



**HEALTH, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025**

The Health, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee will conduct a meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Second Floor, Columbia, SC 29201. Members of the public may view the meeting online at www.columbiasc.gov. Please contact the City Clerk's Office at (803)545-3045 or cityclerk@columbiasc.gov if you have questions regarding this meeting.

The Honorable Aditi Bussells, Chair

The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr., District II ■ The Honorable Tyler D. Bailey, At-Large

Prior to entering the meeting please silence all electronic communication devices. All presenters are asked to speak directly into the microphone for recording purposes.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of January 28, 2025 Health, Social, and Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

PRESENTATIONS

2. Sanitary Sewer Overflow Update – Mr. Frank Eskridge, Director of Utility Operations, Columbia Water
3. Solid Waste Division Route Growth/Efficiency - Ms. Samantha Yager, Superintendent/Solid Waste Division
4. Undergrounding of Utilities – Ms. Viola Hendley, Chair, Columbia Tree & Appearance Commission

ADJOURNMENT



MEETING DATE: April 22, 2025

DEPARTMENT: City Clerk

FROM: *Erika Hammond, City Clerk*

SUBJECT: Approval of January 28, 2025 Health, Social, and Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

FUNDING SOURCE & ORIGINAL BUDGET:

ATTACHMENTS:

- **#a:** HSEAC_MN_012825 (DOCX)



**HEALTH, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbia Health, Social, and Environmental Affairs Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at City Hall (Mayor’s Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Second Floor, Columbia, SC 29201. The Honorable Aditi Bussells, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and the following members were present:

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Aditi Bussells	Chair	Present
Edward H. McDowell	Member	Present
Tyler D. Bailey	Member	Absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- December 17, 2024 Health, Social, and Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. McDowell, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the December 17, 2024 Health, Social, and Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes.

PRESENTATIONS

- Environmental Priorities and Strategies for 2025 - Mr. Clint Shealy, P.E., Assistant City Manager of Columbia Water and Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator - *Received as information.*

Mr. Clint Shealy, P.E., Assistant City Manager of Columbia Water emphasized the continued importance of maintaining compliance with drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater regulations. This includes addressing sanitary sewer overflows, improving water quality, and investing in infrastructure upgrades. He shared about the efforts to extend project timelines with the EPA due to challenges like the 2015 flood and COVID-related delays. The team is working on more consistent notifications to customers, especially during water main breaks. Infrastructure upgrades are ongoing, with a focus on replacing old pipes to reduce service disruptions.

There was discussion about time extensions; metal plates on the streets and backlogged work orders; line replacing; internal staff communications; and proactive approaches.



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Dr. Bussells suggested the additional option of an “Active Alerts” button to the MyColaSC mobile application with the same functionality of reporting concerns or paying utility bills. If a water concern has information that has changed rapidly, it can be seen on the app in real time.

Mr. Clint Shealy, P.E., Assistant City Manager of Columbia Water said that ongoing litigation regarding the regulation of perfluorinated substances in drinking water, with the team continuing to study the potential impacts and costs. Recently, a proposal for regulating wastewater effluent and bio solids was frozen under the new administration, but the team remains committed to pursuing litigation to ensure that polluters are held accountable for removing these substances. The team is also exploring value engineering to mitigate costs while maintaining progress on essential projects.

There was discussion about process of biogas recovery; embankment repair and head gate replacement at the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant; and anticipated timeline.

Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator shared the most recent grant opportunities received by the city:

- Community Development Block Grant- \$105,165 for decorative street lights in the Edisto Court community through June 30, 2025.
- Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act - \$290,015, funding covers tree costs, tree diapers, and catering for free tree planting lunch and learn events through June 30, 2029.
- Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) - \$198,460 will retrofit city streetlights to LED bulbs through March 28, 2027.
- Climate Pollution Reduction Grant - \$9 million to develop a climate action plan for the region, with implementation funds potentially supporting a solar farm.
- Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Grant – \$100,000 through October 31, 2025.



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Ms. Tina-Marie Sandoval, University of South Carolina student and Youth Climate Action Fund recipient organized a service day with fellow students in North Columbia's Meadow Lake neighborhood. They weatherized six homes to improve energy efficiency and reduce CO2 emissions by air-sealing, caulking windows, and installing door weatherization strips. Thirty students volunteered, gaining hands-on experience and connecting with the community. If selected for the next round of funding, the project will return to these homes to update attic insulation with a third-party contractor.

There was discussion about servicing different locations.

Ms. Beata Dewitt, SC Carolina Public Health Association and Youth Climate Action Fund recipient shared about the launch of College Climate Action Resilience Week. Events included a Climate Café discussing urbanization, a Tree Planting Initiative at MLK Jr. Park on Election Day, a "Don't Waste Food SC" cooking demo, a Sustainable Art exhibit on issues like fast fashion, and a Green Networking Breakfast focused on youth and sustainability. A total of 45 students participated.

There was discussion about collaborative efforts in organizing the events throughout the week.

Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator highlighted ongoing initiatives with CPAC, including bi-weekly core group and monthly full committee meetings. The team is focused on implementing the Ready for 100 Project Resolution 2.0, developing a tracking dashboard for upcoming launch, and prioritizing energy audits and efficiency improvements. The city's 45-year Tree City designation is also a key focus, with the application for the 46th designation being processed, and 500 trees planted annually to maintain the status.

There was discussion funding for additional tree planting.

3. Greenway and Trails Update - Ms. Dana Higgins, P.E., LEED AP, Director of Engineering for Columbia Water – *This item was discussed. No action was taken.*

Ms. Dana Higgins, P.E., LEED AP, Director of Engineering for Columbia Water shared an update on the city's trail and greenway connections, including key projects and future opportunities. Phase 3 of the Vista Greenway is progressing from Elmwood to North Main, with Phase 4 planned to extend to Page Ellington Park. Richland County's



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Penny projects, including the Gill Creek, Crane Creek, and Rocky Branch Greenways, are ongoing, with Crane Creek expected to finish by next spring. The River Alliance is working on a project connecting Boyd Island to Riverfront Park, set for completion by 2027. The team is also exploring grant funding to enhance connectivity.

Dr. Bussells requested staff for a walkthrough of Finlay Park.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk



MEETING DATE: April 22, 2025

DEPARTMENT: City Clerk

FROM: *Erika Hammond, City Clerk*

SUBJECT: Sanitary Sewer Overflow Update – Mr. Frank Eskridge, Director of Utility Operations, Columbia Water

**FUNDING SOURCE &
ORIGINAL BUDGET:**

ATTACHMENTS:

- **#a:** 2025-04-22 Columbia Water Update to Council_2024SSOReview (PPTX)



Columbia Water 2024 Sanitary Sewer Overflow Discussion and Analysis

Frank Eskridge, Director of Utility Operations– Columbia Water

April 22, 2025

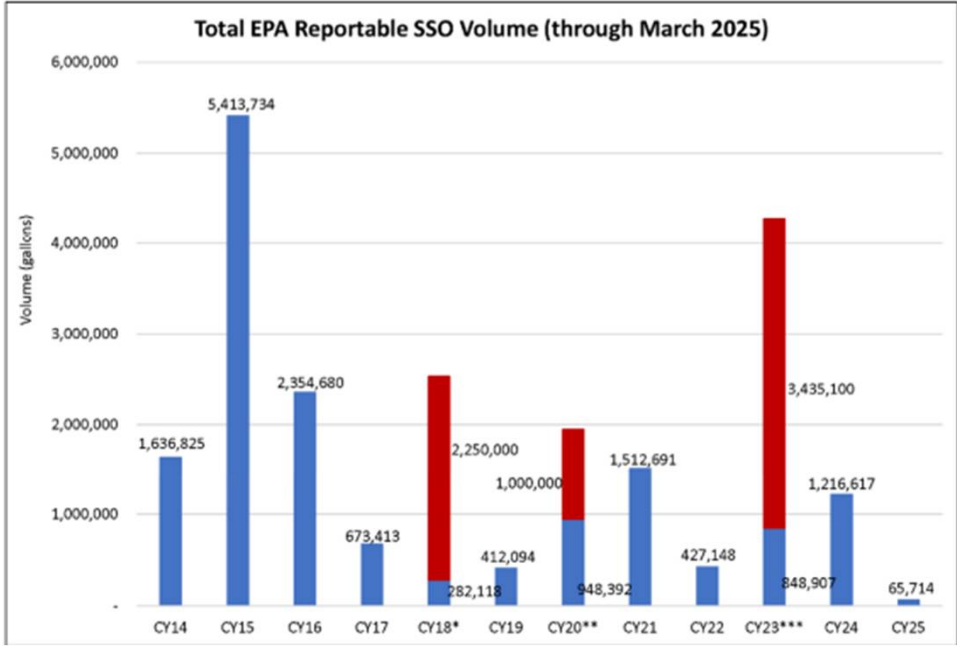
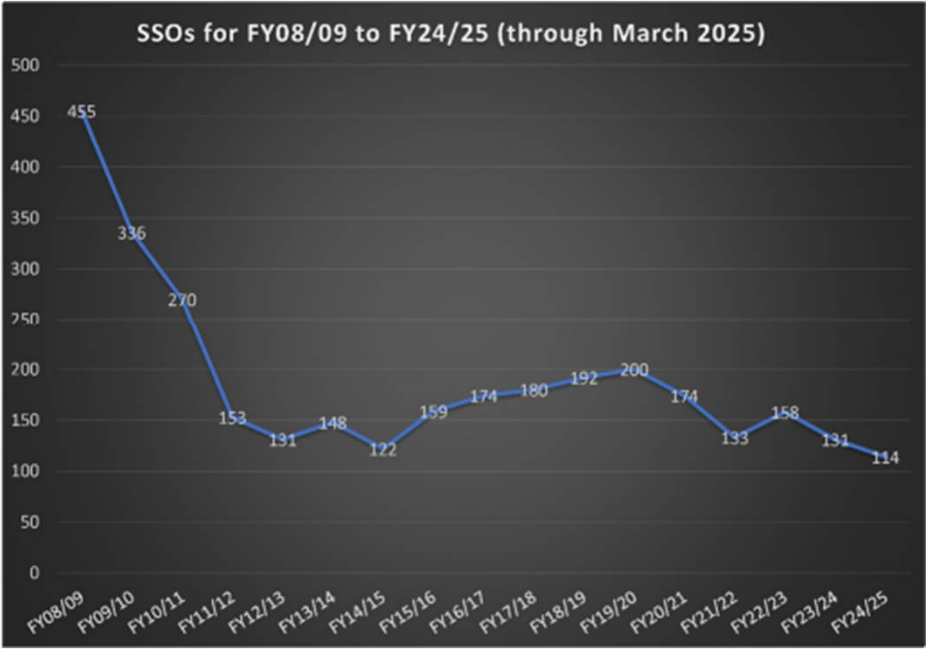


Overview & Agenda

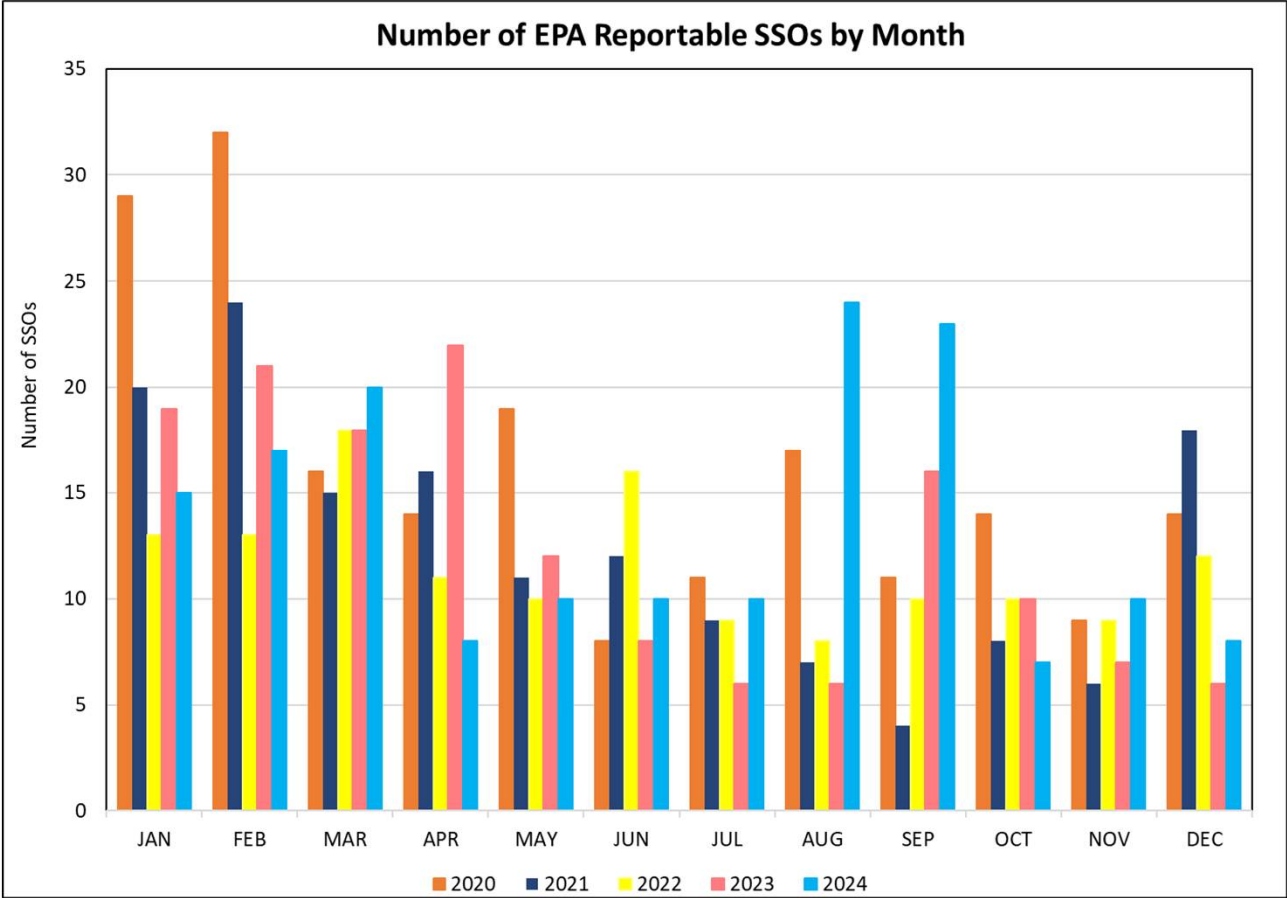
- Sanitary Sewer Overflow Multi-Year Recap
- 2024 Sanitary Sewer Overflows
- Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant Review
- Hurricane Debby
- Hurricane Helene
- SSO Causes
- SSO Mitigation Efforts
- Questions



Multi Year Look at SSO's

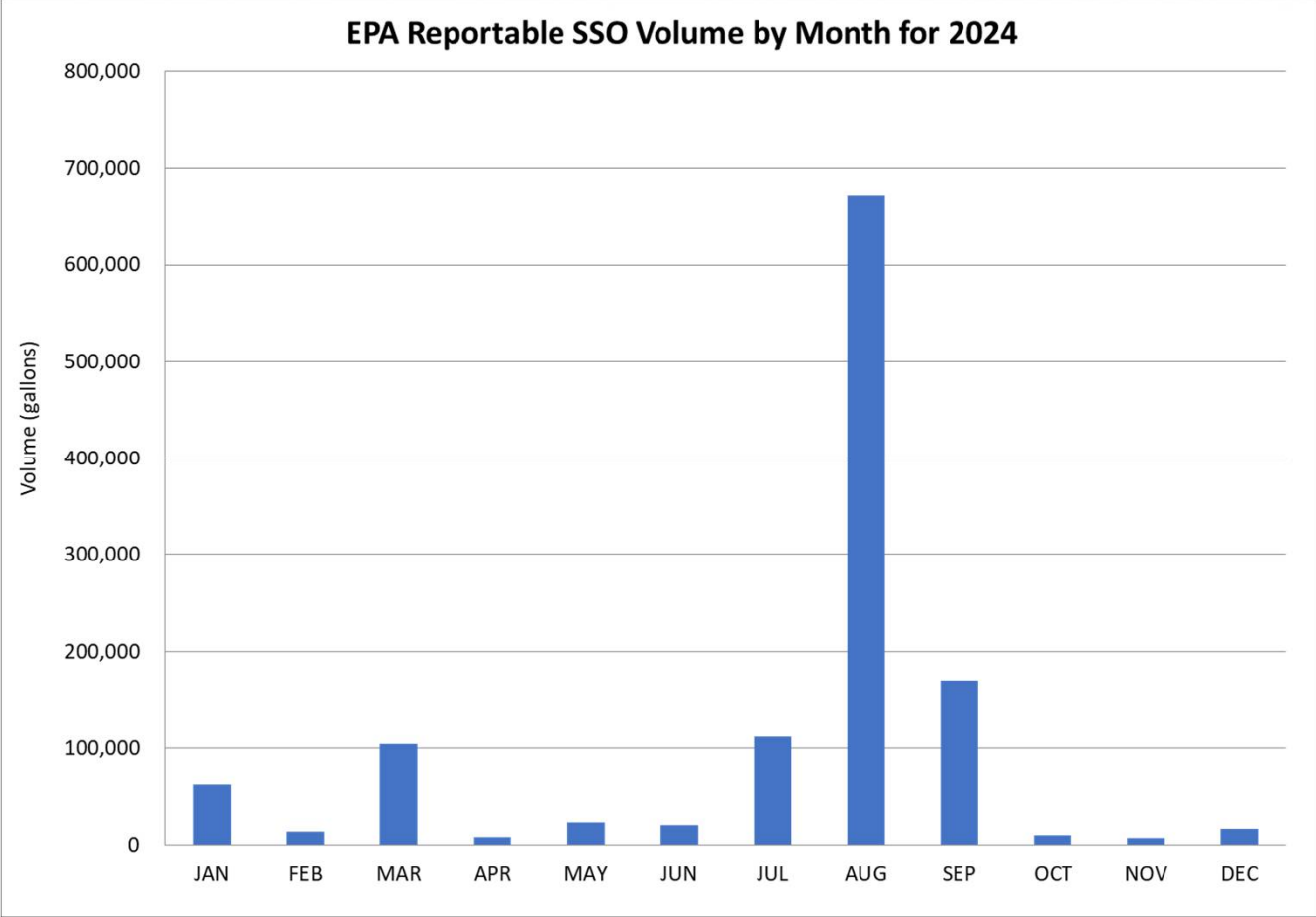


SSO's by Month 2020 - 2025

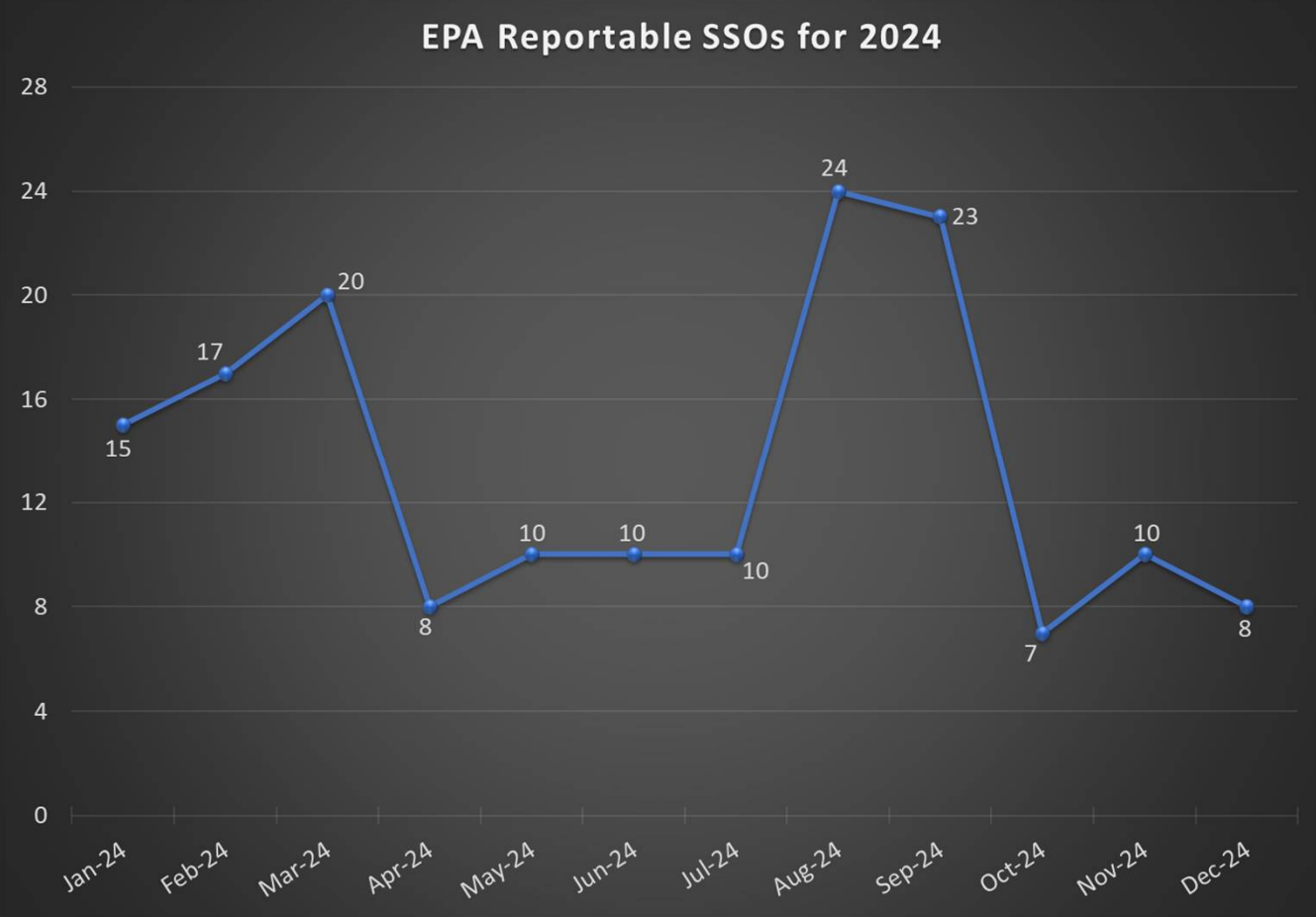


2024 SSO Volumes

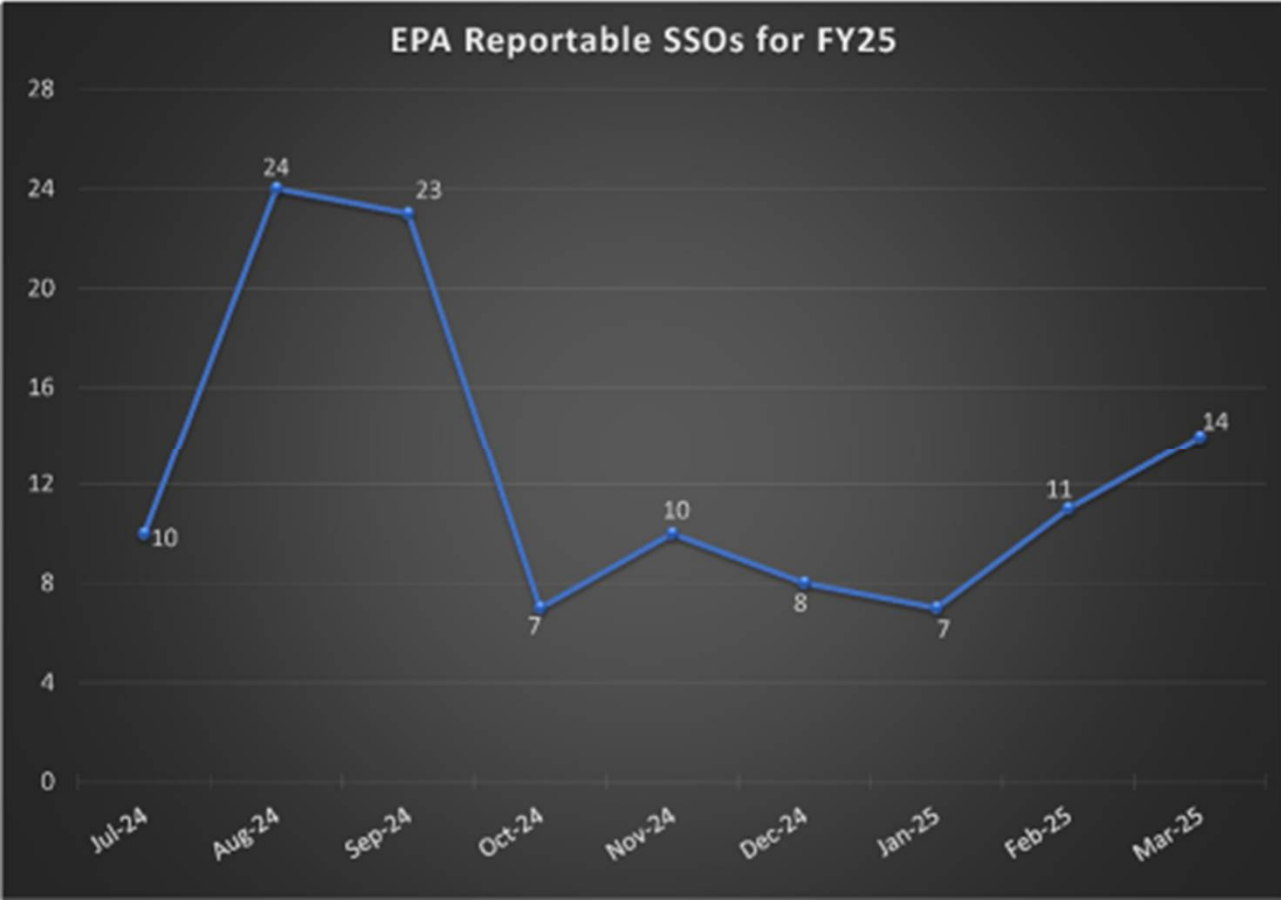
EPA Reportable SSO Volume by Month for 2024



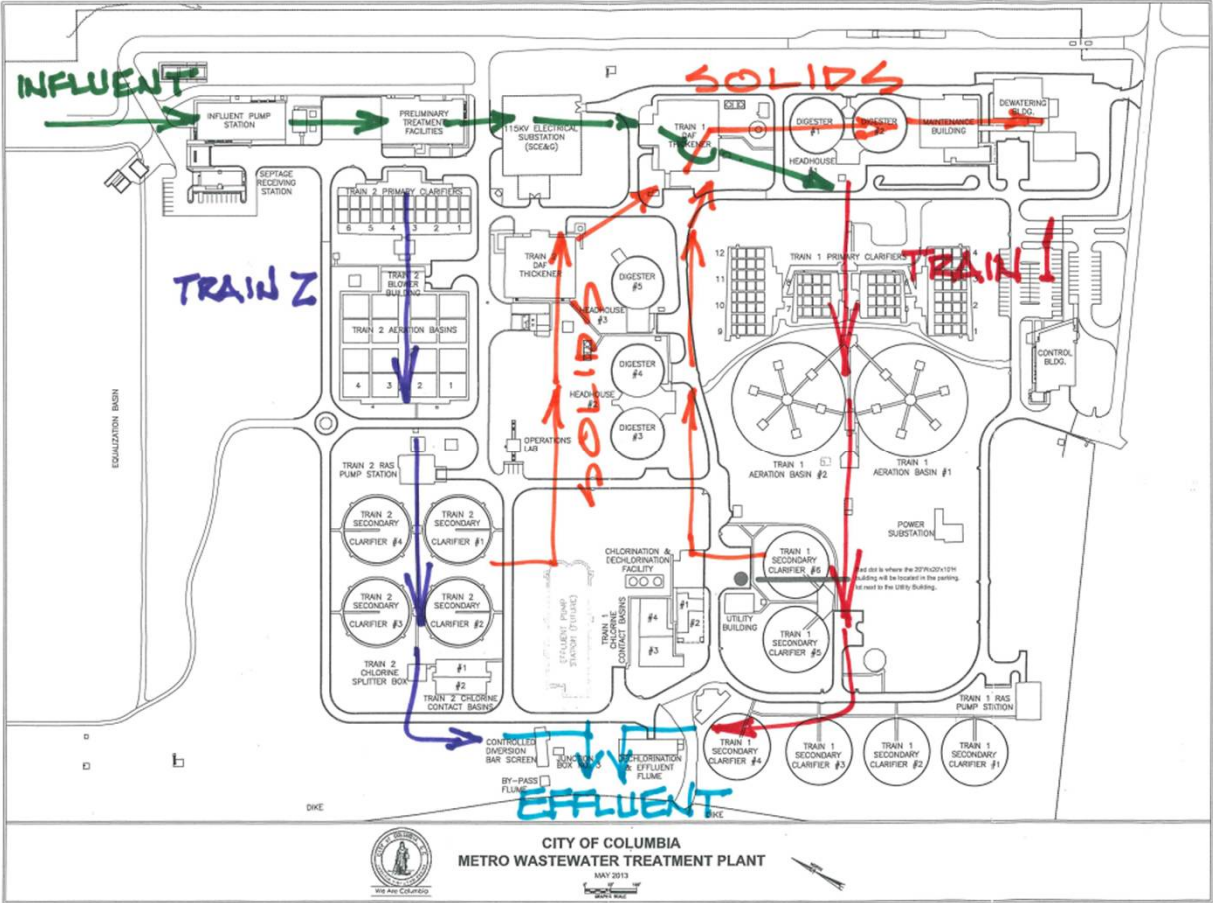
SSO Activity in 2024



SSO Activity in 2025



Metro WWTP Layout



CITY OF COLUMBIA
METRO WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

MAY 2013

Effects of Hurricane Debby

- August 9, 2024
- Heavy Rain and high flows to Metro
- Problems at Metro WWTP due to Electrical Switchgear Failure
 - Switchgear caught fire
 - Emergency transition to portable generators
- Electrical Improvements became an Emergency Priority
- All activities coordinated with SCDES

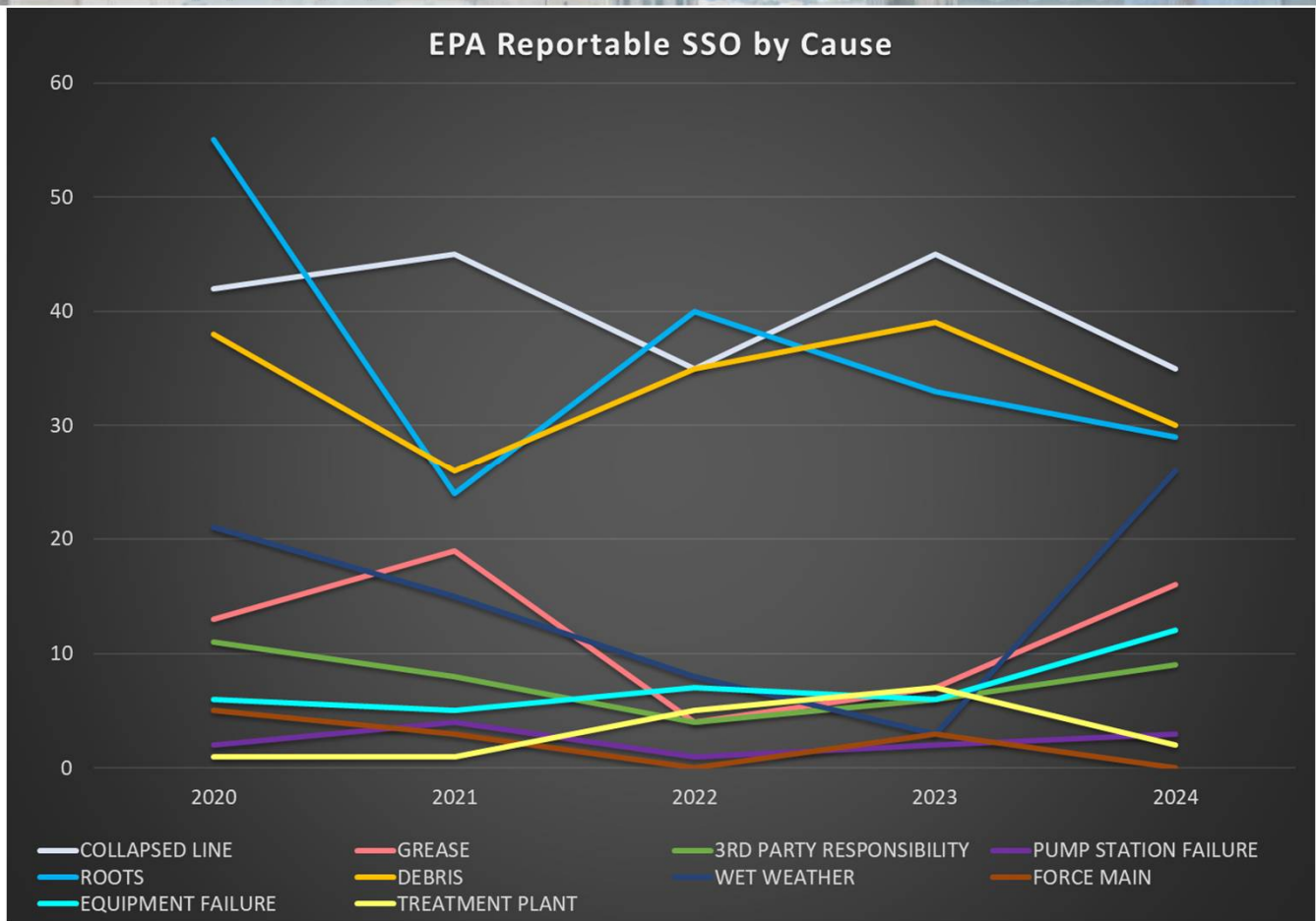


Effects of Hurricane Helene

- The Storm arrived Friday September 27, 2024
- Floodwaters from Western North Carolina and the Upstate of SC began arriving in the Columbia area the evening of Sunday, September 29, 2024
- Congaree River peaked just after noon on Monday, September 30, 2024
- **Problems at the Metro WWTP due to flooding**
- Partially treated effluent overflowed the disinfection basins and flowed off the WWTP site to the Congaree River
- All activities were coordinated with SCDES



Sanitary Sewer Overflows - Cause



Sanitary Sewer Overflows – Efforts to Address and Mitigate in the Future

- Multiple Projects Under Design and Construction

- SS7568 Saluda River Force Main Extension
- SS7646 Metro WWTP Electrical Reliability Improvements
- SS7615 Broad River LS Improvements + SS7497 Mill Creek LS Improvements





2024 Sanitary Sewer Overflow Discussion and Analysis

Questions





MEETING DATE: April 22, 2025

DEPARTMENT: City Clerk

FROM: *Erika Hammond, City Clerk*

SUBJECT: **Solid Waste Division Route Growth/Efficiency - Ms. Samantha Yager, Superintendent/Solid Waste Division**

FUNDING SOURCE & ORIGINAL BUDGET:

ATTACHMENTS:

- **#a:** Solid Waste Reroute Council Presentation (PPTX)

Solid Waste Division Route Growth/Efficiency





Route Balance

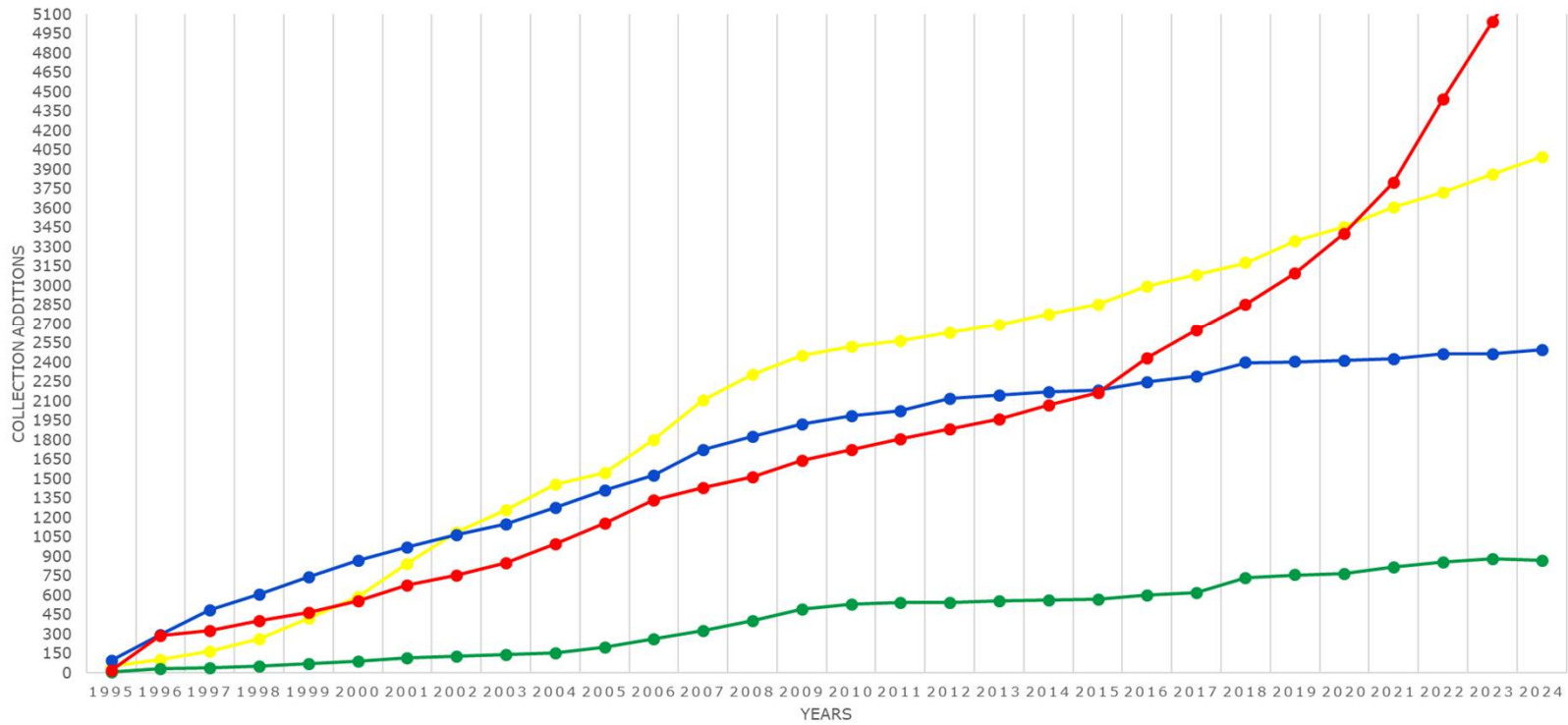
- 1991- last route adjustment
 - Recycling Program
 - Twice per week collection
- Technology Advancements
 - Rear loader
 - Automation
 - Three lever system
 - Joystick
 - Improved joystick and button controls
 - Auto Pack vs. Manual Pack
- Balance density and services per day to optimize route efficiency





CUMULATIVE ANNUAL ADDITIONS SINCE 1995

Monday Tuesday Thursday Friday



Total new services: 12,978

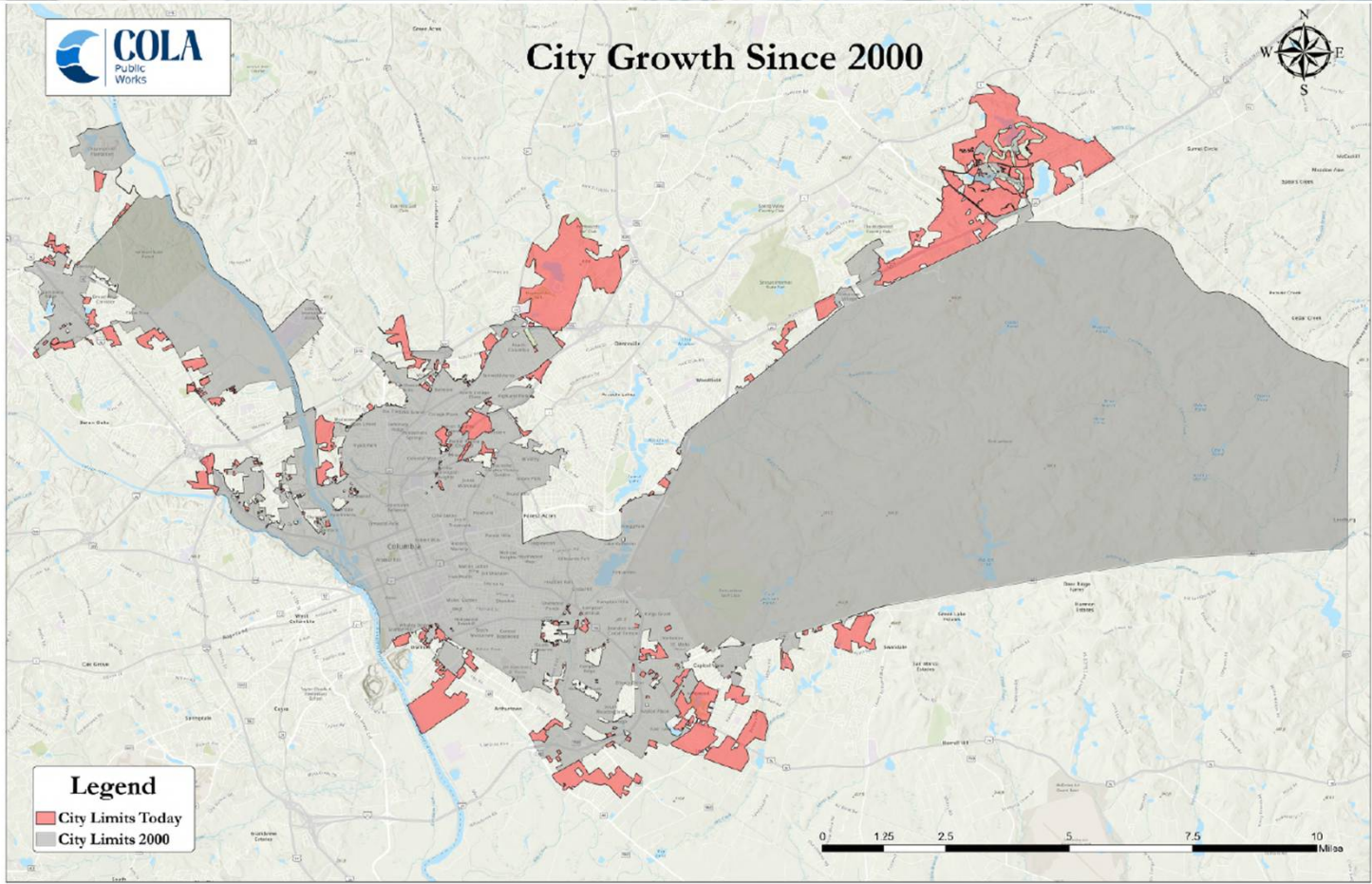
Monday-3,997

Tuesday-2,494

Thursday-871

Friday-5,616







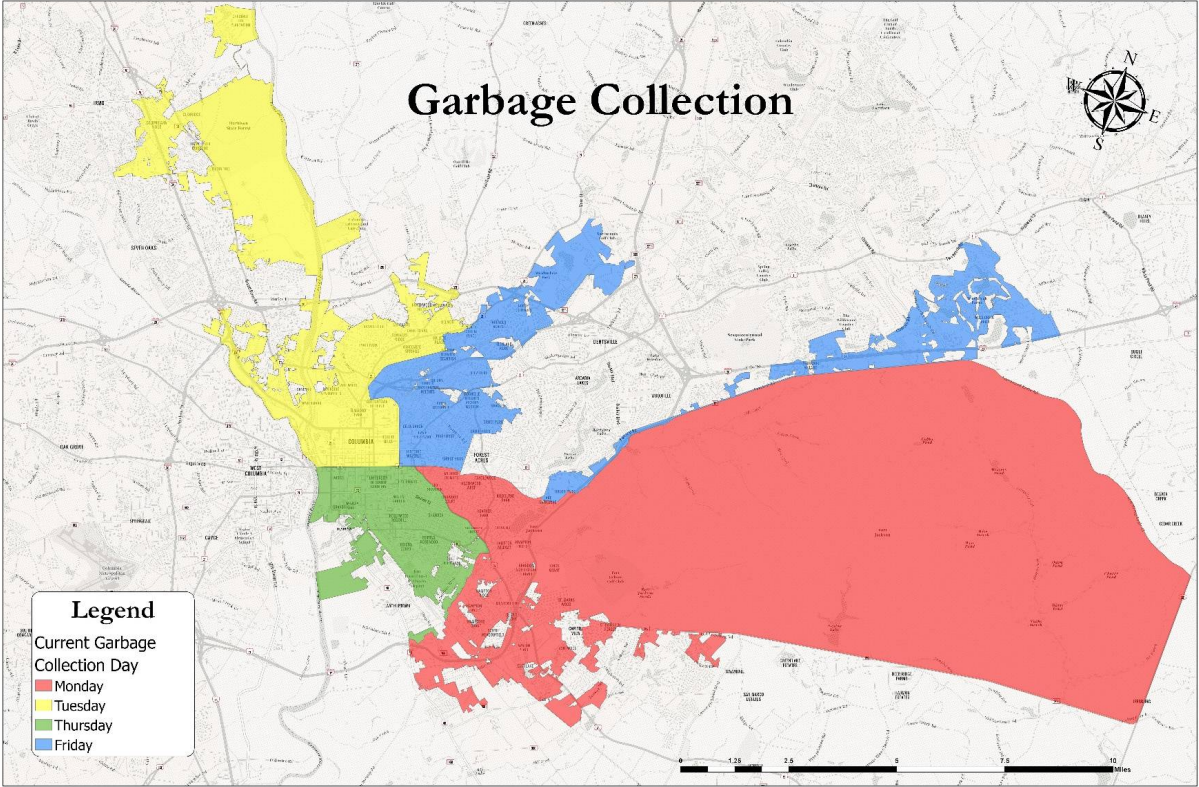
Route Balance

- Balance density and services per day to optimize route efficiency
 - Safety
 - Vehicle maintenance and cleanliness
 - Employee morale
 - Unbudgeted overtime
- Allows for future growth of City
- Trucks were funded and ready
- Funds for 4 positions, vehicle maintenance and operating supplies



Current Routes

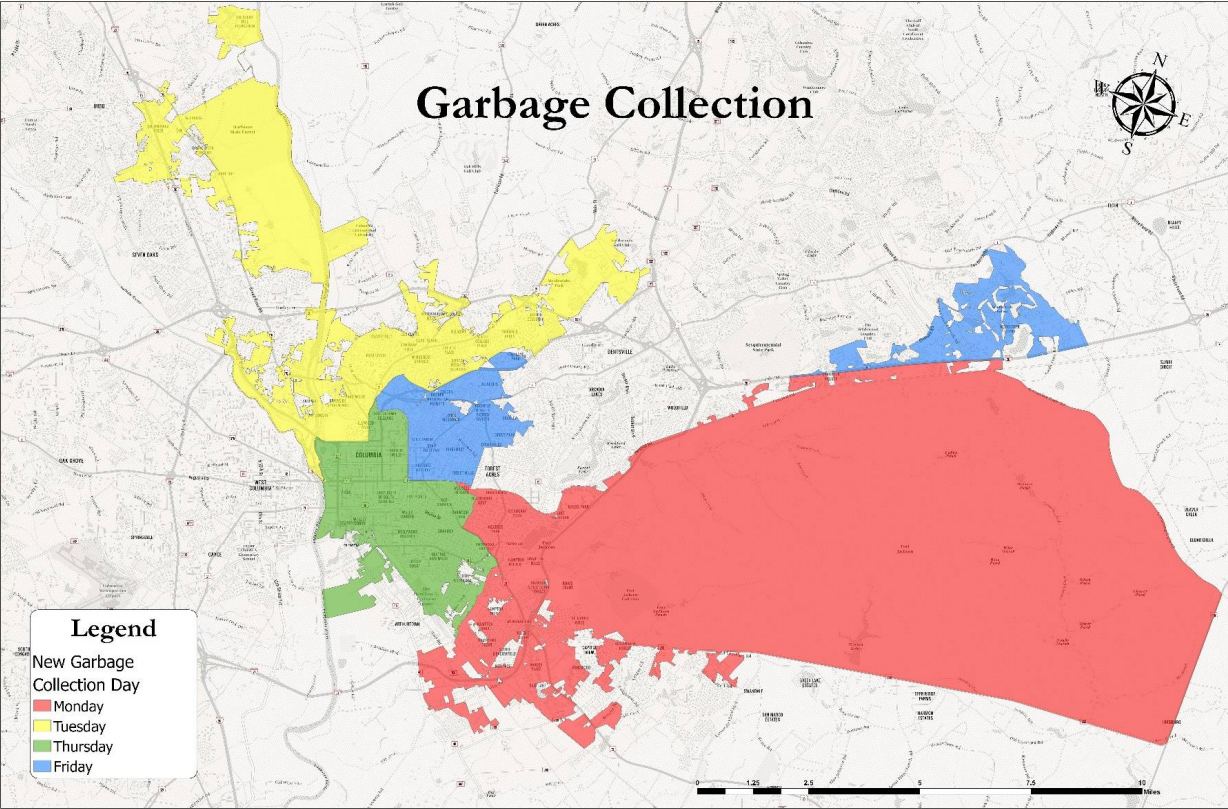
- Total Services: 41,585
 - Monday: 10,283
 - Avg. per route: 1,028
 - Tuesday: 8,966
 - Avg. per route: 1,121
 - Thursday: 9,432
 - Avg. per route: 1,179
 - Friday: 12,904
 - Avg. per route: 1,173
- Industry Standard
 - 800-1,000 homes per route for 10-hour shift

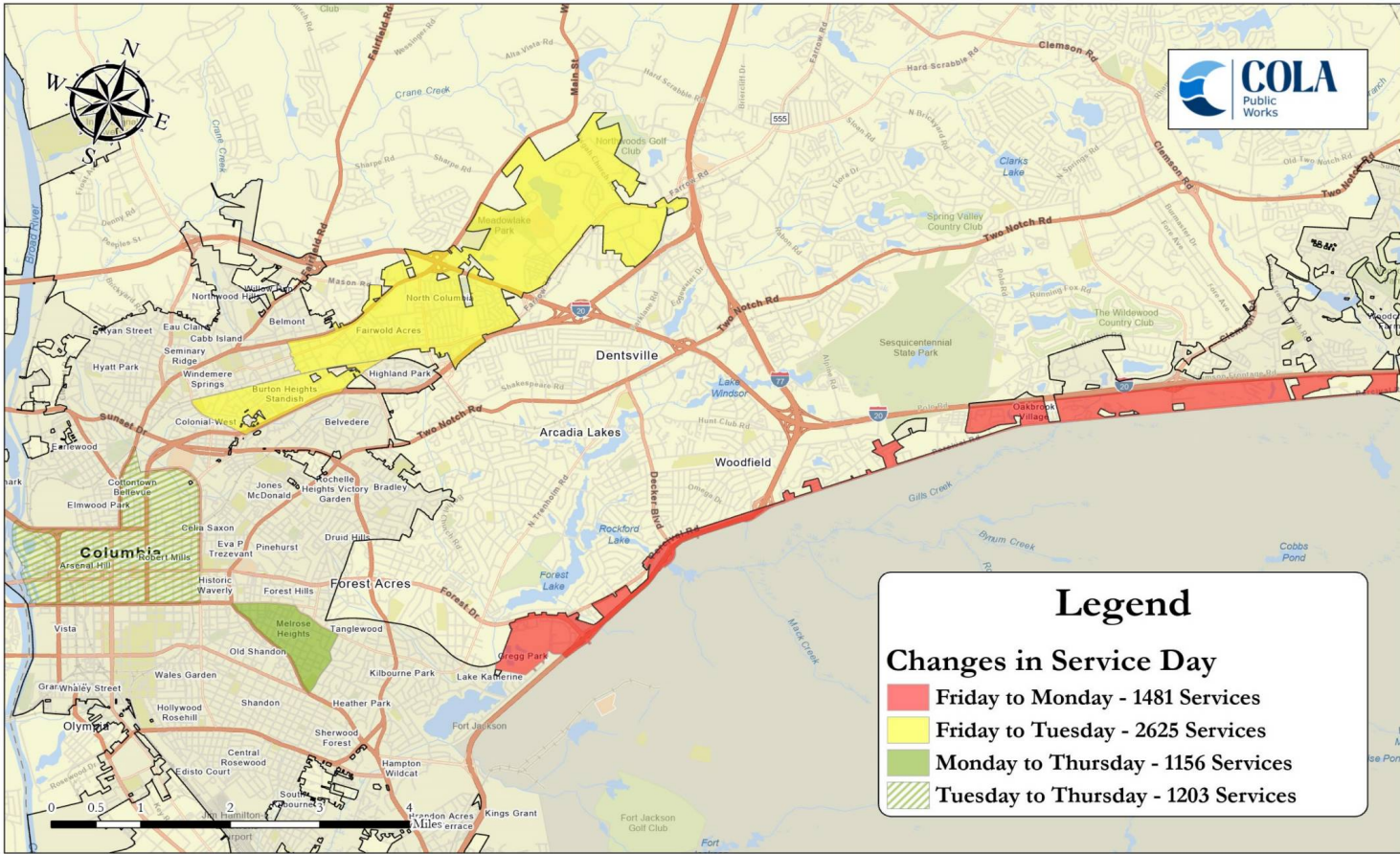




New Garbage Routes

Total Number of
Affected Customers
10,722





Garbage Changes

Total Changes:
6,465



8



Route Balance Communication Plan

- Mail letter to specific addresses
 - 45 days from start date
 - Includes kitchen magnet
- Reminder postcards
 - 30 days out and 15 days out
- Update ReCollect notifications
- Update forward-facing GIS and Cityworks
- Update City website with maps
- Potential neighborhood/business district meetings
- Service
 - Week 1- service old routes and new routes
 - Week 2- only one collection on new routes





Notice of Service Changes

Dear City of Columbia Resident,

The City is committed to providing the highest level of customer care and constituent service. The City will be balancing the Solid Waste routes and changing service days to accommodate for growth.

In order to provide world-class services, the City of Columbia will be changing service days for garbage and recycling collections. Your new service schedule is below and on the enclosed kitchen magnet.

Your new service schedule:
Garbage- Mondays
Recycling- 1st and 3rd Mondays
Yard Trash- Tuesdays
This new schedule will be effective: XXXXX, 2025

The Solid Waste Division will service your cart on Friday, _____ and will service your cart again on Monday, _____ on your new collection schedule.



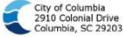


<p>CITY OF COLUMBIA</p> <p>RECYCLING MATERIALS GUIDE</p> <p>REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE</p> <p>For more information, please visit www.ColumbiaSC.gov or call Solid Waste at 803-545-3800.</p> 	 Newspaper & Junk Mail  Flattened Cardboard  Cereal & Tissue Boxes	<p>KEEP OUT</p>  Plastic Bags  Food Waste	
	<p>Empty, Rinse & Replace Cap</p>  Plastic Bottles  Glass Bottles & Jars  Plastic Containers	 Cords & Wires  Yard Waste	<p>Service Days Garbage: Mondays</p> <p>Recycling: 1st & 3rd Mondays</p>
	 Aluminum Cans  Metal Cans  Food & Juice Cartons		

Dear City of Columbia Resident, This is a friendly reminder that your garbage and recycling services are changing. Your new service starts on XXXX, 2025. By scanning the QR code below, you can go directly to our website to sign up for notifications. If you are already signed up, your new schedule will be automatically updated.

New Service Days:
Garbage: Mondays
Recycling: 1st and 3rd Mondays

To learn more, please visit ColumbiaSC.gov or call Solid Waste at 803-545-3800.

Your collection schedule is changing!

Solid Waste is changing your garbage and recycling schedule.

Don't be the last one to have your cart out.





<p>CITY OF COLUMBIA</p> <p>RECYCLING MATERIALS GUIDE</p> <p>REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE</p> <p>For more information, please visit www.ColumbiaSC.gov or call Solid Waste at 803-545-3800.</p> 	 Newspaper & Junk Mail  Flattened Cardboard  Cereal & Tissue Boxes	<p>KEEP OUT</p>  Plastic Bags  Food Waste	
	<p>Empty, Rinse & Replace Cap</p>  Plastic Bottles  Glass Bottles & Jars  Plastic Containers	 Cords & Wires  Yard Waste	<p>Service Days Garbage: Thursdays</p> <p>Recycling: 2nd & 4th Thursdays</p>
	 Aluminum Cans  Metal Cans  Food & Juice Cartons		



An aerial photograph of a city street, likely in Columbia, South Carolina. The street is lined with modern buildings and lush green trees. In the background, a prominent building with a dome and a flagpole is visible under a cloudy sky. A large white rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the word "Questions?".

Questions?



MEETING DATE: April 22, 2025

DEPARTMENT: City Clerk

FROM: *Erika Hammond, City Clerk*

SUBJECT: **Undergrounding of Utilities – Ms. Viola Hendley,
Chair, Columbia Tree & Appearance Commission**

**FUNDING SOURCE &
ORIGINAL BUDGET:**

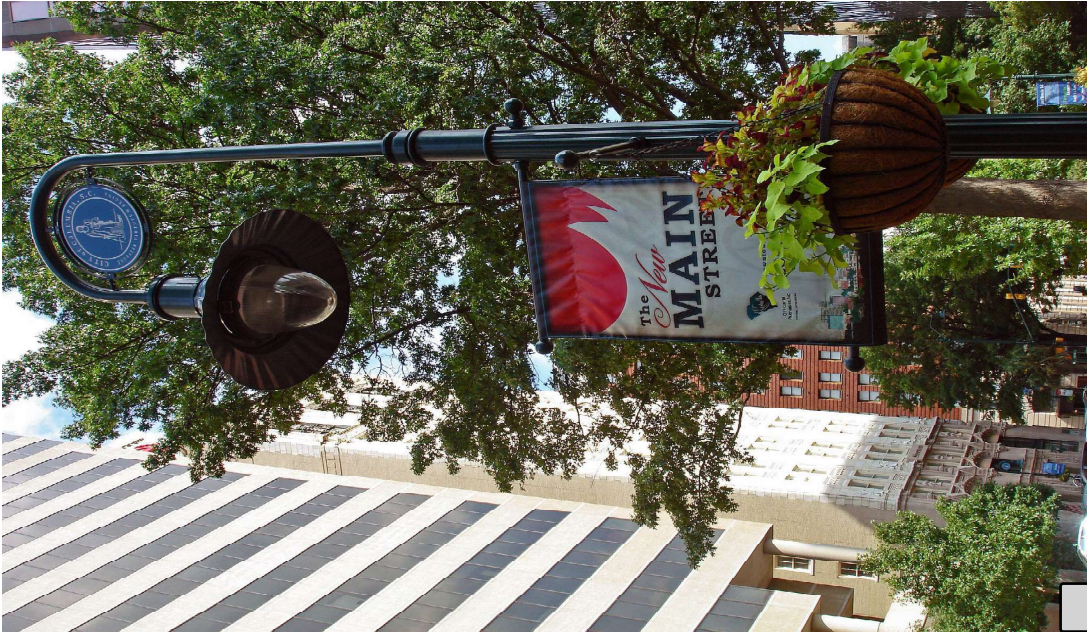
ATTACHMENTS:

- **#a:** CTAC Health, Social & Environmental Committee (PDF)

Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission

Health, Social &
Environmental Affairs
Committee

Board of Commissioners
March 2025

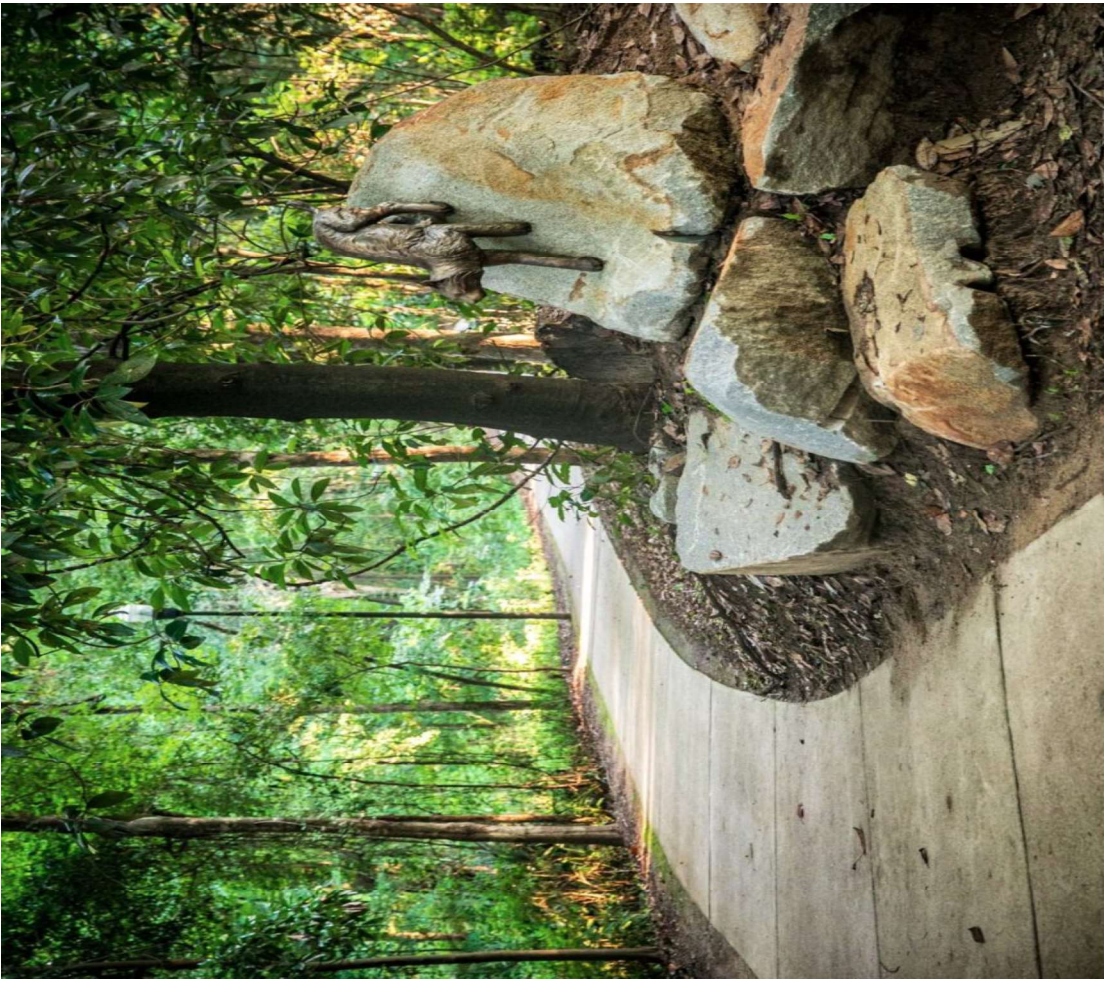


The Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission's (CTAC) Mission

*To enhance and improve the visual quality
and aesthetic characteristics of the city of
Columbia, preserving & enhancing our
tree canopy for future generations.
support City Forestry & Beautification

Our Commissioners

Vi Hendley, Chair
Johnston Cox, Secretary
Ian Hamilton, Columbia Green
Russ Jeter
Jim Irvin
Laine Ligon
Patrick McLean



Health, Social and Environmental Benefits of Urban Forests

- **Builds Community** - People walking in canopied business districts & neighborhoods tend to socialize with others and develop friendships
- **Better Health** - People living near greenways with trees exercise 40% more, experience lower blood pressure, better sleep, boost in mood and improvement in many chronic conditions.
- **Less Asthma & Heat Related Illness**- Children experience up to 25% less attacks when living in cities with urban forests.
- **Cooler summers** - A dense tree canopy can help reduce surface temperatures by up to 45 degrees.
- **Cleaner Air** - One mature tree absorb 120-240 pounds of particulate pollution and produce 260 pounds of oxygen each year.
- **Less Flooding** - One mature tree can store up to 100 gallons of water per rain storm.
- **Less Crime** - Neighborhoods with trees & quality greenspace experience up to 52%.

For Your Consideration

RFP for a Tree inventory providing a snapshot of the health of our urban street tree canopy and recommends management strategies.

The data will inform our Forestry Division's budget and 5 year canopy management & educational plan

[Arborist Services for Street Tree Inventories - City of Charlotte](#)

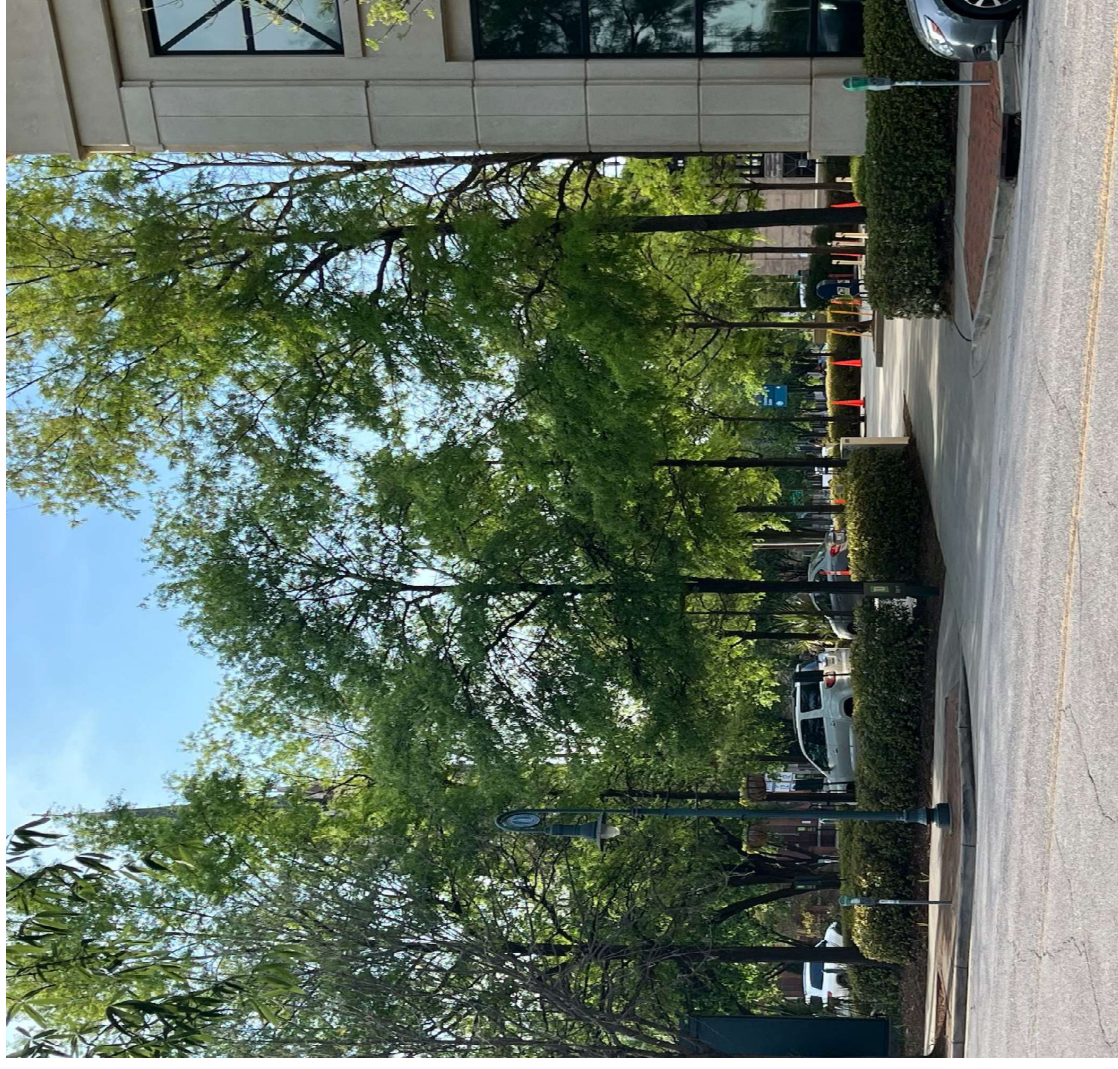


Level 2 comprehensive tree inventory involves several key components

- identifying tree species
- noting the tree's location
- measuring its size (e.g., diameter)
- assessing its condition (health, vigor)
- recording potential maintenance needs or constraints

Some assessments may also include

- information about the surrounding environment
- sidewalk damage
- utility conflicts



Funding for the Care of Columbia's Urban Forest

- **Traditional Mechanisms** General & Department Funds (stormwater), Grants, Taxes, Special Assessments & Special Tax Districts, Capital Improvement Budgets, Development and Inspection Fees, Compensatory Payments and Environmental Fines (tree fund), COG, RC Penny, CTC for transportation projects
- **Innovative & Underutilized Mechanisms** -
 - Water Bill Donations (akin to our animal shelter)
 - Carbon Trading,
 - Private Donations/Corporate Sponsorship
 - Fund Raising (Tree Nights)
 - Adding fee to Utility bills

DRAFT Utilities Ordinance

**Fund
Identifying Projects
Preservation &
Enforcement**



Undergrounding Utilities to Grow Tree Canopy & Improve Appearance

- **Hilton Head, SC** Developed a City ordinance addressing the conversion of all overhead distribution lines to underground within a defined period of time 20-25 years
- **Greenville, SC** Developing an ordinance prioritizing areas hard hit by storms and has a service line conversion program to bury residential power lines
- **Mount Pleasant, SC** Dominion Energy is working to convert to underground allowing for existing live oaks to grow full canopies
- **Forest Acres, SC** - Crayton Middle School Lines buried
Initial estimate \$1m, final cost \$125,000

