



## **Columbia Health Social and Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting Agenda**

**Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 11:00 AM**

City Hall • Mayor's Conference Room

1737 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Columbia, SC 29201

City Clerk's Office: (803)545-3045 or [cityclerk@columbiasc.gov](mailto:cityclerk@columbiasc.gov)

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The Honorable Sam P. Johnson, At-Large, Chair

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

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### **Call to Order**

### **Approval of Minutes**

1. April 28, 2026 Health, Social, and Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

### **Presentations**

2. Climate Protection Action Committee Update — Mr. Cameron Cohran, Chair
3. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Stormwater Mitigation Project Opportunity – Ms. Dana Higgins, P.E., Director of Engineering
4. Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant Solar Project Update – Mr. Clint Shealy, P.E., Assistant City Manager of Columbia Water

### **Adjournment**



## **Columbia Health Social and Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 28, 2026**

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### **Call to Order**

The Columbia Health Social and Environmental Affairs Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Sam P. Johnson, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and The Honorable Tyler D. Bailey was present. The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr. was absent.

### **Approval of Minutes**

1. March 24, 2026 Health, Social, and Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the March 24, 2026 Health, Social, and Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes.

### **Presentations**

2. Prisma Health Community Initiatives – Ms. Lisa McFarlane, Vice President / Prisma Health

Mr. Anthony Jackson, Senior Vice President of Service Lines and Chief Community Officer / Prisma Health acknowledged the significant opportunities within Columbia to create positive change. He stated that Prisma Health recognizes meaningful improvement requires collaboration and emphasized the importance of providing patients with multiple options for accessing care.

Ms. Lisa McFarlane, Vice President of Business Development / OnMed presented an overview of the OnMed Care Station, an ADA-accessible “clinic in a box” that connects patients to live clinicians through a walk-in telehealth model. Patients can be diagnosed and treated for nearly 90% of lower-acuity conditions on site. This helps to reduce costly emergency room visits, particularly among unhoused populations. She noted that the stations support up to 240 languages, require only a standard three-prong outlet, are satellite enabled for underserved areas, and operate under a subscription-based model with no cost to patients. Each station is assigned a care manager to assist with coordination and continuity of care.

Ms. Stacy McPhail, System Director / Prisma Health outlined uninsured and out-of-pocket emergency department costs across the Midlands, noting that approximately \$104 million is spent on emergency department visits regionally. She also emphasized the importance of wraparound services for the care stations, including social worker and community health worker support.

Mr. Anthony Jackson, Senior Vice President of Service Lines and Chief Community Officer / Prisma Health said that the OnMed stations are not solely intended to serve the unhoused population, but also provide broader community health benefits. He noted that emergency rooms in Columbia experience significant wait times and high costs, while many of the conditions treated in emergency rooms could be addressed through the care stations. He stated that emergency room visits are among the most expensive forms of healthcare engagement and highlighted the potential for hospitals to utilize the stations to help manage lower-acuity patients. He also emphasized that accessible healthcare supports workforce availability by helping individuals manage chronic conditions such as diabetes and other illnesses.

There was discussion about OnMed's current use in the Midlands; use for pediatrics; the pay structure; and subscription costs.

3. Riparian Buffer Zones Follow-up – Ms. Dana Higgins, P.E., Engineering Director

Ms. Dana Higgins, P.E., Engineering Director provided a follow-up to the previous month's presentation regarding a proposed 100-foot increase to the riparian buffer. She stated that staff researched the buffer policies for neighboring municipalities and identified 66 affected parcels involving 29 property owners along the Lower Saluda, Broad, and Congaree Rivers within the City limits. She noted that properties already containing a 100-foot buffer within the floodway were removed from consideration. She also shared that the Stormwater team has been exploring an alternative approach through a special protection area utility fee credit program. Under the proposal, properties providing an additional 50-foot buffer beyond the existing 50-foot ordinance requirement could receive a 15% utility fee reduction, while properties providing an additional 150-foot buffer could receive a 45% reduction. The program would apply to applicable parcels throughout the City of Columbia and would provide fee credits and help protect local river corridors.

Mr. Clint Shealy, P.E., Assistant City Manager of Columbia Water added that the proposed approach would have a broader impact beyond the rivers by extending protections to streams as well. He noted that it would provide commercial and industrial property owners the opportunity to receive significant utility fee reductions and stated that the City of Columbia could move forward with issuing credits immediately.

Mr. Bill Stangler, Congaree Riverkeeper supported the proposed buffer requirements, noting that Lexington and Richland counties already mandate 50-foot buffers. He endorsed using the incentives and the proposed 100-foot buffers along the three main stem rivers to encourage stronger protections citywide. He emphasized that relatively few properties would be affected and said the combined approach would demonstrate a commitment to protecting water quality and habitat.

There was discussion about incentives in neighboring municipalities.

4. Richland County Transportation Penny Program Review – Ms. Dana Higgins, P.E., Engineering Director and Mr. Robert Anderson, Public Works Director

Ms. Dana Higgins, P.E., Engineering Director shared that staff has met monthly with Richland County since the introduction of the 2012 Transportation Penny Program to review project updates and the status of projects still in queue. She noted that voters approved the 2024 referendum, prompting discussions regarding the new Transportation Penny Program. She stated that Richland County does not plan to issue bonds and will instead utilize revenues as they are collected, with the first distribution estimated at approximately

\$21 million. She added that a portion of the funding will be allocated to The COMET and expressed optimism that paving projects could begin moving forward during the next fiscal year.

Mr. Clint Shealy, P.E., Assistant City Manager of Columbia Water explained that the City of Columbia develops and prioritizes project lists annually as part of the Transportation Penny Program process. He noted that this would be the first allocation of funding from the new referendum and that projects have been categorized with the understanding that first-year revenues will be limited. He stated that the process also helps establish a consistent rhythm for submitting future projects.

Mr. Robert Anderson, Public Works Director discussed the opportunity to establish a recurring paving program for the City of Columbia through the new Transportation Penny funding. He explained that the City of Columbia previously conducted a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) study, which rated city-owned streets on a scale from 0 to 100 and was used to develop rebuild and paving lists. He shared the average PCI ratings by district: District 1 at 64%; District 2 at 57%; District 3 at 61%; and District 4 at 65%. He noted that Richland County requested a funding level of \$10 million annually and stated that the City of Columbia is developing a scalable and equitable paving program that could adjust if funding levels are reduced. Street selections were based on the percentage of city-owned streets within each district, while also considering intersecting streets, upcoming water and sewer projects, and planned bicycle and pedestrian improvements to ensure coordinated infrastructure planning.

There was discussion about providing aid to neighborhoods at nearby state road intersections.

Ms. Dana Higgins, P.E., Engineering Director reviewed proposed sidewalk, bikeway, greenway, and special infrastructure projects tied to the 2024 Richland County Transportation Penny Program, including the Vista Greenway, Waterfront Park Trail, Assembly Streetscape phases, railroad quiet zone improvements, and the Assembly Rail Separation Project. She noted ongoing coordination with SCDOT and Norfolk Southern, discussed funding needs and project timelines, and stated that several projects are under construction, in design, or moving toward construction, while additional opportunities will continue to be evaluated as funding becomes available.

There was discussion about riverfront district connections, the state buy-back program, and SCDOT's modernization and request for funds from the Transportation Penny Program.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, MMC, CPM  
City Clerk



# Climate Protection Action Committee Update

Health, Social & Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting

May 26, 2026



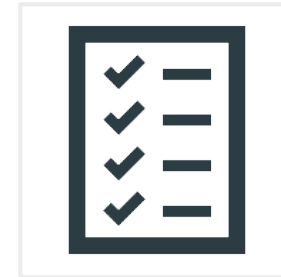
# Agenda



Mission & Members



Activities & Update



Priorities & Request

# Mission and Background

- ◆ **Established** – 2006.
- ◆ **CPAC's Mission** – To develop and advocate for effective strategies to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate change, conserve natural resources and otherwise protect the environment at a City level, while also fostering an improved quality of life for the citizens of the City of Columbia.
- ◆ **CPAC's Purpose** – To recommend and oversee the development and implementation of mission-based programs and projects within the City of Columbia.



## CPAC Goals

- 1. Ready for 100:* By 2036, all city operations will be powered by 100% clean, renewable energy.
2. Engage the public in climate action.



# CPAC Appointees

## *The Best Minds Working with our City*

- ◆ Cameran Cohran (Commercial & Green Lending) (Chair)
- ◆ Dennis Wiehl ( Retired Architect) (Vice Chair)
- ◆ Joyce Rose-Harris (SC Association of Community Action Partnerships) (Secretary)
- ◆ Bob Petrulis (Education & Research)
- ◆ Josey Cline (Legal - Workers' Compensation)
- ◆ Benjamin Marosites (CAD/GIS Administrator, Richland County)
- ◆ Caroline Nagel (Professor of Geography, University of South Carolina)
- ◆ Julie Seel (Sustainability and Environmental Director)
- ◆ Dave Voyles (Legal - Aviation)

## Ready For 100: 2025-2026 Achievements

- ◆ City is engaged with company to perform energy audit on buildings and facilitate energy improvements.
- ◆ Dashboard template created, ready to populate as projects progress.



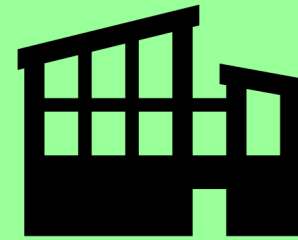
# CPAC Benchmarks

**Ready for 100 Goal: By 2036 all City operations to be powered by clean, renewable energy!**



Benchmark: By 2030, City to bring **50 MW of clean energy online.**

- Renovations of the Canal Hydro Plant
- Plans for solar farm near wastewater Treatment plant.



Benchmark: By 2028, 50% of City-owned buildings receive energy audits (On Track)



Benchmark: **Web-dashboard** Ready to deploy!

# Engage the Public in Climate Action 2025 -2026 Achievements

- In August, 2025, the City of Columbia was officially recognized as a Bee City USA.
- Established Subcommittee on Smart Growth.
- Columbia Earth Day Climate Action Fair 2026 – Majority of market attendees walked through the Earth Day intersection. (200 people submitted Earth Day Pledges at CPAC booth.)
- Speaking Sustainability - Subscribers increased by 13% over the last 12 months.
- Completed 2<sup>nd</sup> Bloomberg Youth Climate Grant Program: Funded \$150,000 in grants since 2024 (\$100,000 in 2025).

CITY OF Columbia COLUMBIA EARTH DAY CLIMATE ACTION FAIR 2026



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# Goal: Engage the Public in Climate Action



**Professional Networking:**  
Quarterly Environmental Roundtable Meetings



**Speaking Sustainability Newsletter**  
With +900 Subscribers



**Ready 100 Climate Dashboard:**  
Ready To Be Published.



**Funding:**  
Bloomberg Youth Climate Grant Program:  
**Funded \$150,000 in Grants Since 2024.**  
  
Climate Pollution Reduction Grant via Central Midlands Council of Governments



**Promoting Citizen Leadership** with CPAC Subgroups:

- Urban Farming
- Climate Action Fair
- Smart Growth

# CPAC Priorities 2026 – 2027

- ◆ Monitoring Ready for 100.
- ◆ Advocating Climate-Friendly Smart Growth Strategies.
- ◆ Advocating for Urban Farming and Land Conversation via Bee City Initiatives.
- ◆ Implement/Update Bylaws (*Pending Council Approval*).





# Smart Growth Group 2026–2027 Priorities

- ◆ What is good for Columbia’s quality of life is also good for the environment!
- ◆ Climate-friendly policies are citizen-friendly. They make Columbia:
  - ◆ Safer.
  - ◆ More attractive.
  - ◆ Free from pollution.
  - ◆ More connected to nature and natural systems.
  - ◆ Easier and more efficient to get around.
  - ◆ Less expensive and more fair.
- ◆ Many Smart Growth strategies are already being implemented in Columbia!

# Urban Farming & Bee City 2026-2027 Priorities

- ◆ Initiatives to Engage the Public
  - ◆ Citywide Pollinator Census.
  - ◆ World Bee Day.
  - ◆ Beat the Heat – Plant a Tree.
  - ◆ Pollinator Gardens at City Parks.

# Upcoming Events

- ◆ **CPAC Meetings:** Monthly, First Friday. Next Meeting: Friday, June 5.  
**Working Sessions:** As Needed, Third Friday. 9 a.m. Hybrid Format and Open to All. Next meeting: Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ **Next Environmental Roundtable:** Friday, October 16, 9 a.m.



# **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program**

## **Stormwater Mitigation Project Opportunity**

**Health, Social and Environmental Affairs  
Committee**

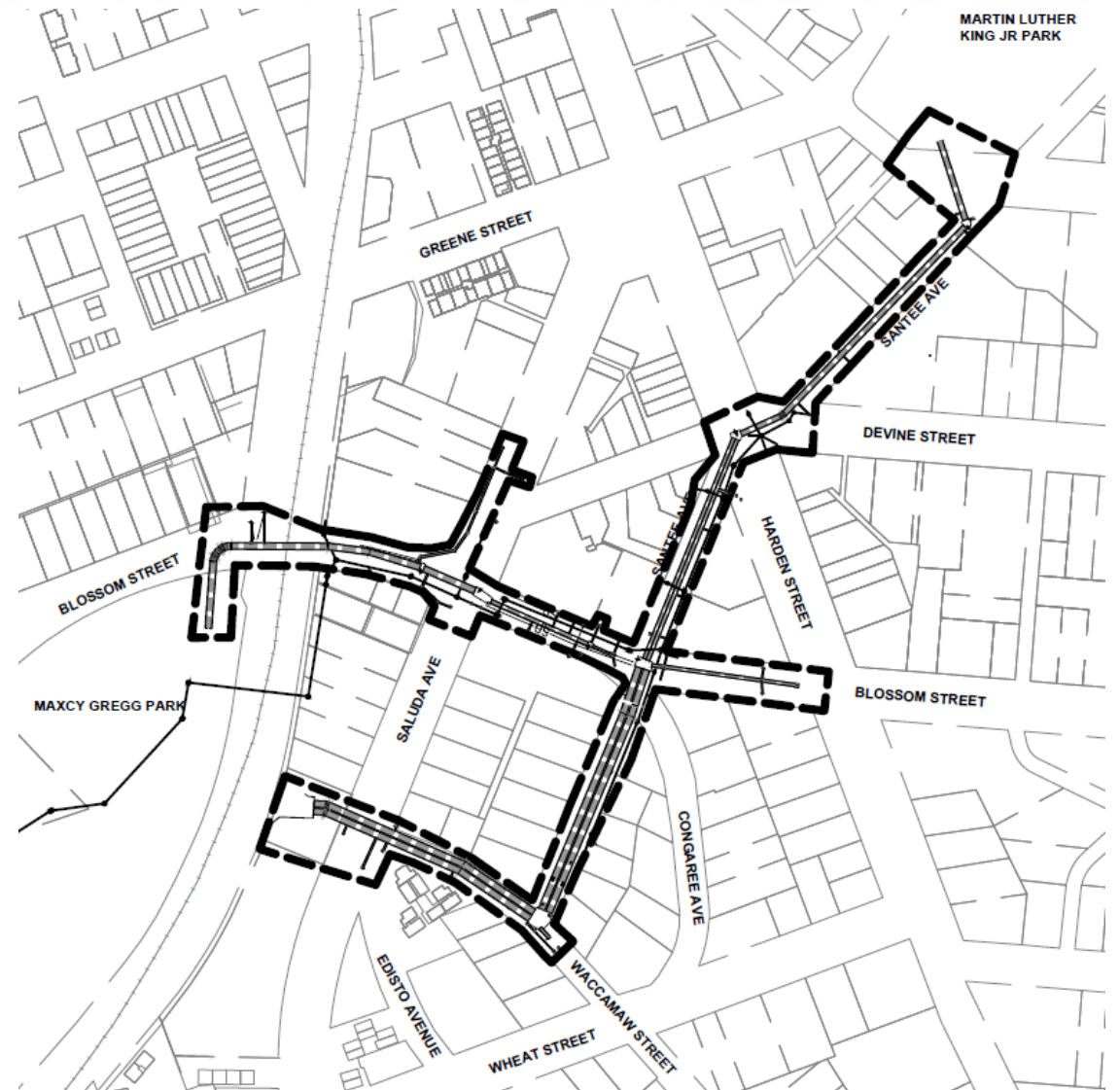
May 26, 2026

# Saluda By-Pass and Maxcy Gregg

- Stormwater Project to address flooding in 5 points.
- Grant request to SCEMD under HMGP 4829- Hurricane Helene
- Total Cost for Storm Project: \$58.5M
- Grant request: \$45,202,606.50 with local match of \$15,067,535
- **Grant Award: \$19,000,000**

# Saluda By-Pass

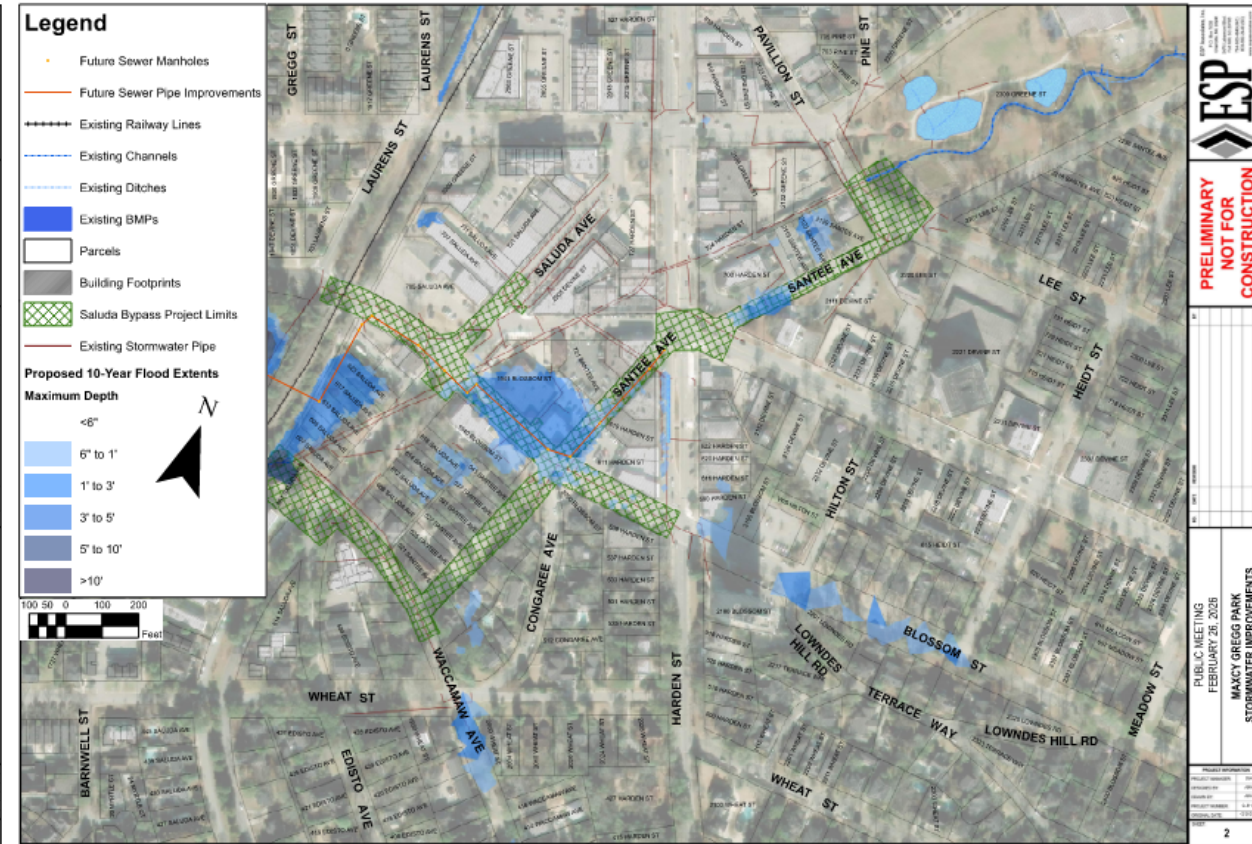
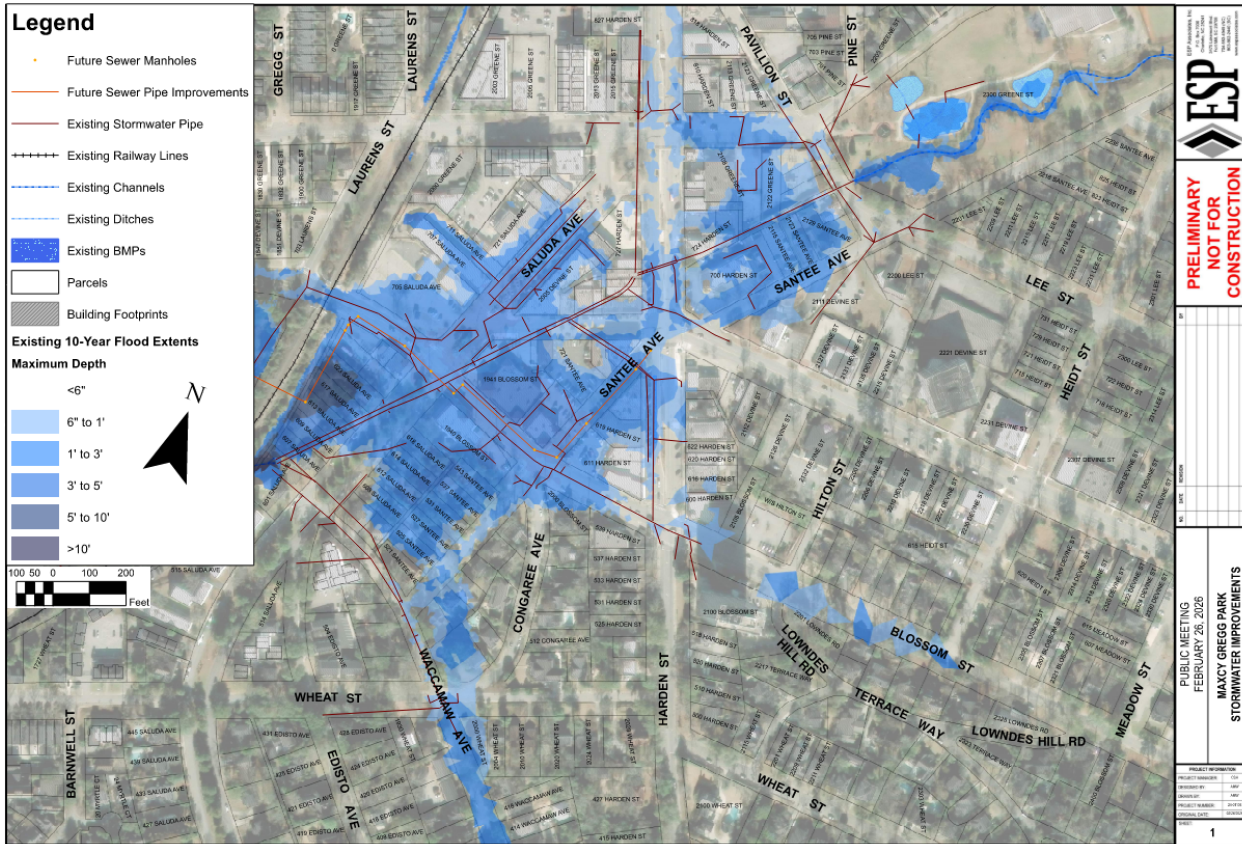
- 10'x6' culvert increasing to dual 12'x10' culverts down Santee
- 12' x 10' culvert down Blossom
- Cost: \$50.8M



# Saluda By-Pass

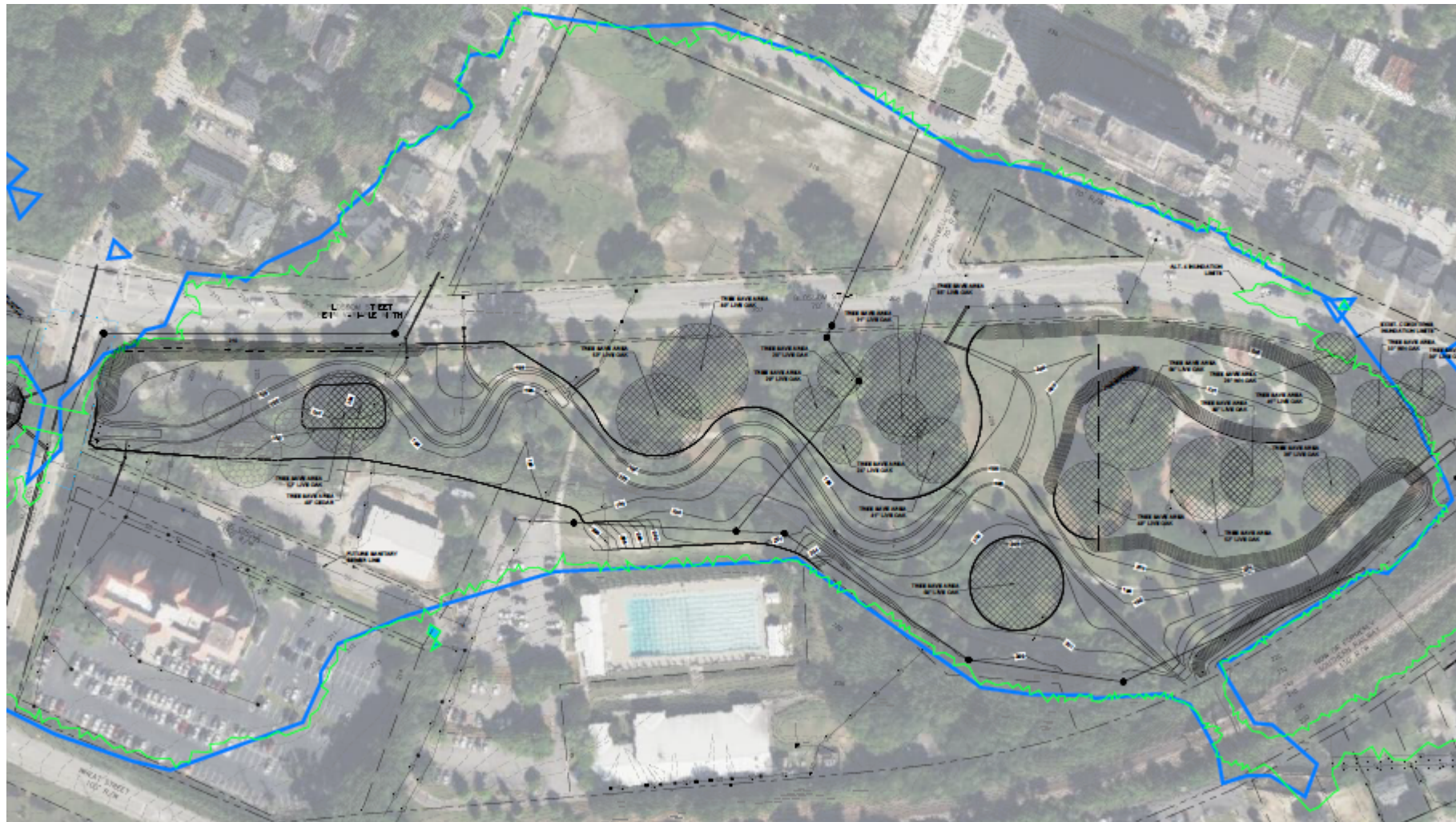
## Existing Conditions, 10-year storm

## Proposed Conditions, 10-year storm



# Maxcy Gregg Improvements

- Stream realignment and widening
- Cost: \$7.7M





# **Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant Solar Project Update**

Clint Shealy, Assistant City Manager – Columbia Water

May 26, 2026



# Metro WWTP Solar Project Location





# Metro WWTP Solar Project Grant Funding

- This project will utilize a Federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
  - This grant pays 36% of the solar project costs
- We intend to seek Investment Tax Credit reimbursements after the project is completed and fully connected to the electrical grid
  - The ITC reimbursement should total 40% of the solar project costs
- The remaining 24% would be paid by City capital funds and by municipal partners' contributions

# Metro WWTP Solar Project General Timeline

- Award and contract with the Solar Design/Procurement/Construction Company – June 2026
- Begin Construction – Fall 2026
- Complete Construction – Summer 2027
- Tie-into Dominion Energy's electrical grid by December 2027



# **Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant Solar Project Update**

Clint Shealy, Assistant City Manager – Columbia Water

May 26, 2026

