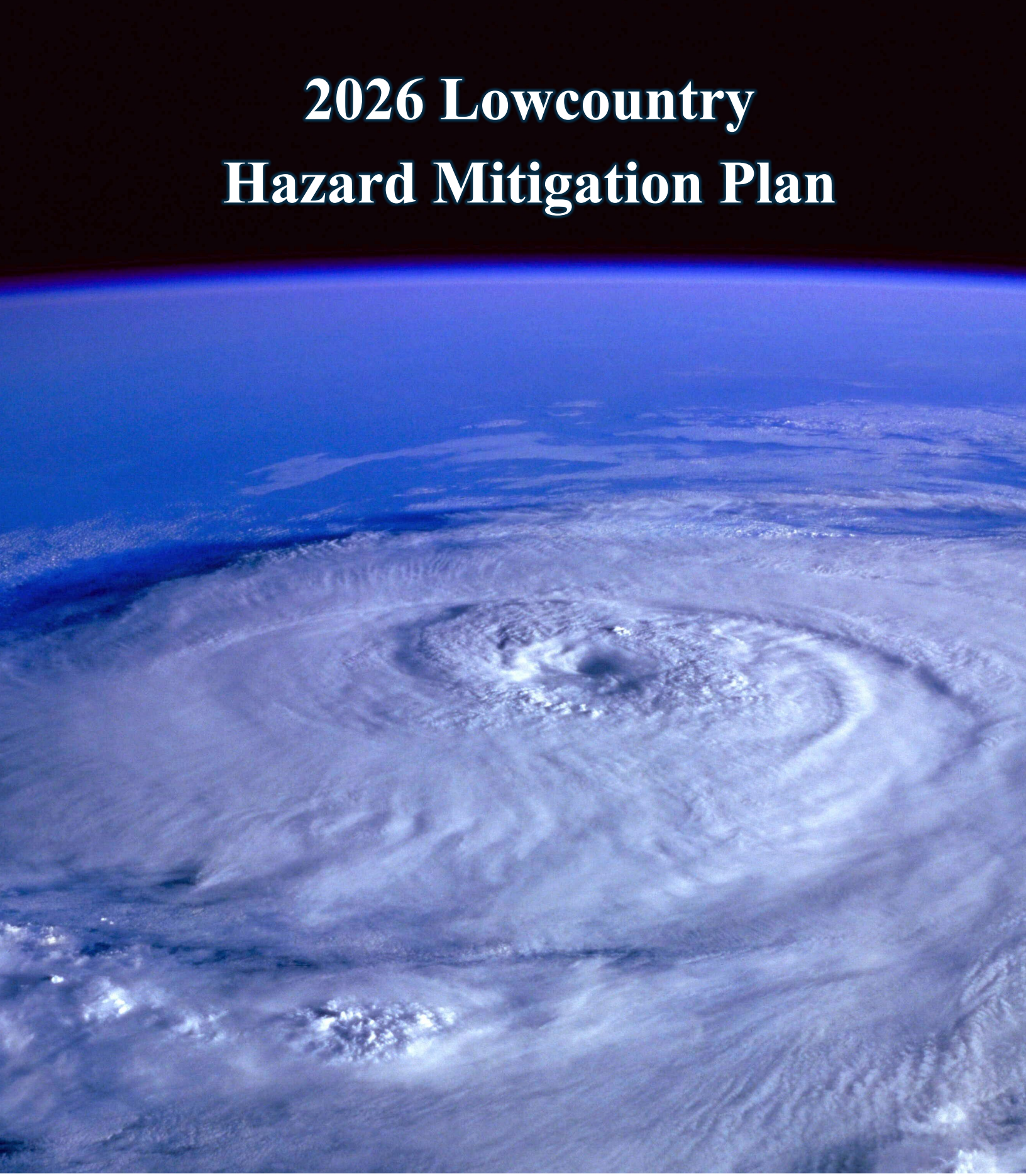
2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan



BEAUFORT COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA 1769

COLLETON COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA

Lowcountry COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

HAMPTON COUNTY-SOUTH CAROLINA PRO BONO PUBLICO

JASPER COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA

Beaufort County

City of Beaufort

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Town of Hilton Head Island

Town of Port Royal

Colleton County

Town of Cottageville

Town of Edisto Beach

Town of Lodge

Town of Smoaks

City of Walterboro

Town of Williams

Hampton County

Town of Brunson

Town of Estill

Town of Furman

Town of Gifford

Town of Hampton

Town of Luray

Town of Scotia

Town of Varnville

Town of Yemassee

Jasper County

City of Hardeeville

Town of Ridgeland

The 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan would not be possible without the support of Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties, the contribution of the Steering Committee, and the participation of stakeholders and the public.

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Lowcountry
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Executive Summary

The 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan serves as the regional strategy for reducing long-term risks to life, property, infrastructure, the environment, and the economy from natural and human-caused hazards affecting the South Carolina Lowcountry. The plan updates the 2020 Lowcountry Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and fulfills the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and FEMA's hazard mitigation planning regulations under 44 CFR §201.6. FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plans are required for local governments to remain eligible for federal Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs.

Regional Coordination and Support

This multi-jurisdictional plan was developed through a collaborative effort led by the Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG) and includes Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties, along with participating municipalities and regional partners. The planning process incorporated extensive stakeholder involvement, public outreach, emergency management input, technical analysis, and review of existing plans and policies. Public participation included community surveys, public meetings, stakeholder engagement, and opportunities for review and comment throughout the planning process. More than 580 residents participated in the regional survey, providing valuable insight into local hazard concerns and priorities.

Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

The Lowcountry encompasses approximately 2,848 square miles and includes extensive coastal areas, tidal marshes, wetlands, forests, river systems, and rapidly developing communities. While these natural features contribute significantly to the region's quality of life and economic vitality, they also create vulnerability to a variety of hazards, particularly flooding, hurricanes, coastal erosion, and severe weather events. Population growth continues across much of the region, especially in Beaufort and Jasper Counties, increasing the number of residents, businesses, and critical facilities exposed to hazard risks. At the same time, the region's aging population presents additional challenges for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

The hazard identification and risk assessment evaluates fifteen hazards that pose risks to the Lowcountry: tornadoes, hurricanes, windstorms, lightning, hail, drought, earthquakes, wildfires, flooding, winter storms, coastal erosion, extreme heat, terrorism, hazardous materials, and cyber attacks. Historical occurrence data, recent events, future probability, loss information, and social vulnerability indicators were analyzed to better understand current and emerging risks. Community survey results identified hurricanes, windstorms, lightning, and extreme heat among the hazards of greatest concern to residents.

The vulnerability assessment examined how hazards affect people, property, infrastructure, and critical community functions. Particular attention was given to socially vulnerable populations, development trends, building exposure, repetitive damage properties, and critical facilities such as transportation networks, utilities, schools, healthcare facilities, and emergency services. The assessment highlighted the increasing importance of resilience planning as population growth, development pressures, and climate-related impacts continue to shape the region's risk profile.

Data and averages suggest that Beaufort County is the most hazardous county in the region due to its high exposure from building counts, population, and proximity to the coast. Although each county is uniquely hazardous, Colleton County experiences the highest frequency of multiple hazard events, Hampton County has the highest social vulnerability, and Jasper County has rapidly increasing exposure and changing land use patterns.

Mitigation Strategy

Building upon the successes and lessons learned from the 2020 plan, the 2026 update establishes revised mitigation goals, strategies, and actions designed to reduce future disaster losses and strengthen community resilience. The mitigation strategy emphasizes protecting life and property, improving infrastructure resilience, enhancing emergency preparedness and public awareness, reducing repetitive losses, supporting natural and nature-based solutions, and integrating hazard mitigation into local planning and development decisions. Action plans for each jurisdiction were developed based on the following six goals.

1. Protection of Structural Projects, Utilities, and other Critical Facilities and Systems from Natural Hazards
2. Enhancement of Public Education, Information and Awareness of Natural Hazards
3. Improvement of Hazard Prevention Measures through Enhanced Policies, Plans, and Regulations
4. Enhancement of Emergency Services through Sustained System and Technology Improvements
5. Protection of Residential, Commercial, and Culturally Significant Properties
6. Conservation and Preservation of Natural Systems and Natural Resources

The actions provide a framework for jurisdictions to pursue projects, policies, and funding opportunities that will reduce vulnerability, mitigate disaster impacts, and improve long-term sustainability.

Conclusion

Following FEMA approval and adoption of the 2026 plan, a maintenance strategy was developed that outlines procedures for monitoring implementation progress, evaluating effectiveness, maintaining public involvement, and updating the plan over the next five years. Through continued regional coordination and proactive investment in mitigation measures, the Lowcountry can reduce future disaster impacts, protect its residents and resources, and enhance resilience to both existing and emerging hazards.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION AND PLANNING PROCESS

1.1 INTRODUCTION

According to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, the Hazard Mitigation Plan is required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for all counties in the State of South Carolina. The plan *"is the representation of the jurisdiction's commitment to reduce the risks from natural hazards, serving as a guide for decision makers as they commit resources to reducing the effects of natural hazards."* Moreover, it must meet the requirements of Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §201.6 for FEMA approval and eligibility to apply FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs.

The 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan is an update of the 2020 Lowcountry Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan which includes Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties. The result is an updated fully multi-jurisdictional plan for all the counties in the Lowcountry region, including Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper. The plan provides a profile of the most common natural hazards in the region, including historic locations and past occurrence data, probability of future occurrence, and loss information. The plan also includes social vulnerability indicators for identifying populations at greatest risk from the effects of natural hazards. Finally, the plan identifies the mitigation actions to save lives and to prevent major property damage and other losses caused by natural disasters in the Lowcountry region. The plan was prepared by the Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG).

FEMA Requirements

The 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan addresses the FEMA requirements including:

Planning Process

- 44 CFR §201.6(c)(1): The plan shall document the planning process used to develop the plan, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was involved.
- 44 CFR §201.6(b)(2): The planning process shall include an opportunity for neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, and agencies that have the authority to regulate development, as well as businesses, academia and other private and non-profit interests to be involved in the planning process.
- 44 CFR §201.6(b)(1): The planning process shall include an opportunity for the public to comment on the plan during the drafting stage and prior to plan approval.
- 44 CFR §201.6(b)(3): The planning process shall include the review and incorporation, if appropriate, of existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information.
- 44 CFR §201.6(c)(4) (iii): The plan maintenance process shall include a discussion on how the community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process.
- 44 CFR §201.6(c)(4)(i) The plan maintenance process shall include a section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle.

Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

- 44 CFR §201.6(c)(2)(i): The risk assessment shall include a description of the type, location and

extent of all natural hazards that can affect the jurisdiction as well as information on previous occurrences of hazard events and on the probability of future hazard events for each jurisdiction

- 44 CFR §201.6(c)(2)(ii): The risk assessment shall include an overall summary of each hazard and its impact on the community as well as an overall summary of each hazard and its impact on the community. The plan must address NFIP insured structures that have been repetitively damaged by floods.
- 44 CFR §201.6 (c) (2) (iii): For multi-jurisdictional plans, the risk assessment section must assess each jurisdiction's risks where they vary from the risks facing the entire planning area.

Mitigation Strategy

- 44 CFR§201.6(c)(3): The plan shall include a mitigation strategy that provides the jurisdiction's blueprint for reducing the potential losses identified in the risk assessment, based on existing authorities, policies, programs, and resources, and its ability to expand on and improve these existing tools.
- 44 CFR §201.6(c)(3)(i): The hazard mitigation strategy shall include a description of mitigation goals to reduce or avoid long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards.
- 44 CFR §201.6(c)(3)(ii): The hazard mitigation strategy shall address each jurisdiction's participation in the NFIP and continued compliance with NFIP requirements, as appropriate. The hazard mitigation strategy shall include a section that identifies and analyzes a comprehensive range of specific mitigation actions and projects being considered to reduce the effects of each hazard, with particular emphasis on new and existing buildings and infrastructure.
- 44 CFR §201.6(c)(3)(iii): The hazard mitigation strategy shall include an action plan, describing how the actions identified will be prioritized, implemented, and administered by each local jurisdiction. Prioritization shall include a special emphasis on the extent to which benefits are maximized according to a cost benefit review of the proposed projects and their associated costs.
- 44 CFR §201.6(c)(3)(iv): For multi-jurisdictional plans, there must be identifiable action items specific to the jurisdiction requesting FEMA approval or credit of the plan.
- 44 CFR §201.6(c)(4)(ii): The plan shall include a process by which local governments incorporate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms such as comprehensive or capital improvements, when appropriate.

Plan Review

- 44 CFR §201.6(d)(3): A local jurisdiction must review and revise its plan to reflect change in development and priorities as well as progress in local mitigation efforts.

Plan Adoption

- 44 CFR §201.6(c)(5): The plan shall include documentation that the plan has been formally adopted by the governing body of the jurisdiction requesting approval of the plan. For multi-jurisdictional plans, each jurisdiction requesting approval of the plan must document that it has been formally adopted.

Composition of the Plan

The documentation of the planning process includes seven sections along with appendices and references.

Section 1: Introduction and Planning Process

Introduction to the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan and its requirements and the planning process.

Section 2: Lowcountry Profile

Physical and socioeconomic conditions unique to the Lowcountry region including its location, geographical landscape, population, housing, and economy.

Section 3: Hazard Identification and Assessment

Hazards relevant to the Lowcountry region with a description of each hazard, its location, extent, occurrences, and its future probability. It is important to understand the natural hazards that affect the Lowcountry region.

Section 4: Vulnerability Assessment

Social vulnerability indicators along with loss information in the Lowcountry region. Vulnerability is determined by assessing the probability and historical loss from each hazard. Loss information is an estimate of direct monetary losses (property and crop) and human losses (injuries and deaths) for each hazard in each county

Section 5: Community Capability Assessment

Overview of counties and corresponding jurisdictions' efforts in incorporating the current hazard mitigation plans into other various policies, plans, and ordinances. These include, but are not limited to Comprehensive Plans, Zoning Ordinances, Land Use Plans, and Flood Mitigation Plans.

Section 6: Hazards Mitigation Strategy

Goals and strategies identified to mitigate hazards for the counties and municipalities participating in this plan. The goals and strategies are revised and updated from those appearing in the 2020 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Section 7: Plan Maintenance

This section details how the plan will be monitored and maintained over the next five years.

1.2 PLANNING PROCESS

To meet the requirements of Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §201.6, the planning process of the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan follows the guidance of the *Local Mitigation Handbook* (FEMA, 2013). The Handbook's tasks were translated into the planning process workflow as illustrated in Figure 1-1.

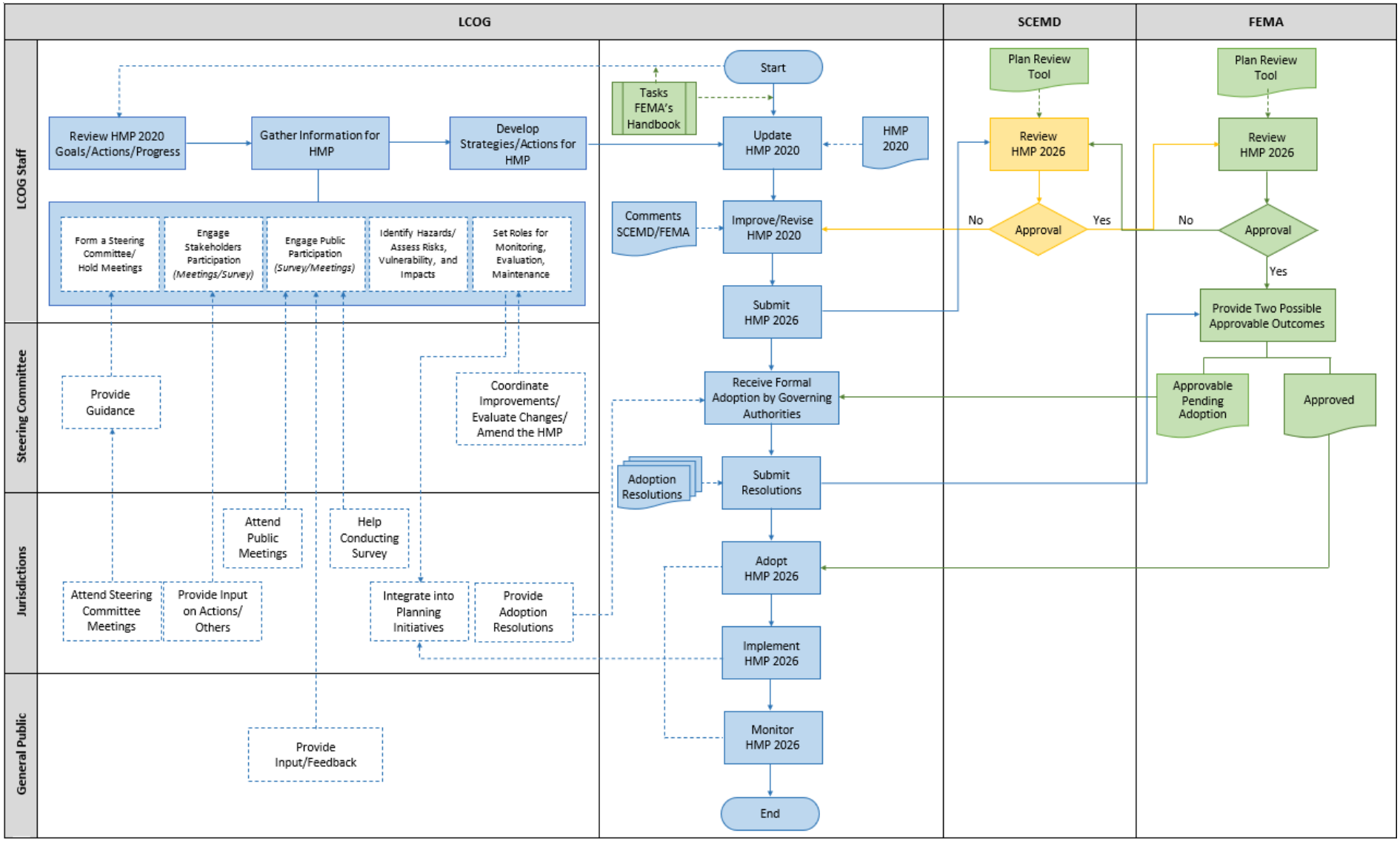
Planning Area and Resources

The 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan was coordinated by the Planning Department of the LCOG, with the support of each county. The planning team comprises representatives from the four counties, the City of Beaufort, the Town of Bluffton, the Town of Hilton Head Island, the Town of Port Royal, the Town of Edisto Beach, the City of Hardeeville, Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority, and the LCOG staff. The team members participated in and contributed to the plan update by serving as members of the Steering Committee and as liaisons to their respective jurisdictions, reviewing all technical information, helping in gathering information from stakeholders, and providing relevant information.

The hazard assessment and vulnerability assessment were updated using the most recent available data obtained from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), SHELDUS via Arizona State University Center for Emergency Management and Homeland Security, the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the State of South Carolina. The socioeconomic information is unique to the Lowcountry region including population, housing, and economy were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau and South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforces.

Lastly, the information from the residents of the Lowcountry region was integral to the planning process. The planning effort involved opportunities for public comment through a community survey and a public participation plan.

Figure 1-1: 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan Workflow



Source: Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG)

Planning Team Organization

The 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan is an update of the 2020 Lowcountry Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan which expires June 27, 2026 (LCOG, 2021). Building on the foundation of the 2020 Plan, in May 2023 the LCOG began working with participating jurisdictions on grant submission for the "Lowcountry Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update." The grant was submitted to FEMA in July 2023 and awarded in November 2025.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Steering Committee

In 2025, the Steering Committee was formed to help in the creation and development of the Plan. The steering committee members were chosen based on their expertise in hazard preparation, planning, floodplain management, emergency management, facilities management, and any other relevant departments within their respective jurisdictions. This included the heads of the county emergency management offices, the jurisdictional staff, and the LCOG staff. The steering committee includes:

- Beaufort County
  Matthew Krause, Disaster Recovery Manager
  Juliana Zadik, Long Range Environmental Planner
  Cheyenne Peifer, Floodplain Manager
- City of Beaufort
  Bruce Skipper, Building Official & Floodplain Manager
  Christopher Klement, Planner III
- Town of Bluffton
  Beth Lewis, Watershed Resilience Manager
  Andrea Moreno, Watershed Management Division Manager
- Town of Hilton Head Island
  Shari Mendrick, Floodplain Administrator
  Thomas Dunn, Emergency Manager
  Shea Farrar, Principal Planner
- Town of Port Royal
  Noah Krepps, Planning Director
  Brooke Plank-Buccola, Assistant Town Manager
- Colleton County
  Heather Spade, Zoning Administrator
  Michael Banks, Battalion Chief, Fire-Rescue
- Town of Edisto Beach
  Mark Aakhus, Town Administrator
  Morgan Viars, Code Enforcement Officer
  Patrick Brown, Building Code Administrator
- Hampton County
  Susanne Peeples, Director, Emergency Management
- Jasper County
  David Peterson, Lieutenant, Fire-Rescue
- City of Hardeeville
  Christopher Yates, Deputy Building Official/ Floodplain Manager
  Neil Parsons, Assistant City Manager
- Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority
  Taylor Logan, Planning Manager
  Tricia Kilgore, Director, Technology & Innovation
- Lowcountry Council of Governments
  Stephanie Rossi, Planning Director
  Christopher Ramm, Senior Planner (Project Manager)
  Andrew Cocchiara, Planner I

The roles of the Steering Committee members throughout the planning process included:

- Acting as liaisons for the plan update between their jurisdictions and LCOG staff.
- Providing guidance on how to approach the plan update.
- Providing information regarding hazard preparedness and other activities related to hazard mitigation in their respective jurisdictions.

- Assisting in public information and communication through their respective organizations.
- Assisting in development of internal policies and procedures to implement relevant recommendations.
- Assisting in implementation of recommendations of the Plan including, but not limited to, the applications for funding for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grants.

In December 2025, the LCOG informed the steering committee about the planning process and timeframe of the plan update. Five steering committee meetings followed. All meeting locations and minutes are included in Appendix A. Continuous communication occurred between meetings with each steering committee member to discuss topics as needed.

First Steering Committee Meeting

The first steering committee meeting was held on January 21, 2026. The purposes were to ensure that all members understand their roles and the plan's purpose. The committee also established a public participation plan and a future meeting schedule.

Second Steering Committee Meeting

The second steering committee meeting was held on February 19, 2026. This meeting emphasized public concerns of hazards coming from the survey and first public meeting. The committee discussed the approach to the Hazard Identification and Assessment section and the approach for the Community Capability Assessment.

Third Steering Committee Meeting

The third steering committee meeting was held on March 31, 2026. This meeting took a deep dive into assessing the identified hazards and the associated risks these hazards present. The committee also discussed the approach to the Vulnerability Assessment section.

Fourth Steering Committee Meeting

The fourth steering committee meeting was held in-person at the LCOG office on April 29, 2026. The main purpose of the meeting was to set goals for the plan and discuss possible activities for the new mitigation action plans. The committee determined the status of actions in the previous plan and suggested new actions for this plan.

Fifth Steering Committee Meeting

The fifth steering committee meeting was held on May 28, 2026. The committee took this time to review all sections of the plan and solidify the adoption process.

Stakeholders and Public Participation

Building on the 2020 Plan and the emphasis on virtual engagement options due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this plan expanded the opportunity for stakeholder and public participation. Along with a virtual survey which covered all four counties, two in-person public meetings were held. The first public meeting was held at the beginning of the planning process to get feedback early into the drafting process. The second public meeting was held to get feedback on the recommended draft plan. Throughout the whole process, a website was available for public information and comments were accepted at any time via multiple formats. Social media posts were distributed on various platforms from participating jurisdictions along with legal notices in the most heavily distributed regional newspapers.

Jurisdictional Participation

The LCOG adopted the previous plan's criteria for counties and municipalities to officially participate in the planning process. These criteria included:

- Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties and LCOG establishing a partnership to continue efforts set in the previous plan.
- The jurisdiction's mayor, administrator, or manager providing input or comments on the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- The jurisdiction's EMS Director or appointed representative serving as a member of the Steering Committee and providing input and comments on the Hazard Mitigation Plan and the planning process.
- The jurisdiction's representatives providing input and comments on the Hazard Mitigation Plan and the planning process.
- The LCOG Planning staff discussing the Hazard Mitigation Plan with a jurisdiction's mayor, administrator, manager, or appointed representative, and providing with input or comments.

Table 1-1 shows how each jurisdiction participated in the planning process.

Emergency Manager Survey

The LCOG developed the emergency manager survey for participating jurisdictions as shown in Appendix B-1. The survey was distributed via email to the steering committee members to help gather information and reach out to emergency managers in their respective jurisdictions. The LCOG also worked with steering committee members individually to update actions, critical facilities, and other relevant information needed. This information assisted in the analysis of completed actions and documentation of the need for future actions.

Table 1-1: Jurisdictional Participation

Participating Jurisdictions			Steering Committee	Stakeholders/ Public Participation	Document Review	Additional Information
Beaufort County	Cheyenne Peifer	Floodplain Manager	✓	✓	✓	
	Matthew Krause	Disaster Recovery Manager	✓	✓	✓	
	Juliana Zadik	Long Range Environmental Planner	✓	✓	✓	
	Tamarin Gullett	GIS Analyst				✓
City of Beaufort	Bruce Skipper	Building Official & Floodplain Manager	✓	✓	✓	
	Christopher Klement	Planner III	✓	✓	✓	
	Scott Marshall	City Manager		✓		✓
	Curt Freese	Community Development Director		✓		✓
Town of Bluffton	Beth Lewis	Watershed Resilience Manager	✓	✓	✓	
	Andrea Moreno	Watershed Management Division Manager	✓	✓	✓	
	Jeremy Bullock	Grants Administrator		✓		
	Lt. John DeStasio	Emergency Manager/ Special Operations			✓	✓
Town of Hilton Head Island	Shari Mendrick	Floodplain Administrator	✓	✓	✓	
	Thomas Dunn	Emergency Manager	✓	✓		✓
	Shea Farrar	Principal Planner	✓	✓		
Town of Port Royal	Noah Krepps	Planning Director	✓	✓	✓	
	Brooke Plank-Buccola	Assistant Town Manager	✓	✓		
Colleton County	Heather Spade	Zoning Administrator	✓	✓	✓	
	Michael Banks	Battalion Chief, Fire-Rescue	✓	✓		✓
	David Greene	Deputy Chief/ Emergency Manager		✓		✓
	Deidre Bartley	Floodplain Administrator				✓

Participating Jurisdictions			Steering Committee	Stakeholders/ Public Participation	Document Review	Additional Information
Town of Edisto Beach	Morgan Viars	Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer	✓	✓	✓	
	Mark Aakhus	Town Administrator	✓	✓		✓
	Patrick Brown	Building Code Administrator	✓	✓		
City of Walterboro	Ryan McLeod	Assistant City Manager			✓	✓
Hampton County	Susanne Peeples	Emergency Management Director	✓	✓	✓	✓
Town of Hampton	Robert Brown	Mayor				✓
Town of Varnville	Nat Shaffer	Mayor				✓
Town of Yemassee	Matthew Garnes	Town Administrator				✓
Jasper County	David Peterson	Lieutenant, Fire-Rescue	✓	✓	✓	
	Russell Wells	Director, Emergency Services, Fire Chief		✓		✓
City of Hardeeville	Neil Parsons	Assistant City Manager	✓	✓	✓	
	Christopher Yates	Deputy Building Official/ Floodplain Manager	✓	✓		✓
Town of Ridgeland	Aaron Rucker	Planning & Community Development Director			✓	✓
Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority (BJWSA)	Taylor Logan	Planning Manager	✓	✓	✓	
	Tricia Kilgore	Director of Technology & Innovation	✓	✓	✓	

Stakeholders Involvement

Stakeholders' involvement is essential in the planning process. In addition to participating jurisdictions, stakeholders from local and regional agencies are involved in hazard mitigation activities. The following is a list of local and regional organizations, neighboring communities, and jurisdictions' governing body given an opportunity to provide feedback for the Plan Update.

- Lowcountry Area Agency on Aging
- Lower Savannah Council of Governments
- Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments
- South Carolina Coastal Conservation League
- South Carolina Sea Grant
- South Carolina Office of Resilience
- United Way of the Lowcountry
- Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority
- Governing Body:
  - Beaufort County
  - City of Beaufort
  - Town of Bluffton
  - Town of Hilton Head Island
  - Town of Port Royal
  - Colleton County
  - Town of Cottageville
  - Town of Edisto Beach
  - City of Walterboro
  - Hampton County
  - Town of Estill
  - Town of Hampton
  - Town of Varnville
  - Town of Yemassee
  - Jasper County
  - City of Hardeeville
  - Town of Ridgeland

Also, LCOG meets or works with local and regional agencies to discuss issues, when appropriate, relevant to disasters and/or emergencies. These include:

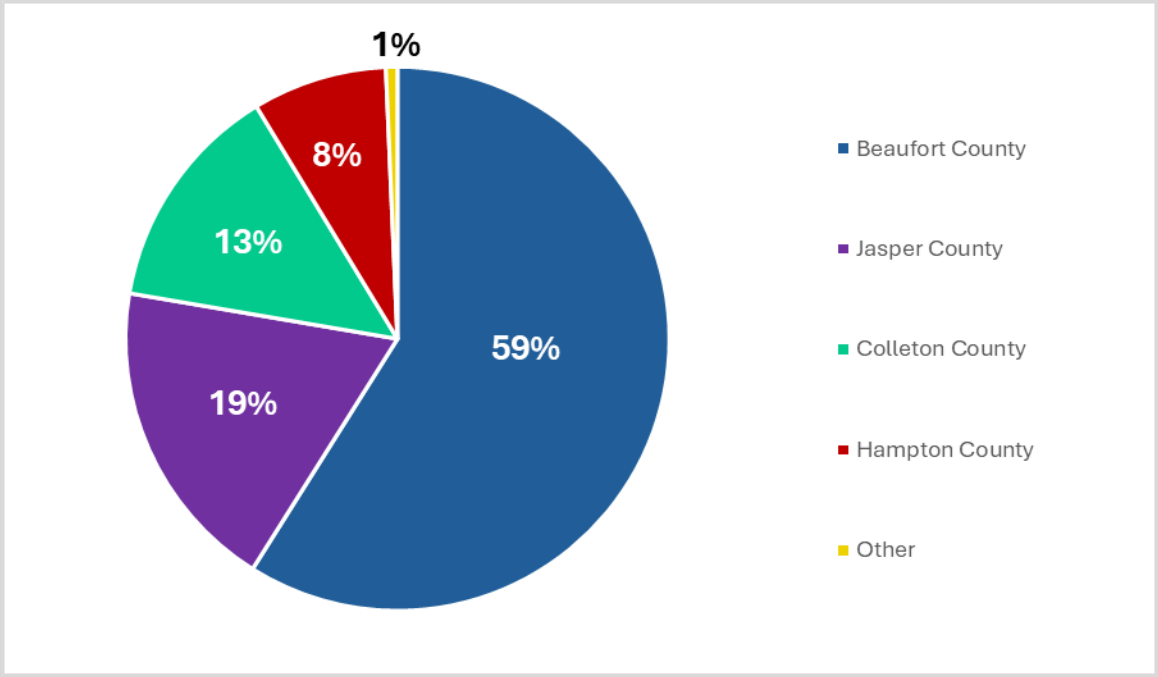
- Meetings with the Southern Lowcountry Resilience Collaborative (SLRC) that occur every other month.
- Technical Committee meetings for Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan.
- Ad hoc meetings with local agencies related to senior services to ensure that they are prepared in the event of a disaster or emergency. These agencies include:
  - Beaufort County Council on Aging
  - Colleton County Council on Aging
  - Hampton County Council on Aging
  - Jasper County Council on Aging

Community Survey

The LCOG developed the community survey in both English and Spanish to gather information on the Lowcountry residents' experiences and perceptions of natural hazards, planning and preparation for natural hazards, and support of community hazard mitigation activities. The survey was distributed through ArcGIS Survey123 as shown in Appendix B-2. Since not everyone has access to the internet, paper copies were distributed to local partners. LCOG distributed the survey via its website, newsletter, and social media accounts. Also, counties and municipalities assisted in distributing the survey link via their webpages, emails, social media, as well as distributing paper copies. Examples of survey distribution can be seen in Appendix B-3.

The community survey was open continuously for over a month. Overall, there were 587 responses of which 583 came from residents of the four counties. The other 4 responses came from Charleston, Chatham (GA), and Orangeburg. Of the total responses, 58.94% were from Beaufort County, 13.63% were from Colleton County, 8.01% were from Hampton County, and 18.74% were from Jasper County, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 1-2: Community Survey Responses



The survey results identified twelve hazards that cause damage to property and loss of life for Lowcountry residents. These are:

- Tornado
- Hurricane
- Windstorm
- Lightning
- Hail
- Drought
- Earthquake
- Wildfire
- Flood
- Winter Storm
- Coastal Erosion
- Extreme Heat

The most frequently cited hazards to cause damage to property are hurricanes, windstorms, and lightning, while the hazards of greatest concern for a natural disaster are hurricanes, windstorms, and extreme heat. This data is supported by the hazards profile and vulnerability assessment in Section 3 and 4. All survey results can be seen in Appendix B-4.

The community survey was distributed to both the public and specific groups, including senior populations and businesses as shown in Appendix B-7.

Hazard Identification and Profile

The hazard identification and risk assessment compiled for the Lowcountry region covers fifteen different hazards that are of most concern in the region. These hazards include tornado, hurricane wind/storm surge, windstorm, lightning, hail, drought, earthquake, wildfire, flood (including King tides, sea level rise, and dams), winter storm, coastal erosion, extreme heat, terrorism, hazardous materials, and cyber attack. The profiles include historical location and occurrence data along with loss information and social vulnerability indicators.

Given the prior approved plan from 2020 the current profiles provide only updated (2020-present) data and information on location and occurrences, notable events, future probabilities, loss and damage information, and social vulnerability. All data used in the assessments is from the best available sources.

Mitigation Strategy

The goals and strategies towards the hazard mitigation for the Lowcountry region from the 2020 plan were revised to respond to the region's current conditions. This included assessing the updated socioeconomic conditions, community survey results, emergency manager survey results, hazard identification and profiles, and the implementation status of the 2020 mitigation actions. The revised goals and strategies are the guide for formulating the 2026 hazard mitigation actions.

Plan Review

All participating jurisdictions were contacted and notified of the planning process and the progress of the plan. The progress report and the draft final plan were distributed to the steering committee and stakeholders for review and comments. Also, the draft final plan was made available to the public for review. The results are the following.

- Progress Reports
  - Hazard identification and assessment: The report was distributed to the steering committee members for review on February 20, 2026. Review comments were received from the steering committee members on March 13, 2026.
  - Community capability assessment: The report was distributed to the steering committee members for review March 16, 2026. Review comments were received from the steering committee members on March 30, 2026.
  - Vulnerability assessment: The report was distributed to the steering committee members for review on April 2, 2026. Review comments were received from the steering committee members on April 23, 2026.
  - Goals and strategies: Report was distributed to steering committee members on April 22,

2026. All review comments were discussed during the fourth committee meeting on April 29, 2026 (Appendix A).

- Draft Final Plan – The draft final plan was completed and made available to the public for review between May 24, 2026, to June 16, 2026, and to stakeholders and steering committee members for review between May 14, 2026, to June 4, 2026. The plan was made available via LCOG's website and social media accounts. Counties and municipalities assisted in distributing the plan via their webpages, emails, and social media. Advertisements have been run in local newspapers, as well. Examples of distributions can be seen in Appendix C. Comments were received during the comment period, with closing date on June 1, 2026. The plan revision was made accordingly.

Plan Adoption

The following adoption resolutions are included in Appendix L. Future adoptions will be added as completed.

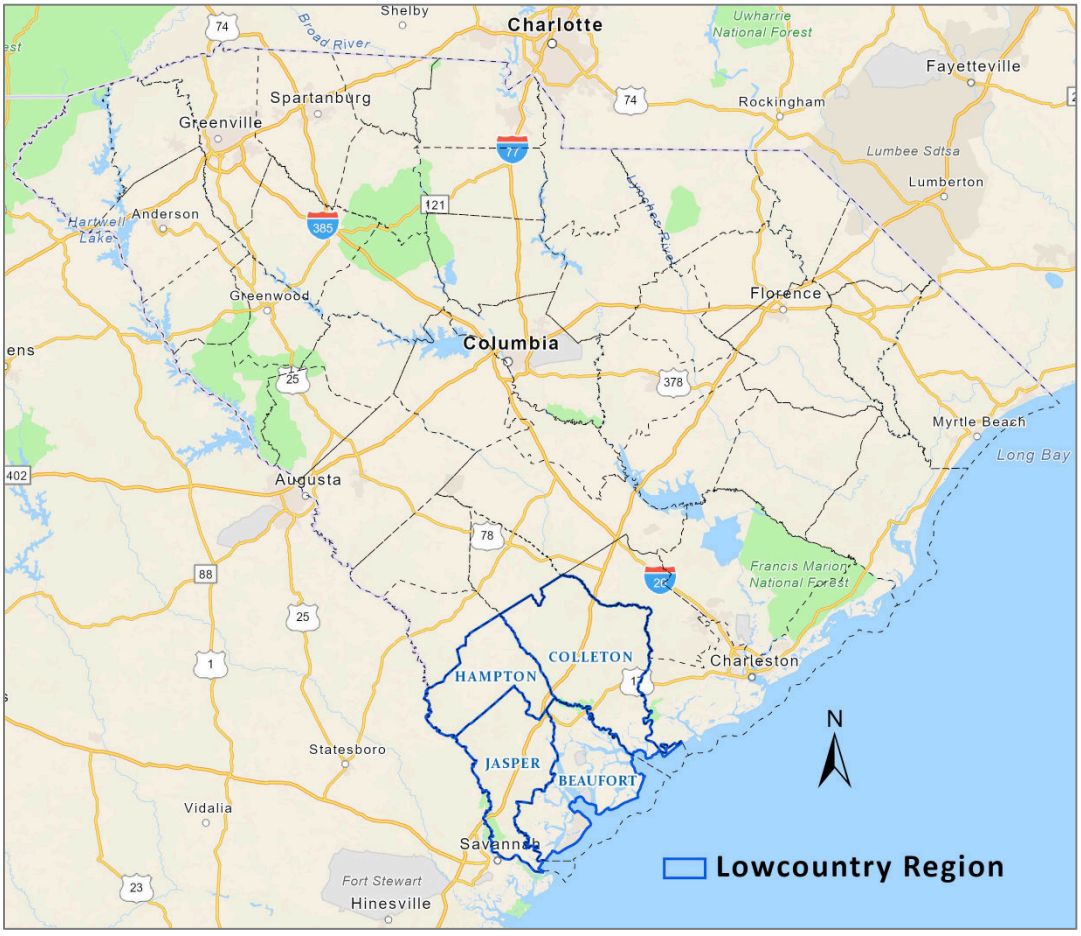
- **Beaufort County**: *September 14, 2026*
  - City of Beaufort: *September 8, 2026*
- **Colleton County**: *September 4, 2026*
- **Hampton County:** *August 10, 2026*
- **Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority:** *August 27, 2026*

SECTION 2: LOWCOUNTRY PROFILE

2.1 LOWCOUNTRY AREA

With land area of 2,848 square miles, the Lowcountry region comprises Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties, twenty-one municipalities, and unincorporated areas such as, Daufuskie Island, Islandton, Early Branch, and Coosawhatchie. The Lowcountry Region is bisected by Interstate-95 and US 278 runs diagonally from the northwest to the southeast. The interstate is not only a major cross-country corridor, but also a critical conduit for the local economy and a gateway to the region's top tourist destinations. The region's economy is also driven, by the Port of Charleston, the Port of Savannah in Georgia, and multiple military installations in the Beaufort and Savannah areas. US 17 connects the Lowcountry to downtown Savannah and the future Jasper Ocean Terminal to the south and to Charleston in the north. The region is served by CSX rail and Amtrak, with a passenger depot in the Town of Yemassee. There is a general aviation airport in each county, in addition to the nearby Charleston and Savannah-Hilton Head International Airports. All major transportation modes would be impacted by a significant hazard situation. The following maps show areas that are included in this plan.

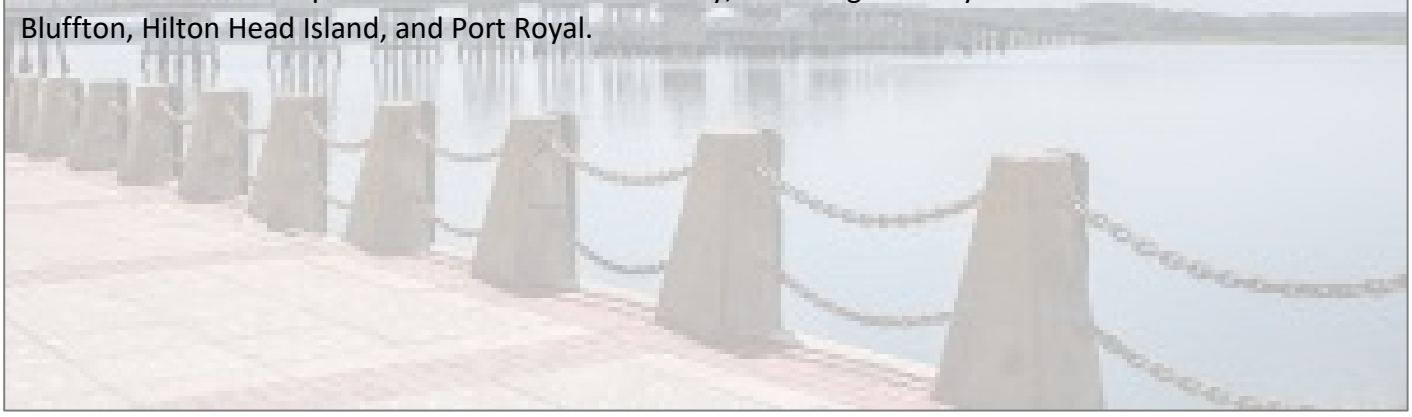
Figure 2-1: Lowcountry Location



Beaufort County

Beaufort County, approximately 576 square miles in land area, is situated along the southern portion of South Carolina's Atlantic coastal plain. It is bordered by Colleton County on the northeast, Hampton County on the northwest, Jasper County on the southwest, and the Atlantic Ocean on the south. Most areas are comprised largely of tidal marshes and swamps. Beaufort County's climate is maritime subtropical with hot summers and mild winters. It is wet and partly cloudy year-round. The average annual rainfall is approximately 48.8 inches with significant seasonal variation, August is the month that averages the most rain with 5.1 inches. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from 42°F to 90°F and is rarely below 29°F or above 96°F (SCDNR, 2026 & Weatherspark.com).

There are four municipalities within Beaufort County, including the City of Beaufort and the Towns of Bluffton, Hilton Head Island, and Port Royal.



Colleton County

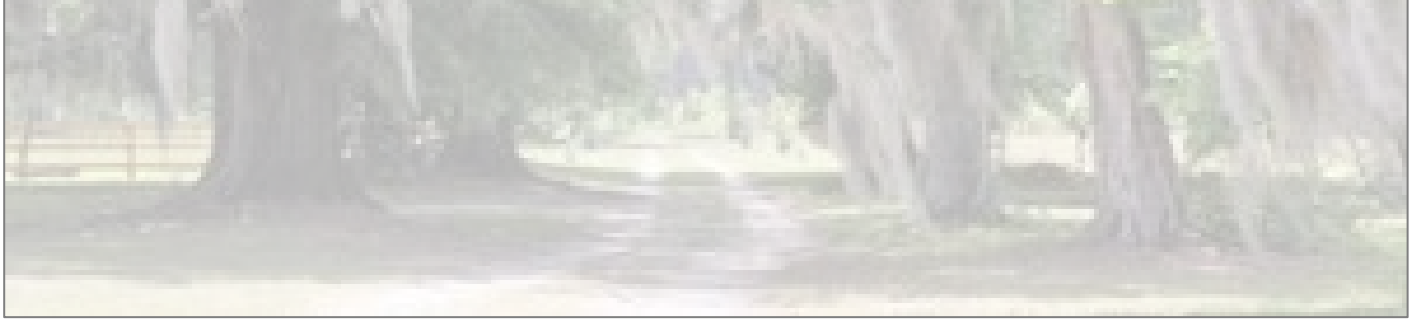
Colleton County, approximately 1,056 square miles in land area, is situated in the southwestern region of South Carolina, on the Atlantic Ocean. It is bordered by Bamberg and Orangeburg Counties to the north, Allendale and Hampton Counties to the west, the Atlantic Ocean and Beaufort County to the south, Charleston County to the east, and Dorchester County to the northeast. The county is situated on a low coastal plain, with a significant portion of its area consisting of tidal marshes and swamps. Most of the land situated in the floodplains is undeveloped marshland with some residential, commercial, and industrial development. Colleton County's climate is humid and subtropical. The summers are hot and oppressive while the winters are short and cold. It is wet and partly cloudy year-round. The average annual rainfall is approximately 49.9 inches; seasonal variation leads to August having the most rainfall and May having the lowest rainfall on average. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from 38°F to 91°F and is rarely below 26°F or above 97°F (SCDNR, 2026 & Weatherspark.com).

There are six municipalities within Colleton County, including the City of Walterboro and the Towns of Cottageville, Edisto Beach, Lodge, Smoaks, and Williams.

Hampton County

Hampton County, approximately 559 square miles in land area, is situated in the southeastern part of South Carolina. It is bordered on the northwest by Allendale County, to the west by Screven County, GA, to the southwest by Effingham County, GA, the north by Bamberg County, to the south by Jasper County, to the southeast by Beaufort County, and to the east by Colleton County, SC. Hampton County's climate is humid and subtropical. The summers are hot and oppressive, and the winters are short and cold. It is wet and partly cloudy year-round. The average annual rainfall is approximately 50.7 inches, the wettest year on record is 74.4 inches in 1964 while the driest year on record is 25.7 inches in 1931. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from 38°F to 92°F and is rarely below 25°F or above 98°F (SCDNR, 2026 & Weatherspark.com).

There are nine municipalities within Hampton County including the Towns of Brunson, Estill, Furman, Gifford, Hampton, Luray, Scotia, Varnville, and Yemassee.



Jasper County

Jasper County, approximately 655 square miles in land area, is situated in the southeastern portion of South Carolina in the Atlantic coastal plain. The county is bordered by Beaufort County on the northeast, Chatham County, GA on the southwest, Effingham County, GA on the west across the Savannah River, Hampton County on the north, and the Atlantic Ocean on the south. Jasper County's climate is humid and subtropical. The summers are long and hot, and the winters are short and cold. It is wet and partly cloudy year-round. The average annual rainfall is approximately 51.1 inches with significant season variation year around, the month with the most rainfall is August with 5.2 inches on average. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from 41°F to 91°F and is rarely below 28°F or above 97°F (SCDNR, 2026 & Weatherspark.com).

There are two municipalities within Jasper County: the City of Hardeeville and the Town of Ridgeland.

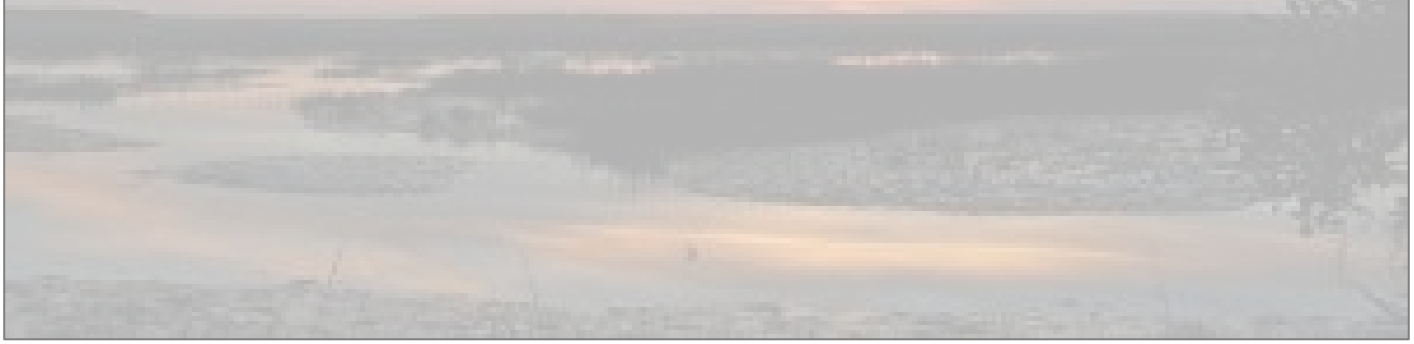
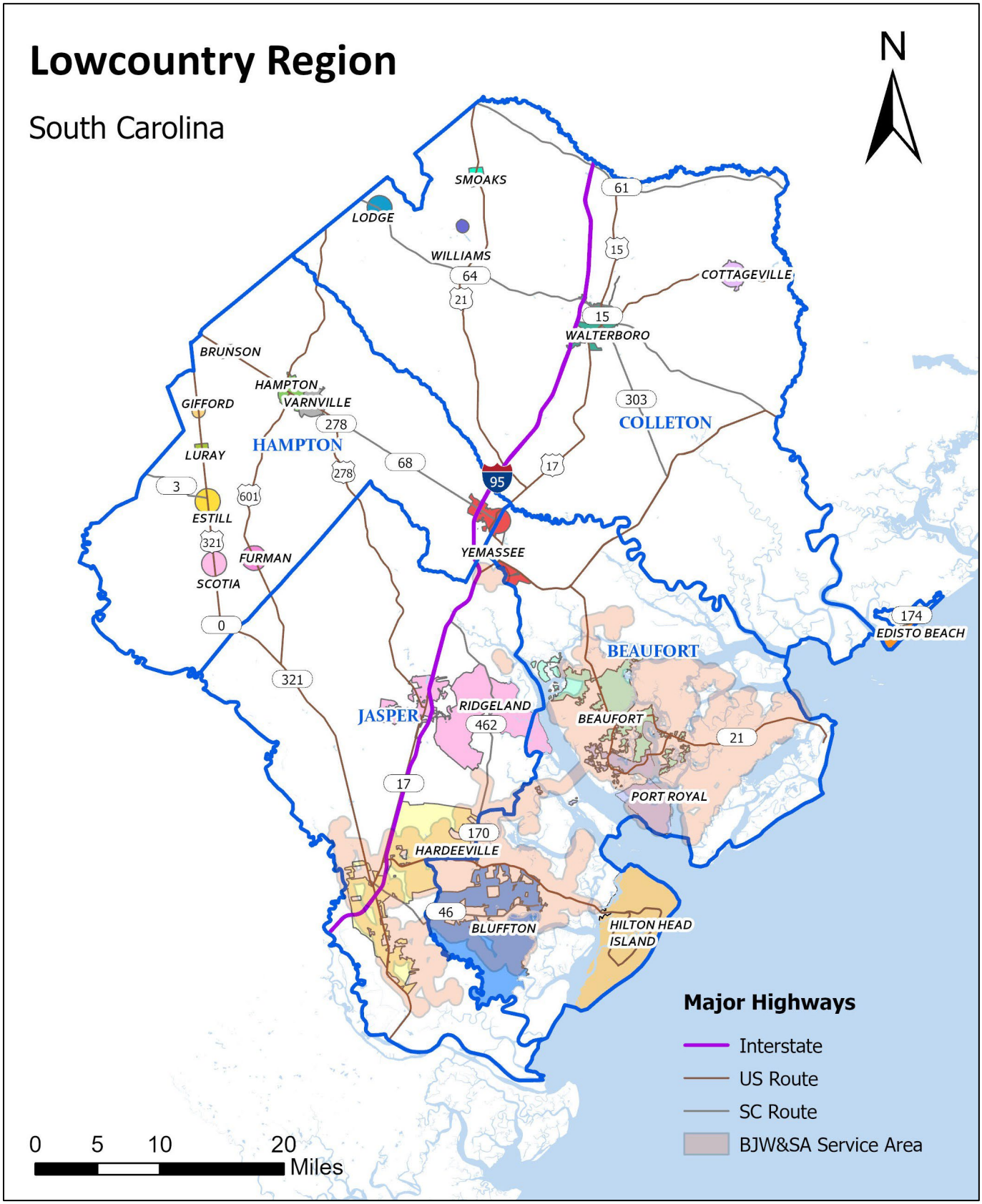


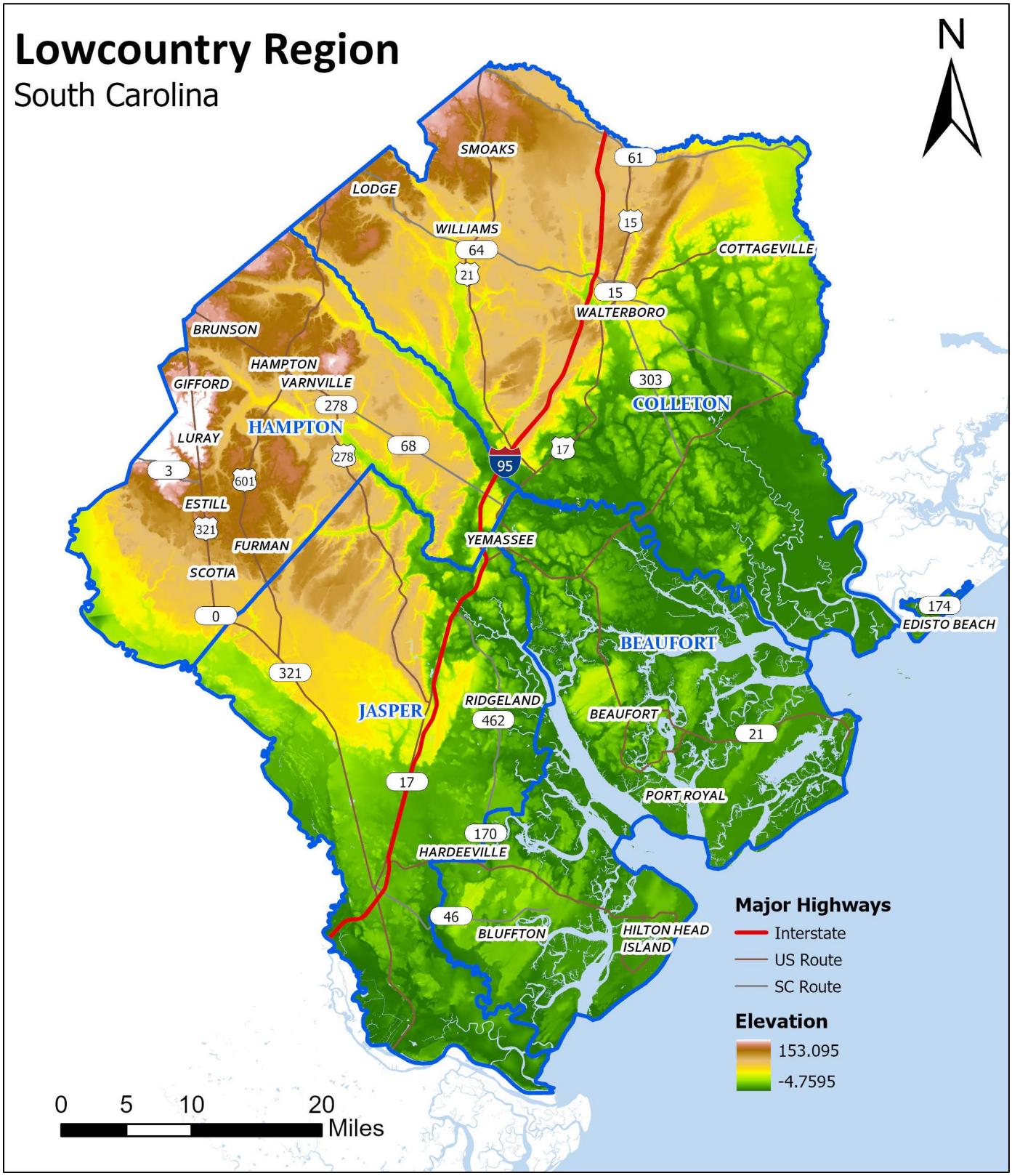
Figure 2-2: County and Municipality Location



Source: South Carolina Department of Natural Resource (SCDNR)

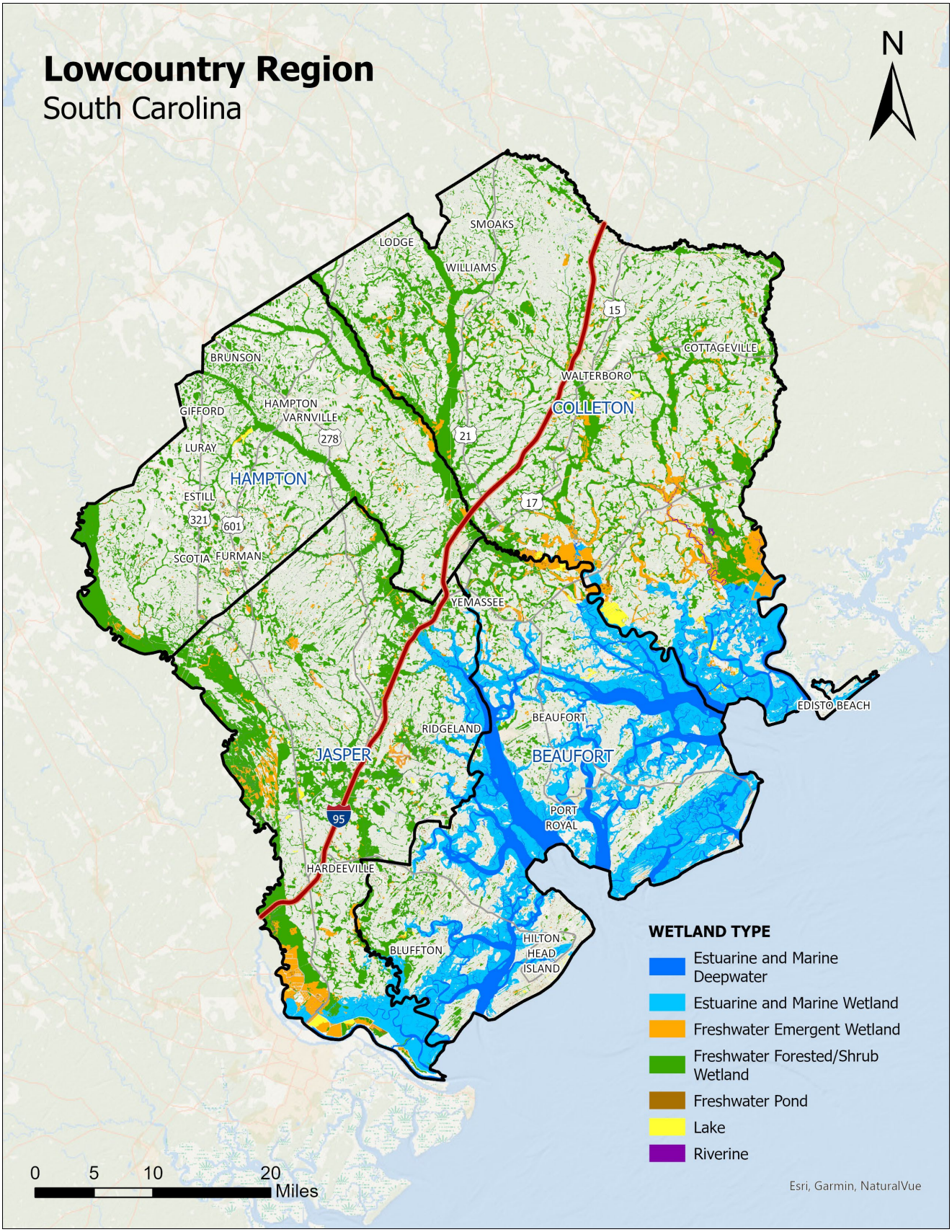
The Lowcountry is characterized by its proximity to the ocean, saltwater marshes, forested wetlands, and large tracts of pine forests. Lowcountry forested areas support diverse wildlife communities, clean water, renewable material, and recreation. Forests that are not properly managed can act as fuel for wildfires. The Lowcountry elevation slopes up gently inland with tidal creeks reaching into the three major watersheds of the Savannah, Salkehatchie, and Edisto Rivers. The marshes and wetlands offer unique and attractive amenities for residential development; however, they can also make construction problematic because of environmental constraints. The area's abundant salt marshes and swamps are filled with saltwater loving vegetation, such as Spartina Alterniflora or smooth cordgrass. These wetlands play a critical role in hazard mitigation by acting as living buffers against storm surge, flooding, and shoreline erosion. During hurricanes and high-tide events, they absorb and slow incoming water, reducing wave energy before it reaches inland communities. Their dense root systems stabilize sediments and help prevent land loss, while also trapping pollutants and improving water quality. The landscape is a desirable place to call home particularly where a waterfront, marsh view, or other distinctive waterbody exist, however, this landscape can also make housing and other buildings vulnerable to flooding and wind damage.

Figure 2-3: Elevation



Source: South Carolina Department of Natural Resource (SCDNR) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

Figure 2-4: Wetlands



Source: South Carolina Department of Natural Resource (SCDNR)

2.2 LOWCOUNTRY POPULATION

Population and Density

Between 2010 and 2020, the four county Lowcountry region was one of the fastest growing regions in the state, with Beaufort County being the fastest growing among the larger counties and Jasper County in the top ranks of the smaller counties. Table 2-1 shows that between 2015 and 2020, population growth in the Lowcountry intensified when compared with the period 2010 through 2015. The population growth flipped in Colleton County from decreasing by 2.3% between 2010-2015 to increasing by 3.1% between 2020-2024. Due to the rapid growth seen in the City of Hardeeville, actual population is likely higher than Census estimates and closer to 20,000 in the year 2026. Census estimates are used for consistency in calculations.

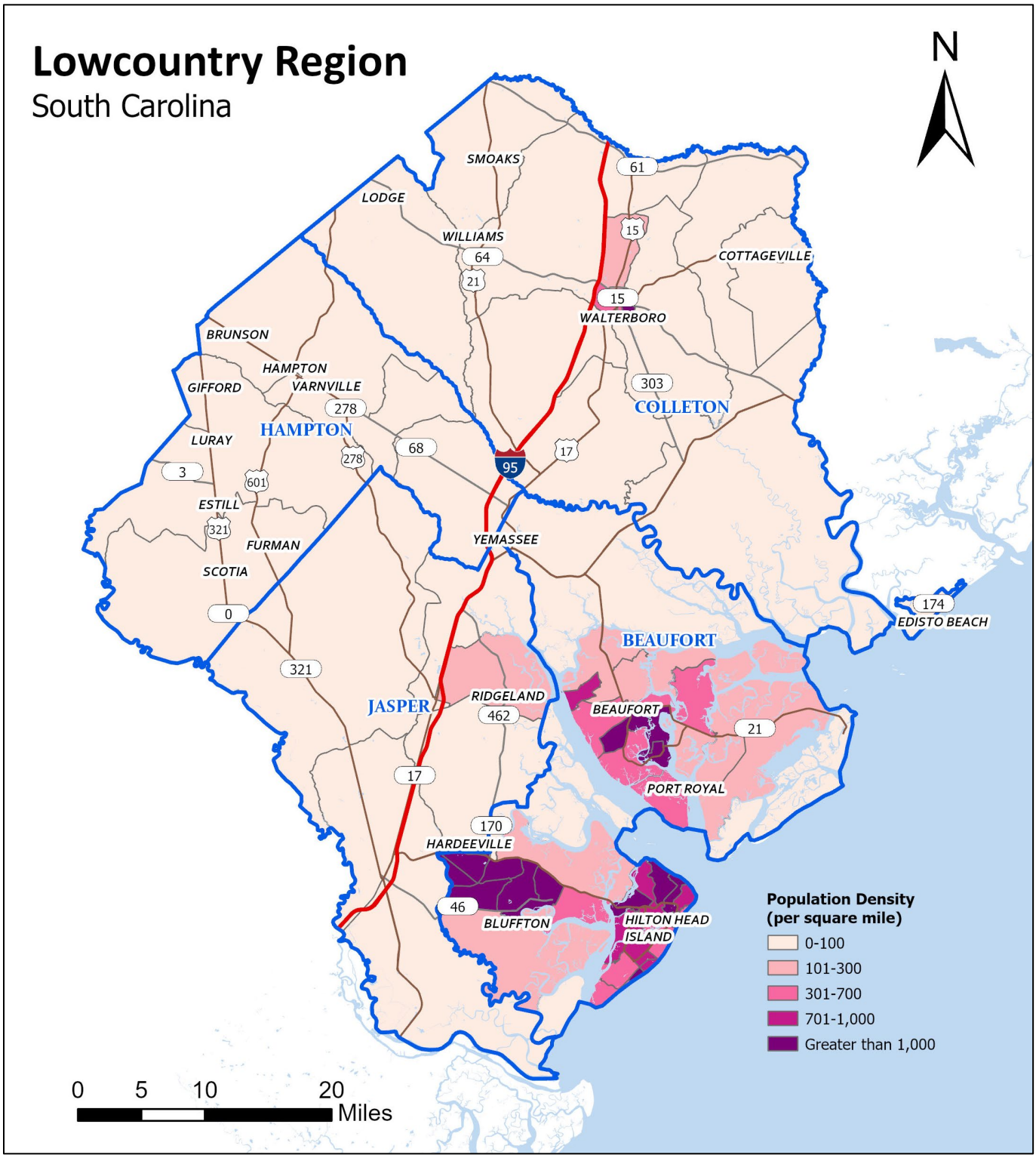
Table 2-1: Population Growth 2010-2024

Jurisdictions	2010	2015	2020	2024	Percent Change 2010-2015	Percent Change 2015-2020	Percent Change 2020-2024
Beaufort County	**162,233**	**171,420**	**189,732**	**195,289**	**5.7%**	**10.7%**	**2.9%**
City of Beaufort	12,361	12,839	13,417	13,747	3.9%	4.5%	2.5%
Town of Bluffton	12,978	14,607	23,176	33,157	12.6%	58.7%	43.1%
Town of Hilton Head Island	37,099	39,071	40,000	37,911	5.3%	2.4%	-5.2%
Town of Port Royal	10,678	11,513	13,265	15,579	7.8%	15.2%	17.4%
Colleton County	**38,892**	**38,004**	**37,624**	**38,783**	**-2.3%**	**-1.0%**	**3.1%**
Town of Cottageville	766	853	1,090	1,196	11.4%	27.8%	9.7%
Town of Edisto Beach	414	600	710	1,092	44.9%	18.3%	53.8%
Town of Lodge	120	96	142	98	-20.0%	47.9%	-31.0%
Town of Smoaks	126	143	95	95	13.5%	-33.6%	0.0%
City of Walterboro	5,398	5,312	5,417	5,480	-1.6%	2.0%	1.2%
Town of Williams	117	131	194	100	12.0%	48.1%	-48.5%
Hampton County	**21,090**	**20,473**	**19,223**	**18,254**	**-2.9%**	**-6.1%**	**-5.0%**
Town of Brunson	554	547	481	401	-1.3%	-12.1%	-16.6%
Town of Estill	2,040	2,244	2,759	1,886	10.0%	23.0%	-31.6%
Town of Furman	239	264	622	673	10.5%	135.6%	8.2%
Town of Gifford	288	363	203	268	26.0%	-44.1%	32.0%
Town of Hampton	2,808	2,726	3,077	2,636	-2.9%	12.9%	-14.3%
Town of Luray	127	176	73	311	38.6%	-58.5%	326.0%
Town of Scotia	215	163	191	97	-24.2%	17.2%	-49.2%
Town of Varnville	2,162	2,277	1,832	2,571	5.3%	-19.5%	40.3%
Town of Yemassee	1,027	893	870	1,178	-13.0%	-2.6%	35.4%
Jasper County	**24,777**	**26,549**	**29,558**	**32,166**	**7.2%**	**11.3%**	**8.8%**
City of Hardeeville	2,952	4,353	6,788	10,871	47.5%	55.9%	60.2%
Town of Ridgeland	4,036	4,030	3,903	3,764	-0.1%	-3.2%	-3.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population

With a total population of 284,492, the average population density in the Lowcountry area is 86 people per square mile (see Figure 2-5). The densest areas are in portions of the City of Beaufort and the Towns of Bluffton and Hilton Head Island.

Figure 2-5: Population Density by Census Tract 2024



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population 2024

Aging Population

As shown in Table 2-2, the number of people older than 65 has markedly increased in all four counties since 2010, while the number of people aged 25-59 has decreased or grown at significantly lower rate. The increase in older population is in line with much of the rest of the United States and has implications for the regional economy and community services.

Table 2-2: Age Cohorts 2010-2024

Beaufort County					
Ages	**2010**	**2018**	**2024**	**Percent Change 2010-2018**	**Percent Change 2018-2024**
Total Population	**162,233**	**188,715**	**195,289**	**16.32%**	**3.48%**
Under 5 years	10,960	9,662	9,020	-11.84%	-6.64%
5 to 9 years	9,566	9,658	8,605	0.96%	-10.90%
10 to 14 years	8,553	10,015	10,279	17.09%	2.64%
15 to 19 years	9,956	10,776	12,100	8.24%	12.29%
20 to 24 years	11,756	11,967	12,995	1.79%	8.59%
25 to 34 years	20,137	20,814	20,231	3.36%	-2.80%
35 to 44 years	17,534	18,844	19,301	7.47%	2.43%
45 to 54 years	18,580	19,735	19,778	6.22%	0.22%
55 to 59 years	9,886	12,050	12,605	21.89%	4.61%
60 to 64 years	12,273	13,752	14,942	12.05%	8.65%
65 to 74 years	20,137	30,623	31,748	52.07%	3.67%
75 to 84 years	9,698	15,975	18,643	64.72%	16.70%
85 years +	3,197	4,844	5,042	51.52%	3.48%

Colleton County					
Ages	**2010**	**2018**	**2024**	**Percent Change 2010-2018**	**Percent Change 2018-2024**
Total Population	**38,892**	**37,660**	**38,783**	**-3.17%**	**2.98%**
Under 5 years	2,579	2,252	2,107	-12.68%	-6.44%
5 to 9 years	2,515	2,289	2,971	-8.99%	29.79%
10 to 14 years	2,706	2,436	2,020	-9.98%	-17.08%
15 to 19 years	2,682	2,226	2,357	-17.00%	5.88%
20 to 24 years	2,229	2,109	2,136	-5.38%	1.28%
25 to 34 years	4,157	4,455	4,700	7.17%	5.50%
35 to 44 years	4,709	4,020	4,409	-14.63%	9.68%
45 to 54 years	5,763	4,782	4,492	-17.02%	-6.06%
55 to 59 years	2,869	2,761	2,556	-3.76%	-7.42%
60 to 64 years	2,605	2,735	3,106	4.99%	13.56%
65 to 74 years	3,635	4,667	4,866	28.39%	4.26%
75 to 84 years	1,741	2,208	2,429	26.82%	10.01%
85 years +	702	720	634	2.56%	-11.94%

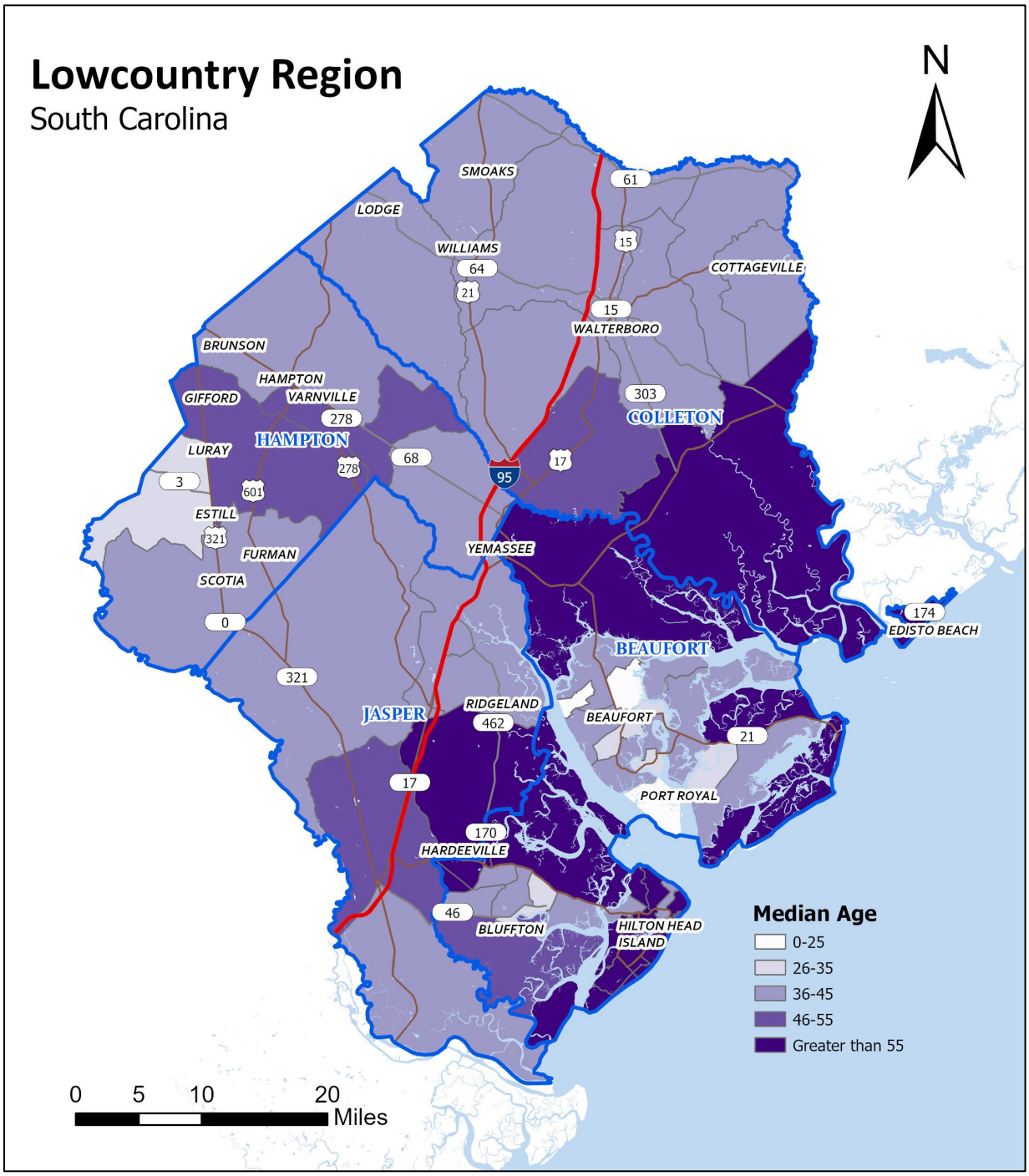
Hampton County					
Ages	**2010**	**2018**	**2024**	**Percent Change 2010-2018**	**Percent Change 2018-2024**
Total Population	**21,090**	**19,351**	**18,254**	**-8.25%**	**-5.67%**
Under 5 years	1,347	1,029	970	-23.61%	-5.73%
5 to 9 years	1,326	1,119	1,082	-15.61%	-3.31%
10 to 14 years	1,473	1,224	1,115	-16.90%	-8.91%
15 to 19 years	1,524	1,157	1,184	-24.08%	2.33%
20 to 24 years	1,229	1,140	1,272	-7.24%	11.58%
25 to 34 years	2,648	2,540	2,158	-4.08%	-15.04%
35 to 44 years	2,915	2,464	2,333	-15.47%	-5.32%
45 to 54 years	3,103	2,471	2,223	-20.37%	-10.04%
55 to 59 years	1,420	1,319	1,099	-7.11%	-16.68%
60 to 64 years	1,276	1,325	1,229	3.84%	-7.25%
65 to 74 years	1,655	2,123	2,151	28.28%	1.32%
75 to 84 years	869	1,066	982	22.67%	-7.88%
85 years +	305	374	456	22.62%	-21.93%

Jasper County					
Ages	**2010**	**2018**	**2024**	**Percent Change 2010-2018**	**Percent Change 2018-2024**
Total Population	**24,777**	**28,971**	**32,166**	**16.93%**	**11.03%**
Under 5 years	1,859	1,659	1,759	-10.76%	6.03%
5 to 9 years	1,711	1,622	1,465	-5.20%	-9.68%
10 to 14 years	1,546	1,668	1,573	7.89%	-5.70%
15 to 19 years	1,751	1,503	1,567	-14.16%	4.26%
20 to 24 years	1,969	1,911	1,952	-2.95%	2.15%
25 to 34 years	3,685	3,904	4,121	5.94%	5.56%
35 to 44 years	3,217	3,198	3,552	-0.59%	11.07%
45 to 54 years	3,524	3,593	3,435	1.96%	-4.40%
55 to 59 years	1,428	2,181	2,690	52.73%	23.34%
60 to 64 years	1,300	2,122	2,625	63.23%	23.70%
65 to 74 years	1,671	3,703	4,988	121.60%	34.70%
75 to 84 years	785	1,445	2,058	84.08%	42.42%
85 years +	313	462	381	47.60%	-17.53%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups

With an increasingly aging population, it is likely that there will be greater demand for healthcare and other age-appropriate services in the region. Older age groups are often retirees on fixed incomes. The declining numbers of younger people in the region suggests a shrinking current and future labor force. With an aging population, community development and planning may need to be reoriented to create appropriate services and infrastructure to suit different age groups. Figure 2-6 illustrates the median age of the population in the Lowcountry in 2024.

Figure 2-6: Median Age by Census Tract 2024



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Median Age by Sex

Population Diversity

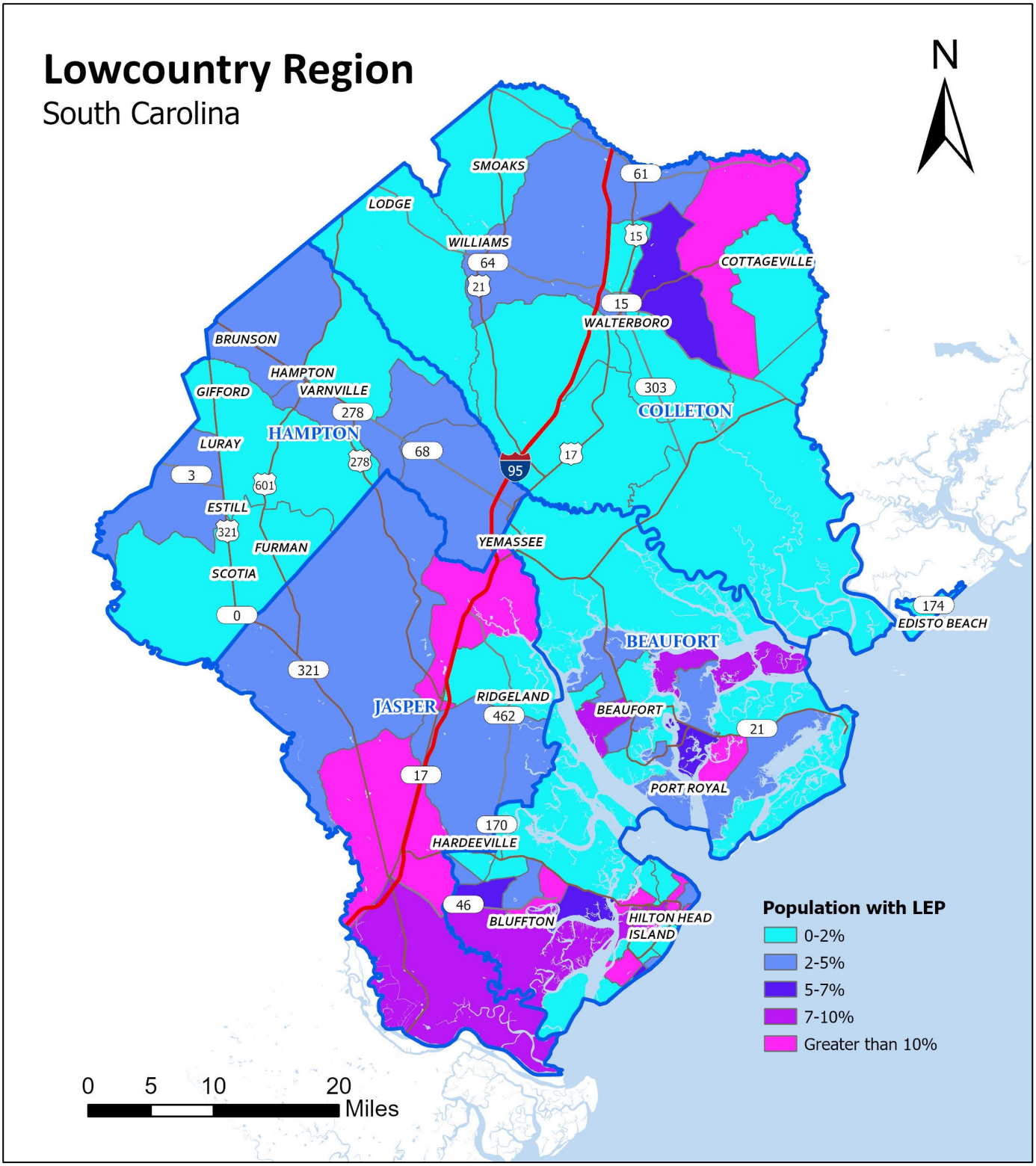
As shown in Table 2-3, each county has had significant changes in the population's composition. Historically the area's population was almost entirely composed of blacks and whites, with relatively small numbers of Asians, Hispanics, and Native Americans. The Hispanic population has continued to grow in the region from 2010 to 2024, while between 2018 and 2024, white and black population have both decreased. This growth is correlated to areas with populations who have limited English proficiency (see Figure 2-7).

Table 2-3: Race and Ethnicity 2010-2024

	Year	Total Population	Total White	Total Black	Total Hispanic
Beaufort County	2010	162,233	124,690	31,942	19,567
	2018	188,715	147,015	34,379	21,060
	2024	195,289	135,185	30,745	24,168
Percent Change	2010-2018	16.32%	17.90%	7.63%	7.63%
	2018-2024	3.48%	-8.05%	-10.57%	14.76%
Colleton County	2010	38,892	22,626	15,242	1,094
	2018	37,660	22,449	14,025	1,274
	2024	38,783	22,225	13,094	1,767
Percent Change	2010-2018	-3.17%	-0.78%	-7.98%	16.45%
	2018-2024	2.98%	-1.00%	-6.64%	38.70%
Hampton County	2010	21,090	9,241	11,435	744
	2018	19,351	8,481	10,388	800
	2024	18,254	7,509	9,594	757
Percent Change	2010-2018	-8.25%	-8.22%	-9.16%	7.53%
	2018-2024	-5.67%	-11.46%	-7.64%	-5.38%
Jasper County	2010	24,777	12,643	11,540	3,752
	2018	28,971	15,826	12,178	3,828
	2024	32,166	15,468	10,572	5,661
Percent Change	2010-2018	16.93%	25.18%	5.53%	2.03%
	2018-2024	11.03%	-2.26%	-13.19%	47.88%
Lowcountry	2010	246,992	169,200	70,159	25,157
	2018	274,697	193,771	70,970	26,962
	2024	284,492	180,307	64,005	32,353
Percent Change	2010-2018	11.22%	14.52%	1.16%	7.17%
	2018-2024	3.57%	-6.95%	-9.81%	19.99%

Note: The Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics add up to more than the total county populations because Hispanics have been counted as members of one or more of the other races as well.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin

Figure 2-7: Population with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) by Census Tract 2024



Note: Population with LEP refers to percent population 5 years and over who speak English less than very well.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Language Spoken at Home

2.3 LOWCOUNTRY HOUSING

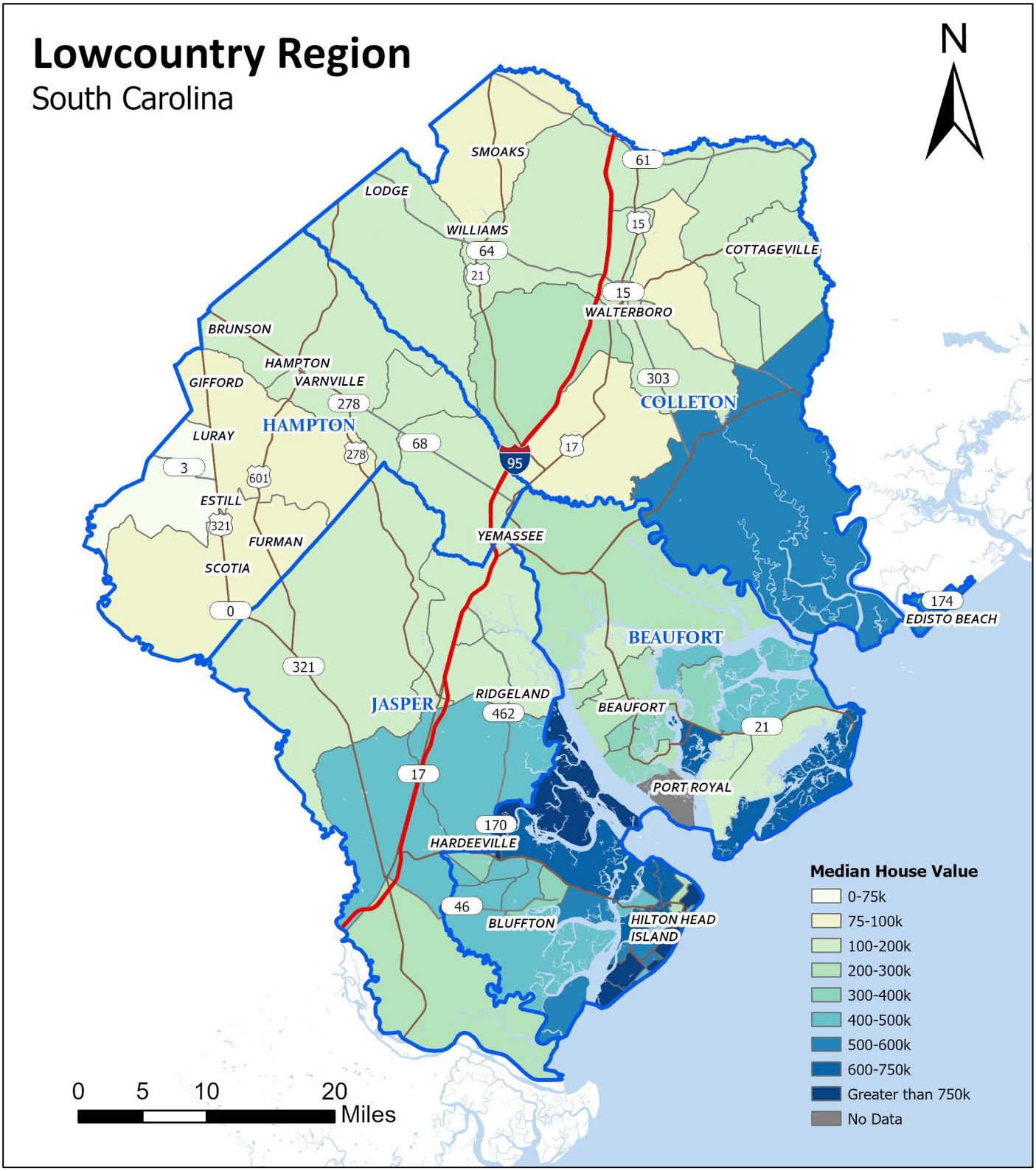
Table 2-4 provides a historic perspective of housing growth in the Lowcountry. The data shows several trends, including the significant reduction in the amount of vacant housing units from 2018-2024 while the total housing units increase by a similar percentage as the 2010-2018 timeframe. In the 2018-2024 period, the median house price skyrocketed in all four counties. Figure 2-8 illustrates the median house price in the Lowcountry in 2024. The majority of the Lowcountry's housing units were built between 1970 and 2009. These details are shown in Table 2-5.

Table 2-4: Housing Stock 2010-2024

County	Units and Value	2010	2018	2024	Percent Change 2010-2018	Percent Change 2018-2024
Beaufort	**Total Housing Units**	**93,023**	**97,831**	**103,177**	**5.17%**	5.46%
	Occupied Units	64,945	70,607	82,333	8.72%	16.61%
	Percent Occupied	70.6%	72.2%	79.80%	2.27%	10.53%
	Vacant Units	28,078	27,224	20,844	-3.04%	-23.44%
	Percent Vacant	30.2%	27.8%	20.20%	-7.95%	-27.34%
	Median House Price	$290,900	$288,900	$455,600	-0.69%	57.70%
Colleton	**Total Housing Units**	**19,901**	**20,015**	**20,083**	**0.57%**	0.34%
	Occupied Units	15,131	15,145	16,408	0.09%	8.34%
	Percent Occupied	75%	75.7%	81.70%	0.93%	7.93%
	Vacant Units	4,770	4,870	3,675	2.10%	-24.54%
	Percent Vacant	24.0%	24.3%	18.30%	1.25%	-24.69%
	Median House Price	$90,000	$85,100	$162,500	-5.44%	90.95%
Hampton	**Total Housing Units**	**9,140**	**9,140**	**8,645**	**0.00%**	-5.42%
	Occupied Units	7,598	6,924	7,225	-8.87%	4.35%
	Percent Occupied	73.7%	75.8%	83.57%	2.85%	10.25%
	Vacant Units	1,542	2,216	1,420	43.71%	-35.92%
	Percent Vacant	16.9%	24.2%	16.43%	43.20%	-32.11%
	Median House Price	$79,600	$73,000	$112,000	-8.29%	53.42%
Jasper	**Total Housing Units**	**10,299**	**11,562**	**14,758**	**12.26%**	27.64%
	Occupied Units	8,517	9,982	13,118	17.20%	31.42%
	Percent Occupied	68.9%	86.3%	88.89%	25.25%	3.00%
	Vacant Units	1,782	1,580	1,640	-11.34%	3.80%
	Percent Vacant	17.3%	13.7%	11.11%	-20.81%	-18.91%
	Median House Price	$118,700	$154,400	$325,500	30.08%	110.81%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Selected Housing Characteristics

Figure 2-8: Median House Value by Census Tract 2024



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Selected Housing Characteristics

Table 2-5: Housing Stock by Year Built 2024

County	Year Built	Housing Units	Percent of Total Housing Units
Beaufort	**Total Housing Units**	**103,177**	**100.0%**
	2020 or Later	3,798	3.7%
	2010 to 2019	17,033	16.5%
	2000 to 2009	28,507	27.6%
	1990 to 1999	18,007	17.5%
	1980 to 1989	18,868	18.3%
	1970 to 1979	10,500	10.2%
	1960 to 1969	2,760	2.7%
	1950 to 1959	2,276	2.2%
	1940 to 1949	519	0.5%
	1939 or Earlier	909	0.9%
Colleton	**Total Housing Units**	**20,083**	**100.0%**
	2020 or Later	279	1.4%
	2010 to 2019	1,391	6.9%
	2000 to 2009	3,483	17.3%
	1990 to 1999	3,603	17.9%
	1980 to 1989	4,108	20.5%
	1970 to 1979	3,037	15.1%
	1960 to 1969	1,459	7.3%
	1950 to 1959	1,633	8.1%
	1940 to 1949	403	2.0%
	1939 or Earlier	687	3.4%
Hampton	**Total Housing Units**	**8,645**	**100.0%**
	2020 or Later	75	0.9%
	2010 to 2019	408	4.7%
	2000 to 2009	1,056	12.2%
	1990 to 1999	1,914	22.1%
	1980 to 1989	1,410	16.3%
	1970 to 1979	1,379	16.0%
	1960 to 1969	952	11.0%
	1950 to 1959	790	9.1%
	1940 to 1949	315	3.6%
	1939 or Earlier	346	4.0%
Jasper	**Total Housing Units**	**14,758**	**100.0%**
	2020 or Later	1,520	10.3%
	2010 to 2019	3,658	24.8%
	2000 to 2009	3,291	22.3%
	1990 to 1999	2,595	17.6%
	1980 to 1989	1,016	6.9%
	1970 to 1979	1,433	9.7%
	1960 to 1969	489	3.3%
	1950 to 1959	91	0.6%
	1940 to 1949	110	0.7%
	1939 or Earlier	555	3.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Selected Housing Characteristics

2.4 LOWCOUNTRY ECONOMY

Employment

A useful picture of jobs and employment comes from comparing the labor force and employment numbers with those from the past. Table 2-6 shows that Beaufort, Colleton, and Jasper Counties have seen an increase in labor force since 2019. The Lowcountry region's unemployment rate has risen in Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties and stayed the same in Beaufort County since 2019.

According to the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (SCDEW), in 2026, the top five industries that employ Lowcountry residents include health care and social assistance, retail trade, accommodation and food services, educational services, and administrative and support services.

Table 2-6: Employment 2010-2024

County	Income Type	2010	2019	2024	Percent Change 2010-2019	Percent Change 2019-2024
Beaufort	Civilian Labor Force	65,336	77,858	85,152	19.2%	9.37%
	Number of Employed	59,684	75,797	82,918	27.0%	9.39%
	Number of Unemployed	5,652	2,061	2,234	-63.5%	8.39%
	Unemployment Rate	8.7%	2.6%	2.6%	-70.1%	0.00%
Colleton	Civilian Labor Force	16,827	16,821	17,178	0.0%	2.12%
	Number of Employed	8,784	16,283	15,482	85.4%	-4.92%
	Number of Unemployed	2,314	538	1,696	-76.8%	215.24%
	Unemployment Rate	13.8%	3.2%	9.9%	-76.8%	209.38%
Hampton	Civilian Labor Force	8,785	8,416	8,001	-4.2%	-4.93%
	Number of Employed	7,659	8,187	7,242	6.9%	-11.54%
	Number of Unemployed	1,126	229	759	-79.7%	231.44%
	Unemployment Rate	12.8%	2.7%	9.5%	-78.9%	251.85%
Jasper	Civilian Labor Force	10,896	12,685	13,787	16.4%	8.69%
	Number of Employed	9,823	12,363	13,157	25.9%	6.42%
	Number of Unemployed	1,073	322	630	-70.0%	95.65%
	Unemployment Rate	9.8%	2.5%	4.6%	-74.5%	84.00%

Source: SC WORKS, Labor Force Employment and Unemployment (LAUS)

Income

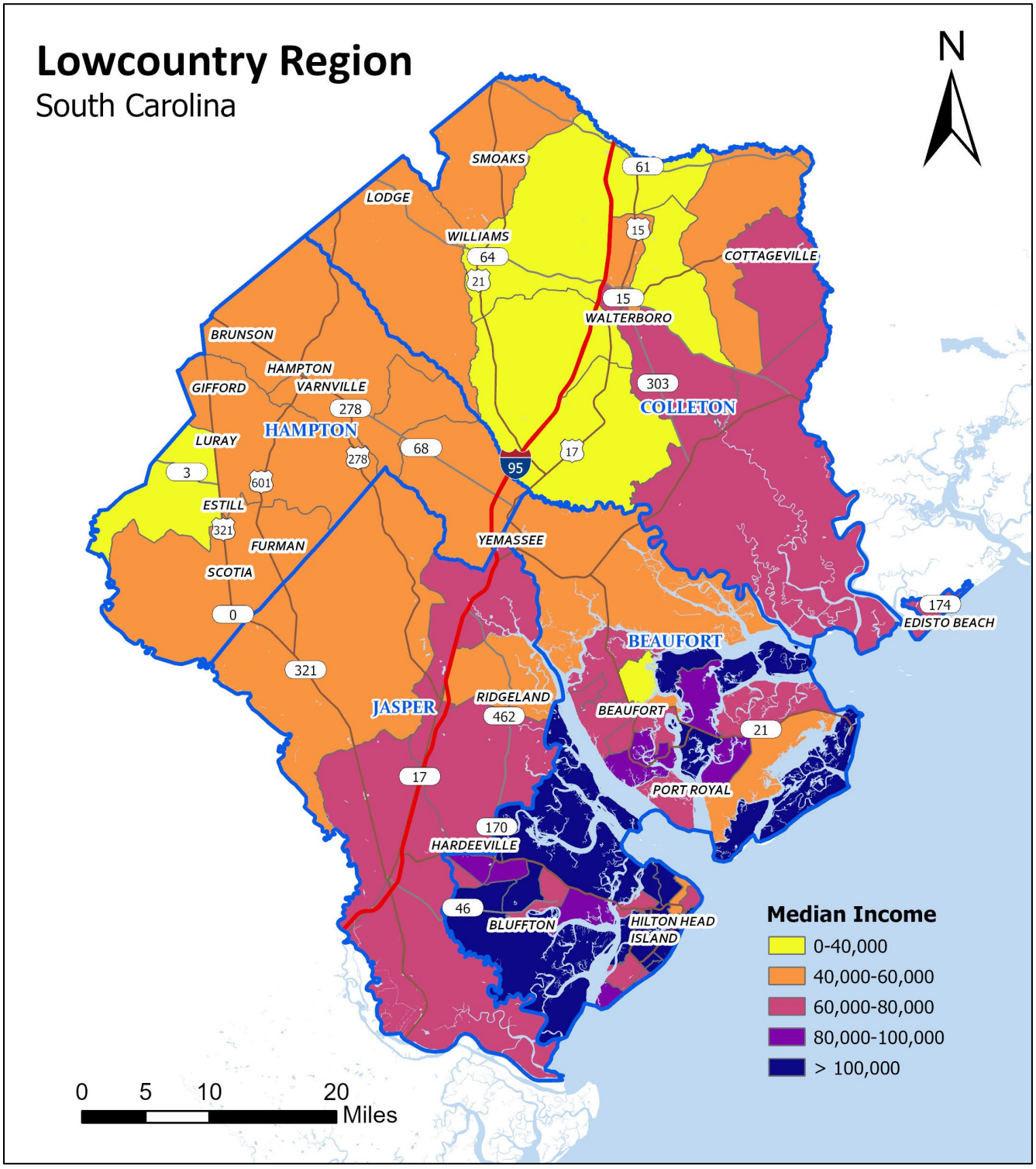
Incomes are distributed unevenly in the Lowcountry with Beaufort County reporting higher median household and per capita incomes than the state since 2000. Table 2-7 shows substantial increases in all income measures in all four counties from 2018 to 2024. Between 2018 and 2024, inflation-adjusted median household incomes and inflation-adjusted per capita incomes have both increased by over 30 percent in all four counties. Figure 2-9 illustrates the median household income in the Lowcountry in 2024.

Table 2-7: Income Measures 2010-2024

County	Income Type	2010	2018	2024	Percent Change 2010-2018	Percent Change 2018-2024
Beaufort	Median Household Income	$55,286	$63,110	$86,573	14.15%	37.18%
	Adjusted Median Household Income	$63,925	$63,110	$86,573	-1.27%	37.18%
	Per Capita Income	$32,731	$36,306	$57,083	10.92%	57.23%
	Adjusted Per Capita Income	$37,845	$36,306	$53,951	-4.07%	48.60%
Colleton	Median Household Income	$33,263	$36,276	$51,114	9.06%	40.90%
	Adjusted Median Household Income	$38,460	$36,276	$51,114	-5.68%	40.90%
	Per Capita Income	$17,842	$21,003	$30,006	17.72%	42.87%
	Adjusted Per Capita Income	$20,630	$21,003	$29,122	1.81%	38.66%
Hampton	Median Household Income	$34,846	$32,453	$44,711	-6.87%	37.77%
	Adjusted Median Household Income	$40,291	$32,453	$44,711	-19.45%	37.77%
	Per Capita Income	$16,262	$17,523	$26,499	7.75%	51.22%
	Adjusted Per Capita Income	$18,803	$17,523	$25,277	-6.81%	44.25%
Jasper	Median Household Income	$37,393	$41,930	$65,613	12.13%	56.48%
	Adjusted Median Household Income	$43,236	$41,930	$65,613	-3.02%	56.48%
	Per Capita Income	$17,997	$22,406	$31,234	24.50%	39.40%
	Adjusted Per Capita Income	$20,809	$22,406	$33,970	7.67%	51.61%
South Carolina	Median Household Income	$43,939	$51,015	$69,324	16.10%	35.89%
	Adjusted Median Household Income	$50,805	$51,015	$69,324	0.41%	35.89%
	Per Capita Income	$23,443	$27,986	$40,195	19.38%	43.63%
	Adjusted Per Capita Income	$27,106	$27,986	$39,236	3.25%	40.20%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Median Income in the Past 12 Months and Per Capita in the Past 12 Months; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) Inflation Calculator

Figure 2-9: Median Household Income by Census Tract 2024



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Median Income in the Past 12 Months

SECTION 3: HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT

It is important to understand natural and human-caused hazards that affect the Lowcountry region. This section details notable hazards that are relevant to the Lowcountry region with a description of each hazard, its past occurrences, and future probabilities.

3.1 HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

The hazard identification and profiles compiled for the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan cover fifteen different hazards. While not limited to, these hazards are of most concern based on historical records and impacts. The hazards included are:

- Tornado
- Hurricane
- Windstorm
- Lightning
- Hail
- Drought
- Earthquake
- Wildfire
- Flood
- Winter Storm
- Coastal Erosion
- Extreme Heat
- Terrorism
- Hazardous Materials
- Cyber Attack

Since the 2020 Plan, the Lowcountry region has faced many natural disaster events. The impacted areas in the four counties have received federal assistance available under emergency and major disaster declarations.

According to FEMA (2025b), all emergency and major disaster declarations are made solely at the discretion of the U.S. President. The Stafford Act §401 states in part that *"All requests for a declaration by the President that a major disaster exists shall be made by the Governor of the affected State."*

Table 3-1 provides all declarations related to the identified natural hazards in the Lowcountry region since 2020. The details on public assistance funded projects can be seen in Appendix D.

Emergency Declarations

- Involve any occasion or instance when the President determines federal assistance is needed.
- Supplement State and local or Indian tribal government efforts in providing emergency services, such as the protection of lives, property, public health, and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States.
- Provide assistance (not exceed $5 million) in a single emergency.

Major Disaster Declarations

- Involve any natural event, including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought, or, regardless of cause, fire, flood, or explosion, that the President determines has caused damage of such severity that it is beyond the combined capabilities of state and local governments to respond.
- Provide a wide range of federal assistance programs for individuals and public infrastructure, including funds for both emergency and permanent work.

Emergency Work

- Category A: Debris removal
- Category B: Emergency protective measures

Permanent Work

- Category C: Roads and bridges
- Category D: Water control facilities
- Category E: Public buildings and contents
- Category F: Public utilities
- Category G: Parks, recreational, and other facilities

(Source: FEMA, 2020a & 2020f)

Table 3-1: Disaster Declarations 2020-2025

Declaration Date	Declaration	Declaration Type	Disaster	County	Assistance Types (category)
9/29/2024	DR-4835-SC	Major Disaster Declaration	Tropical Storm Debby	Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper	Public Assistance (A-G)
9/29/2024	DR-4829-SC	Major Disaster Declaration	Hurricane Helene	Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper	Public Assistance & Individual Assistance (A-G)
9/26/2024	EM-3619-SC	Emergency Declaration	Hurricane Helene	Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper	Public Assistance (B)
8/5/2024	EM-3606-SC	Emergency Declaration	Hurricane Debby	Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper	Public Assistance (B)
8/31/2023	EM-3597-SC	Emergency Declaration	Hurricane Idalia	Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper	Public Assistance (B)
11/21/2022	DR-4677-SC	Major Disaster Declaration	Hurricane Ian	Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper	All Counties Public Assistance (B)/ Jasper County (A-G)
9/29/2022	EM-3585-SC	Emergency Declaration	Hurricane Ian	Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper	Public Assistance (B)
5/1/2020	DR-4542-SC	Major Disaster Declaration	SEVERE STORMS, TORNADOES, AND STRAIGHT-LINE WINDS	Hampton, Colleton	Individual & Public Assistance (A-G)
3/17/2020	DR-4479-SC	Major Disaster Declaration	SEVERE STORMS, TORNADOES, STRAIGHT-LINE WINDS, AND FLOODING	Hampton	Public Assistance (A-G)

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Data and Terminology

The data used for hazard identification and profiles are from publicly available sources and include references. All the weather-related hazard data used in this plan have a period of record of 20 years or more, which is sufficient to cover annual and decadal variability under climate change. Except for lightning which spans 13 years due to data processing limitations. It should be noted that some climatic and geological processes take place over a much longer time scale. For the hurricane/tropical storms, data from 1988 were included to capture Hurricane Hugo as the storm of record for the state (in terms of impact). Spatial analysis was conducted for each of the identified hazards. Depending on available data sources and stated in the text, hazard events were assessed at the municipality level, county level, or regional scale. For utilities that cover multiple jurisdictions and counties, the number of county events were combined and assessed accordingly (Beaufort-Jasper Water Sewer Authority combines Beaufort County and Jasper County events).

It is important to understand natural and human-caused hazards that affect the Lowcountry region. This information will be considered in planning, preparation, project development, and identifying opportunities for community mitigation strategies.

This plan provides updated hazard data and information from the 2020 plan on:

- Characteristics and Classification: A brief description of and identification of relevant data regarding each hazard.
- Location and Extent: The location of past occurrences and notable hazard events and the strength or magnitude of the hazard.
- Future Probability: The probability data of each hazard occurring in any given year.

Terminology for Future Probability

- *Total counts:* The overall number of events, instances, or damages in the period of record, or a specified time frame such as 2020-2024.
- *Annualized counts:* The average number of events, instances, or damages per year in the period of record or specified time frame such as 2020-2024.
- *Period of record:* The inclusive years (time frame) for which reported geospatial data are available at county or sub-county geographies.
- *Recurrence frequency:* The expected time (in years) between occurrences of events or instances, based on past events regardless of magnitude or intensity. It is the number of years in the record/ number of events.
- *Future probability (% chance of occurrence):* The likelihood (or percent chance of occurrence) per year. It is the number events or instances/by the number of years in the record or specified time frame, multiplied by 100.
- In some instances, the probability of the event occurring with a given magnitude at a specific location has been predetermined such as the 100-year floodplain. In this example, the 100-year floodplain represents a 2% chance of a flood of that magnitude in a given year. We provide those modeled probabilities where available.

3.2 TORNADO

Characteristics and Classification

According to the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL), a tornado is a violently rotating column of air that extends from a thunderstorm cloud to the ground. Tornadoes are some of the most violent events present in the atmosphere as winds can reach 300 mph. There are three levels to the National Weather Service alert system: Tornado Watch, Tornado Warning, and Tornado Emergency. The NWS issues a *tornado watch* when there are favorable conditions for tornadic formulation well in advance to allow the population affected to stay alert for severe weather. A *tornado warning* is issued if a tornado has been reported in the area either on radar or by individuals and requires immediate protective actions by the warned population. A *tornado emergency* occurs when a violent tornado has touched down in the watch area, an emergency poses a severe threat to life with catastrophic damage confirmed, immediate protective action is necessary. It should be noted that tornadoes produce millions or even billions in property damage per year as they are rare, deadly, and difficult to predict.

Since 1950, there have been numerous tornadoes in South Carolina. The State has averaged 23 tornadoes each year since 2014, claiming nine casualties and South Carolina ranks eighth nationally in the number of tornadoes per square mile (SCEMD, 2025a).

Tornado intensity and severity are measured using the Fujita Scale, which assigns a rating based on damage (Table 3-2). The National Weather Service implemented the Enhanced Fujita Scale (EF-Scale) in 2007 to update the older Fujita Scale. The Enhanced Fujita Scale (EF-Scale) takes more variables into account and produces more consistent and accurate tornado ratings, still ranging from EF-0 (weakest) to EF-5 (strongest) (NWS, 2026). These variables cover structures, trees, construction types, and more.

Table 3-2: Enhanced Fujita Scale for Tornado Damage

Scale	Typical Damage
EF-0 (65-85 mph)	Light damage – Peels surface off some roofs, some damage to gutters or siding, broken off trees, and shallow-rooted trees pushed over.
EF-1 (86-110 mph)	Moderate damage – Roofs severely stripped, mobile homes overturned or badly damaged, loss of exterior doors, and windows and other glass broken.
EF-2 (111-135 mph)	Considerable damage – Roofs torn off well-constructed houses, foundations of frame homes shifted, mobile homes completely destroyed, large trees snapped or uprooted, light-object missiles generated, and cars lifted off ground.
EF-3 (136-165 mph)	Severe damage – Entire stories of well-constructed houses destroyed, severe damage to large buildings such as shopping malls, trains overturned, trees debarked, heavy cars lifted off the ground and thrown, and structures with weak foundations blown away some distance.
EF-4 (166-200 mph)	Devastating damage – Whole frame houses well-constructed houses and whole frame houses completely leveled, and cars thrown and small missiles generated.
EF-5 (>200 mph)	Incredible damage – Strong frame houses leveled off foundations and swept away, automobile-sized missiles fly through the air in excess of 100 m (109 yd), high-rise buildings have significant structural deformation, incredible phenomena will occur.
EF No rating	Inconceivable damage – Should a tornado with the maximum wind speed in excess of EF-5 occur, the extent and types of damage may not be conceived.

Source: National Weather Service (NWS)

Location and Extent

During the period 2020-2024 there were a total of 12 tornadoes in the Lowcountry region (Table 3-3). On April 13, 2020, there was a severe EF-4 touchdown in Estill just north of Collie Road causing damage to the Federal Correctional Institution of Estill while moving northeast. The storm then gained strength and size destroying many, at least six, mobile and single-family homes in its unusually long path. Continuing northeast, the storm destroyed a mobile home near the intersection of Highway 3 and Highway 601, tragically claiming the lives of 2 adult males. While crossing near the intersection of Turner Expressway and Brandy Lane a mobile home was destroyed tragically claiming the lives of 2 adult females and 1 adult male. Some automobiles were tossed 50-75 yards from their original location. Overall, the tornado path tracked about 24 miles, claiming the lives of 5 individuals and injuring at least 60 others. The damage pattern suggests that the tornado may have consisted of multiple vortices. Many EF-0 and EF-1 tornadoes impacted the region during this timeframe and resulted in zero fatalities or injuries (Figure 3-1).

Table 3-3: Tornado Events 2020-2024

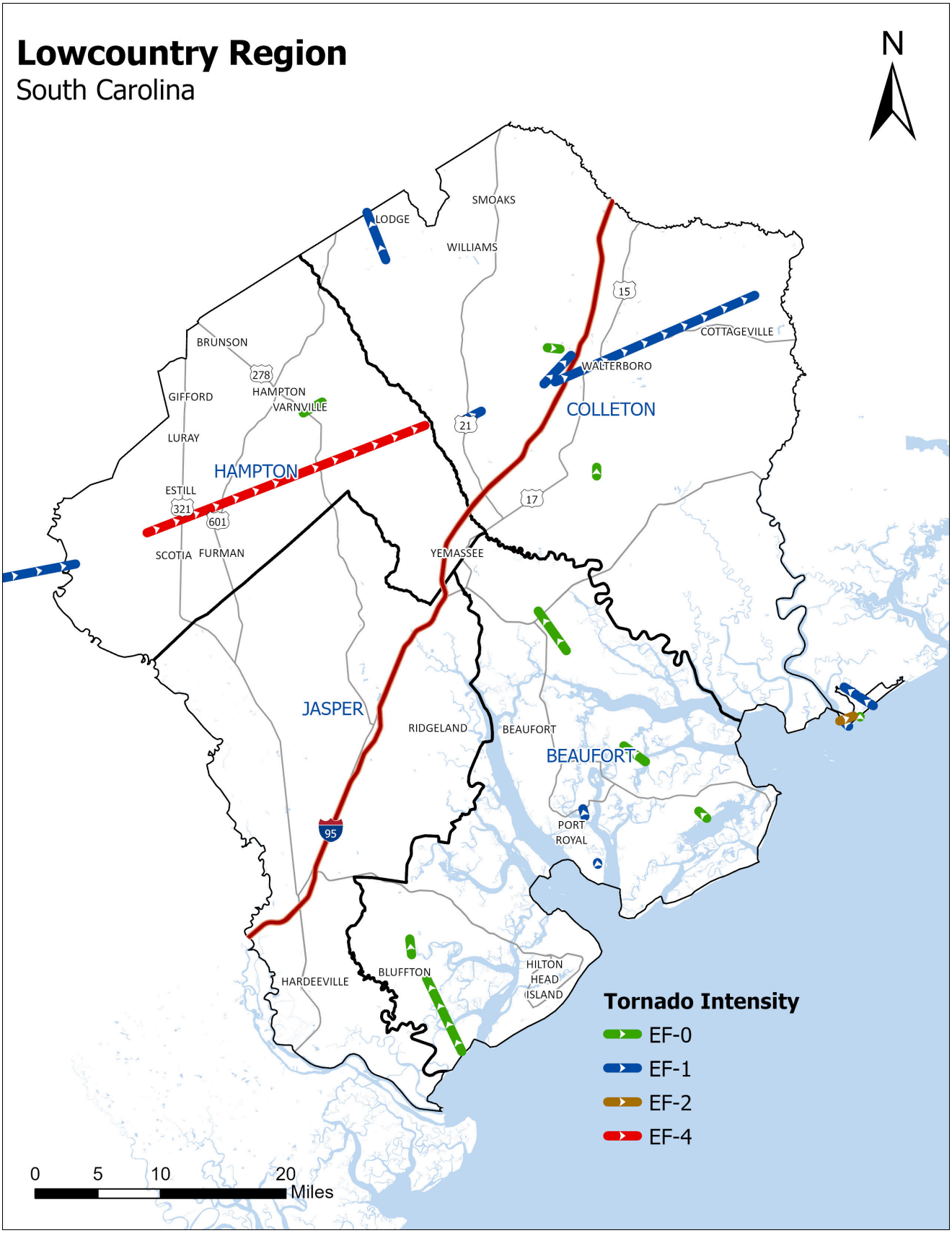
	EF-0	EF-1	EF-2	EF-3	EF-4	EF-5
Total Number	9	9	1	0	1	0
Fatalities	0	0	0	0	5	0
Injuries	0	0	0	0	60	0

Source: NOAA Storm Prediction Center

Future Impacts

Impacts to a community can be significant but are usually concentrated in areas that are near or directly in line with a tornado's path. Any critical facilities in a tornado's path may see structural damage and potential impacts to operations and services. Safety and security are a concern as residential structures in the path of a tornado are at risk of damage, potentially making homes uninhabitable. Emergency response personnel may see an increase in request calls for assistance including search and rescue, emergency shelter, and debris clean up. Impacts are mostly localized but damages to critical infrastructure can potentially effect the region.

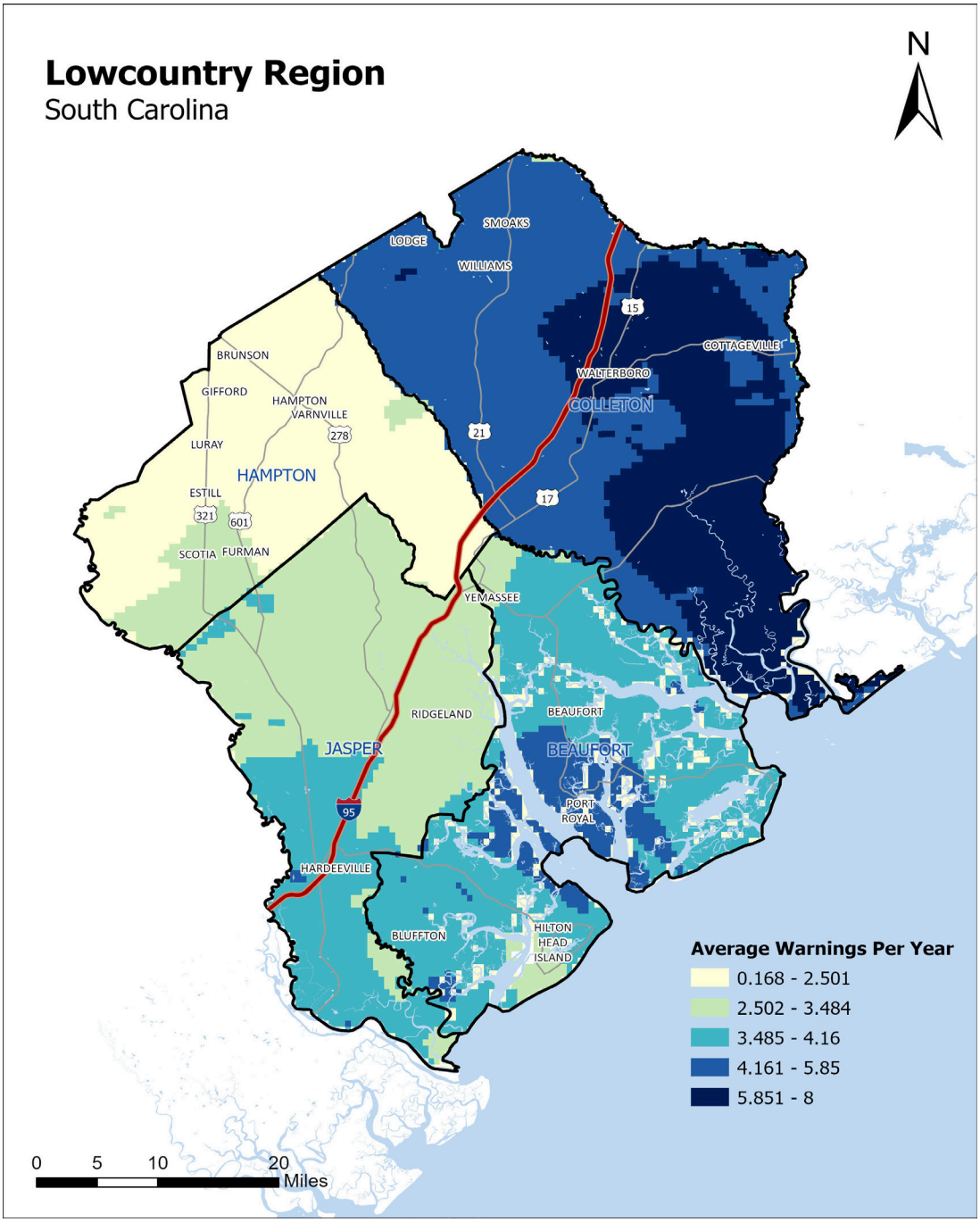
Figure 3-1: Tornado Tracks and Intensity 2020-2024



Source: NOAA Storm Prediction Center

Another way to analyze the potential risk of tornadic activity in the region is to examine tornado warnings issued by the National Weather Service (NWS). A warning indicates that a tornado has been sighted in the vicinity or indicated by a weather radar forecaster, such warnings provide a proxy for the likely location and frequency of tornadoes (Figure 3-2). Warnings are issued by a local forecast office, and they aim to encompass a smaller area than a watch, such as a city or small county. For the Lowcountry region, Colleton County outpaces the region in average annual warnings with Beaufort County following behind, especially the areas of Port Royal and the City of Beaufort.

Figure 3-2: Tornado Warnings 2020-2024



Source: Iowa Environmental Mesonet (Iowa State University)

Future Probability

Tornado events are random in their intensity and geographic patterns. While they can occur during any time of the year, they are most prevalent in the spring and summer months, and during the Atlantic hurricane season, which occurs from June to November. Tornado events are relatively low frequency and have less than 100% chance of occurring in any given year as shown in Table 3-4.

Table 3-4: Tornado Historical and Recent Hazards Events 1986-2024

	Total Number	Years in Data Record	Annualized Count	Recurrence Frequency (in years)	Future Probability (% chance/year)	Total Number 2020-2024
Beaufort County	24	**39**	**0.6**	**1.63**	**62%**	**7**
City of Beaufort	3	39	0.1	13.00	8%	0
Town of Bluffton	5	39	0.1	7.80	13%	2
Town of Hilton Head Island	2	39	0.1	19.50	5%	0
Town of Port Royal	2	39	0.1	19.50	5%	2
Colleton County	27	**39**	**0.7**	**1.44**	**69%**	**10**
Town of Cottageville	0	39	0.0	0.00	0%	0
Town of Edisto Beach	4	39	0.1	9.75	10%	4
Town of Lodge	0	39	0.0	0.00	0%	0
Town of Smoaks	1	39	0.0	39.00	3%	0
City of Walterboro	3	39	0.1	13.00	8%	1
Town of Williams	0	39	0.0	0.00	0%	0
Hampton County	11	**39**	**0.3**	**3.55**	**28%**	**3**
Town of Brunson	1	39	0.0	39.00	3%	0
Town of Estill	1	39	0.0	39.00	3%	1
Town of Furman	0	39	0.0	0.00	0%	0
Town of Gifford	1	39	0.0	39.00	3%	0
Town of Hampton	3	39	0.1	13.00	8%	0
Town of Luray	0	39	0.0	0.00	0%	0
Town of Scotia	0	39	0.0	0.00	0%	0
Town of Varnville	2	39	0.1	19.50	5%	1
Town of Yemassee	0	39	0.0	0.00	0%	0
Jasper County	6	**39**	**0.2**	**6.50**	**15%**	**0**
City of Hardeeville	3	39	0.1	13.00	8%	0
Town of Ridgeland	1	39	0.0	39.00	3%	0
Utilities						
Beaufort-Jasper Water Sewer Authority	23	39	0.6	1.70	59%	7

Note: Symbol (*) refers to “no value” because the hazard events have a value of zero. Events that crossed County boundaries were counted for both counties.
Source: NOAA’s Storm Prediction Center and NOAA's Storm Events Database

3.3 HURRICANE

Characteristics and Classification

Hurricanes, or tropical cyclones, are the result of environmental conditions combining to intensify a pre-existing thunderstorm. Such environmental conditions include ocean surface temperature, air moisture content, and vertical wind shear (NASA, 2025a). Hurricanes form over warm tropical waters, a minimum of 80 degrees Fahrenheit, in the northern hemisphere and have closed, circulating winds that rotate in a counterclockwise direction. Tropical depressions, tropical storms, and hurricanes are examples of tropical cyclones. Tropical depressions have maximum sustained surface wind speeds up to 38 mph. When wind speeds reach a sustained level of 39 mph or more, the system is formally classified as a tropical storm and receives a name. When the winds reach a sustained 74 mph the event is re-classified as a hurricane.

Hurricanes come in varying intensities measured by the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. The scale ranges from one to five with higher numbers representing higher wind speeds and stronger storms. Once a storm reaches Category 3 (111 mph sustained winds) it is considered a Major Hurricane due to its increased potential to cause significant loss as shown in Table 3-5 (NHC, 2020a).

Table 3-5: Hurricane Category Description

Category	Sustained Wind	Types of Damage Due to Hurricane
1	**74-95 mph 64-82 kt 119-153 km/h**	*Very dangerous winds will produce some damage:* Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, and vinyl siding and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap, and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages that could last a few to several days.
2	**96-110 mph 83-95 kt 154-177 km/h**	*Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage:* Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.
3 (major)	**111-129 96-112 kt 178-208 km/h**	*Devastating damage will occur:* Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.
4 (major)	**130-156 mph 113-136 kt 209-251 km/h**	*Catastrophic damage will occur:* Well-built framed homes can sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted, and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.
5 (major)	**157 mph or higher 137 kt or higher 252 km/h or higher**	*Catastrophic damage will occur:* A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

Source: National Hurricane Center (NHC)

According to the National Hurricane Center (NHC) (2020b) and National Weather Service (2020a), there are four different hazards associated with tropical storms and hurricanes.

Strong Winds

Winds are the defining factor for tropical storms and hurricanes. The onset of tropical storm force winds ends preparedness activities such as evacuations as those wind speeds pose a danger to people and structures. Hurricane-force winds (74 mph and up) can occur at some distances from the eye of the storm. They can destroy structures and can turn regular debris into airborne hazards.

Heavy Rain

Tropical cyclones have enormous potential for precipitation and can carry that potential far inland. Widespread heavy precipitation gives rise to inland and flash flooding. Flooding in low-lying areas can persist for days. Rainfall is usually worse during larger storms and slower storms. In 2024, Tropical Storm Debby dropped 17.57 inches of rain in Colleton County and 14.3 inches in Beaufort County which led to significant localized flooding (SCDNR).

Tornadoes

Tropical cyclones can spawn tornadoes. Most commonly these tornadoes occur in rain bands well-removed from the storm's eye, but it is possible for them to appear near the eyewall. Typically, these tornadoes are weak, but tornadoes of any strength can cause destruction and loss of life.

Storm Surge

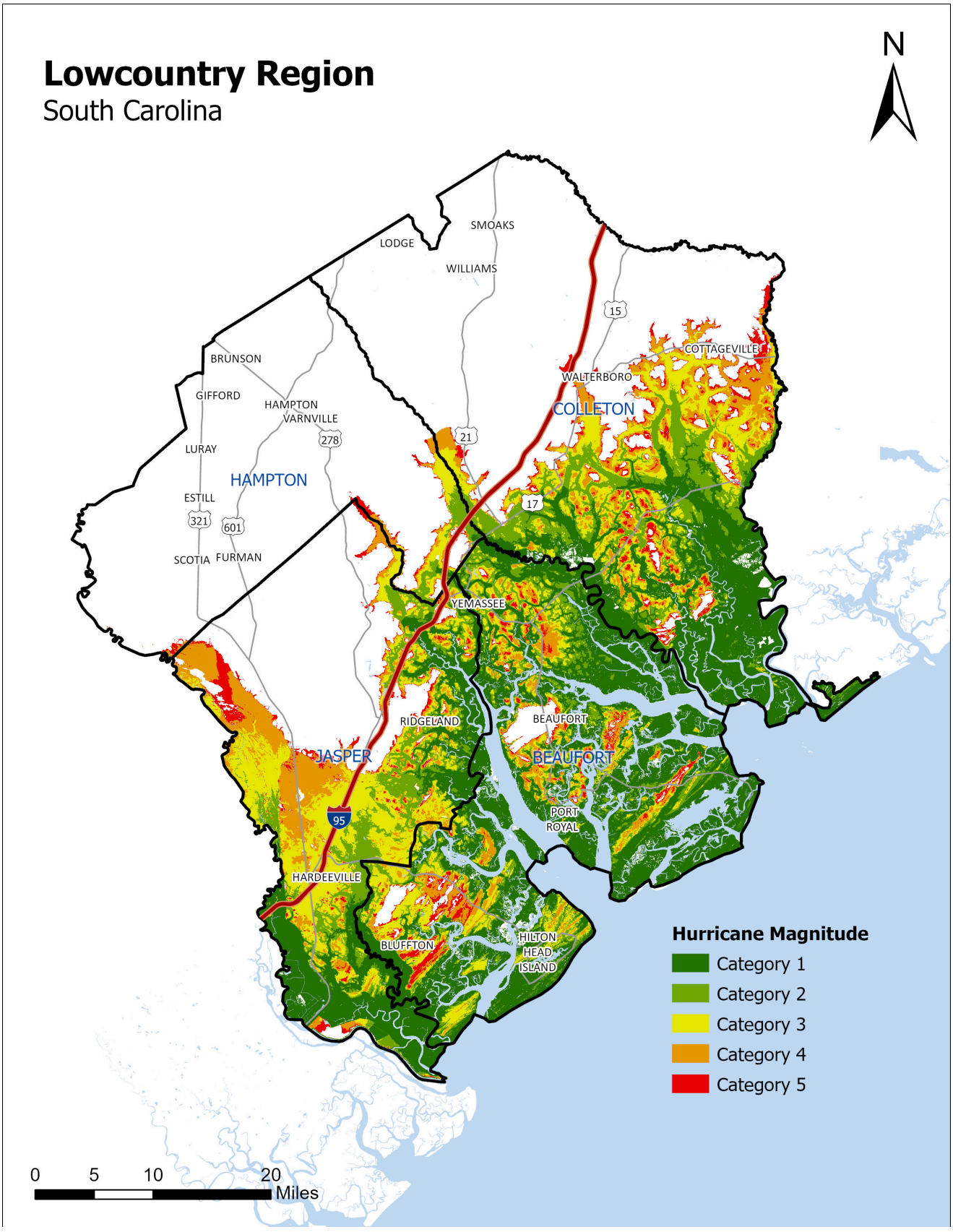
Hurricanes and tropical storms can push sea water up to 20 feet higher than normal tides, due to the strong winds, forward speed, and the low pressure associated with the storms. Storm surge is highest in the upper right quadrant near the north side of the storm's eye. For example, if the storm surge is added to the top of a high tide, the coastal flooding and surge will be exacerbated, whereas a low tide has the potential to mitigate those effects. High seas can erode beaches, destroy buildings, and ruin coastal structures such as docks or revetments. As a hurricane's path and timing are narrowed upon its approach to land, scientists use the Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) model to predict the storm surge that may occur (Figure 3-3).

The SLOSH model uses factors in its calculations such as the underwater terrain, wind speeds, storm direction, and the shape of the coastline (UCAR, 2020). In 2017, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) began issuing graphics detailing storm surge warnings and watches as part of its suite of warning products and messaging.

All four counties in the Lowcountry are at significant risk for storm surge with the potential of stretching inland as far as I-95 in places with a category 1 hurricane. Storm surge risk is a major issue for coastal evacuation in Beaufort, Colleton, and Jasper Counties.

Storm surge measurements for the Lowcountry region are obtained from the National Weather Service's Fort Pulaski, GA Tide Gauge.

Figure 3-3: Storm Surge Flooding Extent



Source: 2025 NOAA-SLOSH Model Run Outputs

Location and Extent

Throughout the long period of record of hurricanes and their paths, there has been only one major hurricane (Hurricane Gracie, a category 4 storm which made landfall near Edisto Island in 1959) to make landfall or pass through the Lowcountry region (Historical Hurricane Tracks, 2024). Tropical storms are the most prevalent in the Lowcountry (Table 3-6).

Table 3-6: Storm Tracks Affecting the Lowcountry Region 1850-2024

Type of Storm	Number Passing through the Region	Number Passing within 50 Nautical Miles of Region	Recent (2020-2024) Passing Through or Within 50 Nautical Miles
Hurricane-Category 5	0	0	0
Hurricane-Category 4	1	2	0
Hurricane-Category 3	0	4	0
Hurricane-Category 2	5	10	0
Hurricane-Category 1	8	16	1
Tropical Storm	23	68	7
Tropical Depression	7	26	1
Subtropical	2	6	0
Extratropical	8	11	0
Unknown/ Miscellaneous	4	9	1
Total	**58**	**152**	**10**

Source: Historical Hurricane Tracks

When Hurricanes strike the Lowcountry, the extent of the impact often encompasses the entire region. Since 2020, three tropical cyclones have tracked directly through the Lowcountry region (Figure 3-4). Of those three, only Hurricane Idalia was declared a disaster. The others being Tropical Storm Danny, which made landfall on Pritchards Island in Beaufort County, and Tropical Storm Colin, made landfall near Hunting Island in Beaufort County. While no major hurricane tracks have traversed the region since 2020, several hurricanes passed within 50 nautical miles or produced enough damage in the region to warrant Presidential Disaster Declarations (PDD). According to FEMA (2025a), these include:

Hurricane Ian – 2022 (DR-4677-SC) – Public Assistance for Jasper County and Public Assistance (B) for Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton Counties

Ian reached major hurricane status in the Gulf of Mexico just north of Dry Tortugas and peaked as a category 5 hurricane with 140 kt (161 mph) wind speeds. After crossing Florida, Ian turned up the Atlantic coast and made its final landfall near Georgetown, South Carolina as a category 1 hurricane with an intensity of 70 kts (80 mph). Storm surge was significant along the Lowcountry coastline, maximum inundation ranged from 2 to 4 ft above ground level (AGL) and maximum water levels at Fort Pulaski, Georgia reached 2.01 ft above Mean Higher High Water (MHHW). Additionally, there was significant rainfall, adding freshwater to the storm surge. Rainfall totals were highest in Colleton County compared to other Lowcountry counties with readings

of 4.45 inches in the town of Cottageville. Most damage in the Lowcountry occurred due to roadway flooding and fallen trees. An estimated 378,000 customers were left without power in South Carolina. (NHC, 2023a).

Hurricane Idalia – 2023 (EM-3597-SC) – Public Assistance (B) for Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties

Idalia rapidly intensified over the eastern Gulf of Mexico in late August 2023 and made landfall near Keaton Beach, Florida on August 30 as a strong Category 3 hurricane. After landfall, Idalia weakened while moving northeast across the southeastern United States, transitioning into an extratropical cyclone as it moved off the U.S. East Coast. Despite its brief time at peak intensity, Idalia produced significant storm surge, damaging winds, flooding rainfall, and widespread impacts across Florida and the Southeast. As Idalia passed offshore, the Lowcountry experienced tropical storm–force conditions with periods of heavy rain, gusty winds, and coastal flooding. Rainfall generally totaled 3–6 inches, causing localized flooding in streets and low-lying areas, especially in poor-drainage locations. Strong onshore flow led to locally moderate coastal flooding around high tide, along with rough surf and beach erosion. Wind gusts downed scattered trees and power lines, producing isolated power outages. Additionally, outer rainbands spawned a few brief tornadoes in the region, resulting in spotty, minor damage (NHC, 2023).

Tropical Storm Debby – 2024 (DR-4835-SC) – Public Assistance for Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties

Debby was a Category 1 storm that made landfall along Florida's Big Bend before emerging over the southwestern Atlantic Ocean, transitioning into a subtropical storm, and making a second landfall in Bulls Bay, South Carolina. Debby caused devastating flash and river flooding across parts of the southeastern United States and was responsible for 18 fatalities (12 direct) and more than $4 billion (USD) in damage across the United States and Canada. Hundreds of roads in and around the Lowcountry were closed or made impassable due to flooding. Multiple water rescues were performed in Beaufort County and one in Jasper County. Many homes and businesses were inundated by flood waters, especially in Bluffton, Hilton Head Island, and along the Edisto River and Ireland Creek in Colleton County. There were also 8 tornadoes reported in South Carolina because of the storm, one EF-1 tornado in Edisto Beach caused significant structural damage to homes. South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) reported at least 70 homes suffered major damage from Debby's impacts (NHC, 2025).

Hurricane Helene – 2024 (DR-4829-SC) – Individual Assistance and Public Assistance for Beaufort, Jasper, Hampton Counties and Public Assistance for Colleton County

Helene rapidly intensified in the Gulf of America before making landfall in Florida's Big Bend region as a Category 4 hurricane, moved extremely quickly inland and northward towards Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina borders. The storm produced catastrophic inland flooding, extreme winds, deadly storm surge, and numerous tornadoes, devastating large portions of the southeastern United States. Helene was responsible for at least 250 fatalities in the United States, including at least 176 direct deaths, making it the deadliest hurricane to impact the contiguous United States since Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Helene is responsible for 26 direct deaths and 23 indirect deaths in South Carolina. Strong winds and scattered tornadoes were the cause of most damage in the Lowcountry. Total timber damage reported by the South Carolina Forestry Commission was $83 million across 20 counties (NHC, 2025).

According to recent cyclone history from 2020-2024, of the ten tropical cyclones to come within 50 nautical miles of the Lowcountry, only Isaias reached hurricane status as a Category 1 storm. It should be made clear that Hurricane Helene in 2024 and Hurricane Ian in 2022 are outside the 50 nautical mile radius but are included due to the significant impacts that resulted, the track's closest extent is used for analysis. All storms are unique and must be monitored as such to avoid public misconceptions and properly inform decision makers.

The year 2016 saw the most named storms, with five total storms, each reached tropical storm status at some point in their track. Over one quarter, 26%, of the total cyclone events have occurred within the past five years (Table 3-7). This is a trend to monitor going forward. Municipalities must be prepared if the frequency of tropical cyclone events continues to increase.

Future Impacts

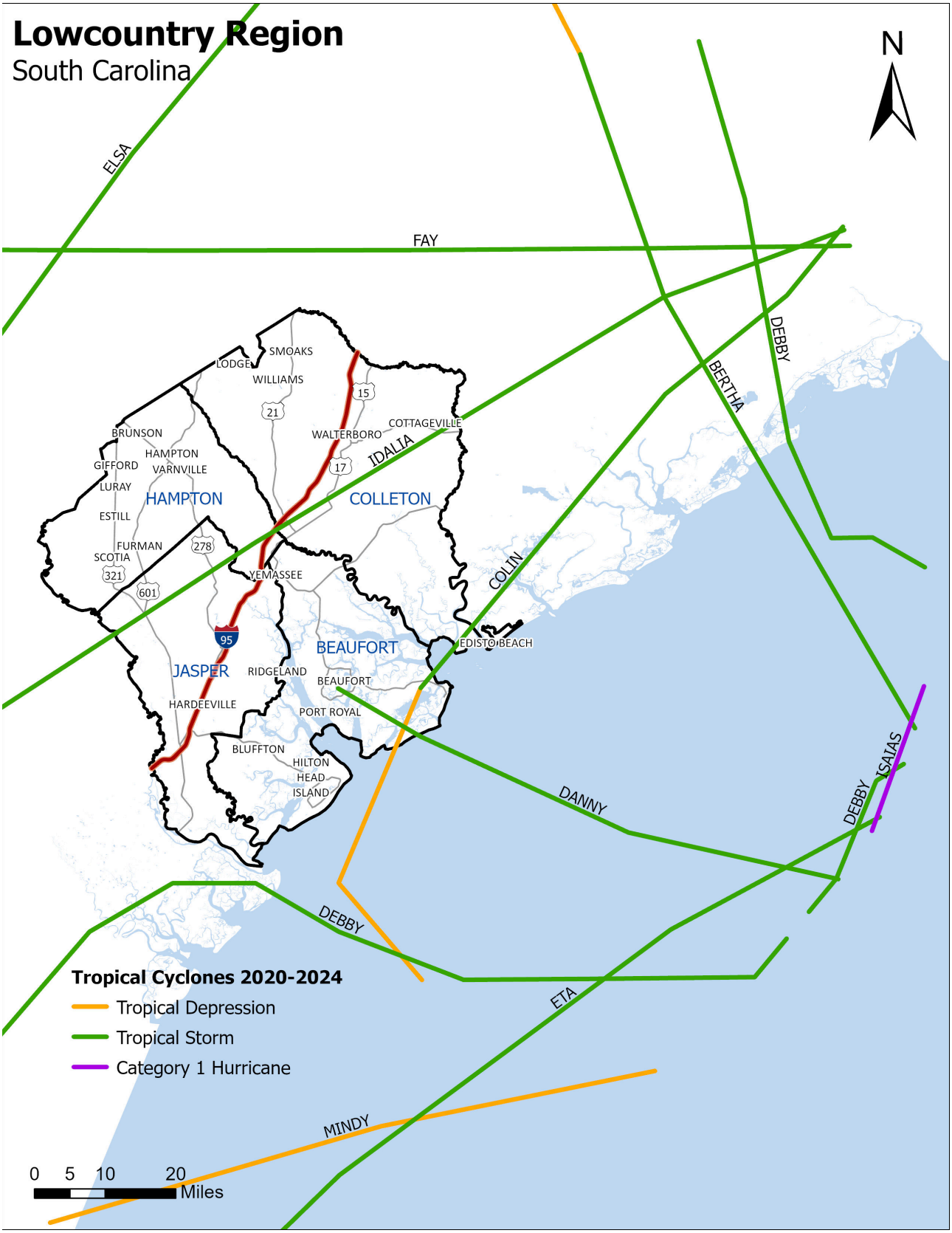
A significant tropical cyclone would cause major impacts to critical facilities and community safety and security at a regional scale. High winds, heavy rainfall, storm surge, and flooding can damage facilities and infrastructure with potential to disrupt services or even stop operations for a prolonged period. Transportation infrastructure can see road closures, lane reversals in the event of an evacuation, bridge closures, and port and airport operation disruptions that challenge emergency response and supply chain operations. Emergency response personnel may see extended operating periods, use of specialized equipment, activation of emergency shelters, search and rescue support, and debris clean up.

Table 3-7: Historic Cyclone Events 1988-2024

Storm	Min Extent (within 50 nautical miles)	Max Extent (within 50 nautical miles)
CHRIS 1988	Tropical Depression	Tropical Storm
HUGO 1989	Category 2	Category 4
MARCO 1990	Post-tropical	Post-tropical
GORDON 1994	Tropical Depression	Tropical Depression
ALLISON 1995	Post-tropical	Tropical Depression
JOSEPHINE 1996	Post-tropical	Post-tropical
EARL 1998	Post-tropical	Post-tropical
GORDON 2000	Post-tropical	Tropical Depression
HELENE 2000	Tropical Depression	Tropical Depression
ALLISON 2001	Subtropical	Subtropical
KYLE 2002	Tropical Storm	Tropical Storm
UNNAMED STORM 2003	Tropical Depression	Tropical Depression
BONNIE 2004	Disturbance	Tropical Storm
CHARLEY 2004	Category 1	Category 1
GASTON 2004	Tropical Storm	Category 1
ALBERTO 2006	Tropical Depression	Tropical Depression
BARRY 2007	Post-tropical	Tropical Depression
CRISTOBAL 2008	Tropical Depression	Tropical Depression
BERYL 2012	Tropical Depression	Tropical Storm
ANDREA 2013	Tropical Storm	Tropical Storm
BONNIE 2016	Disturbance	Tropical Storm
COLIN 2016	Tropical Depression	Tropical Storm
HERMINE 2016	Tropical Storm	Tropical Storm
JULIA 2016	Tropical Storm	Tropical Storm
MATTHEW 2016	Category 1	Category 2
UNNAMED 2017	Disturbance	Disturbance
FLORENCE 2018	Tropical Storm	Tropical Storm
NESTOR 2019	Post-tropical	Post-tropical
BERTHA 2020	Tropical Depression	Tropical Storm
ETA 2020	Tropical Storm	Tropical Storm
FAY 2020	Disturbance	Disturbance
ISAIAS 2020	Category 1	Category 1
DANNY 2021	Tropical Storm	Tropical Storm
ELSA 2021	Tropical Storm	Tropical Storm
MINDY 2021	Tropical Depression	Tropical Depression
COLIN 2022	Tropical Depression	Tropical Storm
IAN 2022	Category 1	Category 1
IDALIA 2023	Tropical Storm	Tropical Storm
DEBBY 2024	Tropical Storm	Tropical Storm
HELENE 2024	Tropical Storm	Tropical Storm

Source: NOAA's International Best Track Archive for Climate Stewardship (IBTrACS)

Figure 3-4: Hurricane and Tropical Storm Tracks 2020-2024



Source: International Best Track Archive for Climate Stewardship (IBTrACS), Tropical Cyclone Best Track

Future Probability

Table 3-8 shows that the future probability of hurricanes and tropical storms is relatively high in the Lowcountry region, increasing by 20% since 2020, with high consequences based on damage (see Loss Information Section). Probabilities are given for the formation of any tropical system within a 50 nautical mile radius or storms that have sufficient intensity to cause loss of life, injuries, significant property damage, and/or disruption to commerce; the intensity of a system is dependent on environmental conditions at that time. Hurricanes Idalia and Helene have been included as recent events due to their sufficient intensity, although they did not track within 50 nautical miles of the Lowcountry.

Table 3-8: Hurricane and Tropical Storms Historical and Recent Hazards Events 1988-2024

	Total Number	Years in Data Record	Annualized Count	Recurrence Frequency (in years)	Future Probability (% chance/year)	Total Number 2020-2024
Beaufort County	**40**	**37**	**1.1**	**0.93**	**108%**	**12**
City of Beaufort	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Town of Bluffton	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Town of Hilton Head Island	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Town of Port Royal	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Colleton County	**40**	**37**	**1.1**	**0.93**	**108%**	**12**
Town of Cottageville	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Town of Edisto Beach	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Town of Lodge	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Town of Smoaks	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
City of Walterboro	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Town of Williams	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Hampton County	**40**	**37**	**1.1**	**0.93**	**108%**	**12**
Town of Brunson	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Town of Estill	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Town of Furman	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Town of Gifford	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Town of Hampton	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Town of Luray	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Town of Scotia	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Town of Varnville	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Town of Yemassee	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Jasper County	**40**	**37**	**1.1**	**0.93**	**108%**	**12**
City of Hardeeville	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Town of Ridgeland	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Utilities						
Beaufort-Jasper Water Sewer Authority	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12

Source: NOAA's International Best Track Archive for Climate Stewardship (IBTrACS)

3.4 WINDSTORM

Characteristics and Classification

Severe windstorms are non-rotating, straight-line winds associated with thunderstorms. With every thunderstorm there is an updraft and downdraft due to changes in surface temperature and pressure. Updraft creates a thunderstorm and the downdraft is responsible for precipitation, typically as rain or hail. Most windstorms can be separated by winds that belong in either the updraft or downdraft category (NWS, 2025).

According to Storm Prediction Center (SPC) (2018), thunderstorms occur when air rises quickly, creating clouds which then generates precipitation. Straight-line thunderstorm winds typically occur with descending air pushed down by the precipitation of the storm in the downdraft, although winds associated with the updraft can occasionally cause minor damage. There are a few types of thunderstorms, but the straight-line winds associated with them generally are inflow winds, downbursts, the gust front, and the rear flank downdraft.

Thunderstorm wind events are defined as winds occurring within 30 minutes of lightning. Winds and wind gusts of any speed also are recorded if they cause damage or produce injuries or fatalities and whether they are produced by convection or not. Maximum sustained winds over 58 mph are recorded regardless of any associated loss. Non-convective strong wind gusts less than 40 mph resulting in damage, injury, or a fatality are recorded (NWS, 2016).

Location and Extent

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), there is a system of estimating and reporting wind strengths called "Beaufort Wind Scale", one of the first scales to estimate wind speeds and the effects on land or at sea. The scale starts with 0 and goes to a force of 12 as shown in Table 3-9. High wind and thunderstorm warnings are also issued by the NWS to alert the public about coming events.

Types of Wind

- *Inflow winds:* coming from the air being pulled up into the storm. These are usually negligible, but they can cause minor damage.
- *A downburst:* occurring when the wind reaching the surface for the first time is strong enough to cause damage.
- *The gust front:* representing winds that are being pushed along the ground ahead of the storm.
- *A rear flank downdraft:* occurring when a storm with a rotating updraft pulls the downdrafts to the side and behind the storm. These can reach speeds of up to 70 mph.
- *The derecho:* a widespread, long lived, and damaging thunderstorm. The storm's wind damage swath must extend more than 240 miles with wind gusts exceeding 57 mph along most of the length of the storm's path.

Warnings

- *High Wind Warning*: Sustained, strong winds with even stronger gusts are happening. Seek shelter. If you are driving, keep both hands on the wheels and slow down. NWS offices issue this product based on local criteria.
- *Severe Thunderstorm Warning*: A Severe Thunderstorm Warning is issued when severe thunderstorms is happening or is imminent in the warning area. Severe thunderstorms have wind 58 mph or higher and/or hail 1 inch or larger. Seek shelter inside a sturdy building, away from windows.

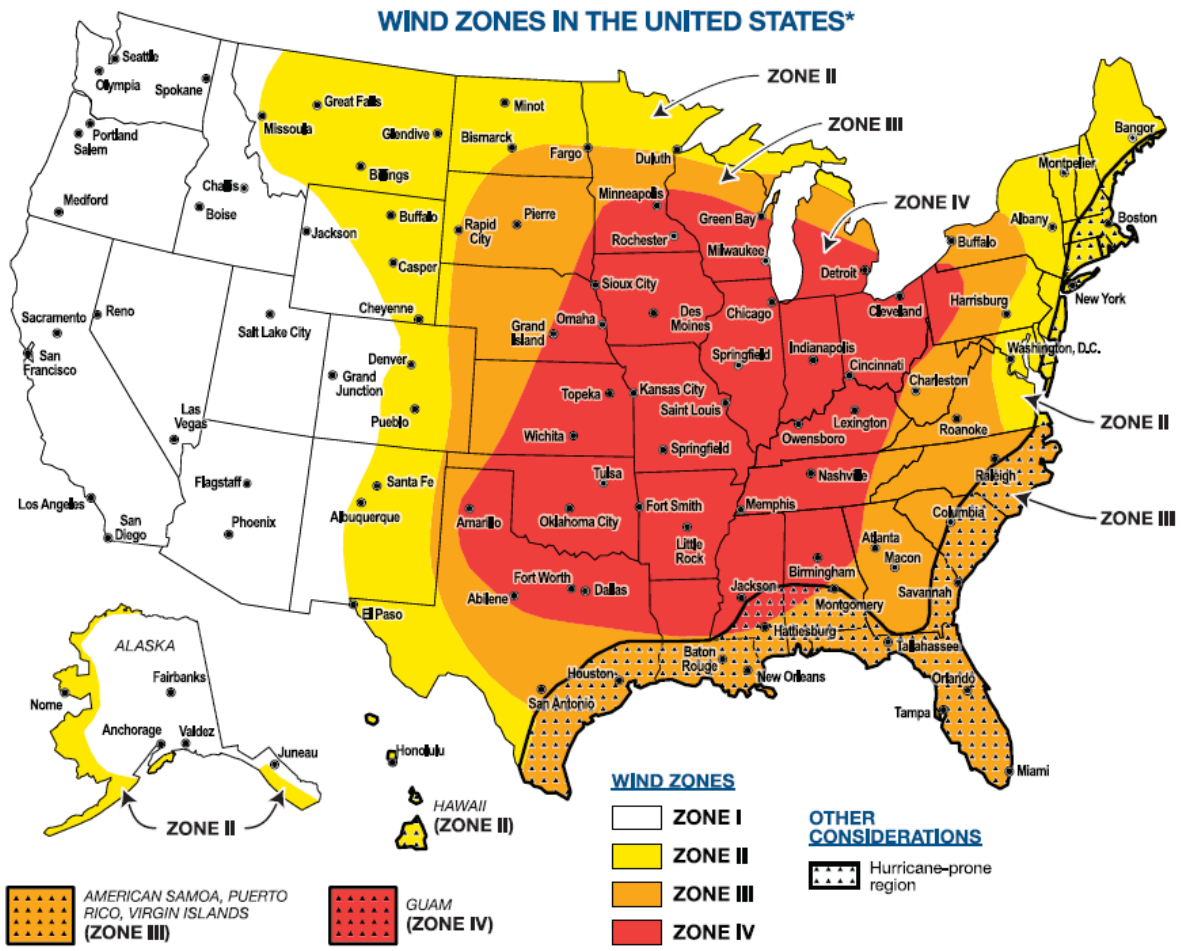
Table 3-9: Beaufort Wind Scale

Force	Wind Speed (mph)	Description	Wind Effects on Land	Wind Effects at Sea
0	**0-1**	**Calm**	Calm; smoke rises vertically.	Sea like a mirror.
1	**1-3**	**Light Air**	Direction of wind shown by smoke drift, but not by wind vanes.	Ripples with the appearance of scales are formed, but without foam crests.
2	**4-7**	**Light Breeze**	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; ordinary vanes moved by wind.	Small wavelets, still short, but more pronounced. Crests have a glassy appearance and do not break.
3	**8-12**	**Gentle Breeze**	Leaves and small twigs in constant motion; wind extends light flag.	Large wavelets. Crests begin to break. Foam of glassy appearance. Perhaps scattered white horses.
4	**13-18**	**Moderate Breeze**	Raises dust and loose paper; small branches are moved.	Small waves, becoming larger; fairly frequent white horses.
5	**19-24**	**Fresh Breeze**	Small trees in leaf begin to sway; crested wavelets form on inland waters.	Moderate waves, taking a more pronounced long form; many white horses are formed.
6	**25-31**	**Strong Breeze**	Large branches in motion; whistling heard in telegraph wires; umbrellas used with difficulty.	Large waves begin to form; the white foam crests are more extensive everywhere.
7	**32-38**	**Near Gale**	Whole trees in motion; inconvenience felt when walking against the wind.	Sea heaps up and white foam from breaking waves begins to be blown in streaks along the direction of the wind.
8	**39-46**	**Gale**	Breaks twigs off trees; generally impedes progress.	Moderately high waves of greater length; edges of crests begin to break into spindrift. The foam is blown in well-marked streaks along the direction of the wind.
9	**47-54**	**Severe Gale**	Slight structural damage occurs (chimney-pots and slates removed).	High waves. Dense streaks of foam along the direction of the wind. Crests of waves begin to topple, tumble and roll over. Spray may affect visibility.
10	**55-63**	**Storm**	Seldom experienced inland; trees uprooted; considerable structural damage occurs.	Very high waves with long overhanging crests. The resulting foam, in great patches, is blown in dense white streaks along the direction of the wind. On the whole the surface of the sea takes on a white appearance. The tumbling of the sea becomes heavy and shock-like. Visibility affected.
11	**64-72**	**Violent Storm**	Very rarely experienced; accompanied by wide-spread damage.	Exceptionally high waves (small and medium-size ships might be for a time lost to view behind the waves). The sea is completely covered with long white patches of foam lying along the direction of the wind. Everywhere the edges of the wave crests are blown into froth. Visibility affected.
12	**72 and Over**	**Hurricane**	See Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale.	The air is filled with foam and spray. Sea completely white with driving spray; visibility very seriously affected.

Source: National Weather Service (NWS)

Thunderstorm winds including strong winds are frequent occurrences in the Lowcountry region which is located within Wind Zone III as shown in Figure 3-5 (FEMA. 2014). There are fourteen total reported fatalities due to windstorms, five of which came in 1996 when gale force winds capsized a research vessel off the coast of Beaufort. A May 2006 supercell thunderstorm brought down numerous trees, powerlines, and poles causing over $500,000 in property damage in Walterboro.

Figure 3-5: Wind Zones in the United States



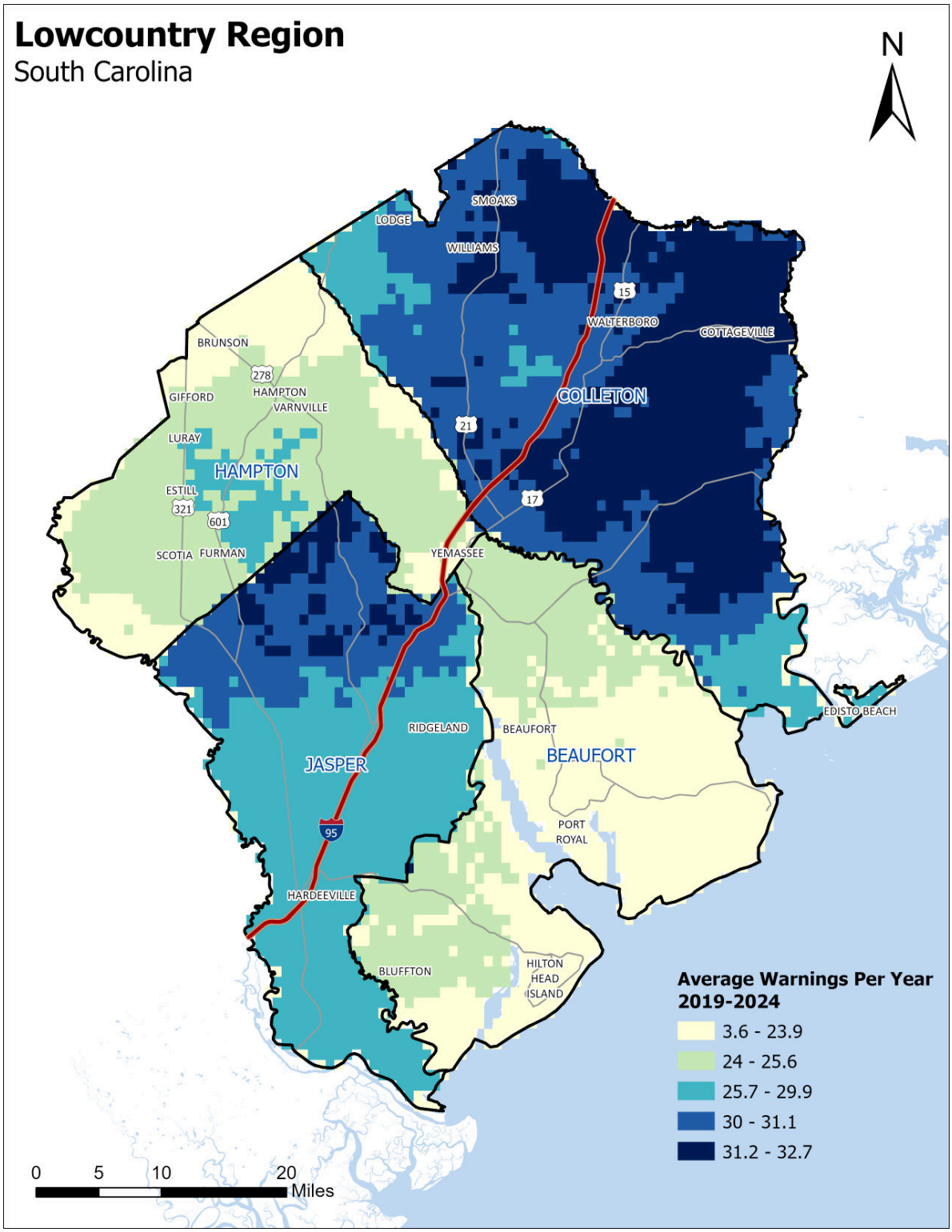
Source: FEMA (2014)

Future Impacts

Windstorms, including severe thunderstorms, can cause significant impacts either locally or regionally. Key critical facilities that are vulnerable to these events include communications and energy. Community safety and security is also vulnerable to prolonged power outages, hazardous driving conditions, and damage to residential infrastructure. Emergency response personnel may see increased requests including debris clean up and medical support.

The majority of wind events occurred in Colleton County. As depicted in Figure 3-6, the issuance of severe storm warnings for thunderstorm winds and strong winds shows the higher concentration in Colleton County and is a useful measure of the prevalence of this hazard.

Figure 3-6: Severe Thunderstorm and High Wind Warnings 2019-2024



Source: NOAA National Weather Service, Iowa Environmental Mesonet

Future Probability

In comparison with other hazards, thunderstorm winds and strong winds are high frequency events (Table 3-10). Probability of events having sufficient intensity to cause loss of life, injuries, property damage, or disruption to commerce is high. They have more than 100% chance of occurring in any given year and they recur almost monthly, but with lower consequences based on damages (see Loss Information Section).

Table 3-10: Severe Thunderstorms and Windstorms Historical and Recent Hazards Events 1996-2024

	Total Number	Years in Data Record	Annualized Count	Recurrence Frequency (in years)	Future Probability (% chance/year)	Total Number 2020-2024
Beaufort County	**442**	**29**	**15.2**	**0.07**	**1,524%**	174
City of Beaufort	73	29	2.5	0.40	252%	14
Town of Bluffton	57	29	2.0	0.51	197%	17
Town of Hilton Head Island	43	29	1.5	0.67	148%	5
Town of Port Royal	13	29	0.4	2.23	45%	4
Colleton County	**791**	**29**	**27.3**	**0.04**	**2,728%**	351
Town of Cottageville	68	29	2.3	0.43	234%	16
Town of Edisto Beach	5	29	0.2	5.80	17%	0
Town of Lodge	5	29	0.2	5.80	17%	0
Town of Smoaks	32	29	1.1	0.91	110%	14
City of Walterboro	133	29	4.6	0.22	459%	42
Town of Williams	18	29	0.6	1.61	62%	7
Hampton County	**249**	**29**	**8.6**	**0.12**	**859%**	53
Town of Brunson	14	29	0.5	2.07	48%	3
Town of Estill	25	29	0.9	1.16	86%	1
Town of Furman	16	29	0.6	1.81	55%	2
Town of Gifford	12	29	0.4	2.42	41%	1
Town of Hampton	46	29	1.6	0.63	159%	5
Town of Luray	9	29	0.3	3.22	31%	3
Town of Scotia	5	29	0.2	5.80	17%	1
Town of Varnville	23	29	0.8	1.26	79%	4
Town of Yemassee	15	29	0.5	1.93	52%	6
Jasper County	**338**	**29**	**11.7**	**0.09**	**1,166%**	76
City of Hardeeville	44	29	1.5	0.66	152%	9
Town of Ridgeland	39	29	1.3	0.74	134%	4
Utilities						
Beaufort-Jasper Water Sewer Authority	449	29	15.5	0.07	1,549%	140

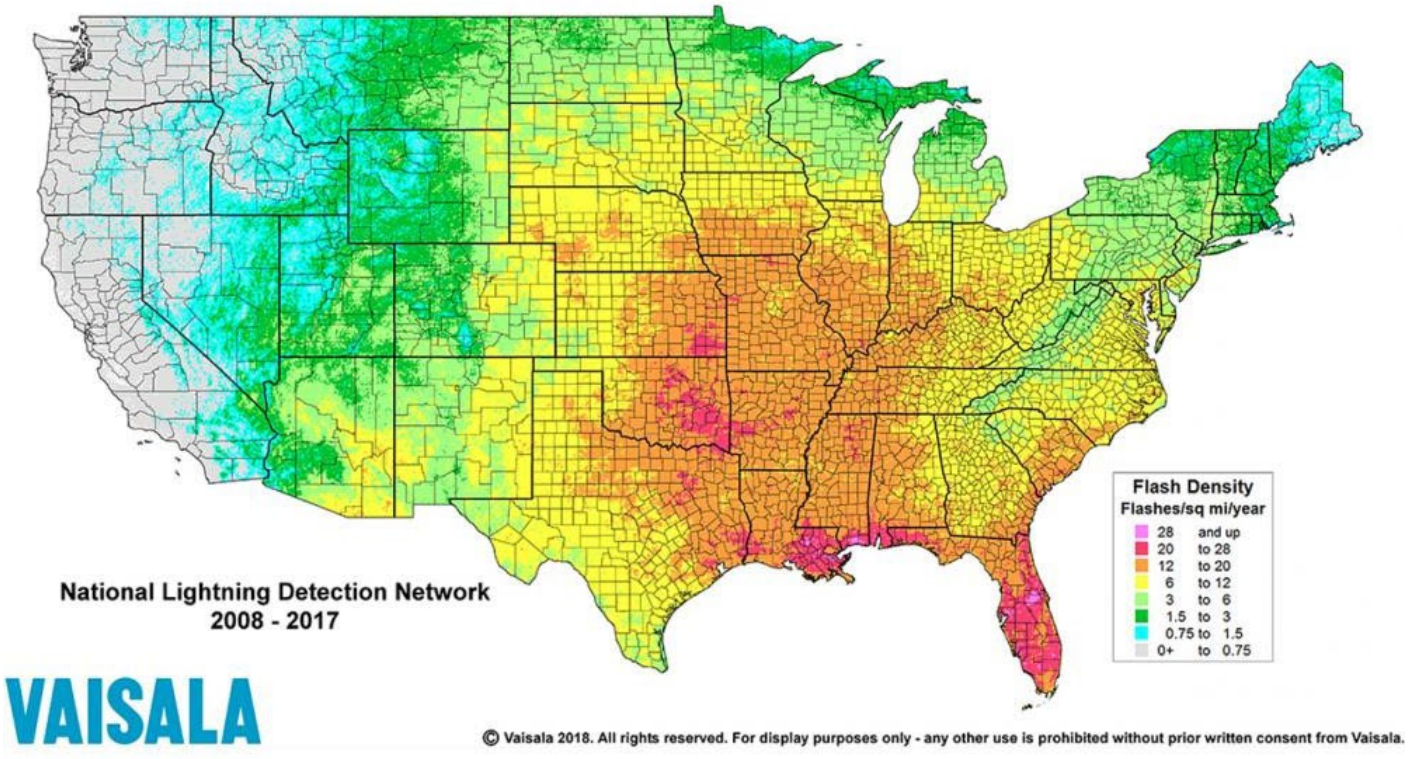
Source: NOAA's Storm Events database

3.5 LIGHTNING

Characteristics and Classification

Lightning is an electrical discharge that results in a giant spark between clouds, the air, or the ground. Although lightning is commonly associated with severe storms, lightning strikes have been recorded 25 miles away from the storm cloud. Lightning strikes are also seen during volcanic eruptions, extremely intense forest fires, heavy snowstorms, and large hurricanes. Lightning causes thunder, the air briefly gets heated to about 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit which causes the air to explode outward. It takes five seconds for thunder to travel one mile, so for every five seconds the sound is removed from the flash equals one mile between you and the flash (NWS, 2025b). Figure 3-7 shows the lightning density across the United States.

Figure 3-7: National Lightning Density Map



Source: Vaisala National Lightning Detection Network (NLDN)

The primary hazards associated with lightning are structural damage to buildings and potential fire. There are also electrocution hazards to people from lightning strikes resulting in injuries or deaths, nearly all lightning deaths occur outdoors in unsheltered areas such as golf courses or on the water.

Location and Extent

The extent of lightning can be expressed in terms of the number of strikes over a period of an event. Cloud to Ground (CG) strikes are measured using a remote, ground-based network. Operated by Vaisala, the National Lightning Detection Network (NLDN) consists of over 100 lightning detection sensors across the United States (NASA, 2025). The sensors use electromagnetic signals to capture location and information about strikes. As of 2025, the Lightning Activity Level (LAL) has been discontinued by the NWS and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) in forecasting fire weather. The LAL has been replaced by thunderstorm probability to infer lightning risk. Below is an example of using thunderstorm probability to infer lightning coverage.

- Example of chance: Thunderstorms likely (75%)
- Example of coverage: Scattered thunderstorms in the area

Lightning events in the Lowcountry are derived from NOAA Storm Prediction Center and Vaisala NLDN dataset. Since 2020, over half of the total lightning strike events (62%) in the Lowcountry occurred in Colleton and Jasper County. The City of Hardeeville, Town of Bluffton, and Town of Cottageville experienced some of the highest numbers of lightning strikes in the region averaging 464-599 strikes per year (Figure 3-8). Hampton County experienced the least number of lightning strikes in recent years (2020-2024) with 23,521 total strikes averaging about 13 strikes per day over that span. In the Lowcountry, there were a total of 23 reported lightning strike events that caused injury or property damage between 2020-2024 (Table 3-11).

Table 3-11: Reported Lightning Events 2020-2024

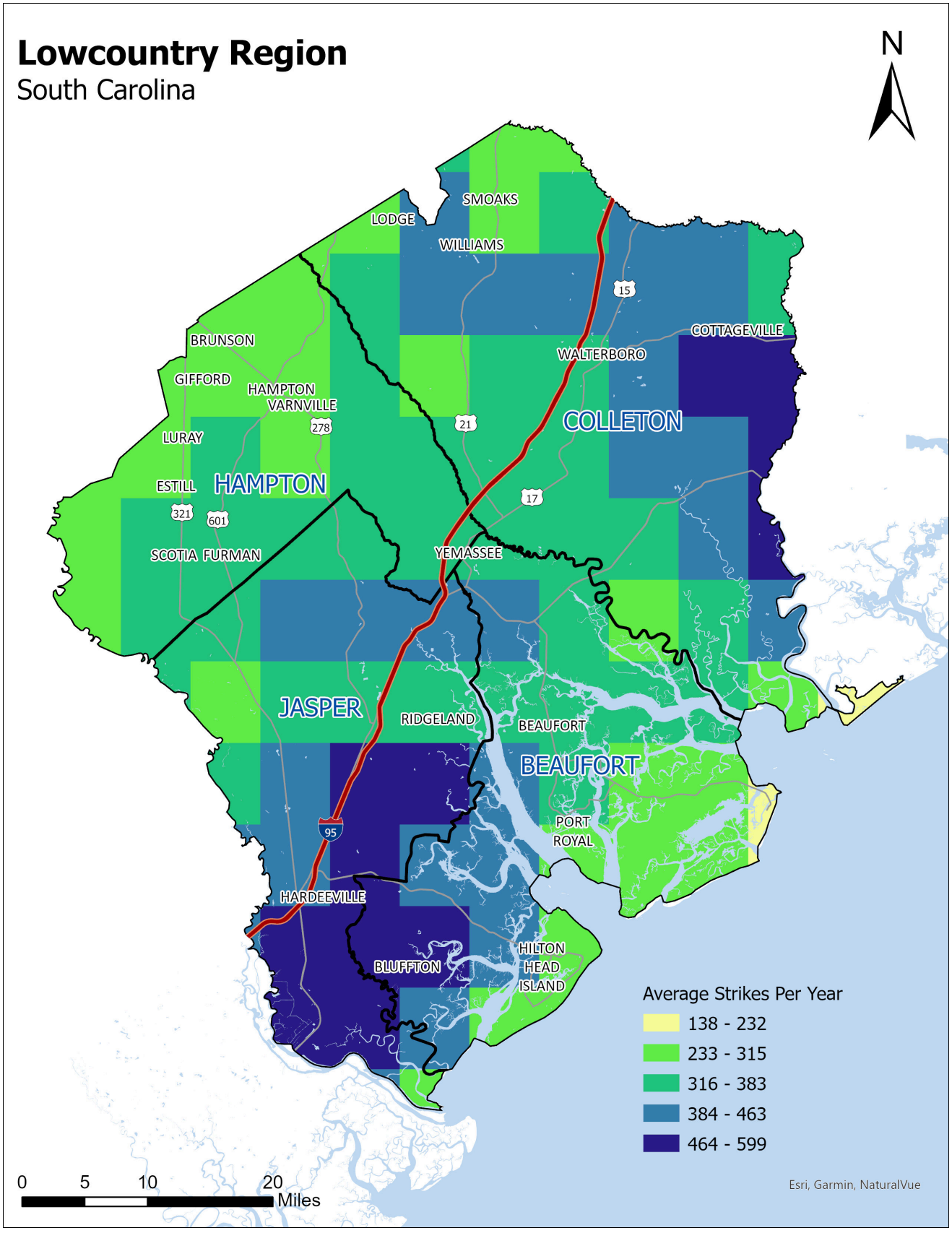
Year	# of Events	Fatalities	Injuries	Damage
2024	5	0	0	$90,000
2023	6	0	0	$108,000
2022	6	0	2	$41,000
2021	2	0	0	$21,000
2020	4	0	1	$33,000
Total	**23**	**0**	3	**$293,000**

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

Future Impacts

Lightning strikes are not expected to cause widespread regional impacts but have the potential to disrupt critical facilities including communications and energy. Safety and security of the community is vulnerable to residents or emergency personnel that need to be outside. Fire caused by lightning is also a concern to strain emergency response or cause structural damage to residential structures.

Figure 3-8: Average Lightning Strikes Per Year 2020-2024



Source: NOAA Severe Weather Data Inventory (SWDI); Vaisala National Lightning Detection Network (NLDN)

Future Probability

Lightning is a frequent hazard that occurs multiple times per day or even per hour in strong thunderstorms as shown in Table 3-12. The recurrence frequency for lightning is less than 0.01 per year, but if converted to a daily frequency of occurrence, it would be roughly 9.5-21.1 lightning events per day.

Table 3-12: Lightning Historical and Recent Hazards Events 2012-2024

	Total Number	Years in Data Record	Annualized Count	Recurrence Frequency (in years)	Future Probability (% chance/year)	Total Number 2020-2024
Beaufort County	**69,535**	**13**	**5,349**	**<0.01**	**534,885%**	**37,054**
City of Beaufort	69,535	13	5,349	<0.01	534,885%	37,054
Town of Bluffton	69,535	13	5,349	<0.01	534,885%	37,054
Town of Hilton Head Island	69,535	13	5,349	<0.01	534,885%	37,054
Town of Port Royal	69,535	13	5,349	<0.01	534,885%	37,054
Colleton County	**99,761**	**13**	**7,674**	**<0.01**	**767,392%**	**57,428**
Town of Cottageville	99,761	13	7,674	<0.01	767,392%	57,428
Town of Edisto Beach	99,761	13	7,674	<0.01	767,392%	57,428
Town of Lodge	99,761	13	7,674	<0.01	767,392%	57,428
Town of Smoaks	99,761	13	7,674	<0.01	767,392%	57,428
City of Walterboro	99,761	13	7,674	<0.01	767,392%	57,428
Town of Williams	99,761	13	7,674	<0.01	767,392%	57,428
Hampton County	**45,030**	**13**	**3,464**	**<0.01**	**346,385%**	**23,521**
Town of Brunson	45,030	13	3,464	<0.01	346,385%	23,521
Town of Estill	45,030	13	3,464	<0.01	346,385%	23,521
Town of Furman	45,030	13	3,464	<0.01	346,385%	23,521
Town of Gifford	45,030	13	3,464	<0.01	346,385%	23,521
Town of Hampton	45,030	13	3,464	<0.01	346,385%	23,521
Town of Luray	45,030	13	3,464	<0.01	346,385%	23,521
Town of Scotia	45,030	13	3,464	<0.01	346,385%	23,521
Town of Varnville	45,030	13	3,464	<0.01	346,385%	23,521
Town of Yemassee	45,030	13	3,464	<0.01	346,385%	23,521
Jasper County	**75,152**	**13**	**5,781**	**<0.01**	**578,092%**	**41,911**
City of Hardeeville	75,152	13	5,781	<0.01	578,092%	41,911
Town of Ridgeland	75,152	13	5,781	<0.01	578,092%	41,911
Utilities						
Beaufort-Jasper Water Sewer Authority	36,918	13	2,840	<0.01	283,985%	20,898

Source: Vaisala National Lightning Detection Network (NLDN)

3.6 HAIL

Characteristics and Classification

Hail is the frozen precipitation from convective thunderstorms. Any thunderstorm with the right conditions can spawn hail, meaning hail can occur anywhere. Hail in the Lowcountry has ranged from the size of a pea (a quarter of an inch) to the size of a large apple (three inches). Hail can damage cars, buildings, ruin crops, and cause bodily harm to people and livestock caught outside without any protection. Hail is the result of the water droplets moving through the atmosphere where temperatures can reach lower than -40°F, quickly freezing the droplets. As the frozen droplets continue the updraft and downdraft motion within the storm and any additional liquid water that it collides with can freeze and grow the size of hail. When the hail has grown too big for the winds to keep in the air, it will fall to the ground. Larger hailstone will fall faster, with baseball-sized hail falling between 44 and 72 mph, and thus doing more damage (NSSL, 2020b).

Location and Extent

Hail extent is described by using well-known, everyday objects to compare the diameter of a hailstone (Table 3-13). The larger the hail size the more damage produced (NWS, 2020c). Hail ranging from the size of golf balls to baseballs damaged 62 planes and numerous cars on Hilton Head Island on March 15, 2008. Roughly ten percent of the planes were total losses and an additional 25% were no longer air worthy. The associated damage totaled $1.17 million. Recently on May 22, 2020, baseball sized hail produced by a strong thunderstorm was reported and confirmed by the public in Estill (NCEI, 2025b).

A total of 23 hail events were recorded from 2020-2024. There were no deaths or damages associated with these events. The distribution of hail events throughout the Lowcountry is random and the highest number of events occurred in Hampton County with 8 events (Figure 3-9).

Table 3-13: Estimations of Hail Diameters

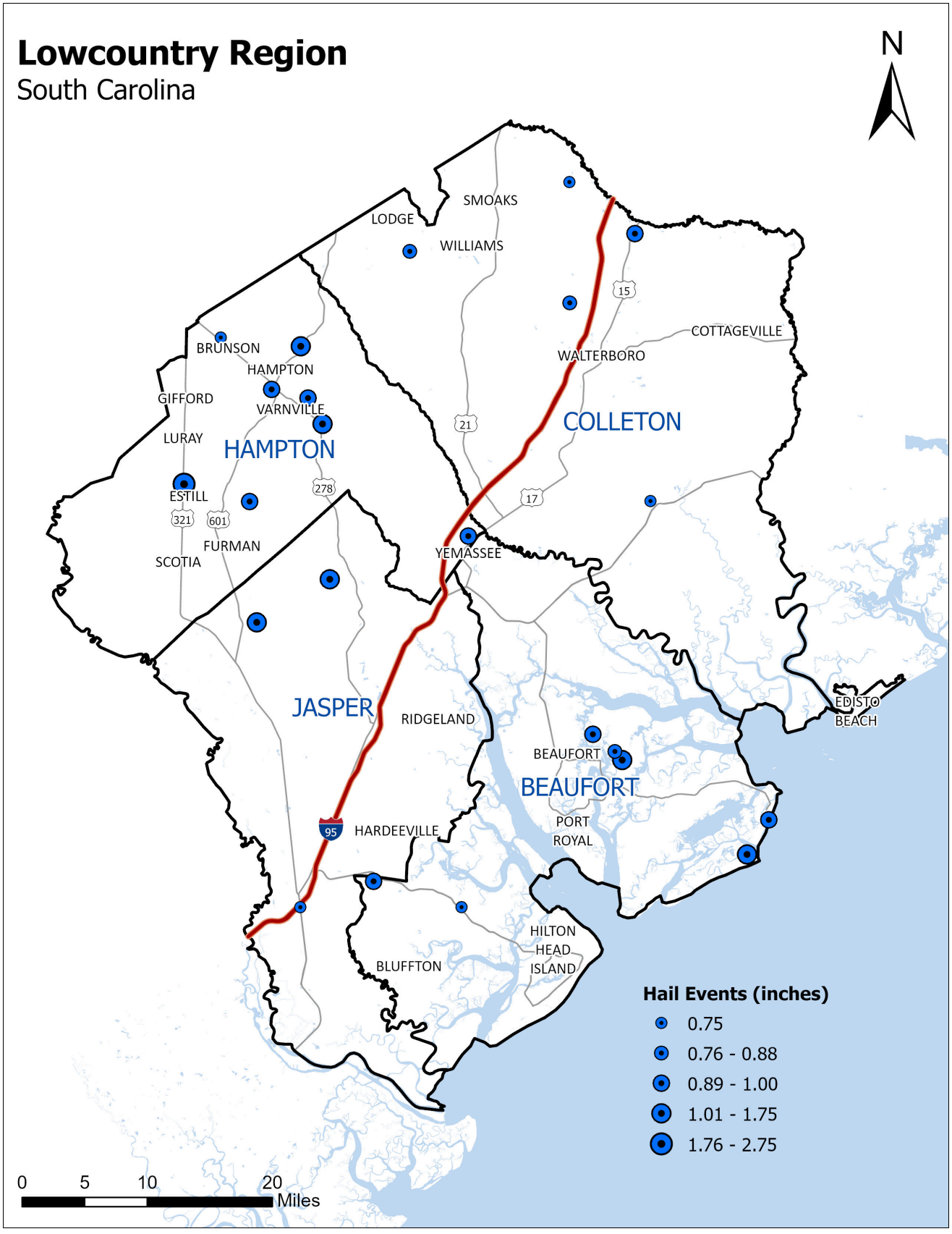
Known Object	Estimated Diameter (inches)
Pea	1/4
Marble	1/2
Dime/Penny	3/4
Nickel	7/8
Quarter	1
Ping-Pong Ball	1 1/2
Golf Ball	1 3/4
Lime	2
Tennis Ball	2 1/2
Baseball	2 3/4
Large Apple	3
Softball	4
Grapefruit	4 1/2

Source: National Weather Service (NWS)

Future Impacts

Hail is not expected to have significant impacts on critical facilities or safety and security of the region. Critical facilities and residential property may see damage to outside equipment and structures but will most likely not disrupt operations. Potential agricultural losses can be expected and could result in damaged food commodities.

Figure 3-9: Geographic Distribution of Recent Hail Events 2020-2024



Source: NOAA Storm Event Database

Future Probability

In comparison with other hazards, hail is a high frequency event (see Table 3-14). It has more than 100% chance of occurring in any given year in Beaufort, Colleton, and Hampton Counties. Probabilities are given for hail events of any magnitude, as all hail can cause loss of life, injuries, significant property damage, and/or disruption to commerce. While these events are frequent, they are typically associated with lower consequences based on damages (see Loss Information Section).

Table 3-14: Hail Historical and Recent Hazards Events 1989-2024

	Total Number	Years in Data Record	Annualized Count	Recurrence Frequency (in years)	Future Probability (% chance/year)	Total Number 2020-2024
Beaufort County	**74**	**36**	**2.1**	**0.49**	**206%**	**7**
City of Beaufort	20	36	0.6	1.80	56%	1
Town of Bluffton	26	36	0.7	1.38	72%	1
Town of Hilton Head Island	20	36	0.6	1.80	56%	0
Town of Port Royal	5	36	0.1	7.20	14%	0
Colleton County	**78**	**36**	**2.2**	**0.46**	**217%**	**5**
Town of Cottageville	16	36	0.4	2.25	44%	0
Town of Edisto Beach	3	36	0.1	12.00	8%	0
Town of Lodge	2	36	0.1	18.00	6%	0
Town of Smoaks	6	36	0.2	6.00	17%	1
City of Walterboro	34	36	0.9	1.06	94%	0
Town of Williams	3	36	0.1	12.00	8%	0
Hampton County	**39**	**36**	**1.1**	**0.92**	**108%**	**8**
Town of Brunson	6	36	0.2	6.00	17%	1
Town of Estill	3	36	0.1	12.00	8%	1
Town of Furman	1	36	0.0	36.00	3%	0
Town of Gifford	0	36	0.0	0.00	0%	0
Town of Hampton	13	36	0.4	2.77	36%	1
Town of Luray	0	36	0.0	0.00	0%	0
Town of Scotia	1	36	0.0	36.00	3%	0
Town of Varnville	6	36	0.2	6.00	17%	2
Town of Yemassee	4	36	0.1	9.00	11%	0
Jasper County	**36**	**36**	**1.0**	**1.00**	**100%**	**3**
City of Hardeeville	11	36	0.3	3.27	31%	1
Town of Ridgeland	10	36	0.3	3.60	28%	0
Utilities						
Beaufort-Jasper Water Sewer Authority	96	36	2.7	0.27	266%	6

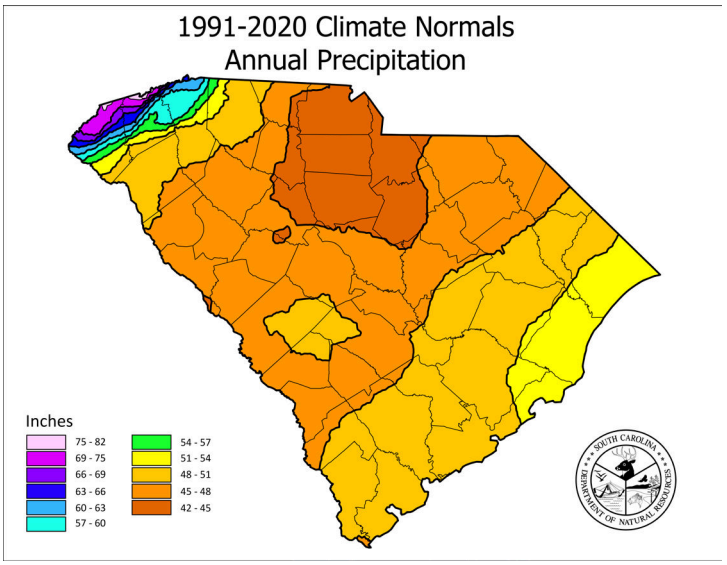
Source: NOAA's Storm Events database

3.7 DROUGHT

Characteristics and Classification

Drought occurs when a region receives lower-than-normal precipitation for a prolonged period. This deficit can affect agriculture, the economy, water levels, the environment, increase health problems, and increase wildfire risk. Droughts vary in severity based on the lack of precipitation, length of the event, and the area where it occurs. Droughts can occur at any time during the year, but historically Fall is the driest season in South Carolina. The annual precipitation in the Lowcountry ranges between 45 and 54 inches as shown in Figure 3-10, with the lower end of the range falling further inland. Droughts can last from months to years and are often tied to long-term pressure systems in the Atlantic or the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO). This multi-year cycle originates in the Pacific Ocean but has widespread consequences reaching South Carolina.

Figure 3-10: SC Average Annual Precipitation (inches)



Source: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

The state is wetter during the El Niño phase, and drier during La Niña (SC State Climate Office, 2020a). There are many factors that come together to classify a drought, including spatial extent, duration, and severity. The U.S. Drought Monitor uses these factors in their classifications and updates their drought designations on a weekly basis. Their drought classifications have five distinct categories and range from D0 to D4 (Abnormally Dry, Moderate Drought, Severe Drought, Extreme Drought, Exceptional Drought). South Carolina uses seven different indicators to measure drought status. These include the US Drought Monitor for South Carolina, crop moisture index, Palmer Drought severity index, streamflow levels, lake/reservoir levels, groundwater levels, and the Keetch-Byram drought index (SC State Climate Office, 2020b).

Location and Extent

Drought is a large-scale event that generally covers entire counties or regions rather than smaller geographic units. South Carolina's drought status at any given period is determined by the state's Drought Response Committee. Table 3-15 illustrates the drought status of Lowcountry counties from 2020-2025 according to the US Drought Monitor for South Carolina.

Another mechanism used to compare conditions is the percent population in each drought category during a given period. In July of 2022, Jasper County had 100% of the population in D2 drought conditions, compared to 87.2% of Hampton County, 41.33% in Colleton County, and 0% in Beaufort County. Using the U.S. Drought Monitor for South Carolina, the Lowcountry experienced 8 to 12 non-consecutive weeks of drought per year between 2020 and 2025 (Figure 3-11).

Table 3-15: Highest Drought Level Status 2020-2025

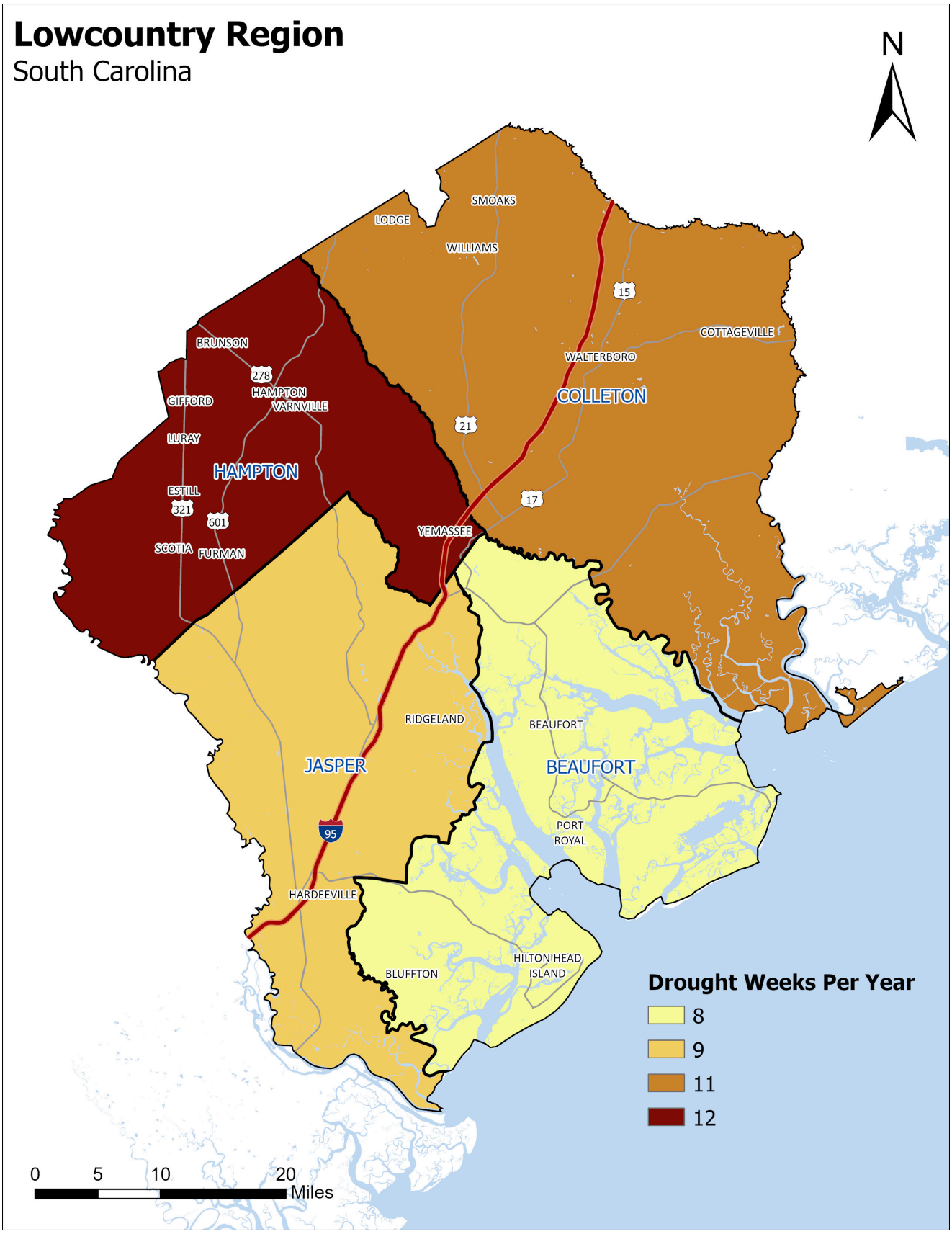
County	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Description
Beaufort	Normal	Normal	D2 Severe	D1 Moderate	D2 Severe	D1 Moderate	The County experienced 48 total non-consecutive weeks in at least D1 drought conditions. 2022 population experienced low water levels and high fire risk.
Colleton	Normal	D1 Moderate	D2 Severe	D1 Moderate	D2 Severe	D2 Severe	The County experienced 66 total non-consecutive weeks in at least D1 drought conditions. 2024 population experienced lack of rain hurting crop growth, especially corn.
Hampton	D1 Moderate	D1 Moderate	D2 Severe	D1 Moderate	D2 Severe	D2 Severe	The County experienced 72 total non-consecutive weeks in at least D1 drought conditions. 2022 population experienced abnormally dry Spring season and increased fire activity during the year.
Jasper	Normal	Normal	D2 Severe	D1 Moderate	D2 Severe	D2 Severe	The County experienced 54 total non-consecutive weeks in at least D1 drought conditions. 2022 population suffered stunted crop growth, low stream flow, and low soil moisture.

Source: US Drought Monitor and Drought Impact Reporter

Future Impacts

Drought can cause significant impacts to critical facilities and community safety and security at a regional level. Food and water resources will be strained or reduced from lack of rain and potentially high heat, especially reduced agricultural crop production. Lack or water availability can negatively affect health of community residents and animals, further straining medical and emergency operations. The reduced water resources can also potentially impact energy facilities including hydroelectric and nuclear power generation.

Figure 3-11: Drought Frequency – Weeks of Drought per Year 2020-2025



Source: US Drought Monitor

Future Probability

Table 3-16 shows that future drought events are very high with more than 1,000% chance of occurring in any given year. Probabilities are given for non-consecutive weeks where drought level is at least D1 for a minimum of two weeks. However, the consequences based on damages are low (see Loss Information Section).

Table 3-16: Drought Historical and Recent Hazards Events by Drought Week 2000-2025

	Total Number	Years in Data Record	Annualized Count	Recurrence Frequency (in years)	Future Probability (% chance/year)	Total Number 2020-2025
Beaufort County	**390**	**26**	**15.0**	**0.07**	**1,500%**	**48**
City of Beaufort	390	26	15.0	0.07	1,500%	48
Town of Bluffton	390	26	15.0	0.07	1,500%	48
Town of Hilton Head Island	390	26	15.0	0.07	1,500%	48
Town of Port Royal	390	26	15.0	0.07	1,500%	48
Colleton County	**418**	**26**	**16.1**	**0.06**	**1,608%**	**66**
Town of Cottageville	418	26	16.1	0.06	1,608%	66
Town of Edisto Beach	418	26	16.1	0.06	1,608%	66
Town of Lodge	418	26	16.1	0.06	1,608%	66
Town of Smoaks	418	26	16.1	0.06	1,608%	66
City of Walterboro	418	26	16.1	0.06	1,608%	66
Town of Williams	418	26	16.1	0.06	1,608%	66
Hampton County	**478**	**26**	**18.4**	**0.05**	**1,838%**	**72**
Town of Brunson	478	26	18.4	0.05	1,838%	72
Town of Estill	478	26	18.4	0.05	1,838%	72
Town of Furman	478	26	18.4	0.05	1,838%	72
Town of Gifford	478	26	18.4	0.05	1,838%	72
Town of Hampton	478	26	18.4	0.05	1,838%	72
Town of Luray	478	26	18.4	0.05	1,838%	72
Town of Scotia	478	26	18.4	0.05	1,838%	72
Town of Varnville	478	26	18.4	0.05	1,838%	72
Town of Yemassee	478	26	18.4	0.05	1,838%	72
Jasper County	**450**	**26**	**17.3**	**0.06**	**1,731%**	**54**
City of Hardeeville	450	26	17.3	0.06	1,731%	54
Town of Ridgeland	450	26	17.3	0.06	1,731%	54
Utilities						
Beaufort-Jasper Water Sewer Authority	420	26	16.2	0.06	1,615%	51

Source: US Drought Monitor, UNL

3.8 EARTHQUAKE

Characteristics and Classification

Earthquakes typically occur near tectonic plate boundaries but can occur in the middle of plates. South Carolina is located in the interior of the North American plate and does not have an active plate boundary nearby. However, the energy released from the sudden displacement of rock in the Earth's crust can occur in weak spots along known faults and fault systems or inferred faults.

Earthquakes vary in magnitude and intensity. Three different scales are used to describe the physical force of the earthquake, or the amount of energy released by measuring the amplitude of the shock waves.

- The Richter scale is a numerical expression of an earthquake's magnitude based on seismograph oscillations. It is a logarithmic scale where 1.0-3.9 are typically minor events, 4.0-5.9 are moderate events, 6.0-7.9 are major events, and 8.0-9.0+ are very strong events.
- The Modified Mercalli Intensity scale measures the impacts that do not have a mathematical basis; instead, it is a ranking based on observed effects. According to U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) (2020a), the lower numbers of the intensity scale generally deal with the way the earthquake is felt by people. The higher numbers of the scale are based on observed structural damage as shown in Table 3-17.
- The Moment Magnitude scale is an instrument-based measurement of the physical force of the earthquake measured by the amplitude of the shock waves. Moment Magnitude is an evolution of the original Richter scale.

There are multiple effects associated with the release of energy waves from earthquakes, first *shaking the ground side to side and then up and down.* These waves can cause destruction on the surface from the shaking. After these primary effects, secondary effects are possible and can be just as destructive in certain cases. These secondary effects include:

- *Aftershocks:* Aftershocks are tremors that follow the original event and are often smaller. They can happen for weeks to years after the event. The larger the original event, the stronger the aftershocks can be and the longer they can persist.
- *Soil Liquefaction:* Liquefaction occurs when the movement of earth forces water into the soil around structures, making the very ground behave more like a liquid than a solid. This can cause the foundation of structures to sink or shift. The occurrence of liquefaction depends on several factors like soil type, soil saturation, and shaking characteristics.
- *Fires:* The movement of earth can cause gas line ruptures and can snap powerlines creating fire-prone environments. At the same time, waterlines might break making it more difficult to put out any fires that occur (SCEMD, 2020b).
- *Landslides:* One of the triggers for landslide occurrence is earthquake. Landslides are mass movement of soil and might include rock falls that can cause significant damage.

Table 3-17: Earthquake Intensity Description

Intensity	Shaking	Description/Damage
I	Not felt	Not felt except by a very few under especially favorable conditions.
II	Weak	Felt only by a few persons at rest,especially on upper floors of buildings.
III	Weak	Felt quite noticeably by persons indoors, especially on upper floors of buildings. Many people do not recognize it as an earthquake. Standing motor cars may rock slightly. Vibrations similar to the passing of a truck. Duration estimated.
IV	Light	Felt indoors by many, outdoors by few during the day. At night, some awakened. Dishes, windows, doors disturbed; walls make cracking sound. Sensation like heavy truck striking building. Standing motor cars rocked noticeably.
V	Moderate	Felt by nearly everyone; many awakened. Some dishes, windows broken. Unstable objects overturned. Pendulum clocks may stop.
VI	Strong	Felt by all, many frightened. Some heavy furniture moved; a few instances of fallen plaster. Damage slight.
VII	Very strong	Damage negligible in buildings of good design and construction; slight to moderate in well-built ordinary structures; considerable damage in poorly built or badly designed structures; some chimneys broken.
VIII	Severe	Damage slight in specially designed structures; considerable damage in ordinary substantial buildings with partial collapse. Damage great in poorly built structures. Fall of chimneys, factory stacks, columns, monuments, walls. Heavy furniture overturned.
IX	Violent	Damage considerable in specially designed structures; well-designed frame structures thrown out of plumb. Damage great in substantial buildings, with partial collapse. Buildings shifted off foundations.
X	Extreme	Some well-built wooden structures destroyed; most masonry and frame structures destroyed with foundations. Rails bent.

Note: Abbreviated description of the levels of modified Mercalli intensity.
Source: US Geological Survey (USGS)

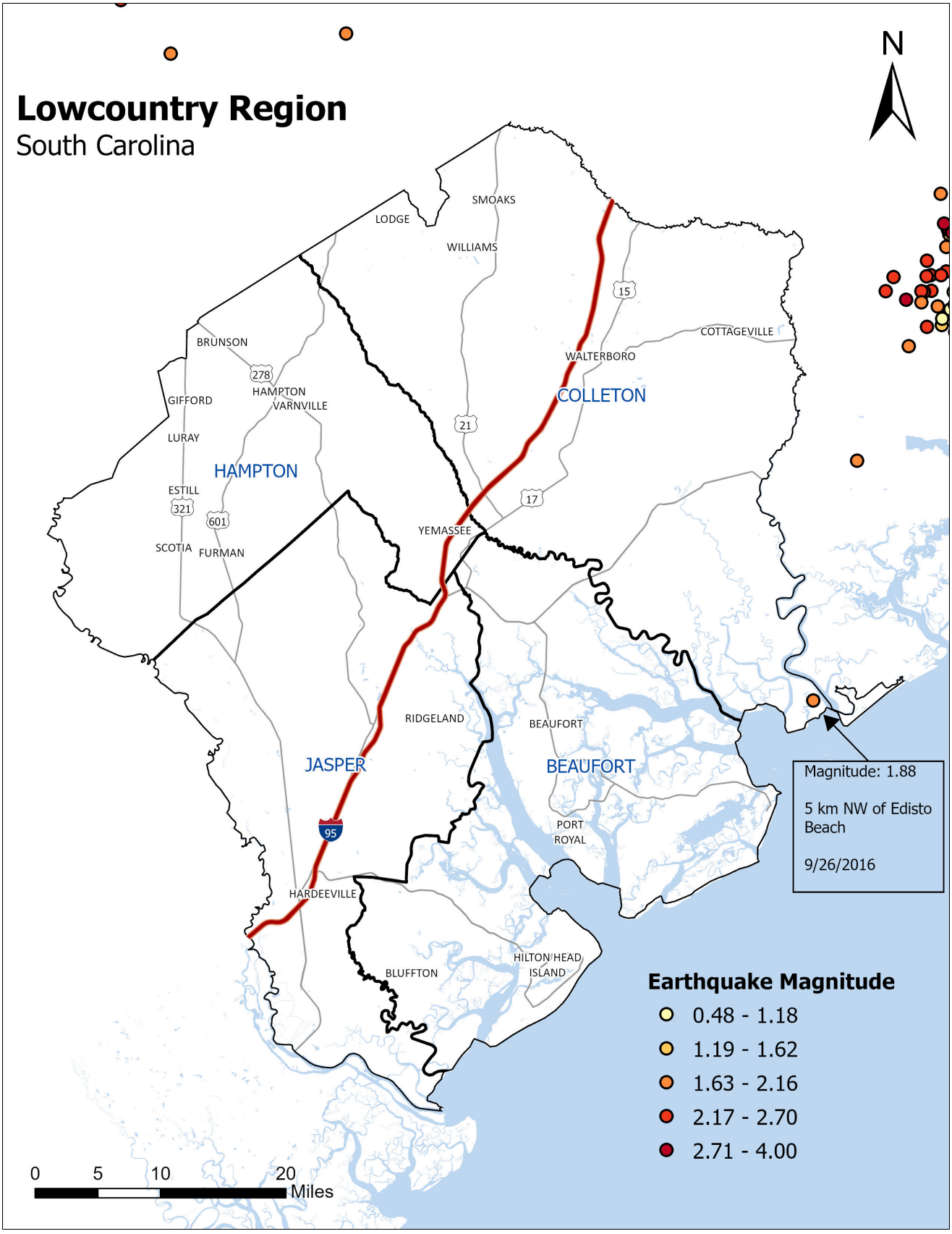
Location and Extent

Earthquakes are fairly common in South Carolina, but they are rarely felt or noticed by people. Approximately 10 to 15 earthquakes are recorded annually in the state, with 70 percent located in the Middleton Place-Summerville Seismic Zone. The August 31, 1886, Charleston Earthquake is notable because of its intensity (intensity X on the Modified Mercalli Scale). According to the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, earthquakes such as the 1886 Charleston event have a frequency of occurrence on the order of 400-500 years. Other evidence suggests that places near Bluffton may have occurrences in the range of every 2000 years (SCEMD 2018). Given evidence of prior large events in the Lowcountry, it appears that any given year has about a 1/400 chance of a large earthquake event. Figure 3-12 illustrates the earthquake events in the Lowcountry region and nearby area.

Future Impacts

A significant earthquake would cause catastrophic impacts locally and regionally in the Lowcountry. All critical facilities could face significant service disruptions and potentially failed operations. Extensive restoration is to be expected with emergency operations centers and other critical facilities being prioritized. Heavy damage to transportation infrastructure and residential structures is to be expected. Emergency response operations will be overwhelmed with search and rescue, debris cleanup, and medical services and will require support from the state and areas outside of the region. Emergency personnel should be prepared for extended operations in difficult conditions with lack of power/ internet, reduced energy and fuel resources, and difficult communications.

Figure 3-12: Recent Earthquakes near the Lowcountry Region 2000-2024



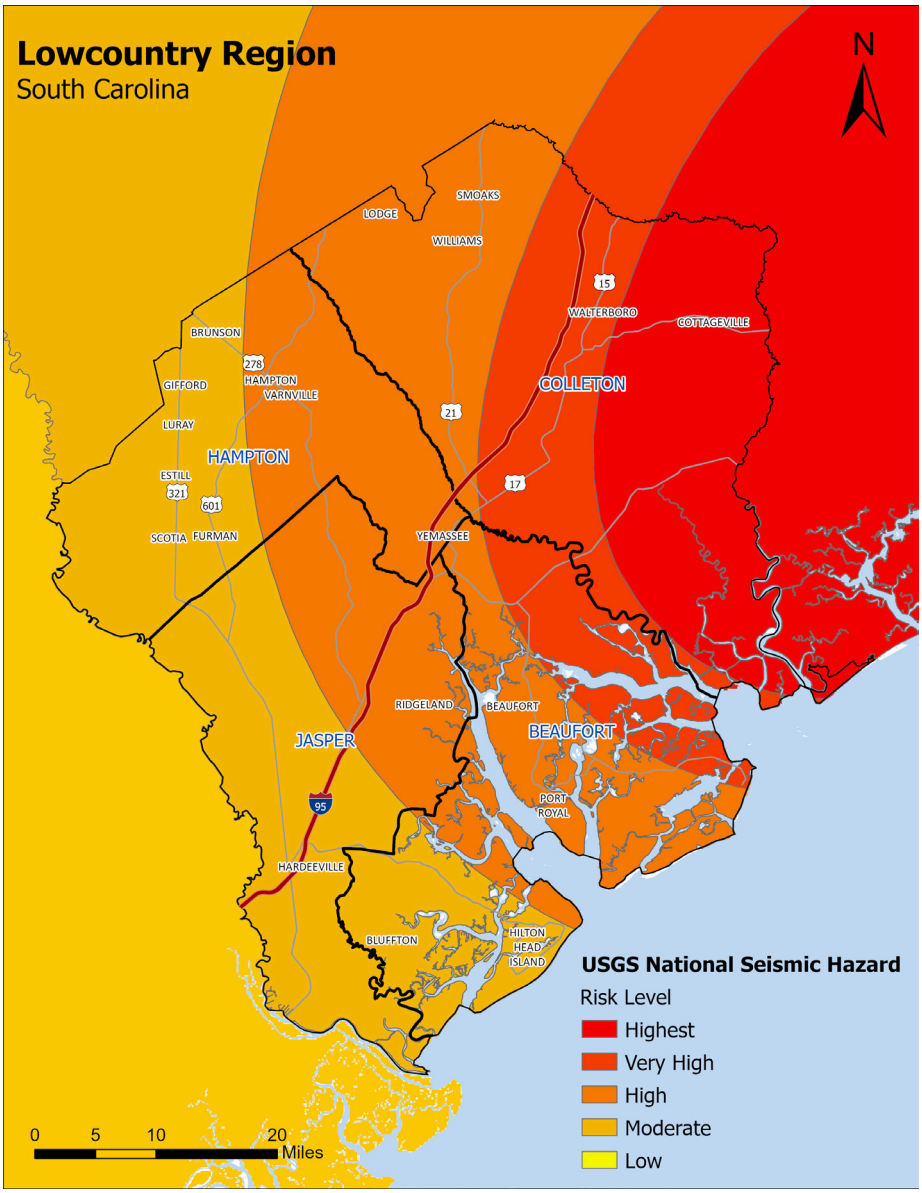
Source: United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Since 2000, there has only been one recorded earthquake in the Lowcountry region. This was 1.88 magnitude earthquake located 5 km northwest of Edisto Beach in Colleton County.

Future Probability

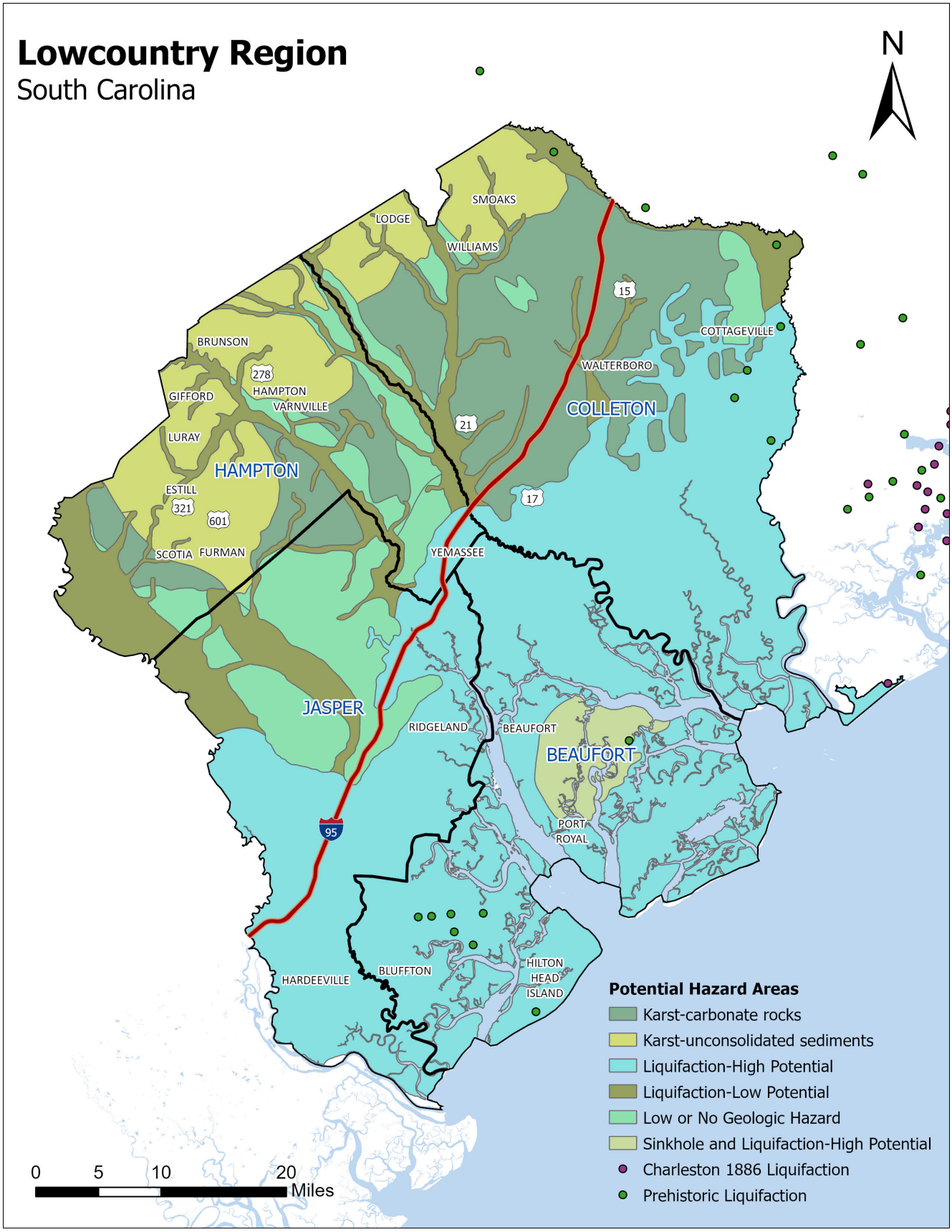
For the Lowcountry region, there is a potential for liquefaction and tsunami activity from localized earthquakes. The U.S. Geological Survey provides probability maps of potential earthquake risk. Potential earthquake risk using peak ground acceleration (PGA) shows the amount of ground motion expected with a 2% probability of being exceeded in 50 years. The highest hazard areas are color coded red, with the lowest hazard areas in blue. The Lowcountry counties range from red to yellow showing a moderate to high hazard potential (Figure 3-13). In addition, according to SCEMD, most of the Lowcountry area east of Interstate 95 has a high potential for liquefaction (Figure 3-14).

Figure 3-13: Seismic Risk – Peak Ground Acceleration of 2% in 50 Years



Source: USGS National Seismic Hazard Model

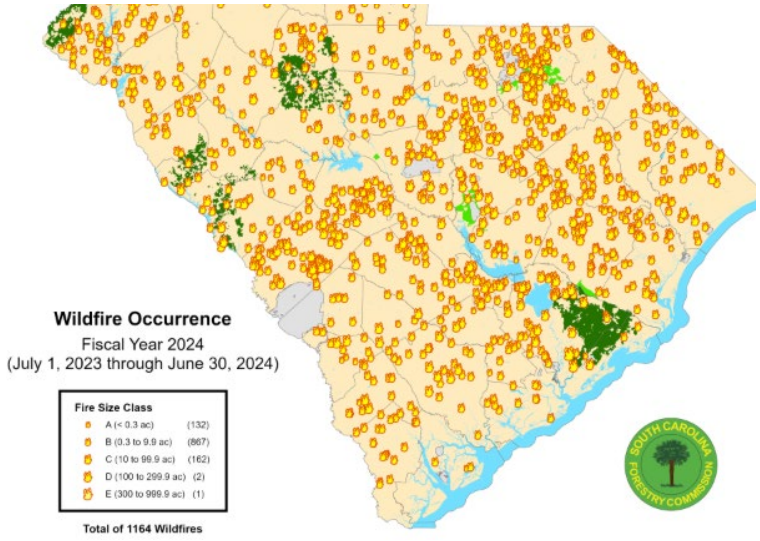
Figure 3-14: Geologic Hazards of South Carolina – Liquefaction Potential



Source: SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR)

3.9 WILDFIRE

Figure 3-15: 2024 South Carolina Wildfires



According to the South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC) (2025), wildfire includes any outdoor fire that is not controlled and supervised. Wildfires damage forests, natural habitats, water quality, and air quality. The state's fire season extends from winter to early spring when the vegetation is dormant and dry (Figure 3-15).

Wildfires have several origins, some natural and some human. They spread faster in dry and windy conditions, burning fuels that include trees, brush, pine straw, and grasses. The causes identified by the SCFC are below (SCFC, 2025).

- *Debris Burning:* Any fire that escapes a planned setting falls into this category. This includes burning trash and prescribed burns. Accounts for more than 50% of South Carolina wildfires.
- *Woods Arson:* Incendiary fires that are set to one's property without their permission, regardless of intent. Incendiary fire accounts for 25% to 30% of South Carolina wildfires.
- *Equipment Use:* Fires started inadvertently with farm equipment or automobiles account for 5% of South Carolina wildfires.
- *Children:* Children's actions, including playing with fireworks, matches, and lighters cause 3% to 5% of South Carolina wildfires.
- *Smoking:* Although difficult to verify, careless smoking practices cause an estimated 3% to 4% of South Carolina wildfires, mostly along roadways.
- *Campfires:* Campfires make up 1% to 3% of wildfires. Most campfires are in the summer, when lush vegetation makes growth fire-resistant, which explains the low number.
- *Lightning:* Usually joined by rain and already humid summer conditions, lightning rarely sparks wildfires. Lightning causes only 2% of South Carolina wildfires.
- *Railroad:* Given changes in engine technology, these types of wildfires are less common. Fires originate from sparks via braking or carbon build-up in the engines. These account for 1% to 2% of South Carolina's wildfires.
- *Miscellaneous:* This category catches all other wildfires, including accidental fires via fireworks, structural fires that light brush fire, and unattended warming fires. This category accounts for 4% to 6% of wildfires.

Location and Extent

Between 2019 and 2024, a total of 759 wildfires occurred in the Lowcountry region. Over 45% of these were in Colleton County (Table 3-18). The South Carolina Forestry Commission uses a size class system to describe wildfires by acreage:

- Class A (<0.3 ac)
- Class B (0.3 to 9.9 ac)
- Class C (10 to 99.9 ac)
- Class D (100 to 299.9 ac)
- Class E (300 to 999.9 ac)

One of the most notable recent fires was on April 20, 2023 in Jasper County, the only class E in recent years, caused by debris burning and burned 450 forested acres. Out of the 5,323.3 total acres burned in the 2019 – 2024 timeframe, only 10% of the land was not forested.

Table 3-18: Wildfire Events 2019-2024 by Size Class

	Class A & B Wildfires (burn 0 – 9.9 acres)	Class C Wildfires (burn 10 - 99.9 acres)	Class D & E Wildfires (burn 100 – 999.9 acres)
Beaufort County	56 (88.9 total acres)	10 (148 total acres)	0
Colleton County	294 (617.4 total acres)	44 (1,165.5 total acres)	5 (740 total acres)
Hampton County	143 (327.7 total acres)	27 (681 total acres)	0
Jasper County	146 (293.4 total acres)	33 (811.4 total acres)	1 (450 total acres)
Total	**639 (1,327.4 total acres)**	**114 (2,805.9 total acres)**	**6 (1,190 total acres)**

Source: SC Forestry Commission (SCFC)

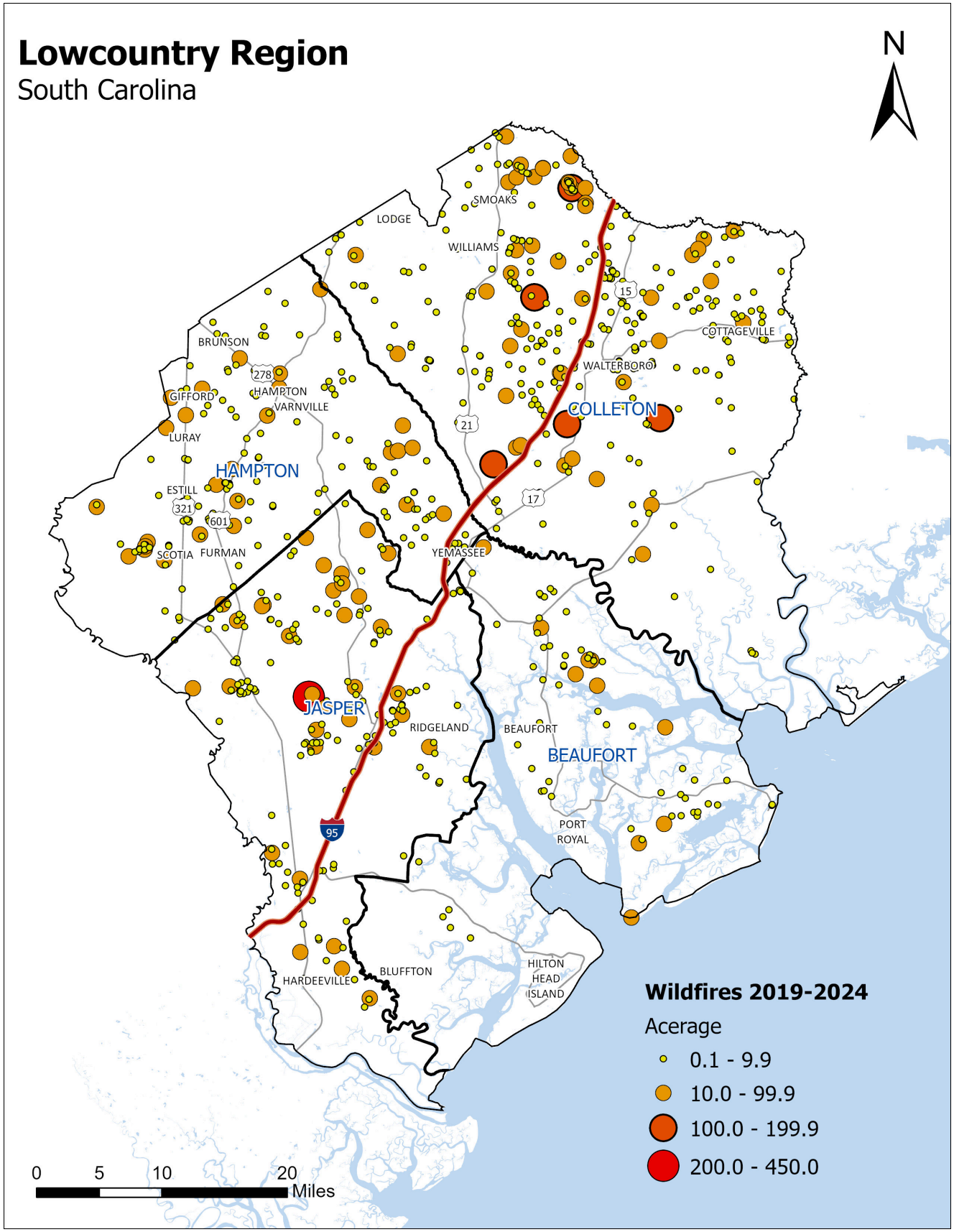
In the Lowcountry region, the most common cause of wildfires since 2019 is due to debris burning (69%). Recent wildfire causes have followed the same trends seen statewide (Table 3-19).

Table 3-19: Wildfire Causes 2019-2024

Wildfire Cause	Incidents	Acres Burned	Acres/ Incident
Debris Burning	526	3803	7.2
Woods Arson (Incendiary)	95	532.2	5.6
Equipment Use	48	384.5	8
Power Line	26	125.3	4.8
Miscellaneous	**16**	**234.5**	**14.7**
Lightning	**15**	**113.8**	**7.6**
Structure	**11**	**12.2**	**1.1**
Children	**7**	**15**	**2.1**
Smoking	**6**	**15**	**2.5**
Campfire	**4**	**53.3**	**13.3**
Railroad	**4**	**34**	**8.5**
Fireworks	**1**	**0.5**	**0.5**

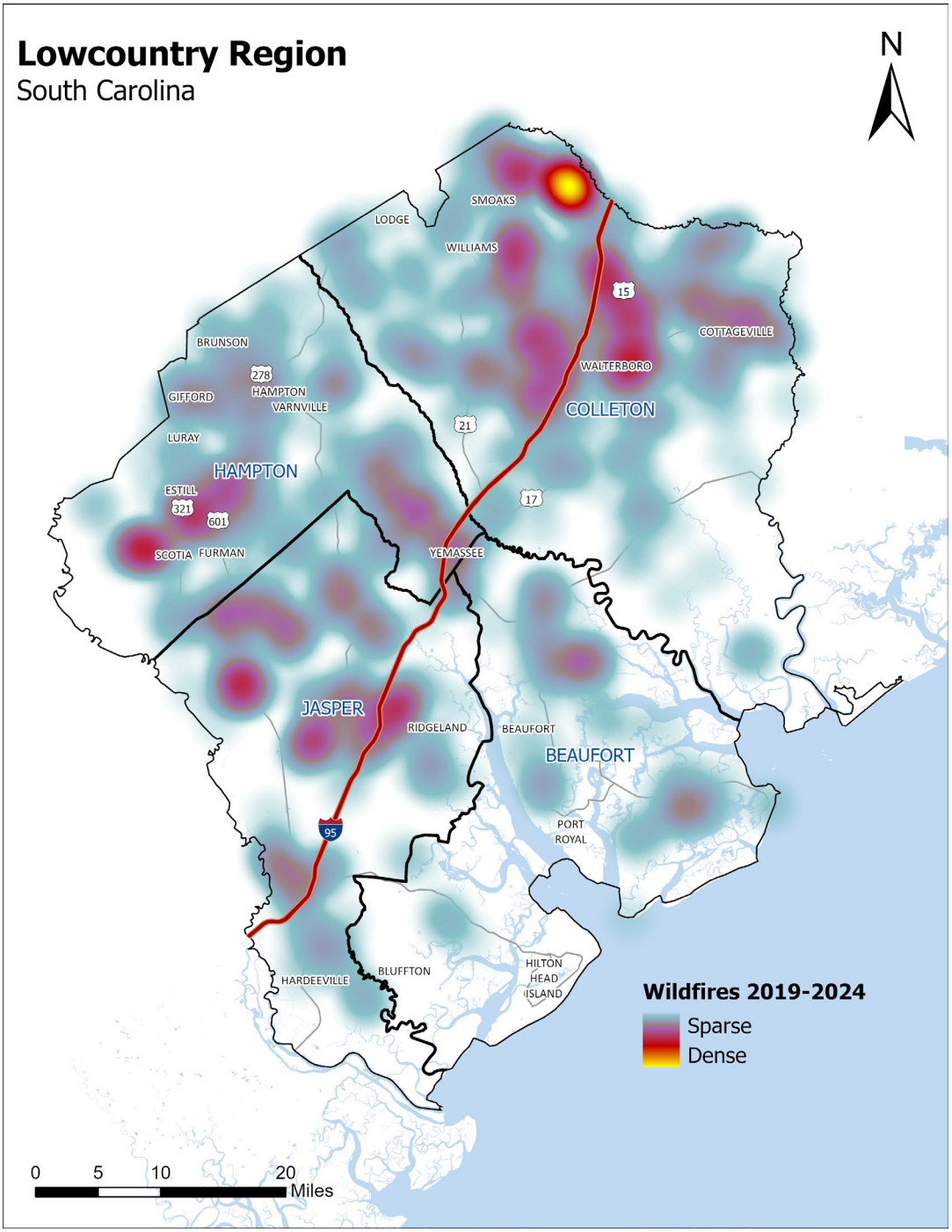
Source: SC Forestry Commission (SCFC)

Figure 3-16: Wildfire Locations 2019-2024



Source: South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC)

Figure 3-17: Annual Wildfire Risk 2019-2024



Source: South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC)

Future Impacts

A significant wildfire event could result in localized and potentially regional impacts. Critical facilities or residential structures in the immediate vicinity of the fire could see severe structural damage. Communications and transportation impacts may cause intense challenges to emergency response personnel and medical operations. Local evacuations may be required. Firefighting and emergency response may be stressed by high demand, expect increased risk of injury, health impacts, and damages.

Future Probability

Table 3-20 shows that the future probability of wildfire events is very high particularly in Colleton and Jasper Counties, with more than 10,000% chance of occurring in any given year. It is unpredictable how much land and how much damage will occur each year, so probabilities are given for the chance of wildfire of any intensity.

Table 3-20: Wildfire Historical and Recent Hazards Events 1988-2024

	Total Number	Years in Data Record	Annualized Count	Recurrence Frequency (in years)	Future Probability (% chance/year)	Total Number 2020-2024
Beaufort County	1,794	37	48.5	0.02	4,848%	66
City of Beaufort	n/a	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town of Bluffton	n/a	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town of Hilton Head Island	n/a	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town of Port Royal	n/a	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Colleton County	5,253	37	141.9	0.01	14,973%	343
Town of Cottageville	n/a	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town of Edisto Beach	n/a	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town of Lodge	n/a	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town of Smoaks	n/a	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
City of Walterboro	n/a	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town of Williams	n/a	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hampton County	2,245	37	60.7	0.02	6,068%	170
Town of Brunson	n/a	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town of Estill	n/a	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town of Furman	n/a	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town of Gifford	n/a	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town of Hampton	n/a	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town of Luray	n/a	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town of Scotia	n/a	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town of Varnville	n/a	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town of Yemassee	n/a	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Jasper County	3,951	37	106.8	0.01	10,784%	180
City of Hardeeville	n/a	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town of Ridgeland	n/a	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Utilities						
Beaufort-Jasper Water Sewer Authority	1,026	37	27.7	0.04	2,773%	56

Note: Data are not available in municipality level.
Source: South Carolina Forestry Commission

3.10 FLOOD

Characteristics and Classification

Flooding occurs when water flows or collects in areas that are usually dry. This can happen because of heavy rain, snow melting, high tides, dam breaks, etc. Floods can last for short duration or last weeks, and they can be a few inches or the height of houses. Floods claim more lives in the U.S. than tornadoes, hurricanes, or lightning. Moreover, flooding is the most expensive natural disaster, costing $5 billion on average every year (NSSL, 2020c). Given the Lowcountry's position in the low-lying coastal plains of South Carolina, not only is there a risk from riverine flooding from the lower Savannah River and ACE Basin (Ashepoo, Combahee, and Edisto) as rivers and their tributaries make their way to the Atlantic (Figure 3-18), but the region is also at increased risk for coastal flooding, storm surges, and tidal (King Tides) flooding.

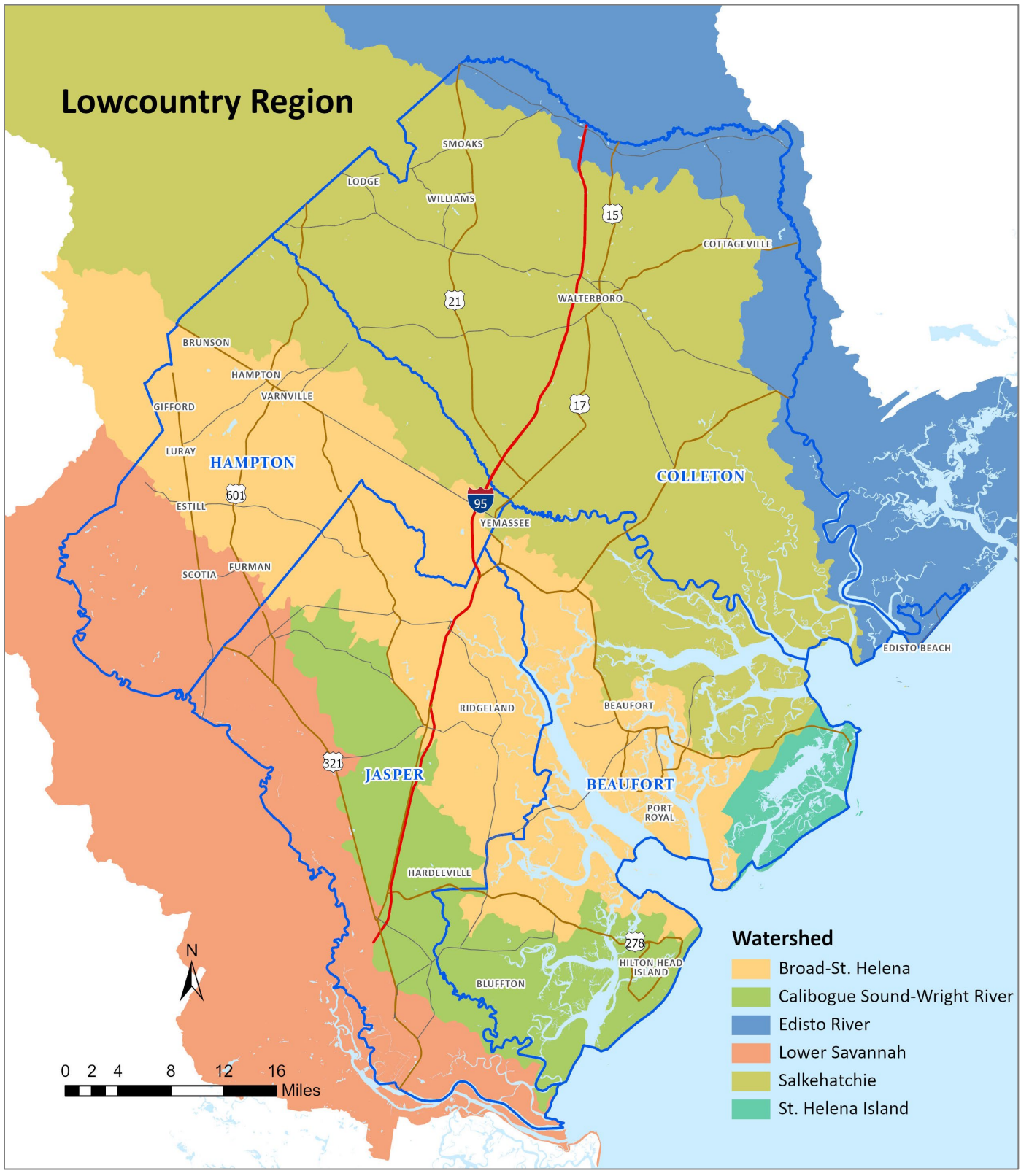
There are two types of flooding—general flooding where flooding occurs over several days, and flash flooding where floodwater rises quickly within minutes to hours and then quickly dissipates. According to the 2023 South Carolina Hazard Mitigation Plan (SCEMD, 2023), examples of flash flood types include urban, dam/levee failures, and debris/ice jams. General floods include riverine, coastal, and local drainage. The following flood types predominate in the Lowcountry.

- *Fluvial (or riverine) Flood:* Also called overbank flooding, this type of flooding occurs when water levels in a river exceed the river's defined banks and spill over into the surrounding floodplain.
- *Coastal Flood:* This type of flooding is the product of a several factors. When coastal waters are higher-than-high tide, those waters can swell onto low-lying areas, and it can get worse by rainfall or winds pushing water onshore. King tides are abnormally high tides that occur when the moon, earth, and sun align, and the moon is at its closest position to earth. These events occasionally generate coastal flooding and can be exacerbated by wind and rain. Sea level rise means these events will happen more frequently (City of Charleston, 2020).
- *Local Drainage Flooding:* Local drainage problems frequently occur in low-lying flat areas where normal drainage patterns become disrupted by lack of maintenance of channels or culverts, lower capacity storm sewer systems, or other types of blockages.
- *Flash Flood:* Flash flood events are rapid onset events usually the result of intense rainfall occurring in a short time span, typically less than 6 hours. Urbanized areas contribute to flash flooding due to the number of impervious surfaces (roads, parking lots, streets) that prevent the rainfall from being absorbed by the soil. The runoff moves quickly over the paved surfaces increasing the likelihood of flash flooding especially in lower-lying areas such as road or rail underpasses.

Flooding is a major hazard threat in the Lowcountry region as it combines both coastal flood hazards and riverine flood hazards. Approximately 41% of the land area in the four-county region lies within FEMA's regulated flood zone, Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), commonly known as the 100-year flood zone. Within the SFHA, 9% of the land area is in the VE zone and subject to wave action greater than 3 feet. The VE zone represents the highest flood risk potential. The SFHA has a one percent probability of occurring in any given year, while the 500-year flood hazard has a 0.2% probability (Figure 3-19). Approximately 4.6% of the Lowcountry land area lies within the 500-year flood zone. Coastal flood hazard areas (shown in the crosshatch pattern in Figure 3-19) include VE zones, coastal AE zones with wave heights from 1.5-3 feet, and AE zones designated as Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA) with wave heights less than 1.5 feet (Figure 3-20).

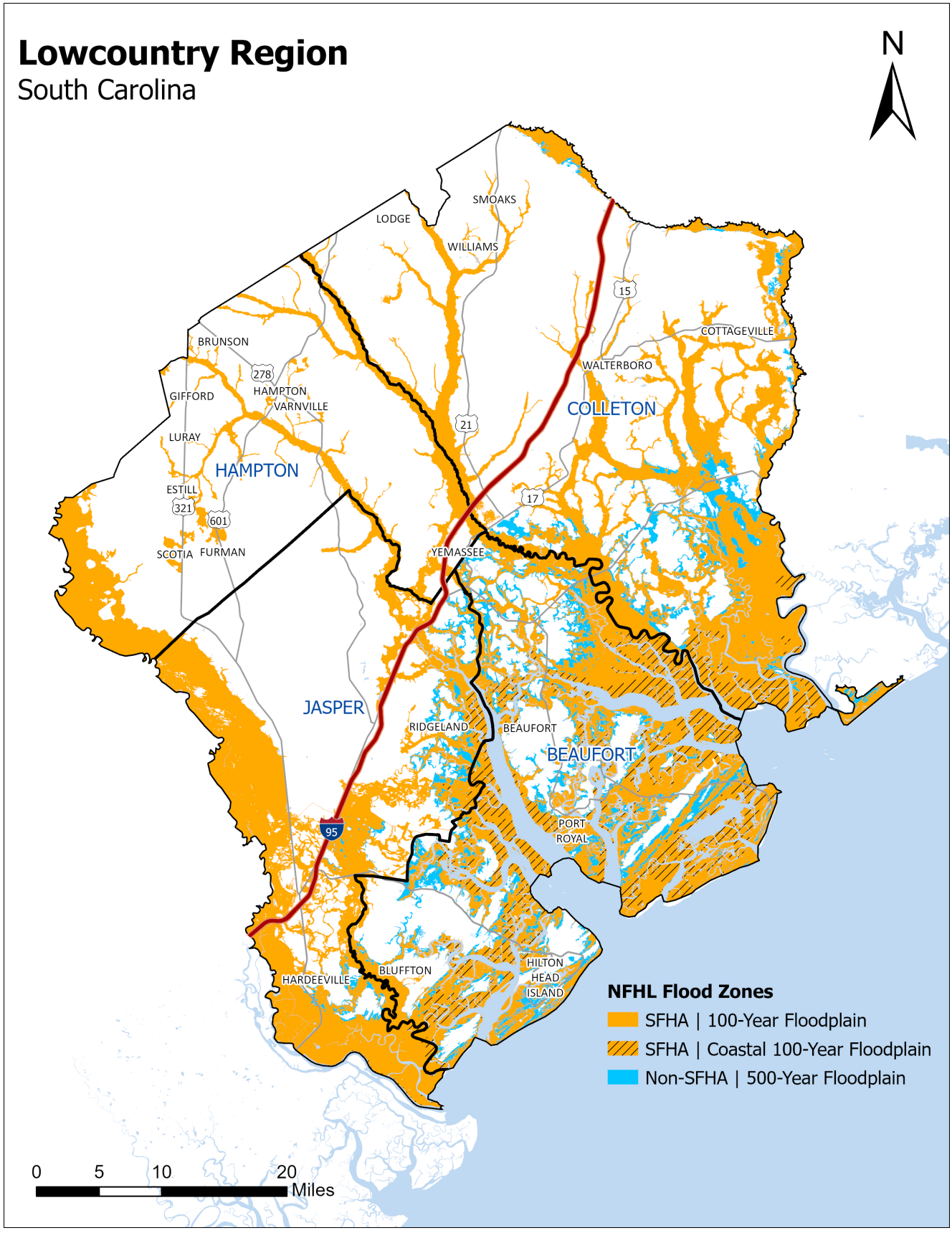
More details on definition of flood zones and municipality maps can be seen in Appendix E and Appendix F.

Figure 3-18: Drainage Areas – Watershed



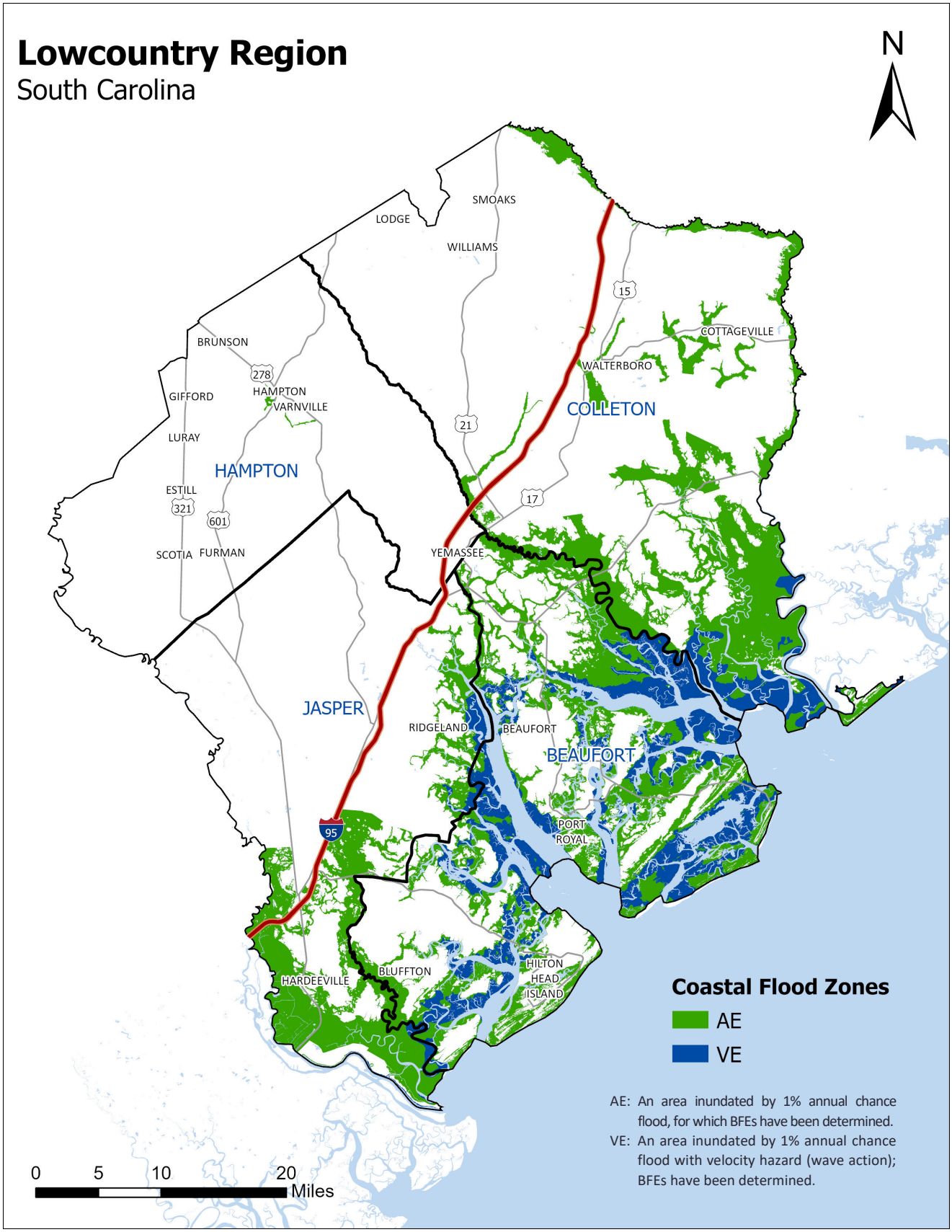
Source: US Geological Survey (USGS), Watershed Basin Dataset

Figure 3-19: FEMA-Designated Flood Zones



Source: National Flood Hazard Layer; National Flood Insurance Program

Figure 3-20: FEMA-Designated Coastal Flood Zones



Source: Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute (HVRI); National Flood Insurance Program

Dam Failure

Dams are built to store and control water for important human needs. They are used to supply water for drinking and industry, provide irrigation for agriculture, generate hydroelectric power, and reduce flooding by regulating river flow. Dams also support navigation, recreation, tourism, and environmental management by creating reservoirs and maintaining water levels. Overall, dams play a key role in water management, energy production, and economic development. Dam failure occurs when a dam is unable to safely hold back water, leading to a partial or complete collapse and the uncontrolled release of water downstream. It can be caused by overtopping during floods, structural or foundation weaknesses, seepage and internal erosion, earthquakes, or poor maintenance and operation. Dam failure often results in severe flooding, loss of life, environmental damage, and significant economic losses, making regular inspection and proper dam management essential for safety. The failure of the Kelly Barnes Dam in November 1977, a dam upstream of the Toccoa Falls Bible College in Georgia, resulted in 39 fatalities along with extensive destruction. This tragedy provided great impetus to start the South Carolina Dams and Reservoirs Safety Act and Program. The program is led by the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (DES). Additionally, back-to-back hurricanes in 2015 and 2016 resulted in the failures of 70 regulated dams statewide and led the DES to document the progress of dam revitalization through the State of the Dams report. Failures from 2015 historic flooding occurred in Aiken, Calhoun, Clarendon, Darlington, Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Marion, Orangeburg, Richland, and Sumter Counties. No failures occurred in the Lowcountry region according to SCDES Failed Dam Inspection Reports 2015. The 2025 State of the Dams was published on October 8, 2025.

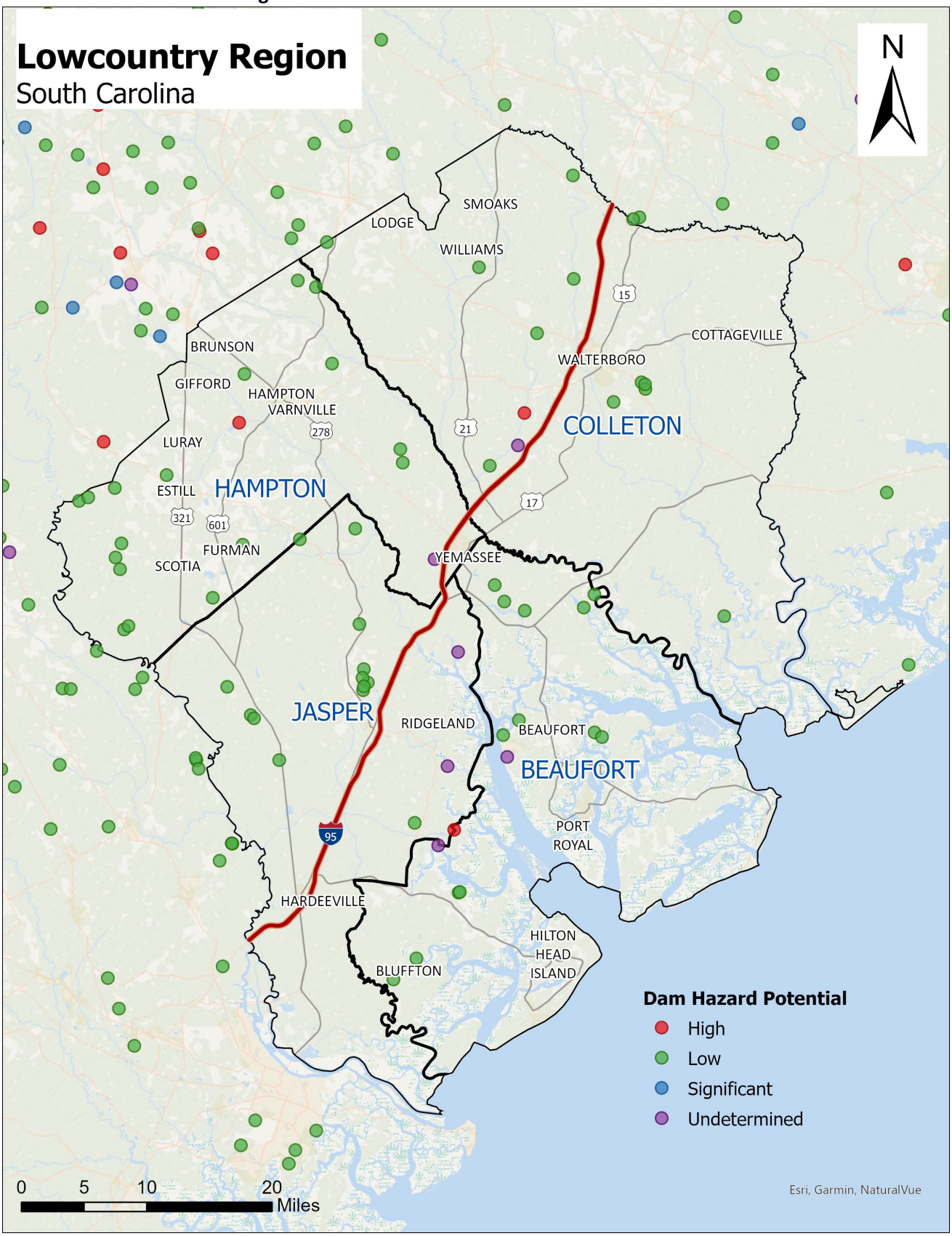
Dams are classified based on their size and their hazard potential (Table 3-21). Dams are regulated by the State and appear in the Dams and Reservoirs Safety Program if they meet the proper size and hazard requirements. There are three dams in the Lowcountry that are classified as High Hazard, Beaufort-Jasper Water Sewer Authority Dam 1, Mcgrady Dam, Lake Warren State Park Dam (Figure 3-21). These dams total 4,442 acre-ft of maximum storage and all of which are state regulated. A full inventory of Lowcountry dams can be found in Table 3-22.

Table 3-21: Dam Failure Hazard Potential

Classification	Hazard Potential
High Hazard (Class I)	Dam is a structure where failure will likely cause loss of life and/or serious damage to infrastructure.
Significant Hazard (Class II)	Dam is a structure where failure will not likely cause loss of life. Infrastructure may be damaged.
Low Hazard (Class III)	Dam is a structure where failure may cause limited property damage. Loss of life is not expected.

Source: SC Department of Environmental Services

Figure 3-21: Dam Locations and Hazard Classification



Source: National Inventory of Dams, USACE

Table 3-22: Lowcountry Inventory of Dams

Name	River/ Stream	Hazard Potential	Max Storage (acre-feet)
Beaufort County			
Botswick Pond Dam 3	Huspa Creek	Low	1140
Branford Creek Dam	Branford Creek	Low	720
Clarendon Farms Dam 1	Broad River Marsh	Low	312
Clarendon Farms Dam 2	Whale Branch	Low	120
Kern Pond Dam	Broad River	Undetermined	121
Okatee Pond Dam	Colleton River	Undetermined	62
Palmetto Bluff Plantation Dam 1	New River	Low	85
Palmetto Bluff Plantation Dam 2	May River	Low	100
Pleasant Point Dam 1	Brickyard Creek	Low	604
Pleasant Point Dam 2	Broomfield Creek	Low	134
Snipe Pond Bog Dam	Combahee River	Low	310
Tomotley Plantation Pond Dam 1	Combahee River	Low	157
Tomotley Plantation Pond Dam 2	Huspa Creek	Low	290
Welton Corp Dam 1	Colleton River	Low	372
Welton Corp Dam 2	Colleton River	Low	272
Colleton County			
Ashepoo Plantation Pond Dam	Ashepoo River	Low	319
Bennetts Pond Dam	Ashepoo River	Low	143
Big Survey Lake Dam	Black Creek	Low	874
Cokers Pond Dam	Jones Swamp Creek	Low	121
Crosbys Pond Dam	Black Creek	Undetermined	81
Fishbourne Reserve Dam	Sandy Dam Branch	Low	170
Gordon Kearse Dam	Long Branch	Low	71
Kearse Dam	Brickhouse Branch	Low	60
LG Fishbourne Dam 1	Sandy Dam Branch	Low	119
LG Fishbourne Dam 2	Sandy Dam Branch	Low	200
Mason/Black Dam	Buckhead Creek	Low	279
Mcgrady Dam	Black Creek	High	758
Westglow Haven Lake Dam	Perry Creek	Low	73
Hampton County			
AC Thomas Dam	Salkehatchie River	Low	88
Blake Plantation Pond Dam 1	Long Branch	Low	135
Blake Plantation Pond Dam 2	Long Branch	Low	176
Buckfield Plantation Dam	Tulifiny River	Undetermined	1760
Clyde W Kinard Dam	Sandy Run	Low	282
Helen Barnes Herring Dam	Long Branch	Low	71
Julia M Jones Dam	Johns Pen Creek	Low	51
Lake Warren State Park Dam	Black Creek	High	3600
Lila May Mixon Dam	Tennants Branch	Low	241
M Tucker Laffitte Dam	Rum Branch	Low	80
Mckenzie Pond Dam	Black Creek	Low	533
Peeples Pond Dam	Black Swamp	Low	500

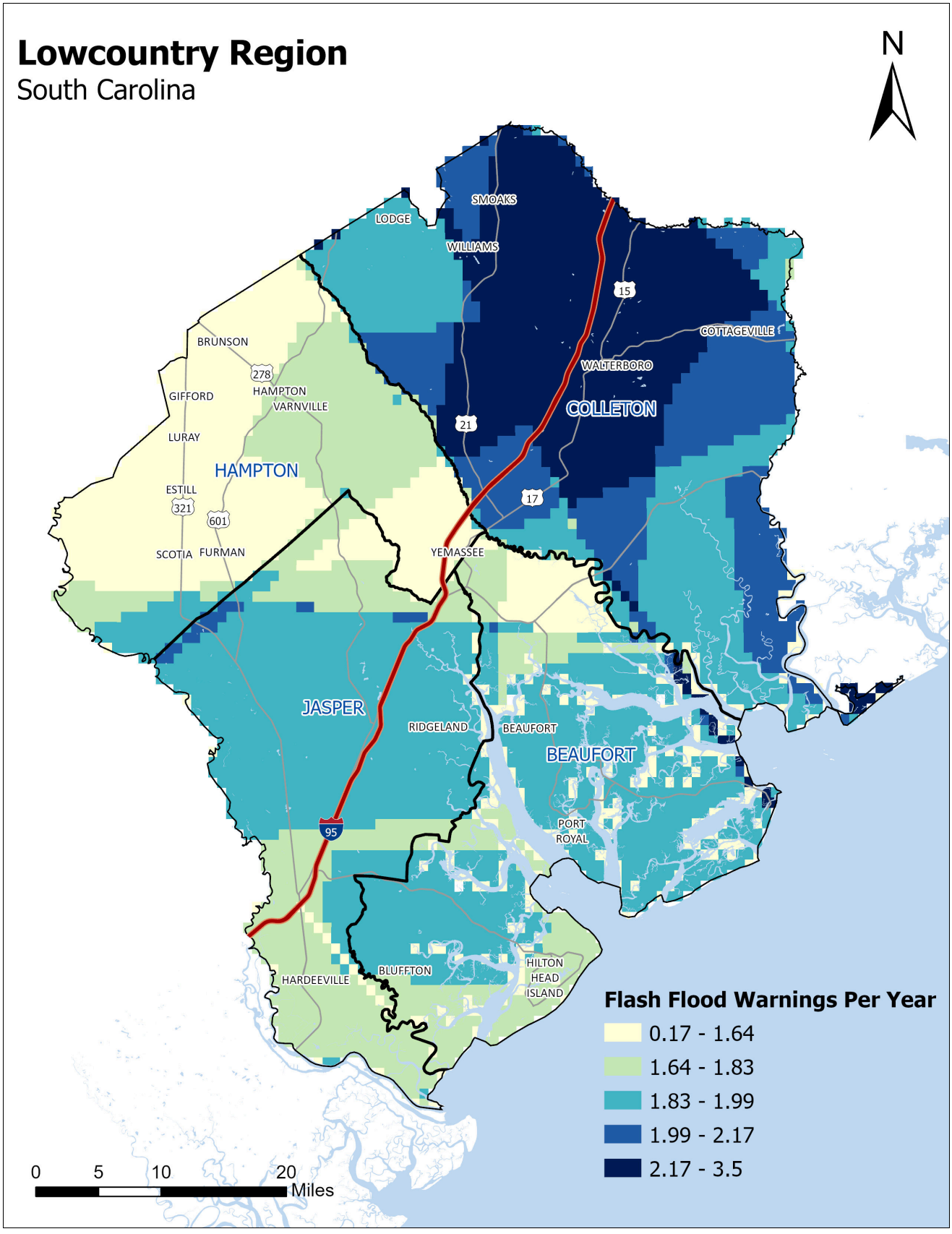
Name	River/ Stream	Hazard Potential	Max Storage (acre-feet)
Rentz Fish Pond	Cedar Branch	Low	112
Robert Jenny Dam	Calico Branch	Low	152
Thelma Ramsay Dam	Boggy Branch	Low	140
Thomas Harper Dam	Calico Branch	Low	236
Westvaco Corporation Dam	Tennants Branch	Low	50
Wildlife Lake 1	Boggy Branch	Low	74
Wildlife Lake 2	Boggy Branch	Low	230
Jasper County			
Barbara Kearson Dam	Sweet Leaf Swamp	Undetermined	75
BJWSA Dam 1	N/A	High	84
BH Rutledge Moore Dam	Coosawhatchie River	Low	151
Cypress Woods Plantation Dam	Bees Creek	Low	182
Cypress Woods Corp Dam 2	Bees Creek	Low	422
Cypress Woods Corp Dam 3	Bees Creek	Low	296
Cypress Woods Corp Dam 4	Bees Creek	Low	94
Hover Plantation Dam	Boggy Branch	Low	57
Mackay Point Plant Dam	Tulifiny River	Undetermined	190
Mill Pond Dam	Cypress Creek	Low	150
Mixons Pond Dam	Big Branch	Low	71
Nederhof Forestry Dam 1	Sweet Leaf Swamp	Low	127
Okeetee Club Dam	Umbar Run	Low	111
Pecan Hill Plantation Dam	Euhaw Creek	Low	240
Thompsons Pond Dam	Bees Creek	Low	65
Walter Baxter Dam	Black Swamp	Low	68

Source: National Inventory of Dams

Flash Flooding

Because of the rapidity of occurrence and the localized conditions that are quite variable, one way of determining flash flooding is to use National Weather Service flash flood warnings which show the geographic distribution of the potential risk. The National Weather Service issues Flash Flood Warnings (FFW) when a rapid, damaging, and life-threatening rise of water into a normally dry area is happening or imminent, letting the public know that quick action is needed to stay safe. These warnings are impact-based, detailing the hazard, source, and impact information. These provide additional information to media and emergency managers, facilitating improved public response and decision making. As shown in Figure 3-22, most of the Lowcountry averages around 2 flash flood warnings per year, but major sections Colleton County show higher than average warnings per year suggesting a slightly higher risk level for flash flooding.

Figure 3-22: Flash Flood Warnings 2019-2024

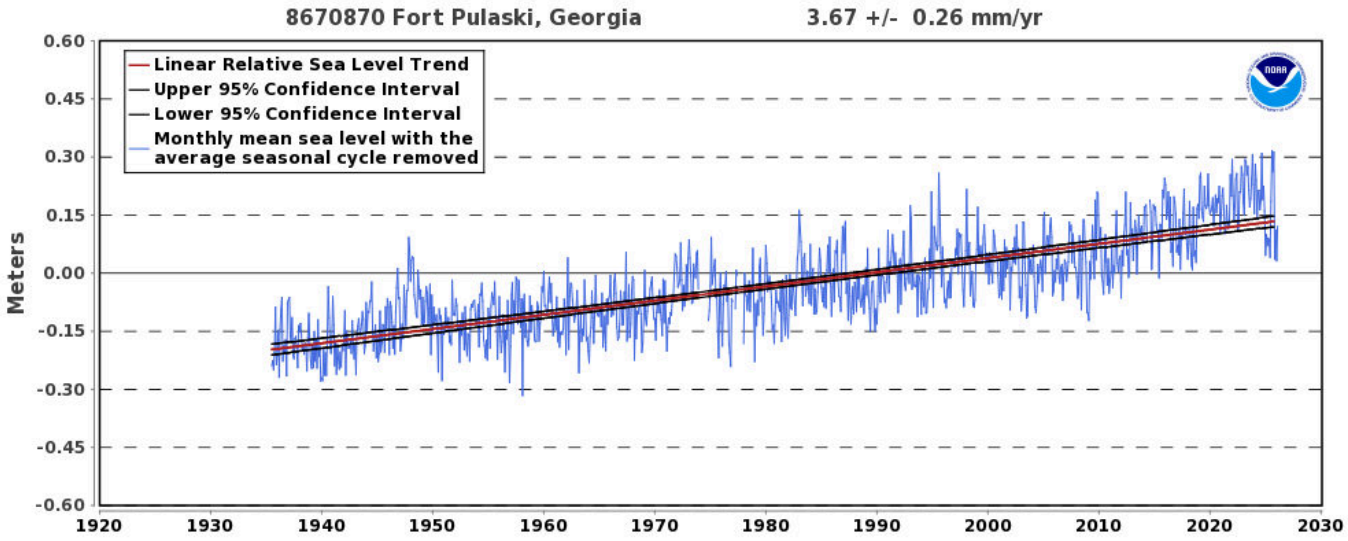


Source: National Weather Service, Iowa Environmental Mesonet

Sea Level Rise

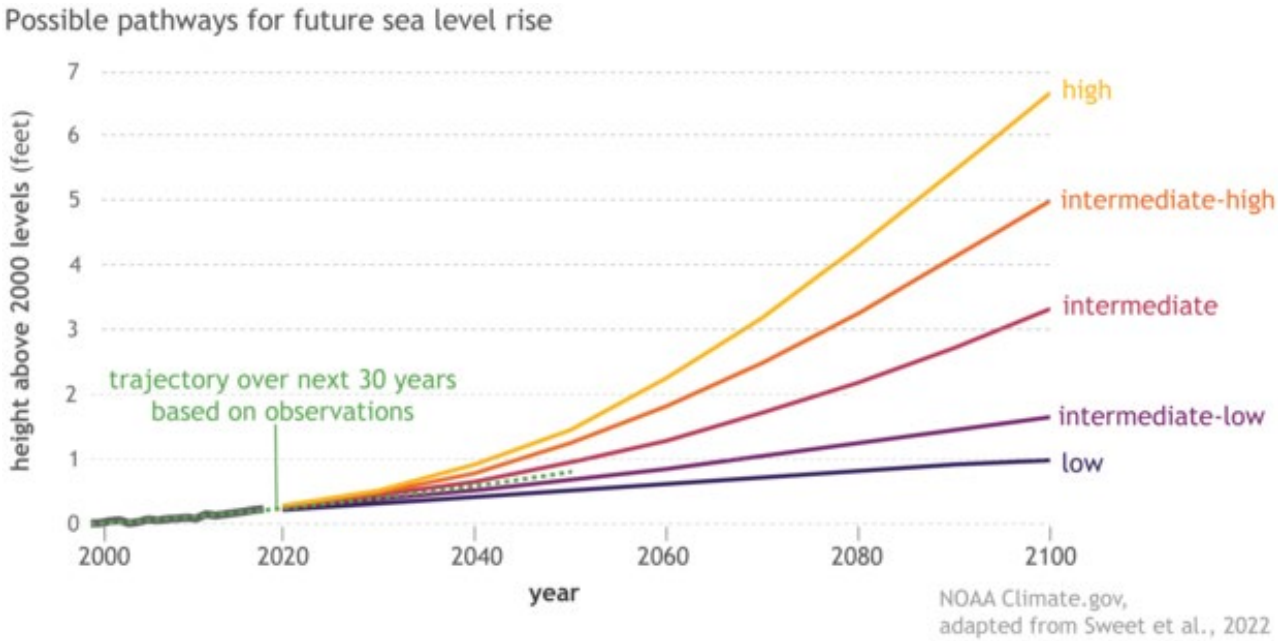
Given the Lowcountry's position on the Atlantic Coast, the Lowcountry is at special risk for sea level rise. The rate of sea level rise is very likely to be higher in the remainder of the 21st century than it was in the last 50 years. Roughly half of the sea level rise experienced over the last 100 years has occurred over the last 25 years, since 2000. The Fort Pulaski (Georgia) station, NOAA's water level station, has recorded sea level since 1935, and in this period, the mean sea level has increased at a rate of about 1.09 feet per 100 years (Figure 3-23). Based on an intermediate emissions scenario, Figure 3-24 shows 2100 sea level is projected to rise about three feet above 2000 sea level (NOAA, 2022).

Figure 3-23: Fort Pulaski Water Level



Source: NOAA/ National Ocean Service

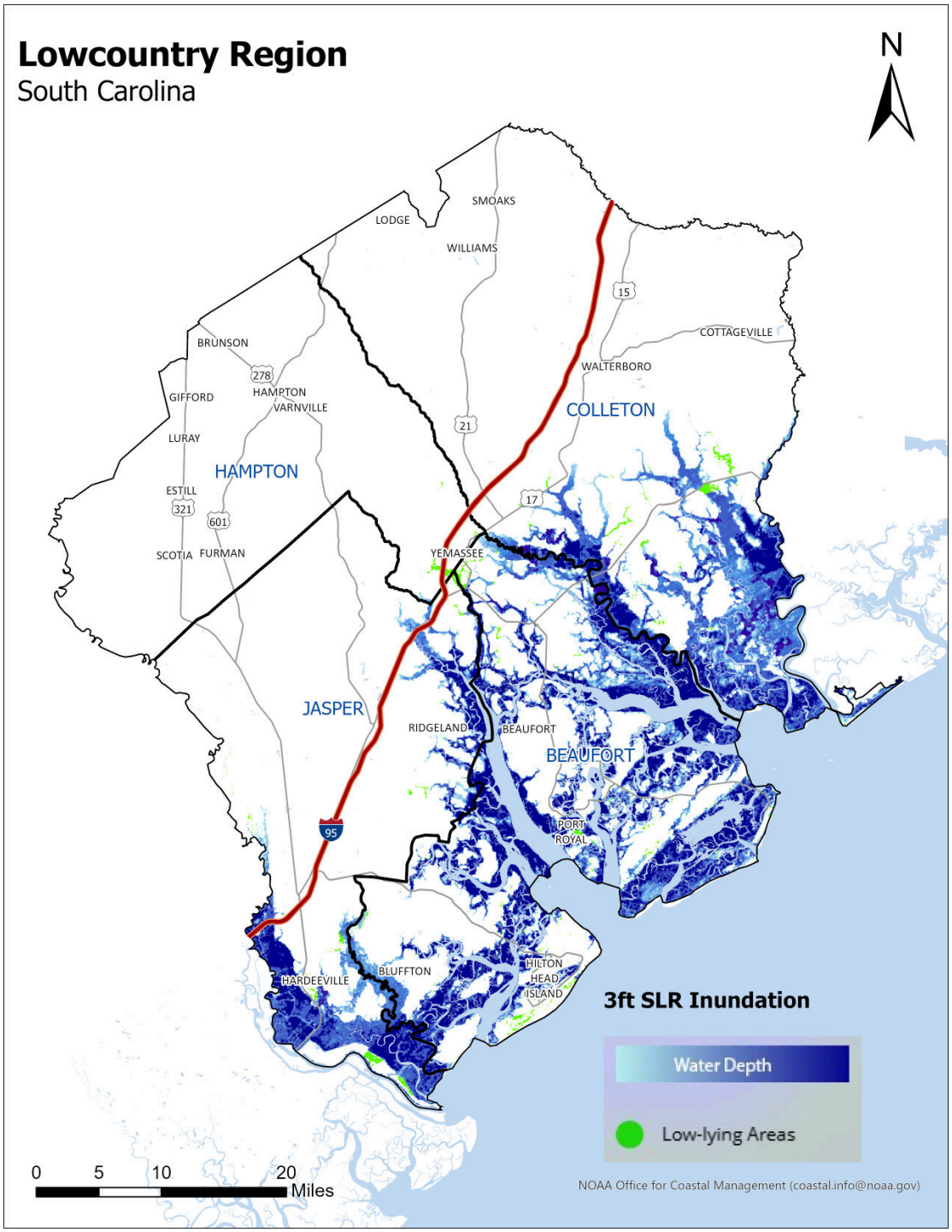
Figure 3-24: Sea Level Rise Projection Scenarios



Source: NOAA

Sea level rise threatens infrastructure like buildings, power plants, roads, and railways. The encroaching saltwater can poison freshwater habitats, and agricultural water supplies due to saltwater intrusion. It also means that storm surge and coastal flooding will be more severe and more frequent. Additionally, marshes and wetlands are critical to the Lowcountry's natural functions and rising sea levels force migration to occur. Proper planning is necessary to protect the marsh migration process. Over 25% of the Lowcountry's land area and population is subject to permanent inundation from three feet of sea level rise (Figure 3-25).

Figure 3-25: 3 Feet Sea Level Rise Impact



Source: NOAA Sea Level Rise Viewer

Location and Extent

According to the National Weather Service, there are three categories to define the severity of flood impacts in the corresponding river/stream reach (Table 3-23).

Table 3-23: Flood Stage

Flood Stage	Description of Flood Impacts
Minor Flooding	Minimal or no property damage, but possible some public threat. ▪ Water over banks and in yards. ▪ No building flooded, but some water may be under buildings built on stilts (elevated). ▪ Personal property in low lying areas needs to be moved or it will get wet. ▪ Water overtopping roads, but not very deep or fast flowing. ▪ Water in campgrounds or on bike paths. ▪ Inconvenience or nuisance flooding. ▪ Small part of the airstrip flooded, and aircraft can still land. ▪ One or two homes in the lowest parts of town may be cut off or get a little water in the crawl spaces or homes themselves if they are not elevated.
Moderate Flooding	Some inundation of structures and roads near streams. Some evacuations of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations are necessary. ▪ Several buildings flooded with minor or moderate damage. ▪ Various types of infrastructure rendered temporarily useless (i.e. Fuel tanks cannot be reached due to high water, roads flooded that have no alternates, generator station flooded). ▪ Elders and those living in the lowest parts of the village are evacuated to higher ground. ▪ Access to the airstrip is cut off or requires a boat. ▪ Water over the road is deep enough to make driving unsafe. ▪ Gravel roads likely eroded due to current moving over them. ▪ Widespread flooding, but not deep enough to float ice chunks through town ▪ Water deep enough to make life difficult, normal life is disrupted and some hardship is endured. ▪ Airstrip closed. ▪ Travel is most likely restricted to boats.
Major Flooding	Extensive inundation of structures and roads. Significant evacuations of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations are necessary. ▪ Many buildings flooded, some with substantial damage or destruction. ▪ Infrastructure destroyed or rendered useless for an extended period of time. ▪ Multiple homes are flooded or moved off foundations. ▪ Everyone in threatened area is asked to evacuate. ▪ National guard units assist in evacuation efforts. ▪ Erosion problems are extreme. ▪ The airstrip, fuel tanks, and the generator station are likely flooded. ▪ Loss of transportation access, communication, power and/or fuel spills are likely. ▪ Fuel tanks may float and spill and possibly float downstream. ▪ High damage estimates and high degree of danger to residents.

Source: National Weather Service (NWS)

During the time leading up to Hurricane Helene (September 25-27, 2024) the state received up to 21.66 inches of rain in 3 days, spurring both flash and riverine floods (NHC, 2026). Damaged infrastructure, businesses and homes took months to repair.

There have been 21 flood events recorded from 2020-2024 in the Lowcountry region (NCEI 2020a). The majority of these were listed as flash flood events. Colleton County experienced the most flooding (primarily coastal), followed by Beaufort County, with an even distribution of flood types (Table 3-24). Details on the severity of these events can be found in Section 4.2 Loss Information.

Table 3-24: Recent Flood Types 2020-2024

County	Flood	Flash Flood	Coastal Flood
Beaufort	2	2	1
Colleton	3	3	6
Hampton	1	2	-
Jasper	-	1	-
Total	6	8	7

Source: NCEI, 2025a

Some notable flooding areas of concern documented below (Table 3-25). These are areas currently at high risk of flooding or have a growing risk in the future. Areas have been identified through the various plans and studies mentioned in Section 5.1 and serve as additional focus points for flood mitigation efforts with repetitive loss properties found in Section 5.2.

Table 3-25: Areas of Flooding Concern

Jurisdiction	Area
Beaufort County	• Alston Road • Sea Island Parkway • Eustis Landing Road • Chinaback Drive • Warsaw Island • Witsell Road • Coosaw Road • Judge Island Road • Fording Island Road (US 278) • Buck Point Road • On/off ramp between US 278 and BLUFFTON PKWY • Blue Heron Point Road
City of Beaufort	• King Street
Town of Bluffton	• Able Street • McCracken Circle • Drayson Circle • Buckwalter Area

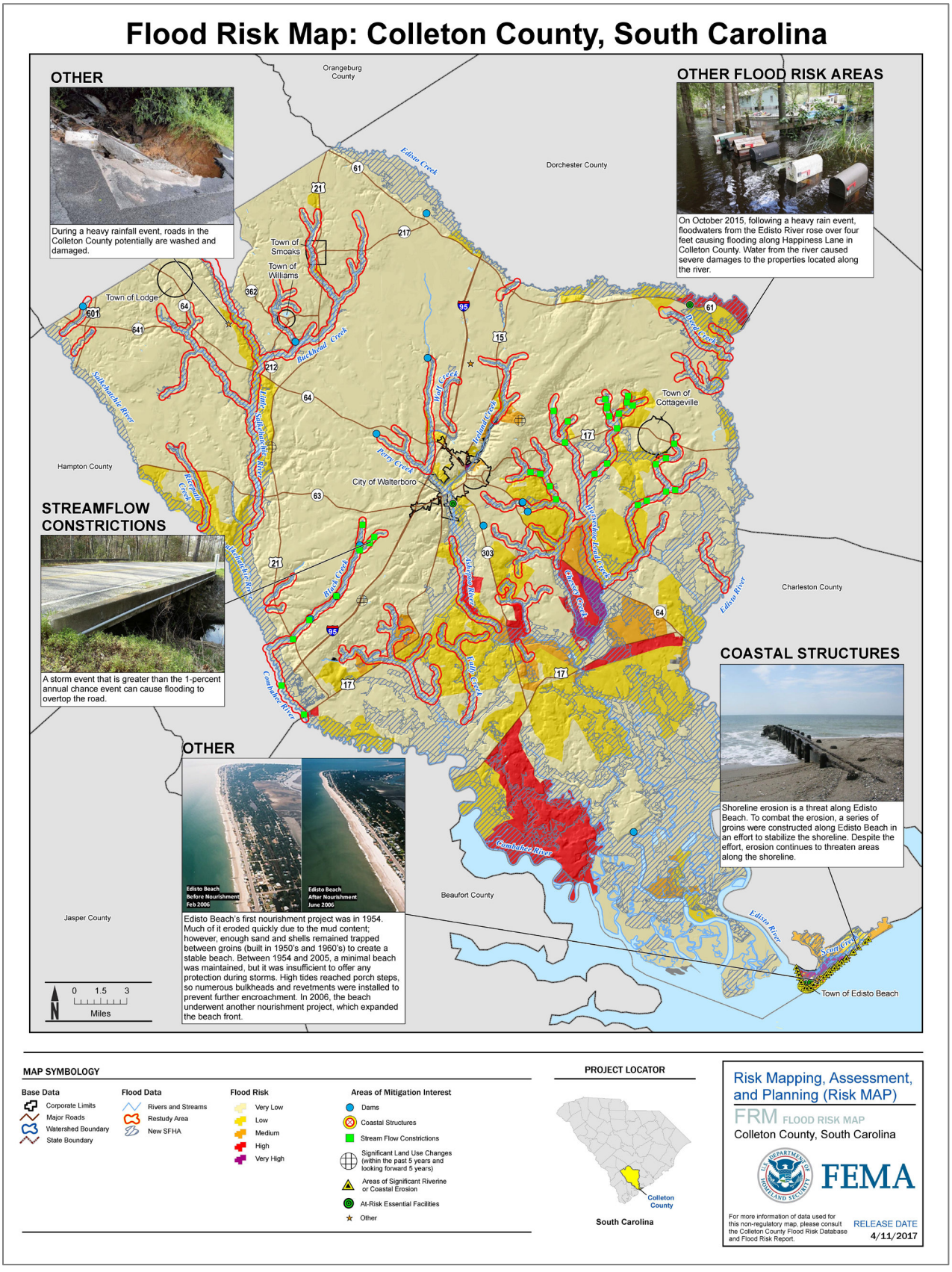
Jurisdiction	Area
	• Buck Island/Simmonsville Rd • Heyward Cove Sub-Basin
Town of Hilton Head Island	• Fort Walker Drive • Intercoastal waterway floodplain • All Atlantic coast areas
Town of Port Royal	• Paris Avenue • Boardwalk and Harbor Area
Colleton County	• All river/stream floodplains • Horseshoe Creek Bridge • Peirce Road • Green Pond Highway • Edward Road • Bennetts Point Road
Town of Edisto Beach	• Beachfront stormwater drainage areas • Myrtle Street • All lagoon systems and outfalls • Drainage basins • Docksite Road • Arc Street • Areas of repetitive loss • Palmetto Boulevard • Point Street • Jungle Shores Drive • Fort Street
City of Walterboro	• Ireland Creek floodplain
Hampton County	• US 278 low lying areas • Willard Street
Town of Varnville	• Cooter Creek Basin • Sanders Branch drainage
Jasper County	• Glasgow Landing Road
City of Hardeeville	• Purrysburg Road • Honey Hill Road
Town of Ridgeland	• Jacob Smart Blvd downtown area

Source: County and municipality database

Future Impacts

Significant flood events, based on historical occurrences in the region and in the state, can cause extensive impacts to critical facilities and the safety and security of the Lowcountry. Any critical facilities inundated by flood water could disrupt services and operations. Evacuations or displacement of residents may be needed due to high flood waters. Water treatment facilities could be compromised from stormwater intrusion leading to a disruption of water resources and wastewater systems. Transportation infrastructure may see hazardous conditions and areas may become inaccessible due to inundation, transportation disruptions expected to impact other emergency and medical response operations. Flood waters increase health risks including drowning, hazardous debris, electrocution, infection/ chemical exposure, and mental health.

Figure 3-26: Colleton County Flood Risk Map 2017



Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Future Probability

The future probability of flood events is high particularly in Beaufort County, with more than 100% chance of occurring in any given year (Table 3-25). Probabilities account for flooding events of any type that may cause loss of life, injuries, significant property damage, and/or disruption to commerce. The recent impact from flooding can be seen in the Loss Section.

Table 3-26: Flooding Historical and Recent Hazards Events 1996-2024

	Total Number	Years in Data Record	Annualized Count	Recurrence Frequency (in years)	Future Probability (% chance/year)	Total Number 2020-2024
Beaufort County	**37**	**29**	**1.3**	**0.78**	**128%**	**5**
City of Beaufort	4	29	0.1	7.25	14%	1
Town of Bluffton	6	29	0.2	4.83	21%	2
Town of Hilton Head Island	5	29	0.2	5.80	17%	1
Town of Port Royal	2	29	0.1	14.50	7%	1
Colleton County	**35**	**29**	**1.2**	**0.83**	**121%**	**12**
Town of Cottageville	6	29	0.2	4.83	21%	3
Town of Edisto Beach	5	29	0.2	5.8	17%	0
Town of Lodge	0	29	0.0	*	0%	0
Town of Smoaks	1	29	0.0	29.00	3%	1
City of Walterboro	4	29	0.1	7.25	14%	2
Town of Williams	0	29	0.0	*	0%	0
Hampton County	**11**	**29**	**0.4**	**2.64**	**38%**	**3**
Town of Brunson	1	29	0.0	29.00	3%	0
Town of Estill	2	29	0.1	14.50	7%	0
Town of Furman	1	29	0.0	29.00	3%	0
Town of Gifford	0	29	0.0	*	0%	0
Town of Hampton	3	29	0.1	9.67	10%	1
Town of Luray	1	29	0.0	29.00	3%	0
Town of Scotia	0	29	0.0	*	0%	0
Town of Varnville	2	29	0.1	14.50	7%	0
Town of Yemassee	0	29	0.0	*	0%	1
Jasper County	**11**	**29**	**0.4**	**2.64**	**38%**	**1**
City of Hardeeville	1	29	0.0	29.00	3%	0
Town of Ridgeland	7	29	0.2	4.14	24%	0
Utilities						
Beaufort-Jasper Water Sewer Authority	48	29	1.7	0.60	166%	6

Note: Symbol (*) refers to “no value” because the hazard events have a value of zero.
Source: NOAA Storm Events Database

3.11 WINTER STORM

Characteristics and Classification

A winter storm includes events where the main types of precipitation are snow, sleet, or freezing rain. Most deaths related to winter storms, such as those involving automobiles, snow shoveling, and exposure to the cold are labeled as indirect deaths. All winter storms have some form of frozen precipitation which interact differently when on the ground. Sometimes storms can have multiple types of precipitation hazards.

Winter storms are a generic classification of cold-weather hazards. These include blizzards, ice storms, and nor'easters. There are many different types of hazard events associated with the generic category of winter storms (NSSL, 2020d). These are described below.

- *Blizzard:* Blizzards combine strong winds that either blow snow that has already fallen, or snow that comes with the storm. The wind paired with the snow inhibits visibility, making for very dangerous driving conditions and lasts for at least three hours.
- *Ice Storm:* An ice storm results with the accretion of at least 0.25 inches of ice on surfaces. The weight of ice can snap trees and power lines and makes for hazardous walking and driving conditions. Freezing rain starts as snow before its descent to the ground and melts completely in a thick layer of warm air. The now-water droplet goes through a thin layer of cold air just before it reaches the ground, making the water close to freezing temperatures as it strikes the ground. If the water lands on something cold enough, the water will freeze on contact. The ice will form a glaze on objects, trees, cars, roads, and power lines. If enough ice forms, then the event will be labeled an ice storm.
- *Snow:* Flakes form as water droplets freeze and stick together. Snow will reach the ground if it remains in air below 32F on its journey from the cloud to the ground and accumulates if ground temperatures are below freezing.
- *Nor'easter:* These are very strong coastal winter storms that form in the Atlantic Ocean. Heavy precipitation (rain and snow) and strong winds producing large waves are part of these systems and produce considerable beach erosion.

Winter weather can have significant impacts and even immobilize an entire region. Given its threat to life and property, it is crucial to know the terms associated with winter storm warnings (SCEMD, 2025).

- **Winter Storm Watch** is used when the risk of a hazardous winter weather event has increased, but its occurrence, location, and/or timing is still uncertain (heavy sleet, heavy snow, ice storm, blowing snow, or combination of events).

- **Winter Storm Warning** is issued for a significant winter weather event, including snow, ice sleet, or blowing snow, or a combination of these hazards.

- **Winter Weather Advisory** is issued when snow, blowing snow, ice, sleet, or a combination of these wintry elements is expected, but conditions should not be hazardous enough to meet warning criteria.

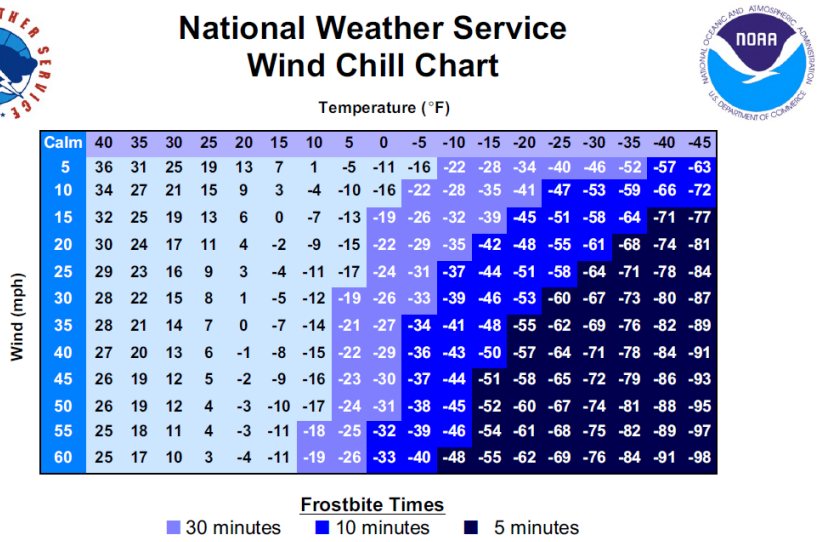
- **Ice Storm Warning** is usually issued for ice accumulation around 1/4 inch or more. This amount of ice accumulation will make travel dangerous or impossible, likely leading to snapped power lines and falling tree branches.
- **Freezing Rain** is rain that freezes when it hits the ground, creating a coating of ice on roads, walkways, trees and power lines.
- **Sleet** is rain that turns into ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet can create dangerous driving conditions.
- **Freeze Warning** freezing temperatures for an extended period are expected.
- **Extreme Cold Warning** dangerously cold air temperatures or wind chill values are expected or occurring. Avoid going outside if possible.
- **Extreme Cold Watch** dangerously cold air temperatures or wind chill values are possible.
- **Cold Weather Advisory** issues when cold temperatures/ wind chill temperatures are expected to result in significant impacts to people and/or infrastructure.

Location and Extent

National Weather Service provides an indication of the dangers from winter winds and freezing temperatures called "Wind Chill Temperature (WCT) Index" (Figure 3-27). It is a measure of how cold the wind makes real air temperature feel to the human body. The Wind Chill Temperature is defined only for temperatures at or below 50°F and wind speeds above 3 mph.

Table 3-27 shows another tool, "Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI)," used by NWS. It provides the public with an indication of the level of winter precipitation (snow and ice) severity and its potential impacts (NWS, 2025).

Figure 3-27: Wind Chill Temperature (WCT) Index



Calm	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45
5	36	31	25	19	13	7	1	-5	-11	-16	-22	-28	-34	-40	-46	-52	-57	-63
10	34	27	21	15	9	3	-4	-10	-16	-22	-28	-35	-41	-47	-53	-59	-66	-72
15	32	25	19	13	6	0	-7	-13	-19	-26	-32	-39	-45	-51	-58	-64	-71	-77
20	30	24	17	11	4	-2	-9	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-48	-55	-61	-68	-74	-81
25	29	23	16	9	3	-4	-11	-17	-24	-31	-37	-44	-51	-58	-64	-71	-78	-84
30	28	22	15	8	1	-5	-12	-19	-26	-33	-39	-46	-53	-60	-67	-73	-80	-87
35	28	21	14	7	0	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-82	-89
40	27	20	13	6	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50	-57	-64	-71	-78	-84	-91
45	26	19	12	5	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65	-72	-79	-86	-93
50	26	19	12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-60	-67	-74	-81	-88	-95
55	25	18	11	4	-3	-11	-18	-25	-32	-39	-46	-54	-61	-68	-75	-82	-89	-97
60	25	17	10	3	-4	-11	-19	-26	-33	-40	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-84	-91	-98

Source: National Weather Service (NWS)

Table 3-27: Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI)

Color Code	Winter Storm Severity	Impacts
	Impacts not expected.	No snow or ice forecast and no potential Ground Blizzard conditions.
	Winter Weather Area Expect winter weather.	Small accumulations of snow or ice forecast. Rarely a direct threat to life and property. Typically results in little inconveniences.
	Minor Impacts Expect a few inconveniences to daily life.	Rarely a direct threat to life and property. Typically results in an inconvenience to daily life.
	Moderate Impacts Expect disruptions to daily life.	Often threatening to life and property, some damage unavoidable. Typically results in disruptions to daily life.
	Major Impacts Expect considerable disruptions to daily life.	Extensive property damage likely, life saving actions needed. Will likely result in major disruptions to daily life.
	Extreme Impacts Expect substantial disruptions to daily life.	Extensive and widespread severe property damage, life saving actions will be needed. Results in extreme disruptions to daily life.

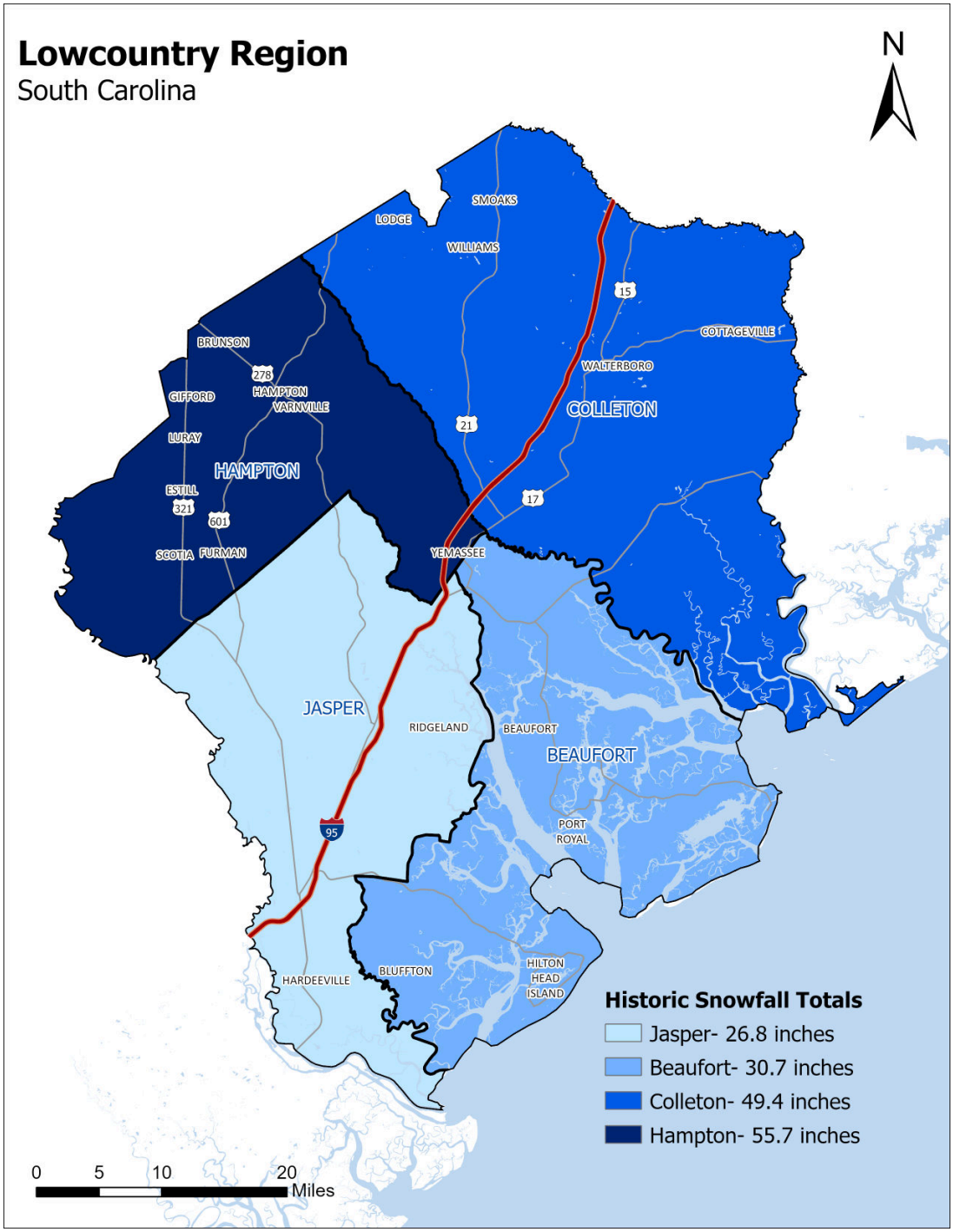
Source: National Weather Service (NWS)

Winter storms generally affect large geographic areas. Given the southern and coastal location of the Lowcountry counties, winter storms are infrequent events, although nor'easters occasionally affect the region's beaches. According to the State Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023 (SCEMD, 2023), from 1996-2022, the four Lowcountry counties averaged 0.04-0.30 days of winter weather per year. Snowfall in the Lowcountry is also a rare event, there are only 51 reported occurrences from 1958-2025 (Figure 3-28). On February 12, 2010 a storm system tracking from northern Florida up the Georgia and South Carolina coast brought major to extreme impacts to the Lowcountry with a reported 4 inches of snow making roads nearly impassable and causing $50,000 in property damage to Colleton County, $10,000 in Beaufort County, and $10,000 in Hampton County (NOAA NCEI). On December 29, 2017 a cold wedge of high pressure and high moisture of a passing low pressure system combined to cause light rain to freeze in the early morning hours. The event resulted in minor impacts with several bridges being shut down and light ice accumulation reported in the region of about 0.03 inches (NWS).On January 21, 2025, an arctic air mass made its way to South Carolina accumulating snow, sleet, and freezing rain with moderate impacts. Hazardous road conditions continued for days following the event, there were no reported property losses, injuries, or fatalities (SCDNR).

Future Impacts

Winter storms can result in major impacts to critical infrastructure and community safety and security. Critical facilities, especially equipment or infrastructure located outside, may be damaged by ice or snow accumulation if not protected. Disruptions in service may be seen by communications, water systems, internet, and energy transmission. Residential structures with inadequate heat, loss of water from broken pipes, or food shortages may require emergency shelter. Transportation will become unsafe for travel and some areas may be inaccessible. Transportation disruptions will also create challenges for medical and emergency response operations.

Figure 3-28: Historic Snowfall Totals 1958-2025



Source: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR)

Future Probability

The future probability of winter storm events is low in the Lowcountry region, with less than 50% chance of occurring in any given year in all counties (Table 3-28). Given the rarity of events, probabilities account for any form or intensity of winter weather.

Table 3-28: Winter Historical and Recent Hazards Events 1996-2025

	Total Number	Years in Data Record	Annualized Count	Recurrence Frequency (in years)	Future Probability (% chance/year)	Total Number 2020-2025
Beaufort County	**7**	**30**	**0.2**	**4.29**	**23%**	**1**
City of Beaufort	7	30	0.2	4.29	23%	1
Town of Bluffton	7	30	0.2	4.29	23%	1
Town of Hilton Head Island	7	30	0.2	4.29	23%	1
Town of Port Royal	7	30	0.2	4.29	23%	1
Colleton County	**13**	**30**	**0.5**	**2.14**	**47%**	**3**
Town of Cottageville	13	30	0.5	2.14	47%	3
Town of Edisto Beach	6	30	0.2	5.0	20%	1
Town of Lodge	13	30	0.5	2.14	47%	3
Town of Smoaks	13	30	0.5	2.14	47%	3
City of Walterboro	13	30	0.5	2.14	47%	3
Town of Williams	13	30	0.5	2.14	47%	3
Hampton County	**9**	**30**	**0.3**	**3.33**	**30%**	**2**
Town of Brunson	9	30	0.3	3.33	30%	2
Town of Estill	9	30	0.3	3.33	30%	2
Town of Furman	9	30	0.3	3.33	30%	2
Town of Gifford	9	30	0.3	3.33	30%	2
Town of Hampton	9	30	0.3	3.33	30%	2
Town of Luray	9	30	0.3	3.33	30%	2
Town of Scotia	9	30	0.3	3.33	30%	2
Town of Varnville	9	30	0.3	3.33	30%	2
Town of Yemassee	9	30	0.3	3.33	30%	2
Jasper County	**8**	**30**	**0.3**	**3.75**	**27%**	**2**
City of Hardeeville	8	30	0.3	3.75	27%	2
Town of Ridgeland	8	30	0.3	3.75	27%	2
Utilities						
Beaufort-Jasper Water Sewer Authority	15	30	0.5	2.00	50%	3

Source: NOAA Storm Events Database

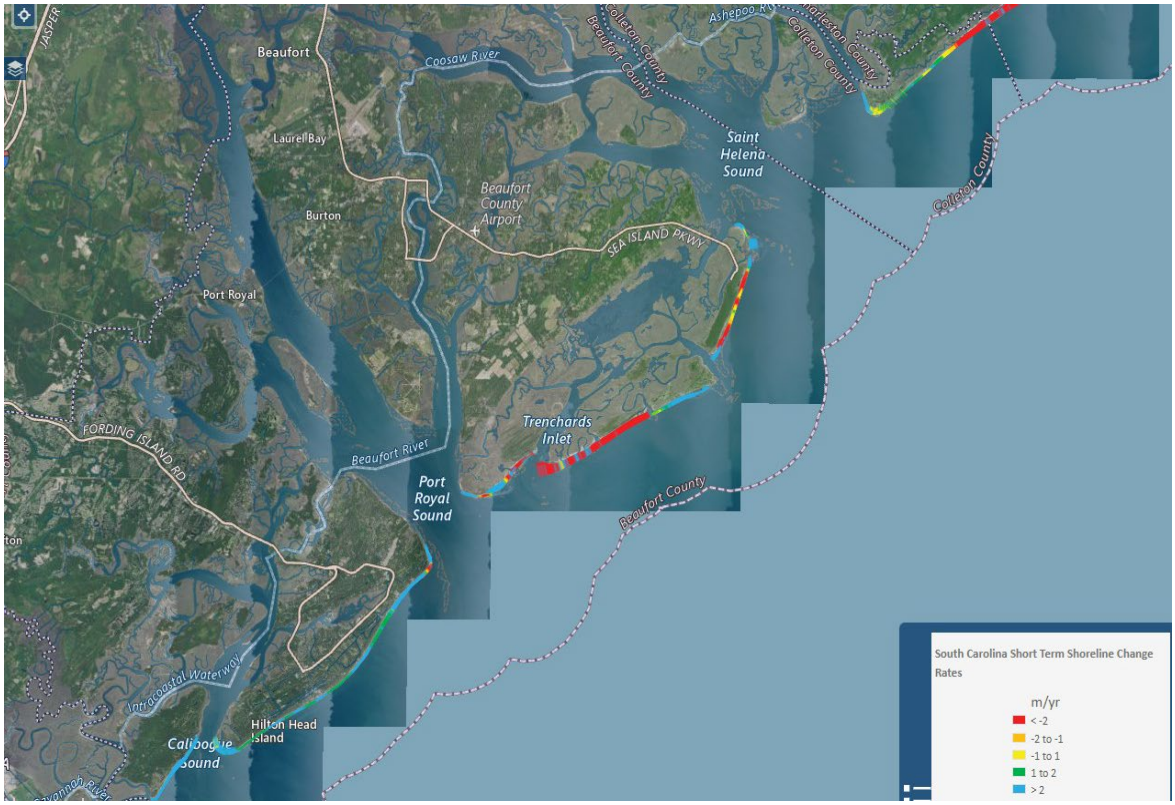
3.12 COASTAL EROSION

Characteristics and Classification

Changes in the coastline occur in both long-term and short-term time frames due to the characteristics of the shore, ocean currents, tides, winds, extreme weather events, and human practices.

According to the national database of short-term shoreline change (USGS, 2025b), short-term rates (less than 30 years) of change for Lowcountry open-ocean sandy beaches show erosion (negative shoreline change) averaging two meters per year in Beaufort County (Hunting Island), while Hilton Head Island and Edisto Beach in Colleton County show a relatively stable profile or positive change (accretion) (see Figure 3-29).

Figure 3-29: Short-Term Coastal Erosion Rates



Source: US Geological Survey (USGS)

South Carolina's Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) maintains and reviews jurisdictional lines at beaches, thereby tracking changes in the coast over time. Given the Lowcountry's position on the Atlantic coast it is prone to significant losses via coastal erosion.

Coastal erosion is a natural process with the potential for erosion determined by soil characteristics, vegetative cover, topography, and climate. Major storms can cause coastal erosion due to high winds blowing the sand off beaches, as well as high surf and storm surge which moves the sand landward. Human intervention in the natural system such as development and construction in riparian areas, as well as along the coast, can accelerate erosion. Rising sea levels due to climate change also contribute to increasing erosion rates. Along with state requirements, local governments regulate critical coastal areas to keep development out of harm's way, protect natural buffers, and control activity that occurs along the coastline.

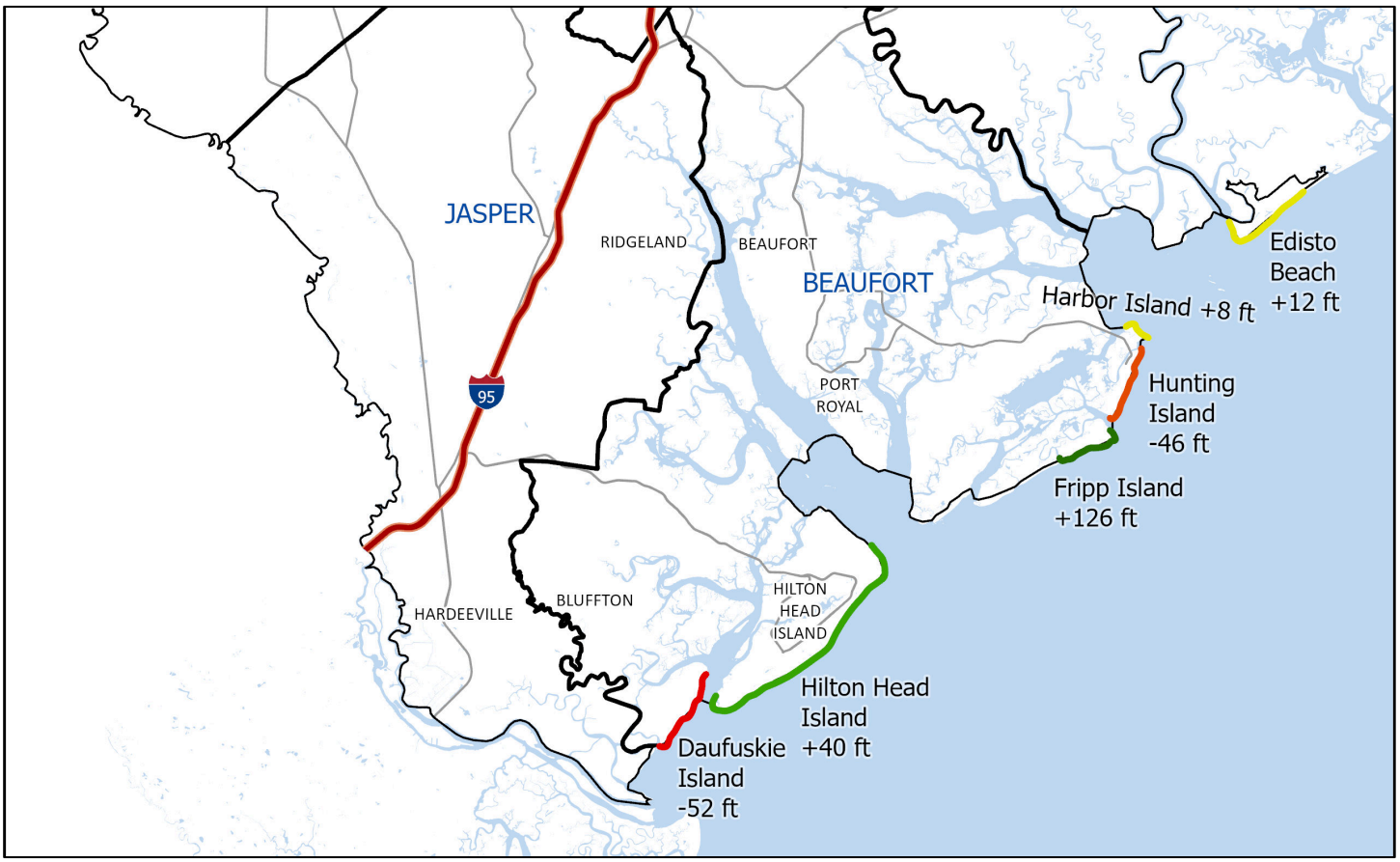
Location and Extent

Beaufort and Colleton Counties

The most recent evaluation of beach erosion rates is the 2010 DES-BCM study (Shoreline Change Advisory Committee, 2010), which shows Edisto Beach (Colleton County), Hunting Island (Beaufort County), Hilton Head Island (Beaufort County), and Daufuskie Island (Beaufort County) as major areas of concern (see Figure 3-28). According to the recent measurements of beach profiles on the BCM Beach Erosion Research and Monitoring Profile Viewer (B.E.R.M. Explorer), the lines represent changes from the most seaward jurisdictional lines based on the 2018 Beachfront Management Reform Act (determined by baselines established by 2008-2012 setback lines or newer setback lines proposed by SCDES in 2017). These lines are reviewed and updated every 7-10 years; the current review began in 2024 and will be phased until 2027.

The viewer also provides shoreline rate changes (erosion or accretion) along with baseline and setback lines (SCDES, 2026). While Figure 3-29 (above) shows the short-term natural erosion rates, Figure 3-30 illustrates changes in the shoreline where erosion (shown in red and orange) occurred, and beach shorelines with accretion (shown in yellow and green), mostly through sand replenishment projects.

Figure 3-30: Average Change in Waterline per Beach 2014-2024



Source: SC Department of Environmental Services (SCDES)

Table 3-29 presents the number and costs of completed beach renourishment projects permitted by SCDES-

OCRM from 1977-2025. The Town of Hilton Head Island is currently working to complete a renourishment project expected May 2026 and will place 2.4 million cubic yards of sand.

Table 3-29: Beach Nourishment Projects 1977-2025

Project Location	Total Number	Number/Cost since 2015 ($m)	Local Cost ($m)	Private Cost ($m)	State Cost ($m)	Federal Cost ($m)	Total Cost ($m)
Daufuskie	1	0	0	6	0	0	6
Edisto Beach	3	1/$18.8	10.5	0	14.7	3	28.2
Hilton Head Island	8	2/$31.9	76.5	0	7.3	0	83.8
Hunting Island	5	0	0	0	22	4.2	26.2
Total	17	3/$50.7	87.0	6.0	44	7.2	144.2

Source: SC Department of Environmental Services (SCDES)

Hilton Head Island and Hunting Island in Beaufort County and Edisto Beach in Colleton County, are all experiencing changing coastal conditions due to the dynamic nature of erosion/accretion processes. These dynamic conditions can influence wave motions and currents, creating a potentially hazardous situation for swimmers and beachgoers. A common hazard caused by changing conditions is rip currents. These powerful, channeled currents pull water from the shoreline and out past breaking waves. They are commonly formed due to breaks in sandbars or near structures such as groins, jetties, and piers (NOAA, 2024). The National Weather Service (NWS) issues rip current warnings for coastal areas. For the 2020-2025 period, there were five notable events related to rip current occurrences (Table 3-30).

Table 3-30: Rip Current Events 2020-2025

County	Location	Fatalities	Injuries	Date
Colleton	Edisto Beach	0	1	9/18/2020
Colleton	Edisto Beach	0	1	6/12/2024
Beaufort	Hilton Head Island	2	0	8/16/2024
Beaufort	Hunting Island	1	0	7/4/2025
Colleton	Edisto Beach	0	2	7/6/2025

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

Future Probability and Impacts

Given the dynamic nature of coastal zones in terms of sediment erosion and accretion, it is impossible to compute specific past occurrences of coastal erosion events and their recurrence intervals. The future probability of coastal erosion is high given the dynamic nature of sediment transport, sea level rise, and development/recreational demands of the beach resources in the region. Coastline change and erosion can lead to habitat loss, decreased natural protection against storms, and property damage. Economic impacts from tourism losses are also a concern. Extreme cases can cause population displacement, leading to community uncertainty about long-term habitability. Critical facilities and culturally significant sites in the coastal zone must prepare and harden infrastructure to adapt with potential erosion.

3.13 EXTREME HEAT

Characteristics and Classification

Extreme heat is classified as heat indices that exceed the average that an area usually experiences in the summertime. This means different areas have different thresholds for what constitutes extreme heat. The heat index (the apparent temperature) accounts for both the measured air temperature as well as the humidity. Extreme heat can affect a person's ability to keep their body temperature from raising, leading to heat-related illness such as heat stroke, heat exhaustion, and possibly death. Three key factors put some people at higher risk than others; exposure, sensitivity, ability to respond and prepare. Typical at-risk groups include but are not limited to children, older adults, people with disabilities, athletes, and pregnant women, and anyone who is not careful can experience heat-related illness. (Heat.gov, 2026).

According to the National Weather Service (NWS) (2026d), Heat Risk will elevate the risk level based on historical daily temperatures, duration of a heat event, or when temperatures near record highs (Table 3-31). The hazards associated with extreme heat impair human health and include heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Heat stroke is life threatening and occurs when the body is unable to prevent a substantial rise in its core temperature. It often includes loss of consciousness, mental confusion, convulsions, and a fast heart rate, all of which can become life threatening. Further analysis on urban heat islands, impacts on public health, future conditions can be found in Appendix H.

Table 3-31: Risk Level Classification

Risk Level	Risk of Heat-Related Impacts
0	Little to no risk.
1	Minor- Primarily affects those who are extremely sensitive to heat and without cooling/hydration.
2	Moderate - Affects those who are sensitive to heat, especially those without cooling/hydration, and some health systems and industries.
3	Major - Affects anyone without cooling/hydration as well as health systems and industries.
4	Extreme - Rare and/or long-duration extreme heat with no overnight relief affecting anyone without cooling/hydration as well as health systems, industries, and infrastructure.

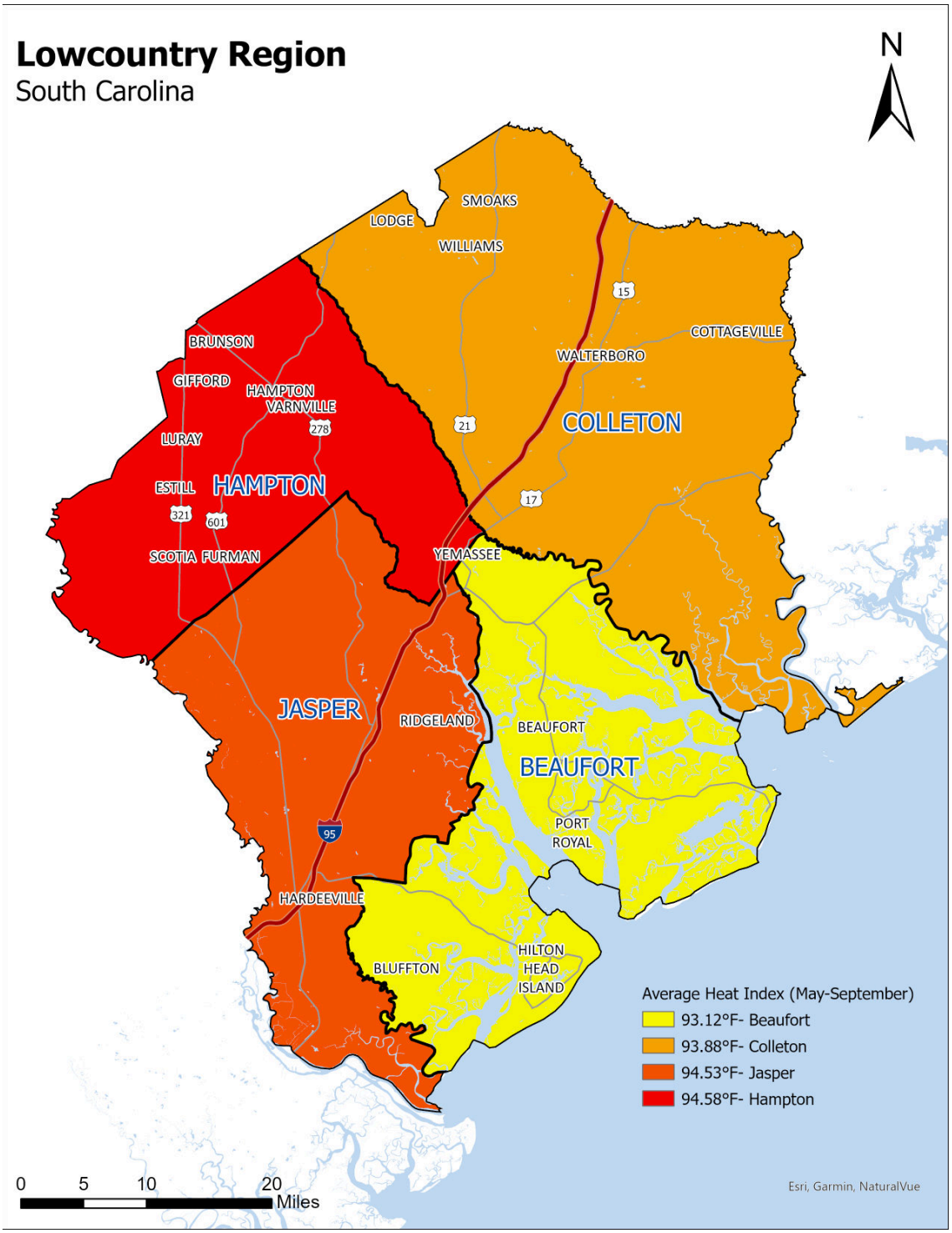
Source: National Weather Service (NWS)

Location and Extent

In August 1999, heat and humidity combined to produce heat indices reaching 120 degrees in the Lowcountry region. The risk level 4 event tied the all-time record for Beaufort County and resulted in one fatality. During a June 2022 afternoon, moderate to major risk level conditions brought by a ridge of high pressure and high dew point temperatures in the Lowcountry were favorable for heat related illness. Media reported that recruits at Parris Island experienced heat stress, requiring one individual to be hospitalized. (NCEI, 2025b). In recent years, all four Lowcountry counties have had an average summer (May-September) heat index of well

over 90 degrees (Figure 3-31). These temperatures make the whole region vulnerable to extreme heat risk.

Figure 3-31: Average Summer Heat Index 2018-2022



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Future Probability and Impacts

As shown in Table 3-32, the future probability of extreme heat events in the Lowcountry region is relatively low, with less than 100% chance of occurring in any given year. The probability of extreme heat events is given for any phenomena that may have sufficient intensity to cause loss of life, injuries, significant property damage, disruption to commerce, or significant meteorological events such as a maximum temperature. Impacts due to extreme heat are primarily expected on community health and agriculture crop production. Energy and medical facilities could face additional stress from prolonged extreme heat events. Residents with no access to air conditioning may require cooling centers. Outdoor equipment or infrastructure could be damaged.

Table 3-32: Extreme Heat Historical and Recent Hazards Events 1996-2024

	Total Number	Years in Data Record	Annualized Count	Recurrence Frequency (in years)	Future Probability (% chance/year)	Total Number 2020-2024
Beaufort County	**16**	**29**	**0.5**	**1.81**	**55%**	**2**
City of Beaufort	16	29	0.5	1.81	55%	2
Town of Bluffton	16	29	0.5	1.81	55%	2
Town of Hilton Head Island	16	29	0.5	1.81	55%	2
Town of Port Royal	16	29	0.5	1.81	55%	2
Colleton County	**9**	**29**	**0.3**	**3.22**	**27%**	**0**
Town of Cottageville	9	29	0.3	3.22	31%	0
Town of Edisto Beach	9	29	0.3	3.22	31%	0
Town of Lodge	9	29	0.3	3.22	31%	0
Town of Smoaks	9	29	0.3	3.22	31%	0
City of Walterboro	9	29	0.3	3.22	31%	0
Town of Williams	9	29	0.3	3.22	31%	0
Hampton County	**5**	**29**	**0.2**	**5.80**	**17%**	**0**
Town of Brunson	5	29	0.2	5.80	17%	0
Town of Estill	5	29	0.2	5.80	17%	0
Town of Furman	5	29	0.2	5.80	17%	0
Town of Gifford	5	29	0.2	5.80	17%	0
Town of Hampton	5	29	0.2	5.80	17%	0
Town of Luray	5	29	0.2	5.80	17%	0
Town of Scotia	5	29	0.2	5.80	17%	0
Town of Varnville	5	29	0.2	5.80	17%	0
Town of Yemassee	5	29	0.2	5.80	17%	0
Jasper County	**7**	**29**	**0.2**	**4.14**	**24%**	**0**
City of Hardeeville	7	29	0.2	4.14	24%	0
Town of Ridgeland	7	29	0.2	4.14	24%	0
Utilities						
Beaufort-Jasper Water Sewer Authority	22	29	0.8	1.32	76%	2

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

3.14 TERRORISM

Characteristics and Classification

Terrorism is the intentional, unlawful use of violence or threat of violence to intimidate or coerce another or others to achieve political, ideological, or social objectives with a disregard for the safety of innocent humans. The State of South Carolina's Hazard Mitigation Plan classifies terrorism as a man-made hazard and groups it under broad categories instead of treating it as a standalone category (SCEMD, 2025). The U.S. Department of Defense, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the U. S. Department of State all define terrorism differently, but all definitions have the same key elements of violence, intimidation, and fear.

Terrorism has two general classifications:

- **International/Foreign Terrorism –** conducted by foreign actors/organizations targeting U.S. interests.
- **Domestic Terrorism –** conducted by U.S.-based actors/organizations without foreign direction.

Various means of attack can include:

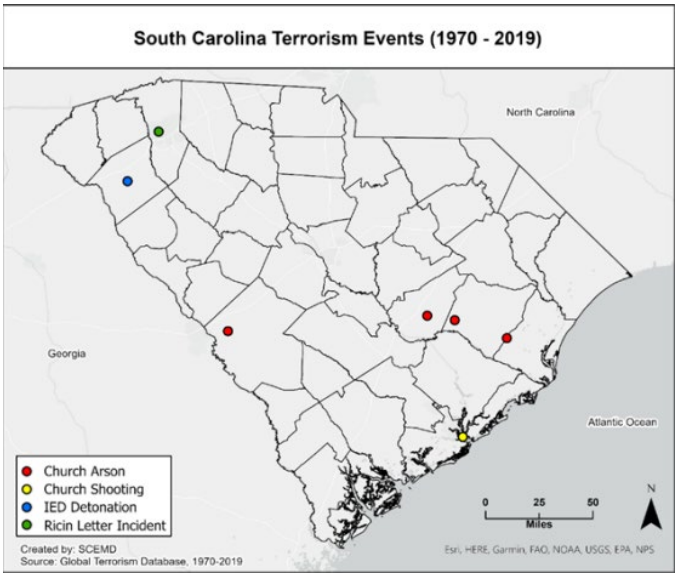
- **Explosive devices –** one of the most common weapons; easily concealed and can be detonated remotely. They often result in secondary impacts such as fires, debris, and emergency response challenges. They can also cause burns and intense exposure to radiation which can lead to long-term health impacts.
- **Chemical threats –** the use of any toxic or otherwise harmful solid, liquid, vapor, etc., that have life-threatening effects on people, animals, or plants. Agents can be released almost anywhere, including from vehicles, aircraft, buildings, and explosives. Many agents are especially lethal because they can be colorless and odorless, making them difficult to detect quickly.
- **Biological threats** – the intentional release of pathogens, such as bacteria, viruses, or toxins, designed to cause illness or death in people, livestock, or crops. These agents can be dispersed through the air, water, or food supplies. Because many biological agents have an incubation period, the effects of an attack may not be immediate, allowing the threat to spread undetected across a wide area before the onset of symptoms.
- **Infrastructure attacks –** a common form of terrorist attacks is intentional damage to critical infrastructure such as bridges, transportation systems, government facilities. These attacks are designed to disrupt essential services, undermine public confidence, and create effects that extend beyond the immediate area of damage.
- **Armed or Active violence –** similar to explosive devices, armed or active violence involves the use of firearms or other weapons against people or facilities. The most common weapons used are guns/firearms and knives.
- **Cyber-attack –** unlike physical threats, cyber threats are often difficult to identify and comprehend due to their digital status.

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Department of Health & Human Services, Department of Homeland Security

Location and Extent

Although the Lowcountry has not experienced a large-scale terrorist attack in recent history (Figure 3-32), the region contains critical infrastructure, public venues, military, transportation and government centers that could be targets for terrorism due to their value. These might include airports, bridges (especially by the coast) and largely crowded public events, such as Hilton Head's Seafood Festival, The RBC Heritage PGA tour event, Beaufort's Water Festival, the Veterans Day Parade, and the Hampton County Fair.

Figure 3-32: South Carolina Terrorism Events



Source: South Carolina State Emergency Management Division

The extent of a terrorism incident in the Lowcountry region would vary significantly based on the method of attack, target, and timing. Impacts may range from strictly localized to broader regional consequences if critical infrastructure is affected.

The Town of Hilton Head Island participates in a Unified Command with the Sheriff's Office and other public safety, state or federal partners for significant special events (i.e. RBC Heritage PGA tour event, local St. Patrick's Day Parade, & Concours d 'Elegance & Motoring Festival). Fire Rescue actively supports the Sheriff's Office related to terrorism type responses and is a participant in the Active Shooter Working Group. Emergency management best practices encourage working with many private and public sector partners to ensure adequate responses during emergencies or disasters (SCEMD, 2020).

Terrorism may range from low intensity, lone attacks targeting specific individuals or structures, to broader, premeditated, high intensity attacks targeting crowded spaces or critical infrastructure, often involving heavy coordination. The Lowcountry contains critical transportation infrastructure, including I-95; major military installations such as Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island and Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort; and Hilton Head, one of the nation's highest-rated tourist destinations–factors that make the region potentially vulnerable to attack. The Port of Savannah is approximately 200 miles from the Lowcountry border and the third largest port along the east coast in terms of tonnage (USDOT, 2023). The Department of Homeland Security issues advisories based on risk (Figure 3-33).

Low intensity: Small-scale attacks that result in minimal to no physical damage, such as threats, vandalism, or thwarted attack attempts.

Medium intensity: Localized casualties or system disruption, such as infrastructure attacks, armed violence or vehicle usage as weapons. (All of these can also reach high intensity)

High intensity: Large-scale attack or potential for widespread consequences, such as explosive devices, chemical threats/usage, and cyber-attacks.

Figure 3-33: Homeland Security Advisory System



Source: Department of Homeland Security

Historical Occurrences and Future Probability

The Lowcountry region doesn't have any widely documented large-scale terrorist attacks in recent history.

Based on historical, national and regional risk assessments, the probability of a terrorism incident occurring in the Lowcountry is low to moderate**,** but the severity of possible consequences keeps the subject an essential topic in hazard planning (SCEMD, n.d.). Specific jurisdictions, primarily Hilton Head Island and City of Beaufort, have an increased probability of experiencing a terrorist attack due to their status as heavy tourist attractions and popular vacation sites.

Colleton County's Emergency Operations Plan recognizes the possibility of terrorist attacks involving nuclear weapons that may be small and transportable. When exploded, these devices have an intense pressure wave and deadly effects including thermal and nuclear radiation, blast, heat and fires. There are nuclear facilities in South Carolina close enough to affect the northern region of the Lowcountry if a terrorist were to obtain access to them.

Public awareness campaigns, such as *If You See Something, Say Something,* are active to help prevent terrorist attacks by educating citizens on how to recognize signs of suspicious activity and how to report it to appropriate authorities (DHS, 2026).

Future Impacts

A targeted attack could affect any of the region's critical facilities and disrupt services. Community safety and security is of high concern during any potential terrorism event. Emergency response units can expect urgent calls for support and a chaotic environment, specialized training and protective gear may be required. Medical care facilities could see an increase in patients and possibly long term mental health support for victims.

3.15 CYBER ATTACK

Characteristics and Classification

A cyber-attack is a deliberate attempt to collect, disrupt, deny, degrade, or destroy information system resources or the information itself (National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), 2015). Cyber-attacks may target government systems, business networks, private sector infrastructure and critical services. Common forms of cyber-attacks include (Library of Congress, 2024):

- **Botnet:** A portmanteau of "robot" and "network" which refers to a collection of computers for which control has been seized by one or more unauthorized parties. Once an unauthorized party controls an individual computer, they may then connect it to other computers in their control to create a pool of computing resources (e.g., network bandwidth or processing power). Botnets are used to further illicit activity online, such as distributing malware and surreptitiously mining cryptocurrencies.
- **Denial of Service (DOS)** or **Distributed Denial of Service (DDOS):** A DOS attack inhibits an authorized user's ability to access a resource (e.g., a website) by overwhelming that resource with unauthorized requests (e.g., more requests to load a web page than it was built to support). DDOS attacks are more common and use many hosts to attack a single resource (e.g., a network of malware-infected computers—a botnet—sending junk web traffic to a single service provider).
- **Hack and Leak:** An attack in which an unauthorized party gains access to a sensitive data store and exfiltrates (steals) the data. Once the sensitive data is in their control, the attacker either releases the data in an effort to expose or embarrass the victim or contacts the victim and demands a ransom in order to not release the data.
- **Phishing:** An attack which attempts to gain access to a system by tricking authorized users into engaging with malicious computer code. Frequently, this attack is carried out by combining an email which uses social engineering (i.e., an attempt to manipulate someone into revealing information or taking some action) with a malicious web link or attachment. When the web link is clicked or attachment opened, the device downloads and executes malware. Phishing is a common form of business email compromise.
- **Malware:** A portmanteau of "malicious" and "software" which refers to software and firmware intentionally added to an information technology (IT) product and designed to cause harm to the IT product or its data. There are many ways malware can be added to a product, such as from an inserted USB drive or downloaded from the internet. Data may be harmed by making it no longer private (i.e., compromising its confidentiality), manipulating it (i.e., compromising its integrity), or deleting it (i.e., compromising its availability).
- **Malvertising:** A portmanteau of "malicious" and "advertising." This attack uses online advertising networks to spread malware and compromise computer systems. Malvertisers buy ad-space and inject malware into those ads in an effort to easily spread it online. When a user visits a website, they may be presented with the ad and download the malicious code via a legitimate advertising network. If the code downloads and successfully executes, then the computer succumbs to

malware. Generally, neither the website delivering the ad nor the advertising networks are aware of the malicious code being delivered.

- **Man-in-the-Middle (MitM):** An attack where a malicious actor seeks to insert itself between two computers in an effort to access the communications between those computers, usually in an effort to eavesdrop between the users of those computers (either directly, or by intercepting encryption keys so that encrypted text may be decrypted).
- **Ransomware:** A portmanteau of "ransom" and "malware." Ransomware attacks seek to deny users access to data and IT systems by encrypting files and systems—thus, locking out users. Perpetrators usually extort victims for payment, typically in cryptocurrency, to decrypt the system. Recently, such attacks have been coupled with data breaches in which perpetrators also steal data from their victims. In addition to locking the computer systems, the perpetrators typically notify victims that they have copies of their data and will release sensitive information unless a ransom is paid, potentially extorting them twice. A triple extortion may occur if the perpetrators contact a company's clients to tell them about the attack in an effort to pressure the victim to pay the ransom or risk harming their future business prospects.
- **Spear-Phishing:** An attack where a single, specific person or group is targeted (as opposed to the broad target base in a typical phishing attack). The perpetrator researches the individual or group to craft bespoke messages designed to illicit interaction with the target(s). If the target interacts with the message (e.g., opens an email attachment or clicks a link in a direct message), then they may have malware installed on their device allowing the attacker to continue their campaign.
- **Supply Chain Attack:** An attack in which an adversary inserts an unauthorized physical or software component into a product in order to surreptitiously access data or manipulate a system. These attacks can occur during any phase of a product lifecycle (e.g., development, shipping, or updating).
- **Zero-Day:** An attack that exploits a previously unknown vulnerability in an IT product. This type of attack is particularly dangerous because until it is noticed, there is usually no defense against it. This attack is sometimes written as "0-Day" and sometimes pronounced "oh-day."

Location and Extent

Cyber threats are not confined by physical geography and can affect any digital system used within the entire area. Critical sectors such as local governments, schools, healthcare, and emergency responders often rely on digital networking systems and therefore have a higher susceptibility to cyber-attacks. If successful, a cyber-attack can result in loss of services, data compromises, invasion of privacy, financial loss and risks to public safety across multiple jurisdictions.

Low intensity- small system compromises such as phishing, unauthorized access or malware; usually individual or departmental. Restoration is easy. (Data Breaches)

Medium intensity- ransomware or the temporary loss of public services that disrupt operations for a few days: usually limited to a confined area. (Ransomware, Service disruption)

High intensity- the hijacking of critical government systems or emergency services that can spread county, state, or nationwide. It can result in extended loss of services including power, water, internet, etc.

Historical Occurrences and Future Probability

Specific high-profile attacks in the Lowcountry are not widely published, although county and municipal governments across the state have experienced ransomware and other cyber threats in recent years, reinforcing the need for cybersecurity mitigation planning.

The probability of a future cyber-attack is high and will only increase as technology and the reliance on digital systems progress (FBI, 2024). The rise of Artificial Intelligence also presents a new challenge not addressed in previous years. Cyber threats represent an ongoing risk that planners must address with preparedness, detection, and response strategies.

Future Impacts

A cyber-attack on the Lowcountry could result in localized or regional impacts. All critical facilities are at risk of being targeted, potentially multiple at the same time. Facilities that rely on technology to function may be at higher risk such as communications, energy, and medical care. There is also potential for a cyber-attack to compound as a terrorism event or target the release of hazardous materials. Emergency response personnel may experience challenges in communication and should prioritize security of critical facilities.

3.16 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

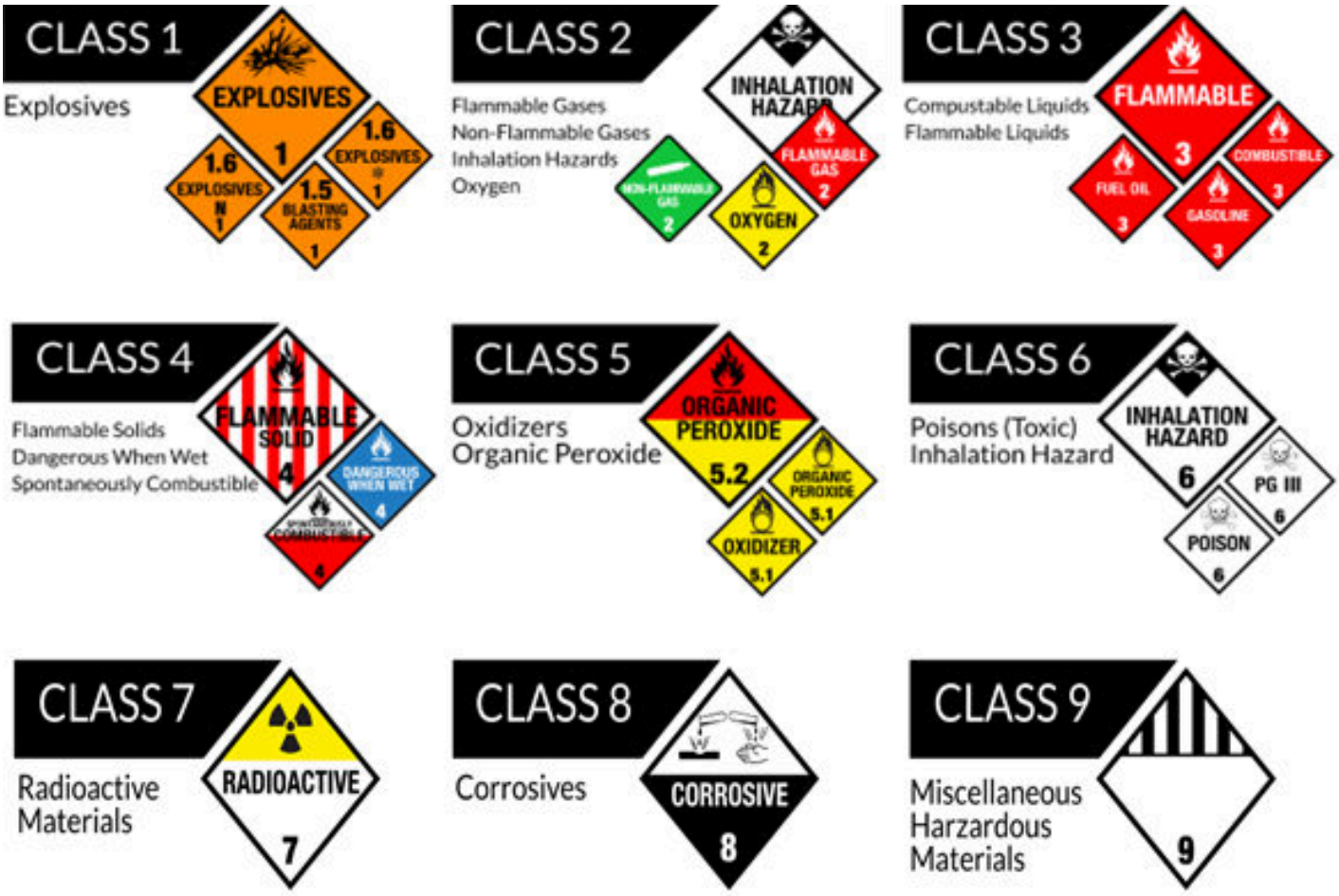
Characteristics and Classification

Hazardous materials (HAZMAT) include chemical, biological, radiological, and toxic substances that, when released, can cause harm to human health, property, or the environment. Incidents can result from industrial accidents, transportation incidents, pipeline leaks, or deliberate release. They may occur during creation, transportation, storage or use. HAZMATs can be found anywhere – at home, at work, at the store, etc. They can be used by anyone – farmers, doctors, delivery drivers, students during science projects, and in everyday house activities.

Identifying classification of hazardous materials helps first responders identify the nature of the hazard and appropriate responses (Figure 3-34). 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 173.2 defines nine classes of hazardous materials:

- **Explosives –** materials with an explosion, projection, fire, or blast hazard.
- **Gases –** stored under pressure and exist as gases at normal temperatures, toxic or non-toxic.
- **Flammable Liquids –** flammable liquids (flash point below 141°) and combustible liquids (flash point 141°-200°).
- **Flammable Solids-** flammable solids, spontaneously combustible and dangerous when wet materials.
- **Oxidizers and Organic Peroxide –** substances that release oxygen or enhance combustion. They are unstable, may explode and can significantly accelerate/intensify fires.
- **Toxin/Poison –** can cause serious injury or death if absorbed, inhaled, or ingested.
- **Radioactive –** materials that emit radiation.
- **Corrosive –** cause severe destruction of human skin or corrode metals (ex. acids).
- **Miscellaneous –** may present a hazard during transport but do not meet other class definitions.

Figure 3-34: HAZMAT Classification System



Source: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) manages the definitions and standards for classified substances and regulates HAZMAT transportation within the United States (OSHA, 2026). USDOT uses the same nine-classes system in their identification of different hazardous materials.

Location and Extent

Hazardous materials may not always be confined to a specific location, as transportation introduces a potential risk due to the movement and storage of chemicals. Primary locations that are at risk include industrial sites, agricultural operations, and transfer facilities. Because HAZMATs are so widespread, proper storage, labeling, and training, if necessary, are essential to protect people and the environment from serious accidents. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) developed the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) in 1983, requiring employers to provide information about chemicals in the workplace and their associated hazards.

Severity of impact can extend from singular road/rail spill accidents affecting a specific area, or a regional consequence, which would likely come from water contamination, as the Lowcountry is surrounded by water and has increased potential for water maintenance accidents. Planning for such events requires a watershed level approach.

Future Impacts

A high risk hazardous materials event could result in evacuations of contaminated areas, damage to critical facilities, and health and environmental risks. Medical facilities will see an increase in patients exposed to hazardous materials. Emergency responders will need to identify, detect, contain, and eliminate hazardous materials, this may require special equipment or additional personnel. Transportation infrastructure may need to be closed or altered until the event has been controlled.

Historical Occurrences and Future Probability

The probability of future hazardous material releases remains moderately high due to routine transportation of chemicals and industrial activity. Accidental releases remain more likely than intentional releases meant to cause harm, but severity of impacts warrants mitigation planning.

The Lowcountry has documented two local HAZMAT incidents in recent years.

- On April 10, 2023, Colleton County Fire Rescue reported a collision between two tractor-trailers on I-95 in Colleton County resulted in the spillage of hazardous chemicals onto the highway. A total of seven containers were damaged, and traffic was stopped and rerouted for over eight hours while responders contained the spill.
- On January 31, 2022, the failure of a 16-inch ductile iron sewer main resulted in an estimated 500,000 gallons of sewage spilled into a tidal ditch leading to Battery Creek in Beaufort County (BJWSA, 2022). Shellfish harvest beds in the region were closed for 21 days, and the Department of Environmental Services (DES) closed all open areas of Battery Creek.

The extensive network of interstate highways and railways that supply industries with chemical and petroleum products could result in a moderate to large accidental release of hazardous materials from a transportation source (SCEMD, 2026).

There are various industries and chemicals that should be considered when evaluating risk assessments for HAZMAT accidents. Rural areas still use agricultural-related chemicals (pesticides and fertilizers). I-95 is a major national north – south freight route, especially through Colleton and Jasper counties, carrying trucks transporting various fuel, raw materials, and other industrial chemicals. The Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority (BJWSA) uses chloramines in their drinking water treatment that, while necessary for human health, pose a threat because of potential formation of byproducts (USEPA, 2025).

Located on the coast, Beaufort County also brings water and boat maintenance activities that could pose potential HAZMAT risks. The expansive river and stream network throughout the Lowcountry has the potential to impact all counties even if not directly on the coast. Additionally, the Savannah River and Port of Savannah must be acknowledged due to the volume of boat traffic. Boat cleaning chemicals and degreasers often contain ammonia, chlorine, and other possibly toxic chemicals to water qualities and marine life. Paints used on boat hulls may also contain toxic compounds that are directly entering the water (SCDES, 2025).

3.17 COMPOUND HAZARDS

While this plan highlights 15 individual hazards identified in the Lowcountry region, it is crucial to be aware of how these hazards interact and the stress that it can put on communities. The occurrence of multiple natural hazards, either simultaneously or across multiple locations, can potentially have greater impacts than isolated hazards when combined, often straining disaster response efforts. Such interactions between multiple hazards across space or time are known as compound events (NCA5). Compound events are categorized as:

- **Multivariate: co-occurring**: hazards in a single location.
- **Temporally compounding**: successive hazards in a single location.
- **Spatially compounding**: similar or unique hazards occurring within a short period of time in multiple locations that are connected by physical processes or complex human and natural systems, putting extraneous demand on response resources.
- **Preconditioned**: extreme events superimposed on long-term trends, such as higher sea levels, heavier precipitation, and/or changing storm seasonality causing more frequent and severe coastal flooding.
- **Complex events**: non-climatic stressors that exacerbate climate hazards, such as COVID-19, which exacerbated climate-driven food, water, and livelihood insecurities.

The Lowcountry is vulnerable to any of the listed compound events and must be prepared with thorough planning and proper emergency management.

3.18 OVERALL HAZARD OCCURRENCE AND FUTURE

Below are the summary tables (Tables 3-33 to 3-37) for the combined Lowcountry region and by each county. These tables illustrate the number of hazard events by type, years in data record, annual events, recurrence interval, future probability (percent change of occurrence), and number of recent events.

Table 3-33: Lowcountry Summary of Historical and Recent Hazards Events

Hazards	Total Number	Years in Data Record	Annualized Count	Recurrence Frequency (in years)[2]	Future Probability (% chance/year)	Total Number 2020-2024
Tornado	68	39	1.7	0.67	174%	20
Hurricane	40[1]	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Windstorm	455[1]	29	15.7	0.06	1,569%	164
Lightning	71,620[1]	13	5,509.2	<0.01	550,919%	39,992
Hail	227	36	6.3	0.16	631%	38
Drought	414[1]	26	187.1	0.05	1,870%	120[1]
Earthquake	1	25	<0.1	25	4%	0
Wildfire	13,243	37	357.9	0.003	35,791%	759
Flood	94	29	3.2	0.31	324%	21
Winter Storm	37	30	1.2	0.81	123%	8
Coastal Erosion	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Extreme Heat	9[1]	29	3.8	2.67	38%	1

Note: [1]Event occurred in multiple counties on the same day. Therefore, the regional summary used the average of all county events to avoid inflating the actual number of discrete events. [2]Recurrence frequency less than one indicates high frequency events on the order of seasonal, monthly, or weekly time frames with multiple occurrences within a one-year time frame
Source: FEMA, NOAA, USGS, State of South Carolina

Table 3-34: Beaufort County Summary of Historical and Recent Hazards Events

Hazards	Total Number	Years in Data Record	Annualized Count	Recurrence Frequency (in years)	Future Probability (% chance/year)	Total Number 2020-2024
Tornado	24	39	0.6	1.63	62%	7
Hurricane	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Windstorm	442	29	15.2	0.07	1,524%	174
Lightning	69,535	13	5,348.8	<0.01	534,885%	37,054
Hail	74	36	2.1	0.49	206%	7
Drought	390	26	15.0	0.07	1,500%	48
Earthquake	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wildfire	1,794	37	48.5	0.02	4,849%	66
Flood	37	29	1.3	0.78	128%	5
Winter Storm	7	30	0.2	4.29	23%	1
Coastal Erosion	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Extreme Heat	16	29	0.6	1.81	55%	2

Note: Recurrence frequency less than one indicates high frequency events on the order of seasonal, monthly, or weekly time frames with multiple occurrences within a one-year time frame.
Source: FEMA, NOAA, USGS, State of South Carolina

Table 3-35: Colleton County Summary of Historical and Recent Hazards Events

Hazards	Total Number	Years in Data Record	Annualized Count	Recurrence Frequency (in years)	Future Probability (% chance/year)	Total Number 2020-2024
Tornado	27	39	0.6	1.63	63%	10
Hurricane	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Windstorm	791	29	27.3	0.04	2,728%	351
Lightning	99,761	13	7,674	<0.01	767,392%	57,482
Hail	78	36	2.2	0.46	217%	5
Drought	418	26	16.1	0.06	1,608%	66
Earthquake	1	26	0.1	26.00	4%	n/a
Wildfire	5,235	37	141.5	0.01	14,149%	343
Flood	35	29	1.2	0.83	121%	12
Winter Storm	13	30	0.4	2.31	43%	3
Coastal Erosion	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Extreme Heat	9	29	0.3	3.22	31%	0

Note: Recurrence frequency less than one indicates high frequency events on the order of seasonal, monthly, or weekly time frames with multiple occurrences within a one-year time frame.
Source: FEMA, NOAA, USGS, State of South Carolina

Table 3-36: Hampton County Summary of Historical and Recent Hazards Events

Hazards	Total Number	Years in Data Record	Annualized Count	Recurrence Frequency (in years)	Future Probability (% chance/year)	Total Number 2020-2024
Tornado	11	39	0.3	3.55	28%	3
Hurricane	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Windstorm	249	29	8.6	0.12	859%	53
Lightning	45,030	13	3,463.8	<0.01	346,385%	23,521
Hail	39	36	1.1	0.92	108%	8
Drought	478	26	18.4	0.05	1838%	72
Earthquake	n/a	26	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wildfire	2,245	37	60.7	0.02	6,068%	170
Flood	11	29	0.4	2.64	38%	3
Winter Storm	9	30	0.3	3.3	30%	2
Coastal Erosion	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Extreme Heat	5	29	0.2	5.80	17%	0

Note: Recurrence frequency less than one indicates high frequency events on the order of seasonal, monthly, or weekly time frames with multiple occurrences within a one-year time frame.
Source: FEMA, NOAA, USGS, State of South Carolina

Table 3-37: Jasper County Summary of Historical and Recent Hazards Events

Hazards	Total Number	Years in Data Record	Annualized Count	Recurrence Frequency (in years)	Future Probability (% chance/year)	Total Number 2020-2024
Tornado	6	39	0.2	6.5	15%	0
Hurricane	40	37	1.1	0.93	108%	12
Windstorm	338	29	11.7	0.09	1,166%	76
Lightning	75,152	13	5,780.9	<0.01	578,092%	41,911
Hail	36	36	1.0	1.0	100%	3
Drought	450	26	17.3	0.06	1,731%	54
Earthquake	n/a	26	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wildfire	3,951	37	106.8	0.01	10,678%	180
Flood	11	29	0.4	2.64	38%	1
Winter Storm	8	30	0.3	3.75	27%	2
Coastal Erosion	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Extreme Heat	7	29	0.2	4.14	24%	0

Note: Recurrence frequency less than one indicates high frequency events on the order of seasonal, monthly, or weekly time frames with multiple occurrences within a one-year time frame.
Source: FEMA, NOAA, USGS, State of South Carolina

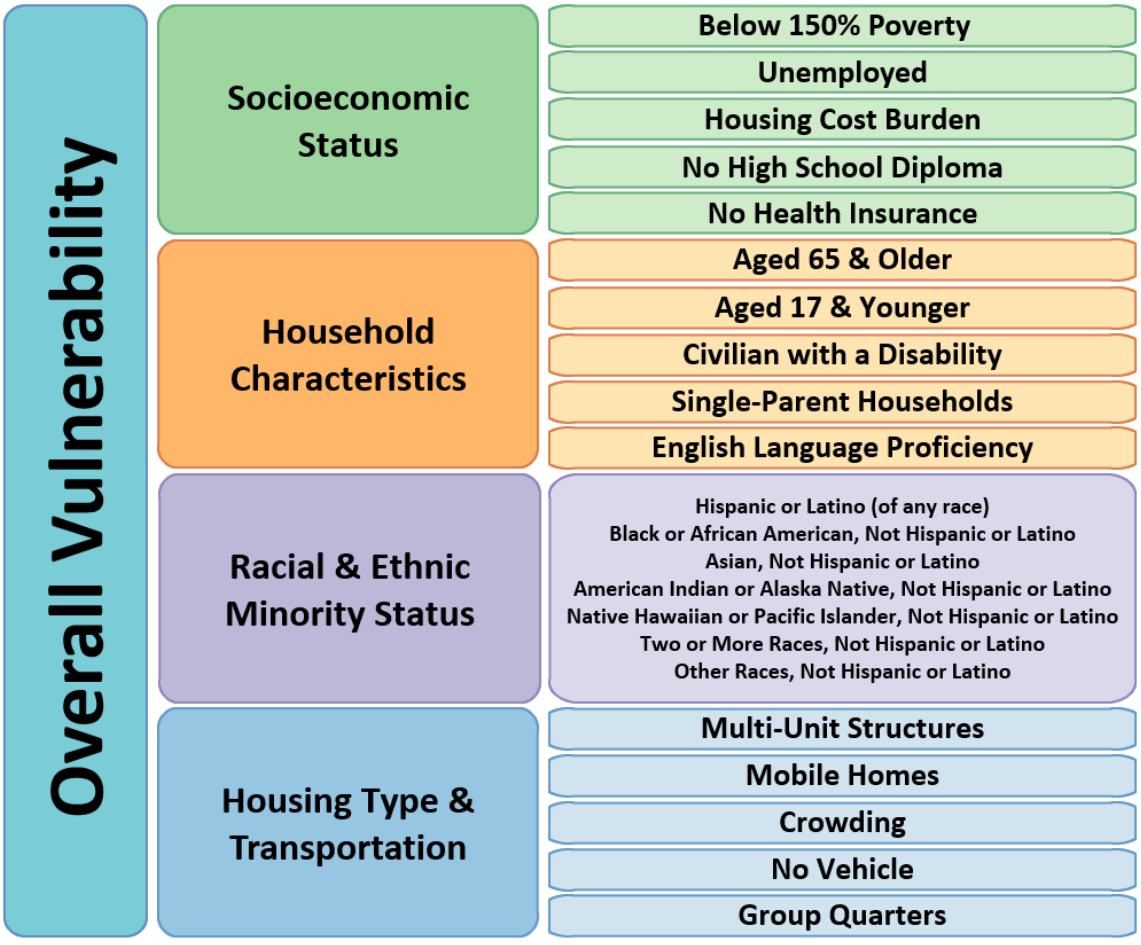
SECTION 4: VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

This section provides overall social vulnerability indicators along with loss information for the Lowcountry region. Vulnerability is determined by assessing the probability and historical loss from each hazard. Loss information is an estimate of direct monetary losses (property and crop) and human losses (injuries and deaths) for each hazard in each county.

4.1 SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

Social vulnerability provides a general description of the degree to which a community exhibits certain social conditions that may affect that community's ability to prevent human suffering and financial loss in the event of a disaster. The Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) developed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's Geospatial Research, Analysis, & Services Program (GRASP) for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is a quantitative measure designed to geographically visualize census tracts that contain socially vulnerable populations. Determining social vulnerability involves several indicators including socioeconomic status, household characteristics, racial and ethnic minority status, and housing type and transportation. Details on these metrics can be found in the CDC/ATSDR SVI 2022 Documentation.

Figure 4-1: SVI Variables



Source: CDC/ATSDR SVI

Lowcountry Social Vulnerability

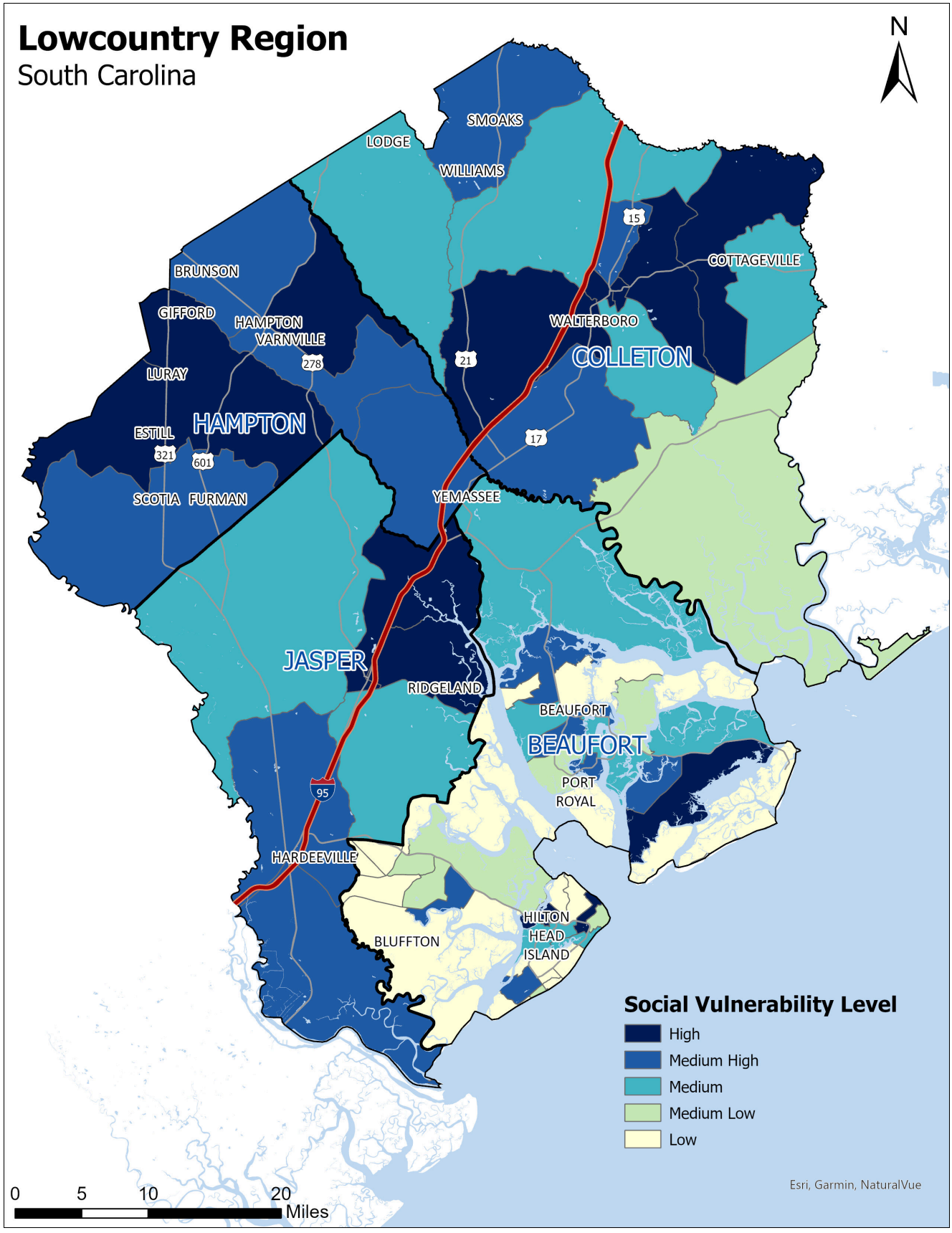
When compared to the whole country, South Carolina tends to have higher social vulnerability than many other states. A population with high social vulnerability is more susceptible to hazard events and may be impacted disproportionately when compared to populations with low social vulnerability. In the Lowcountry, Colleton and Hampton Counties are among some of the highest SVI ranks in the state. SVI ranks are calculated using the variables found in Figure 4-1 with 0 being the lowest vulnerability and 1 being the highest vulnerability. The county ranks in Table 4-1 are representative of statewide comparison; these ranks are higher when compared nationally. Beaufort County has the widest range of census tract SVI ranks, 0.9034, with a minimum of 0.018 and maximum of 0.921. Census Tract 108 in Beaufort County holds the SVI rank of 0.921, this is due to high values in all four variable categories, but the highest category is socioeconomic status specifically a low rate of high school diplomas and a lack of health insurance. Another example is Census Tract 9705.01 in Walterboro, Colleton County, where the housing type and transportation category is higher than any other census tract due to many group quarters and lack of vehicle ownership. To calculate the SVI ranks for municipalities using census tract information, a population-weighted approach was used by calculating percentage area and percentage population of census tracts within municipality boundaries, $SVI_{municipality} = \sum(SVI_{tract} \times Population_{tract}) / \sum Population_{tract}$. Table 4-1 shows the SVI rank of each municipality. Examples of the relationship between social vulnerability and hazard exposure are displayed in the following maps using SVI ranks and FEMA Nation Risk Index (NRI) expected annual loss scores at the census tract level (Figure 4-2 to 4-14).

Table 4-1: SVI Ranks

Jurisdictions	Social Vulnerability Rank		Jurisdictions	Social Vulnerability Rank
Beaufort County	**0.067**		**Hampton County**	**0.911**
City of Beaufort	0.518		Town of Brunson	0.630
Town of Bluffton	0.280		Town of Estill	0.890
Town of Hilton Head Island	0.367		Town of Furman	0.732
Town of Port Royal	0.511		Town of Gifford	0.890
Colleton County	**0.822**		Town of Hampton	0.835
Town of Cottageville	0.412		Town of Luray	0.890
Town of Edisto Beach	0.363		Town of Scotia	0.732
Town of Lodge	0.455		Town of Varnville	0.870
Town of Smoaks	0.693		Town of Yemassee	0.632
City of Walterboro	0.893		**Jasper County**	**0.688**
Town of Williams	0.693		City of Hardeeville	0.493
			Town of Ridgeland	0.699

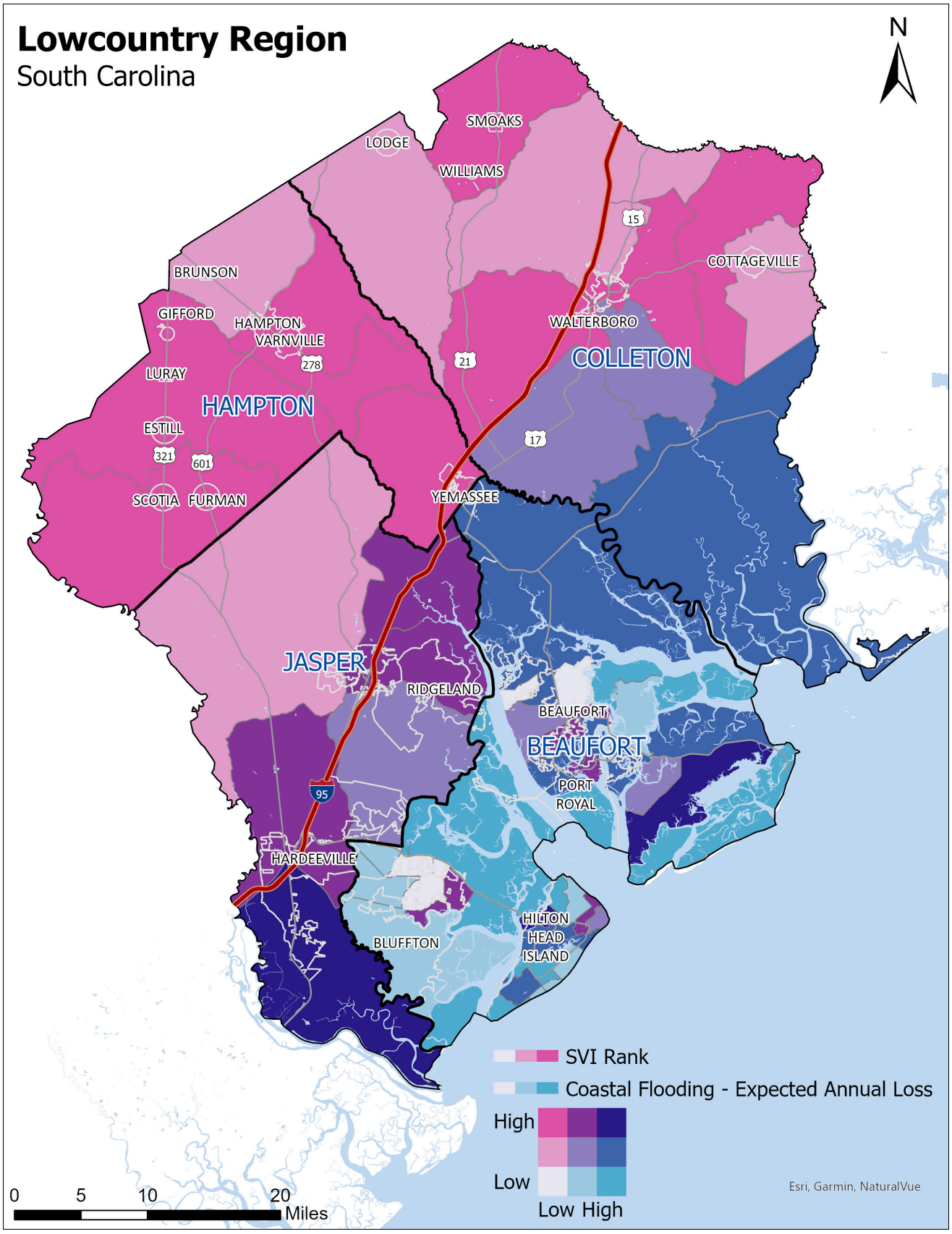
Source: CDC/ATSDR SVI, Ranks 0 (Low SVI) – 1 (High SVI)

Figure 4-2: Social Vulnerability Level by Census Tracts 2022



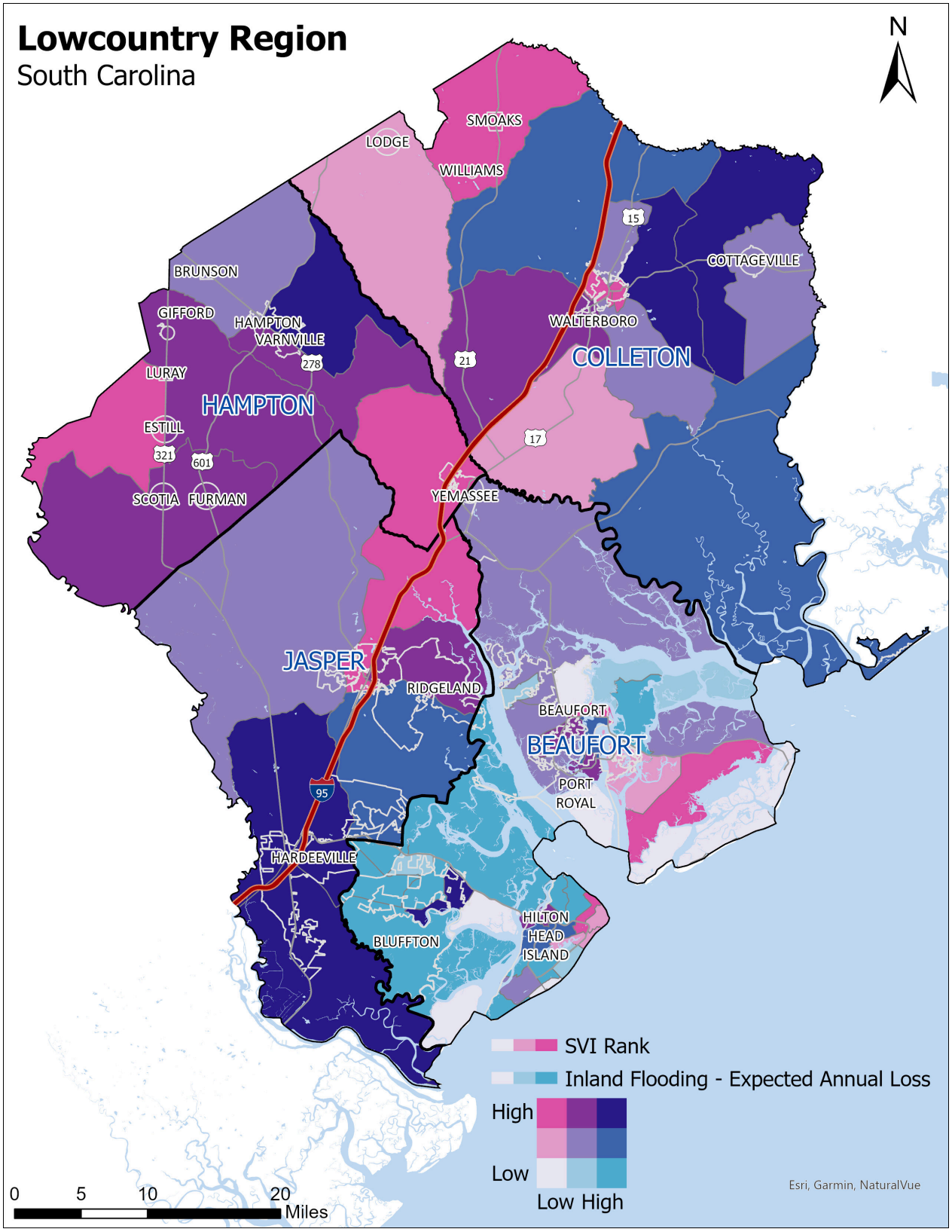
Source: CDC/ATSDR SVI

Figure 4-3: Social Vulnerability and Coastal Flooding



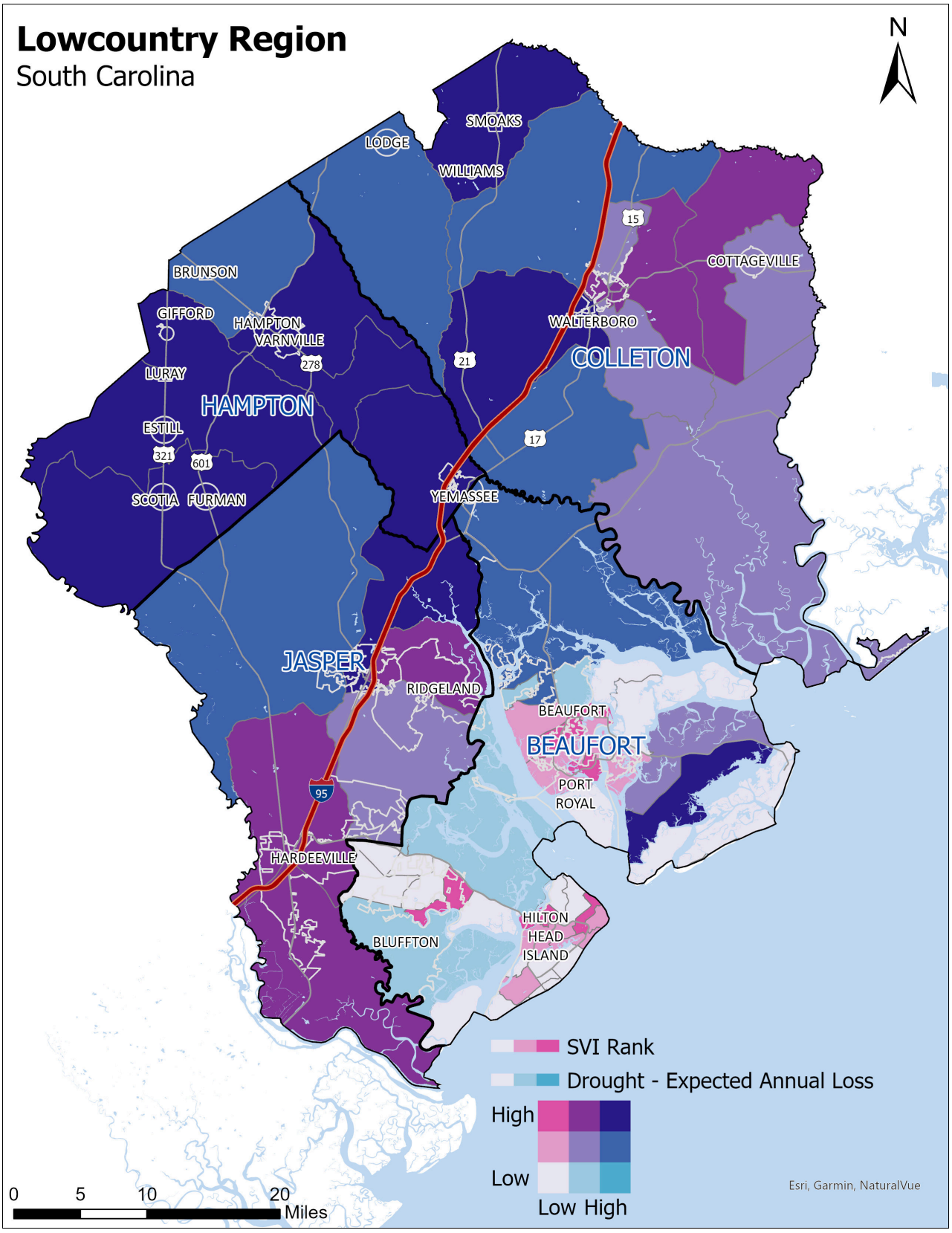
Source: CDC/ATSDR SVI, FEMA NRI

Figure 4-4: Social Vulnerability and Inland Flooding



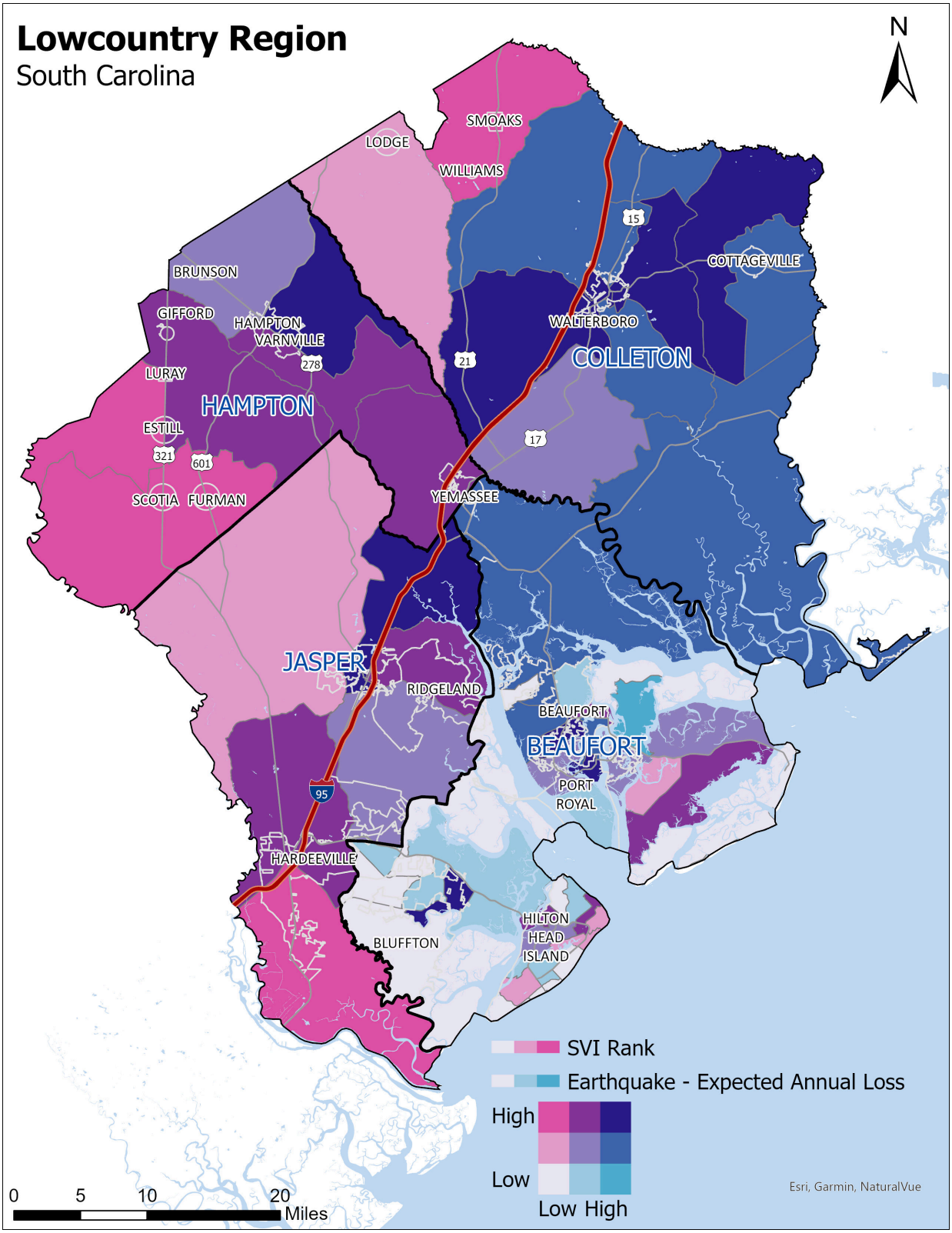
Source: CDC/ATSDR SVI, FEMA NRI

Figure 4-5: Social Vulnerability and Drought



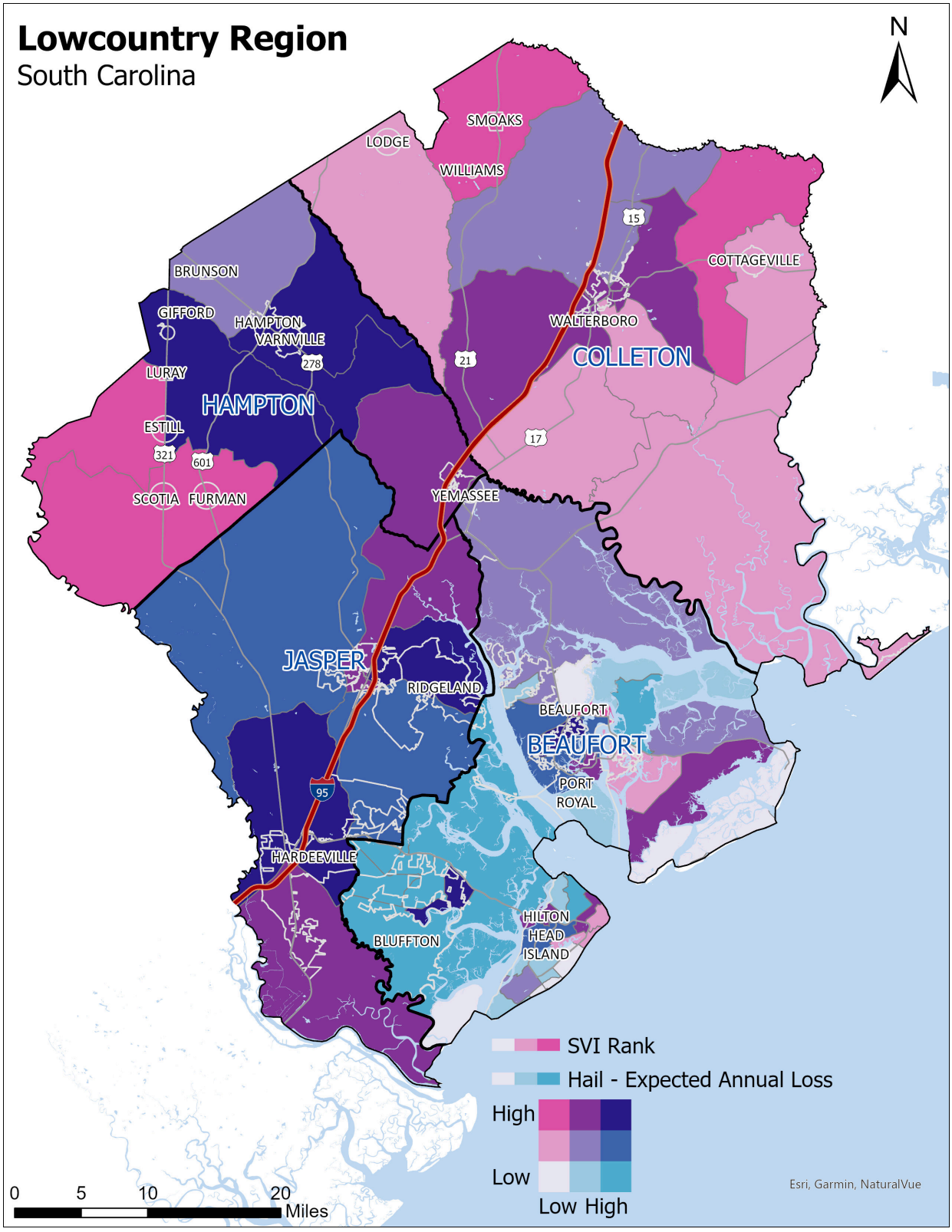
Source: CDC/ATSDR SVI, FEMA NRI

Figure 4-6: Social Vulnerability and Earthquake



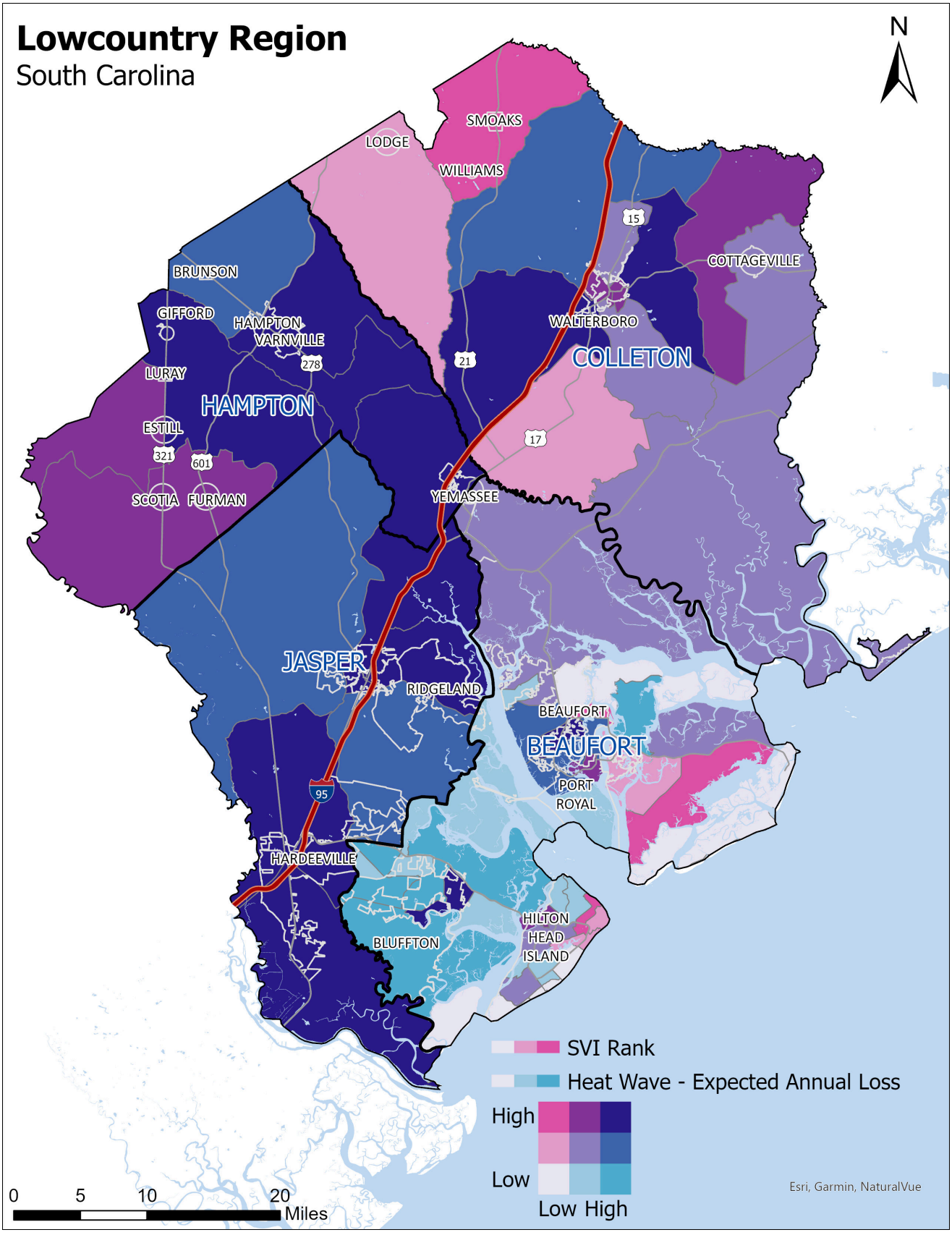
Source: CDC/ATSDR SVI, FEMA NRI

Figure 4-7: Social Vulnerability and Hail



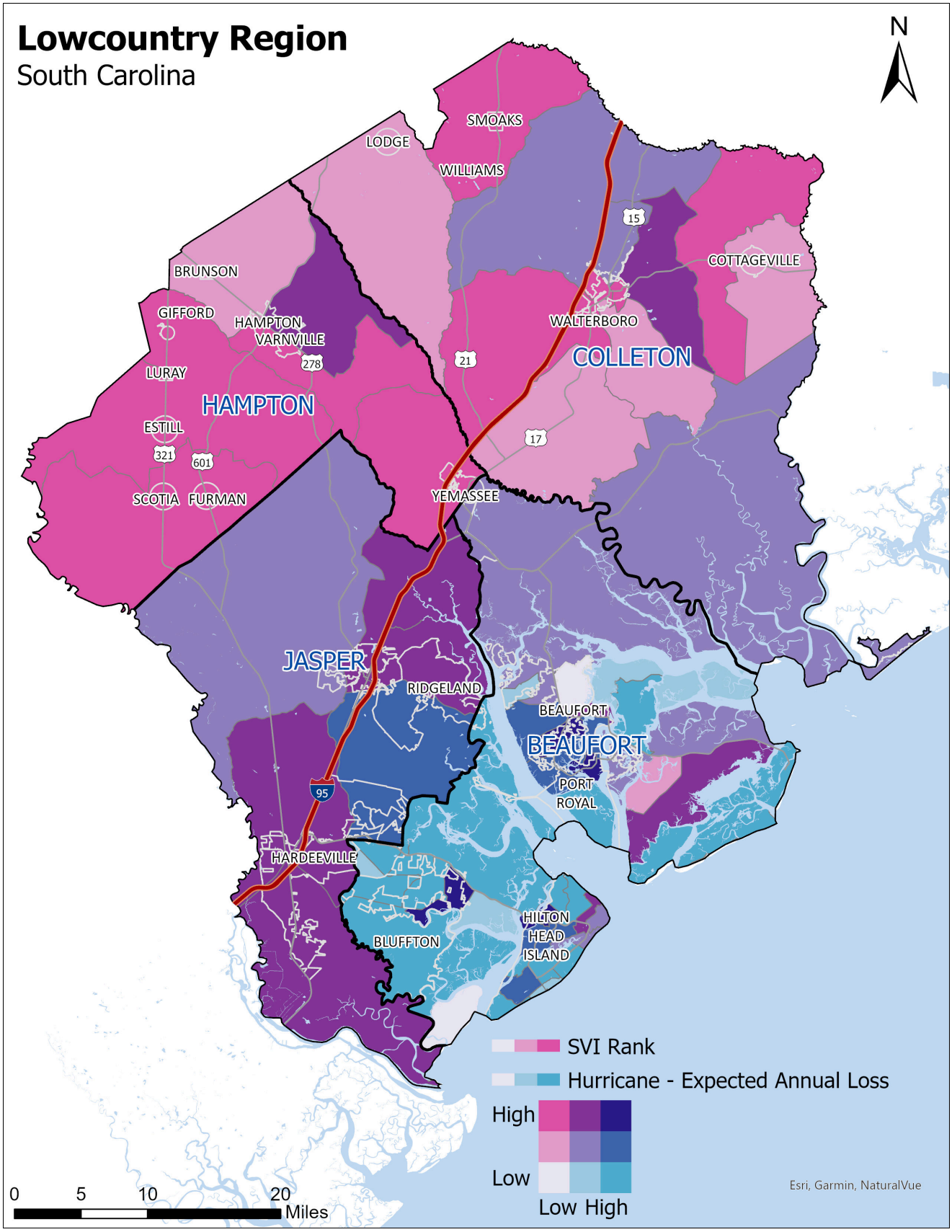
Source: CDC/ATSDR SVI, FEMA NRI

Figure 4-8: Social Vulnerability and Extreme Heat



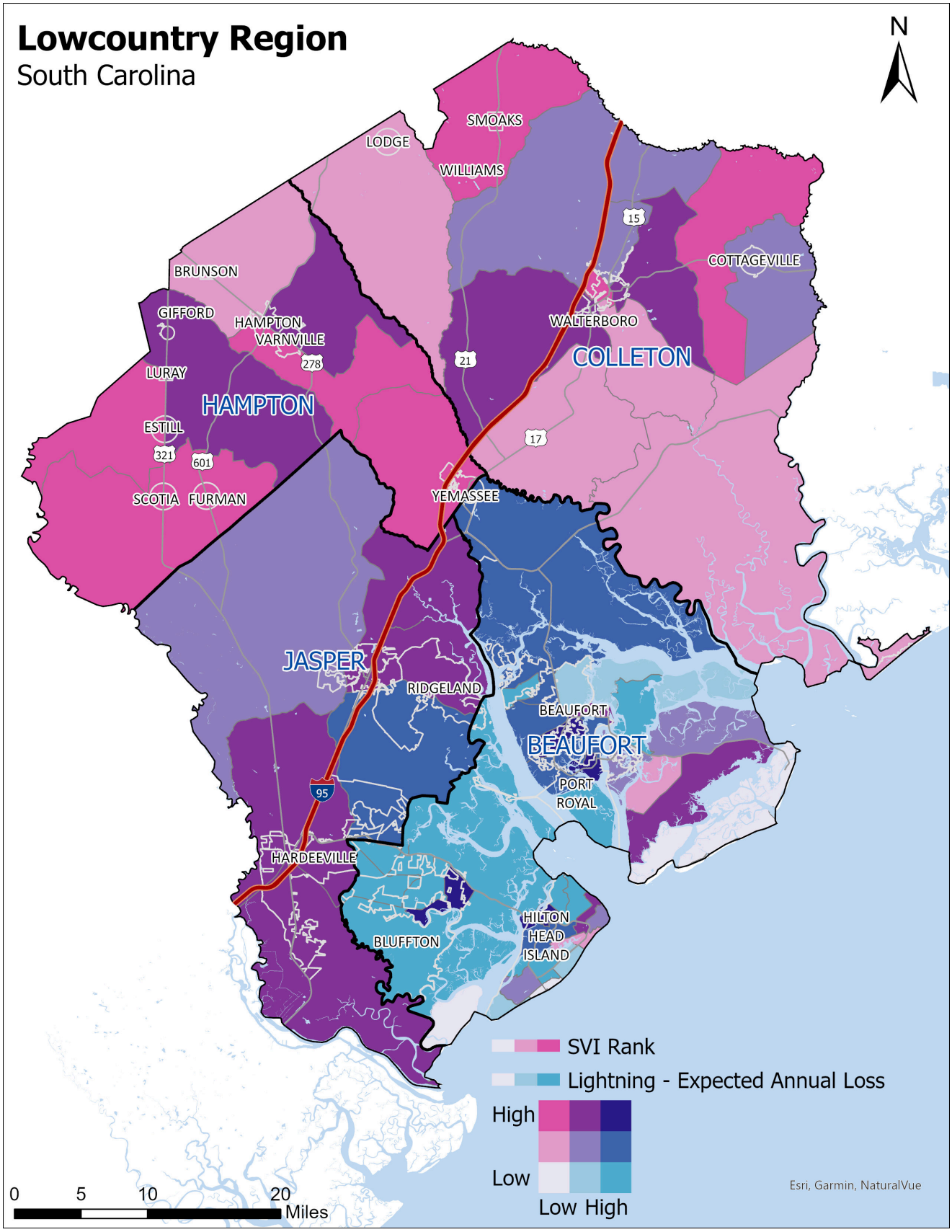
Source: CDC/ATSDR SVI, FEMA NRI

Figure 4-9: Social Vulnerability and Hurricane



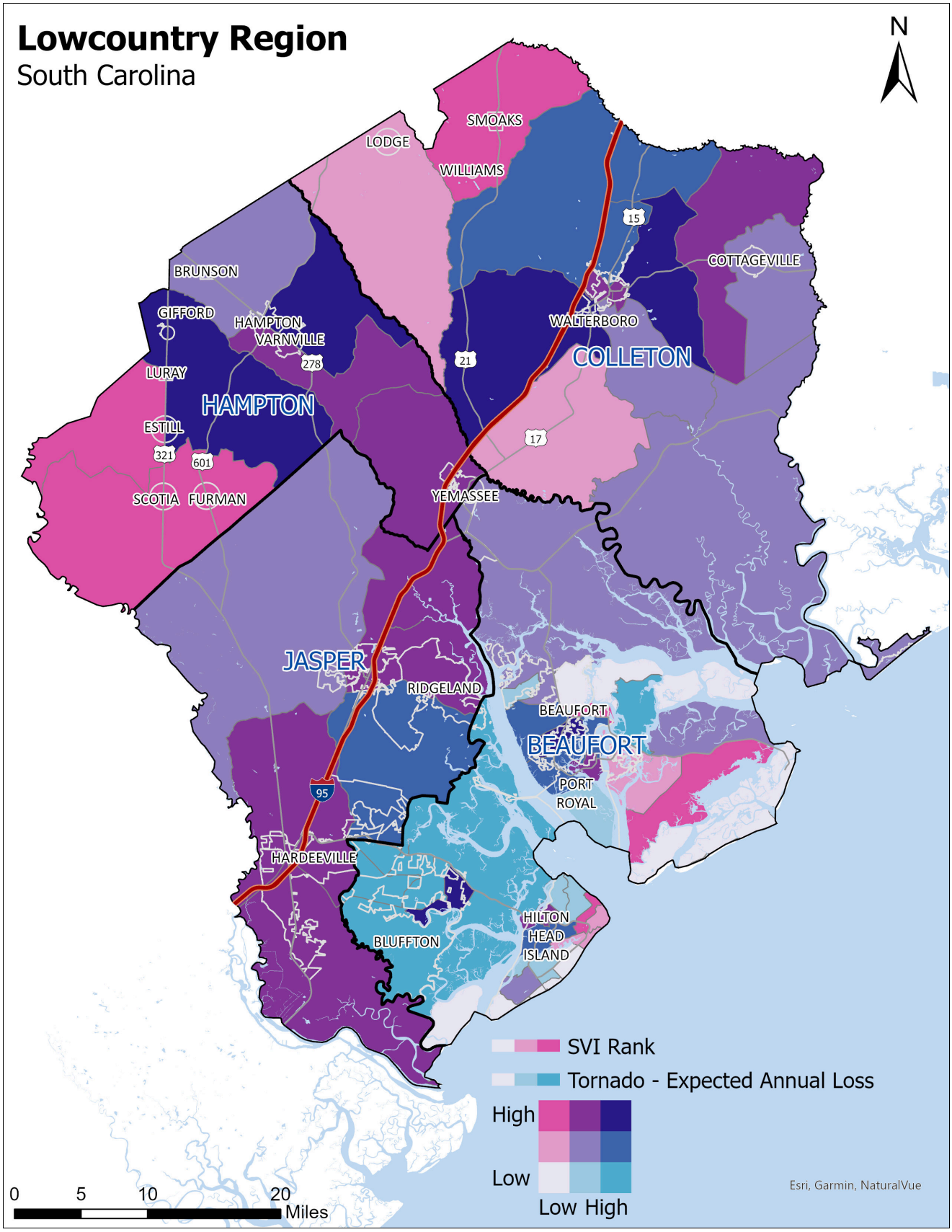
Source: CDC/ATSDR SVI, FEMA NRI

Figure 4-10: Social Vulnerability and Lightning



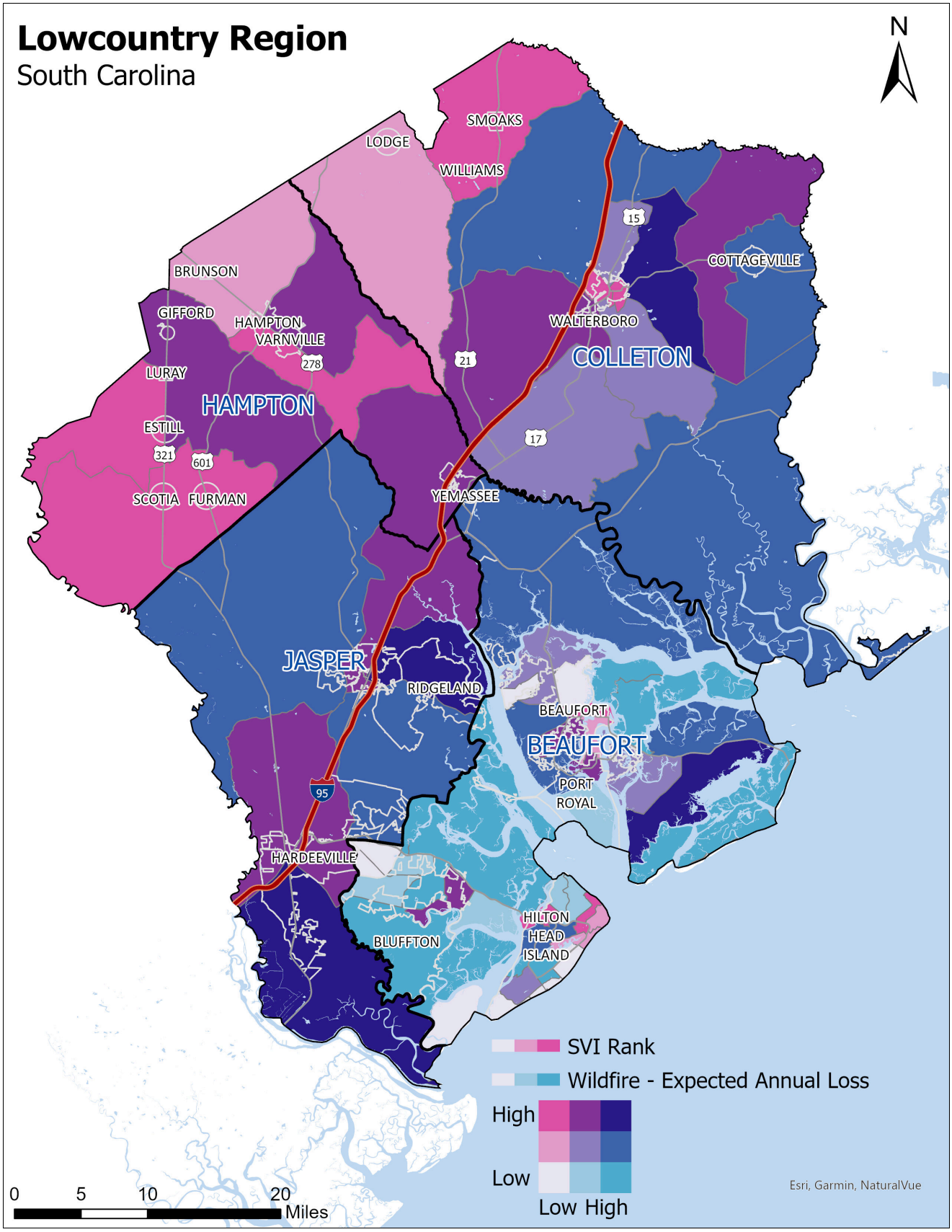
Source: CDC/ATSDR SVI, FEMA NRI

Figure 4-11: Social Vulnerability and Tornado



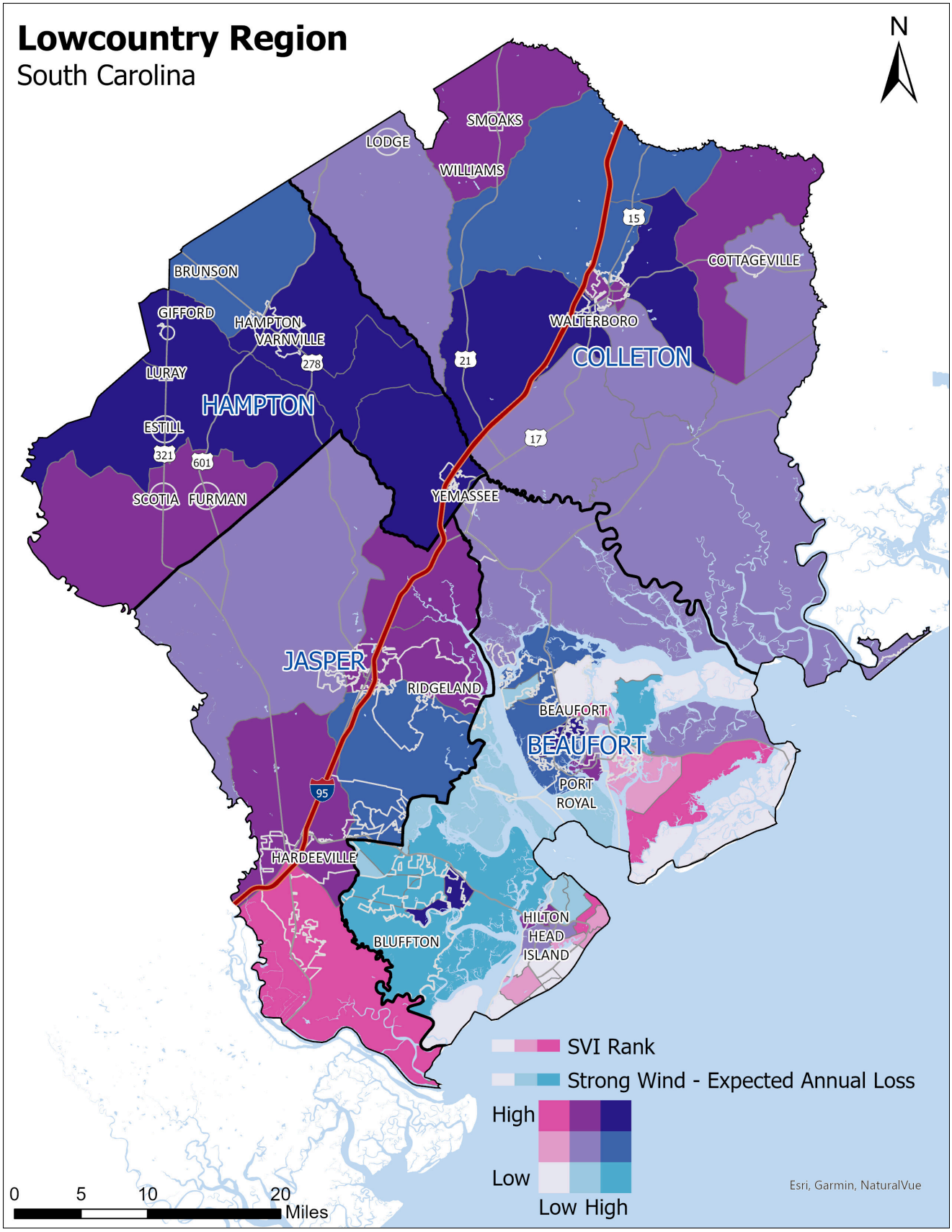
Source: CDC/ATSDR SVI, FEMA NRI

Figure 4-12: Social Vulnerability and Wildfire



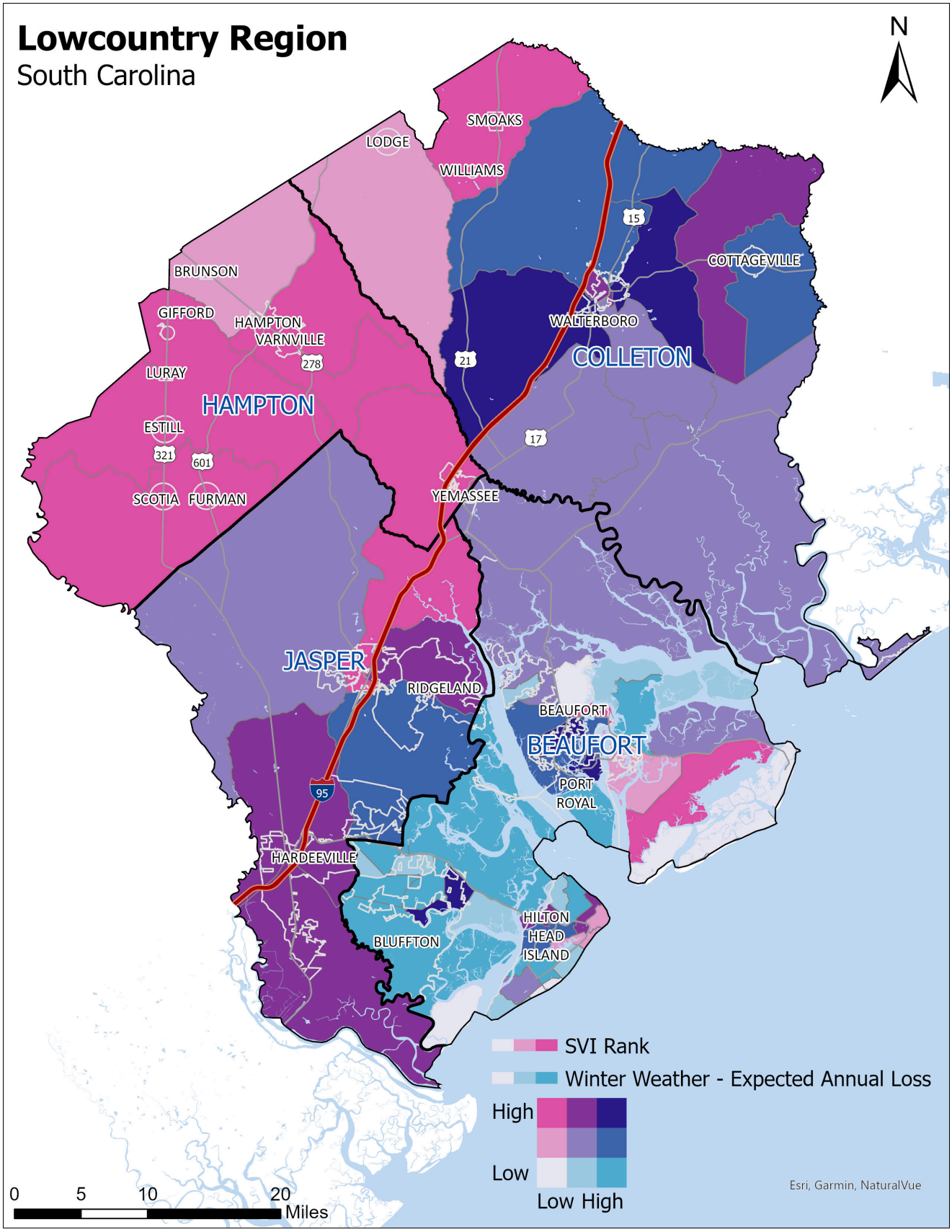
Source: CDC/ATSDR SVI, FEMA NRI

Figure 4-13: Social Vulnerability and Windstorm



Source: CDC/ATSDR SVI, FEMA NRI

Figure 4-14: Social Vulnerability and Winter Storm



Source: CDC/ATSDR SVI, FEMA NRI

4.2 LOSS INFORMATION

Hazard loss information was compiled using the Spatial Hazard Event and Loss Dataset for the U.S. (SHELDUS™). The data included in this plan uses a recent version of SHELDUS™ (v. 24.0) released in February 2026. SHELDUS™ provides estimates for each county of direct monetary losses (property and crop) and human losses (injuries and deaths) for 18 different hazard types for the period 1960-2024 (v. 24.0). In many instances, such as hurricanes and tropical storms, the loss may be lower than expected because of the recording of direct losses in that county. It may also reflect the recording methods of a variety of publicly available sources such as NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information, the U.S. Geological Survey, FEMA, and others, which provide the source data for SHELDUS™. In some instances, the hazard assessment may include events through 2025, processing and available information only provides loss data through 2024. Despite these caveats, SHELDUS™ represents the most comprehensive source for natural hazard event and loss data for the nation. This section also includes descriptions of notable events associated with recent impacts taken from NOAA's Storm Events Database.

Lowcountry

As shown in Table 4-2, a significant contribution to the Lowcountry's historic loss patterns is the result of drought, winter storm, and flooding. Those three hazards account for over half, 56%, of historical losses in the Lowcountry. Almost half, 45%, of total losses since 1960 came from crop damage, but this is less of a trend in recent years, only hurricanes produced crop damage from 2019-2024 ($2,170,000). Historically, property losses mainly resulted from flooding and hurricanes. Windstorms are the deadliest in terms of fatalities and tornadoes account for the most injuries, followed by lightning. Although, of the 90 injuries tornadoes are responsible for, 60 of them came from a single event in 2020 (See Section 3.1, Tornado). More recently (2019-2024), hurricanes and tornadoes contribute the most to the loss picture.

Table 4-2: Lowcountry Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$6,862,790	6	90	$1,214,422	5	60
Hurricane	$63,881,330	2	3	$6,961,242	0	3
Windstorm	$26,994,930	14	32	$482,044	1	3
Lightning	$9,889,653	12	40	$321,688	0	3
Hail	$2,667,350	0	2	$0	0	0
Drought	$79,927,631	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$3,472,590	0	0	$0	0	0
Flooding	$75,693,613	2	0	$653,895	0	0
Winter Storm	$79,748,416	8	3	$0	0	0
Coastal	$5,335,401	8	6	$0	2	2
Extreme Heat	$62,894,113	8	3	$0	0	1
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$419,537,817**	**61**	**179**	**$9,633,291**	**8**	**72**

Source: SHELDUS and NOAA's Storm Events Database

Beaufort County

As seen in Table 4-3, Beaufort County historically accounts for 32% of the total natural hazard losses for the Lowcountry region and roughly 40% of the total property losses. The main drivers of the losses are flooding, followed by hurricanes/tropical storms, drought, and winter weather. Fatalities and injuries typically have been from severe windstorms/thunderstorms and lightning. In the time frame between 2019-2024, losses were primarily due to tornadoes and the only fatalities occurred from coastal events. Table 4-4 to 4-7 shows natural hazard losses for municipalities in Beaufort County.

Beaufort County Notable Events:

- 2/7/2020: Emergency management reported a tree leaning on a power line near Sheppard Road and Holly Hall Road due to strong winds. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- 9/11/2020: The Beaufort County Emergency Manager reported that a male was struck by lightning in a house at 324 Old Oak Road. The individual was working inside a house when lightning struck the house, causing moderate damage to an exterior wall. Estimated damage is approximately $25,000.
- 9/17/2020: The Beaufort County Emergency Manager reported a tree down at the intersection of Bluffton Parkway and Okatie Highway due to strong winds. Estimated damage is approximately $1,500.
- 7/7/2021: Numerous trees and powerlines down throughout the county due to winds related to Hurricane Elsa. Beaufort County Emergency Management also had 5 reports of structural damage. Wind gusts reached 81 mph and caused significant waves along the coastline. Estimated damage is approximately $100,000.
- 3/12/2022: Beaufort County Emergency Management reported numerous trees and power lines down across the county due to gusty winds. The peak gust at the Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station was 44 mph. Estimated damage is approximately $20,000.
- 6/13/2022: Broadcast media reported several recruits at Parris Island experienced heat stress during the afternoon, including one individual who needed to be treated at Beaufort Memorial Hospital for a heat related illness. The Beaufort MCAS calculated a heat index value of 111 degrees Fahrenheit at 2 PM.
- 11/11/2022: Beaufort County Emergency Management reported that a tree fell on a home, dislodging a ceiling fan which fell and causing a minor injury to a resident. Also, a few other trees and tree limbs were reported down at scattered locations across the county due to winds from Hurricane Nicole.
- 7/19/2024: Beaufort County Fire/Rescue reported thunderstorms developing in the late afternoon hours, producing frequent cloud-to-ground lightning, with several striking homes. Estimated damage is approximately $40,000.
- 8/6/2024: A short lived, high end EF0 tornado developed in an outer rain band of Tropical Storm Debby over Point Creek, just southeast of Lady`s Island. With peak wind gusts around 85 mph, the tornado moved rapidly northwest across the marsh region of Rock Springs Creek, ending around the 500 block of Sams Point Road, where it snapped several trees.
- 9/26/2024: Beaufort County Emergency Management reported that strong winds related to Hurricane Helene, peak wind gusts of 75 mph, impacted 79 homes. Estimated damage is approximately $110,000.

Table 4-3: Beaufort County Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$4,846,250	1	13	$1,214,422	0	0
Hurricane	$20,185,450	0	2	$1,531,442	0	3
Windstorm	$8,484,692	9	18	$246,089	0	1
Lightning	$7,122,238	8	33	$298,216	0	2
Hail	$1,780,713	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$20,035,123	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$1,916,265	0	0	$0	0	0
Flooding	$31,441,466	0	0	$12,196	0	0
Winter Storm	$19,610,142	2	1	$0	0	0
Coastal	$2,176,193	4	3	$0	2	0
Extreme Heat	$15,723,528	1	1	$0	0	1
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$134,622,061**	**25**	**58**	**$3,302,365**	**2**	**7**

Source: SHELDUS and NOAA's Storm Events Database

City of Beaufort Notable Events:

- 12/24/2020: A Beaufort County emergency manager reported construction scaffolding blown down onto Highway 21 northbound, closing the road for 50 minutes. Estimated damage is approximately $500.
- 9/8/2021: Beaufort County Sheriff's Office reported three trees down in the area as a result of thunderstorm winds. Estimated damage is approximately $1,500.
- 8/15/2023: The Beaufort County 911 Call Center reported thunderstorm winds knocked a tree down on Hogarth Street. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- 6/27/2024: An NWS spotter reported several large tree limbs down near the intersection of Carteret Street and Craven Street. Estimated damage is approximately $500.
- 9/26/2024: Wind bands from Hurricane Helene caused damage to homes from fallen limbs and trees. The high winds also caused significant damage to the City of Beaufort Marina. Estimated damage is approximately $1,300,000.

Table 4-4: City of Beaufort Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hurricane	$1,300,000	0	0	$1,300,000	0	0
Windstorm	$192,300	0	0	$4,250	0	0
Lightning	$52,000	0	0	$1,000	0	0
Hail	$500	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Winter Storm	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Extreme Heat	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$1,544,800**	**0**	**0**	**$1,305,250**	**0**	**0**

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

Town of Bluffton Notable Events:

- 8/26/2020: Law enforcement relayed a report of a structure fire resulting from a lightning strike. Estimated damage is approximately $3,500.
- *10/29/2020: A Beaufort County emergency manager reported a tree down from thunderstorm wind near the intersection of White Oaks Circle and Crabtree Lane in the Rose Hill neighborhood. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- *9/20/2021: Beaufort County Emergency Management reported a tree and powerlines down on Oyster Street from thunderstorm winds. Estimated damage is approximately $2,000.
- *6/9/2022: The Beaufort County 911 Call Center reported a lightning strike to a home along the 20 Block of West Morningside Drive. The strike caused a brush fire and melted water lines and power lines at the home. Estimated damage is approximately $5,000.
- *8/15/2023: The Beaufort County 911 Call Center reported a tree down near the intersection of Fording Island Road and Malphrus Road due to thunderstorm winds. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- *7/19/2024: The local Fire/ Rescue Department reported a lightning strike started a structure fire on Foxchase Lane. Estimated damage is approximately $10,000.
- 8/8/2024: Significant rainfall from Tropical Storm Debby inundated roads and homes in the area. Estimated damage from the event is unknown.

Table 4-5: Town of Bluffton Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$40,000	0	0	$0	0	0
Hurricane	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Windstorm	$45,000	0	3	$6,500	0	0
Lightning	$73,000	0	1	$12,000	0	0
Hail	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$4,000	0	0	$0	0	0
Winter Storm	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Extreme Heat	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$162,000**	**0**	**4**	**$18,500**	**0**	**0**

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

*Events occurred outside municipal boundaries but included due to proximity to the Town.

Town of Hilton Head Island Notable Events:

- 11/30/2020: Beaufort County Emergency Management reported a tree down at the intersection of William Hilton Parkway and Old Wild Horse Road due to strong winds. Estimated damage is approximately $6,500.
- 9/30/2022: Beaufort County Emergency Management reported several trees blown down across the county. On Hilton Head Island, a cyclist was injured by a falling tree and was transported to the hospital.
- 7/20/2024: Hilton Head Island Emergency Management reported four structures struck by lightning near the Harbour Town area. The lightning strikes occurred between 8 pm EST and 9 pm EST. A fire occurred at one of the structures. Estimated damage is approximately $50,000.
- 8/8/2024: Heavy rainfall due to Tropical Storm Debby resulted in flooding throughout the Town. There were six properties with reported structural damage. Estimated damage is approximately $207,800.
- 8/16/2024: The Hilton Head Island Beach Patrol reported one adult male fatality near 21 Dune Lane and another adult male fatality near 7 Ketch Lane due to a large set of waves pulling the individuals back into the water and behind the breakers where a strong rip current formed.

Table 4-6: Town of Hilton Head Island Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$500,000	0	0	$0	0	0
Hurricane	$207,800	0	0	$207,800	0	0
Windstorm	$215,500	0	4	$7,000	0	1
Lightning	$1,525,000	2	5	$50,000	0	0
Hail	$1,000,500	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Winter Storm	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$0	2	0	$0	2	0
Extreme Heat	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$3,449,300**	**4**	**9**	**$264,800**	**2**	**1**

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

Town of Port Royal Notable Events:

- 6/12/2021: A Beaufort County emergency manager reported live power lines down near the 1600 block of Edinburgh Avenue due to thunderstorm winds. Estimated damage is approximately $1,250.
- 6/20/2021: A Beaufort County emergency manager reported a tree down near the intersection of Richard Avenue and 15th Street in Port Royal due to thunderstorm wind. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- 7/7/2021: A National Weather Service (NWS) storm survey team determined that an EF-1 tornado occurred near Port Royal in Beaufort County. This tornado was likely part of the same storm that hit Parris Island just to the south, as previously noted under Beaufort County. It began near 11th Street, between Paris and London Avenues, where it snapped several trees including one tree that hit a home on 11th Street. The tornado continued northward across 14th and 15th Streets, close to Paris Avenue. Many hardwood trees and large limbs were snapped in this area, which also took down some powerlines along Paris Avenue. The tornado then moved across the southern portion of Paris Avenue West, snapping more trees and limbs with some falling on a few homes and buildings. Finally, the tornado crossed Ribaut Road, ending just north of the intersection of Ribaut and Royal Palms Roads. In total, the tornado damaged at least 44 buildings in Port Royal and caused an estimated one million dollars in damage. The maximum strength of the tornado was estimated to be EF-1, with peak winds of 95 mph. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000,000.
- 8/19/2022: The Beaufort County 911 Call Center reported lightning striking a tree and igniting a small fire near the Navy Hospital. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.

Table 4-7: Town of Port Royal Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$1,000,000	0	0	$1,000,000	0	0
Hurricane	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Windstorm	$41,250	0	0	$22,250	0	0
Lightning	$4,000	0	0	$4,000	0	0
Hail	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Winter Storm	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Extreme Heat	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$1,045,250**	**0**	**0**	**$1,026,250**	**0**	**0**

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

Colleton County

According to Table 4-8, Hurricanes/tropical storms and flooding constitute about 42% of the historic losses and 90% of the recent losses in Colleton County. Winter storms and drought make up another 33% of the historic total. Crop and property losses were equal in their proportion to the historic total, although the most recent event resulting in crop damage was in 2012. Hurricanes, coastal erosion, lightning, winter storms, windstorms, and extreme heat events have all contributed to fatalities in Colleton County. Most of the personal injuries occurred from tornadoes. In the recent time frame between 2019-2024, the most property damage was from hurricanes, while windstorms, lightning, and coastal erosion events were the cause of all deaths and injuries. Table 4-9 to 4-14 shows natural hazard losses for municipalities in Colleton County.

Colleton County Notable Events:

- 4/19/2019: A firefighter reported widespread damaging winds arriving ahead of a cold front brought down numerous trees in Hendersonville and surrounding areas. Estimated damage is approximately $11,000.
- 2/7/2020: Emergency management reported a strong wind event from a departing cold front throughout the Colleton County led to several trees being downed. Estimated damage is approximately $11,000.
- 3/12/2022: South Carolina Highway Patrol reported numerous trees down across Colleton County due to gusty winds ahead of a strong cold front. Estimated damage is approximately $10,000.
- 3/31/2022: South Carolina Highway Patrol reported a tree down in the roadway near the intersection of Bells Highway and Delarco Lane due to gusty winds. Another tree was downed near the intersection of Poplar and Peters Street. Estimated damage is approximately $1,500.
- 7/9/2022: Colleton County dispatch reported a lightning strike to a residential building on the 1200 block of Hammocks Way. The strike caused a fire and damage to the structure. Estimated damage is approximately $15,000.
- 5/27/2023: Colleton County Emergency Management reported several trees down across the county due to strong wind gusts. Trees fell and blocked the roadway on Green Pond Highway, Round O Road, and Mt. Carmel Road. Elsewhere, trees were also down along Lowcountry Highway, Williams Road, Augusta Highway, Ruffin Road, and Stokes Road. Estimated damage is approximately $10,000.
- 9/26/2024: Strong winds associated with Helene produced widespread tree damage across the entire county. Colleton County Emergency Management reported at least 14 homes impacted across the entire county during the event, with 1 of these homes sustaining major damage. Estimated damage is approximately $1,152,000.

Table 4-8: Colleton County Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$757,002	0	10	$0	0	0
Hurricane	$26,284,930	2	0	$1,152,000	0	0
Windstorm	$9,055,594	1	7	$156,935	1	1
Lightning	$1,834,593	2	5	$22,258	0	1
Hail	$408,001	0	1	$0	0	0
Drought	$20,034,978	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$495,089	0	0	$0	0	0
Flooding	$25,090,386	0	0	$404,843	0	0
Winter Storm	$20,595,255	2	1	$0	0	0
Coastal	$1,790,402	2	3	$0	0	2
Extreme Heat	$15,723,528	1	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$122,069,757**	**11**	**28**	**$1,736,037**	**1**	**4**

Source: SHELDUS and NOAA's Storm Events Database

Town of Cottageville Notable Events:

- 6/27/2020: Law enforcement reported a tree down on South Carolina 651 and Wesley Grove Road due to thunderstorm outflow. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- 7/4/2023: Colleton County dispatch reported one tree down near the intersection of Wild Turkey Lane and Cottageville Highway from scattered thunderstorms creating strong wind gusts. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- 7/26/2024: Colleton County Emergency Management reported a tree down blocking one lane at the intersection of Rhode Drive and Peirce Road due to scattered thunderstorms and gusty winds. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- 8/6/2024: Law enforcement reported a portion of roadway damaged in the 100 Block of Good Hope Landing Lane due to flash flooding associated with rain bands from Hurricane Debby. Estimated damage is approximately $10,000.
- 8/8/2024: Colleton County Emergency Management reported a tree and power lines down, blocking one lane near the intersection of Wesley Grove Road and Rehoboth Road following thunderstorms and strong winds. Estimated damage is approximately $2,250.
- 8/11/2024: Thunderstorm induced wind led to Colleton County emergency manager reported a tree down along Augusta Highway near the intersection with Peirce Road. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.

Table 4-9: Town of Cottageville Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hurricane	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Windstorm	$65,500	0	1	$8,750	0	1
Lightning	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hail	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$1,000	0	0	$10,000	0	0
Winter Storm	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Extreme Heat	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$66,500**	**0**	**1**	**$18,750**	**0**	**1**

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

Town of Edisto Beach Notable Events:

- 8/29/2019: The Dockside Restaurant on Docksite Road was flooded by waters from Big Bay Creek. Water was several inches deep inside the building.
- 4/13/2020: An EF-2 tornado was confirmed, with an estimated maximum wind speed of 125 mph. It started as a waterspout off the coast, moved inland across the southern end of Edisto Beach, continued a northeast track across a golf course, and dissipated in the marsh just northeast of Lybrand Street. With over a mile of travel, the tornado caused damage to several homes—large sections of the roofs were removed, glass doors and windows were broken, the wall facing the road of a home was pushed towards the road, numerous trees were snapped off and uprooted, power lines were knocked down, a boat and several vehicles were damaged, and a utility trailer was flipped over. Estimated damage is approximately $600,000, not including one completely demolished structure.
- 9/15/2020: Astronomical high tides resulted from a new moon cycle and strong northeast winds. According to public reports, several buildings along Docksite Road are flooded with several inches of water in the buildings. Flood waters came from Big Bay Creek due to coastal flooding.
- 9/18/2020: The Town of Edisto Fire Department and Colleton County Fire and Rescue were dispatched to a water rescue in the 1300 block of Palmetto Boulevard on Edisto Beach. One child was pulled away from shore by a rip current and was rescued by an adult male prior to the arrival of

first responders. The child was uninjured and the adult rescuer was in serious condition and was transported to the Medical University of South Carolina's (MUSC) hospital in Charleston.

- 11/8/2021: Multiple flooding events were reported including roadway flooding on Scott Creek Drive, water up to the door entrances at Dockside restaurant and Edisto Seafood, roadway flooding on Jungle Road near the intersection with Whaley Street, and water under a home along Jungle Shores Drive.
- 9/30/2023: Storm surge associated with Tropical Storm Idalia breaching the dunes in the 500, 2100 and 2200 Blocks of Palmetto Boulevard on Edisto Island, SC. Water was reported flowing under elevated homes and into portions of roadways, including Palmetto Boulevard, Lybrand Street, Docksite Road and Wyndham entrance. Water also entered several structures, especially along Docksite Road and other areas adjacent to Big Bay Creek along the inland side of the island. Water was also covering all four lanes of Highway 174 near Jungle Road.
- 12/17/2023: A flooding event occurred leading to significate sand and water displacement onto Palmetto Blvd in the 100 block through the 600 block and spot locations along Point Street. Majority of damage occurred to the roadway with minor damages to areas under homes from water and sand intrusion.
- 9/9/2024: Two EF-1 tornadoes were spawned from Tropical Storm Debbie with an estimated maximum wind speed of 97 mph. One tornado began as a waterspout, moved onshore near the intersection of Highway 174 and Palmetto Blvd traveled almost 3 miles into unincorporated Colleton County. Within minutes a second tornado spawned on the southern end of the Beach. One home was completely demolished, along with several other homes and businesses within Town limits, in unincorporated Colleton County one home was demolished as were many others damaged. Estimated repairable damages within Town limits is approximately $200,000.

Table 4-10: Town of Edisto Beach Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$800,000	0	0	$800,000	0	0
Hurricane	$4,917,071	0	0	$0	0	0
Windstorm	$12,500	0	0	$0	0	0
Lightning	$0	0	0	$15,000	0	0
Hail	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Winter Storm	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$0	0	1	$0	0	1
Extreme Heat	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$5,729,571**	**0**	**1**	**$815,000**	**0**	**1**

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

Town of Lodge Notable Events:

- No reported events between 2019-2024.

Table 4-11: Town of Lodge Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hurricane	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Windstorm	$5,000	0	0	$0	0	0
Lightning	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hail	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Winter Storm	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Extreme Heat	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$5,000**	**0**	**0**	**$0**	**0**	**0**

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

Town of Smoaks Notable Events:

- 8/12/2022: The South Carolina Highway Patrol reported a tree down due to thunderstorm outflow near the intersection of Beulah Road and Lodge Highway. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- 6/7/2023: A Colleton County emergency manager reported a tree down along Community Lane near Gateway Lane due to thunderstorm wind. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- 8/16/2023: A Colleton County emergency manager reported a tree down due to thunderstorm outflow near 3000 Clatty Farm Road. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- 8/6/2024: Law enforcement reported a portion of roadway washed out near the intersection of Mill Pond Road and Low Country Highway from flash flooding due to heavy rainfall associated with Hurricane Debby. Estimated damage is approximately $10,000.

Table 4-12: Town of Smoaks Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hurricane	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Windstorm	$12,500	0	0	$3,000	0	0
Lightning	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hail	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$10,000	0	0	$10,000	0	0
Winter Storm	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Extreme Heat	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$22,500**	**0**	**0**	**$13,000**	**0**	**0**

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

City of Walterboro Notable Events:

- 4/13/2020: The Colleton County Fire Rescue Emergency Management Division reported a tree down on a residence in the 700 block of Barracada Road due to strong inflow winds near a passing tornado. Three people were trapped inside, which included one injured person and one adult female fatality.
- 7/28/2021: Colleton County Fire and Rescue reported a tree down on a residence on Dandridge Road. Very heavy rain and saturated soils, in addition to gusty winds, likely contributed to the fallen tree. Estimated damage is approximately $5,000.
- 7/4/2022: Thunderstorm wind caused a tree reported down at Churchill Road at Overhill Road. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- 7/10/2022: Colleton County Emergency Management reported a tree down at 900 Robertson Boulevard from thunderstorm winds. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- 5/24/2024: Colleton County Emergency Management reported a tree down on Hiers Corner Road due to thunderstorm wind. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- 6/6/2024: Colleton County Emergency Management reported a tree down along the 2600 Block of Hendersonville Highway due to thunderstorm outflow. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- 7/20/2024: Colleton County Emergency Management reported a tree down at Jefferies Highway and Cougar Nation Drive due to thunderstorm wind. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.

Table 4-13: City of Walterboro Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hurricane	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Windstorm	$629,530	1	1	$14,250	1	1
Lightning	$10,000	0	0	$0	0	0
Hail	$2,000	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$507,720	0	0	$0	0	0
Winter Storm	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Extreme Heat	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$1,149,250**	**1**	**1**	**$14,250**	**1**	**1**

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

Town of Williams Notable Events:

- 7/30/2023: Following strong thunderstorm winds, Colleton County Emergency Management reported a tree down at the intersection of Garris Avenue and Williams Road, blocking both lanes. Another tree was down around the 2600 block of Williams Road and was also blocking both lanes. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- 5/9/2024: Colleton County dispatch reported a tree down in the roadway at Mill Pond Road and Lowcountry Highway due to thunderstorm wind. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.

Table 4-14: Town of Williams Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hurricane	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Windstorm	$14,000	0	0	$2,000	0	0
Lightning	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hail	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Winter Storm	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Extreme Heat	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$14,000**	**0**	**0**	**$2,000**	**0**	**0**

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

Hampton County

As depicted in Table 4-15, the historical impact of natural hazards on Hampton County is largely due to winter storms, drought, and extreme heat. Sixty percent of the historic impact is from crop losses, including $2,170,000 of crop damage resulting from Hurricane Helene in 2024. Hurricanes produced the most damage in the recent time frame between 2019-2024. Fatalities resulted from windstorms, lightning, flooding, winter storms, and extreme heat, and tornadoes. Most notably was the EF-4 tornado that struck the County in April of 2020 which tragically claimed the lives of 5 individuals and injured 60 others. Tables 4-16 to 4-24 show natural hazard losses for municipalities in Hampton County.

Hampton County Notable Events:

- 2/7/2020: The South Carolina Highway Patrol reported a tree in the roadway near the intersection of Bamburg Highway and Salkehatchie Highway due to strong winds. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- 3/12/2022: South Carolina Highway Patrol reported two trees down in Hampton County due to gusty winds. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- 6/7/2023: The Hampton County 911 Call Center reported two trees down on Wade Hampton Road between McDill Lane and Highway 363 and another tree down on Cemetery Road near Highway 273 due to thunderstorm winds. Estimated damage is approximately $3,000.
- 7/19/2023: Hampton County dispatch reported several trees down outside the towns of Hampton and Varnville due to thunderstorm outflow. Estimated damage is approximately $5,000.

- 8/6/2024: A Hampton County emergency manager reported two homes flooded along Willard Street in the town of Hampton, South Carolina. In addition, several roads were washed out or flooded across the county due to heavy rain associated with Hurricane Debby. Estimated damage is approximately $100,000.
- 8/7/2024: A Hampton County emergency manager reported that the shoulder of Hendersonville Highway was washed out due to prolonged flooding following Hurricane Debby. Estimated damage is approximately $5,000.
- 9/26/2024: Strong winds associated with Helene produced widespread trees and power lines down across the entire county. Hampton County Emergency Management reported at least 88 homes impacted during the event, with 5 destroyed and 7 others sustaining major damage. South Carolina Forestry Commission reported that over 10,500 acres of timberland were impacted, with over $2,000,000 in estimated damage. Total estimated damage is approximately $3,510,000.

Table 4-15: Hampton County Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$550,499	5	66	$0	5	60
Hurricane	$9,071,183	0	0	$3,510,000	0	0
Windstorm	$3,216,685	2	2	$19,765	0	0
Lightning	$845,311	2	1	$0	0	0
Hail	$282,320	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$19,822,552	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$495,089	0	0	$0	0	0
Flooding	$3,097,021	2	0	$136,855	0	0
Winter Storm	$19,940,430	2	1	$0	0	0
Coastal	$22,484	0	0	$0	0	0
Extreme Heat	$15,723,528	3	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Totals	**$73,067,102**	**16**	**70**	**$3,666,621**	**5**	**60**

Source: SHELDUS

Town of Brunson Notable Events:

- 6/11/2023: The Hampton County 911 Call Center reported one tree down in the Town following strong thunderstorm winds. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- 8/7/2023: The Hampton County 911 Call Center reported a tree down on Joe Miley Road due to thunderstorm winds. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.

Table 4-16: Town of Brunson Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hurricane	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Windstorm	$11,250	0	0	$2,000	0	0
Lightning	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hail	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$2,000	0	0	$0	0	0
Winter Storm	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Extreme Heat	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$13,250**	**0**	**0**	**$2,000**	**0**	**0**

Source NOAA's Storm Events Database

Town of Estill Notable Events:

- 4/13/2020: A National Weather Service storm survey confirmed an EF-4 tornado with maximum winds of 175 mph in central Hampton County. The tornado began just north of Collie Road, about 3 miles west-northwest of Scotia, South Carolina, snapping and uprooting trees and damaging the Federal Correctional Institution in Estill as it tracked northeast. It crossed Highway 321 near County Road S-25-35, strengthening and causing substantial damage. The long-track, wide tornado destroyed numerous residences, including mobile and single-family homes, and tossed vehicles 50 to 75 yards. At peak, it reached a width of 0.75 miles, damaging thousands of trees and power lines. The worst structural damage occurred south of Estill and across Nixville, where at least six homes were destroyed. The tornado continued northeast, producing EF-2 to EF-3 damage along Sprayfield Road to Lena Expressway, then destroyed a mobile home near Highway 3 and Highway 601, killing 2 adult males. It further damaged homes near Turner Expressway and Brandy Lane, where another mobile home was destroyed, killing 3 people. Peak EF-4 intensity occurred along Lento Road, where a two-story home was completely destroyed. The tornado weakened as it moved northeast, crossing Highway 278 and Yemassee Highway before dissipating near Old Salkehatchie Highway and Archie Road near the Hampton/Colleton County line. The tornado traveled about 24 miles, killing 5 people and injuring 60, with some victims thrown 30–50 yards from mobile homes.

Table 4-17: Town of Estill Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$0	5	60	$0	5	60
Hurricane	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Windstorm	$40,500	0	0	$0	0	0
Lightning	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hail	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Winter Storm	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Extreme Heat	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$40,500**	**5**	**60**	**$0**	**5**	**60**

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

Town of Furman Notable Events:

- No reported events between 2020-2024.

Table 4-18: Town of Furman Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hurricane	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Windstorm	$3,000	0	0	$0	0	0
Lightning	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hail	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Winter Storm	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Extreme Heat	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$3,000**	**0**	**0**	**$0**	**0**	**0**

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

Town of Gifford Notable Events:

- 7/22/2021: A tree fell on a powerline on Thomas Hamilton Road due to thunderstorm winds. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.

Table 4-19: Town of Gifford Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hurricane	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Windstorm	$8,000	0	0	$1,000	0	0
Lightning	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hail	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Winter Storm	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Extreme Heat	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$8,000**	**0**	**0**	**$1,000**	**0**	**0**

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

Town of Hampton Notable Events:

- 6/14/2022: Reported tree down near the intersection of Willard Street Extension and Barry Avenue following thunderstorm winds. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- 6/7/2023: The public reported a large limb down on a power line along Highway 601 North due to thunderstorm winds. Estimated damage is approximately $1,500.
- 8/30/2023: Rushing flood waters from a creek surrounded a house in the 500 Block of Willard Street Extension due to heavy rainfall associated with Tropical Storm Idalia. An emergency manager also reported railroad tracks were beginning to wash out near the B and S Cleaners and unpaved Smith Road completely washed out near the intersection with Hickory Hill Road. Daily rainfall amounts up to 7.33 inches were recorded by the time of flash flooding started across the area. Estimated damage is approximately $30,000.

Table 4-20: Town of Hampton Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hurricane	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Windstorm	$104,500	0	0	$2,500	0	0
Lightning	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hail	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$30,000	0	0	$30,000	0	0
Winter Storm	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Extreme Heat	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$134,500**	**0**	**0**	**$32,500**	**0**	**0**

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

Town of Luray Notable Events:

- No reported events between 2020-2024.

Table 4-21: Town of Luray Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hurricane	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Windstorm	$2,000	0	0	$0	0	0
Lightning	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hail	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$2,000	0	0	$0	0	0
Winter Storm	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Extreme Heat	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$4,000**	**0**	**0**	**$0**	**0**	**0**

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

Town of Scotia Notable Events:

- No reported events between 2020-2024.

Table 4-22: Town of Scotia Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hurricane	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Windstorm	$2,000	0	0	$0	0	0
Lightning	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hail	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Winter Storm	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Extreme Heat	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$2,000**	**0**	**0**	**$0**	**0**	**0**

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

Town of Varnville Notable Events:

- 4/5/2022: A National Weather Service Storm Survey Team confirmed an EF-0 tornado with an estimated maximum wind speed of 82 mph in Hampton County, South Carolina. The tornado initially touched down just west of Pepper Street, then tracked northeast across U.S. 278, snapping and uprooting trees and causing minor roof damage to one home near the intersection of Oak Street and Howard Street. The tornado then continued a northeast path across a mostly wooded area, where it snapped and uprooted trees, before ending in an open field just east of the intersection of Papas Road and Mill Pond Road, where it snapped and uprooted a few more trees, overturned utility trailers, and threw a small grain bin.
- 6/17/2022: A social media report indicated golf ball size hail near the intersection of Highway 278 and Highway 68 during a thunderstorm event.

Table 4-23: Town of Varnville Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hurricane	n/a	0	0	$0	0	0
Windstorm	$13,000	0	0	$0	0	0
Lightning	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hail	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	n/a	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	n/a	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$1,000	0	0	$0	0	0
Winter Storm	n/a	n/a	n/a	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Extreme Heat	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$14,000**	**0**	**0**	**$0**	**0**	**0**

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

Town of Yemassee Notable Events:

- 6/20/2021: A Beaufort County emergency manager reported a tree down near the intersection of Old Sheldon Road and Castle Hall Road due to thunderstorm winds. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- 8/16/2023: A Beaufort County emergency manager reported a tree down due to thunderstorm outflow along the 600 Block of River Road. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.

Table 4-24: Town of Yemassee Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hurricane	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Windstorm	$20,250	0	0	$2,000	0	0
Lightning	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hail	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Winter Storm	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Extreme Heat	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$20,250**	**0**	**0**	**$2,000**	**0**	**0**

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

Jasper County

Historically, 48% of losses in Jasper County were due to crop damage. Of historic property damage, flooding is responsible for 32% of the total and averages $225,781 in property losses annually. More recently, losses were a result of hurricanes, but the County suffered no loss of life and had only 1 injury from windstorms. Tables 4-26 and 4-27 show natural hazard losses for municipalities in Jasper County.

Jasper County Notable Events:

- 3/6/2020: Following strong winds, law enforcement reported 4 trees down on Highway 336. One of the trees fell on a car and injured the driver. Estimated damage is approximately $10,000.
- 6/28/2021: A lightning strike caused a tree down and blocked one lane on Highway 170 about 2 miles east of the Savannah River. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- 3/12/2022: South Carolina Highway Patrol reported numerous trees down across Jasper County due to gusty winds. Estimated damage is approximately $10,000.
- 6/8/2022: The South Carolina Highway Patrol reported a tree down near the intersection of Forest Avenue and Rock Street due to thunderstorm winds. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.
- 7/23/2023: Jasper County dispatch reported 4 power poles down in the 2000 block of West Frontage Road due to thunderstorm winds. Estimated damage is approximately $4,000.
- 8/15/2023: The Jasper County 911 Call Center reported power lines on fire due to fallen branches near the intersection of Cotton Hill Road and Cypress Branch Road due to thunderstorm winds.

Estimated damage is approximately $1,750.

- 8/6/2024: Jasper County Emergency Management reported Langfordville Road collapsed over Beaverdam Branch, washing a car and occupant downstream. An adult female was rescued from the floodwaters without injury. Estimated damage is approximately $100,000.
- 9/26/2024: Strong winds associated with Helene produced widespread tree damage across the entire county. Jasper County Emergency Management reported at least 114 homes impacted during the event across the entire county, with 15 destroyed and 19 others sustaining major damage. Estimated damage is approximately $1,860,000.

Table 4-25: Jasper County Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$709,039	0	1	$0	0	0
Hurricane	$8,131,968	0	0	$1,860,000	0	0
Windstorm	$6,237,960	2	6	$59,255	0	1
Lightning	$87,511	0	2	$1,214	0	0
Hail	$196,315	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$20,034,978	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$566,147	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$16,064,740	0	0	$100,000	0	0
Winter Storm	$19,602,588	1	1	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$1,346,321	0	0	$0	0	0
Extreme Heat	$15,723,528	2	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$88,701,096**	**6**	**10**	**$2,020,469**	**0**	**1**

Source: SHEDLUS

City of Hardeeville Notable Events:

- 2/22/2019: Department of Transportation reported power lines down at the intersection of Main Street and Epps Avenue due to thunderstorm winds. Estimated damage is approximately $1,250.
- 6/14/2023: The media reported power lines down across Interstate 95 in Hardeeville following strong thunderstorm winds. Both southbound and northbound lanes were closed near Exit 5. Estimated damage is approximately $1,250.

Table 4-26: City of Hardeeville Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$50,000	0	1	$0	0	0
Hurricane	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Windstorm	$62,000	0	0	$2,500	0	0
Lightning	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hail	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Winter Storm	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Extreme Heat	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$112,000**	**0**	**1**	**$2,500**	**0**	**0**

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

Town of Ridgeland Notable Events:

- 8/8/2023: The Jasper County 911 Call Center reported a tree down in the 1500 Block of Grays Highway near the Ridgeland Airport due to thunderstorm outflow. Estimated damage is approximately $1,000.

Table 4-27: Town of Ridgeland Historical and Recent Losses

Hazards	Historical Impact 1960-2024			Recent Impact 2019-2024		
	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries	Total Losses ($2024)	Fatalities	Injuries
Tornado	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hurricane	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Windstorm	$13,500	0	0	$1,000	0	0
Lightning	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hail	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Drought	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Earthquake	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Wildfire	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Flood	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Winter Storm	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Coastal Erosion	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Extreme Heat	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Terrorism	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Hazardous Materials	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Cyber Attack	$0	0	0	$0	0	0
Total	**$13,500**	**0**	**0**	**$1,000**	**0**	**0**

Source: NOAA's Storm Events Database

4.3 HAZARD POTENTIAL RANKING

According to historical data and current assessments, the twelve natural hazards are ranked based on different factors including property loss information, fatalities/ injuries, hazard profiles, and community survey results. These factors were weighted and ranked based on the resulting scores; lower scores correlate to higher hazard potential. Hurricane ranked the highest with a risk score of 3 and cyber attack is the lowest risk score of 12.9. Table 4-28 displays the ranking.

Table 4-28: Lowcountry Hazard Potential Ranking

Hazards	Weighted Risk Score[1]	Property Damage	Public Concern[2]	Fatalities	Injuries
1. Hurricane	3	2	1	7	5
2. Windstorm	3.1	5	2	1	3
3. Extreme Heat	4.1	4	3	5	6
4. Flooding	4.4	1	5	8	9
5. Lightning	4.6	7	4	2	2
6. Tornado	6.3	8	6	6	1
7. Winter Storm	6.4	6	9	3	7
8. Coastal Erosion	7.2	9	8	4	4
9. Drought	7.8	3	11	12	12
10. Terrorism	10.5	12	7	12	12
11. Hail	10.7	11	10	12	8
12. Wildfire	11.5	10	13	12	12
13. HAZMAT	12	12	12	12	12
14. Earthquake	12.6	12	14	12	12
15. Cyber Attack	12.9	12	15	12	12

Note: [1]Weighted Risk Score = (Property Damage*0.4) + (Public Concern*0.3) + (Fatalities*0.2) + (Injuries*0.1), [2]Ranked by the residents' greatest cause of concern for their life and property

4.4 OVERALL VULNERABILITY BY HAZARD

This section organizes vulnerability in terms of locations and then hazard type for the 12 natural hazards. Since each jurisdiction has relatively the same amount of probability within each county, unless noted, their vulnerability is similar.

Beaufort County

Tornado

The county has relatively moderate likelihood for experiencing tornadoes, with a 62% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 7 tornado events in the county. Two events occurred in the Town of Bluffton and two events occurred in the Town of Port Royal, which $1,214,422 in financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends or slightly increase in the future.

Hurricane

The county has a relatively high likelihood of experiencing hurricanes, with a 108% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 12 hurricane events in the county, which caused $231,442 in financial losses, and 3 injuries and no deaths. Impacts are expected to increase with frequency and intensity in the future.

Windstorm

There is a relatively high likelihood of experiencing windstorms, with a 1524% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 174 windstorm events in the county, which caused $246,089 financial losses, 1 injury and no deaths. Impacts are expected to increase with frequency in the future.

Lightning

Beaufort County has a relatively high likelihood of experiencing lightning, with a 534,885% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 37,054 lightning strike events in the county, which caused $298,216 in financial losses, 2 injuries and no deaths. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends in the future.

Hail

The county has a relatively high likelihood of experiencing hailstorms, with a 206% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 7 hail events in the county, which caused no financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends in the future.

Earthquake

The county has a low probability of experiencing an earthquake event and they are rarely felt. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends in the future.

Wildfire

The county has a relatively high likelihood of experiencing wildfires, with a 4,848% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 66 wildfire events in the county, which caused no financial losses, and

no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to continue or slightly increase in the future.

Flood

The county has a relatively high likelihood of experiencing flooding, with a 128% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 5 flooding events in the county, which caused $12,196 financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to increase in the future.

Winter Storm

The county has a relatively low likelihood of experiencing winter storms, with a 23% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2025, there was 1 winter storm event in the county, which caused no financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends in the future.

Extreme Heat

The county has a relatively moderate likelihood for experiencing extreme heat, with a 55% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 2 extreme heat events in the county, which caused no financial losses, and 1 injury and no deaths. Impacts are expected to increase in the future.

Drought

Beaufort County has a relatively high likelihood of experiencing drought, with a 1,500% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2025, there were 48 drought events in the county, which caused no financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends or slightly increase in the future.

Colleton County

Tornado

The county has a relatively moderate likelihood for experiencing tornadoes, with a 69% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 10 tornado events in the county, which caused $800,000 losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends or slightly increase in the future.

Hurricane

Colleton County has a relatively high likelihood of experiencing hurricanes, with a 108% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 12 hurricane events in the county, which caused $1,152,000 in financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to increase with frequency and intensity in the future.

Windstorm

There is a relatively high likelihood for windstorms, with a 2,728% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 351 windstorm events in the county, which caused $156,935 in financial losses, and 1 injury and 1 death. Impacts are expected to increase with frequency in the future.

Lightning

The county has a relatively high likelihood for experiencing lightning, with a 767,392% chance occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 57,428 lightning strike events in the county, which caused $22,258 in

financial losses, 1 injury and no deaths. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends in the future.

Hail

Colleton County has a relatively high likelihood of experiencing lightning, with a 217% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 5 hail events in the county, which caused no financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends in the future.

Earthquake

The county has a low probability of experiencing an earthquake event and they are rarely felt. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends in the future.

Wildfire

The county has a relatively high likelihood for experiencing wildfires, with a 14,973% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 343 wildfire events in the county, which caused no financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to continue or slightly increase in the future.

Flood

Colleton County has a relatively high likelihood of experiencing flooding, with a 121% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 12 flooding events in the county, which caused $404,843 in financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to increase in the future.

Winter Storm

The county has a relatively low likelihood for experiencing winter storms, with a 47% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2025, there were 3 winter storm events in the county, which caused no financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends in the future.

Extreme Heat

The county has a moderately low likelihood of experiencing extreme heat, with a 27% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were no extreme heat events in the county. Impacts are expected to increase in the future.

Drought

There is a relatively high likelihood of experiencing drought in the county, with a 1608% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2025, there were 66 drought events in the county, which caused no financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends or slightly increase in the future.

Hampton County

Tornado

The county has a relatively low likelihood of experiencing tornadoes, with a 28% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 3 tornado events in the county, which caused no financial losses, and 60 injuries and 5 deaths. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends or slightly increase in the

future.

Hurricane

Hampton County has a relatively high likelihood of experiencing hurricanes, with a 108% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 12 hurricane events in the county, which caused $3,510,000 in financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to increase with frequency and intensity in the future.

Windstorm

The county has a relatively high likelihood of experiencing windstorms, with an 859% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 53 windstorm events in the county, which caused $19,765 in financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to increase with frequency in the future.

Lightning

The county has a relatively high likelihood for experiencing lightning, with a 346,385% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 23,521 lightning strike events in the county, which caused no financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends in the future.

Hail

Hampton County has a relatively high likelihood of experiencing hailstorms, with a 108% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 8 hail events in the county, which caused no financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends in the future.

Earthquake

The county has a low probability of experiencing an earthquake event and they are rarely felt. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends in the future.

Wildfire

The county has a relatively high likelihood of experiencing wildfires, with a 6,068% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 170 wildfire events in the county, which caused no financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to continue or slightly increase in the future.

Flood

There is a relatively low likelihood of experiencing flooding, with a 38% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 3 flooding events in the county, which caused $136,855 financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to increase in the future.

Winter Storm

The county has a relatively low likelihood for experiencing winter storms, with a 30% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2025, there were 2 winter storm events in the county, which caused no financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends in the future.

Extreme Heat

The county has a relatively low likelihood of experiencing extreme heat, with a 17% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were no extreme heat events in the county. Impacts are expected to increase in the future.

Drought

Hampton County has a relatively high likelihood of experiencing drought, with a 1,838% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2025, there were 72 drought events in the county, which caused no financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends or slightly increase in the future.

Jasper County

Tornado

The county has a relatively low likelihood for experiencing tornadoes, with a 15% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were no tornado events in the county, which caused no financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends or slightly increase in the future.

Hurricane

Jasper County has a relatively high likelihood of experiencing hurricanes, with a 108% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 12 hurricane events in the county, which caused $1,860,000 financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to increase with frequency and intensity in the future.

Windstorm

The county has a relatively high likelihood for experiencing windstorms, with a 1,156% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 76 windstorm events in the county, which caused $59,255 in financial losses, and 1 injury and no deaths. Impacts are expected to increase with frequency in the future.

Lightning

There is a relatively high likelihood of experiencing lightning, with a 578,092% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 41,911 lightning strike events in the county, which caused $1,214 in financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends in the future.

Hail

The county has a high likelihood of experiencing hailstorms, with a 100% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 3 hail events in the county, which caused no financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends in the future.

Earthquake

The county has a low probability of experiencing an earthquake event and they are rarely felt. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends in the future.

Wildfire

Jasper County has a high relatively likelihood of experiencing wildfires, with a 10,784% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 180 wildfire events in the county, which caused no financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to continue or slightly increase in the future.

Flood

The county has a low likelihood of experiencing flooding, with a 38% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there was 1 flooding event in the county, which caused $100,000 financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to increase in the future.

Winter Storm

The county has a relatively low likelihood of experiencing winter storms, with a 27% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2025, there were 2 winter storm events in the county, which caused no financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends in the future.

Extreme Heat

Jasper County has a relatively low likelihood of experiencing extreme heat, with a 24% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2024, there were no extreme heat events in the county. Impacts are expected to increase in the future.

Drought

The county has a relatively high likelihood of experiencing drought, with a 1,731% chance of occurrence. Between 2020 and 2025, there were 54 drought events in the county, which caused no financial losses, and no injuries or deaths. Impacts are expected to continue as historical trends or slightly increase in the future.

4.5 BUILDING INVENTORY

In addition to the loss information provided using the Spatial Hazard Event and Loss Dataset for the U.S. (SHELDUS™), FEMA's Hazards United States – Multi Hazard (HAZUS-MH) is another tool to help in estimating the dollar replacement values for the Lowcountry's assets. The Lowcountry's assets, including specifically buildings and their occupancy type, that are vulnerable to damage, are shown in Table 4-29. The total value of the Lowcountry's buildings that are exposed to hazards is over $35 billion. The occupancy type that contributes the most to building exposure in the region is residential buildings. The total value of buildings is up by $7 billion since 2020, indicating continued growth of assets and risk. Details for each county are displayed in Table 4-30.

Table 4-29: Lowcountry Building Exposure by General Occupancy

General Occupancy	Number	Value
Residential	110,491	$21,691,991,965
Commercial	7,893	$9,127,596,165
Industrial	1,406	$2,047,605,608
Agriculture	1,204	$571,988,694
Religion	880	$1,159,792,792
Government	364	$649,524,017
Education	153	$2,034,665,153
Total Exposure	**122,391**	**$37,283,164,394**

Source: HAZUS-MH

All counties in the region saw an increase in total exposure value since 2020. During the timeframe of 2020-2024 Beaufort County is the only county to see a decrease in total building count in the Lowcountry. This change could also be the result of differences in spatial aggregation of census blocks between the 2010 Census used for HAZUS 6.0 and the 2020 Census used for HAZUS 7.0 (HAZUS Inventory Technical Manual). Specifically, the Town of Hilton Head and the unincorporated areas of Beaufort County saw a drop in building count and associated exposure value.

- Beaufort County = +$2,472,643,528
- Colleton County= +$1,973,960,814
- Hampton County= +$1,359,879,588
- Jasper County= +$1,465,823,465

The HAZUS building counts are an estimation and should be used for general exposure planning purposes. Mobile homes and manufactured homes that are not tied to land are not included in the HAZUS inventory. These occupied units are extremely vulnerable to hazards, especially windstorms and flooding in the Lowcountry region. Units that are lacking adequate anchoring systems face elevated risks during hurricanes, tornadoes, and windstorms, potentially resulting in severe property damage, utility disruptions, and evacuation challenges. For example, Beaufort County has approximately 8,770 mobile homes in addition to the building exposure seen here and further analysis is required.

Table 4-30: County and Municipality Building Exposure by General Occupancy

County and Municipality	Exposure	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Agriculture	Religion	Government	Education	Total Exposure
Beaufort County	**Number**	**71,094**	**4,850**	**837**	**160**	**295**	**197**	**96**	**77,529**
	Value	**$16,643,900,252**	**$5,601,664,811**	**$800,570,176**	**$72,958,283**	**$441,947,944**	**$353,031,605**	**$1,363,120,458**	**$25,277,193,528**
City of Beaufort	Number	8,667	1,117	124	28	79	67	23	**10,105**
	Value	$1,546,359,646	$1,344,416,261	$160,421,615	$9,261,352	$90,919,871	$110,820,135	$354,822,925	**$3,617,021,805**
Town of Bluffton	Number	15,153	871	186	25	34	13	19	**16,301**
	Value	$3,538,335,917	$877,294,956	$154,334,634	$14,792,644	$60,456,430	$36,604,444	$267,008,150	**$4,948,827,175**
Town of Hilton Head Island	Number	16,377	1,587	267	51	74	56	25	**18,437**
	Value	$5,043,923,880	$1,910,852,183	$240,246,339	$28,531,311	$121,129,361	$98,523,937	$258,174,626	**$7,701,381,637**
Town of Port Royal	Number	4,293	365	60	9	32	35	8	**4,802**
	Value	$1,147,091,210	$455,856,234	$53,662,409	$2,526,166	$52,532,036	$38,917,918	$38,232,293	$1,788,818,267
Unincorporated Areas	Number	27,509	977	212	49	84	38	23	**28,892**
	Value	$5,347,022,852	$989,499,827	$174,561,684	$17,550,616	$114,092,330	$68,165,170	$440,773,697	**$7,151,666,175**
Colleton County	**Number**	**19,527**	**1,331**	**241**	**994**	**241**	**79**	**23**	**22,436**
	Value	**$2,439,216,992**	**$1,495,651,567**	**$549,229,738**	**$468,377,112**	**$265,052,880**	**$173,133,346**	**$361,528,180**	**$5,752,189,814**
Town of Cottageville	Number	528	31	6	21	6	5	1	**598**
	Value	$55,805,981	$21,352,687	$13,473,175	$7,991,226	$5,106,824	$2,421,684	$17,071,926	**$123,223,503**
Town of Edisto Beach	Number	1,875	73	4	3	3	3	1	**1,962**
	Value	$342,082,003	$40,822,442	$1,856,426	$2,332,322	$2,005,728	$2,904,770	$1,236,753	**$393,240,445**
Town of Lodge	Number	91	13	1	8	2	2	-	**117**
	Value	$11,531,763	$8,676,549	$552,695	$2,762,468	$971,305	$2,431,832	$-	**$26,926,613**
Town of Smoaks	Number	125	8	2	10	2	1	-	**148**
	Value	$13,652,825	$3,030,654	$11,910,465	$4,782,292	$1,709,612	$469,359	$-	**$35,555,208**
City if Walterboro	Number	3,262	711	78	21	58	33	9	**4,172**
	Value	$474,861,515	$962,241,629	$120,253,480	$8,292,065	$49,419,014	$92,538,611	$190,421,929	**$1,898,028,243**
Town of Williams	Number	73	10	2	8	4	1	-	**98**
	Value	$9,678,763	$9,194,398	$2,010,510	$8,002,402	$2,531,084	$210,033	$-	**$31,627,190**
Unincorporated Areas	Number	13,573	485	148	923	166	34	12	**15,341**
	Value	$1,531,604,142	$450,333,206	$399,172,986	$434,214,337	$203,309,312	$72,157,056	$152,797,571	**$3,243,588,612**

County and Municipality	Exposure	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Agriculture	Religion	Government	Education	Total Exposure
Hampton County	**Number**	**9,567**	**720**	**136**	**26**	**277**	**45**	**21**	**10,792**
	Value	**$1,264,361,287**	**$751,429,987**	**$310,600,026**	**$19,156,861**	**$383,085,458**	**$49,822,957**	**$155,458,012**	**$2,933,914,588**
Town of Brunson	Number	353	18	6	4	10	1	2	**394**
	Value	$46,538,866	$18,071,669	$11,095,311	$2,705,961	$7,437,381	$451,362	$13,559,634	**$99,860,185**
Town of Estill	Number	868	127	19	4	20	4	4	**1,046**
	Value	$133,382,979	$178,897,485	$54,226,688	$3,086,490	$16,340,009	$4,858,182	$28,039,944	**$418,831,778**
Town of Furman	Number	180	9	5	2	3	-	-	**199**
	Value	$22,767,170	$6,489,207	$10,801,558	$3,245,717	$1,017,217	$-	$-	**$44,320,869**
Town of Gifford	Number	167	7	1	-	4	2	-	**181**
	Value	$16,880,324	$7,799,735	$749,212	$-	$4,467,618	$2,061,769	$-	**$31,958,658**
Town of Hampton	Number	1,460	281	37	5	49	23	6	**1,861**
	Value	$221,322,858	$298,351,409	$52,777,741	$651,640	$178,727,625	$28,727,250	$46,277,764	**$826,836,288**
Town of Luray	Number	79	7	1	-	4	-	-	**91**
	Value	$9,713,303	$7,723,257	$420,960	$-	$2,315,754	$-	$-	**$20,173,274**
Town of Scotia	Number	141	9	-	-	4	1	-	**155**
	Value	$15,987,443	$4,688,958	$-	$-	$2,709,121	$130,449	$-	**$23,515,972**
Town of Varnville	Number	1,216	114	23	4	34	11	6	**1,408**
	Value	$154,838,167	$76,387,713	$57,097,954	$879,524	$28,718,855	$4,232,049	$33,606,179	**$355,760,440**
Town of Yemassee	Number	661	92	19	3	26	3	3	**807**
	Value	$85,259,108	$70,894,274	$55,546,724	$1,447,689	$19,596,607	$1,645,197	$16,624,482	**$251,014,081**
Unincorporated Areas	Number	4,635	107	30	6	132	5	3	**4,918**
	Value	$578,837,816	$105,871,629	$85,227,373	$7,436,034	$124,573,186	$7,716,699	$21,458,776	**$931,121,513**
Jasper County	**Number**	**10,303**	**992**	**192**	**24**	**67**	**43**	**14**	**11,635**
	Value	**$1,344,513,434**	**$1,278,849,800**	**$387,205,670**	**$11,496,438**	**$69,706,511**	**$73,536,109**	**$154,558,504**	**$3,319,866,465**
City of Hardeeville	Number	4,553	525	100	7	22	7	6	**5,220**
	Value	$537,668,462	$756,707,029	$178,103,974	$4,145,153	$22,274,668	$14,437,241	$56,339,422	**$1,569,675,949**
Town of Ridgeland	Number	2,782	302	34	9	19	32	7	**3,185**
	Value	$341,786,402	$337,049,835	$95,464,027	$3,964,614	$22,690,269	$50,435,931	$83,937,788	**$935,328,867**
Unincorporated Areas	Number	4,160	200	59	9	29	4	4	**4,465**
	Value	$465,058,570	$185,092,936	$113,637,669	$3,386,671	$24,741,573	$8,662,937	$14,281,294	**$814,861,649**

4.6 DEVELOPMENT TREND

To understand vulnerability of people and property within each community, an assessment of recent development trends was necessary. This allows us to focus on where and what type of future development will occur and thus determine how to fortify it to be hazard resistant.

Table 4-31 and Figure 4-15 depict the population projections for the Lowcountry region used to determine how the Lowcountry may change over the next 30 years. Based on the 2020 population, the Lowcountry region is projected to increase in population by 0.39% annually to about 370,000 people in 2055. Beaufort and Jasper Counties are anticipating an increase in population by 0.3% and 1.1% annually through 2055. On the other hand, Hampton County is projected to experience negative population growth by -0.74% per year in the same period, while Colleton County experiences a slight growth of 0.16%. This suggests a need for significant development of residential structures as well as commercial structures and infrastructure to keep up with the resulting demand.

Notes

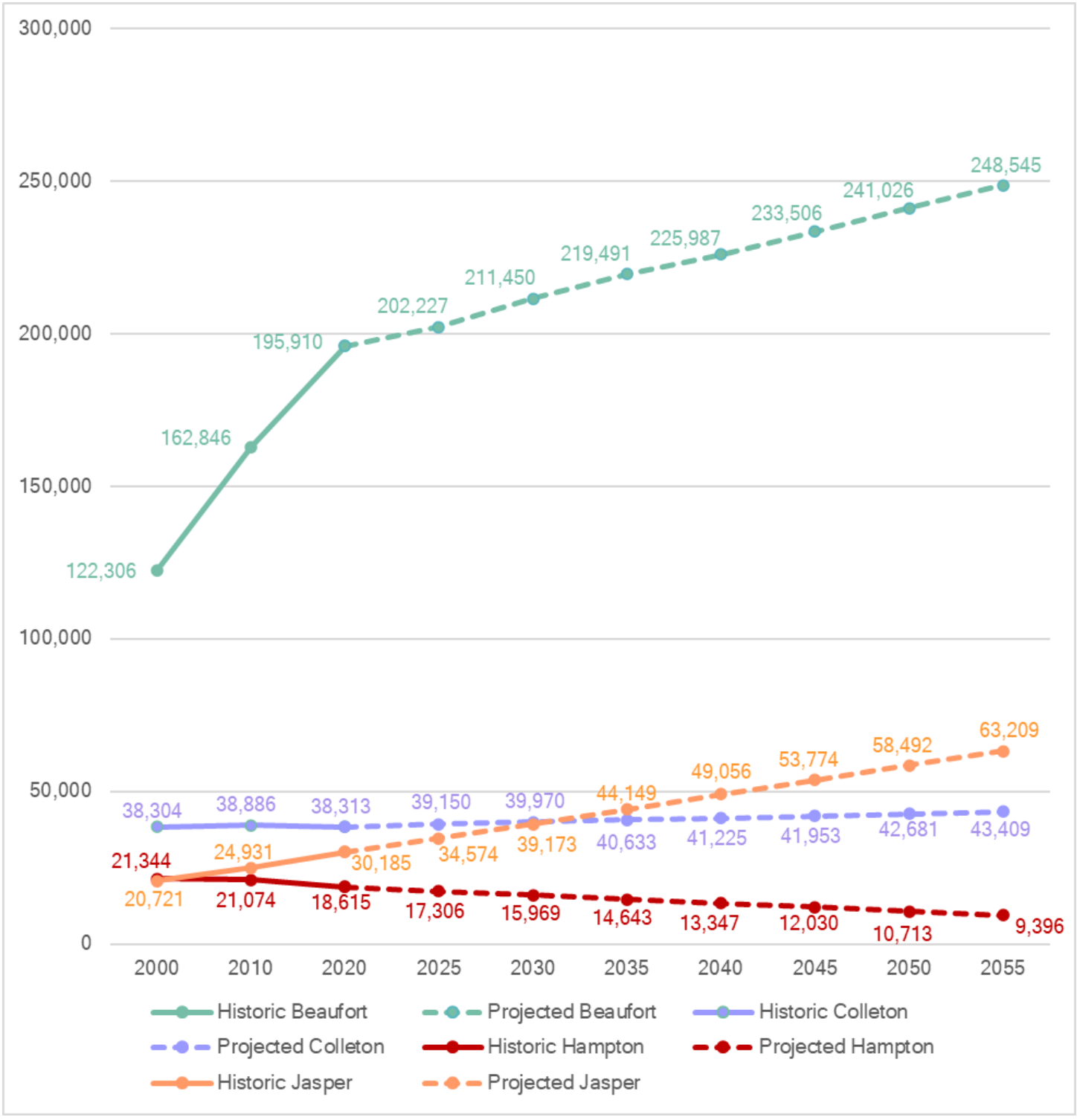
- Data for population projections are from U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population – Vintage 2024 and S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control – Vital Records Department.
- Population projections 2030-2045 are calculated by S.C. Department of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs – Health and Demographics Section, using 2000, 2010, and 2020 estimates for the purpose of trend analysis.
- Population projections through 2055 were extrapolated from the 2030-2045 projections.

Table 4-31: Historic and Projected Population 2000-2055

County	Estimate				Projection						Annual Change 2000-2055
	2000	2010	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	
Beaufort	122,306	162,846	195,910	202,227	211,450	219,491	225,987	233,506	241,026	248,545	**0.3%**
Colleton	38,304	38,886	38,313	39,150	39,970	40,633	41,225	41,953	42,681	43,409	**0.16%**
Hampton	21,344	21,074	18,615	17,306	15,969	14,643	13,347	12,030	10,713	9,396	**-0.74%**
Jasper	20,721	24,931	30,185	34,574	39,173	44,149	49,056	53,774	58,492	63,209	**1.1%**
Lowcountry	247,752	264,870	276,615	293,257	306,562	318,916	329,615	341,263	352,911	369,365	**0.39%**

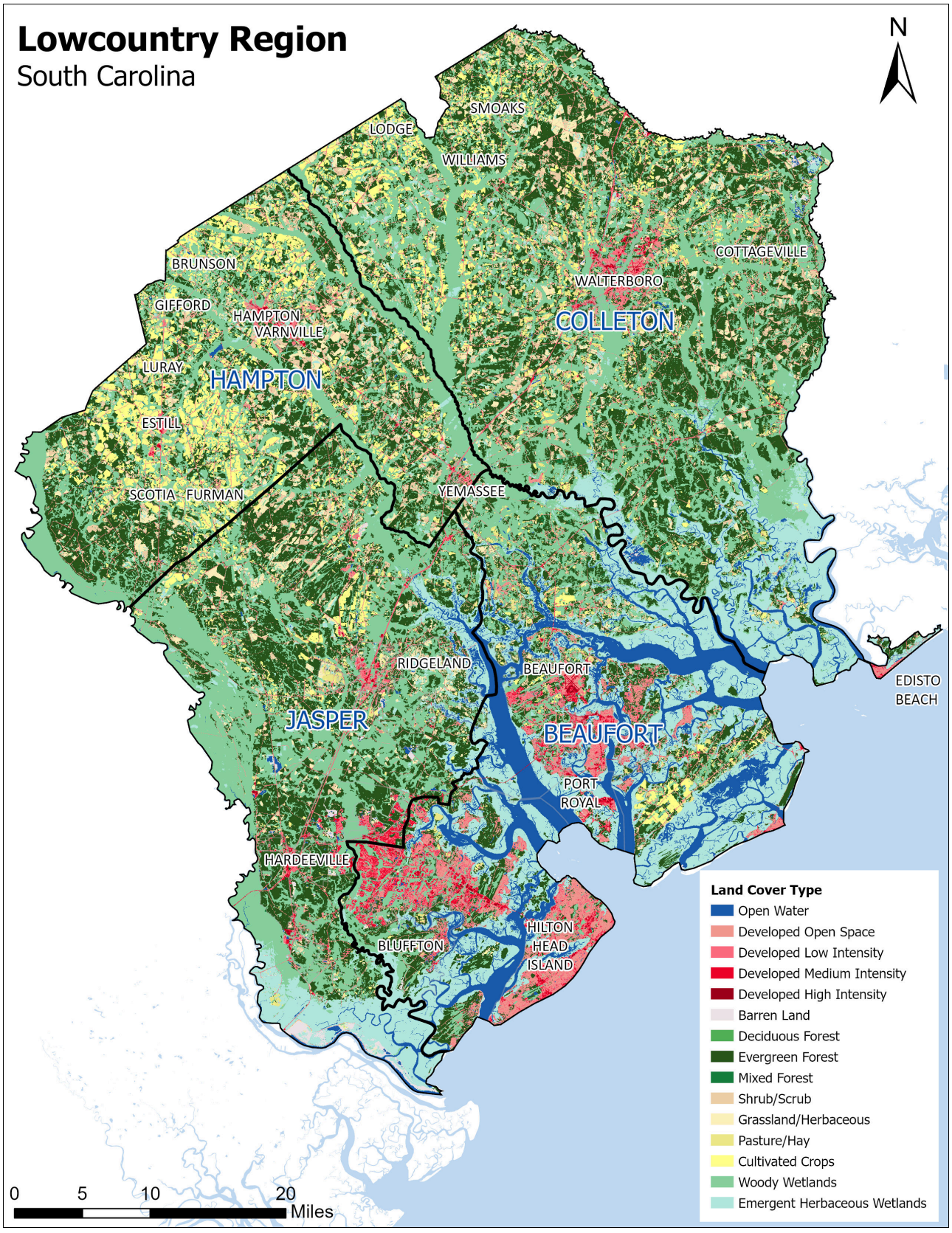
Source: S.C. Department of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, S.C. Community Profiles, S.C. Population Estimates from 2000-2025 and Population Projections from 2030-2055 (revised July 2024)

Figure 4-15: Historic and Projected Populations 2000-2055



Source: S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, S.C. Community Profiles, S.C. Population Estimates from 2000-2020 and Population Projections from 2025-2055

Figure 4-16: Lowcountry Land Cover



Source: ESRI, USGS, 2024

The National Land Cover Database (NLCD) is a standardized, nationwide dataset that maps land cover, impervious surface, and tree canopy. While much of the Lowcountry region is undeveloped, there are concentrated areas of development that have grown in recent years. The developed area (all developed categories combined) accounts for about 9.7% of the total land cover. The largest land cover type by percentage area is woody wetlands totaling 30.5% across the region, followed by evergreen forest at 24.4%, and open water accounting for 10.6% area (Figure 4-16). Majority of the cultivated crops area is located in Hampton and Colleton Counties and totals about 7% of whole Lowcountry land cover. Public and private land conservation protection for the state is monitored by SCDNR. As population is expected to continue increasing in most of the region, conservation of undeveloped critical areas, such as wetlands, will mitigate hazards in the future. Higher population results in increased development and in turn increases exposure to hazards in the region. Long-term community planning is vital to managing development and ensuring growth is both safe and beneficial to the region. Development in hazard prone areas will increase exposure, critical facilities and high-density residential areas may suffer greater consequences in high exposure, hazard prone areas. Local governments have the responsibility to control land use and development through maintenance of a comprehensive plan and the 1994 South Carolina Local Government Comprehensive Planning Act.

Using the Annual Fractional Impervious Surface data, we can assess changes to land cover and spatial development trends over time. The NLCD uses 30m x 30m grids to map fractional impervious surface 0-100%. With this information we can calculate grid cells that have any impervious surface, their area, and percent change from 2020-2024. This is a regional view of major development trends and does not consider the intensity of development or landcover classification that is taking place. Area calculations will be slightly inflated as each grid cell is classified as either impervious or not, even if the cell is only partially impervious.

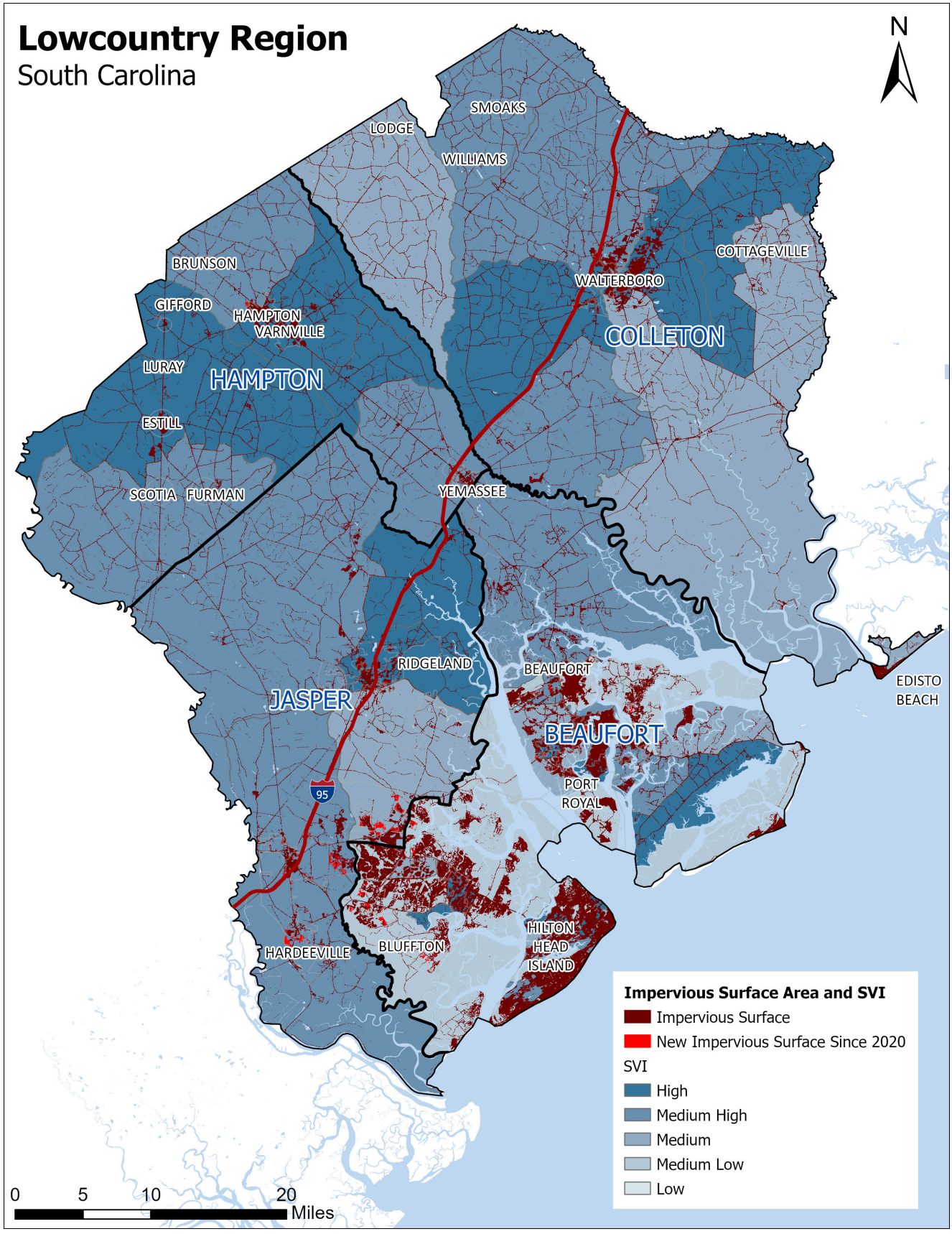
Impervious surface change is an important indicator of developmental growth when looking at land cover and plays a significant role in hazard mitigation planning. Impervious surface can drastically change water drainage in an area by preventing infiltration and increasing runoff volume. Less infiltration can also lead to lower aquifer recharge and reduced flow in streams that can worsen drought impacts. Additionally, runoff from impervious surfaces can degrade natural systems that help protect against severe hazard events. Most impervious surfaces absorb and retain heat at a higher rate than pervious surfaces, contributing to higher temperatures and increased heat wave severity. Increases in impervious surface areas can increase hazard risk and exacerbate social vulnerability by intensifying impacts such as flooding and extreme heat, with potentially greater consequences for populations that have fewer resources to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. While development is important to keep up with population growth, it must be well considered for hazard mitigation purposes. Table 4-34 shows impervious and pervious area for each county and municipality, along with percent change between the years. All counties showed an increase in overall impervious surface area with Jasper County being the highest at 7.9% increase from 2020 to 2024. In Jasper County, much of this increase occurred in the City of Hardeeville where impervious surface area increased by 22.5%, the highest of any municipality (Table 4-32). Beaufort County saw the second most increase in area of impervious surface at 3.1% and the Town of Bluffton was the highest among municipalities in the County at 8.1%. Hampton County, 2.7%, and Colleton County, 1.8%, saw a slight increase in impervious surface area (Figure 4-17).

Table 4-32: Impervious Surface Change 2020 - 2024

County and Municipality	Impervious Area 2020 (km^2)	Pervious Area 2020 (km^2)	Percent Impervious 2020	Impervious Area 2024 (km^2)	Pervious Area 2024 (km^2)	Percent Impervious 2024	Percent Change
Beaufort County	295.2	1538.1	16.1%	304.4	1528.9	16.6%	3.1%
City of Beaufort	29.1	49.5	37.1%	30.2	48.4	38.4%	3.6%
Town of Bluffton	35.6	102.9	25.7%	38.5	100.0	27.8%	8.1%
Town of Hilton Head Island	71.0	40.3	63.8%	71.6	39.8	64.3%	0.7%
Town of Port Royal	15.3	57.3	21.0%	15.7	56.9	21.6%	2.9%
Colleton County	163.2	2623.1	5.9%	166.0	2620.3	6.0%	1.8%
Town of Cottageville	1.7	6.9	19.8%	1.7	6.8	20.4%	3.0%
Town of Edisto Beach	3.7	2.4	60.6%	3.7	2.4	61.0%	0.5%
Town of Lodge	0.6	7.6	7.0%	0.6	7.6	7.0%	-0.2%
Town of Smoaks	0.4	3.5	10.3%	0.4	3.5	10.5%	1.8%
City of Walterboro	9.8	7.5	56.5%	9.8	7.4	56.9%	0.7%
Town of Williams	0.4	1.6	20.9%	0.4	1.6	21.8%	4.0%
Hampton County	91.8	1365.3	6.3%	94.3	1362.8	6.5%	2.7%
Town of Brunson	1.1	1.5	42.4%	1.1	1.5	42.8%	0.8%
Town of Estill	3.5	4.7	42.5%	3.5	4.6	43.0%	1.2%
Town of Furman	1.0	7.1	12.8%	1.0	7.1	12.9%	0.7%
Town of Gifford	0.6	1.6	28.0%	0.6	1.6	28.3%	1.0%
Town of Hampton	6.2	5.2	54.5%	6.3	5.2	54.9%	0.6%
Town of Luray	0.4	2.2	15.7%	0.4	2.2	15.9%	1.1%
Town of Scotia	0.7	7.5	8.1%	0.7	7.5	8.4%	3.5%
Town of Varnville	4.8	5.1	48.2%	4.8	5.1	48.7%	0.9%
Town of Yemassee	4.6	15.4	23.0%	4.7	15.4	23.4%	2.0%
Jasper County	106.1	1635.2	6.1%	114.4	1626.9	6.6%	7.9%
City of Hardeeville	20.1	120.1	14.3%	24.6	115.6	17.6%	22.5%
Town of Ridgeland	9.2	106.1	8.0	9.5	105.8	8.3%	3.9%

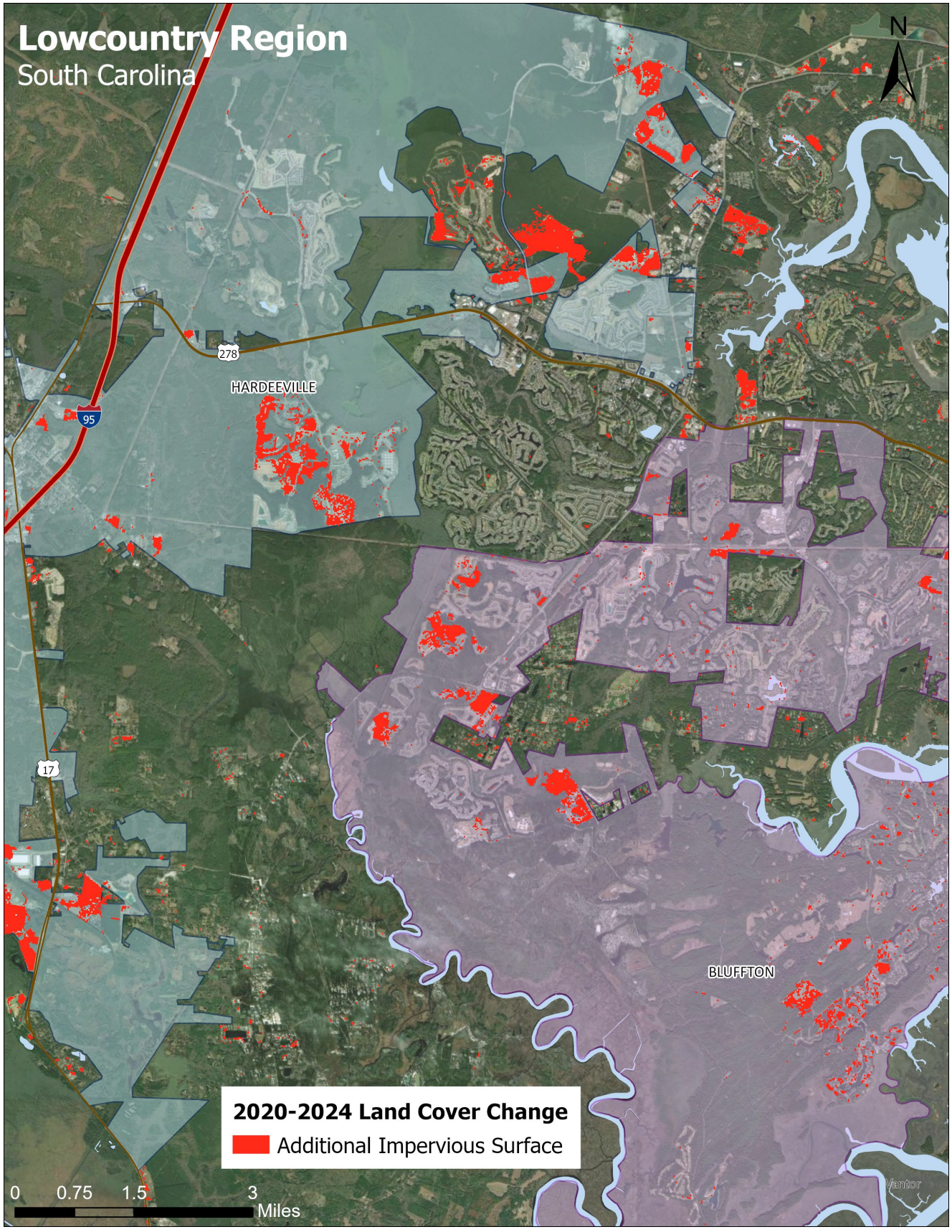
Source: National Land Cover Database (NLCD)

Figure 4-17: 2024 Impervious Surface Area and SVI



Source: National Land Cover Database

Figure 4-18: Hardeeville & Bluffton Recent Impervious Surface Area 2024



Source: National Land Cover Database (NLCD)

In the Lowcountry, recent development changes have impacted vulnerability and community lifelines. Areas with high population growth and development have increased the need for emergency services and the stress on critical facilities. An influx of new residents, especially in Beaufort and Jasper Counties, has increased the demand for emergency services to support a larger population. Key areas of population vulnerability include an aging population and a higher concentration of limited English proficiency (see Section 2), these population trends are important for emergency planning and communication. Utility facilities such as water, energy, and transportation have needed to expand or improve to ensure continued service to the community. Evacuation and storm water drainage have been target areas for future improvements due to population growth and landscape changes brought by development. Development trends on barrier islands have been monitored closely to assess evacuation and recovery needs given limited access to and from those communities.

Building permit data can also be used to track development trends. Building permits are a vital economic indicator tied to construction employment, future tax revenues, local purchases of building supplies, furniture, appliances, and other home furnishings. Tracking building permits and construction patterns also helps to understand the vulnerability of the region. Building outside of hazard prone areas with resilient, adaptive construction standards can reduce risk, while concentrating development in hazardous areas can increase it. The pace of development is also worth following, rapid growth can increase exposure faster than infrastructure, emergency services, evacuation abilities, or critical facilities can manage. The following permitting information was compiled from the best available data provided by jurisdictions.

- Between 2019 and 2024, Beaufort County approved 137 permits for new commercial buildings and 3,202 permits for new residential buildings. Permitting has been steady year to year during that time frame.
- The City of Beaufort approved 885 new building permits in 2024 with a total value of $929,361. The majority of new 2024 permits in the City were residential with 732 multifamily and 143 single family, the remaining 10 permits were for commercial buildings.
- In 2024 the Town of Hilton Head Island approved a total of 3196 building permits for single family homes and 696 multifamily homes. The Town of Hilton Head Island also approved a few large new multifamily projects in recent years including in 2021 for The Charles and Aquaterra and 2023 Maidencane.
- Hampton County, excluding the towns of Yemassee, Estill, Hampton, Varnville, and Brunson, approved 9 permits for single family homes at value of $2,729,360, 76 permits for manufactured homes at a value of $6,5775,544, and 6 permits for commercial buildings at a value of $42,834,213 in the year of 2024.
- The Town of Edisto Beach in Colleton County between the years of 2020-2024 approved 107 permits for new single family homes at a value of $76,563,042 and approved 2 new commercial buildings at a value of $787,000.
- As of the March 2026 Hardeeville Residential Development Pipeline, the City has 20,103 residential units (16,807 single-family and 3,296 multi-family) approved by the City Council after review of Master Plan with 8,625 (7,869 single-family and 756 multi-family) building permits being issued.

4.7 CRITICAL FACILITIES

According to FEMA (2007), critical facilities refer to all manmade structures or other improvements providing services and functions essential to a community, especially during and after a disaster. If they are destroyed, damaged, or if their functionality is impaired there is potential to cause serious bodily harm, extensive property damage, or disruption of vital socioeconomic activities.

It is important that critical facilities are protected from hazards and that their structural integrity is maintained by means of necessary improvements.

Critical facilities in the Lowcountry's jurisdictions comprise both public and private facilities and vary from one jurisdiction to another (Table 4-33). These include:

- Police Stations
- Fire Stations
- Emergency Operation Centers
- Medical Care Facilities
- Schools
- Communication
- Electrical Power Facilities
- Wastewater Treatment
- Transportation Facilities including airports (including air medical services), bus, and ferry
- Potable Water Facilities

Figures 4-18 to 4-23 below depict the critical facilities in Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties along with evacuation routes. Details of these critical facilities are shown in Appendix G.

Example of Critical Facility

- Police stations, fire stations, critical vehicle and equipment storage facilities, and emergency operation centers
- Medical facilities, including hospitals, nursing homes, blood banks, and health care facilities (including those storing vital medical records)
- Schools and day care centers, especially if designated as shelters or evacuation centers
- Power generating stations and other public and private utility facilities
- Drinking water and wastewater treatment plants
- Structures or facilities that produce, use, or store highly volatile, flammable, explosive, toxic, and/or water-reactive materials.

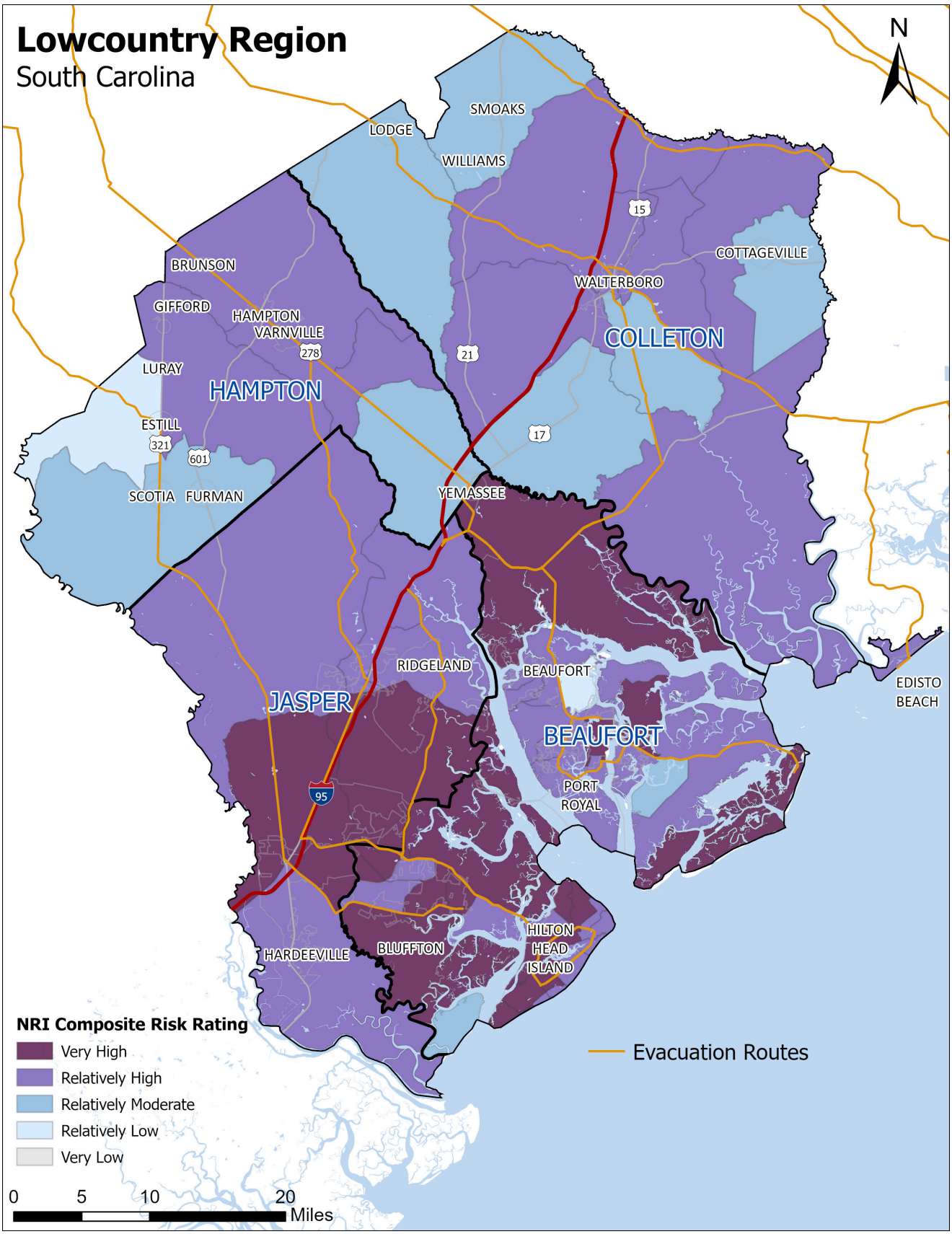
Source: FEMA (n.d.)

Table 4-33: Number of Critical Facilities

County and Municipality	Police Station	Fire Station	Emergency Operation Center	Medical Care Facility	School	Communication	Electrical Facility	Wastewater Facility	Transportation Facility	Potable Water
Beaufort County	**5**	**39**	**2**	**5**	**37**	**5**	**2**	**6**	**12**	**71**
City of Beaufort	2	2	1	3	6	3	0	0	2	0
Town of Bluffton	1	3	0	1	14	0	0	0	1	2
Town of Hilton Head Island	1	10	1	1	9	1	1	3	5	48
Town of Port Royal	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Unincorporated Areas	0	22	0	0	7	1	1	3	4	19
Colleton County	**6**	**33**	**1**	**1**	**13**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**38**
Town of Cottageville	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Town of Edisto Beach	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
Town of Lodge	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Town of Smoaks	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
City if Walterboro	4	11	1	1	10	1	0	1	2	11
Town of Williams	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Unincorporated Areas	0	14	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	17
Hampton County	**7**	**10**	**1**	**1**	**11**	**2**	**5**	**2**	**2**	**35**
Town of Brunson	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
Town of Estill	1	2	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	4
Town of Furman	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Town of Gifford	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Town of Hampton	1	1	1	0	2	2	2	1	1	5
Town of Luray	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Town of Scotia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Town of Varnville	2	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	6
Town of Yemassee	1	5	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	5
Unincorporated Areas	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8
Jasper County	**3**	**12**	**1**	**1**	**11**	**0**	**4**	**3**	**3**	**23**
City of Hardeeville	1	3	0	1	3	0	2	1	2	5
Town of Ridgeland	2	4	1	0	8	0	2	1	1	6
Unincorporated Areas	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	12

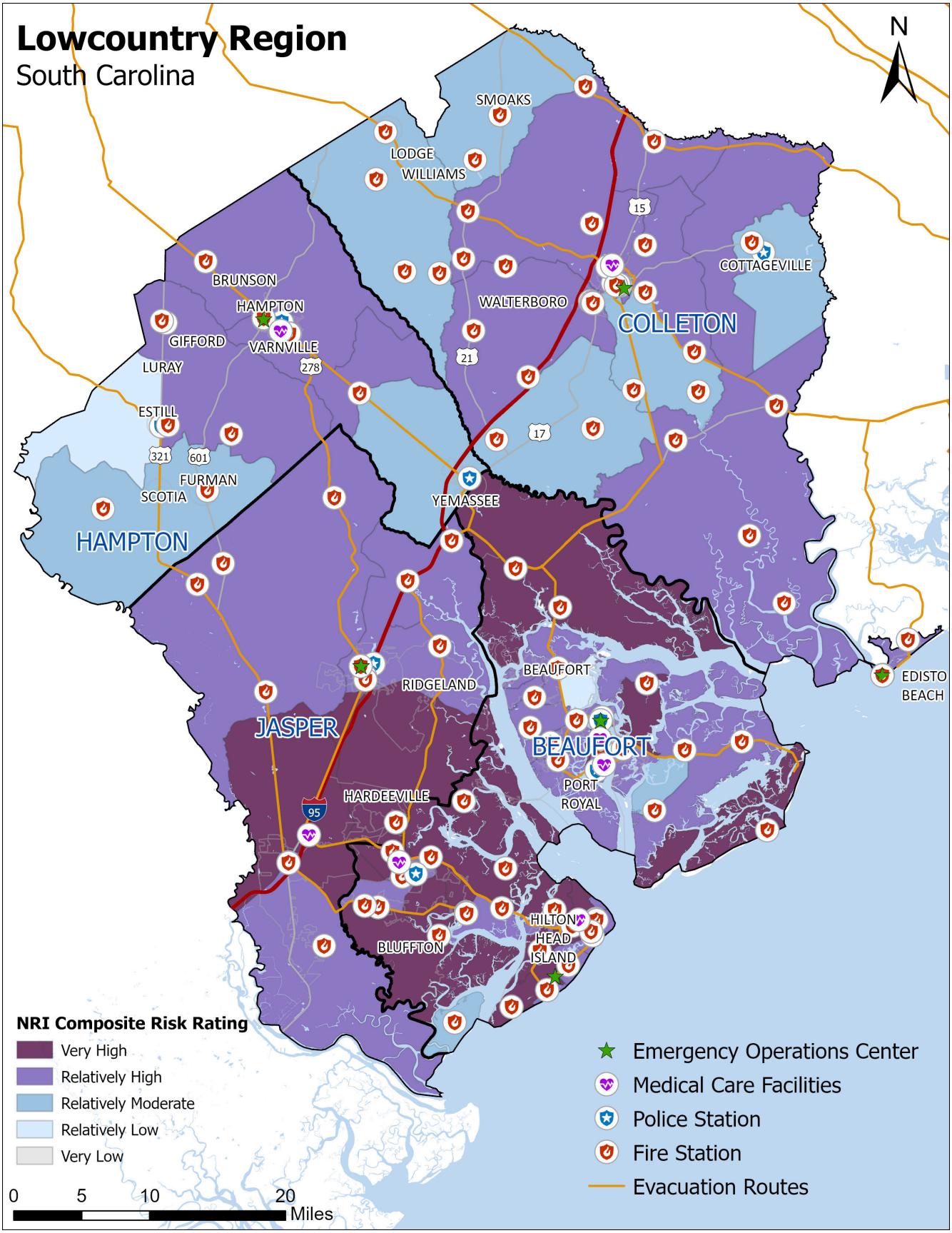
Source: HAZUS-MH and Counties' Database

Figure 4-19: Evacuation Routes



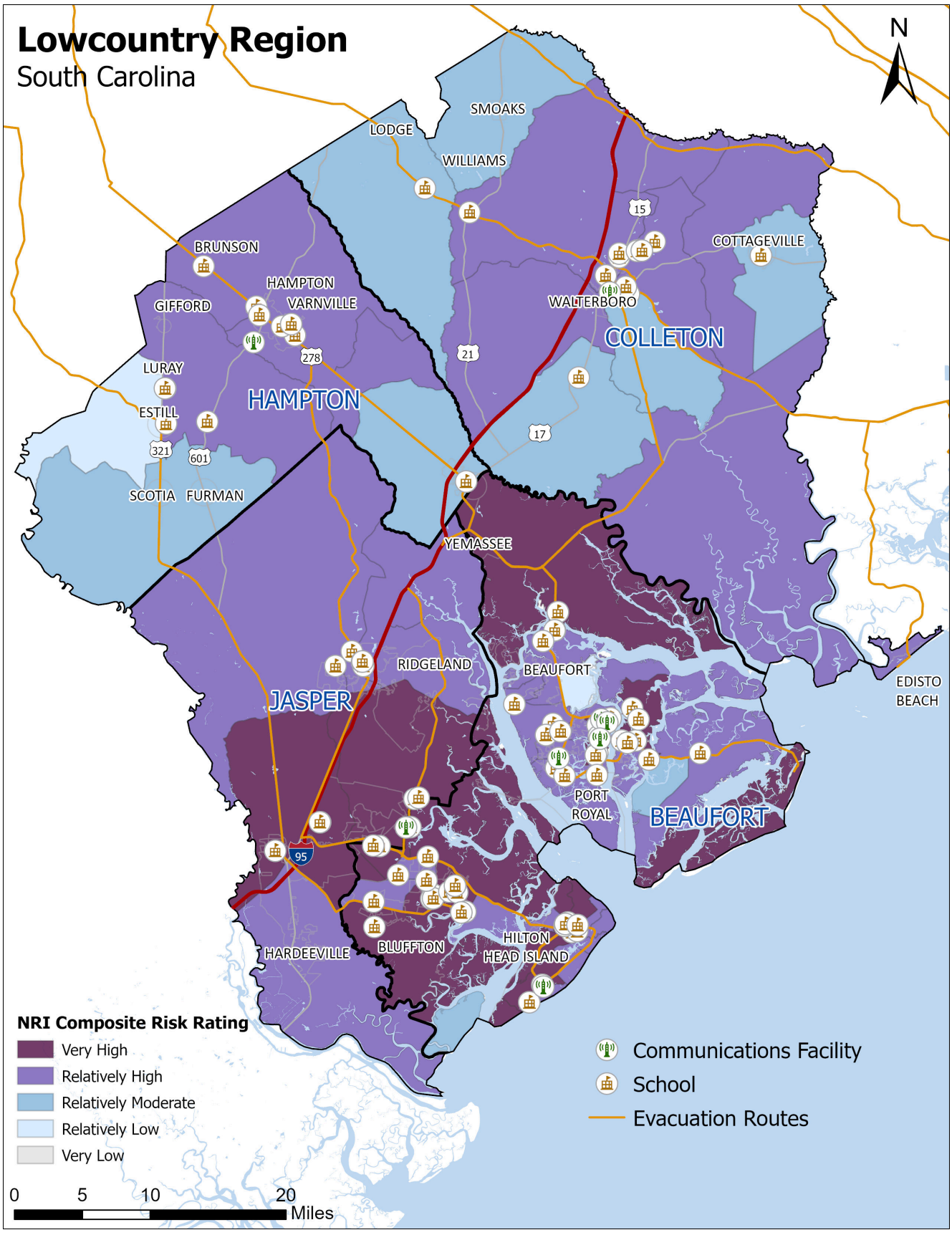
Source: HAZUS-MH and Counties' Database

Figure 4-20: Emergency Services



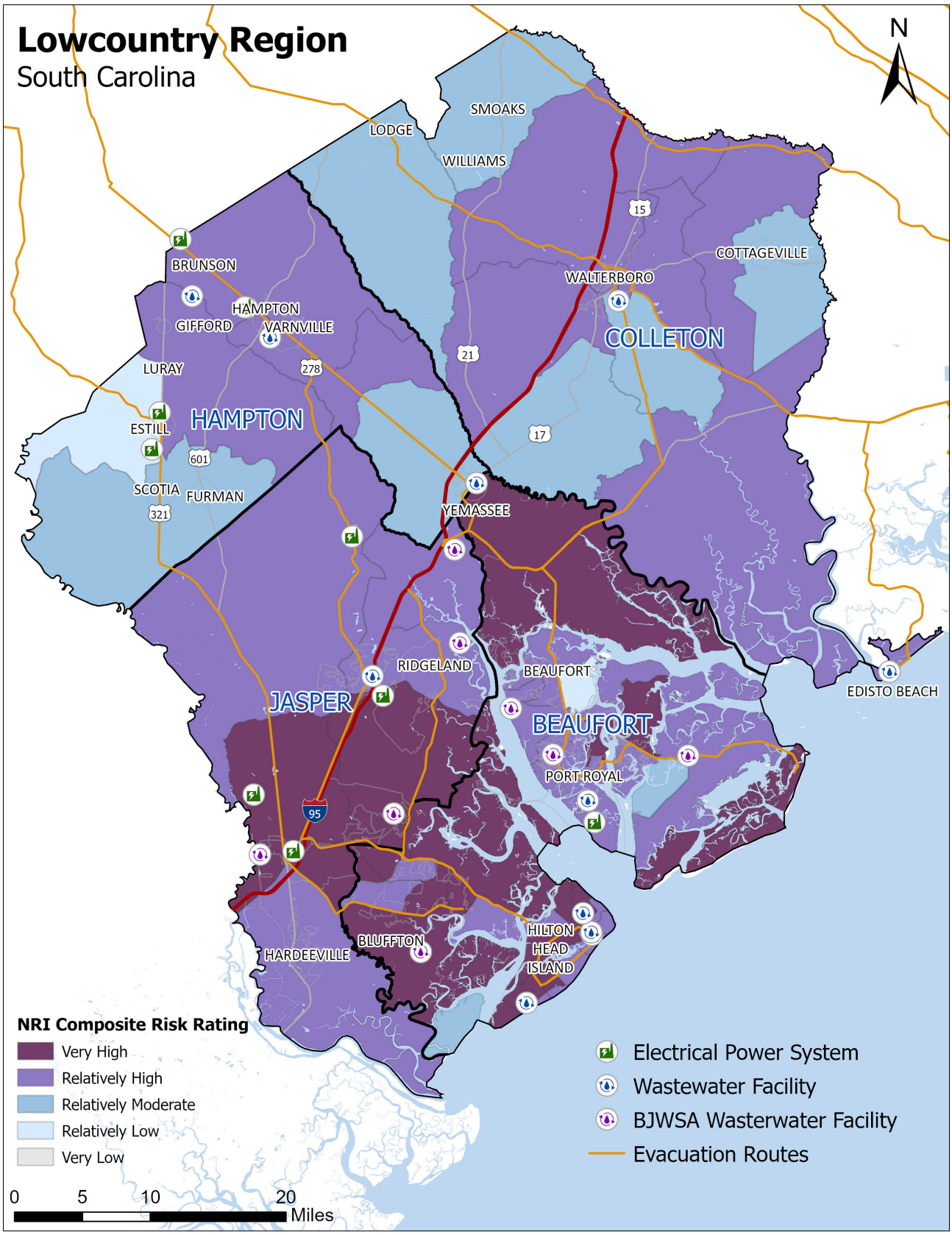
Source: HAZUS-MH and Counties' Database

Figure 4-21: Communication Stations and Schools



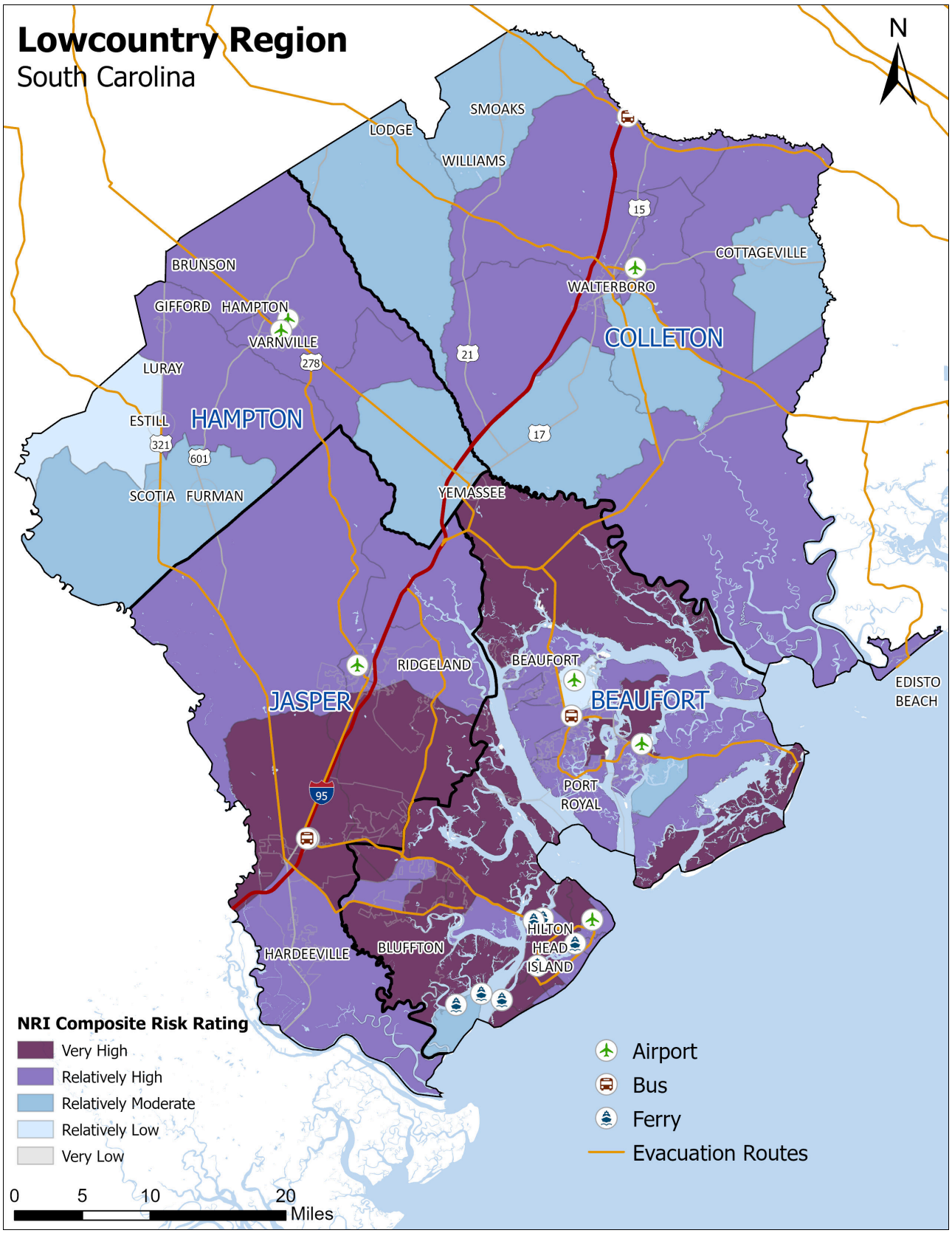
Source: HAZUS-MH and Counties' Database

Figure 4-22: Wastewater Treatment and Electrical Facilities



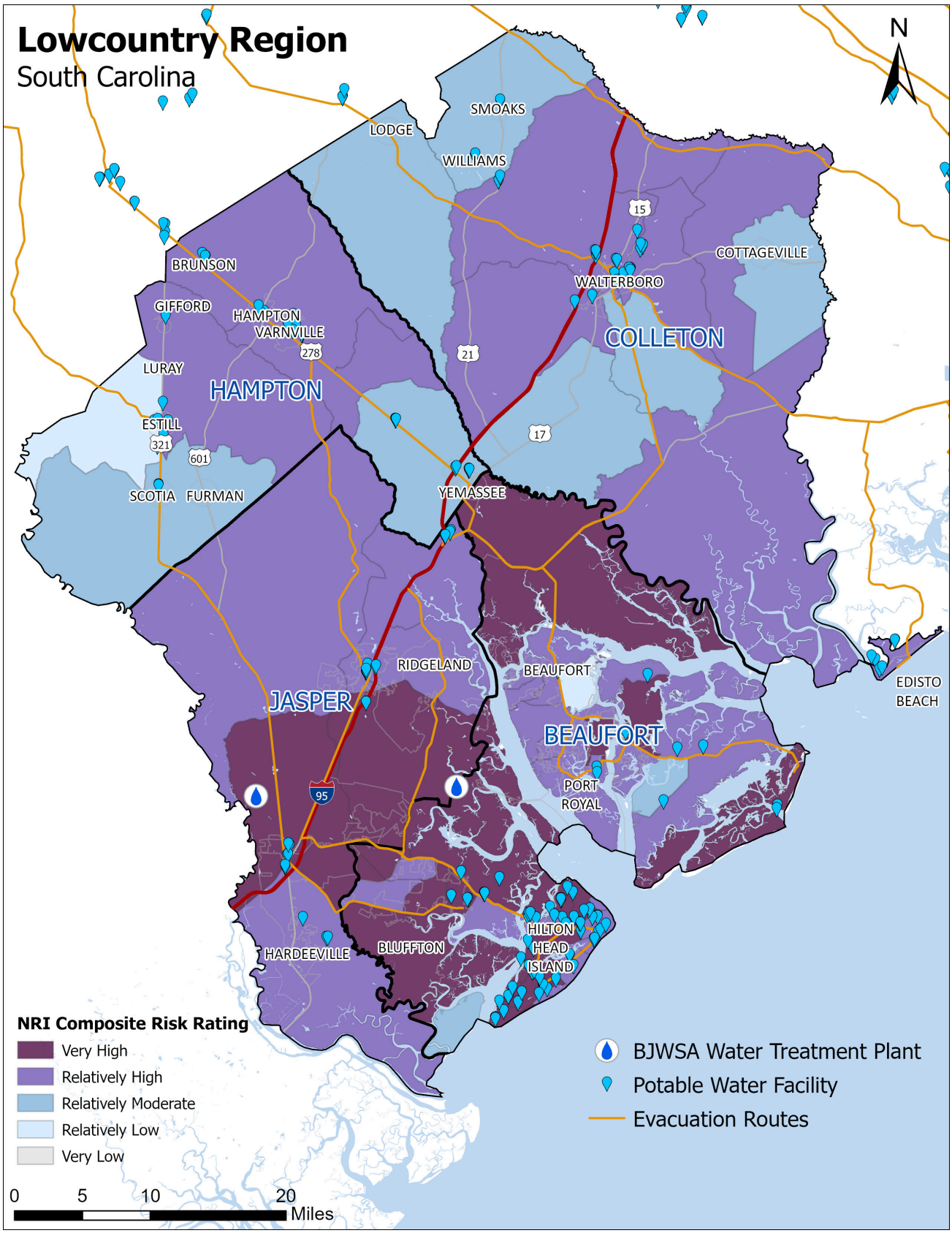
Source: HAZUS-MH and Counties' Database

Figure 4-23: Transportation Facilities



Source: HAZUS-MH and Counties' Database

Figure 4-24: Potable Water Facilities



Source: HAZUS-MH and Counties' Database

SECTION 5: COMMUNITY CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

This section provides an overview of counties and corresponding jurisdictions' efforts in incorporating the current hazard mitigation plan into other various policies, plans, and ordinances. These include, but are not limited to Comprehensive Plans, Zoning Ordinances, Land Use Plans, and Flood Mitigation Plans.

5.1 EXISTING DEPARTMENTS, POLICIES, PLANS, AND ORDINANCES REVIEW

Department Capability Review

Table 5-1 lists all county and municipal departments directly involved in hazard mitigation. These include fire or emergency medical service, police, planning, community and economic development, and public works departments. All four counties have departments with relative functions to hazard mitigation, while not all municipalities have all departments in place. However, municipalities, especially with small populations, receive services through their corresponding counties or other agencies.

Table 5-1: County and Municipality Departments Review

Jurisdictions	Fire/EMS	Police	Planning/ C&ED	Public Works/ Facilities
Beaufort County	✓	✓	✓	✓
City of Beaufort	✓	✓	✓	✓
Town of Bluffton	✓	✓	✓	✓
Town of Hilton Head Island	✓		✓	✓
Town of Port Royal	✓	✓	✓	✓
Colleton County	✓	✓	✓	✓
Town of Cottageville	✓	✓		
Town of Edisto Beach	✓	✓	✓	✓
Town of Lodge	✓			
Town of Smoaks	✓			
City of Walterboro	✓	✓	✓	✓
Town of Williams	✓			
Hampton County	✓	✓	✓	✓
Town of Brunson	✓	✓		
Town of Estill	✓	✓		✓
Town of Furman		✓		
Town of Gifford	✓	✓		
Town of Hampton	✓	✓		✓
Town of Luray				
Town of Scotia				
Town of Varnville	✓	✓		
Town of Yemassee	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jasper County	✓	✓	✓	✓
City of Hardeeville	✓	✓	✓	✓
Town of Ridgeland	✓	✓	✓	✓
Beaufort-Jasper Water Sewer Authority			✓	✓

Source: Counties and Municipalities – Website and Personal Communication

Policies, Plans, and Ordinances Review

Counties and municipalities are encouraged to incorporate the hazard mitigation plan into their policies, plans, and ordinances. Table 5-2 identifies each jurisdiction's policies, plans, and ordinances concerning hazards, mitigation, land use, building codes, and emergency management. Note that not all policies, plans, and ordinances are mentioned and identified. Further incorporation is encouraged as this hazard mitigation plan continues to be amended and updated.

Table 5-2: Policies, Plans, and Ordinances Addressing Hazards

Jurisdictions	Policies, Plans, and Ordinances Addressing Natural Hazards	LHMP Integration	Sources
Beaufort County	Comprehensive Plan 2040*	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	Beaufort County, 2025
	Beaufort County Atlas	Not applicable	Beaufort County, 2021
	Beaufort County Long-Term Resilience Strategy*	Resilience directly relates to LHMP goals.	Beaufort County, 2024
	Southern Lowcountry Stormwater Design Manual*	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	Beaufort County, 2020
	Green Print Plan*	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	Beaufort County, 2020
	Northern Beaufort County Regional Plan*	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	Beaufort County, n.d.-a
	Southern Beaufort County Regional Plan*	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	Beaufort County, n.d.-b
	Okatie River Watershed Management Plan 2015	Not applicable	Beaufort County, 2002
	Stormwater Management Plan 2024	Not applicable	Beaufort County, 2024
	Daufuskie Island Plan 2018	Not applicable	Beaufort County, 2018
	Battery Creek Watershed Management Plan 2013	Not applicable	Beaufort County, 2013
	Disaster Recovery Plan 2026*	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	Beaufort County, 2026
	Beaufort County Adapts*	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	SC Sea Grant, 2024
	Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance 2020*	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-a
	Disaster Recovery Ordinance 2026*	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-a
	Community Development Code 2020	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-b

Jurisdictions	Policies, Plans, and Ordinances Addressing Natural Hazards	LHMP Integration	Sources
	Beaufort County Green Space Program*	Not applicable	Municode Library, 2022
	All ICC Building Codes without amendments	Not applicable	LCOG, 2015a
	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
	Community Rating System (CRS)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2019b
City of Beaufort	2021 Comprehensive Plan*	Entire LHMP included by reference	City of Beaufort, 2021
	Historic Preservation Manual 2022	Not applicable	City of Beaufort, 2008
	King Street Drainage Project	Not applicable	City of Beaufort, 2026
	Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2025-2026*	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	City of Beaufort, 2026
	Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance 2021	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-c
	Beaufort Development Code 2018	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-c
	Zoning Ordinance 2020 (updating in progress 2025-2026)	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-c
	All ICC Building Codes with amendments	Not applicable	LCOG, 2015a
	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
	Community Rating System (CRS)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2019b
Town of Bluffton	Blueprint Bluffton Comprehensive Plan*	Entire LHMP included by reference	Town of Bluffton, 2022
	Bluffton Resilience Planning Final Report*	Resilience directly relates to LHMP goals.	Town of Bluffton, 2025
	May River Watershed Action Plan 2020*	Not applicable	Town of Bluffton, 2020
	Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance 2020	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-d
	Emergency Permitting Procedures Ordinance 2020	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-d
	Unified Development Ordinance 2020	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-d
	All ICC Building Codes without amendments	Not applicable	LCOG, 2015a
	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
Town of Hilton Head Island	Comprehensive Plan 2020-2040*	Entire LHMP included by reference	Town of Hilton Head, 2020
	Broad Creek Management Plan 2002*	Not applicable	Town of Hilton Head, 2020
	Beach Management Plan 2017*	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	Town of Hilton Head, 2017

Jurisdictions	Policies, Plans, and Ordinances Addressing Natural Hazards	LHMP Integration	Sources
	Fire Rescue Strategic Plan 2024-2026*	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	Town of Hilton Head, 2024
	Flood Resilience Assessment (SWOT)*	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	Town of Hilton Head, 2025
	Beach Renourishment Project 2025-2026	Not applicable	Town of Hilton Head, 2025
	Strategic Action Plan 2026-2028*	Not applicable	Town of Hilton Head, 2025
	Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan*	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	Town of Hilton Head, 2026
	Disaster Recovery Plan*	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	Town of Hilton Head, 2026
	Flood Damage Controls Ordinance	Not applicable	Code of Ordinances, 15-9
	Land Management Ordinance 2014	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-e
	All ICC Building Codes without amendments	Not applicable	LCOG, 2015a
	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
	Community Rating System (CRS)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
Town of Port Royal	Comprehensive Plan 2030*	Entire LCHMP included by reference	Town of Port Royal, 2021
	Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance	Not applicable	Code of Ordinances, 9
	All ICC Building Codes without amendments	Not applicable	LCOG, 2015a
	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
	Community Rating System (CRS)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2019b
Colleton County	Comprehensive Plan 2030*	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	Colleton County, 2020
	Floodplain Management	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	Colleton County, 2022
	Emergency Operations Plan 2026*	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	Colleton County, 2026
	Floodplain Ordinance 2008	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-g
	Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance 2018	Not Applicable	Municode, n.d.-g
	Zoning Ordinance 2018	Not Applicable	Municode, n.d.-g
	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not Applicable	FEMA, 2020e
	Community Rating System (CRS)	Not Applicable	FEMA, 2019b

Jurisdictions	Policies, Plans, and Ordinances Addressing Natural Hazards	LHMP Integration	Sources
Town of Cottageville	Comprehensive Plan 2003	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	Town of Cottageville, 2003
	Building Code Amendment 2006	Not applicable	eCodeALP, n.d.
	Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance	Not applicable	eCodeALP, n.d.
	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
Town of Edisto Beach	Comprehensive Plan 2023*	Entire LHMP included by reference	Town of Edisto Beach, 2023
	Coastal Storm Risk Management*	Not applicable	Town of Edisto Beach, 2022
	Flooding and Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment*	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	Sea Grant, 2021
	Interior Lagoon Study*	Not applicable	Town of Edisto Beach, 2024
	Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plan 2017*	Entire LHMP included by reference	Town of Edisto Beach, 2017
	Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance 2020	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-h
	Zoning Ordinance 2020	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-h
	Land Development and Subdivision Regulations	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-h
	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
	Community Rating System (CRS)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
Town of Lodge	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
Town of Smoaks	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
City of Walterboro	Comprehensive Plan 2030	Entire LHMP included by reference	City of Walterboro, 2022
	Unified Development Ordinances 2019	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-i
Town of Williams	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
Hampton County	Comprehensive Plan 2009 (2040 Plan in Progress)*	Entire LHMP included by reference	Hampton County, 2009
	Unified Land Development Ordinance 1994 (Updated 2024)	Not applicable	Hampton County, 2024
	Stormwater Management and Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance 2003	Not applicable	Hampton County, 2003
	Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance 2012	Not applicable	Hampton County, 2012
	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
Town of Brunson	Comprehensive Plan 2000	Not applicable	Town of Brunson, n.d.-b

Jurisdictions	Policies, Plans, and Ordinances Addressing Natural Hazards	LHMP Integration	Sources
	Zoning and Land Management Ordinance	Not applicable	Town of Brunson, n.d.
	Emergency Response Plan	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	Town of Brunson, n.d.-b
	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
Town of Estill	Comprehensive Plan 2010	Not applicable	Town of Estill, 2010
	Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance 2012.	Not applicable	Town of Estill, 2012
	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
Town of Furman	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
Town of Gifford	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
Town of Hampton	Comprehensive Plan 2022*	Entire LHMP included by reference	Town of Hampton, 2022
	Flood Prevention Ordinance 2013	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-j
	Zoning Ordinance 2013	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-j
	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
Town of Luray	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
Town of Scotia	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
Town of Varnville	Comprehensive Plan 2012 (2026 Comp Plan in Progress)*	Entire LHMP included by reference	Town of Varnville, 2012
	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
Town of Yemassee	Comprehensive Plan 2005	Not applicable	LCOG, 2015a
	Zoning Ordinances 2023	Not applicable	Town of Yemassee, 2023
	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
Jasper County	Comprehensive Master Plan 2018*	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	Jasper County, 2018
	Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance 2015-2016	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-k
	Zoning Ordinance 2017	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-k
	Emergency Operations Plan 2020*	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	Jasper County, 2020
	Land Development Regulation 2020	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-k
	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
City of Hardeeville	Comprehensive Plan 2019 (Update in Progress)*	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	City of Hardeeville, 2019
	Strategic Plan 2024	Not applicable	City of Hardeeville, 2024

Jurisdictions	Policies, Plans, and Ordinances Addressing Natural Hazards	LHMP Integration	Sources
	Hardeeville Municipal Hub Concept Plan	Not applicable	City of Hardeeville, 2021
	Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance 2020	No applicable	Municode, n.d.-l
	Municipal Zoning and Development Ordinance	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-l
	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
Town of Ridgeland	Comprehensive Plan 2025*	Entire LHMP included by reference	Town of Ridgeland, 2025
	Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance 2019	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-m
	Zoning Ordinance 2019	Not applicable	Municode, n.d.-m
	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Not applicable	FEMA, 2020e
LCOG	Military Installation Review at Shell Point	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	LCOG, 2025
	Military Installation Resiliency Review	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	LCOG, 2021
	Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan*	Entire LHMP included by reference	LCOG, 2026
Beaufort-Jasper Water Sewer Authority	Technical Specifications Manual	Not applicable	BJWSA, 2009
	FY 2022 Sustainability Report*	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	BJWSA, 2022
	BJSWA Board Handbook – Emergency Procedures and Powers	Applicable excerpts from LHMP included in this plan	BJWSA, 2022, Article X
	Development Policy and Procedure Manual	Not applicable	BJWSA, 2024
	2025 Master Plan*	Entire LHMP included by reference	BJWSA, 2025
	Cherry Point & Purrysburg Water Treatment Plant Expansions	Not applicable	BJWSA, 2024 & 2025
	Go2Sewer for a Cleaner Stoney Creek	Not applicable	BJWSA, 2026
Statewide	Strategic Statewide Resilience and Risk Reduction Plan	Resilience directly relates to LHMP goals	SCOR, 2023
	South Carolina State Hazard Mitigation Plan*	Entire LHMP included by reference	SCEMD, 2023
	South Carolina Resilient Coastal Communities Collaborative Program	Not applicable	SCOR, 2023

Jurisdictions	Policies, Plans, and Ordinances Addressing Natural Hazards	LHMP Integration	Sources
	South Carolina Lowcountry Sentinel Landscape	Not applicable	Sentinel Landscapes, 2023

Source: Counties and Municipalities – Website and Personal Communication

***Plans or reports that reference, share goals, share actions, or support strategies of the Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Community capabilities vary across the Lowcountry region in terms of resources, staffing levels, and technical expertise. This is especially true in differences between local governments in rural areas with smaller populations compared to larger, urban communities. In Colleton County, the Towns of Lodge, Smoaks, and Williams do not have applicable land use, zoning, or building code capabilities and operate under the County's capabilities. Similarly, in Hampton County, the Towns of Furman, Gifford, Luray, and Scotia do not have applicable land use, zoning, or building code capabilities and operate under the County's capabilities. The County governments support municipalities as needed Planning initiatives related to mitigation are limited in these rural communities leading to plans being expired or are outdated. Colleton and Hampton Counties are in the process of finalizing and adopting updated comprehensive plans that will include chapters focused on resiliency. It is encouraged that all communities keep hazard mitigation as a part of community decision-making by recommending the incorporation of mitigation actions as part of operational and capital planning. If needed, state partners and the LCOG are available for assistance in planning, technical support, and training to maintain necessary mitigation capabilities. When possible, communities pursue building code regulations developed by recognized agencies establishing minimum building requirements for safety such as structural requirements for wind, earthquake, flood, and fire protection. Additionally, building codes and land use suffer the same deficiencies in terms of resources, staffing levels, and technical expertise. This is especially critical in the region's high-growth areas where it is challenging for staff to keep building codes up with the amount of growth and development taking place.

5.2 NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM, REPETITIVE LOSS PROPERTIES, AND SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

All four counties participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), as do several municipalities (Table 5-3). If communities participate in the Community Rating System (CRS), they receive discounts on the NFIP premiums. In addition to selected municipalities, Beaufort and Colleton Counties including all unincorporated areas participate in the CRS.

CRS Premium Discounts by Class and Flood Zone			
Class	Discount	Class	Discount
1	45%	6	20%
2	40%	7	15%
3	35%	8	10%
4	30%	9	5%
5	25%	10	-

Another way to monitor the flood hazard is to identify the number of properties that filed multiple flood insurance claims for repeated flooding. Properties experiencing repetitive loss have filed flood insurance claims of more than $1,000 that were then paid by the NFIP within a rolling window of 10 years. Reducing the number of properties with repetitive loss is part of the overall flood mitigation strategy for the state. Maintaining compliance under the NFIP is essential. All participating jurisdictions have identified actions to remain compliant in the NFIP. These include but are not limited to:

- Adoption and enforcement of floodplain management requirements for new construction and substantial/non-substantial improvements. Permits are required for all types of development in the floodplain.
- Standard operating procedures for how communities receive, maintain, store, and provide copies of elevation certificates. Elevation certificates are maintained on file and are required to be submitted for all structures built in Special Flood Hazard Areas.
- Adoption of higher regulatory standards, to include higher freeboard requirements, local drainage protection, enforcing strict limits on development of beachfront properties, and elevated administrative tracking of all activities within special flood hazard areas.
- Adoption of a new floodplain map, adoption of letter of map revisions, and flood maps available to the public both online and in-person.
- Resources for community assistance distributed through a mailing list, or on the Floodplain Management Department or Emergency Management Department websites. These include, but are not limited to annual flood prevention information, participation in the NFIP and CRS, map determinations, FIRM, elevation certificates, and beneficial function of the floodplain.
- Monitoring the effects of the changing environment to evaluate and improve protection for local infrastructure and citizens.

Substantial Damage Assessments provide a systematic process for identifying structures that have sustained significant damage from flooding or other hazards and determining whether repairs or reconstruction must comply with current floodplain management and building requirements. This process helps communities reduce repetitive losses, improve the resilience of vulnerable structures, and ensure that post-disaster recovery does not increase future hazard risk.

Table 5-3: Communities Participating in the National Flood Insurance Program

	Current Effective Map Date	Community Rating System Class (% Discount)	Number of Repetitive Loss Properties			
			Total (severe repetitive loss*)	Residential	Non-Residential	Commercial
Beaufort County	03/23/2021	5 (25)	232 (5)	226	2	4
City of Beaufort	03/23/2021	6 (20)	19 (1)	16	3	-
Town of Bluffton	03/23/2021	-	1	1	-	-
Town of Hilton Head Island	03/23/2021	5 (25)	82 (2)	77 (2)	5	-
Town of Port Royal	03/23/2021	9 (5)	-	-	-	-
Colleton County	12/21/2017	8 (10)	16 (1)	16	-	-
Town of Cottageville	12/21/2017	-	-	-	-	-
Town of Edisto Beach	12/21/2017	7 (15)	50 (2)	50	-	-
City of Walterboro	12/21/2017	-	1	1	-	-
Town of Williams	12/21/2017	-	-	-	-	-
Hampton County	09/29/2010	-	1	1	-	-
Town of Brunson	09/29/2010	-	-	-	-	-
Town of Estill	09/29/2010	-	-	-	-	-
Town of Furman	09/29/2010	-	-	-	-	-
Town of Gifford	09/29/2010	-	-	-	-	-
Town of Hampton	09/29/2010	-	1	1	-	-
Town of Luray	09/29/2010	-	-	-	-	-
Town of Scotia	09/29/2010	-	-	-	-	-
Town of Varnville	09/29/2010	-	-	-	-	-
Town of Yemassee	03/23/2021	-	-	-	-	-
Jasper County	10/18/2019	-	11	9	2	-
City of Hardeeville	10/18/2019	-	4	4	-	-
Town of Ridgeland	10/18/2019	-	3	2	1	-

Note: Data as of 12/9/2024 or best available, Counties include unincorporated areas

*All severe repetitive loss properties are residential

Source: OpenFEMA Dataset: NFIP Multiple Loss Properties and jurisdiction database

Beaufort County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and enforces FEMA-compliant floodplain management regulations. The County's first Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) was adopted in 1977, and the current regulatory maps became effective in 2021. The Floodplain Manager leads the Substantial Damage Assessment process and ensures compliance with requirements for substantially damaged or substantially improved structures, defined as work equaling or exceeding 50 percent of a structure's market value based on cumulative permit activity for 10 years. Critical development must be elevated to the 500-year flood elevation or the highest known historical flood level, and structures within Coastal High Hazard Areas must meet all applicable building code standards. The County Administrator, or their designee, administers and implements the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, including evaluating permit applications and conducting damage assessments using FEMA's Residential Substantial Damage

Estimator (RSDE) software. Following any damaging event, the Floodplain Manager conducts preliminary and detailed assessments for all affected structures within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) to determine whether damages meet the substantial damage threshold. Upon determination, property owners are notified and structures must be brought into compliance with current FEMA NFIP requirements and adopted building code requirements related to flood damage prevention.

The City of Beaufort has adopted the NFIP Ordinance, adopted the Firm Rate Maps, and agreed to enforce floodplain regulations. The City of Beaufort's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance designates the City Manager or his/her designee with the responsibility of the enforcement of the ordinance. The City Manager has designated the Building Official as the assessment team coordinator. The Building Official leads the Substantial Damage Assessment team to the areas which have been identified by earlier assessments, needing further assessment. The Substantial damage assessment team will perform field assessments of the damage. The information gathered in the field will be entered into the FEMA's Substantial Damage Estimator tool (SDE) software to determine if the damage equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. Once a property has been identified as exceeding 50% of the market value, the process of notifying the property owner to provide the next steps that are required to comply with the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. If the City of Beaufort becomes overwhelmed by the amount of heavily damaged properties, additional resources can be requested through the State Coordinating office or through an agreement entered with other communities.

The Town of Bluffton has adopted the NFIP Ordinance, adopted the FIRM Rate Map, and enforce floodplain regulation. The Town of Bluffton's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance designates the Town Manager or designee is responsible for enforcement of the ordinance. The position identified leads the Substantial Damage Assessment team within their community. Perform an assessment of damage from any origin to the structure using FEMA's Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) software to determine if the damage equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. If the community is overwhelmed, additional resources will be requested through the State Coordinating Office or through an agreement entered into with another community.

The Town of Hilton Head Island participates in the NFIP and has adopted higher regulatory standards, including a freeboard higher than the NFIP minimum requirement. These standards are applicable to all structures within town limits regardless of flood zone as indicated by the current FIRMs. The Floodplain Administrator, as the Town Manager's designee, is responsible for the enforcement of the Flood Damage Controls Ordinance and ensures compliance with requirements for substantially damaged or substantially improved structures, defined as work equaling or exceeding 49 percent of a structure's fair market value. The Town's Building Official leads the Substantial Damage Assessment Teams within the community following any damaging event. Damage Assessment teams perform preliminary and detailed assessments for all affected structures. The data collected during the detailed assessments is entered into FEMA's Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) software to determine whether damaged structures meet the substantial damage threshold. If the community is overwhelmed, additional resources will be requested through the State Coordinating Office or through an agreement entered with another community.

The Town of Port Royal has adopted the NFIP Ordinance, adopted the FIRM Rate Map, and enforces

floodplain regulations. The Town of Port Royal's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance designates the town manager or designee is responsible for enforcement of the ordinance. The position identified leads the Substantial Damage Assessment team within their community. Perform an assessment of damage from any origin to the structure using FEMA's Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) software to determine if the damage equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. Completed forms are forwarded to Beaufort County. If the community is overwhelmed, additional resources will be requested through the State Coordinating Office or through an agreement entered into with another community.

Colleton County has adopted the NFIP Ordinance, adopted the FIRM Rate Map, and enforces floodplain regulations. Colleton County's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance designates the Colleton County Planning and Development Director, the Floodplain Administrator, Certified Floodplain Manager or the director's designee is responsible for enforcement of the ordinance. The position identified leads the Substantial Damage Assessment team within their community. Perform an assessment of damage from any origin to the structure using FEMA's Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) software to determine if the damage equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. Damaged assessment information gathered is entered into SCEMD Palmetto Mobile Damage Assessment Tool. If the community is overwhelmed, additional resources will be requested through the State Coordinating Office or through an agreement entered into with another community.

The Town of Cottageville has adopted the NFIP Ordinance, adopted the FIRM Rate Map, and enforces floodplain regulations. The Town of Cottageville's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance designates the Town Clerk or designee is responsible for enforcement of the ordinance. The position identified leads the Substantial Damage Assessment team within their community. Perform an assessment of damage from any origin to the structure using FEMA's Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) software to determine if the damage equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. Completed forms are forwarded to Colleton County. If the community is overwhelmed, additional resources will be requested through the State Coordinating Office or through an agreement entered into with another community.

The Town of Edisto Beach has adopted the NFIP Ordinance, adopted the FIRM Rate Map, and enforces floodplain regulations through higher adopted standards. The Town of Edisto Beach's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance designates the Building Code Administrator as the official responsible for the enforcement of this ordinance. The Building Code Administrator leads the Substantial Damage Assessment team within the community. Damaged assessment information gathered is entered into SCEMD Palmetto Mobile Damage Assessment Tool. Substantial damage occurs when damage of any origin sustained by a structure and the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed 48% of the market value of the structure before damage occurred or two floods in ten (10) years with average damage at 24% of the structure's value. A cumulative period of five years using the same methodology for repairs, reconstruction, rehabilitation, additions, or other improvements, factors in when determining if a structure must be brought into compliance with the current Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, currently adopted Building Codes, and current Zoning Ordinance, unless certain exceptions are met. If the community is overwhelmed, additional resources will be requested through the State Coordinating Office or through an agreement entered into with another community.

The City of Walterboro has adopted the NFIP Ordinance, adopted the FIRM Rate Map, and enforces floodplain regulations. The City of Walterboro's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance designates the floodplain administration staff are responsible for enforcement and administration of the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, including floodplain development review, permitting, and compliance activities. The position identified leads the Substantial Damage Assessment team within their community. The City staff performs an assessment of damage from any origin to the structure using FEMA's Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) software to determine if the damage equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. If structures are determined to be substantially damaged, compliance with applicable floodplain management requirements is required prior to reconstruction or permitting. Completed forms are forwarded to Colleton County. If local resources become overwhelmed following a disaster event, the City may request additional assistance through the State Coordinating Office, FEMA support mechanisms, mutual aid agreements, or coordination with neighboring jurisdictions.

The City of Williams has adopted the NFIP Ordinance, adopted the FIRM Rate Map, and enforces floodplain regulations. The City of Williams's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance designates the Assistant City Manager is responsible for enforcement of the ordinance. The position identified leads the Substantial Damage Assessment team within their community. Perform an assessment of damage from any origin to the structure using FEMA's Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) software to determine if the damage equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. Completed forms are forwarded to Colleton County. If the community is overwhelmed, additional resources will be requested through the State Coordinating Office or through an agreement entered into with another community.

Hampton County has adopted the NFIP Ordinance, adopted the FIRM Rate Map, and enforces floodplain regulations. Hampton County's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance designates the Hampton County Building Official or a designee approved by the County Administrator is responsible for enforcement of the ordinance. The position identified leads the Substantial Damage Assessment team within their community. Currently the County contracts SAFEbuilt to lead floodplain management and substantial damage assessment activities. If the community is overwhelmed, additional resources will be requested through the State Coordinating Office or through an agreement entered into with another community.

The Town of Brunson has adopted the NFIP Ordinance, adopted the FIRM Rate Map, and enforces floodplain regulations. The Town of Brunson's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance designates the Hampton County Building Official is responsible for enforcement of the ordinance. The position identified leads the Substantial Damage Assessment team within their community. Perform an assessment of damage from any origin to the structure using FEMA's Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) software to determine if the damage equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. The completed forms are forwarded to Hampton County. If the community is overwhelmed, additional resources will be requested through the State Coordinating Office or through an agreement entered into with another community.

The Town of Estill has adopted the NFIP Ordinance, adopted the FIRM Rate Map, and enforce floodplain

regulation. The Town of Estill's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance designates the Hampton County Building Official is responsible for enforcement of the ordinance. The position identified leads the Substantial Damage Assessment team within their community. Perform an assessment of damage from any origin to the structure using FEMA's Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) software to determine if the damage equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. The completed forms are forwarded to Hampton County. If the community is overwhelmed, additional resources will be requested through the State Coordinating Office or through an agreement entered into with another community.

The Town of Furman has adopted the NFIP Ordinance, adopted the FIRM Rate Map, and enforce floodplain regulation. The Town of Furman's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance designates the Hampton County Building Official is responsible for enforcement of the ordinance. The position identified leads the Substantial Damage Assessment team within their community. Perform an assessment of damage from any origin to the structure using FEMA's Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) software to determine if the damage equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. The completed forms are forwarded to Hampton County. If the community is overwhelmed, additional resources will be requested through the State Coordinating Office or through an agreement entered into with another community.

The Town of Gifford has adopted the NFIP Ordinance, adopted the FIRM Rate Map, and enforce floodplain regulation. The Town of Gifford's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance designates the Hampton County Building Official is responsible for enforcement of the ordinance. The position identified leads the Substantial Damage Assessment team within their community. Perform an assessment of damage from any origin to the structure using FEMA's Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) software to determine if the damage equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. The completed forms are forwarded to Hampton County. If the community is overwhelmed, additional resources will be requested through the State Coordinating Office or through an agreement entered into with another community.

The Town of Hampton has adopted the NFIP Ordinance, adopted the FIRM Rate Map, and enforce floodplain regulation. The Town of Hampton's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance designates the Hampton County Building Official is responsible for enforcement of the ordinance. The position identified leads the Substantial Damage Assessment team within their community. Perform an assessment of damage from any origin to the structure using FEMA's Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) software to determine if the damage equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. Completed forms are forwarded to Hampton County. If the community is overwhelmed, additional resources will be requested through the State Coordinating Office or through an agreement entered into with another community.

The Town of Luray has adopted the NFIP Ordinance, adopted the FIRM Rate Map, and enforce floodplain regulation. The Town of Luray's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance designates the Hampton County Building Official is responsible for enforcement of the ordinance. The position identified leads the Substantial Damage Assessment team within their community. Perform an assessment of damage from any origin to the

structure using FEMA's Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) software to determine if the damage equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. The completed forms are forwarded to Hampton County. If the community is overwhelmed, additional resources will be requested through the State Coordinating Office or through an agreement entered into with another community.

The Town of Scotia has adopted the NFIP Ordinance, adopted the FIRM Rate Map, and enforce floodplain regulation. The Town of Scotia's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance designates the Hampton County Building Official is responsible for enforcement of the ordinance. The position identified leads the Substantial Damage Assessment team within their community. Perform an assessment of damage from any origin to the structure using FEMA's Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) software to determine if the damage equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. The completed forms are forwarded to Hampton County. If the community is overwhelmed, additional resources will be requested through the State Coordinating Office or through an agreement entered into with another community.

The Town of Varnville has adopted the NFIP Ordinance, adopted the FIRM Rate Map, and enforce floodplain regulation. The Town of Varnville's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance designates the Hampton County Building Official or his/her designee is responsible for enforcement of the ordinance. The position identified leads the Substantial Damage Assessment team within their community. Perform an assessment of damage from any origin to the structure using FEMA's Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) software to determine if the damage equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. The completed forms are forwarded to Hampton County. If the community is overwhelmed, additional resources will be requested through the State Coordinating Office or through an agreement entered into with another community.

The Town of Yemassee has adopted the NFIP Ordinance, adopted the FIRM Rate Map, and enforce floodplain regulation. The Town of Yemassee's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance designates the town clerk or their designee is responsible for enforcement of the ordinance. The position identified leads the Substantial Damage Assessment team within their community. Perform an assessment of damage from any origin to the structure using FEMA's Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) software to determine if the damage equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. Completed forms are forwarded to Beaufort County. If the community is overwhelmed, additional resources will be requested through the State Coordinating Office or through an agreement entered into with another community.

Jasper County has adopted the NFIP Ordinance, adopted the FIRM Rate Map, and enforces floodplain regulations. Jasper County's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance designates the floodplain administrator or their designee is responsible for enforcement of the ordinance. The position identified leads the Substantial Damage Assessment team within their community and performs an assessment of damage from any origin to the structure using FEMA's Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) software to determine if the damage equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. Damaged assessment information gathered is entered into SCEMD Palmetto Mobile Damage Assessment

Tool. If the community is overwhelmed, additional resources will be requested through the State Coordinating Office or through an agreement entered into with another community.

The City of Hardeeville has adopted the NFIP Ordinance, adopted the FIRM Rate Map, and enforce floodplain regulation. The City of Hardeeville's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance designates the city manager or their designee is responsible for enforcement of the ordinance. The position identified leads the Substantial Damage Assessment team within their community. Perform an assessment of damage from any origin to the structure using FEMA's Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) software to determine if the damage equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. The completed forms are forwarded to Jasper County. If the community is overwhelmed, additional resources will be requested through the State Coordinating Office or through an agreement entered into with another community.

The Town of Ridgeland has adopted the NFIP Ordinance, adopted the FIRM Rate Map, and enforce floodplain regulation. The Town of Ridgeland's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance designates the Town administrator or their designee is responsible for enforcement of the ordinance. The position identified leads the Substantial Damage Assessment team within their community. Perform an assessment of damage from any origin to the structure using FEMA's Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) software to determine if the damage equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. The completed forms are forwarded to Jasper County. If the community is overwhelmed, additional resources will be requested through the State Coordinating Office or through an agreement entered into with another community.

SECTION 6: HAZARD MITIGATION STRATEGY

This section presents the hazard mitigation goals and strategies for the counties and municipalities participating in this plan. The goals and strategies from the 2020 plan, Lowcountry Region Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, were revised based on the information from the above Sections. The update of the 2020 hazard mitigation actions is considered in the revision of these goals and strategies. Lastly, the new actions are presented here for the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan.

6.1 UPDATE OF 2020 HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS

The 2020 Plan was evaluated to identify what actions have been implemented by the respective counties and municipalities. This process provides information on what impediments caused unsuccessful implementation. This process was completed by the Steering Committee and emergency managers for all counties and municipalities.

Several actions have been completed based on the priorities and resources available to each community. Beaufort County worked with the US Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA to update Flood Insurance Rate Maps in 2021. Additionally, the County centralized information technology system to access pertinent information during a disaster event. The Town of Hilton Head Island completed the installation of Category 5 hurricane shutters and fire sprinklers at fire station facilities, Fire Rescue Headquarters, and Facilities Management buildings. The Town of Edisto Beach made significant progress by completing a Flooding and Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment in 2021. Hampton County targeted the protection of critical facilities by replacing the roof at the B.T. DeLoach Building and Emergency Operations Center in 2023. Multiple counties and municipalities continued the ongoing completion of adopting the most recent building codes, training staff to respond to hazard events, various stormwater drainage studies/ projects, public awareness of hazards via social media and training, data improvements, and resource upgrades.

The full list of hazard mitigation actions from the 2020 plan and their status can be seen in Appendix I. Actions from the 2020 plan that are considered ongoing are further classified as reoccurring, pending, or initiated in the 2026 action plan.

2020 Implementation Impediments

There are similar impediments across jurisdictions in implementing hazard mitigation actions. Some actions were not completed, deferred, or discarded mainly due to lack of funding, change to an alternative action, shortage of personnel, ineffective communication, and political will. Lack of funding leads to the competing actions' prioritization. The available funding can be diverted to the actions of higher or lower priorities. Jurisdictions also had difficulties in staff recruitment and retention. Less staff coupled with less expertise can diminish jurisdictions' capabilities to accomplish the mitigation actions. Additionally, high staff turnover leads to loss of knowledge or potentially loss progress in ongoing projects. Engaging and communicating with the public relating to hazard risk and preparedness can be challenging. Many jurisdictions have established communication procedures with successful results, changes to these procedures may take extended staff hours and draw away from other priorities. Finally, lack of political resolve may lead to unclear policy establishments and implementation of hazard mitigation action.

6.2 UPDATE OF HAZARD MITIGATION STRATEGY

The mitigation strategies below serve as the most recent update and present the forward motion of the counties and participating jurisdictions. This process was completed by the Steering Committee, with the assistance of the LCOG. These goals and strategies are consistent with those found in the previous plan.

Guiding Principles

- Bridging the unique needs and common goals of the four counties and their communities.
- Saving lives and protecting property.
- Taking a regional approach.
- Complementing the State Plan.
- Accessing funding to implement recommendations (projects and policies).

Goals and Strategies

Building from the 2020 plan, these goals and strategies were reviewed and determined to reflect regional and local needs in response to the hazards both before and after their occurrences. They are based on the information gathered throughout the planning process including the socioeconomic condition's analysis, hazards identification and vulnerability assessment, stakeholders and public input, and progress on the actions of the previous plans. All community priorities and their influence on this plan:

- Goal: A broad based statement of intent that establishes the direction for the Lowcountry Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Goals state desired outcomes for the overall implementation process.
- Strategy: Considered activities for an overall approach or method for attaining goals.
- Action: A specific approach, or project/program that aims to reduce vulnerability and risk in the impact area involving a specific entity, interest, and funding mechanism. Actions should match hazard mitigation goals.

- *Changes in Community Priorities:* Population growth and projections indicate development patterns that could influence the effects of hazards, increasing the demand for services in case of emergency. Higher exposure from building development and population growth are reflected in the Vulnerability Assessment. This trend indicates an increase of vulnerable populations including elderly, low-income, and Hispanics (language proficiency). New technology leads to the need for innovative emergency services and critical facilities. Human-caused hazards added to plan to assist in Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). These conditions have continued and expanded since the 2020 plan.
- *Changes in Hazard Conditions:* There have been more frequent hurricanes in the past five years including Hurricane Helene, Hurricane Ian, Hurricane Idalia, and Hurricane Debby**.** These hurricanes produced damage severe enough to warrant Presidential Disaster Declarations (PDD). With additional threats from rising sea levels and increasing temperatures there is a continuing need to evaluate changes. This was accounted for in the Hazard Identification process and reflected in the mitigation actions for each jurisdiction.

Below are the six new goals and thirty-one considered activities for the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan. The considered activities are used strategically to analyze a comprehensive range of actions that span all types of solutions. Using this method, jurisdictions can select actions based on their own capabilities, as well as the social, technical, and economic feasibility of the action.

Table 6-1: 2026 Hazard Mitigation Goals and Strategies

Goals	Strategies and Considered Activities
1. Protection of Structural Projects, Utilities, and other Critical Facilities and Systems from Natural Hazards	1.1 Continue to protect critical facilities both public and private (roads, bridges, water, sewer, electricity, and others) and critical services (fire, rescue, medical, and others) from natural hazard threats. 1.2 Continue to identify and schedule repairs and other improvements needed to ensure buildings are in adequate condition and with adequate equipment to function in the event of a disaster. 1.3 Inspect and assess utilities' capability and vulnerability to ensure they can handle natural disasters. 1.4 Ensure integrity of dams, levees, seawalls detention/retention basins, channel modification, retaining walls, and storm sewers. 1.5 Determine adequacy of current regional communications infrastructure and address needed improvements.
2. Enhancement of Public Education and Awareness of Natural Hazards	2.1 Develop an ongoing public communications and education program including multiple languages and a website, pamphlets, information packets, and articles in the local media. 2.2 Include information on how to respond to natural hazard threats including mitigation techniques, protective measures, and evacuation preparedness that businesses and homeowners can take. 2.3 Incorporate the use of local television channels, email, and social media, including Facebook ™ and X™ to ensure that as many segments of the population as possible are reached. 2.4 Assistance of targeted, vulnerable population.
3. Improvement of Hazard Prevention Measures Through Policies, Plans, and Regulations.	3.1 Continue efforts to revise, update, and improve plans, codes, zoning, and other mechanisms to address natural hazard mitigation, and expand on present policies to further protect the counties and incorporated municipalities (floodplains, repetitive loss areas, and others). 3.2 Continue to enforce policies and ordinances for zoning, floodplains, flood damage prevention, stormwater management, building codes, beach renourishment, and others. 3.3 Encourage participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and work toward the lowering of the CRS rating. 3.4 Continue to seek grant funding for hazard mitigation related projects and programs. 3.5 Consider more rigorous standards for hazard-resistant construction, increased regulation of construction in hazard-prone areas as well as enhanced enforcement of existing regulations.
4. Enhancement of Emergency Services through Sustained	4.1 Continue to update the Emergency Operation/Response Plan on an annual basis including information on responsible parties and contact information.

Goals	Strategies and Considered Activities
System and Technology Improvements	4.2 Maintain sufficient and up to date equipment and training for EMS, police, fire, and other departments to ensure prompt responses and the safety of residents. 4.3 Maintain warning systems, evacuation planning, and emergency response training. 4.4 Maintain safe and efficient evacuation routes – continue to cooperate with each other and SCDOT on highways connecting the counties. 4.5 Maintain sufficient and safe shelters for potential needs - should be able to accommodate all members of the area's population, including those with special medical or other needs. 4.6 Maintain the IT capabilities of local governments to ensure continuity of operations in the event of disaster, including supporting the use of centralized technology, located as far inland as possible, and developing a hosted (for instance, the "cloud") storage system. 4.7 Coordinate with the county and regional offices of the various state human services departments. 4.8 Maintain and enhance working relationships among local governments.
5. Protection of Residential, Commercial, and Culturally Significant Properties	5.1 Encourage use of innovative hazard-resistant construction techniques/materials (reinforced, impact-resistant doors, storm-resistant windows, hurricane shutters, and others). 5.2 Advise/assist property owners in retrofitting homes, businesses, and institutional facilities. 5.3 Monitor and maintain trees and branches, in public areas, at risk of breaking or falling during hazards incidents (heavy rain, wind, storm etc.) and damaging property. 5.4 Utilize currently available information and mapping to help determine the areas and magnitude of impacts from flooding and sea level rise. 5.5 Seek grants for protective measures – include elevation and property acquisition for flooding mitigation.
6. Conservation and Preservation of Natural Systems and Natural Resources	6.1 Enhance floodplain protection, habitat preservation, wetland restoration, dune protection, and forest management. 6.2 Encourage renewable energy (solar, wind, hydropower) when possible. 6.3 Protect native species and habitats through wildlife corridors, rehabilitation, and invasive species control. 6.4 Use geographic information science (GIS) and data analysis to track resource use and ecosystem health.

6.3 2026 NEW HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS

New hazard mitigation actions are based on changing conditions and the reassessment of goals and strategies of the 2026 Plan. These actions involve a specific approach or project/program aimed at hazard mitigation, involving a specific entity, interest, and funding mechanism. By identifying specific actions, the plan helps participating jurisdictions to engage in distinct actions that will reduce their exposure to future hazard events and disasters. In the event of a large-scale incident, all jurisdictions will need to work together.

Cost-Benefit Analysis

New hazard mitigation actions have been prioritized using a similar approach as the 2020 Plan. Table 6-2 explains scoring criteria used as a cost-benefit tool to further prioritize the actions. These criteria consider legal, economic, political, and environmental conditions. Each condition was ranked as either a cost or a benefit, and then scores corresponded to a high, medium, or low priority. With the highest score at 27 and the lowest at zero (0), the actions were prioritized as follows:

- High Priority: Scores greater than 20
- Medium Priority: Score between 10-19
- Low Priority: Scores less than 10

Table 6-2: Prioritization Scoring Criteria

Criteria	Numeric Score			
	0	1	2	3
Strategy Effectiveness, in Terms of Affected Structures	No effect on risk or hazard	Affects several structures within the community	Affects many structures within the community	Affects most structures within the community
Percentage of Population Benefitted	Less than 10% benefitted	10% to 15% benefitted	50% to 75% benefitted	Greater than 75% benefitted
Time to Implement	Cannot be implemented	Long term	Within one year	Immediate
Time to Impact	Cannot be implemented	Long term	Within one year	Immediate
Cost to Community	Completely unaffordable	Expensive	Inexpensive	Little to no Cost
Funding Source	No known Funding source is available	Requires outside Funding	Requires budget consideration	Within existing county budget
Cost to Others	Cost to others is unacceptable	Expensive, but manageable	Cost is easily managed by others	No cost to others
Community Support	Opposed by the entire community	Some community opposition	Acceptable only to those affected by the project	Acceptable community wide
Project Feasibility	Not possible	Accomplished with extensive design and planning	Accomplished with some design and planning	Easily accomplished

The cost-benefit review was done in which actions that have maximum benefits from their associated costs are ranked higher in priority than those that have lower benefits from their costs. Action prioritization does not indicate the level of importance. It helps to identify actions that can immediately aid in the mitigation of the most likely and dangerous natural hazards. Action prioritization was assessed based on retaining NFIP compliance. NFIP compliance is based on three basic aspects: floodplain identification and mapping, floodplain management, and flood insurance. Currently, the only Lowcountry community sanctioned under the NFIP is Smoaks.

2026 New and Ongoing Hazard Mitigation Actions

Considering current socioeconomic conditions, record of hazard incidents, and public input, each jurisdiction identified and proposed specific action(s) that, if accomplished, will reduce vulnerability and risk in the area.

Table 6-3 describes the actions associated with each goal and identifies the mitigation category for each action in that goal. By following the six goals mentioned previously, all mitigation actions reduce current and future vulnerabilities described in the risk assessment. Additionally, the steering committee made a considered effort to ensure the goals established in this plan can be categorized into four Mitigation Types recommended by FEMA and the six CRS categories of Flood Mitigation Activities (Table 6-3). The full list of the 2026 new and ongoing hazard mitigation actions is displayed in Appendix J.

Table 6-3: Goals, Categories, and Descriptions

Goals	Categories of Mitigation Actions	Description
1. Protection of Structural Projects, Utilities, and other Critical Facilities and Systems from Natural Hazards	• Structure and infrastructure projects • Structural flood control projects	These actions involve modifying existing structures and infrastructure to protect them from a hazard or remove them from a hazard area. This could apply to public or private structures as well as critical facilities and infrastructure. This type of action also involves projects to construct manmade structures to reduce the impact of hazards, such as structures that keep flood waters away from an area. Many of these types of actions are projects eligible for funding through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance program.
2. Enhancement of Public Education and Awareness of Natural Hazards	• Education and awareness programs • Public information	These are actions to advise and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them. These actions may also include participation in national programs, such as StormReady or Firewise Communities. Although this type of mitigation reduces risk less directly than structural projects or regulation, it is an important foundation. A greater understanding and awareness of hazards and risk among local officials, stakeholders, and the public is more likely to lead to direct actions.

Goals	Categories of Mitigation Actions	Description
3. Improvement of Hazard Prevention Measures Through Policies, Plans, and Regulations.	• Local plans and regulations • Preventive measures	These actions include government authorities, policies, or codes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built. Typically, these are administered by building, zoning, planning, and/ or code enforcement offices.
4. Enhancement of Emergency Services through Sustained System and Technology Improvements	• Emergency services	These actions are taken before, during, or after an emergency to minimize its impact. These measures are usually the responsibility of city or county emergency management staff and the owners or operators of major or critical facilities. These actions typically include hazard threat recognition, warning and response.
5. Protection of Residential, Commercial, and Culturally Significant Properties	• Property protection	These actions are usually undertaken by property owners on a building-by-building or parcel basis. Including activities such as relocation, building elevation, retrofitting, acquisition, sewer backup protection, or insurance.
6. Conservation and Preservation of Natural Systems and Natural Resources	• Natural systems protection • Natural resource protection	These actions preserve or restore natural areas or the natural functions of floodplain and watershed areas. They are implemented by a variety of agencies, primarily parks, recreation, or conservation agencies or organizations. Actions may focus on natural features (*e.g.*, barrier islands, sand dunes, wetlands, rivers, estuaries) and utilize nature-based approaches.

SECTION 7: PLAN MAINTENANCE

7.1 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan will be monitored, evaluated, and maintained by staff at LCOG, in cooperation with the Steering Committee. LCOG will evaluate the Plan annually, or more frequently as conditions change and modifications are needed. The Steering Committee will continue to meet once annually, or as necessary, to coordinate improvements, evaluate changes, and amend the plan as needed, over the next five years. The LCOG staff will facilitate plan evaluation meetings with the Steering Committee as needed, where topics include but are not limited to, Goals and Strategies, data and mapping, vulnerability assessment, hazard identification, community capabilities, public information plans, and mitigation actions. The effectiveness of the Plan will be evaluated using established criteria to determine whether the plan remains relevant, whether mitigation actions are being implemented as intended, and whether the plan is reducing vulnerability to identified hazards. The evaluation will consider the following criteria:

1. Mitigation Action Implementation Status
2. Progress Toward Mitigation Goals
3. Changes in Hazard Risk and Vulnerability
4. Changes in Development and Land Use
5. Changes in Community Capabilities
6. Recent Events and Impacts
7. Integration and Implementation into Local Planning Initiatives

While the mitigation actions will be completed by each individual jurisdiction, LCOG staff will assist with providing data and grant writing, when requested. Appendix K provides details on relevant federal mitigation funding sources. In coordination with the Steering Committee, LCOG's role is to:

- Facilitate Steering Committee meetings
- Notify the jurisdictions of grant opportunities
- Assist with grant writing
- Update the database of Community Mitigation Actions
- Evaluate changes to Community Mitigation Actions
- Update database of storm/hazard events
- Track changes in development
- Update general mapping
- Update socio-economic data
- Draft notices to the media and public regarding changes to the Plan or related activities

It will be the responsibility of the jurisdictions to integrate hazard mitigation planning principles included in this Plan in other local planning initiatives, such as comprehensive planning, capital improvement programs (CIP), Emergency Operations Plans, building codes, land development and zoning ordinances. If requested, LCOG will provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions to ensure new initiatives complement this Hazard Mitigation Plan. Each participating jurisdiction will review recommendations from the Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan during updates to local planning documents. The responsible staff or department will evaluate whether mitigation actions should be incorporated into these planning mechanisms based on new hazard information, completed mitigation projects, funding opportunities, and development trends. Proposed updates will be coordinated through the jurisdiction's normal plan amendment process and presented to the appropriate governing body for consideration and adoption.

7.2 UPDATING

As required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan will be updated every five years. The Plan will be thoroughly reviewed by the planning team. Unless otherwise specified, the planning team includes the same members as the steering committee (Section 1.2). The planning team is comprised of representatives from Beaufort County, City of Beaufort, Town of Bluffton, Town of Hilton Head Island, Town of Port Royal, Colleton County, Town of Edisto Beach, Hampton County, Jasper County, City of Hardeeville, Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority, and the Lowcountry Council of Governments. Other jurisdictions can be brought in as necessary. Table 7-1 provides timeframes, activities, and responsible parties for the plan update over the next five years.

Table 7-1: 5-Year Plan Update Strategy

Timeframe	Activity	Responsible Party
2026-2031	Continue plan implementation	Participating Jurisdictions
2028 – 2nd Quarter	Review planning grant options and prepare for the plan update's grant application.	Planning Team
2029 – 1st Quarter	Review the plan and determine whether or not the components of the plan need to be updated. Different aspects will be discussed. These include but are not limited to: ▪ Stakeholders and public participation – other jurisdictions and/or agencies adding to the planning team members, other stakeholders participating to the plan update, public involvement ▪ Demographic conditions – changes in the community's demographics, changes in the region's development trend ▪ Hazard Identification and Profile – new hazards affecting community, changes in hazards' location and extent, new tool or data to enhance the risk and vulnerability assessment ▪ Mitigation Strategy – modification of goals and strategies ▪ Plan implementation - obstacles or problems in the plan implementation; new local, regional, state, or federal policies influencing hazard mitigation; prioritization of the mitigation actions	Planning Team
2029 – 2030	Update the plan according to the plan review, new data, and FEMA's comments for the current plan	Planning Team, Participating Jurisdictions, Stakeholders, and the Public
2030 – 4th Quarter	Complete the draft final plan and make available to participating jurisdictions and the public for review	LCOG
2031 – 1st Quarter	Submit the final plan to SCEMD for review	LCOG
2031 – 1st Quarter	Submit the final plan to FEMA for final approval	LCOG and SCEMD
2031 – 2nd Quarter	Adopt the plan	Participating Jurisdictions

7.3 CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

As part of this plan, individual jurisdictions are responsible for year-round activities associated with public information and preparation for hazards. LCOG will facilitate an ongoing discussion for the general public utilizing social media such as Facebook and LinkedIn, that provides tips, information on potential events from the perspective of past regional storms, and other information as it becomes available. The strategy will provide an outlet for engagement from the community about hazard mitigation between plan updates. A web page is also set up on the Lowcountry Council of Governments' website to highlight community aspects of this plan and will be updated as needed. A PDF version of this Plan is also available via the LCOG's website.

APPENDIX A – MEETINGS

APPENDIX A-1: STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

First Meeting

Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
Steering Committee Meeting 1
Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 2:00 p.m. EST

Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86878155017?pwd=AY3z7aVQi6rR3BeSyr0GP1XLK6tAC0.1
Meeting ID: 868 7815 5017
Passcode: 652052

Meeting Minutes

1. Attendees

   Chris Ramm, LCOG, Stephanie Rossi, LCOG, Maleena Parkey, LCOG, Andrew Cocchiara, LCOG, Kate Gill, LTRG for Beaufort, Jasper, Hampton, Tyler Spires, SCEMD, Christine Burroughs, SCEMD, Anthony Williams, SCEMD, Cheyenne Peifer, Beaufort, County, Juliana Zadik, Beaufort County, Matt Krause, Beaufort County, Christopher Klement, City of Beaufort, Bruce Skipper, City of Beaufort, Shari Mendrick, Town of Hilton Head, Tom Dunn, Town of Hilton Head, Michelle Mealer, Town of Hilton Head, Noah Krepps, Town of Port Royal, Brooke Plank-Buccola, Town of Port Royal, Dan Wilson, Town of Port Royal, Michael Banks, Colleton County, Heather Spade, Colleton County, Patrick Brown, Town of Edisto Beach, Morgan Viars, Town of Edisto Beach, Susanne Peeples, Hampton County EM, Neil Parsons, City of Hardeeville, Chris Yates, City of Hardeeville, Taylor Logan, BJWSA, Matt Slagel, SC Sea Grant Consortium.

2. Purpose of the Steering Committee
   - Chris Ramm ran through the committee's purpose and why the committee meetings are held. It is a requirement through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Community Rating System (CRS) program through the Hazard Mitigation Policy Guide and CRS Coordinators Manual. The committee's purpose is to assist with plan guidance throughout the update process as needed. The committee will assist with public communication, including public surveys, public comment periods, and the Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG) will certainly need their assistance to ensure that they reach the full Lowcountry population. The committee will assist with implementation of the plan's recommendations going forward.

3. Plan Update Progress Report

- Chris showed the HMP Plan Outline. The current plan expires on June 28, 2026. The main goal is to get the current plan done as quickly and thoroughly as possible while also maximizing CRS credits. He walked through the seven sections in the outline, as well as the 10 CRS steps.
- Chris gave a quick recap on what LCOG has been working on so far. The kickoff meeting with South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) occurred on December 15, 2025, the steering committee has been established, and the public survey has been opened and will close on January 31, 2026. There have been over 400 total responses received online. LCOG has reached the final stages of the hazard risk assessment (section 3, Hazard Identification & Profile). This is the largest section in the plan; the data and mapping are currently being updated for each of the 12 hazards listed under Section 3.
    - LCOG had the recommendation from the steering committee of including human-caused hazards for this plan update. Terrorism, cyber-attack, and hazardous materials will be drafted.
- Tom Dunn commented on human-caused hazards. Part of the Town of Hilton Head's accreditation process is to cover the human-caused hazards in the Hazard Mitigation Plan. When they were accredited the previous time, they had to write a separate document to cover that. Including the human-caused hazard section is of great benefit. Chris replied that it won't be much of an issue, as LCOG goes through the same process as natural hazards with the human-caused hazards, with identification, characteristics, extent, historical occurrences, etc.
- The State's Hazard Mitigation Plan was updated in 2023, so LCOG has been going through that to make sure their plan matches the state's.
- The first public meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2026. This will be the first of two rounds of public meetings. LCOG is hoping to display survey results and preliminary hazard assessment results.
- Matt Krause asked if a separate public meeting was needed for each participating county. Chris said they can have as many public meetings as they want, as long as they are located in any of the participating jurisdictions. Cheyenne Peifer asked where the public meeting was scheduled to be. Chris said it will be at the LCOG office, Kate Gill asked where the office is. Chris said Yemassee by Point South, and he will send out the flyer with the necessary information after the meeting. Cheyenne asked to confirm that people within the steering committee need to be present at the public meetings. Chris answered these meetings are separate from the committee meetings, so he doesn't believe they have to show up, they just need to be publicly broadcasted for people to have the opportunity to reach them.

4. <u>Remaining Tasks</u>
    - LCOG has been working on Vulnerability assessment with data collection and analysis. The capability assessment with all existing plans, studies, ordinances, etc. related to hazard mitigation, will be sent out for review in the future. The steering committee will need to update goals, strategies and actions.

- Chris will send out two items after the meeting for each municipality to review: the emergency managers survey and the mitigation actions update (actions included in the 2020 plan looking for status update or addition of new actions). Chris will be available for individual meetings or site visits as needed.
- Finally, the Plan Maintenance for the 2031 update will be finalized.

5. Action Items & Next Steps
   - The EM survey and Actions update will be sent out to committee members and returned by February 13th.
     a. Future Meeting Schedule and proposed monthly committee meetings.
     b. The committee agreed with the meeting schedule.

6. Questions & Open Discussion
   - Shari Mendrick asked if we need the new plan at council and adopted by the expiration date of the 2020 plan? Chris said not necessarily if there is some draft in process or review, it shouldn't be an issue. There was a 3-month lag in the previous plan. Christine Burroughs said the goal is to get the plan completed prior to expiration. As soon as the plan is all good, get it adopted then, because in order for the plan to be approved by FEMA, there needs to be at least one adoption. The adoptions can then be sent to FEMA to quicken the time for approval.
   - Shari expressed concern because sometimes it can take a long time to get on town council agendas. Town of Hilton Head Council will only meet once during summer months. Tyler Spires answered they would see that once the plan is done from municipality standpoints, from a time standpoint, at the state they try to review the plans in usually a couple weeks, sometimes quicker. Reviews are taking a little bit of extra time lately based on shutdowns and federal regulations, so SCEMD is still waiting on how long it's taking FEMA for review. It would ideally take FEMA 1-2 months for reviews, but due to current staffing issues, it's taking longer. Kate Gill encouraged the committee to sign an Information Sharing Access Agreement (ISAA) with FEMA to get data quicker.
   - Cheyenne Peifer said they are dealing with a FEMA plan while also trying to double that into a CRS-credited hazard mitigation plan. The last plan that got approved, all the municipalities that received credit barely met the minimum requirements. How can the planners and committee do everything they can to make sure they are hitting everything they need to with this plan? Chris replied that LCOG has looked at previous scores and deficiencies. Cheyenne wants to make sure this is being looked at as a multijurisdictional plan rather than a community-specific plan. Chris responded there are certain requirements, such as listing all municipalities, data, future probability, etc., and LCOG has been looking at where a multijurisdictional plan will satisfy a full section.
   - Tyler Spires mentioned that SCEMD leaves it up to all jurisdictions as when to adopt the plan, but to get ahead of when FEMA approval letters come in, they ask that someone adopt the plan to ratify the plan and skip the approval pending adoption phase. It would then be on every participating jurisdiction to adopt the plan. Shari asked for a timeline to be looked at

November and December for final approval? Tyler replied that it is up to jurisdictions to decide when they feel like the plan is done. SCEMD will review based on the plan review tool and what's satisfying those requirements. 6-8 months usually works fine. SCEMD will try to get the plan reviewed in the span of 1-2 weeks, then it will go to FEMA, which can take some time.

- Matt Krause mentioned that December is a hard stop for Beaufort County, county council does not meet in December which is a hard stop in adoption. He asked Tyler about the possibility of making an expedited review request. Tyler responded that for FEMA, what moves the trigger is if there is pending project funding. This gets FEMA looking at the projects quicker, and there are several projects in each of these jurisdictions. If they get closer and the state feels like it is needed, they will ask for an expedited review, but that's up for FEMA to decide.
- Cheyenne mentioned that when jurisdictions have their renewal periods each year vs their audits, they must put in a progress report. The progress report for the next renewal will coincide with this plan. She asked Tyler if he knew how this works, and he said no. She informed Chris that even with the steering committee meetings, they need to have brief minutes as well as the attendees and dates for when they do audits. Chris agreed and Tyler confirmed this is part of FEMA's requirements as well.
- Shari asked Chris asked since they are trying to do this faster, would LCOG like preliminary comments following completion of each section? Chris said we will be getting drafts completed in the coming weeks and can send them out by section. It does take time to go through with the purpose of making sure CRS points are met.
- Kate Gill said it does not make sense to be competing on meetings. She asked how to make it better in terms of getting everyone to these meetings. Chris said he is open to including any missing parties in the steering committee. Tyler said you can have first responders and other necessary staff as part of the meetings, but it is important to emphasize this is mitigation, not recovery.
- Cheyenne mentioned CRS manual Section 510; for multijurisdictional planning committee, it needs to be based on representation from the offices that implement the activities in Step 7. Section 510 goes on to talk about stormwater, first responders, etc. Combining the meetings may be a consideration.
- Shari asked about ISAA agreements with FEMA. She asked if anyone in the group had any luck getting data? She put a request last March (2025) and hasn't gotten data. Followed up 3 times. Cheyenne said she put theirs last August/September and received it in a few weeks. Kate recommended reaching out to Chris Baker out of Atlanta.
- Taylor Logan asked if it is possible or likely for a utility to be a participating jurisdiction. BJWSA's service area covers critical infrastructure and doesn't have access to certain grants since they're not participating members. Tyler said yes, they can play a part in this plan.
- Kate put an announcement for a psychological first aid training for free on February 12th from 9:00-3:00.

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7. Adjourn

Second Meeting

Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
Steering Committee Meeting 2
Thursday, February 19, 2026, 2:00 p.m. EST

Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86027775685?pwd=bNkNS4t44YzTcEbwcSneQIUk4hQTId.1

Meeting ID: 860 2777 5685
Passcode: 457912

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Chris Ramm, LCOG, Stephanie Rossi, LCOG, Andrew Cocchiara, LCOG, Kate Gill, LTRF for Beaufort, Jasper, Hampton, Tyler Spires, SCEMD, Christina Vickers, SCEMD, Cheyenne Peifer, Beaufort County, Matt Krause, Beaufort County, Juliana Zadik, Beaufort County, Beth Lewis, Town of Bluffton, Shari Mendrick, Town of Hilton Head, Tom Dunn, Town of Hilton Head, Shea Farrar, Town of Hilton Head, Noah Krepps, Town of Port Royal, Heather Spade, Colleton County, Michael Banks, Colleton County, Patrick Brown, Town of Edisto Beach, Morgan Viars, Town of Edisto Beach, Susanne Peeples, Hampton County EM, David Peterson, Jasper County, Neil Parsons, City of Hardeeville, Chris Yates, City of Hardeeville, Andrew White, SC Office of Resilience, Taylor Logan, BJW&SA, Tricia Kilgore, BJW&SA, Bob Crimian, Coastal Conservation League, Sophia Treumpi, SC Sea Grant Consortium.

Plan Timeline Update

- Chris Ramm led a presentation on agenda items.
  a. Introduction & Planning Process was held on 1/21/2026. The following items have been completed.
     i. Public survey closed January 31.
     ii. Emergency Manager survey was completed by participants.
     iii. Mitigation Actions update was completed by participants.
     iv. Public meeting 1 was held on February 12.
  b. Survey Results & Public Meeting Recap is the current meeting.

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i. Section 3 draft will be sent for review.
ii. Section 5 draft will be sent for review following Section 3.

c. Hazard & Community Capability Assessment is the next planned committee meeting for March.
    i. Drafts of section 2, 4, and 7 will be sent for review following committee meeting 3.
d. Goals & Actions is the fourth committee meeting planned for April. This will be an in-person meeting to discuss goals and actions.
    i. Public meeting 2 will be held to get input on the suggested draft plan.
e. Draft Review will be the fifth and final committee meeting planned for May.

<u>Public Survey Highlights</u>

f. Walked through the public survey results. There were 587 responses in total.
g. Hazards of concern questions.
    i. Top 3 voted for most concern were hurricane wind/rain, thunderstorm/windstorm, and extreme heat.
    ii. Bottom 3 were earthquake, wildfire and drought
h. Preparedness – most people considered their households more prepared than their community.
    i. 1/3 responded unsure or considered their community less than somewhat prepared.
i. Top three trusted information sources – people trust television broadcasts, text messages/notifications, and the websites the most. They trust social media, newspapers and emails the least.
j. Top investment priorities were government planning, evacuation warnings/support/shelters, and emergency response.
k. Residency & Floodplain questions.
    i. Almost 60% of respondents live in Beaufort County, yet over 70% reported that they are either unsure or do not live in a floodplain.
    ii. Half the respondents reported that they do not have flood insurance or are unsure if they do.
    iii. Kate Gill asked about poor communication from insurance companies, local housing trusts or civic leaders not emphasizing the need for flood insurance.
    iv. Chris Ramm replied that it's just an awareness issue of updating maps and where the floodplains are.
    v. Shari Mendrick commented that CRS communities do extensive outreach and Hilton Head has a robust outreach program.
    vi. Cheyenne Peifer said that long-term Beaufort County residents assume they are not in a floodplain because they have not seen water inundation on their lots.
l. LCOG is working to put the questions and results in an appendix. Raw data will be available upon request.

<u>Public Meeting 2/12 Recap</u>

m. First public meeting was held to gather thoughts from the public at the beginning of the planning process.
n. Hazards and event maps were on display.
    i. Some other hazards added by the public included Pandemic, Air Quality, Storm Surge and Food Insecurity.
o. Draft of Goals & Strategies were on display for input.
    i. People agreed with many of the goals.
    ii. LCOG will be working through comments received and will touch base on them in the April in-person meeting.
p. Survey Results were on display – communication of community preparedness.

Action Items & Next Steps

q. Chris will start sending out draft sections. The first section is Section 3, Hazard Identification & Profile. A link will be sent out Friday 2/20/2026. There is a three-week review period, and comments should be returned by March 13th.
    i. The section will contain updated maps, data, and events.
    ii. The Flood section, reviewers will add areas of concern for flooding.
    iii. Kate Gill asked where the links will be. Chris replied he will send an email with a link to a downloadable pdf.
r. The next section will be Section 5, the Community Capability Assessment following completion of Section 3 review.

Questions & Open Discussion

s. Kate Gill asked if committee members are allowed to invite new people. Chris replied yes, just to run it by him first. She believes the ideal level of cross communication isn't happening yet.
t. Cheyenne Peifer discussed assessments of various flood hazards mentioned in the CRS manual step 4A. She asked how to manage that with different CRS communities that have repetitive loss. Chris said repetitive loss properties were in the vulnerability section of the previous plan.
u. Tyler Spires added that FEMA wants to see acknowledgement for severe repetitive loss and location of those properties. Floodplain footprints for all jurisdictions will also be needed in maps.
v. Kate asked, how do we get to a better-shared directory? Chris replied that the plan has its own requirements and it depends on the goal of the organization is, but he would like to discuss different groups.
w. Cheyenne asked if coastal erosion has been included or will be included in the plan. Chris responded that it already has been.
x. Chris announced the next committee meeting will be dedicated to going through the hazards and making sure everything needed is there.
y. Kate put out an announcement for her LTRG meeting and a psychological first aid training.
z. Tyler reminded everyone to make sure that anybody who is going to be participating in the plan that has not shown up to a meeting yet starts participating. They must

attend the meeting and at least show up on the meeting minutes/attendance sheet to ensure they are truly participating.

Adjourn

Third Meeting

Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
Steering Committee Meeting 3
Tuesday, March 31, 2026, 1:00 p.m. EST

Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85485433280?pwd=NJN9JgVtDTPbo9yF8R4lZFb220puRt.1

Meeting ID: 854 8543 3280
Passcode: 472116

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Chris Ramm, LCOG, Stephanie Rossi, LCOG, Andrew Cocchiara, LCOG, Tyler Spires, SCEMD, Christina Vickers, SCEMD, Christine Burroughs, SCEMD, Andrew White, SCOR, Cheyenne Peifer, Beaufort County, Juliana Zadik, Beaufort County, Bruce Skipper, City of Beaufort, Christopher Klement, City of Beaufort, Beth Lewis, Town of Bluffton, Jeremy Bullock, Town of Bluffton, Shari Mendrick, Town of Hilton Head Island, Shea Farrar, Town of Hilton Head Island, Noah Krepps, Town of Port Royal, Michael Banks, Colleton County, Heather Spade, Colleton County, Morgan Viars, Town of Edisto Beach, Susanne Peeples, Hampton County EM, David Peterson, Jasper County, Neil Parsons, City of Hardeeville, Chris Yates, City of Hardeeville, Tricia Kilgore, BJW&SA, Bob Crimian, Coastal Conservation League, Sophia Truempi, SC Sea Grant Consortium.

Plan Timeline Update

- Chris Ramm led a presentation on agenda items.
    - Since the previous meeting on February 19th, Section 3 and 5 Reviews have started. Section 4 is scheduled to be released for review by the end of this week. A fourth meeting is scheduled for the end of April to discuss Section 6 Review & Adoption. Early May will consist of a second public meeting and a full draft review. Last committee meeting will be towards the end of May.

Hazard Identification & Assessment Review

- Chris Ramm started with recapping the most Section 5 Community Capabilty Assessment, the most recent section. The section had two big areas: Policies, Plans and Ordinances; and NFIP Information.
- Shari Mendrick pointed out that the same paragraph is repeated for each municipality in the NFIP area and asked if everyone should modify that paragraph based on their specific municipalities. Chris responded that if there was more to add, please do.
- Tyler Spires said that the NFIP is the primary section that EMD ends up getting feedback from FEMA on when it comes to revisions, specifically pointing out severe repetitive loss, repetitive loss properties and property types. The other portion is the substantial damage assessment process and the compliance with NFIP. In cases where municipalities have adopted something beyond the NFIP minimums, you can state that, but for most cases, if they have not, the provided language given was developed directly with FEMA and DNR. If you want to alter it, make sure the required elements remain:
  - Who is the designated physician involved with the process of the NFIP and the substantial damage assessment
  - Whether that is from an ordinance standpoint or the actual process of doing the substantial damage assessment.
- The process itself needs to be listed at the end of the paragraph:
  - What do you do once you started the substantial damage assessment process
  - Who was in charge of that
  - What do they do with info
  - How info is collected

- Chris then walked through the other section reviewed, Section 3 Hazard Assessment. The first one was a rough draft. Chris reviewed common comments, pointing out that each hazard had the notable events listed out that took place in recent years, broken down by municipality (2020-2024). Chris moved those descriptions to Section 4 because it better lined up with the loss tables and is open to moving it back.
- Another inconsistency was data availability year variations for each hazard data. It was hard to compare them when the years weren't lined up. Chris will do another run-through for recent events, while comparing to the 2020 plan.
- General comments from various hazards were pulled up. Chris asked about naming of the Windstorm section; Tyler Spires commented that SCEMD uses High Winds.
- Addressing the Class E fire in Jasper County, Chris will be looking for more description about what took place to include it in the section.
- The flood section included a comment about damn and levees in surrounding counties rather than just clipping it to the LCOG region could be a positive. It also included a sea level rise comment. Chris will be referencing Beaufort County's Resilience Plan for that.
- Christopher Klements asked about the flood risk map on page 89. There is currently only one for Colleton County. Will there be others for other counties/municipalities or is just one example? Chris said that was a specifically made map for Colleton included in the previous plan. He could do more digging for others. Christopher said it would be a good thing to have from a Beaufort County perspective.
- There was a comment in the terrorism section regarding including Port of Savannah and additional waterways as areas of interest.

- Addressing the Hurricane Section, the hazard events were counted using a 50 nm radius, but Hurricane Ian & Helene were outside 50 nm, and the damage is important to consider as an event. Any hurricanes that led to a disaster declaration will be included in the events.
- New Lightning data was acquired to match data used in the 2020 plan from National Lightning Detection Network.
- The Drought Section will include an explanation of classification D0-D4.
- Neil Parsons asked if the CSX railroad on I-95 is mentioned in the HAZMAT or terrorism sections? Chris will double check.

Vulnerability Assessment Review

- This section will be sent out later this week.
- Quick preview: this will include social vulnerability from CDC'S social vulnerability index data, Loss information, recent events & expected annual losses, hazard potential rankings, overall vulnerabilities with county summaries, building inventory (vehicles no longer included in HAZUS), development trends required for any Hazard Mitigation Plan, impervious surface change analysis (where development occurs and how it effects the area at the same time), and critical facilities and maps.
- Building permits- data has been inconsistent in the years that are available.
- Neil Parsons asked how we are going to capture all the critical facilities including those being built that may not be fully constructed during submission of the VA. Chris replied the data is available from HAZUS. Impervious surface change will help determine critical facilities and where changes were taking place.
- The Lowcountry handles 208 water quality plan compliance. Tricia Kilgore says there is a lag between the certifications and implementation of the infrastructure. But the 208's would be a good indicator of growth in infrastructure and water.

Action Items & Next Steps

- Committee meeting 4 to be held in person and to be scheduled ASAP following the meeting.
- Section 4: Vulnerability Assessment to be sent out for review on April 2nd. Returned by April 23rd.
- Full draft review aimed for May 1st, returned by May 22nd.
- A second Public Meeting date to be determined, aiming for early May.

Questions & Open Discussion

- No questions followed.

Adjourn

Fourth Meeting

Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
Steering Committee Meeting 4
Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 2:00 p.m. EST

Lowcountry Council of Governments Office
634 Campground Road
Yemassee, South Carolina 29945

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88634557995?pwd=DsOSOL2ebJbtB7aFIj4eAs096oxIdS.1
Meeting ID: 886 3455 7995
Passcode: 120875

Meeting Minutes

Attendees
Chris Ramm, LCOG, Stephanie Rossi, LCOG, Andrew Cocchiara, LCOG, Tyler Spires, SCEMD, Tyler Hoover, SCEMD, Matt Krause, Beaufort County, Annie Peifer, Beaufort County, Bruce Skipper, City of Beaufort, Beth Lewis, Town of Bluffton, Jeremy Bullock, Town of Bluffton, Andrea Moreno, Town of Bluffton, Shari Mendrick, Town of Hilton Head Island, Noah Krepps, Town of Port Royal, Heather Spade, Colleton County, Morgan Viars, Town of Edisto Beach, Susanne Peeples, Hampton County EM, David Peterson, Jasper County, Bob Crimian, Coastal Conservation League

Plan Timeline Update

- The plan is still currently on schedule. Sections 3, 4 and 5 have been sent out for review; comments on Section 4 were due last week. The actions update and the emergency manager survey set the pace for the plan update.
- Meeting 4 discusses Section 6 Review & Adoption Discussion. Tyler Spires has discussed the need for adoption to speed up FEMA review process if an adoption resolution is sent with the plan.
- A full draft is being set for review by May 8th. The draft will be put out for a three-week public comment period when it is ready. Public meeting 2 is scheduled for May 19th at the LCOG office. The final committee meeting will occur towards the end of May to go over all the comments from the draft. Once the committee determines the plan is ready for the adoption process, the goal is to have at least one community adopt the plan in June to send to FEMA. This will allow the plan to skip the pending adoption process and move straight to approval.
- Chris Ramm asked if any jurisdictions were shooting for an early-summer adoption. Matt Krause said he was thinking about it, but only if the schedule lines up, as he needs to get it to public facilities before he can get it onto the main council agenda. Chris replied that the goal was to get the draft out in May to account for scheduling changes in the summer.

Vulnerability Assessment Comments

- Section 4 review comments came in last week. Chris recapped the main categories: social vulnerability hazard rankings, development trends, and critical facilities. Critical facilities got the most comments. BJWSA and Beaufort County sent Chris their critical facilities list that LCOG will put into maps for the next full draft.
- Bruce Skipper asked about the charts; just like the critical facilities sheet; some of his numbers are off. Regarding Table 4, Historic and Recent losses, are we shooting for the 2024 year to gather data, or for 1960-2024? Chris replied the county losses came from the SHELDUS national inventory, and the municipality losses came from NOAA's storm event database. Chris works with that and builds the table from losses in the previous plan. If counties/jurisdictions have any numbers to add or anything that seems off, they should inform Chris and he can put that in. Chris will double-check how SHELDUS classifies windstorms vs. hurricanes, as this could throw off numbers and data.
- Annie Peifer asked where Chris got the information in Section 4.5 that Beaufort was the only county in the Lowcountry to see a decrease in total building count. Chris replied the data was from the HAZUS national inventory dataset, used for the previous building counts. He is only going by what has changed since previous calculations. Annie asked if Chris knows how they got that information and if this was a credible source to get information from. Chris said the counts are from the census 2020 blocks and it is credible.
- Annie asked if HAZUS included mobile homes, as Beaufort County GIS does not count mobile homes as an improvement because it's not a structure, it's considered a vehicle and gets registered through the DMV, requiring a workaround when determining how many mobile homes are in the county. Chris replied that he will need to check the technical documentation to confirm how mobile homes are counted.
- Tyler Spires mentioned that HAZUS uses a general building stock, derived from the census, and state wide databases. It's general building information, not 100% correct. With HAZUS in general, keep in mind that it is dated software and information, and the HAZUS runs have limitations. The metadata shows the last runs for the datasets. You can use different open building information that FEMA also uses that may be better building stock information. Chris is limited to open-source data at the regional level, and the jurisdictions will always have the most up-to-date data. It may be a good point to mention the limitations of HAZUS in text.
- Annie asked if CRS communities have considered looking at the CRS scoring sheet to see if what they have stacks up with the received comments and thoughts. Chris replied that the committee can have a CRS-specific meeting. He has also been looking at scores from the previous plan from the same scoring sheet to find deficiencies. Annie mentioned that in the last plan, CRS only awarded 50 points which means steps were missed. If you miss one step, you drop down to 50, if you miss two, you get 0 points. The main focus is addressing the largest deficiencies from the previous plan.
- Annie asked if Beaufort County GIS could put together a heat map of losses. Shari Mendrick said jurisdictions can map their areas. Hilton Head's data is botched; Shari has submitted properties to Maria Cox that have been mitigated since 2010 that are not removed from the list yet, which is affecting data from multiple areas. Shari would be willing to share the repetitive loss area map. Bruce what you are looking for is for me to give my information to the GIS people to put together a map.
- Annie: FEMA will give us the list, GIS department taught her how to do it because she could not give the information to GIS.

- Shari mentioned the ISAA information agreement since last May, just got data recently because FEMA says we're now supposed to get it from state. We are in this area where we cannot get data, response times on data requests are very long.
- Tyler Spires commented that a heat map is not recommended because that could open up where people could start figuring out the PIM. He suggested that if the most up-to-date information is not correct, to always have the caveat to any information, even if older, that can be considered the best available information. FEMA cares more about credibility of information than recency. He suggested putting a table into the plan for each county stating how many repetitive loss properties each one has, which would suffice from a federal standpoint. The other part, C2A, the specific element tied to the federal requirement that talks about who is designated to do what with severe repetitive loss, is the community a member of the NFIP, have they adopted the most recent FIRM maps, etc. That information is in an approved formula template that jurisdictions can fill in with position titles and categories within the process.
- Based on Tyler's knowledge, we can get 382 points based on the mitigation plan. There can be up to 120 points for including the public (community surveys, public questions and comments are included in appendices to help acquire those points). Chris mentioned a possible separate meeting specifically dedicated to CRS.
- Chris commented on the table at the end of the ordinance paragraphs has repetitive loss listed out, from FEMA's open multiple loss properties dataset that has the four categories for repetitive loss if they qualify for NFIP or mitigation assistance. He might move it to before the ordinance paragraphs.

<u>Goals and Strategies</u>

- Chris walked through the goals and strategies of Section 6. There are 6 goals, the conservation preservation has been added, changed from assisting vulnerable populations from the previous plan which moved to a strategy. These 6 goals line up with the four mitigation types and CR's 6 mitigation categories that they recommend. Chris has where those types match up with the goals in the draft he sent out with the agenda.
- Annie Peifer asked how we track and measure goals? CRS communities are supposed to do a yearly review, so once LCOG is out of the process, it is up to municipalities to track and measure the goals. Are these all goals that are measurable? Chris replied that they vary by project and change for each action. If ongoing or showing progress towards completion, it is measurable.
- Shari Mendrick added she usually sends out the spreadsheet from the previous year, instructs the Hilton Head partners to update the spreadsheet, and they will give her a project status, and Shari will use that to use the CRS template to take forward to town council regarding updating goals.
- The goals and strategies consist of CRS steps 6, 7, and 8 grouped into the same section of the plan. Step 7 is the most commonly missed step in CRS. This is a discussion of possible activities and why certain actions were recommended. Chris has made an effort to include a column for alternatives explored when sending out action plans updates. The goals and strategies are considered actions.
- Shari asked if Chris said CRS communities need to have at least one action in each category; he said yes.

- Tyler Spires added that depending on what hazards you have, you need to have at least action for every hazard for each jurisdiction. Chris asked if they'll have actions related to all hazards, does that work? Tyler replied as long as they cover each hazard at least once, then yes. Tyler added FEMA has advised not to put 'ongoing' as a status, put a date or time period that is attached to it, when is it going to be accomplished. Noah Krepps asked if there are actions that should be ongoing and not have an end date. Tyler replied that sometimes there will be recurring ones, just extend out the deadline for it, and mention it is a recurring action with a measurable end goal.

Mitigation Action Plans

- Each county and municipality has their own action plan. Actions are specific to jurisdiction and relate to LCOG goals. Actions are prioritized; LCOG is carrying over the same prioritization score method as the previous plan.
- Status of 2020 Actions (Appendix I), New and Ongoing Actions for 2026 (Appendix J) will carry for the next five years.
- Chris pulled up the mitigation actions spreadsheet by County and municipality. He wants to get a 1–2-year timeframe for the action items to put in Schedule (Column I) in place of "Ongoing" and making a note of which ones are annually reoccurring. Column K, "Other Actions Considered", was added for the CRS communities.
- Noah Krepps: Wonder if all the wording for ongoing actions should just tweak each action so it doesn't say "continue to do certain thing" and is more discrete for the current year.
- Noah asked Chris if he was going to go through each jurisdiction's list of actions and make sure they reflect the list of partners that are involved? He used an example from an action in the Town of Port Royal's list. After a hazard event, having a one-stop shop permitting center. This is a regional action, but when Noah goes through the County's list he doesn't see it, should he remove that? Chris replied that it is good to make note of issues such as that, actions should be complementary of the whole region.
- Noah asked if we might need a review as to why we aren't coordinating these efforts?
- Noah asked if these actions were drafted as to who would be responsible for funding by each individual jurisdiction in the previous plan? The way columns are filled can differ by each jurisdiction. Chris said to flag anything that feels off which is the best way he will see it.

Action Items & Next Steps

- LCOG is scheduling a fifth committee meeting towards the end of May.
- A full draft review of the Hazard Mitigation Plan will be sent out on May 8th. This will be for return by May 29th. Sections 1, 2 and 7 have not been sent out yet. LCOG will put the appendix with the full draft review.
- The public comment period will open on May 11th. A public meeting with the recommended draft will be held at the LCOG office on May 19th.
- Advertising will be released next week. Shari Mendrick asked to let her know when LCOG will release that so they can post that out on their socials/websites.

Questions

- Shari Mendrick shared feedback based on the 2020 plan. One of the Hilton Head Council members recommended an executive summary for each municipality. If members wanted to add that for their own municipality, would there be a place to input that or use that as a cover sheet when they present it to their town council? Chris replied that most sections end with the county's overall summary, piecing those together wouldn't be too bad. Executive summaries could be included as an appendix section. Tyler Spires commented that the state hazard mitigation plan has an executive summary that would be beneficial to look at.
- Annie Peifer asked about the coastal A zones in section 3 maps. Were they delineated using the LIMWA line or something else? Chris replied they came from FEMA's flood hazard layers. Individual county and municipality maps were added into one of the appendix sections, and these will have LIMWA lines included.
- Tyler Spires asked if there is someone that is going to adopt the plan before it goes through the FEMA review process? Matt replied that it won't work for them; they wouldn't be able to get it to county council by September. Noah Krepps replied they may have an easier time getting it council. Tyler said that the federal level goalposts are changing. The plan expires on June 27th. Municipalities have the will to adopt the plan at any point in time provided it goes with their ordinances' instructions. A way to supersede going through council for re-adoption if need be is to put in the adoption resolution itself a statement that whomever the jurisdiction is goes and adopts the final version of the mitigation plan. Once FEMA gives the approval, the plan is approved and it is up to municipalities to approve the plan from there. There could be a lapse when the plan expires, so it is important for everyone to do the reviews as quickly and thoroughly as possible. If any projects are impacted by the plan expiring, FEMA will send a letter of extraordinary circumstance to ask for the planning requirement to be waived.
- Annie asked to confirm the plan has to be adopted by one of the communities before it goes to the state. Chris said it doesn't have to, Tyler replied it goes through the process quicker if one community has adopted, as it skips the pending adoption phase.
- Matt Krause asked what would happen if a community adopts the plan and FEMA comes back with changes, would they need to re-adopt? Tyler Hoover replied that it depends on how you write that adoption. Whenever the first jurisdiction adopts and gets approved by FEMA sets the 5-year date and the hold for the entire plan.
- Noah Krepps asked if it is worth it to have someone adopt the plan before we go in for approval. Tyler Hoover replied it may reduce the time the plan is active for a couple jurisdictions but it will speed up the approval process. Noah has two weeks until he needs to have newspaper advertisement for the May planning commission meeting. He will put plan adoption as an agenda item for that meeting if he knows he is putting it on for council in June.
- Matt Krause asked since each of the mitigation action items are set to ongoing, how soon would Chris like the updates to be sent back? Chris replied the end of next week would be great. Noah Krepps commented that since it is only one resolution reading, pushing it back to July could work, but he would like to know that so he knows he's doing June planning commission rather than May.
- Tyler Hoover commented that SCEMD does not need to have that adoption resolution before they send it to FEMA. Chris asked how long the EMD review takes. Tyler Spires answered it comes down to how many plans they have internally. They try to get the plans reviewed in one week. It depends on how well-written the plan is and how quickly EMD can address gaps.

- Tyler Spires announced that FEMA re-gave the green light to have the BRIC grant project back, community infrastructure grant program is back online. South Carolina has been given 2 million dollars as a share to be able to do mitigation products again. There is an additional million dollars for building code enhancements. A fact sheet was handed out with further details.
- Shair asked at what time communities have to do a benefit-cost analysis (BCA). Tyler Spires replied FEMA is requiring a BCA for all projects unless it is a planning project, which are no longer an eligible project under BRIC. Shari asked, "is that the abbreviated process we can use that came out a couple years ago?" Tyler replied there is a FEMA BCA toolkit that can be downloaded and provide information to see if the project is cost beneficial.
- Chris will follow up with a summary email. It will come down to the action plans and the NFIP texts; he reminded everyone to send updated NFIP texts if they haven't already.

Adjourn

Fifth Meeting

Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Steering Committee Meeting 5

Thursday, May 28, 2026, 2:00 p.m. EST

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81875119730?pwd=6fZ0maPp1aJcaudAFJjxbVJFbQCRhY.1
Meeting ID: 818 7511 9730
Passcode: 400324

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Chris Ramm, LCOG, Stephanie Rossi, LCOG, Andrew Cocchiara, LCOG, Tyler Hoover, SCEMD, Christina Vickers, SCEMD, Juliana Zadik, Beaufort County, Matt Krause, Beaufort County, Beth Lewis, Town of Bluffton, Shari Mendrick, Town of Hilton Head Island, Tom Dunn, Town of Hilton Head Island, Shea Farrar, Town of Hilton Head Island, Katie Kabala, Town of Hilton Head Island, Noah Krepps, Town of Port Royal, Heather Spade, Colleton County, Michael Banks, Colleton County, Morgan Viars, Town of Edisto Beach, Susanne Peeples, Hampton County EM, David Peterson, Jasper County, Chris Yates, City of Hardeeville, Neil Parsons, City of Hardeeville, Sophia Truempi, SC Sea Grant Consortium, Taylor Logan, BJW&SA

Welcome and Attendance

- This is the last steering committee meeting on schedule. Chris Ramm will be available for impromptu meetings if necessary.

Plan Timeline Update

- Chris walked through all of the completed reviews and public information meetings completed since January.
- Since Meeting 4, a full draft review was sent out on May 14th, the public comment period opened on May 24th and will close on June 16th, and the second public meeting was held at the LCOG office on May 19th.
- This final meeting is to discuss the Draft Review, incorporating comments, the adoption process, and submitting to SCEMD in June, followed by submitting to FEMA.

Public Meeting 2 Recap

- LCOG held the second public meeting to receive public input on the recommended draft. Posters were printed out highlighting key data and maps from each section of the plan. The comment period was promoted as well.

Full Draft Review and Comments

- A full draft with appendix sections was sent out on May 14th. Comments from the steering committee are due by June 4th.
- Sections 1, 2, 7, and the appendices were sent out for the first time along with this draft.
- Critical facilities (Appendix G), Action plans (Appendix J), Formatting & language, and Data & mapping have all received comments so far.

Action Items & Next Steps

- Chris walked through the last few items, including plan adoption. Chris will be able to provide adoption materials and will be available during the adoption process. Reference the FEMA Fact Sheet for additional information.
- Following the integration of comments into the plan and finalization, LCOG is planning to submit to SCEMD and approved. Once there is an adoption, it will be set to go to FEMA for the final submission.

Questions & Open Discussion

- Matt Krause announced Beaufort County got their disaster recovery plan and disaster recovery ordinance updated. He will send Chris a note on updating the years for that.

- Shari Mendrick asked if Port Royal was going to move forward with a first adoption so the committee could send the plan to FEMA. Chris replied that this has been discussed and is being pushed for the July meeting. July 8th is their adoption; Chris does not expect this will interfere with the timeline.
- Shari mentioned the Town of Hilton Head will see if they can get on an agenda and maybe serve as a backup to keep everything moving forward. She will touch base with the meeting planner for Community Development. Hilton Head would be comfortable adopting after FEMA, but they need to go through planning commission first because their plan is an appendix to the Comprehensive Plan. Chris recommends being on top of the process early. As long as there is one adoption, it will speed up the process.
- Neil Parsons asked where the process is currently in now. Chris replied that it is in the final stages. The next major step is getting the adoption process started following the finalization of the comment periods. Neil asked if the committee will wait for FEMA to approve the plan before it is adopted locally. Chris replied it depends on each jurisdiction's individual process. There should be one adoption so that the review through FEMA is quicker, discussion is for this to be Port Royal. Hardeeville could get it through their council very quickly; they meet on the first and third Thursday of every month. They could push it on their second meeting in middle-late June.

Adjourn

Appendix A-2: Plan Maintenance Meeting

MEETING NOTES

Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Zoom Meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89421694199?pwd=V0phbE01Z1dFRDRlS2pzNUxlOGVwUT09

Meeting ID: 894 2169 4199 Passcode: 304372

Steering Committee Members Present

David Greene	Deputy Chief/Emergency Manager, Fire Rescue	Colleton County
Mark Aakhus	Town Administrator	Town of Edisto Beach
Shari Mendrick	Floodplain Administrator	Town of Hilton Head Island
Susanne Peeples	Director, Emergency Management	Hampton County

Steering Committee Members Absent

Pamela Cobb	Assistant Public Works Director-Support	Beaufort County
Russell Wells	Director, Emergency Services	Jasper County

LCOG Staff

Stephanie Rossi	Planning Director
Maleena Parkey	Principal Planner

Background

- The current hazard mitigation plan is a multi-jurisdictional plan and is good through June 27, 2026. This meeting is a head start on the five-year plan update.
- LCOG had a meeting with SCEMD in June last year regarding the new FEMA guidelines. I consulted with SCEMD about available funding sources and timeframe for the hazard mitigation update. At that meeting, the only potential funding source was the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) with an application opening in 2023.
- A few weeks ago, SCEMD contacted LCOG and the four counties asking if we had any interest in using the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grant funding to complete the hazard mitigation plan update.
- The grant application deadline for HMGP is June 30, 2023; BRIC is at the end of January 2024. Our goal is to submit the HMGP application to the state by the application deadline.
- The application process needs a commitment from the four counties.

Commitment

- The HMGP requires 25% local funding share and a letter of commitment from the four counties.
- The estimated cost for the plan update is approximately $87,000 (using the previous estimated cost for the current plan at $75,000 and adjusted for inflation). The share for each county can be seen in the table below.

	2020 Census Population	Share of Total Population	Local Share Estimates	Federal Share Estimates	Total Cost Estimates
	273,073	**100.00%**	**$21,746.21**	**$65,238.63**	**$86,984.84**
Beaufort	187,117	68.52%	$14,864.74		
Colleton	38,604	14.14%	$3,078.32		
Hampton	18,561	6.80%	$1,536.52		
Jasper	28,791	10.54%	$2,266.63		

Next Steps

- LCOG will draft a letter of commitment concerning the local funding share for each county. The county administrator will sign and return the letter to LCOG before the application is submitted.
- LCOG will submit the HMGP application by June 30, 2023.
- If HMGP funding is not received, LCOG will pursue the BRIC grant opportunity.

The steering committee will meet again after the grant is awarded.

APPENDIX B – STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

APPENDIX B-1: EMERGENCY MANAGER SURVEY

EMERGENCY MANAGER SURVEY
2026 LOWCOUNTRY NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

The Lowcountry Council of Governments is updating the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper counties. The Emergency Manager Survey needs your responses to assist LCOG in updating strategies, goals, and objectives for the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan. Please feel free to add any areas that are needed or specify ones that are no longer needed. We encourage you to provide comments and thoughts on any of the survey areas. Please return by **February 13th** to Chris Ramm, cramm@lowcountrycog.org.

1. What ***flood*** preventive local plans and regulations have been put in place to mitigate the impacts from natural hazards?
   - ☐ Stormwater management plan
   - ☐ Stormwater drainage study or maintenance
   - ☐ Watershed master plan
   - ☐ Wetland Protection
   - ☐ Floodplain regulations
   - ☐ Erosion setbacks
   - ☐ Building code enforcement/training/updating
   - ☐ Open space preservation
   - ☐ Others (please specify) ……
2. Which ***all hazard*** preventive local plans and regulations have been put in place to mitigate the impacts from natural hazards?
   - ☐ Evacuation needs study
   - ☐ Tree canopy analysis
   - ☐ Shelter suitability study
   - ☐ Inventory of Emergency Response Survey
   - ☐ Forest management plan

- ☐ Adaptation or resilience plan
- ☐ SWOT analysis
- ☐ Others (please specify) ……

3. What structural projects or property protection activities have been completed? Please be specific- name, location, cost, completion status, if known.

   - ☐ Road, bridge, or building elevation
   - ☐ Evacuation route improvements
   - ☐ Assist private homes & businesses retrofitting vulnerable buildings
   - ☐ Storm drainage improvements
   - ☐ Reservoirs
   - ☐ Levees/ floodwalls
   - ☐ Sewer backup protection
   - ☐ Other (please specify) ……

4. What critical infrastructure or emergency services measures have been taken to minimize impacts during an emergency event? Please be specific- name, location, cost, completion status, if known.

   - ☐ Emergency warning system upgrades
   - ☐ Critical facility hardening (power supply, reinforce roof, site study)
   - ☐ Survey of equipment needs for emergency personnel
   - ☐ Utility and communication line improvements
   - ☐ Emergency shelter upgrades
   - ☐ Information technology improvements
   - ☐ Update of emergency operation/ response plan
   - ☐ Other (please specify) ……

5. Has there been a loss, major damage, or closing of any critical facilities? If so, which facilities and why?

6. Has there been any purchase and/or distribution of emergency supplies? If so, what, for whom, and the estimated cost?

   - ☐ Weather radios
   - ☐ Fans
   - ☐ Support vehicles
   - ☐ Generators
   - ☐ Satellite phones
   - ☐ Other major or significant equipment ……

7. What natural resource/ systems protection activities have been performed?

   - ☐ Water quality improvement
   - ☐ Natural area preservation/ restoration
   - ☐ Natural functions protection
   - ☐ Coastal barrier protection
   - ☐ Natural/ native plant buffers
   - ☐ Environmental corridors (greenway, riparian, wildlife)
   - ☐ Other (please specify) ……

8. What education or training efforts have been made to encourage natural hazard preparedness?

   - ☐ Public outreach projects
   - ☐ Map information
   - ☐ Technical assistance
   - ☐ Training for grant writing
   - ☐ Environmental education (schools, public, businesses)
   - ☐ Media marketing (social media, news broadcasts, website)
   - ☐ Others (please specify) ……

9. Have there been changes in leadership for emergency service personnel? If so, what positions and who?

10. Have grant funds been allocated for improvements to emergency services? If so, purpose, source, and how much?

11. What natural disasters or major events have triggered utilization or deployment of emergency management services? What costs were associated with the event?

12. What municipalities do you support?

APPENDIX B-2: COMMUNITY SURVEY

Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Lowcountry Council of Governments is updating the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper counties.

We would like to hear from you about your personal experiences and concerns of natural hazards (i.e. hurricanes, tornados, floods). Giving us just 5 minutes of your time can really help us in planning to save lives and to prevent major property damage and other losses caused by natural disasters in our region.

Please complete this survey below by **January 31, 2026**.

Your responses will be kept anonymous. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Christopher Ramm, Planner II at Lowcountry Country Council of Governments at cramm@lowcountrycog.org.



1. In what county is your residence located in? *Please select one.*

- ◯ Beaufort
- ◯ Colleton
- ◯ Hampton
- ◯ Jasper
- ◯ Other _____

2. How concerned are you that a natural disaster event will occur in your community in the next **year** due to the following hazards?

	Not concerned at all	Not too concerned	Somewhat concerned	Very concerned
Tornado	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hurricane Wind or Rain	☐	☐	☐	☐
Surge of sea level from a storm or hurricane	☐	☐	☐	☐
Thunderstorm or windstorm	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lightning	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hail	☐	☐	☐	☐
Drought	☐	☐	☐	☐
Earthquake	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wildfire	☐	☐	☐	☐
Flood	☐	☐	☐	☐
Winter storm (snow/ice/extreme cold)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Coastal erosion	☐	☐	☐	☐
Extreme Heat	☐	☐	☐	☐

1

Based on Question 2, are there any other hazards that make you somewhat concerned or very concerned? (Optional)

_____

3. Which of the following hazards have caused life or property damage at your place of residence? *(Please select all that apply)*

- ☐ Tornado
- ☐ Hurricane wind or rain
- ☐ Surge of sea level from storm or hurricane
- ☐ Thunderstorm or windstorm
- ☐ Lightning
- ☐ Hail
- ☐ Drought
- ☐ Earthquake
- ☐ Wildfire
- ☐ Flood
- ☐ Winter storms (snow/ice/extreme cold)
- ☐ Coastal erosion
- ☐ Extreme heat
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Other: _____

4. How prepared is your **household** to face a major natural hazard event?

- ☐ Not prepared at all
- ☐ Not too prepared
- ☐ Somewhat prepared
- ☐ Very prepared
- ☐ Unsure

5. How prepared is your **community** to face a major natural hazard event?

- ◯ Not prepared at all
- ◯ Not too prepared
- ◯ Somewhat prepared
- ◯ Very prepared
- ◯ Unsure

6. Have you done any of the following actions to prepare for natural hazards?

- ◯ Learn about the risks and how to prepare for natural hazards in your area
- ◯ Develop an emergency plan
- ◯ Organize with your neighbors to create plans to mitigate hazard impacts.
- ◯ Identify pickup and shelter locations in the event of an evacuation
- ◯ Put together an emergency kit (food, water, medical supplies, flashlight).
- ◯ Structural home improvements (window reinforcements, roof replacement, elevation of structure, insulation).
- ◯ Property improvements (tree maintenance, brush removal, ditches, rain gardens)
- ◯ No actions taken
- ◯ Other: _____

7. Do you **plan** to do any of the following actions to prepare for natural hazards?

- ◯ Learn about the risks and how to prepare for natural hazards in your area
- ◯ Develop an emergency plan
- ◯ Organize with your neighbors to create plans to mitigate hazard impacts.
- ◯ Identify pickup and shelter locations in the event of an evacuation
- ◯ Put together an emergency kit (food, water, medical supplies, flashlight).
- ◯ Structural home improvements (window reinforcements, roof replacement, elevation of structure, insulation).
- ◯ Property improvements (tree maintenance, brush removal, ditches, rain gardens)
- ◯ No planned actions
- ◯ Other: _____

8. How much do you trust these information sources to provide accurate information about natural hazards?

	Not at all	Not very much	A fair amount	A great deal
Television or radio broadcasts	☐	☐	☐	☐
Newspaper or magazine article	☐	☐	☐	☐
Website	☐	☐	☐	☐
Social media (Facebook, Instagram, X)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public meeting/ workshop	☐	☐	☐	☐
Email	☐	☐	☐	☐
Text message or app notification	☐	☐	☐	☐

9. Please rank how the following protective measures should be prioritized in public investments? (1=top priority, 5= lowest priority) *Please write 1-5 in the space to the right of each option.*

- Promoting any new development in areas less vulnerable to hazards ____
- Emergency response and control ____
- Evacuation warnings, support, shelters ____
- Government planning before a hazard event ____
- Government support programs during and after a hazard event ____

10. Which of the following factors do you think could increase damage from natural hazards in your community in the future? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Changes to environmental conditions
- ☐ Intensifying storms or extreme weather
- ☐ Loss of wetlands or other natural areas
- ☐ Construction or development of land
- ☐ Aging and/or failing infrastructure
- ☐ Other

11. Several community-wide activities can reduce our risk from hazards. In general, these activities fall into one of the following six broad categories. Please tell us how important you think each one is for your community to consider pursuing.

	Not at all Important	Not too Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important
Prevention Examples include heightened standards for hazard-resistant construction, increased regulation of construction in hazard-prone areas as well as enhanced enforcement of existing regulations.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Property Protection Examples include relocation, elevation, structural repairs, and storm shutters.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Natural Resource Protection Examples include floodplain protection, habitat preservation, wetland restoration, and forest management.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Structural Projects Examples include dams, levees, seawalls detention/retention basins, channel modification, retaining walls, and storm sewers.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Emergency Services Examples include warning systems, evacuation planning, emergency response training, and protection of critical facilities or systems	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public Education and Awareness Examples include outreach projects, school education programs, library materials, and demonstration events.	☐	☐	☐	☐

12. Is your property located in a floodplain?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Unsure

13. Do you have flood insurance?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Unsure

14. Additional comments, questions, or concerns.

15. Please provide your zip code. (Optional)

16. Please provide your email here for additional information pertaining to natural hazard mitigation. (Optional)

Thank you for your response! Stay tuned for upcoming public engagement opportunities and visit www.lowcountrycog.org for more information.

APPENDIX B-3: SURVEY DISTRIBUTION

Survey Flyer



Just 5 minutes of your time can really help us in planning to save lives and to prevent major property damage and other losses caused by natural disasters in our region.

https://arcg.is/0nWbjK1

The survey will be open until January 31st, 2026
For more information regarding hazard mitigation planning visit
www.lowcountrycog.org

Example of Survey Posting



NEWS

Bluffton seeks citizen input for Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Town of Bluffton is seeking citizen input for its 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan. The town asks that citizens take a survey to help guide planning efforts in the process.

Shellie Murdaugh Bluffton Today
Jan. 2, 2026, 5:01 a.m. ET

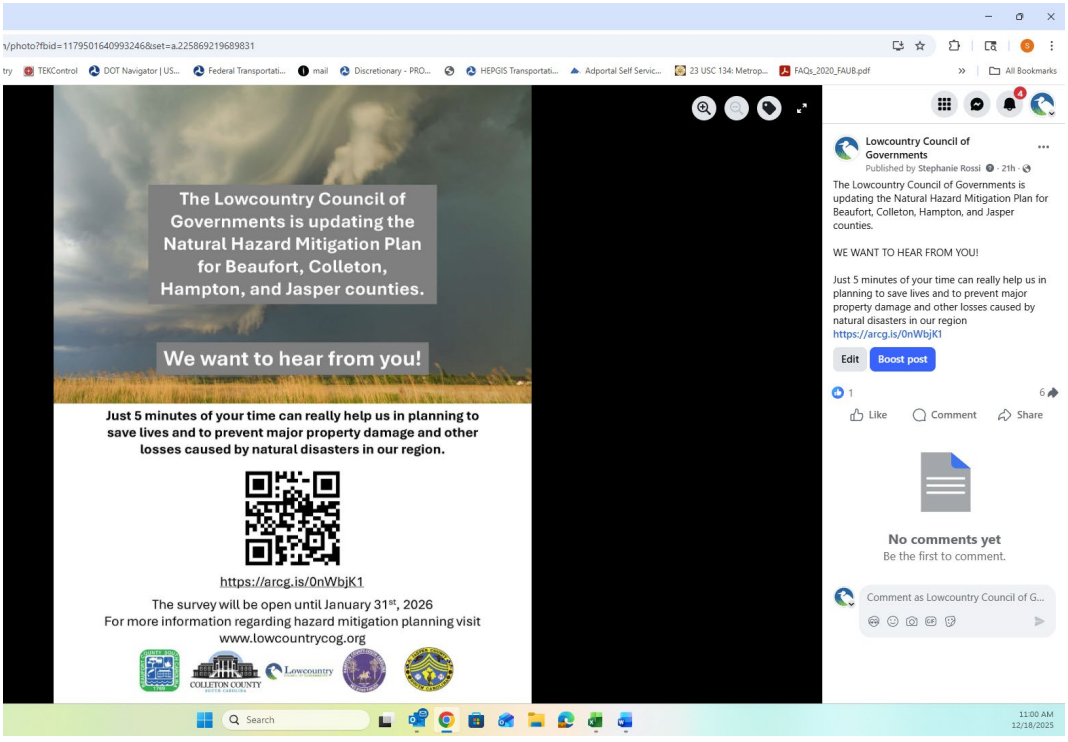
Key Points AI-assisted summary

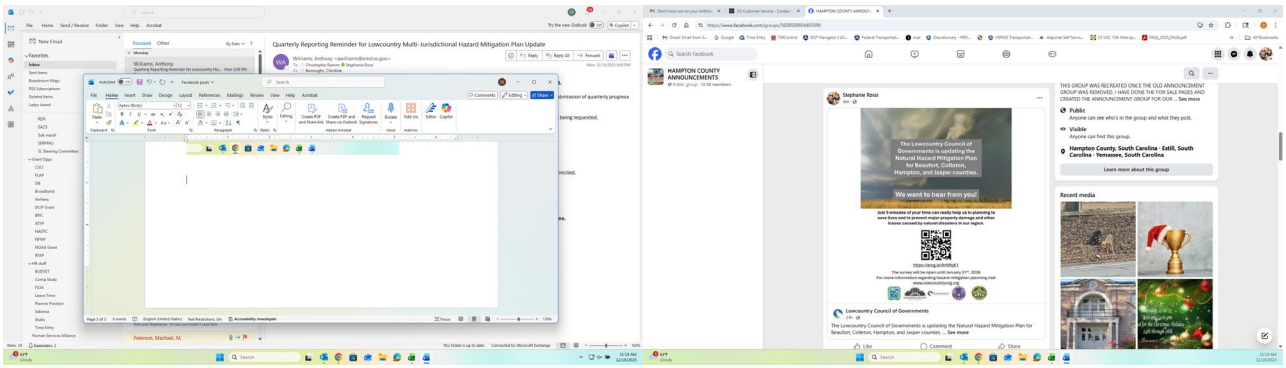
- The Town of Bluffton is seeking public input for the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- A public survey is available for residents to provide feedback and help guide planning efforts.
- The plan is required by FEMA for eligibility to apply for Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs.

Citizens in the Town of Bluffton are being asked to provide their input for the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan.

To participate, citizens are asked to take a public survey.

"Public input is an important part of the process," a town spokesperson




Quarterly Reporting Reminder for Lowcountry Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
HAMPTON COUNTY ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Lowcountry Council of Governments is updating the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper counties.
We want to hear from you!
Recent media


TRANSLATE
Search...
Lowcountry
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
About Us
Aging Resources
Community & Economic Development
Planning & Transportation
Workforce Development
Hazard Mitigation Planning
Home > Planning & Transportation > Resiliency Planning > HMP Update
AREA MAP
SOLICITATIONS
FORMS & DOCUMENTS
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Planning & Transportation
Home
Transportation Planning
Community Planning
Resiliency Planning
Water Quality Planning
Document Center
Links and Resources
Staff Directory
2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
Print this page
Text Size:
Public Engagement Opportunities!
2026 HMP Update Public Survey - Open until 1/31/2026
Public Input Meeting - 2/12/2026
Required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan "is the representation of the jurisdiction's commitment to reduce the risks from natural hazards, serving as a guide for decision makers as they commit resources to reducing the effects of natural hazards." Also, the plan must meet the requirements of Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §201.6 for FEMA approval and eligibility to apply for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs.
The plan will provide a profile of the most common natural hazards and man-made hazards in the region. The plan will include social vulnerability indicators for identifying populations at greatest risk from the effects of natural hazards. Finally, the plan will identify mitigation actions to save lives and to prevent major property damage and other losses caused by natural disasters.

HMP Public Survey

The 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is underway, and the Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG) has requested input from local stakeholders.

Please assist the Lowcountry Council of Governments by participating in the survey found linked below by January 31.

Website link to LCOG Hazard Mitigation Survey: Lowcountry Council of Governments

QR Code for Survey:

2026 Twice-Weekly Trash Schedule

At its December 11 monthly meeting, Town Council approved the additional twice-weekly trash service as follows:

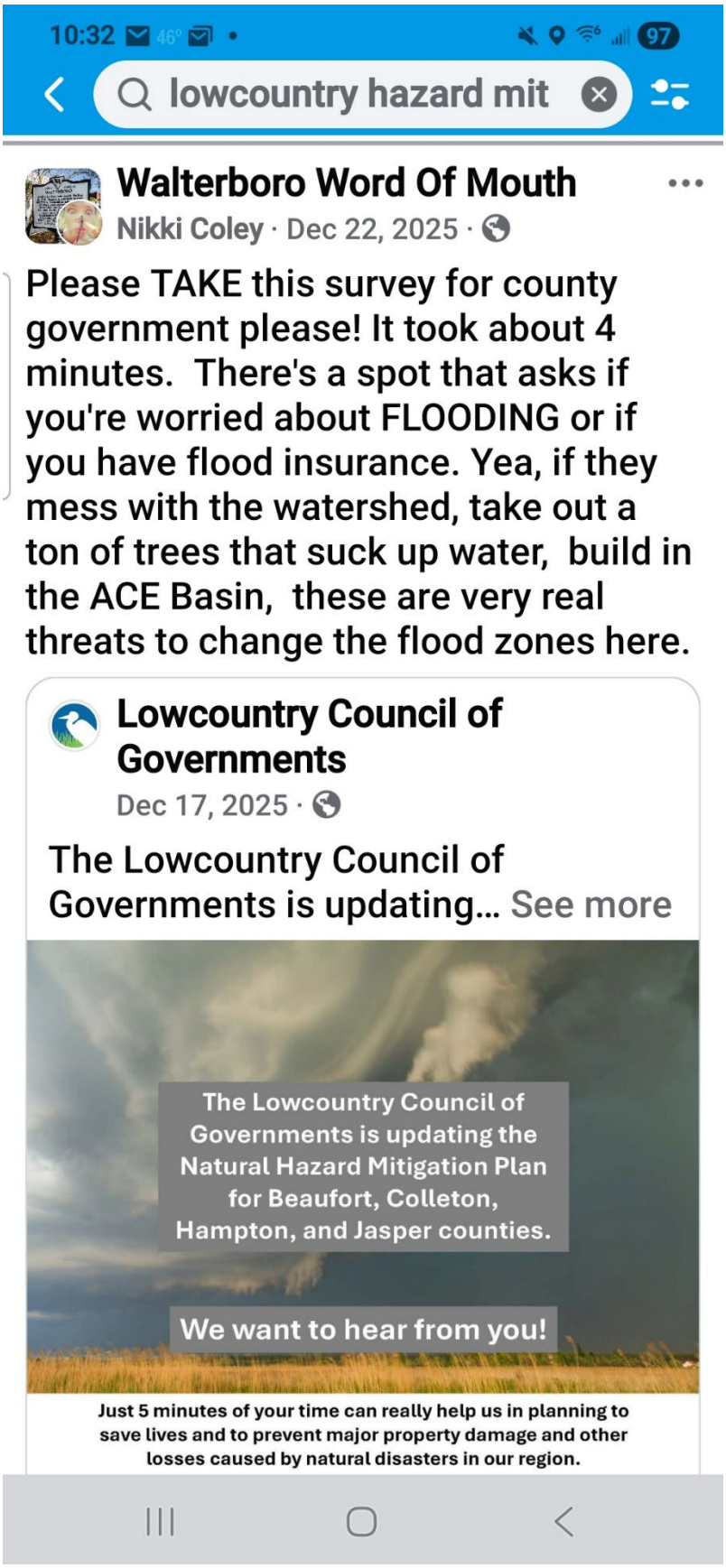
- Eight (8) weeks from March 29 through May 23
- Three (3) weeks from September 13 through October 3
- The week of December 28 through January 2, 2027

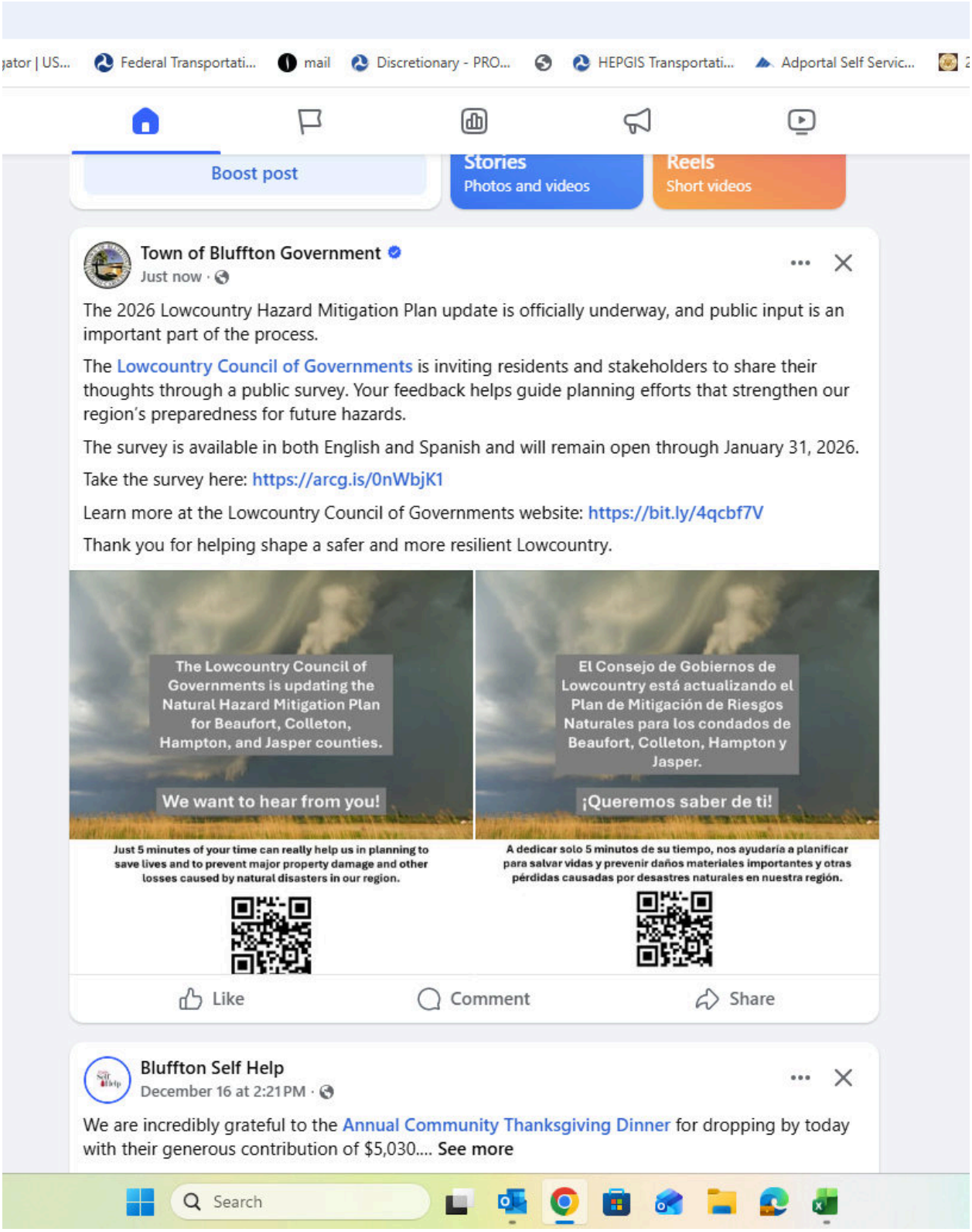
Please see our webpage here for additional information.

Town Council 2026 Monthly Meetings

The Town Council monthly meeting schedule for 2026 was approved by Council at the December 11 meeting as follows:

2026 Work Sessions:


10:32
97
lowcountry hazard mit
Walterboro Word Of Mouth
Nikki Coley · Dec 22, 2025 ·
Please TAKE this survey for county government please! It took about 4 minutes. There's a spot that asks if you're worried about FLOODING or if you have flood insurance. Yea, if they mess with the watershed, take out a ton of trees that suck up water, build in the ACE Basin, these are very real threats to change the flood zones here.
Lowcountry Council of Governments
Dec 17, 2025 ·
The Lowcountry Council of Governments is updating... See more
The Lowcountry Council of Governments is updating the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper counties.
We want to hear from you!
Just 5 minutes of your time can really help us in planning to save lives and to prevent major property damage and other losses caused by natural disasters in our region.

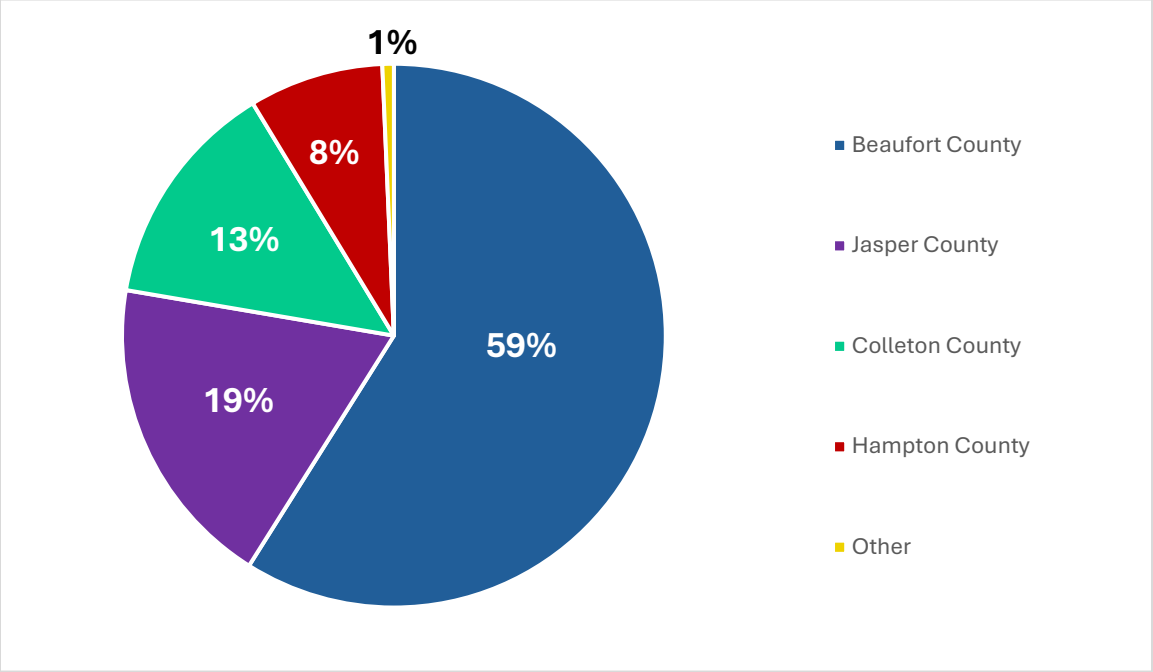

Boost post
Stories
Photos and videos
Reels
Short videos
Town of Bluffton Government
Just now
The 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan update is officially underway, and public input is an important part of the process.
The Lowcountry Council of Governments is inviting residents and stakeholders to share their thoughts through a public survey. Your feedback helps guide planning efforts that strengthen our region's preparedness for future hazards.
The survey is available in both English and Spanish and will remain open through January 31, 2026.
Take the survey here: https://arcg.is/0nWbjK1
Learn more at the Lowcountry Council of Governments website: https://bit.ly/4qcbf7V
Thank you for helping shape a safer and more resilient Lowcountry.
The Lowcountry Council of Governments is updating the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper counties.
We want to hear from you!
Just 5 minutes of your time can really help us in planning to save lives and to prevent major property damage and other losses caused by natural disasters in our region.
El Consejo de Gobiernos de Lowcountry está actualizando el Plan de Mitigación de Riesgos Naturales para los condados de Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton y Jasper.
¡Queremos saber de ti!
A dedicar solo 5 minutos de su tiempo, nos ayudaría a planificar para salvar vidas y prevenir daños materiales importantes y otras pérdidas causadas por desastres naturales en nuestra región.
Like
Comment
Share
Bluffton Self Help
December 16 at 2:21PM
We are incredibly grateful to the Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner for dropping by today with their generous contribution of $5,030.... See more
Search

APPENDIX B-4: SURVEY RESULTS

Question 1

In what county is your household located?

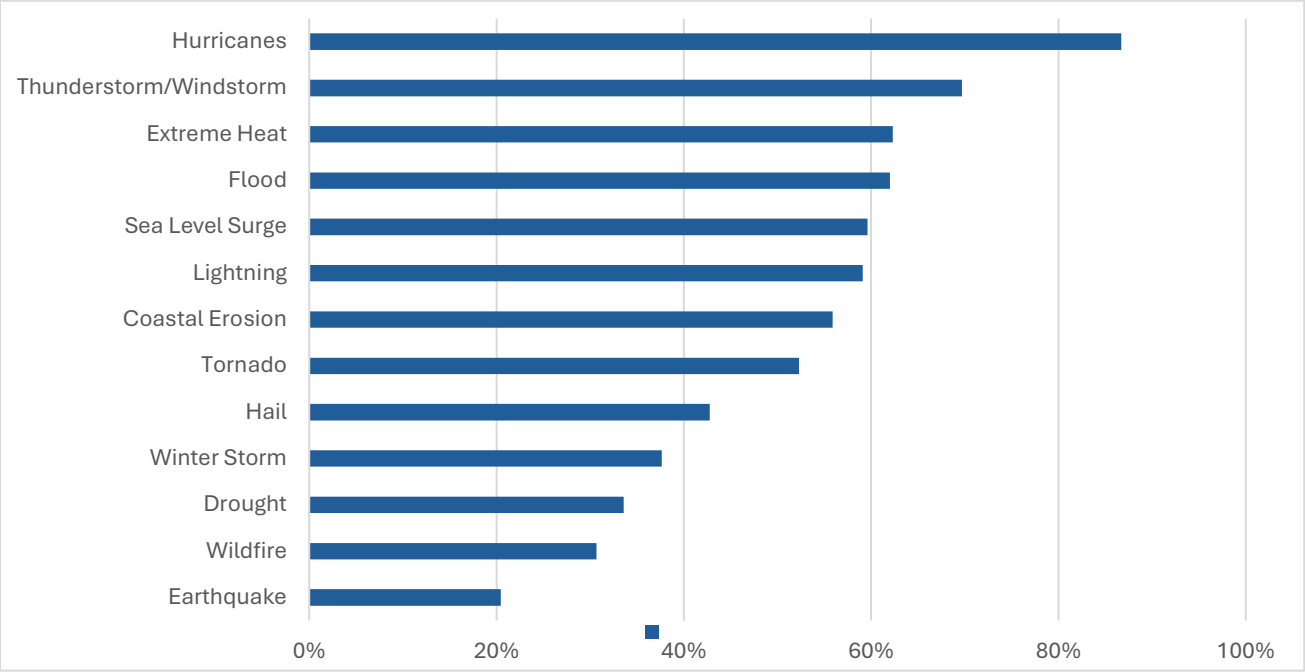
Almost 600 survey responses were collected over the period of December 17, 2025 until January 31, 2026. Most survey respondents are in Beaufort County, where population is most concentrated in the region.



Question 2

How concerned are you that a natural disaster event will occur in your community in the next year due to the following hazards?

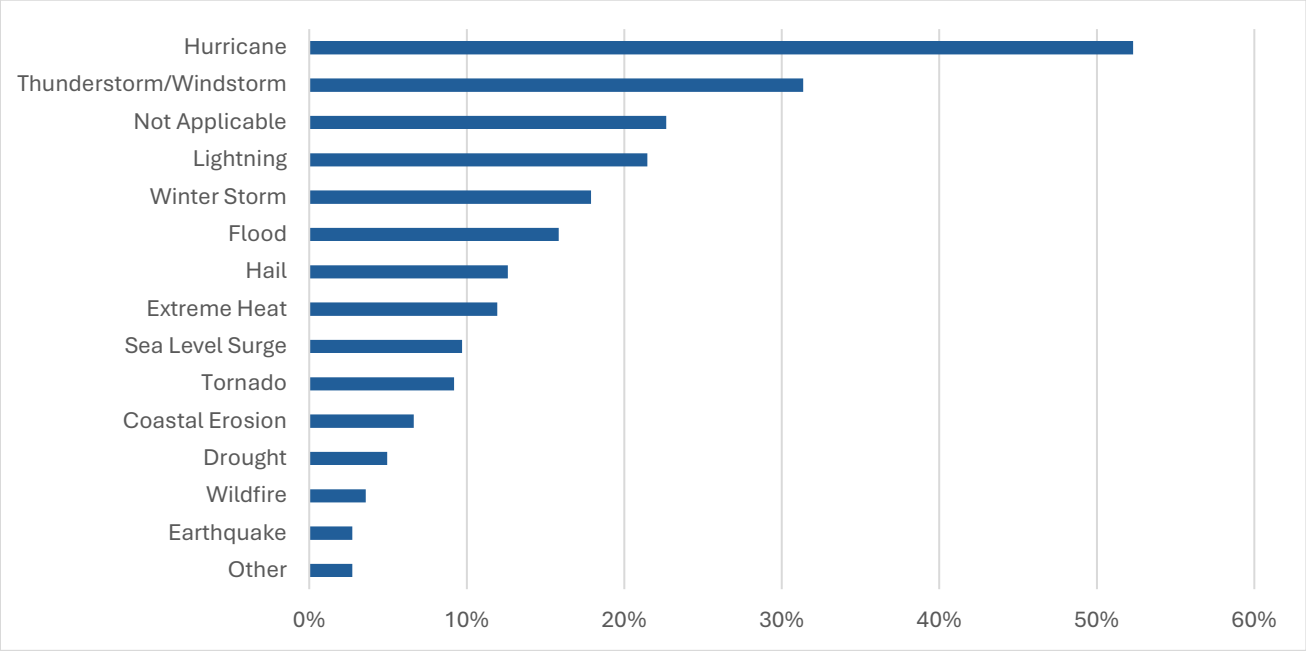
The results show that the most frequently cited concerned hazards for Lowcountry residents are hurricanes, thunderstorms/windstorms, and extreme heat. The graph below shows the overall percentage of respondents who answered “Very concerned” or “Somewhat concerned” for each hazard.



Question 3

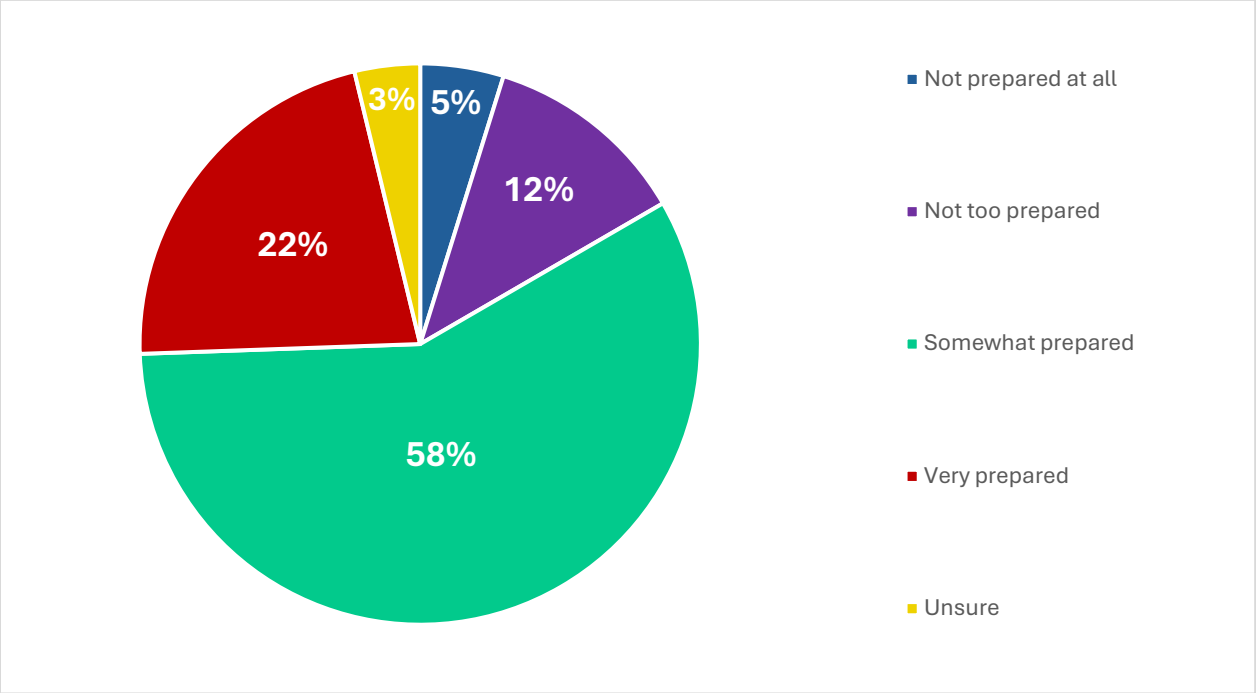
Which of the following hazards have caused life or property damage at your place of residence?

This question allows respondents to identify the hazards that are the greatest cause of concern for their life and property. The results show the percentage of residents have suffered damage from each hazard.



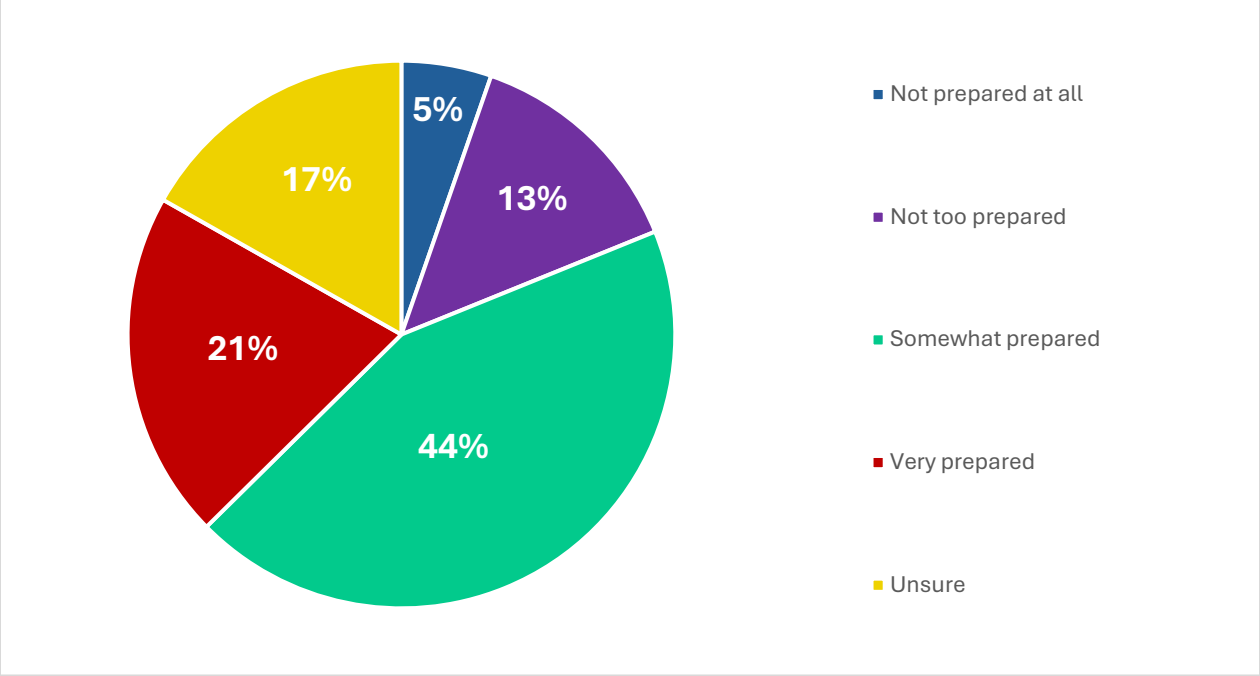
Question 4

How prepared is your household to face a major natural hazard event?



Question 5

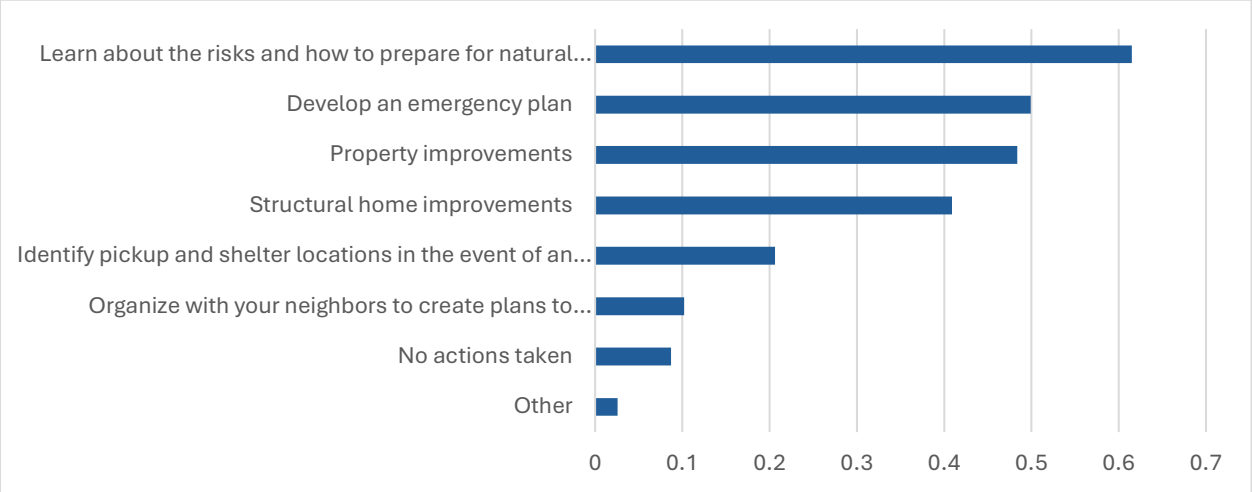
How prepared is your community to face a major natural hazard event?



Question 6

Have you done any of the following actions to prepare for natural hazards?

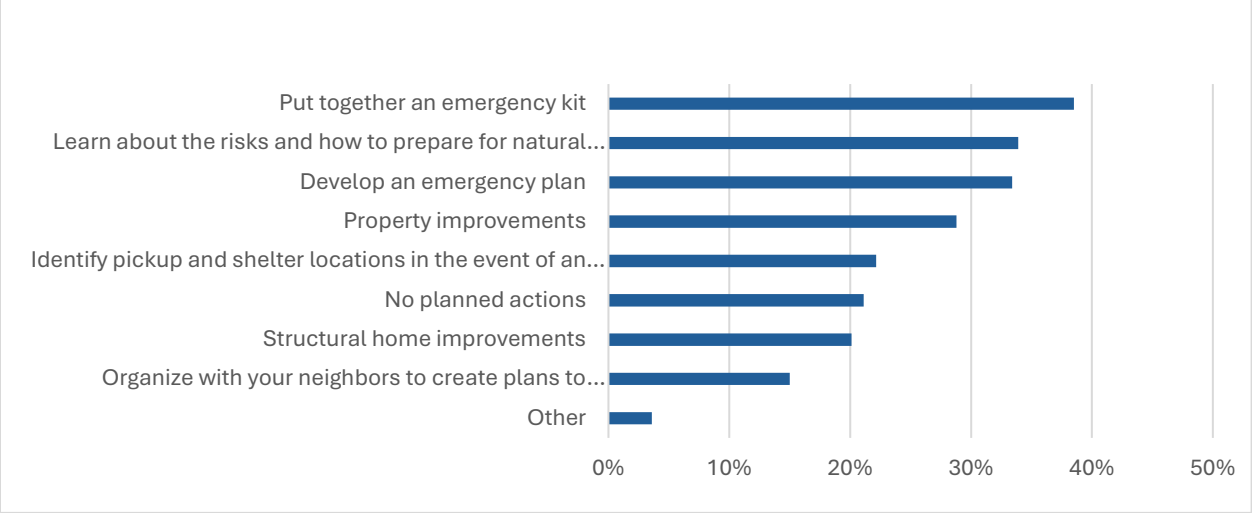
The results show that the most common improvements made by homeowners to increase resilience to natural hazards include emergency kits and plans and learning as much as possible about the risks.



Question 7

Do you plan to do any of the following actions to prepare for natural hazards?

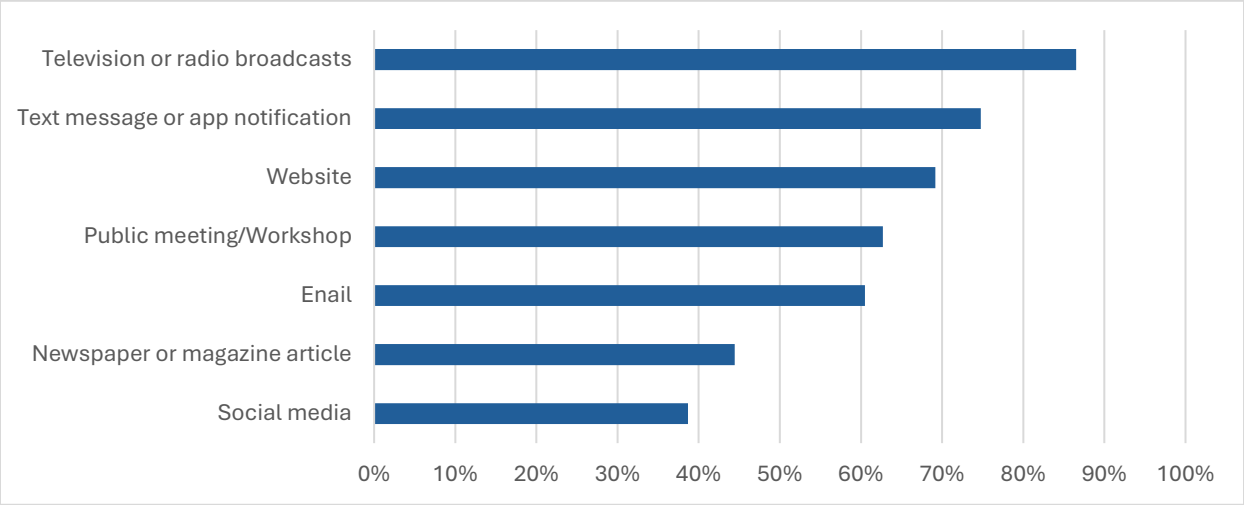
The results show the same actions that have already been taken are the most planned actions for residents in the future.



Question 8

How much do you trust these information sources to provide accurate information about natural hazards?

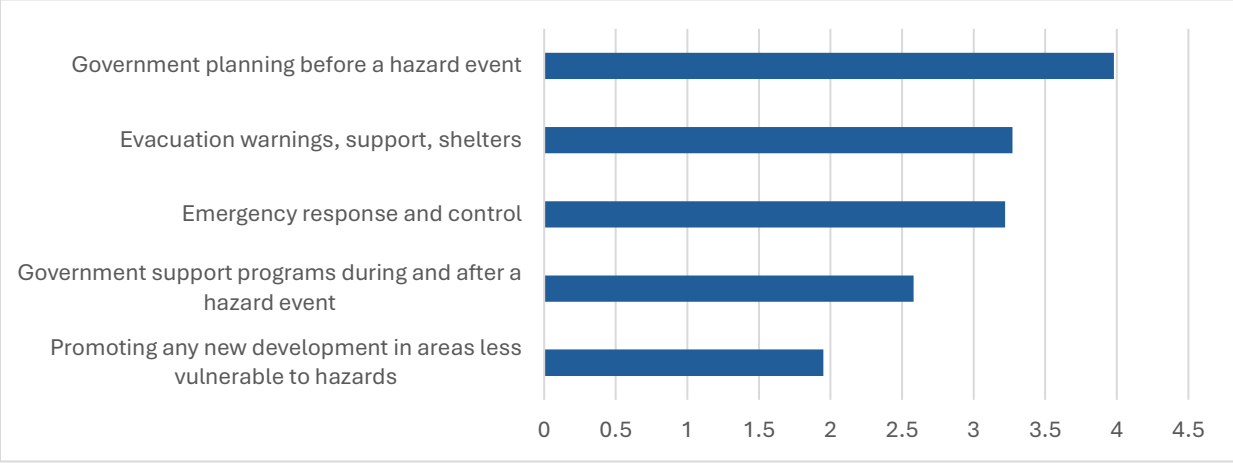
This question identifies the respondents' preferred communication channel on hazard preparation and planning. Based on the total percentage of respondents who trust each source either a great deal or a fair amount, the top three were television, text/app notifications and the website.



Question 9

Please rank how the following protective measures should be prioritized in public investments.

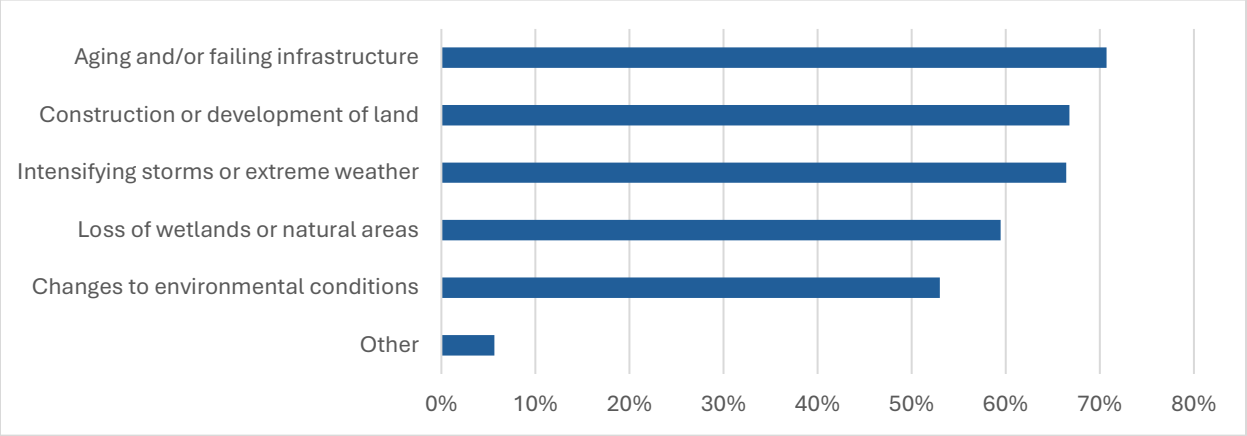
The results below are the average scores each protective measure was rated by respondents. The measure with the highest prioritization was government planning before a hazard event.



Question 10

Which of the following factors do you think could increase damage from natural hazards in your community in the future? Please select all that apply.

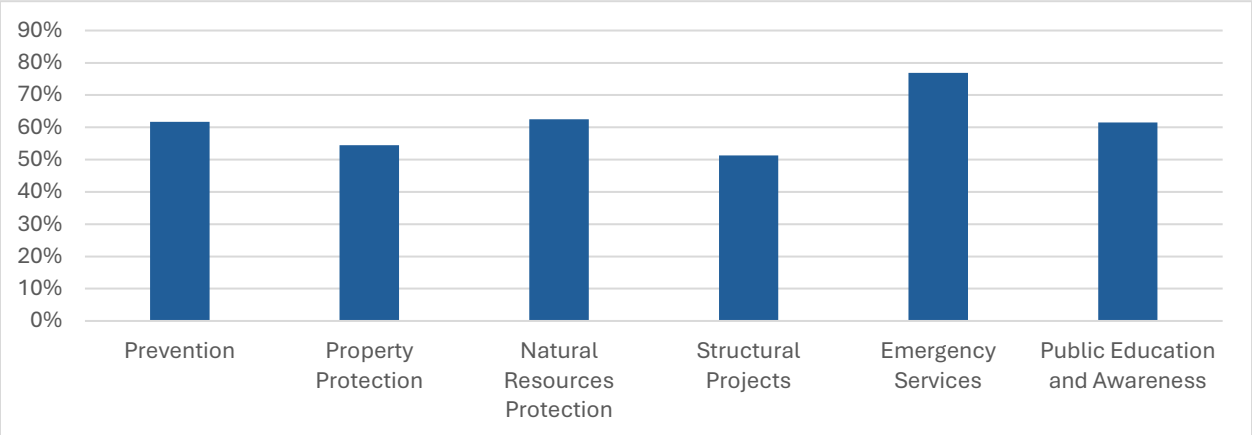
This question allows respondents to identify perceived future risk drivers so the plan can address underlying conditions that may increase community vulnerability over time. The results show that the factors of highest concern are aging infrastructure and development of land.



Question 11

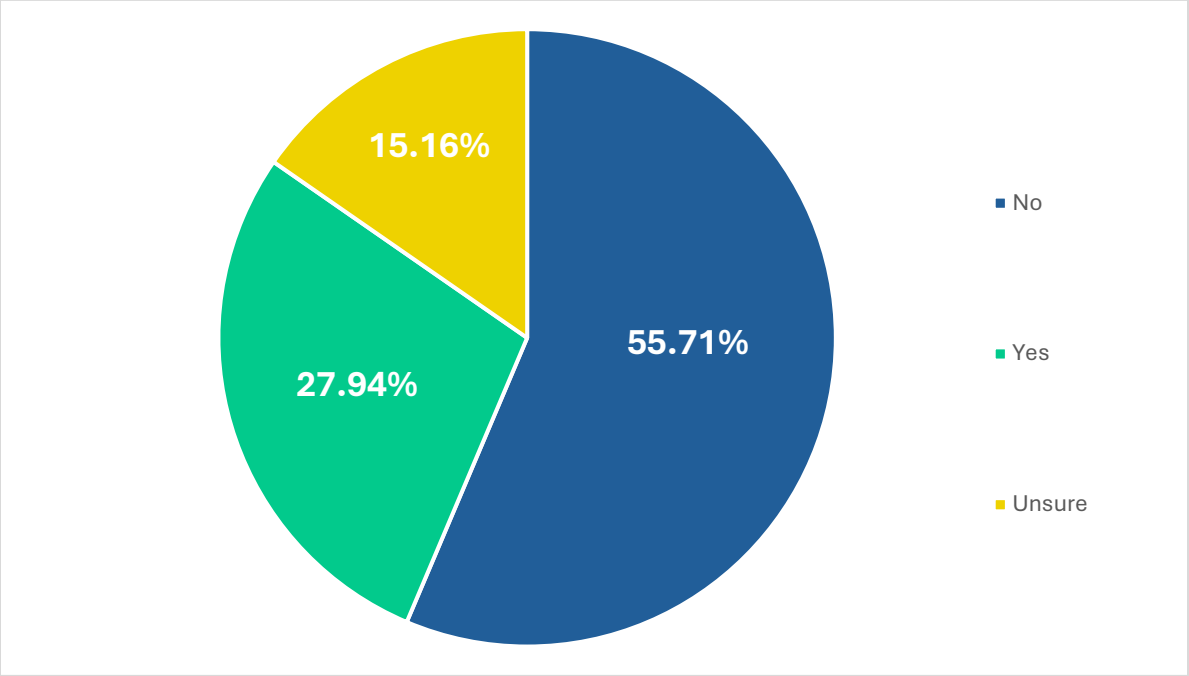
Several community-wide activities can reduce our risk from hazards. Please tell us how important you think each one is for your community to consider pursuing.

This question allows respondents to indicate the level of importance of community-wide hazard mitigation efforts. The results show that the most important strategy concerns are emergency services and natural resources protection.



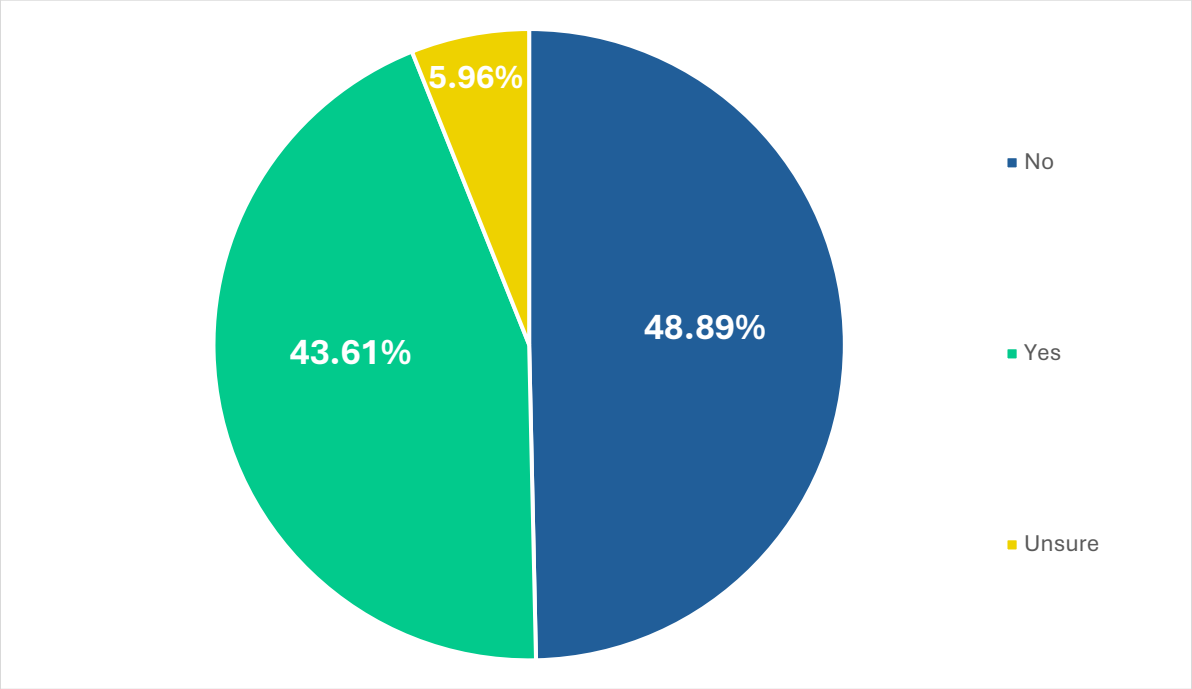
Question 12

Is your property located in a floodplain?



Question 13

Do you have flood insurance?



APPENDIX B-5: PUBLIC MEETING 1 DISTRIBUTION

Public Meeting 1 Flyer



Info Flyer

Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan



The Lowcountry Council of Governments is updating the Lowcountry Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan a FEMA-approved strategic document developed to identify natural and man-made risks, such as floods or hurricanes, and outline long-term actions to reduce vulnerability and loss of life. The plan is updated every 5 years and maintains the regions eligibility for federal mitigation grants and lowering insurance costs.

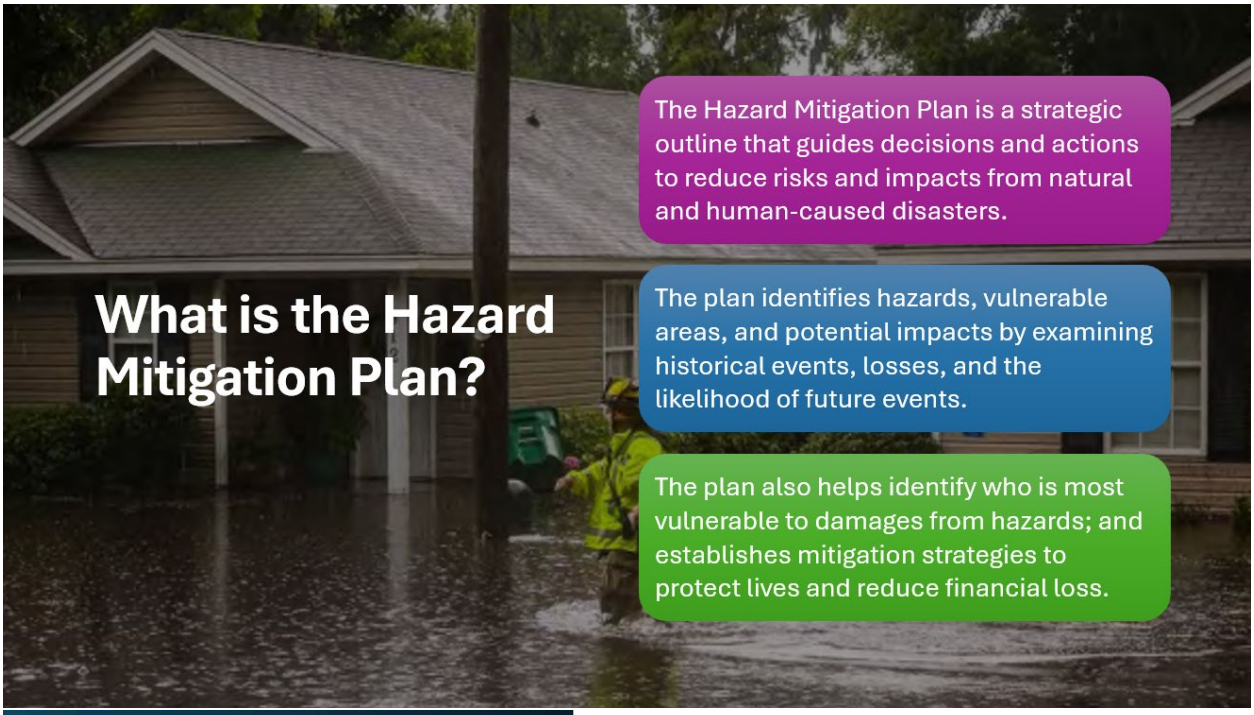
For more information visit:

www.lowcountrycog.org
or email
cramm@lowcountrycog.org

Meeting 1 Presentation

2026 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN PUBLIC MEETING

February 12, 2026



What Hazards are Evaluated?

- Tornado
- Hurricane
- Windstorm
- Lightning
- Hail
- Drought
- Earthquake
- Wildfire
- Flood
- Winter Storm
- Coastal Erosion
- Extreme Heat
- Terrorism
- Cyber Attack
- Hazardous Materials

Why is the Hazard Mitigation Plan Important to the Lowcountry?

Flood Risks

The Lowcountry's low elevation, coastal location and tidal systems increase the region's vulnerability to flooding, hurricanes and sea level rise.

Rainy Climate

The region regularly experiences tropical storms and intense rainfall that could pose as a severe risk.

Climate Shifts

As climates change, hazard frequency and severity may increase, placing additional strain on communities and emergency response systems.

Tourism & the Economy

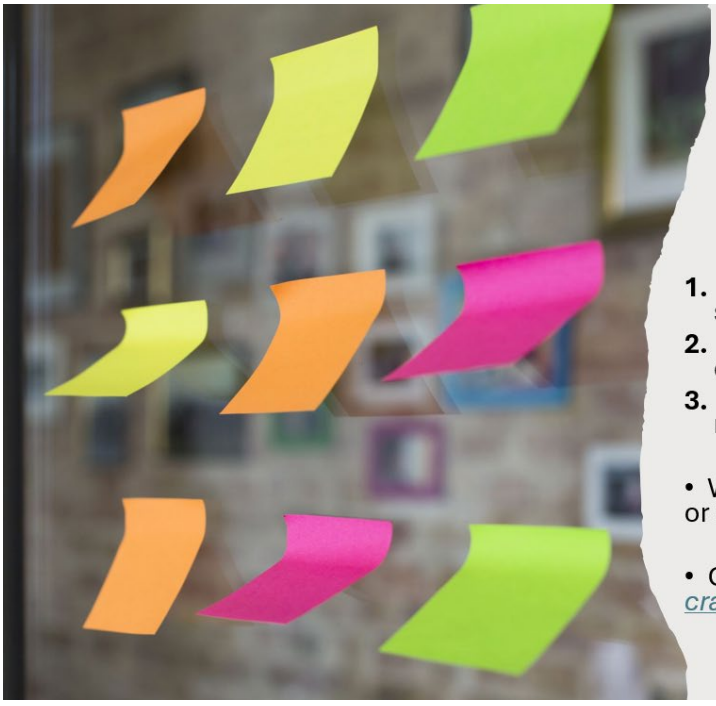
The region has a heavy tourist-centered economy, and local businesses can face challenges during recovery periods from disaster impacts.

Why update the Hazard Mitigation Plan?

- It is required to be updated every 5 years to maintain eligibility for certain federal funding, including disaster relief. Updating the plan can also provide possible discounts on flood insurance.
- Growth and development trends are adjusting and increasing risk and exposure, placing more people and businesses in vulnerable areas.
- Climate conditions are different from when the previous plan was adopted. Updating the plan allows for implementation of new data, maps, and assessments.
- The public can provide input on recent experiences and concerns regarding relevant hazards.

Public Meeting Boards

- The results of the Hazard Mitigation Plan public survey
- Maps of associated hazards
- Social Vulnerability Data & Critical Facilities
- Plan Goals



How Can You Provide Input?

1. **Hazards**: Review and provide suggestions
2. **Goals**: Review and add sticker if agree or disagree
3. **Vulnerability Map**: Interact with the map and leave comments

- Write your thoughts on the feedback form or send via email
- Contact Chris Ramm at *cramm@lowcountrycog.org*

APPENDIX B-6: PUBLIC MEETING 1 SUMMARY

Comments: Proposed Goals

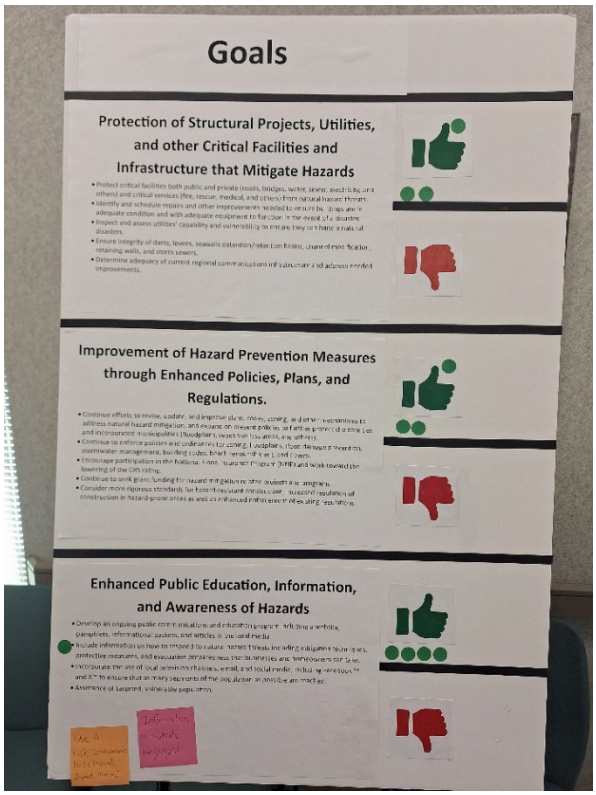
Proposed Goals	Comments
Protection of Structural Projects, Utilities, and other Critical Facilities and Infrastructure that Mitigate Hazards	
• Continue to protect critical facilities both public and private (roads, bridges, water, sewer, electricity, and others) and critical services (fire, rescue, medical, and others) from natural hazard threats.	
• Continue to identify and schedule repairs and other improvements needed to ensure buildings are in adequate condition and with adequate equipment to function in the event of a disaster.	•
• Inspect and assess utilities' capability and vulnerability to ensure they can handle natural disasters.	•
• Ensure integrity of dams, levees, seawalls detention/retention basins, channel modification, retaining walls, and storm sewers.	•
• Determine adequacy of current regional communications infrastructure and address needed improvements.	•

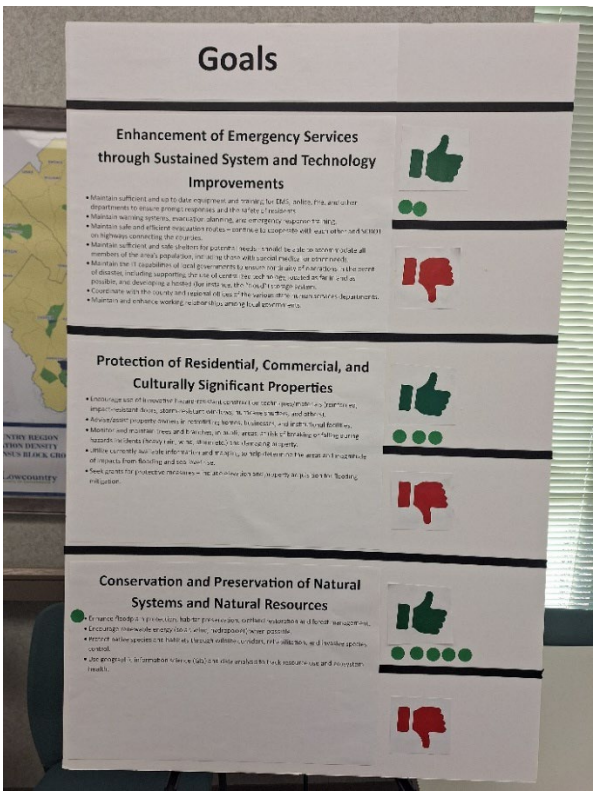
Improvement of Hazard Prevention Measures through Enhanced Policies, Plans, and Regulations.	
• Continue efforts to revise, update, and improve plans, codes, zoning, and other mechanisms to address natural hazard mitigation, and expand on present policies to further protect the counties and incorporated municipalities (floodplains, repetitive loss areas, and others).	•
• Continue to enforce policies and ordinances for zoning, floodplains, flood damage prevention, stormwater management, building codes, beach renourishment, and others.	•
• Encourage participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and work toward the lowering of the CRS rating.	•
• Continue to seek grant funding for hazard mitigation related projects and programs.	•
• Consider more rigorous standards for hazard-resistant construction, increased regulation of construction in hazard-prone areas as well as enhanced enforcement of existing regulations.	•
Enhanced Public Education, Information, and Awareness of Hazards	

• Develop an ongoing public communications and education program including a website, pamphlets, informational packets, and articles in the local media.	• Use a risk communication lens (hazard, impact, action)
• Include information on how to respond to natural hazard threats including mitigation techniques, protective measures, and evacuation preparedness that businesses and homeowners can take.	• Information in multiple languages
• Incorporate the use of local television channels, email, and social media, including Facebook ™ and X™ to ensure that as many segments of the population as possible are reached.	•
• Assistance of targeted, vulnerable population.	•
Enhancement of Emergency Services through Sustained System and Technology Improvements	
• Maintain sufficient and up to date equipment and training for EMS, police, fire, and other departments to ensure prompt responses and the safety of residents.	•
• Maintain warning systems, evacuation planning, and emergency response training.	•
• Maintain safe and efficient evacuation routes – continue to cooperate with each other and SCDOT on highways connecting	•

the counties.	
• Maintain sufficient and safe shelters for potential needs - should be able to accommodate all members of the area's population, including those with special medical or other needs.	•
• Maintain the IT capabilities of local governments to ensure continuity of operations in the event of disaster, including supporting the use of centralized technology, located as far inland as possible, and developing a hosted (for instance, the "cloud") storage system.	•
• Coordinate with the county and regional offices of the various state human services departments.	•
• Maintain and enhance working relationships among local governments.	•
Protection of Residential, Commercial, and Culturally Significant Properties	
• Encourage use of innovative hazard-resistant construction techniques/materials (reinforced, impact-resistant doors, storm-resistant windows, hurricane shutters, and others).	•
• Advise/assist property owners in retrofitting homes, businesses, and institutional facilities.	•
• Monitor and maintain trees and branches, in public areas, at risk	•

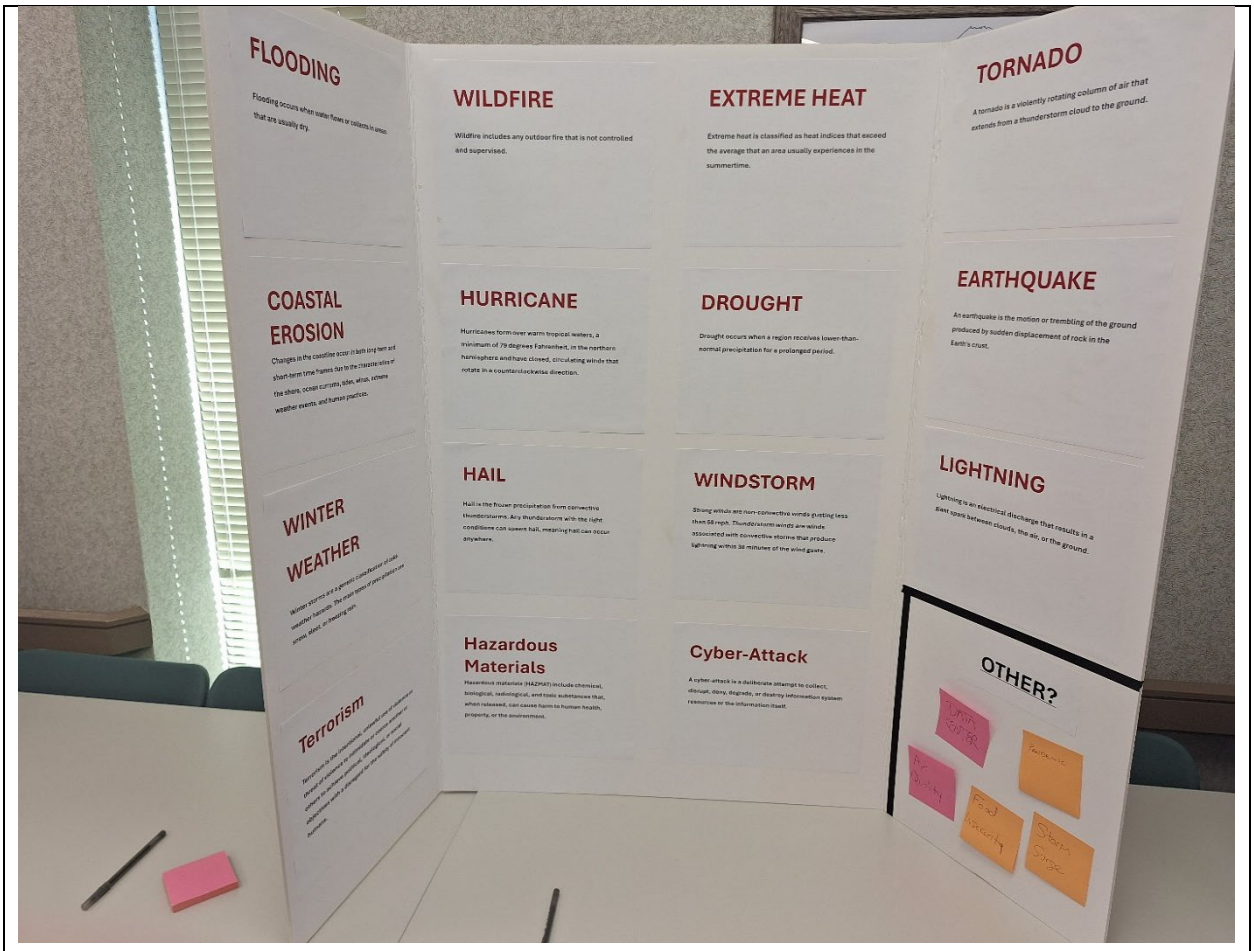
of breaking or falling during hazards incidents (heavy rain, wind, storm etc.) and damaging property.	
• Utilize currently available information and mapping to help determine the areas and magnitude of impacts from flooding and sea level rise.	•
• Seek grants for protective measures – include elevation and property acquisition for flooding mitigation.	•
Conservation and Preservation of Natural Systems and Natural Resources	
• Enhance floodplain protection, habitat preservation, wetland restoration and forest management.	•
• Encourage renewable energy (solar, wind, hydropower) when possible.	•
• Protect native species and habitats through wildlife corridors, rehabilitation, and invasive species control.	•
• Use geographic information science (GIS) and data analysis to track resource use and ecosystem health.	•





Comments: Hazard Definitions

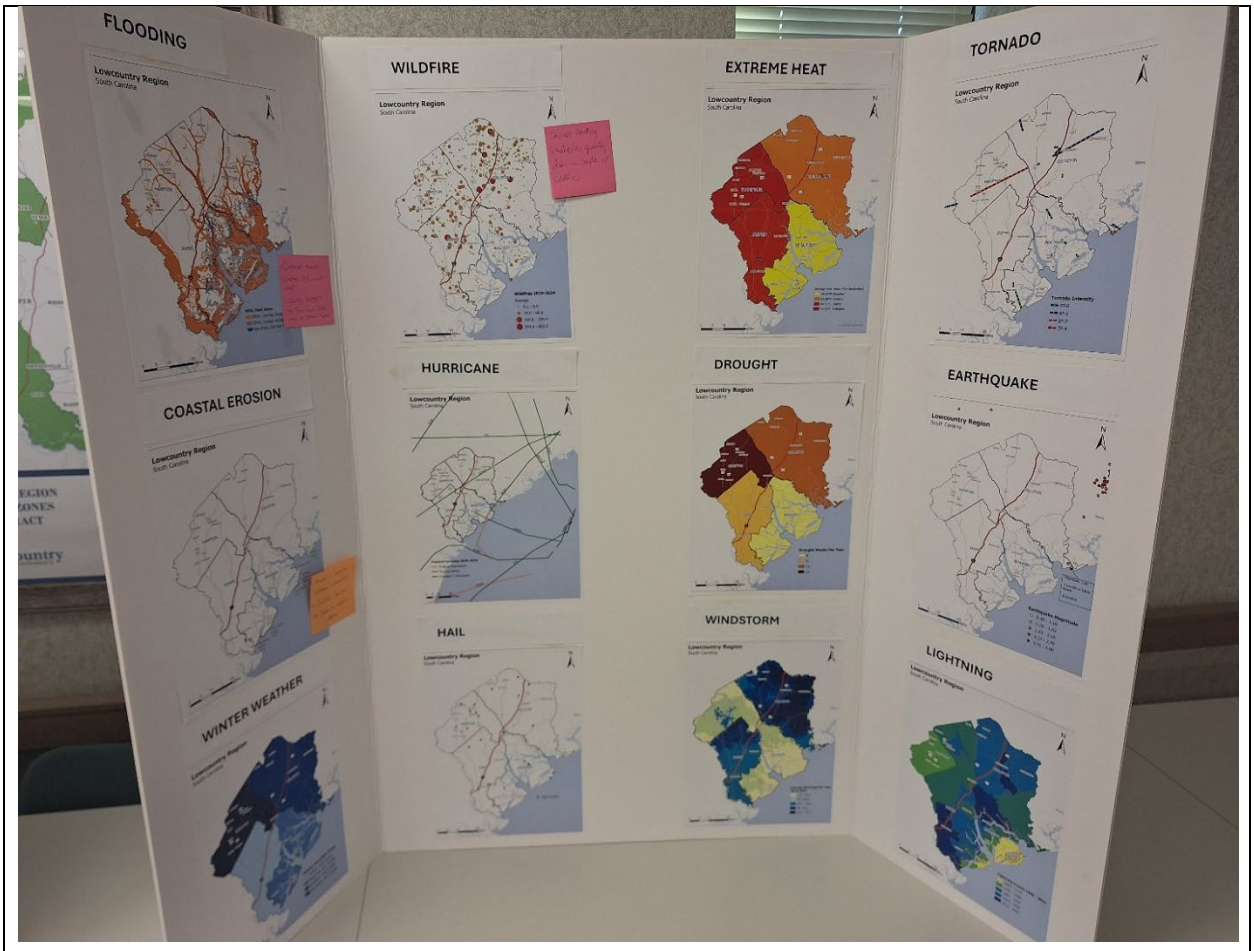
Other Hazards Listed
• **Pandemic**
• **Air quality**
• **Storm surge**
• **Food insecurity**
• **Data Center**



Comments: Maps

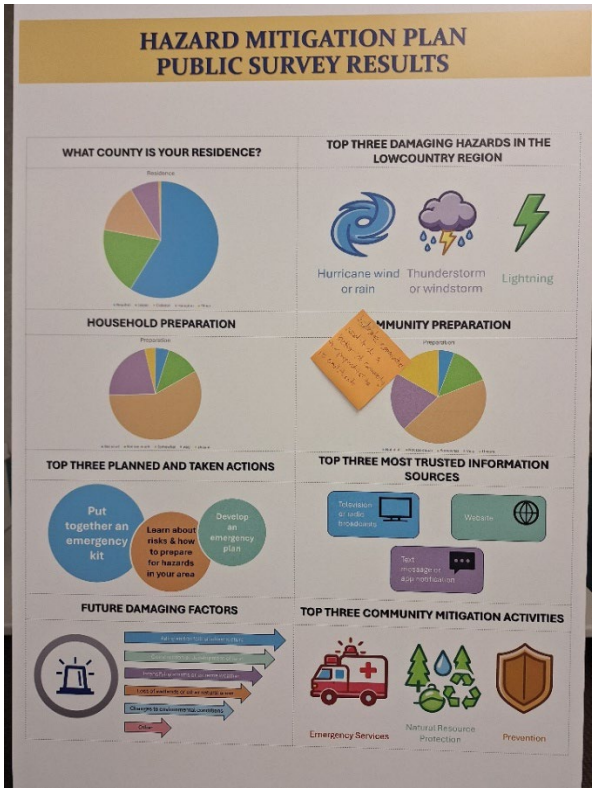
Hazards	Comments
Flooding	• **Consider adding Coastal A/Limwa Map** • **Areas subject to sea level rise and or**

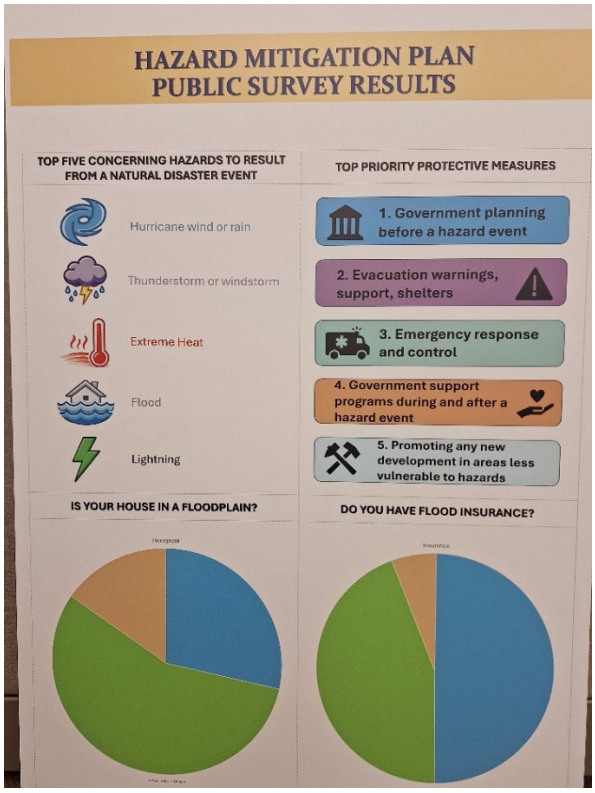
	storm surge.
Wildfire	• **Consider adding smoke/air quality data to couple w/ wildfires.**
Extreme Heat	•
Tornado	•
Coastal Erosion	• **Check with Georgia Southern University + Chester Jackson for shoreline erosion data.**
Hurricane	•
Drought	•
Earthquake	•
Winter weather	•
Hail	•
Windstorm	•
Lightning	•



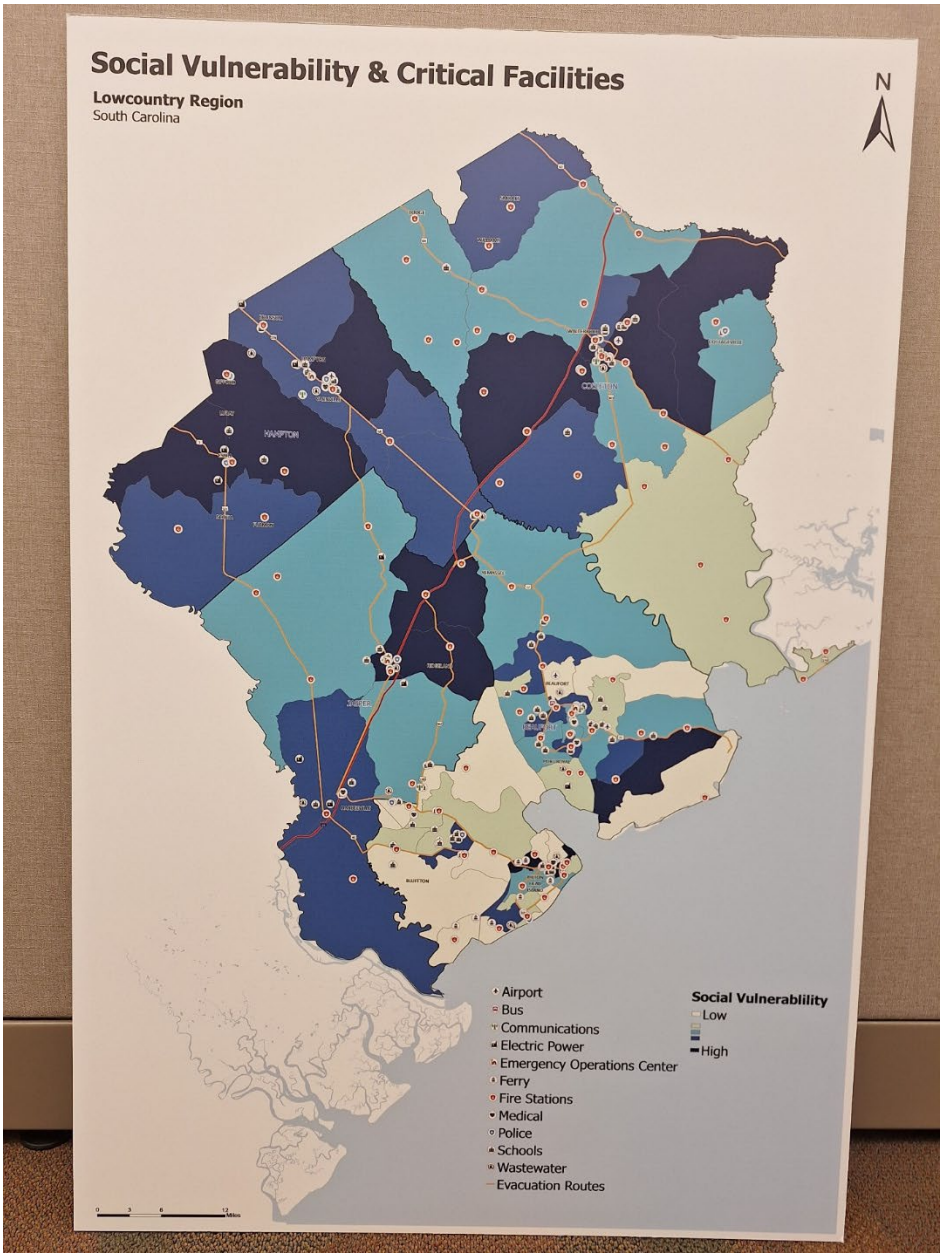
Comments: Public Survey Results

Comments	
Community Preparation	• **Indicate communities need to do a better job of communicating their preparedness to the constituents.**


HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS
WHAT COUNTY IS YOUR RESIDENCE?
TOP THREE DAMAGING HAZARDS IN THE LOWCOUNTRY REGION
Hurricane wind or rain
Thunderstorm or windstorm
Lightning
HOUSEHOLD PREPARATION
TOP THREE PLANNED AND TAKEN ACTIONS
Put together an emergency kit
Learn about risks & how to prepare for hazards in your area
Develop an emergency plan
TOP THREE MOST TRUSTED INFORMATION SOURCES
Website
FUTURE DAMAGING FACTORS
TOP THREE COMMUNITY MITIGATION ACTIVITIES
Emergency Services
Natural Resource Protection
Prevention


HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS
TOP FIVE CONCERNING HAZARDS TO RESULT FROM A NATURAL DISASTER EVENT
Hurricane wind or rain
Thunderstorm or windstorm
Extreme Heat
Flood
Lightning
TOP PRIORITY PROTECTIVE MEASURES
1. Government planning before a hazard event
2. Evacuation warnings, support, shelters
3. Emergency response and control
4. Government support programs during and after a hazard event
5. Promoting any new development in areas less vulnerable to hazards
IS YOUR HOUSE IN A FLOODPLAIN?
DO YOU HAVE FLOOD INSURANCE?

Vulnerability and Critical Facilities



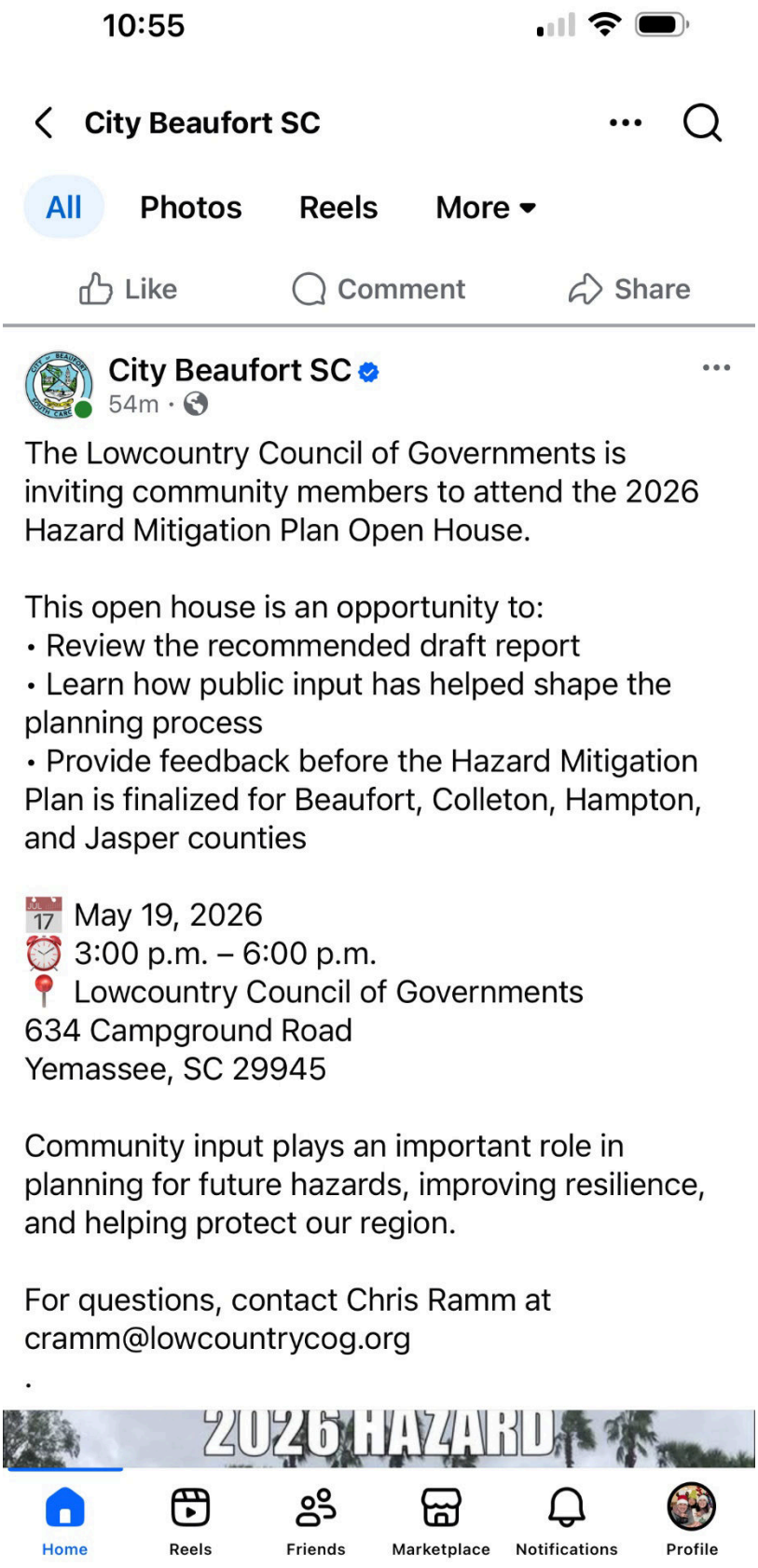
APPENDIX B-7: PUBLIC MEETING 2 DISTRIBUTION

Public Meeting 2 Flyer



Meeting 2 Advertising




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The Lowcountry Council of Governments is inviting community members to attend the 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan Open House.
This open house is an opportunity to:
• Review the recommended draft report
• Learn how public input has helped shape the planning process
• Provide feedback before the Hazard Mitigation Plan is finalized for Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper counties
May 19, 2026
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Lowcountry Council of Governments
634 Campground Road
Yemassee, SC 29945
Community input plays an important role in planning for future hazards, improving resilience, and helping protect our region.
For questions, contact Chris Ramm at cramm@lowcountrycog.org
.
2026 HAZARD
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Profile

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Felicia Knopf
Lowcountry Council Of Governme
Po Box 98

Yemassee SC 29945-0098

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF HAMPTON

The Hampton County Guardian, a weekly newspaper published and of general circulation in Hampton County, and personal knowledge of the facts herein state and that the notice hereto annexed was Published in said newspapers in the issues dated or by publication on the newspaper's website, if authorized, on:

05/07/2026

and that the fees charged are legal.
Sworn to and subscribed before on 05/07/2026

Legal Clerk

Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

6/30/2029

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AMY KOKOTT
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin



An opportunity to review the recommended draft report, see how public input has shaped the planning process, and provide feedback for finalizing of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Lowcountry Council of Governments is updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan for Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties.

We hope to see you there!

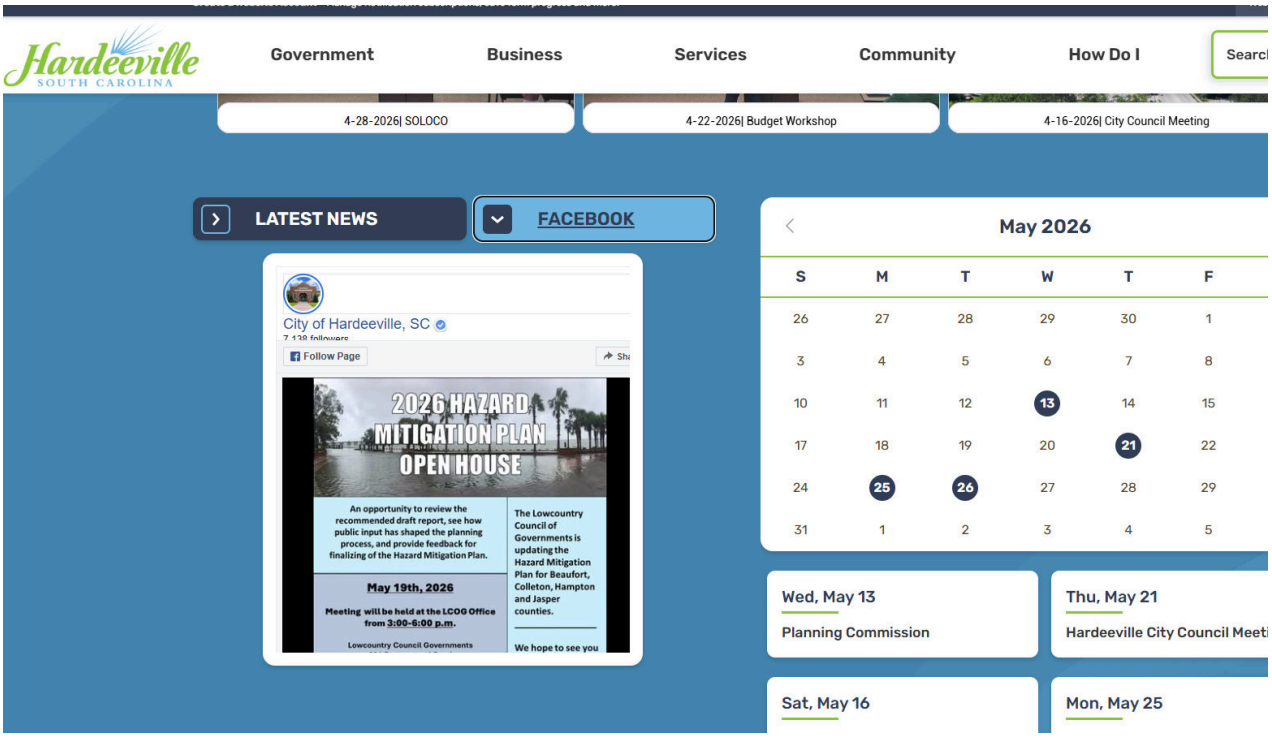
May 19th, 2026

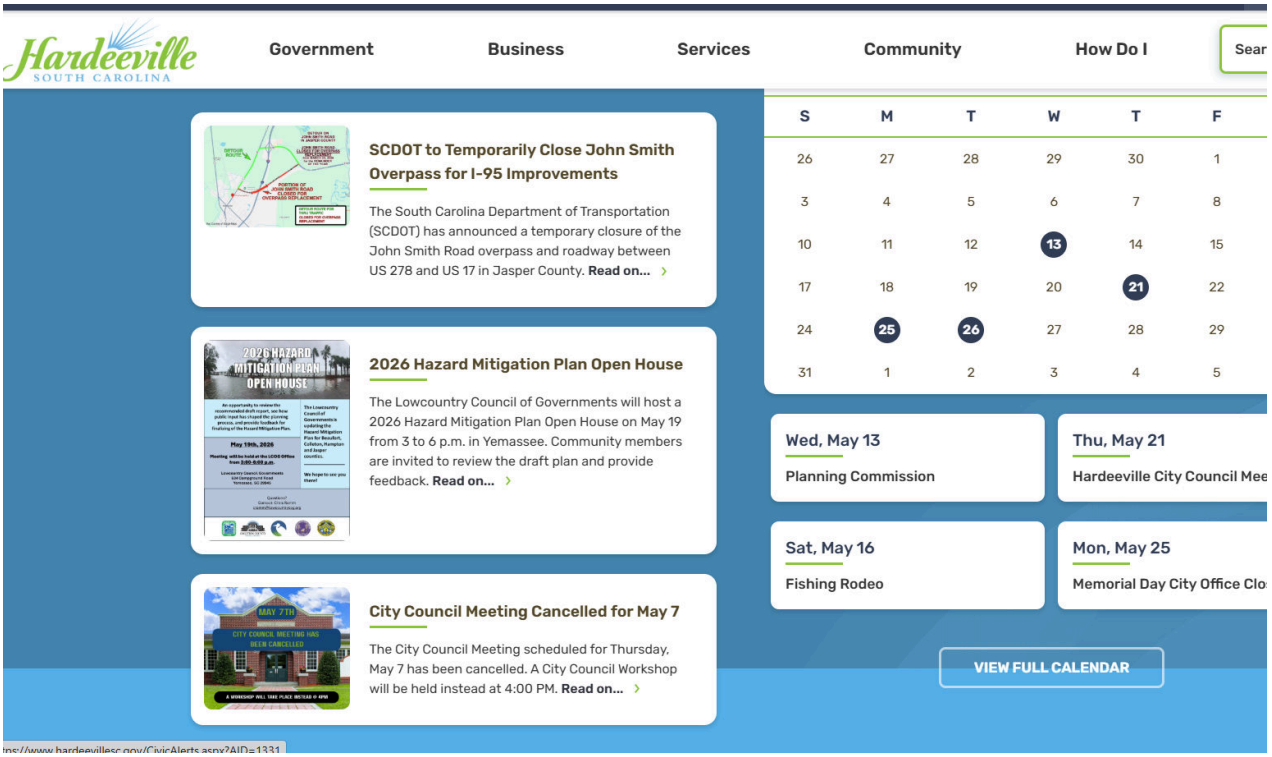
Meeting will be held at the LCOG Office from 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Lowcountry Council Governments
634 Campground Road
Yemassee, SC 29945

Questions?
Contact: Chris Ramm
cramm@lowcountrycog.org

COLLETON COUNTY


Hardeeville
SOUTH CAROLINA
Government
Business
Services
Community
How Do I
4-28-2026| SOLOCO
4-22-2026| Budget Workshop
4-16-2026| City Council Meeting
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City of Hardeeville, SC
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2026 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN OPEN HOUSE
An opportunity to review the recommended draft report, see how public input has shaped the planning process, and provide feedback for finalizing of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
May 19th, 2026
Meeting will be held at the LCOG Office from 3:00-6:00 p.m.
Lowcountry Council Governments
The Lowcountry Council of Governments is updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan for Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties.
We hope to see you
May 2026
S M T W T F
26 27 28 29 30 1
3 4 5 6 7 8
10 11 12 13 14 15
17 18 19 20 21 22
24 25 26 27 28 29
31 1 2 3 4 5
Wed, May 13
Planning Commission
Thu, May 21
Hardeeville City Council Meeti
Sat, May 16
Mon, May 25


Hardeeville
SOUTH CAROLINA
Government
Business
Services
Community
How Do I
SCDOT to Temporarily Close John Smith Overpass for I-95 Improvements
The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) has announced a temporary closure of the John Smith Road overpass and roadway between US 278 and US 17 in Jasper County. Read on...
2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan Open House
The Lowcountry Council of Governments will host a 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan Open House on May 19 from 3 to 6 p.m. in Yemassee. Community members are invited to review the draft plan and provide feedback. Read on...
City Council Meeting Cancelled for May 7
The City Council Meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 7 has been cancelled. A City Council Workshop will be held instead at 4:00 PM. Read on...
S M T W T F
26 27 28 29 30 1
3 4 5 6 7 8
10 11 12 13 14 15
17 18 19 20 21 22
24 25 26 27 28 29
31 1 2 3 4 5
Wed, May 13
Planning Commission
Thu, May 21
Sat, May 16
Fishing Rodeo
Mon, May 25
Memorial Day City Office Clo
VIEW FULL CALENDAR


The Town of Edisto Beach
Departments
Government
Projects
Residents
Services
Visitors
Employment
Home ▯ News
DEPARTMENTS
GOVERNMENT
PROJECTS
RESIDENTS
SERVICES
VISITORS
EMPLOYMENT
LCOG 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan Open House/May 19, 3-6 p.m./Yemassee SC
The Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG) is updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan for Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper counties. An open house to review the recommended draft report, see how public input has shaped the planning process, and to provide feedback for finalizing of the Hazard Mitigation Plan will be held on May 19, 2026, from 3-6 p.m., at 634 Campground Road, Yemassee, SC. Questions regarding this meeting may be directed to Chris Ramm at cramm@lowcountrycog.org.
The LCOG website may be found at this link.
Share
Town of Edisto Beach
2414 Murray Street
Edisto Beach, SC 29438
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Miami Herald
El Nuevo Herald
The Modesto Bee
The Sun News - Myrtle Beach
Raleigh News & Observer
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SOUTH CAROLINA) AFFIDAVIT

COUNTY OF BEAUFORT)

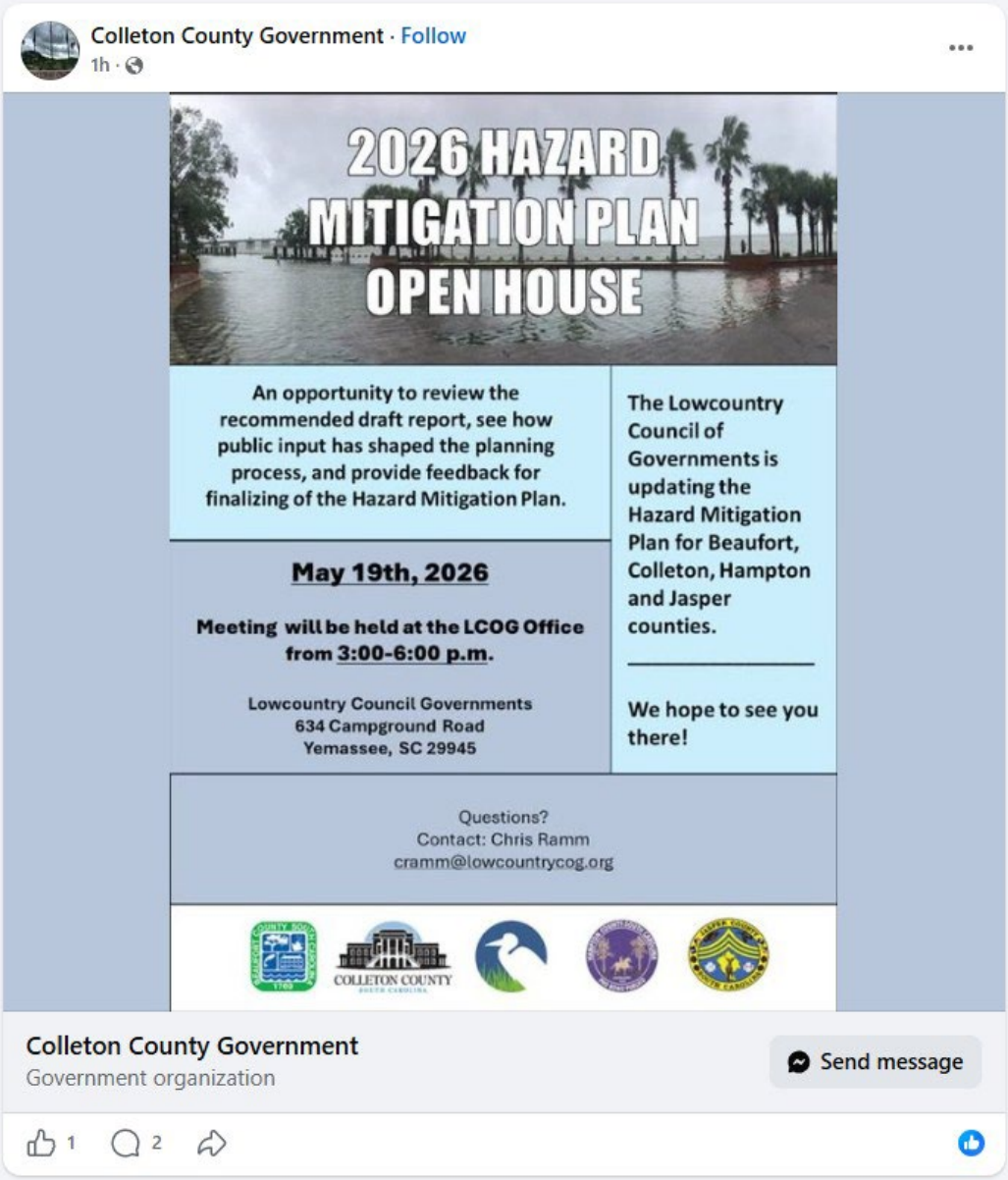
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2026 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN OPEN HOUSE
An opportunity to review the recommended draft report, see how public input has shaped the planning process, and provide feedback for finalizing of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
May 19th, 2026
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We hope to see you there!
Questions?
Contact: Chris Ramm
cramm@lowcountrycog.org
COLLETON COUNTY
Colleton County Government
Government organization
Send message
1
2

UWLC Long-Term Recovery Group is with **Lowcountry Council of Governments** and...
21h · Yemassee ·

Today our United Way of the Lowcountry Long-Term Recovery Group (LTRG) attended the 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan Open House hosted by the Lowcountry Council of Governments. It was an excellent opportunity to support regional coordination efforts across Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper counties as we continue working together to strengthen disaster preparedness and community resilience throughout the Lowcountry.

We were grateful to connect with new community partners and collaborate with organizations committed to protecting our region ahead of future hazards and the upcoming hurricane season. Congratulations to Chris Ramm and the entire Lowcountry Council of Governments team for presenting such comprehensive and impactful data that will help guide mitigation planning for years to come.

Community input remains a critical part of this process. To review their report and provide feedback, please check out the QR code shared at today's event. We look forward to continued partnership and future joint meetings as we help our Lowcountry communities prepare, respond, and recover together.

#BeaufortCounty #JasperCountySC #ColletonCounty #hamptoncountysc #HurricaneSeason2026 #FloodZones # See less



Meeting 2 Welcome Screen

Welcome to the Open House!

Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan

2026 Update

Each station is set up to represent a section of the Plan. View the process that led to our recommended plan document.

- Station 1: **Introduction & Planning Process**
- Station 2: **Lowcountry Profile**
- Station 3: **Hazard Identification & Assessment**
- Station 4: **Vulnerability Assessment**
- Station 5: **Community Capability Assessment**
- Station 6: **Hazard Mitigation Strategy**
- Station 7: **Plan Maintenance**

Feel free to explore the Hazard Mitigation Plan and ask staff questions along the way!



APPENDIX B-8: PUBLIC MEETING 2 SUMMARY

Comments: Goals and Strategies

1 - Protection of Structural Projects, Utilities, and other Critical Facilities and Infrastructure that Mitigate Hazards	
Protect critical facilities both public and private (roads, bridges, water, sewer, electricity, and others) and critical services (fire, rescue, medical, and others) from natural hazard threats.	
Identify and schedule repairs and other improvements needed to ensure buildings are in adequate condition and with adequate equipment to function in the event of a disaster.	
Inspect and assess utilities' capability and vulnerability to ensure they can handle natural disasters.	
Ensure integrity of dams, levees, seawalls detention/retention basins, channel modification, retaining walls, and storm sewers.	
Determine adequacy of current regional communications infrastructure and address needed improvements.	
2 - Enhanced Public Education, Information, and Awareness of Hazards	

Develop an ongoing public communications and education program including a website, pamphlets, informational packets, and articles in the local media.		
Include information on how to respond to natural hazard threats including mitigation techniques, protective measures, and evacuation preparedness that businesses and homeowners can take.		
Incorporate the use of local television channels, email, and social media, including Facebook ™ and X™ to ensure that as many segments of the population as possible are reached.		
Assistance of targeted, vulnerable population.		
3 - Improvement of Hazard Prevention Measures through Enhanced Policies, Plans, and Regulations		
Continue efforts to revise, update, and improve plans, codes, zoning, and other mechanisms to address natural hazard mitigation, and expand on present policies to further protect the counties and incorporated municipalities (floodplains, repetitive loss areas, and others).		

Continue to enforce policies and ordinances for zoning, floodplains, flood damage prevention, stormwater management, building codes, beach renourishment, and others.		
Encourage participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and work toward the lowering of the CRS rating.		
Continue to seek grant funding for hazard mitigation related projects and programs.		
Consider more rigorous standards for hazard-resistant construction, increased regulation of construction in hazard-prone areas as well as enhanced enforcement of existing regulations.		

4 - Enhancement of Emergency Services through Sustained System and Technology Improvements	
Maintain sufficient and up to date equipment and training for EMS, police, fire, and other departments to ensure prompt responses and the safety of residents.	
Maintain warning systems, evacuation planning, and emergency response training.	

Maintain safe and efficient evacuation routes – continue to cooperate with each other and SCDOT on highways connecting the counties.	
Maintain sufficient and safe shelters for potential needs - should be able to accommodate all members of the area's population, including those with special medical or other needs.	
Maintain the IT capabilities of local governments to ensure continuity of operations in the event of disaster, including supporting the use of centralized technology, located as far inland as possible, and developing a hosted (for instance, the "cloud") storage system.	
Coordinate with the county and regional offices of the various state human services departments.	
Maintain and enhance working relationships among local governments.	
5 – Protection of Residential, Commercial, and Culturally Significant Properties	
Encourage use of innovative hazard-resistant construction techniques/materials (reinforced, impact-resistant doors, storm-resistant windows, hurricane shutters, and others).	
Advise/assist property owners in retrofitting homes, businesses, and institutional facilities.	• Very informative As a resident of Hampton County, this information is very helpful

Monitor and maintain trees and branches, in public areas, at risk of breaking or falling during hazards incidents (heavy rain, wind, storm etc.) and damaging property.	
Utilize currently available information and mapping to help determine the areas and magnitude of impacts from flooding and sea level rise.	
Seek grants for protective measures – include elevation and property acquisition for flooding mitigation.	
Encourage use of innovative hazard-resistant construction techniques/materials (reinforced, impact-resistant doors, storm-resistant windows, hurricane shutters, and others).	
6 – Conservation and Preservation of Natural Systems and Natural Resources	
Encourage renewable energy (solar, wind, hydropower) when possible.	
Protect native species and habitats through wildlife corridors, rehabilitation, and invasive species control.	
Use geographic information science (GIS) and data analysis to track resource use and ecosystem health.	

Encourage renewable energy (solar, wind, hydropower) when possible.	

Posters & Photos

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – SECTION 2
LOWCOUNTRY PROFILE

COUNTY POPULATION DATA



COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH

COUNTY	2024 POPULATION	CHANGE FROM 2020
JASPER	32,166	+8.8%
COLLETON	38,783	+3.1%
BEAUFORT	195,289	+2.9%
HAMPTON	18,254	-5.5%

TOP THREE MUNICIPALITIES BY PERCENT GROWTH IN PAST FIVE YEARS

CITY/TOWN	2024 POPULATION	CHANGE FROM 2020
LURAY	311	+326%
HARDEEVILLE	10,871	+60.2%
EDISTO BEACH	1,092	+53.8%

BOTTOM THREE MUNICIPALITIES BY PERCENT GROWTH IN PAST FIVE YEARS

CITY/TOWN	2024 POPULATION	CHANGE FROM 2020
SCOTIA	97	-49.2%
WILLIAMS	100	-48.5%
ESTILL	1,886	-31.6%

TOP THREE AGE COHORTS

AGE COHORT	TOTAL	PERCENT OF POPULATION
65 to 74 Years	43,753	15.38%
25 to 34 Years	31,210	10.97%
45 to 54 Years	29,928	10.52%

TOTAL WHITE POPULATION

COUNTY	WHITE POPULATION	CHANGE FROM 2018
HAMPTON	7,509	-11.46%
BEAUFORT	135,185	-8.05%
JASPER	15,468	-2.26%
COLLETON	22,225	-1%
LOWCOUNTRY	**180,307**	**-6.95%**

TOTAL BLACK POPULATION

COUNTY	2024 POPULATION	CHANGE FROM 2018
JASPER	10,572	-13.19%
BEAUFORT	30,745	-10.57%
HAMPTON	9,594	-7.64%
COLLETON	13,094	-6.64%
LOWCOUNTRY	**64,005**	**-9.81%**

TOTAL HISPANIC POPULATION

COUNTY	2024 POPULATION	CHANGE FROM 2018
JASPER	5,661	+47.88%
COLLETON	1,767	+38.70%
BEAUFORT	24,168	+14.76%
HAMPTON	757	-5.38%
LOWCOUNTRY	**32,353**	**+20.00%**

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – SECTION 2
LOWCOUNTRY PROFILE

COUNTY POPULATION DATA



COUNTY HOUSING STOCK

COUNTY	2024 HOUSING UNITS	CHANGE FROM 2018
JASPER	14,758	+27.6%
BEAUFORT	103,177	+5.5%
COLLETON	20,083	+0.3%
HAMPTON	8,645	-5.4%

TOP THREE DECADES BY HOUSING STOCK

DECADE	TOTAL HOUSING UNITS	PERCENT OF TOTAL
2000-2009	36,337	24.8%
1990-1999	26,119	17.8%
1980-1989	25,402	17.3%

COUNTY EMPLOYMENT RATES

COUNTY	2024 NUMBER OF EMPLOYED	2024 PERCENT EMPLOYED	CHANGE FROM 2019
BEAUFORT	82,918	97.4%	+9.37%
COLLETON	15,482	90.1%	+2.12%
HAMPTON	7,242	90.5%	-4.93%
JASPER	13,157	95.4%	+8.69%

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

COUNTY	2024 HOUSHOLD INCOME	CHANGE FROM 2018
JASPER	$65,613	+56.5%
COLLETON	$51,114	+40.9%
HAMPTON	$44,711	+37.77%
BEAUFORT	$86,573	+37.2%

PER CAPITA INCOME

COUNTY	2024 PER CAPITA INCOME	CHANGE FROM 2018
BEAUFORT	$57,083	+57.2%
HAMPTON	$26,499	+51.2%
COLLETON	$30,006	+42.9%
JASPER	$31,234	+39.4%

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – SECTION 4
LOSS INFORMATION SUMMARY

TOTAL LOSSES BY COUNTY 1960-2024

COUNTY	TOTAL LOSSES
BEAUFORT	$133,322,061
COLLETON	$122,069,757
JASPER	$88,701,096
HAMPTON	$73,067,102

RECENT LOSSES BY COUNTY 2019-2024

COUNTY	RECENT LOSSES	PERCENT OF TOTAL
HAMPTON	$3,666,621	5.0%
JASPER	$2,020,469	2.3%
BEAUFORT	$2,002,365	1.5%
COLLETON	$1,736,037	1.4%

TOP THREE HAZARDS BY RECENT LOSS

HAZARD	LOSSES 2019-2024
1. HURRICANE	$4,583,442
2. TORNADO	$1,214,422
3. FLOOD	$653,895
TOTAL	**$7,255,491**

TOP THREE MUNICIPALITIES BY RECENT LOSS

MUNICIPALITY	LOSSES 2019-2024
1. CITY OF BEAUFORT	$1,305,250
2. PORT ROYAL	$1,026,250
3. EDISTO BEACH	$815,000
TOTAL	**$9,425,492**

TOP THREE HAZARDS BY HISTORIC LOSS

HAZARD	LOSSES 1960-2024
1. DROUGHT	$79,927,631
2. WINTER STORM	$79,748,416
3. FLOOD	$75,693,613
TOTAL	**$417,160,017**

BOTTOM THREE HAZARDS BY HISTORIC LOSS

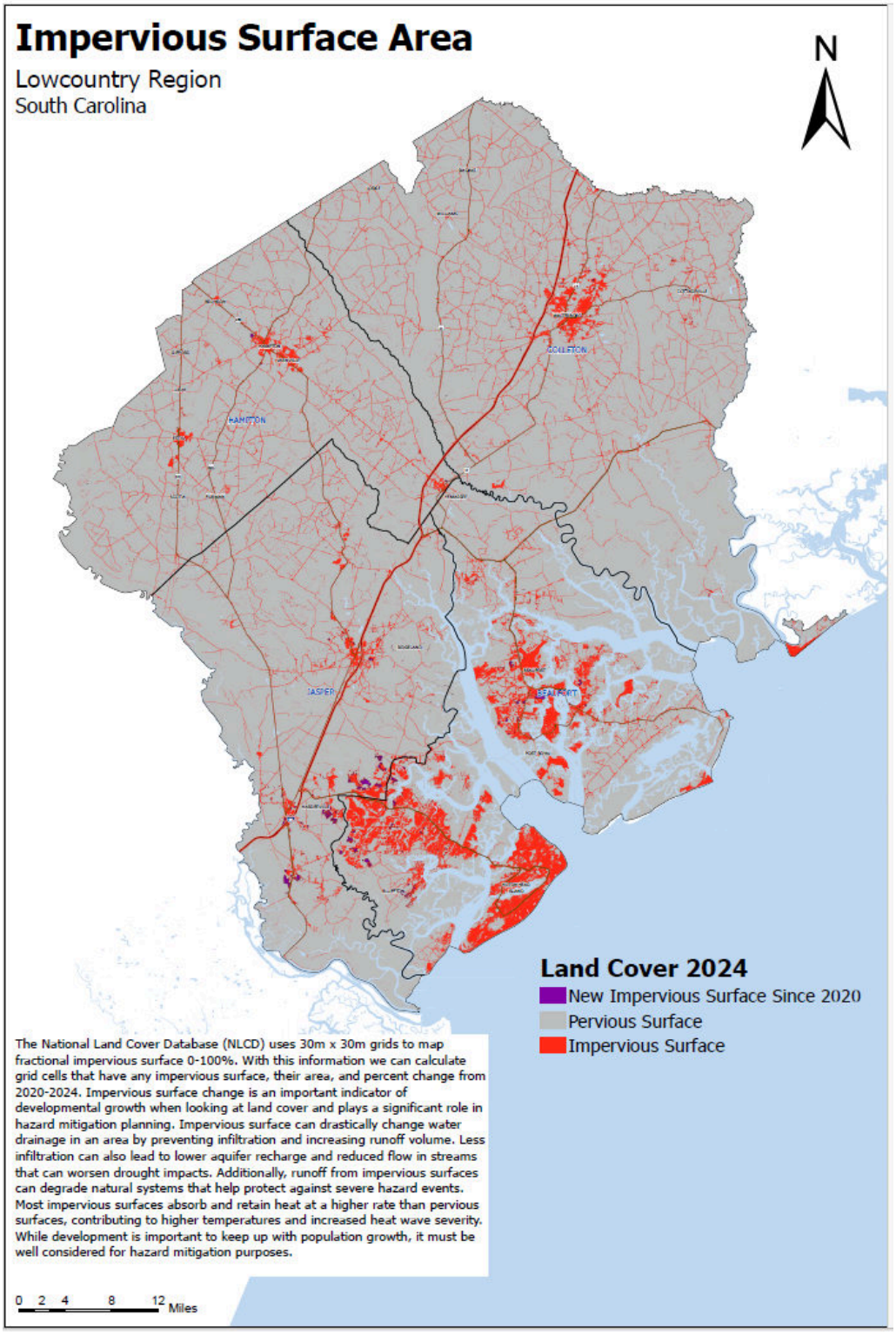
COUNTY	LOSSES 1960-2024
1. EARTHQUAKE	$0
2. HAIL	$2,667,350
3. WILDFIRE	$3,472,590

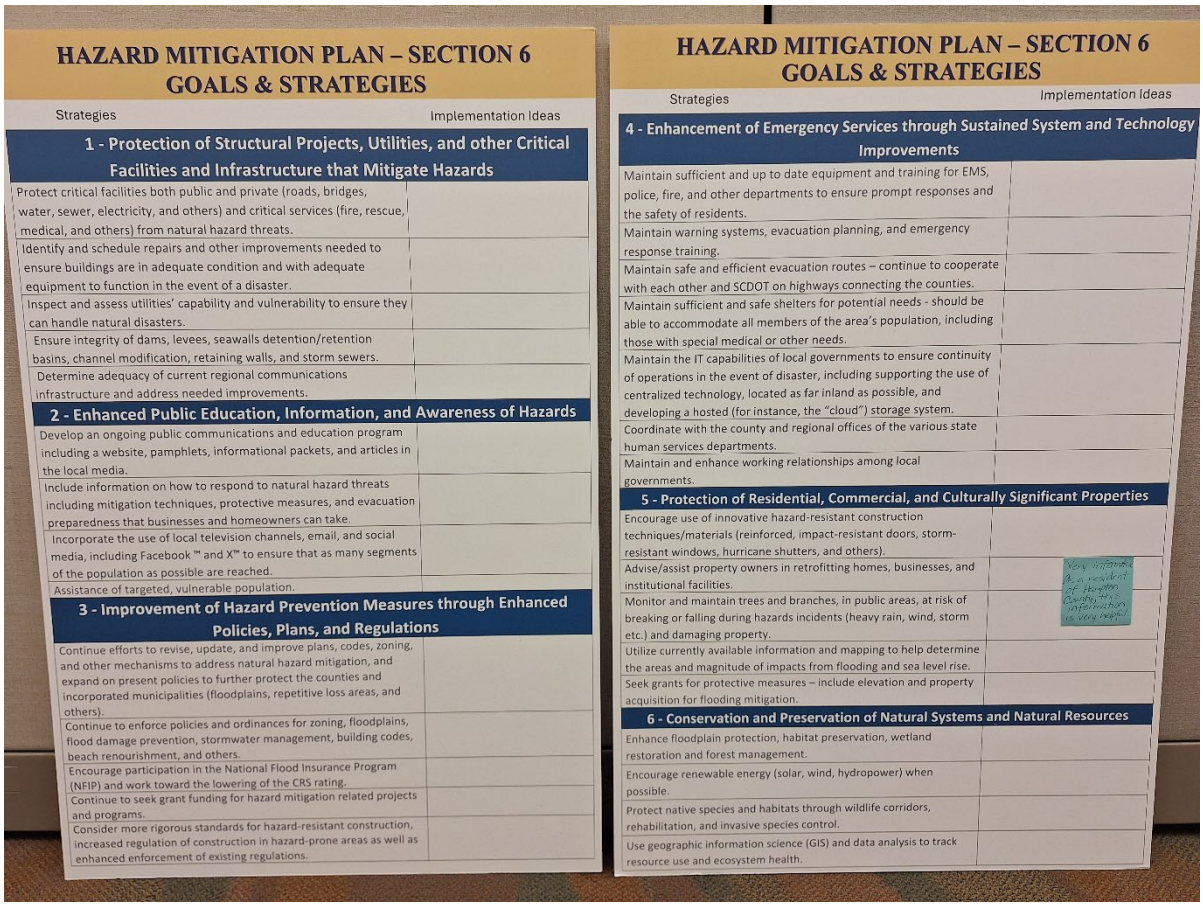
TOP THREE MUNICIPALITIES BY HISTORIC LOSS

MUNICIPALITY	LOSSES 1960-2024
1. EDISTO BEACH	$5,729,571
2. HILTON HEAD	$3,184,500
3. WALTERBORO	$1,143,250
TOTAL	**$417,160,017**

BOTTOM THREE MUNICIPALITIES BY HISTORIC LOSS

MUNICIPALITY	LOSSES 1960-2024
1. SCOTIA	$2,000
2. FURMAN	$3,000
3. LURAY	$4,000
TOTAL	**$417,160,017**


Impervious Surface Area
Lowcountry Region
South Carolina
N
Land Cover 2024
New Impervious Surface Since 2020
Pervious Surface
Impervious Surface
The National Land Cover Database (NLCD) uses 30m x 30m grids to map fractional impervious surface 0-100%. With this information we can calculate grid cells that have any impervious surface, their area, and percent change from 2020-2024. Impervious surface change is an important indicator of developmental growth when looking at land cover and plays a significant role in hazard mitigation planning. Impervious surface can drastically change water drainage in an area by preventing infiltration and increasing runoff volume. Less infiltration can also lead to lower aquifer recharge and reduced flow in streams that can worsen drought impacts. Additionally, runoff from impervious surfaces can degrade natural systems that help protect against severe hazard events. Most impervious surfaces absorb and retain heat at a higher rate than pervious surfaces, contributing to higher temperatures and increased heat wave severity. While development is important to keep up with population growth, it must be well considered for hazard mitigation purposes.
0 2 4 8 12 Miles

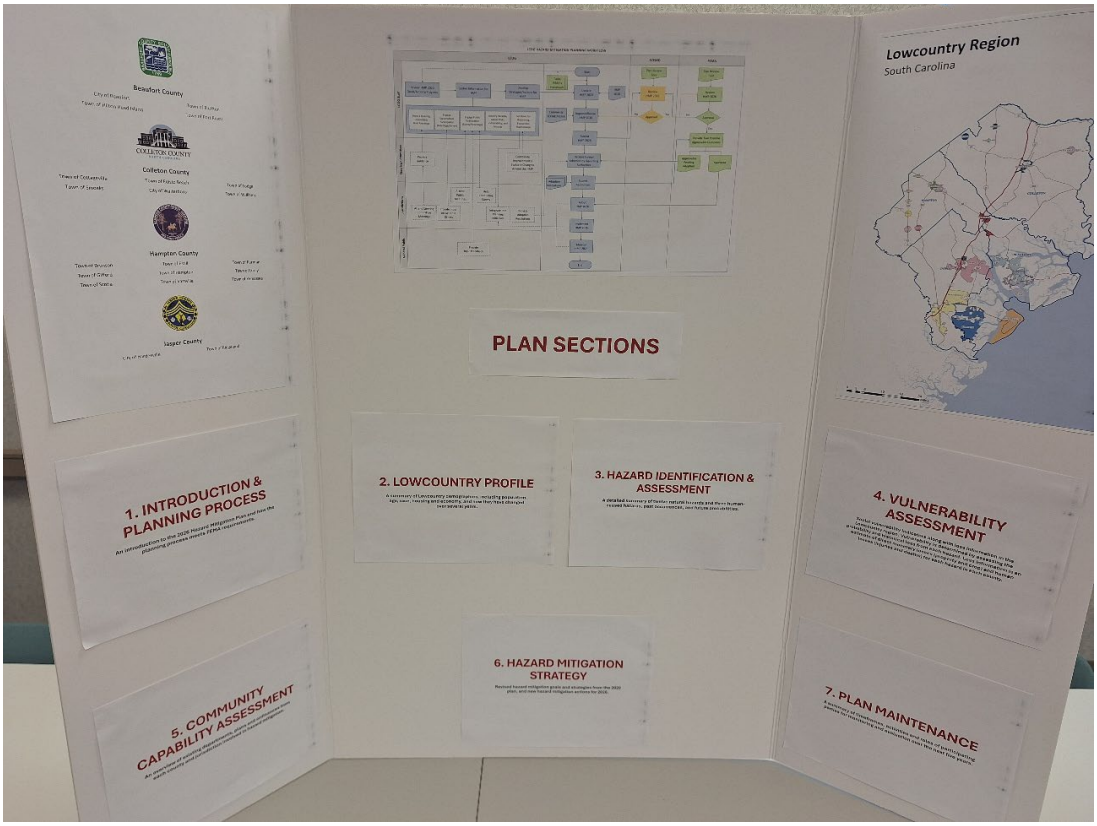


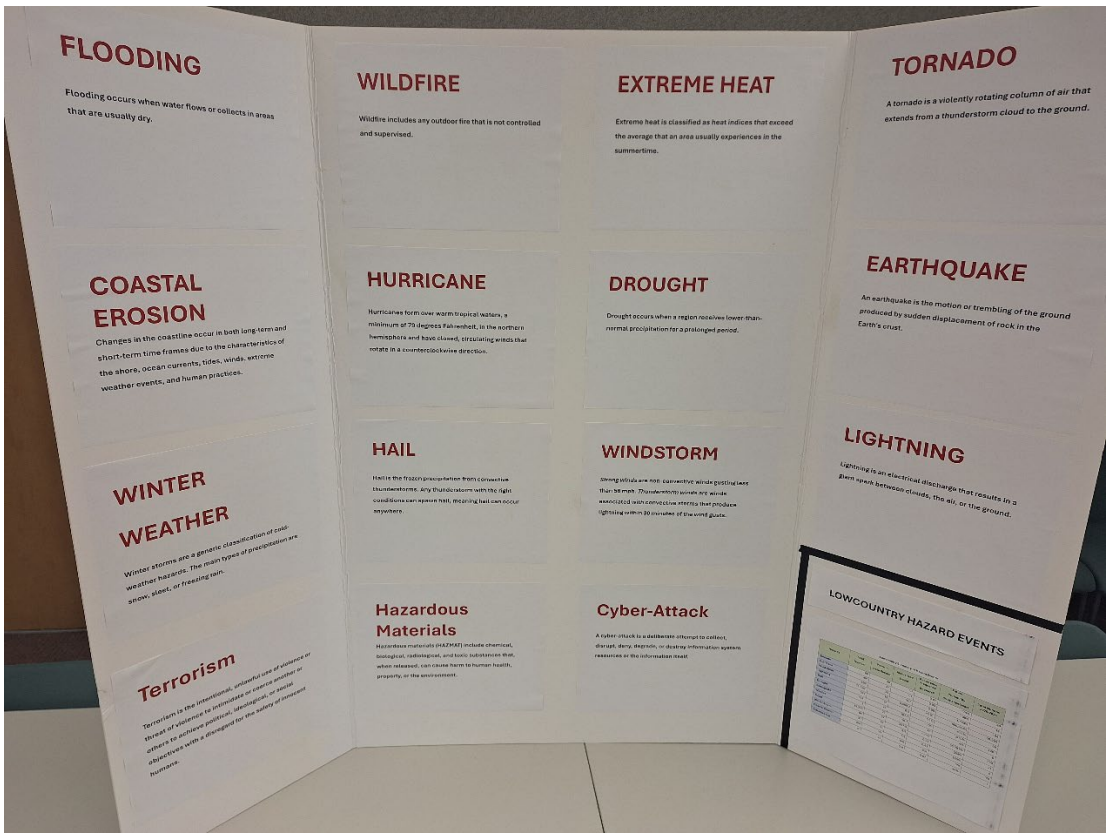
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – SECTION 6 GOALS & STRATEGIES

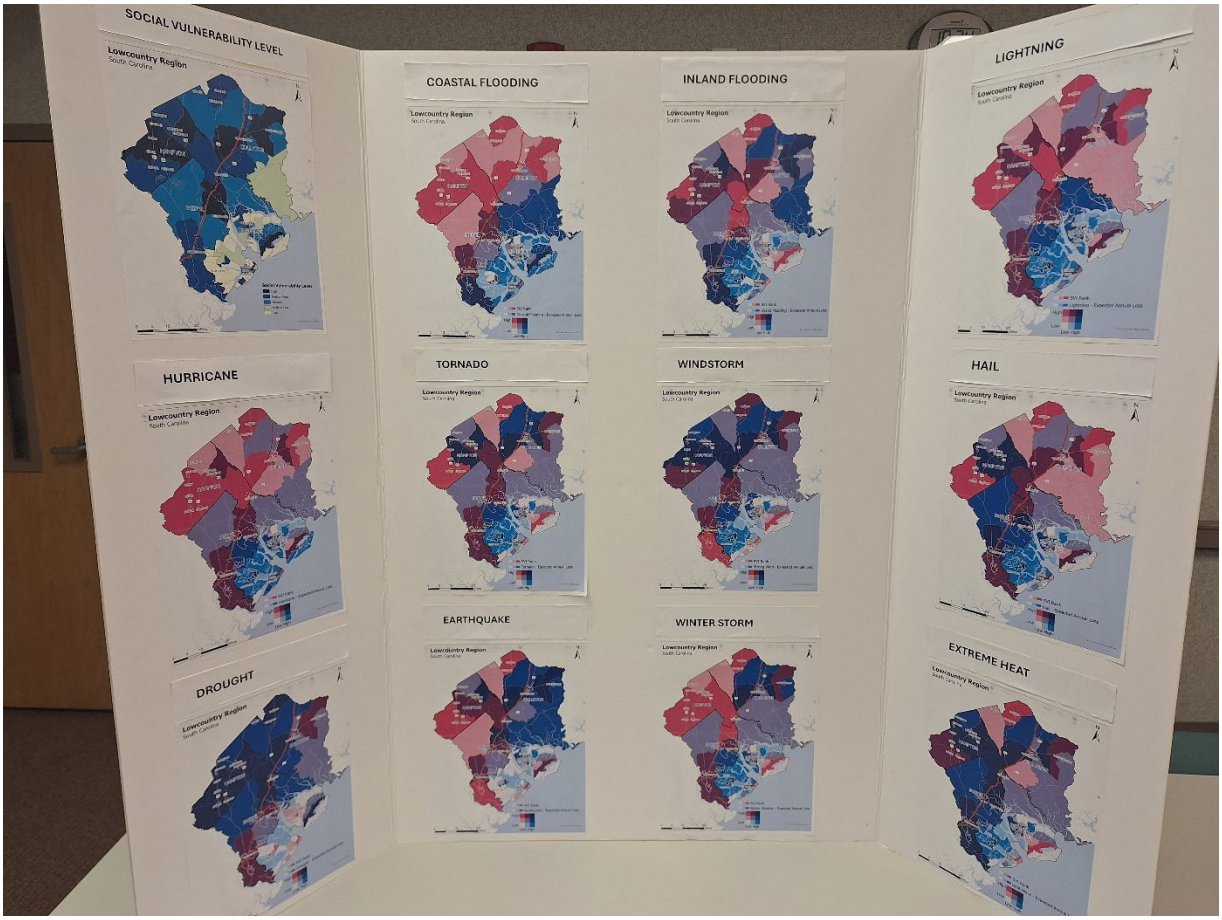
Strategies	Implementation Ideas
1 - Protection of Structural Projects, Utilities, and other Critical Facilities and Infrastructure that Mitigate Hazards	
Protect critical facilities both public and private (roads, bridges, water, sewer, electricity, and others) and critical services (fire, rescue, medical, and others) from natural hazard threats.	
Identify and schedule repairs and other improvements needed to ensure buildings are in adequate condition and with adequate equipment to function in the event of a disaster.	
Inspect and assess utilities' capability and vulnerability to ensure they can handle natural disasters.	
Ensure integrity of dams, levees, seawalls detention/retention basins, channel modification, retaining walls, and storm sewers.	
Determine adequacy of current regional communications infrastructure and address needed improvements.	
2 - Enhanced Public Education, Information, and Awareness of Hazards	
Develop an ongoing public communications and education program including a website, pamphlets, informational packets, and articles in the local media.	
Include information on how to respond to natural hazard threats including mitigation techniques, protective measures, and evacuation preparedness that businesses and homeowners can take.	
Incorporate the use of local television channels, email, and social media, including Facebook ™ and X™ to ensure that as many segments of the population as possible are reached.	
Assistance of targeted, vulnerable population.	
3 - Improvement of Hazard Prevention Measures through Enhanced Policies, Plans, and Regulations	
Continue efforts to revise, update, and improve plans, codes, zoning, and other mechanisms to address natural hazard mitigation, and expand on present policies to further protect the counties and incorporated municipalities (floodplains, repetitive loss areas, and others).	
Continue to enforce policies and ordinances for zoning, floodplains, flood damage prevention, stormwater management, building codes, beach renourishment, and others.	
Encourage participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and work toward the lowering of the CRS rating.	
Continue to seek grant funding for hazard mitigation related projects and programs.	
Consider more rigorous standards for hazard-resistant construction, increased regulation of construction in hazard-prone areas as well as enhanced enforcement of existing regulations.	

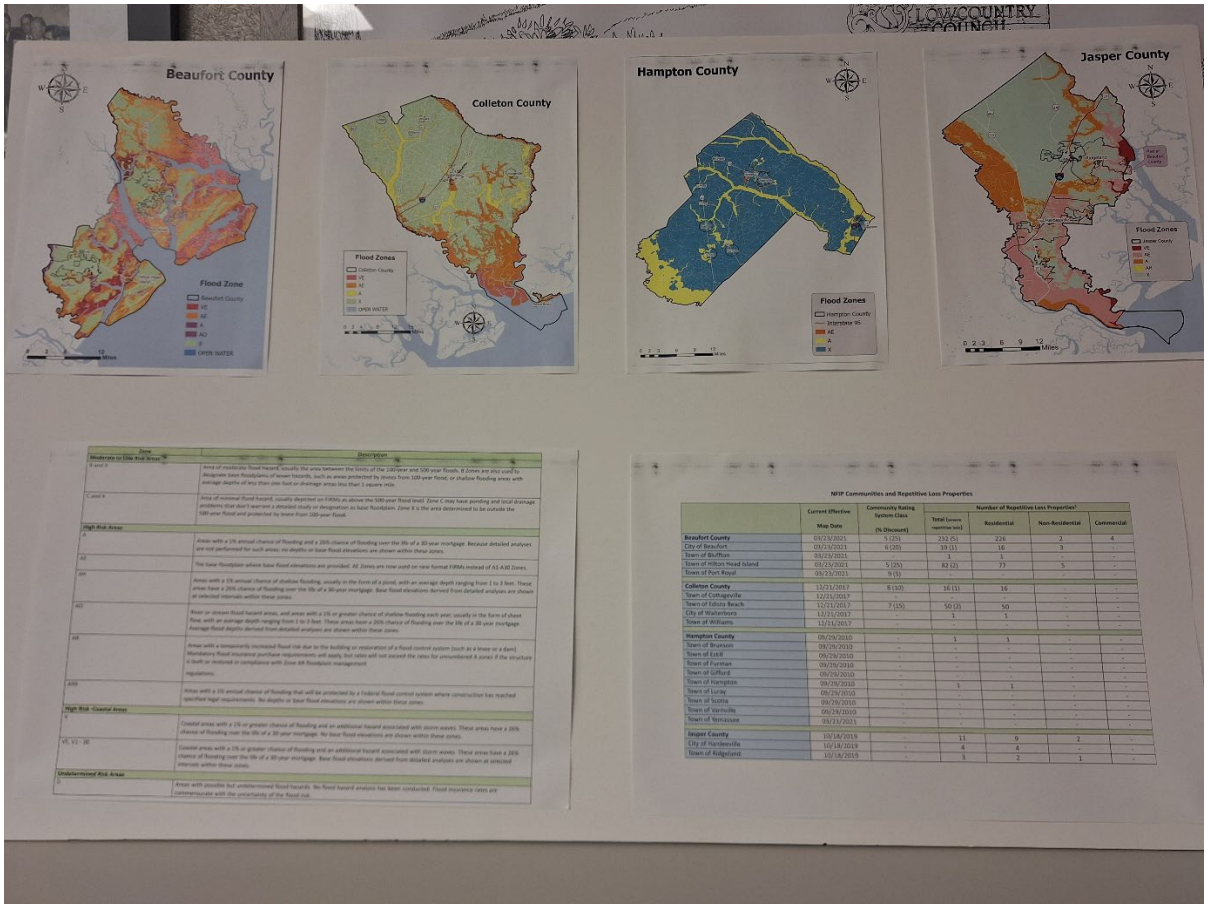
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – SECTION 6 GOALS & STRATEGIES

Strategies	Implementation Ideas
4 - Enhancement of Emergency Services through Sustained System and Technology Improvements	
Maintain sufficient and up to date equipment and training for EMS, police, fire, and other departments to ensure prompt responses and the safety of residents.	
Maintain warning systems, evacuation planning, and emergency response training.	
Maintain safe and efficient evacuation routes – continue to cooperate with each other and SCDOT on highways connecting the counties.	
Maintain sufficient and safe shelters for potential needs - should be able to accommodate all members of the area's population, including those with special medical or other needs.	
Maintain the IT capabilities of local governments to ensure continuity of operations in the event of disaster, including supporting the use of centralized technology, located as far inland as possible, and developing a hosted (for instance, the "cloud") storage system.	
Coordinate with the county and regional offices of the various state human services departments.	
Maintain and enhance working relationships among local governments.	
5 - Protection of Residential, Commercial, and Culturally Significant Properties	
Encourage use of innovative hazard-resistant construction techniques/materials (reinforced, impact-resistant doors, storm-resistant windows, hurricane shutters, and others).	
Advise/assist property owners in retrofitting homes, businesses, and institutional facilities.	Very informed as a resident of Hughes County this information is very helpful
Monitor and maintain trees and branches, in public areas, at risk of breaking or falling during hazards incidents (heavy rain, wind, storm etc.) and damaging property.	
Utilize currently available information and mapping to help determine the areas and magnitude of impacts from flooding and sea level rise.	
Seek grants for protective measures – include elevation and property acquisition for flooding mitigation.	
6 - Conservation and Preservation of Natural Systems and Natural Resources	
Enhance floodplain protection, habitat preservation, wetland restoration and forest management.	
Encourage renewable energy (solar, wind, hydropower) when possible.	
Protect native species and habitats through wildlife corridors, rehabilitation, and invasive species control.	
Use geographic information science (GIS) and data analysis to track resource use and ecosystem health.	


Lowcountry Region
South Carolina
PLAN SECTIONS
1. INTRODUCTION & PLANNING PROCESS
2. LOWCOUNTRY PROFILE
3. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION & ASSESSMENT
4. VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT
5. COMMUNITY CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT
6. HAZARD MITIGATION STRATEGY
7. PLAN MAINTENANCE


FLOODING
Flooding occurs when water flows or collects in areas that are usually dry.
WILDFIRE
Wildfire includes any outdoor fire that is not controlled and supervised.
EXTREME HEAT
Extreme heat is classified as heat indices that exceed the average that an area usually experiences in the summertime.
TORNADO
A tornado is a violently rotating column of air that extends from a thunderstorm cloud to the ground.
COASTAL EROSION
Changes in the coastline occur in both long-term and short-term time frames due to the characteristics of the shore, ocean currents, tides, winds, extreme weather events, and human practices.
HURRICANE
Hurricanes form over warm tropical waters, a minimum of 79 degrees Fahrenheit, in the northern hemisphere and have closed, circulating winds that rotate in a counterclockwise direction.
DROUGHT
Drought occurs when a region receives lower-than-normal precipitation for a prolonged period.
EARTHQUAKE
An earthquake is the motion or trembling of the ground produced by sudden displacement of rock in the Earth's crust.
WINTER WEATHER
Winter storms are a generic classification of cold-weather hazards. The main types of precipitation are snow, sleet, or freezing rain.
HAIL
Hail is the frozen precipitation from convective thunderstorms. Any thunderstorm with the right conditions can appear hail, meaning hail can occur anywhere.
WINDSTORM
Strong winds are non-convective winds gusting less than 58 mph. Thunderstorm winds are winds associated with convective events that produce lightning within 30 minutes of the wind gusts.
LIGHTNING
Lightning is an electrical discharge that results in a flash or spark between clouds, the air, or the ground.
Terrorism
Terrorism is the intentional, unlawful use of violence or threat of violence to intimidate or coerce another or others to achieve a political, ideological, or social objectives with a disregard for the safety of innocent humans.
Hazardous Materials
Hazardous materials (HAZMAT) include chemical, biological, radiological, and toxic substances that, when released, can cause harm to human health, property, or the environment.
Cyber-Attack
A cyber-attack is a deliberate attempt to collect, disrupt, deny, degrade, or destroy information system resources or the information itself.
LOWCOUNTRY HAZARD EVENTS


SOCIAL VULNERABILITY LEVEL
Lowcountry Region
South Carolina
COASTAL FLOODING
INLAND FLOODING
LIGHTNING
HURRICANE
TORNADO
WINDSTORM
HAIL
EARTHQUAKE
WINTER STORM
EXTREME HEAT
DROUGHT



Zone	Description
Moderate to Low Risk Areas	
B and X	Area of moderate flood hazard, usually the area between the limits of the 100-year and 500-year floods. B Zones are also used to designate base floodplains of lesser hazards, such as areas protected by levees from 100-year flood, or shallow flooding areas with average depths of less than one foot or drainage areas less than 1 square mile.
C and X	Area of minimal flood hazard, usually depicted on FIRMs as above the 500-year flood level. Zone C may have ponding and local drainage problems that don't warrant a detailed study or designation as base floodplain. Zone X is the area determined to be outside the 500-year flood and protected by levee from 100-year flood.
High Risk Areas	
A	Areas with a 1% annual chance of flooding and a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Because detailed analyses are not performed for such areas; no depths or base flood elevations are shown within these zones.
AE	The base floodplain where base flood elevations are provided. AE Zones are now used on new format FIRMs instead of A1-A30 Zones.
AH	Areas with a 1% annual chance of shallow flooding, usually in the form of a pond, with an average depth ranging from 1 to 3 feet. These areas have a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Base flood elevations derived from detailed analyses are shown at selected intervals within these zones.
AO	River or stream flood hazard areas, and areas with a 1% or greater chance of shallow flooding each year, usually in the form of sheet flow, with an average depth ranging from 1 to 3 feet. These areas have a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Average flood depths derived from detailed analyses are shown within these zones.
AR	Areas with a temporarily increased flood risk due to the building or restoration of a flood control system (such as a levee or a dam). Mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements will apply, but rates will not exceed the rates for unnumbered A zones if the structure is built or restored in compliance with Zone AR floodplain management regulations.
A99	Areas with a 1% annual chance of flooding that will be protected by a Federal flood control system where construction has reached specified legal requirements. No depths or base flood elevations are shown within these zones.
High Risk -Coastal Areas	
V	Coastal areas with a 1% or greater chance of flooding and an additional hazard associated with storm waves. These areas have a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. No base flood elevations are shown within these zones.
VE, V1 - 30	Coastal areas with a 1% or greater chance of flooding and an additional hazard associated with storm waves. These areas have a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Base flood elevations derived from detailed analyses are shown at selected intervals within these zones.
Undetermined Risk Areas	
D	Areas with possible but undetermined flood hazards. No flood hazard analysis has been conducted. Flood insurance rates are commensurate with the uncertainty of the flood risk.

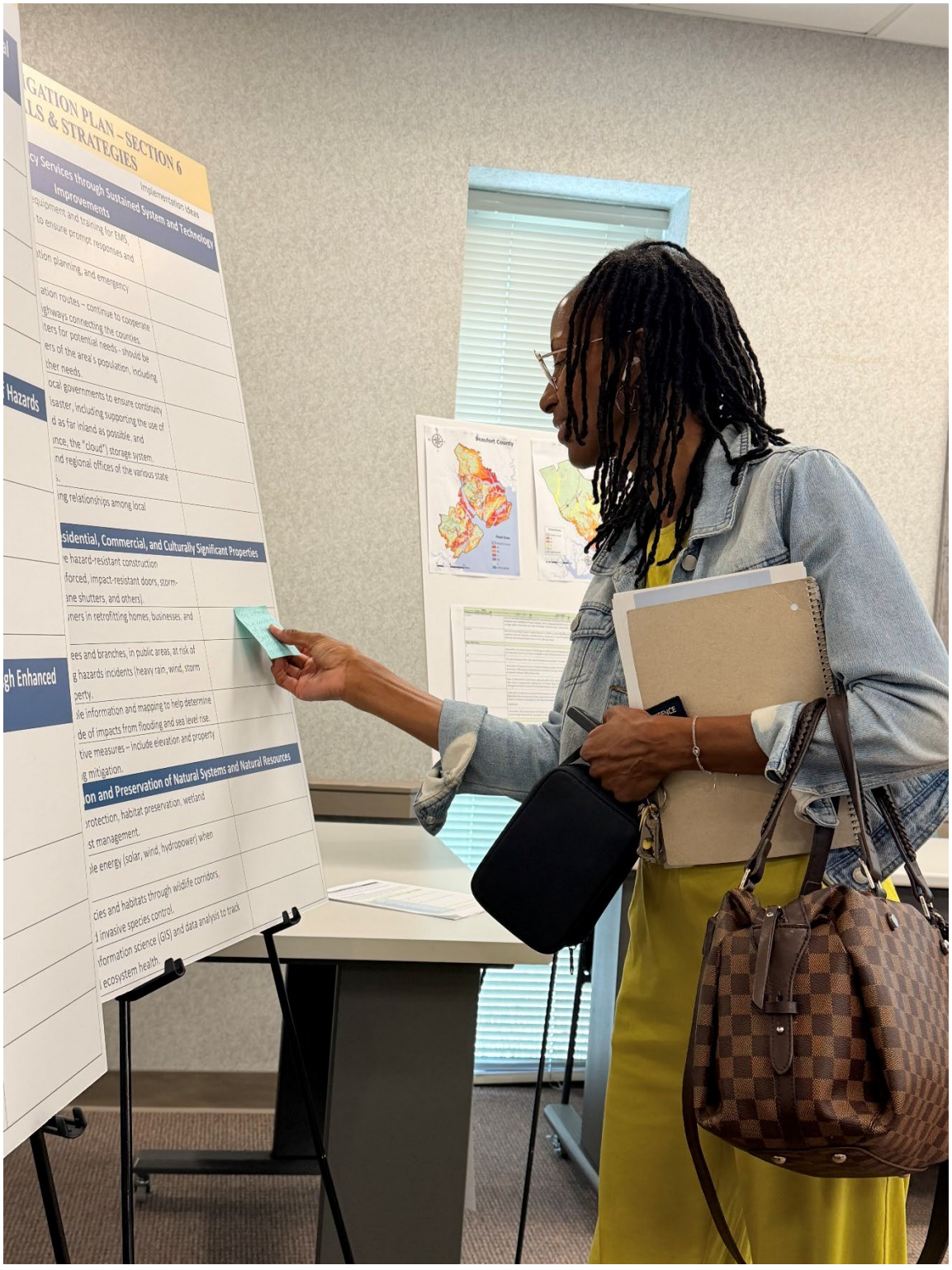
NFIP Communities and Repetitive Loss Properties

	Current Effective Map Date	Community Rating System Class (% Discount)	Number of Repetitive Loss Properties[1]			
			Total (severe repetitive loss)	Residential	Non-Residential	Commercial
Beaufort County	03/23/2021	5 (25)	232 (5)	226	2	4
City of Beaufort	03/23/2021	6 (20)	19 (1)	16	3	-
Town of Bluffton	03/23/2021	-	2	1	-	-
Town of Hilton Head Island	03/23/2021	5 (25)	82 (2)	77	5	-
Town of Port Royal	03/23/2021	9 (5)	-	-	-	-
Colleton County	12/21/2017	8 (10)	16 (1)	16	-	-
Town of Cottageville	12/21/2017	-	-	-	-	-
Town of Edisto Beach	12/21/2017	7 (15)	50 (2)	50	-	-
City of Walterboro	12/21/2017	-	1	1	-	-
Town of Williams	12/21/2017	-	-	-	-	-
Hampton County	09/29/2010	-	1	1	-	-
Town of Brunson	09/29/2010	-	-	-	-	-
Town of Estill	09/29/2010	-	-	-	-	-
Town of Furman	09/29/2010	-	-	-	-	-
Town of Gifford	09/29/2010	-	-	-	-	-
Town of Hampton	09/29/2010	-	1	1	-	-
Town of Luray	09/29/2010	-	-	-	-	-
Town of Scotia	09/29/2010	-	-	-	-	-
Town of Varnville	09/29/2010	-	-	-	-	-
Town of Yemassee	09/29/2010	-	-	-	-	-
Jasper County	10/18/2019	-	11	9	2	-
City of Hardeeville	10/18/2019	-	4	4	-	-
Town of Ridgeland	10/18/2019	-	3	2	1	-


COLLETON COUNTY
FIRE-RESCUE


Beaufort County
Colleton County
Hampton County


EXIT
PLAN SECTIONS


GATION PLAN – SECTION 6
LS & STRATEGIES
Implementation Ideas
cy Services through Sustained System and Technology Improvements
equipment and training for EMS,
to ensure prompt responses and
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Hazards
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Beaufort County

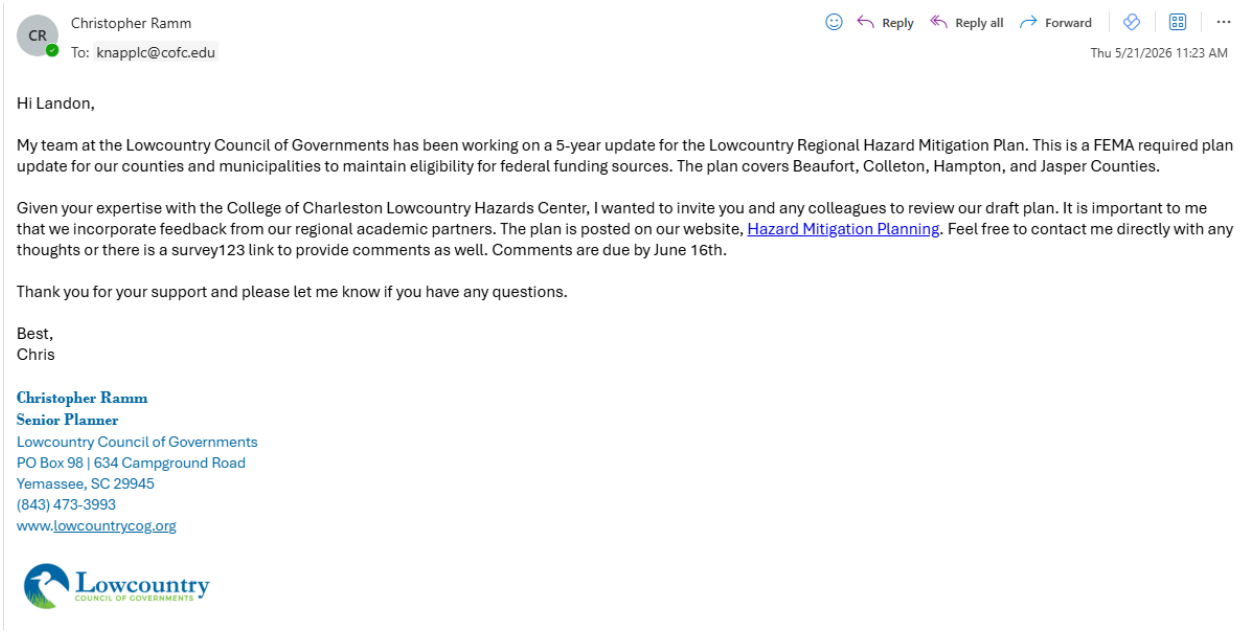
APPENDIX B-9: ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

- United Way of the Lowcountry (*Nonprofit*)
- The College of Charleston (*Academia*)
- Palmetto Breeze Transit (*Agency*)
- Port Royal Sound Foundation (*Nonprofit*)
- Open Land Trust (*Nonprofit*)
- South Carolina Sea Grant (*Academia*)
- South Carolina Office of Resilience (*Agency*)
- Coastal Conservation League (*Nonprofit*)
- Beaufort County Council on Aging (*Social Services*)
- Colleton County Council on Aging (*Social Services*)
- Hampton County Council on Aging (*Social Services*)
- Jasper County Council on Aging (*Social Services*)
- Lower Savannah Council of Governments (*Neighboring*)
- Mattern & Craig Engineers (*Employer*)
- BIHL Engineering, LLC (*Employer*)
- FME Consultants (*Employer*)
- US Army Corps of Engineers (*Agency*)
- US Marine Corps (*Employer*)
- Gullah/ Geechee Sea Island Coalition (*Nonprofit*)
- Gordon Construction Inc. (*Employer*)

The additional stakeholders list represents key groups within the planning area that were contacted directly for reviewing and providing input on the Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan. Target groups included government agencies, nonprofit organizations, social services, neighboring communities, academia, and key employers. Examples of the correspondence with these groups are shown in the emails below.

Engagement with Additional Stakeholders Via Email

College of Charleston Lowcountry Hazards Center Review Request:



CR Christopher Ramm

To: knapplc@cofc.edu

Reply | Reply all | Forward

Thu 5/21/2026 11:23 AM

Hi Landon,

My team at the Lowcountry Council of Governments has been working on a 5-year update for the Lowcountry Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. This is a FEMA required plan update for our counties and municipalities to maintain eligibility for federal funding sources. The plan covers Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties.

Given your expertise with the College of Charleston Lowcountry Hazards Center, I wanted to invite you and any colleagues to review our draft plan. It is important to me that we incorporate feedback from our regional academic partners. The plan is posted on our website, Hazard Mitigation Planning. Feel free to contact me directly with any thoughts or there is a survey123 link to provide comments as well. Comments are due by June 16th.

Thank you for your support and please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Chris

Christopher Ramm
Senior Planner
Lowcountry Council of Governments
PO Box 98 | 634 Campground Road
Yemassee, SC 29945
(843) 473-3993
www.lowcountrycog.org

Lowcountry
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Public Survey Request:

Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026 Public Survey

Stephanie Rossi</O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=281FDD62BD94451DA79524B8221B4F61-SROSSI> Wed 12/17/2025 3:45 PM

Bcc: dcjnyc7@gmail.com; gestaut@gmail.com; jecroley@gmail.com; joekayfrag@hotmail.com; Abraham Champagne; Alan Perry; Allison Burson; Andy Flughum; Anna Tabernik; Arthur L. Handman; billyk@islc.net; Brittanee Bishop; Calvin Clifton; Carmen Manning; Carolyn Kassel; Chuck Valentino; cmoore@townofbluffton.com; Daniel Brock; Dave Kimball; David Baker; dwood@townofbluffton.com; eleanor@lowcountryinsidetrack.com; Eric Larson; Frank Turano; gloverj99@gmail.com; Hank Amundson; Jackson Hurst; Jackson Puckey; Jared Fralix; Jennifer Bihl; jeshkor@aol.com; jessiew@scccl.org; Jim Neal; joe@lowcountryinsidetrack.com; John Carroll; John Holak; John Kemp County address; John Kemp Gmail; John O'Toole; John Robinson; Jon Watkins; Joy Coe; Julie; kcarter@bcgov.net; Krieger CIV Mary R; Larry Toomer; Madison Devine; Marilyn Areseneau; Marsha Harrison; mczymbor@hardeevillesc.gov; Michael Berry; Mike Tomy; Nathan Nohren; Nathaniel.l.Ball@usace.army.mil; Neil Parsons; norwich68@gmail.com; Passiment, Joseph; Paul Manning; R Flagler; Randy Beckner; Ron Hamilton; Ryan D. McClure; Ryan Hillier; S Meder; Sea Island Coalition; Shea Farrar; smarshall@cityofbeaufort.org; Stephen Steese; Stone; Susie Underwood; Suzanne Larson; T McMclure; Taylor Boykin; Tom Henz; Van Willis; Wykoda Wang; yglover@bcgov.net; David Gregory; branger@cityofbeaufort.org; 'Barbara Childs'; Brooke Plank-Buccola; Charles Mitchell (Alt email) (charlesmitchelljr766@yahoo.com); Cindaia Ervin; Howard, Alice G.; hwilliams@hardeevillesc.gov </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9f0d680f741342ff97968e45d5d63a10-Guest_c78bf>; Joey Rowell; John Barnwell Fishburne (fishburnejb@scdot.org); Kerry Guzman; Kevin Phillips; Marcia Hunter; mcfeemike@gmail.com </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=483e8c1bc39f46e2ba752bb65d9eebd9-Guest_49162>; mclawhornjt@scdot.org </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=59df065d11dc4cbd816df2391650b7da-Guest_90300>; Mike McFee COB; robbinsrd@scdot.org </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bdd007ddc3c5477db9fd7a3dd6c48ba4-Guest_7e256>; schsdistrict118@aol.com </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f4a59db6a0994d17a7342fac05a35224-Guest_fd276>; Tamara Becker; tdavis@harveyandbattey.com </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a1b8b6ee0e08498e814da2d81b88d1d0-Guest_b73bc>; Tj Johnson; Andrew Cocchiara; Brian Sullivan; Christopher Ramm; Curt Freese; James Iwanicki ; Jeff Netzinger; Kevin Icard ; Kevin Sullivan; kgordon@gordonconst.com; kwoodruff@cityofhardeeville.com; Lisa Wagner (lwagner@jaspercountysc.gov); Noah Krepps; Robert Merchant; Stephanie Rossi; Theresa McVey; Angela Gordon; Bryan Bauer; Colin, Heather; Craig Winn; Dan Frazier; Diane M Lackey; Grant McClure; Jim Hemphill; Joshua A Johnson; Lyle Lee; Machael Peterson (PetersonMM@scdot.org); mark.pleasant@dot.gov; Sabrena Graham

HMP Public Survey Flyer- QR... 359 KB | HMP Public Survey Flyer- QR.... 332 KB | HMP Public Survey Flyer- QR... 238 KB | HMP Public Survey Flyer- QR.... 238 KB

4 attachments (1 MB)

Please take a moment to participate and share the survey link below with your network.

Happy Holidays!

From: Christopher Ramm <cramm@lowcountrycog.org >
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 1:41 PM
Subject: HMP 2026 Public Survey

Public Meeting Notice:

2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan Public Meeting

Stephanie Rossi</O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=281FDD62BD94451DA79524B8221B4F61-SROSSI> Thu 2/5/2026 2:45 PM

Bcc: 'Enid Carranza'; 'Mary Lou Franzoni'; 'Kristine Hepburn'; 'taylor.logan@bjwsa.org'; Hank Amundson; 'Charlie Stone'; 'Courtney Kimmel'; 'Dana Bauer'; 'Juliana Zadik'; 'Lewis, Beth'; 'John Stuppy'; 'Hardison, Karen'; 'Sophia Truempi'; 'Carla Harvey'; 'Aaron Rucker'; 'bboswell@bcgov.net'; 'admin@varnville.sc.gov'; 'Nat Shaffer'; 'David Steinmeyer'; 'mayor@hamptonsc.gov'; 'Karen Anderson'; 'Deidre Bartley'; 'dcjnyc7@gmail.com'; 'gestaut@gmail.com'; 'jecroley@gmail.com'; 'joekayfrag@hotmail.com'; 'Abraham Champagne'; 'Alan Perry'; 'Allison Burson'; 'Andy Flughum'; 'Anna Tabernik'; 'Arthur L. Handman'; 'billyk@islc.net'; 'Brittanee Bishop'; 'Calvin Clifton'; 'Carmen Manning'; 'Carolyn Kassel'; 'Chuck Valentino'; 'cmoore@townofbluffton.com'; 'Daniel Brock'; 'Dave Kimball'; 'David Baker'; 'dwood@townofbluffton.com'; 'eleanor@lowcountryinsidetrack.com'; 'Eric Larson'; 'Frank Turano'; 'gloverj99@gmail.com'; 'Hank Amundson'; 'Jackson Hurst'; 'Jackson Puckey'; 'Jared Fralix'; 'Jennifer Bihl'; 'jeshkor@aol.com'; 'jessiew@scccl.org'; 'Jim Neal'; 'joe@lowcountryinsidetrack.com'; 'John Carroll'; 'John Holak'; 'John Kemp County address'; 'John Kemp Gmail'; 'John O'Toole'; 'John Robinson'; 'Jon Watkins'; 'Joy Coe'; 'Julie'; 'kcarter@bcgov.net'; 'Krieger CIV Mary R'; 'Larry Toomer'; 'Madison Devine'; 'Marilyn Areseneau'; 'Marsha Harrison'; 'mczymbor@hardeevillesc.gov'; 'Michael Berry'; 'Mike Tomy'; 'Nathan Nohren'; 'Nathaniel.l.Ball@usace.army.mil'; 'Neil Parsons'; 'norwich68@gmail.com'; 'Passiment, Joseph'; 'Paul Manning'; 'R Flagler'; 'Randy Beckner'; 'Ron Hamilton'; 'Ryan D. McClure'; 'Ryan Hillier'; 'S Meder'; 'Sea Island Coalition'; 'Shea Farrar'; 'smarshall@cityofbeaufort.org'; 'Stephen Steese'; 'Stone'; 'Susie Underwood'; 'Suzanne Larson'; 'T McMclure'; 'Taylor Boykin'; 'Tom Henz'; 'Van Willis'; 'Wykoda Wang'; 'yglover@bcgov.net'; 'Grant McClure'; 'Anderson, Elizabeth'; 'Chris Marsh'; 'Dan Frazier'; 'David Prichard'; 'Fleming CIV Kimberly H'; 'Ginnie Kozak'; Maleena Parkey; mstclair@cityofbeaufort. org (mstclair@cityofbeaufort.org); 'Noah Krepps'; 'Robert Merchant'; 'Spencer CIV Tracey A'; 'Barbara Childs'; 'Brooke Plank-Buccola'; 'Charles Mitchell (Alt email'; 'Cindaia Ervin'; 'Howard, Alice G.'; 'hwilliams@hardeevillesc.gov'; 'Joey Rowell'; 'John Barnwell Fishburne'; 'Kerry Guzman'; 'Kevin Phillips'; 'Marcia Hunter'; 'mcfeemike@gmail.com'; 'mclawhornjt@scdot.org'; 'Mike McFee COB'; 'schsdistrict118@aol.com'; 'Tamara Becker'; 'tdavis@harveyandbattey.com'; 'Tj Johnson'; Andrew Cocchiara; 'Brian Sullivan'; Christopher Ramm; 'Curt Freese'; 'James Iwanicki'; 'Jeff Netzinger'; 'Kevin Icard'; 'Kevin Sullivan'; 'kgordon@gordonconst.com'; 'kwoodruff@cityofhardeeville.com'; 'Lisa Wagner'; Stephanie Rossi; 'Theresa McVey'; 'Angela Gordon'; 'Bryan Bauer'; 'Colin, Heather'; 'Craig Winn'; 'Diane M Lackey'; 'Jim Hemphill'; 'Joshua A Johnson'; 'Lyle Lee'; 'Machael Peterson'; 'mark.pleasant@dot.gov'; **LowCountryCouncilofGovts**

2026 HMP Public Meeting Fl... 155 KB | 2026 HMP Public Meeting Fl... 329 KB

2 attachments (485 KB)

We want to hear from you! LCOG is hosting a Public Meeting for the update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

WHAT: The Lowcountry Council of Governments is updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan for Beaufort, Jasper, Colleton and Hampton counties.

The plan will provide a profile of the most common natural and man-made hazards in the region and the mitigation needed to save lives

and to prevent major property damage and other losses caused by natural disasters.

WHEN: February 12 th , 2026 from 3-6pm

APPENDIX C – PLAN REVIEW & COMMENTS

APPENDIX C-1: ADVERTISEMENTS

McClatchy

The Beaufort Gazette
The Belleville News-Democrat
Bellingham Herald
Centre Daily Times
Sun Herald
Idaho Statesman
Bradenton Herald
The Charlotte Observer
The State
Ledger-Enquirer
Durham | The Herald-Sun
Fort Worth Star-Telegram
The Fresno Bee
The Island Packet
The Kansas City Star
Lexington Herald-Leader
The Telegraph - Macon
Merced Sun-Star
Miami Herald
El Nuevo Herald
The Modesto Bee
The Sun News - Myrtle Beach
Raleigh News & Observer
Rock Hill | The Herald
The Sacramento Bee
San Luis Obispo Tribune
Tacoma | The News Tribune
Tri-City Herald
The Wichita Eagle
The Olympian

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Account #	Order Number	Identification	Order PO	Cols	Depth
46943	IPL0342458	Legal Ad - IPL0342458		1.0	32.0L

ATTENTION: Stephanie Rossi
634 Campground Road
Yemassee, SC 29945
srossi@lowcountrycog.org

Public Notice
DRAFT 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan Avaialbe for Public Comment

The Lowcountry Council of Governments is requesting the public to review and provide comments on the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan for Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties.

The 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan is an update of the 2020 plan. The plan identifies hazards that threaten the Lowcountry region including their extent and historical occurrences. Additionally, the plan establishes mitigation action plans to reduce the impacts caused by hazards that will save lives and property. The report can be viewed on the Lowcountry COG website at https://www.lowcountrycog.org. Copies are also available upon request.

Written comments on the draft will be accepted until close of business on June 16th, 2026. Please send your comments to Christopher Ramm, Lowcountry COG, P.O. Box 98, Yemassee, SC 29945, or by using the link at https://arcg.is/5ePL0. For additional information regarding the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan, please email cramm@lowcountrycog.org.

IPL0342458
May 24 2026

STATE OF)

SOUTH CAROLINA) AFFIDAVIT

COUNTY OF BEAUFORT)

I, the undersigned, makes oath that the advertisment, was published in The Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette, a newspaper published in Beaufort County, State and County aforesaid, in the issue(s) of

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05/24/26 Print

Print Tearsheet Link

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Sherry Chasteen

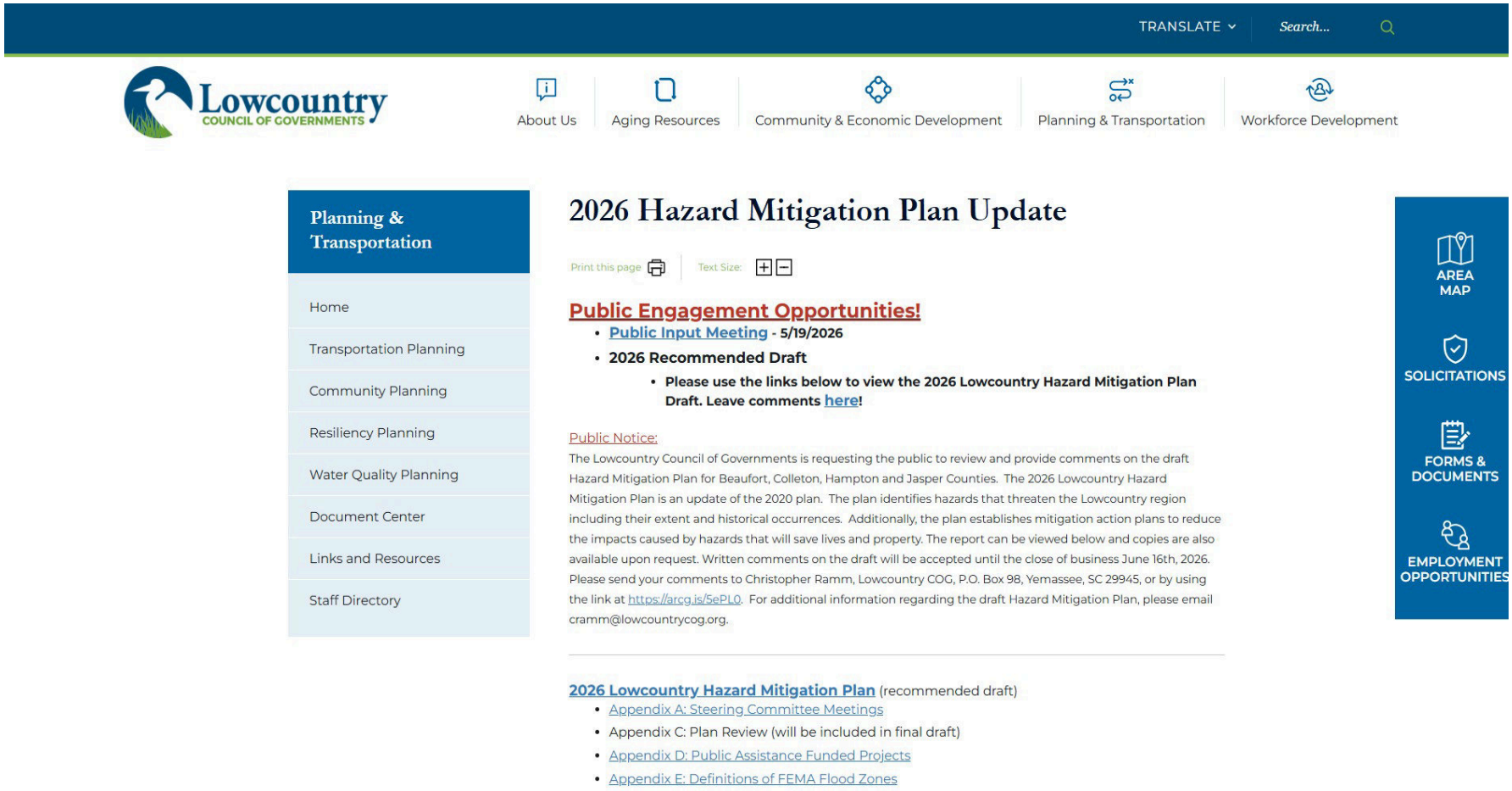
Sherry Chasteen

Amanda Rodela

Sworn to and subscribed before me on May 25, 2026, 10:44 AM EDT

Online Notary Public. This notarial act involved the use of online audio/video communication technology. Notarization facilitated by SIGNIX®

LCOG Website



Beaufort County

Beaufort County
SOUTH CAROLINA
News & Announcements

Public Invited to Submit Comments on Lowcountry Council of Government's 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan



The public is invited to review Lowcountry Council of Government's (LCOG) draft 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan for Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties and submit comments. Public comment will be available until Tuesday, June 16.

The plan provides a profile of the most common natural and man-made hazards in the four county region. It includes vulnerability indicators for identifying populations at greatest risk from the effects of those hazards while also identifying actions that can save lives, prevent major property damage and other losses caused by natural disasters.

Determining factors in the final plan include:

- hazard assessment
- vulnerability analysis
- a comprehensive community profile identifying those areas with population growth and increased density
- public involvement

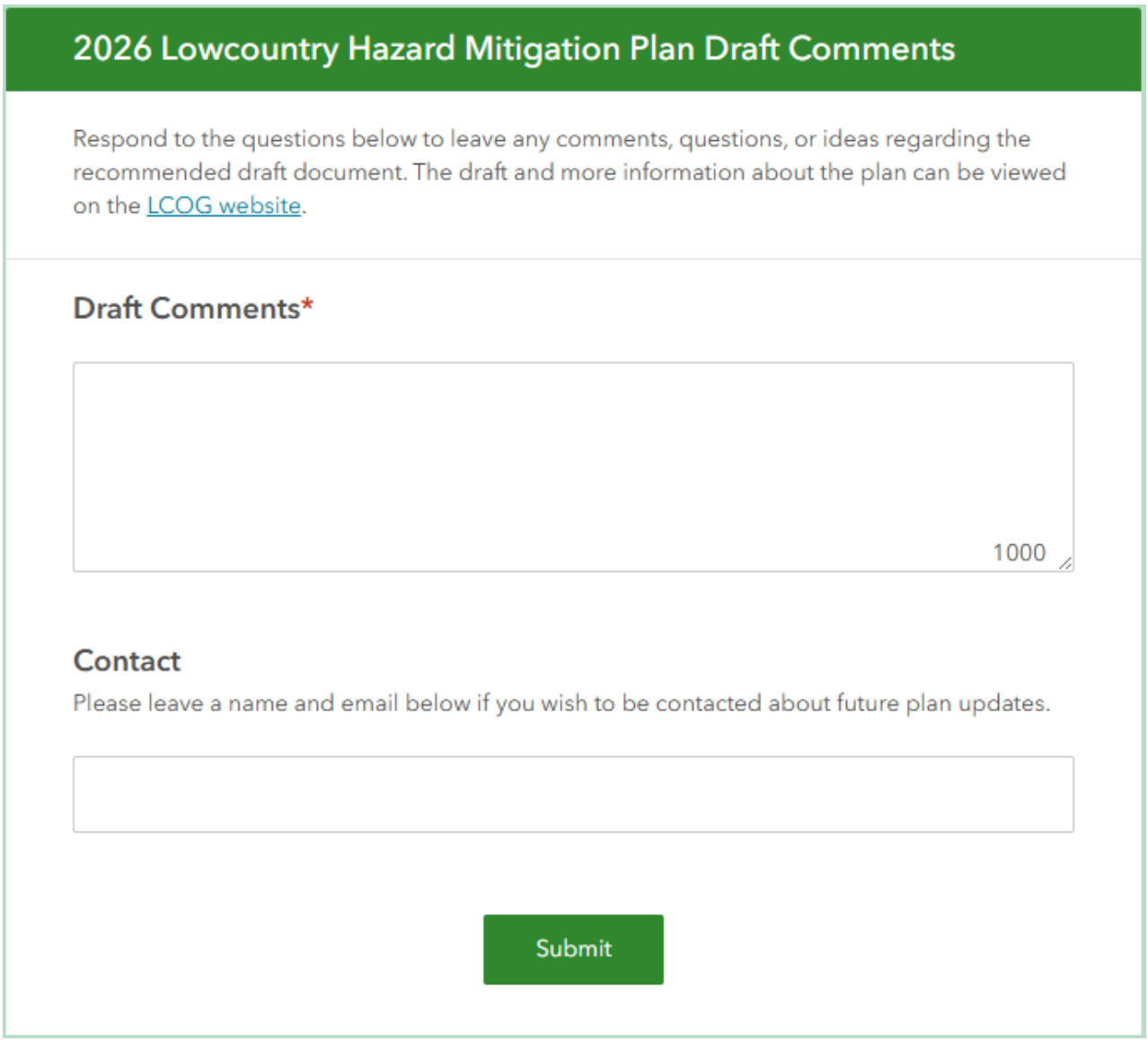
Comments will be accepted until close of business Tuesday, June 16, and can be submitted using this link.

Required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan "is the representation of the jurisdiction's commitment to reduce the risks from natural hazards, serving as a guide for decision makers as they commit resources to reducing the effects of natural hazards." The plan must meet the requirements of Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §201.6 for FEMA approval and eligibility to apply for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs.

The complete report can be viewed on the Lowcountry COG website.

For additional information regarding the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan, please email cramm@lowcountrycog.org.

Draft Comment Process – Survey123



APPENDIX C-2: PLAN DRAFT COMMENTS

Date	Comments
05/19/2026	Want to get more info
06/02/2026	An incredible compilation of data, but not much of a plan. Regarding the data, just a glance at the Hilton Head losses Table 4-6, indicates some quality control is lacking. There was no impact from Matthew? If you bring up Matthew, all you hear is about the damage from all the trees that fell, the power was out for 4 days, and sand erosion from the beaches, etc. I reviewed Technical Reports for quality control and when you see this gross an error, it makes one question the validiaty of the rest. The fundamental risk is from weather related issues which man has little control over. The protection and prevention is to assure buidling codes are applicable and STOP ADDING MORE AND MORE IMPERVIOUS SURFACES especially in the areas that are already compromised and to have an emergency plan for response. The title has the word, plan. There is no plan in this document....perhaps itis just meant to me data compilation, but a lot more work needed regarding PREVENTION and RESPONSE.
06/03/2026	- On page 89 - remove "Hampton Hall" and "the Farm" and replace with "Buckwalter Area". - On page 135 - aside from first bullet, all located outside of Town of Bluffton municipal limits; no mention of significant flooding resulting from Debby in August of 2024.
06/03/2026	Nice work. Three thoughts: 1. With a report of this size and density, a strong Executive Summary is needed so people can understand the big picture and dig into the details if they like. A progress scorecard would be helpful as well. 2. Please consider using graphs as much as possible and include detailed charts in appendices. For instance Table 2-4 would be much more powerful as a graph or series of graphs to better understand the core message being communicated. 3. The population growth statistics seem woefully out of date. One only has to drive West on Rte' 278 to see the number of new houses and apartments that are being constructed to know that the numbers seem way too conservative. With Jasper growing 8%, the 2055 extrapolated population would be 335,422 and the linear

	growth population would be 119,250. Either of these two models provide WAY higher than the estimates you use in the report. Overall though, very nice work.
06/09/2026	Man-made ponds and water ways disturb the natural habitat. This may result in an increase in gator sightings and attacks.
06/16/2026	SHEDWORKS respectfully recommends including community-based coastal resilience assessments as a voluntary mitigation strategy in the Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan. Coastal communities face recurring risks from hurricanes, flooding, and high winds that disproportionately impact older and manufactured homes and vulnerable households. Community organizations can complement emergency management efforts through free home assessments, public education, and connections to qualified mitigation resources. These programs can improve preparedness, promote home hardening, strengthen local resilience, and reduce long-term disaster losses through partnerships among nonprofits, local governments, emergency managers, and the private sector. SHEDWORKS supports including voluntary residential resilience assessments and community partnership models as practical tools that enhance existing public mitigation efforts.

SHEDWORKS Coastal Resilience Assessment Strategy

PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER RECOMMENDATION

Community-Based Coastal Resilience Assessment Strategy

Submitted for Consideration | **Lowcountry Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update | 2026–2031 Planning Cycle**

Executive Summary

SHEDWORKS respectfully submits this recommendation for inclusion in the Lowcountry Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. We propose the formal recognition of community-based residential resilience assessments and community partnership models as a complementary mitigation strategy — one that is low-cost, scalable, and directly aligned with existing FEMA and local hazard mitigation objectives.

The Community Challenge

Coastal communities in Beaufort County and across the South Carolina Lowcountry face persistent, well-documented hazard risk from tropical storms, hurricane-force winds, flooding, and storm surge. According to FEMA and South Carolina Emergency Management Division data, the majority of declared disaster losses in this region are sustained by owner-occupied manufactured housing, mobile homes, and older housing stock — particularly among households with limited resources for pre-event mitigation.

Many at-risk homeowners are unaware of cost-effective mitigation options available to them, lack access to qualified contractors, or do not know how to prioritize improvements. This information gap represents a solvable problem — one where community-based organizations can extend the reach of formal emergency management programs at minimal public cost.

Recommended Mitigation Strategy

SHEDWORKS recommends that the Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan incorporate a strategy supporting the development of community-organized, voluntary residential resilience assessment programs. These programs would:

- Offer free, voluntary home resilience assessments to participating households in coastal high-risk zones, prioritizing manufactured housing, mobile homes, and income-vulnerable homeowners.
- Train and deploy a network of qualified, licensed local contractors as assessment providers — creating a workforce development pathway alongside a community safety benefit.
- Educate homeowners on wind mitigation, home hardening, hurricane preparedness, and available retrofit options through practical, accessible community programs.
- Produce actionable, prioritized home improvement reports for each participating household — giving families a clear roadmap for protecting their property regardless of their timeline or budget.
- Encourage voluntary partnerships among nonprofit organizations, local governments, licensed contractors, and community stakeholders to improve mitigation capacity and expand program reach.

FEMA Alignment

This strategy directly supports FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance priorities:

- Reduce risk to people and property
- Promote community resilience
- Expand access for vulnerable populations
- Leverage non-federal resources
- Support local mitigation capacity
- Encourage pre-disaster mitigation investment

Potential Community Benefits

- Reduced structural losses from hurricane events
- Improved homeowner awareness and preparedness
- Expanded access for vulnerable households
- Local workforce development in resilience trades
- Lower long-term disaster recovery costs
- Improved continuity of local businesses following disasters
- Stronger private-nonprofit-government collaboration
- Scalable model transferable to other coastal counties

CONTACT & COLLABORATION

SHEDWORKS invites county officials, emergency management professionals, and planning partners to engage in dialogue on this proposal.

SHEDWORKS
Community Development Organization
Beaufort County, SC
info@shedworks.org
www.shedworks.org

- Coordinate with county emergency managers, planning departments, and state agencies to ensure program activities complement, not duplicate, existing public mitigation investments.

Closing Statement

SHEDWORKS is committed to being a long-term, constructive partner in regional resilience planning. We do not seek to replace public programs — we seek to strengthen existing public resilience efforts through community partnerships and practical local solutions. We welcome the opportunity to engage with county emergency managers, planning officials, and community stakeholders as this plan is developed and implemented.

APPENDIX D: PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FUNDED PROJECT SUMMARIES

Below is unedited data from FEMA's National Emergency Management Information System (NEMIS), OpenFEMA Dataset: Public Assistance Funded Project Summaries - v1, and subject to a small percentage of human error (FEMA, 2026). This dataset is not intended to be used for any official federal financial reporting.

BEAUFORT COUNTY						
Declaration Number	**Declaration Date**	**Hazard Types**	**Damage Category**	**Damage Category Description**	**Project Amount ($)**	**Federal Share Amount ($)**
TOTAL 2020-2024					**942,908.05**	**818,446.96**
Total 2020					**254,978.73**	**254,978.73**
DR-4492-SC	2020-03-27	Biological	B	Protective Measures	8,033.41	8,033.41
DR-4492-SC	2020-03-27	Biological	B	Protective Measures	11,176.65	11,176.65
DR-4492-SC	2020-03-27	Biological	B	Protective Measures	9,844.43	9,844.43
DR-4492-SC	2020-03-27	Biological	B	Protective Measures	19,398.98	19,398.98
DR-4492-SC	2020-03-27	Biological	B	Protective Measures	39,391.80	39,391.80
DR-4492-SC	2020-03-27	Biological	B	Protective Measures	13,850.02	13,850.02
DR-4492-SC	2020-03-27	Biological	B	Protective Measures	5,914.07	5,914.07
DR-4492-SC	2020-03-27	Biological	B	Protective Measures	103,216.54	103,216.54
DR-4492-SC	2020-03-27	Biological	B	Protective Measures	14,567.91	14,567.91
DR-4492-SC	2020-03-27	Biological	B	Protective Measures	7,740.45	7,740.45
DR-4492-SC	2020-03-27	Biological	B	Protective Measures	7,261.60	7,261.60
DR-4492-SC	2020-03-27	Biological	B	Protective Measures	14,582.87	14,582.87
Total 2022					**124,851.41**	**94,249.36**
DR-4677-SC	2022-11-21	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	8,571.95	6,428.96
DR-4677-SC	2022-11-21	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	7,311.01	5,483.26
DR-4677-SC	2022-11-21	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	13,046.85	9,785.14
DR-4677-SC	2022-11-21	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	48,864.20	36,648.15
DR-4677-SC	2022-11-21	Hurricane	Z	Management Costs	2,443.21	2,443.21
DR-4677-SC	2022-11-21	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	10,384.39	7,788.29
DR-4677-SC	2022-11-21	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	34,229.80	25,672.35
Total 2023					**177,329.26**	**132,996.95**
DR-3597-SC	2023-08-31	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	10,331.52	7,748.64
DR-3597-SC	2023-08-31	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	82,396.92	61,797.69
DR-3597-SC	2023-08-31	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	76,909.42	57,682.07
DR-3597-SC	2023-08-31	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	7,691.40	5,768.55
Total 2024					**385,820.65**	**336,221.92**
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	A	Debris Removal	58,257.13	43,692.85
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	4,679.07	4,679.07
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	Z	Management Costs	5,125.63	5,125.63
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	A	Debris Removal	49,106.84	49,106.84
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	A	Debris Removal	24,741.19	24,741.19

BEAUFORT COUNTY						
Declaration Number	**Declaration Date**	**Hazard Types**	**Damage Category**	**Damage Category Description**	**Project Amount ($)**	**Federal Share Amount ($)**
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	G	Recreational or Other	4,844.44	3,633.33
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	33,140.60	33,140.60
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	A	Debris Removal	11,327.13	11,327.13
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	39,099.18	39,099.18
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	Z	Management Costs	2,825.00	2,825.00
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	E	Buildings and Equipment	17,397.31	13,047.99
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	A	Debris Removal	31,758.71	23,819.04
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	A	Debris Removal	12,973.56	12,973.56
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	A	Debris Removal	13,580.07	10,185.06
DR-4835-SC	2024-09-29	Tropical Storm	B	Protective Measures	16,294.31	12,220.74
DR-4835-SC	2024-09-29	Tropical Storm	B	Protective Measures	5,450.45	4,087.84
DR-4835-SC	2024-09-29	Tropical Storm	B	Protective Measures	22,881.89	17,161.42
DR-4835-SC	2024-09-29	Tropical Storm	A	Debris Removal	23,905.78	17,929.34
DR-4835-SC	2024-09-29	Tropical Storm	G	Recreational or Other	4,025.00	3,018.75
DR-4835-SC	2024-09-29	Tropical Storm	Z	Management Costs	4,407.36	4,407.36

COLLETON COUNTY						
Declaration Number	**Declaration Date**	**Hazard Types**	**Damage Category**	**Damage Category Description**	**Project Amount ($)**	**Federal Share Amount ($)**
TOTAL 2020-2024					**1,811,031.67**	**1,526,749.06**
Total 2020					**898,676.50**	**810,137.78**
DR-4492-SC	2020-03-27	Biological	B	Protective Measures	6,010.89	6,010.89
DR-4492-SC	2020-03-27	Biological	B	Protective Measures	3,736.30	3,736.30
DR-4542-SC	2020-05-01	Severe Storm(s)	B	Protective Measures	14,190.54	12,771.49
DR-4542-SC	2020-05-01	Severe Storm(s)	F	Utilities	148,402.67	133,562.40
DR-4542-SC	2020-05-01	Severe Storm(s)	A	Debris Removal	528,053.72	475,248.35
DR-4542-SC	2020-05-01	Severe Storm(s)	A	Debris Removal	116,439.64	104,795.68
DR-4542-SC	2020-05-01	Severe Storm(s)	B	Protective Measures	17,789.63	16,010.67
DR-4542-SC	2020-05-01	Severe Storm(s)	B	Protective Measures	32,148.94	28,934.05
DR-4542-SC	2020-05-01	Severe Storm(s)	E	Buildings and Equipment	18,227.20	16,404.48
DR-4542-SC	2020-05-01	Severe Storm(s)	E	Buildings and Equipment	10,135.00	9,121.50
DR-4542-SC	2020-05-01	Severe Storm(s)	Z	Management Costs	3,541.97	3,541.97
Total 2022					**5,320.60**	**3,990.45**
DR-4677-SC	2022-11-21	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	5,320.60	3,990.45
Total 2023					**61,444.76**	**46,083.57**
DR-3597-SC	2023-08-31	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	47,386.79	35,540.09
DR-3597-SC	2023-08-31	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	14,057.97	10,543.48
Total 2024					**845,589.81**	**666,537.26**
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	F	Utilities	74,811.60	56,108.70
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	A	Debris Removal	11,255.70	11,255.70

DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	A	Debris Removal	22,109.20	16,581.90
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	21,418.70	21,418.70
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	A	Debris Removal	70,630.68	52,973.01
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	A	Debris Removal	58,426.01	58,426.01
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	Z	Management Costs	3,947.18	3,947.18
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	11,487.91	11,487.91
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	A	Debris Removal	22,848.03	22,848.03
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	A	Debris Removal	9,053.53	6,790.15
DR-4835-SC	2024-09-29	Tropical Storm	A	Debris Removal	19,121.97	14,341.48
DR-4835-SC	2024-09-29	Tropical Storm	B	Protective Measures	88,265.62	66,199.22
DR-4835-SC	2024-09-29	Tropical Storm	A	Debris Removal	65,845.73	49,384.30
DR-4835-SC	2024-09-29	Tropical Storm	F	Utilities	85,244.25	63,933.19
DR-4835-SC	2024-09-29	Tropical Storm	B	Protective Measures	11,206.96	8,405.22
DR-4835-SC	2024-09-29	Tropical Storm	F	Utilities	264,189.74	198,142.31
DR-4835-SC	2024-09-29	Tropical Storm	D	Water Control Facilities	5,727.00	4,295.25

HAMPTON COUNTY						
Declaration Number	**Declaration Date**	**Hazard Types**	**Damage Category**	**Damage Category Description**	**Project Amount ($)**	**Federal Share Amount ($)**
TOTAL 2020-2024					**1,573,327.54**	**1,414,914.72**
Total 2020					**1,063,281.00**	**961,695.15**
DR-4479-SC	2020-03-17	Flood	A	Debris Removal	9,108.32	8,197.49
DR-4479-SC	2020-03-17	Flood	C	Roads and Bridges	62,999.96	56,699.96
DR-4479-SC	2020-03-17	Flood	C	Roads and Bridges	91,924.23	82,731.81
DR-4479-SC	2020-03-17	Flood	C	Roads and Bridges	38,207.61	34,386.85
DR-4479-SC	2020-03-17	Flood	C	Roads and Bridges	141,818.00	127,636.20
DR-4479-SC	2020-03-17	Flood	C	Roads and Bridges	115,375.89	103,838.30
DR-4492-SC	2020-03-27	Biological	B	Protective Measures	21,319.30	21,319.30
DR-4492-SC	2020-03-27	Biological	B	Protective Measures	16,867.10	16,867.10
DR-4492-SC	2020-03-27	Biological	B	Protective Measures	8,720.34	8,720.34
DR-4542-SC	2020-05-01	Severe Storm(s)	F	Utilities	10,313.34	9,282.01
DR-4542-SC	2020-05-01	Severe Storm(s)	Z	Management Costs	515.67	515.67
DR-4542-SC	2020-05-01	Severe Storm(s)	C	Roads and Bridges	8,580.34	7,722.31
DR-4542-SC	2020-05-01	Severe Storm(s)	A	Debris Removal	488,084.89	439,276.40
DR-4542-SC	2020-05-01	Severe Storm(s)	B	Protective Measures	49,446.01	44,501.41
Total 2023					**21,491.61**	**16,118.71**
DR-3597-SC	2023-08-31	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	21,491.61	16,118.71
Total 2024					**488,554.93**	**437,100.86**
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	A	Debris Removal	50,000.00	37,500.00
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	51238.60	51238.60
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	10850.78	10850.78
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	97148.30	97148.30
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	G	Recreational or Other	48560.36	36420.27
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	15755.57	15755.57
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	8363.49	8363.49
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	10336.42	10336.42
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	A	Debris Removal	75308.78	75308.78
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	A	Debris Removal	15500.00	11625.00
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	C	Roads and Bridges	8172.15	6129.12
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	E	Buildings and Equipment	8393.12	6294.84
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	Z	Management Costs	4307.97	4307.97

DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	Z	Management Costs	8888.70	8888.70
DR-4835-SC	2024-09-29	Tropical Storm	C	Roads and Bridges	55,463.89	41,732.92
DR-4835-SC	2024-09-29	Tropical Storm	B	Protective Measures	20,266.80	15,200.10
JASPER COUNTY						
Declaration	**Declaration**	**Hazard**	**Damage**	**Damage Category**	**Project**	**Federal Share**
TOTAL 2020-2024					**1,575,600.84**	**1,290,874.09**
Total 2020					**649,378.46**	**591,327.74**
DR-4492-SC	2020-03-27	Biological	B	Protective Measures	6,360.51	5,724.46
DR-4492-SC	2020-03-27	Biological	B	Protective Measures	7,285.11	7,285.11
DR-4492-SC	2020-03-27	Biological	B	Protective Measures	12,880.93	12,880.93
DR-4492-SC	2020-03-27	Biological	B	Protective Measures	43,937.72	43,937.72
DR-4542-SC	2020-05-01	Biological	F	Utilities	566,834.38	510,150.95
DR-4542-SC	2020-05-01	Severe Storm(s)	Z	Management Costs	4,767.43	4,767.43
DR-4542-SC	2020-05-01	Severe Storm(s)	B	Protective Measures	7,312.38	6,581.14
Total 2022					**536,893.33**	**404,181.47**
DR-4677-SC	2022-11-21	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	25,309.34	18,982.01
DR-4677-SC	2022-11-21	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	150,297.38	112,723.04
DR-4677-SC	2022-11-21	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	10,448.85	7,836.64
DR-4677-SC	2022-11-21	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	344,791.94	258,593.96
DR-4677-SC	2022-11-21	Hurricane	Z	Management Costs	6,045.82	6,045.82
Total 2023					**383,134.05**	**289,169.88**
DR-3597-SC	2023-08-31	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	11,224.44	8,418.33
DR-3597-SC	2023-08-31	Hurricane	Z	Management Costs	3,086.53	3,086.53
DR-3597-SC	2023-08-31	Hurricane	Z	Management Costs	4,190.78	4,190.78
DR-3597-SC	2023-08-31	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	14,919.98	11,189.99
DR-3597-SC	2023-08-31	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	112,591.46	84,443.60
DR-3597-SC	2023-08-31	Hurricane	B	Protective Measures	237,120.86	177,840.65
Total 2024					**6,195.00**	**6,195.00**
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	Z	Management Costs	295.00	295.00
DR-4829-SC	2024-09-29	Hurricane	A	Debris Removal	5,900.00	5,900.00

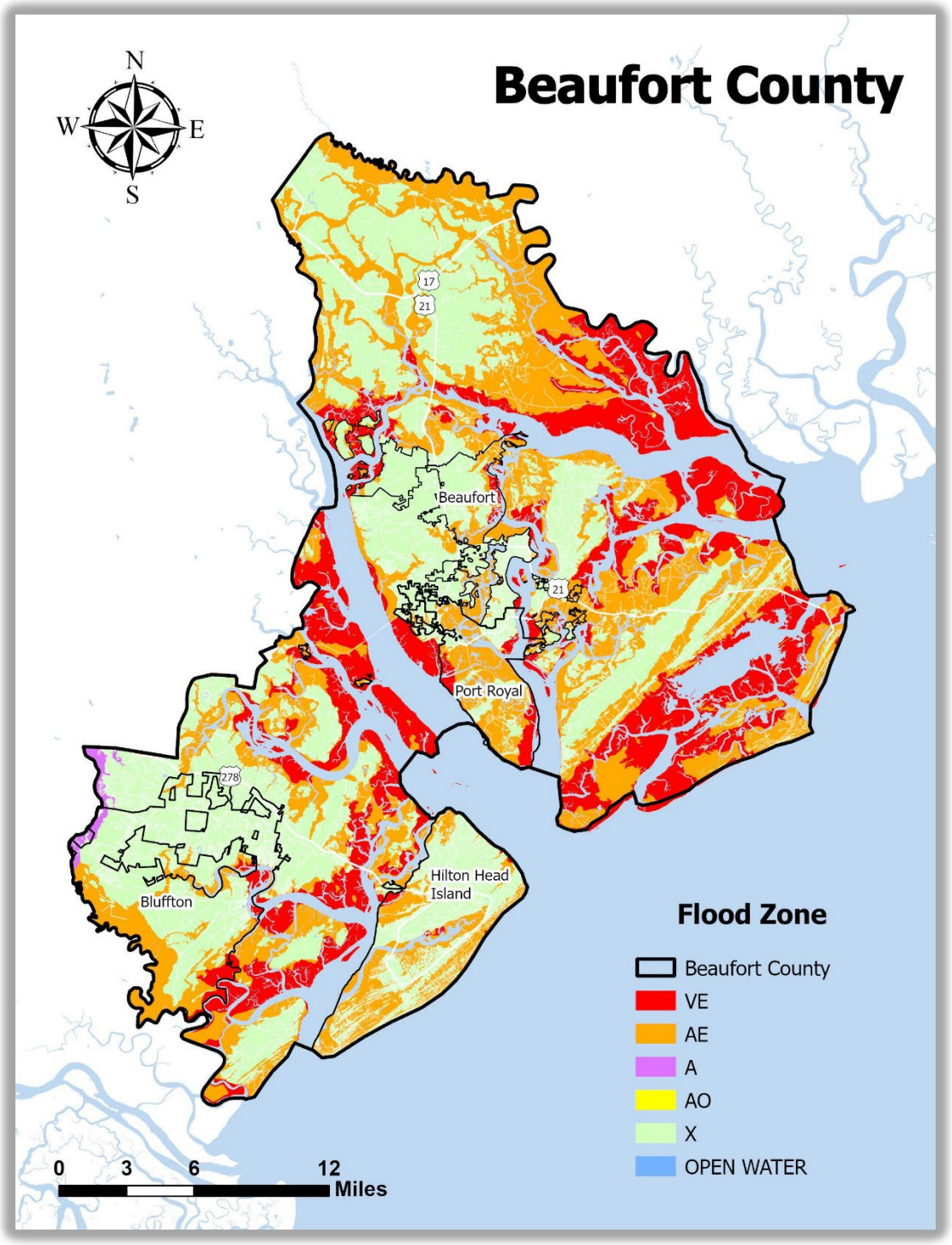
APPENDIX E – DEFINITIONS OF FEMA FLOOD ZONE DESIGNATIONS

Zone	Description
Moderate to Low Risk Areas	
B and X	Area of moderate flood hazard, usually the area between the limits of the 100-year and 500-year floods. B Zones are also used to designate base floodplains of lesser hazards, such as areas protected by levees from 100-year flood, or shallow flooding areas with average depths of less than one foot or drainage areas less than 1 square mile.
C and X	Area of minimal flood hazard, usually depicted on FIRMs as above the 500-year flood level. Zone C may have ponding and local drainage problems that don't warrant a detailed study or designation as base floodplain. Zone X is the area determined to be outside the 500-year flood and protected by levee from 100-year flood.
High Risk Areas	
A	Areas with a 1% annual chance of flooding and a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Because detailed analyses are not performed for such areas; no depths or base flood elevations are shown within these zones.
AE	The base floodplain where base flood elevations are provided. AE Zones are now used on new format FIRMs instead of A1-A30 Zones.
AH	Areas with a 1% annual chance of shallow flooding, usually in the form of a pond, with an average depth ranging from 1 to 3 feet. These areas have a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Base flood elevations derived from detailed analyses are shown at selected intervals within these zones.
AO	River or stream flood hazard areas, and areas with a 1% or greater chance of shallow flooding each year, usually in the form of sheet flow, with an average depth ranging from 1 to 3 feet. These areas have a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Average flood depths derived from detailed analyses are shown within these zones.
AR	Areas with a temporarily increased flood risk due to the building or restoration of a flood control system (such as a levee or a dam). Mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements will apply, but rates will not exceed the rates for unnumbered A zones if the structure is built or restored in compliance with Zone AR floodplain management regulations.
A99	Areas with a 1% annual chance of flooding that will be protected by a Federal flood control system where construction has reached specified legal requirements. No depths or base flood elevations are shown within these zones.
High Risk -Coastal Areas	
V	Coastal areas with a 1% or greater chance of flooding and an additional hazard associated with storm waves. These areas have a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. No base flood elevations are shown within these zones.
VE, V1 - 30	Coastal areas with a 1% or greater chance of flooding and an additional hazard associated with storm waves. These areas have a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Base flood elevations derived from detailed analyses are shown at selected intervals within these zones.
Undetermined Risk Areas	
D	Areas with possible but undetermined flood hazards. No flood hazard analysis has been conducted. Flood insurance rates are commensurate with the uncertainty of the flood risk.

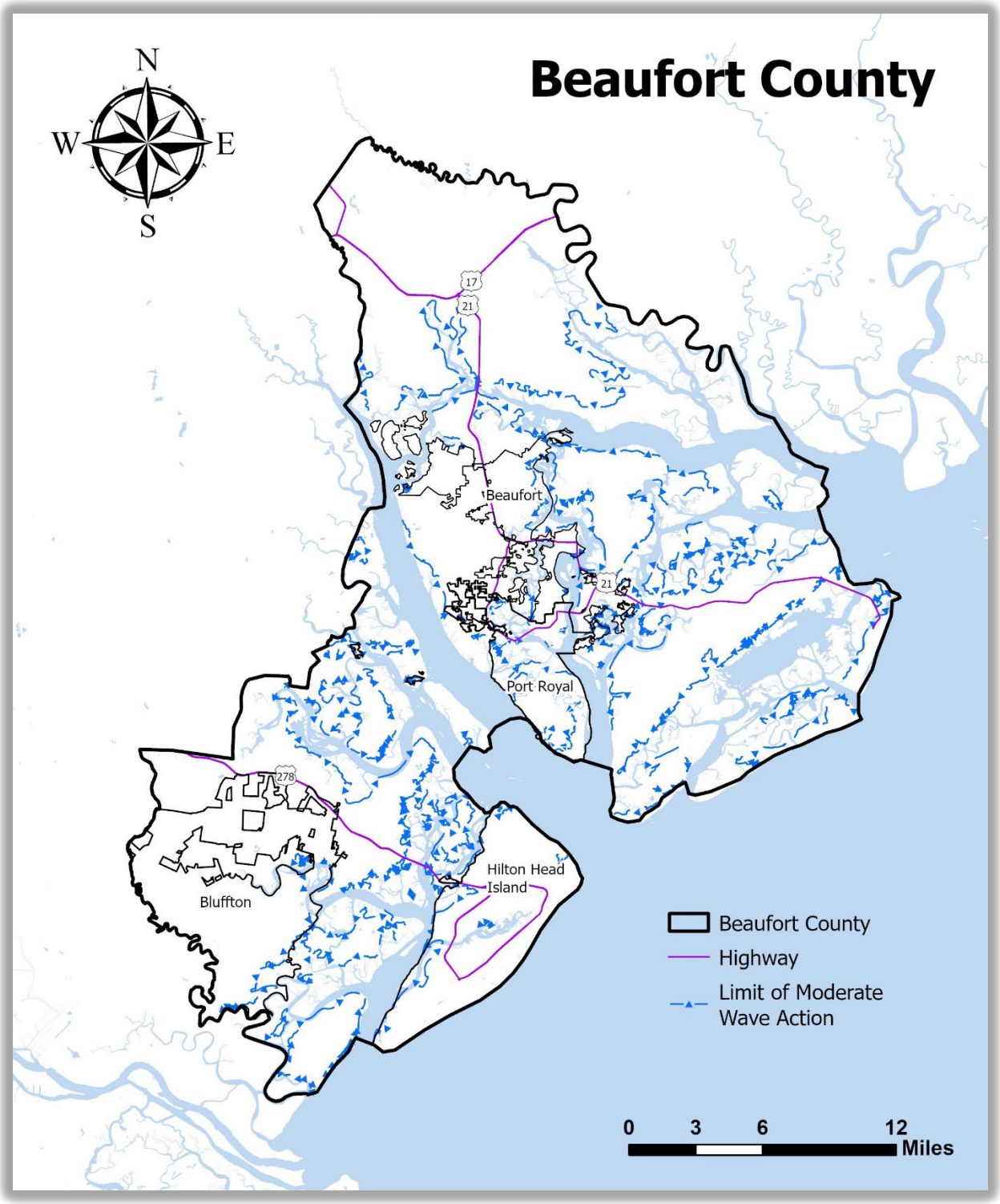
APPENDIX F – FLOOD ZONES

APPENDIX F-1: BEAUFORT COUNTY FLOOD ZONES

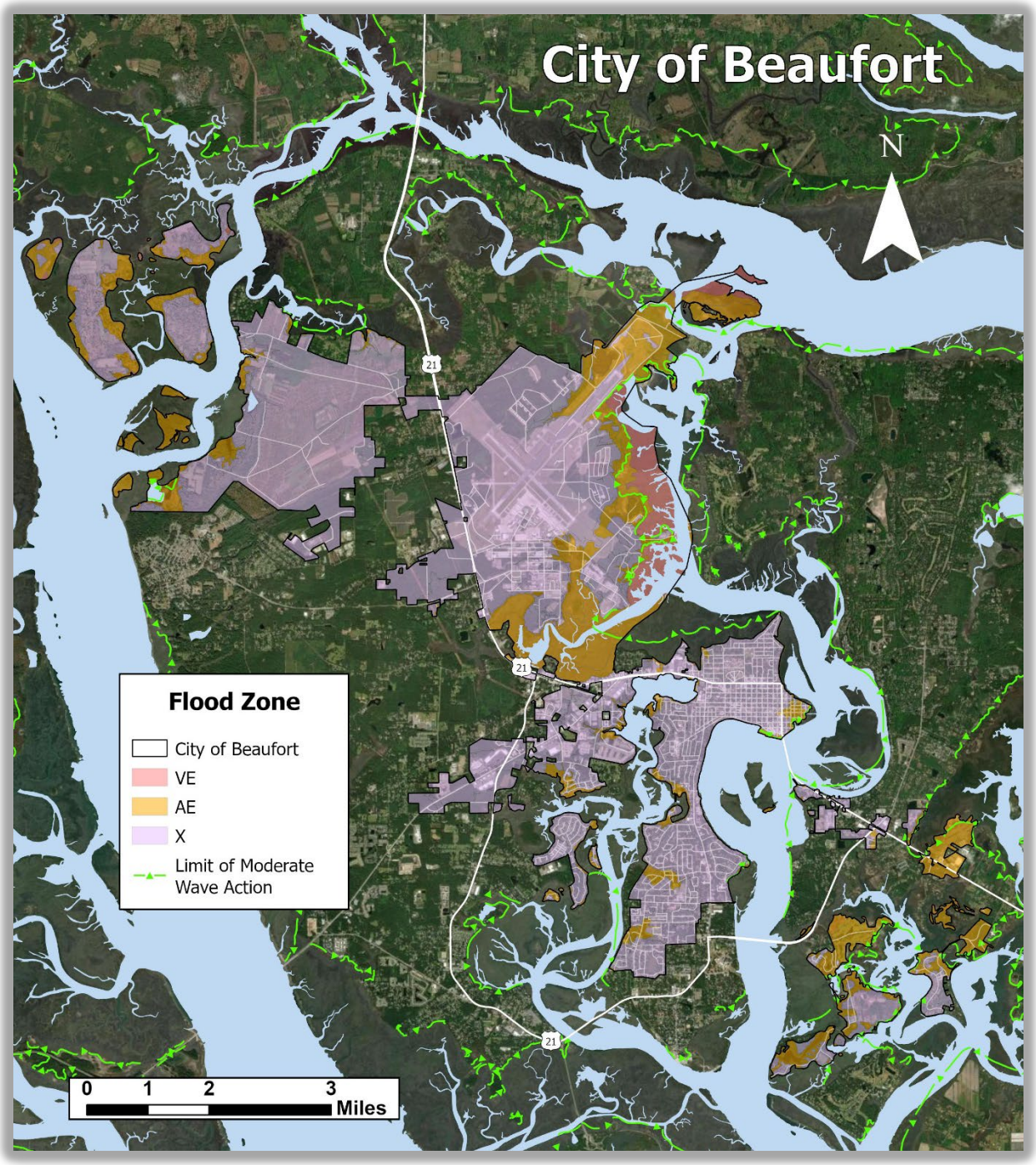
Beaufort County Flood Zones



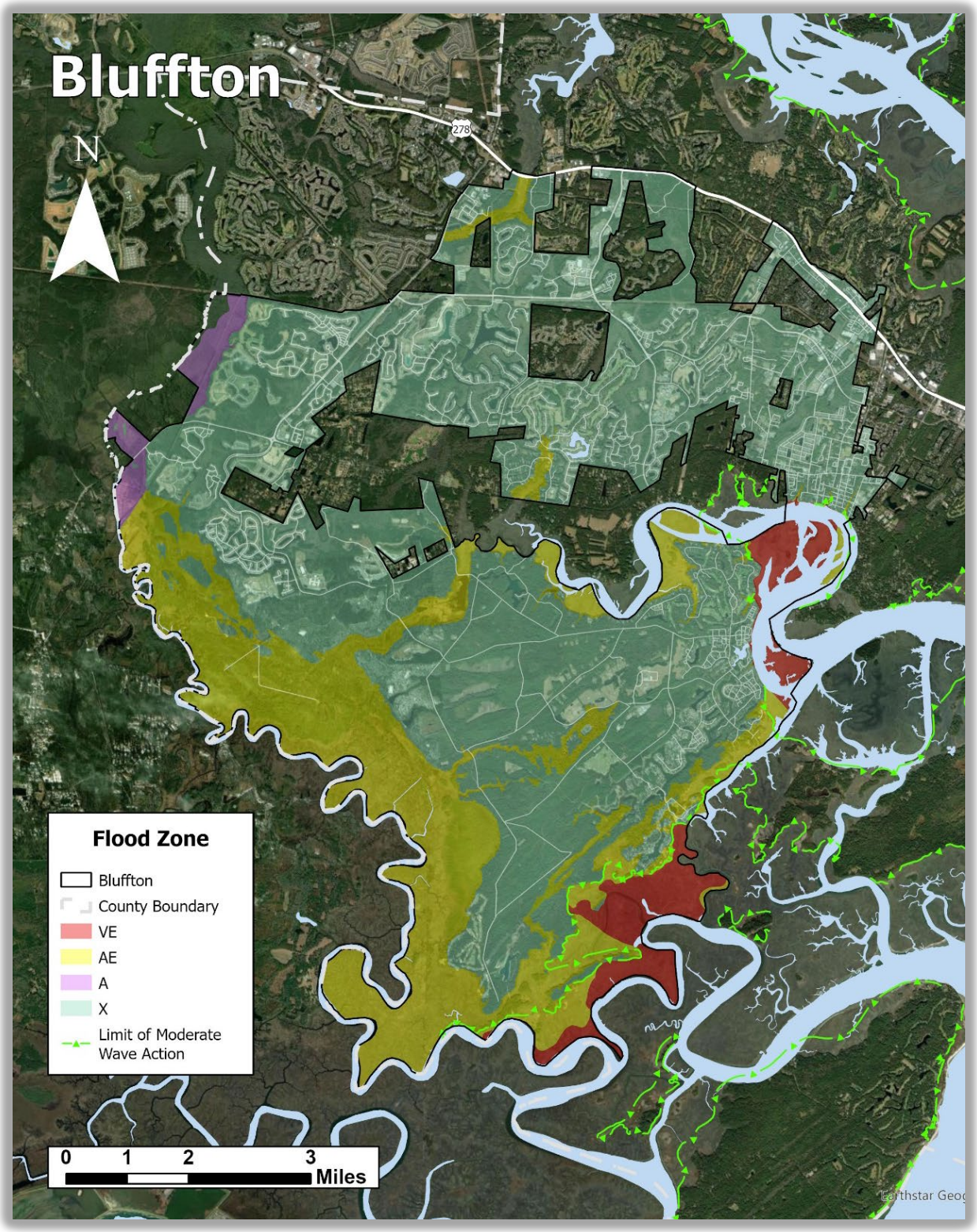
Beaufort County LIMWA



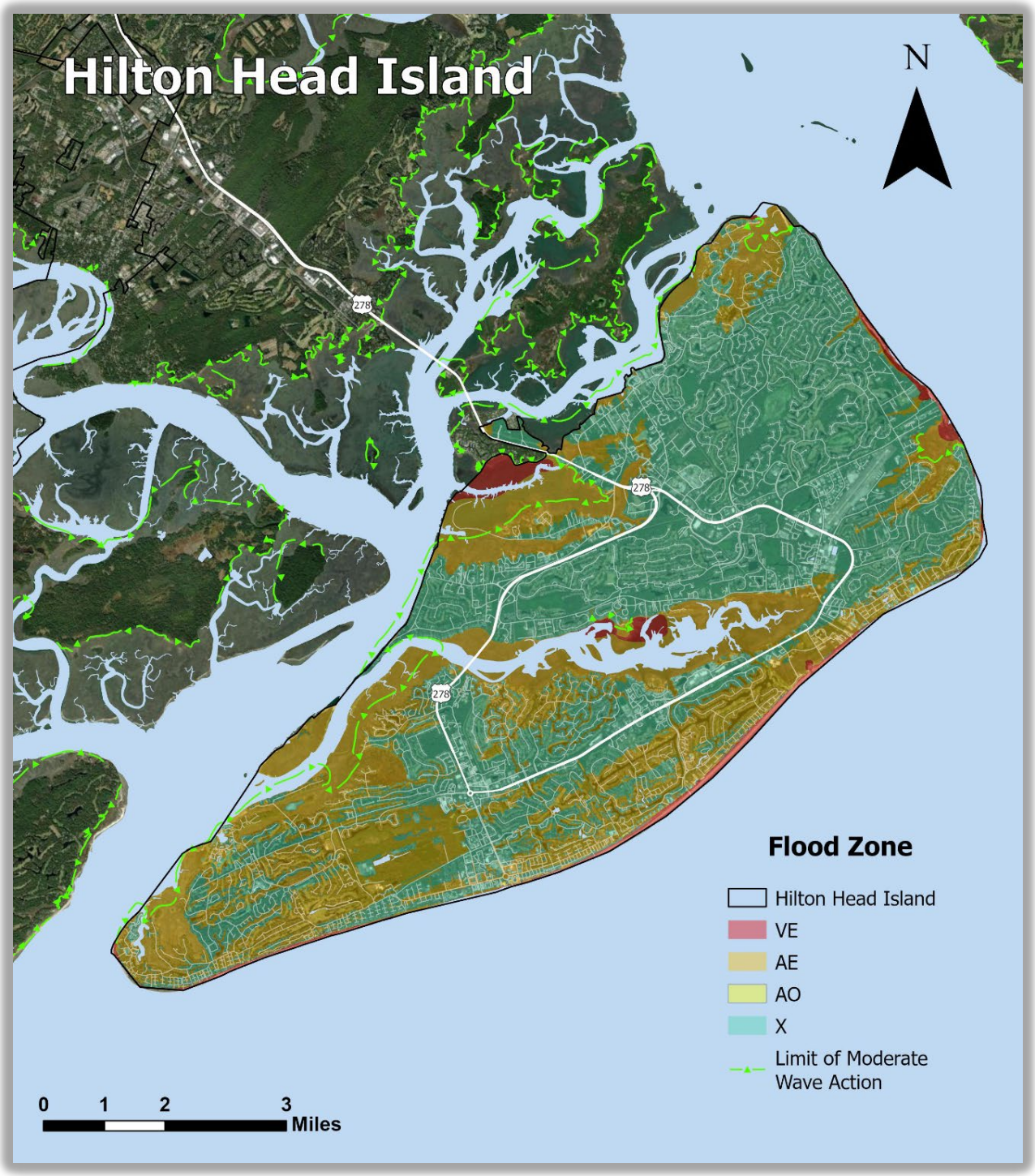
City of Beaufort Flood Zones



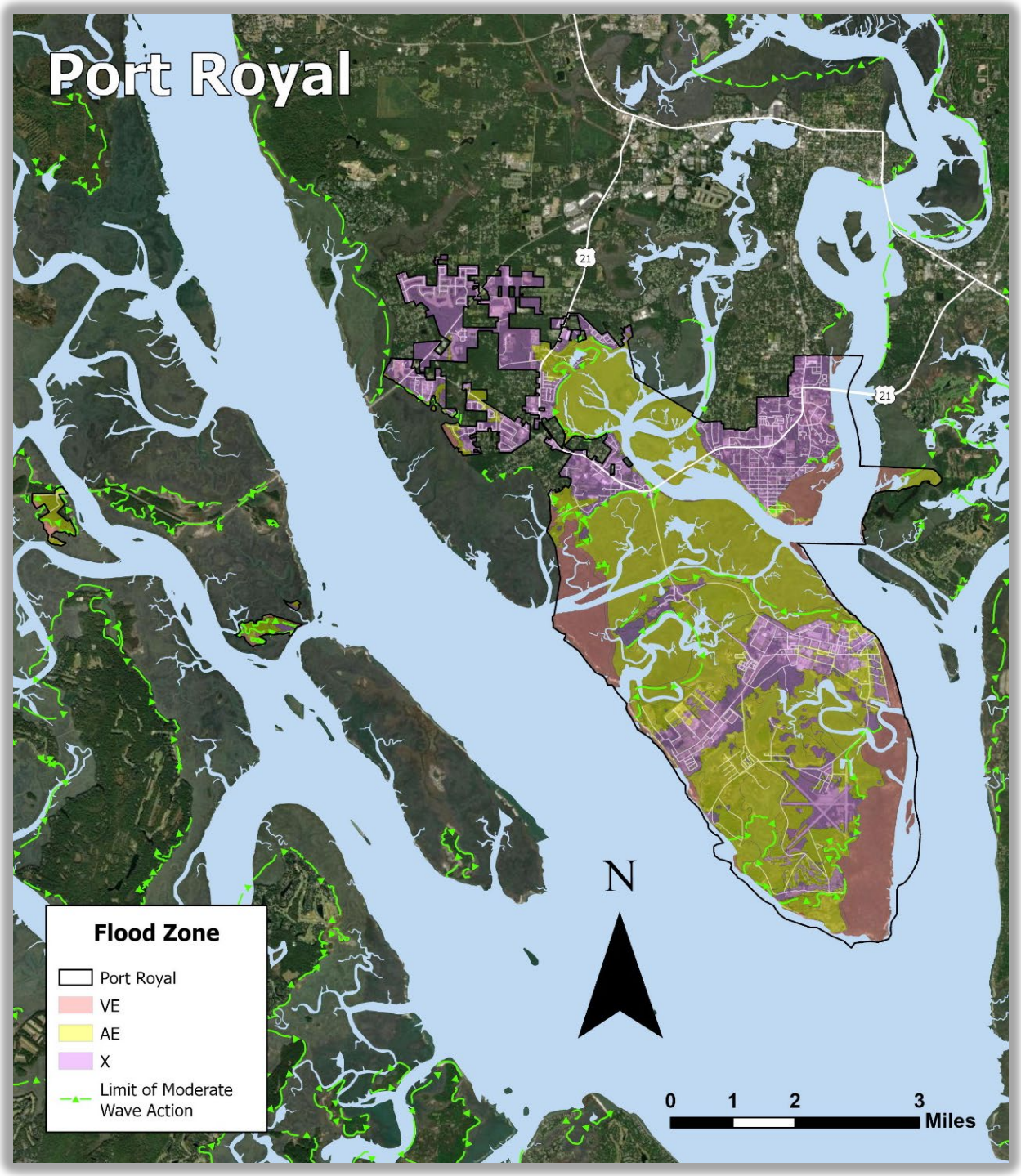
Town of Bluffton Flood Zones



Town of Hilton Head Island Flood Zones

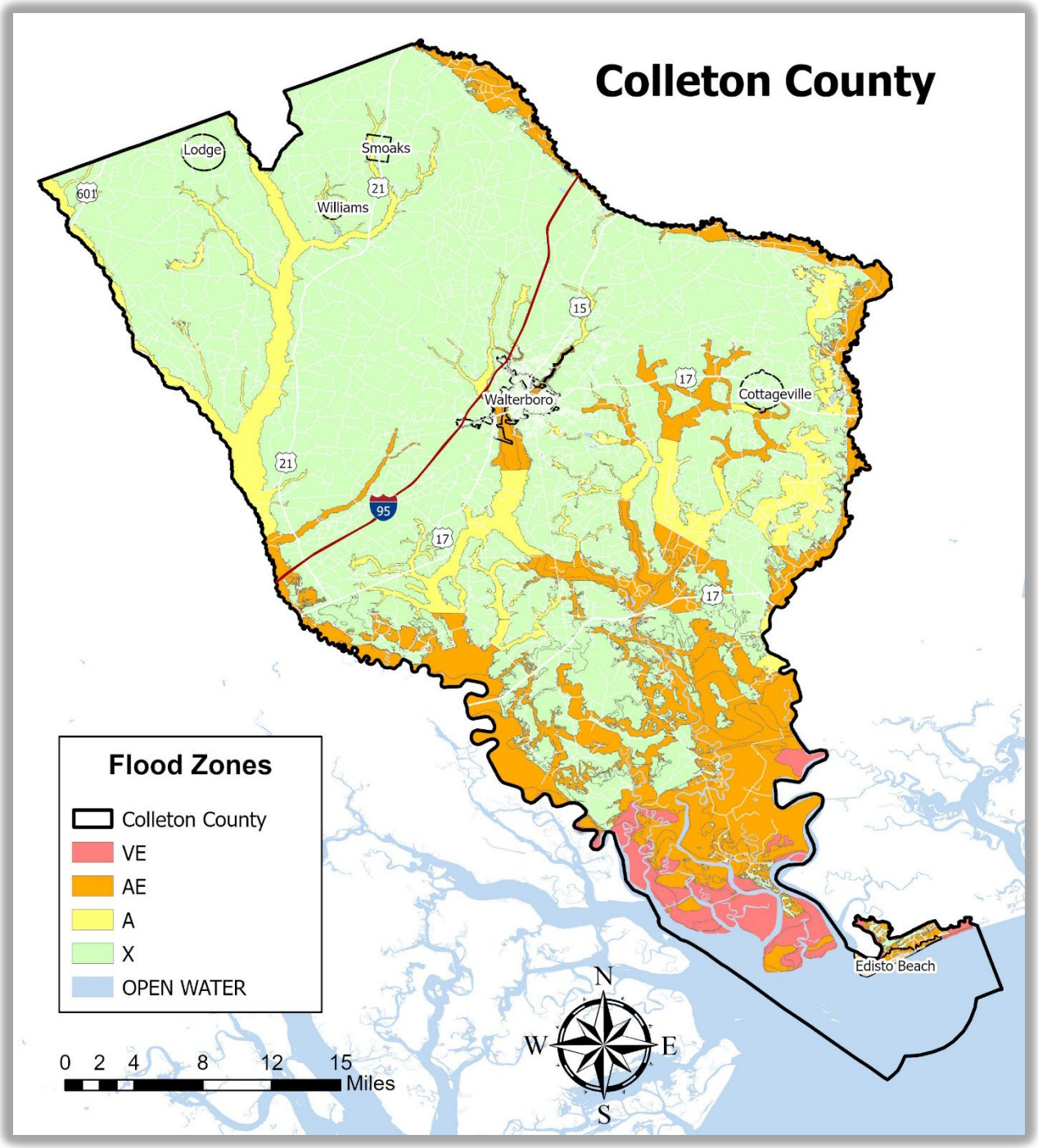


Town of Port Royal Flood Zones

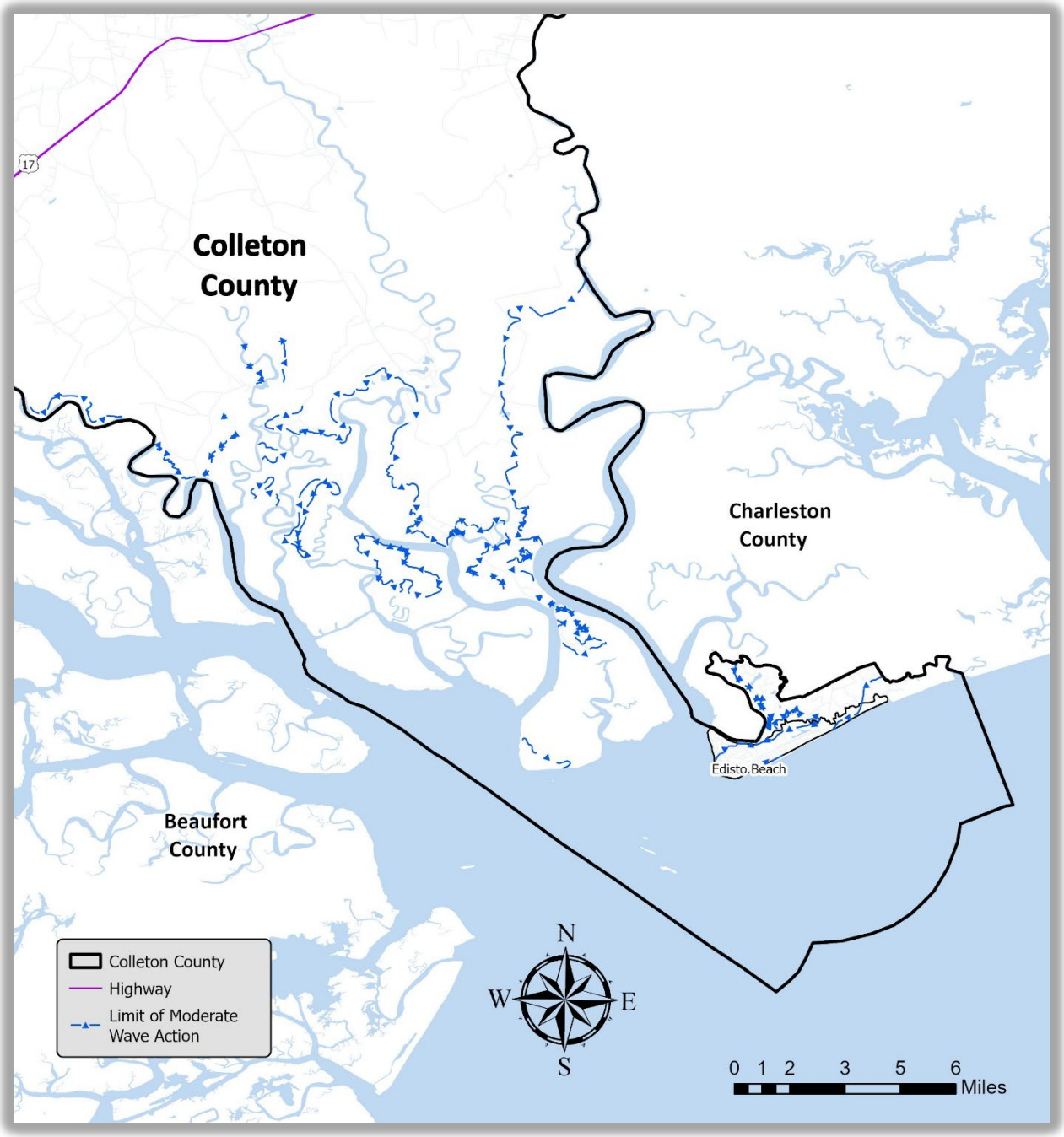


APPENDIX F-2: COLLETON COUNTY FLOOD ZONES

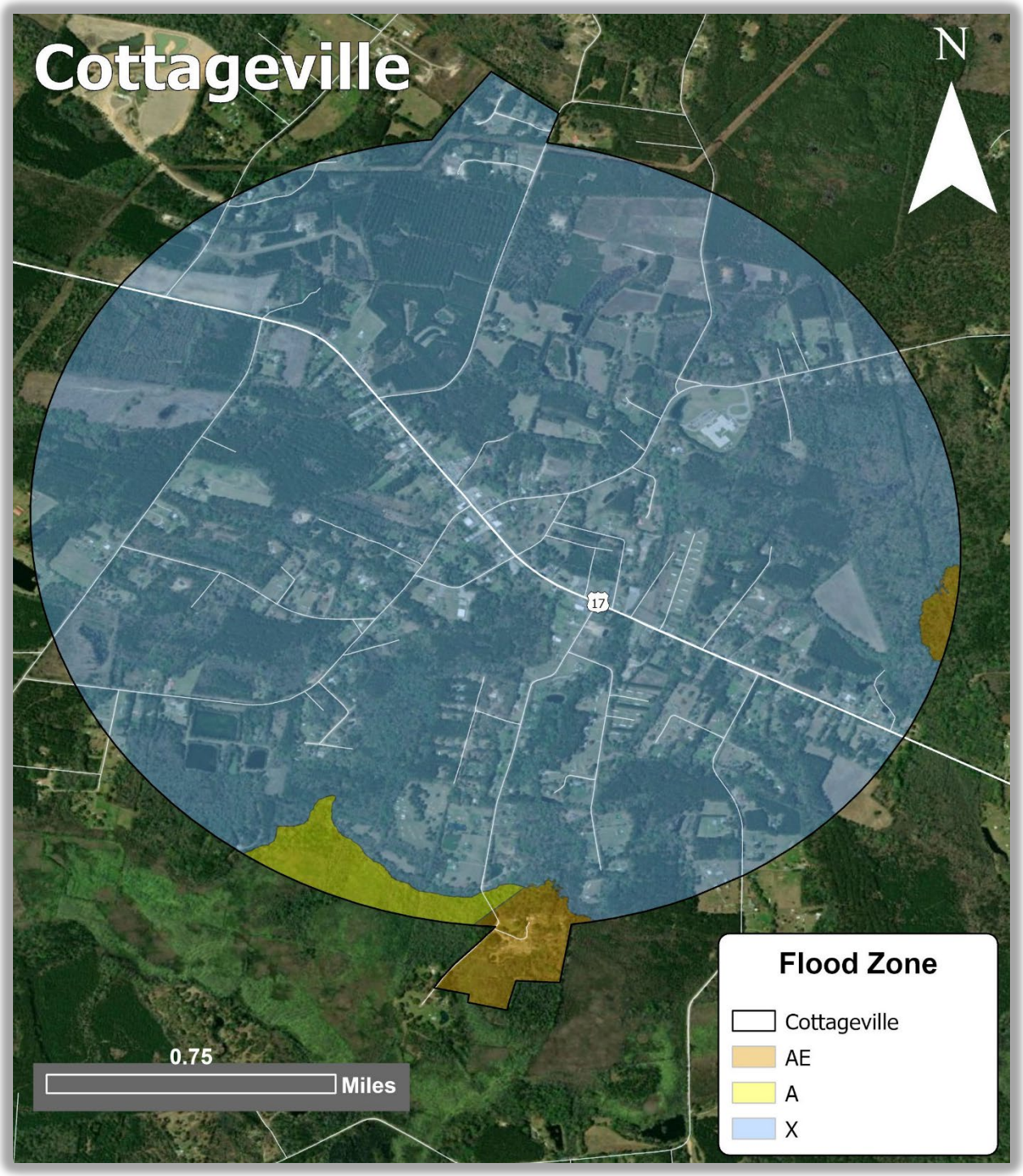
Colleton County Flood Zones



Colleton County LIMWA



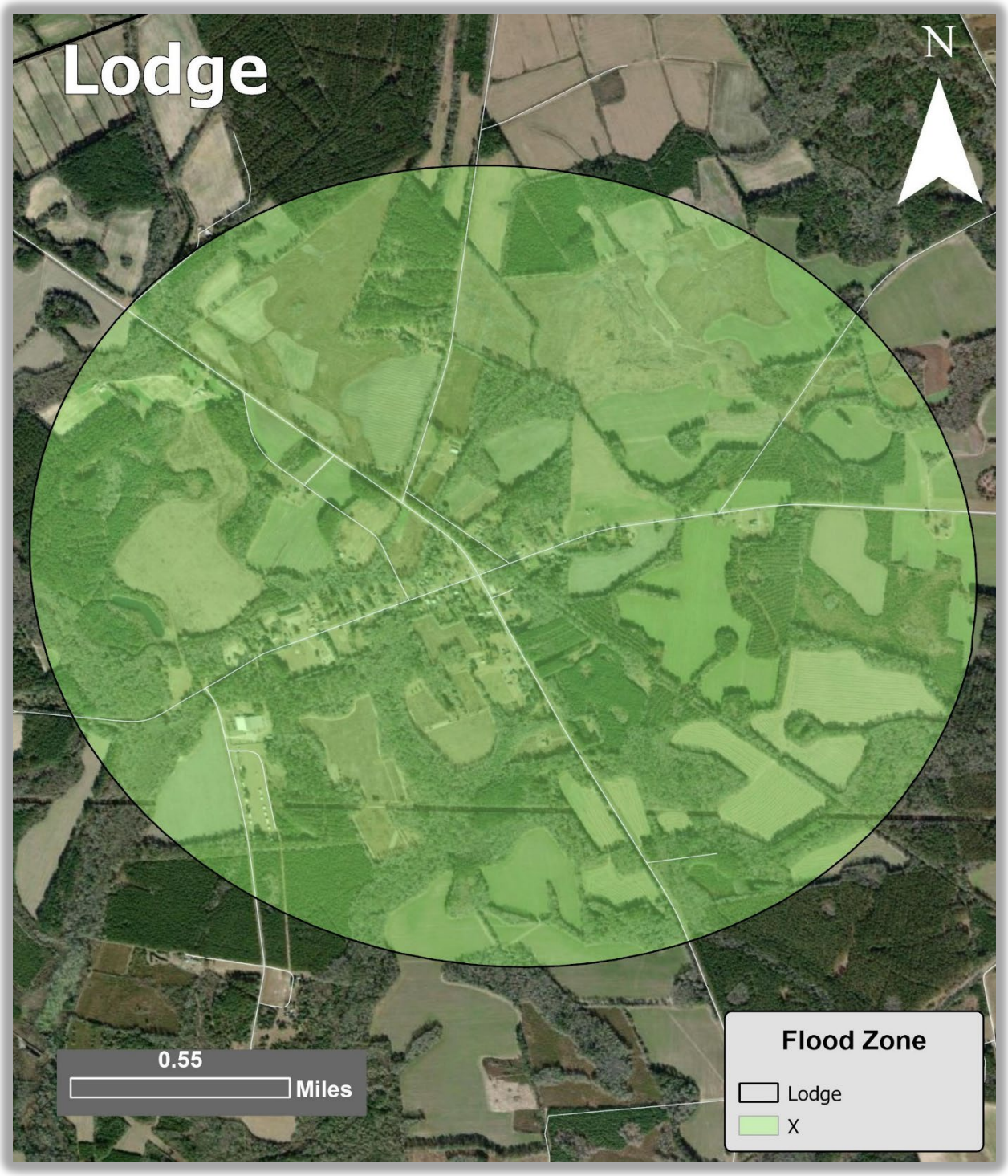
Town of Cottageville Flood Zones



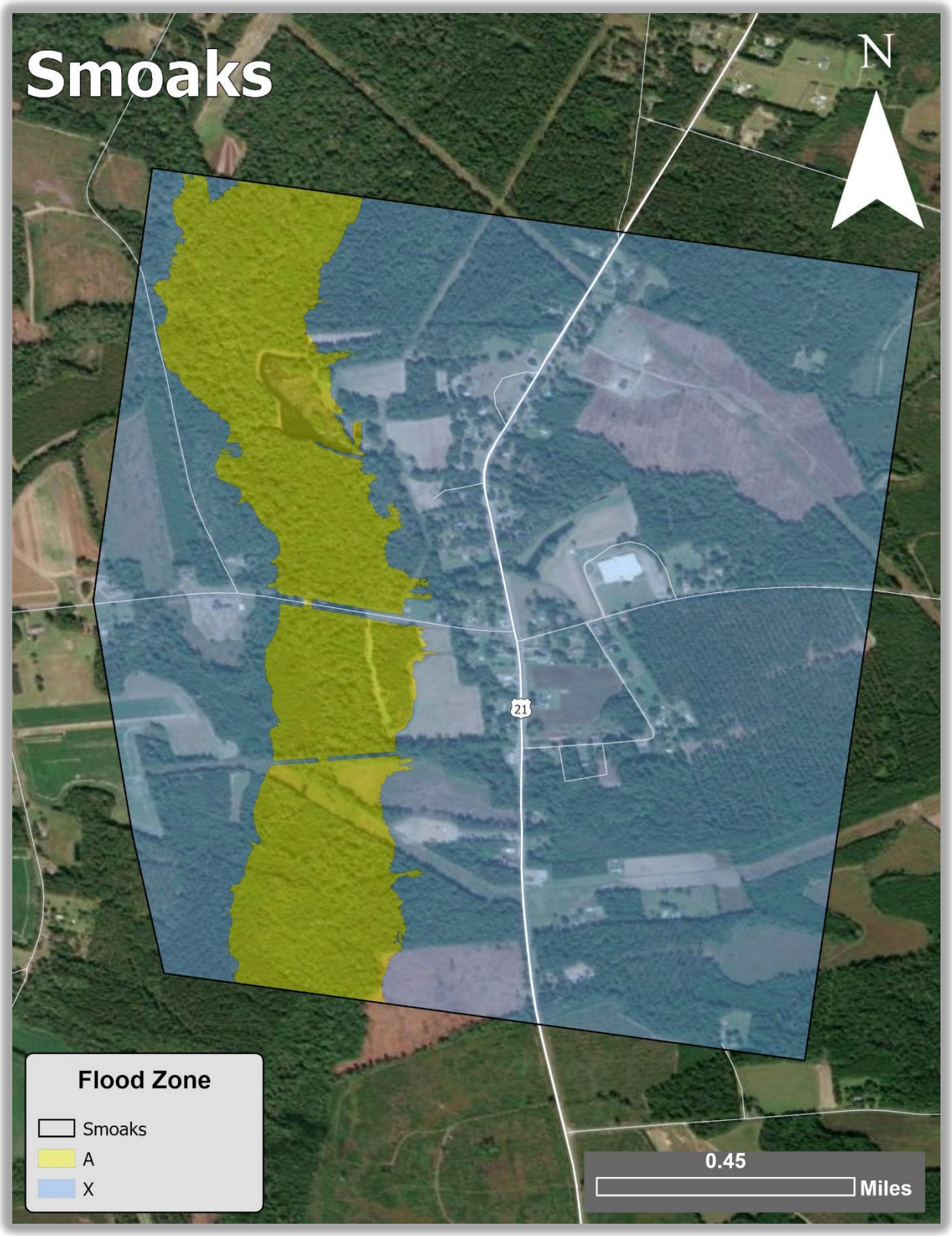
Town of Edisto Beach Flood Zones



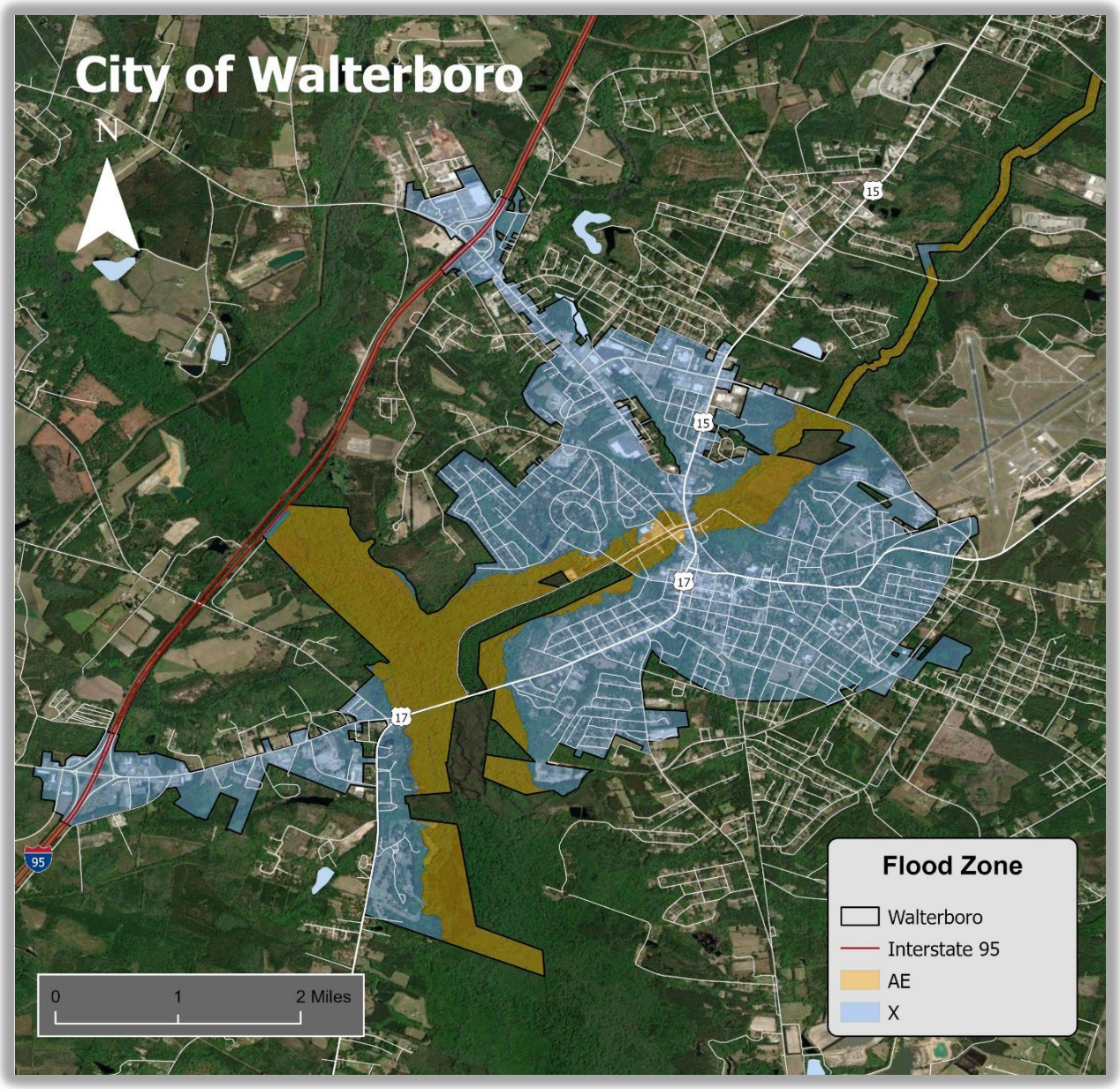
Town of Lodge Flood Zones



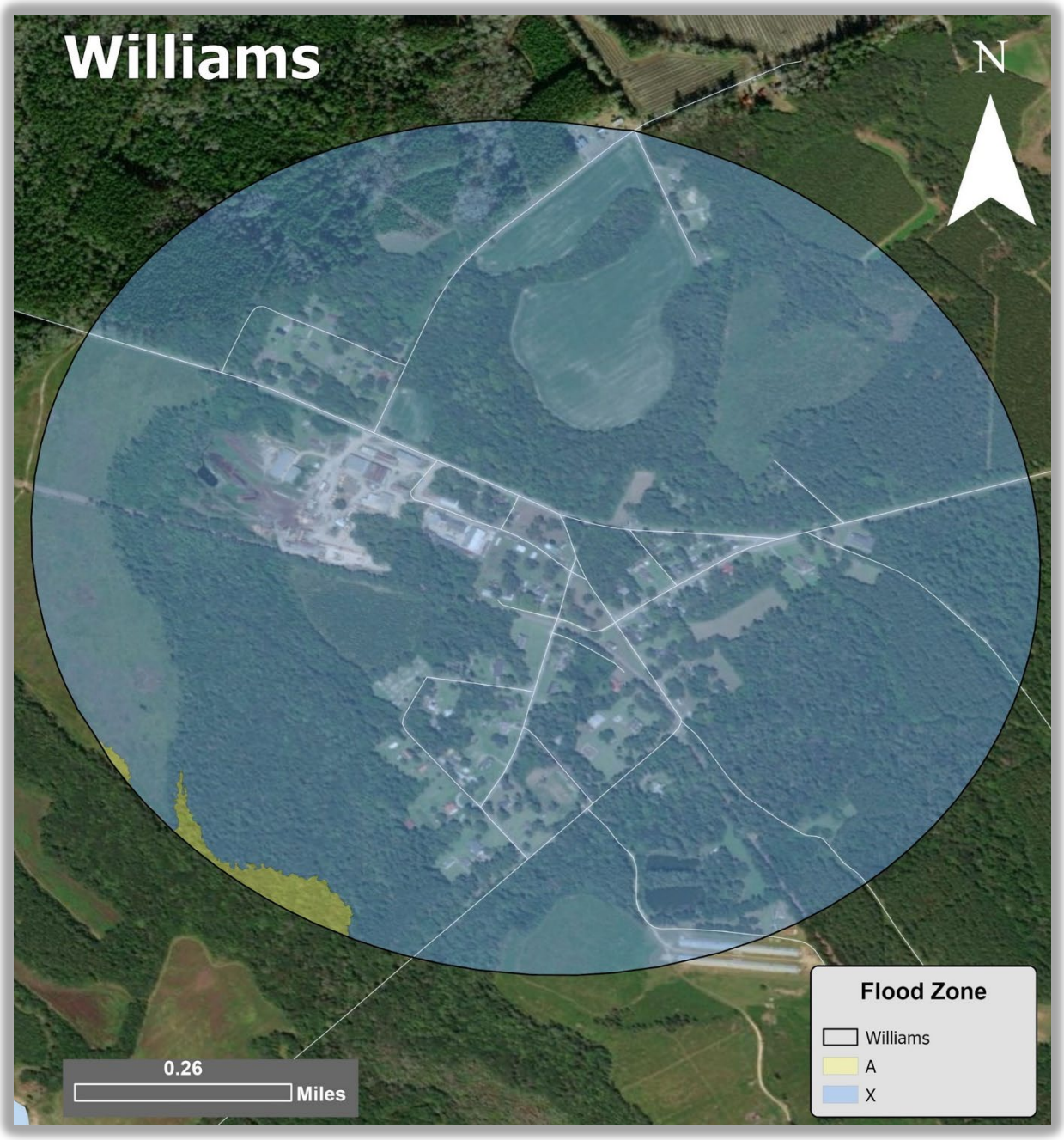
Town of Smoaks Flood Zones



City of Walterboro Flood Zones

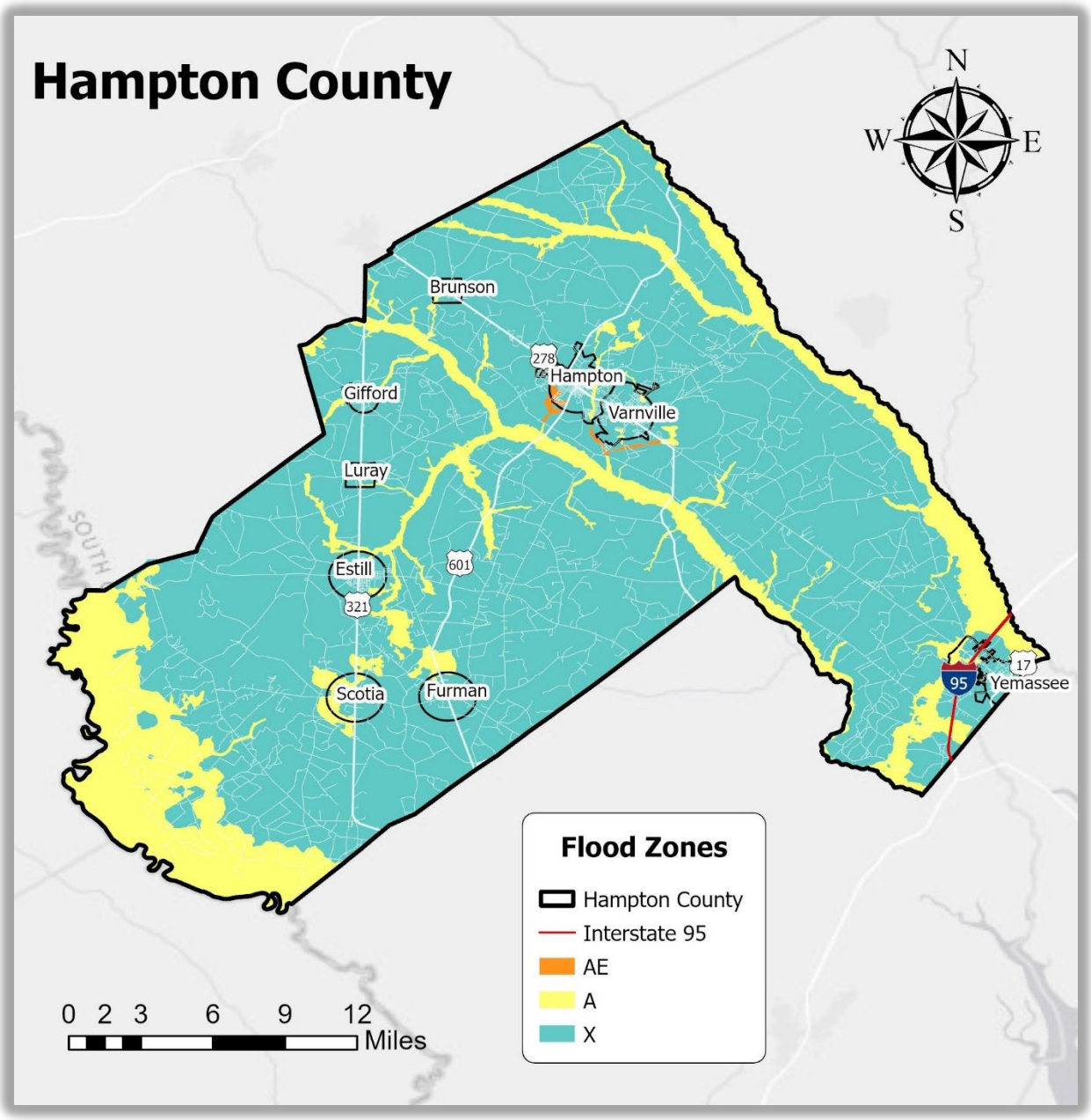


Town of Williams Flood Zones

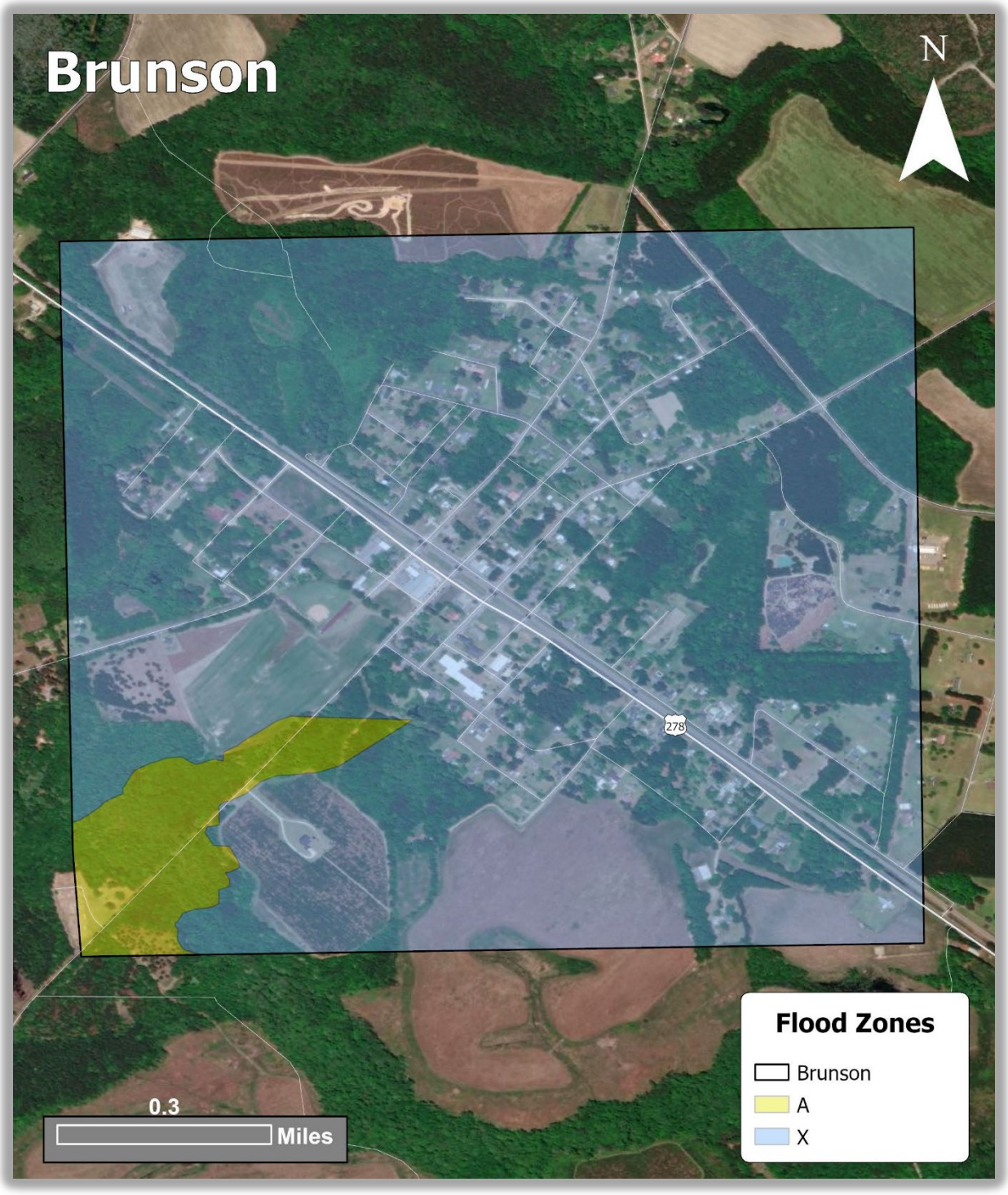


APPENDIX F-3: HAMPTON COUNTY FLOOD ZONES

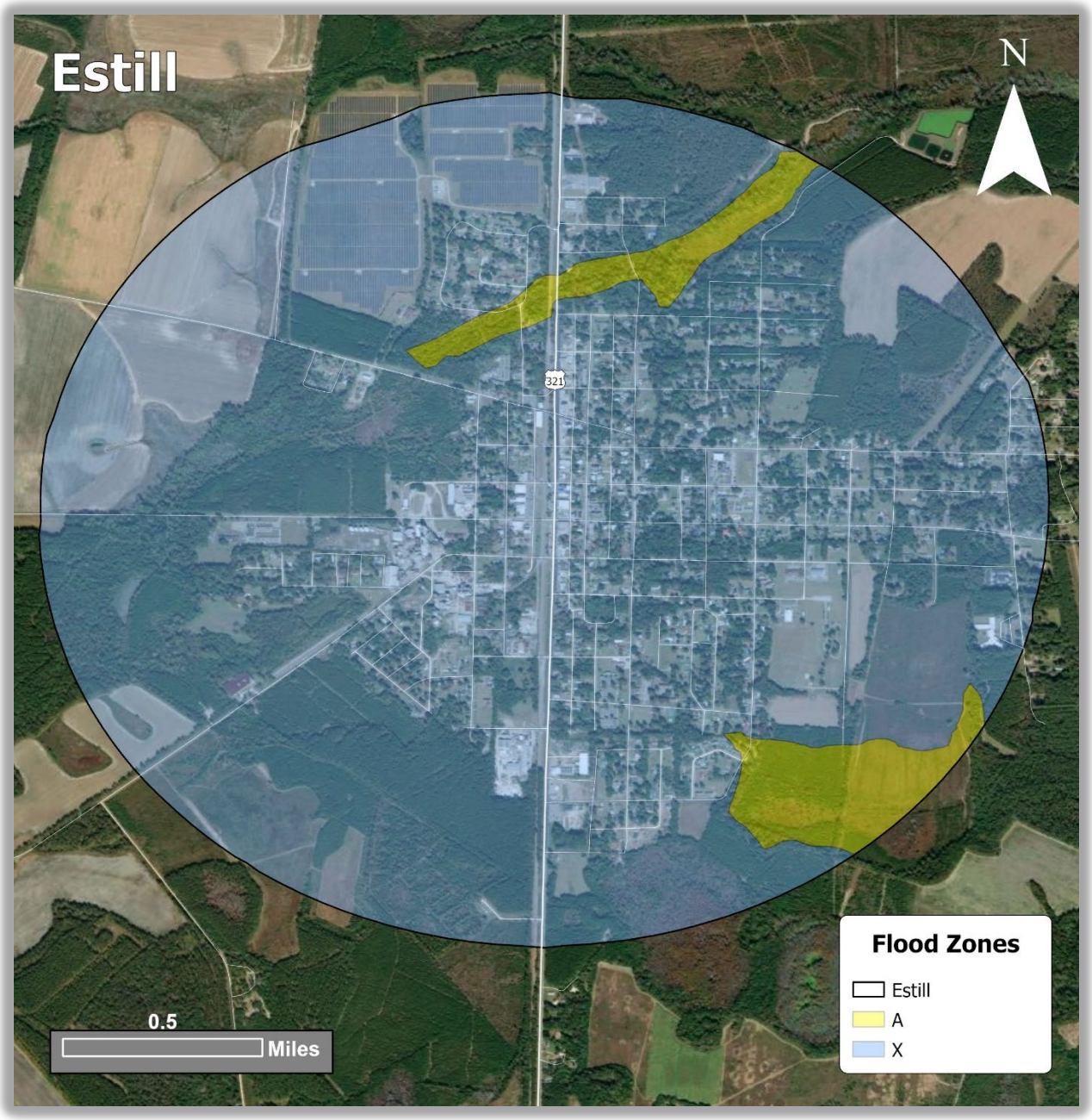
Hampton County Flood Zones



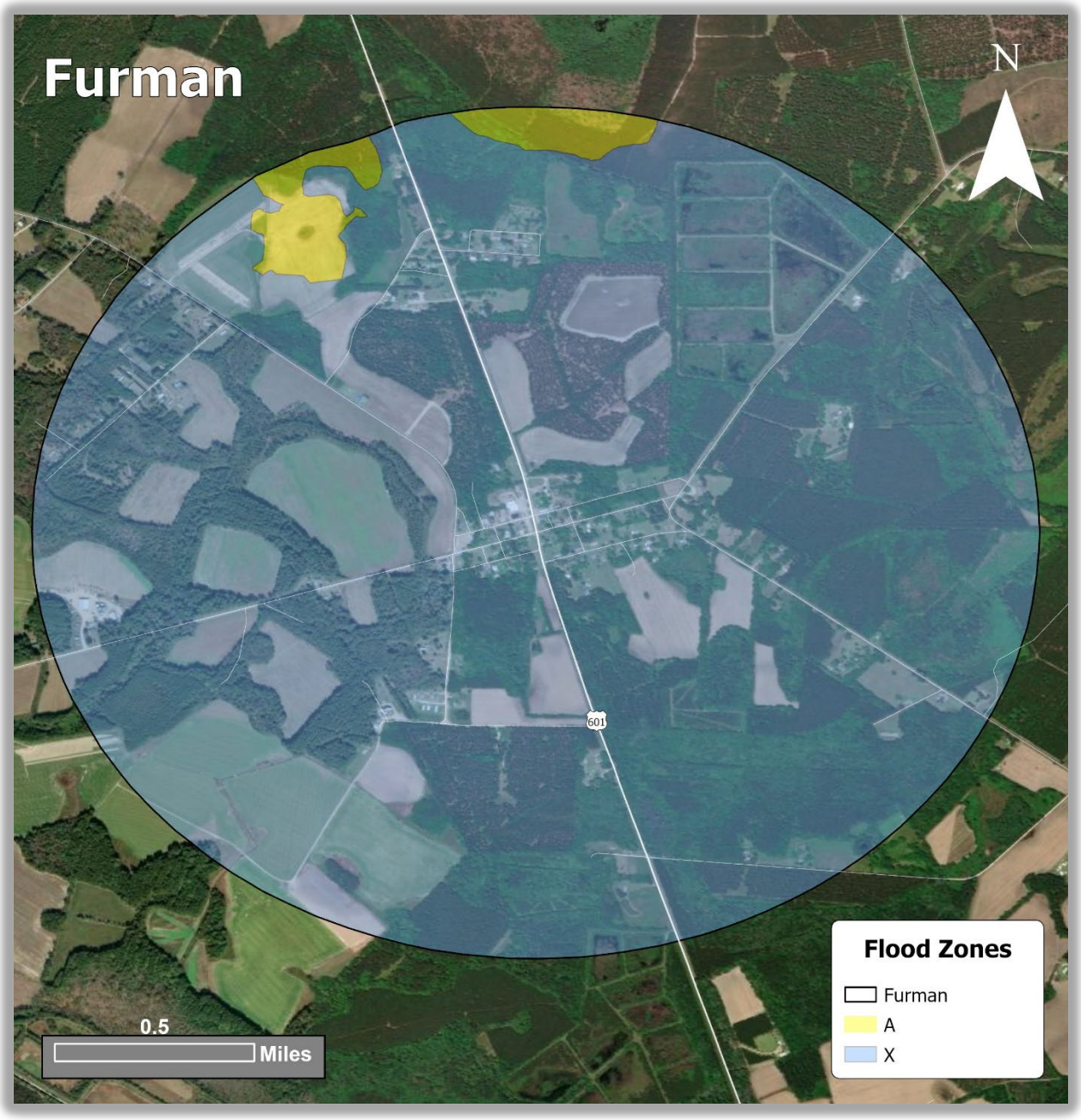
Town of Brunson Flood Zones



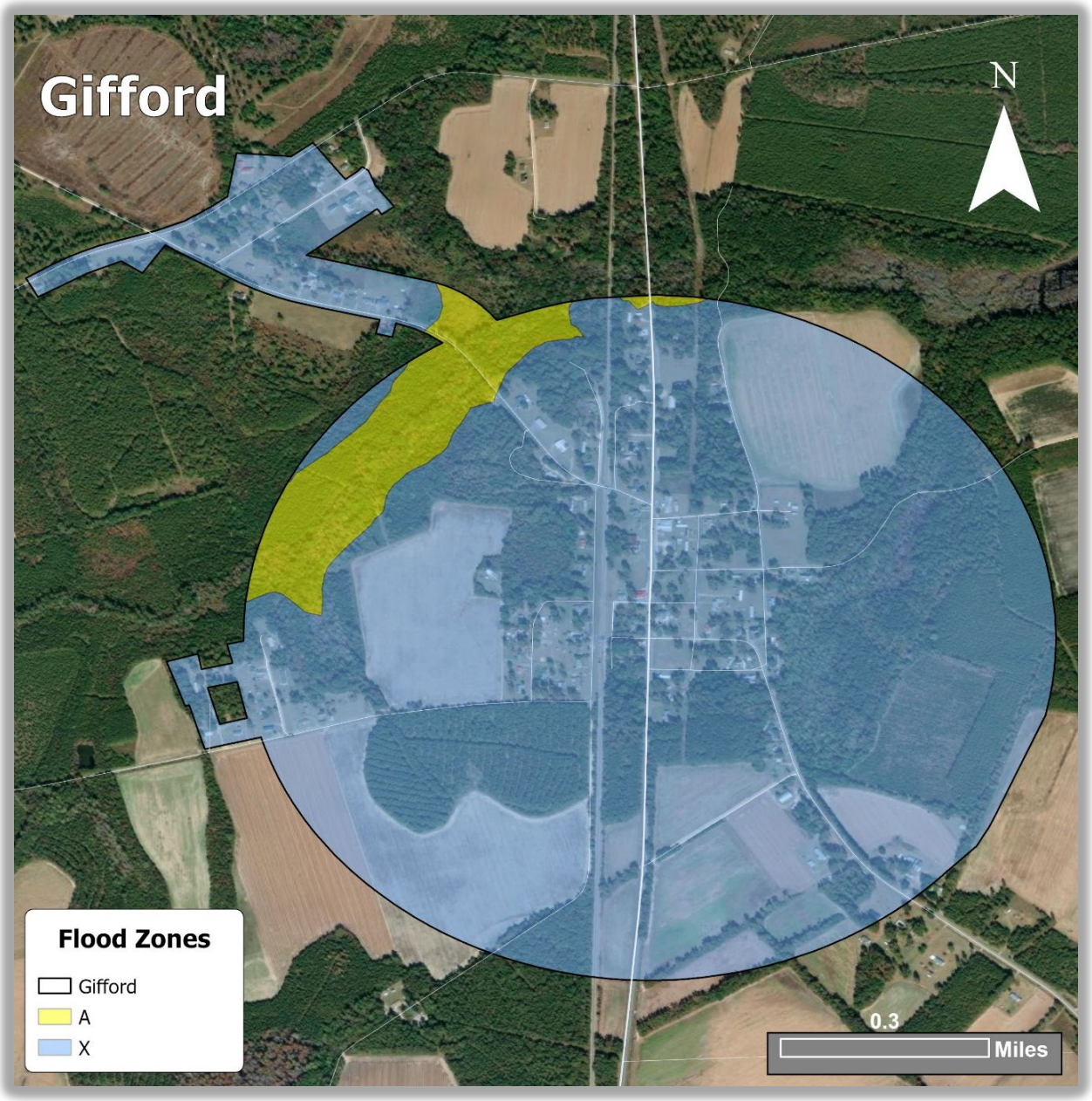
Town of Estill



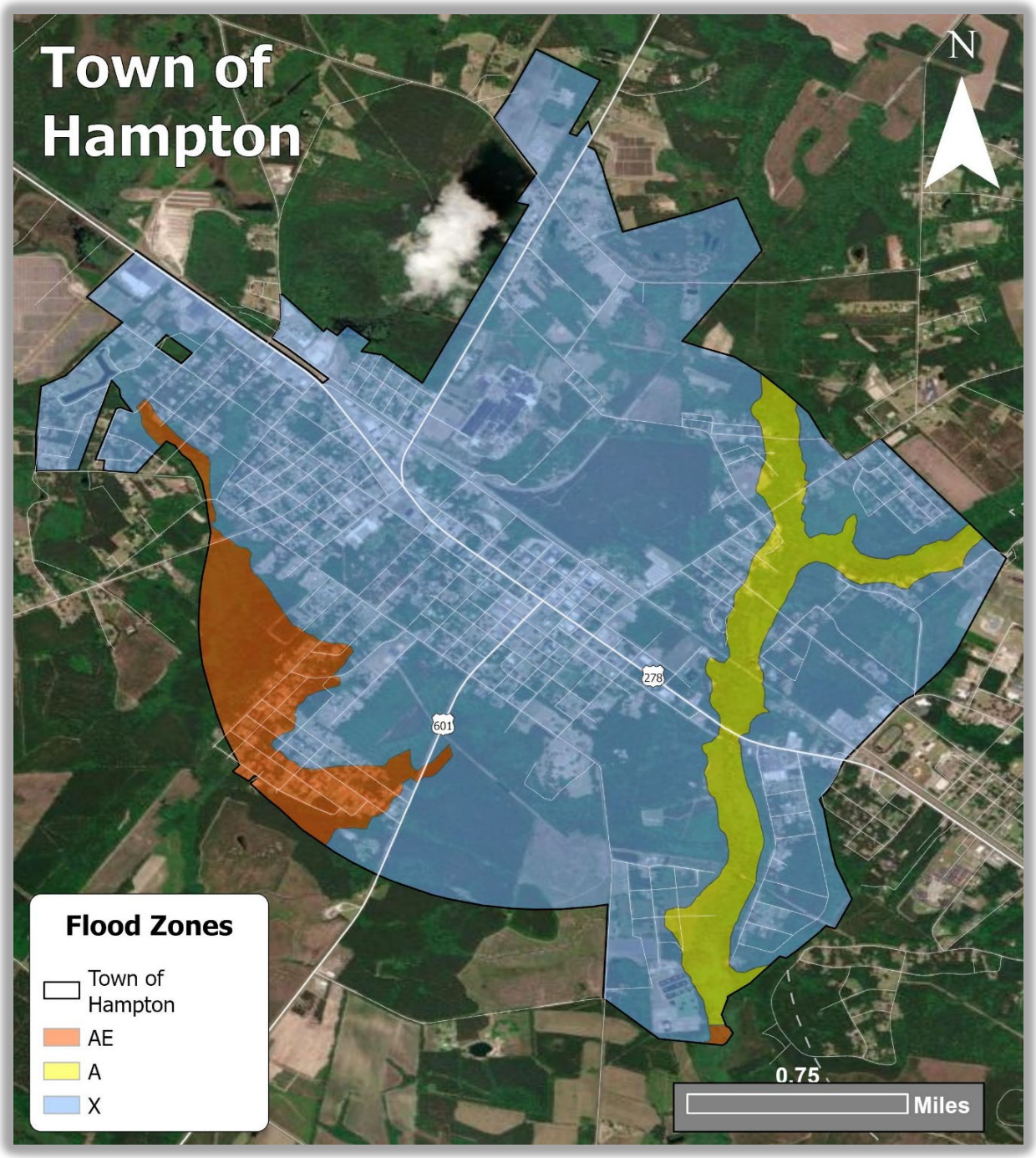
Town of Furman Flood Zones



Town of Gifford Flood Zones



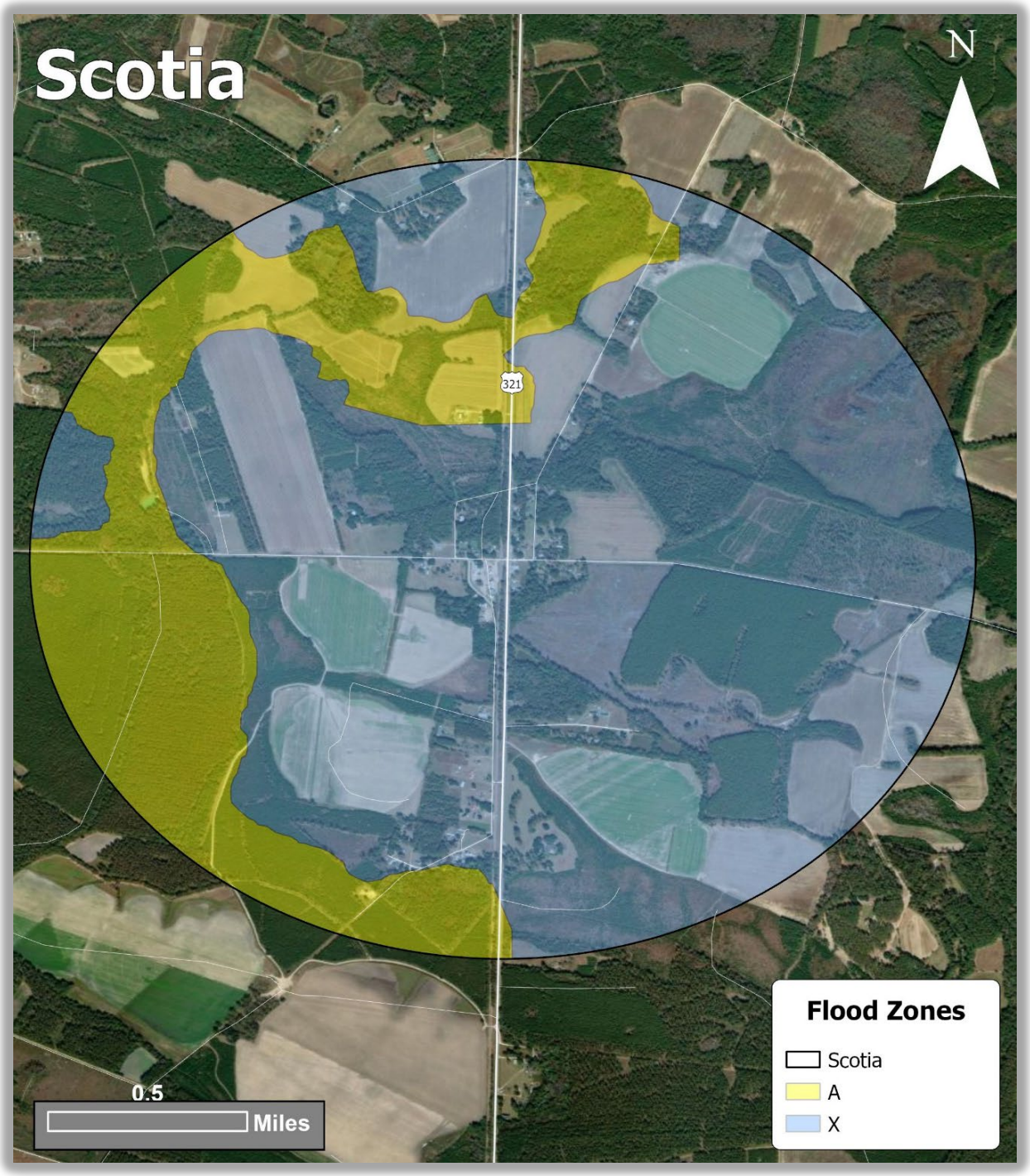
Town of Hampton Flood Zones



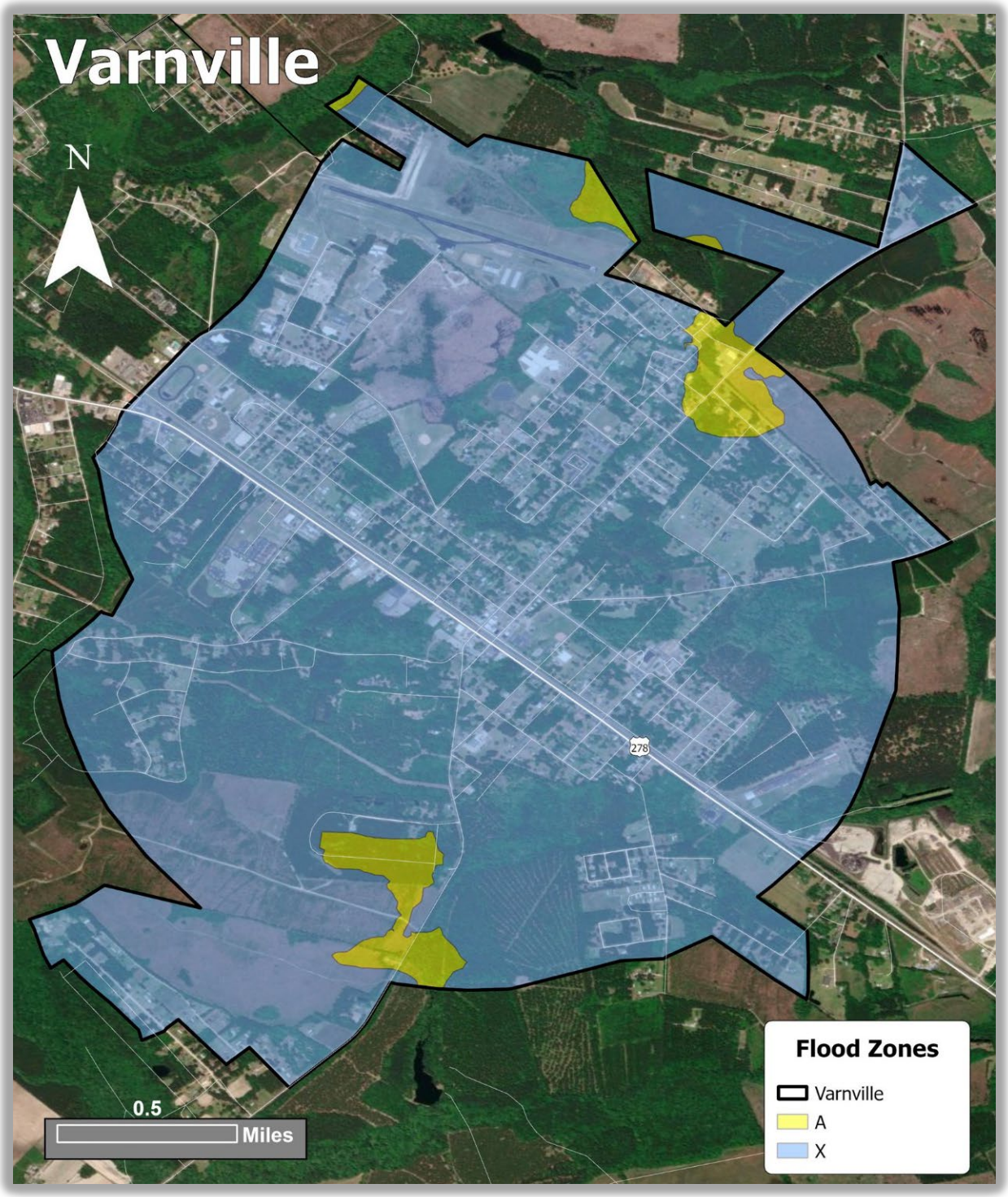
Town of Luray Flood Zones



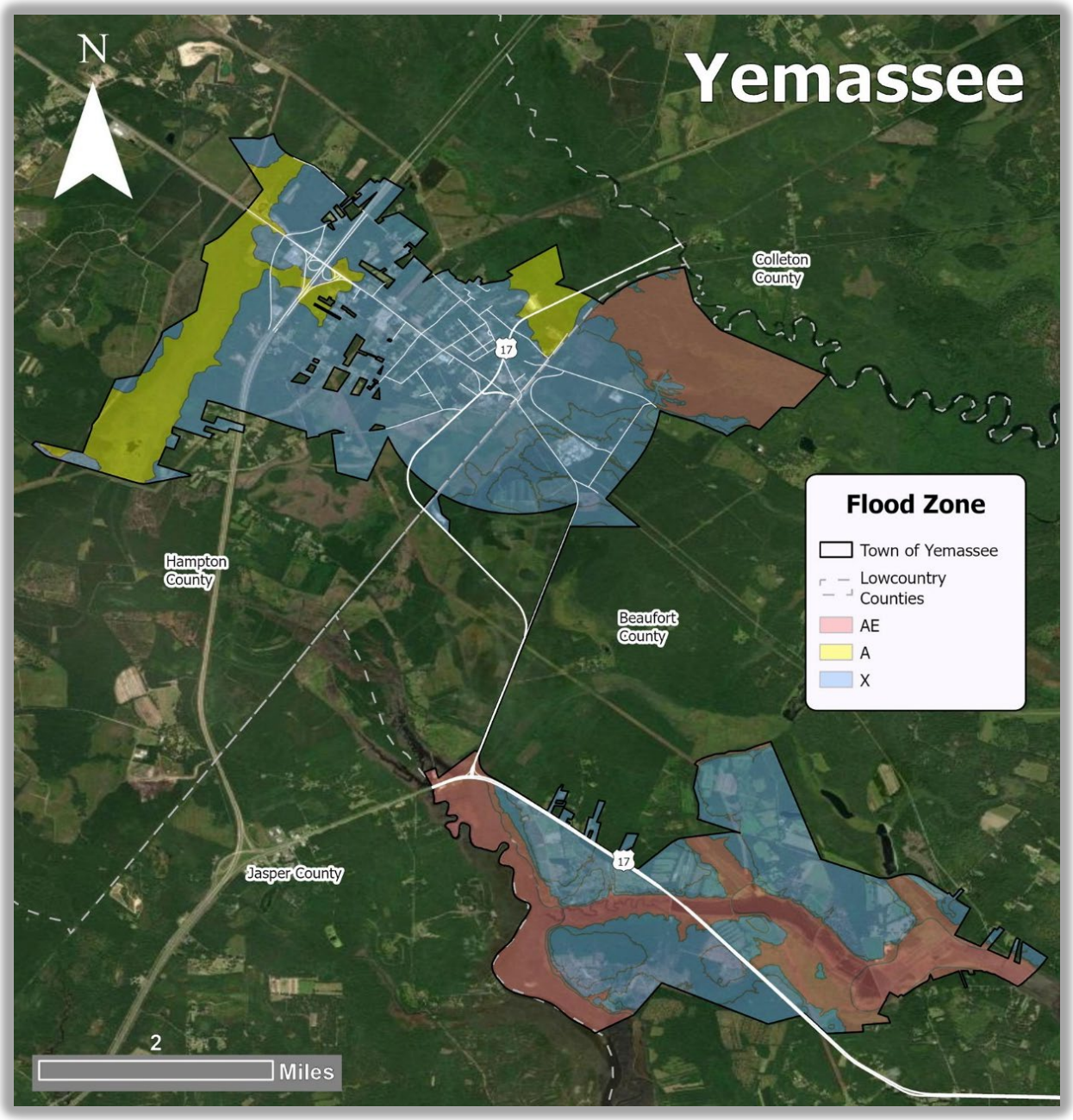
Town of Scotia Flood Zones



Town of Varnville Flood Zones

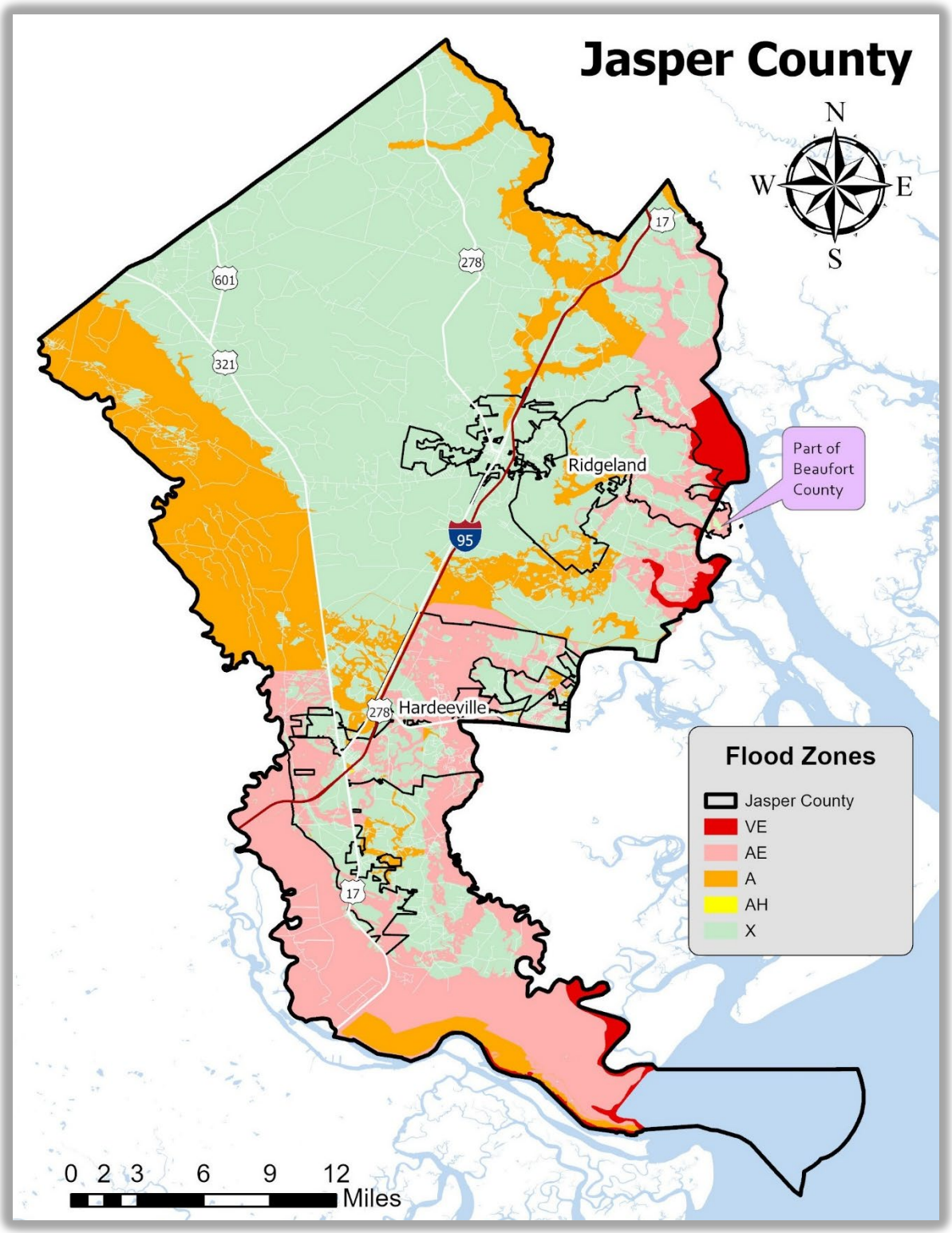


Town of Yemassee Flood Zones

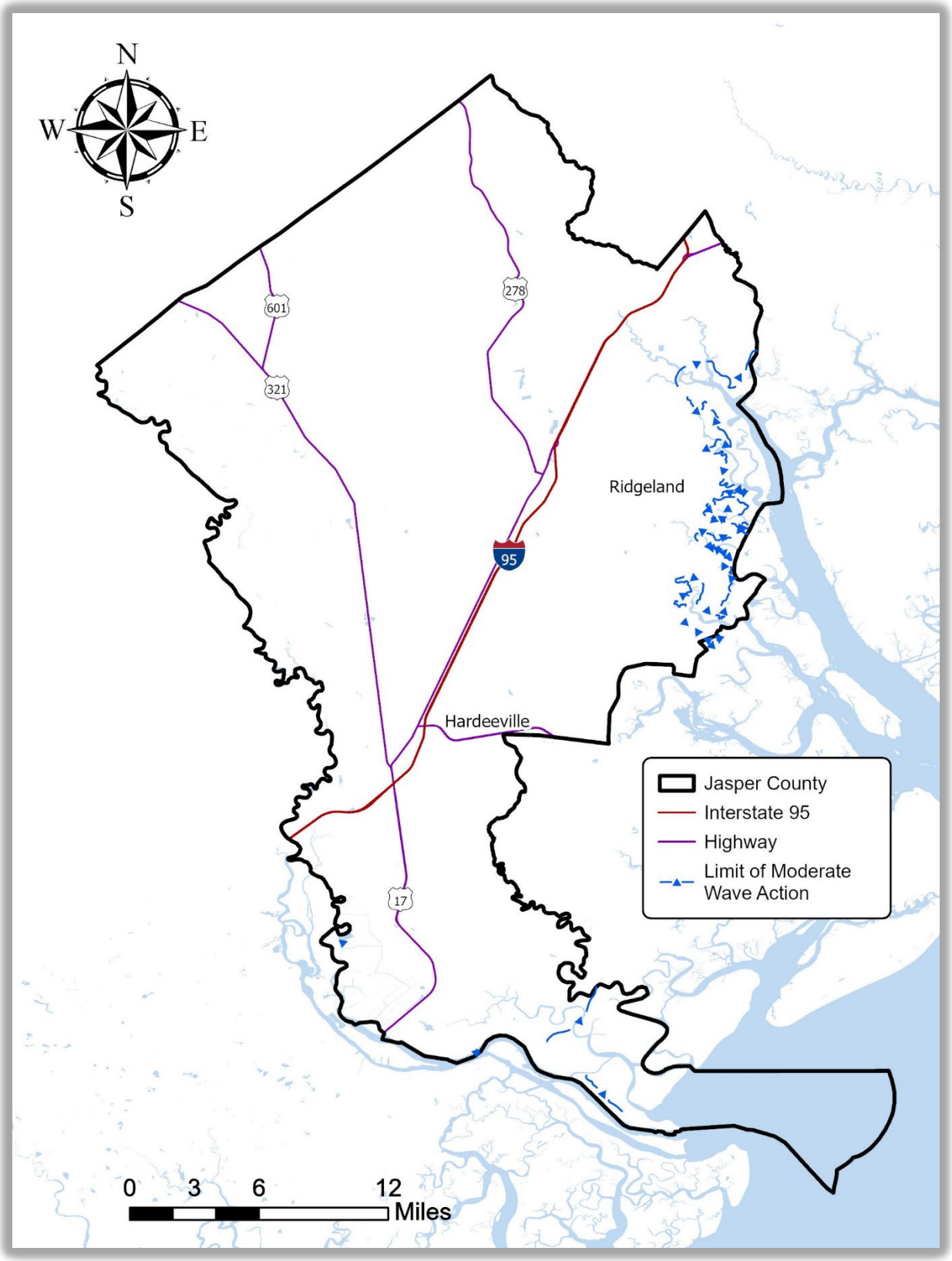


APPENDIX F-4: JASPER COUNTY FLOOD ZONES

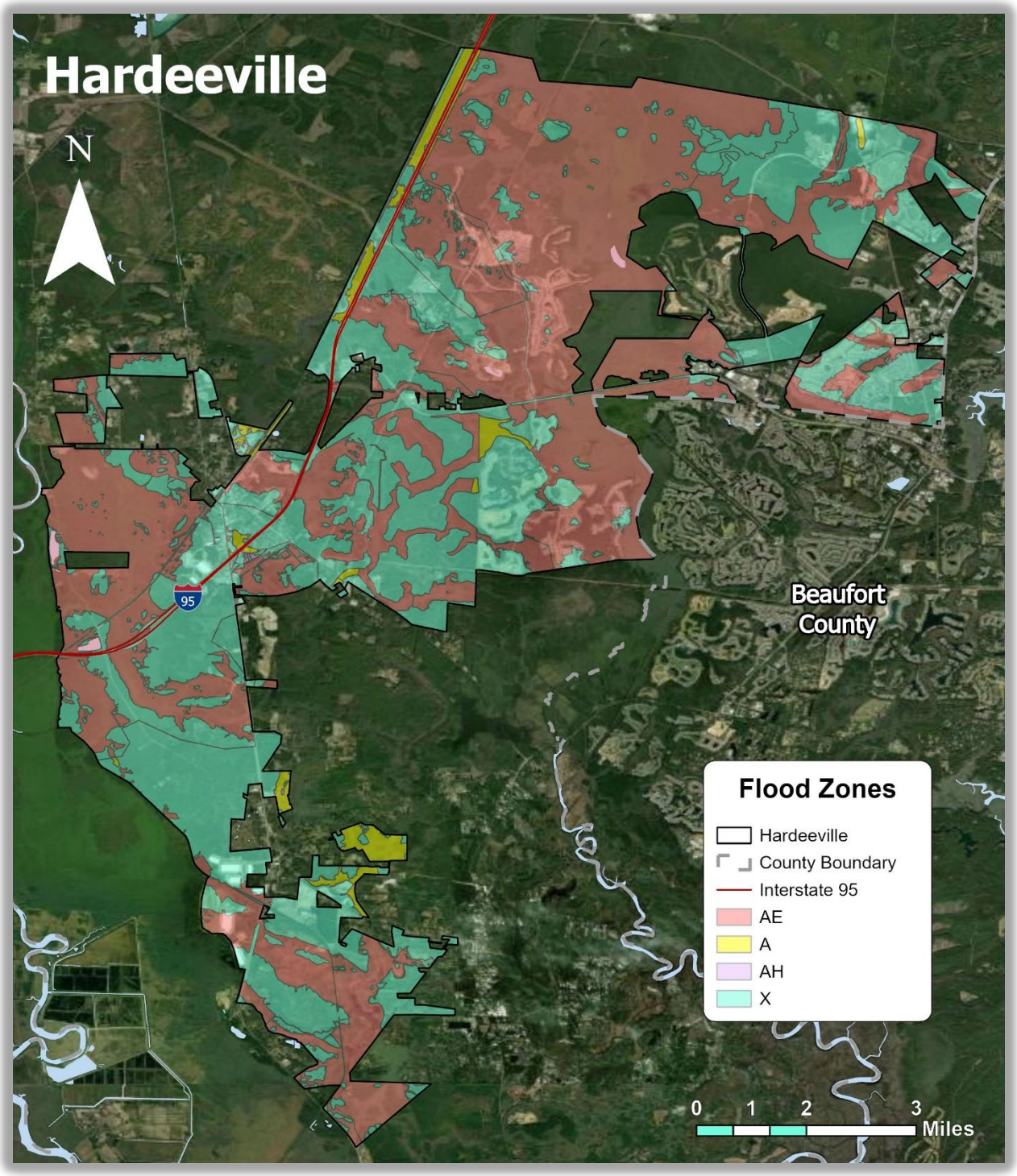
Jasper County Flood Zones



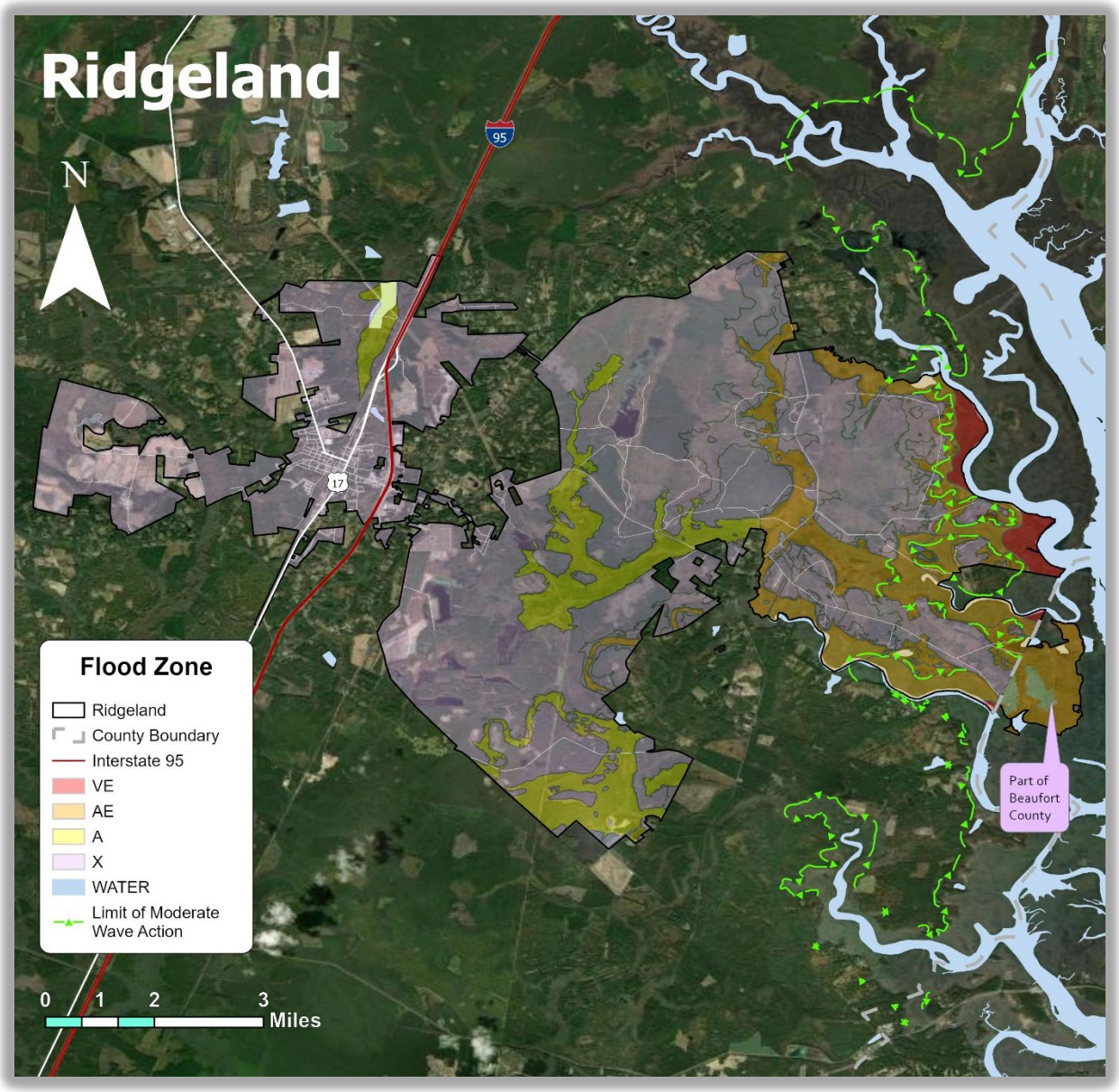
Jasper County LIMWA



City of Hardeeville Flood Zones

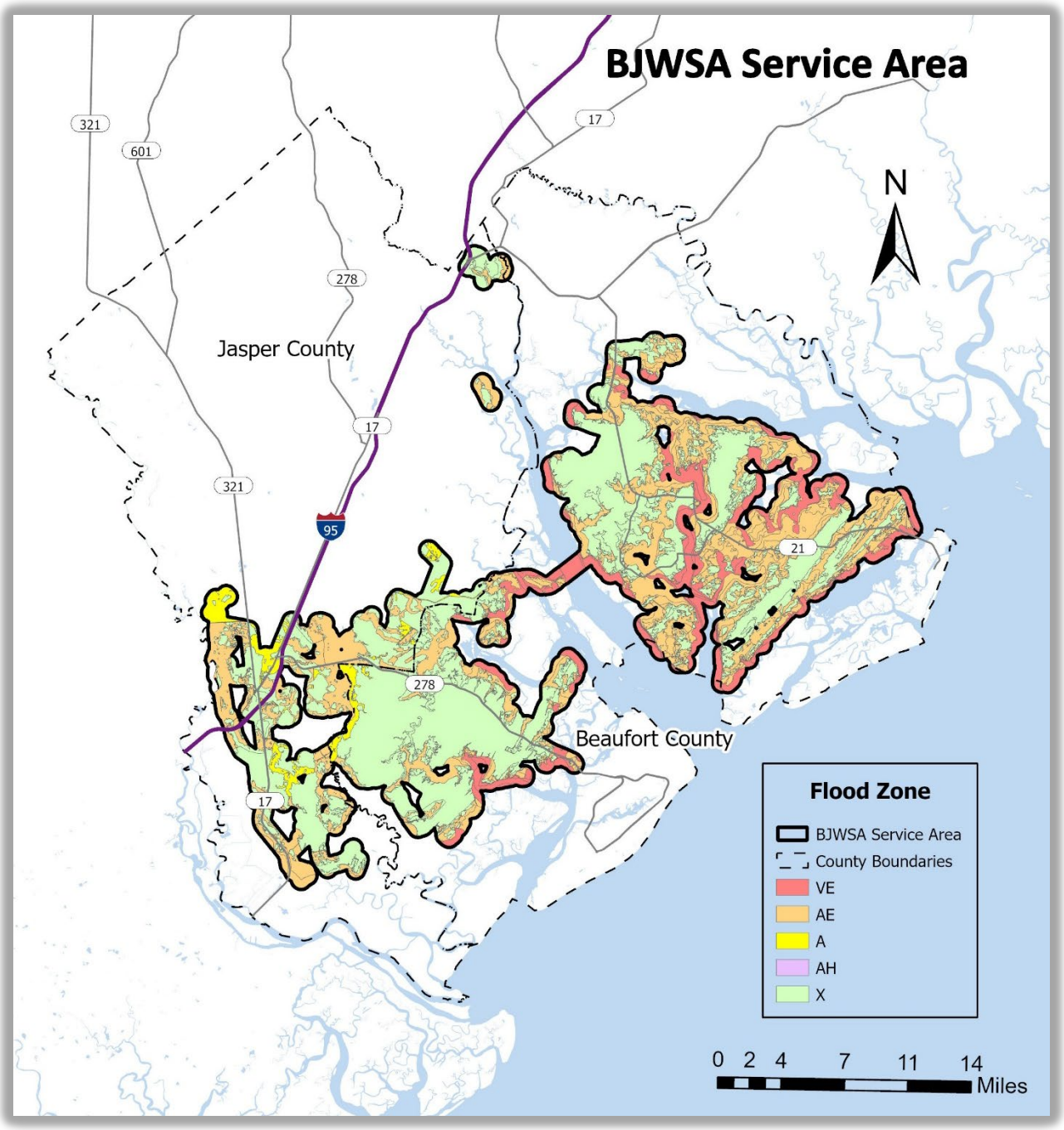


Town of Ridgeland Flood Zones



APPENDIX F-5: BJWSA SERVICE AREA FLOOD ZONES

Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority (BJWSA) Service Area



APPENDIX G – LIST OF CRITICAL FACILITIES

POLICE STATION				
Name	**Address**	**City/Town**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
Beaufort County				
Beaufort Police Department	1901 Boundary Street, Suite 102	Beaufort	29902	(843) 322-7900
Beaufort County Sheriff's Office - Main	2001 Duke Street	Beaufort	29902	(843) 470-3200
Bluffton Police Department	101 Progressive Street	Bluffton	29910	(843) 706-4550
Beaufort County Sheriff's Office	70 Shelter Cove Lane	Hilton Head Island	29926	843-255-3300
Port Royal Police Department	1748 Paris Avenue	Port Royal	29935	(843) 986-2220
Colleton County				
Cottageville Police Department	10913 Cottageville Highway	Cottageville	29435	(843) 835-8655
Edisto Beach Police Department	2414 Murray Street	Edisto Beach	29438	(843) 869-2505
Colleton County Sheriff's Office	112 South Miller Street	Walterboro	29488	(843) 549-2211
Walterboro Police Department	242 Hampton Street	Walterboro	29488	(843) 549-1811
Colleton County Detention Center	22 Klein Street	Walterboro	29488	(843) 549-5742
South Carolina Highway Patrol Troop	100 Mable T Willis Boulevard	Walterboro	29488	(843) 538-3129
Hampton County				
Brunson Police Department	240 N Manker St, Po Box 300	Brunson	29911	Not Available
Estill Police Department	205 East Railroad Avenue	Estill	29918	(803) 625-3699
Gifford Police Department	236 Walker St, Po Drawer 189	Gifford	29932	Not Available
Hampton Police Department	608 1st Street West	Hampton	29924	(803) 943-2421
Hampton County Sheriff's Office	411 Cemetery Road	Varnville	29944	(803) 914-2200
Varnville Police Department	95 East Palmetto Avenue	Varnville	29944	(803) 943-2979

Yemassee Police Department	101 Town Circle	Yemassee	29945	(803) 589-6315
Jasper County				
Hardeeville Police Department	36 Main Street	Hardeeville	29927	(843) 784-2233
Hardeeville Police and Municipal Court Building	26 Martin Street	Hardeeville	29927	(843) 784-2233
Jasper County Sheriff's Office	12008 North Jacob Smart Boulevard	Ridgeland	29936	(843) 726-7777
Ridgeland Police Department	One Town Square	Ridgeland	29936	(843) 726-7530

FIRE STATION				
Name	**Address**	**City**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
Beaufort County				
Burton Fire District - Headquarters	36 Burton Hill Road	Beaufort	29906	843-521-5550
Beaufort Fire Department Station 2	2519 Mossy Oaks Road	Beaufort	29902	Not Available
Burton Fire District Station 892 Grays Hill	14 Bruce K Smalls Drive	Beaufort	29906	843-525-4006
Burton Fire District Station 893	602 Parris Island Gateway	Beaufort	29906	843-521-5550
Burton Fire District Station 894 Pinewood	158 Bay Pines Road	Beaufort	29906	843-521-5550
Burton Fire District Station 895 Habersham	4 Market	Beaufort	29906	843-521-5550
Burton Fire District Shell Point Street	Joppa Road	Beaufort	29906	Not Available
Beaufort Fire Marshall Division	135 Ribaut Road	Beaufort	29902	Not Available
Beaufort County Emergency Management (EMS)	2727 Depot Road	Beaufort	29902	Not Available
Marine Corps Recruit Depot Fire Department	151 Panama Street	Beaufort	29902	Not Available
Hilton Head Island Fire and Rescue Headquarters	10 Park Lane	Hilton Head Island	29926	843-682-5100
Hilton Head Island Fire and Rescue Station 1	70 Cordillo Parkway	Hilton Head Island	29928	843-341-4741
Hilton Head Island Fire and Rescue Station 2	65 Lighthouse Road	Hilton Head Island	29928	843-341-4741
Hilton Head Island Fire and Rescue Station 3	534 William Hilton Parkway	Hilton Head Island	29928	843-341-4741

FIRE STATION				
Name	**Address**	**City**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
Hilton Head Island Fire and Rescue Station 4	400 Squire Pope Road	Hilton Head Island	29926	843-341-4741
Hilton Head Island Fire and Rescue Station 5	20 Whooping Crane Road	Hilton Head Island	29926	843-341-4741
Hilton Head Island Fire and Rescue Station 6	12 Dalmation Lane	Hilton Head Island	29926	843-682-5110
Hilton Head Island Fire and Rescue Station 7	1001 Marshland Road	Hilton Head Island	29926	845-341-4741
Hilton Head Island Airport Fire Station	27 Dillon Road	Hilton Head Island	29926	Not Available
Daufuskie Island Fire Department	400 Haig Point Road	Daufuskie Island	29915	843-785-2116
Bluffton Fire Department Station 34	25 William Pope Drive	Bluffton	29909	843-757-2800
Bluffton Township Fire District Administrative Annex	178 May River Road	Bluffton	29910	843-757-3736
Bluffton Township Fire District Station 30	199 Burnt Church Road	Bluffton	29910	Not Available
Bluffton Fire Department Station 35	357 Fording Island Road	Bluffton	29910	843-757-2800
Bluffton Township Fire District Station 33	12 Buckingham Plantation Drive	Bluffton	29910	843-837-2888
Bluffton Fire Department Chelsea	155 Callawassie Drive	Bluffton	29910	843-757-2800
Lady's Island Saint Helena Fire District	100 Polowana Road	Saint Helena Island	29920	843-525-7692
Lady's Island Saint Helena Fire District	1617 Sea Island Parkway	Saint Helena Island	29920	843-525-7692
Lady's Island Saint Helena Fire District Station 20	146 Lady's Island Drive	Beaufort	29907	Not Available
Lady's Island Saint Helena Fire District Station 21	725 Sams Point Road	Beaufort	29907	843-525-7692
Lady's Island Saint Helena Fire District Station 22	1617 Sea Island Parkway	Saint Helena Island	29920	843-525-7692
Lady's Island Saint Helena Fire District Station 23	632 Land End Road	Saint Helena Island	29920	843-525-7692
City of Beaufort Fire Department Headquarters	135 Ribaut Road	Beaufort	29902	843-525-7055
City of Beaufort Fire Department Station 2	1120 Ribaut Road	Beaufort	29902	843-525-7055
Sheldon Township Fire Department Station 40	5 Fire Station Lane	Sheldon	29941	843-846-9221

FIRE STATION				
Name	**Address**	**City**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
Sheldon Township Fire Department Station 41	66 Keans Neck Road	Lobeco	29940	843-846-3988
Fripp Island Fire Department	291 Tarpon Boulevard	Saint Helena Island	29920	843-838-4085
Parris Island Fire Rescue-DoD	175 Wake Boulevard	Parris Island	29902	843-228-3637
Beaufort Fire Department Station 3	1750 Paris Avenue	Port Royal	29935	843-986-2248
Colleton County				
Colleton County Fire Rescue - Headquarters	113 Mable T. Willis Boulevard	Walterboro	29488	843-539-1960
Station 1 - South Walterboro	229 Mable T. Willis Boulevard	Walterboro	29488	843-539-1960
Station 2 - Jacksonboro	150 Clinic Drive	Jacksonboro	29474	Not Available
Station 3 - Lodge	8667 Lodge Highway	Lodge	29082	Not Available
Station 4 - Ruffin	2425 Azalea Patch Road	Ruffin	29475	Not Available
Station 5 - Canadys	13871 Augusta Highway	Round O.	29474	843-538-2813
Station 6 - Green Pond	503 Fire Station Road	Green Pond	29946	843-539-1960
Station 7 - Town of Smoaks	27250 Lowcountry Highway	Smoaks	29481	Not Available
Station 8 - Hendersonville	3551 Black Creek Road	Yemassee	29945	Not Available
Station 9 - Cottageville	199 Rehoboth Road	Cottageville	29435	Not Available
Station 10 - Islandton	1985 Adnah Church Road	Islandton	29929	Not Available
Station 12 - Neyles	8348 Charleston Highway	Walterboro	29488	Not Available
Station 14 - Edisto	2414 Murray Street	Edisto Beach	29438	Not Available
Station 15 - Islandton	547 Ashton Road	Islandton	29929	Not Available
Station 16 - Williams	245 Joel Padgett Street	Williams	29493	Not Available
Station 17 – Canadys (Springtown)	6800 Sunrise Road	Smoaks	29481	Not Available

FIRE STATION				
Name	**Address**	**City**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
Station 18 - Bells	12232 Bells Highway	Ruffin	29945	Not Available
Station 19 - North Walterboro	1118 Thunderbolt Drive	Walterboro	29488	843-538-6959
Station 20 - Edisto Island	85 Station Court	Edisto Island	29438	Not Available
Station 21 - Bennetts Point	15583 Bennetts Point Road	Green Pond	29446	Not Available
Station 22 - Ritter	3547 Possum Corner Road	Walterboro	29488	843-539-1960
Station 23 - Ashton	8454 Ashton Road	Lodge	29082	Not Available
Station 24 - Foxfield	111 Foxfield Road	Walterboro	29488	Not Available
Station 25 - White Hall	1558 White Hall Road	Yemassee	29945	843-844-8873
Station 26 - Mount Carmel	2970 Mount Carmel Road	Walterboro	29488	Not Available
Station 27 - Hampton Street	421 Hampton Street	Walterboro	29488	843-539-1960
Station 28 - Bennetts Point	9012 Bennetts Point Road	Green Pond	29946	Not Available
Station 29 - Cane Branch	8737 Cane Branch Road	Ruffin	29475	Not Available
Station 30 - Bonnie Doone	217 Crumley Road	Walterboro	29488	843-539-1960
Station 31 - Breland	15500 Lowcountry Highway	Ruffin	29475	Not Available
Walterboro Fire Department	213 Carn Street	Walterboro	29488	Not Available
Walterboro Fire Department Substation	202 Robertson Boulevard	Walterboro	29488	Not Available
Hampton County				
Station 10	240 North Manker Street	Brunson	29911	803-914-2153
Station 12	1850 Shirley Road	Garnett	29922	803-625-0965
Station 20	824 Second Street	Estill	29918	803-625-4977
Station 30	30 Mckenzie Trail	Furman	29918	803-625-0961

FIRE STATION				
Name	**Address**	**City**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
Station 40	190 Sumpter Street	Gifford	29923	803-625-9566
Station 50	600 Second Street West	Hampton	29924	803-943-2899
Station 60	54 North Palm Street	Varnville	29944	803-943-2979
Station 70	101 Town Circle	Yemassee	29945	843-589-2565
Station 80	5207 Browning Gate Road	Estill	29918	803-625-0962
Station 90	6936 Yemassee Highway	Varnville	29944	803-914-0644
Jasper County				
Hardeeville Fire Department Headquarters	30 Martin Street	Hardeeville	29927	843-724-3229
Town of Ridgeland Fire Department	118 South Railroad Avenue	Ridgeland	29936	843-726-7523
Levy Fire Department Station 25	2721 Levy Road	Hardeeville	29927	Not Available
Station 30	1509 Grays Highway	Ridgeland	29936	843-726-7612
Station 31	6691 West Frontage Road	Ridgeland	29936	843-726-4124
Station 32	4340 Coosaw Scenic Drive	Ridgeland	29936	843-726-5623
Station 33	630 Campground Road	Yemassee	29945	843-726-4021
Station 34	196 Mead Road	Hardeeville	29927	Not Available
Station 35	Stiney Road	Hardeeville	29927	Not Available
Station 36	4820 Lowcountry Drive	Ridgeland	29936	Not Available
Station 43	3648 Cypress Branch Road	Pineland	29934	843-726-7607
Station 44	9705 Cotton Hill Road	Garnett	29922	843-726-3098
Station 45	15307 Grays Highway	Early Branch	29916	843-726-4018
Station 46	900 Fire Tower Road	Ridgeland	29936	843-717-2182

FIRE STATION				
Name	**Address**	**City**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
Station 47	30 Daniel O Morris Boulevard	Tillman	29943	843-717-4005
Station 81	29 Martin Street	Hardeeville	29927	843-784-6336
Jasper County Fire Department Cherry Boulevard	2573 Argent Boulevard	Hardeeville	29927	Not Available

ELECTRIC POWER FACILITY				
Name	**Address**	**City**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
Beaufort County				
MCRD Parris Island PV	283 Boulevard de France	Beaufort	29902	Not Available
Ashmore / Power Alley Substation	41 Power Alley	Hilton Head Island	29926	Not Available
Bus Drive Substation	249 William Hilton Parkway	Hilton Head Island	29926	Not Available
Dunnagans Alley Electric Substation	7U Dunnagans Alley	Hilton Head Island	29928	Not Available
Hampton County				
Hampton Solar I	1765 Augusta Highway	Hampton	29924	Not Available
Hampton Solar II	2191 Augusta Highway	Hampton	29924	Not Available
Estill Solar	136 Park Avenue West	Estill	29918	Not Available
Estil Solar II	5031 Steep Bottom Road	Estill	29918	Not Available
Southern Current One, LLC	1175 Bayshore Drive	Fairfax	29827	Not Available
Jasper County				
Jasper	10719 Purrysburg Road	Hardeeville	29927	Not Available
Hardeeville	Hardeeville Industrial Park	Hardeeville	29927	Not Available
Moffett Solar Project	11970 Gray Highway	Ridgeland	29936	Not Available
Ridgeland Solar Project	245 Graham Hall Road	Ridgeland	29936	Not Available

EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER				
Name	**Address**	**City/Town**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
Beaufort County Emergency Operations Center	2001 Duke Street	Beaufort	29902	843-470-3100
Hilton Head Island Emergency Operations Center	10 Park Lane	Hilton Head	29928	843-682-5100
Colleton County Emergency Operations Center	108 Simmons Street	Walterboro	29488	843-549-5632
Edisto Beach Emergency Operations Center	2414 Murray Street	Edisto Beach	29438	843-869-2505
Hampton County Emergency Operations Center	703 2nd Street West	Hampton	29924	803-914-2150
Jasper County Emergency Operations Center	1509 Grays Highway	Ridgeland	29936	843-726-7607

MEDICAL CARE FACILITY				
Name	**Address**	**City/Town**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
Beaufort County				
Naval Hospital Beaufort	1 Pinckney Boulevard	Beaufort	29902	(843) 228-5600
Beaufort Memorial Hospital	955 Ribaut Road	Beaufort	29902	(843) 522-5200
Beaufort Community-Based Outpatient Clinic	1 Pinckney Boulevard	Beaufort	29902	(843) 770-0444
Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital	107 Seagrass Station Road	Bluffton	29910	(843) 836-8200
Hilton Head Hospital	25 Hospital Center Boulevard	Hilton Head Island	29926	(843) 689-8206
Colleton County				
Colleton Medical Center	501 Robertson Boulevard	Walterboro	29488	(843) 782-2000
Hampton County				
Hampton Regional Medical Center	595 W Carolina Avenue	Varnville	29944	(803) 943-2771
Jasper County				
Coastal Carolina Hospital	1000 Medical Center Drive	Hardeeville	29927	(843) 784-8181

SCHOOL				
Name	**Address**	**City/Town**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
Beaufort County				
Robert Smalls International Academy	43 W. K. Alston Drive	Beaufort	29906	(843) 322-2500
Bridges Preparatory School	1100 Boundary Street	Beaufort	29901	(843) 982-7737
Right Choice School	2900 Mink Point Boulevard	Beaufort	29902	(843) 322-0733
Lady's Island Elementary School	73 Chowan Creek Bluff	Beaufort	29907	(843) 322-2240
Holy Trinity Classical Christian School	302 Burroughs Avenue	Beaufort	29902	(843) 522-0660
Beaufort Elementary School	1800 Prince Street	Beaufort	29906	(843) 322-2600
Joseph S. Shanklin Elementary School	121 Morrall Drive	Beaufort	29906	(843) 466-3400
Mossy Oaks Elementary School	2510 Mossy Oaks Boulevard	Beaufort	29902	(843) 322-2900
Beaufort Middle School	2501 Mossy Oaks Boulevard	Beaufort	29902	(843) 322-5700
Coosa Elementary School	45 Middle Road	Beaufort	29907	(843) 322-6100
Beaufort High School	84 Sea Island Parkway	Beaufort	29907	(843) 322-2000
Riverview Charter School	81 Savannah Highway	Beaufort	29906	(843) 379-0133
Broad River Elementary School	474 Broad River Road	Beaufort	29906	(843) 322-8400
Battery Creek High School	1 Blue Dolphin Drive	Beaufort	29906	(843) 322-5500
Lady's Island Middle School	30 Cougar Drive	Beaufort	29907	(843) 322-3100
Robert E. Galer Elementary School	221 E. Cardinal Lane	Beaufort	29906	(912) 369-6691
Middleton S. Elliott Elementary School	345 Elliott Drive	Beaufort	29906	(912) 408-3380
Charles F Bolden Elementary/Middle School	2 Albacore Street	Beaufort	29906	(843) 846-9283
Lowcountry Montessori School	749 Broad River Drive	Beaufort	29906	(843) 322-0577
Beaufort Christian School	378 Parris Island Gateway	Beaufort	29906	Not Available

SCHOOL				
Name	**Address**	**City/Town**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
Beaufort Academy	240 Sams Point Road	Beaufort	29907	(843) 929-9207
EC Montessori and Grade School	15 Celadon Drive	Beaufort	29907	Not Available
St Peters Catholic School	70 Lady's Island Drive	Beaufort	29907	(843) 522-2163
Technical College of the Lowcountry	921 Ribaut Road	Beaufort	29901	(800) 768-8252
May River High School	601 New Riverside Road	Bluffton	29910	(843) 836-4900
Pritchardville Elementary School	9447 Evan Way	Bluffton	29910	(843) 707-0500
River Ridge Academy	3050 River Ridge Drive	Bluffton	29910	(843) 836-4600
Bluffton Middle School	30 New Mustang Road	Bluffton	29910	(843) 707-0700
Bluffton High School	12 H. E. McCracken Circle	Bluffton	29910	(843) 706-8800
Red Cedar Elementary School	10 Box Elder Street	Bluffton	29910	(843) 707-0600
Michael C. Riley Elementary School	200 Burnt Church Road	Bluffton	29910	(843) 706-8300
Hilton Head Christian Academy	55 Gardner Drive	Bluffton	29910	(843) 681-2878
H. E. McCracken Middle School	250 H. E. McCracken Circle	Bluffton	29910	(843) 706-8700
Bluffton Elementary School	160 H. E. McCracken Circle	Bluffton	29910	(843) 706-8500
Cross Schools	495 Buckwalter Parkway	Bluffton	29910	(843) 706-2000
May River Montessori School	60 Calhoun Street	Bluffton	29910	(843) 757-2312
St Gregory the Great Catholic School	38 Saint Gregory Drive	Okatie	29909	(843) 815-9988
University of South Carolina-Beaufort	1 University Boulevard	Bluffton	29909	(843) 208-8000
Professional Golfers Career College	4454 Bluffton Park Crescent Building 200	Bluffton	29910	(866) 797-7422
Hilton Head Island Middle School	55 Wilborn Road	Hilton Head Island	29926	(843) 689-4500
Hilton Head Island High School	70 Wilborn Road	Hilton Head Island	29926	(843) 689-4800
Hilton Head Island Early Childhood Center	165 Pembroke Drive	Hilton Head Island	29926	(843) 689-0400

SCHOOL				
Name	**Address**	**City/Town**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
Hilton Head Island Elementary School	30 School Road	Hilton Head Island	29926	(843) 342-4100
Heritage Academy	11 New Orleans Road	Hilton Head Island	29928	(843) 842-8600
Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts	10 Bus Drive	Hilton Head Island	29926	(843) 342-4380
Hilton Head Preparatory School	8 Foxgrape Road	Hilton Head Island	29928	(843) 671-2286
St Francis Catholic School	45 Beach City Road	Hilton Head Island	29926	(843) 681-6501
USCB Hospitality Management Campus	1 Sand Shark Drive	Hilton Head Island	29928	Not Available
Agape Christian Academy	42 Keans Neck Road	Lobeco	29931	(843) 846-4835
Okatie Elementary School	53 Cherry Point Road	Okatie	29909	(843) 322-7700
Technical College of the Lowcountry	100 Community College Drive	Okatie	29909	Not Available
Port Royal Elementary School	1214 Paris Avenue	Port Royal	29935	(843) 322-0820
Whale Branch Elementary	15 Stuart Point Road	Seabrook	29941	(843) 466-1000
Whale Branch Middle School	2009 Trask Parkway	Seabrook	29941	(843) 466-3000
Whale Branch Early College High School	169 Detour Road	Seabrook	29940	(843) 466-2700
Yoruba Royal Academy	56 Bryant Lane	Sheldon	29941	Not Available
St. Helena Elementary School	1025 Sea Island Parkway	St. Helena	29920	(843) 838-0300
Colleton County				
Cottageville Elementary School	648 Peirce Road	Cottageville	29435	(843) 782-4528
Community Christian Academy	15893 Bells Highway	Lodge	29082	(843) 866-7436
Bells Elementary School	12088 Bells Highway	Ruffin	29475	(843) 782-0012
Colleton County Middle School	1379 Tuskegee Airmen Drive	Walterboro	29488	(843) 782-0040
Northside Elementary School	1929 Industrial Road	Walterboro	29488	(843) 782-0015
Thunderbolt Career and Technology Center	1069 Thunderbolt Road	Walterboro	29488	(843) 782-4514
Hendersonville Elementary School	6089 Hendersonville Highway	Walterboro	29488	(843) 782-0027

SCHOOL				
Name	**Address**	**City/Town**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
Forest Hills Elementary School	633 Hiers Corner Road	Walterboro	29488	(843) 782-4512
Black Street Early Childhood Center	256 Smith Street	Walterboro	29488	(843) 782-4516
Colleton County High School	150 Cougar Nation Drive	Walterboro	29488	(843) 782-0031
Colleton Preparatory Academy	165 Academy Road	Walterboro	29488	(843) 538-8959
North Walterboro Christian Academy	2177 Jefferies Highway	Walterboro	29488	(843) 539-1618
University of South Carolina Salkehatchie	807 Hampton Street	Walterboro	29488	(843) 549-6314
Hampton County				
Brunson Elementary School	34 College Street	Brunson	29911	(803) 398-5584
Estill Elementary School	318 4th Street	Estill	29918	(803) 625-5030
Estill Middle School	1450 Columbia Highway Suite B	Estill	29918	(803) 625-5200
Estill High School	1450 Columbia Highway Suite A	Estill	29918	(803) 625-5100
Patrick Henry Academy	8766 Savannah Highway	Estill	29918	(803) 625-2440
Hampton Elementary School	505 Hoover Street	Hampton	29924	(803) 943-3251
Ben Hazel Primary School	628 Railroad Avenue West	Hampton	29924	(803) 943-3659
Varnville Elementary School	395 Pine Street East	Varnville	29944	(803) 943-2376
North District Middle School	611 Tillman Avenue	Varnville	29944	(803) 943-3507
Wade Hampton High School	115 Airport Road	Varnville	29944	(803) 943-3568
Fennell Elementary School	131 Yemassee Highway	Yemassee	29945	(803) 398-5591
Jasper County				
Hardeeville-Ridgeland Middle School	150 Hurricane Alley	Hardeeville	29927	(843) 310-1888
Hardeeville Elementary School	150 Hurricane Alley	Hardeeville	29927	(843) 310-1898
Royal Live Oaks Academy of the Arts and Sciences	1398 Church Road	Hardeeville	29927	(843) 784-2630
Ridgeland High School	5 Correctional Road	Ridgeland	29936	(803) 896-3252

SCHOOL				
Name	**Address**	**City/Town**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
John Paul II Catholic School	4211 N Okatie Highway	Ridgeland	29936	(843) 645-3838
Step of Faith Christian Academy	9009 Tarboro Road	Ridgeland	29936	(843) 726-6100
Thomas Heyward Academy	1727 Malphrus Road	Ridgeland	29936	(843) 726-3673
Polaris Tech	1508 Grays Highway	Ridgeland	29936	(843) 645-0605

COMMUNICATION				
Name	**Address**	**City/Town**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
WAGP The Light 88.7 FM	PO Box 119 Highway 280	Beaufort	29901	Not Available
Oldies 92.1	2617 Boundary Street	Beaufort	29902	Not Available
WVGB Radio 1490 AM	806 Monson Street	Beaufort	29902	Not Available
WJWJ-TV	Not Available	Beaufort	29901	Not Available
Adventure Radio Group	1 St. Augustine Place	Hilton Head	29928	Not Available
The River 98.7 FM	1623 Okatie Highway	Okatie	31408	Not Available
WALI 93.7 FM	724 S. Jefferies Boulevard	Walterboro	29488	Not Available
WBHC AM-FM	P.O. Box 666 Highway 601	Hampton	29924	Not Available

WATER & WASTEWATER				
Name	**Address**	**City/Town**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
Beaufort County				
Port Royal WRF	285 Castle Rock Road	Beaufort	29906	843-987-9200
Palmetto Bluff WWTP	501 Laurel Oak Bay Road	Bluffton	29910	843-987-9200
Laurel Bay WWTP	1500 Bobwhite Drive	Beaufort	29906	843-987-9200
SW Pump Station Jarvis Creek	4 Nature's Way	Hilton Head Island	29926	Not Available
SW Pump Station Sea Pines Lawton Canal	179 Greenwood Drive	Hiton Head Island	29928	Not Available
SW Pump Station Wexford Canal	54 Yorkshire Drive	Hilton Head Island	29928	Not Available
SW Pump Station Shipyard	31 Cordillo Parkway	Hilton Head Island	29928	Not Available
Hilton Head Reverse Osmosis	21 Oak Park Drive	Hilton Head Island	29925	Not Available

Hilton Head No 1 PSD WWTP	21 Oak Park Drive	Hilton Head Island	29926	843-681-5525
South Island PSD RO WTP	106A Cordillo Parkway	Hilton Head Island	29928	Not Available
South Island PSD WWTP (Sewage)	2 Lawton Canal Road	Hilton Head Island	29928	843-785-6224
South Island PSD WWTP (Water)	2 Lawton Canal Road	Hilton Head Island	29928	843-785-6224
South Island PSD WTP (Wexford)	131 Dunnagans Alley	Hiton Head Island	29928	Not Available
Broad Creek PSD Pump Station	55 Shelter Cove Lane	Hilton Head Island	29928	Not Available
Hilton Head PSD Royal James Wastewater Transfer Station	10U Royal James Drive	Hilton Head Island	29926	Not Available
Broad Creek PSD Water Tower	14 Queens Folly Road	Hilton Head Island	29928	843-681-5525
Broad Creek PSD Well	2 Saint George Road	Hilton Head Island	29928	843-681-5525
Leo O Mutton GST Well Tower 1	65 Gardner Drive	Hilton Head Island	29926	843-681-5525
Ashmore GST Well Tower	183 Mathews Drive	Hilton Head Island	29926	843-681-5525
Hilton Head PSD Fire Station Well	1005W Marshland Road	Hilton Head Island	29926	843-681-5525
RO Plant	24 C Heinrichs Circle	Hilton Head Island	29926	843-681-5525
Seabrook Well Tower 3	10 Riding Trail Lane	Hilton Head Island	29926	843-681-5525
Union Cemetery Well Tower 9	91 Union Cemetery Road	Hilton Head Island	29926	843-681-5525
Broad Creek PSD WWTP	3 Marina Side Drive	Hilton Head Island	29928	843-681-5525
Saint Helena WWTP	30 Old Polowana Road	Saint Helena Island	29920	843-987-9200
Chelsea WTP	6 Snake Road	Okatie	29909	843-987-9200
Colleton County				
Edisto Beach Wastewater Facility	2516 Holmes Street	Edisto Beach	29438	843-869-2505
Walterboro WWTP	777 Gervais Street End of SR 393 & West of SC 303	Walterboro	29488	843-549-2545
Hampton County				
Brunson Wastewater WWTP	(Off Of) South Main Street Town of Brunson – PO Box 300	Brunson	29911	803-632-3633

Estill Wastewater WWTP	Morrison Street	Estill	29918	803-625-3816
Hampton Wastewater WWTP	100 Saluda Street	Hampton	29924	803-943-2951
Yemassee Wastewater WWTP	1 Mile N of Town	Yemassee	29945	843-589-2565
Jasper County				
Hardeeville Public Works Facility	1612 Plantation Drive	Hardeeville	29927	843-784-4101
Hardeeville WRF	2529 Church Road	Hardeeville	29927	843-987-9200
Purrysburg WTP	Purrysburg Road	Hardeeville	29927	843-987-9200
Palm Key WWTP	330 Coosaw Way	Ridgeland	29936	843-987-9200
Cherry Point WWTP	Jasper Station Road	Ridgeland	29936	843-987-9200
Jimmy Mixon WRF	100 Preacher Road	Ridgeland	29936	Not Available
Point South WWTP	Campground Road	Yemassee	29945	843-987-9200

TRANSPORTATION				
Name	**Address**	**City/Town**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
Beaufort County				
Airport				
Beaufort County Executive	39 Airport Circle	Beaufort	29907	843-525-7151
Beaufort County Memorial Hospital	955 Ribaut Road	Beaufort	29902	843-522-5200
Beaufort MCAS /Merritt Field	Geiger Boulevard	Beaufort	20373	843-228-7121
Hilton Head Island	120 Beach City Road	Hilton Head Island	29926	843-255-2950
Bus				
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton	3659 Trask Parkway	Beaufort	29902	Not Available
Ferry				
Lowcountry Ferry	C.C. Haigh, Jr. Boat Landing	Hilton Head Island	29926	Not Available
Harbor Town	Not Available	Hilton Head Island	29928	Not Available
Opossum Point Landing	Not Available	Hilton Head Island	29928	Not Available

TRANSPORTATION				
Name	**Address**	**City/Town**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
Salty Fare Village	40 Palmetto Parkway	Hilton Head Island	29926	Not Available
Jenkins Island, Hilton Head	Not Available	Hilton Head Island	29926	Not Available
Hilton Head Island, Broad Creek Marina	18 Simmons Road	Hilton Head Island	29926	Not Available
Haig Point	Not Available	Daufuskie Island	29915	Not Available
Melrose Landing	Melrose Landing Road	Daufuskie Island	29915	Not Available
Colleton County				
Airport				
Lowcountry Regional	537 Aviation Way BOX 8	Walterboro	29488	843-549-2545
Bus				
Circle C Travel Plaza	11109 Augusta Hwy	Walterboro	29488	Not Available
Port				
Junction Coosaw River	Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway	Green Pond	29446	Not Available
Junction Combahee & Coosaw RV	Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway	Green Pond	29446	Not Available
Junction Ashepoo Coosaw Cut-Off	Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway	Green Pond	29446	Not Available
Bennetts Point	Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway	Green Pond	29446	Not Available
Green Pond	Ashepoo River	Green Pond	29446	Not Available
Willtown Bluff	South Edisto River	Jacksonboro	29452	Not Available
Johossee Island	South Edisto River	Jacksonboro	29452	Not Available
Hampton County				
Airport				
Hampton County	201 Jackson Avenue West	Hampton	29924	803-914-2100
Hampton Regional Medical Center	595 W Carolina Avenue PO BOX 338	Varnville	29944	803-943-2771
Jasper County				
Airport				
Ridgeland-Claude Dean	358 Third Avenue P.O. BOX 1149	Ridgeland	29936	843-726-7759
Bus				

TRANSPORTATION				
Name	**Address**	**City/Town**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton	448 Independence Blvd	Hardeeville	29927	Not Available
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton	574 Independence Blvd	Hardeeville	29927	Not Available
Port				
Turtle Island	Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway	Bluffton	29910	Not Available
Mayo Wharf Coosawhatchie River	Broad River, SC	Ridgeland	29936	Not Available

OTHER MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS				
Name	**Address**	**City/Town**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
Beaufort County				
Beaufort County Government Center	100 Ribaut Road	Beaufort	29902	843-255-5050
Beaufort City Municipal Court	1911 Boundary Street	Beaufort	29902	843-525-7070
Bluffton Town Hall	20 Bridge Street	Bluffton	29910	843-706-4500
Town of Hilton Head Island Municipal Government	1 Town Center Court	Hilton Head Island	29928	843-341-4600
Port Royal Town Hall	700 Paris Avenue	Port Royal	29935	843-986-2200
Colleton County				
Colleton County Council & Administration	109 Benson St, PO Box 157	Walterboro	29488	843-549-7215 (Fax)
Colleton County Courthouse – Clerk of Court	101 Hampton Street	Walterboro	29488	843-549-5791
Cottageville Town Hall	72 Salley Ackerman Drive	Cottageville	29435	843-835-8655
Edisto Beach Town Hall	2414 Murray Street	Edisto Island	29438	843-869-2505
Lodge Municipal Building	8683 Lodge Highway, PO Box 70	Lodge	29082	843-866-7687
Smoaks Town Hall	176 New Street	Smoaks	29481	843-562-8632
Walterboro City Hall	242 Hampton Street	Walterboro	29488	843-782-1000
Williams Municipal Building	Duncan Street, PO Box 23	Williams	29493	843-635-1005
Hampton County				

OTHER MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS				
Name	**Address**	**City/Town**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**
Hampton County Courthouse	200 Jackson Avenue East	Hampton	29924	803-914-2100
Town of Brunson	686 Railroad Avenue SW	Brunson	29911	803-632-3633
Estill Municipal Court	323 Martin L King Jr Boulevard South	Estill	29918	803-625-3243
Furman Municipal Building	338 Stafford Road	Furman	29921	803-625-2211
Gifford Town Hall	16 Edward Maude Street	Gifford	29923	803-625-2712
Town of Hampton Town Hall	608 First Street West	Hampton	29924	803-943-9364
Town of Luray	151 Fitts Street, PO Box 185	Luray	29932	803-625-2207
Scotia Town Hall	153 Annette Street	Scotia	29918	803-625-4611
Varnville Town Hall	95 East Palmetto Avenue	Varnville	29944	803-943-2979
Yemassee Town Hall	101 Town Circle	Yemassee	29945	843-589-2656
Jasper County				
Jasper County Courthouse	358 Third Avenue	Ridgeland	29936	843-726-7700
Hardeeville City Hall	205 Main Street	Hardeeville	29927	843-784-2231
Hardeeville Recreation Center	285 John Smith Road	Hardeeville	29927	843-227-4089
Hardeeville Public Works Facility	1612 Plantation Drive	Hardeeville	29927	843-784-4101
Ridgeland Town Hall	1 Town Square	Ridgeland	29936	843-726-7500

Extreme Heat Hazard in the LCOG region

This document provides LCOG-specific data, maps, and other information about extreme heat that can be used for the Hazard Mitigation Plan update currently underway.

Characteristics and Classification

The Charleston NWS office, which issues heat alerts for the entire South Carolina Lowcountry region, recently re-evaluated their criteria to better align with local impacts using heat-related Emergency Medical Service (EMS) call data. The temperature threshold for Watches, Warnings, and Advisories (WWA) is based on heat index, a measure that combines temperature and relative humidity.

- A Heat Advisory is issued for the Lowcountry when heat indices are forecast to reach 108-112°F for at least 2 hours or more.
- A Heat Watch is issued when heat indices are forecast to reach or exceed 113°F in the 24-72 hours.
- A Heat Warning is issued when temperature is expected to exceed 113°F for at least 2 hours or more.

Sources: *Charleston Heat Based Decision Support;* Lowcountry Heat Challenge - Heat Action Toolkit - Swain Family School of Science and Mathematics

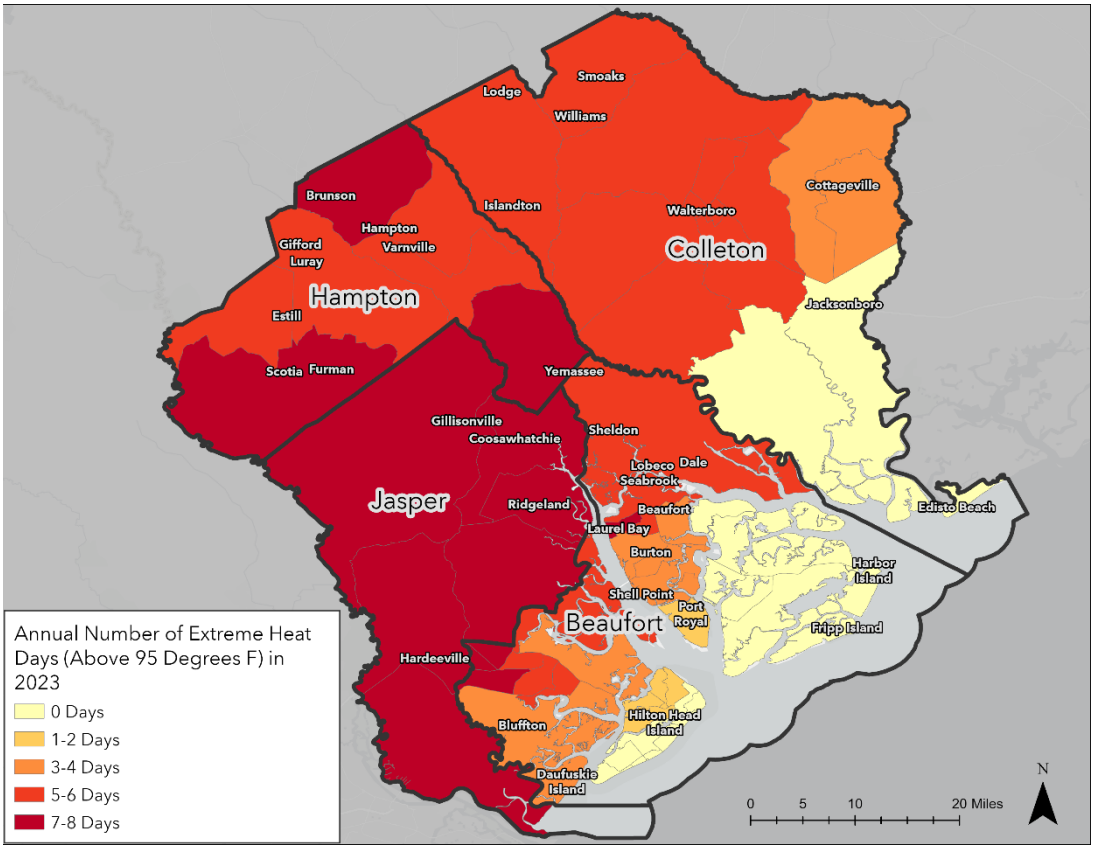
Location and Extent

Regional Variability in Extreme Heat

Following the South Carolina Hazard Mitigation Plan, we use 95°F as the temperature threshold for defining extreme heat conditions (South Carolina Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023).

The map below shows the number of extreme heat days across the Lowcountry in 2023. The majority of the region experienced at least 5 days of extreme heat. Some areas in Jasper and Hampton Counties recorded 8 extreme days that year, the highest for the region. Generally, the Lowcountry's coastal areas experienced few or no extreme heat days for that year.

Annual Number of Extreme Heat Days Above 95°F in 2023



Data Location: *LCOG Extreme Heat Data.gdb; DaysAbove95Fin2023_LCOG (Value)*

Source and Data Information: *National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network Data Explorer*

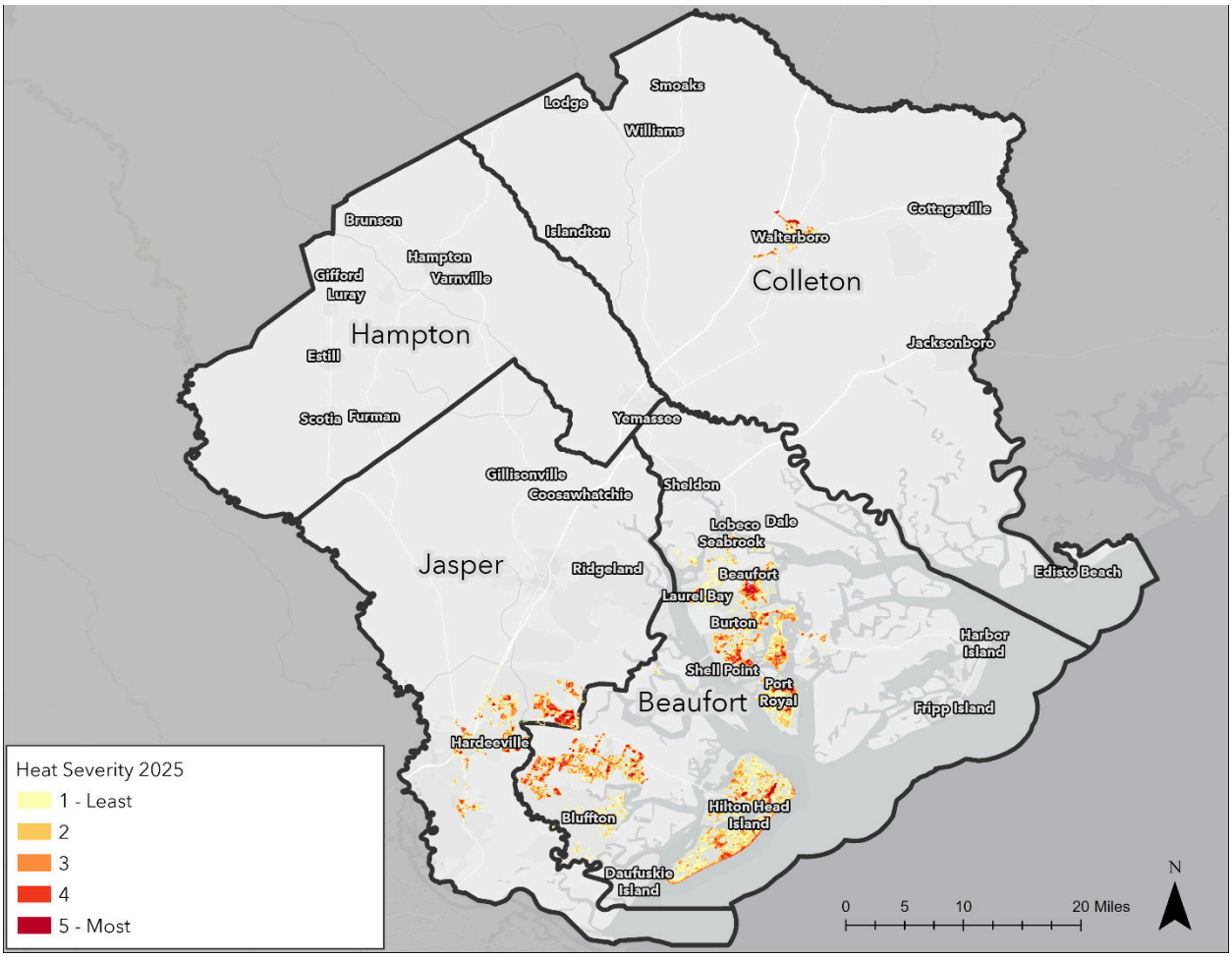
- *Concept Area: Heat & Heat-related Illness (HRI)*
- *Indicator: Historical Temperature & Heat Index*
- *Measure: Annual Number of Extreme Heat Days (Full Year)*
- *Geographic Type: State by Census Tracts*
- *Geography: South Carolina*
- *Time: 2023*
- *Heat Metric: Daily Maximum Temperature*
- *Absolute Threshold: 95 degrees F*

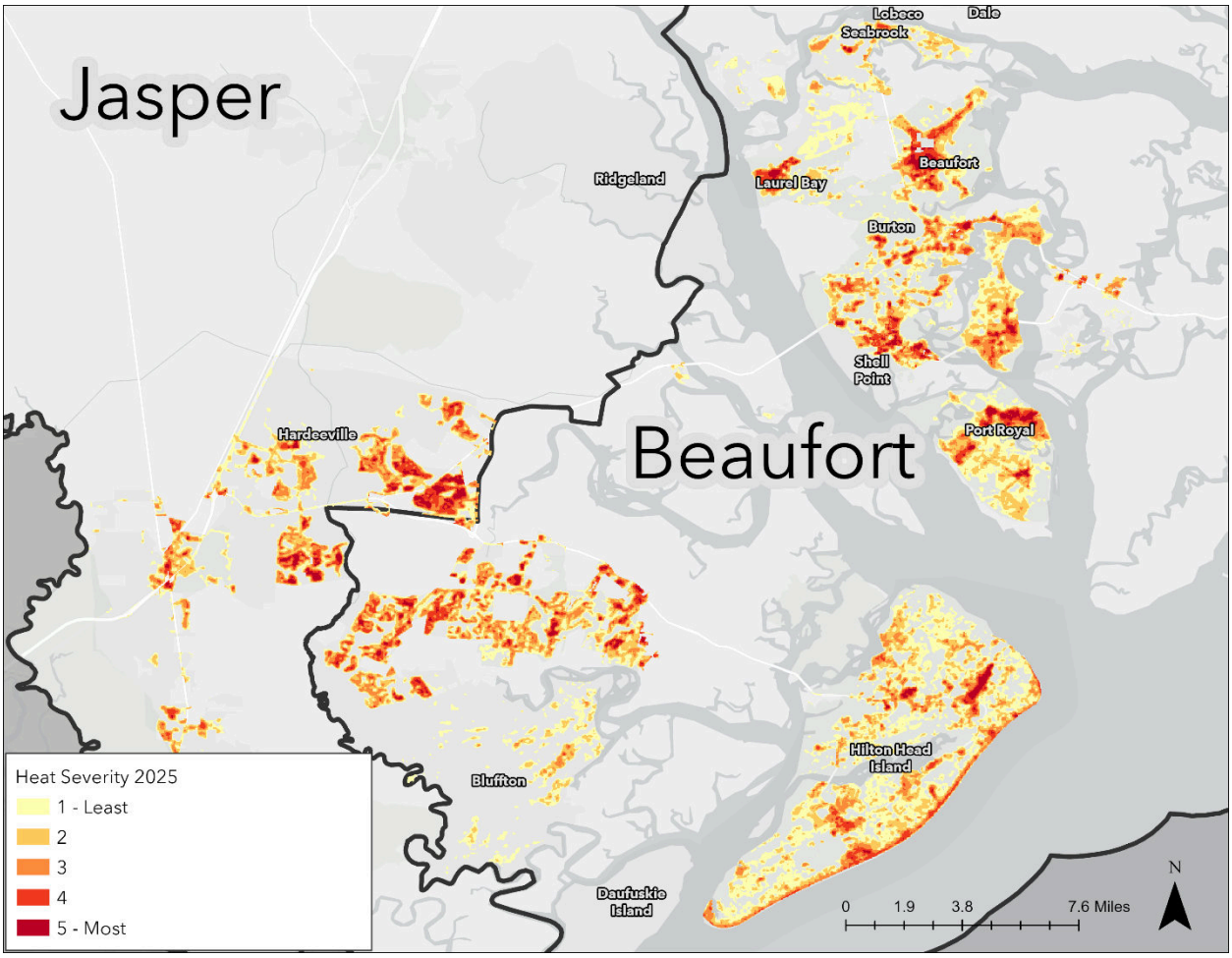
Urban Heat Islands

The urban heat island effect refers to the tendency for urbanized areas to experience higher temperatures than surrounding rural areas due to the concentration of heat-absorbing surfaces and limited green space (EPA, What are Heat Islands?).

The maps below show urban heat island severity for the Lowcountry region on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being relatively mild (slightly above the mean for the city), and 5 being severe (significantly above the mean for the city). Identifying areas with the most severe urban heat island conditions can help guide targeted cooling strategies (e.g., tree planting or shade infrastructure at bus stops). The map shows that even in coastal areas, where sea breezes have a moderating effect on temperature, lack of tree canopy and/or high impervious cover can still result in neighborhoods with elevated temperatures.

2025 Urban Heat Island Severity





Data Location: *LCOG Extreme Heat Data.gdb; HeatSeverity2025_LCOG*
Source and Data Information: *Heat Severity - USA 2025 - Overview*

The purpose of this layer is to show where certain areas of cities are hotter than the average temperature for that same city as a whole. Severity is measured on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being a relatively mild heat area (slightly above the mean for the city), and 5 being a severe heat area (significantly above the mean for the city). This 30-meter raster was derived from Landsat 8 imagery band 10 (ground-level thermal sensor) from the summer of 2025.

Extreme Heat Impacts on Public Health

Extreme heat poses significant health threats to communities. Extended exposure to high temperatures can worsen preexisting health conditions and cause a range of heat-related illnesses such as dehydration, heat rashes and sunburn, heat cramps, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and death in severe cases (CDC, Heat-related Illnesses). The table below shows the number of summer heat-related emergency department visits in the Lowcountry from 2019 to 2023. The region has reported at least 100 visits for heat-related illness annually. Beaufort County consistently records the highest visits in the region.

Total Summer (May – September) Heat-Related Emergency Department Visits

County	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Beaufort	153	87-90	62-65	122	107-110
Colleton	26-29	22-28	16-22	20-23	26-32
Hampton	22-25	13-19	5-20	8-17	13-16
Jasper	9-21	4-16	15-24	19-28	22-25

Source: *Tracking Heat Related Illness Dashboard | South Carolina Department of Public Health; South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office*

The exact number is not reported when the number of visits is less than 5. Hence, ranges are used to describe these instances.

Future Climate Conditions

The tables below summarize observed and projected changes in average daily maximum temperature and the number of days with maximum temperatures above 95°F for the Lowcountry region. A clear warming trend is expected under both lower- and higher-emissions scenarios. By mid-century, the number of days exceeding 95°F is projected to nearly double from the 2010-2013 average, reaching 48-60 days by the 2050s.

Observed Days with Maximum Temperature Above 95°F for 4-county LCOG Region (1950-2013)

Decade	Average Observed Days
1950s	18.1
1960s	8.8
1970s	8.9
1980s	17.6
1990s	12.9
2000s	15.5
2010-2013	23.3

Projected Days with Maximum Temperature Above 95°F for 4-county LCOG Region (2020s-2100)

Decade	Average Projected Days - Lower Emissions Scenario (RCP4.5)	Average Projected Days - Higher Emissions Scenario (RCP8.5)
2020s	30.8	30.9
2030s	36.2	39.3
2040s	43.5	51.2
2050s	48.9	60.3
2060s	51.6	74.4
2070s	56.4	86.6
2080s	58.7	97.1
2090s	58.8	110.9

Data Location*: LCOG Heat Projections from Climate Explorer.xslx*
Source and Data Information*: Climate Explorer*

Climate Explorer data was downloaded for Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties and averaged to get a value for the LCOG region. Values were also averaged across decades (2020s = 2020-2029). Note that some counties may experience more or less days than others.

Where did the observation data for contiguous U.S. locations come from?

A gridded observational dataset aggregated by Livneh et al. (2013, 2015) was used to calculate observed averages counties in the contiguous United States. Annual observations—shown as dark gray bars in Climate Explorer's annual graphs—extend above or below the 30-year average measured from 1961-1990. Livneh data are freely available via Data.gov.

Where did the climate projection data in Climate Explorer come from?

Modeled data for the contiguous United States are based on statistical downscaling of temperature and precipitation projections from the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 5 (CMIP5) using Localized Constructed Analogs (LOCA). LOCA data for historical and future periods are freely available for the contiguous United States, Southern Canada, and Northern Mexico via Data.gov.

For Alaska boroughs, hindcasts and projections are based on results from two climate models, GFDL-CM3 and NCAR-CCSM4. Downscaled results for Alaska were produced by the Alaska Climate Adaptation and Science Center using the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model (Version 3.5). On climate graphs for Alaska boroughs, values from the two climate models have been smoothed by a 10-year rolling average.

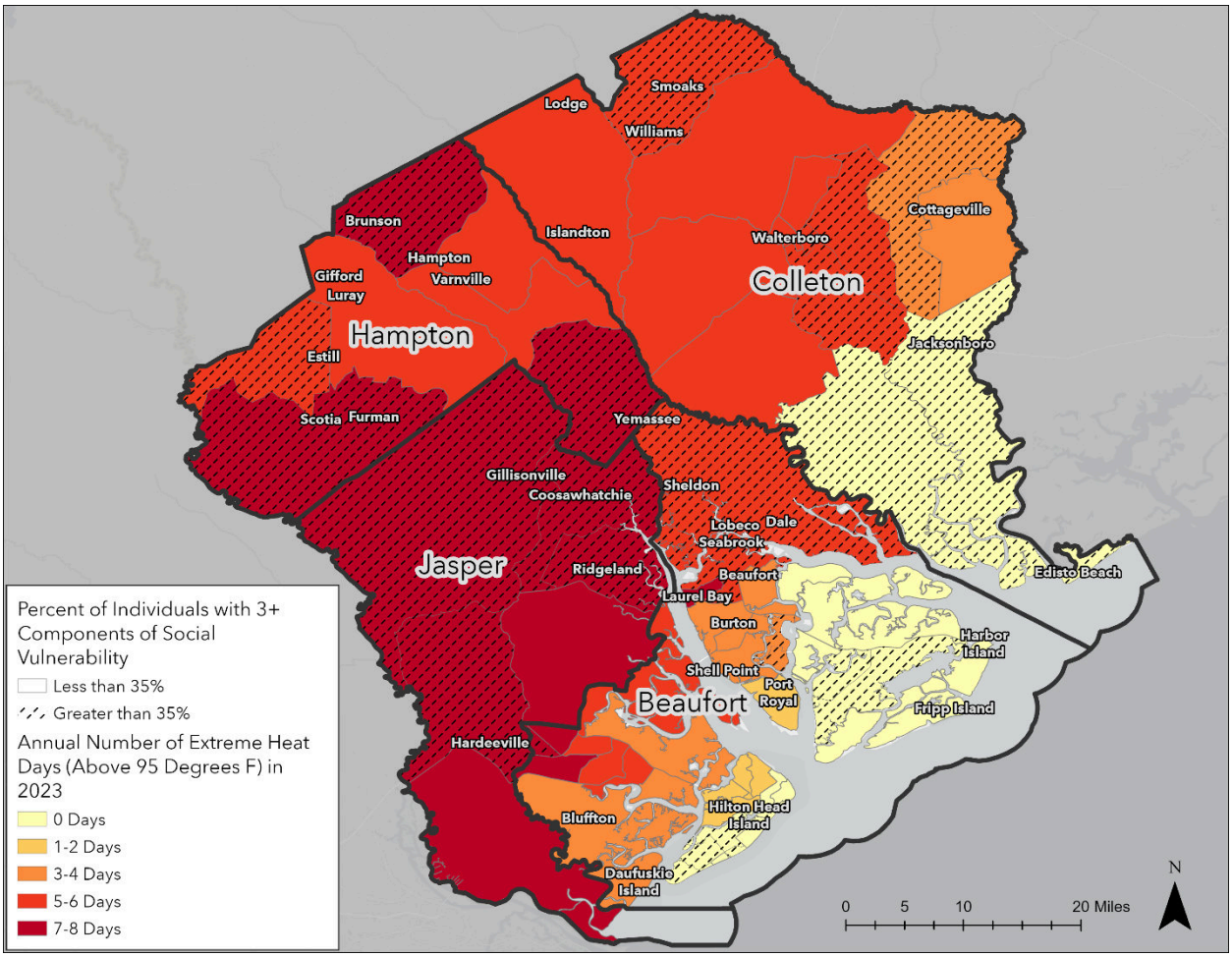
For Hawai'i and U.S. island territories, modeled history and future projections come from CMIP5 global climate model simulations. Projections for individual islands are the average of the three global climate model grid points closest to the geographic center of each island.

Vulnerability

Extreme heat impacts some individuals and communities more than the other due to a range of social, economic and health-related factors that result in higher exposure, lower access to resources and services, and a reduced ability to cope physiologically.

Community Resilience Estimates-Extreme Heat (CRE-EH) is a census-based dataset that integrates 11 individual and household indicators of social vulnerability to heat. The map below overlays CRE-EH data for the region with the number of extreme heat days recorded in 2023 to highlight areas where concentrated social vulnerability coincides with hottest conditions. Areas (census tracts) where more than 1-in-3 individuals/households with 3+ indicators of social vulnerability are shown with hatching. Notably, the Brunson, Scotia, Furman, Yemassee, Gillisonville, Coosawhatchie, Ridgeland, and Hardeeville areas have the highest social vulnerability to heat and experienced 7 or 8 days of extreme heat in 2023.

Extreme Heat Days Above 95°F in 2023 with high concentration of individuals vulnerable to heat.



Data Location: *LCOG Extreme Heat Data.gdb; SocialVulnHeat_LCOG (PRED3_PE); DaysAbove95Fin2023_LCOG (Value)*
Source for Extreme Heat Days: *National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network Data Explorer*

- *Concept Area: Heat & Heat-related Illness (HRI)*
- *Indicator: Historical Temperature & Heat Index*
- *Measure: Annual Number of Extreme Heat Days (Full Year)*
- *Geographic Type: State by Census Tracts*
- *Geography: South Carolina*
- *Time: 2023*
- *Heat Metric: Daily Maximum Temperature*
- *Absolute Threshold: 95 degrees F*

Source for Social Vulnerability to Heat: *Community Resilience Estimates (CRE) for Heat CRE_Heat_Quickguide_2022.pdf; CRE_Heat_2022_File_Layout.pdf*

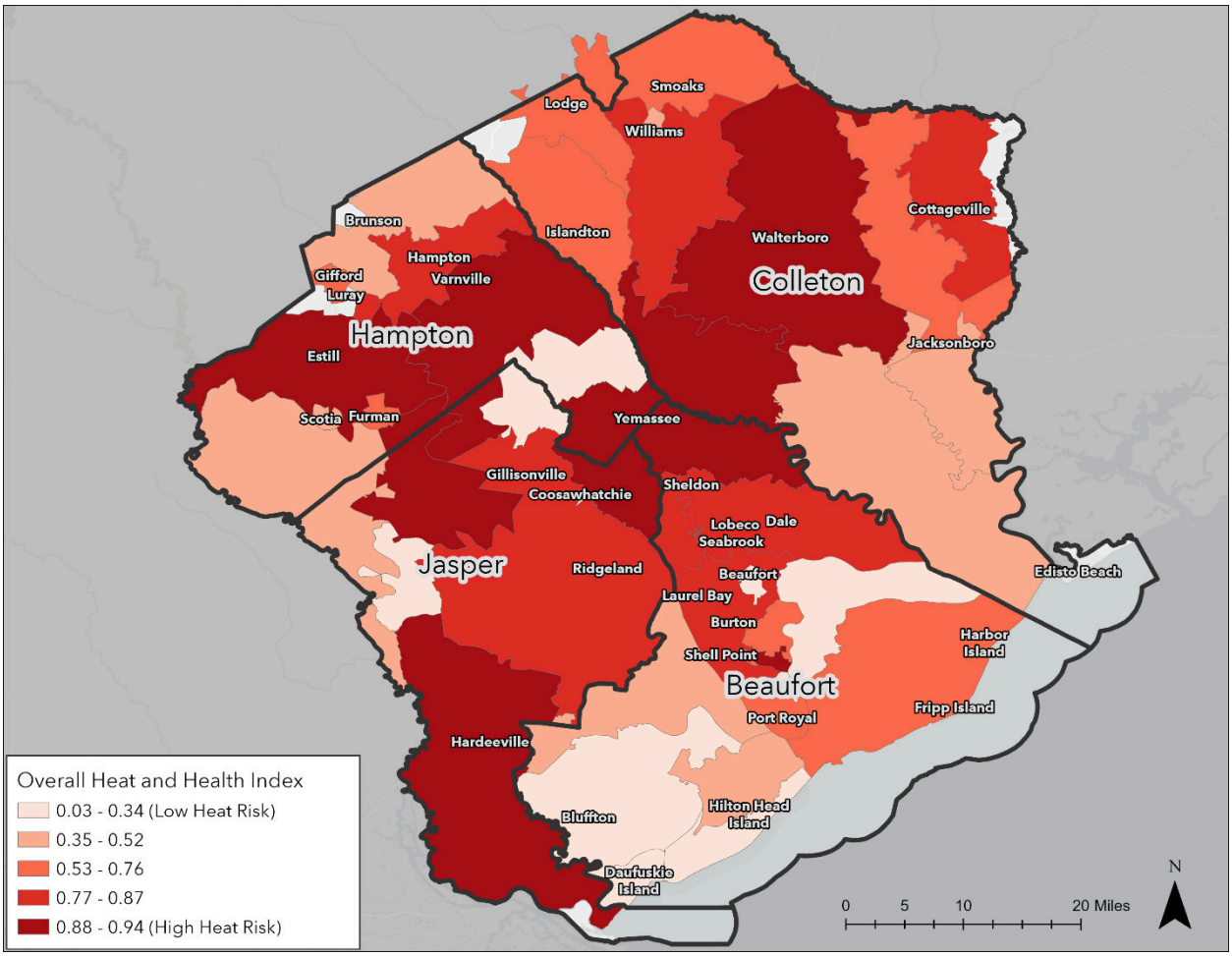
Components of Social Vulnerability (SV) for Households (HH) and Individuals (I)

- *SV 1 (HH): Financial hardship defined as:*
  - *Income-to-Poverty Ratio (IPR) < 130 percent or*
  - *50% < for housing/rental costs (HH).*
- *SV 2 (HH): Single or zero caregiver household - only one or no individuals living in the household who are 18-64.*
- *SV 3 (HH): Housing quality described as:*
  - *Unit-level crowding with > 0.75 persons per room or*
  - *Live in mobile home, boat, RV, Van, or other.*
- *SV 4 (HH): Communication barrier defined as either:*
  - *Limited English-speaking households3 or*
  - *No one in the household has a high school diploma.*
- *SV 5 (HH): No one in the household is employed full-time, year-round. The flag is not applied if all residents of the household are aged 65 years or older.*
- *SV 6 (I): Disability posing constraint to significant life activity, defined as:*
  - *Persons who report having any one of the six disability types: hearing difficulty, vision difficulty, cognitive difficulty, ambulatory difficulty, self-care difficulty, and independent living difficulty.*
- *SV 7 (I): No health insurance coverage.*
- *SV 8 (I): Being aged 65 years or older.*
- *SV 9: Transportation exposure described as:*
  - *No vehicle access (HH) or*
  - *Work commuting methods with increased exposure to heat (e.g., public transportation, bicycle, walking) (I).*
- *SV 10 (HH): Households without broadband Internet access).*
- *SV 11 (HH): Households that potentially lack air conditioning.*

Heat And Health Index

CDC's Heat and Health Index is another dataset that can help understand differential heat vulnerability in the region. Taking a slightly different approach that CRE-EH, the Heat and Health Index integrates temperature and environmental factors as well as reported heat-related illnesses (from 2020-2022) with census-based data to differentiate heat risk at the zipcode-level. Areas with a higher index value are more likely to experience negative health impacts from extreme heat. Seven zip codes (29488, 29918, 29934, 29935, 29945, 29944, 29927) in the region have a high overall heat and health index.

Overall Heat & Health Index Rank



Data Location: *LCOG Extreme Heat Data.gdb; HeatHealthIndex_LCOG (Value)*

Source: *National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network Data Explorer*

- *Concept Area: Heat & Heat-related Illness (HRI)*
- *Indicator: Heat & Health Index*
- *Measure: Overall Heat & Health Index Rank*
- *Geographic Type: State by Zip Code Tabulation Areas*

- *Geography: South Carolina*
- *Time: 2024*

Data Information: *Heat and Health Index Technical Documentation*

The Heat and Health Index (HHI) is a national tool that incorporates historical temperature, heat-related illness, and community characteristics data at the ZIP code level to identify areas most likely to experience negative health outcomes from heat and help communities prepare for heat in a changing climate. Each ZIP code has a single ranking for the overall HHI and rankings for individual components so that users can make informed decisions to prepare for and prevent the negative health impacts from heat in their communities.

APPENDIX I – 2020 HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS

BEAUFORT COUNTY	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**Notes**
COMPLETED ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Create a centralized information technology system to access pertinent information during a disaster.	Palmetto EOC is a state emergency management information technology system that allows counties to access and share information during a disaster.
2. Make updated GPS systems available for emergency personnel.	Alastar system provides GPS maps with emergency vehicle/radio GPS position tracking.
3. Work with the USACE and FEMA to develop new maps.	FEMA updated the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) in March 2021, replacing the previous 1987 maps. Through a coordinated effort involving FEMA, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, local staff, and community stakeholders, Beaufort County and neighboring jurisdictions received these updated maps in 2021.
INCOMPLETE/ DEFERRED ACTIONS FROM 2020	
4. Work to expedite re-building of historic structures post disaster.	Remove to accommodate any structure requiring rebuild as all must go through similar processes and procedures. However, still considering historic structures must additionally meet applicable historic preservation standards.
5. Train Building Officials on most up to date code requirements for hazard resistant construction.	Deferred to 2026 Ongoing.
6. Conduct SCDNR approved classes for Floodplain management by Building Codes Department.	Deferred, will continue to work with DNR to provide classes.
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
7. Support ongoing efforts for a regional warehouse for emergency supply shortage.	The state SCEMD supply warehouse is the primary warehouse used to support the counties during an emergency/disaster.
8. Protect the Chelsea Water Treatment Plant from Flood damage.	

BEAUFORT COUNTY	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**Notes**
9. Create survey to ID most vulnerable County facilities, particularly in terms of Wind ratings for roofs, and create CIP list of these structures.	Will continue to review international building codes to determine what year the current wind ratings for commercial structures took effect. Combined with the date of building construction, this will provide insight on which buildings may not meet the minimum current requirement.
10. Determine the vulnerability of backup power for critical facilities. Create a strategy for additional investment in generators and electrical uplifts.	Since the last update of the plan, generators were installed at 2 EMS stations, 2 countywide communication radio towers, the county's south fuel station, multiple county admin buildings including the Arthur Horne building and Buckwalter Rec Center (serves as National Guard shelter for deployments), and 11 Disability Services community group homes.
11. Seek funding for Hazard Mitigation projects, provide routine update of hazard plans, exercise other staff on plans, provide training to staff on disaster response and recovery.	
12. Work to enhance County GIS data with more detailed information on individual structures.	
13. Assist private home and business owners to obtain funding for retrofitting hazard prone buildings.	Beaufort County currently has a project it is pursuing to assist a homeowner in elevating their home. One structure on Big Oak St was mitigated and removed from FEMA's Repetitive Loss list. The original structure was removed and rebuilt; project completion was in 2023. Additionally, another structure on Thomas Lawton Dr received a grant to rebuild and was removed from FEMAs repetitive loss list.
14. Place protective measures on all administrative buildings to ensure administrative functions can continue.	
15. Conduct engineering inspections of all fire stations to determine mitigation retrofitting measures necessary.	
16. Study vulnerable bridges to determine which ones should be hardened.	

BEAUFORT COUNTY	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**Notes**
17. Provide maintenance and replacement of critical bridges.	US 278 Eastbound Bridge Replacement will replace the Mackay Creek and Skull Creek bridges on the Hilton Head Island access route. Estimated cost is approximately $466.8 million for the corridor project, with partners including SCDOT, Beaufort County, and the Town of Hilton Head Island, and the route carries about 28,700 vehicles per day (estimated average traffic over Mackay Creek).
18. Continue replacement of lift station control panels with waterproof NEMA devices.	
19. Distribute "Citizen's Guide to Flood Awareness" brochure regularly.	Each year, a flood-information brochure is distributed to residents identified as vulnerable to flood hazards. This brochure is provided and sent by the Beaufort County Building Codes department.
20. Work with regional media to promote public awareness of disaster preparedness.	Both BCSO EMD and BC PIO push our public awareness throughout the year using the county's BCTV channel and media interviews.
21. Enhance programs dealing with drought, educating the public about proper water usage and appropriate behavior during drought conditions (to include distribution of drought education materials.	Beaufort Conservation District conducts programming educating on water quality and wise use of water (water reduction) for various ages, but particularly children.
22. Ensure all fire marshals burn bans are strictly enforced, especially during drought conditions.	
23. Continue to support education programs to inform the community about the danger of land fires and resources on how to prevent them.	
24. Work to enhance education programs for historic properties.	Through relationships with Beaufort Historic Preservation District public information regarding the importance of historic structures to our region continues to take place.
25. Append this to all comprehensive plans as they are updated, or at earliest date available.	
26. Continue enforcing seismic program & regulations in building codes.	
27. Continue to support Beaufort County's SWM Utility/Plan for future SWM projects.	All building permits must meet the requirements of the most current Beaufort County Stormwater

BEAUFORT COUNTY	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**Notes**
	Manual before a Certificate of Occupancy can be issued.
28. Undertake a program to study poorly drained areas and remedy them through best practices.	BC has had 3 drainage studies, plus the repetitive loss analysis; St. Helena Watershed Study (July 2022) Northern Lady's Island Drainage Study (May 2024) Alljoy Drainage Study (currently underway).
29. Continuing education program for the agricultural sector that promote sustainable practices (BMPS) and hazard resilience (particularly during drought.	
30. Conduct periodic surveys of the equipment used by emergency personnel and write appropriations into their budget.	
31. Enhance radio technology for all building officials for hazard preparation.	
32. Continue to work with SCDNR to update maps based on newer/more accurate topography data.	SCDNR's NFIP mapping specialists have developed a mapping system that closely aligns with FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). The DNR maps clearly identify all Coastal A high-hazard areas, including the Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA). The system also incorporates local watershed information and provides an impact map with real-time data to support planning and risk awareness.
33. Continue to enforce Floodplain regulations to ensure proper development in compliance with all building codes, FEMA regulations and any other pertinent ordinances.	New construction and substantially damaged or substantially improved construction must meet the FEMA NFIP requirements as well as the 2021 building codes. This includes structures that are subject to coastal high hazards (LiMWA).
34. Sponsor and conduct workshops for local engineers, architects and contractors on IBC and hazard resistant construction.	
35. Actively advocate to public officials the adoption of the latest version of universally accepted building codes without amendments.	
36. Explore the service of special needs and other vulnerable populations for evacuation and sheltering.	Regional transportation provider Palmetto Breeze maintains a vulnerable population database of residents who may need assistance in evacuation. Red Cross shelters are housed in schools that are ADA compliant.

BEAUFORT COUNTY	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**Notes**
37. Support ongoing efforts educate the public on the threat of Sea Level Rise and associated hazards, exploring best practices for adaptation.	Beaufort County has adopted a comprehensive long-term resilience strategy and is in the process of establishing a regional resilience collaborative to identify, evaluate, and advance best practices for climate adaptation.
38. Continue to develop the use of social media/smart phone technology to inform citizens of hazard threats.	BCSO EMD uses social media and a text/email alert system to keep the public informed of hazard threats including the Nixle program and IPAWS.
39. Maintain or improve the County's CRS rating.	Beaufort County Unincorporated currently holds a Class 5 CRS rating. We are actively working to maintain this standing and to implement all requirements outlined by the CRS program to better serve our community. As staffing levels and budget resources allow, we will continue pursuing opportunities for further improvement.
40. Work to enhance public education programs for historic property, including a pamphlet for distribution to the public.	
41. Continue tree surveys and enhance efforts to ensure the health of Beaufort's urban forest.	Beaufort County currently enforces strict tree protection requirements for new single family and commercial construction. This is used to help protect the natural functions of the floodplain, erosion control, and natural area preservation.

CITY OF BEAUFORT	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
INCOMPLETE/ DEFERRED ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Work with the USACE and FEMA to develop new maps.	Remove and combine with action 14.
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	

CITY OF BEAUFORT	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
2. Explore a partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers for a mitigation study grant, or a CAP feasibly in response to resiliency towards sea level rise.	Funding is essential. A partnership has yet to be established with the Army Corps and funding has not been available.
3. Assist private home and business owners to obtain funding for retrofitting or acquiring hazard prone buildings.	No request for assistance with retrofitting has been received.
4. Consider the amendment of the City ordinance to allow for the temporary use of RVs and trailers for accommodation post-disaster.	The use of an RV as temporary housing was approved by the City Manager and City Council during Hurricane Mathew. This was a temporary measure and only for hurricane damaged properties.
5. Update GPS systems available for emergency personnel.	911 Dispatch has the capabilities to locate personnel and vehicles using GPS. This equipment is updated as technology updates.
6. Distribute "Citizen's Guide to Flood Awareness" brochure regularly to the SFHA, Repetitive Loss Area and to Real Estate, Insurance and Banks	Completed annually each year. Speaking at Neighborhood Association meetings about the topics in our flood brochure was accomplished annually and will continue in the future. Our flood brochure is provided at specific locations. This project. covers public education and awareness, prevention, emergency services, and natural and beneficial functions.
7. Work with regional media to promote public awareness of disaster preparedness.	This project is implemented when a storm or event is approaching.
8. Work to enhance public education programs for historic property, including a pamphlet for distribution to the public.	A flyer has been prepared that has general historic district information and will be updated as needed.
9. Continue to support education programs to inform the community about the danger of land fires and resources on how to prevent them.	Beaufort County has a higher risk to wildfire than 83% of the counties in the US according to the Fire Service continued actions will be taken to spread this knowledge.
10. Continue tree surveys and enhance efforts to ensure the health of Beaufort's urban forest.	A tree removal permit is required for the removal of landmark & specimen trees. A certified arborist is required to verify the risk and health of the tree being removed.
11. Continue enforcing seismic program &regulations in building codes.	Projects in the City of Beaufort are reviewed and inspected for

CITY OF BEAUFORT	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
	compliance with seismic requirements. We verify the project is in a seismic zone on the building plans and through the ATC Hazard, and ASCE websites.
12. All communities to continue to support Beaufort County's SWM Utility/Plan for future SWM project.	The City of Beaufort continues to support improvements to the storm water drainage system with fees collected during the building permit process.
13. Conduct periodic surveys of the equipment used by emergency personnel and write the appropriations into their budget.	The City of Beaufort's budgetary process provides the necessary funding for the equipment noted by the fire service personnel.
14. Continue to work with SCDNR to update maps based on newer/more accurate topography data.	The current effective FIRM is 3/23/2021.
15. Continue to enforce Floodplain regulations to ensure proper development in compliance with all building codes, FEMA regulations and any other pertinent ordinances.	The City of Beaufort has taken a higher regulatory standard by requiring a higher minimum flood elevation. The higher standard was effective as of 3/23/2021. This project is part of city staff's normal everyday duties.
16. Train Building Officials on most up to date code requirements for hazard resistant construction.	The Building Department staff, including the Building Official, attend all state building code trainings events. These training events cover flooding, high winds, and earthquakes.
17. Sponsor and conduct workshops for local engineers, architects and contractors on IBC and hazard resistant construction.	The Building Official attends all state building code trainings. We encourage the local Architects, Engineers, and Contractors to attend these training events.
18. Actively advocate to public officials the adoption of the latest version of universally accepted building codes without amendments.	The Building Officials along with Contractors throughout the state are active in the Building Code amendment process that ultimately become state law.
19. Enforce property maintenance code to correct deteriorating conditions.	Code cases arise during the patrol of the area or by active citizen reports/call-ins to the City. When problems arise the Code Enforcement official takes action according to the ordinance requirements to remedy the issue.

CITY OF BEAUFORT	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
20. Maintain or improve the City's CRS rating.	Th city has been part of the CRS program for several years and these actions are implemented every day.
21. Continue to develop the use of social media/smart phone technology to inform citizens of Hazard threats.	The City of Beaufort uses the following social media outlets to push information to the public. NIXLE, Everbridge, Facebook, Instagram, Constant Contact, Next door.
22. Continue to develop to the National Standard for hazard planning and preparedness according to the THIRA framework.	This is an ongoing and evolving process.
23. Continue and enhance outreach efforts to local businesses, particularly hotels and assisted living facilities, to strengthen disaster preparedness.	We use all types of social media to get out the local storm forecast to the visitors. These may be in a hotel, short-term rental, or even in an assisted living facility. During the height of storm season, we increase the number of media informercials to make sure everyone is aware of the evacuation routes, storm status, and how to prepare to evacuate that become necessary.
24. Formalize and streamline disaster response procedures across City departments. Coordinate planning and communication related to disaster preparedness.	This is an ongoing and evolving process.
25. Support ongoing efforts to educate the public on the threat of Sea Level Rise and associated hazards, exploring best practices for adaptation to this threat.	Unique ways of educating the public is critical with potential for managed retreat.

TOWN OF BLUFFTON	
2015 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
INCOMPLETE/ DEFERRED ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Continue a program to study poorly drained areas and remedy them through best practices.	Replaced with new action based on updated priorities.
2. Maintain or improve the Town's CRS rating.	Remove. The Town does not participate in the CRS program.
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
3. Update all Flood maps with new municipal and county boundaries.	
4. Protective measures should be placed on all administrative buildings	

TOWN OF BLUFFTON	
2015 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
to ensure administrative functions can continue.	
5. Conduct engineering inspections of county fire stations to determine mitigation retrofitting measures necessary.	
6. Study vulnerable bridges to determine which ones should be hardened.	All under SCDOT/BC ownership. As funds are available.
7. Provide maintenance and replacement of critical bridges.	All bridges are under SCDOT ownership.
8. Distribute SC Hurricane Guide "Know Your Zone" brochure regularly.	
9. Work with Regional media to promote public awareness of disaster preparedness.	
10. Continue to support education programs to inform the community about the danger of land fires and resources on how to prevent them.	
11. Continue tree survey for vulnerable trees to reinforce them against hazards (Wind, Flood). Continue to update the Town's tree canopy GIS layer.	Inventory of trees on Town-owned properties is complete; on-going Town-wide tree canopy mapping.
12. Work to expedite re-build of historic structures post disaster.	
13. Continue enforcing seismic program & regulations in building codes.	
14. Make updated GPS systems available for emergency personnel.	
15. Conduct periodic surveys of the equipment used by emergency personnel and write the appropriations into their budget.	
16. Enhance radio technology for all building officials for hazard preparation.	
17. Town will continue to work with SCDNR to update maps based on newer/more accurate topography data.	
18. Continue to enforce Floodplain regulations to ensure proper development in compliance with all building codes, FEMA regulations and any other pertinent ordinances.	
19. Train Building Officials on most up to date code requirements for hazard resistant construction.	
20. Actively advocate to public officials the adoption of the latest version of universally accepted building codes without amendments.	
21. Explore the service of special needs and other vulnerable populations for evacuation and sheltering.	
22. Support ongoing efforts educate the public on the threat of Sea Level Rise and associated hazards, exploring best practices for adaptation to this threat.	
23. Continue to develop the use of social media/smart phone technology to inform citizens of Hazard threats.	Use of Everbridge/Nixle Alerts.
24. Append this to all comprehensive plans as they are updated, or at earliest date available.	Intention is for Resilience Plan to be adopted as appendix to Comprehensive Plan.

TOWN OF BLUFFTON	
2015 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
25. All communities continue to support Beaufort County's SWM Utility/Plan for future SWM project.	Coordination with County and BJWSA.

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
COMPLETED ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Continue to support Beaufort County's SWM Utility/Plan for future SWM project.	We are now conducting our own Stormwater Master Plan.
2. Continue to work with SCDNR to update maps based on newer/more accurate topography data.	Updated Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFRIMs) were adopted by the Town effective March 23, 2021. The Beaufort County Flood Risk Products were delivered in January 2023.
3. Continue to conduct engineering inspections of fire stations as necessary to determine mitigation retrofitting measures necessary.	Inspections have been completed. Shutters able to withstand a Category 5 hurricane and fire sprinklers have been installed at fire station facilities, Fire Rescue Headquarters & Facilities Management buildings.
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
4. Design or retrofit critical facilities vulnerable to wind damage and/or flooding. Evaluate need to harden critical facilities (Town Hall, Fire and Rescue Headquarters and other critical facilities as listed in this plan) to reduce vulnerability to hazards.	FR HQ has been relocated into a new hardened facility. The only remaining town structures that are not retrofitted are Town Hall, Fleet Maintenance (old FR HQ) and the Maintenance Facility. Based on age and construction costs, Town Hall may not be candidate for retrofitting. On April 30, 2025, the Town submitted an HMGP grant under DR4835 Tropical Storm Debby for a generator upgrade at the Fleet Maintenance and Training Center. This grant is still under review by both SC EMD and FEMA. Updated wording for 2026.
5. Educate HH staff and public on HM grant programs and funding opportunities.	Staff informs residents about potential funding opportunities that

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
	may be eligible to support flood mitigation efforts, so property owners are better equipped to reduce flood risk and improve resilience. In addition to sharing information about potential funding opportunities, we support flood mitigation efforts through education, outreach, and technical assistance. This includes helping the public better understand flood risks, available mitigation strategies, and planning considerations; connecting communities with relevant resources and partners; and providing guidance on tools, data, and best practices that support informed decision-making and long-term resilience.
6. Provide educational outreach to residents to increase awareness of vulnerability to multiple hazards and preventative actions that can be taken with a focus on hurricane preparedness and flood awareness. Work with regional media to promote public awareness of disaster preparedness.	The Emergency Manager and Floodplain Administrator conduct interviews with local media (WHHI) hurricane preparedness and flood awareness. Annual Coordination meetings include presentations from the Emergency Manager and Floodplain Administrator to promote hurricane preparedness and flood awareness.
7. Distribute “Flood Awareness Guide” brochure and the "Guide to Emergency Preparedness," regularly “Flood Hazards” brochure mailed annually to all residents and business owners within Town limits and distributed at annual outreach events.	The "Flood Awareness Guide Are you flood ready?” is mailed to each household within Town limits on an annual basis. Also, the postcard is distributed at flood hazard public presentations and provided to local area Realtors for distribution to new homeowners on the island. Approximately 25,000 were distributed in 2025. Emergency Management staff continues to engage the public through multiple presentations throughout the year. Emergency Management provides information to the public through distribution of preparedness guides and

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
	presentations. We completed 20 preparedness presentations in 2025 with 900 people attending those presentations. Additionally, we provided 2,000 English Preparedness Guides. The guides are posted to the Town's website and were viewed 5,672 times in English and 1,325 times in Spanish. The guides were downloaded 1,903 times in English and 426 times in Spanish from the Town's website.
8. Design or retrofit stormwater management system throughout the Town to minimize flooding after heavy storms while also addressing water quality objectives Continue to implement structural drainage projects.	• Central Island Pump Station Overhaul and Resiliency Improvements - Overhaul including 2 new pumps, new controls, debris screens, new genset, new conduit, new SCADA monitoring system, and new control building. • Palmetto Hall Outfall Improvements - Water Level monitoring efforts underway to calibrate dynamic hydraulic models and design of Palmetto Hall outfall improvements. Addition of hydraulic capacity at the system outfall and addition of backflow prevention devices. • Sea Pines Flood Control Gates - Replacement of several flood control gates in Sea Pines • 25 Moonshell Road - Permitting & installation of pipes, inlet structures, and control structures to improve efficiency and reduce long-term maintenance costs along the existing Folly Field ditch between Starfish Drive and the Island Club including making improvements to the outfall connection to the Port Royal main channel (under Folly Field Road and Wimbledon Court). • 75 Helmsman Way Drainage Improvements - Replace existing pipes and replace with larger pipes at a higher elevation with backflow prevention devices to correct identified deficiencies (resilience

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
	project). • Bryant Road Pond Restoration - New pipe interconnection on property recently acquired by the Town to address drainage system deficiencies. • Cordillo Courts Drainage Improvements - Installation of new drainage infrastructure including pipe, inlets and expansion of an existing detention basin. • Gum Tree Road Improvements - Improvements to address various deficiencies along Gum Tree Road between Katie Miller Drive and Georgianna Drive, including regrading of ditches, installation of new inlets, new pipe and repairs along the outfall system. • 20 Gum Tree Road Improvements - Improvements to address pathway deficiency along Gum Tree Road, including regrading of ditches, installation of new inlets, new pipe and repairs along the outfall system. • 63 Old Wild Horse Road Improvements - Improvements to address pathway deficiency including installation of stormcrete pervious concrete. • Jarvis Creek Outfall - Installation of flap gates on the outfall end of two 84-inch diameter concrete pipes that discharge stormwater from the Jarvis Creek Pump Station outfall system; necessary to improve operation and effectiveness of the pump station during extreme events by mitigating the impacts of tidal storm surge on the system (resilience project). • Jarvis Creek Pump Station - Pump Replacements - Procure and install new pumps (4 total, 1 replaced per year). • Main Street Drainage Improvements - Improvements

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
	based on 2019 assessment completed by Stormwater Utility. • Old Woodlands-26 Indian Trail Improvements - Improvements along the back lot line of three residential properties to address a chronic drainage issue. • Water Level Monitoring - Installation of remote monitoring devices to facilitate disaster preparation, pond management, and dynamic model calibration efforts. • Weather Monitoring - Installation of weather stations in various locations to provide essential data during extreme weather events and to calibrate dynamic hydraulic models. • Ashmore Channel Resilience/278 Backflow Prevention Port Royal - Install flap gates on each of two large diameter pipes to protect Port Royal and adjacent upstream properties during extreme weather events (resilience project). • Gum Tree Channel Capacity Improvements at Chinaberry Crossing - Channel and road crossing improvements to address identified system deficiencies. • 24 Pope Avenue Outfall to Shipyard - Design and install drainage infrastructure to correct an identified deficiency impacting drainage on Pope Avenue. • 25 Dunnagans Alley Parking Lot Drainage Improvements - Installation of an inlet and a pipe to drain a Town-owned parking lot. • Airport Outfall Ditch Relocation - Relocation of primary system ditch that drains Palmetto Headlands and the airport to accommodate future development on a Town-owned parcel at the end of Summit Drive. • Arrow Road Laydown Yard Improvements - Adding rock to

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
	reduce tracking of sediment onto Arrow Road • Arrow Road Outfall at Greenery - Relocate a primary system outfall pipe that drains portions of Arrow Road, Palmetto Bay Road, and Archer Road to address an identified deficiency. • Burkes Beach Area Drainage Improvements - Design and install drainage infrastructure to correct several identified deficiencies on Burkes Beach Road, Beach Front Lane, Barrier Beach Cove, and Sandy Beach Trail. • Gardner Channel Capacity Improvements at 278 - Excavate a primary system channel to restore conveyance capacity. • Marshland Road Pathway Drainage Issues - Implement various improvements along the Town-owned pathway to address identified deficiencies. • Muddy Creek South Outfall - Outfall ditch capacity improvements to protect the Muddy Creek Neighborhood (easements required). • North Forest Beach Pipe Replacements - Replacement of perforated pipe along 9 streets in North Forest Beach to restore and improve functionality of Town-owned systems along private roads with in Town easements. • Shipyard Pump Station Overhaul - Overhaul of a critical pump station including replacement of electronic controls, generator, and pumps. • Squire Pope Outfalls-Backflow Prevention (2) - Add flap gates at the end of two primary system outfalls to improve hydraulic functionality (resilience project). • The Links at Port Royal Improvements - Drainage system capacity improvements to protect

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
	Port Royal, Folly Field, Island Club, Islanders Beach Park, and residential properties along Wimbledon Court. • Woodlake Villas/Mathews Drive Outfall Improvements - Design and implement drainage system improvements to correct identified deficiencies and mitigate flooding potential in Woodlake Villas. • Woodward Ave Pipe Rehabilitation - Line or replace a primary system pipe to address an identified deficiency. • Arrow Road Powerline Channel Excavation - Capacity Improvements - Excavate a primary system channel to restore conveyance capacity. • Howell Tract Access Gate - Install a new automatic gate with code or card access at the entrance to the Howell Tract lay-down yard on Arrow Road • Ongoing annually at various locations: stormwater conduits are lined, replaced, repaired, and/or upsized, and stormwater channels are improved by increasing capacity and implementing bank stabilization measures at numerous locations.
9. Perform periodic nourishment of its beaches	The last beach renourishment project was completed in December 2016. This project placed approximately 2 million cubic yards of sand along the Atlantic Ocean-front and Port Royal Sound-front shorelines. Annual monitoring has occurred since 1991. Preliminary design/permitting work began in 2022 for the 2025/2026 project. The USFWS Biological Opinion was issued in August 2024 and Permit 1 was issued in February 2025 by the State and USACE. Phase 1 was awarded in April 2025. The current 2025/2026 project

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
	represents the fourth major renourishment since 1990, which are planned approximately every 8-10 years, and will place approximately 2.4 million cubic yards of sand from three offshore borrow areas. The 2025/2026 effort also includes installation of 6 rock breakwater structures at Pine Island. All work will be completed by May 30, 2026.
10. Conduct periodic surveys of the equipment used by emergency personnel and write the appropriations into their budget.	The Emergency Manager annually reviews and checks equipment assigned to emergency management, which includes the EOC equipment and base camp deployment package. The Town has recently purchased a hardened structure to house Fire Rescue Headquarters that includes space for the EOC. The Emergency Manager has completed a needs assessment of the new space that will be utilized for the EOC. Improvements are anticipated to be completed in 2027.
11. Scan and store elevation certificates for convenience and ease of access on Town of Hilton Head Island website (although all written documents will be maintained).	The Floodplain Administrator reviews and approves elevation certificates for all new construction, substantial improvements, residential renovations, accessory structures, etc. The elevation certificates are archived as part of the building permit file int he Energov system. Using the data on the elevation certificates, the Floodplain Administrator has begun development of a lowest floor database that can be used to evaluate areas where homes are prone to flooding.
12. Continue participate in the National Flood Insurance Program through enforcement of standards in the existing Flood Damage Controls Ordinance that meet and exceed the NFIP minimum requirements. -to enforce Floodplain regulations to ensure proper development in compliance with all building codes, FEMA regulations and any other pertinent ordinances.	The Floodplain Administrator reviews all Building Plans and Development permits for compliance with adopted higher regulatory standards to include regulating the lowest floor elevation

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
	of all development town-wide, regardless of flood zone and a higher freeboard than the minimum.
13. Provide training and support to Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) certification for the Building Official, Plans Examiner, Inspectors and Permit Technicians. -Continue to Train Building Officials on most up to date code requirements for hazard resistant construction.	There are currently 3 CFM employed in various departments. A new Building Official was hired in February 2026.
14. Study vulnerable bridges to determine which ones should be hardened and conduct maintenance of these bridges and HHI Causeways.	This mitigation action was carried over from the previous hazard mitigation plan and completed as a partnership with Beaufort County in 2012. The causeway leading from the mainland to the Mackay Creek bridge was hardened (rip rap) after Mathew (2017) by the SCDOT. The Town, County and SCDOT have been engaged in a project to replace the bridges connecting the mainland to HHI. The Town and County continue to work with SCDOT to finalize a master plan for repair, replacement and redesign of the US 278 Corridor with final design and permitting for phase 1 (replacement of the on-island bridges) is anticipated to be completed in 2027 with construction to follow. The project is being managed by SCDOT.
15. Utilize the Town's Land Acquisition Program as a strategic tool to reduce development intensity in environmentally sensitive areas, preserve open space and water access, support public facilities, and advance community driven initiatives.	The Town's Land Acquisition Manual is currently being updated to include a Greenprint Framework to support land acquisition decisions. The Greenprint framework provides a visual and analytical tool for identifying parcels that advance the Town's conservation, infrastructure and community planning objectives. Through the Town's land acquisition program strategic properties are purchased, some designated to preserve land and prevent further development and consequently

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
	lessen environmental and storm water impacts. This helps to maintain water quality and prevent degradation or pollution from development in those watersheds. The Town maintains the natural or engineered waterways on these Town lands to ensure adequate conveyance.
16. Educate home and business owners on potential hazard mitigation grant funding opportunities and assist home and business owners to obtain funding for retrofitting hazard prone buildings.	Staff informs residents about potential funding opportunities that may be eligible to support flood mitigation efforts, so property owners are better equipped to reduce flood risk and improve resilience. In addition to sharing information about potential funding opportunities, we support flood mitigation efforts through education, outreach, and technical assistance. This includes helping the public better understand flood risks, available mitigation strategies, and planning considerations; connecting communities with relevant resources and partners; and providing guidance on tools, data, and best practices that support informed decision-making and long-term resilience. In 2022, the SC Department of Natural Resources reviewed their interpretation of the FEMA regulations for the FMA grant and concluded that the homeowners could no longer manage the contracts and procurement process for that grant. Therefore, the local government had to fulfill this part of the grant process now, which was a change from previous years and projects. A new sub-recipient agreement between the Town of Hilton Head Island and the SC Department of Natural Resources was executed in June 2025 to reflect this change.

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
	Throughout 2025, the Town met several times with the property owner of the 2021 FMA grant to chart a path forward after being notified that the grant extension for the project may not be approved. The Town submitted a Swift Current grant application for the property in June 2025 as an alternative in the event the grant extension for the original FMA grant was not approved. Currently, both the 2021 FMA grant extension and Swift Current Grant application for this project have not been approved. The FMA grant that was submitted in January 2023 is still pending selection.
17. Improve and/or update alert, warning and notification capabilities Continue to develop the use of social media/smart phone technology to inform citizens of hazard threats.	Town staff continues to use new technology to enhance public notification of hazard threats. The Town has recently partnered with Language Line Solutions to provide translation services for non-English-speaking residents to help disseminate disaster-related information.
18. Append this to all comprehensive plans as they are updated, or at earliest date available	The 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan will be adopted by the Town as an appendix to the Town of Hilton Head Island "Our Plan" as soon as the plan is finalized.
19. Maintain or improve the Town's Community Rating System class.	Town Leadership has identified improving the Town's CRS class as an action item in the FY2026-FY2028 Strategic Actions Plan. The Town's Floodplain in Administrator is exploring programmatic enhancements that will assist in achieving this goal.
20. Develop a Resilience Plan to reinforce Hilton Head Island's environmental, economic, and community resilience to prepare for and recover from future environmental shocks and stressors. Support ongoing efforts educate the public on the threat of Sea Level Rise and associated hazards, exploring best practices for	A strengths, weaknesses, opportunity, and threats (SWOT) analysis of the island's resilience was performed between 2024 and 2025. Project funded through a

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
adaptation to this threat.	FEMA BRIC grant and the Town's stormwater utility fees. The findings of the analysis informed the development of a full resilience plan to address the threats of changing flood conditions. Completion of the resilience plan is anticipated for the Fall of 2026.

TOWN OF PORT ROYAL	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
INCOMPLETE/ DEFERRED ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Place protective measures on all administrative buildings to ensure administrative functions can continue.	Deferred. Will pursue as funding and resources are available.
2. Consider the use of priority development zones in non-hazard prone areas.	Deferred. Will pursue as funding and resources are available.
3. Assist private home and business owners to obtain funding for retrofitting hazard prone buildings.	Deferred. Will pursue as funding and resources are available.
4. Incentivize sharing of docks in zoning ordinances.	Deferred. Will pursue as funding and resources are available.
5. Work to enhance public education program for historic property, including a pamphlet for distribution to the public.	Deferred. Will pursue as funding and resources are available. 2 yrs.
6. Sponsor and conduct workshops for local engineers, architects and contractors on IBC and hazard resistant construction.	Deferred. Will pursue as funding and resources are available. 3-5 yrs.
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
7. Create survey to ID most vulnerable public structures in Town and create a CIP list of these structures.	The Town has performed survey work on its Public Works yard and is considering design options to alleviate flooding
8. Make updates GPS systems available for emergency personnel.	Not familiar with any regional action taken on this.
9. Create a joint permitting center for post- hazard recovery.	Not familiar with any regional action taken on this.
10. Create tree survey for vulnerable trees to re-enforce them against hazards	The Town will be seeking technical assistance for canopy mapping from SCFC. Once that is done, vulnerability assessments of trees can also be done in the future.
11. Work with regional media to promote public awareness of disaster preparedness.	The Town shares BC/SCEMD emergency preparedness posts on social media and makes posts unique to the Town when weather events/flooding are imminent.

TOWN OF PORT ROYAL	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
12. Study vulnerable bridges to determine which ones should be hardened.	Not familiar with any regional action taken on this.
13. Provide maintenance and replacement of critical bridges.	Not familiar with any regional action taken on this.
14. Enhance programs dealing with drought, educating the public about proper water usage and appropriate behavior during drought conditions (to include distribution of drought education materials).	Not familiar with any regional action taken on this.
15. Continue enforcing seismic programs & regulations in building codes.	
16. Continue to support Beaufort County's SWM Utility/Plan for future SWM projects.	
17. Undertake a program to study poorly drained areas and remedy them through best practices.	The Town has studied its jurisdiction east of Battery Creek and has created a stormwater master plan with recommendations to remedy issues. Preventive measures such as advanced stormwater regulations are also being considered to deter future flood losses based on study findings.
18. Conduct periodic surveys of the equipment used by emergency personnel and write the appropriations into their budget.	
19. Continue to enforce Floodplain regulations to ensure proper development in compliance with all building codes, FEMA regulations and any other pertinent ordinances.	
20. Train Building Officials on most up to date code requirements for hazard resistant construction.	
21. Actively advocate to public officials the adoption of the latest version of universally accepted building codes without amendments.	
22. Enforce property maintenance code to correct deteriorating conditions.	
23. Support ongoing efforts educate the public on the threat of Sea Level Rise and associated hazards, exploring best practices for adaptation to this threat.	The Town is participating in the Southern Lowcountry Resilience Collaborative to support these efforts.
24. Continue to develop the use of social media/smart phone technology to inform citizens of Hazard threats.	
25. Maintain or improve the Town's CRS rating.	
26. Continue to work with SCDNR to update maps based on newer/more accurate topography data.	
27. Append this to all comprehensive plans as they are updated, or at earliest date available.	The Town is in its 5-year comprehensive plan review period, and staff will recommend that this plan is added as an appendix.
28. Update all Flood maps with new municipal and county boundaries.	Not familiar with any regional action taken on this.
29. Distribute "Citizen's Guide to Flood Awareness" brochure regularly.	

COLLETON COUNTY	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
COMPLETED ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Backup Power Evaluation: Ensure shelters have adequate emergency power resources.	School District and Parks & Recreation $400,000 for new generators.
2. Provide shelter spaces during hail and other storms.	Shelters are established for all hazard events.
3. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	Purchase of radios for School District $500.
INCOMPLETE/ DEFERRED ACTIONS FROM 2020	
4. Assess trees in public areas to see if they are dead, dying, or could cause potential problems if struck by lightning or are fire conducive.	Remove and combine with 18.
5. Shelter Development: Strengthen county and municipality buildings to designate as hurricane shelters.	Remove and combine with 31.
6. Consider areas subject to repetitive Flooding for acquisition for parks and other permanent open space.	Remove and combine with 32.
7. Improve old or worn communication lines.	Remove and combine with 35.
8. Improve utilities.	Remove and combine with 35.
9. Strengthen utility poles/conductor fixtures within Colleton County.	Remove and combine with 35.
10. Install Cameras on hurricane evacuation routes.	Remove and combine with 37.
11. Provide evacuation measures for those in need - transportation to get those in need to emergency shelters.	Remove and combine with 44.
12. Develop rescue and evacuation procedures for special populations.	Remove and combine with 44.
13. Continue to oversee strict adherence to new building standards by closely monitoring all new renovations and construction	Remove and combine with 38.
14. Handout SC's Earthquake Preparedness of Schools brochure and implement training.	Remove and combine with 54.
15. Enforce rules against removal of wetlands.	Remove and combine with 51.
16. Improve seals on all wall penetrations below Flood water levels at critical facilities.	Remove and combine with 62.
17. Inspect utility lines.	Remove and combine with 60.
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
18. Remove potential tree problems.	Tree clearing occurs before and after hazard events
19. Post boards near grocery stores and hardware stores listing what one should have if a hazard struck.	Information is also being pushed via social media platforms. Also posted at local post offices.
20. Train those in rural areas for how to protect their homes, and what to do during an event.	Public information is being pushed via social media, website, and mail.
21. Train people with equipment and supplies for a winter storm.	Staff are always trained with new equipment and proper maintenance.
22. Create Incentive, publicize, or provide, fans or other types of cooling elements for popular outdoor areas during times of high heat.	Public information is being pushed via social media, website, and mail.

COLLETON COUNTY	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
23. Pave highways to allow 4 lanes of traffic to evacuate during hazard.	Resurfacing of state and county roads occurred, including evacuation routes.
24. Provide materials for stranded motorists during a hazard.	Public information is being pushed via social media, website, and mail.
25. Purchase equipment and supplies in case of a winter storm.	Equipment is evaluated annually. New ATV's and other purchased for County use.
26. Set up a community compost pile that people can purchase soil from to help enrich soil properties and protect against drought.	Other initiatives are in place including a green debris site for post disaster clean up.
27. Incentivize against bagging leaves and grass, this also enriches the soil.	No funding to support. Disaster debris site utilizes green debris as soil.
28. Provide a place for blankets, and coverings, that people can pick up and use for property protection during hail.	Shelters and churches provide support for all hazard events.
29. Fire Station Upgrades: Retrofit certain fire stations to meet International Building codes Wind design requirements so it can serve as a shelter for emergency workers during events Pre-wired for generators, supplied with generators.	9 stations equipped with generators that have been retrofitted to serve as shelters.
30. Replace old or leaky roofs on specific critical facilities to preserve the structures.	As funding is available. 2 full roof replacements have been completed, and one is currently on going.
31. Identify several County buildings as future hurricane shelters for emergency works.	As funding is available.
32. Acquire and preserve parcels of land subject to repetitive Flooding or areas known to have been affected by Flooding to a great extent.	No funding to support.
33. Provide county and constituent Municipalities with laptops for backing up important data prior to disaster striking to set up temporary offices elsewhere.	New generator purchased for server backup.
34. Construct a safe storage area to house important information and documents.	As department resources are available.
35. Inspect communication lines to ensure reliability.	No funding to support. Reliant on utility company.
36. Create a mobile dispatch unit to ensure communications not eliminated due to natural hazard.	Dual location services established for disaster events.
37. Create camera system to oversee traffic and threats to traffic from hazards.	Drones used for damage and emergency assessment.
38. Oversee strict adherence to newest building standards by monitoring new renovations and construction.	As renovations occur.
39. Inspect and manage vegetation that could damage critical facilities.	
40. Improve existing critical facilities by replacing doors and Windows at older facilities.	
41. Ensure critical facilities have adequate emergency power resources, including fuel storage.	
42. Provide hazard training in schools.	

COLLETON COUNTY	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
43. Conduct Evacuation Route Study- in-depth study to analyze current efficiency, adequacy, and safety of evacuation routes within Colleton County.	No funding to support.
44. Special Needs Evacuation Study: Continue nursing home and hospital evacuation plans assessed to ensure safety and efficiency.	Emergency Operations Plan annual update.
45. Special Need Population Inventory: Identify vulnerable and special needs members of the population.	Emergency Operations Plan annual update.
46. Public Education and Awareness: Educate residents how to prepare homes, family, and property for disasters.	Public information is being pushed via social media, website, and mail.
47. Circulate Public Education and Awareness Packets during season of hazard.	Public information is being pushed via social media, website, and mail.
48. Tourist Education: Continue coordination of work with the visitor's bureau to alert tourists to possible hazards in areas of vulnerability Materials can be left in visitor centers, hotels, attractions, etc.	Public information is being pushed via social media, website, and mail.
49. Conduct inventory/survey for county's emergency response services to identify existing needs or shortfalls in Personnel, equipment, or required resources.	
50. Constantly Update and Enforce Zoning and Building Codes and policies to ensure no new structures built within Floodplains.	
51. Stringent rules against removal of wetlands.	
52. Protect and preserve wetlands through education of public about buffer zones and regulating these through development ordinances.	Public information is being pushed via social media, website, and mail.
53. Ensure lines clear of limbs or other obstructions that may damage them during Windstorms or other natural hazards.	Tree clearing occurs before and after hazard events
54. Instigate Earthquake training in schools.	
55. Purchase support vehicles to reach rural locations during hazard.	
56. Sell portable radios for everyone, so that they can tune in when a hazard is near, occurring, or the aftermath.	
57. Publicize events at Local hardware stores that show how to save your property during a hazard.	
58. Provide free water and set up water stations when the temperature is about 102.	Target shelters to utilize as cooling areas.
59. Offer a list of city foresters, county extension offices, Local nurseries and landscape firms that can provide advice on tree selection for your area and soil conditions.	List can be found on website.
60. Replace utilities.	As needed.
61. Warning systems education: Educate residents of meaning warning systems and schedule testing.	Rely on NWS warnings and SCEMD alerts. No sirens are currently in use.
62. Structure Sealing: Provide waterproof doors and seals for wall openings and/or seal components for critical facilities within Flood zones.	No funding to support.
63. Install back-flow prevention valves in sewers and drains at critical facilities.	Reliant on funding support.
64. Conduct storm water drainage study and plan to identify drainage ditches and promote cleanup.	No funding to support.

COLLETON COUNTY	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
65. Scan important data and information.	As needed.
66. In need of Portable Repeaters: Upgrade Colleton County's emergency communication systems in case of power outage. Current system inadequate.	Reliant on funding support.

TOWN OF COTTAGEVILLE	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Survey tree cover to ensure decreased vulnerability Make improvements.	
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
COMPLETED ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Create camera system to oversee traffic and threats to traffic from hazards.	Camera system is installed on HWY174 (Causeway).
2. Conduct Sea Level Rise Study.	2021 Flooding and Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment.
3. Construct new Town Hall to include an emergency operations center to latest building codes and flood elevations.	Construction completion is anticipated in late May 2026.
INCOMPLETE/ DEFFERED ACTIONS FROM 2020	
4. Connect homes on the ocean side of Palmetto Boulevard to the sewer system and upgrade wastewater treatment plant to accommodate additional volume.	Not feasible to connect ocean side homes to sewer system. Sewer system is currently being updated and improved, funded by SCIIP Grant proceeds.
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
5. Make needed improvements to the causeway and bridge as it is the primary evacuation route.	LCOG funded SCDOT to perform feasibility study, awaiting next steps.
6. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities.	The Town's engineering consultant has developed a Town-wide

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
	planning strategy dividing the Town into 7 different study areas / drainage basins and ranked them in order of priority and assigned a cost to each area to further study. The Town is actively applying for grants / earmarks to fund those studies.
7. Perform maintenance including fuel management techniques such as pruning and clearing dead vegetation, selective logging, cutting high grass, planting fire-resistant vegetation, and creating fuel/fire breaks.	Revised recreational fire ordinance, making recreational fires more restrictive in size and nature.
8. Collect Hydrologic Data.	Information collected in our Interior Lagoon Drainage Study, Yacht Club Road Drainage Study and called for in our Town-Wide Drainage Strategy.
9. Plan for and maintain adequate road debris clearing capabilities and maintain mutual aid agreements with Colleton County and SCDOT.	SCDOT agreements are in place.
10. Continue to support applications to inform citizens of hazards and threats.	Utilize CODE Red, subscribed notifications from the Town Website, the Town also hosts and annual Hurricane Preparedness Workshop.
11. Reestablish Yacht Club Road drainage system.	Requesting DOT address this issue when they resurface/improve the bikepath in this area. The Town received a TAP grant for SCDOT to repave and improve the bike path in this area. Plans are also prescribed in our recently finished Yacht Club Road drainage study.
12. Continue to develop the Sea Level Rise plan and implement improvements.	Continue to work with local partners including the Sea Grant Consortium and academia. Developed a Flooding and Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment in 2021.
13. Perform a drainage study on the interior lagoon system and implement improvements.	Study is complete. Town is actively seeking funding for recommended improvements.
14. Construct primary dunes and lengthen groin system per Army Corps of Engineers Alternatives.	Construction is expected to occur in 2027.
15. Beach Renourishment.	
16. Public Safety-Community Involvement (house numbering, safety events).	House numbering campaign completed. Continue to hold

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
	various public safety events throughout the year.
17. Continuity of Operations (ensure proper levels of staffing and replacement employees are trained).	
18. Install lightning protection devices and methods, such as lightning rods and grounding, on communications infrastructure and other critical facilities.	
19. Develop new or upgrading existing water delivery systems to eliminate breaks and leaks.	
20. Develop an inventory of public and commercial buildings that may be particularly vulnerable to earthquake damage, including pre-1940s homes and homes with cripple wall foundations.	
21. Include measures such as structural bracing, shutters, laminated glass in windowpanes, and hail-resistant roof coverings or flashing in building design to minimize damage.	
22. Ensure generator capacity at the Civic Center to enable the facility to be designated a heating and cooling center for senior population and off beach emergency operations center.	
23. Implement a system to address other disaster related waste streams including white goods and building materials.	
24. Update GIS infrastructure mapping.	
25. Purchase and maintain the equipment needed to clear debris.	
26. Ensure strict building regulation for elevated buildings and retreat.	
27. Create GIS Mapping.	
28. Dune Protection.	

TOWN OF LODGE	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Survey tree cover to ensure decreased vulnerability Make improvements.	
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	

TOWN OF SMOAKS	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Survey tree cover to ensure decreased vulnerability Make improvements.	
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	

CITY OF WALTERBORO	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Clear the sediment in the Ireland Creek.	Initiated. Ireland Creek Park and Greenway Design is underway.
2. Survey tree cover to ensure decreased vulnerability Make improvements.	The City of Walterboro worked with Green Infrastructure Center and focused on the tree canopy. Identification of vulnerable trees is ongoing.
3. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	Reoccurring annual action.
4. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities Make Improvements.	The City of Walterboro participated with the Walterboro/Colleton County Community Action Team with SCOR. Projects were identified through public input and stakeholder interactions. Final plans and potential funding is being comprised by SCOR.
5. Ensure that the Fire Dept has the needed apparatus.	Reoccurring annual action.

HAMPTON COUNTY	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
COMPLETED ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Install 600-amp transfer switch to Emergency Operations Center.	
2. Portable Communication System Plum Case.	

HAMPTON COUNTY	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
3. Building Code: Oversee strict adherence to newest building standards by monitoring new renovations and construction.	Building Official uses latest codes.
4. Flood map update.	Complete in 2026.
5. Roof Repair: Replacement of older or leaky roofs on specific critical facilities to preserve structures.	The B.T. DeLoach Building and Emergency Operations Center were replaced in 2023.
6. Flood Zone Building Policies: Zoning and building codes should ensure no new structures built within Floodplains.	Building & Zoning Code do prevent new structures from being built in the Floodplain.
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
7. Purchase adjacent property for Airport to properly meet storm water demands, also for Airport protection zone.	Local match is needed.
8. Hurricane Shutters for Emergency Shelters.	Still needed for Hampton County Intermediate School.
9. Arts Tourism Projects.	Local match is needed.
10. Economic needs for roads, rails above ground tank, Industrial Park.	Local match is needed.
11. Vegetation for Exit 38 to help with soil erosion, lighting, and drainage.	Local match is needed.
12. Construction of new EMS/Fire Station in Industrial Park in Early Branch.	Local match is needed. New Fire Chief, Chris Parker, hired.
13. Utilize social media and post information listing what one should have if a hazard strikes Post same information in public spaces, including home improvement stores.	Participation by the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).
14. Identify and protect wetlands that serve as Flood storage areas.	
15. Update aerial imaging and mapping of county.	In process.
16. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	Done with LEPC Meetings.
17. Conduct an inventory and map current community facilities, including tele-communications; assess the condition of facilities for determining if repair or replacement is required Identify current community facilities deficiencies and future needs.	Building Official uses latest codes that buildings are up to date.
18. Increase tree plantings (Safely) around buildings to shade parking lots and along public rights-of-way.	Any new buildings have added trees around the building.
19. Do an assessment and cost benefit-analysis for making improvement to the County Airport Make Improvements where needed.	The Hampton County Airport is under construction.
20. Provide provisions for transportation to get those in need of emergency shelters.	We will rely on County on Aging (COA), Non-Emergency Transport Services.
21. Identify and elevate roads and bridges above the base flood elevation to maintain dry access in situations where flood waters tend to wash roads out. Construction, reconstruction, or repair can include not only attention to drainage, but also stabilization or	Roads that have been damaged by storms are currently being reconstructed.

HAMPTON COUNTY	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
armoring of vulnerable shoulders or embankments.	
22. Warning System Education: Educate residents of warning systems meaning and schedule testing.	Hampton county needs a warning system for both sides of the county.
23. Inspection of Lines: Ensure lines are clear of limbs or other obstructions that may cause damage during Windstorms or other natural hazards.	Ongoing as needed. Probably needs a second look, and higher priority.
24. Install/Keep up to date with Warning Systems.	
25. Instigate Earthquake training in schools.	This is done each October in all Schools
26. Handout SC's Earthquake Preparedness of Schools brochure and implement training.	This is done each October in all Schools
27. Remove potential tree problems.	
28. Continue to Scan important and historic documents to backup information and to compile with State Archive requirements.	
29. Provide information to residents on how to prepare homes, families, and property for disasters.	Completed yearly each June.
30. Oversee strict adherence to newest building standards by monitoring new renovations and construction.	Completed yearly.
31. Identify ham radio operators.	Ham Radios are in the EOC and Communications Tower for easy access. Satellite phones purchased for EOC in 2024 for $3200.
32. Inspect and manage vegetation that could damage critical facilities.	Ongoing through Building and Grounds.
33. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	We have a listing of all NOAA radios in facilities they are checked yearly.
34. Improve existing critical facilities by replacing doors and Windows at older facilities.	A Shutter project has been applied for HMPG for Emergency Operation Center & BT.
35. Ensure critical facilities have adequate emergency power resources, including fuel storage.	Generators are installed in critical facilities and checked yearly.
36. Provide hazard training in schools.	Training is completed yearly.
37. Special Need Population Inventory.	
38. Rescue and Evacuation for Special Populations.	Slow process due to limited personal.
39. Workshops and Classes: Teach residents how to prepare homes, family, and property for disasters.	Education to the community is taught at several events at least 8 times during the year through education, media, and press.
40. Public Education and Awareness- Informational Packets: Packets circulated during season of hazard	Media communications.
41. Vegetation Management: Inspect and manage vegetation that could damage critical facilities if felled by Wind.	Need funding/personnel to support.

HAMPTON COUNTY	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
42. Building Code Wind Standards: Adhere to new building standards (ISO 9000 Building Standards as of 2004).	Need funding/personnel to support.
43. Creation of mobile dispatch units to ensure communications are not eliminated due to hazard.	This is an ongoing project. Never complete.
44. Wetland Protection: Preservation through education of public about buffer zones and regulating these through development ordinances.	Comprehensive Plan Update 2026.
45. Posted boards near grocery stores and hardware stores listing what one should have if a hazard struck.	Hurricane Guides are placed in stores in June each year.
46. Publicize events at Local hardware stores that show how to save your property during a hazard.	Completed yearly.
47. Train those in rural areas for how to protect their homes, and what to do during an event.	Training provided yearly.
48. Train people with equipment and supplies for a winter storm.	Training provided by Emergency Management Yearly.
49. Offer a list of city foresters, county extension offices, Local nurseries and landscape firms that can provide advice on tree selection for your area and soil conditions.	
50. Incentive, publicize, or provide fans or other types of cooling elements for popular outdoor areas during times of high heat.	Hampton County has a cooling shelter if needed.
51. Purchase support vehicles to reach rural locations during hazard.	Skid units purchased for rescue.
52. Provide materials for stranded motorists during a hazard.	
53. Assess trees in public areas to see if they are dead, dying, or could cause potential problems if struck by lightning or are fire conducive.	Not Complete.
54. Shelter Development.	After a recent study, County lost shelter space.
55. Special Needs Evacuation Study.	
56. Backup Power Evaluation.	The only back up powers would be generators for Hampton County. Applied for funding for EOC generator in 2022.
57. Evacuation measures for those in need.	One case at a time due to limited personnel in the community.
58. Inspection of communication lines to ensure reliability.	
59. Inspection of utility lines.	Dominion Energy and Palmetto Electric Coop.
60. Improvement of utilities.	
61. Improvements to the Hampton County High School Project by Hampton County	Local match is needed.

TOWN OF ESTILL	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	
3. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities make Improvements.	

TOWN OF FURMAN	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	
3. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities make Improvements.	

TOWN OF GIFFORD	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	
3. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities make Improvements.	

TOWN OF HAMPTON	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	
3. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities make Improvements.	

TOWN OF LURAY	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	
3. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities make Improvements.	

TOWN OF SCOTIA	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	
3. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities make Improvements.	

TOWN OF VARNVILLE	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	
3. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities make Improvements.	

TOWN OF YEMASSEE	
2020 Town of Yemassee Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	
3. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities make Improvements.	

JASPER COUNTY	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
COMPLETED ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Evaluate critical facilities -Inspections, reinforcements, and remodeling so structures physically capable of withstanding hazards.	Emergency Services' building has hurricane shutters on all windows.
2. Evaluate Backup Power to ensure all shelters have adequate emergency power resources.	
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
3. Ensure critical facilities have adequate emergency power resources, including fuel storage.	
4. Conduct a study on the possible usage of transportable generators on a regional basis for critical facilities.	
5. Provide provisions for transportation to get those in need of emergency shelters.	
6. Identify specific at-risk populations that may be exceptionally vulnerable in the event of long-term power outages.	

JASPER COUNTY	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
7. Identify and elevate roads and bridges above the base Flood elevation to maintain dry access in situations where Flood waters tend to wash roads out, construction, reconstruction, or repair can include not only attention to drainage, but also stabilization or armoring of vulnerable shoulders or embankments.	Highway 17 drainage improvements from Hardeeville to Ridgeland.
8. Plan for and maintaining adequate road and debris clearing capabilities.	
9. Encourage farmers to implement soil and water conservation practices that foster soil health and improve soil quality to help increase resiliency and mitigate the impacts of droughts.	
10. Acquire software enabling social media calls to be integrated into the 911 Dispatch systems.	
11. Identify and analyze renewable energy options: costs, benefits, environmental effects, technological potential, and political acceptability.	Funding will need to identify an engineering firm to assess the conditions of community buildings and determine the need for replacement status. Identify a plan for renovation or replacement and then capital outlay to accomplish recommendations of engineering study.
12. Conduct an inventory and map current community facilities, including telecommunications; assess the condition of facilities for determining if repair or replacement is required. Identify current community facilities deficiencies and future needs.	BJWSA new water purification plant.
13. Utilize social media and post information listing what one should have if hazards strike. Post same information in public spaces, including home improvement stores.	
14. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	
15. Identify and protect wetlands that serve as flood storage areas.	
16. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods or watersheds with high vulnerabilities. Make improvements.	
17. Install generator at Jasper County Senior Center – cooling center – Ridgeland.	
18. Do an assessment and cost benefit analysis to make improvements to the County Airport. Make improvements where needed.	
19. Update aerial imaging and mapping of county.	As funds are available.
20. Vegetation Management: Inspect and manage vegetation that could damage critical facilities if felled by Wind.	Working with Public Works.
21. Provide Education and public outreach regarding any or all potential natural hazards.	
22. Continue to circulate Informational Packets during season of hazard.	Giving out pamphlets during hazard seasons.

JASPER COUNTY	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
23. Provide EM Response Training for employees and emergency workers for specific natural hazard events.	Continued annual trainings.
24. Provide hazard training in schools.	The 2021 IBC/IFC is released and waiting on state adoption.
25. Continue educating residents how to prepare homes, family, and property for disasters –Workshops and Classes.	
26. Building Code: Oversee strict adherence to new building standards by closely monitoring all new renovations and construction.	
27. Building Code Wind Standards: Adhere to new building standards (ISO 9000 Building Standards as of this plan).	The County will automatically adopt the latest version following the State's adoption.
28. Update Floodplain maps.	
29. Inspect communication lines to ensure reliability.	
30. Improve old or worn communication lines.	
31. Inspect lines to ensure lines clear of limbs or other obstructions that may damage them during Windstorms or other natural hazards.	Major limb clearing was done in 2025 and 2026.
32. Inspect utility lines.	
33. Improve utilities.	

CITY OF HARDEEVILLE	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	City continues to provide educational services for City residents, especially with fire, flooding, and hurricane disasters.
2. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities. Make improvements.	City has developed a Stormwater Masterplan and continues to implement improvements.
3. Survey trees cover to ensure decreased vulnerability. Make improvements.	City is conducting tree surveys as it relates to new city projects
4. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	
5. Ensure all developments within floodplains comply with regulations through continued coordination with FEMA and USACE	Implement improvements suggested in Stormwater Master Plan.
6. Plan regular inspection and maintenance of public stormwater facilities, including SCDOT's roadside ditch system, the City's stormwater pump stations and regional ponds to keep them functioning at optimum capacity and prevent degradation of wetlands	Implement improvements suggested in Stormwater Master Plan.

CITY OF HARDEEVILLE	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
7. Inventory existing stormwater infrastructure within the City including mapping, modeling, identifying current problem areas, and identifying needed improvements	
8. Implement a community-wide warning system for severe weather	City utilizes Nixle and social media to push out disaster information. Research and consider other types of warning systems.
9. Work with City media Department to promote public awareness of disaster preparedness.	
10. Update all City mapping including base images to match City growth	City has established a GIS position to help move this project forward.
11. Implement the City's CRS Program	City is taking preliminary steps to establish the CRS program.

TOWN OF RIDGELAND	
2020 Hazard Mitigation Actions	**NOTES**
ONGOING ACTIONS FROM 2020	
1. Survey tree cover to ensure decreased vulnerability Make improvements.	
2. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	
3. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	
4. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities make Improvements.	

APPENDIX J – 2026 NEW AND ONGOING ACTIONS

The table below represents the general format in which each mitigation action is recorded. Each action should be designed to achieve the goals identified in the Hazard Mitigation Strategy. By identifying specific projects and policies, the local mitigation action plans help participating counties and municipalities to engage in distinct actions that will reduce their exposure to future hazard events and disasters.

- *Mitigation Action*: A specific approach, or project/program that aims to reduce vulnerability and risk in the impact area involving a specific entity, interest, and funding mechanism. Actions should match hazard mitigation goals.
- *Associated Hazard*: Indicate the hazard(s) the action attempts to mitigate.
- *Priority*: Using scoring table to indicate whether the action is a:
    - *High priority*: score greater than 20
    - *Medium priority*: score 10-19
    - *Low priority*: score less than 10
- *Goal*: Indicate the goal(s) relevant to the action(s).
- *Estimated Cost*: If applicable, estimate a dollar amount required to accomplish the mitigation action(s).
- *Potential Funding*: If applicable, indicate sources of funding (i.e. previously established funds or existing operating budgets (internal sources), federal or state grant (external sources).
- *Schedule*: Indicates the status of the action and when the implementation process will begin and be completed.
- *Notes*: Additional information regarding the project, milestones, impediments, etc.
    - This also includes descriptions of other activities reviewed by the jurisdiction (CRS Step 7).

BEAUFORT COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Support ongoing efforts for a regional warehouse for emergency supply shortage.	All Hazards	Med	1	20k	Counties, HMGP	Public Works, EMD	Pending 1-3 yrs.	The state SCEMD supply warehouse is the primary warehouse used to support the counties during an emergency/disaster.
2. Protect the Chelsea Water Treatment Plant from Flood damage.	Windstorm, Hurricane	Low	1	30k	BJWSA, BRIC, HMGP	BJWSA	Initiated 3-5 yrs.	The Green Space program contributed funds to place a conservation easement on 2,442 acres of waterfront property directly north of the Chelsea Water Treatment Plant. The CE will prevent residential and commercial development, protecting miles of waterfront adjacent to the water treatment plant and maintaining natural storm surge and SLR protections. Additional protections may be possible in the future
3. Create survey to ID most vulnerable County facilities, particularly in terms of Wind ratings for roofs, and create a CIP list of these structures.	Windstorm, Flood,	Med	5	6k	County	Planning, Administration	Reoccurring 5-10 yrs.	Will continue to review international building codes to determine what year the current wind ratings for commercial structures took effect. Combined with the date of building construction, this will provide insight on to which buildings may not meet the minimum current requirement.

BEAUFORT COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
4. Determine the vulnerability of backup power for critical facilities. Create a strategy for additional investment in generators and electrical upfits.	All Hazards	Med	1	50k	Counties, BRIC, HMPG	Public Works, EMD	Initiated 1-3 yrs.	Since the last update of the plan, generators were installed at 2 EMS stations, 2 countywide communication radio towers, the county's south fuel station, multiple county admin buildings including the Arthur Horne building and Buckwalter Rec Center (serves as National Guard shelter for deployments), and 11 Disability Services community group homes.
5. Seek funding for Hazard Mitigation projects, provide routine update of hazard plans, exercise other staff on plans, provide training to staff on disaster response and recovery.	All Hazards	High	3, 4	50k	All jurisdictions, HGMP, BRIC	Engineering and Infrastructure	Reoccurring Annually	Beaufort County's Disaster Recovery continues to seek grant funding opportunities and implement grant projects. We train on recovery every Spring.
6. Work to enhance County GIS data with more detailed information on individual structures	All Hazards	High	4	5k	GIS Department	GIS Department	Reoccurring Annually	Parcels change and update quarterly.

BEAUFORT COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
7. Assist private home and business owners to obtain funding for retrofitting hazard prone buildings.	All Hazards	Med	3	N/A	Municipalities, SCEMD, BRIC	Planning	Reoccurring 1-3 yrs.	Multiple grants awarded and continue to seeks grants for eligible properties. Beaufort County currently has a project it is pursuing to assist a homeowner in elevating their home. One structure on Big Oak St was mitigated and removed from FEMA's Repetitive Loss list. The original structure was removed and rebuilt, project completion was 2023. Additionally another structure on Thomas Lawton Dr received a grant to rebuild and was removed from FEMAs repetitive loss list
8. Should place protective measures on all administrative buildings to ensure administrative functions can continue.	Thunderstorm, Hurricane, Tornado	High	1	5k	BRIC, HMGP, County and All Municipalities	Public Works, Engineering	Initiated 3-5 yrs.	
9. Conduct engineering inspections of all fire district stations to determine mitigation retrofitting measures as necessary.	All Hazards	Med	1	20k	County, BRIC, HMGP	Engineering, Fire, Facilities (Capital Improvements)	Pending 3-5 yrs.	

BEAUFORT COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
10. Study vulnerable bridges to determine which ones should be hardened.	Hurricane, Windstorm, Earthquake	Med	1	5k	SCDOT, BRIC, HMGP, County, Municipalities, Federal Highways	SCDOT, Engineering	Reoccurring 3-5 yrs.	The majority of bridges in Beaufort County serving as critical evacuation and re-entry routes are state-owned and maintained by SCDOT. Beaufort County will continue to coordinate with SCDOT, LCOG, and the LATS MPO to support identification of vulnerable bridges and advocate for hardening of priority structures.
11. Provide maintenance and replacement of critical bridges.	Hurricane, Windstorm, Earthquake	Med	1	5 mil.	SCDOT, BRIC, HMGP, County, Municipalities, Federal Highways	SCDOT	Reoccurring 1-3 yrs.	US 278 Eastbound Bridge Replacement will replace the Mackay Creek and Skull Creek bridges on the Hilton Head Island access route. Estimated cost is approximately $466.8 million for the corridor project, with partners including SCDOT, Beaufort County, and the Town of Hilton Head Island, and the route carries about 28,700 vehicles per day (estimated average traffic over Mackay Creek).
12. Continue replacement of lift station control panels with waterproof NEMA devices.	Flood	High	1, 3	5k	BRIC, HMGP	BJWSA	Pending 3-5 yrs.	At this time **property protection** is being considered if funding is available to raise current lift stations above BFE.

BEAUFORT COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
13. Distribute "Citizen's Guide to Flood Awareness" brochure regularly.	Hurricane	High	2	5k	All Jurisdiction, BRIC, HMGP	Building Codes	Reoccurring Annually	Flood brochures were updated in 2024. Continue to be distributed annually. Each year, a flood-information brochure is distributed to residents identified as vulnerable to flood hazards. This brochure is provided and sent by the Beaufort County Building Codes department.
14. Work with regional media to promote public awareness of disaster preparedness.	All Hazards	High	2	2k	County, All Municipalities	Building Codes/Emergency Preparedness	Reoccurring Annually	Both BCSO EMD and BC PIO push our public awareness throughout the year using the county's BCTV channel and media interviews
15. Enhance programs dealing with drought, educating the public about proper water usage and appropriate behavior during drought conditions (to include distribution of drought education materials).	Drought	Med	2	3k	All Jurisdiction, BRIC, HMGP	Planning, BJWSA, Soil and Water District	Reoccurring Annually	Beaufort Conservation District conducts programming educating on water quality and wise use of water (water reduction) for various ages, but particularly children.

BEAUFORT COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
16. Ensure all fire marshals burn bans are strictly enforced, especially during drought conditions.	Drought	High	3	10k	All jurisdictions	Fire	Reoccurring Annually	During declared burn bans, fire districts respond to reported outdoor fires, conduct routine patrols to identify unauthorized burning, extinguish active burns, and document incidents, while law enforcement may conduct follow-up actions, including investigation and issuance of citations as warranted. Coordination between agencies supports consistent application of state-issued restrictions during drought and elevated wildfire risk conditions.
17. Continue to support education programs to inform the community about the danger of land fires and resources on how to prevent them.	Wildfire (Land Fire)	Med	2	5k	All Jurisdictions, BRIC, HMGP, SCDNR	EMD, Fire	Reoccurring Annually	One goal is to educate residents on obeying burn bans during drought conditions to reduce land fire risks
18. Work to enhance education programs for historic properties.	Flood, Earthquake	Med	2, 5	2k	SHPO, All Jurisdictions	Planning	Reoccurring Annually	Through relationships with Beaufort Historic Preservation District public information regarding the importance of historic structures to our region continue to take place. **Property protection** through encouragement of flood insurance is currently being considered.
19. Append this to all comprehensive plans as they are updated, or at earliest date available.	All Hazards	High	2, 3	N/A	All Jurisdictions	Planning	Pending 1-3 yrs.	The County planning department will work towards appending the HMP to the next comprehensive plan update.

BEAUFORT COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
20. Continue enforcing seismic program & regulations in building codes.	Earthquake	High	3	N/A	All Jurisdictions	Building Codes	Reoccurring Annually	All newly constructed structures, as well as those that are substantially damaged or significantly improved within the Special Flood Hazard Area, are required to comply with the applicable adopted building codes.
21. Continue to support Beaufort County's SWM Utility/Plan for future SWM projects.	Flood	High	3, 5	N/A	BJWSA, All Jurisdictions	Public Works, Planning, Building	Reoccurring Continuously	SWM requirements reviewed and inspected on new construction. All building permits must meet the requirements of the most current Beaufort County Stormwater Manual before a Certificate of Occupancy can be issued. No other action items have been considered at this time.
22. Undertake a program to study poorly drained areas and remedy them through best practices.	Flood	Med	2, 3, 5	60k	All Jurisdictions (except HHI), HGMP, BRIC, CDBG	Public Works, Engineering	Initiated 3-5 yrs.	BC has had 3 drainage studies, plus the repetitive loss analysis, St. Helena Watershed Study (July 2022) Northern Lady's Island Drainage Study (May 2024) Alljoy Drainage Study (currently underway) . Prior to receiving funding to place **preventative measures** in place of property protection a study was required. Currently the studies are being used as public information.
23. Continue education program for the agricultural sector that promote sustainable practices (BMPS) and hazard resilience (particularly during drought).	Drought	Med	2, 3	3k	All Jurisdictions	Planning, Soil and Water District	Reoccurring Annually	Beaufort Conservation District promotes the use of drip irrigation over spray irrigation within the agricultural sector to reduce water loss and waste.

BEAUFORT COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
24. Conduct periodic surveys of the equipment used by emergency personnel and write the appropriations into their budget.	All Hazards	Med	4	N/A	All Jurisdictions	Building, Engineering, Public Works	Reoccurring Annually	Each jurisdiction is responsible for maintaining its equipment and budgeting for replacements at the end of its serviceable life.
25. Enhance radio technology for all building officials for hazard preparation.	All Hazards	Med	4	10k	All Jurisdictions, BRIC, HGMP	Emergency Management, Police, Fire, Building Codes	Pending 1-3 Yrs.	The county has started a program to upgrade its portable radios to modern equipment that is under service/maintenance agreements with the county's radio equipment vendor.
26. Continue to work with SCDNR to update maps based on newer/more accurate topography data.	Flood	High	2, 4	Unknown	County, SCDNR, BRIC, HGMP	SCDNR, Planning, Building	Reoccurring 1-3 Yrs.	Provided updated and additional mapping information in 2021. SCDNR's NFIP mapping specialists have developed a mapping system that closely aligns with FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). The DNR maps clearly identify all Coastal A high-hazard areas, including the Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA). The system also incorporates local watershed information and provides an impact map with real-time data to support planning and risk awareness. No other action items have been considered at this time.

BEAUFORT COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
27. Continue to enforce Floodplain regulations to ensure proper development in compliance with all building codes, FEMA regulations and any other pertinent ordinances.	Flood	High	3, 5	N/A	All Jurisdictions	Building	Reoccurring Annually	Currently enforcing South Carolina Residential Code and South Carolina Building Code. New construction and Substantially damaged or substantially improved construction must meet the FEMA NFIP requirements as well as the 2021 building codes. This includes structures that are subject to coastal high hazards (LiMWA). **Public information** has been considered to increase the knowledge regarding the need to protect properties from damage through structure elevation.
28. Conduct SCDNR approved classes for Floodplain management by Building Codes Department.	Flood	Med	2, 3, 4	No Cost	Beaufort County with All Jurisdictions Participating	Building	Reoccurring Annually	Will continue to work with DNR to provide classes. No other action items have been considered at this time.
29. Sponsor and conduct workshops for local engineers, architects and contractors on IBC and hazard resistant construction.	All Hazards	High	2	10k	All Jurisdictions, BRIC, HGMP	Building	Pending 1-3 Yrs.	
30. Actively advocate to public officials the adoption of the latest version of universally accepted building codes without amendments.	All Hazards	High	3	20k	All Jurisdictions	Planning, Building	Reoccurring 3-5 Yrs.	Occurs through engagement in state building code adoption cycles, where County officials and stakeholders advocate to the Building Codes Council and policymakers for adoption of the most current codes without weakening amendments.

BEAUFORT COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
31. Explore the service of special needs and other vulnerable populations for evacuation and sheltering.	All Hazards	Med	4, 3	5k	County, BRIC, HMGP	EMD, EMS, Community	Reoccurring Annually	Regional transportation provider Palmetto Breeze maintains a vulnerable population database of residents who may need assistance in evacuation. Red Cross shelters are housed in schools that are ADA compliant.
32. Support ongoing efforts educate the public on the threat of Sea Level Rise and associated hazards, exploring best practices for adaptation.	Flood	High	2, 3, 6	N/A	County	Planning, Engineering, SC Sea Grant, LCOG	Reoccurring Annually	Beaufort County has adopted a comprehensive long-term resilience strategy and is in the process of establishing a regional resilience collaborative to identify, evaluate, and advance best practices for climate adaptation. **Public information** regarding the risk of sea level rise has also been considered, however, natural resource protection was chosen to provide a more strategic and enforceable outcome.
33. Continue to develop the use of social media/smart phone technology to inform citizens of hazard threats.	All Hazards	High	2, 3	5k	County	EMD, IT, EMS	Reoccurring Annually	BCSO EMD uses social media and a text/email alert system to keep the public informed of hazard threats including the Nixle program and IPAWS.

BEAUFORT COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
34. Maintain or improve the County's CRS rating.	Flood	Med	3, 5	N/A	All Jurisdictions	Planning, Building	Reoccurring Annually	Beaufort County Unincorporated currently holds a Class 5 CRS rating. We are actively working to maintain this standing and to implement all requirements outlined by the CRS program to better serve our community. As staffing levels and budget resources allow, we will continue pursuing opportunities for further improvement.
35. Work to enhance public education programs for historic property, including a pamphlet for distribution to the public.	Flood, Earthquake	Med	2, 5	2k	SHPO, City	Planning	Pending 1-3 Yrs.	
36. Continue tree surveys and enhance efforts to ensure the health of Beaufort's urban forest.	Flood, Windstorm	Med	3, 5, 6	20k	All jurisdictions, BRIC, HMGP, SC Forestry Commission	Planning	Reoccurring Continuously	Beaufort County currently enforces strict tree protection requirements for new single family and commercial construction. This is used to help protect the natural functions of the floodplain, erosion control, and natural area preservation. **Preventive measures** were also considered to aid with erosion control through increased river buffers.
37. Continue to develop to the National Standard for hazard planning and preparedness according to the THIRA framework.	All Hazards	High	3	N/A	City, BRIC	EMD	Reoccurring 1-3 Yrs.	

BEAUFORT COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
38. Continue and enhance outreach efforts to local businesses, particularly hotels and assisted living facilities, to strengthen disaster preparedness.	All Hazards	High	2	N/A	All jurisdictions, COC	EMD, EMS	Reoccurring Annually	Beaufort County's Disaster Recovery Department is in regular communication with business partners and the chambers of commerce to make sure lines of communication are open for recovery efforts.. BCSO EMD provides outreach preparedness throughout the year. Assisted Living facilities are mandated to share their emergency plans with EMD.
39. Formalize and streamline disaster response procedures. Coordinate planning and communication related to disaster preparedness.	All Hazards	High	3	N/A	All jurisdictions	All Departments	Reoccurring Annually	The Beaufort County Emergency Operations Division's Emergency Operations Plan is updated every year. They incorporate lessons learned into new plan updates.
40. Continue to deploy various Hazard warnings and threat recognition through a series of multi media platforms to include television, radio and social media.	Flood		4	N/A	County	EMD	Reoccurring Annually	During storm events Beaufort County Emergency Management Department and Beaufort County Sherrif's office deploy various Hazard warnings and threat recognition through a series of multi media platforms to include television, radio and social media. **Public information** is also considered within this action to provide education regarding the effects of flood related disasters.

BEAUFORT COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
41. Implement prioritized drainage infrastructure improvements to reduce localized flood risk and enhance stormwater system capacity.	Flood	High	1, 6	N/A	All jurisdictions	Public works	Initiated 3-5 Yrs.	Public Works Department seeks to improve storm drainage and improve local compliance. Through a series of studies to determine the most vulnerable areas subject to storm water inundation the public works department seeks to improve storm drainage. This has been achieved by increasing many storm retention and detention areas capacity as well as enforcing more strict compliance with individual property maintenance. **Preventative measures** have also been considered to encourage a proactive approach to storm water maintenance rather than solely a reactive approach.
42. Implement solutions to vulnerable roadways identified in the Beaufort County Roadway Vulnerability Assessment. Prioritize evacuation routes and islands/communities served by a single causeway.	Hurricane	Med	1, 4	N/A	All jurisdictions, SCDOT	Public Works, Engineering, SCDOT	Pending 3-5 Yrs.	

BEAUFORT COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
43. Evaluate existing County-owned facilities and identify opportunities to upgrade, retrofit, or construct new critical infrastructure buildings that consolidate disaster response and recovery operations and increase survivability of personnel and essential equipment during and immediately following a disaster event.	Hurricane, Windstorm, Earthquake	Med	1	$5,000,000 to $30,000,000	County, BRIC, HMGP	Planning, Administration, Public Works, Facilities (Capital Improvements)	Pending 3-5 yrs.	Beaufort County Public Works is in the planning process to replace its 48-year-old building with a new facility that will consolidate operations and improve survivability by being built to modern building codes.

CITY OF BEAUFORT								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Explore a partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers for a mitigation study grant, or a CAP feasibly in response to resiliency towards sea level rise.	Flood	High	3, 5	Unknown	WRDA Bills	Planning, EMD	Pending 2-4 years	A partnership has yet to be established with the Army Corps and funding has not been available. A structural flood proofing project was considered along with a sea-level rise outreach project. This project covers goals: Property Protection, Prevention, Natural and Beneficial Functions.
2. Assist private home and business owners to obtain funding for retrofitting or acquiring hazard prone buildings.	All Hazards	Med	3, 5	N/A	City, SCEMD, PDM	Planning	Initiated annually	No request for assistance with retrofitting has been received.

CITY OF BEAUFORT								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
3. Consider the amendment of the City ordinance to allow for the temporary use of RV's and trailers for accommodation post-disaster.	All Hazards	High	3	N/A	City	Planning	Initiated as needed	The use of an RV was a temporary housing was approved by the City Manager and City Council during Hurricane Mathew. This was a temporary measure and only for hurricane damaged properties. During Hurricane Mathew, the city manager and council allowed the use of RV's as temporary housing while the residence was being repaired from storm damage. This was a temporary measure and only for hurricane damaged properties.
4. Update GPS systems available for emergency personnel.	All Hazards	Med	4	50k	PDM, HGMP, All Jurisdictions	Fire, Building	Initiated quarterly	911 Dispatch has the capabilities to locate personnel and vehicles using GPS. This equipment is updated as technology updates. 911 Dispatch has the capabilities to locate personnel and vehicles using GPS. This equipment is updated as technology updates.

CITY OF BEAUFORT								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
5. Distribute "Citizen's Guide to Flood Awareness" brochure regularly to the SFHA, Repetitive Loss Area and to Real Estate, Insurance and Banks	Hurricane, Flood	High	2	10k	City	Planning	Reoccurring annually	Completed annually each year. Speaking at Neighborhood Association meetings about the topics on our flood brochure was accomplished annually and will continue in the future. Our flood brochure is provided at specific locations. This project. covers public education and awareness, prevention, emergency services, and natural and beneficial functions. Speaking at Neighborhood Association meetings about the topics on our flood brochure was accomplished annually and will continue in the future. Our flood brochure is provided at specific locations. This project. covers public education and awareness, prevention, emergency services, and natural and beneficial functions.
6. Work with regional media to promote public awareness of disaster preparedness.	All Hazards	High	2	2k	County, All Municipalities	Planning, EMD	Reoccurring annually	This project is implemented when a storm is approaching.
7. Work to enhance public education programs for historic property, including a pamphlet for distribution to the public.	Flood, Earthquake	Med	2	2k	SHPO, City	Planning	Reoccurring annually	A flyer has been prepared that has general historic district information and will be updated as needed. The flyer informs the reader of the review process for making alterations to a historic property.

CITY OF BEAUFORT								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
8. Continue to support education programs to inform the community about the danger of land fires and resources on how to prevent them.	Wildfire (Land Fire)	Med	2	5k	All Jurisdiction, PDM, HMGP, SCDNR, SC Forestry Commission	Soil and Water District, Planning, SC Forestry Commission, USDA Forest Service	Initiated 1-6 months	Beaufort County has a higher risk to wildfire than 83% of the counties in the US according to the Forest Service at https://apps.wildfirerisk.org/explore/overview/45/45013/. The City of Beaufort requires a burn permit. For someone to burn yard debris. A permit is obtained from the Fire Department. The permit allows debris to be burnt on certain days. The burn period is the 1st week of the months of March, April, November, and December. The applicant must call the fire department to see if burning is allowed that day. The approval to burn may be revoked if the South Carolina Forest Service determines the fire risk is to high to allow debris burning.
9. Continue tree surveys and enhance efforts to ensure the health of Beaufort's urban forest.	Flood, Windstorm	Med	3, 5	20k	City, PDM, HMGP, SC Forestry Commission	Planning	Initiated Daily activity	A tree removal permit is required for the removal of landmark & specimen trees. A certified arborist is required to verify the risk and health of the tree being removed. Submitting a Tree survey for review along with the development permit application, allows for the review of trees being removed for development. The removal of landmark trees could require mitigation.

CITY OF BEAUFORT								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
10. Continue enforcing seismic program & regulations in building codes.	Earthquake	High	3	N/A	All Jurisdictions	Building	Initiated Daily activity	Projects in the City of Beaufort are reviewed and inspected for compliance for seismic requirements. We verify the project is in a seismic zone on the building plans and through the ATC Hazard, and ASCE websites. The South Carolina Building Code Council has provided a map to indicate the seismic and wind speed map. This is a supplement to ATC Hazard and ASCE.
11. All communities to continue to support Beaufort County's SWM Utility/Plan for future SWM project.	Flood	High	3, 5	N/A	BJWSA, All Jurisdictions	Public Works, BJWSA, Planning	Reoccurring annually	The City of Beaufort continues to support improvements to the storm water drainage system with fees collected during the building permit process. Fees collected for storm water maintenance and repairs are spent on projects within the city. The projects are based on a positive cost-benefit ratio in favor to the community.
12. Conduct periodic surveys of the equipment used by emergency personnel and write the appropriations into their budget.	All Hazards	Med	4	N/A	All Jurisdictions	Building	Reoccurring annually	The City of Beaufort's budgetary process provides the necessary funding for the equipment noted by the fire service personnel. Funding is provided, by the City's budget, for the required fire service equipment.
13. Continue to work with SCDNR, USACE, and FEMA to update maps based on newer/more accurate topography data.	Flood	High	4	Unknown	County, SCDNR, PDM, HGMP	SCDNR, FEMA, Planning Building	Reoccurring 1-5 years	The current effective FIRM is 3/23/2021. Other actions considered was to incorporate any new Lidar/topographic data into the city's GIS system. This project supports goals of Public Education and Prevention.

CITY OF BEAUFORT								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
15. Continue to enforce Floodplain regulations to ensure proper development in compliance with all building codes, FEMA regulations and any other pertinent ordinances.	Flood	High	3	N/A	City	Building	Initiated Daily activity	The City of Beaufort has taken a higher regulatory standard by requiring a higher minimum flood elevation. The higher standard was effective as of 3/23/2021. The City of Beaufort has taken a higher regulatory standard for properties in all areas of special flood hazard (A, AE, Ah, A0, A1-30, V and VE) and other areas with the potential of flooding (such as X and shaded X zones) where base flood elevation data has been provided as set forth in section 5-4004 pr 5-4023 of the City of Beaufort's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. The minimum finished floor elevation is 13' or BFE + 1 foot of free board, which ever is more stringent.
16. Train Building Officials on most up to date code requirements for hazard resistant construction.	All Hazards	High	3, 4	5k	All Jurisdictions, PDM, HGMP	Building	Reoccurring annually	The Building department staff, including the Building Official, attends all state building code trainings events. These training events cover flooding, high winds, and earthquakes. Building Officials are required by state law to obtain the minimum (12 CEU's per year) CEU's to maintain their Building Official license. These training events cover flooding, high winds, and earthquakes.

CITY OF BEAUFORT								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
17. Sponsor and conduct workshops for local engineers, architects and contractors on IBC and hazard resistant construction.	All Hazards	High	3, 5	10k	City	Building	Initiated annually	Building official attends all state building code trainings. The building code staff regularly attend free training events that are hosted on sites such as the American Wood Council, and Flood Proofing .com. We encourage the local Architects, Engineers, and Contractors to attend these training events.
18. Actively advocate to public officials the adoption of the latest version of universally accepted building codes without amendments.	All Hazards	High	4	20k	All Jurisdictions	Building, Planning	Reoccurring 1-4 years	The Building Officials along with Contractors through out the state are active in the Building Code amendment process that ultimately become state law. The Building Officials through out the state are actively involved in the building code and its amendments adoption process which is eventually voted into law by the State Legislature.
19. Enforce property maintenance code to correct deteriorating conditions.	All Hazards	Med	4	N/A	City	Building	Reoccurring Daily activity	Code cases arise during the patrol of the area or by active citizen reports/call-ins to the City. When problems arise the Code Enforcement official takes action according to the ordinance requirements to remedy the issue. The City of Beaufort Code Enforcement official patrol the City enforcing the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code. This may require only a phone call to let the owner/tenant know of the violation but it may require issuing a citation followed by legal action to insure corrective actions are being taken.

CITY OF BEAUFORT								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
20. Maintain or improve the City's CRS rating.	Flood	Med	3, 5	N/A	All Jurisdictions	Planning, Building	Reoccurring annually	Th city has been part of the CRS program for several years and these actions are implemented everyday and this should not be a mitigation project. The City of Beaufort's staff includes CRS participation in its daily duties. From plan reviews of a new project to reviewing a recently submitted Flood Elevation Certificate to encouraging a developer to find a least environmentally sensitive location for its development, are only some of our day to day duties to support the CRS program. We are always looking for a new program or a new way to better educate the general public about the CRS program.
21. Continue to develop the use of social media/smart phone technology to inform citizens of Hazard threats.	All Hazards	High	2, 4	5k	All Jurisdictions	EMD, EMS	Initiated annually	The City of Beaufort uses the following social media outlets to push information to the general public. NIXLE, Everbridge, Facebook, Instagram, Constant Contact, Next door.
22. Continue to develop to the National Standard for hazard planning and preparedness according to the THIRA framework.	All Hazards	High	3	N/A	City, PDM	EMD	Initiated biannually	This is an ongoing and evolving process.

CITY OF BEAUFORT								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
23. Continue and enhance outreach efforts to local businesses, particularly hotels and assisted living facilities, to strengthen disaster preparedness.	All Hazards	High	2	N/A	City, COC	EMD	Initiated annually	We use all types of social media to get out the local storm forecast to the visitors. These maybe in a hotel, short-term rental, or even in an assisted living facility. During the height of storm season, we increase the amount of media informercials to make sure everyone is aware of the evacuation routes, storm status, and how to prepare to evacuate that become necessary.
24. Formalize and streamline disaster response procedures across City departments. Coordinate planning and communication related to disaster preparedness.	All Hazards	High	3	N/A	City	All Departments	Reoccurring annually	This is an ongoing and evolving process
25. Support ongoing efforts to educate the public on the threat of Sea Level Rise and associated hazards, exploring best practices for adaptation to this threat.	Flood	High	2, 3	N/A	All Jurisdictions	Planning, Building, LCOG	Reoccurring biannually	Unique ways of educating the public is critical with potential for managed retreat. Beaufort considered the impacts of coastal erosion as a public information project. This project supports the goals of Public Education, Prevention and Natural and Beneficial functions.

TOWN OF BLUFFTON								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Update all Flood maps with new municipal and county boundaries.	Flood	Med	4	N/A	All Jurisdictions	SCDNR, FEMA, Planning, Building Safety, Watershed	Reoccurring Annually	
2. Protective measures should be placed on all administrative buildings to ensure administrative functions can continue.	Windstorm, Hurricane, Tornado	High	1	50k	PDM, HMGP, County and All Municipalities	Public Services, CIP	Initiated 3-5 years	
3. Conduct engineering inspections of county fire stations to determine mitigation retrofitting measures necessary.	All Hazards	Med	1	20k	County, PDM, HMGP	Building Safety, Fire District	Pending 4-6 years	Funding.
4. Study vulnerable bridges to determine which ones should be hardened.	Hurricane, Windstorm	Med	1	Unknown	SCDOT, PDM, HMGP, County, Municipalities, Federal Highways	SCDOT, Public Services, Planning, CIP	Reoccurring 5-10 years	All under SCDOT/BC ownership.
5. Provide maintenance and replacement of critical bridges.	Hurricane, Windstorm, Earthquake	Med	1	5 mil.	SCDOT, PDM, HMGP, County, Municipalities, Federal Highways	SCDOT, Public Services, Planning, CIP	Reoccurring As needed	All bridges under SCDOT ownership.
6. Distribute SC Hurricane Guide "Know Your Zone" brochure regularly.	Hurricane	High	2	5k	All Jurisdiction, PDM, HMGP	EMD	Reoccurring Annually	
7. Work with Regional media to promote public awareness of disaster preparedness.	All Hazards	High	2	2k	County, All Municipalities	EMD	Reoccurring Annually	
8. Continue to support education programs to inform the community about the danger of land fires and resources on how to prevent them.	Wildfire (Land Fire)	Med	2	5k	All Jurisdiction, PDM, HMGP, SCDNR	Soil and Water District, Fire District, Planning	Reoccurring Annually	

TOWN OF BLUFFTON								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
9. Continue tree survey for vulnerable trees to reenforce them against hazards (Wind, Flood). Continue to update the Town's tree canopy GIS layer.	Flood, Windstorm	Med	3, 5	20k	All Jurisdictions, PDM, HMGP, SC Forestry Commission	Planning, GIS	Initiated 2 years	Inventory of trees on Town-owned properties is complete; on-going Town-wide tree canopy mapping.
10. Work to expedite re-build of historic structures post disaster.	All Hazards	Low	3	5k	All Jurisdictions, HMGP	Building Safety, Planning	Reoccurring As needed	
11. Continue enforcing seismic program &regulations in building codes.	Earthquake	High	3	N/A	All Jurisdictions	Building Safety	Reoccurring As needed	
12. All communities to continue to support Beaufort County's SWM Utility/Plan for future SWM project.	Flood	High	3, 5	N/A	BJWSA, All Jurisdictions	Public Services, BJWSA, Planning	Initiated As needed	Coordination with County and BJWSA.
14. Make updated GPS systems available for emergency personnel.	All Hazards	Med	4	50k	PDM, HGMP, All Jurisdictions	EMD, Building Safety	Reoccurring As needed	
15. Conduct periodic surveys of the equipment used by emergency personnel and write the appropriations into their budget.	All Hazards	Med	4	N/A	All Jurisdictions	EMD	Reoccurring Annually	
16. Enhance radio technology for all building officials for hazard preparation.	All Hazards	Med	4	10k	All Jurisdictions, PDM, HGMP	Building Safety, EMD	Reoccurring As needed	
17. Town will continue to work with SCDNR to update maps based on newer/more accurate topography data.	Flood	High	4	Unknown	County, SCDNR, PDM, HGMP	SCDNR, FEMA, Planning, Building	Reoccurring As needed	
18. Continue to enforce Floodplain regulations to ensure proper development in compliance with all building codes, FEMA regulations and any other pertinent ordinances.	Flood	High	3	N/A	All Jurisdictions	Building Safety	Initiated As needed	

TOWN OF BLUFFTON								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
19. Train Building Officials on most up to date code requirements for hazard resistant construction.	All Hazards	High	3, 4	5k	All Jurisdictions, PDM, HGMP	Building Safety	Reoccurring Annually	
20. Actively advocate to public officials the adoption of the latest version of universally accepted building codes without amendments.	All Hazards	High	3	20k	All Jurisdictions	Building Safety, Planning	Reoccurring As needed	
21. Explore the service of special needs and other vulnerable populations for evacuation and sheltering.	All Hazards	Med	4, 3	N/A	All Jurisdictions, PDM	Planning, EMD, EMS	Initiated Annually	
22. Support ongoing efforts educate the public on the threat of Sea Level Rise and associated hazards, exploring best practices for adaptation to this threat.	Flood	High	2, 3	N/A	All Jurisdictions	Planning, Building Safety, LCOG, Watershed	Initiated Annually	
23. Continue to develop the use of social media/smart phone technology to inform citizens of Hazard threats.	All Hazards	High	2, 3	5k	All Jurisdictions	EMD, EMS	Initiated As needed	Everbridge/Nixle Alerts.
24. Append this to all comprehensive plans as they are updated, or at earliest date available.	All Hazards	High	2, 3	N/A	All Jurisdictions	Planning	Initiated As needed	Intention is for Resilience Plan to be adopted as appendix to Comp. Plan.
26. Develop a Town Resilience Plan aimed at identifying vulnerabilities and risks, reducing exposure, and building adaptive capacity.	All Hazards	High	3, 5, 6	300-400k	All Jurisdictions	Watershed	Initiated 2028	`

TOWN OF BLUFFTON								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
27. Continue to conduct comprehensive drainage assessments by sub watershed that include the Resilience Condition Modeling and Asset Owner Reporting	Flood	High	2, 5	5-10M	BRIC, All Jurisdictions	Watershed	Initiated 2030	
28. Implementation of maintenance/retrofit projects resulting from comprehensive drainage assessments	Flood	Med	1	Unknown	All Jurisdictions	Planning, Watershed, CIP	Reoccurring As needed	Working with regional entities to include asset maintenance in annual budgets.
29. Establish and enforce a wetland protection ordinance, including comprehensive mapping to accurately identify and protect wetlands.	Flood	High	3, 6	10-30k	All Jurisdictions	Watershed, Planning	Initiated 2026	

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Design or retrofit critical facilities vulnerable to wind damage and/or flooding.	All Hazards	High	1	5k	Public Projects & Facilities	Public Projects & Facilities	Reoccurring Annually	FR HQ has been relocated into a new hardened facility. The only remaining town structures that are not retrofitted are Town Hall, Fleet Maintenance (old FR HQ) and the Maintenance Facility. Based on age and construction costs. Town Hall may not be candidate for retrofitting. On April 30, 2025, the

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
								Town submitted an HMGP grant under DR4835 Tropical Storm Debby for a generator upgrade at the Fleet Maintenance and Training Center. This grant is still under review by both SC EMD and FEMA.
2. Provide educational outreach to residents to increase awareness of vulnerability to multiple hazards and preventative actions that can be taken with a focus on hurricane preparedness and flood awareness.	All Hazards	High	2,4, 5	2k	Community Development, Emergency Management	Community Development, Emergency Management	Reoccurring Annually	The Emergency Manager and Floodplain Administrator conduct interviews with local media (WHHI) hurricane preparedness and flood awareness. Annual Coordination meetings include presentations from the Emergency Manager and Floodplain Administrator to promote hurricane preparedness and flood awareness.
3. Distribute “Flood Awareness Guide” brochure and the "Guide to Emergency Preparedness," regularly.	Hurricane,	High	2, 4	10k	Community Development, Emergency Management	Community Development, Emergency Management	Reoccurring Annually	The "Flood Awareness Guide Are you flood ready?” is mailed to each household within Town limits on an annual basis. Also, the postcard is distributed at flood hazard public presentations and provided to local area Realtors for distribution to new homeowners on the island. Approximately 25,000 were distributed in 2025. This project is a

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	Hazard	Priority	Goal	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding	Responsible Department	Schedule	Notes
								targeted outreach identified in the Town's Program for Public Information and was chosen as a low-cost way to reach all residents of the Island. Distribution of this information has been a annual outreach project credited for CRS since 2000. Emergency Management staff continues to engage the public through multiple presentations throughout the year. Emergency Management provides information to the public through distribution of preparedness guides and presentations. We completed 20 preparedness presentations in 2025 with 900 people attending those presentations. Additionally, we provided 2,000 English Preparedness Guides. The guides are posted to the Town's website and were viewed 5,672 times in English and 1,325 times in Spanish. The guides were downloaded 1,903 times in English and 426 times in

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
								Spanish from the Town's website.
4. Design or retrofit stormwater management system throughout the Town to minimize flooding after heavy storms while also addressing water quality objectives.	Flood	High	1, 5	100k	FEMA, Stormwater Utility, Public Projects	Engineering	Reoccurring As-Needed	• Central Island Pump Station Overhaul and Resiliency Improvements - Overhaul including 2 new pumps, new controls, debris screens, new genset, new conduit, new SCADA monitoring system, and new control building. • Palmetto Hall Outfall Improvements - Water Level monitoring efforts underway to calibrate dynamic hydraulic models and design of Palmetto Hall outfall improvements. Addition of hydraulic capacity at the system outfall and addition of backflow prevention devices. • Sea Pines Flood Control Gates - Replacement of several flood control gates in Sea Pines • 25 Moonshell Road - Permitting & installation of pipes, inlet structures, and control structures to improve efficiency and reduce long-term maintenance costs along the existing Folly Field ditch between Starfish Drive and the Island Club including making

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	Hazard	Priority	Goal	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding	Responsible Department	Schedule	Notes
								improvements to the outfall connection to the Port Royal main channel (under Folly Field Road and Wimbledon Court). • 75 Helmsman Way Drainage Improvements - Replace existing pipes and replace with larger pipes at a higher elevation with backflow prevention devices to correct identified deficiencies (resilience project). • Bryant Road Pond Restoration - New pipe interconnection on property recently acquired by the Town to address drainage system deficiencies. • Cordillo Courts Drainage Improvements - Installation of new drainage infrastructure including pipe, inlets and expansion of an existing detention basin. • Gum Tree Road Improvements - Improvements to address various deficiencies along Gum Tree Road between Katie Miller Drive and Georgianna Drive, including regrading of ditches, installation of new inlets, new pipe and

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	Hazard	Priority	Goal	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding	Responsible Department	Schedule	Notes
								repairs along the outfall system. • 20 Gum Tree Road Improvements - Improvements to address pathway deficiency along Gum Tree Road, including regrading of ditches, installation of new inlets, new pipe and repairs along the outfall system. • 63 Old Wild Horse Road Improvements - Improvements to address pathway deficiency including installation of stormcrete pervious concrete. • Jarvis Creek Outfall - Installation of flap gates on the outfall end of two 84-inch diameter concrete pipes that discharge stormwater from the Jarvis Creek Pump Station outfall system; necessary to improve operation and effectiveness of the pump station during extreme events by mitigating the impacts of tidal storm surge on the system (resilience project). • Jarvis Creek Pump Station - Pump Replacements - Procure and install new pumps (4 total, 1 replaced per year).

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
								• Main Street Drainage Improvements - Improvements based on 2019 assessment completed by Stormwater Utility. • Old Woodlands-26 Indian Trail Improvements - Improvements along the back lot line of three residential properties to address a chronic drainage issue. • Water Level Monitoring - Installation of remote monitoring devices to facilitate disaster preparation, pond management, and dynamic model calibration efforts. • Weather Monitoring - Installation of weather stations in various locations to provide essential data during extreme weather events and to calibrate dynamic hydraulic models. • Ashmore Channel Resilience/278 Backflow Prevention Port Royal - Install flap gates on each of two large diameter pipes to protect Port Royal and adjacent upstream properties during extreme weather events (resilience project).

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
								• Gum Tree Channel Capacity Improvements at Chinaberry Crossing - Channel and road crossing improvements to address identified system deficiencies. • 24 Pope Avenue Outfall to Shipyard - Design and install drainage infrastructure to correct an identified deficiency impacting drainage on Pope Avenue. • 25 Dunnagans Alley Parking Lot Drainage Improvements - Installation of an inlet and a pipe to drain a Town-owned parking lot. • Airport Outfall Ditch Relocation - Relocation of primary system ditch that drains Palmetto Headlands and the airport to accommodate future development on a Town-owned parcel at the end of Summit Drive. • Arrow Road Laydown Yard Improvements - Adding rock to reduce tracking of sediment onto Arrow Road • Arrow Road Outfall at Greenery - Relocate a primary system outfall pipe that drains portions of

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	Hazard	Priority	Goal	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding	Responsible Department	Schedule	Notes
								Arrow Road, Palmetto Bay Road, and Archer Road to address an identified deficiency. • Burkes Beach Area Drainage Improvements - Design and install drainage infrastructure to correct several identified deficiencies on Burkes Beach Road, Beach Front Lane, Barrier Beach Cove, and Sandy Beach Trail. • Gardner Channel Capacity Improvements at 278 - Excavate a primary system channel to restore conveyance capacity. • Marshland Road Pathway Drainage Issues - Implement various improvements along the Town-owned pathway to address identified deficiencies. • Muddy Creek South Outfall - Outfall ditch capacity improvements to protect the Muddy Creek Neighborhood (easements required). • North Forest Beach Pipe Replacements - Replacement of perforated pipe along 9 streets in North Forest Beach to restore and improve functionality of Town-

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								owned systems along private roads with in Town easements. • Shipyard Pump Station Overhaul - Overhaul of a critical pump station including replacement of electronic controls, generator, and pumps. • Squire Pope Outfalls-Backflow Prevention (2) - Add flap gates at the end of two primary system outfalls to improve hydraulic functionality (resilience project). • The Links at Port Royal Improvements - Drainage system capacity improvements to protect Port Royal, Folly Field, Island Club, Islanders Beach Park, and residential properties along Wimbledon Court. • Woodlake Villas/Mathews Drive Outfall Improvements - Design and implement drainage system improvements to correct identified deficiencies and mitigate flooding potential in Woodlake Villas. • Woodward Ave Pipe Rehabilitation - Line or replace a primary system pipe to address an

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								identified deficiency. • Arrow Road Powerline Channel Excavation - Capacity Improvements - Excavate a primary system channel to restore conveyance capacity. • Howell Tract Access Gate - Install a new automatic gate with code or card access at the entrance to the Howell Tract lay-down yard on Arrow Road • Ongoing annually at various locations: stormwater conduits are lined, replaced, repaired, and/or upsized, and stormwater channels are improved by increasing capacity and implementing bank stabilization measures at numerous locations. Due to the low-lying nature of most of the Town, stormwater infrastructure maintenance, improvement of existing stormwater infrastructure, and addition of new infrastructure is imperative to flood hazard reduction in our community. Continual reevaluation of stormwater infrastructure is necessary to ascertain

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								the adequacy of stormwater infrastructure capacity as affected by increased stormwater discharge from more intense storm systems and increased flood hazards due to king tides and projected sea level rise. As an alternative, the Town could choose to take no action on the proposed improvements, which would be detrimental to our community.
5. Perform periodic nourishment of its beaches	Flood, Coastal Erosion	Med	5	17 mil.	Beach Preservation Fee, EMD	Engineering	Reoccurring Every 5-10 years	Preliminary design/permitting work began in 2022 for the 2025/2026 project. The USFWS Biological Opinion was issued in August 2024 and Permit 1 was issued in February 2025 by the State and USACE. Phase 1 was awarded in April 2025. The current 2025/2026 project represents the fourth major renourishment since 1990, which are planned approximately every 8-10 years, and will place approximately 2.4 million cubic yards of sand from three offshore borrow areas. The 2025/2026

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								effort also includes installation of 6 rock breakwater structures at Pine Island. All work will be complete by May 30, 2026. Beach erosion is a naturally occurring process as the island has migrated landward over the last several centuries. Previous shoreline stabilization projects included reliance on grey infrastructure, which reduce the extent of shoreline recession, but does not alleviate vertical erosion of the beach profile seaward. The Town has established a comprehensive self-funded renourishment plan with a fundamental strategy of minimizing reliance on hard infrastructure. Through the plan, the Town has been able to create a wider, higher elevation and more robust beach configuration that safeguards a natural environment for the endangered sea turtles and sea birds, provides extended storm protection for oceanfront homes, villas and businesses.

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6. Conduct periodic surveys of the equipment used by emergency personnel and write the appropriations into their budget.	All Hazards	Med	4	N/A	Emergency Management	Emergency Management	Reoccurring Annually	The Emergency Manager annually reviews and checks equipment assigned to emergency management, which includes the EOC equipment and base camp deployment package. The Town has recently purchased a hardened structure to house Fire Rescue Headquarters that includes space for the EOC. The Emergency Manager has completed an needs assessment of the new space that will be utilized for the EOC. Improvements are anticipated to be completed in 2027.
7. Scan and store elevation certificates for convenience and ease of access on Town of Hilton Head Island website (although all written documents will be maintained).	Flood	Med	5	10k	Community Development, Technology and Innovation	Community Development, Technology and Innovation	Reoccurring Daily	The Floodplain Administrator reviews and approves elevation certificates for all new construction, substantial improvements, residential renovations, accessory structures, etc. The elevation certificates are archived as part of the building permit file int he Energov system. Using the data on the elevation certificates, the Floodplain Administrator has begun development of a lowest

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								floor database that can be used to evaluate areas where homes are prone to flooding. By making elevation certificate available to the public o the Town's website, we were able to reduce the email and call volume to the Floodplain Administrator and reduce FIOA requests, thus improving customer services to our citizens.
8. Continue participate in the National Flood Insurance Program through enforcement of standards in the existing Flood Damage Controls Ordinance that meet and exceed the NFIP minimum requirements.	Flood	High	3, 5	N/A	Community Development	Community Development	Reoccurring Daily	The Floodplain Administrator reviews all Building Plans and Development permits for compliance with adopted higher regulatory standards to include regulating the lowest floor elevation of all development town-wide, regardless of flood zone and a higher freeboard than the minimum. When the Town Incorporated in 1984, Flood Insurance Rate Maps were available. The Town chose to participate in the NFIP to avoid the sanctions for non-participation. When the Town received update FIRMS in 2021, the lad area mapped in the

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								high-risk zone was reduced from 75% of the land area to only 25% of the land area and the base flood elevation were reduced from an average of 14 feet to only 7-9 feet. As a participant int he NFIP, the Town is responsible for assuring construction is reasonably safe from flooding and we felt the SFHA and BFEs were grossly underestimated. As a participant Community Rating System the Town adopted higher regulatory standards to protect our citizens, which also attributed to a 25% discount on flood insurance premiums.
9. Provide training and support to Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) certification for the Building Official, Plans Examiner, Inspectors and Permit Technicians.	All Hazards	High	3, 5	5k	Community Development	Community Development	Reoccurring Annually	There are currently 3 CFM employed in various departments. A new Building Official was hired in February 2026.
10. Study vulnerable bridges to determine which ones should be hardened and conduct maintenance of these bridges and HHI Causeways.	Hurricane, Windstorm, Earthquake	Med	1	Unknown	SCDOT, Engineering	SCDOT, Engineering	Initiated 10-20 years	The Town, County and SCDOT have been engaged in a project to replace the bridges connecting the mainland to HHI. The Town and County continue to work with SCDOT to finalize a master plan for repair, replacement and redesign of the US 278

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								Corridor with final design and permitting for phase 1 (replacement of the on-island bridges) is anticipated to be completed in 2027 with construction to follow. The project is being managed by SCDOT.
11. Utilize the Town's Land Acquisition Program as a strategic tool to reduce development intensity in environmentally sensitive areas, preserve open space and water access, support public facilities, and advance community driven initiatives.	Flood	Med/17	6	Unknown	Town	Strategic Initiatives	Reoccurring As-Needed	The Town's Land Acquisition Manual is currently being updated to include a Greenprint Framework to support land acquisition decisions. The Greenprint framework provides a visual and analytical tool for identifying parcels that advance the Town's conservation, infrastructure and community planning objectives. Through the Town's land acquisition program strategic properties are purchased, some designated to preserve land and prevent further development and consequently lessen environmental and storm water impacts. This helps to maintain water quality and prevent degradation or pollution from development in those watersheds. The Town

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								maintains the natural or engineered waterways on these Town lands to ensure adequate conveyance. Protect environmentally sensitive lands through acquisition and conservation easements was also considered as a preventive measure.
12. Educate home and business owners on potential hazard mitigation grant funding opportunities and assist home and business owners to obtain funding for retrofitting hazard prone buildings.	All Hazards	Med/15	2,5	N/A	Community Development	Community Development	Reoccurring Daily	Staff informs residents about potential funding opportunities that may be eligible to support flood mitigation efforts so property owners are better equipped to reduce flood risk and improve resilience. In addition to sharing information about potential funding opportunities, we support flood mitigation efforts through education, outreach, and technical assistance. This includes helping the public better understand flood risks, available mitigation strategies, and planning considerations; connecting communities with relevant resources and partners; and providing guidance on tools, data, and best practices that support informed decision-making

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	Hazard	Priority	Goal	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding	Responsible Department	Schedule	Notes
								and long-term resilience. In 2022, the SC Department of Natural Resources reviewed their interpretation of the FEMA regulations for the FMA grant and concluded that the homeowners could no longer manage the contracts and procurement process for that grant. Therefore, the local government had to fulfill this part of the grant process now, which was a change from previous years and projects. A new sub-recipient agreement between the Town of Hilton Head Island and the SC Department of Natural Resources was executed in June 2025 to reflect this change. Throughout 2025, the Town met several times with the property owner of the 2021 FMA grant to chart a path forward after being notified that the grant extension for the project may not be approved. The Town submitted a Swift Current grant application for the property in June 2025 as

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								an alternative in the event the grant extension for the original FMA grant was not approved. Currently, both the 2021 FMA grant extension and Swift Current Grant application for this project have not been approved. The FMA grant that was submitted in January 2023 is still pending selection.
13. Improve and/or update alert, warning and notification capabilities to inform citizens of hazard threats.	All Hazards	High/22	2,4	5k	EMD, Emergency Management	Emergency Management	Reoccurring Annually	Town staff continues to use new technology to enhance public notification of hazard threats. The Town has recently partnered with Language Line Solutions to provide translation services for non-English-speaking residents to help disseminate disaster-related information.
14. Append this to all comprehensive plans as they are updated, or at earliest date available	All Hazards	High/27	3,4	N/A	Community Development	Community Development	Reoccurring Every 5 years	The 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan will be adopted by the Town as an appendix to the Town of Hilton Head Island "Our Plan" as soon as the plan is finalized.
15. Maintain or improve the Town's Community Rating System class.	Flood	Med/16	2,3,4,5,6	N/A	Community Development	Community Development	Initiated Dependent on completion	Town Leadership has identified improving the Town's CRS class as an action item in the FY2026-FY2028 Strategic Actions

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2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
							of pre-requisites	Plan. The Town's Floodplain Administrator is exploring programmatic enhancements that will assist in achieving this goal. Participation in the Community Rating System afford all residents of the island a 25% discount on flood insurance premiums. This discount saves our residents approximately $3M in annual savings. Improvement to a Class 4 community will benefit our citizens with approximately $3.5M in annual savings.
16. Develop a Resilience Plan to reinforce Hilton Head Island's environmental, economic, and community resilience to prepare for and recover from future environmental shocks and stressors.	Flood	High/22	1,2,3,4,5,6	N/A	FEMA, EMD, Town	Chief Environmental Officer, Community Development, Engineering	Initiated Anticipated adoption 2027	A strengths, weaknesses, opportunity, and threats (SWOT) analysis of the island's resilience was performed between 2024 and 2025. Project funded through a FEMA BRIC grant and the Town's stormwater utility fees. The findings of the analysis informed the development of a full resilience plan to address the threats of changing flood conditions. Completion of the resilience plan is anticipated for the Fall of 2026. South Carolina's Local Government

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2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	Hazard	Priority	Goal	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding	Responsible Department	Schedule	Notes
								Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act of 1994 requires every planning commission to create a comprehensive plan to guide development and redevelopment. When this version of our plan was being completed in 2020, a resiliency element was not yet required. However, the Town understood that this requirement was coming and that waiting until after adoption would only delay action. To stay ahead, the Town chose to incorporate resiliency into the "Our Plan" from the start. The 2023-2025 Strategic Action Plan prioritized actions that support "Our Plan" for a three-year window. The Town identified the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats or (SWOT) analysis as the first approach to resilience planning. The Town completed the SWOT analysis in July 2025. Strat Plan 2026-2028: Following completion of the SWOT analysis, the Town prioritized

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								completion of the resilience plan and a stormwater master plan as identified in the 2026-2028 Strategic Action Plan.
17. Fire Rescue actively supports the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office related to terrorism type responses.	Terrorism	High	3,4	N/A	Emergency Management, FMAG	Fire Rescue	Reoccurring As-Needed	The Town actively supports the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office protocols related to terrorism responses.
18. Monitor and enhance the Town's cybersecurity capabilities to protect the City from cybersecurity threats especially during or immediately after a disaster or emergency.	Cyber Attack	Med	4	$100,000	Technology and Innovation	Technology and Innovation, Emergency Management	Reoccurring As-Needed	The Town uses a proactive stance in Cyber Attacks by using the Artic Wolf monitoring system. Artic Wolf system sits beside the Town's firewall to monitor and report any suspicious activity. The Town also uses an email filtering system to monitor phishing and spoofing attempts. Town staff is required to take annual cyber security training to elevate awareness of these types of attacks. Vital data is backed up in house and off site for redundancy in the event of a ransomware event.
19. Fire Rescue is a joint member of the Hazardous Material Team with Beaufort County and actively participate in the Beaufort County LEPC	Hazardous Materials	High	3, 4	N/A	Fire Rescue	Fire Rescue	Reoccurring As-Needed	Fire Rescue has a joint Hazardous Material Team with the Town of Bluffton. Fire Rescue is an active

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								member of the Beaufort County LEPC. This participation provides access to Tier I&II reporting. Tier I&II reports are used by Fire Inspectors when conducting annual inspections and facility pre-plans. The Hazardous Materials team responds to any hazardous materials leak on Hilton Head Island. The Team trains monthly and hold an annual readiness exercise that is evaluated by the state.
20. Update the CRS Repetitive Loss Area Analysis	Flood	High	2,5	N/A	Community Development	Community Development	Reoccurring Annually	In 2024, the Floodplain Administrator developed a Repetitive Loss Area Analysis to provide specific guidance on how to reduce damage from repetitive flooding. The Town identified the need for a RLAA during the 2024 CRS Verification visit to address a potential deficiency required for CRS participation. Failure to complete and adopt the plan would have resulted in the Town retrograding to a Class 10.

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21. Prepare Island-wide Stormwater Master Plan	Flood, Hurricane, Coastal Erosion	High	1,5,6	$200,000	Stormwater Utility Fund	Engineering	Initiated Anticipated Completion 2028	The Town is developing watershed master plans through detailed inventory and modeling projects to identify and mitigate flood hazards. Island-wide inventory and modeling program is currently 60% complete; at current funding level, programmed for completion in 2028. As each watershed is modeled, feasible mitigation projects are sometimes identified, evaluated, budgeted and programmed for implementation as CIP projects. Lawton Canal study is planned for 2026. The Town previously participated in the development of a county-wide Stormwater Masterplan, but the plan was limited to large-scale analysis of the Town's systems. By identifying the need for a detailed inventory and modeling, the Town is developing a better understanding of the intricacies of our localized system.

TOWN OF PORT ROYAL								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Should place protective measures on all administrative buildings to ensure administrative functions can continue.	Windstorm, Hurricane, Tornado	High	1	50k	PDM, HMGP, All Municipalities	Building, Engineering	Incomplete/ Deferred 5-10 yrs.	Will pursue as funding and resources are available.
2. Consider the use of priority development zones in non-hazard prone areas.	Flood	Med	3	N/A	Town	Planning, Administration	Incomplete/ Deferred	Will pursue as funding and resources are available.
3. Create survey to ID most vulnerable public structures in Town and create a CIP list of these structures.	Windstorm, Flood	Med	1	6k	Town	Planning	Initiated 3-5 yrs.	The Town has performed survey work on its Public Works yard and is considering design options to alleviate flooding
4. Assist private home and business owners to obtain funding for retrofitting hazard prone buildings.	All Hazards	Med	3	200k	SHPO, All Jurisdictions, PDM, HMGP	USCB	Incomplete/ Deferred 2-4 yrs.	Will pursue as funding and resources are available.
5. Incentivize sharing of docks in zoning ordinances.	Coastal Erosion	Med	3, 5	Unknown	All Jurisdictions	Planning	Incomplete/ Deferred 3-5 yrs.	Will pursue as funding and resources are available.
6. Make updates GPS systems available for emergency personnel.	All Hazards	Med	4	50k	PDM, HGMP, All Jurisdictions	Fire, Building	Pending 5 yrs.	Not famiilar with any regional action taken on this.
7. Create a joint permitting center for post- hazard recovery.	All Hazards	Med	3	N/A	All Jurisdictions	Building	Pending 5 yrs.	Not famiilar with any regional action taken on this.

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2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
8. Create tree survey for vulnerable trees to re-enforce them against hazards	Flood, Windstorm	Med	3, 6	20k	Town, PDM, HMGP, SC Forestry Commission	Planning, Building	Initiated 3-5 yrs.	The Town will be seeking technical assistance for canopy mapping from SCFC. Once that is done, vulnerability assessments of trees can also be done in the future.
9. Work with regional media to promote public awareness of disaster preparedness.	All Hazards	High	2	2k	County, All Municipalities	Planning, Administration	Reoccurring Annual	The Town shares BC/SCEMD emergency preparedness posts on social media and also makes posts unique to the Town when weather events/flooding are imminent.
10. Study vulnerable bridges to determine which ones should be hardened.	Hurricane, Windstorm	Med	1	Unknown	SCDOT, PDM, HMGP, County, Municipalities, Federal Highways	SCDOT, County Engineering, Planning	Pending 5 yrs.	Not famiilar with any regional action taken on this.
11. Provide maintenance and replacement of critical bridges.	Hurricane, Windstorm, Earthquake	Med	1	5 mil.	SCDOT, PDM, HMGP, County, Municipalities, Federal Highways	SCDOT, County Engineering, Planning	Pending 5-10 yrs.	Not famiilar with any regional action taken on this.
12. Enhance programs dealing with drought, educating the public about proper water usage and appropriate behavior during drought conditions (to include distribution of drought education materials).	Drought	Med	2	3k	All Jurisdictions, PDM, HMGP	Planning, Soil and Water District	Pending 2 yrs.	Not famiilar with any regional action taken on this.
13. Work to enhance public education program for historic property, including a pamphlet for distribution to the public.	Flood, Earthquake	Med	2	2k	SHPO, All Jurisdictions	Planning	Incomplete/ Deferred 2 yrs.	Will pursue as funding and resources are available. 2 yrs.

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2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
14. Continue enforcing seismic programs & regulations in building codes.	Earthquake	High	3	N/A	All Jurisdictions	Building	Reoccurring Annual	
15. Continue to support Beaufort County's SWM Utility/Plan for future SWM projects.	Flood	High	3, 5	N/A	BJWSA, All Jurisdictions	Public Works, BJWSA, Planning	Reoccurring As needed	
16. Undertake a program to study poorly drained areas and remedy them through best practices.	Flood	Med	3, 5	20k	All Jurisdictions (except HHI), HGMP, PDM, CDBG	Planning	Initiated 5-10 yrs.	The Town has studied its jurisdiction east of Battery Creek and has created a stormwater master plan with recommendations to remedy issues. Preventive measures such as advanced stormwater regulations are also being considered to deter future flood losses based on study findings.
17. Conduct periodic surveys of the equipment used by emergency personnel and write the appropriations into their budget.	All Hazards	Med	4	N/A	All Jurisdictions	Fire, Police, Building	Reoccurring Annual	
18. Continue to enforce Floodplain regulations to ensure proper development in compliance with all building codes, FEMA regulations and any other pertinent ordinances.	Flood	High	3	N/A	All Jurisdictions	Building	Reoccurring Annual	

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2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
19. Train Building Officials on most up to date code requirements for hazard resistant construction.	All Hazards	High	3	5k	All Jurisdictions, PDM, HGMP	Building	Reoccurring Annual	
20. Sponsor and conduct workshops for local engineers, architects and contractors on IBC and hazard resistant construction.	All Hazards	High	2	10k	All Jurisdictions, PDM, HGMP	Building	Incomplete/ Deferred 3-5 yrs.	Will pursue as funding and resources are available. 3-5 yrs.
21. Actively advocate to public officials the adoption of the latest version of universally accepted building codes without amendments.	All Hazards	High	2, 3	20k	All Jurisdictions	Planning, Building	Reoccurring Annual	
22. Enforce property maintenance code to correct deteriorating conditions.	All Hazards	Med	3	N/A	All Jurisdictions	Building, Codes, Planning	Reoccurring Annual	
23. Support ongoing efforts educate the public on the threat of Sea Level Rise and associated hazards, exploring best practices for adaptation to this threat.	Flood	High	2, 3	N/A	All Jurisdictions	Planning, Building Codes	Initiated 2-3 yrs.	The Town is participating in the Southern Lowcountry Resilience Collaborative to support these efforts.
24. Continue to develop the use of social media/smart phone technology to inform citizens of Hazard threats.	All Hazards	High	2, 3	N/A	All Jurisdictions	EMS	Reoccurring Annual	
25. Maintain or improve the Town's CRS rating.	Flood	Med	3, 5	N/A	All Jurisdictions	Planning, Building	Reoccurring Annual	
26. Continue to work with SCDNR to update maps based on newer/more accurate topography data.	Flood	High	4	Unknown	All jurisdictions, SCDNR, PDM, HGMP	SCDNR, FEMA, Planning, Building	Reoccurring Annual	

TOWN OF PORT ROYAL								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
27. Append this to all comprehensive plans as they are updated, or at earliest date available.	All Hazards	High	2, 3	N/A	All Jurisdictions	Planning	Initiated 2 yrs.	The Town is in its 5-year comprehensive plan review period, and staff will recommend that this plan is added as an appendix.
28. Update all Flood maps with new municipal and county boundaries.	Flood	Med	4	N/A	All Jurisdictions	SCDNR, FEMA, Planning, Building	Pending 3-5 yrs.	Not famiilar with any regional action taken on this.
29. Distribute "Citizen's Guide to Flood Awareness" brochure regularly.	Hurricane	High	2	5k	All Jurisdiction, PDM, HMGP	Planning, Building	Reoccurring Annual	

COLLETON COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Assess trees in public and hazardous locations and remove potential tree problems.	Lightning, Wildfire	Med	3	280k	Local Funds, PDM, HMGP	Facilities, Roads & Bridges	Reoccurring As needed	Tree clearing occurs before and after hazard events
2. Post boards near grocery stores and hardware stores listing what one should have if a hazard struck.	Earthquake, Tornado, Hurricane, Flood	High	2	30k	Local Funds, PDM	EMD	Reoccurring Annual	Information is also being pushed via social media platforms. Also posted at local post offices.
3. Train those in rural areas for how to protect their homes, and what to do during an event.	All Hazards	High	2	250k	Local Funds, PDM	EMD	Reoccurring Annual	Public information is being pushed via social media, website, and mail.
4. Train people with equipment and supplies for a winter storm.	Winter Storm	High	2	50k	Local Funds, PDM	EMD	Reoccurring Annual	Staff is always trained with new equipment and proper maintenance.
5. Create Incentive, publicize, or provide, fans or other types of cooling elements for popular outdoor areas during times of high heat.	Extreme Heat	Low	3	100k	Local Funds, PDM	EMD	Reoccurring Annual	Public information is being pushed via social media, website, and mail.

COLLETON COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
6. Pave highways to allow 4 lanes of traffic to evacuate during hazard.	Hurricane	Low	3	7 mil.	Local Funds, PDM, HMGP	Roads & Bridges	Pending 5-10 years	Resurfacing of state and county roads occurred, including evacuation routes.
7. Provide materials for stranded motorists during a hazard.	All Hazards	Med	3	2 mil.	Local Funds, PDM	EMD	Reoccurring Annual	Public information is being pushed via social media, website, and mail.
8. Purchase equipment and supplies in case of a winter storm.	Winter Storm	Med	3	500k	PDM, HMGP	Facilities, EMD	Initiated As needed	Equipment is evaluated annually. New ATV's and other purchased for County use.
9. Set up community compost pile that people can purchase soil from to help enrich soil properties and protect against drought.	Drought	Med	3	75k	Local Funds, PDM	Waste & Recycle	Pending 3-5 years	Other initiatives are in place including a green debris site for post disaster clean up.
10. Incentivize against bagging leaves and grass, this also enriches the soil.	Drought	High	3	50k	Local Funds, PDM	Waste & Recycle	Deferred 3-5 years	No funding to support.
11. Provide a place for blankets, and coverings, that people can pick up and use for property protection during hail.	Hail	High	3	50k	Local Funds, PDM	EMD	Initiated 2 years	Shelters and churches provide support for all hazard events.
12. Fire Station Upgrades: Retrofit certain fire stations to meet International Building codes Wind design requirements so it can serve as a shelter for emergency workers during events Pre-wired for generators, supplied with generators.	All Hazards	High	1	2 mil.	PDM, CDBG, HMGP	Fire-Rescue	Initiated 5 years	9 stations equipped with generators that have been retrofitted to serve as shelters.
13. Replace old or leaky roofs on specific critical facilities to preserve the structures.	All Hazards	High	1	1 mil.	PDM, CDBG	Facilities, CIP	Initiated 5-10 years	As funding is available. 2 full roof replacements have been completed, and one is currently on going.

COLLETON COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
14. Identify and strengthen selected county and municipal buildings for designation and development as future hurricane shelters to support emergency operations and community sheltering needs.	Hurricane, Flood	High	4	10-15 mil.	PDM, CDBG, HMGP	EMD, CIP	Pending 5 years	As funding is available.
15. Acquire and preserve parcels subject to repetitive flooding or severe flood impacts for conversion to parks, permanent open space, and other flood-resilient public uses.	Flood	High	5	300k	Local Funds, PDM, FMA	Planning, Parks	Pending 3-5 years	No funding to support. Preventive actions considered in comprehensive plan update and zoning.
16. Provide county and constituent Municipalities with laptops for backing up important data prior to disaster striking in order to set up temporary offices elsewhere.	All Hazards	Med	4	100k	Local Funds, PDM	Technology	Initiated 5-10 years	New generator purchased for server backup.
17. Construct a safe storage area to house important information and documents.	All Hazards	High	4	150k	Local Funds, PDM	Planning, Facilities	Initiated 3-5 years	As department resources are available.
18. Inspect, improve, and strengthen communication and utility infrastructure, including aging lines, utility systems, and utility pole/conductor fixtures, to ensure reliable service throughout Colleton County.	All Hazards	Med	1, 4	250k	Local Funds, PDM	Facilities, Provider	Pending 3-5 years	No funding to support. Reliant on utility company.
19. Create a mobile dispatch unit to ensure communications not eliminated due to natural hazard.	All Hazards	High	4	350k	Local Funds, PDM	EMD	Initiated 3-5 years	Dual location services established for disaster events.
20. Create camera system to oversee traffic and threats to traffic from hazards on evacuation routes and other critcal roads.	All Hazards	High	4	350k	Local Funds, PDM, HMGP, CDBG	Roads & Bridges	Pending 5-10 years	Drones used for disaster assessment.

COLLETON COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
21. Continue to oversee and enforce strict adherence to the latest building standards by closely monitoring all new construction and renovation activities.	All Hazards	Med	5	50k	Local	Building Inspector	Reoccurring As needed	As renovations occur.
22. Inspect and manage vegetation that could damage critical facilities.	Hurricane	High	5	Low	Local/PDM	Public Works, Roads & Bridges	Reoccurring As needed	
23. Improve existing critical facilities by replacing doors and Windows at older facilities.	Hurricanes, Winter Storm	High	1, 4	Med	PDM	Facilities	Reoccurring As needed	
24. Ensure critical facilities have adequate emergency power resources, including fuel storage.	All Hazards	High	1, 3, 4	Med	PDM, Local	Facilities, EMD	Reoccurring Annual	
25. Provide hazard training in schools.	Earthquake	High	2	Low	PDM, Local	Emergency Management	Reoccurring Annual	
26. Conduct Evacuation Route Study- in-depth study to analyze current efficiency, adequacy, and safety of evacuation routes within Colleton County.	Hurricane, Flood	Med	4	100k	Local Funds, PDM	Roads &Bridges, EMD	Pending 3-5 years	State Mandated.
27. Develop and provide evacuation, transportation, and rescue procedures for individuals and special populations in need during emergencies, including continued assessment and improvement of nursing home and hospital evacuation plans to ensure safety and efficiency.	Hurricane, Flood	Med	4	50k	Local Funds, PDM	EMD	Reoccurring Annual	Evacuation plans reviewed annually Limited Funding needed to support.
28. Special Need Population Inventory: Identify vulnerable and special needs members of the population.	All Hazards	High	4, 6	20k	Local Funds, PDM	EMD, Planning	Reoccurring Annual	Continuous update of plans.

COLLETON COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
29. Public Education and Awareness: Educate residents how to prepare homes, family, and property for disasters.	All Hazards	Low	2	15k	Local Funds, PDM	EMD	Reoccurring Annual	
30. Circulate Public Education and Awareness Packets during season of hazard.	All Hazards	Low	2	20k	Local Funds, PDM	EMD, Planning	Reoccurring Annual	
31. Tourist Education: Continue coordination of work with the visitor's bureau to alert tourists to possible hazards in areas of vulnerability Materials can be left in visitor centers, hotels, attractions, etc.	All Hazards	Med	2	25k	Local Funds, PDM	EMD, Economic Development	Reoccurring Annual	
32. Conduct inventory/survey for county's emergency response services to identify existing needs or shortfalls in Personnel, equipment, or required resources.	All Hazards	High	4	10k	Local Funds, PDM	EMD, Facilities	Reoccurring Annual	Continuous review.
33. Constantly Update and Enforce Zoning and Building Codes and policies to ensure no new structures are built within Floodplains.	Flood	Med	5	50k	Local Funds, PDM, FMA	Planning	Reoccurring As needed	Tighter regulations adopted.
34. Stringent rules and enforcement against removal of wetlands.	Flood	Med	5	30k	Local Funds, PDM, FMA	Planning	Reoccurring As needed	Regulations enacted. Preventive action being considered to include in comprehensive plan update.
35. Protect and preserve wetlands through education of public about buffer zones and regulating these through development ordinances.	Flood	High	5	35k	Local Funds, PDM, FMA	Planning	Reoccurring As needed	Ongoing review based on need. Public information and preventive activities are being considered to encourage public support of development ordinances.

COLLETON COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
36. Ensure lines clear of limbs or other obstructions that may damage them during Windstorms or other natural hazards.	All Hazards	High	4	200k	Local Funds, PDM	Facilities, Provider	Reoccurring Ongoing	
37. Instigate Earthquake training and distribute SC's Earthquake Preparedness of Schools brochure in schools.	Earthquake	Med	2	10k	Local Funds, PDM	EMD	Reoccurring 1-2 yrs.	
38. Purchase support vehicles to reach rural locations during hazard.	Hurricane	Low	3	1 mil.	PDM	Facilities, EMD	Reoccurring 1-3 yrs.	Support vehicles were purchased, but not for rural areas.
39. Sell portable radios for everyone, so that they can tune in when a hazard is near, occurring, or the aftermath.	Earthquake, Tornado, Hurricane, Flood	High	2	30k	Local Funds, PDM	EMD	Reoccurring 1-2 yrs.	
40. Publicize events at Local hardware stores that show how to save your property during a hazard.	Hail, Earthquake, Hurricane, Windstorm	High	2	50k	Local Funds, PDM	EMD	Reoccurring 3-5 yrs.	
41. Provide free water and set up water stations when the temperature will be about 102.	Extreme Heat	High	2	50k	Local Funds, PDM	EMD	Reoccurring 1-2 yrs.	
42. Offer a list of city foresters, county extension offices, Local nurseries and landscape firms that can provide advice on tree selection for your area and soil conditions.	Lightning, Wildfire	High	2	2k	Local Funds	Parks, Planning, Facilities	Reoccurring 1-2 yrs.	
43. Replace utilities.	All Hazards	Med	1	250k	Local Funds, PDM	CIP, Provider	Reoccurring 5 or more yrs.	Ongoing project. No generators yet.
44. Warning systems education: Educate residents of meaning warning systems and schedule testing.	Tornado, Hurricane	Low	2	50k	PDM, HMGP	EMD	Reoccurring 1-3 yrs.	No funding to support.

COLLETON COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
45. Provide and improve waterproof doors, wall opening seals, and other sealing components at critical facilities within flood zones, including sealing all wall penetrations below flood water levels to reduce flood damage.	Flood	High	5	100k	Local Funds, PDM, FMA, SRL	CIP, Facilities, EMD	Reoccurring 1-2 yrs.	No funding to support. Preventive actions are also being considered through building code enforcement during renovations.
46. Install back-flow prevention valves in sewers and drains at critical facilities.	Flood	High	5	100k	Local Funds, PDM, FMA, SRL	CIP, Roads & Bridges	Reoccurring 1-2 yrs.	No funding to support.
47. Conduct storm water drainage study and plan to identify drainage ditches and promote cleanup.	Flood	High	5	50k	Local Funds, PDM, FMA	CIP, GIS, Roads & Bridges	Pending 1-2 yrs.	No funding to support. Dirt road drainage project was completed as an alternative, CTC-27 awarded for $8 mil. Preventive measures are also being considered to limit flood losses until study is complete through stormwater management regulations and ditch maintenance agreements.
48. Scan important data and information.	All Hazards	High	4	30k	Local Funds, PDM	Clerk, GIS	Reoccurring 1-2 yrs.	No funding to support.
49. In need of Portable Repeaters: Upgrade Colleton County's emergency communication systems in case of power outage. Current system inadequate.	All Hazards	High	4	250k	Local Funds, PDM	EMD	Pending 1-2 yrs.	No funding to support.

TOWN OF COTTAGEVILLE								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Survey trees cover to ensure decreased vulnerability. Make improvements.	Wind	Med	1, 5	Med	PDM	EM	Pending 2-4 years	No funding to support
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	All Hazards	Med	2, 6	Low	PDMD	EM	Reoccurring Annual	Support from county.

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Make needed improvements to the causeway and bridge as it is the primary evacuation route.	All Hazards	High	1	Very High	SCDOT, LCOG, Local Funds, PDM	SCDOT, FHWA	Initiated 5-10 yrs.	LCOG funded SCDOT to perform feasibility study, awaiting next steps.
2. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities.	Flood, Windstorm	Med	3, 5	Med	State, Local Funds, PDM	Public Works	Initiated 5 yrs.	The Town is actively applying for grants / earmarks to fund those studies. Other actions considered: The Town's engineering consultant has developed a Town-wide planning strategy dividing the Town into 7 different study areas / drainage basins and ranked them in order of priority and assigned a cost to each area to further study.
3. Install lightning protection devices and methods, such as lightning rods and grounding, on communications infrastructure and other critical facilities.	Lightning	Med	1, 4	Med	Local Funds, PDM	Public Works	Pending 5 yrs.	Other actions considered: Lightning protection included on new Town Hall building. New communications tower built with lightning protection.

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
4. Perform maintenance including fire fuel management techniques such as pruning and clearing dead vegetation, selective logging, cutting high grass, planting fire-resistant vegetation, and creating fuel/fire breaks.	Wildfire	Med	1, 4	Low	SCDOT, Local Funds, PDM	Public Works, Building Dept	Recurring 5 yrs.	Revised recreational fire ordinance, making recreational fires more restrictive in size and nature.
5. Develop new or upgrading existing water delivery systems to eliminate breaks and leaks.	Drought	Med	1, 4	High	Local Funds, PDM	Public Works	Pending 5 yrs.	Other actions considered: Review Chapter 86, Art. II, Division 2, Response to a Drought
6. Develop an inventory of public and commercial buildings that may be particularly vulnerable to Earthquake damage, including pre-1940s homes and homes with cripple wall foundations.	Earthquake	Med	1, 4	Low	Local Funds, PDM	Building Dept	Pending 5 yrs.	Other actions considered: Town records begin around 1970. As records are digitized, an inventory list will be formed.
7. Include measures such as structural bracing, shutters, laminated glass in windowpanes, and hail-resistant roof coverings or flashing in building design to minimize damage.	Hail	Med	5	Low	Local Funds, PDM	Public Works, Building Depts.	Pending 5 yrs.	
8. Collect Hydrologic and Hydraulic Data.	Flood	High	5	Med	Local Funds, Grant	Public Works	Partial Completion 1-3 yrs.	Part of the Interior Lagoon Study Other actions considered: Information collected in our Interior Lagoon Drainage Study, Yacht Club Road Drainage Study and called for in our Town-Wide Drainage Strategy.

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
9. Ensure generator capacity at the Civic Center to enable the facility to be designated a heating and cooling center for senior population and off beach emergency operations center.	Extreme Heat, Winter Storm	High	1, 3	Med	County, Local Funds, PDM	Public Works	Pending 5 yrs.	Other actions considered: County owned building. A temporary generator is available for use from the Public Works/Utilities Department.
10. Plan for and maintain adequate road debris clearing capabilities and maintain mutual aid agreements with Colleton County and SCDOT.	Tornado, Hurricane, Windstorm, Winter Storm, Flood	Med	4	TBD	Local Funds, PDM	Public Works, County, SCDOT	Recurring 1-3 yrs.	SCDOT agreements are in place. Other actions considered: Agreements reviewed annually
11. Continue to support applications to inform citizens of hazards and threats.	All Hazards	Med	2, 4	TBD	Local Funds	Fire	Recurring Annually	Utilize CODE Red, subscribed notifications from the Town Website, the Town also hosts and annual Hurricane Preparedness Workshop. Other actions considered: Annual testing of current systems. Networking with neighboring departments and county to ensure best practices are in place.
12. Implement a system to address other disaster related waste, to include white goods and building materials.	Tornado, Hurricane, Windstorm, Winter Storm, Flood	Med	4	TBD	Local Funds, PDM	Public Works	Pending 1-3 yrs.	Agreements for small amounts of debris in place. Other actions considered: National and County resources will be utilized for large scale cleanup.

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
13. Reestablish and improve Yacht Club Road drainage system.	Hurricane, Flood	High	1, 5	TBD	SCDOT, Local Funds	SCDOT, Public Works	Initiated 3-5 yrs.	Plans are prescribed in our recently finished Yacht Club Road drainage study. Other actions considered: Requesting DOT address this issue when they resurface/improve the bike path in this area. The Town received a TAP grant for SCDOT to repave and improve the bike path in this area.
14. Continue to develop the Sea Level Rise plan and implement improvements.	Flood	High	3	TBD	Local Funds, Grant	Public Works	Pending 1-3 yrs.	Continue to work with local partners including the Sea Grant Consortium and academia. Developed a Flooding and Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment in 2021. Other actions considered: Last study initiated in 2020, completed in 2021.
15. Perform a drainage study on the interior lagoon system and implement improvements.	Hurricane, Flood	High	1, 5	TBD	Federal, State, and Local Funds, Grant	Public Works	Initiated 3-5 yrs.	Study is complete. Town is actively seeking funding for recommended improvements. Other actions considered: Part of the interior lagoon study.
16. Connect homes on the ocean side of Palmetto Boulevard to the sewer system and upgrade wastewater treatment plant to accommodate additional volume.	Hurricane, Flood, Drought	Med	1, 5	TBD	Local Funds, Grant	Public Works	Pending Suspended	Not feasible to connect ocean side homes to sewer system. Other actions considered: Sewer system is currently being updated and improved to maintain current capacity and future use from currently installed lines. Funded by SCIIP Grant proceeds.

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
17. Update GIS infrastructure mapping.	All Hazards	Med	5	TBD	Local, PDM	Public Works, Fire	Pending 3-5 yrs	The Town will have to request County GIS be updated to reflect Town maintained infrastructure.
18. Purchase and maintain the needed equipment to clear debris.	Windstorm, Hurricane, Flood	High	1, 4, 5,	Med	Local, PDM	Public Works, Fire	Recurring As needed	Equipment purchased and maintained on a recurring basis. Other actions considered: Large equipment purchased on a capital purchase schedule or via grant funding.
19. Ensure strict building regulation for elevated buildings and retreat.	Coastal Erosion, Flood (Sea Level Rise)	High	3, 5	Low	Local	Town Building	Recurring As needed	Building codes updated by State timeline. Other actions considered: Beach management overlay district was updated in 2023 to reflect a retreat strategy and more stringent building regulations.
20. Construct primary dunes and lengthen groin system per Army Corps of Engineers Alternatives.	Coastal Erosion	High	1, 5	Very High	Local Funds, State, Federal	Army Corps of Engineers	Initiated 5 yrs.	Construction is expected to occur in 2027. Other actions considered: The town is currently pursuing easements needed for construction.
21. Create GIS Mapping.	All Hazards	High	4, 5	Med	Local Funds	Town Building	Pending 1-3 yrs.	Currently using County maintained GIS.

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
22. Dune Protection.	Hurricane, Flood Sea Level Rise)	High	4, 5	High	Local Funds, State, Federal	Town Building	Recurring 5-10 years	Town maintains a Sand Fencing Permit. Other actions considered: The Town maintains an inventory of material for beachfront owners to install sand fencing. The permit includes re-planting of dunes at homeowner expense with assistance designing a planting plan.
23. Beach Renourishment.	Coastal Erosion	High	5	High	Local, State, Federal	Town Building, Administration	Initiated 50 years	Construction is expected to occur 2027. Other actions considered: In conjunction with the primary dune construction in partnership with the US Army Corps. Of Engineers, renourishment every 16 years with emergency nourishments following weather events causing beach erosion.
24. Public Safety-Community Involvement (house numbering, safety events).	All Hazards	Med	2	Low	Local	Fire, Building Dept.	Recurring Annual	House numbering campaign completed yearly. Continue to hold various public safety events throughout the year. Other actions considered: House numbers are inspected on an annual basis. Safety events are held by the Volunteer Fire Department and include distribution of safety equipment (ie alarms, fire extinguishers).

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
25. Continuity of Operations (ensure proper levels of staffing and replacement employees are trained).	All Hazards	Med	4	Med	Local	All Departments	Recurring Annual	Annual Training Other actions considered: Staff attends annual training and continuing education to maintain licensing and certifications and/or earn more licensing and certifications. A simulated severe weather event is conducted yearly with county and local staff.
26. Secure replacement or refurbishment of fire apparatus (Ladder Truck and Engine)	All Hazards	Med	1, 4	Very High	Local, State, Federal	Fire/Administration	Initiated 3-5 yrs.	Seeking funding sources
27. Monitor and enhance the Town's cyber security	Cyber Attack	High	4	Med	Local	Administration	Initiated 3 yrs.	Town staff completes mandatory quarterly cyber attack training through KnowB4. An email filtering system is in place to monitor phishing and spoofing scams. Other actions considered: Utilize the full suite of cyber security products offered by 3rd party IT department. Implement verification levels for accounts receivable and payable items.
28. Connect and complete existing drainage along Palmetto Blvd for better functionality.	Hurricane, Flood	High	1,	High	SCDOT	Administration	Pending 5-10 yrs.	Part of the Interior Lagoon Study Other actions considered: Small area/neighborhood drainage improvements.

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
29. Maintain a listing of fuel dispensing locations along Big Bay Creek	Hazardous Materials	Med	2, 4	Med	Local	All Departments	Recurring Annual	Update the listing of businesses that sell or store fuel. Including approx. quantities and fuel type. Other actions considered: Inform owners of proper ways to store fuel to prevent accidental leaks. Maintain listing to assist waterway cleanup after a severe weather event. This will also allow emergency response to keep appropriate cleanup materials on hand.
30. Assess trees and other foliage along right of ways.	Lightning, Wildfire	Med	3	Med	SCDOT, Dominion Energy, Local	Public Works	Recurring Annual	Prune or remove trees and foliage that pose a hazard to electrical and communications lines. Other actions considered: Educate the pubic on benefits and importance of tree trimming along electrical lines. Public information meetings are typically held before Dominion Energy town-wide trimming. Public works maintains Town roads.

TOWN OF LODGE								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Survey trees cover to ensure decreased vulnerability. Make improvements.	Wind	Med	1, 5	Med	PDM	EM	Pending 2-4 years	No funding to support
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	All Hazards	Med	2, 6	Low	PDMD	EM	Reoccurring Annual	Support from county.

TOWN OF SMOAKS								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Survey trees cover to ensure decreased vulnerability. Make improvements.	Wind	Med	1, 5	Med	PDM	EM	Pending 2-4 years	No funding to support
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	All Hazards	Med	2, 6	Low	PDMD	EM	Reoccurring Annual	Support from county.

CITY OF WALTERBORO								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Clear the sediment in the Ireland Creek.	Flood	Med	1, 5, 6	High	NRCS, PDM, Local	ACE	Initiated 2-4 yrs.	Contract was signed for sediment removal project in 2021. Ireland Creek Park and Greenway Design is underway.

CITY OF WALTERBORO								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
2. Survey trees cover to ensure decreased vulnerability Make improvements.	Windstorm	Med	1, 5	Med	PDM	Emergency Management	Reoccurring Annual	The City of Walterboro worked with Green Infrastructure Center and focused on the tree canopy. Identification of vulnerable trees is ongoing.
3. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	All Hazards	Med	2, 4	Low	PDM	Emergency Management	Reoccurring Annual	
4. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities. Make Improvements.	All Hazards	Med	3, 5	Med	PDM	Emergency Management	Reoccurring As needed	The City of Walterboro participated with the Walterboro/Colleton County Community Action Team with SCOR. Projects were identified through public input and stakeholder interactions. Final plans and potential funding is being comprised by SCOR.
5. Ensure that the Fire Dept. has the needed apparatus.	All Hazards	Med	1, 4	High	PDM	Emergency Management	Reoccurring Annual	
6. Identify and notify SCDOT of drainage issues on roadways within City limits.	Flood	Med	1, 3, 4, 5	Low	Local	SCDOT	Reoccurring As needed	Identifying flooded roadways and improvements needed to assist and ensure emergency vehicles can access.

TOWN OF WILLIAMS								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Survey trees cover to ensure decreased vulnerability. Make improvements.	Wind	Med	1, 5	Med	PDM	EM	Pending 2-4 years	No funding to support

TOWN OF WILLIAMS								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	All Hazards	Med	2, 6	Low	PDMD	EM	Reoccurring Annual	Support from county.

HAMPTON COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Purchase adjacent property for Airport in order to properly meet storm water demands, also for Airport protection zone.	All Hazards	High	1	350k	Federal Grant, SC Aeronautics	Building, Economic Development	Pending 10yrs	Local match is needed.
2. Arts Tourism Projects.	All Hazards	Med	2	200k	Federal Grant	Economic Development	Pending Annually	Local match is needed.
3. Economic needs for roads, rails above ground tank, Industrial Park.	All Hazards	High	1	17 mil.	Federal, State, CDBG, Utility Co.	Economic Development, Public Works	Pending 10yrs	Local match is needed.
4. Vegetation for Exit 38 to help with soil erosion, lighting, and drainage.	All Hazards	Med	2	375k	Federal, State, CDBG, Utility Co.	Public Works	Pending 5 yrs.	Local match is needed.
5. Construction of new EMS/Fire Station in Industrial Park in Early Branch.	All Hazards	Med	2	Unsure	Federal, State, CDBG, Utility Co.	Emergency Management	Pending 10 yrs.	Local match is needed.
6. Utilize social media and post information listing what one should have if a hazard strikes Post same information in public spaces, including home improvement stores.	All Hazards	High	2, 4	Low	Local	Emergency Management/ Retailers	Reoccurring Annually	Participation by the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).
7. Identify and protect wetlands that serve as Flood storage areas.	Flood	Med	5	High	Forestry Commission	Building, Planning	Initiated 5 yrs.	This project is still accessed.
8. Update aerial imaging and mapping of county.	All Hazards	Low	5	High	Local	Assessors/ Building	Initiated 5 yrs.	In process.

HAMPTON COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
9. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	All Hazards	High	2, 3	Low	Local	Emergency Management	Reoccurring Annually	Done with LEPC Meetings.
10. Conduct an inventory and map current community facilities, including tele-communications; assess the condition of facilities for determining if repair or replacement is required Identify current community facilities deficiencies and future needs.	All Hazards	High	1, 4	Med	PDM	Public Works, Planning	Reoccurring 5 yrs.	Building official uses latest codes that buildings are up to date.
11. Increase tree plantings (Safely) around buildings to shade parking lots and along public rights-of-way.	Extreme Heat	Med	5	Med-High	Forestry Commission/ Private Sector	Public Works, Municipalities	Reoccurring 5 yrs.	Any new buildings have added trees around the building.
12. Do an assessment and cost benefit-analysis for making improvement to the County Airport Make Improvements where needed.	All Hazards	Low	1, 4	Med-High	PDM, Local	Economic Development	Initiated 5 yrs.	The Hampton County Airport is under construction.
13. Provide provisions for transportation to get those in need to emergency shelters.	Hurricane, Winter Storm	Med	4	Med	PDM	County, COA, Social Services, LRTA	Reoccurring 5 yrs.	We will rely on County on Aging (COA), Non-Emergency Transport Services.
14. Identify and elevate roads and bridges above the base flood elevation to maintain dry access in situations where flood waters tend to wash roads out. Construction, reconstruction, or repair can include not only attention to drainage, but also stabilization or armoring of vulnerable shoulders or embankments.	Hurricane, Flooding	Low	1, 3, 5	Very High	FHWA, Special Legislation	Public Works, LCOG, FHWY	Initiated 25 yrs.	Roads that have been damaged by storms are currently being reconstructed.

HAMPTON COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
15. Warning System Education: Educate residents of warning systems meaning and schedule testing.	Hurricane, Tornado	Low	2	20k	PDM, Local Funds	Emergency Management	Pending 10 yrs	Hampton county needs a warning system for both sides of the county.
16. Building Code: Oversee strict adherence to newest building standards by monitoring new renovations and construction.	All Hazards	Low	3	50k	PDM, CDBG, Local Funds	Building	Reoccurring Annually	Building official uses latest codes.
17. Inspection of Lines: Ensure lines are clear of limbs or other obstructions that may cause damage during Windstorms or other natural hazards.	All Hazards	High	4	100k	PDM	Public Works	Reoccurring Annually	Ongoing as needed. Probably needs a second look, and higher priority.
18. Install/Keep up to date with Warning Systems.	Hurricane, Tornado	Low	2	5 mil.	PDM	EMD	Initiated 10 yrs	
19. Instigate Earthquake training in schools.	Earthquake	Med	2	10k	Local Funds	EMD	Reoccurring Annually	This is done each October in all Schools
20. Handout SC's Earthquake Preparedness of Schools brochure and implement training.	Earthquake	Med	2	30k	Local Funds	EMD	Reoccurring Annually	This is done each October in all Schools
21. Remove potential tree problems.	Lightning, Wildfire	Med	4	250k	PDM	Public Works	Reoccurring Annually	This is completed yearly.
22. Continue to Scan important and historic documents to backup information and to compile with State Archive requirements.	All Hazards	High	4	20k	PDM, Local Funds	Admin	Reoccurring Annually	This is completed yearly.
23. Provide information to residents on how to prepare homes, family, and property for disasters.	All Hazards	High	2	Low	Local	Emergency Management	Reoccurring Annually	Completed yearly each June
24. Oversee strict adherence to newest building standards by monitoring new renovations and construction.	All Hazards	High	3, 5	Low	Local	Building Inspector	Reoccurring Annually	Completed yearly.

HAMPTON COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
25. Identify ham radio operators.	All Hazards	Med	4	Low	Local	Emergency Management	Reoccurring Annually	Ham Radio's are in the EOC and Communications Tower for easy access
26. Inspect and manage vegetation that could damage critical facilities.	Hurricane	High	1, 5	Low	Local/PDM	Public Works	Reoccurring Annually	Ongoing through Building and Grounds
27. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	All Hazards	High	2, 4	Low	Local/PDM	Emergency Management	Reoccurring Annually	We have a listing of all NOAA radio's in facilites they are checked yearly.
28. Improve existing critical facilities by replacing doors and Windows at older facilities.	Hurricane, Winter Storm	High	1, 4	Med	HMPG Local Funds	Public Works, Building	Pending 5 yrs.	A Shutter project has been applied for HMPG for Emergency Operation Center & BT
29. Ensure critical facilities have adequate emergency power resources, including fuel storage.	All Hazards	High	1, 4	Med	PDM, Local	EMD	Reoccurring 5 yrs.	Generators are installed in critical facilites and checked yearly.
30. Provide hazard training in schools.	Earthquake	High	2	Low	PDM, Local	Emergency Management	Reoccurring Annually	Training is completed yearly.
31. Special Need Population Inventory.	All Hazards	High	4, 3	20k	PDM Local Funds	Planning	Reoccurring Annually	
32. Rescue and Evacuation for Special Populations.	All Hazards	Med	4, 3	35k	PDM, Local Funds	EMD	Initiated 5 yrs.	Slow process due to limited personal.
33. Workshops and Classes: Teach residents how to prepare homes, family, and property for disasters.	All Hazards	Med	2	10k	PDM, Local Funds	EMD	Reoccurring Annually	Education to the community is taught at several events at least 8 times during the year through education, media, and press.
34. Public Education and Awareness- Informational Packets: Packets circulated during season of hazard	All Hazards	Med	2	20k	PDM, Local Funds	EMD	Reoccurring Annually	Media communications.
35. Vegetation Management: Inspect and manage vegetation that could damage critical facilities if felled by Wind.	Windstorm	Med	1	100k	PDM	Public Works	Reoccurring Annually	Need funding/personnel to support.

HAMPTON COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
36. Building Code Wind Standards: Adhere to new building standards (ISO 9000 Building Standards as of 2004).	Windstorm, Hurricane	Med	3, 5	150K	PDM, CDBG, Local Funds	Building	Reoccurring Annually	Need funding/personnel to support.
37. Creation of mobile dispatch unit to ensure communications not eliminated due to natural hazard.	All Hazards	Low	4	1 mil.	PDM	EMD	Reoccurring As needed	This is an ongoing project. Never complete.
38. Wetland Protection: Preservation through education of public about buffer zones and regulating these through development ordinances.	Flood	Med	5	50k	PDM, Local Funds	Planning	Initiated 5 years	Comprehensive Plan Update 2026.
39. Posted boards near grocery stores and hardware stores listing what one should have if a hazard struck.	Earthquake, Tornado, Hurricane, Flood	Med	2	30k	PDM, Local Funds	EMD, Planning	Reoccurring Annually	Hurricane Guides are placed in stores in June each year.
40. Publicize events at Local hardware stores that show how to save your property during a hazard.	Hail, Earthquake, Hurricane, Windstorm	High	2	50k	PDM, Local Funds	EMD	Reoccurring Annually	Completed yearly.
41. Train those in rural areas for how to protect their homes, and what to do during an event.	All Hazards	High	2	250k	PDM, Local Funds	EMD	Reoccurring Annually	Training provided yearly
42. Train people with equipment and supplies for a winter storm.	Winter Storm	High	2	50k	PDM, Local Funds	EMD	Reoccurring Annually	Training provided by Emergency Management Yearly
43. Offer a list of city foresters, county extension offices, Local nurseries and landscape firms that can provide advice on tree selection for your area and soil conditions.	Lightning, Wildfire	High	3	2k	PDM, Local Funds	Planning	Reoccurring Annually	
44. Incentive, publicize, or provide fans or other types of cooling elements for popular outdoor areas during times of high heat.	Extreme Heat	Low	5	100k	PDM, Local Funds	EMD	Reoccurring As needed	Hampton County has a cooling shelter if needed.

HAMPTON COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
45. Purchase support vehicles to reach rural locations during hazard.	Hurricane	Low	4	1 mil.	PDM	Public Works, EMD	Reoccurring Annually	Reviewed yearly.
46. Provide materials for stranded motorists during a hazard.	All Hazards	Low	4	2 mil.	PDM, Local Funds	EMD	Reoccurring As needed	Completed as needed.
47. Assess trees in public areas to see if they are dead, dying, or could cause potential problems if struck by lightning or are fire conducive.	Lightning, Wildfire	Med	4	30k	PDM	Planning	Reoccurring Annually	Surveyed yearly.
48. Hurricane Shutters for Emergency Shelters.	Windstorm, Tornado	High	4	50k	PDM Local Funds	EMD, Building	Initiated 10 yrs	Still needed at Wade Hampton County Intermediate School.
49. Shelter Development.	All Hazards	High	4	2 mil.	PDM, HMGP, FMA, RFC	Building	Reoccurring Annually	After a recent study, County lost shelter space.
50. Special Needs Evacuation Study.	All Hazards	Med	4, 3	10k	PDM, Local Funds	EMD	Reoccurring Annually	
51. Backup Power Evaluation.	All Hazards	High	4	10k	PDM, Local Funds	EMD	Reoccurring Annually	The only back up powers would be generators for Hampton County.
52. Evacuation measures for those in need.	All Hazards	High	4	45k	PDM Local Funds	EMD	Reoccurring As needed	One case at a time due to limited personnel in the community.
53. Inspection of communication lines to ensure reliability.	All Hazards	High	1, 4	200k	Local Funds, PDM	Public Works, Provider	Reoccurring Annually	Communications are checked yearly.
54. Inspection of utility lines.	All Hazards	Med	1, 4	40k	Local Funds, PDM	Public Works, Provider	Reoccurring Annually	Dominion Energy and Palmetto Electric Coop.
55. Improvement of utilities.	All Hazards	Med	1, 4	100k	Local Funds, PDM	Public Works, Provider	Reoccurring As needed	Utilities are updated yearly as needed.
56. Improvements to the Hampton County High School Project by Hampton County	Earthquake, Tornado and Hurricane Flood	High	1,5	2.5m	Local Funds, PDM	Building, Economic Development	Pending 10 years	Local match is needed.

TOWN OF BRUNSON								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	All Hazards	Med	4	Low	PDM	EM	Initiated 3-5 yrs.	
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	All Hazards	Med	2, 6	Low	PDM	EM	Reoccurring Annually	
3. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities. Make improvements.	All Hazards	Med	1, 3, 5	Med	PDM	EM	Initiated 5 yrs.	

TOWN OF ESTILL								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	All Hazards	Med	4	Low	PDM	EM	Initiated 3-5 yrs.	
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	All Hazards	Med	2, 6	Low	PDM	EM	Reoccurring Annually	
3. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities. Make improvements.	All Hazards	Med	1, 3, 5	Med	PDM	EM	Initiated 5 yrs.	

TOWN OF FURMAN								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	All Hazards	Med	4	Low	PDM	EM	Initiated 3-5 yrs.	
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	All Hazards	Med	2, 6	Low	PDM	EM	Reoccurring Annually	
3. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities. Make improvements.	All Hazards	Med	1, 3, 5	Med	PDM	EM	Initiated 5 yrs.	

TOWN OF GIFFORD								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	All Hazards	Med	4	Low	PDM	EM	Initiated 3-5 yrs.	
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	All Hazards	Med	2, 6	Low	PDM	EM	Reoccurring Annually	
3. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities. Make improvements.	All Hazards	Med	1, 3, 5	Med	PDM	EM	Initiated 5 yrs.	

TOWN OF HAMPTON								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	All Hazards	Med	4	Low	PDM	EM	Initiated 3-5 yrs.	
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	All Hazards	Med	2, 6	Low	PDM	EM	Reoccurring Annually	
3. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities. Make improvements.	All Hazards	Med	1, 3, 5	Med	PDM	EM	Initiated 5 yrs.	

TOWN OF LURAY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	All Hazards	Med	4	Low	PDM	EM	Initiated 3-5 yrs.	
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	All Hazards	Med	2, 6	Low	PDM	EM	Reoccurring Annually	
3. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities. Make improvements.	All Hazards	Med	1, 3, 5	Med	PDM	EM	Initiated 5 yrs.	

TOWN OF SCOTIA								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	All Hazards	Med	4	Low	PDM	EM	Initiated 3-5 yrs.	
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	All Hazards	Med	2, 6	Low	PDM	EM	Reoccurring Annually	
3. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities. Make improvements.	All Hazards	Med	1, 3, 5	Med	PDM	EM	Initiated 5 yrs.	

TOWN OF VARNVILLE								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	All Hazards	Med	4	Low	PDM	EM	Initiated 3-5 yrs.	
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	All Hazards	Med	2, 6	Low	PDM	EM	Reoccurring Annually	
3. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities. Make improvements.	All Hazards	Med	1, 3, 5	Med	PDM	EM	Initiated 5 yrs.	

TOWN OF YEMASSEE								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	All Hazards	Med	4	Low	PDM	EM	Initiated 3-5 yrs.	
2. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	All Hazards	Med	2, 6	Low	PDM	EM	Reoccurring Annually	
3. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities. Make improvements.	All Hazards	Med	1, 3, 5	Med	PDM	EM	Initiated 5 yrs.	

JASPER COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Ensure critical facilities have adequate emergency power resources, including fuel storage.	All Hazards	Med	1	Low	PMD	Emergency Management	Reoccurring Annual	
2. Conduct a study on the possible usage of transportable generators on a regional basis for critical facilities.	All Hazards	Med	1	Med	Local	Emergency Management, LRTA	Initiated 2 yrs.	
3. Provide provisions for transportation to get those in need to emergency shelters.	All Hazards	High	4	Low	Local	Emergency Management, JCSO, Social Services	Reoccurring Annual	

JASPER COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
4. Identify specific at-risk populations that may be exceptionally vulnerable in the event of long-term power outages.	Hurricane, Flood, Winter Storm	Low	4, 3	Very High	FHWA	MPO, SCDOT, County	Initiated Annual	
5. Identify and elevate roads and bridges above the base Flood elevation to maintain dry access in situations where Flood waters tend to wash roads out, construction, reconstruction, or repair can include not only attention to drainage, but also stabilization or armoring of vulnerable shoulders or embankments.	Hurricane, Flood, Winter Storm	High	5	Low	Local	Public Works	Reoccurring As needed	
6. Plan for and maintaining adequate road and debris clearing capabilities.	Hurricane, Flood, Winter Storm	Med	4	Low	NRCS	County, Soil Conservation District, Extension	Reoccurring Annual	
7. Encourage farmers to implement soil and water conservation practices that foster soil health and improve soil quality to help increase resiliency and mitigate the impacts of droughts.	Drought	High	5	Low	PMD	Emergency Management	Reoccurring Annual	
8. Acquire software enabling social media calls to be integrated into the 911 Dispatch systems.	All Hazards	Low	1, 2, 4	Med	Local	IT, Emergency Services	Reoccurring 2 yrs.	

JASPER COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
9. Identify and analyze renewable energy options: costs, benefits, environmental effects, technological potential, and political acceptability.	All Hazards	High	1, 5	Low	PMD, Local	Planning, Building, Public Works	Initiated 5 yrs.	Funding will need to identify an engineering firm to assess the conditions of community buildings and determine the need for replacement status. Identify a plan for renovation or replacement and then capital outlay to accomplish recommendations of engineering study.
10. Conduct an inventory and map current community facilities, including telecommunications; assess the condition of facilities for determining if repair or replacement is required. Identify current community facilities deficiencies and future needs.	All Hazards	High	1	Low	Local	GIS, Planning	Initiated Annual	
11. Utilize social media and post information listing what one should have if hazards strike. Post same information in public spaces, including home improvement stores.	All Hazards	High	2	Low	Local	Emergency Services	Initiated Annual	
12. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	Flood, Hurricanes	Med	2, 3	Med	Local	Emergency Services	Initiated Annual	
13. Identify and protect wetlands that serve as Flood storage areas.	Flood, Hurricanes	Med	5	Low	Local, EPA	Planning	Reoccurring Annual	

JASPER COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
14. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods or watersheds with high vulnerabilities. Make improvements.	Flood, Hurricanes	Med	3, 5	Med	Local, COA	COA	Initiated 3-5 yrs.	
15. Install generator at Jasper County Senior Center – cooling center –Ridgeland.	All Hazards	Low	1, 4	Med-High	PMD, Local	Emergency Services	Pending 2 yrs.	
16. Do an assessment and cost benefit-analysis for making improvement to the County Airport. Make improvements where needed.	All Hazards	Low	1	High	Local	Planning, Building, Finance	Reoccurring Annual	
17. Update aerial imaging and mapping of county.	All Hazards	High	1	Med	PMD	Emergency Management	Initiated Annual	As funds are available.
18. Vegetation Management: Inspect and manage vegetation that could damage critical facilities if felled by Wind.	Windstorm, Hurricane	High	1	50k	Local Funds, PDM	Public Works	Initiated As needed	Working with Public Works.
19. Provide Education and public outreach regarding any or all potential natural hazards.	All Hazards	High	2	25k	Local Funds, PDM	Emergency Services	Initiated Annual	
21. Continue to circulate Informational Packets during season of hazard.	All Hazards	High	2	15k	Local Funds, PDM	Emergency Services	Reoccurring Annual	Giving out pamphlets during hazard seasons.
22. Provide EM Response Training of employees and emergency workers for specific natural hazard events.	All Hazards	High	4	50k	Local Funds, PDM	Emergency Services	Initiated Annual	Complete and continue to do so.
23. Provide hazard training in schools.	All Hazards	High	2	20k	Local Funds, PDM	Emergency Services	Pending 2 yrs.	The 2021 IBC/IFC is released and waiting on state adoption.

JASPER COUNTY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
25. Continue educating residents how to prepare homes, family, and property for disasters – Workshops and Classes.	All Hazards	Med	2	120k	Local Funds, PDM, CDBG	Emergency Services	Reoccurring Annual	
26. Building Code: Oversee strict adherence to new building standards by closely monitoring all new renovations and construction.	Flood	High	3	15k	Local Funds, PDM, CDBG, FMA,	Planning, Building	Reoccurring As needed	
27. Building Code Wind Standards: Adhere to new building standards (ISO 9000 Building Standards as of this plan).	All Hazards	High	3	50k	Local Funds, PDM	Building Provider, Public Works	Reoccurring As needed	The County will automatically adopt the latest version following the State's adoption.
28. Update Floodplain maps.	All Hazards	High	4	50k	Local Funds, PDM	Planning, Provider, Public Works	Reoccurring As needed	
29. Inspect communication lines to ensure reliability.	All Hazards	High	1	50k	Local Funds, PDM	Building, Provider, Public Works	Reoccurring Annual	
30. Improve old or worn communication lines.	All Hazards	High	1	50k	Local Funds, PDM	Building, Provider, Public Works	Reoccurring As needed	
31. Inspect lines to ensure lines clear of limbs or other obstructions that may damage them during Windstorms or other natural hazards.	All Hazards	High	1	50k	Local Funds, PDM	EMD, Provider, Public Works	Reoccurring Annual	Major limb clearing done in 2025 and 2026
32. Inspect utility lines.	All Hazards	High	1	75k	Local Funds, PDM	Building, Provider, Public Works	Reoccurring Annual	
33. Improve utilities.	All Hazards	High	1	75k	Local Funds, PDM	EMD, Provider, Public Works	Reoccurring As needed	

CITY OF HARDEEVILLE								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	All Hazards	Med	2, 3	Low	PDM	County Emergency Management	Reoccurring Annually	City continues to provide educational services for City residents, especially with fire, flooding and hurricane disasters
2. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities. Make improvements.	All Hazards	Med	3, 5	Med	PDM	Planning, Public Works, Building	Initiated Annually	City has developed a Stormwater Masterplan and continue to implement improvements.
3. Survey trees cover to ensure decreased vulnerability. Make improvements.	Windstorm	Med	1, 5	Low	PDM	County Emergency Management	Initiated As needed	City is conducting tree surveys as it relates to new city projects
4. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	All Hazards	Med	4	Low	PDM	County Emergency Management	Pending 1-5 years	City is taking the preliminary steps to establish this program.
5. Ensure all developments within floodplains comply with regulations through continued coordination with FEMA and USACE	Flooding	High	1,3,5,6	Low	PDM,HMG	Planning, Public Works, Building	Initiated As needed	Every development proposed or approved are reviewed for floodplain compliance.
6. Plan regular inspection and maintenance of public stormwater facilities, including SCDOT's roadside ditch system, the City's stormwater pump stations and regional ponds in order to keep them functioning at optimum capacity and prevent degradation of wetlands	Flooding	High	1,3,5,6	Med	PDM,HMG	Planning, Public Works	Initiated Annually	Implement improvements suggested in Stormwater Master Plan

CITY OF HARDEEVILLE								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
7. Inventory existing stormwater infrastructure within the City including mapping, modeling, identifying current problem areas, and identifying needed improvements	Flooding	High	1,3,5,6	Med	PDM,HMG	Planning, Public Works, Building, GIS	Initiated Annually	City has established a GIS position to help move this project forward updating city maps.
8. Implement a community-wide warning system for severe weather	All Hazards	High	2,,4	High	PDM,HMG	Fire/Police/ Communications	Initiated 3-5 years	City utilizes Nixle and social media to push out disaster information. Research and is considering other types of warning systems.
9. Work with City media Department to promote public awareness of disaster preparedness.	All Hazards	High	2,,4	High	Local	Fire/Police/ Communications	Initiated Annually	City utilizes Nixle and social media to push out disaster information. Research and is considering other types of warning systems.
10. Update all City mapping including base images to match City growth	Flooding	High	1,2,3,4,5,6	High	PDM,HMG	Planning, Public Works, Building, GIS	Initiated As needed	City has established a GIS position to help move this project forward updating city maps.
11. Implement the City's CRS Program	Flooding	High	1,2,3,4,5,6	High	Local, PDM, HMG	Administration/Building/ Planning/Public Works	Pending 1-5 years	City is taking the preliminary steps to establish the CRS program.
12. Acquire generators for critical and municipal buildings for use during a disaster event.	All Hazards	High	1,4,5	Low	PDM, HMG	Building/ Public Works	Initiated 2 years	Funding applications for target buildings: Recreation Center, Public Works Facility, City Hall, Police and Municipal Court Building, Fire Department Headquarters.

TOWN OF RIDGELAND								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	All Hazards	Med	2, 6	Low	PDM	Emergency Management	Reoccurring Annually	
2. Create small area plans for stormwater drainage and housing in neighborhoods and watersheds with high vulnerabilities. Make improvements.	All Hazards	Med	3, 5	Med	PDM	Emergency Management	Reoccurring Annually	
3. Survey trees cover to ensure decreased vulnerability. Make improvements.	Windstorm	Med	1, 5	Med	PDM	Emergency Management	Reoccurring As needed	
4. Promote use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.	All Hazards	Med	4	Low	PDM	Emergency Management	Initiated 3-5 yrs.	

BEAUFORT-JASPER WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY								
2026 New and Ongoing Mitigation Actions	**Hazard**	**Priority**	**Goal**	**Estimated Cost**	**Potential Funding**	**Responsible Department**	**Schedule**	**Notes**
1. Conduct Targeted Hazard Mitigation Educational Programs in areas with known social vulnerability.	All Hazards	Med	2, 3	Low	PDM	Emergency Management	Reoccurring Annual	
2. Review and improve access to critical facilities.	All Hazards	Med	1, 4	Med	FMA	Emergency Management	Reoccurring Annual	
3. Survey trees cover to ensure decreased vulnerability. Make improvements.	Windstorm	Med	1, 5	Med	PDM	Emergency Management	Reoccurring Annual	
4. Continue to monitor and upgrade facilities that support military installations in the area.	All Hazards	High	1, 5	High	HMA, BRIC, DCIP	Planning	Reoccurring Annual	
5. Maintain water reuse for wetlands restoration.	Hurricane, Flood, Coastal Erosion	Med	3, 5, 6	Med	CWSRF, WIFIA, SCOR	Planning	Reoccurring Annual	

APPENDIX K: FEDERAL MITIGATION FUNDING SOURCES

Agency	Program	Purpose of Fund	Assistance	Link
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)	Support states, local communities, tribes, and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. Aims to shift federal focus away from reactive disaster spending and toward research-supported proactive investment in community resilience by providing funding for greater investments in resiliency and mitigation efforts in preparation for natural hazard events, including project grants. Funding is also available for management costs. There is a requirement to have a FEMA-approved mitigation plan to receive FEMA assistance.	Project Grants, Technical Assistance Available, Disaster Occurrence Required, Disaster Designation Required	State, Local, Tribal (Federally Recognized) and Territorial Governments https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	Funds long-term hazard mitigation planning and activities that will reduce or eliminate the losses of life and property in future disasters. Individuals, businesses can also apply through, or be sponsored by their local, state, or tribal government agency. Must provide a project that demonstrates cost- effectiveness and feasibility that benefits the disaster area and its inhabitants. Application project must conform with the approved state, tribal, and/or local mitigation plan. Funding is available for mitigation planning and planning-related activities as well as management costs.	Mitigation Planning and Project Grants, Technical Assistance Available, Disaster Occurrence & Designation Required	State, Local, Tribal (Federally Recognized) and Territorial Governments. Note: Individuals can apply for a grant through a local community. https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	FEMA's Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant Program	Provides funding for projects and planning that reduces or eliminates long-term risk of flood damage to structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Funding is also available for management costs. Note competitive grant program and rating criteria. FEMA will select eligible individual flood mitigation project sub applications on a competitive basis, prioritizing projects with the potential to mitigate the most "severe repetitive loss."	FEMA's Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant Program	State, Tribal Government (Federally Recognized) and Territorial Governments. Note: Local governments must apply through their state. https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/floods

Agency	Program	Purpose of Fund	Assistance	Link
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	FEMA's Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG)	Assists state and local governments and certain private nonprofit entities after damage from a declared disaster. Assistance can support emergency work, permanent work or "special considerations" such as hazard mitigation. There is a requirement to have a FEMA-approved mitigation plan to receive FEMA assistance.	Grant, Technical Assistance Available, Disaster Occurrence Required, Disaster Designation Required	State, Tribal Government (Federally Recognized), Territorial Governments, and Private Nonprofit Organizations https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public/fire-management-assistance
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program	Assists state and local governments and certain private nonprofit entities after damage from a declared disaster. Assistance can support emergency work, permanent work or "special considerations" such as hazard mitigation. There is a requirement to have a FEMA-approved mitigation plan to receive FEMA assistance.	Grant, Technical Assistance Available, Disaster Occurrence Required, Disaster Designation Required	State, Tribal Government (Federally Recognized), Territorial Governments, and Private Nonprofit Organizations https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public/program-overview
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	FEMA's Increased Cost of Compliance	Helps National Flood Insurance Program policyholders with the costs incurred if they are required by the community building department to meet rebuilding standards after a flood. Provides up to $30,000 to help pay for relocating, elevating, demolishing, and flood proofing (non-residential buildings), or any combination of these mitigation activities.	Grant, Disaster Occurrence Required	Individual https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/financial-help/increased-cost-compliance
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	FEMA's Community Disaster Loan Program	Provides operational funding for local governments to continue to operate after a substantial revenue loss caused by a disaster.	Loan, Disaster Occurrence Required	Local Governments https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public/policy-guidance-fact-sheets/community-disaster-loan-program
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program	Authorized under Section 205 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide capitalization grants to states, eligible federally recognized tribes, territories and the District of Columbia to establish revolving loan funds that provide hazard mitigation assistance for local governments to reduce risks from natural hazards and disasters.The Safeguarding Tomorrow RLF program complements and supplements FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant portfolio to support mitigation projects at the local government level and increase the nation's resilience to natural hazards.These low interest loans will allow jurisdictions to	Revolving Loan Fund Program	https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/learn/storm-rlf

Agency	Program	Purpose of Fund	Assistance	Link
		reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, foster greater community resilience and reduce disaster suffering.		
U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)	EDA's Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) Program	Funding supports distressed communities experiencing adverse economic changes that may result from industrial or corporate restructuring, new Federal laws or requirements, reduction in defense expenditures, depletion of natural resources, or natural disaster. Economic Adjustment Assistance grants are intended to enhance a distressed community's ability to compete economically by stimulating private investment in targeted areas.	Grant, Technical Assistance Available	District Organizations Indian Tribes or Consortia of Tribes, State, County, City, or Other Political Subdivisions of a State, Institutions of Higher Education, Public or Private Nonprofit Organizations or Associations Acting in Cooperation with Officials of a Political Subdivision of a State. https://www.eda.gov/programs/eda- programs/
U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)	EDA's Economic Development Disaster Supplemental Funding	Helps regions recover from the economic harm and distress resulting from natural disasters to rebuild stronger, more resilient economies.	Grant, Disaster Designation Required	District Organizations Indian Tribes or Consortia of Tribes, State, County, City, or Other Political Subdivisions of a State, Institutions of Higher Education, Public or Private Nonprofit Organizations or Associations Acting in Cooperation with Officials of a Political Subdivision of a State. https://www.eda.gov/strategic-initiatives/disaster-recovery/supplemental/2025
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	HUD's CDBG-Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR)	Congress may appropriate funds to HUD when there are significant unmet needs for long-term recovery from a major disaster. CDGB-DR efforts must address disaster-related recovery activities, meet a national objective of CDBG, or be CDBG eligible. Funds can be used for disaster relief, long-term recover, restoration of infrastructure, housing, or economic revitalization.	Grant, Disaster Occurrence Required, Disaster Designation Required	Eligible States and Local Governments https://www.hudexchange.info/prog rams/cdbg-dr/
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	HUD's CDBG-Mitigation (CDBG- MIT)	Enables grantees to mitigate against disaster risks, while at the same time allowing grantees the opportunity to transform state and local planning. Grantees are required to reference applicable FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMP) in their action plan and describe how the HMP has informed the CDBG- MIT action plan. Grantees may also use these funds for planning activities, including but not limited to regional mitigation planning, the integration of mitigation plans with other planning	Grant, Disaster Occurrence Required, Disaster Designation Required	Eligible States and Local Governments https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg-mit/

Agency	Program	Purpose of Fund	Assistance	Link
		initiatives, activities related to FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation.		
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	NOAA's National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF)	The NCRF aims to benefit coastal communities by reducing the impact of coastal flooding and associated threats to property and key assets, such as hospitals and emergency routes; improving water quality and recreational opportunities; and enhancing the ecological integrity and functionality of coastal and inland ecosystems	Grant	State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments, Institutions of Higher Education, Other Nonprofits, Commercial Organizations, and International Organizations. https://www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	USACE's Flood Risk Management Program (FRMP)	Works across the agency to focus the policies, programs, and expertise of USACE toward reducing overall flood risk. This includes the appropriate use and resiliency of structures such as levees and floodwalls, as well as promoting alternatives when other approaches (e.g., land acquisition, flood proofing, etc.) reduce the risk of loss of life, reduce long-term economic damages to the public and private sector, and improve the natural environment	Technical Assistance	Government Entity https://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Flood-Risk-Management/Flood- Risk-Management-Program/
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	USACE's National Flood Risk Management Silver Jackets Program	Provides funding to Corps staff to facilitate state-level coordination of Federal agencies and other expertise. The program also encourages the development of state-focused prioritized goals and objectives intent upon leveraging resources and improving efficiency across all levels of government with a focus on recovery and mitigation activities.	Technical Assistance	Government Entity https://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/Silver-Jackets/
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	USACE's Emergency Operations: Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies	Authorized to undertake activities including disaster preparedness, Advance Measures, emergency operations (Flood Response and Post Flood Response), rehabilitation of flood control works threatened or destroyed by flood, protection or repair of federally authorized shore protective works threatened or damaged by coastal storm, and provisions of emergency water due to drought or contaminated source	Other Assistance	State and Local Government https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Emergency-Operations/National- Response-Framework/Flood-Control/
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	USACE's Rehabilitation and Inspection Program	Under (PL84-99) USACE has the ability to provide rehabilitation assistance for flood risk management projects damaged during flood events. Through the voluntary Rehabilitation Program, USACE will assist in repairing levee systems and other flood risk	Contractual Cost Sharing Technical Assistance	Government Entity https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Emergency-Management/Rehabilitation-Inspection/

Agency	Program	Purpose of Fund	Assistance	Link
		management projects after a flood event if the projects meet the required eligibility criteria.		
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	USACE's Watershed Management	Watershed management planning studies focus on the development, use, monitoring, regulation, and preservation of land and water resources within a specific watershed. A watershed study will develop a framework of implementation strategies and recommended actions that could be implemented throughout the watershed. Unlike other Corps of Engineers' studies, these studies can often identify actions for watershed improvement that are beyond the scope and authority of the Corps of Engineers	Contractual Cost Sharing Technical Assistance	State, Local Governments, or Eligible Native American Indian Tribes https://water.usace.army.mil/
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	USACE's Floodplain Management Services Program	Corps of Engineers can provide the full range of technical services and planning guidance that is needed to support effective flood plain management. Upon request, general technical assistance efforts under this program includes determining site-specific data on obstructions to flood flows, flood formation, and timing; flood depths, stages or floodwater velocities; the extent, duration, and frequency of flooding; information on natural and cultural flood plain resources; and flood loss potentials before and after the use of flood plain management measures.	FPMS assistance is 100 percent federally funded. Other Federal agencies and private parties must pay 100 percent of the costs of all FPMS efforts.	State, Local Governments, or Eligible Native American Indian Tribes https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Technical-Assistance/FPMS/
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	USACE's Interagency and International Support (IIS)	The Corps provides engineering and construction services, environmental restoration and management services, research and development assistance, management of water and land related natural resources, relief and recovery work, and other management and technical services.	Contractual Technical Assistance Note: Most IIS work is funded on a reimbursable basis.	Department of Defense Federal Agencies, State and Local Governments, Tribal Nations, Private U.S. Firms, International Organizations, & Foreign Governments https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Interagency-International-Support/
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	USDA's Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)	Assists producers in recovering from natural disasters like floods, hurricanes, wildfires, and drought. Provides financial assistance to repair and prevent excessive soil erosion caused or impacted by natural disasters to promote conservation practices to protect	Contractual Direct Payment	Individual, Legal Entity, Indian Tribe, or Joint Operation Which Is an Agricultural Producer. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/programs/?cid=nrcseprd1361073

Agency	Program	Purpose of Fund	Assistance	Link
		land from erosion, support disaster recovery and repair, and mitigate loss from future natural disasters.		
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	USDA's Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)	Assistance to repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disasters and to help put in place methods for water conservation during severe drought. The ECP does this by giving ranchers and farmers funding and assistance to repair the damaged farmland or to install methods for water conservation.	Contractual Direct Payment	Farmers and Ranchers https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/emergency-conservation/index
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	USDA's Forest Service (FS) Volunteer Fire Assistance	The program's main goal is to provide Federal financial, technical, and other assistance in the organization, training and equipping of fire departments in rural areas, defined as having a population of 10,000 or less.	50/50 Cost-Sharing Grant	Fire Agency or Volunteer Fire Departments in Rural Communities. Administered through the South Carolina Forestry Commission. https://www.scfc.gov/protection/other-programs/vfavfa-programs-and-grants/
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	USDA's Forrest Service (FS) Emergency Forest Restoration	Provides payments to eligible owners of nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) land in order to carry out emergency measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster.	Grant	Individuals https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-forest-restoration
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation (NRCS) Programs	NRCS's natural resources conservation programs help people reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damages caused by floods and other natural disasters.	Financial Assistance	Agriculture Producers and Landowners https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)	FMA provides grants to assist with the planning and implementation of flood mitigation projects that include measures to reduce flood losses by elevation, acquisition, or relocation of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)-insured structures. It also allows dry floodproofing of non-residential structures, small local flood reduction projects, and plans to prevent flood damage. Projects must have the effect of reducing the risk of flood. FMA provides funds yearly on a competitive basis.	Grant	https://www.epa.gov/fedfunds/flood-mitigation-assistance-fma
U.S. Department of Transportation	Promoting Resilient Operations for	PROTECT provided funding to ensure surface transportation resilience to natural hazards including climate change, sea level rise,	Grant	https://www.transportation.gov/rural/grant-toolkit/promoting-resilient-operations-transformative-efficient-and-cost-saving

Agency	Program	Purpose of Fund	Assistance	Link
	Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Grant program	flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through support of planning activities, resilience improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure.		
National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration	National Coastal Resilience Fund	The National Coastal Resilience Fund is a partnership between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and NOAA to enhance fish and wildlife habitat and protect coastal communities. The focus for these projects is on restoring, increasing, and strengthening natural infrastructure to protect communities while also enhancing habitats for fish and wildlife. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law boosts funding to this highly effective and collaborative coastal resilience program which is also supported by the Inflation Reduction Act, base appropriations, Department of Defense, and other partner contributions.	Grant	https://coast.noaa.gov/funding/bil/ncrf/overview.html

APPENDIX L: ADOPTION RESOLUTIONS

Beaufort County

RESOLUTION 2026/40

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2026 LOWCOUNTRY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS the Council of Beaufort County recognizes the threat that hazards pose to people and property within Beaufort County; and

WHEREAS proactive mitigation of known hazards before a disaster event can reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property; and

WHEREAS Beaufort County has been an "official participant" in the planning process of the natural hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan, prepared by the Lowcountry Council of Governments in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in Beaufort County from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS adoption by the Beaufort County Council demonstrates their commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY that Beaufort County, in meeting duly assembled, does hereby endorse and adopt the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Adopted this 14th day of September 2026.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

By: Alice G. Howard
Alice G. Howard, Chairman

ATTEST:
Sarah W. Brock
Sarah W. Brock, Clerk to Council

City of Beaufort

RESOLUTION 2026/16

A RESOLUTION OF THE BEAUFORT CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING THE 2026 LOWCOUNTRY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Beaufort recognizes the threat that hazards pose to people and property within the City of Beaufort; and

WHEREAS, proactive mitigation of known hazards before a disaster event can reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property; and

WHEREAS, the City of Beaufort has been an "official participant" in the planning process for the natural hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan, prepared by the Lowcountry Council of Governments in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in the City of Beaufort from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS, adoption by the City of Beaufort demonstrates its commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BEAUFORT CITY COUNCIL,

This 8th day of September, 2026, that the City of Beaufort hereby endorses and adopts the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan.

In accordance with the applicable rules for adopting resolutions of the City of Beaufort, the Beaufort City Council adopts the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan. While the content of the Plan relates to the City of Beaufort, revisions may be required to meet plan approval requirements, and changes occurring after adoption will not require the City of Beaufort to re-adopt any further iteration of the Plan.

The resolution shall become effective this 8th day of September, 2026.

Philip E. Cromer

Philip E. Cromer, Mayor

ATTEST

Traci Guldner

Traci Guldner, City Clerk

CITY OF BEAUFORT SOUTH CAROLINA FOUNDED 1711

Colleton County

Adopted : September 4, 2026
Committee Referral : N/A
Committee Consideration Date : N/A
Committee Recommendation : N/A

RESOLUTION 26-R- 30

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT AND ADOPT THE 2026 LOWCOUNTRY REGION NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE, AS REQUIRED BY THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

WHEREAS:

1. The federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) may provide funding to mitigate natural disaster hazards; and

2. FEMA requires that a mitigation plan be developed and formally adopted by all jurisdictions included in the Plan before any funding requests will be considered, and further requires updates to the Plan be developed and adopted at least every five years; and

3. Adoption of the Plan also provides certain special credits for Colleton County and ensures the preservation of its current ISO Flood Insurance Rating of 7, which impacts flood insurance rates; and

4. The original Plan was adopted on October 5, 2004, the previously updated July 20, 2010, April 5, 2016, and May 4, 2021; and

5. The Plan has been updated as required, and staff recommends approval of this updated Lowcountry Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Colleton County Council, duly assembled, that:

The County Council hereby officially accepts and adopts the 2026 Lowcountry Region Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, and requests that LCOG seeks to obtain FEMA funds for mitigation projects as applicable.

ADOPTED this 4th day of September 2026.

ATTEST:

COLLETON COUNTY SEAL WALTERBORO, SC

Martha B. Thompson
Clerk to Council

SIGNED:

Scott Biering
Chairman

Hampton County

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-008

COUNTY OF HAMPTON

A RESOLUTION OF THE HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL ADOPTING THE 2026 LOWCOUNTRY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS the Hampton County Council recognizes the threat that hazards pose to people and property within Hampton County; and

WHEREAS pro-active mitigation of known hazards before a disaster event, can reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property; and

WHEREAS the Hampton County has been an "official participant" in the planning process of the natural hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan prepared by the Lowcountry Council of Governments in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long term risk to people and property in Hampton County from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS adoption by the Hampton County Council demonstrates their commitment to the hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL, SOUTH CAROLINA, THAT:

The Hampton County Council endorses and adopts the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The resolution shall become effective on this 10th day of August 2026.

Attest By:
Altresia Orr (Seal)
Altresia Gordon-Orr, Clerk to Council

COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICIAL SEAL HAMPTON COUNTY, SC

Members of Hampton County Council

Dr. Roy Hollingsworth, Chairman

Absent
Darin Williams, Vice Chairman

Jordan Jinks, Member

Dennis Thompson Jr, Member

Absent
Marvin J. Love, Member

Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF BEAUFORT-JASPER WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 2026 LOWCOUNTRY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority ("Authority) is a body corporate and politic whose function is to acquire supplies of water and to distribute such water within its service area; and

WHEREAS, the Authority shall acquire, construct, operate, maintain, improve and enlarge facilities which provide for the collection, treatment, disposal, and recycling of water and wastewater at any point within its service, wherever such facilities are found by the Authority to be necessary for the public health and the protection of the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Authority owns and operates water and wastewater facilities which provide services and functions critical to the surrounding community and service area;

WHEREAS, the Authority participated in the update to the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan through a multi-jurisdictional effort led by the Lowcountry Council of Governments, and;

WHEREAS, the revised plan updates the 2020 Lowcountry Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and fulfills the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and FEMA's hazard mitigation planning regulations under 44 CFR §201.6; and

WHEREAS, FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plans are required for local governments to remain eligible for federal Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs; and

WHEREAS, BJWSA participated in the creation and development of the revised plan, including as a member of the plan Steering Committee, with public participation, and in review of the revised plan; and

WHEREAS, the new 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan includes the following sections: Introduction and Planning Process, Lowcountry Profile; Hazard Identification and Assessment, Vulnerability Assessment, Community Capability Assessment, Hazard Mitigation Strategy, and Plan Maintenance; and;

WHEREAS, the Authority's Board of Directors now desires to formally adopt the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Members of the Authority's Board of Directors duly assembled, that:

The 2026 Lowcountry Region Hazard Mitigation Plan (www.lowcountrycog.org) is hereby adopted.

ADOPTED this 27th day of August 2026 in Regular Session.

(SEAL)

BEAUFORT-JASPER WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY, SOUTH CAROLINA

By: _____
Michael L. Bell, Chair

Attest:

_____
David R. Strange, Secretary/Treasurer

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