisions allow homes to be built very close to oak tree roots, potentially causing the oaks to die. Is the current code too risky for the trees?
  - c. When a protected tree is removed, the current ordinance requires new trees to be planted (in addition to financial penalties). However, those new trees are not protected and could be removed a year later. Is there a way to extend the protective class of the original tree to the replacement tree(s)?
  
- 2) Consider the benefit of a Live Oak and Native Palm Tree inventory island wide.
  - a. **This is directly aligned to Recommendation Matrix item 205.**
  - b. What is most cost-effective way to track this? To share this as reportable info?
  - c. How often should a survey be done?
  - d. How might this information be used by City Council, City Staff, EAC, and other groups?

The IOP Recommendation Matrix has the following items that are related to these two topics:

Reco #	Description (summarized)
55	Explore upgrades to outdoor spaces at the Recreation Center and Mayor Carmen R. Bunch Park. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Utilize native plants.</b> Add swings, benches, picnic tables, etc.</li> <li>• Create a community garden at the Recreation Center.</li> <li>• Expand Recreation Center’s outdoor shelter to support diverse programming and events, providing fans, electricity, and a stage for music.</li> <li>• Explore options for providing an expanded electrical grid throughout the Recreation Center property to support large community events and athletics.</li> <li>• Create a WIFI hotspot at the Recreation Center and its surrounding property.</li> </ul>
62	Facilitate more programming focused on understanding and protecting our natural environment (e.g. beach/saltmarsh/waterways, native plants, native and endangered species).
91	Proactively enforce and track violations to environmental ordinances, including those related to beach lights, litter, building, development <b>and tree protections.</b>
105	With guidance from local experts, <b>emphasize native plants</b> and gardens at all city parks and properties.

**Environmental Advisory Committee April 9, 2026**  
**Tree Ordinance / Native Tree Protection**

107	Encourage and provide incentives for residents, businesses, developers, Wild Dunes Resort and Homeowner Associations (HOA's) <b>to increase native plants</b> on residential and commercial properties.
147	The City should continue to support <b>tree-planting programs</b> along streets and develop a long-term plan which prioritizes streets and <b>identifies the types of trees to be used</b>
151	<b>Evaluate and modify the city's tree ordinances to elevate conservation of native tree species such as palmetto, live oak, pine and wax myrtle.</b>
159	<b>Create a guide</b> – available electronically and in print form – for residents, developers, contractors and property managers <b>to promote IOP native plants, trees,</b> eco-friendly landscaping and lighting practices.
194	Consider location of <b>at-risk palmettos</b> – important to our community's identity & resiliency – <b>and other significant native trees</b> in setting priorities.
205	<b>Explore funding a city-wide tree survey to document all native trees on the island.</b>

# Environmentally Friendly Herbicide Strategies

Consider safer, sustainable options to control weeds and avoid harmful chemicals, 

## Natural Herbicides

### ✔ Vinegar-Based Solutions

- Household vinegar (5% acetic acid) for young weeds
- Stronger horticultural vinegar (10-20% acetic acid) for tougher weeds
- Add a few drops of dish soap to help the solution stick to the weeds



### ✔ Salt Applications

- Mix salt (table salt or rock salt) with water to create a spray
- Use sparingly as salt can affect soil health and nearby plants

### ✔ Other Natural Options

- Pour boiling water directly onto weeds to kill them
- Choose ready-made eco-friendly herbicides that use ingredients like citric acid or clove oil

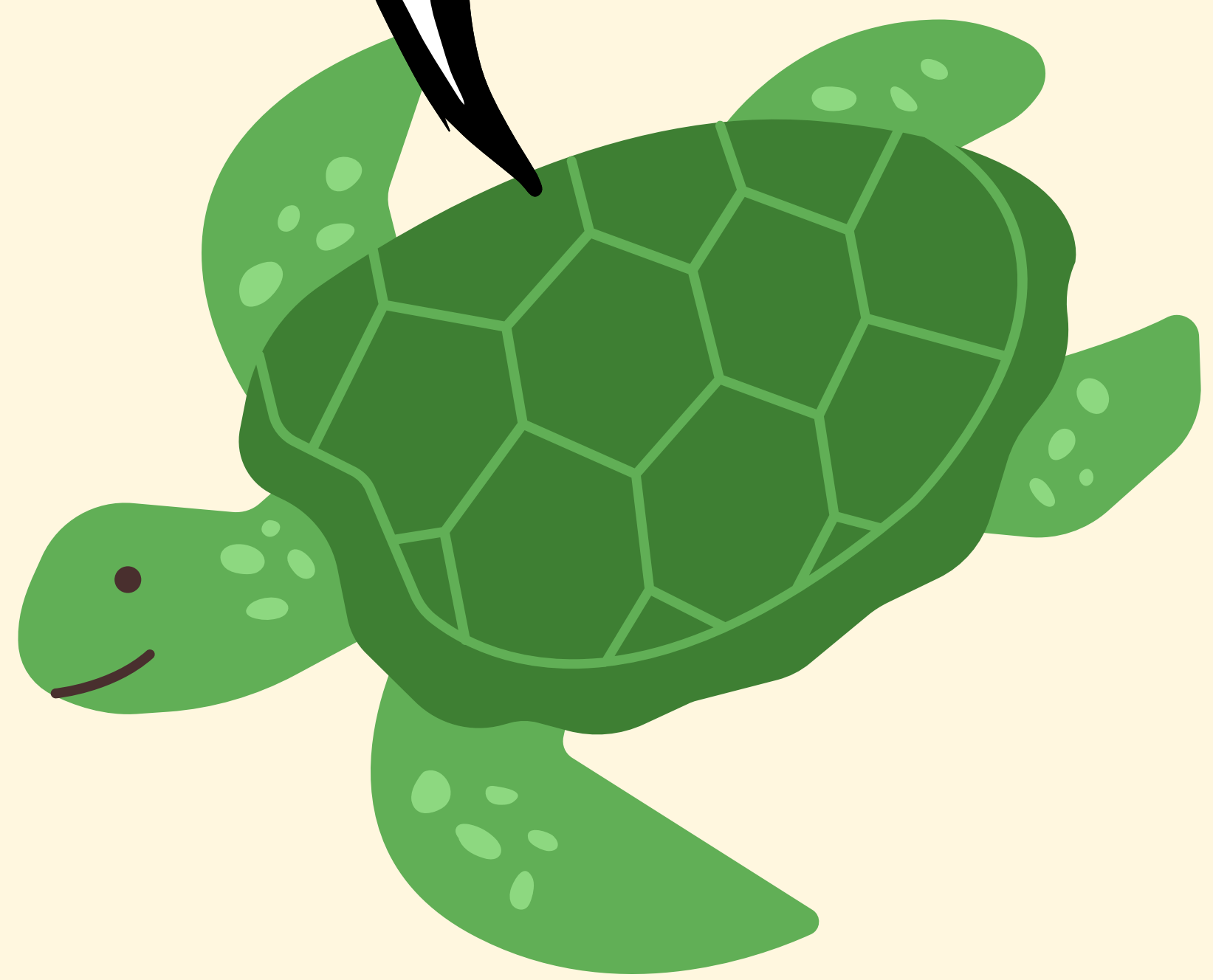


Protect our island – Choose safe, eco-friendly weed control methods!



# Resilient Beaches

**PROTECT OUR NATURAL STORM BARRIERS:** Stay off Dunes, use boardwalks only!



**PROTECT OUR BEACH. STRENGTHEN OUR COAST. PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE.**

Protecting the beaches of Isle of Palms isn't just about keeping them beautiful—it's about keeping our community safe and resilient. Healthy dunes and stable shorelines act as natural barriers that absorb storm surge, reduce flooding, and protect homes and wildlife from stronger storms and rising sea levels.

**BUILD A STRONGER SHORELINE WITH PLANTS:** Protect sea oats and native grasses, volunteer for dune and shoreline planting projects!



**REDUCE POLLUTION, BOOST RESILIENCE:** Pick up trash and plastics, avoid single-use items

When we care for the beach by preserving plants, reducing erosion, and supporting restoration efforts, we help the shoreline rebuild naturally and last longer. Small everyday actions add up to a stronger coast for everyone.

Scan for more info:

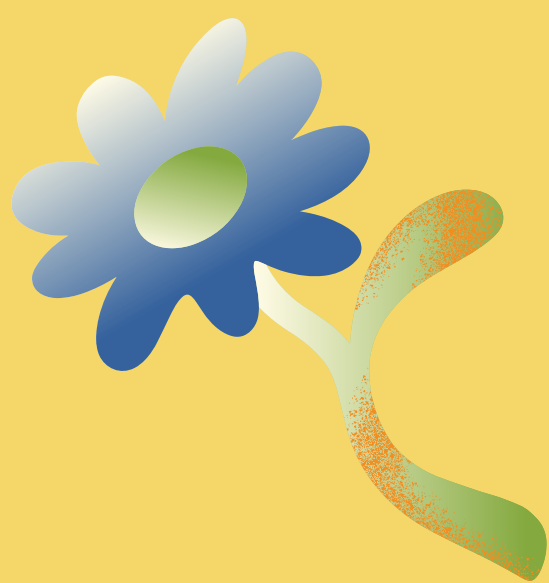


# POLLINATOR *paradise*



## What are pollinators?

Pollinators are nature's moving crew, carrying pollen between flowers while they hunt for food. This tiny delivery is what triggers plants to create the seeds and fruits we eat.



## Why they matter

- Every third bite of food you take exists thanks to a pollinator
- The annual global economic value of pollinators' labor is \$200+ billion
- Pollinators sustain around 80% of the world's flowering plants

## Meet the pollination team

- Native bees
- Moths and bats (essential for "night-blooming" plants)
- Monarch butterflies and hummingbirds
- Beetles and hoverflies

## THE CRISIS & CALL TO ACTION

### The problem

Habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change (due to this, flowers bloom at the wrong time) threaten pollinators

### How you can help

- **Plant native:** Become a pit stop for local pollinators
- **Skip the sprays:** Use natural pest control instead of harsh chemicals
- **Provide a drink:** A shallow water dish helps thirsty bees

## THE TRUTH ABOUT MICROPLASTICS

# small pieces, global impact

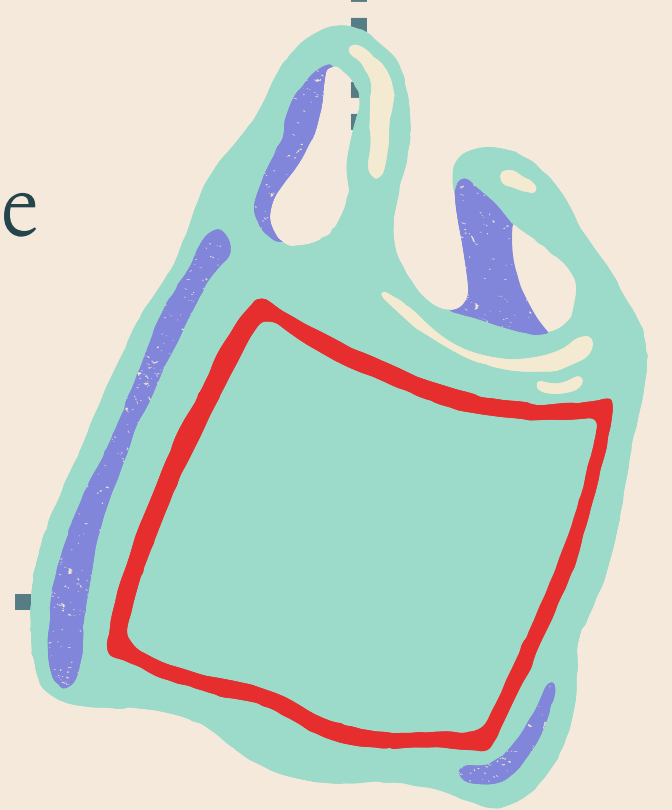
### More than meets the eye

- Microplastics are pieces of plastic smaller than 5mm (about the size of a grain of rice).
- Some are so small they are invisible to the eye.
- Unlike paper or food, plastic never truly biodegrades - it just breaks into smaller and smaller pieces forever.



### How do microplastics get into the ocean?

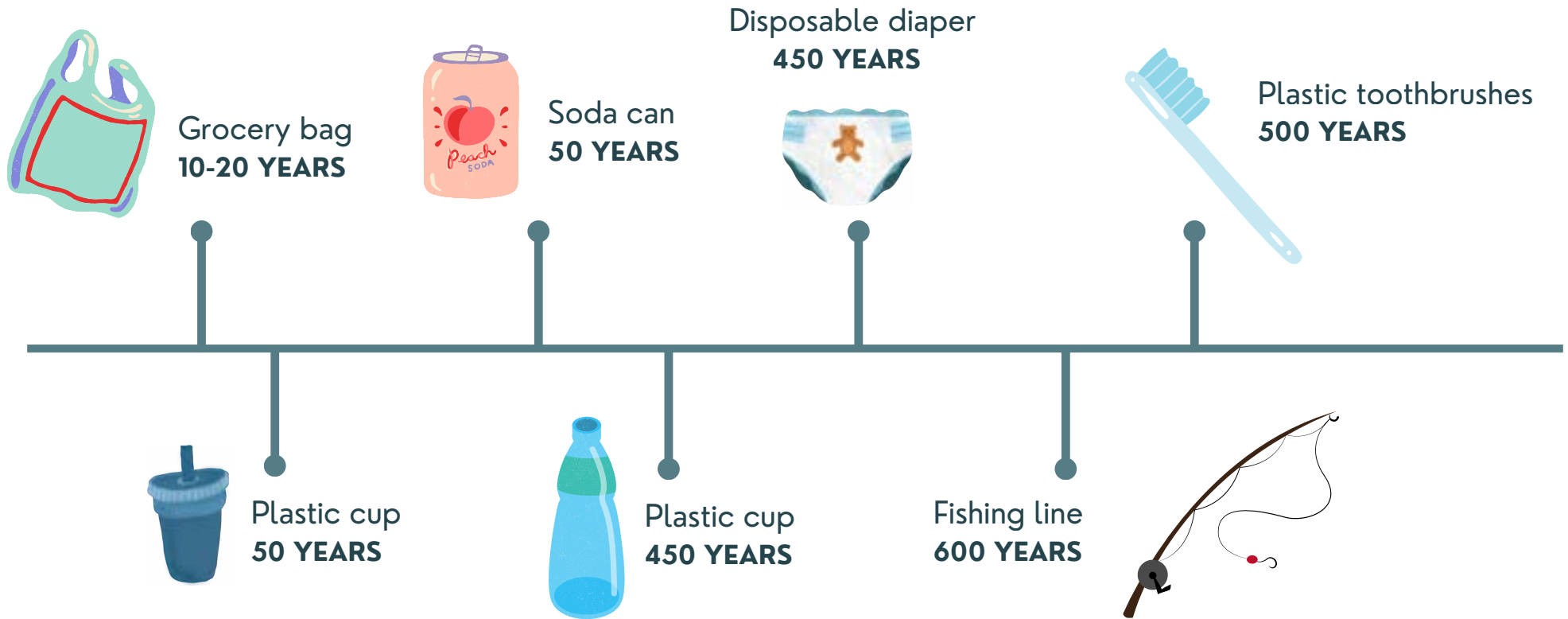
- Larger litter gets brittle in the sun and shatters into tiny fragments.
- Tiny fibers shed from synthetic clothing and dust from car tires wash into our drains during rainstorms.
- Small plastic pellets or powders used in manufacturing can escape into the environment during transport or production.



## WHY IT MATTERS & HOW TO HELP

- Microplastics are found in our water, air, and food. When fish eat them, we do too! Animals mistake these colorful bits for food, which can make them very sick.
- Choose reusables, wash synthetic clothes less often, and always dispose of trash properly.

# How long until it's gone?



## STOP THE CLOCK ON PLASTIC POLLUTION.

Microplastics are too small to see, but this app spots them instantly so you can choose clean alternatives that protect our planet. Scan the code to download *Beat the Microbead*.

ISLE OF PALMS, SC

# NATIVE *pollinators*



## Butterfly Milkweed

This hardy, orange-flowered perennial thrives in sandy soil. It is the essential host plant where Monarchs lay their eggs and where their caterpillars grow.



## Seaside Goldenrod

A coastal champion with waxy, salt-resistant leaves and bright yellow flower spikes. It serves as a vital "fuel station" for migrating Monarch butterflies every fall.



## Blanket Flower

A drought-tolerant, colorful daisy that thrives in the heat. Its long blooming season provides a steady food source for pollinators from spring through autumn.

# Native Plants for Erosion Prevention

*native plants stabilize dunes & reduce erosion*

*native vegetation strengthens long-term coastal resilience*



Deep-rooted species like sea oats and panic grass hold sand in place, build dunes naturally, and protect homes and infrastructure from storm surge and high tides.

Healthy plant cover traps windblown sand, reduces beach loss, supports wildlife habitat, and lowers the need for costly beach renourishment.



Questions .... ?

Where should I plant?

What should I plant?

How do I plant?

*Let's chat!!*

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**WAYS TO MAKE YOUR YARD MORE ECO-FRIENDLY AND SUSTAINABLE**

**STOP SPRAYING FOR  
MOSQUITOS**

**HOW TO MAKE MOSQUITO BUCKETS**

**Supplies**



Mosquitos can only be killed when they are in the larvae stage – spraying is done when they are full adults

1. Select a bucket that is clean, empty, and has a wide rim.  
2. Wash the bucket with soap and water.  
3. Dry the bucket completely.  
4. Place the bucket in a shaded area to prevent the water from heating up.  
5. Add the bucket to your collection of mosquito buckets.

**HOW TO MAKE MOSQUITO BUCKETS**



1. Fill the bucket with water.  
2. Place the bucket in a shaded area to prevent the water from heating up.  
3. Add the bucket to your collection of mosquito buckets.  
4. Check the bucket daily for mosquito larvae.  
5. If you find larvae, spray the bucket with a natural mosquito repellent.

For more information, visit [www.isleofpalms.com](http://www.isleofpalms.com) or call 252-398-1234.



Protect your property value with a healthy septic system maintenance plan - DON'T let your septic system fail!

**DO** have a regular maintenance plan for your septic system.

**DO** have your septic tank pumped out (minimally) on a 3 year cycle. The typical fee for a septic tank pump out is \$450

**DO** know where your drain field is

**DO** have your septic system inspected every 5 years

**DON'T** put impervious surfaces like driveways over any part of a septic system drain field

**DON'T** have major landscaping planted around or over a septic system drain field

**DO** limit the water entering your septic tank, and give your system time to rest after heavy use

**DO** repair leaky toilets and dripping faucets

**DO** discard grease in the garbage or compost bin - not the drain

**DO** notify DHEC if you see or smell effluent in your drain field area or in your neighbors drain field area

**DON'T** use liquid fabric softeners - they contribute to excessive scum in the septic tank

Interpretive Sign Project is complete!

Our interpretative signs along the pier/dock and pier walkway were finally installed today, 4/6/26!

Pictures are attached, but please visit the site in person to see how beautiful they turned out.

A big “thank you” to our sponsors, City of Isle of Palms, Islander 71, the Marina, and Barrier Island Eco Tours- and thank you to Robert Asero and Lenton Sharp with IOP Public Works for installing the signs - and, of course, Susan Hill Smith for her idea for the project and Kaitlyn Hackathorn for her amazing graphics and expert help with the text!

