

Media Release



bluffton
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

November 19, 2015

For More Information:

Debbie Szpanka
Public Information Officer
Town of Bluffton
20 Bridge Street
Bluffton, South Carolina 29910
(Office) 84.706.4534
(Cell) 843.540.2274
(Email): dszpanka@townofbluffton.com

Town of Bluffton's Beautification Committee Announces Annual Plan.

Under the direction of Town Council and its adopted FY2015-2016 Strategic Plan, the Beautification Committee is scheduled to do the following this fiscal year:

- Install tree and landscape improvements in the roundabout at Bluffton Road and Bluffton Parkway;
- Plant trees along a portion of May River Road to supplement the existing streetscape;
- Install and maintain seasonal plantings at Welcome Sign (i.e. Stock Farm) and May River Road sidewalk planters;
- Host the annual Arbor Day ceremony in late April to support Tree City USA Designation and celebrate Arbor Day.

Since 2012, the Town of Bluffton has planted nearly 300 trees in public parks and properties in support of the Town's Tree City USA designation and the Town's Tree is the Key Management Policy.

Pat Rooney, the staff liaison for the Beautification Committee, said the tree planting projects are scheduled to be implemented in late fall of 2015 through early spring of 2016, culminating in the annual Arbor Day event on the last Friday in April.

"This committee has taken Town Council's directive and decided what projects will best benefit the town within its budget," Mayor Lisa Sulka said. "It's great to have residents and business owners take the lead in prioritizing the Town's beautification and preservation efforts."

"The Beautification Committee annual work plan is a continuation of the Town's policies and projects. We are grateful for those residents who work hand-in-hand with the Town's Growth Management Department to make Bluffton more beautiful and mindful of its trees and natural resources," Town Manager Marc Orlando said.

About The Town's Tree is the Key Management Policy

This is the guiding document used by the Beautification Committee to prioritize its annual projects. Adopted by Town Council in 2013, the Tree is the Key Management Policy reaffirmed the

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Town's commitment to tree preservation, planting, and management of its maritime forest on both public and private lands. In this regard, the Policy established the following objectives:

- *Preserve and protect* the existing tree canopy, especially trees considered significant due to heritage, cultural, social and ecological criteria;
- *Plant* native trees to restore and further enhance the tree canopy and improve the species and age diversity of the community forest;
- *Maintain* both existing and new trees to ensure the health and longevity of the tree canopy;
- *Educate* the community and increase awareness on the value of trees within the community; and,
- *Celebrate* the importance of trees to the Bluffton community with events and recognition of the community as a steward of trees.

The Beautification Committee is comprised of:

- David Waugh, Chairman
- Hugh Williamson, Vice Chairman
- Eric Walsnovich
- Regina Banis
- Shere Colburn