



## **Environmental Advisory Committee**

4:00pm, Thursday, May 14, 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 – April 9, 2026**
3. **Citizen's Comments**
4. **Presentation – none**
5. **Old Business**
  - a. Discussion of Sea Rise Sign project (5 minutes)
  - b. Update from Native Tree Subcommittee (5 minutes)
  - c. Discussion Palm Path brochure draft (20 minutes)
  - d. Review and update of EAC-related matrix recommendations (15 minutes)
6. **New Business**
  - a. Discussion of Resilience 101 Training with SC Office of Resilience (10 minutes)
  - b. Discussion of EAC Recommendation for City Recognition of Mr. Thompson's private investment in our community - Fisher Glass contract renewal (5 minutes)
7. **Miscellaneous**

Next meeting: Thursday, June 11, 2026, 4:00pm
8. **Adjournment**



**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**4:00pm, Thursday, April 9, 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

Staff Present: Deputy Administrator Kuester

Absent: Administrator Kerr, Charlotte Webster, Council Member Miars

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

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

Mr. Murphy noted an incorrect date at the bottom of page 2. Ms. Smith suggested spelling out PIO – Public Information Officer.

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

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

**4. Presentation – none**

**5. New Business**

**Discussion of Tree Ordinance**

Mr. Murphy asked if preparing a tree inventory is important from a resilience perspective and if the Committee wants to consider changing the current tree ordinance to protect the island's tree canopy. He suggested such an inventory could be done using drone technology. He believes a tree inventory could help the City make decisions related to undergrounding power lines.

Ms. Marrs suggested a tree inventory could help following a major storm when applying for reimbursement.

Ms. Smith mentioned a \$4,000 quote to revamp the Sullivan's Island Tree Guide to fit the Isle of Palms. She said she could apply for a grant to cover the costs and perhaps include the cost of a tree inventory in the grant application.

Ms. Lovins, Ms. Smith, and Mr. Foy will meet as a subcommittee to discuss a tree inventory, the tree guide, and potential changes to the tree ordinance. They will report back to the full Committee in June.

**6. Old Business**

**A. Discussion of Changes to the Lighting Ordinance**

Mr. Murphy referenced the file he sent to the Committee (attached to these minutes) that details suggested changes to the lighting ordinance. He will share these proposed changes with the Planning Commission since they need to review it before it goes back to City Council for Second Reading.

Deputy Administrator Kuester shared a possible recommendation format for the Environmental Advisory Committee to consider using in the future.

**MOTION: Ms. Smith made a motion to recommend Mr. Murphy's six recommendations for the lighting ordinance to City Council for consideration at Second Reading. Ms. Popson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Committee members discussed the printing of their posters for the Expo. Deputy Admin. Kuester will verify that Asst. Director Asero will provide materials from Doody Calls for their booth. He will also ensure Administrator Kerr gets the compost buckets to the Committee's booth.

**7. Miscellaneous Business**

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 4pm. The agenda will include dune renourishment plantings, a review of the Committee's participation in the Expo, and grants.

**8. Adjournment**

Ms. Popson made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk

Section 5-4-18. New and Existing Residential Development.

(a) Outdoor lighting on residential structures is prohibited from shining directly onto the Intracoastal Waterway, marsh, or other natural areas outside of the owners property.

(b) Outdoor lighting on residential structures shall not shine directly into the yard or windows of adjacent residential uses.

(c) Light fixtures in excess of 60 watts or 100 lumens shall use full cut-off lenses or hoods to prevent glare or spillover onto adjacent properties and natural areas.

(d) Upwardly-directed lighting shall not be used to illuminate structures, except for low-wattage architectural lighting. These lights must be turned off by 10:00pm every day

(e) All exterior lighting must be rated at or below 3000 Kelvin.

(a) Outdoor lighting shining directly onto the Intracoastal Waterway, marsh, or other natural areas outside of the owner's property shall be (extinguished )(turned off)when the outdoor area is not in active use or occupancy.

(b) Outdoor lighting on residential structures shall not shine directly onto any adjacent property.

(c) Light fixtures in excess of 40 watts or 300 lumens shall be installed so that the lamp or light-emitting element is not visible beyond the property line.

(d) Upwardly-directed lighting fixtures shall not exceed 200 lumens. These lights must be turned off between 10:00pm and 7:00 am. (Total upwardly-directed lighting for the property may not exceed 0.1 lumens per sq ft.)

(e) All exterior lighting must be rated at or below 3000 Kelvin.

(f) Exemptions:

(1) Temporary holiday or decorative lighting, used for no more than 45 days per year.

(2) Emergency lighting used by law enforcement, fire, or emergency services.

(3) Lighting required by federal, state, or county agencies, provided it is no brighter than necessary for compliance.

(a)(7) Upwardly-directed lighting fixtures means any floodlight, spotlight or focused beam aimed above horizontal plane.

# Sanitation

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- **Composting** and **Glass** recycling at:
  - Mayor Carmen Bunch R. Park
  - 41st Ave near the fire station.

- Trash is collected at the following **frequency**

Aug 30 – May 29    Once per week

Jun 1 – Sep 4        Twice per week

- And on the following **schedule**:

Breach Inlet – 30<sup>th</sup> Ave    Mon (Thu)

30th Ave – Wild Dunes    Tue (Fri)

- **Miscellaneous**, bulk items, and yard debris can be picked up on every other day so long as biodegradables are disposed of in a paper bag

- Other **recyclables** are collected by the County every second Thursday

# Dogs on the Beach

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- Dogs may be off their leash during the following times:

Apr 1 – Sep 14        5am – 9am

Sep 15 – Mar 31      4pm – 10am

- At all other times, dogs must be on their leash and under voice command
- Dogs must be vaccinated against rabies
- Dogs owners must have a certificate of vaccination readily available at all times and a metal tag with the name of the licensed veterinarian on the dog's collar
- Dog owners are encouraged to get a dog permit to facilitate the return of lost dogs

# Parking

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- Visitors can park on any road in the beach district unless it has been designated with a “no parking” sign
- All four wheels must be off the road
- CARTA runs a beach shuttle from Mount Pleasant during the Summer season



THE PALM PATH

CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS  
GOOD NEIGHBOR GUIDE

[WWW.ISLEOFPALMS.GOV](http://WWW.ISLEOFPALMS.GOV)

(843) 886-6428

# Beach Rules & Safety

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Use designated beach access paths and stay off the dunes



Single use plastics and styrofoam are prohibited



Gatherings of over 50 people on public property require a permit



Fireworks and open fires are prohibited



No overnight sleeping or storage of beach equipment



Smoking and vaping is a fineable offense



No alcohol



Do not interfere with the sea turtles



If stuck in a rip current, swim diagonal to the shoreline



Beach wheelchairs available at the Police Department and County Park

# Frequent Locations

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*Besides the beach:*

- Recreation center – 24 28<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Fitness classes, tennis courts
- Marina – 50 41<sup>st</sup> Ave  
Public dock, boat rentals, dining
- Post Office – 1000 Palm Blvd
- City Hall – 1207 Palm Blvd  
Permits, licenses, court, notary
- Public Safety – 30 J C Long Blvd  
Fire, police, and parking

# Golf Carts and LSVs

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- Must have a drivers license
- May not drive on roads with a speed limit over 35mph including Palm Blvd and the Connector
- Golf carts must remain within 4 miles of your residence
- Golf carts cannot be driven at night

# Noise

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- 55dB night time noise limit measured at a complainant's property line:

Weekdays                      10pm to 7am

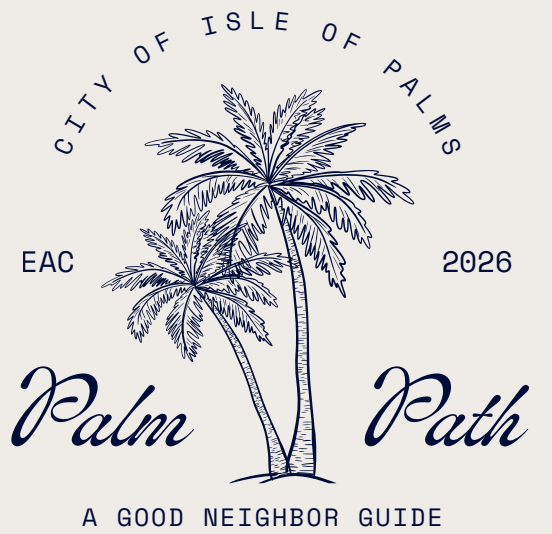
Weekends                      11pm to 7am

- A violation would only occur if a neighbor files a complaint

# Other Ways to Have Fun

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- Farmer markets on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays from May through October at the Recreation Center
- Front Beach Festivals in May, September, and December
- Connector Run in October
- Marina boat rentals
- Kayak tours and rentals
- Golf cart parades every 4<sup>th</sup> of July





# THE PALM PATH

A CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS

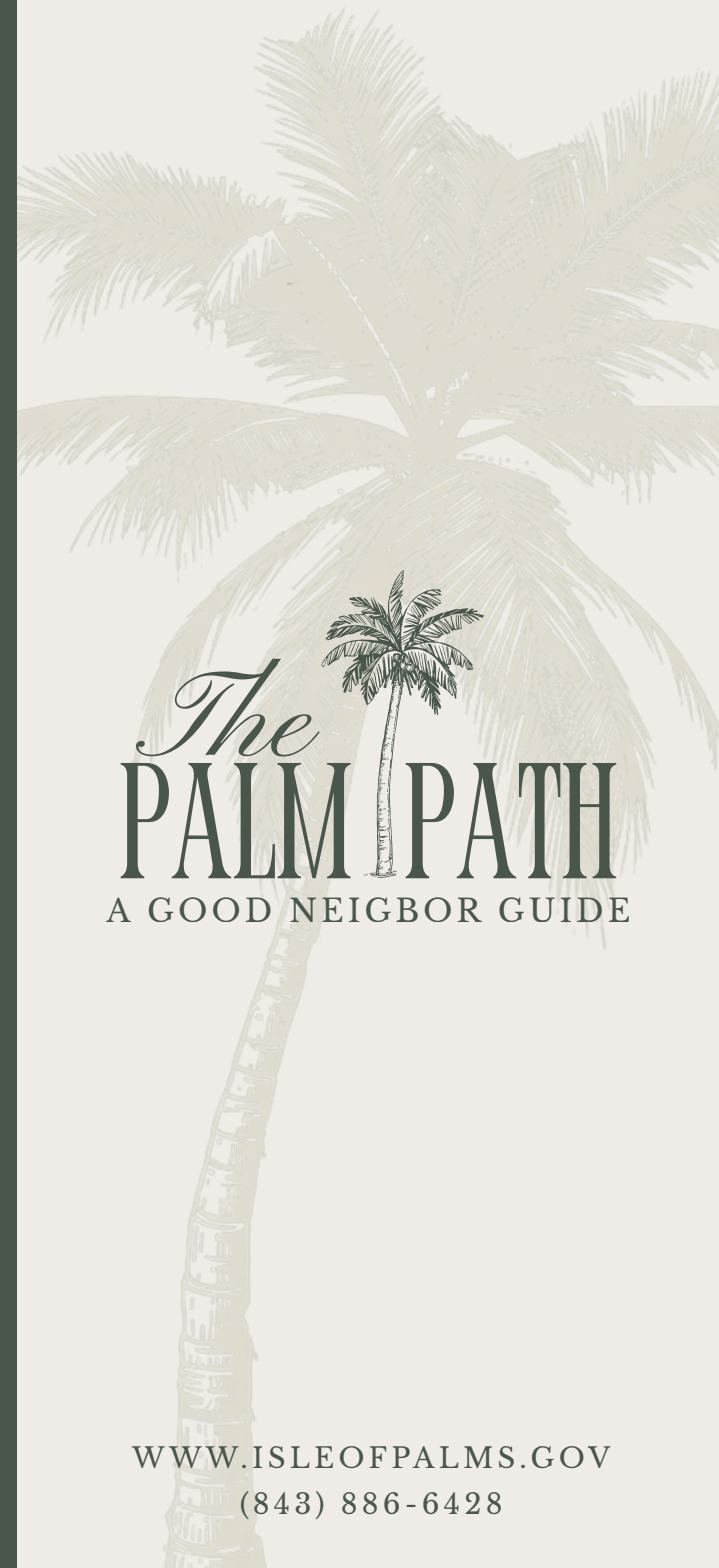
GOOD NEIGHBOR GUIDE



# THE PALM PATH

A GOOD  
NEIGHBOR GUIDE

THE CITY OF  
ISLE OF PALMS



*The*  
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# EAC Matrix



	Primary	Budgetary Cost	Category/Focus Area	Initiative	Rec #
1	Emphasize sustainable/environmentally friendly practices at the Recreation Center.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Infrastructure Improvements	
2	Facilitate more programming focused on understanding and protecting our natural environment (e.g. beach/saltmarsh/waterways, native plants, native and endangered species).		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
3	Preserve, protect, manage and enhance the island's natural resources – including the beach, salt marsh and natural areas in the island's interior.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
4	Secure grants, provide community education, and collaborate with neighboring communities and state agencies.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Revenue & Funding	
5	Evaluate whether more resources (ex. staff) are needed for proper enforcement.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Talent Management	
6	Develop consistent data collection that includes water quality testing for the ocean, creeks, marsh and interior; surveys of related wildlife and ecosystems; and sea level rise measurements.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
7	Make environmental data easy to understand, access and share.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
8	Advance recommendations from city's developing Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
9	Model, map & monitor areas most susceptible to sea level rise, flooding & storm surges.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
10	Predict social and economic impacts of climate changes, including cost calculations.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
11	Determine and articulate long-term goals for Adaptation plan that are proactive and transparent. Communicate these elements effectively to the public.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Forecasting	

Recommendation3	Source	Status	Timeline of Implementation	Type of Recommendation
Emphasize sustainable/environmentally friendly practices at the Recreation Center.	Community Enrichment Plan		Short	Exploratory
Facilitate more programming focused on understanding and protecting our natural environment (e.g. beach/saltmarsh/waterways, native plants, native and endangered species).	Community Enrichment Plan		Short	Actionable
Preserve, protect, manage and enhance the island's natural resources – including the beach, salt marsh and natural areas in the island's interior.	Community Enrichment Plan		Long	Aspirational
Secure grants, provide community education, and collaborate with neighboring communities and state agencies.	Community Enrichment Plan		Long	Aspirational
Evaluate whether more resources (ex. staff) are needed for proper enforcement.	Community Enrichment Plan		Medium	Exploratory
Develop consistent data collection that includes water quality testing for the ocean, creeks, marsh and interior; surveys of related wildlife and ecosystems; and sea level rise measurements.	Community Enrichment Plan		Long	Actionable
Make environmental data easy to understand, access and share.	Community Enrichment Plan		Long	Aspirational
Advance recommendations from city's developing Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan.	Community Enrichment Plan		Long	Aspirational
Model, map & monitor areas most susceptible to sea level rise, flooding & storm surges.	Community Enrichment Plan		Long	Actionable
Predict social and economic impacts of climate changes, including cost calculations.	Community Enrichment Plan		Long	Aspirational
Determine and articulate long-term goals for Adaptation plan that are proactive and transparent. Communicate these elements effectively to the public.	Community Enrichment Plan		Long	Aspirational

	Primary	Budgetary Cost	Category/Focus Area	Initiative	Rec #
12	Add solar panels to city buildings when it makes sense for sun exposure and roof replacement schedules.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
13	Explore transition to battery-powered landscaping equipment to reduce carbon emissions, air & noise pollution.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
14	Consider requesting sustainable practices in city's request for proposals and bids.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
15	Encourage fuel efficiency as a consideration when buying new vehicles.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
16	Evaluate feasibility of safely adding electric vehicle charging stations.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
17	Make IOP's environmental leadership a clear and consistent part of the city's brand.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Communications	
18	Secure more related media coverage.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Communications	
19	Add signs to public dock to highlight the location's natural resources, geography and history.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Communications	
20	With IOP Cleanup Crew, pursue IOP Conservation Station exhibit at Front Breach		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
21	Develop plan to increase awareness of challenges and solutions that includes "Do No Harm" messaging for residents, visitors, developers and businesses.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Communications	
22	Provide QR codes in city signage and required messaging for STR's that direct visitors to environmental rules and best practices.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Communications	
23	Explore ways to better share rules with non-English speaking visitors.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Communications	
24	Create a guide – available electronically and in print form – for residents, developers, contractors and property managers to promote IOP native plants, trees, eco-friendly landscaping and lighting practices.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	

Recommendation3	Source	Status	Timeline of Implementation	Type of Recommendation
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Explore ways to better share rules with non-English speaking visitors.	Community Enrichment Plan		Short	Exploratory
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	Primary	Budgetary Cost	Category/Focus Area	Initiative	Rec #
25	Add an annual eco-themed event to the Recreation Department's annual calendar.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
26	Involve public in South Carolina Aquarium's Searise sign project.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
27	Pursue promising "natural defense" strategies.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
28	Encourage neighborhoods to work collaboratively to facilitate connection to the public system without grinder pumps.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Septic & requested Management	
29	Routinely collect floodwater samples to pinpoint problems and help prioritize areas where individual onsite disposal systems should be replaced.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Septic & Sewer Management	
30	Explore funding to aid elderly and fixed income residents in connecting their residences to the public sewer system.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Septic & Sewer Management	
31	Consider location of at-risk palmettos – important to our community's identity & resiliency – and other significant native trees in setting priorities.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
32	Join the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative (SASMI).		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Marsh Preservation	
33	Consult with groups like Charleston's M.A.R.S.H. project, Charleston Waterkeepers, Charleston Climate Coalition, South Carolina Aquarium, Barrier Island Eco Tours, Coastal Expeditions and Audubon Society.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
34	Partner with neighboring coastal communities, especially Mount Pleasant & Sullivan's Island.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
35	With guidance from local experts, emphasize native plants and gardens at all city parks and properties.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
36	Include in Request for Proposals (RFPs) for landscaping.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
37	Target city properties at risk of flooding for adding examples of "rain gardens" and dry ponds.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	

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	Primary	Budgetary Cost	Category/Focus Area	Initiative	Rec #
38	Encourage and provide incentives for residents, businesses, developers, Wild Dunes Resort and Homeowner Associations (HOA's) to increase native plants on residential and commercial properties.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
39	Pursue grants to support re-wilding, rain gardens, salt marsh retreat in vulnerable residential areas.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
40	Involve residents in planting and monitoring vegetation to help stabilize drainage ditches/canals.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Stormwater Management	
41	Explore funding a city-wide tree survey to document all native trees on the island.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
42	Recruit volunteer neighborhood captains for regular cleanups of non-commercial sections of beach and island's interior.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Litter Management	
43	In addition to existing Front Beach setup, explore adding the following to high-traffic beach access paths, with placement closer to the street than dunes: •Cleanup bucket tree •"No Toys Left Behind" bin • Bench for visitors to help them collect their things		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Litter Management	
44	Adjust packaging ordinances to close loopholes and align with neighboring municipalities.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Litter Management	
45	Partner with Chamber of Commerce and Isle of Palms Cleanup Crew on workshops for businesses on sustainability practices.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
46	Consistent message on welcome signs to "Leave Only Footprints" and "See Beach Rules at <a href="http://www.iop.net">www.iop.net</a> ."		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Communications	
47	Signage at ALL public beach access points with No Smoking message + QR code or complete list of restrictions for beachgoers.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Communications	
48	More local promotions with links/QR codes pointing to iop.net "Beach Rules" – including tie-ins with Beach Shuttle.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Communications	

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In addition to existing Front Beach setup, explore adding the following to high-traffic beach access paths, with placement closer to the street than dunes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Cleanup bucket</li> <li>•tree</li> <li>•"No Toys Left Behind" bin</li> <li>• Bench for visitors to help them collect their things</li> </ul>	Community Enrichment Plan		Short	Exploratory
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	Primary	Budgetary Cost	Category/Focus Area	Initiative	Rec #
49	Initiate Pilot Projects including: Living shorelines Bioswales and rain gardens.		Stormwater Management	Environmental Sustainability	
50	Develop a public education program on resilient strategies.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
51	Develop a comprehensive marsh management plan.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Marsh Preservation	
52	Conduct a comprehensive water quality assessment.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Septic & Sewer Management	
53	Transition high-risk properties from septic to sewer systems.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Septic & Sewer Management	
54	Establish educational and volunteer programs to promote community involvement.		Stormwater Management	Recreational Offerings	
55	Incorporate recommended improvements from the water quality assessment.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	sewer & septic	
56	Incorporate marsh management plan.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Marsh Preservation	
57	Transition all at-risk properties from septic to sewer systems.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Septic & Sewer Management	
58	Maintain policies and procedures to ensure that beaches, marshlands and marinas are protected and preserved.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Forecasting	
59	Monitor DHEC/OCRM testing of ocean waters impacting the island		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
60	Create a public awareness/education program aimed at protecting the sensitive ecosystem of a barrier island, to include protection of dunes and marshes and their vegetation, as well as the importance of removing animal waste and trash from the beaches		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Communications	
61	Investigate the potential for establishing, or acquiring, City owned, undeveloped green spaces		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
62	Pursue enforcement of ordinance(s) aimed at protecting loggerhead turtle nesting activities and sites		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Wildlife Stewardship	
63	Support other regulations that protect wildlife and vegetation		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	

Recommendation3	Source	Status	Timeline of Implementation	Type of Recommendation
Initiate Pilot Projects including: Living shorelines Bioswales and rain gardens.	Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan		Medium	Actionable
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Develop a comprehensive marsh management plan.	Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan		Medium	Actionable
Conduct a comprehensive water quality assessment.	Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan		Short	Actionable
Transition high-risk properties from septic to sewer systems.	Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan		Long	Aspirational
Establish educational and volunteer programs to promote community involvement.	Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan		Short	Actionable
Incorporate recommended improvements from the water quality assessment.	Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan		Short	Actionable
Incorporate marsh management plan.	Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan		Medium	Actionable
Transition all at-risk properties from septic to sewer systems.	Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan		Long	Aspirational
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Support other regulations that protect wildlife and vegetation	Comprehensive Plan		Short	Aspirational

	Primary	Budgetary Cost	Category/Focus Area	Initiative	Rec #
64	Pursue development of ordinances, education and awareness programs to improve air quality, such as smoking regulations and support of public transportation.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
65	Support OCRM in administering measures that protect marshes on the backside of the island.		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Marsh Preservation	
66	The City should meet periodically with the Water and Sewer Commission and strive for a "team approach" to addressing waste water and water issues that will arise in future years		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Septic & Sewer Management	
67	In conjunction with the Water and Sewer Commission, the City should take those steps appropriate to facilitate additional sewer service on the island		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Septic & City Management	
68	The City should continue to support tree-planting programs along streets and develop a long-term plan which prioritizes streets and identifies the types of trees to be used		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Sustainability	
69	Consider additional ways of reducing littering on the island		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Litter Management	
70	Educate the owners of septic systems in the proper maintenance and encourage owners to have their septic systems checked and serviced according to established standards		Environmental Stewardship and Management	Septic & Sewer Management	

Recommendation3	Source	Status	Timeline of Implementation	Type of Recommendation
Pursue development of ordinances, education and awareness programs to improve air quality, such as smoking regulations and support of public transportation.	Comprehensive Plan		Short	Aspirational
Support OCRM in administering measures that protect marshes on the backside of the island.	Comprehensive Plan		Short	Maintenance
The City should meet periodically with the Water and Sewer Commission and strive for a "team approach" to addressing waste water and water issues that will arise in future years	Comprehensive Plan		Short	Aspirational
In conjunction with the Water and Sewer Commission, the City should take those steps appropriate to facilitate additional sewer service on the island	Comprehensive Plan		Short	Aspirational
The City should continue to support tree-planting programs along streets and develop a long-term plan which prioritizes streets and identifies the types of trees to be used	Comprehensive Plan		Short	Actionable
Consider additional ways of reducing littering on the island	Comprehensive Plan		Short	Exploratory
Educate the owners of septic systems in the proper maintenance and encourage owners to have their septic systems checked and serviced according to established standards	Comprehensive Plan		Short	Actionable

## **RE-CAP OF HURRICANE AND RESILIENCE EXPO – IOP REC CENTER – 5.7.26**

The Hurricane and Resilience Expo was a bit “dampened” by a sudden thunderstorm with driving rain that hit IOP at about 3:30p on May 7<sup>th</sup>, just as most of the vendors (including the EAC) were beginning to set up in their areas outside on the rec center grounds.

Karrie Ferrell, Director of the Rec Center, made the call at about 4PM for everyone to move inside to the basketball courts and set up. As a result, our tables got split up a bit instead of being next to each other. We also weren’t next to the Native Plant Society’s booth as was originally planned due to the random way people started setting up their tables.

Nonetheless, everything worked out OK – Charlotte’s pollinator and microplastics information, and Eric’s natural pesticides poster were incorporated as part of the IOP Clean Up Crew table. Laura had purchased native plant plugs from Charlene Johnson with Native Plants to the People to give out to anyone interested in planting natives, and she also brought shoots with roots of Elliot’s Aster plants(SC native pollinator plant) from her own garden to give out.

We had about 50 compost bins with information on where to drop off composting on IOP, along with how to access the lock code on the compost receptacles, and we gave out about 25 of them – Laura had an example mosquito dunk bucket and dunks to go with her poster, and was able to engage several residents on how to use them instead of spraying for mosquitos.

The crowds were definitely smaller because a lot of people assumed that the event wasn’t happening when they didn’t see any vendors on the rec center grounds. We were still able to “touch” and “teach” many of the people who did attend.

All in all, it was a worthwhile event, and we hope that it will be held again next year – under sunnier conditions!





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2. Energy Efficient Doors

3. Energy Efficient Appliances

4. Energy Efficient Lighting

5. Energy Efficient Water Heating

6. Energy Efficient Cooling

7. Energy Efficient Heating

8. Energy Efficient Insulation

9. Energy Efficient Landscaping

10. Energy Efficient Painting

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**Water Quality & Dog Proof**

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**Protect Your Property Value with a Healthy Septic System Maintenance Plan**

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**Resilient Beaches**

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Isle of Palms South Carolina

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## 25th Avenue cleanup station & toy bin

Update from Susan Hill Smith, May 2026

- On April 25, Mujeres Latinas installed a trial cleanup station and toy bin at the 25th Avenue beach access as part of their Waves of Change initiative. As they return for their own weekend litter sweeps, they are also checking the setup and emptying the toy bin.
- I am following up to see what they are doing with the toys.
- IOP Public Works Director Robert Asero directed placement of the setup, which is near trash receptacles, where buckets can be emptied.
- IOP Cleanup Crew co-founder Katrina Limbach volunteered her design services, and Zing signs, owned by IOP resident Tom Prinzing, donated the sign.
- Mujeres Latinas recently asked for a Spanish version of the sign and provided a translation for us to use. I need to reach back to Katrina and Zing signs to pursue this further.
- The group asked what to do with large left behind items like chairs, umbrellas, etc, and Robert shared the following, which would be good guidance for all of us to know as well:
  - If possible bring (large items) forward to a garbage can at the streetside along with any bags of garbage you may have.
  - We are trying to discourage leaving anything near the beach garbage cans and dunes.
  - I have staff that runs the beach and streetside garbage cans for large items 2-3 times per week and will pick up.



## **UPDATE ON POSSIBLE “NEXT STEPS” FOR WATER QUALITY TESTING – MARSHES AND PONDING AREAS ON THE BEACH FRONT IN FRONT OF HOMES ON PALM BLVD.**

Laura had reached out to Shea McCarthy – the Nonpoint Source Coordinator with the Division of Water Quality about the possibility that they could provide testing for our marshes. They do have grants available for implementation of projects that restore or protect water quality, but not for actual water testing. This is something we should keep in mind for future projects.

Laura also reached out to the SC Adopt-a-Stream program about water quality sampling opportunities. This is a citizen-based monitoring program for tidal saltwater areas. You register to sign up for training, but, bacteria is not a parameter that is measured in their monitoring. Laura will look into getting the training to at least become familiar with what is tested and monitored in our marshes, and at least begin to set a baseline of testing information.

Laura then had a conference call with James Riddle of Woolpert on 4/29 to discuss the possibility of contracting to do additional water quality testing in our marshes and in ponding water from storms/heavy rain events that develop on the Palm Blv. beach areas in front of homes where we know there are septic drain fields, as well as in the actual road-way of Palm Blvd. where flooding occurs. James confirmed that the process would be same as what we did with the outfall areas – using Fluidion first to confirm high enough levels of bacteria and then moving forward with the DNA testing, specifying the species(s) we want to check for.

However, he did not recommend this process for the marshes, because there are too many animals that inhabit the marshes that are creating waste on top of the dog waste we know is going out. We can do the testing in the ponding water areas on the beach, and it would need to happen pretty quickly after a storm or major rain event before the water seeps back into the ground. We will keep on top of possible storm/rain events coming our way.