

Stormwater Outreach Strategic Plan: 2024-2028











Executive Summary

The Lowcountry Stormwater Partners consortium's (LSP) purpose is to coordinate and implement a regional, watershed-scale education strategy. This strategy is focused on preventing stormwater pollution through education and community involvement. The LSP assists communities in addressing the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Phase II Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (SMS4) general permit, which mandates public education and involvement regarding stormwater runoff. The strategic plan will guide the consortium's efforts and maximize program partnerships and resources. The LSP 2024-2028 Strategic Plan is the result of more than six months of meetings and analysis. This document provides a blueprint for education strategies focused on target pollutants and behaviors. This strategic plan is considered a "living" document to allow for refinement, supplementation, and flexibility as regional efforts evolve over the next five years.

The objective of this document is to accomplish the following objectives:

- 1. Prioritize three issues identified as most significant to the region over a five year time span from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2028.
- 2. Provide information on education strategies related to the priority issues.
- 3. Develop timelines and identify evaluation methods to guide and measure effectiveness.

The consortium developed the priority issues with LSP representative input, which took into account available data and personal experience. The priority issues for the LSP region are shown in the table below:

POLLUTANT OF CONCERN	GOAL
BACTERIA	 Increase the number of dog caretakers properly disposing of dog poop in the trash or sanitary sewer in Beaufort County. Increase the number of septic users properly operating and maintaining their septic systems in Beaufort County.
SEDIMENT	 Decrease erosion and sedimentation from construction and post-construction activities in Beaufort County. Increase residents' understanding of the benefits of vegetated buffers and increase the number of vegetated buffers in Beaufort County.
FRESH WATER	 Increase the target audience's understanding of the importance of using LID for the health of tidal creeks and increase their capacity to implement these practices in Beaufort County. Increase the awareness and use of stormwater BMPs and sustainable landscaping practices in a residential setting in Beaufort County.

^{*}The priority issues identified do not exclude other education efforts. They will form the core of efforts by consortium coordinators over the five-year period.



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Community Partners

All of the designated Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (SMS4) communities and the majority of the non-designated communities in the Hilton Head Urbanized Area are committed to the LSP regional collaboration effort. These communities are represented by a dedicated group of public servants who, for many years, actively engaged in building the partnership and continue to do so.













Education Partners

Collaboration is integral in developing and delivering a successful watershed-scale outreach program that reaches diverse audiences. The LSP is fortunate to have a variety of organizations operating within Beaufort County that joined the effort. Education partners include universities, state and local government agencies, and non-profits. Each brings unique expertise, resources, ideas, and programs to the LSP. The LSP fosters communication among organizations to promote the creation and enhancement of cooperative effort programs.

































COASTAL CONSERVATION LEAGUE























Mission and Goals

LSP MISSION STATEMENT

To protect and restore healthy, productive Lowcountry waterways by engaging citizens in stormwater education and public involvement opportunities through a network of partnerships with local governments, organizations, and businesses.

PROGRAM GOALS

- Help the Lowcountry Stormwater Partners' local SMS4s meet and stay compliant with the NPDES Phase II Stormwater Program permit requirements for MCM1 (public education and outreach) and MCM 2 (public involvement) by providing local resources and services.
- Leverage the Lowcountry Stormwater Partners network of partners to maximize the efficiency of stormwater education and involvement efforts using a regional approach.
- Develop and implement targeted outreach programs that address primary stormwater pollutants of concern.
- Encourage positive behavioral changes in support of environmental protection and awareness through stormwater education.
- Foster and expand upon citizen involvement in stormwater management through education and participation in programs.
- Facilitate collaboration among local organizations interested in watershed-related education in order to best meet the needs of local communities.





Strategic Plan Development

The development of the LSP 2024-2028 Stormwater Outreach Strategic Plan included the identification of the following during a multi-day planning period from January 2023 - November 2023:

- Pollutants of concern (POC) for the region-wide watershed area
- POC to be targeted through education and involvement strategies
- Actions that may contribute to POC (e.g., Illegal dumping in storm drain) and its associated target audience
- Desired behavior change in target audience to address the POC (e.g., Residents bring reusable shopping bags to grocery store)
- Barrier-benefit analysis for each education message to assess:
 - Barriers to behavior adoption by target audience
 - Benefits or motivators for the audience to adopt the behavior
- Goals and objectives of education strategy for each education message
- Education strategies that included resource and/or program development, delivery, and evaluation
- Implementation timelines for the identified education strategies

The consortium identified pollutants of concern through the analysis of the 2019 public survey data, consortium community and education partner feedback, consortium-wide discussion, synthesis of 2016-2023 education and outreach programs, case studies of public feedback, and the 2020-2022 303(d) listed water quality impairments.

Pre-Meeting Survey

Prior to the April 26, 2023 meeting, the LSP community and education partners completed a pre-meeting survey to identify a list of pollutants of concern. The questionnaire asked consortium partners to identify the top three stormwater pollution concerns for their community or organization. Partner responses included

- Bacteria
- Nutirents
- Sediment
- Freshwater
- General Stormwater
- FOG (fats, oils, grease)
- Litter, single use plastics, microplastics
- Pesticides
- Petroleum products
- Pharmaceuticals and personal care products
- Temperature
- Toxic contaminants/ heavy metals



Strategic Plan Development

April 26, 2023 Meeting

During the April 26, 2023 meeting, partners worked collaboratively through a series of interactive polling and discussion activities to identify region-wide POCs, target audiences, and contributing issues and behaviors.

Using a mentimeter poll, consortium partners independently identified their top three POC from a list generated by the survey. This process identified bacteria, sediment, and freshwater as the pollutants of concern to focus on through the five-year education strategies. Partners then discussed the results and considerations to be made in prioritization.

Partners then worked independently and used a mentimeter tool to brainstorm potential contributing issues for the target POCs. There were numerous responses, but common themes emerged. As a large group discussion, the partners identified the following contributing actions to be addressed through the LSP 2024-2028 Stormwater Outreach Strategic Plan. The table below summarizes the contributing issues for each pollutant of concern.

POLLUTANT OF CONCERN	CONTRIBUTING ISSUE
BACTERIA	 THE BACTERIA IN DOG POOP CAN NEGATIVELY IMPACT WATER QUALITY WHEN NOT PROPERLY DISPOSED OF BY ITS CARETAKER. SEPTIC SYSTEMS THAT ARE NOT OPERATING AS DESIGNED AND/OR IMPROPERLY MAINTAINED CAN CONTRIBUTE BACTERIA POLLUTION IN NEARBY WATERBODIES.
SEDIMENT	 IMPROPERLY INSTALLED AND/OR MAINTAINED BMPS CONTRIBUTE TO EROSION AND SEDIMENT POLLUTION IN WATERWAYS. MOWING TO THE WATER'S EDGE MAY CAUSE EXCESS SEDIMENTS AND NUTRIENTS TO CONTAMINATE NEARBY WATERWAYS.
FRESH WATER	 LARGE AREAS OF IMPERVIOUS SURFACE AND GRAY INFRASTRUCTURE LEAD TO INCREASED STORMWATER RUNOFF, WHICH CAN DEGRADE LOCAL SALTWATER HABITATS AND SMALL TIDAL CREEKS. SINGLE-FAMILY LOTS, THROUGH PRACTICES SUCH AS OVERIRRIGATION, OVER-FERTILIZATION, AND A LACK OF ONSITE STORMWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPS), CAN INCREASE STORMWATER RUNOFF AND DEGRADE LOCAL SALTWATER HABITAT AND SMALL TIDAL CREEKS.



Strategic Plan Development

Post-Meeting Survey

After the April 26, 2023 meeting, all consortium partners recieved a follow-up survey. The survey summarized the prioritized POCs and contributing issues. It then asked consortium members to brainstorm potential target audiences, target actions, and barriers to target actions. This information laid the foundation for potential education strategies and for the 2024-2028 LSP Stormwater Outreach Strategic Plan. The tables below summarize data gathered from this survey.

Bacteria

CONTRIBUTING ISSUE	TARGET AUDIENCE	TARGET ACTION
The bacteria in dog poop can negatively impact water quality when not properly disposed of by its caretaker.	Dog caretakers	Dog caretakers will pick up after their pets, both on walks and in the yard.
Septic systems that are not operating as designed and/or improperly maintained can contribute bacteria pollution in nearby waterbodies.	Septic systems users	Septic system users will use best management practices to properly operate and maintain their septic systems.

Nutrients

CONTRIBUTING ISSUE	TARGET AUDIENCE	TARGET ACTION
Improperly installed and/or maintained BMPs contribute to erosion and sediment pollution in waterways.	Contractors who install and maintain BMPs for sediment and erosion control.	Contractors will install and maintain sediment and erosion control BMPs properly.
Mowing to the water's edge may cause excess sediments and nutrients to contaminate nearby waterways.	Residents adjacent to water	Residents will let vegetated buffers grow or plant them along shorelines.

Fresh Water

CONTRIBUTING ISSUE	TARGET AUDIENCE	TARGET ACTION
Large areas of impervious surface and gray infrastructure lead to increased stormwater runoff, which can degrade local saltwater habitats and small tidal creeks.	Design professionals, engineers, and developers	Target audience will understand why low-impact development (LID) is important in coastal areas and include more LID in their projects.
Single-family lots, through practices such as over- irrigation, over-fertilization, and a lack of on-site stormwater best management practices (BMPs), can increase stormwater runoff and degrade local saltwater habitat and small tidal creeks.	Individual lot residents	Residents will install BMPs and/ or maintain their landscapes in an environmentally sustainable manner.



Strategic Plan **Development**

November 01, 2023 Meeting

During the November 01, 2023, meeting, partners reviewed all data generated by previous meetings and surveys. Then, the partners reviewed potential education strategies proposed by the LSP Coordinator. The proposed education strategies were synthesized from the analysis of the 2019 public survey data, consortium community and education partner feedback, consortium-wide discussions, synthesis of 2016-2023 education and outreach programs (both locally and state-wide), case studies of public feedback, and the 2020-2022 303(d) listed water quality impairments. Education strategies included goals and objectives to achieve, programming opportunities to leverage, existing resources to support, and evaluation tools.

The partners reviewed, refined, and added to the potential education strategies through a large group discussion where the education strategies were projected onto a screen and edited in real-time. After thoroughly discussing all the educational strategies, the LSP coordinator created a draft of the 2024-2028 LSP Stormwater Outreach Strategic Plan and sent it to partners for comments and edits on November 08, 2023.

First Draft Comment Period

The partners received the first draft of the 2024-2028 LSP Stormwater Outreach Strategic Plan on November 08, 2023. The partners were encouraged to send comments and propose edits to the LSP Coordinator by November 22, 2023. After the LSP Coordinator reviewed and incorporated partner feedback, the partners received a second draft of the 2024-2028 LSP Stormwater Outreach Strategic Plan on November 29, 2023.

Second Draft Comment Period

The partners received a second draft of the 2024-2028 LSP Stormwater Outreach Strategic Plan on November 29, 2023, and were encouraged to send comments and propose edits to the LSP Coordinator by December 1, 2023. After the LSP Coordinator reviewed and incorporated partner feedback, the partners received the final copy of the 2024-2028 LSP Stormwater Outreach Strategic Plan on December 05, 2023.





Action Items:

- Promote the pet waste pledge at three festivals
- · Have pet waste pledge stations at three (3) locations outside of festivals
- Distribute the pet waste infographic and dog waste bags Print pet waste signage and pet waste pledge signage for partner use upon request
- · Film and broadcast a pet waste pledge promo video for the County Channel and Gas St
- Purchase and give away two (2) pet waste stations, complete with bags and pet waste signage
 Provide a minimum of five (5) Enviroscape



Education Strategy and Timeline: Bacteria

Bacteria is the most frequently listed impairment in South Carolina waterways, threatening recreational, drinking, tourism, and shellfish harvesting uses. Sources of bacteria can be varied; to address bacteria in the LSP region of focus, dog poop disposal and septic tank management will be targeted through the LSP's five-year strategic plan. The following education strategies and timelines provide a framework to address this priority pollutant.

EDUCATION STRATEGY: DOG POOP

Target Audience: Dog caretakers

Contributing Issue: The bacteria in dog poop can negatively impact water quality when not properly disposed of by its caretaker.

Target Action: Dog caretakers will pick up after their pets, both on walks and in the yard.

Goal: Increase the number of dog caretakers properly disposing of dog poop in the trash in Beaufort County.

Objective: To provide education and outreach on dog poop and its water quality impacts in Beaufort County.

Message	Format and Distribution	Resources	Evaluation
Bacteria from dog poop	Share and distribute	Animal shelters,	Number of dog poop
can contribute to harm-	educational material to	veterinary clinics, dog	bags and infographics
ful bacteria entering	the target audience	groomers, dog daycare/	distributed
into the watershed.	Promote the dog poop	boarding facilities, pet	Number of individuals
• Pick up dog poop every	pledge	supply stores	who take the dog poop
time: on walks and in	Dog poop station give-	State, county, and city	pledge
the yard.	away	parks and staff	Number of dog poop
Dog poop is NOT	Educate youth on	HOA and POAs	bag dispenser stations
fertilizer.	bacterial pollution	Dog poop ordinances	installed
	using Enviroscape		Number of youth
	demonstrations or		participating
	comparable lessons		in Enviroscape
	Provide educational		demonstrations or
	signage for public		comparable lessons
	spaces		Number of dog
			caretakers who self-
			report that they pick
			up after dogs (via a
			statewide survey)



Education Strategy and Timeline: Bacteria

EDUCATION STRATEGY: DOG POOP

Action Items

- Promote the dog poop pledge at a minimum of three (3) festivals per year.
- Have dog poop pledge sign-up areas at a minimum of three (3) locations outside of festivals, such as at
 environmental education offices, public parks, animal shelters, and/or vet offices.
- Distribute the dog poop infographic and dog poop bags to partners and private citizens upon request and at applicable events with the understanding that attendees will receive these items after signing the dog poop pledge.
- Print a minimum of one dog poop or dog poop pledge sign and distribute to partners who wish to receive them annually. Print additional dog poop or dog poop pledge signage for partner use upon request.
- Film and broadcast a dog poop pledge promo video for the County Channel and/or Gas Station TV.
- Assess the feasibility of local digital billboards with messaging stressing the connection between dog poop and bacterial pollution.
- Purchase and give away a minimum of two (2) dog poop stations, complete with bags and dog poop signage.
- Provide a minimum of three (3) Enviroscape demonstrations or comparable lessons for youth a year.

I promise to help!

I WILL clean up after my pet every single time - both in the yard and on walks.

I WILL be prepared and always bring a bag!

will dispose of pet waste properly - in the trash or flush it down the toilet.





2028	Implement Promote the dog poop pledge during at least three (3) festivals.	Ensure the three (3) do areas outsing areas outsing at environm public park, o	Implement Implement Implement Implement Implement Print dog poop signage and dog poop pledge signage and dog poop pledge signage and dog poop signage and dog pledge signage and dog poop signage and dog poop signage and dog pledge signage and dog poop signage and dog pledge signage				Implement Provide a minimum of three (3) Enviroscape demonstrations
2027	Implement Promote the dog poop pledge during at least three (3) festivals.	Develop and Implement Ensure there are a minimum of three (3) dog poop pledge sign-up areas outside of festivals, such as at environmental education offices, public parks, animal shelters, and/ or vet offices. Implement Distribute the dog poop infographic and dog poop bags upon request and at applicable events with the understanding that at-	Implement Print dog poop signage and dog poop pledge signage for partner us upon request.				Implement Provide a minimum of three (3) Enviroscape demonstrations
2026	Implement Promote the dog poop pledge during at least three (3) festivals.	Develop and Implement Ensure there are a minimum of three (3) dog poop pledge sign-up areas outside of festivals, such as at environmental education offices, public parks, animal shelters, and/ or vet offices. Implement Distribute the dog poop infographic and dog poop bags upon request and at applicable events with the understanding that at-	Implement Print dog poop signage and dog boop pledge signage for partner use upon request.	Develop and Implement Should timing and multiple schedules conflict in the previous year, film and broadcast a dog poop pledge promo video for the County Channel and/or Gas Station TV.		Develop and Implement Purchase and give away a minimum of two (2) dog poop stations, complete with bags and dog poop signage.	Implement Provide a minimum of three (3) Enviroscape demonstrations
2025	Implement Promote the dog poop pledge during at least three (3) festivals.	Ensure there are a minimum of three (3) dog poop pledge sign-up areas outside of festivals, such as at environmental education offices, public parks, animal shelters, and/or vet offices. Implement Distribute the dog poop infographic and dog poop bags upon request and at applicable events with the understanding that at-	Implement Print dog poop signage and dog poop pledge signage for partner use upon request.	Develop and Implement Should timing and multiple schedules conflict in the previous year, film and broadcast a dog poop pledge promo video for the County Channel and/or Gas Station TV.	Develop and Implement Should the digital billboard be a feasible project, design and have a billboard describing the connection between dog poop and bacterial pollution displayed.		Implement Provide a minimum of three (3) Enviroscape demonstrations
2024	Implement Promote the dog poop pledge during at least three (3) festivals.	Develop and Implement Ensure there are a minimum of three (3) dog poop pledge sign-up areas outside of festivals, such as at environmental education offices, public parks, animal shelters, and/ or vet offices. Implement Distribute the dog poop infographic and dog poop bags upon request and at applicable events with the understanding that at-	Implement Print dog poop signage and dog poop pledge signage for partner use I upon request.	Develop and Implement Should timing and multiple schedules allow, film and broadcast a dog poop pledge promo video for the County Channel and/or Gas Station TV.	Develop and Implement Assess the possibility of local digital billboards with messaging stressing the connection between dog poop and bacterial pollution.		Implement Provide a minimum of three (3) Enviroscape demonstrations



Education Strategy and Timeline: Bacteria

EDUCATION STRATEGY: SEPTIC TANK MANAGEMENT

Target Audience: Septic systems users.

Contributing Issue: Septic systems that are not operating as designed and/or improperly maintained can contribute bacteria pollution in nearby waterbodies.

Target Action: Septic system users will use best management practices to properly operate and maintain their septic systems.

Goal: Increase the number of septic users properly operating and maintaining their septic systems in Beaufort County.

Objective: To provide education and outreach on septic system maintenance and failure in Beaufort County.



Education Strategy and Timeline: Bacteria

EDUCATION STRATEGY: SEPTIC TANK MANAGEMENT

Action Items

- Provide the "Be Septic Safe: A User's Guide to Taking Care of Business," the Be Septic Safe factsheets, and the Be Septic Safe website sticker/magnet (which includes automatic septic maintenance reminder emails) upon request and at all Be Septic Safe workshops.
- Distribute Be Septic Safe materials at three (3) festivals.
- Participate in US EPA's Be Septic Smart Week annually through actions such as social media campaigns, newspaper articles, Be Septic Safe material giveaways, and/or webinars/workshops.
- Host a minimum of five (5) Be Septic Safe workshops or webinars.
- Create a Be Septic Safe rack card. Distribute it at subsequent Be Septic Safe workshops and upon request.
- Create a Be Septic Safe door hanger. Distribute it at subsequent Be Septic Safe workshops, to County/Municipal Inspectors who will give them to the target audience, to willing septic system contractors who will give them to the target audience, and upon request.
- Create a Be Septic Safe factsheet on the function, maintenance, and permitting for engineered systems. Distribute it upon request and at subsequent Be Septic Safe workshops.
- Have all the printed Be Septic Safe materials translated into Spanish and distribute them at all Be Septic Safe workshops, at other applicable events, and upon request.



SEPTIC SYSTEM CHECK UPS & PUMP OUTS

Mhen SHOULD YOU CONTACT A PROFESSIONAL?

- At least every two years for a system check up Every three to five years for tank pump out
- Anytime you experience septic system failure symptoms

- . Wastewater backing up into household drains
- . Bright green, spongy grass on the drainfield, even during
- Pooling water or muddy soil around your septic drain-
- A strong odor around the septic drainfield area

TIP: Keeping a maintenance log can help organize info egarding past services and remind you of when your oup should be! See page 12 for your own maintenance

Why GET A PUMP OUT?

- Ensure your system is functioning properly
 Protect water quality and the environment
- Save money
- · Protect your property value
- · Keep your community healthy

What INFLUENCES THE TIMING OF A PUMP OUT?

- Household size
- Total amount of wastewater generated
 Volume of solids in wastewater
- · Septic tank size



2028	Provide t A User's t Of Busin Safe fac Septic S magne automatii reminder en at all Be S	Implement Distribute Be Septic Safe materials during at least one (1) festival. Implement Septic Smart Week annually through edia actions such as social media actions and ways, newspaper articles, Be Septic Safe material giveaways, and/or webinars/workshops.	Implement shop or Host a Be Septic Safe Workshop or Webinar.			nt Septic ish.
2027	Implement Provide the "Be Septic Safe: A User's Guide to Taking Care of Business," the Be Septic Safe factsheets, and the Be Septic Safe website sticker/ magnet (which includes automatic septic maintenance I reminder emails) upon request and at all Be Septic Safe workshops.	Implement Participate in US EPA's Be Septic Smart Week annually through actions such as social media campaigns, newspaper articles, Be Septic Safe material giveaways, and/or webinars/workshops.	Implement Host a Be Septic Safe Workshop or Webinar.			Develop and Implement Translating all the printed Be Se Safe materials into Spanish.
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2025	Implement Provide the "Be Septic Safe: A User's Guide to Taking Care of Business," the Be Septic Safe factsheets, and the Be Septic Safe website sticker/ magnet (which includes automatic septic maintenance reminder emails) upon request and at all Be Septic Safe workshops.	Develop and Implement Participate in US EPA's Be Septic Smart Week annually through actions such as social media campaigns, newspaper articles, Be Septic Safe material giveaways, and/or webinars/workshops.	Develop and Implement Host a Be Septic Safe Workshop or Webinar.		Develop and Implement Create a Be Septic factsheet on the function, maintenance, and permitting of engineered systems. Distribute it upon request and at subsequent Be Septic Safe workshops.	
2024	tic Safe: king Care a Septic I the Be sticker/ cludes ntenance request and orkshops.	Implement Distribute Be Septic Safe materials during at least one (1) festival. Develop and Implement Participate in US EPA's Be Septic Smart Week annually through actions such as social media campaigns, newspaper articles, Be Septic Safe material giveaways, and/or webinars/workshops.	Develop and Implement Host a Be Septic Safe Workshop or Webinar. Develop and Implement Create a Be Septic Safe rack card. Distribute it at subsequent Be Septic Safe workshops and upon request.	Develop and Implement Create a Be Septic Safe door hanger. Distribute it at subsequent Be Septic Safe workshops, to County/ Municipal Inspectors who will give them to the target audience, to willing septic system contractors who will give them to the target audience, and upon request.		



The LSP identified sediment as a leading threat to water quality in the LSP region of focus. Excess sediment in waterways contribute to poor clarity, eutrophication, and degraded ecosystem health. To address this, construction sites and vegetated buffers will be a focus through the LSP's five-year strategic plan. The following education strategies and timelines provide a framework to address this priority pollutant.

EDUCATION STRATEGY: CONSTRUCTION SITES

Target Audience: Contractors who install and maintain BMPs for sediment and erosion control

Contributing Issue: Improperly installed and/or maintained BMPs contribute to erosion and sediment pollution in waterways.

Target Action: Contractors will install and maintain sediment and erosion control BMPs properly.

Goal: Decrease erosion and sedimentation from construction and post-construction activities in Beaufort County.

Objective: Provide education and outreach on erosion prevention and sediment control in Beaufort County.

Message	Format and Distribution	Resources	Evaluation
Save time and money by installing sediment and erosion control practices properly.	 Share and distribute educational material to the target audience Provide and promote programs that include sediment and erosion control BMP information, such as Clemson's CEPSCI, CSPR, and Post-Construction BMP Inspector courses Create and distribute new educational material 	 ACE Basin NERR SC Sea Grant Consortium Municipal/County Staff (planning, engineering, public works) Stormwater Inspectors Landscape professionals Low Impact Development in Coastal South Carolina: A Planning and Design Guide SC DHEC BMP Handbook SCASM SC DOT SOLOCO Manual 	 Number of educational outreach materials distributed Number of certifications Number of course participants



EDUCATION STRATEGY: CONSTRUCTION SITES

Action Items

- Continue to provide and promote Clemson's CEPSCI, CSPR, and Post-Construction BMP Inspector courses.
- Host two (2) Silt Fence and Beyond workshops.
- Create an LSP-specific version of the Clemson Extension Lot Erosion rack card and SC DOT booklet and distribute them at subsequent Silt Fence and Beyond workshops, at applicable events, to Municipal/County stormwater inspectors who will give them to the target audience, and upon request.
- Create sediment and erosion control BMP factsheets and rack cards (minimum of one each) and distribute them at subsequent Silt Fence and Beyond workshops, at applicable events, to Municipal/County stormwater inspectors who will give them to the target audience, and upon request.







2028	Implement Provide and promote Clemson's CEPSCI, CSPR, and Post- Construction BMP Inspector courses.				Develop and Implement Create an LSP-specific version of the DOT booklet. Distribute it at subsequent Silt Fence and Beyond workshops, at applicable events, to Municipal/ County stormwater inspectors who will give them to the target audience and upon request.
2027	Implement Provide and promote Clemson's CEPSCI, CSPR, and Post- Construction BMP Inspector courses.	Develop and Implement Host a Silt Fence and Beyond Workshop.			Develop and Implement Create an LSP-specific version of the DOT booklet. Distribute it at subsequent Silt Fence and Beyond workshops, at applicable events, to Municipal/ County stormwater inspectors who will give them to the target audience and upon request.
2026	Implement Provide and promote Clemson's CEPSCI, CSPR, and Post- Construction BMP Inspector courses.			Develop and Implement Create and provide sediment and erosion control BMP factsheets and rack cards. Distribute them at subsequent Silt Fence and Beyond workshops, at applicable events, to Municipal/ County stormwater inspectors who will give them to the target audience, and upon request.	
2025	Implement Provide and promote Clemson's CEPSCI, CSPR, and Post- Construction BMP Inspector courses.	Develop and Implement Host a Silt Fence and Beyond Workshop.			
2024	Implement Provide and promote Clemson's CEPSCI, CSPR, and Post- Construction BMP Inspector courses.		Develop and Implement Create an LSP-specific Lot Erosion rack card. Distribute it at subsequent Silt Fence and Beyond workshops, at applicable events, to Municipal/County stormwater inspectors who will give them to the target audience and upon request.		



EDUCATION STRATEGY: VEGETATED BUFFERS

Target Audience: Residents adjacent to water.

Contributing Issue: Mowing to the water's edge may cause excess sediments and nutrients to contaminate nearby waterways.

Target Action: Residents will let vegetated buffers grow or plant them along shorelines.

Goal: Increase residents' understanding of the benefits of vegetated buffers and increase the number of vegetated buffers in Beaufort County.

Objective: To provide education and outreach on the benefits of vegetated buffers in Beaufort County.

Message Format and Distribution Resources **Evaluation Vegetated buffers** Share and distribute Realtors Number of educational beautify and protect educational material to Landscaping materials distributed or the target audience accessed online your property and our companies waterbodies! Plant na-**Municipal/County Staff Provide and promote** Number of site visits tive plants on shoreprograms that include **Master Gardener** conducted lines. vegetated buffer program **Number of attendees Demonstration sites** information, such as in pertinent workshops Clemson Extension's **Code Enforcement/** and trainings **Master Pond Manager** Square feet and/ Zoning/Planning Course, Salt Marsh departments or linear feet of **Short Course, Living HGIC Factsheets** demonstration buffers **NRCS** installed **Shorelines Program,** and the Carolina Yards SC DHEC Number of residents **Clemson Extension** who self-report that program Provide buffer they understand the workshops benefits of vegetated **Install demonstration** buffers and either have sites one or plan to install **Provide educational** one (via a statewide signage for public survey) spaces Create and distribute new educational materials



EDUCATION STRATEGY: VEGETATED BUFFERS

Action Items

- Provide the LSP River Buffer resource packet, Clemson HGIC shoreline factsheets, Life Along the Water's Edge book, and aquatic plant lists to the target audience during site visits, at applicable events and workshops, and upon request.
- Create native plant seed mix packets and a Vegetated Buffer rack card for distribution to the target audience at three (3) festivals.
- Continue to provide and promote Clemson Extension's Master Pond Manager Course, Salt Marsh Short Course, Living Shorelines Program, and the Carolina Yards program.
- Host a minimum of three (3) workshops on the benefits of vegetated buffers.
- Install two (2) vegetated buffers as demonstration sites.
- Print a minimum of one vegetated buffer sign and distribute it to partners who wish to receive it annually. Print additional vegetative buffer signs for partner use upon request.





2028	Implement Provide the LSP River Buffer resource packet, Clemson HGIC shoreline fact- sheets, Life Along the Water's Edge book, and aquatic plant lists to the target audience during site visits, at applicable events and workshops, and upon request.		Implement Distribute the Vegetated Buffer rack card and native seed packets to the target audience during at least one (1) festival.	Implement Continue to provide and promote , the Master Pond Manager Course, Salt Marsh Short Course, Living Shorelines Program, and the Carolina Yards program.	Develop and Implement Host a workshop on the benefits of vegetated buffers.	Develop and Implement Install a vegetated buffer demonstration site.	Implement Print a minimum of one vegetated buffer sign and distribute it to partners who wish to receive it annually. Print additional vegetative buffer signs for partner use upon request.
2027	Implement Provide the LSP River Buffer resource packet, Clemson HGIC shoreline fact- sheets, Life Along the Water's Edge book, and aquatic plant lists to the target audience during site visits, at applicable events and workshops, and upon request.			Implement Continue to provide and promote the Master Pond Manager Course, Salt Marsh Short Course, Living Shorelines Program, and the Carolina Yards program.			Implement Print a minimum of one vegetated buffer sign and distribute it to partners who wish to receive it annually. Print additional vegetative buffer signs for partner use upon request.
2026	Implement Provide the LSP River Buffer resource packet, Clemson HGIC shoreline fact- sheets, Life Along the Water's Edge book, and aquatic plant lists to the target audience during site visits, at applicable events and workshops, and upon request.		Implement Distribute the Vegetated Buffer rack card and native seed packets to the target audience during at least one (1) festival.	Implement Continue to provide and promote the Master Pond Manager Course, Salt Marsh Short Course, Living Shorelines Program, and the Carolina Yards program.	Develop and Implement Host a workshop on the benefits of vegetated buffers.		Implement Print a minimum of one vegetated buffer sign and distribute it to partners who wish to receive it annually. Print additional vegetative buffer signs for partner use upon request.
2025	Implement Provide the LSP River Buffer resource packet, Clemson HGIC shoreline fact- sheets, Life Along the Water's Edge book, and aquatic plant lists to the target audience during site visits, at applicable events and workshops, and upon request.		Implement Distribute the Vegetated Buffer rack Card and native seed packets to the target audience during at least one (1) festival. Implement Distribute the Vegetated Buffer rack Distribute the Vegetated Buffer rack Card and native seed packets to the target audience during at least one (1) festival.	Implement Continue to provide and promote the Master Pond Manager Course, Salt Marsh Short Course, Living Shorelines Program, and the Carolina Yards program.	Develop and Implement Host a workshop on the benefits of vegetated buffers.	Develop and Implement Install a vegetated buffer demonstration site.	Implement Print a minimum of one vegetated buffer sign and distribute it to partners who wish to receive it annually. Print additional vegetative buffer signs for partner use upon request.
2024	Implement Provide the LSP River Buffer resource packet, Clemson HGIC shoreline fact- sheets, Life Along the Water's Edge book, and aquatic plant lists to the target audience during site visits, at applicable events and workshops, and upon request.	Develop and Implement Create a Vegetated Buffer card and native plant seed mix packet. Distribute them to the target audience and partners upon request and at appropriate events.		Implement Continue to provide and promote the Master Pond Manager Course, Salt Marsh Short Course, Living Shorelines Program, and the Carolina Yards program.			Implement Print a minimum of one vegetated buffer sign and distribute it to partners whowish to receive it annually. Print additional vegetative buffer signs for partner use upon request.



LSP consortium partners identified fresh water as a major threat to the LSP region of focus for because stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces transports large amounts of fresh water and non-pont source pollution into local saltwater environments in a very short amount of time. This causes a drop in salinity and water quality that can negatively impact the health of ecologically and econominally important species, such as oysters. To address these concerns, the LSP's five-year strategic plan will focus on low impact development (LID) incorportation and sustainable home landscaping practices. The following education strategies and timelines provide a framework to address this priority pollutant.

EDUCATION STRATEGY: LOW-IMPACT DEVELOPMENT (LID) INCORPORATION

Target Audience: Design professionals, engineers, and developers

Contributing Issue: Large areas of impervious surface and gray infrastructure lead to increased stormwater runoff, which can degrade local saltwater habitats and small tidal creeks.

Target Action: Design professionals and developers will understand why low-impact development (LID) is important in coastal areas and include more LID practices in their projects

Goal: Increase the target audience's understanding of the importance of using LID for the health of tidal creeks and increase their capacity to implement these practices in Beaufort County.

Objective: To provide education and outreach on the benefits and application of LID in Beaufort County.

Message Format and Distribution Resources Share and distribute Homebuilders' and Number of educational Using LID can prevent educational material to other professional materials handed out ecological degradation in local tidal creeks, the target audience associations and/or accessed which helps keep the **Provide and promote** Realtor groups virtually community healthy and programs that include **County and Municipal Number of attendees** in pertinent workshops thriving. LID planning and staff/planning depts design information Low Impact and trainings Provide educational Development in signage for public **Coastal South Carolina:** a Planning and Design spaces **Create and distribute** Guide SOLOCO Manual new educational **HGIC Factsheets and** material **Land Grant Press** articles **ACE Basin NERR** SC SeaGrant SC DHEC OCRM



EDUCATION STRATEGY: LOW-IMPACT DEVELOPMENT (LID) INCORPORATION

Action Items

- Provide the BMP rack cards, BMP factsheets, Homeowners Guide to Rainwater Harvesting, the Guide to Rain Garden, and plant lists at applicable events such as the SCASM showcase and Hilton Head Homebuilder's Show and to professional organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Hilton Head Homebuilders Association, Southern Homebuilders, the Economic Development Board to distribute to the target audience. Also, provide these materials upon partners' and target audience's request.
- Continue to provide and promote Clemson Extension's Master Pond Manager, Master Rain Gardener, Post-Construction BMP Inspector, Living Shoreline, and Salt Marsh Short Course.
- Print a minimum of one LID sign and distribute it to partners who wish to receive it annually. Print additional LID signs for partner use upon request.
- Support the creation of a survey to identify knowledge gaps and barriers to LID adoption within the target audience. Assist with distributing the survey and disseminating survey results to partners.
- Update and/or write factsheets and rack cards on BMPs based on the above survey and provide them upon request
- Create a virtual resource on the importance of LID in tidal creeks.





2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Implement Provide the BMP rack cards, BMP factsheets, Homeowners Guide to Rainwater Harvesting, the Guide to Rain Garden, and plant lists at applicable events such as the SCASM showcase and Hilton Headt Homebuilder's Show and to professional organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Hilton Head Homebuilders Association, Southern Homebuilders, the Economic Development Board to distribute to the target audience. Also, provide these materials upon the partner and target audience's request.	Implement Provide the BMP rack cards, BMP factsheets, Homeowners Guide to Rainwater Harvesting, the Guide to Rain Garden, and plant lists at applicable events such as he SCASM showcase and Hitton Head Homebuilder's Show and to professional organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Hiton Head Homebuilders Association, Southern Homebuilders, the Economic Development Board to distribute to the target audience. Also, provide these materials upon the partner and target audience's request.	Provide the BMP rack cards, BMP Practisers in distribute to the target audience Provide these materials upon The partner and target Provide the BMP rack cards, BMP Practisers in diarity to the target audience Provide the BMP rack cards, BMP Provide the B	Implement Provide the BMP rack cards, BMP factsheets, Homeowners Guide to Rainwater Harvesting, the Guide to Rain Garden, and plant lists at applicable events such as the SCASM showcase and Hitton Headt Homebuilder's Show and to professional organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Hitton Head Homebuilders Association, Southern Homebuilders, the Economic Development Board to distribute to the target audience. Also, provide these materials upon the partner and target audience's request.	Implement Provide the BMP rack cards, BMP factsheets, Homeowners Guide to Rainwater Harvesting, the Guide to Rain Garden, and plant lists at applicable events such as the SCASM showcase and Hilton Head Homebuilder's Show and to professional organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Hilton Head Homebuilders Association, Southern Homebuilders, the Economic Development Board to distribute to the target audience. Also, provide these materials upon the partner and target audience's request.
Implement Provide and promote Clemson Exten-Bision's Master Pond Manager, Master Rain Gardener, Post-Construction BMP Inspector, Living Shoreline, and Salt Marsh Short Course.	Implement Provide and promote Clemson Extension's Master Pond Manager, Master Rain Gardener, Post-Construction BMP Inspector, Living Shoreline, and Salt Marsh Short Course.	Implement Implement Implement Implement Implement Provide and promote Clemson Exten-sion's Master Pond Manager, M	Implement Provide and promote Clemson Exten-Provide and promote Clemson Extension's Master Pond Manager, Master Sion's Master Pond Manager, Master Rain Gardener, Post-Construction BMP Inspector, Living Shoreline, and Salt Marsh Short Living Shoreline, and Salt Marsh Short Course.	Implement Provide and promote Clemson Extension's Master Pond Manager, Master Rain Gardener, Post-Construction BMP inspector, Living Shoreline, and Salt Marsh Short Course.
Implement Print a minimum of one LID sign and distribute it to partners who wish to receive it annually. Print additional LID signs for partner use upon request.	Implement Print a minimum of one LID sign and distribute it to partners who wish to receive it annually. Print additional LID signs for partner use upon request.	Implement Print a minimum of one LID sign and distribute it to partners who wish to receive it annually. Print additional LID signs for partner use upon request.	Implement Print a minimum of one LID sign and distribute it to partners who wish to receive it annually. Print additional LID signs for partner use upon request.	Implement Print a minimum of one LID sign and distribute it to partners who wish to receive it annually. Print additional LID signs for partner use upon request.
		Support the creation and distribution of a survey to identify knowledge gaps and barriers to LID adoption for the target audience. Develop and Implement Develop and Implement Support the creation and distribution of a survey to identify knowledge gaps and barriers to LID adoption for the target audience.	Develop and Implement Support the creation and distribution of a survey to identify knowledge gaps and barriers to LID adoption for the target audience.	
				Develop and Implement Update or create factsheets and rack cards based on the survey and provide them at applicable events such as the SCASM showcase and Hilton Head Homebuilder's Show and to professional organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Hilton Head Homebuilders Association, Southern Homebuilders, the Economic Development Board to distribute to the target audience. Also, provide these materials upon the partner and target audience's request.
	Develop and Implement Create a virtual resource on the importance of LID in tidal creeks.	Develop and Implement Create a virtual resource on the importance of LID in tidal creeks.	Develop and Implement Create a virtual resource on the importance of LID in tidal creeks.	Develop and Implement Create a virtual resource on the importance of LID in tidal creeks.



EDUCATION STRATEGY: SUSTAINABLE HOME LANDSCAPES

Target Audience: Individual lot residents

Contributing Issue: Single-family lots, through practices such as over-irrigation, over-fertilization, and a lack of onsite stormwater best management practices (BMPs), can increase stormwater runoff and degrade local saltwater habitat and small tidal creeks.

Target Action: Residents will install BMPs and/or maintain their landscapes in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Goal: Increase the awareness and use of stormwater BMPs and sustainable landscaping practices in a residential setting in Beaufort County.

Objective: To provide education and outreach on the benefits of BMPSs and sustainable landscaping practices in Beaufort County.

Message	Format and Distribution	Resources	Evaluation
Protect our tidal creeks while enjoying less flooding, erosion, and yard upkeep by using sustainable landscaping methods and installing stormwater BMPs!	 Share and distribute educational material to the target audience Provide and promote programs that include residential BMP and sustainable landscaping information Install demonstration sites 	 Clemson Extension Carolina Yards Master Gardeners Master Rain Gardeners Rent-A-Master Gardener program Master Pond Managers County and city parks and staff HOA and POAs Carolina Rain Garden Initiative Low Impact Development in Coastal South Carolina: a Planning and Design Guide SOLOCO Manual HGIC Factsheets BJSWA watering schedule 	 Number of educational materials handed out and/or accessed virtually Number of attendees in pertinent workshops and trainings Number of demonstration BMPs installed and/or sold Number of residents who self-report that installed or use BMPs (via a statewide survey)



EDUCATION STRATEGY: SUSTAINABLE HOME LANDSCAPES

Action Items

- Provide the BMP rack cards, BMP factsheets, Homeowners Guide to Rainwater Harvesting, the Guide to Rain Garden, and plant lists to the target audience during site visits, at applicable events and workshops, and upon request.
- Continue to provide and promote Clemson Extension's Master Pond Manager, Master Rain Gardener, Carolina Yards, Living Shoreline, Salt Marsh Short Course, and the 2026 Beaufort Area Stormwater Pond Management Conference programs.
- Host a minimum of three (3) local Cultivating a Carolina Yards Workshops.
- Host a minimum of two (2) local BMP training workshops for Master Gardeners and/or Master Naturalists.
- Host a minimum of one (1) rain garden workshop.
- Install a minimum of one (1) demonstration rain garden.
- Host a minimum of five (5) rain barrel sales.





2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Implement Provide the BMP rack cards, BMP factsheets, Homeowners Guide to Rainwater Harvesting, the Guide to Rain Garden, and plant lists to the target audience during site visits, at applicable events and workshops, and upon request.	Provide the BMP rack cards, BMP factsheets, Homeowners Guide to Rainwater Harvesting, the Guide to Rain Garden, and plant lists to the target audience during site visits, at applicable events and workshops, and upon request.	Implement Provide the BMP rack cards, BMP factsheets, Homeowners Guide to Rainwater Harvesting, the Guide to Rain Garden, and plant lists to the target audience during site visits, at applicable events and workshops, and upon request.	Implement Provide the BMP rack cards, BMP factsheets, Homeowners Guide to Rainwater Harvesting, the Guide to Rain Garden, and plant lists to the target audience during site visits, at applicable events and workshops, and upon request.	Implement Provide the BMP rack cards, BMP factsheets, Homeowners Guide to Rainwater Harvesting, the Guide to Rain Garden, and plant lists to the target audience during site visits, at applicable events and workshops, and upon request.
Implement Continue to provide and promote the Master Pond Manager, Master Rain Gardener, Carolina Yards, Living Shoreline, and the Salt Marsh Short Course programs.	Implement Continue to provide and promote the Master Pond Manager, Master Rain Gardener, Carolina Yards, Living Shoreline, and the Salt Marsh Short Course programs.	Implement Continue to provide and promote the Master Pond Manager, Master Rain Gardener, Carolina Yards, Living Shoreline, and the Salt Marsh Short Course programs.	Implement Continue to provide and promote the Master Pond Manager, Master Rain Gardener, Carolina Yards, Living Shoreline, and the Salt Marsh Short Course programs.	Continue to provide and promote the Master Pond Manager, Master Rain Gardener, Carolina Yards, Living Shoreline, and the Salt Marsh Short Course programs.
		Develop and Implement 2026 Beaufort Area Stormwater Pond Management Conference		
Implement Host a local Cultivating a Carolina Yards workshop.		Implement Host a local Cultivating a Carolina Yards workshop.		Implement Host a local Cultivating a Carolina Yards workshop.
	Develop and Implement Host a BMP Training Workshop for Master Gardeners and/or Master Naturalists.		Develop and Implement Host a BMP Training Workshop for Master Gardeners and/or Master Naturalists.	
			Implement Host a Rain Garden Workshop	
			Develop and Implement Install a demonstration Rain Garden	
Develop and Implement Host a Rain Barrel Sale	Implement Host a Rain Barrel Sale	Implement Host a Rain Barrel Sale	Implement Host a Rain Barrel Sale	Implement Host a Rain Barrel Sale



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