



Environmental Advisory Committee

4:00pm, Thursday, August 13, 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@isleofpalms.gov no later than **3:00 p.m. the business day before the meeting**. Citizens may also provide public comment here: <https://www.isleofpalms.gov/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 – July 9, 2026**
- 3. Citizen's Comments**
- 4. Presentation – none**
- 5. Old Business**
 - a. Discussion of revision to Palm Path Brochure and next steps (10 minutes)
 - b. Discussion of tree bank program and next steps (10 minutes)
 - c. Discussion of draft ordinance related to Section. 6-1-32 to keep property clean ordinance-specific to dumpsters (15 minutes)
- 6. New Business**
 - a. Discussion of College of Charleston intern possibility for EAC project work (15 minutes)
 - b. Discussion of EAC Table at IOP Rec Center Lunch and Learn on Composting (5 minutes)
 - c. Protocol for publication of articles on public sites
 - d. Next month's agenda – Resilience 101 Training with Catherine Minn, SCOR
- 7. Miscellaneous**

Next meeting: Thursday, September 10, 2026, 4:00pm
- 8. Adjournment**



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:00pm, Thursday, July 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, Susan Smith, Eric Cicora, Cindy Marrs (via Zoom), Todd Murphy (via Zoom), Charlotte Webster

Staff Present: Administrator Kerr, Deputy Administrator Kuester, Council Member Miars

Absent: Britton Foy

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

MOTION: Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2026 meeting, and Ms. Popson seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

3. Citizen's Comments -- none

4. Presentation – none

5. Old Business

A. Update on Native Tree guide and potential tree ordinance changes

Ms. Smith shared that the Native Tree Subcommittee met with Jerry Benoit, an arborist, who provided a list of suggestions to consider for amending the tree ordinance. She reviewed those suggestions from the meeting packet. The subcommittee will continue to work on changes to the ordinance and bring them before the full committee for discussion and consideration.

B. Discussion of Palm Path brochure draft

Committee members made numerous suggestions and observations about the Palm Path brochure draft. Administrator Kerr pointed out that the brochure's focus should be narrowed to the information short-term rental visitors would need to know. He suggested that future iterations of the brochure could be directed towards other audiences. He suggested bringing the brochure back in August when the Committee can talk about proper distribution channels.

Administrator Kerr will discuss the brochure's contents with the Public Safety Committee.

D. Discussion of tree bank grant program

Ms. Lovins proposed a similar process for review in the tree bank grant program as is done with ATAX grants. She would like to see applications considered twice a year.

Committee members discussed a tiered approach to awarding grants, but ultimately decided that the program would start without tiers and add in more incentives or parameters as necessary. Revisions to the program will be discussed at the August meeting.

6. New Business

A. Discussion of potential ordinance related to trash debris from commercial dumpsters

Council Member Miars expressed her concern about overfull construction trash dumpsters allowing trash to fly out of them and into the marsh as the trucks cross the Isle of Palms Connector. The only recourse is if a member of the Police Department happens to see the trash leave the truck. She would like to see an ordinance requiring inspection of the construction dumpsters included in the building code, giving the City the authority to require the trash be properly secured and or emptied without littering.

Administrator Kerr said staff will prepare a redline of an ordinance for the Committee to consider next month.

B. Discussion of “Start the Month Clean” campaign

Ms. Smith said she is working with PIO Uys on a press release about this campaign for the City’s website.

7. Miscellaneous

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be Thursday, August 13, 2026 at 4pm.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Smith made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Popson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk

Sanitation

- Roll carts should be stored where they are not visible from the street.
- Many rental properties have a trash valet service that rolls the carts in and out at the designated times
- Trash and Recycling pick up schedules vary throughout the year. Schedules can be found at the IOP website for trash collection, and the Charleston Co. website for recycle:



Parking

- 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. When parking along Palm Blvd, park 4' from the pavement

Dogs at the Beach

- Dogs must be rabies vaccinated
- Collect and dispose of dog waste
- Dogs that are under voice control may be **off leash while on the beach** during these hours:

Apr 1 – Sep 14	5am – 9am
Sep 15 – Mar 31	4pm – 10am

- Well behaved dogs may also enjoy the IOP Bark Park

Accessibility

- Beach wheelchairs available at the IOP Police Department and at the County Park, or at Wild Dunes security for guests staying inside of Wild Dunes
- Multiple beach access paths have designated handicap parking and accessible beach access paths

THE PALM PATH



GOOD NEIGHBOR GUIDE

CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS
WWW.ISLEOFPALMS.GOV
(843) 886-6428

Beach Rules & Safety

-  Use designated beach access paths and stay off the dunes
-  Single use plastics and styrofoam are prohibited
-  Fireworks and open fires are prohibited
-  Do not leave beach chairs, umbrellas, toys or trash on the beach. Trash cans are located at the end of each beach access.
-  Smoking and vaping are prohibited
-  Per SC State law, alcohol is prohibited on the beach
-  Do not interfere with the sea turtles and nests. Flashlights and artificial light may interfere with nesting turtles
-  Fill holes dug in sand to prevent injury to others and to protect sea turtles.
-  e-Bikes are restricted on the beach and within Wild Dunes.
-  Swim safely:
 - If stuck in a rip current, swim diagonal to the shoreline.
 - Do not swim in the inlets as currents are very strong.

Places of Interest

- Post Office – 1000 Palm Blvd
- City Hall – 1207 Palm Blvd
- Public Safety – 30 J C Long Blvd

Golf Carts

SC State Law stipulates:

- Drivers must be licensed (16+) and passengers under 13 must wear seat belts
- Stay within 4 miles of rental property and do not drive on Palm Blvd or IOP Connector (LSVs are also prohibited on IOP Connector)
- Do not drive at night; Pull over to let cars pass

Quiet Hours

- The City has a noise ordinance and you could be fined for violations. Please be aware of quiet hours:

Weekdays	10pm to 7am
Weekends	11pm to 7am

Ways to Have Fun

RECREATION CTR (24 28th Ave):

- Outdoor courts, fields and children’s playground
- Indoor fitness, arts, etc. classes
- IOP Bark Park is located behind the Rec Center building
- Farmer markets on 3rd Thursdays from June through October
- Scheduled races for runners

FRONT BEACH (Ocean Blvd)

- Hotels, shopping, dining, and live music venues
- Front Beach Festivals in May, September and December
- 4th of July Fireworks

CITY MARINA (50 41st Ave)

- Boat ramp and boat rentals
- Boat and kayak guides and tours
- Dining and provisions
- Public Dock with educational signs

WILD DUNES (5757 Palm Blvd)

- Gate pass required to access the Wild Dunes Community
- Hotels, Golf, Dining and Shopping options available
- Wild Child Marathon (July)

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To be placed on City of Isle of Palms letterhead:

Tree Survival and Maintenance Agreement

As a condition of receiving reimbursement under the Isle of Palms Tree Bank Grant Program, the Applicant agrees to maintain the approved tree(s) for a minimum of twenty-four (24) months following installation.

Applicant understands that the establishment period is critical to the long-term health and survival of the tree and agrees to provide reasonable care, including watering, mulching, and general maintenance consistent with accepted horticultural practices.

The City of Isle of Palms and/or its designated representatives may conduct periodic inspections during the 24-month establishment period to assess tree health and program success.

In the event of tree loss, the Environmental Advisory Committee may review the circumstances and, at its discretion, provide guidance on replacement opportunities or future program participation.

Tree loss resulting from storms, flooding, disease, pests, or other circumstances beyond the Applicant's reasonable control shall not negatively impact the Applicant's standing in the program.

The purpose of this Agreement is to promote successful tree establishment and long-term canopy growth for the benefit of the Isle of Palms community.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Isle of Palms Tree Reimbursement Program

1. PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- Semi-Annual Application Windows:

Window	Submission Deadline	Review Period	Award Notification
March/April Planting	January 15th	Late January	Early February
Oct/Nov Planting	July 15th	Late July	Early August

- Applications may be submitted year-round and will be reviewed during the two annual cycles – Spring & Fall planting
- Approved tree planting must be completed within the planting window, listed above

2. REIMBURSEMENT

The City of Isle of Palms will reimburse a resident, community group/civic club or other groups 50% of their costs for the planting of trees, once the project is completed. The dollar amounts will be limited to between \$500 and \$1000 per project. There could be "phased projects" submitted for additional tree plantings, which would also be limited to the \$500 - \$1000 range.

3. ELIGIBILITY MATRIX

Criteria	Requirement	Tier A	Tier B	Tier C
Property Inside IOP City Limits	Required	Yes	Yes	Yes
Owner Occupied Residence, or Isle of Palms City Owned Common Area	Required	Yes	Yes	Yes
Owner Authorization	Required	Yes	Yes	Yes
Native Species Only	Required	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tree Cost Documented	Required	Yes	Yes	Yes
Planting Cost Documented	Required	Yes	Yes	Yes
Minimum Container Size	15-gallon minimum	Yes	Yes	Yes
Application, Approved by EAC	Required	Yes	Yes	Yes
Survival Agreement, Executed	24 months	Yes	Yes	Yes

4. APPLICATION COMPONENTS

- Phase One: Before Planting
 - Property Specifications
 - > Owner Name
 - > Address
 - > Parcel ID
 - > Site Sketch
 - > Photos
 - Tree Specifications
 - > Species
 - > Size
 - > Quantity
- Phase Two: After Planting
 - Cost Documentation
 - > Tree Cost, receipt
 - > Labor Costs, invoice
 - > Other
 - > Photos
 - Survival Agreement, executed

5. RECOMMENDED VENDORS

- City-maintained list of approved arborists, nurseries, and installers.

6. APPLICATION REVIEW & APPROVAL PROCESS

- Subjective review by the Isle of Palms Environmental Advisory Committee
- Focus on canopy need, utility compatibility, visibility, stormwater benefit, species suitability, feasibility, replacement value, “Right Tree, Right Place”, and available program capital.

7. ELIGIBLE (PREFERRED) SPECIES LIST

- Live Oak(*Quercus virginiana*), Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*), Common wax-myrtle(*Cercis canadensis*), Eastern red cedar(*Juniperus virginiana*), Black tupelo(*Nyssa sylvatica*), Persimmon(*Diospyros virginiana*), Loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), Black Willow(*Salix nigra*), Cherry laurel(*Prunus caroliniana*), Eastern redbud(*Cercis canadensis*), White fringetree(*Chionanthus virginicus*), Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) Other native tree species may be considered, with approval.

8. FUNDING CAPS

- \$500-\$1000 per tree
- \$2,500 per property, annually (this would be a “phased” tree planting plan)
- \$5,000 per HOA/common area, annually (this would be a “phased” tree planting plan)
- \$60,000 in total allocated capital (*if the maximum payout is reached, additional funds may be allocated based on the overall value achieved*)

9. INSPECTION PROTOCOL

Phase One Inspection

Category	Review Standard
Utility Conflicts	Clear of overhead/underground utilities
Setback from Structures	Adequate mature canopy/root distance from home, driveway, pool, etc.

Property Lines	Avoid foreseeable encroachment issues
Drainage Conditions	Site suitable for species moisture tolerance
Salt/wind exposure	Species appropriate for coastal conditions
Visibility Safety	No obstruction of intersections, driveways, or pedestrian visibility
Root Conflict Risk	Avoid sewer lines, water lines, septic drain fields
Canopy Spacing	Enough room for mature spread without overcrowding

- Post-Planting Inspection within 60 days of Receiving Complete Reimbursement Request & Executed Survival Agreement
- 24-month Survival Verification

College of Charleston Intern – Proposal Ideas for EAC Sustainability Projects

Lucy Davis, Program Coordinator for the Graduate program in Environmental and Sustainability Studies at the College of Charleston has graduate students that are working on or would want to work on community initiatives related to their degree in public management and sustainability.

She has offered the City of IOP and the EAC three (3) possible projects that could be coordinated with her graduate students. There are fees associated with hiring on the graduate students (hourly; weekly; lab fees; etc.) Our discussion at the EAC meeting will be to pick one (1) of the projects, and find out if the City would be willing to fund one of them:

- 1) Project on nature based solutions – Rain Gardens for the City of IOP
We would need to determine where we would want to install, and how many. This would be a 10-20 hour/week project. Students generally receive \$21/hr for their project work. I have a thesis on this type of project from Maeve Gimbert, a grad student from College of Charleston that we could use as a model for our project.
- 2) Project on mapping septic drainfields on IOP – graduate students would coordinate with the IOP Sewer Commission to identify and map existing septic drainfields for future water quality testing and to do additional research to ensure drainfields are not being compromised due to possible rise in water table levels and flooding during water events. This would also require hourly pay to the grad student(s). There is a thesis that Lucy provided from Piper Monk, a grad student, on this type of study that we could use to help structure this project for our use.
- 3) Project – Backside-Island health of the marsh – we could utilize research that is already being done in this area with the Lowcountry Hazzard Center, which is a partner with the College of Charleston. There would be lab fees for us to have a grad student use the software at the Center, as well as hourly fees for the graduate student's work.

ARTICLE C. MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTY

Sec. 6-1-31. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

- (a) *Bulk* consists of bulky wastes, including appliances, furniture, mattresses, auto parts and tires.
- (b) *Garbage* consists of all perishable refuse, household rubbish, including, but not limited to, paper boxes, rags, plastic and cloth, glass, bottles, cans and any similar waste and small dead animals.
- (c) *Litter* means any quantity of solid waste which is not properly disposed of.
- (d) *Private property* includes, but is not limited to, the following exterior locations owned by private individuals, firms, corporations, partnerships, institutions or organizations: yards, grounds, driveways, entranceways, passageways, parking areas, working areas, storage areas, vacant lots, recreation facilities.
- (e) *Container* means a watertight receptacle made of metal, heavy duty plastic or material of similar strength with a tightfitting cover for storage and disposal of solid waste.
- (f) *Solid waste* consists of all refuse including bulk, debris, garbage, rubbish and trash.
- (g) *Trash* consists of all ashes, yard rubbish, such as leaves, grass, bushes, and vines; large pieces of metal, bricks, stones and dirt, trees and branches, and stumps.
- (h) *Unightly growth on property* means an unsightly, unhealthy, unsanitary growth of grass, bushes, shrubs, trees, weeds, vines, leaves, etc.

(Code 1994, § 6-1-31; Ord. No. 1986-2, 5-14-1986)

Sec. 6-1-32. Duty to keep property clean.

- (a) It shall be the duty of the owner, agent, occupant or lessee to keep exterior private and public property free of litter and unsightly growth. This requirement applies not only to removal of loose litter, but to materials that already are, or become, trapped at locations such as fences and wall bases, grassy and planted areas, borders, embankments and other lodging points.
- (b) Owners, agents, occupants or lessees whose properties face on a City right-of-way shall be responsible for keeping up to, and including, the curb, gutter or street line free of litter and unsightly growth.
- (c) It shall be unlawful to sweep or push litter from buildings, property, sidewalks and strips into streets, sidewalks and the storm drainage systems. Sidewalk and strip sweepings must be picked up and put into household or commercial material containers.
- (d) It shall be unlawful to fill any dumpster above its designated fill line or, if no fill line is provided, above the top edge of the container. It shall also be unlawful to place or allow any solid waste, refuse, recyclable materials, or debris on the ground or otherwise outside the dumpster because the dumpster has reached its maximum capacity.

-
- (ed) It shall be the duty of every nonresident owner of a vacant lot or other vacant property to appoint a resident agent who shall have responsibility for keeping that lot or other property free of litter and unsightly growth.
 - (fe) If an owner, agent, occupant or lessee fails to remove litter or unsightly growth from any private and public property, the City Public Works Department shall be authorized to serve written notice to the owner or appointed agent to correct such violation within five (5) days. Failure to comply shall constitute grounds for prosecution.
 - (gf) It shall be unlawful for the owner of any property in the City to disobey or fail to comply with any provisions of this article.
 - (hg) The use of glyphosate is prohibited for use on City owned or managed properties.
- (Code 1994, § 6-1-32; Ord. No. 1986-2, 5-14-1986; Ord. No. 2025-11, § 1, 10-28-2025)

Sec. 6-1-33. Appeals; ordinance summons; liens; penalties.

- (a) The City Administrator is authorized to issue regulations for the form, content, and maintenance of notices and to hear and determine appeals from Public Works Department notices served pursuant to section 6-1-32(e). A notice of appeal must be delivered to the City Administrator within five (5) days after service of the sanitation division notice. The determination of the City Administrator shall be made in writing and shall be final.
- (b) The City Administrator may authorize an appropriate City employee to serve an ordinance summons for violation of this article pursuant to section 1-3-66(b).
- (c) In the event the responsible person fails to correct the conditions which violate this article within the time prescribed in the notice, the City Administrator may authorize agents or employees of the City to enter onto the property and take corrective action. The cost of corrective action taken by the City shall be a lien upon the property which shall be added to and collected in the same manner as the ad valorem taxes on the property.
- (d) Nothing in this section shall prevent the City from taking any other appropriate action such as courtesy notices to encourage voluntary compliance, or arrest warrants for violations.
- (e) Violation of this article is a misdemeanor punishable as provided in section 1-3-66.

(Code 1994, § 6-1-33; Ord. No. 1994-4, § 33, 4-26-1994)

Secs. 6-1-34—6-1-39. Reserved.

ARTICLE D. REGULATION OF NON-PUBLIC WASTEWATER DISPOSAL SYSTEMS²

Sec. 6-1-40. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

²Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 2017-10, § 1, adopted Aug. 27, 2019, amended art. D and in so doing changed the title from regulation of on-site sewage disposal systems to read as set out herein.