

Community Facilities Element

The purpose of the Community Facilities Element is to plan for public facilities and services that support the growth and development patterns envisioned in the Sumter 2040 Comprehensive Plan. An inventory and analysis of existing conditions for potable water, sanitary sewer, solid waste management, storm water management, police and fire protection, emergency medical services, education, and parks and recreation provides a benchmark for evaluating future year impacts. This information serves as the foundation for the policies that support future development in the City and County.

Community Services are provided in a host of ways by the City of Sumter, Sumter County, Sumter School District, other Special Purpose Districts, and private utility providers. Some services are provided by both City and County governments. Other services are shared such as planning, building inspections, business licensing, and fire protection. This element is designed to assess each jurisdiction and their services, yet also point out the necessary cooperation and shared vision that is required to meet the goals of the Sumter 2040 Comprehensive Plan. **This topic is of significant importance because the locations where the City and County encourage future development will have a direct impact on the cost of future service provision.**

Water Supply, Treatment, and Distribution

The City of Sumter's Water Plants Division of the Utilities Department has the overall responsibility for treating and supplying potable water for residential, industrial, and commercial use. Water is pulled from the Black Creek and Middendorf Aquifers using 23 deep wells and is pumped to six major water plants for treatment before it is pumped to the distribution system for future consumption.

The Water Plants Division also operates and maintains four smaller systems that provide water to different communities throughout the County. The City of Sumter owns and operates the Mayesville and Wessex (Subdivision) water systems. The City also operates and maintains the Dalzell water system, the Rembert water system, and the Oswego Rural Water Company system. The City of Sumter also sells water to the Oswego Rural Water Company.

Sumter County owns and operates both the Wedgefield-Stateburg and Shiloh water systems. Additionally High Hills Rural Water Company, a private water utility company, provides service to northwest portions of the County. Finally, the Town of Pinewood owns and operates their water supply system.



Photo: City of Sumter New Public Safety Complex



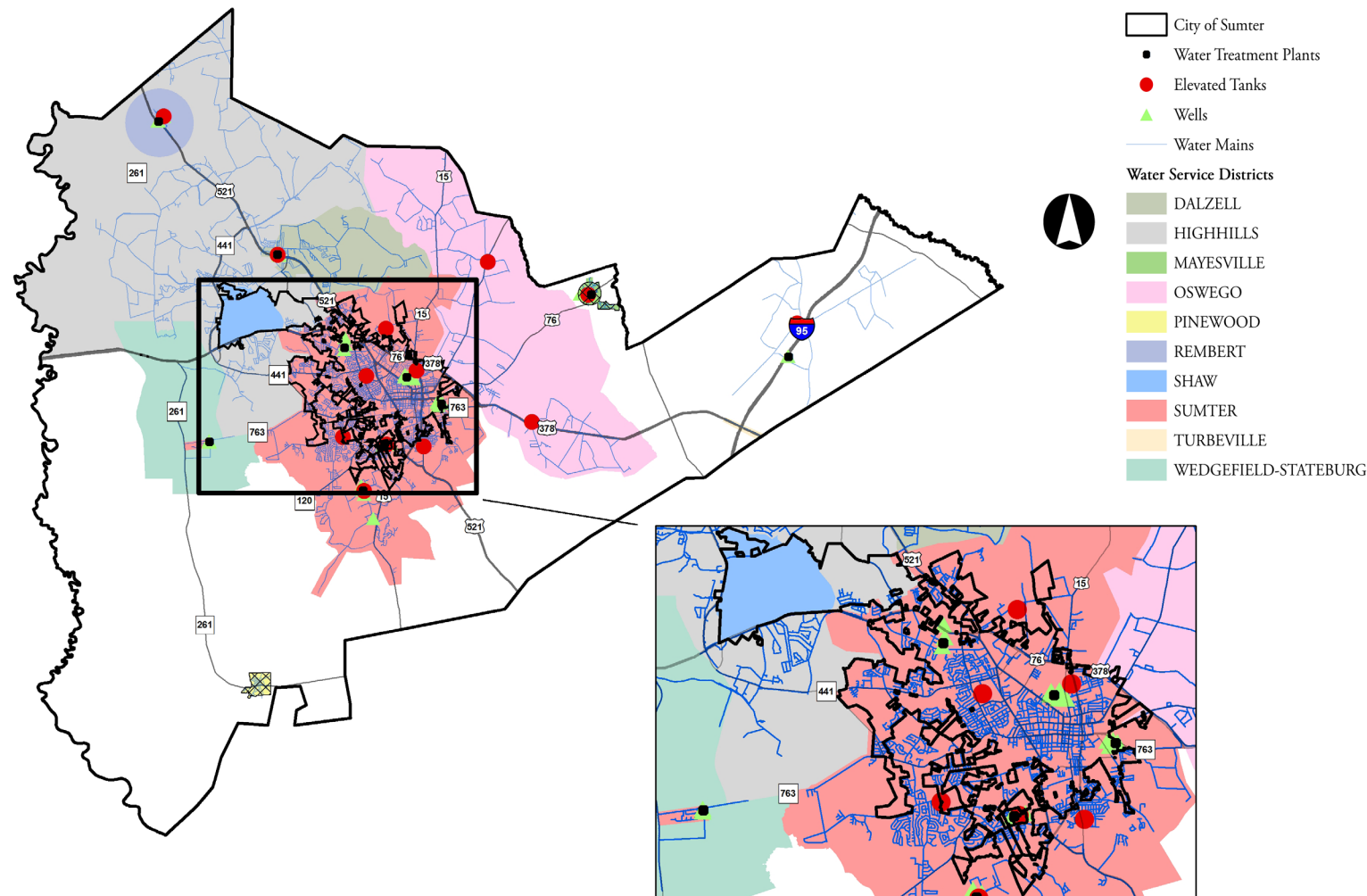
Photo: City of Sumter Wastewater Treatment Plant #6

The City of Sumter water system has a permitted water treatment capacity is 28.1 million gallons per day (MGD), which far exceeds the current average annual demand of 14.4 MGD. Peak water consumption for the previous year was 21.0 MGD. While the City's treatment capacity meets current demand, some facilities are at or near capacity. For instance, Water Plant #5 (WP5) has a permitted treatment capacity of 4.0 MGD. Over the past year, the average demand at WP5 was 3.3 MGD; however, the peak demand was right at 4.0 MGD. Based on these demands, and the fact that WP5 serves the western part of Broad Street where development pressure is occurring, this treatment plant will have to be expanded in the future to increase the treatment capacity to 6.0 MGD.

None of the smaller water systems within the County are anticipated to have problems meeting future demand.

The age and condition of all water system infrastructure must be monitored, with anticipated upgrades and replacements programmed and budgeted for in both the City and County's long range financial planning.

Map CF-1 Water District & Water System Distribution Map



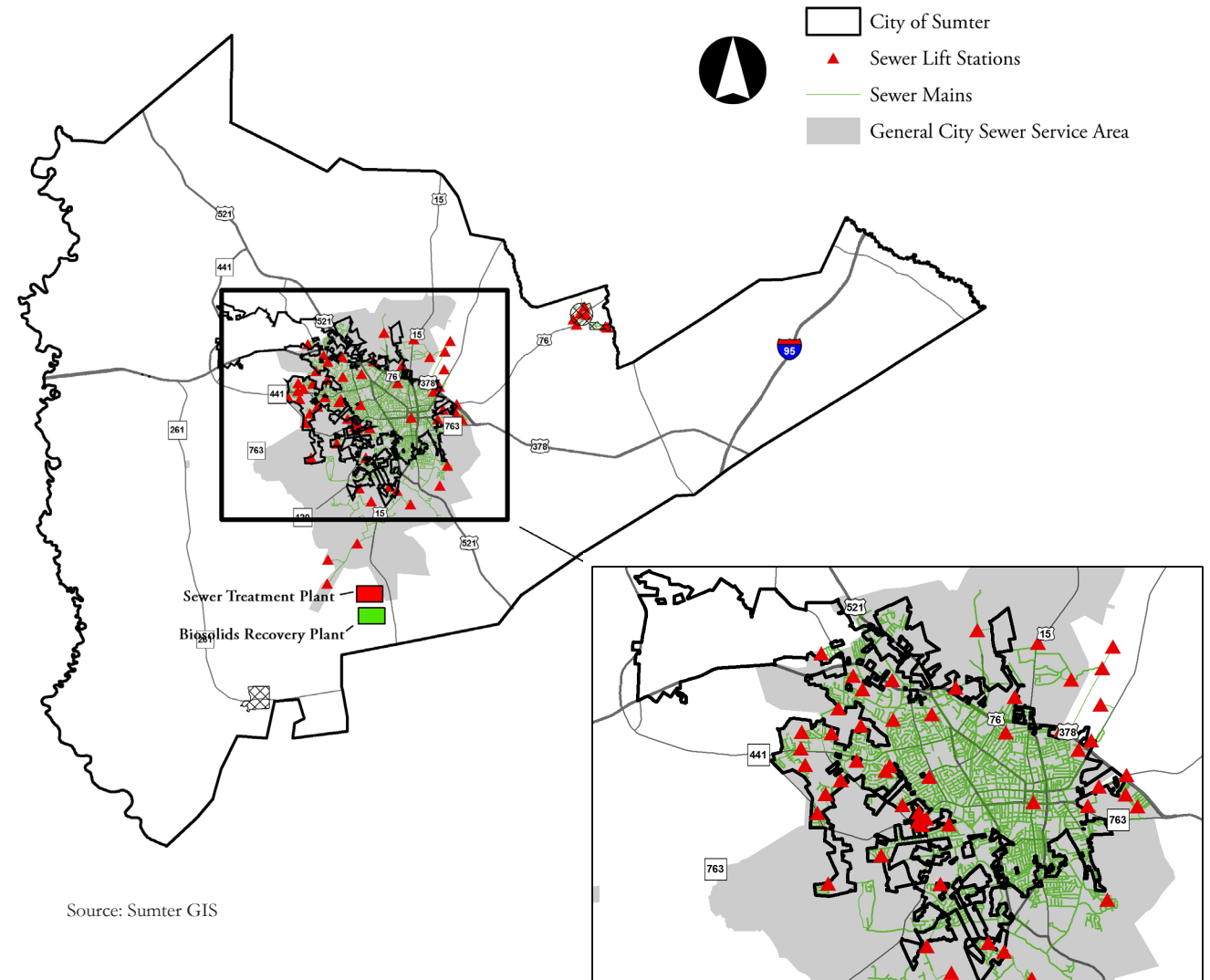
Source: Sumter GIS

Wastewater Collection and Treatment

The City of Sumter's Wastewater Division of the Utilities Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the City wastewater (i.e., sewer) collection and treatment system and the Mayesville wastewater collection and treatment system. The Town of Pinewood owns and maintains their own wastewater system.

The Pocotaligo Wastewater Treatment Plant is the primary treatment facility serving the City system. The plant receives and treats wastewater from residential, commercial, and industrial users, prior to being discharged to the Pocotaligo River in compliance with the Clean Water Act and other applicable requirements. The plant also converts sludge, a byproduct of the treatment process, into a low-grade marketable soil conditioner (biosolids). The Pocotaligo Wastewater Treatment Plant was originally constructed in 1977 as a 6.0 million gallons per day (MGD) plant. In 1988, the plant was upgraded to a 12.0 MGD plant. The latest upgrade was completed in 2009 and the plant is now capable of treating 24.0 MGD; however, due to federal and state policies, the permitted treatment capacity is 15.0 MGD. From September 2017 to August 2018, the Wastewater Division collected, treated, and discharged over 3.5 billion gallons of wastewater. The average amount treated and discharged daily was 9.8 million gallons.

Map Sewer Distribution System Map



Source: Sumter GIS

While the City’s wastewater collection and treatment system has sufficient overall capacity to handle projected growth over the next 20 years, there are upgrades and replacement projects that will likely be required in the future. Additionally, the concentration and type of growth in certain areas may impact some wastewater infrastructure features local to that particular area. With approximately 340 miles of sewer system piping and 64 lift stations, some over 30 years old, routine maintenance and upgrades will need to be budgeted for in the future.

Private Septic Systems

In areas that are not served by a public sewer system, private septic systems are the only method for collection, treatment, and disposal of raw sewage. These systems typically work well with proper siting, design, installation, operation, and maintenance. However, poor soil conditions throughout the County limit the installation of many new septic systems. Additionally, private septic systems are prohibitive for more intense commercial, industrial, and residential development due to the amount of land needed for safe and proper function.

Storm Water Management

The City of Sumter is a federally designated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Community, and therefore must comply with the requirements of the NPDES program. This includes developing, implementing, and enforcing a storm water management program. The City developed and implemented a comprehensive Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) in July of 2014. The SWMP is focused on reducing the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable, protecting water quality, and satisfying water quality requirements of the Clean Water Act. The City collects storm water utility fees to operate, maintain, and improve the storm water system and meet the requirements of the NPDES Program.

Sumter County is also a federally designated NPDES Phase II Community. The Sumter County Storm Water Department is responsible for compliance with the NPDES Program outside of City jurisdiction. Sumter County, like the City, meets these requirements through the implementation of six “Minimum Control Measures” (MCM): public education and outreach, public involvement and participation, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site runoff control, post-construction storm water management in new development and redevelopment, and pollution prevention/good housekeeping. The County collects storm water utility fees as a portion of annual property taxes which are used to meet the six MCM discussed above.



New construction, expansion into previously undeveloped areas, and aging infrastructure require a continuous effort to maintain and improve the storm water system. Recent efforts include storm drain replacement projects at locations such as Newman Street and Harry Street, installation of storm drain piping in numerous areas, ditch clearing at Pinnacle Court, and stabilization work along Shot Pouch Creek. Furthermore, the City and County have several storm water related projects planned including drain replacements, ditch piping at Pinnacle Court, drainage improvements at Crosswell, ditch rehabilitation at Rast and Dick Streets, and drain piping and lining installation at multiple locations. In the long-term, the City and County will have to replace portions of the storm water system as much of the infrastructure is at, or over, twenty years of age.

Solid Waste Management

The City of Sumter provides both residential and commercial sanitation services. The City provides services to between 2,500 and 3,500 residential customers per day; collecting and transporting more than 35 tons of refuse daily. Commercial sanitation services are also provided, with an average of 210 tons of commercial solid waste collected every week. The City also recovers approximately two tons of recyclables and cardboard each day. Residential recycling is picked up at curbside for all residential houses inside the City limits. Sumter County does not provide curbside pickup for garbage or recycling products.

Sumter County operates nine recycling centers for the unincorporated areas of the County, as well as the Sumter County Construction and Demolition (C&D) Landfill on East Brewington Road. There are 11 waste motor oil collection sites, one at each of the County recycling centers, one at the Sumter County C&D Landfill, and one operated by the City of Sumter.

The City disposes of municipal solid waste at the Sumter Transfer Station which is operated by Waste Management, Inc. The City disposes of C&D debris at the Sumter County Landfill or other sites within Sumter County contracted to receive specific types of waste. Sumter County also contracts with Waste Management, Inc., for them to transport and receive municipal garbage at the Richland Landfill located on Screaming Eagle Road. Officials report that sufficient capacity exists among available public and private landfills to handle future solid waste demands.



Photo: City of Sumter Solid Waste Services Truck

Other Utilities

Sumter County and the City of Sumter are served by two electric utility companies, the Black River Electric Cooperative and Duke Energy Progress. The Black River Electric Cooperative generally serves the rural areas of Sumter County, while Duke Energy Progress provides electrical service to customers not covered by the Black River. Dominion Energy South Carolina provides natural gas service and support to all of Sumter County.

Parks and Recreation

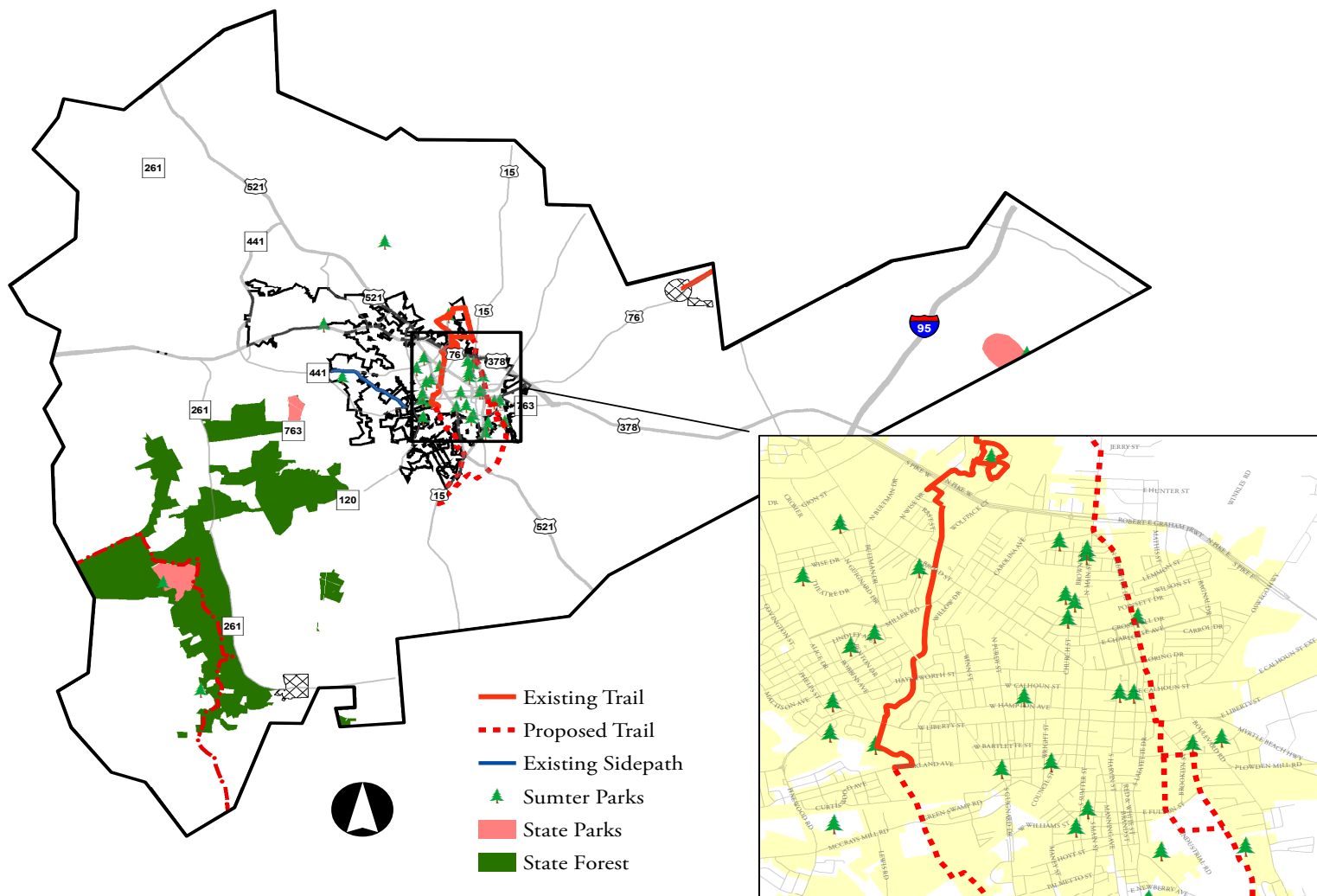
Sumter County offers a wide variety of parks and green spaces. County parks include Patriot, Dillon, Cypress, Shaw, Wedgefield, and Remini. The County also has nine community centers offering activities for the entire family. Activities for senior citizens are in the mornings and activities for youth are in the afternoon. Events are conducted throughout the year with special activities and programs provided during the summer months. Sumter County also operates the Mayesville Swimming Pool during the summer months.

The City of Sumter maintains twenty-four active parks, as well as the three Hope Centers. Notable City park facilities include Swan Lake Iris Gardens, Palmetto Park, Crosswell Park, and Memorial Park. Numerous activities, sporting events, and festivals are held at these locations. In addition to the County and City facilities, Poinsett State Park, Woods Bay State Park, and the Manchester State Forest are located in the County and are available for use by residents.

Both the City and County exceed national averages in the amount of public park land available for residents

By many metrics, Sumter provides an above average amount of parks, recreational facilities, and green space per resident. For example, the National Recreation and Park Association’s 2018 Agency Performance Review states that the national average is one park for every 2,114 residents. The City of Sumter’s 24 parks provide one park for every 1,666 residents, much better than the national average. Additionally, with the inclusion of the Manchester State Forest and two state parks, Sumter County far exceeds the national average of 10.1 acres of park land per 1,000 residents with over 270 acres of public park land per 1,000 residents. The City and County also have plans for a future greenway and ongoing or planned improvements at locations such as Dillon Park, Patriot Park, Swan Lake Iris Gardens, Crosswell Park, Palmetto Park, and Riley Park. Overuse, the need for additional activity or sport-specific facilities, and aging infrastructure at some parks and recreation facilities will require continued investment in the future.

Map CF-3 Sumter County Parks & Trails



Source: Sumter GIS



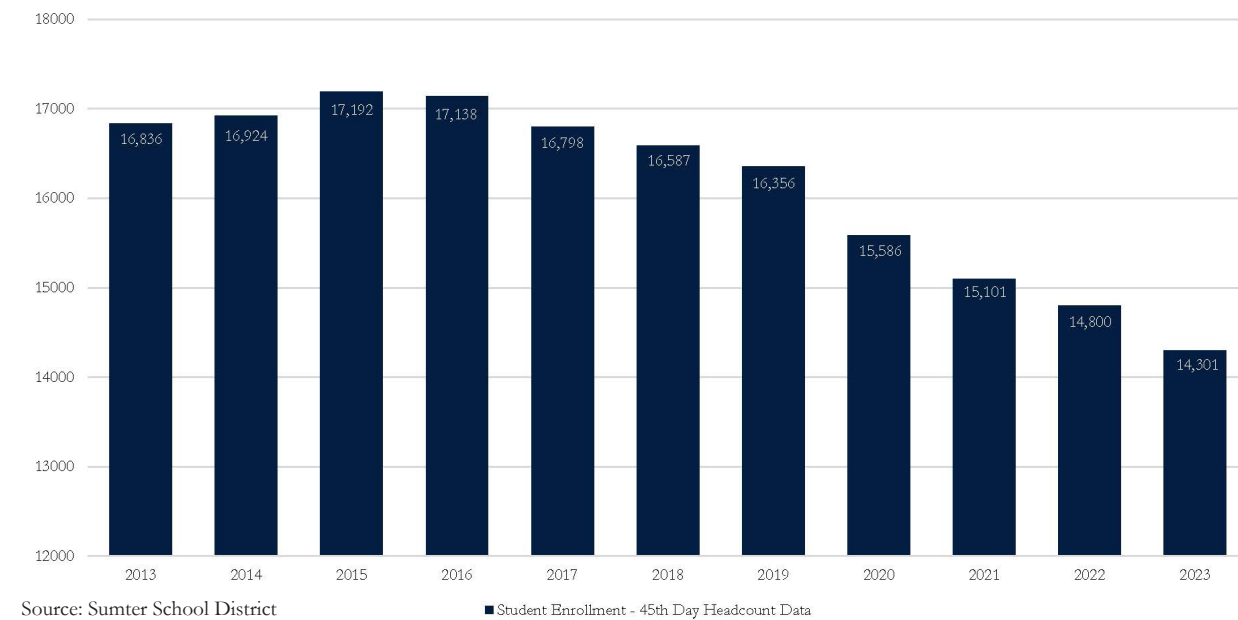
Photo: Patriot Park

Schools (K-12)

In 2011, Sumter County’s two public school districts (District 2 & District 17) consolidated into one single district serving all of Sumter County - including all areas within the City. The Sumter School District includes three high schools, eight middle schools, and fifteen elementary schools. The district also supports a Career & Technology Center that serves all three high schools by offering mechanical, technical, and medical training. Additionally, several private schools and academies provide K-12 education for Sumter students.

Total school enrollment has remained relatively stable over the course of the last ten years, with current 2018 enrollment at 16,633. School enrollment is an important metric to monitor in planning for adequate school facilities that meet the needs of the student population.

Figure CF-1 School Enrollment



Higher Education

Residents in the City and County are in close proximity to several public and private institutions of higher learning. These institutions include Central Carolina Technical College, Morris College, and the University of South Carolina at Sumter.

Central Carolina Technical College (CCTC) offers academic programs in several areas, including arts and sciences, business, public services, industrial and engineering technology, and the health sciences. Students can earn associates degrees, diplomas, or certificates in their chosen fields. CCTC currently serves approximately 3,900 regular students and offers continuing education offerings in traditional and non-traditional formats. CCTC has several campus sites throughout the community including a Main Campus, Health Sciences Center, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Training Center, and Natural Resource Management Center.

Morris College is an accredited, historically black, liberal arts college. Founded in 1908, Morris College has been open to all races and ethnicities since 1961. Morris College awards baccalaureate degrees in the arts and sciences. Students may live off-campus or in one of five residence halls built on-campus.

The University of South Carolina at Sumter has a main campus on Miller Road, and a small satellite campus on Shaw A.F.B. Additionally, Sumter High School, Thomas Sumter Academy, and Cardinal-Newman High School offer USC-Sumter classes. The campus offers both Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees.

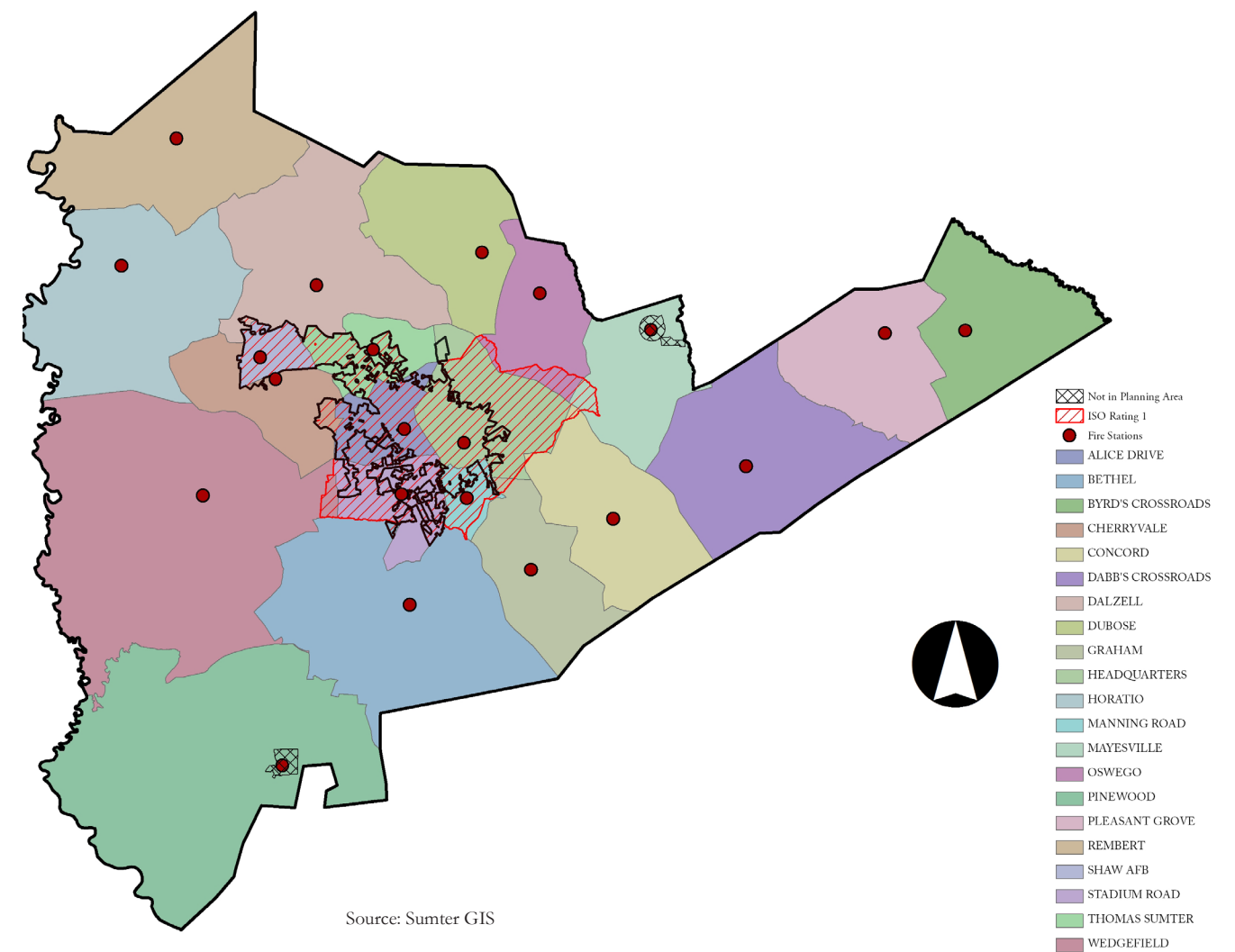
Fire

The Sumter Fire Department is unique in that two separate entities, a City fire department and a County volunteer department, work together as one to protect the overall Sumter Community. There are five fire stations with more than 100 career firefighters within City limits and fifteen fire stations with over 200 volunteers within unincorporated County jurisdiction.

Insurance Service Office (ISO) ratings are used to calculate how well equipped fire departments are to put out fires in a particular community. An ISO rating between 1 (best) and 10 (worst) is provided based on a variety of measurable factors. This rating is provided to insurance companies who use it along with other factors to set homeowner insurance rates in a particular area.

Fire districts within the City of Sumter and the area known as Tax District #1 currently carry an ISO rating of Class 1. The rural portion of Sumter County, known as Tax District #2, carries an ISO rating of Class 4.

Map CF-4 Sumter County Fire Stations & Fire Districts



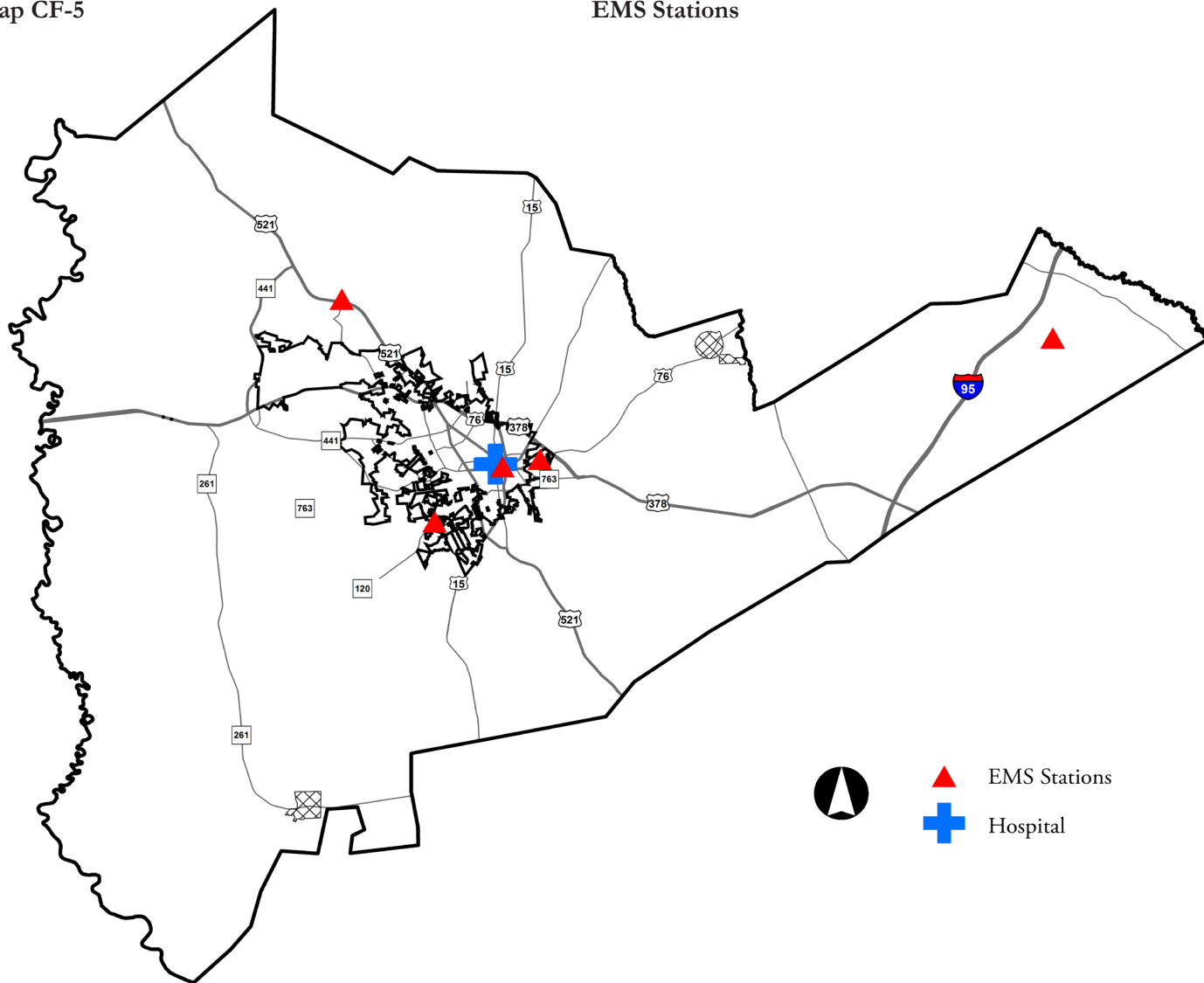
EMS

Sumter County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responds to approximately 17,500 calls annually. Emergency services are provided from the County's established EMS stations. Sumter EMS operates six advanced life support ambulances at all times, with 2 EMS personnel assigned to each ambulance. The County maintains fifteen licensed ambulances in total, which allows for adequate coverage in the event of unforeseen mechanical problems or routine maintenance. Sumter County EMS is licensed by the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC) as an Advance Life Support Service.

The 301 bed Prisma Health Tuomey Medical Center serves as the regional health care facility for Sumter, Lee, and Clarendon Counties. This facility includes a nursery and birthing suites, neonatal special care unit, intensive care unit, operating rooms, emergency room, and outpatient surgery suites. A cancer treatment center is located across from the main hospital campus on Washington St.

Map CF-5

EMS Stations



Source: Sumter GIS

Police Protection

The Sumter County Sheriff's Department is charged with maintaining peace and order and with protecting life and property throughout the County, sheriff's deputies patrol nearly 636 square miles in Sumter County, excluding the City of Sumter Police Department service area.

Six sheriff's stations serve citizens of Sumter County. Sheriff's Department Headquarters is located at 1281 N. Main St. The County is divided into ten patrol districts for managing resources. Substations are located in South Sumter, Cherryvale, St. John's, Dalzell, and the Peach Orchard Road area for the purposes of increasing police presence throughout the County. The Sheriff's Department employs more than 100 sworn officers that are organized into three divisions - Investigation, Patrol, and Special Operations.

The City of Sumter Police Department is charged with maintaining peace and order and with protecting life and property inside City limits. The Department has been nationally accredited by the Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) since 1995.

Three police stations serve citizens in Sumter. Headquarters is located at 355 N. Lafayette Dr. in a newly constructed state of the art public safety complex. Substations are located at the Sumter Mall on Broad St. and the Alice Dr. Apartment Complex for the purposes of increasing police presence throughout the City. The City of Sumter Police Department employs over 100 sworn officers and over 50 civilian staff members that are organized into four divisions - Administration, Communications, Patrol, and Criminal Investigations. The City is divided into two regions, and nine patrol areas within the two regions.



Photo: City of Sumter New Public Safety Complex

Community Facilities Policies

1. The City and County will coordinate the extension of public water and sewer facilities consistent with the Land Use Policies set forth in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.
2. The City and County will consider strategic planning initiatives for each sector of community facilities to evaluate current and future capital and operation needs on a department by department basis.
3. The City and County will support the provision of community facilities in a manner accessible and proximate to all citizens in Sumter.
4. The City and County will continue to develop sound environmental and engineering strategies for the management and quality of all stormwater facilities and programs.
5. Private well and septic systems on small lots are discouraged except in the Agricultural Conservation Zoning District. The County will work with DHEC and others to ensure protection of private water supplies.
6. Community Facilities should be directed to areas consistent with the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Consistent with State Law, all public projects (such as new schools, City/County government buildings, parks, etc.) shall be reviewed by the Planning Commission.
7. The Community Facilities element shall be closely coordinated with the Priority Investment Element. The City and County will consider the development of a public 5 - 10 year Capital Projects Planning Document.

Note: County Libraries and the full range of City and County Government Facilities were evaluated and considered under this Community Facilities Element. The policies provided in this Element are applicable to these public facility types, as well.

Note: Cultural facilities are discussed in the Historical & Cultural Resources Element.



Photo: Construction of Wastewater Treatment Plant #6

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