

Media Release



bluffton
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

November 6, 2017

For More Information:

Debbie Szpanka
Public Information Officer
Town of Bluffton
20 Bridge Street
Bluffton, South Carolina 29910
(Office): 843.706.4534
(Cell): 843.540.2274
(Email): dszpanka@townofbluffton.com

Town of Bluffton Begins Inspecting All Stormwater
Treatment Systems as Part of a Federal Mandate

As a requirement of a federally-mandated program regulated by the state of South Carolina, the Town will inspect all stormwater drainage and treatment systems. Inspections will include drainage ponds, curb inlets, pipes and other necessary system components to ensure they are properly maintained and operating as intended. This is a necessary measure because the stormwater from these systems drains into the May River and other regional waterways. These inspections will begin in early November.

“The ponds in the Town’s neighborhoods and business parks are not only amenities, but they are also stormwater drainage and treatment systems used by developments and the Town to meet stormwater quantity and quality standards,” Bryan McIlwee, the Town’s director of engineering, said. “The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) requires the Town to inspect each system beginning this year.”

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit, which the Town was issued in November, 2015 allows the Town to discharge local stormwater runoff through public drainage systems into larger bodies of water. This permit requires the Town to perform these inspections as part of a larger set of requirements.

The Town and its contractor, New Restoration & Recovery Services, will begin inspecting neighborhood and commercial developments within a few weeks. If deficiencies are found within a stormwater system, remediation of the problem will be required by the property owner.

“Stormwater systems are designed to manage the discharge of stormwater runoff and pollutants from developments before entering the Town’s public drainage system. Ultimately, these public drainages lead to our local rivers and, thus, must meet state and federal water quality standards to be in compliance. If a development’s system is non-compliant or is not properly functioning, that development will have to fix those issues,” McIlwee said.

Media Release



bluffton
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

Mcilwee also said the Town's Watershed Management Division has notified all property owner associations within the Town about the upcoming inspections.

"The overall goal of this federal program, which is supported by DHEC requirements and Bluffton's local ordinances, is to ensure our environment, such as the May River, is protected," Mayor Pro Tempore Larry Toomer said. "Together, this is a partnership with our residents and business owners as we all do our best to protect the natural resources which make Bluffton and our region so unique."

If you have any questions about this program and its requirements, please call the Bryan McIlwee at (email) bmcilwee@townofbluffton.com or (office) 843.706.7824.