



PROJECTS COMPLETED OR UNDERWAY

- In August the pine straw and mulch top coating was refreshed around the front entrance, Islands Avenue street islands, Clubhouse area, and the Battery Creek overlook at the Pipe Cut along DeLa Gaye Point. We are working to refresh several other priority areas this fall. Additionally, wood chips will be spread in certain areas, primarily along DeLa Gaye, where erosion has occurred around sidewalks. If this control method is successful, our plan is to apply it next year to other street easements where grass is not growing or where mulch needs expanding. In some of these places we may recommend planting a few trees and/or deer resistant shrubs or grasses where a sufficient irrigation source can be identified.



Our beautiful entrance at Islands of Beaufort. G&L

- Removal of trees damaged by July's Tropical Storm Elsa has been proceeding. The trees that fell on the School District's property along Islands Avenue are scheduled to be removed in late September. Local tree contractors have been extremely busy due to storm damage around the Low Country.
- Storm Water Infrastructure Maintenance—A separate budget will be established for 2022 for costs relating to storm water control, such as street drain inlets or catch basins, wet retention ponds, dry detention ponds, ditches and swales. Regular cleaning of the ponds was undertaken by the Board in 2019, and this year the Committee helped establish a regular schedule and maintenance standards for the ponds and swales. Regular cleaning occurs April to October. In addition, five catch basins, most located along DeLa Gaye, were repaired this summer.
- The Committee is planning to replace the existing shrubs intended to screen the Cotton Island pump station fencing with Sweet Viburnum, which is better suited to this environment. Irrigation was recently restored to the area.



- Also planned for this fall is a general clean-up and modest enhancement to the area around the Cotton Island Community Dock sign.
- Plans for 2022 projects are being developed, and the Grounds and Landscape Committee welcomes residents' suggestions for improvements in the appearance or safety of IOB's Common Areas. Feel free to email them to Kathy Whitehead at KathyHWhitehead@gmail.com.
- The current and two previous newsletters are available in the Homeowners' Section of the IOB Website at islandsofbeaufort.com/homeowners/.

THE BENEFITS OF TREES

Many of us moved to Islands of Beaufort because we fell in love with this glorious lush neighborhood. The banks of beautiful trees and plants alongside Islands Avenue set the tone for our desire to keep our community private, peaceful and full of greenery. The most striking feature of this neighborhood is our trees. Trees are vital. As the biggest plants on the planet, they give us oxygen, store carbon, stabilize the soil and give life to the world's wildlife.

Research shows that within minutes of being surrounded by trees and green space your blood pressure drops, your heart rate slows and your stress levels come down. People who live near more trees feel younger, are happier, and are healthier.

Even tree-filled gardens on hospital grounds speed healing in hospital patients.

Trees clean the air and help you breathe. Trees not only absorb CO₂ but they also absorb odors and pollutants like nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulfur dioxide and ozone. It's estimated that one tree can absorb nearly 10 pounds of polluted air each year and release 260 pounds of oxygen.



Trees prevent soil erosion and rainwater runoff. During heavy rains, water runoff finds its way to streams, lakes and wetlands, creating the potential for flooding. Along the way it picks up and carries pollutants like fertilizer, pesticides and leaky oil. Trees absorb the first 30% of most precipitation through their leaf system, allowing evaporation back into the atmosphere. This moisture never hits the ground. Another percentage (up to 30%) of precipitation is absorbed back into the ground and taken in and held onto by the root structure, then absorbed and then transpired back to the air. Some of this water also naturally percolates into the ground water and aquifer. All this reduces storm water runoff and flooding.

What else makes trees so appealing? They can help you save money. Trees conserve energy in summer and winter, providing shade from the hot summer sun and shelter from cold winter winds, thus reducing your energy bills. A properly shaded neighborhood can reduce energy bills for a household from 15-35%. Studies also show houses on wooded lots sell for more money, increasing property values by up to 15%. Plus, recent research shows that trees help reduce crime. A 10% increase in trees roughly equaled a 12% decrease in crime.



Trees shield us from ultra violet rays. Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. Trees reduce UV-B exposure by about 50%, thus providing protection to children on playgrounds where they spend hours outdoors. Children with ADHD show fewer symptoms when they have access to nature. Exposure to trees and nature aids concentration by reducing mental fatigue.

Trees provide nesting sites, food and shelter for birds, insects and other critters that make up our private ecosystem. One mature oak can be home to as many as 500 different species! Trees create more pleasant walking environments, bringing about increased walking, talking, pride, care of place, association and therefore actual ownership and surveillance of homes and neighborhoods.



CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF TREES

Planting and maintaining trees properly will make them strong and enable them to withstand heavy rains and high winds that come with hurricanes. Proper care also helps trees stand up to insects, pests and damage from nearby building.

It's a good idea to monitor the health of your trees regularly and consult with a licensed arborist. Anyone can call themselves an arborist in SC, so be sure whoever you hire is a trained professional. Pay attention to older trees as they are more vulnerable to storm damage. Prune branches that are extending onto buildings or roofs. Thinning out the upper canopy and removing some of the Spanish Moss can extend the life of your trees. This takes excessive weight off the tree and also opens the inner canopy up to sunlight, allowing for new growth. Regenerative trimming of a Live Oak adds 20 years to the tree's life.



BEST TREES FOR HURRICANE PRONE AREAS

Plant wind resistant trees like hollies, crape myrtles, magnolias, bald cypress, Florida maples, Japanese maples, bottlebrushes, river birches, redbuds, fringe trees, and palms. Plant trees in groups with appropriate spacing between them. Clusters of trees (five or more) stand up better to wind. Keep in mind native trees have resistance to insects and fungus and also provide a habitat for birds.

BEST TIME TO PLANT TREES

If you're considering adding a tree to your yard, keep in mind fall and winter are the best seasons to plant as it is cooler, watering requirements will be more manageable, and the tree will acclimate before the harsh summer months. Trees can live hundreds of years, so when you plant one, you're giving a gift to your children and grandchildren... and your neighbors. It's a symbol of your commitment to the environment and the beauty of the world around you that will live on far beyond your own lifetime.

For a list of SC native plants see:

<http://scnps.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/CoastalNativePlantList.pdf>

For information on preferred trees for the Lowcountry see:

<https://lowcountrymga.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Preferred-Trees-in-Low-Country.pdf>

Resources: Arbor Day Foundation, Royal Parks UK, Tree People, Grist, Clemson Extension and Lowcountry Master Gardener Association