

Town of Edisto Beach

Monthly Highlights

March 2026



IMPORTANT

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Water Quality Investigation

Additional Information:

CFU/100 ml – Colony-forming units per 100 milliliters; a unit of measurement used in water testing to estimate the concentration of viable bacteria, indicating the number of live, culturable bacteria capable of multiplying.

qPCR Sourcing Test – Quantitative polymerase chain reaction; a technology used to measure DNA using PCR, a method that amplifies small amounts of DNA.

Enterococcus – Bacteria that live in the intestinal tracts of warm-blooded animals, including humans, and are used as indicators of possible fecal contamination in surface waters.

Edisto Beach Water Quality Investigation 2025

During the February 10, 2026, Town Council Work Session and the February 12, 2026, Town Council Regular Monthly Meeting, Councilman Bob Renner presented an update on the Edisto Beach Water Quality Investigation for 2025. As Councilman Renner noted at the beginning of his presentation, Town Council asked four years ago: Does Edisto Beach have a septic system problem?

To gather data and information, the Town worked with the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) to evaluate water quality testing data in the creeks and along the beach. From 2020 to 2023, there were very few readings that exceeded the SCDES threshold that would trigger a swimming advisory.

Mr. Renner presented a map showing the various locations where testing was conducted. SCDES samples 12 beach locations twice monthly on Edisto from May through September. In 2024, more than 10% of the data collected over the past five years for LC-081 (Beach Access 35) exceeded the 104 CFU/100 ml threshold. For the 2025 season, SCDES committed to testing four sites on a weekly basis. SCDES also conducted two different qPCR sourcing tests.

Mr. Renner reported that SCDES interpreted the data as follows:

- There is no definitive source; however, it appears that septic systems are not the root cause of elevated enterococcus readings.
- A correlation was again observed between King Tides and stormwater runoff and higher enterococcus readings.
- SCDES's opinion is that the elevated readings are more likely caused by the outflow of rivers and creeks that slow as they enter the Sound.
- When elevated readings occurred, repeat measurements typically returned to normal within one to two days.

The Town will continue to work with SCDES and academic partners to collect additional data and improve understanding.

Update: Town Council 2025-2026 Goals

At its goal-setting meeting of January 29, 2026, Town Council reviewed the 2025-2026 Goals and provided an update on the following:

Interior Lagoon Study: Using the recommendations from Davis & Floyd Engineering, plan to work in phases; continue to secure funding through FEMA and through state earmarked funds.

- The Town received approximate costs for this project, which is \$204,700 in engineering fees, and then construction costs must be considered.
- The Town has completed the following as it concerns funding: (1) submitted and awaiting determination of the \$617,094 Hazard Mitigation Grant Project; (2) the Town is currently working on requesting \$1,500,000 in state and federal earmark funding for multiple drainage projects; (3) the Town requested \$225,000 from Colleton County Transportation Committee for engineering fees; (4) the Town is considering other funding options such as ATAX.

Town-wide Option for Additional Drainage: Working with Davis & Floyd, obtain an estimate for a beach-wide drainage study.

- The Town conducted a Town-wide drainage planning strategy.
- Working to secure funding to conduct remaining studies and recommended improvements (by priority).

- For Yacht Club Road improvements, the Town will meet with SCDOT to secure commitment for drainage improvements as part of the TAP Grant Project.

Causeway Elevation: Continue to pursue a feasibility study and recommendations to address causeway flooding.

- Feasibility study was recently completed and is under review.

Septic Systems: Recommend to homeowners the importance of regular inspections by SCDES certified contractors; continue to educate residents on proper maintenance.

- Continued sharing information with residents, including in the September 2025 Monthly Highlights "Be Septic Safe"

Implement Automatic Metering Infrastructure: Advertise bids in first quarter of 2025.

- Bids were advertised in February 2025; bid from Fortiline Waterworks approved by Council in July 2025.
- As of February 2026, 98% of new meters are installed.
- Utilities data conversion is almost completed.
- Staff training will be held soon.



Update: Town Council 2025-2026 Goals (con't)

Beach Nourishment Project: Continue to work toward easement agreements with beachfront homeowners as soon as possible; schedule follow-up meeting with beachfront homeowners once easement agreements have been shared.

- Progress on this project slowed due to the need for the USACE and the Town to agree on the proper way forward in conducting appraisals of the beachfront properties. A process was approved by both the Town and the USACE on how to move forward, and the appraiser is now preparing appraisal documents with the USACE required language.



Burley L. Lyons Park Boardwalk: Continue with project.

- All work ceased on this project due to a lawsuit filed by a resident in SC Administrative Law Court.

Recreational Fires: Review current ordinance and make revisions based on recommendations from the Fire Chief and others; present revised ordinance to Council for review.

- Revisions were made to the ordinance and approved by Council on October 9, 2025. Changes centered on the conditions under which recreational outdoor yard fires may be permitted in the Town limits.

New EOC/Town Hall Building

The construction of the new EOC/Town Hall building is on schedule.

Most of the exterior work has been completed, and the interior work is currently underway.

The parking lot has been milled and paved. The parking lot features additional parking space for our residents and visitors.

The substantial completion date is noted as the end of March 2026.

The new EOC/Town Hall, approved by voters and funded by the Penny Sales Tax, will provide emergency operations space and a central location to conduct operations in times of disaster. More office space will help Town Hall staff efficiently assist residents and others who visit Town Hall. The current Town Hall will be put to good use as the Police Department will move into that space – a move that will provide much-needed space for our police department.

Town Council will hold a ribbon-cutting event once the building is operational, and all our residents will be invited to join us at that event.



Town Council Approves 2026-2027 Goals

Drainage

- Continue to seek county, state, and federal funding.
- Identify and implement local funding options, including the use of Town reserves or ATAX funds, if state or federal funding is unavailable.
- Council discussion regarding drainage project at March 2026 meeting.

Convenience Center

- Modify scope of services.
- Issue RFP for new contract, compare with in-house model.
- Decide on most feasible option.

Parking

- Update parking inventory.
- Evaluate existing parking plans.
- Develop strategy to manage increased demand.
- Consider paid parking.

Septic Systems

- Host public presentation of recent SCDES Report.
- Continue public education of proper septic maintenance.
- Continue working with SCDES on regular testing and data collection.

USACE Beach Renourishment

- Continue dual-premise appraisals.
- Develop funding strategies for future beach renourishment projects.

YMCA Partnership

- Host a public meeting to gather input and shape potential YMCA programming.
- Involve tenants and other lay stakeholders in discussion.
- Develop cost share arrangement as part of any potential lease agreement.

Road Improvements

- Engage engineers to prioritize needed road improvements.
- Seek cost estimates.

AMI Project

- Implement integrated billing and payment systems.
- Evaluate the online portal to expand electronic payment options and usage.

Causeway Elevation

- Council will consider options from LCOG study.
- Discuss funding and next steps with LCOG and SCDOT.

Dog Park

- Evaluate impacts such as land use, insurance costs, parking, and zoning.
- Engage TIDE Committee in developing actionable recommendations.
- Develop a preliminary design if warranted.

Pickleball Courts

- Evaluate feasibility for expansion.

EBPOA/Tree Recommendations

- Engage TIDE Committee to review current tree regulations and recommend policy updates.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-R01

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT EDISTO BEACH TOWN COUNCIL GOALS FOR 2026-2027

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Town of Edisto Beach, South Carolina, recognize the value of prioritizing its strategic goals and objectives to articulate a shared vision for future action to be taken by Council, and to ensure the most efficient and effective use of limited public resources; and

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2026, the Mayor and Council of the Town of Edisto Beach held a Council Retreat, facilitated by Desirée Fragoso of the Municipal Association of South Carolina, to refine the Town Council's goals for 2026-2027; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Town of Edisto Beach believe it is fitting and proper to formalize the results of the retreat by adopting its Town Council Goals for 2026-2027; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor and Council for the Town of Edisto Beach hereby adopt the *Town Council Goals for 2026-2027*, attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference as is set forth fully herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the items contained within the attached *Town Council Goals for 2026-2027* shall be considered a guide for future actions to be undertaken by the Mayor and Council in the furtherance of the Town's strategic goals and objectives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Administrator is hereby directed to post the *Town Council Goals for 2026-2027* on the Town's website and otherwise disseminate the Town Council Goals as deemed appropriate.

MOVED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 12th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

February 12, 2026 Council Meeting

At the regular monthly Town Council meeting held on February 12, 2026, the following items were approved by Council:

- Approved Resolution #2026-01, Adoption of the 2026-2027 Town Goals
- Approved the FY 2025-2026 Budget Amendment
- Approved Sole Source Justification for McConkey Square Repaving to Banks Construction in the amount of \$76,665. This will leverage Banks existing mobilization for SCDOT work on Docksite Road.
- Approved ATAX funding as recommended by the ATAX Board as follows:
 - \$15,000 for the Town of Edisto Beach 2026 Cookin' on the Creek BBQ Festival
 - \$18,399.18 to the Police Department for a 2026 Gator 4X4 vehicle for Beach Patrol
 - \$15,000 to the Town for the July 4th Family Fun & Fireworks Show
 - \$4,850 to the Edisto Art Guild for the Edisto Plein Air Paint Out
- Approved the special event application for the Edisto Marina Association SC Governor's Cup Edisto Invitational Billfish Tournament, from July 13-19, 2026. Town Council also approved \$10,000 in funding; the waiver of the Bay Creek Park fee; and patrols by the Edisto Beach Police Department.

As a reminder, Council agendas and minutes are found on our website [HERE](#).



Starfish Awards

Town Council presented the Starfish Award to Edge Graves, Lisa White, and Doug White for their extraordinary dedication and creativity in bringing the Christmas tree on the beach to life. Through countless volunteer hours, they managed every aspect of the project, ensuring this special tradition could continue safely and beautifully for our residents and visitors.

The Mayor thanked Edge, Lisa, and Doug for their continued volunteerism efforts and for their efforts to help with community activities.



Mayor Moore with Lisa White, Edge Graves, and Doug White

20-Year Service Pin

Patrick Brown, Building Code Administrator, was presented with his 20-year service pin at the Town Council meeting. Thank you, Patrick, for your many years of dedication and service to the Town of Edisto Beach and our residents!



Town Administrator Aakhus and Patrick Brown